

Resolutions

It's that time of year again. Every January, after we have finished ringing in the New Year with family and friends, we have the opportunity to set new goals for our lives. As the calendar ticks over from one year to the next, we look back on the previous year at the things we have accomplished, the ways we have changed, and the things that just didn't get done. And, we look forward, imagining the ways we could change our lives in the New Year. People often make resolutions to lose weight, find a new job, reconnect with old friends, and many, many more.

But, January gives way to February, which soon brings March and the busyness of spring and summer. By June, most of us barely remember what those resolutions were in the first place.

And, if we do remember, often our priorities have changed or the goal seems too far off to finish with only half of the year left. And that's when the guilt sets in.

I don't think there is anything wrong with setting New Year's resolutions. Setting goals and working to achieve those things can help give a sense of purpose and direction in our lives. Like any goal, sometimes we are able to accomplish what we set out to do and sometimes we do not. What we need remember, however, is that our value and our worth as people does not depend on how many friends we have, how much money we make, or what the scale says when we step on it.

In the season of Christmas and through the season of Epiphany, we celebrate God among us. We don't just remember Christ's coming into the world, but we live Christ's coming today. Christ comes into our lives and our communities to end sin, mend brokenness, and defeat death. That's not just something that happened 2000 years ago, it's something that is happening today.

Christ comes now, into this world and into your life, out of love for who you are—a Child of

God, redeemed through the waters of baptism and an inheritor of eternal life. That doesn't change based on the things you do or don't do in this life. So, yes, set goals and see where they take you. Maybe you will find that new job, maybe you

rekindle old friendships, and maybe you will lose that weight. But whether you do, or whether a year from now you are setting similar goals for 2020, know that you are a valuable human being, God loves you, and you will always have a place among your brothers and sisters in Christ at Pleasant Valley.

Peace,

Pr. JonPaul

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church

Council Minutes

Sunday, December 2, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 by President Kim Vlcek. She led us in a devotional prayer.

NON-AGENDA - none

REPORTS

The secretary's report was reviewed.

The treasurer's report was reviewed.

The September Mission Offering for Feed My People was \$261. The Thankoffering of \$243.36 was sent to the Synod. Kay presented a report detailing the expenses incurred during the bazaar.

Pastor is on paternity leave and so there was no report. He will be setting up pastors to fill during his absence.

Pastor JonPaul needs a device (Chrome Book or other computer) to use for church business. We tabled that discussion until he returns from leave.

The Ambassadors report was e-mailed to us. There have been no additional Ambassador's activities except as tied to the preparation for the Christmas program.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Education – Sunday School is running smoothly. We are looking for teachers to sign up for the year. There are some Christmas projects for the students that will be completed on December 16. There will be no Sunday School or Confirmation on the 23 or the 30 of December. Classes will resume on

January 6, 2019. Dwight will check the list to see if we have a teacher.

Worship – Pastor JonPaul has chosen the setting for worship during Advent. The Christmas Eve program will be on Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m. We will have communion.

Property – The installation of the TV monitor on the balcony, the water system, the flooring strip separating the kitchen and dining room, and the edges of the tables in the Sunday School room are all on the agenda to be fixed.

At this point, snow plowing is being shared between Mark Koser and Jerry Larson.

The letter to the neighbors, the prayer chain, and the congregational study information dissemination are all on hold until the Annual Meeting, January 27, 2019, or later.

Roxie called Tri-County to check on our anti-virus to see if that came with the bundling package. Our package covers activation for one laptop and one mobile device. We can add another laptop for \$5.95 a month. We will add a box (modem?) which can be configured at TCC and we can pick it up and install it. Question as to whether we should reimburse Dan Herzberg for the anti-virus program he has been paying for.

NEW BUSINESS

Ruth will pick up 12 poinsettias for delivering poinsettias during caroling. Pastor JonPaul will connect with some possible new members.

Roxie is working on the 2019 Ministry Plan (budget) and the Opportunities to Serve for 2019.

We received a thank you from Monica and Kathy for paying their entry fee for Soul Support.

We will be receiving donation from Sadie Odegard to improve the access to Olson Park from the church. We may need to find a planner/installer to handle the job.

We looked at the Ministry Plan (budget) for 2019. We changed some totals. We also discussed Pastor JonPaul's contract and the vacation days/sick days or PTO days. The Plan will be presented at the Annual Meeting, January 27, 2019. Kim and Kay are going off council at that meeting, so we will need two volunteers to be on the council for 3 years.

