

Signed into law in 1914 by President Woodrow Wilson, the second Sunday in May is designated as Mother's Day. This holiday has its early roots in a Church tradition called "Mothering Sunday," which was typically the Fourth Sunday in Lent. On this Sunday, a special service was held for mothers. Over time, the tradition faded and the practice we have today of buying flowers, candy, and cards and calling or seeing our mothers gained prominence.

As this holiday approaches once again, we are reminded of the many mothers in the Bible. In Genesis, we hear of Eve, the first mother, whose children would populate the Earth. Abraham's wife, Sarah, remained patient and faithful to God, becoming a mother later in older age. Rebekah, too, was barren. She trusted in God and gave birth to Esau and Jacob. Jochebed, fearing for the safety of her child, placed the infant Moses into a basket and sent him down the river, hoping and trusting he would find safety. Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, showed great faith and wisdom in bearing the prophet of the Lord. Mary, the mother of Jesus, trusted in God's plan and raised the Son of God into adulthood.

But, like all mothers, these mothers too had their share of heartbreak and disappointment. Eve, for her and her husband's disobedience, would be kicked out of the garden and she would see one of her sons kill the other in jealousy. Sarah, before having children of her own, watched her husband have a child with Hagar. Hagar herself, along with her son, Ishmael, get cast out and discarded once Sarah is pregnant. Elizabeth and Mary both see their sons executed by the religious and political authorities.

Being a mother is, at the same time, an incredibly joyous experience and terrifying one. It is filled with great successes and heartache and disappointment. Motherhood is unlike any

other experience and is a life journey that can be extraordinarily fulfilling.

And yet, Mother's Day can be difficult time for many among us. Some continue to grieve the death of their mother. Some among us grieve the death of their children. Some women had hoped to become mothers, but were unable. Some have experienced the loss of miscarriage. Some have not found a partner to share parenthood with and have not had children. And, there are those among us, who choose not to have children and experience this holiday as a judgment on their choices.

So, we hold all this together; the joys, the sorrows, the loss, the grief, and circumstances of life and offer prayer to God. Whether we are mothers, are estranged from our mothers, have buried our mothers, still hope to one day become mothers, or have entered the years where motherhood is no longer an option for us, it is Christ who holds us. Together, on Mother's Day, we offer prayers of thanksgiving, praise, healing, and comfort to God for all the experiences we share surrounding motherhood. We pray that God will continue to bless our congregation and world with faithful mothers and mother figures who raise up servants of Christ.

We pray that God continues to bless all the women of Pleasant Valley as they lead us in our faithful ministry in the world.

Thanks be to God for the women of Pleasant Valley

Pr. JonPaul

*HAPPY  
MOTHER'S  
DAY!*

## Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church

### Council Minutes,

Sunday, April 8, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 10:39 by President Kim Vlcek. Pastor JonPaul led us in a devotional prayer.

Pastor Laurie Skow-Anderson revisited us with information about the Congregational Vitality Survey; a summary of the surveys we had turned in, and the Comprehensive Ministry Review; a compilation of the responses she heard as she spoke with us on March 18. We went over both reports. We talked about inactive members – now called Disciples for Jesus – and that we need to check the constitution for the guidelines for membership. She suggested we take a part of the survey and recommendations at each council meeting and decide if we need to act on the survey result/recommendation or not, and what that action might be for each.

#### **REPORTS**

The secretary's report was reviewed.

The treasurer's report was reviewed.

The Mission Offering for the Ronald McDonald House was \$214.00. The total monies raised during the Lenten season and Easter follow: \$547 from soup and sandwich suppers, \$256 from the Easter breakfast, \$1,370 from Lenten offerings. The monies have been designated to the Luther Park campers and the Youth Fund budget line item.

Pastor reviewed his report. The end of Sunday School will be celebrated with a Sunday service and BBQ in Olson Park, weather permitting. Otherwise it will be held in the church. It will be on May 13. Corissa and the youth will organize the day and members will be encouraged to invite a friend. Corissa will plan for 75 people and Dwight will get a Thrivent Seed card for the supplies.

Pastor is working on getting a worship committee together to help plan services for special seasons of the church; Lenten and Easter services, Advent and Christmas services. The committee would also take input on the bulletins and how services are constructed.

We will have 7 students in the confirmation class this fall. Confirmation class will begin on September 9, as will Sunday School class.

Pastor also highlighted upcoming events; a baptism this spring and a wedding in the fall. The Council will have a retreat on April 28, from 8 to noon. The Congregational Survey will be discussed during the retreat. We will also revisit reconciliation of the checkbook at that time.

