

**Giving Thanks**

November marks at least two important *holidays* in American culture. Many of us will come together at the end of the month, gathering with friends and family, to celebrate Thanksgiving. The second *holiday*, celebrated with nearly just as much reverence, is the day-after-Thanksgiving, where crowds of people will cram department stores trying to get the best deal on Christmas presents. The fact that these two days occur right next to each other sends quite a message.

We live in a *me-centered* culture. Popular images, from billboards to music to television, tell us that we should be focused on ourselves. We should worry about how much money we make, what cars we drive, what toys we have, what clothes we wear, and what our body looks like. We join social clubs only as long as they benefit us. We let friendships go because they no longer serve our needs.

Religious and spiritual groups have grown-up feeding these obsessions. They tell us that if only we do enough praying, act the right ways, make the right decision, or write big enough checks to the church that God will reward us. It is a Me-God exchange. When it comes right down to it, these groups tell us that God is in the business of bartering. "OK, God, now this week I helped a lady cross the street, gave fifteen percent of my income to the church, and prayed every morning and every night, so now I should be set for awhile, right?" The problem with this thinking, in all its modern varieties, as Martin Luther discovered (well, it was just Reformation Day!), is that it becomes impossible to know when you've done enough to meet the bartering price to receive God's blessing. And so we are compelled to work harder and harder out of fear and despair that we may never do enough.

Paul writes that while we were still sinners, God proves God's love through Christ's death for us (Romans 5.8). There is no exchange rate; there is no fee on our side. It is simply God's love for us. It sounds impossible, it sounds too-good-to-be-true, and it sounds a little ridiculous. But, that's who God is. Without any requirement or fee, without any examination to see if we are good enough, God loves us and is with us through Christ and the Holy Spirit. This is why we give thanks, not just on one

day in November over too much food, but every day of our lives. Come to church, read the Bible, and hear the stories of God's acts of love without any prerequisites. Read especially this month Psalm 107. Hear how God answers and rescues even those who society says are the least worthy. And then pray. Pray to God who asks nothing of you, but invites you into a life-changing relationship with God and with one another. We are free to help out others, give our gifts to the work of the church, and other acts of charity, service, and love, not because we need to get something from God, but as a way of life lived in the mercy of God's grace. Now that's something to be thankful for.

Peace,

Pr. JonPaul

**Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church**

**Council Minutes**

**Sunday, September 30, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 10:47 by President Kim Vlcek.

**NON-AGENDA** - none

**REPORTS**

The secretary's report was reviewed.

The treasurer's report was reviewed. The September Mission Offering has not been tallied.

Pastor had nothing to report.

There has been no progress on getting a worship committee together to help plan services for special seasons of the church. A worship committee would start by planning the Advent and Christmas services. The outdoor service on September 16 in Olson Park was a great success, in spite of the heat. There are hopes of having one every year, perhaps designating the offering to go to the Sunday School program.

There have been no Ambassador's activities.

A motion was made by Kay to accept all reports.

Second by Dwight. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Education** – Sunday School is running smoothly.

We are looking for teachers to sign up for the year.

The Christmas program will be held on December 9

at the 9 o'clock service. Practice will be on December 8 from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. with the Christmas lunch party following, ending about 12:30. There will possibly be 7 or 8 Sunday School students and 6 confirmands in the program. Ruth will handle the lunch.

**Worship** – The Praise Team has lost 4 members. They will carry on with their praise worship ministry and are still committed to the prison ministry at CVCTF.

December 2 is the first Sunday in Advent. Pastor will check on the Advent settings available for use in worship.

**Property** – The urinal in the men's room has had the handle to turn on the water modified so the water can be turned on and off without a stool. The water system problem will be tabled until it is checked out, with the possibility of an in-line filter being added to remove the sand from the whole system.

Dwight has purchased a new TV monitor. It needs to be installed.

The flooring border between the kitchen and the dining room will be replaced.

Monica and Dick Bahr will handle the mowing and cleaning up of the cemetery and lawn to be ready for the bazaar.

The music is lined up for the bazaar. The Roby Family, from the Eleva area, will do the music for a 10:00 service. Randy and Kay Sands will again do the chicken dinner. We will add dinner rolls and butter to the menu. They will get a Thrivent Community Impact Card (Seed Card) for the food. Outreach – Our booth at Cleghorn Harvest Fest was seen as a success and something to be repeated next year. A booth with some information on the church, a chance to buy raffle tickets for prizes at the bazaar, and a couple games for kids, especially the balloon pop, with prizes, went over well.

**Bazaar** – We will have the refrigerator magnets about our church available at the bazaar. Kay has the Thrivent Community Impact Card for the dinner. One thought on the profits from the meal is to send it to the Coon Valley Flooding, if there is a fund. Kay will research the "Fight the Flood" program that was highlighted on TV.

The Joe Roby Family does not charge for their performance or for their CDs. We will supply a free chicken dinner for the family. We mentioned having a free will offering for the family as well. The letter to the neighbors, the prayer chain, and the congregational study information dissemination are all on hold.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Our CCLI license has been renewed to keep us up to date on copyright uses.

Kim will renew the antivirus program for the balcony computer.

Committees are not currently being formed as such. We will form various committees as needed.

Dave Vlcek is working on forming a Men's group. Perhaps the men's and women's groups could meet after church, which would also make the church look less abandoned when the youth finish their classes.

**Mission Offering:** October – Shane Giacomino, from Osseo, paralyzed in a swimming accident; he is a member of law enforcement in Clark county.

November – Feed My People

December – Mondovi Food Pantry

## **OTHER ITEMS –**

Next meeting – November 4, 10:30

Ruth made a motion to adjourn. Second by Kim.

We adjourned at 11:45. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Poore

Members present: Pastor JonPaul, Dale Anderson, Kim Vlcek, Kay Sands, Dwight Sands, Roxie Ulness, Mark Koser, Corissa Sands, and Ruth Poore

## **Parish Nursing**

Needed

## Sunday school / Confirmation

Sunday School is running smoothly. Begins at 10:15 there is a group opening in the sanctuary with Pastor JonPaul. Then dividing up the Sunday school students go to the classroom downstairs with their teacher. The confirmation Class remains in the sanctuary with Pastor. We are still looking for teachers to sign up for the year. The sign up sheet in fellowship room

The Christmas program will be held on December 9 at the 9 o'clock service. Practice will be on December 8 from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. with the Christmas lunch party following, ending about 12:30. There will possibly be 7 or 8 Sunday School students and 6 confirmands in the program.

## Praise Team News

The Praise Team will play in worship at Pleasant Valley on Sunday, November 25, and will lead worship at Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility that evening.

The group recently lost four members. Although the Praise Team will look and sound different, the remaining group members are committed to their music ministry and prison ministry.

## All Saints Day

We will celebrate All Saints Day during worship on November 4. A slideshow is being put together of friends and loved ones who have recently passed away. If you have photos you would like included, send them to Kim Vlcek at vlcekk@yahoo.com by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Happy Birthday to Evelyn Mousel  
November 19<sup>th</sup>. Send her a card at W1300 Pine Rd.  
Eleva, WI 54738**

## Treasurers' Report

### Summary of Offering and Expenses

Y-T-D	July	August	September
Offering			
34,330.09	\$3,125.00	\$3,717.00	\$2,639.00
Misc. Income			
\$2,085.07	\$1,090.88	\$31.11	\$308.48
Expenses			
\$36,098.09	\$5,723.18	\$3,714.79	\$3,344.25

Year to date the offering exceeds expense by \$713.84

September mission offering to Mondovi Weekend Backpack program was \$247.00

Respectfully submitted:  
Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

### **Bazaar Report – 2018**

#### **Proceeds**

Meal - \$1,001.00  
Raffle - \$499.00  
Basket Raffle - \$334.00

Meat/Cheese Raffle - \$122.00  
Bake Sale - \$353.00

Total - \$2,309.00

#### **Expenses**

Flyers - \$47.32  
Food - \$226.93  
Ad-Delite – \$66.00

Arrow Shopper  
Total Expenses - \$340.25

Net Profits - \$1,968.75

Check for \$774.07 sent to Our Saviors Skogdalen Church, Wesby WI

#### **Basket Raffle – 14 baskets**

Fruit Basket (16) – Tanner Koser  
Car Wash Kit (10) – Sandy Schuch  
Misc. (18) – Rhonda Hoverson  
Candy (51) – Selina Swenson  
Puppy (25) – Maleah Robe  
Chips & Dip (22) – Christine Berger  
Glass Storage (19) – Crystal Sands  
Kitty (15) – Reagan Brick  
Kids Goodies (18) – Julia Caldwell  
Badger (22) – Sandy Schuch  
Snacks/Movie (44) – Christine Berger  
S'mores (22) – Shirley Borgwardt  
Baggies (22) – Bonnie Isaacson  
Wine Décor (10) – Natalie Evenson

