

Pastors Corner

August 2019

Alone

At night, when I have trouble sleeping, I have been watching reruns of a television show called "Alone." Ten people are dropped off at different remote locations on Vancouver Island with a few supplies, their knowledge, and their wit. The objective is to make this remote location their home and survive on their own as long as they can. The contestants struggle with everything from finding water and food, building a shelter, tending a fire, and keeping safe from bears and cougars. Each person has a satellite phone, and when they are ready to go home, they call in. The last person left wins a bunch of money. None of the contestants knows when another leaves, so each has no idea how long they might have to stay; they just live out there, alone.

A few contestants leave within the first couple days, unable to cope with the physical requirements of living alone. Some can't build an adequate shelter or find food or clean water. Others leave out of fear of wild animals. But, in the long run, the last few contestants to leave don't do so because of the physical environment. They call in and choose to leave the island because of the emotional toll being alone takes on them.

In Genesis 2, we hear a story of creation. God creates a human being from the dust and breathes life into the human. God plants a garden and put the human there, to take care of the garden and eat from the plants. In verse 18, God says, "It is not good that the human should be alone; I will make a helper as his partner." The word "helper" doesn't really capture what the Hebrew word (*ezer*) means. The Hebrew word really refers to an essential co-worker without whom no task could succeed. It's not just about someone to help the human; it's about equal companionship without which neither is complete. In fact, the only other

person to be called a "helper" in the Old Testament is God. So, after finding that none of the animals are a suitable partner, God puts the human to sleep, takes a rib, and makes another human as his partner.

So many of us live alone. For some of us, it is a physical loneliness. We live by ourselves or are estranged from family. As we get older, friends and family too often become fewer and visit less often and the sting of loneliness runs deep. For others, children have grown and moved away and our day to day lives without them feel lonely. For others, we have made choices in our lives that have pushed others away from us and we live with the regret and pain of loneliness.

Too often, though, our loneliness is spiritual or emotional. Though we are surrounded by people in our lives, deep down we feel like nobody understands us or what we are going through. Some suffer from anxiety or depression and feel alone in their suffering.

But, as Genesis 2 teaches us, God is not content for us to live alone. God entered the fullness of human experience in Jesus Christ and took on all that it is to be human. In baptism, you were joined to Christ and the whole company of saints. In Christ you are never alone. Here at Pleasant Valley, whether you join us each Sunday or for special occasions, you have a family here. We have a wonderful visitation team, and if you want communion brought to you or just feel like you need someone to visit, give the church a call. You are a Child of God. You are Loved. You belong. You are not alone.

Peace,

Pr. JonPaul

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church

Council Minutes Sunday, July 14, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 10:42 by Pastor JonPaul. Pastor led us in prayer.

Non-Agenda

The women of the church have a retreat at Luther Park on August 15 and 16. We are sponsoring scholarships for up to 5 women, with money taken from the line item in Women's Ministry. Dave made a motion to that effect. Second by Steph. Motion carried.

Reports

The secretary's report was reviewed. The treasurer's report was reviewed. Expenses in June exceeded income by \$286.02, leaving us \$699.06 in the red for the year. The May Mission Offering for Jordan Schadrie was added to and ended up at \$314. The Mission Offering for Lucas Larson's family was \$181. We need to commit to the fuel pre-buy at \$1.14 but will pay for it as we use it. Since we continue to be in the red, we need to have a conversation about finances at the Annual Meeting, January 26, 2020.

The Pastor's report was reviewed. There are possibly 5 students for confirmation next year.

We have one person that has requested membership.

The Council retreat has been put off until we have new members in February.

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

Unfinished Business

Education – nothing to report

Worship – On September 15, 2019, we will have an outdoor service in the park. The Praise Team will handle the music. Nate and Dwight will handle the cooking of brats and hot dogs. We will ask people to volunteer side dishes and desserts. The neighborhood will be invited. Pastor JonPaul will handle inviting the neighbors through flyers to churches, and announcements through the Synod and WEAU, WQOW, WWIB, and WOGO stations.