The Ambassador's report highlighted what the Ambassadors did during the Easter season, the upcoming camping season, and the National Youth Gathering in Texas on June 27 to July 1. There is a possibility of having 12 youth attend Luther Park camp this summer. We have one person attending the Youth Gathering. Annabelle will be going to the Gathering with 3 or 4 students from Strum. The Ambassadors had their last meeting on April 23. Corissa also highlighted that there is a Luther Park Spring Work Day on April 21, from 8:30 to 4:30.

A motion was made by Dwight to accept all reports. Second by Kay. Motion carried.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Education – The teachers are set for the rest of the year. The last Sunday School class will be May 13 with the church service and a cook out in the Olson Park.

Property – The ceiling tiles under the balcony need to be replaced. We have a \$201.44 credit from Menard's and will purchase the tiles there. Dwight made a motion to replace the tiles. Second from Roxie. Motion carried.

Worship – Corissa and others will be working on the service in the park for May 13.

Kim has sent the monies collected for Sharing the Dream (in Guatemala).

The process for two people counting the money each week, recording it, and sealing it in a bank envelope was implemented and has been working for the last couple weeks.

The Synod Assembly will be held June 2 and 3 at UWEC. They will be electing a bishop this year. Kim Vlcek and Pastor JonPaul are attending. We would like to have another male volunteer attend. Registration is due by

May 25. Roxie made a motion to cover the cost of 2 members and the Pastor attending. Second by Dale. Motion carried. We will cover the cost of \$250 per voting member and the cost for the Pastor.

Olson Park will need to be cleaned up. We will see if Corissa and the youth members can clean up the twigs, etc. Mark will mow, if necessary. Dave will be asked to handle the sound system on the day of the service.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

We had \$2,000 in our Youth line item fund in the budget. We added \$2,173 to it from the Easter season offerings making a total of \$4,173. This money is earmarked for the Luther Park campers and Annabelle's trip to Texas for the Youth Gathering. There will possibly be 12 campers. Until we have more information as to number of campers and amount still needed by Annabelle, we cannot make any decisions as to how to divide the money. Kay will contact the adults taking the youth to The Gathering to get a firm number as to how much is needed. Camper registration needs to be in on May 1 to get the Early Bird discount. There is also a discount for 1 or more siblings attending. When we have both numbers we can better allocate funds.

Mission Offering: April – 513 Free Pen Project – Kim will describe and highlight the Project during worship on April 15.

May – victims of the water main break in Eau Claire – through Peace Lutheran Church

### **OTHER ITEMS –**

Next meeting – May 6, at 10:30.

Ruth made a motion to adjourn.  
Second by Kay.

We adjourned at 1:01. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ruth Poore

Members present: Pastor Laurie Skow-Anderson (Synod), Pastor JonPaul, Kay Sands, Roxie Ulness, Dwight Sands, Dale Anderson, Kim Vlcek, Mark Koser, Ruth Poore, Corissa Sands,

## We can all be jerks

*Apr 05, 2018 01:00 am*

It's okay to get a little grumpy sometimes. Everyone has bad days, and we all make occasional, less-than-optimal choices in our interactions with people. That's one of the many reasons it's great to be a Lutheran, right?

We know that we are both sinner and saint, that we mess up, but we are also capable of forgiving and being forgiven. Acknowledging we're grumpy is a good start, but we are called to repent, which means not just admitting our mistakes, but turning away from them, continuing in a different direction.

So how do we start? In my case I think perhaps it's helpful to remind myself that the world isn't perfect—and neither am I. Sometimes people are, indeed, jerks. And sometimes I am too. I need patience and grace, and I need to extend it to everyone else.

*This message is an excerpt from a [Women of the ELCA blog](#) by Sarah Carson.*

### Treasurers' Report

None submitted

### Faith Story

Do you have a story or testimony to share? Either talk to Ruthann or send an e mail to RuthiK6@gmail.com.

## **TEXTS AND READERS for May**

### **Praise Team News**

The Praise Team will play at the Barnabas Coffeehouse in Chippewa Falls on Saturday, May 5 from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. Come and join the group for a fun evening of music and fellowship! The band will play in worship at Pleasant Valley on Sunday, May 27, and will lead worship at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility (CVCTF) that evening. Also at CVCTF during the month of April, Kim Vlcek led Monday Bible studies, and Art Syth worked with the men to hold Thursday afternoon praise worship services.

### **Parish Nursing**

Please see Ruthann after Sunday morning services whenever you would like to have your blood pressure taken.

### **WELCA**

Women Morning of renewal is in Black River Falls, was on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Kim was elected to the office of President! Good Luck as you begin a new roll in the church women life.

Kathy Tweet and Monica Bahr along with Kim Vlcek attended the SWO convention in Rice Lake. Attendance was down on but was still was still attended. Business meeting was on Friday evening with several main speakers and breakout session to attend on Saturday.

