

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends (1 Corinthians 13:4-8).

This month we celebrate Valentine's Day. Hundreds of thousands of dollars will be spent on chocolate, cards, and flowers. We make this day about romantic love; love between partners, whether they've been together a short time or most of their lives.

Too often, though, in the midst of these celebrations, we forget those for whom this holiday is painful. Some of us do not have a romantic partner. Some of us have gone through horrible experiences that make us question if we can risk love again. Some of us are in the midst of divorce or breakup and still feel the pain of a relationship that did not last.

The verse from First Corinthians may be one of the most famous passages of the Bible. There is hardly a wedding where this verse is not heard in some capacity. We may be tempted to think that romantic love is what Paul was talking about when he penned these lines.

But, maybe not. Paul was writing to a group of Christians about what it means to be followers of Jesus and what it means to be a community of faith. Paul was writing to them to encourage them to set aside differences and live as one community in Christ. There is some discord in the community and Paul knows what we still know today; where the community of faith is fractured, there will be anger, resentment, and discord; things that keep us focused on us instead of living as Jesus calls us.

So, maybe, as we look toward Valentines and share our time with those we love, let us also remember our community of faith. Love between one another is the key foundation of what it is to be followers of Jesus. When we build on our relationships with one another, we are able to better follow Jesus and serving those whom Jesus loves. If we don't have love for each other, we certainly will have difficulty loving the stranger.

Paul's words echo across these nearly 2,000 years and are a strong message for us yet today; love one another. We don't have to agree on everything. We don't have to always get along. We can foster debate and disagreement that seeks the best for the Church, our congregation, and our world. But, in the midst of it all; whether we agree or disagree, we see eye-to-eye, or we find ourselves in a heated debate with someone else; remember this: Love never ends. When we have love for one another—that same life-giving, respectful, honest love Jesus shows us, then truly we will be servants of Christ.

Peace,

Pr. JonPaul

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Council Minutes, Sunday, January 5, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 10:39 by President Sands.

Non-agenda

Kim Vlcek explained the Sharing the Dream scholarship where we have been sending money. Maritza Naomi will no longer be getting the scholarship of \$300. We will now be sending money to support Maritza's 12-year-old sister Keyla Lisbeth. It will only cost \$200 to support her scholarship, since she is still in elementary school. Dale made a motion that we continue to support Sharing the Dream. Second by Dave and Steph. Motion carried.

Reports

The secretary's report was reviewed. The treasurer's report was reviewed. We have signed up the maintenance charge for the plan in 2020. We have also paid the charge to fix the door opening and closing. Income in December exceeded expenses by \$204.25, giving us the first month in 2019 that income exceeded expenses. The Mission Offering for Feed My People was \$257.

The Pastor's report was oral. The worship this year will be the same as last year. The children's Christmas program went well. There have been more hospital visits than usual, but Pastor didn't list names. Dave made a motion to accept all reports. Second by Dale. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Education – Sunday school has been going well, but so far there are only 3 positions signed up for teachers for the rest of the year.

Worship – Ash Wednesday is on February 26. Ruth will get a sign-up sheet for volunteers for soup and desserts for soup and sandwich suppers. I will ask Kay if she can get a seed card from Thrivent and is willing to supply sandwiches. Dwight will ask Corissa if she is able and willing to handle the Easter breakfast.

Property – Dwight and the Park Committee will work on solidifying a plan for the next step in planning for park access. He has been working with S&K Landscaping, who will be doing the work. The committee members are Nate, Dale, Dave, Dwight, John, Randy, and Greg.

The top lift door has been serviced. The service call charge has been paid. We will set the maintenance call date for a time when we need service as well as maintenance.

The new motherboard has been installed in the heater/air conditioner at the end of the handicapped entrance, but we have not received the bill. Dwight will follow up on this.

The larger furnace that heats the sanctuary has been acting up. We need to call Frank Best, Jr., Heating and Air Conditioning, when it acts up, since he cannot diagnose the problem unless he sees it.

The water pressure has also been acting up. Dale has replaced the sand mitigation filter. Dale and Dave will keep track of any problems, and if it happens again we may need a new pressure switch.

New Business

Ministry Plan - 2020

We have added \$5 for each service Cathy plays. We added \$10 a month per month for Monica's position. We raised the snow removal from \$200 to \$400 a year.

The lawn mower is not expected to mow the shaped hill just below the park. The cemetery paid a lot for lawn mower this year. The committee will need to address that.

The raise for Pastor is 3%.

Roxie will let the congregation know what percent our budget has gone up this year.