Mission Offering:

January – Sharing the Dream in Guatemala.

February –

OTHER ITEMS –

Next meeting – January 6, 2019, 10:30

Kay made a motion to adjourn. Second by Dale.

We adjourned at 12:15. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ruth Poore

Members present: Dale Anderson, Kim Vlcek, Kay Sands, Dwight Sands, Roxie Ulness, Ruth Poore

Parish Nurse

Needed

Sunday school / Confirmation

Thank you to Corissa Sands for the great Christmas program. It was enjoyed by all.

Praise Team News

The Praise Team played in worship at Pleasant Valley on December 23 and 30. They led worship at Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility (CVCTF) on December 23, 25 and 30. The Praise Team led a group in Christmas caroling on December 9, visiting homes of several members and friends of the church.

Stephanie Kuehl joined the Praise Team in November and recently completed the orientation and training so she can participate in the worship services at CVCTF. Welcome Steph!!

We will be playing at Pleasant Valley and at CVCTF on January 27th.

Treasurers' Report



IN NEED OF PRAYER

Summary of Offering and Expenses

Y-T-D	September	October	November
Offering			
\$41,203.09	\$3,376.00	\$2,446.00	\$3,690.00
Misc. Income			
\$4,279.07	\$308.48	\$2,194.00	\$0.00
Expenses			
\$44,764.08	\$3,591.25	\$4,745.00	\$3,673.94

Year to date the offering exceeds expense by \$718.08

October mission offering to Shane Giacomino was \$279.00

November mission offering to Feed My People Food Bank was \$261.00

Memorials:

Building Fun:

In memory of Linda Ahlers, friend, from John & Ruth Poore

In memory of Jim Lehman, cousin, from John & Ruth Poore

In memory of Bill Sloan, cousin, from John & Ruth Poore

In memory of Tom Plunkett, cousin, from John & Ruth Poore

In memory of Ann Holland, cousin, from John and Ruth Poore

Respectfully submitted:

Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

WELCA

Thank you for your monetary gift to the Thankoffering service. We took in \$243.46. If you haven't brought in your Thankoffering gifts please do so. Leave them with Monica in the office.

Here is our Prayer Concern list:

Jayne Closs - Barron teen missing

Ed Anibas - Steph's grandfather on hospice

Victoria – healing from cancer surgery, cousin to Pastor

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

Julie Werlien –getting her strength back

Joy Glende – suffering with neck & back pain

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

Nick Polkowske – prostate cancer and heart trouble

Gerri Sessions – strengthening & healing

Catherine Erickson – pancreatic cancer

Christine Thompson – struggling with lupus:

The Family and friends of Toby Cleasby

Mariah Sands – Mission trip to Rwanda

Maritza Nohemi – student we are sponsoring in Guatemala

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

The inmates at CVCTF

All those on our Visiting list:

Avis Erickson, **Gary & Sharon Hazen,**

Bob Dutter, **Jim & Janice Teigen**

January Mission Offering Recipient:

Sharing the Dream in Guatemala.



TEXTS AND READERS for December

Epiphany of Our Lord – 6th

White Sharon Anderson

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Mathew 2:1-12

Baptism of Our Lord— 13th

White Roxie Ulness

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Second Sunday after Epiphany - 20th

Green Kay Sands

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 36:5-10

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

Third Sunday after Epiphany – 27th

Green John Poore

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE:

***NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS: Sunday,**

January 20th - for the February 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. Thanks.

Thank-You's

To Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church,

We wanted to take the time out to say how much your kindness and loving gestures have meant to our family. Thank you for your kind words, prayers and for the money you gave to our family, it will help pay for medical equipment, medical bills and supplies. We can't thank you enough.

God Bless

Thank you

Shane, Nickel, Hanna & Sara Giaromino

Thank you for the beautiful quilt you provided when my mom was in the hospital – it is very much appreciated.

Your kind expression of sympathy is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

Family of Karen Fremstad

Thank you for dedicating \$247.00 of your Mission Sunday offering to the Mondovi Backpack Program. Your support is truly a gift to our children and area families. Merry Christmas!

I wish to thank you for all the visits, caroling & plants during this year. All are so appreciated.

Avis Erickson

Merry Christmas Thank you for the pretty Christmas plant & the music it was just beautiful.

Emily Horban

Many many thanks from Mike and Beth for the Caroling at the home where Beth is now living. (friends of the Poores)

*Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church
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"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'***

***JANUARY 2019
HAPPY NEW YEAR
EPIPHANY
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY***