

On March 17th, people of Irish descent across the world celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. Patrick was born sometime in the late 4th century. At the age of 16, Patrick was kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken to Ireland, where he worked as a slave for 6 years as a shepherd. It was during this time that God spoke to Patrick, telling him to flee to the coast, where a ship would be waiting for him. Patrick followed God's command and returned to his home in Britain, where he would later become a priest. Legend has it that Patrick would later return to Ireland and work tirelessly to convert the Irish to Christianity. An allegory, a moral story with hidden meaning, arose around Patrick's work, claiming he drove snakes out of Ireland. In fact, the "snakes" in the story are the druids of Northern Ireland. Patrick is said to have died on March 17th and this day is a celebration and remembrance of the coming of Christianity to Ireland. Parades, festivals, and parties, including dyeing the river green in Madison, WI, happen across the world.

Patrick isn't the only saint whose commemoration we celebrate in the month of March. Alongside him, we remember hymn writer George Herbert (1st ), John and Charles Wesley (2nd ), Perpetua and Felicity (7th ), Harriet Tubman (10th ), Gregory the Great (12th ), Joseph, Jesus' father (20th ), Thomas Cranmer (21st ), Jonathan Edwards (22nd ), Oscar Romero (24th ), Hans Nielsen Hauge (29th ), and John Donne (31st ). I invite you to look up each of these saints this month and read their stories. They are sure to inspire faith and give you a laugh or too as well!

On March 1, we begin the season of Lent. Lent is a time for us to reflect on our broken human nature, our sin, and ask for God's forgiveness. It is a penitential time, a reflective time, a prayerful time. And yet, we enter this season with the certain hope that God does indeed forgive our sin and Christ will be lifted up as victorious over sin and death.

These men and women stand as examples of faith. They were human, broken, sinful human beings just like you and me. And, at the same time, they had faith that God, in Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit, was doing a new thing in this world. Their faith carried them through times of darkness and tragedy in their lives. They saw their sin, named it, and trusted in forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Lent is one of my favorite times of the year. Sure, we have confession and forgiveness every Sunday, but Lent is the one season of the year, a 40 day period, in which we intentionally examine our lives. In the season of Lent, we hold up a mirror and take an honest look at our lives; our actions, our beliefs, our attitudes, and the things we have made priorities. As people of faith, we then ask ourselves if those things reflect the priorities and calling of discipleship of Jesus in the world. Where they do not, we ask forgiveness and use this time to re-orient our lives toward Christ.

Lent, then, is not just a season, not just a time of waiting for Easter. Lent is a journey. We travel through Lent as we seek to orient our lives in mission in the world for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus. Through Christ, you and I are transformed, that we might work alongside Jesus for the transformation of the whole world.

That's the heart of Lent. And, it's the reason we still tell the stories of the saints of old.

May the saints of March be an inspiration as we, together start this Lenten journey.

Peace,

Pr. JonPaul

## **Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Council Minutes, Sunday, February 2, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 10:28 by President Sands. When Pastor was done with Sunday School he joined us and led us in a devotion: "Teach us your ways, oh Lord." and a prayer.

### **Non-agenda**

### **Reports**

The secretary's report was reviewed. The treasurer's report was reviewed. Income in January exceeded expenses by \$252.11. The Mission Offering for Sojourner House was \$383. The bill for the motherboard in the handicapped access, \$395, was paid. The Mission Offering for Luther Park, \$648, which we collected late in 2019 and held back so it would qualify for matching funds, was sent. The matching funds are available only for donations from churches, so if more people want to donate we are again planning a Mission Offering in May.

The Pastor's report was reviewed. The worship for Lent will be Holden's Evening Prayer. There was a hospital visit and one pastoral care home visit. We will plan a Council retreat for later in the year. We will work on a mission statement/vision statement then.

John made a motion to accept all reports. Second by Dave. Motion carried.

### **Unfinished Business**

**Education** – Sunday school has been going well. We have teachers signed up for the month of February and all but 1 Sunday in March.

**Worship** – Ash Wednesday is on February 26. Soup and sandwich suppers will be served at 5:30. Worship will be at 6:30.

**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 larger furnace that heats the sanctuary has not been acting up any more. If it does we will call Frank Best, Jr., Heating and Air Conditioning.

The east door was not locking well – or at all. Dave has adjusted it, but it will continue to react to the frost heaves.

### **New Business**

Council positions follow:

President – John Poore

Vice President – Stephanie Kuehl

Secretary – Ruth Poore

Treasurer – Roxie Ulness

Property – Dwight Sands

Education – Dave Vlcek

Worship – Randy Sands

Installation of officers will be on February 23 during the church service.

