

On Sunday, March 15th, our council met for an emergency meeting with one item on the agenda: how to respond to the growing concern surrounding the rising cases of Coronavirus. At that time, we had already seen the images of overcrowded hospitals around the world and heard the stories of the elderly and medically vulnerable dying at rates 10 times that of the seasonal flu.

Out of an abundance of caution and out of love for each other, as well as seeing our decision as part of our civic duty, we voted to immediately suspend all in-person gatherings. Almost all other area churches did the same within one or two weeks.

On March 25th, Governor Tony Evers' "Safer at Home" order went into effect and the face of life in Wisconsin changed quite dramatically.

Since that time, many have struggled: struggled to meet their financial obligations, struggled to keep their businesses open, struggled with isolation and depression, struggled with frustration over the changes in society. Others of us have been in fear, knowing we are in a high risk category and afraid what will happen if we catch this virus. Others of us have struggled with what information to believe and what information is most accurate. I, myself, was furloughed from my job at Mayo Clinic for the month of May, introducing new challenges and new opportunities for my own family.

And, of course, what it looks like to be the Church today has changed and not what many of us hope or long for from our congregation.

And then, on May 13th, the Wisconsin Supreme Court struck down the extension of the Safer at Home order, which effectively allowed all businesses to open, under the guidance of local health officials.

Restaurants, bars, salons, and businesses and shops once closed were suddenly able to open again. Many have, implementing their own safety precautions.

So, we might all be asking the same question: What about church? When will our church open back up?

I'll give you the best answer I have right now: I don't know.

Yes, some churches and some denominations are opening their doors once again and choosing to worship together. I will say, however, that these are not ELCA churches, all of which in our area (to my knowledge) remain worshipping online.

Why is that? Why are we staying closed while others are opening?

That answer is a bit more involved.

First: Worship services are what are being classified as "Super-spreader" events, meaning the likelihood of transmission is very high during one of these events, including church services. This is the case because as part of worship we spend a longer period of time in an enclosed space with lots of singing and interacting with one another, and other activities that involve frequently touching surfaces (offering plate, communion rail, door handles, bathroom faucets, etc.). The fact is, returning to worship just isn't yet safe from a community health perspective.

Second: Although the Safer at Home order may have been rescinded, the state of the virus here in Wisconsin remains unchanged. Local, State, and National health officials continue to warn us that large gatherings of people from multiple households remains a high risk for transmission of the virus, which could be deadly to those who are more vulnerable. Many continue to worry about a second wave of the virus as restrictions are lifted. I have been a part of conversations with health officials across the state, as well as other clergy in our synod, and we all agree that it just is not yet safe to gather together.

Third: The Badger Bounce Back Plan, introduced by Governor Evers, is based on the best medical science and research we have available. This plan details the steps to reopening. Based on the Plan, we are still in a preliminary stage, not yet even to Phase 1 of the plan.

Here is a summary chart of the phases of the plan:

OVERVIEW OF THREE PHASES OF THE BADGER BOUNCE BACK

Action	Safer At Home	PHASE ONE When all Gating Criteria and Core Responsibilities are met	PHASE TWO Based on re-evaluation of Criteria and Core Responsibilities	PHASE THREE Based on re-evaluation of Criteria and Core Responsibilities
Wash hands often	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cover coughs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Don't go out if ill	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Face mask if ill person goes out	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Surface and object cleaning	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Isolation of positive cases	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Quarantine of contacts of positive cases	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Physical distancing to 6 feet when possible	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Stop unnecessary visits to nursing homes, congregate facilities, and hospitals	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (until a vaccine is available)
Allow gatherings including religious (above 10, 50 people)	No, but allow religious gatherings below 10.	Yes—10 people maximum	Yes—50 people maximum	Yes—no maximum

Here is another chart that shows, as of this writing, where we are on the Gating Criteria that would allow us to move to Phase 1:

Gating criteria

Indicator	Metric	Status
Symptoms	Downward trajectory of influenza-like illnesses (ILI) reported within a 14-day period.	
Symptoms	Downward trajectory of COVID-like syndromic cases reported within a 14-day period.	
Cases	Downward trajectory of positive tests as a percent of total tests within a 14-day period.	
Hospitals	95% of hospitals affirm that they can treat all patients without crisis standards of care.	
Hospitals	95% of all hospitals affirm that they have arranged for testing for all symptomatic clinical staff treating patients at the hospital per CDC guidelines.	
Health care	Downward trend of COVID-19 cases among health care workers calculated weekly.	

green indicator = gating criteria met
 red indicator = gating criteria not met

As you can see, we have only met 3 of the 6 gating criteria (we have met the first, fourth, and fifth, if you cannot see the colors).

Unfortunately, at this time, it just is not yet safe for congregations, including ours, to meet in person for worship services. I wish it was. I really miss all of you and miss worship and fellowship and learning together with you. But, I worry about what getting together might mean for some of the most vulnerable of our members. There are stories of churches who continued to hold services into late March and early April. They became sources of outbreak and, sadly, had members die from this virus. We must continue to think about the most vulnerable as we move forward and make plans for our future.

Lastly, let me say this: The building is closed, but The Church is wide open. We continue to worship and praise God. We continue to love and serve our neighbors. We continue to pray for each other and pray for our world. We continue to try to follow Jesus with our words and our actions each and every day. The Church is the PEOPLE of God. YOU are the Church. You are a blessing to this world and I am grateful every day that I get to serve among such dedicated disciples for Jesus.

So, yes, for now our building will remain closed. But we, together, will remain hopeful and trust that God will guide us into a life-filled, Spirit-driven future in which all people will come to know the love of God in Jesus through you and me.

Peace,
 Pr. JonPaul



Treasurers' Report

Summary of Offering and Expenses

Y-T-D	February	March	April	May
Offering				
\$15,064.14	\$3,535.17	\$3,627.00	\$4,179.97	\$3,121.30
Misc. Income				
\$161.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$161.00	\$0.00
Expenses				
\$16,004.05	\$4,671.88	\$4,179.98	\$3,632.30	\$4,089.01

Year to date the offering is less than expenses by \$1,746.62

Property insurance of \$504.50 was due 6/1/20 and a check for \$400.00 was sent to Jerry Larson for snow plowing last winter.

Thank you everyone for your continued offerings during this safer at home period.

We will have some catch up Sunday's for March, April and May mission offering and checks will be dispersed once we are back worshipping together.

Memorials:

Building Fund/Furnace Fund:

In memory of Norma Arneson Rud

From Dale & Sharon Anderson

In memory of Willard Wilson -

From Dale & Sharon Anderson

From Gary & Irene Isaacson

From Barb Maines

In memory of Beulah Anderson, Dale's mother

From Dale & Sharon Anderson for Mother's Day

In memory of Bruce & Jeanne Goss, Kayla Bauer, Dravin

Larsen, George & Helen Erickson, Jim Erickson, Greg

Erickson

From Barb Maines

Respectfully submitted:

Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

Good News: If you haven't been doing so Please join Pastor JonPaul on the Church wed or on You Tube for a short devotion for each day.

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Council Minutes, Sunday, May, 2020

No meeting



WELCA

October 4 is the fall bazaar. Plan ahead!

Happy Birthday!

To everyone who has a "June Birthday".

Blessings on your special day!



Sunday school / Confirmation

Sunday school is gathering but is online on a program called Zoom on Sunday morning with Pastor JonPaul. If you have seen their picture, posted on the web, it looks like they are enjoying their time together.

Praise Team News

The Praise Team is still on hold. Stay Safe.

Good morning EVERYONE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I 'Face Timed' Alex last evening. He was at the airport in Seoul, South Korea. There was only one shuttle to the airport yesterday so he had to take it, 5 hours EARLIER than he needed to be at the airport. So he was just sitting there patiently waiting out the 5 hours!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! He was very excited to leave Korea and get to England. I have not yet heard (as of 9:30 a.m.) if he has arrived in London but I'm hoping to hear soon. He said it was quite a rigamaroll once he got to England but hopefully it went smoothly. He will be quarantined for 14 days in a hotel room over there before heading to his base.

This is his new address:

Alex Bauer

PSC 41 Box 432

APO AE 09464-0005

Please keep him in your prayers for his safety.

Have a great day.

Nola



IN NEED OF PRAYER

Here is our Prayer Concern list:

The family of Kim Johnson - Sadie's niece - has passed away on May 20 from lung cancer.

The family of Romaine Knutson – passed away on May 23 from cancer; a member of Pastor's family

Deb Friis - treatment for cancer, friend of Vlcek's **Kim** (neighbor to Pr. JonPaul and Jessica) - diagnosed with breast cancer

Riverlyn Walsh – an infant grandniece of Jennifer and Eric Anderson- has leukemia, is receiving chemo treatments, has been having some bad days.

Catherine Erickson – pancreatic cancer

Gerri Sessions – strengthening & healing

Marth McCourt – Marianna Gilbertson's mother. Living in a nursing home with dementia

Henry Karnatz – Kari's dad. Living with dementia

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 June 28th, 8:30)

All those on our visiting list:

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

June Mission offering recipient:

Luther Park

Important Note:

The mission Sunday for May 31st was for Luther Park Bible Camp; They are in need, They have had to cancel all their campers from coming due to the virus shut down.

If you would like to donate to this mission, please earmark your check accordingly, so Roxie will know how to record it, and send it to the Church or to Roxie. Thanks!

TEXTS AND READERS FOR JUNE Lessons are listed so you can read them at home

The Holy Trinity Sunday – 7th

Cancelled

Genesis 1:1—2:4a

Psalm 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

Time after Pentecost – 14th

Cancelled

Flag Day

Exodus 19:2-8a

Psalm 100

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]

Time after Pentecost – 21st

Cancelled

Father's Day

Jeremiah 20:7-13

Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39

Time after Pentecost – 28th

Cancelled

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Romans 6:12-23

Matthew 10:40-42



Mission Offering for June

The June Mission Offering will go to :
Hope Gospel Mission to help with their mission.

BULLETIN BLURBS From the Northwest Synod

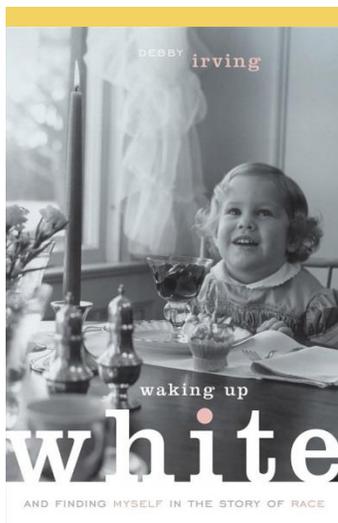
Summer Book Club

Hello friends,

During the summer months we hope you'll join us for some great reading and thoughtful conversation as we dive into three good books.

We will gather the last week of each month to discuss what we read. Each conversation will be facilitated by someone new. Details can be found below and on the synod website under Faith Formation.

Happy reading!



Waking Up White By Debby Irving

June 29, 2020
11:00 a.m.
Lead by Deacon
David Behling

Click [HERE](#) for
Zoom link
(Password: 332744)

Love Without Limits By Jacqueline Bussie

July 27, 2020
11:00 a.m.

Lead by Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson
Click [HERE](#) for Zoom link (Password: 547151)

She By Karoline Lewis

August 31, 2020
11:00 a.m.

Lead by Rev. Erin Nelson
Click [HERE](#) for Zoom link (Password: 060207)

Five ways to worry less

When you find yourself worrying, stop to ponder whether your thoughts and anxieties give you life or drain you of it. Do they allow you to share your God-given purpose in the world? Recognizing God is in control helps us let go. Below are five ways that might help you worry less.

- Laugh instead of taking life too seriously
- Turn to God in prayer—relinquish control and fear
- Focus on the present moment—live today-
- Live in hope
- Capture your energy, spin it positively, and share it with the greater community.

This message is adapted from "What? Me Worry?" written by Tammy Devine in the May 2005 issue of Lutheran Woman Today (now [Gather](#)) magazine.

The lord is near.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,

present your request to God.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and minds

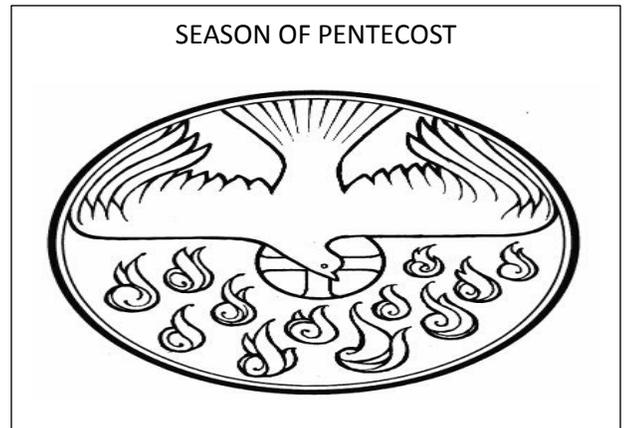
in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:5-7 (NIV)

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

JUNE 2020