Mission Offering: January – Sojourner House
February – The family of Kathy Jo Bahling, of Rockford, Illinois, killed in car crash on Christmas Eve.

March – quilt money – Dwight will talk to Crystal

We have passed a motion to give to Sharing the Dream, in support of a student in Guatemala.

Other items –

Sunday school students have shown an interest in helping Randy to ring the bell. We could also use them to pick up communion cups. They will handle signing up for those tasks in Sunday School to see if it works having the sign-ups a week ahead.

Roxie has volunteered to take the treasurer's position for another year. We wondered if someone that would be willing to take the position next year should job shadow Roxie.

Someone asked if we should put a gate at the top of the stairway by the handicapped entrance.

We need to have two volunteers for members-at-large on the council. Council reports are due today. Pastor will do the worship report for the Annual Meeting book. Other reports needed – Park access, treasurer (Roxie needs the books audited.), education. Building and minutes of last meeting are already in.

Next meeting – February 2, 2020.

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

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

Respectfully submitted:

Ruth Poore

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

Treasurers' Report

None Submitted

Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

WELCA

Ash Wednesday is on Feb 26, then begins Lent service for the next 6 weeks Please plan and sign up to bring soup and or bars fro the suppers on Wednesday eve.

Following is an email from the President for the Northwest Synod for you info to read. Thanks.

Happy New Year everyone and greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!
It has been several months since you've received information from us and for that I ask - did you miss us? I do hope that your answer is 'YES' and not 'WHO IS THIS?' It is true, we've taken a hiatus during the holidays but we haven't been sitting idle either.

I'm excited to tell you, or in some cases remind you, of the launching of our newly redesigned website: www.nwswiswo.org and our new Facebook page: Women of the Northwest Synod. I encourage you to follow us at both sites.

As with many other Synodical Women's Organizations (SWO), we are looking at ways to reduce our costs while continuing to serve the women of our synod and broaden the scope of our communications. One way we will reduce our cost is to discontinue printed copies of our newsletter The Northwester. While several of you have opted for an electronic copy of the newsletter, several others continued to receive hard copies (or both). We are putting the finishing touches on the electronic version of the Northwester that should be operational in the near future.

To prepare for these changes, this message also serves as a test of the email addresses we have on file - nearly 600 of them! I'm curious to see how accurate our email lists are.

I can only imagine that some of you will have concerns with these necessary changes while the rest of you will say 'it's about time'. As God's children we are always a work in progress. So too is the business side of doing God's work. We look forward to staying connect with you. Please - stay in touch.

Peace,
Lori Wells
President, W/ELCA Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Praise Team News

The Praise Team will play in worship at Pleasant Valley on Sunday, February 23. The group will lead worship that evening at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility. Practices are on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Beginning February 26, practices will start after the Wednesday evening Lenten worship services. All are welcome!

Happy Birthday!

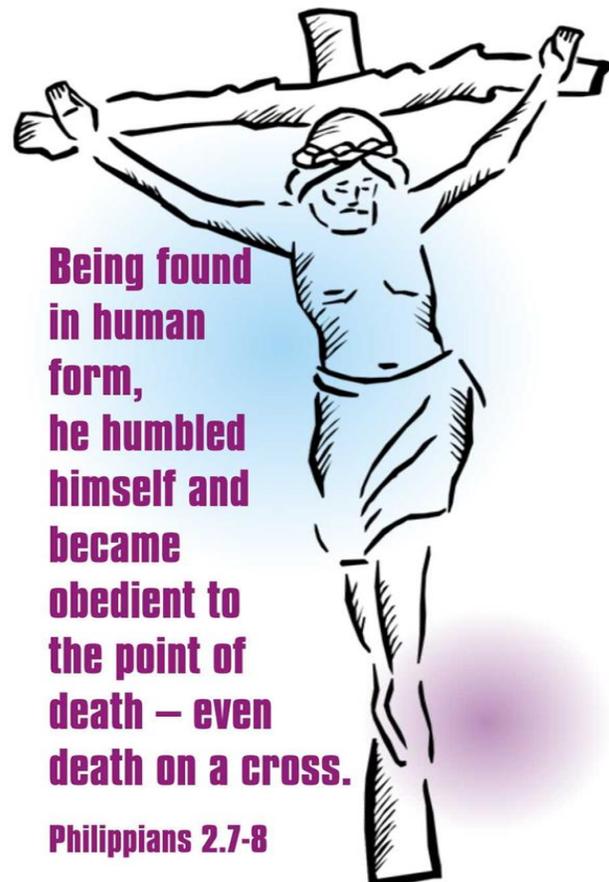
To everyone who has a February Birthday,
Blessings on your Special Day!