Malawi, as a sister congregation, has contacted us. The Synod will have a group going there in April.

We have been contacted by Brotherhood Mutual Insurance. Our current insurance includes the handicapped entrance and the lift. We need to check to see that the new roof is included and will need to put the park on when it is done – especially if it has play equipment.

When Ruth took the quilts Crystal made to Hope Gospel Mission to cover the beds in the new building for the men, she was given a tour of the building/program.

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

March – money for quilt making

April – Hope Gospel Mission

May – Luther Park

### **Other items**

The bazaar will be on October 4, 2020.

Dual fuel was checked on with the power company. It would not work with our schedules.

Property will be looking at funneling heat from the bathrooms in the basement to help heat the kitchenette and handicapped bathroom upstairs. This would hopefully help cut the electric bill.

We discussed putting power in the park.

Next meeting – March 1, 2020.

John made a motion to adjourn. Second by Randy and Steph. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:

Ruth Poore

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

## Treasurers' Report

None Submitted

Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

## WELCA

“Soup and deserts are still needed for the Lent suppers, also help cleaning up”. See Ruth for helping!

Lots of events forthcoming; here are the dates to save:

**March 11**, Prayer Breakfast, Immanuel Lutheran, in Strum at 9:30a.m. RSVP by March 4th to the church at 715-695-3511, or to Karen Franson at 715-695-3553.

**April 1<sup>st</sup>**, Morning of Renewal at Sabylund Lutheran, in Stckholm - 8:30; registration and coffee 12:00; lunch. Program Hats Off to Music by Jeanne Anderson and Lynn McFadyen. Cost \$10.00 by March 25 or \$12.00 at the door. Registration form in the office or contact Kim Vlcek.

**March 25**, and \$12.00 at the door Registration form in the office or contact Kim Vlcek.

**April 17-18-** SWO Convention at Bethany Lutheran in Rice Lake. .More info forthcoming

**July 16-19**, Triennial Gathering at Phoenix, AZ

**August 20-21**, Dairyland/Lake Superior Conference Retreat, at Luther Park, in Chetek

## Praise Team News

The Praise Team will play in worship at Pleasant Valley on March 22 and 29. The group will lead worship at Chippewa Valley Correctional Facility those evenings.

Practices are on Wednesday evenings following Lenten worship services.

## Happy Birthday!

To everyone who has a March 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 going well.

## Lenten schedule

5:30 Soup and sandwich supper

6:30 Worship service

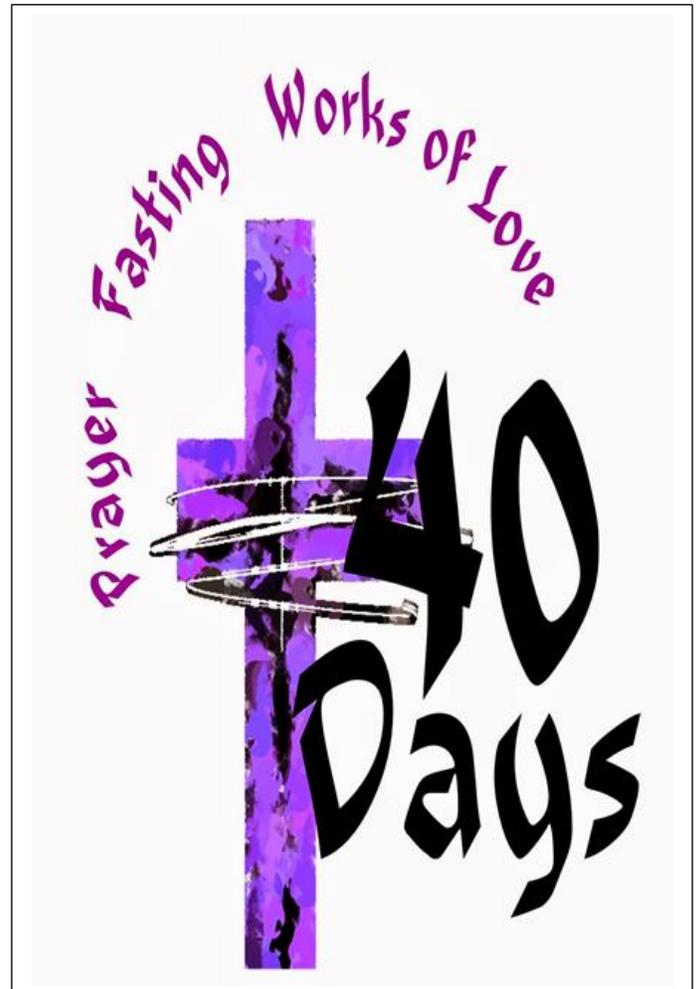
March 4<sup>th</sup>

March 11<sup>th</sup>

March 18<sup>th</sup>

March 25<sup>th</sup>

April 1<sup>st</sup>





## IN NEED OF PRAYER

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

**Family of Lyle Larson** – Kim Koser’s dad has passed

**Rex Hand** – his cancer has returned; friend of the Berger’s

**Lavern Risler** – has had one leg removed below the knee, is at Reign burn center in MN, his home was a total loss; Mary Sands Risler’s father-in-law

