

Bible in 90 days: A cover to cover reading.

Three months ago, I invited you all on a journey with me: a journey to read (or listen to!) the Bible from cover to cover in 90 days. What a challenge! In fact, even as you read this, I am very likely still finishing up, having missed the 90 day deadline by a week or so.

How did it go for you? Did you start? Were you able to keep up? Are you still reading? Did you discover you need to go at a slower pace? Did you decide now isn't the right time, but you hope to try again in the future?

First and foremost, no matter how this attempt went for you, whether you started and finished, started and are still reading, started and didn't finish, or haven't yet started, I hope this experience has inspired you to reengage with God's Word and be shaped by the Spirit's movement in your life. In these pages, we encounter the stories of God and God's people and are able to see more clearly what God is up to in our world and our lives.

As I approach the end of this journey, I would like to offer a few observations that have come to me as I have read.

First: There is so much there! Of course, I knew, or thought I knew, many of the "famous" stories of the Bible. But, there was so much there that I didn't remember having ever heard before, particularly in the Old Testament. There are some wonderful, and difficult, stories of God's people and how they saw God working in their lives. There is much there to reflect on help grow our faith.

Second: The music! So many times as I read, especially in the Psalms, Isaiah, Jeremiah, the Gospels, and Revelation, I could hear hymns in my head that draw on these passages for their text. In fact, I sometimes found myself distracted as I heard these hymns and songs echoing in my head. It was a

good reminder that every Sunday when we gather for worship, we not only hear God's Word read from the Bible and hear God's Word preached in the sermon, we also sing God's Word together in song.

Third: The poor, the outcast, the marginalized, the foreigner. When you read through so much of the text in such a short time, you cannot help but notice all the times God commands us to welcome and care for those who live at the margins of society, from the law given in Exodus, to the cry of the prophets, to the teaching of Jesus, we are called to care for those that the rest of society has written off. We may not agree on the best ways to do this, but we are called to work together for the sake of others, regardless of our political leanings.

Fourth: I want to do it again! For me, I have found that the more I read the Bible, the more I want to keep reading. I want to keep discovering. I want to keep understanding. I want to keep growing in faith and a life of discipleship. This is where I really see the Spirit working in me through this process. The more I learn and grow, the more I want to keep learning and growing. That is the process of "becoming." You and I are not yet the people God calls us to be, but we are on our way, by the power of Jesus and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

More and more I see and read articles about the religiosity of Americans. More and more, people aren't coming to church, aren't reading the Bible, and don't know the basic stories of our faith.

But I'm not worried. I believe Jesus was raised and is alive and active in our world. I believe God cares for us and all creation. I believe the Holy Spirit is present in our lives working to transform us into the people God created us to be. I believe that the Church, the hands and feet of Christ in the world, remains a bedrock and foundation of God's mission among us.

So, give it a try. Pick up your Bible and read. Maybe start in Genesis. Maybe start with the Gospels. Read a little at a time, or dive in and read long passages. Whatever you do, just read (or listen, if that works better). As you do, I believe the Holy Spirit will work in you and deepen your faith in God and Christ.

Peace,
Pr. JonPaul

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church

Council Minutes

Sunday, August 5, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 10:37 by President Kim Vlcek. Pastor JonPaul led us in a devotional prayer.

NON-AGENDA REPORTS

The secretary's report was reviewed.

The treasurer's report was reviewed. The Mission Offering for July to Barnabas Coffee House in Chippewa Falls was \$317. Roxie paid the fuel pre-buy at \$1.24 a gallon for a total of \$1,488. A check for \$1,042 has been sent to the ELCA Global Church for Mariah's trip to Rwanda.

Pastor reviewed his report. The policy set for funerals will be posted on the website. Monday through Friday Pastor JonPaul can officiate at funerals after 4 p.m. He can also officiate for funerals all day on Saturdays and after noon on Sundays. We still do not know about the legality of burials after dark, which may impact a 4 p.m. funeral in the winter.

Both Sunday School and confirmation will begin on September 9 at 10:15. A letter will go out to parents or grandparents. A Sunday School meeting on the program being used this year, *Whirl*, will be on August 19, and a confirmation meeting will be held on August 26. We are looking to have a mentor-type confirmation, with adults from the congregation mentoring students; 1 adult for each 2 students. There are 7 or possibly 8 students planning to attend confirmation.

There has been no progress on getting a worship committee together to help plan services for special seasons of the church. A committee

would start by planning the Advent and Christmas services.

A 10 a.m. outdoor service is being planned for September 16 in Olson Park. The Praise Team will lead the music. There will be a picnic lunch after the service.

There was no Ambassador's report.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Education – No further update. Pastor will check to see if *Whirl* needs to be renewed and order booklets for the students. We will order 5 booklets for now and if we need more we will order more.