Property – Another work day to clean up Olson Park will take place on July 20, at about 7:30. If there is still a lot of work to do they may finish on July 21. We have one estimate that includes rock

stairs to the park, since cement or concrete will break. The stone steps are around \$160 to \$180 each.

There is still a piece of siding on the front of the bell tower that needs to be refastened.

The TV still needs installing. Nate is available during a Wednesday Praise Team practice to help Dave when he is available.

The sand mitigation system for the water and the faucet installation in the kitchenette are awaiting the availability of solder.

Other – No update on the prayer chain or communication chain.

Nobody has asked Monica if the computer works better now that we have updated with TCC. Ruth will look into an external hard drive to put on so all our data is backed up, in case of a computer failure.

Outreach – September 7 - Cleghorn Harvest Fest will be handled by the committee. Kim has found the cost is \$40 for two booths.

The kneeling pads at the communion altar need to be replaced or redone. Ruth will be to working on this.

New Business

Last week the lift stopped working. The mother board that runs the doors burned out. We are waiting for an estimate for replacement of the board and any other parts that are needed.

We need to secure a group to provide music for the fall bazaar on October 6. A church that features polka music was suggested. It is south of Eleva. Council members, please bring ideas to the next meeting.

Eleva schools have told parents that all supplies will be donated. Pastor will check on this. If supplies are needed, we will begin collecting school items for Eleva/Strum schools on the first Sunday in August.

Mission Offering:

July – money for two new wells or the hunger/flood relief in Malawi

August – Capital Campaign for the chapel at Luther Park

September – Eleva Backpack food program

October – Mondovi Backpack food program

November – Mondovi Food Pantry

Other items

Next meeting – August 4.

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:

Ruth Poore

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

Treasurers' Report

Summary of Offering and Expenses

Y-T-D	April	May	June
Offering			
\$21,634.00	5,208.00	\$3,439.00	\$3,501.00
Misc. Income			
\$441.26	\$40.00	\$71.98	\$60.00
Expenses			
\$23,248.15	\$3,968.12	\$4,844.71	\$3,069.21

Year to date the expenses exceed offering by \$1,172.89

May mission offering to Jordan Schadrie - \$314.00

June mission offering to Lucas Larson - \$181.00

Memorials:

Building Fund:

In memory of Evelyn Mousel:

From Randy & Kay Sands

General Fund:

In memory of Selmer Anderson and Delain

Anderson on Father's Day

From Dale & Sharon Anderson

In honor of John & Ruth Poore's 50th Wedding

Anniversary

General Fund:

From Dave & Kim Vlcek

From Richard & Monica Bahr

From Larry & Crystal Sands

Altar Kneeling Pads:

From Gary & Irene Isaacson

Respectfully submitted:

Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

Sunday school / Confirmation

Sunday school will continue throughout the summer when you and your child are in Church. Stay for class during coffee fellowship.

Confirmation class will restart in the fall.

WELCA

Women's Retreat

The Women of the ELCA Dairyland and Lake Superior Conferences will host their first joint retreat on August 15-16 at Luther Park in Chetek. The cost is \$62 for the two day event or \$30 for just Friday. The retreat flyer/registration form is available at the office or was in last month July's newsletter.

Praise Team News

The Praise Team will play in worship at Pleasant Valley on August 25. The group will lead worship that evening at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility. Fun fact: : The Praise Team has been involved in this prison for nine years.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee is beginning to plan for a booth at the Cleghorn Harvest Fest on Saturday September 7. Last year we offered free games and prizes for kids and promoted our fall bazaar. If you have ideas for this year's event, contact the committee: John and Ruth Poore, and Dave and Kim Vlcek.

Happy Birthday!

To everyone who has a

August Birthday,

Blessing on your Special Day!

Monica Bahr; Aug. 20th.



Happy Birthday to:

Janice Teigen on Aug. 25th

Send a card, if you wish, to S11530 Pine Rd. Eleva WI 54738 or stop over and drop one off, better yet.



IN NEED OF PRAYER

Here is our Prayer Concern list:

Lyle Larson – Kim Koser’s dad – in memory care unit now

Jordan Schadrie – undergoing cancer treatment

Troy Gilbertson – cancer, healing

Victoria – undergoing chemo, 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

Dan & Shelby (Cole) Hill and family - missionaries living in France

Maritza Nohemi – student we are sponsoring in Guatemala

Our service men and women; Alex Bauer stationed in South Korea

The inmates at CVCTF

The neighborhood people we have chosen to pray for this month.