**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

**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 March 29<sup>th</sup>, 8:30)

### **All those on our visiting list:**

**Bob Dutter, Gary & Sharon Hazen,**

**Jim & Janice Teigen**

### **March Mission offering recipient:**

Money to help with quilt making

## **TEXTS AND READERS FOR MARCH**

### **First Sunday in Lent – 1<sup>st</sup>**

*Purple*

*Kim Vlcek*

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

### **Evening Lent March 4<sup>th</sup>**

Reader: *Kathy Tweet*

### **Second Sunday in Lent - 8<sup>th</sup>**

*Purple*

*John Poore*

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17

### **Evening Lent March 11<sup>th</sup>**

Reader: *Kim Vlcek*

### **Third Sunday in Lent – 15<sup>th</sup>**

*Purple*

*Stephanie Kuehl*

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

### **Evening Lent March 18<sup>th</sup>**

Reader: *Kari Karnatz*

### **Fourth Sunday in Lent – 22<sup>rd</sup>**

*Purple*

*Roxie Ulness*

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

### **Evening Lent March 25<sup>th</sup>**

Reader: *Kay Sands*

### **Fifth Sunday in Lent – 29<sup>th</sup>**

*Purple*

*Ruth Poore*

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

### **Evening Lent April 1<sup>st</sup>**

Reader: *Roxie Ulness*



### Thank You's

#### **Pleasant Valley Lutheran church**

We here at hope Gospel Mission wish to thank you for your generous contribution of 24 quilts.

You are making a difference in the lives of those who's lives are in turmoil for so many different reasons.

May God continue to bless each of you richly.

Hope Gospel Staff and Board

## Slow down by coloring

Consider some Scripture passages that you know the best. Maybe it's a passage that you have memorized, words that flow easily off your tongue. Take some time to yourself, take some centering breaths, and recite the words feeling each syllable and consonant. Where do you find yourself tripping over words? What are the passages that trouble your recitation? In those moments, I come into a greater realization of my relationship to Scripture. I hear God saying to me, "Beloved, slow down and savor these words."

One way that I slowdown is by coloring. I delight in color. When I'm not sure how I feel, color reminds me. I invite you to meditate on those Scripture passages that resonate most with you and use this coloring page to help you slow down.

*This message is an excerpt from "Faith Reflections: On 1 Corinthians 13" by Mary Button in the October 2019 issue of Cafe.*

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

**\*NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS:**

Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> - for the

April 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.

**God is mine helper**

**Psalms 54:4**

**What more could I need?**

By the light of the psalms by

Chris Shea

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

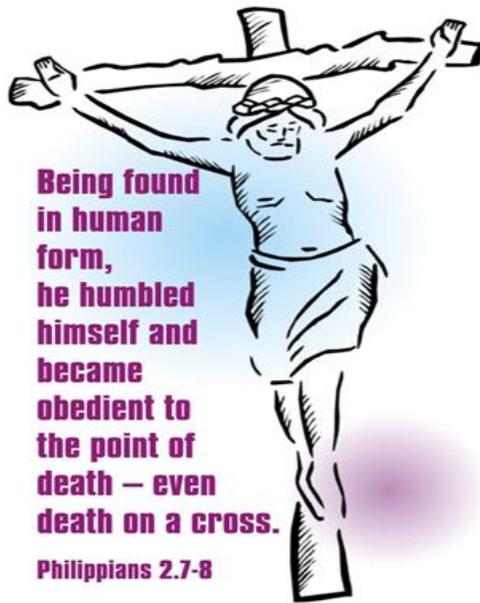
*"That all May come, Serving all the People of God"*

Pastor JonPaul Dragseth: Cell: 715-271-2253  
Church office: 715-287-4473  
Church Secretary: Monica Bahr – Home: 715-287-4742  
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Website: [www.pleasantvalleylutheran.com](http://www.pleasantvalleylutheran.com)



## ***PLEASANT VALLEY NEWSLETTER***      ***MARCH 2020***

St. Patrick's Day 17th



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

Lent-4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>  
Soup and sandwich  
suppers

March 8<sup>th</sup>



SAVE  
THE  
DATE

First Day of Spring 19<sup>th</sup>