Sunday school / Confirmation

Sunday school is after worship about 10:15. Please sign up to teach. Also, sign up to give the children's message during the worship service.

The confirmation class is studying the Apostle's Creed.



**Being found
in human
form,
he humbled
himself and
became
obedient to
the point of
death – even
death on a cross.**

Philippians 2.7-8



IN NEED OF PRAYER

Here is our Prayer Concern list:

Family of Rev. Kjell Jordheim – has passed, age of 97
Jim & Janice Teigen – moved to Oakwood Health service in Altoona

Kim (neighbor to Pr. JonPaul and Jessica) - diagnosed with breast cancer

Riverlyn Walsh – a 2-month-old grandniece of Jennifer and Eric Anderson- has leukemia, is receiving chemo treatments.

Kim Johnson - Sadie's niece - has been diagnosed with lung cancer.

Brenda Johnson –Breast cancer – friend of the Bahr’s

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

Catherine Erickson – pancreatic cancer

Henry Karnatz – Kari’s dad- suffering with dementia

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

Gerri Sessions – strengthening & healing

Holly Poore – in Thailand for 1 year, teaching English

Dan and Shelby Hill and family - missionaries living in France

Keyla Lisbeth - the Sharing the Dream recipient, student 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.

(Prayer’s in Monica’s office on Feb 23rd, 8:15)

All those on our visiting list:

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

February Mission offering recipient:

The Family of Kathy Jo Bahling; of Rockford, Illinois, killed in car crash on Christmas Eve.

More info will be forth coming

TEXTS AND READERS FOR FEBRUARY

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany – 2nd

Green

Marianna Gilbertson

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany - 9th

Green

Kathy Tweet

Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalm 112:1-10

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Matthew 5:13-20

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany – 16th

Green

Monica Bahr

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm 119:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37

Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday – 23rd

White

Larry Sands

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalm 2 or 99

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

Ash Wednesday – 29th

Purple

Randy Sands

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21



Luther Park

We really appreciate your support and value the various ways you give back to Luther Park: volunteer time, monetary donations, gifts in-kind, and being an advocate in your church on behalf of camp.

ANNUAL MEETING

We are excited to share important information as we recap 2019 and look forward into 2020 and years beyond. In December, we sent letters to all of the supporting churches of Luther Park asking for delegates (aka representative, advocates) to be invited to attend our annual meeting. We would be delighted if we could have at least one person at our meeting to represent each congregation and bring back the information shared at the meeting as well as the promotional boxes that we provide for each church. If you are willing to help out please contact your church. Luther Park Bible Camp's Annual Meeting will be held in our Dining Hall on Saturday, February 8th. Coffee will be served starting at 9:30 am with the meeting beginning at 10:00am.

Luther Park Bible Camp | 944 24 1/4 St, Chetek, WI 54728

Thank You

1-7-2020

Mondovi Food Pantry

To Pleasant Valley Luth Church,

When we began reg hrs open, in 2012, the food pantry ave 27 families visiting monthly. In 2015, the ave increased to 85 families. In 2016, the food pantry ave 112 families visiting monthly. Thank you so much for your donation of \$195.00 (11-30-19) Nov. Mission Sunday. To Mondovi Area Food Pantry. Your continued support and cooperation is greatly appreciated. In the month of November, we served a record number of 142 families. The majority of these households we serve, are households with children. You do make a big difference in the lives of many children and adults. Again thank you. Mary Ann Olson

Feed My People Food Bank

Pleasant Valley Luth Church 1-2-2020

Dear Friends at Pleasant Valley

Thank you for your gift of \$237.00 to provide meals for those struggling locally with hunger. Because of you, we are able to give nutritious food and some much needed hope to children, seniors and families who are in need of groceries.

Your support helps us partner with pantries and other programs to feed people here in west central Wis. Nearly 70,000 neighbors in need are served each year as a result – an accomplishment we could not achieve without you.

Your kindness is not something we take for granted, Thank You for taking action against local hunger and making a difference. In gratitude,
Suzanne Becker Assistant Director

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE:

***NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS:**

**Sunday, February 16th - for the
March 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.

Discerning God's way

**Take heart and be about God's work—
feed the hungry ones, clothe the
naked ones, welcome the strangers—
and proclaim God's reign.**

(Christ in our Home, Dec., 3, 2019.)

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

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

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Church office: 715-287-4473
Church Secretary: Monica Bahr – Home: 715-287-4742
Church E-mail: pleasantvalley@tcc.coop
Website: www.pleasantvalleylutheran.com



PLEASANT VALLEY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2020

Transfiguration Sunday

