

## Pastors Corner

July 2019

It's been nearly 4 years since the first time I preached at Pleasant Valley. After that first time, it would only be a few short month and I would be ordained and called to be your pastor.

As I reflect back over these years, I have been thinking a lot about preaching and teaching. Since coming to Pleasant Valley, I have almost exclusively preached from the Revised Common Lectionary; the lectionary that assigns the texts we hear each Sunday and holiday.

Now, the Lectionary runs on a 3-year cycle. There is 1 year each for texts from Matthew, Mark, and Luke; with John's Gospel interspersed throughout the three years. The Lectionary follows a seasonal structure, providing texts that speak to the time of year and the story of Jesus—Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost.

We are nearing a point in my tenure here where I will have been with you through a full rotation of the 3-year cycle. What that means is that at some point, the texts that you hear in church will be texts we have heard before during my time as your pastor.

Which leaves us with a few options:

1. The Lectionary provides 4 texts every week: Old Testament, Psalm, New Testament letter, and Gospel reading. I have primarily preached on the Gospel, with some variation. I could, of course, preach on any of the other texts each week.
2. I could preach on the same text as before with a new interpretation in light of our changing culture, where we are as a congregation, and my ongoing learning about these texts.
3. I could just reuse sermons---trust me, we won't be going down this path!

But, I have another idea that I think we will start (in fact, have already started). From time to time now, you will hear me preach on a series surrounding a particular subject, topic,

or book of the Bible. Right now we are working our way through the book of Acts and the story of the early Church.

But, I would like to take this a step further. I would like us to start forming some adult Bible study opportunities around these series as well. I'm thinking about how we can use the sermon as a conversation starter that would continue into some learning time following coffee. This would provide us the opportunity to go more in-depth with certain topics or readings and explore even more how they connect to our lives today.

I'm excited for the possibilities here. But, I need your help! What topics or series would you be interested in? What are some things you've wondered about and would like some in-depth study? Are there things you've always wanted to ask, but have never had the opportunity?

Let me know! Reach out by phone or email (pr.jonpaul@gmail.com). I am excited to share in this new adventure with you.

Peace,

Pr. JonPaul

### From the synod

#### Summer Book Club

##### Dare to Lead, by Brene Brown

July 18, 2019 10:00 a.m. ZOOM Conference Call

RSVP to Liz, and receive the ZOOM code

lbartsch@nswi.org 715-859-6810

#### Daylily Dig for Malawi

July 19-20, 2019

Kaufmann Farm - Chippewa Falls, WI

#### ONE Fest 2019

July 26-28, 2019

Northern Wisconsin State Fairgrounds

Chippewa Falls, WI

## Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church

### Council Minutes

Sunday, June 9, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 by Pastor JonPaul. Pastor led us in prayer.

#### Reports

The secretary's report was reviewed. The treasurer's report was reviewed. Expenses in May exceeded income by \$1,309.73, leaving us \$1,639.68 in the red for the year. The May Mission Offering for Jordan Schadrie was \$289.

The Pastor's gave an oral report. He officiated at Evelyn Mousel's funeral. The Community Praying has only had 2 negative responses. The Prayer Group needs to make sure the praying gets done each month, even when all do not attend.

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

#### Non-Agenda – none

#### Unfinished Business

**Education** – It has been suggested that we keep Sunday School going during the summer months for those students that are at church each Sunday. We will try that, since we have the materials, but no video, for the summer.

**Worship** – During communion, if the parents agree, children of any age may take the sacraments. If Pastor gives the child a wafer, the server should give that child juice. Also, the server should help Pastor serve communion to the Praise Team on Praise Team Sundays, and then the Pastor and the server should serve each other while the Praise Team returns to their places.

**Property** – A work day to clean up Olson Park took place on June 8. They did not rent a wood chipper. Wood was cut up, brush was stacked, stumps were removed, and the grass was mown. We talked some about getting power up to the park as well.

The gutters on the church have been altered to be able to take the weight of sliding snow. When the gutters are done, we will see

if there is still a water problem in the furnace room and dining room.

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

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

A date has been set for the outdoor service in Olson Park. We will still try to tie it to the beginning of Sunday School and Confirmation. The service has been tentatively set for September 15, pending agreement of the Praise Team.

The TV is not yet up on the balcony.

Nobody has asked Monica if the computer works better now that we have updated with TCC. Ruth will look into and 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.

The kneeling pads at the communion altar need to be replaced or redone. Ruth will be able to work on this, probably in July.

#### New Business

Planning for retreat for the Council has been put on hold.

We need to secure a group to provide music for the fall bazaar on October 6. Council members, please bring ideas to the July meeting.

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 – July 14.

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:34 and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:

Ruth Poore

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

### **Treasurers' Report**

None 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 included in this newsletter.

### **Praise Team News**

The Praise Team will play in worship at Pleasant Valley on July 28. The group will lead worship that evening at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility. Fun fact: The Praise Team was formed 17 years ago!

### **Outreach Committee**

The Outreach Committee is beginning to plan for a booth at the Cleghorn Harvest Fest on 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.

### **We are our stories**

Near the end of his gospel, John explains why he has gone to the trouble of writing it all down. "These are written," he says, "so that you may come to believe. Women of the ELCA is a story-sharing organization. We tell stories to invite prayers. We publish stories in *Gather* magazine and *Café*. We post stories on our [blog](#). We welcome stories from guest speakers at conventions. We travel to other parts of the world to expand our stories. We develop stories into [program resources](#) that educate and inspire. Since the beginning of Christianity, writers, editors, printers, speakers and publications have been vital to the church. Your participation and your financial support help Women of the ELCA continue this ancient Christian tradition by making the gospel resonate in new and creative ways.

