

2019 Easter Message

May I have your attention please!

MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION for an important announcement!

MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION FOR AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT, NOW, PLEASE!!!!

What do we have to do to get the world's attention? We've got good news, great news, the best news, but we can't seem to get the attention of those who need to hear it the most.

For a few years in my former parish I sent out postcards and Facebook posts hoping to catch the attention of those who weren't members of my church and invite them to EASTER WORSHIP.

I used cute designs from OUTREACH.COM. My favorite was a photo of a fuzzy blue stuffed toy bunny with the caption: **Is the true meaning of Easter a little fuzzy?** On the other side of the card was an invitation to worship at Trinity, the church I served. This year they have a photo of an adorable baby wearing floppy fuzzy bunny ears and the caption reads: **Have you heard the real story of Easter?** They also have a post card with the photo of a green field filled with colorful Easter eggs ready for the Easter Egg hunt. The caption reads: **Hunting for more this EASTER?** These clever cutesy cards are designed to get the attention of the world and invite non-members to come to their worship services. It is not a terrible idea to send a postcard in the mail or post on social media inviting people to visit your church, but is it working? Does sending a card capture the world's attention?

What does it take to get the attention of the world? What does it take to get the attention of the family that lives in the yellow house across the street from your church building?

Some seems to be so distracted, busy, engaged in daily living, or just getting by. Others seem anesthetized by mind numbing virtual reality activities on their computer, phone or TV screens. A few find time to worship at the gym, yoga class, running, or biking. Sometimes I just want to yell, HEY! LISTEN UP, I've got good news. But I know they won't be able to hear me over the din of daily life.

So what do we do? We know that guilting, shaming,

and judging doesn't work. Should we just... Give up. Shut up. Close up? Nope. I'm too much of an optimist for that. I think there is one thing we as a church can do that might get the world's attention. We can sneak up and love them up.

I don't mean sneak up like stalking, that's illegal. What I mean is act like you love your neighbor in little ways so that eventually without you really knowing it, you DO love your neighbor and you can be in a relationship in such a way that you can invite them to know and love Jesus, the real Jesus, the Jesus of Easter.

Maybe the first step is caring enough about the folks that don't know the story about Jesus life death and resurrection to send them a silly post card. Maybe a baby step is caring enough about the children who won't hear the Easter story in Sunday school and inviting them to come to your church for an Easter egg hunt and before it begins tell them about Jesus in some simple way. Maybe you could care enough to get to know the name of the church neighbor in the yellow house and who knows where it will go from there. Care enough to get to know your neighbor, the Muslim family from Somalia that lives next to the grocery store. Care enough to get to know your immigrant neighbor, the Latino family that lives across the street from the school.

Maybe the only way to get someone's attention is to love them. That's how God got my attention.

God sneaks up on us, loves unconditionally, loves the world so much that he gave his only Son, and on the third day he rose from the dead, so that we might have life. That's the real meaning of Easter. That's the good news the world is dying to hear. They just don't know it yet. Maybe YOU can love someone enough to tell them about it.

It's Easter. Let's go love-in Jesus' name,
Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

Happy Easter!

As you receive this Newsletter, we are about half-way through the 40 days of Lent, on our way toward Holy Week and Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

Each year, for our Wednesday evenings together, we have focused on a different theme. One year, we talked about world hunger and how the systems we participate in contribute to global food inequality. One year we heard about how we praise God with different parts of our body; hands, feet, head, mouth, and whole body. One year we heard reflections on Lent written by Church leaders across the world.

This year, we are hearing the stories of the Easter Vigil. The Easter Vigil is a service which is part of what is called the Triduum, or The Great Three Days. This is Maundy Thursday, the last supper, Good Friday, the death of Jesus, and Easter Vigil, waiting for Christ's resurrection from the dead.

The Easter vigil is a beautiful service. If you ever get the chance to go to one, I would recommend it. They often start later in the evening and start with a fire, giving thanks to God for light and life. Part of the Easter Vigil is hearing the stories of faith, from Creation through the Prophets. We tell these stories that night because they remind us of what God intended for Creation, how it went wrong, and how God has worked through history and people to bring about God's good purposes for all creation. In hearing these stories, we better understand who Jesus is and what he is doing

on the cross, and what his resurrection means for all of us.

The first Wednesday, we heard the stories of Creation. We took a deeper look at what these two stories tell us about what God intended for this world. The second Wednesday, we heard selections from Genesis 3-11 and the Fall of humanity. We studied how humans chose to determine good and evil for themselves, rather than trusting God, and how this decision spirals out in violence and death, generation after generation after generation.

We don't hear a sermon, instead we hear a teaching, a Bible study, that takes a closer look at select passages to help us better understand what is going on in these texts and why they are so important for our understanding of who Jesus is and what Jesus accomplished on the cross.

Over the next several Wednesdays we will study selections from Exodus, the book of Jonah, and the book of Daniel, with his apocalyptic vision of the Son of Man.

I hope you will join us. Come, and discover a deeper understanding of what Easter Sunday is all about.

Peace,

Pr. JonPaul

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church
Council Minutes Sunday, March 3, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 by Vice President Dwight Sands.

NON-AGENDA – Corissa Sands joined us to highlight her plans for the Easter breakfast. Easter is April 21 and we will have a breakfast at 7:30. She plans on scrambled eggs, pork sausage patties, applesauce, bananas and grapes – or whatever fruit she can get at a good price – cinnamon rolls, and orange juice, coffee, and milk. She will plan for 65 to 85 people. The confirmation students will help serve, set up, and clean up.

REPORTS

The secretary's report was reviewed. The treasurer's report was reviewed. The January Mission Offering for Sharing the Dream, in Guatemala, was \$246. We added \$54 to that amount to bring the total to \$300 to match the amount we planned on sending. Since church was cancelled on February 24 we did not yet send the Mission Offering to Acres for Joy. The new computer for Pastoral use cost \$883.98. At the end of February our expenses were \$3,212.31 more than our income. Because of this deficit we decided to use a "wait and see" position to decide whether we will use the offering collected during Lenten services to put in our coffers or plan a special drive to shore them up. We had planned on sending those proceeds to the Luther Park building Capital Campaign.

Pastor JonPaul's report was reviewed. Ash Wednesday, March 6, will be the first soup-and-sandwich supper at 5:30 and the regular Ash Wednesday service at 6:30. The rest of the Wednesday Lenten services will use the Holden Evening Prayer. Easter sunrise service will be at 6:30 with breakfast at 7:30 and the regular service at 9:00, led by the Praise Team.

Since Madeline will be baptized on Palm Sunday at Immanuel Lutheran, Pastor JonPaul will not be here. He will check with the Praise Team to see if they can fill in. If not, he will get a replacement. We asked that he keep the travel price in mind when asking someone to

take his place, since we need to pay \$125 plus mileage for a substitute.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Education – Sunday School is running smoothly. We need 3 teachers to sign up to teach in March. The last day for Sunday School and Confirmation will be May 19.

We have 2 or 3 graduates; Blaine Anderson, Joe Hoverson, and possibly Danielle Fuentes.

Worship – Praying for Neighbors – Ruth will check on envelopes and print the 500 copies of the letters needed to stuff them. Pastor will check on the list and work on mail merging them to be printed on the labels. Roxie will purchase 500 stamps. Kay has already purchased the magnets. We will talk to Stephanie about the labels.

Kim, Kay, and Monica planned on being on the committee to pray for the neighbors, so they can set up a time to do so. The letters will be sent monthly, about 4 days before the end of the month. We will send 20 letters a month.

Property – The faucet is ready to be installed in the kitchenette. The sand mitigation filter for the water system is ready to be installed. The installation of the TV monitor on the balcony is on hold until Dave can get another able-bodied person to help him take the old one down.

Dwight showed us two options for the stairs to Olson Park. The Council generally preferred the single, solid steps that look like stone. We need about 36 steps. The committee so far consists of Dwight Sands, Dale Anderson, and Nate Kuehl. Roxie would also like to attend to keep abreast of plans. The committee will continue to report back to Council on progress.

We did not set up an annual review process for church workers. We should have feedback as to wages, working conditions, etc.

Pastor will organize a new prayer chain, adding or deleting those that would like to be added or taken off. He also will set up a communication tree to be used for information dissemination.

Somehow we missed the 5-year lift inspection. It has now been inspected.

NEW BUSINESS

Walking Together and Christ Jam are being held at Luther Park this coming Saturday, March 9. The cost to attend is \$25. Corissa would like to attend. Any others should ask Roxie about reimbursement. Corissa will handle the registrations. We also need to know about Early Bird registration for summer camps.

Mission Offering:

March – Chippewa Valley Street Ministry – can also take donations at Good Shepherd church, but you need to specify Chippewa Valley Street Ministry

April – Roger Jackson – cancer – we will check with him

May – Jordan Schadrie – 17-year-old diagnosed with cancer

OTHER ITEMS – none

Next meeting – April 7, 2019, 10:30

Ruth made a motion to adjourn. Second by Dwight. Motion carried.

We adjourned at 12:08. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ruth Poore

Members present: Pastor JonPaul, Dale Anderson, Dwight Sands, Roxie Ulness, Dave Vlcek, Corissa Sands, and Ruth Poore

Treasurers' Report

Summary of Offering and Expenses

Y-T-D	January	February
Offering		
\$4,915.00	\$2,675.00	\$2,240.00
Misc. Income		
\$124.79	\$58.91	\$65.88
Expenses		
\$8,252.10	\$3,787.94	\$4,410.16

Year to date the expenses exceed offering by \$3,212.31

January mission offering to Sharing the Dream was \$249.00

February Mission offering to Acres of Joy was \$137.00

No memorials this month.

Respectfully submitted:
Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

WELCA

Dairyland Conference – Morning of Renewal- Wednesday, April 17, 2019, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Whitehall. Meeting starts at 9:30 - 12noon lunch. Speaker Moira Kneer. See Flyer in Newsletter, more info.

Happy Birthday

Jim Teigen's Birthday is April 23, If you wish to send a card; address is: S11530 Cty Rd W, Eleva WI 54738



Parish Nurse

Needed

Sunday school / Confirmation

Classes continue. Please sign up to teach on the sign-up sheet in the fellowship room.