Property – Olson Park has been looked over. There is a lot of underbrush and upkeep that needs to be done. Mark and Randy have mown it and will keep it mown so it looks good for the September 16 service. The service will be at 10 a.m. with a picnic lunch to follow. Please invite neighbors to join us. We will check to see if Corissa is planning the meal. We thought hot dogs and buns, a variety of chips, watermelon, and lemonade. Also, ketchup, mustard, relish, onions (Ruth) Pickles and butter. John Poore will bring wood and take charge of the fire. Dwight will bring his grill. Dave Vlcek will bring a couple canopies. We will need to take some chairs up to the park, but we will invite people to bring lawn chairs if they like. We will set up at 8 a.m. on the 16th. Dwight will get a Thrivent Seed Card to help with costs.

We need to leave the door from the basement dining area to the stairway open so it doesn't get so musty in the hall.

The sanctuary balcony ceiling tiles need to be checked. Two tiles in front of the windows are coming down.

The carpets throughout the church have been cleaned.

The membership list is done and will be sent to Monica to be available in the office.

Praying the plat book - Pastor has sent a letter highlighting our plan to the Dairyland District. He has had only one response from someone that is no longer in the district. We will carry forward on this after the bazaar or Christmas.

The prayer chain is on hold.

We will look for a youth to sit on council at the next Annual Meeting.

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church

Council Minutes

July 8, 2018

(Not submitted last month)

The meeting was called to order at 10:31 by President Kim Vlcek. Pastor JonPaul led us in a devotional prayer.

REPORTS

The secretary's report was reviewed.

The treasurer's report was reviewed. The Mission Offering to support Mariah Sands as a missionary for a year in Rwanda was \$446.00. The fuel pre-buy is \$1.24 per gallon for 1200 gallons from Chippewa Valley Energy.

Pastor JonPaul reviewed his report. There was some discussion about displaying more from our hymnal on the screen. *Sundays and Seasons* would be a resource for doing this, but comes with a cost of \$320 per year. No action taken. Pastor will put a reminder about the Spaghetti Dinner Fund-raiser on Sunday, July 15 for Mariah Sands on our Facebook page. He will also do a send-off during the worship service on that date for Mariah and also for the students who will be attending Luther Park Bible Camp.

Kay made a motion to accept all reports. Second by Mark. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Sunday School and confirmation will begin on September 9, 2018. There will be a parent meeting in August. The learning material will be *Here We Stand* – online. The cost will be \$14.99 per student and \$69 for the 1 year online subscription. There are 7 students that will be attending confirmation. There will also be a teacher training held.

Tri-County Restoration will be cleaning the carpet and the pads on the pews.

A 10 A.M. outdoor service is being planned for Sunday, September 16, in Olson Park. The Praise Team will lead the music. There will be a picnic lunch following the service. Mark Koser mowed Olson Park. If it is kept mowed, it should be fine for the worship service in the park. Mark will work with Dave Vlcek regarding the sound system for the service. The plans for the outdoor worship

The Mission Offering for Mariah's Rwanda trip brought in \$747 in loose cash. Added to the spaghetti dinner, \$1,388 was raised. It has been sent to the organization that Mariah is going with. She has also raised \$6,971 on-line, enabling her to help others meet their goals. We will add her to our weekly prayers.

The purchase of the new TV monitor will be delayed until the TVs go on sale. Dwight is handling this.

We will be going over the Congregational Study in the fall. We are, however, implementing some of the suggestions already.

The music is lined up for the bazaar. The group will do the 10:00 service. Randy and Kay Sands will again do the chicken dinner. We will add dinner rolls to the menu. They will get a Thrivent Seed Money Card for the food.

NEW BUSINESS

The forming of committees will be put on hold until the end of the summer.

Having a booth at Cleghorn Fest was discussed. Kim will contact Candace Lund to check on booth availability and such. If we get a booth, Kim will get together a committee to plan the booth. She will put a notice in the bulletin. Dwight and Dale made a motion to purchase refrigerator magnets to give out at Cleghorn Fest with the church picture and information on.

Mission Offering: September – Mondovi Backpack Weekend Meals

October –

OTHER ITEMS –

Next meeting – September 2, 10:30

Dale made a motion to adjourn. Second by Dwight.

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, Ruth Poore

service will be finalized at the August council meeting.

Pastor will update our funeral policy on our web site. Corissa Sands is checking on the legality of burials after dark, which may impact a 4 P.M. funeral during the winter months.

Pastor JonPaul has an updated membership list.

There was some good discussion about sending out letters to our church neighbors letting them know they are being included in our prayers. This project is known as Praying the Plat Book. Pastor will contact area pastors about our project. It was also suggested that we start the project with a committee to help make a list of potential recipients of the letter. This project is still in the planning stage.

Several items were tabled:

Updating the Prayer Chain

Youth Membership on Council

2nd TV for the sanctuary

Report to Congregation on the Congregational Study (this fall)

NEW BUSINESS

Kay will sort through the old blue and green hymnals. Best efforts will be made to contact family members who have donated the hymnals to see if they would like to keep them or have us donate the books to another church. Remaining hymnals will be offered to members of our congregation before donating them.

The Cleghorn Festival was briefly discussed. Members of the council were encouraged to think of ideas for a booth/activity this year. Some ideas included having some activities for kids and giving out a bookmark or magnet with our church information on it. This will be discussed more at our August council meeting.