*This message is adapted from a stewardship devotion by Emma Crossen, published in [Interchange](#), the quarterly newsletter of Women of the ELCA.*

### **Happy Birthday!**

To everyone who has a July Birthday, Blessing on your Special Day!





## IN NEED OF PRAYER

### **Here is our Prayer Concern list:**

**The family of Larry Watson** – He unexpectedly passed away. He was a friend of the Poores.

**Luke and Janeth Larson and family** - help them deal with the death of his son, Dravin

**Monica Bahr** – healing

**Roger Jackson** – healing

**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

**Mariah Sands** – mission trip to Rwanda

**Dan & Shelby (Cole) Hill 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**

### July Mission Offering Recipient:

Malawi

An offering will be received during the worship service on Sunday, July 28 for Malawi to be used for new wells or for hunger and flood relief.

## TEXTS AND READERS for July

### **Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – 7th**

Green

*Julie Schwennsen*

Isaiah 66:10-14

Psalm 66:1-9

Galatians 6:1-16

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

### **Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – 14<sup>th</sup>**

Green

*Randy Sands*

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

Psalm 25:1-10

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

### **Sixth Sunday after Pentecost – 21<sup>st</sup>**

Green

*Sharon Anderson*

Genesis 18:1-10a

Psalm 15

Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42

### **Seventh Sunday after Pentecost – 28<sup>th</sup>**

Green

*Larry Sands*

Genesis 18:20-32

Psalm 138

Colossians 2:6-19

Luke 11:1-13



### **FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE:**

**\*NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS:**

Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup> - for the August 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, especially prayer requests and updates, by Wednesday, so I can print them.

*"Draw nigh unto my soul."*

*Psalms 69:18*

*Some days I guess I need your nearness more than other days.*

*By the light of the Psalms*

*by Chris Shea*

## God is the reason

On my otherwise deserted front porch, I sit quietly, rocking gently in an antiquated rocking chair, listening to the sounds of the forest area I call home. Hearing these sounds, how can I not acquire a sense of peaceful wonder?

I am grateful for the years I've been given in this peaceful place, for the husband I still enjoy having with me, for the children who visit often, for the grandson who is growing into such a fine young man. Only now, in my retirement, in the later years of my life, do I seem to appreciate all these gifts. I've chosen to settle into a slower, languid pace.

I make the most of what I now know is important: faith in a loving, forgiving God; love and respect for my loving husband; and an ever-abiding, manifold love for my children and grandchildren.

God is the reason for all that I survey.

*This message is an excerpt from "Great is thy faithfulness" by Ruby Kelley in the April 2019 issue of Gather magazine.*

## Thank-You

Pleasant Valley Church, Pastor and to the Congregation

Thank you for the prayers and the all the well wishes, phone calls, and cards. They all meant a lot to me. The Lord watches over us always, especially when we are under the knife, as they say. The Doctor did a wonderful job; took out all the kidney stones. I had all the tubes and hoses when I woke up that you can imagine. Had a CT scan and showed no more stones. The kind I had were caused from the infection that I had and would hide the infection inside the stones; until a time they would open up and let the infection start all over again.

Still healing on the inside slow but sure and I am on limited activities. But, I'm coming along; by the time you read this I will have gone back to the Doctor and had the stent removed that they put in way back when they first found the stones and the infection. That will make my insides feel much better! And help with bending!

Thanks again for all your prayers.

Monica Bahr

## From Luther Park

### JULY NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

THERE IS STILL TIME TO COME TO CAMP! Soon the summer will be ending and the kids will be heading back to school, but before that happens, send them to camp! They will be able to see old friends, meet new ones, learn about Jesus, and so much more! There are many activities that one can participate in at camp including swimming, archery, canoeing, kayaking, crafts, ropes courses, and cookouts. In July, there are a few exciting opportunities that a camper can still be a part of including: Adventure at the Woods, Boundary Water Canoe, Trading Spaces, Discovery, and a Namekagon Canoe Trip. If you have any questions or would like more information please call Luther Park at 715-859-2215 or visit the website at [lutherpark.org](http://lutherpark.org).



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

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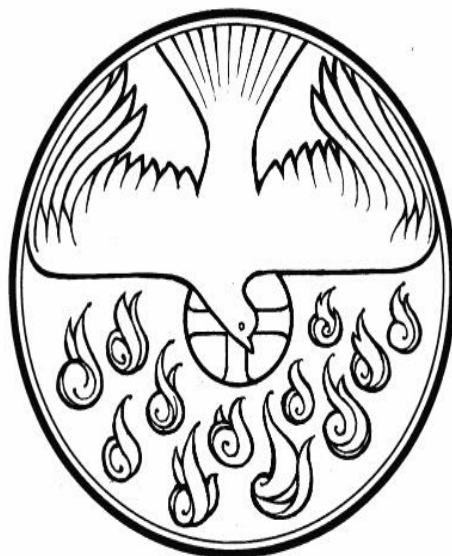


# PLEASANT VALLEY NEWSLETTER

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

**JULY 2019**

Happy  
Independence  
Day



Pentecost



Happy  
Summer!  
  
Enjoy