### **Sunday School**

The Sunday school is coming to an end for this year. We had several teachers and many children sermons during worship. If you wish to help out let Km Vlcek or Pastor know for next year. Closing celebration will be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> along with high school graduation!.

### **Sixth Sunday of Easter – 6<sup>st</sup>**

*White* *Larry Sands*

*Acts: 40:44-48*

*Psalm 98*

*1 John 5:1-6*

*John 15:9-17*

### **Ascension of the Lord—10<sup>th</sup>**

*This Non Sunday reading*

*Acts 1:1–11*

*Psalm 47 or Psalm 93*

*Ephesians 1:15–23*

*Luke 24:44–53*

### **7th Sunday of Easter—May 20**

*White* *Corissa Sands*

*Acts 1:15–17, 21–26*

*Psalm 1*

*1 John 5:9–13*

*John 17:6–19*

### **Day of Pentecost—May 27**

*Red* *Kim Vlcek*

*Acts 2:1–21 or Ezekiel 37:1–14*

*Psalm 104:24–34, 35b*

*Romans 8:22–27 or Acts 2:1–21*

*John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15*

### **Trinity Sunday—May 27**

*Green* *Julie Schwennsens*

*Isaiah 6:1–8*

*Psalm 29*

*Romans 8:12–17*

*John 3:1–17*





## IN NEED OF PRAYER

### Here is our Prayer Concern list:

**Maritza Nohemi**, 7th grader in Guatemala, whose education we are sponsoring this year.

**Romaine Knutson** He is a family member who has a new diagnosis of cancer and begins treatment on Thursday

**Sharon Anderson:** for healing, after surgery on her broken arm.

**Monica Bahr** – thyroid and heart valve trouble

**The Triplet's Grandma Rita:** Jeni Knutson's mother, she has been diagnosed with stage 4 renal cancer

**Mike Willemssen**, friend of the Bahr's; needs leg wound healed Gallbladder was successfully removed, on way back to WI soon.

**Nick Polkowske** –prostate cancer and heart trouble

**Terry McDowell**, – no cancer, has chronic pancreatitis –Ruthann's brother-in law

**Linda Ahlers** – healing, doing chemo again, Lake City, MN (friend of the Poore's)

**Marion Rose Glende** – healing, to remove feeding tube (Joy & Steve Glende's baby girl, & Kathy Tweet's granddaughter)

**Gerri Sessions** – strengthening & healing

**Dale Rutchow** – paralyzed by Lyme's disease

**Catherine Erickson** – pancreatic cancer

**Christine Thompson** – struggling with lupus she now has influenza B, is in the American Lutheran Home in Mondovi.

**Our service men and women; Kendall Dragseth**, She is Pastor's cousin and serves in the Navy. She was just deployed to the Middle East.

**The inmates at CVCTF**

### All those on our Visiting list:

**Avis Erickson, Gary Hazen,**

**Orvin Larson, Bob Dutter,**

**Dave Bloom, Jim & Janice Teigen**

**May mission offering:** Peace Church's Westside Sewage Recovery Project

### Thank you's:

"One kindness makes a heart full gratitude." THANK YOU. "thanks for the Easter Lily! also for the cards and all the greetings. Also a Big Thank you to Monica & Sharon for Communion and a good visit.

Jim and Janice Teigen

### **FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE: \*NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS: Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> - for the June Newsletter**

**Call Monica Bahr - 715-287-4742,**

**or E-mail: [dmbahr@tcc.coop](mailto:dmbahr@tcc.coop). Also, E-mail the church at: [plesntvalleyluth@tcc.coop](mailto:plesntvalleyluth@tcc.coop) with any bulletin or newsletter announcements, esp. prayer request and updates. Thanks.**

**Bulletin items and Newsletter articles are due by Wednesday; I will print them on Thursday, thanks.**

### \*By the light of the Psalms:

*I complained, and my spirit was  
overwhelmed.*

*Psalms 77:3*

*I wonder if I could go an entire day  
without one complaint...*

*\*By Chris Shea*

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church  
W2450 Cty. Rd. WW  
Eleva WI 54738

“That all May come, Serving all the People of God”  
Pastor JonPaul Dragseth  
Church office: 715-287-4473  
Church Secretary: Monica Bahr – Home: 715-287-4742  
Church E-mail: [plesantvalley@tcc.coop](mailto:plesantvalley@tcc.coop)  
Website: [www.pleasantvalleylutheran.com](http://www.pleasantvalleylutheran.com)

# **PLEASANT VALLEY NEWSLETTER**

*‘That all may come, Serving all the people of God’*

**MAY 2018**  
**Happy Mother’s day**  
**Ascension of our Lord Day**  
**Memorial Day**  
**Remembering our fallen Comrades**



Pentecost May 27<sup>th</sup>