A discussion to revive the Men's and Women's groups was tabled.

Mission Offerings: August – Eleva-Strum Backpack Weekend Meals

September – Mondovi

Backpack Weekend Meals

OTHER ITEMS

Next meeting – August 5, at 10:30

Motion by Roxie to adjourn. Second by Mark.

We adjourned at 11:41. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Sands

Members present: Pastor JonPaul, Roxie Ulness, Kim Vlcek, Mark Koser and Kay Sands

Treasurers' Report

None submitted:

Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

Faith Story

Do you have a story or testimony to share?

Talk to Ruthann, this will be her final one

Praise Team News

The Praise Team will play in worship at Pleasant Valley on September 16, 23 and 30. They will lead worship at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility on September 23 and 30. The group will continue to have practices on Wednesday evenings at 6:30.

Parish Nursing

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

WELCA

Women's Retreat at Luther Park in Chetek on August 16th and 17th was great. We had a good turn out from P.V. We had invited Lake Superior conference to join us and they did; at least 6 ladies came and want to join us again next year!

The speaker was Pastor Mike Vetsch from Lyster Lutheran he has written and published several books of poems. We enjoyed our time together.

Kim Vlcek had us painting on rocks, which was lots of fun!

Plan ahead for what you can make and bring to the fall Bazaar!

Sunday School / Confirmation

Sunday school and confirmation class will begin again on September 9. Plan on teaching!

No class on September 16th.

Confirmation mentors needed. Talk to pastor if you are interested.

Invitation to Hospitality

We read again and again in the Old Testament that one of the practices that marked the culture of Israel was hospitality for the stranger (Deuteronomy 10:18-19). Hospitality and compassion could create new, equivalently life-giving intergenerational family ties.

God's command to show hospitality is not just fit for ancient people, but also for us, in our time.

Does God's invitation to hospitality include our neighbors (even those we do not know) who are poor or struggling or lonely? Might we also think of our congregations this way, as places where hospitality and the gift of family ties can create that web for people who don't otherwise have it?

God, open our eyes and hearts to the power of hospitality to make the world a healthier, more loving place where everyone knows home.

This message is an excerpt from "Hospitality as grace" by Catherine Malotky in the May 2018 issue of [Gather magazine](#).

*By the light of the Psalms:

The Lord is on my side.
Psalms 118:6

*I guess that pretty much
says it all*

**By Chris Shea*

TEXTS AND READERS for September

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost -2nd

Green

Kim Vlcek

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Psalm 15

James 1:17-27

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost —9th

Green

Corissa Sands

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Psalm 146

James 2:1-17

Mark 7:24-37

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost —16th

Green

Julie Schwennsen

Isaiah 50:4-91

Psalm 116:1-9

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost – 23rd

Green

Kay Sands

Jeremiah 11:18-20

Psalm 54

James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – 30th

Green

Sharon Anderson

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

Psalm 19:7-14

James 5:13-20

Mark 9:38-50





IN NEED OF PRAYER

Here is our Prayer Concern list:

Mariah Sands – Mission trip to Rwanda

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

The Family of Don Wollum cousin of Ruthann's

Pastor Laurie Skow-Anderson - our new Bishop, and her new staff

Danny Najbrt - has MS, Kim Bahr's nephew, is still hopeful to regain some more sight

Joy Glende – struggling with neck pain and dizziness

Steve Glende – seeing specialist for his lungs and his blood

Romaine Knutson - a member of Pastor JonPaul's family; diagnosis of cancer and has begun treatment

Nick Polkowske – prostate cancer and heart trouble

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

Gerri Sessions – strengthening & healing

Catherine Erickson – pancreatic cancer

Christine Thompson – struggling with lupus: 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 deployed to the Middle East.

The inmates at CVCTF

All those on our Visiting list:

Avis Erickson, Gary Hazen,

Bob Dutter, Jim & Janice Teigen

August mission offering: Eleva Backpack
Weekend Meals – through Feed My People

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE:
***NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS: Sunday,**
September 23rd - for the October Newsletter

Call Monica Bahr - 715-287-4742,

or E-mail: dmbahr@tcc.coop. Also, E-mail
the church at: plesntvalleyluth@tcc.coop

with any bulletin or newsletter
announcements, esp. prayer request and
updates, by Wednesday, so I can print
them. Thanks.

Bless the Students

Dear Lord Jesus, bless the children and youth of this nation, returning to their schools and colleges. May your Holy Spirit enlighten their minds, purify their vision and strengthen their wills. Protect them as they learn in the classrooms and participate in activities outside them. May they learn to follow in your steps, just as you grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man.

Amen

HOORAY FOR OUR TEACHERS!

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

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

Pastor JonPaul Dragseth

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PLEASANT VALLEY NEWSLETTER

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

SEPTEMBER 2018

Labor Day

Grandparents Day

Autumn Begins

Sunday School Begins

Outdoor Worship and Picnic Dinner