All those on our visiting list:

**Gary & Sharon Hazen, Bob Dutter,
Jim & Janice Teigen**

August Mission Offering Recipient:

Capital Campaign for the new chapel at Luther Park Bible Camp

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE:

***NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS:**

Sunday, August 18th - for the September 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.

TEXTS AND READERS for August

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost – 4th

Green *Kathy Tweet*

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Psalm 49:1-12

Colossians 3:1-11

Luke 12:13-21

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost — 11th

Green *Ruth Poore*

Genesis 15:1-6

Psalm 33:12-22

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Luke 12:32-40

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost – 18th

Green *John Poore*

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Psalm 82

Hebrews 11:29—12:2

Luke 12:49-56

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost – 25th

Green *John Poore*

Isaiah 58:9b-14

Psalm 103:1-8

Hebrews 12:18-29

Luke 13:10-17



***From heaven did the Lord
behold the earth.***

Psalms 102: 19

***All his loved ones, held safely
in his hand!***

By the light of the Psalms

By Chris Shea

With women, I find myself in Christ

Each time I gather with women, I feel the presence of women who've gathered together for centuries, across the world.

Women get it. They know the healing power of soup after a loved one dies. They know ice cream, cookies and lots of chocolate can help heal a broken heart. They know the magic of coffee for the bleary-eyed mom of a newborn. They know the perfect book to recommend, which laugh-out-loud meme to share, and the random text to send to remind a friend she or he is not alone.

They know the goodness of quilts, care packages and homemade cookies. They know the beauty of Bible study groups where you show up tired, frustrated and overwhelmed, but are met with words of welcome and love: "We're glad you're here."

Women get it. That's why I continually find myself with the women. I need their faith. I need their presence. I need their tears and their laughter. Most importantly, I need them to show me Christ.

I keep finding myself with the women. And in them, I find myself in Christ.

*This message is an excerpt from "I keep finding myself with the women" by Kimberly Knowle-Zeller in the April 2019 issue of **Gather** magazine.*

From Luther Park

Heart for Luther Park Quilt Auction

Come back to Luther Park again or come if you missed the chance earlier this summer! Heart for Luther Park Quilt Auction will be Sunday August 4, 2019. Join us for a fun filled day at Luther Park with food, quilts, silent auction baskets, vendors and more. Camp-style worship at 9:00am, browsing will begin at 10:00am; the live auction will begin at 12:30pm. Bring the whole family to come one more time this summer. Heart for Luther Park is the annual fundraiser to support the ministry of Luther Park Bible Camp. If you have any questions, please contact Luther Park at info@lutherpark.org or at 715-859-2215

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church
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"That all May come, Serving all the People of God"

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PLEASANT VALLEY NEWSLETTER

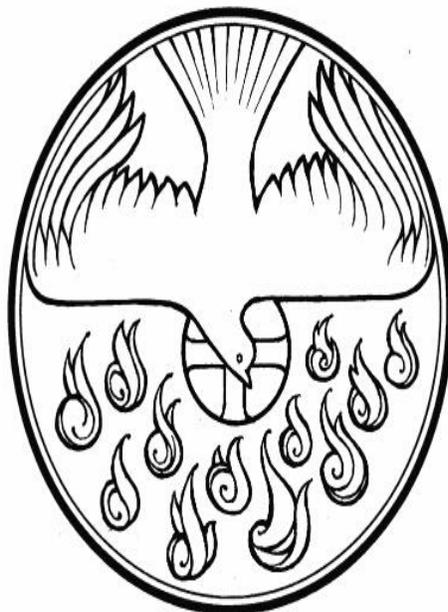
'That all may come, Serving all the people of God'

AUGUST 2019



Women's Retreat
August 15 -16

Praise Team Sunday
August 28th



Pentecost



Cleghorn Harvest Fest on
September 7
and
Outdoor service
At Olson Park
On September 15