Praise Team News

Members of the Praise Team attended a reception, presentation and exhibit for the "Pen Project" at the Heyde Center in Chippewa Fall on March 14. The Pen Project works with people who are incarcerated to encourage, publish and exhibit their writings and works of art, and distributes a publication to current inmates.

The Praise Team completed renewal of their volunteer orientation/training for the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility (CVCTF). They will lead worship there on Good Friday afternoon, April 19, and on Sunday, April 28.

The Praise Team will play in worship at Pleasant Valley on April 21 and 28. Practices will continue on Wednesday evenings. Check the newsletter calendar for dates and times.

April Mission Offering Recipient

An offering will be received during worship on April 28 for Roger Jackson for expenses related to medical treatment for esophageal cancer. Roger and his fiancée Kari Karnatz are new members at Pleasant Valley.

Cemetery Association note

We are looking for new bids for cutting the cemetery and the church lawn for this coming summer. Submit a written bid to Dick Bahr. Thank you. If you are interested in the job talk with Dick Bahr, Larry Sands, or Dale Anderson.

Job description for grass cutter:

Cut around church yard and the cemetery.

Trim around all stones /markers

Also, blow or sweep off each marker.

Trim around plants & flowers carefully.

Remove old plastic / silk flowers that are in bad shape and place in garbage bag or can by cemetery shed. Remove dead flowers, trim or cut up close to large growing plants.

Of course, no cutting on Sunday morning or during a funeral, or a wedding etc., also the side hill, if there is heavy dew; it does not dry until into the afternoon.

Cutting should be done during the growing season weekly, and every other week during a dry season.

Pay special attention on the week around Memorial Day, the month of May.

Would you be available to come do any cutting or trimming, to make it look nice, just before a burial?

Thank you, Cemetery Association.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE:

***NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS:**

Sunday, April 21st - for the May 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, especially prayer requests and updates, by Wednesday, so I can print them.



IN NEED OF PRAYER

Here is our Prayer Concern list:

Gary Hazen - Hospitalized with influenza

Roger Jackson – healing - cancer

Ed Anibas - Steph's grandfather, on hospice

Joy Glende – suffering with neck & back pain

Jordan Schadrie – cancer treatments

Troy Gilbertson – cancer treatments

Victoria – healing - cancer, cousin to Pastor

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

Catherine Erickson – pancreatic cancer

Gerri Sessions – strengthening & healing

Christine Thompson – struggling with lupus

Mariah Sands – Mission trip to Rwanda

Hill family Missionaries – living in France

Maritza Nohemi – student we are sponsoring in Guatemala

Our service men and women; esp. –

Kendall Dragseth, She is Pastor's cousin and serves in the Navy, transferred to Syria.

The inmates at CVCTF

those on our Visiting list:

Avis Erickson, Gary & Sharon Hazen,

Bob Dutter, Jim & Janice Teigen

April Mission Offering Recipient:

Roger Jackson – cancer expenses

TEXTS AND READERS for April

**Lenten evening worship with
Soup and sandwich suppers**

Lenten Worship – 3rd

Purple Kay Sands
Jonah 1:1-2:1

Lenten Worship – 10th

Purple Roxie Ulness
Daniel 3:1-29

Fifth Sunday in Lent -7th

Purple Jessica Dragseth
Isaiah 43: 16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3: 4b-14
John 12: 1-8

Palm Sunday — 14th

Purple Julie Schwensen
Isaiah 50: 4-9a
Psalm 31: 9-16
Philippians 2: 5-11
Luke 22:14—23: 56 or 23:1-49

Maundy Thursday (Holy Communion)-18th

Purple Sharon Anderson
Exodus 12: 1-14
Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11: 23-26
John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday – 19th

Black Monica Bahr
Isaiah 52:13—53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1—19:42

Easter Sunday -21st

White/Gold Randy Sands 9:00
Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25
Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15: 19-26 or Act 10:34-43
Luke 24: 1-12 or John 20:1-18

Second Sunday of Easter -28th

White/Gold Corissa Sands
Acts 5:27-32
Psalms 118:154-29 or 150
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31



"I will go in the strength

Of the Lord."

Psalms 71:16

Always mindful that yours

Is greater than mine.

By the light of the Psalms

by Chris Shea

Conduit for God's Spirit

Mar 17, 2019 01:00 am

The saints we have known have helped us to find the strength and faith to be God's people through their loving examples. By recalling what we became in their presence, we can become better witnesses for God. Every saint we have known has served as a conduit for God's Spirit in our lives. Thank God for all the saints!

This message is adapted from "They in Glory Shine" written by Donna Hacker Smith in the November 2001 issue of Lutheran Woman Today (now Gather) magazine.

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"That all May come, Serving all the People of God"

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Church Secretary: Monica Bahr – Home: 715-287-4742
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PLEASANT VALLEY NEWSLETTER

'That all may come, Serving all the people of God'

APRIL 2019

Palm Sunday

Holy week: Maundy Thursday & Good Friday

*SunRise Service
Easter*