## Raffle

1/2 Pig, donated by Steve Nelson, Thrivent

Financial – Kim Vlcek

Quilt, donated by Sadie Odegard – David Dragseth

Quilt, donated by Sadie Odegard – Sue Smith-Olson

Quilt, donated by Crystal Sands – Dwight Sands

Quilt donated by Crystal Sands – Dale Stevens

Firewood, donated by John Poore – Sue White

## Meat/Cheese Raffle

Frozen Turkey – Eathan      Pork Loin – Geri

Cheese Curds – Barb      Combo – Corissa

Cheese – Jan Barlow      Combo – Rhonda

Combo – Pastor JonPaul      Combo - Crystal

## WELCA

### Thankoffering service Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>

Your offering can should be filling up by now, but If you don't have one pick one up in the narthex at church, then bring it to worship on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> Thankoffering Sunday! See Monica for a part in the service.

Let the whole earth be  
filled with his glory.

Psalms 72:19

Look up Look out. See it everywhere.

*By the Light of the Psalms*

*by Chea Shesa*



## IN NEED OF PRAYER

### Here is our Prayer Concern list:

**Dave Howe** - he was seriously injured in a car accident (Kim Vlcek's cousin)

**Roxie Syth** – ankle injury

**Crystal Sands** - healing

**Peggy** – cancer - friend of Ruthann's

**Kay Johnson** – needs eye surgery, hip replacement and a heart procedure – friend of Monica's from Island Lake

**Joy Glende** – suffering with neck pain causing dizziness

**Romaine Knutson** – cancer; a member of Pastor's family

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

**Family of Linda Ahlers** – has passed away.

**Gerri Sessions** – strengthening & healing

**Catherine Erickson** – pancreatic cancer

**Christine Thompson** – struggling with lupus: is in the American Lutheran Home in Mondovi.

**Mariah Sands** – Mission trip to Rwanda

**Maritza Nohemi** – student in Guatemala

**Our service men and women; Kendall Dragseth,**

She is Pastor's cousin and serves in the Navy.

She was deployed to the Middle East.

**The inmates at CVCTF**

### All those on our Visiting list:

**Avis Erickson,**      **Gary Hazen,**

**Bob Dutter,**      **Jim & Janice Teigen**

### November Mission Offering Recipient:

**Feed My People Food Bank**

### FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE:

**\*NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS: Sunday,  
November 18<sup>th</sup> - for the December 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, by Wednesday, so I can print them. Thanks.**

## **TEXTS AND READERS for November**

### **Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – 4<sup>th</sup> All Saints Day**

*White* *Roxie Ulness*

Deuteronomy 6:1-9  
Psalm 119:1-8  
Hebrew 9:11-14  
Mark 12:28-34

### **Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – 11<sup>th</sup>**

*Green* *Kim Vlcek*

1 Kings 17:8-16  
Psalm 146  
Hebrews 9:24-28  
Mark 12:38-44

### **Thanksgiving Sunday - 18<sup>th</sup>**

*Green* *Corissa Sands*

Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 104  
Titus 3:4-7  
John 4:5-26

### **Thanksgiving Eve**

*Green* *Larry Sands*

Joel 2:21-27  
Psalm 126  
1 Timothy 2:1-7  
Matthew 6:25-35

### **Christ the King Sunday – 25<sup>th</sup>**

*White* *John Poore*

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14  
Psalm 93  
Revelation 1:4b-8  
John 18:33-37



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

4<sup>th</sup> Turn clocks back one hr  
Daylight saving ends

“That all May come, Serving all the People of God”

Pastor JonPaul Dragseth  
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Church office: 715-287-4473  
Church Secretary: Monica Bahr – Home: 715-287-4742  
Church E-mail: [pleasantvalley@tcc.coop](mailto:pleasantvalley@tcc.coop)  
Website: [www.pleasantvalleylutheran.com](http://www.pleasantvalleylutheran.com)

# PLEASANT VALLEY NEWSLETTER

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

**NOVEMBER 2018**

**4<sup>th</sup> ALL SAINTS DAY**

**6<sup>th</sup> ELECTION DAY**

**11<sup>th</sup> VETERANS DAY**

**18<sup>th</sup> Women’s Thankoffering Sunday**

**20<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Service**

**22<sup>nd</sup> HAVE A BLESSED THANKSGIVING**