

As the days apart turned to weeks and now the weeks turn to months, I think of many of the things we have missed and will postpone until we are together again in our sanctuary.

Among those things, among the things we would have been planning for this month, would be the confirmation of two of our young people. As I reflect on these amazing young men and the time we have spent together these past two years, I am reminded of why we do confirmation in the first place.

In the early church, when people wanted to become Christians, they went through a process called the catechumenate. This was a multi-year process during which people learned about the faith; the stories of the Bible, the resurrection of Jesus, the history of the Church, and what discipleship looks like. They attended church, but, because they were not members, were ushered out prior to Communion. This multi-year educational process ended with Baptism and entry into the church, with the celebration of their first Holy Communion.

Eventually, the church flourished and became the norm for society. Everyone was a Christian, if only in name. During the Middle Ages, when the fear of death was so high, mixed with the belief that only the Baptized go to heaven, people of all ages, including infants, were baptized to ensure their eternal salvation.

We kept the practice of infant Baptism—because, it is a beautiful sign of God's pure grace that washes over us, apart from any act of our own. The downside, however, is that we lost those formative years in which adults chose to become part of the church and had years of education.

So, confirmation was born. For two years our 7th and 8th graders here at Pleasant Valley learn what it is to be a Christian and follower of Jesus. We study the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the 10 Commandments. We learn about Martin Luther and his reform of the Church. We read the Bible together and learn the stories of our faith. And at the end we confirm these young people into the Church and our congregation.

For years, our young people are brought by parents and grandparents to Sunday school, worship, and events at church, maybe without any real choice. On Confirmation Sunday, when we are gathered again at church, these two will stand before us and claim this faith as their own. Of course, like all of us, they will still have questions and doubts. They will have days when following Jesus seems like a burden. But, as God has claimed them in the waters of Baptism, so too they confess their faith alongside us and become followers of Jesus, seeking to be God's hands and feet in the world in their daily lives.

Being a disciple is no easy task. And, sometimes we have trouble grabbing hold of this faith.

For me, and maybe for you, it seems even more difficult during this time of fear and isolation. I long for church. I long for worship together. I long for bread and wine. I long for each of you.

And then I am reminded of these two young people; two young men in search of faith, formed during a global pandemic, ready to be disciples of Jesus. We are Easter people and these young men are ready to live into new life in Jesus. They give me hope; hope that the church is not closed, but the church is, for this time, transformed.

Let us cling to that hope: hope that death has been swallowed up in Christ Jesus. Let us together hope for a church transformed, even more ready to reach beyond our walls to a hurting world. Let us together hope and pray for these young men and the life to which they, and all of us, have been called in Jesus.

Peace,

Pr. JonPaul

Treasurers' Report

Summary of Offering and Expenses

Y-T-D	January	February	March	April
<i>Offering</i>				
\$15,064. ¹⁴	\$3,722. ⁰⁰	\$3,535. ¹⁷	\$3,627. ⁰⁰	\$4,179. ⁹⁷
<i>Misc. Income</i>				
\$161.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$161. ⁰⁰
<i>Expenses</i>				
\$16,004. ⁰⁵	\$3,519. ⁸⁹	\$4,671. ⁸⁸	\$4,179. ⁹⁸	\$3,632. ³⁰

Year to date the offering is less than expenses by \$778.91

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

January mission offering for Sojourner House was \$433.00

February mission offering for Kathy Jo Bahling Family was \$386.00

Memorials

Cemetery Association:

In memory of Norma Arneson Rud, Alton Hageness, Lavern Risler, from Sandra Schuch

Building Fund/Furnace Fund:

In memory of Doris Pearson -

From Darleen Gunderson

From Mary Haldorson

From Lorraine Pire

From Richard and Monica Bahr

In memory of Craig Koser, from Larry & Crystal Sands

In memory of Donna Danzinger, from Larry & Crystal Sands

In memory of Lyle Larson (Kim Koser's dad), from Larry & Crystal Sands

In memory of Christine Thompson (cousin), from Ruthann Hillesland

In memory of Glenn Hillesland (Alton's brother), from Ruthann Hillesland

In memory of Norma Arneson Rud, from Richard and Monica Bahr

In memory of Helen Larson, from Dan & Nola Herzberg

In memory of Rose Mary Slack, mother to Analise, friend of family, from Larry & Crystal Sands

In memory of Willard Wilson -

From Donald Wittren

From Daniel & Connie Vigessa

From John & Patricia Olesczuk

Respectfully submitted:

Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Council Minutes, Sunday, April, 2020 No meeting



WELCA

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

October 4 is the fall bazaar. Plan ahead!

Happy Birthday!

To everyone who has a "May 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 on hold due to the "Stay at home order". Stay Safe.



IN NEED OF PRAYER

Here is our Prayer Concern list:

For the Family of Willard Wilson – went home to be with the Lord on Palm Sunday at the age of 97

Bob Timm – recovery at Dove care center

Deb Friis - treatment for cancer

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.

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

Catherine Erickson – pancreatic cancer

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 May 31th, 8:30)

All those on our visiting list:

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

May Mission offering recipient:

Luther Park

Important Note:

The mission Sunday for April 26th was for Brad Windjue – an Eleva Strum teacher diagnosed with esophageal cancer. 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 May **Lessons are listed so you can read them at home**

Fourth Sunday of Easter – 3rd

Cancelled

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

7th – National Day of Prayer

Fifth Sunday of Easter – 10th

Cancelled

Mother’s Day

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

Sixth Sunday of Easter – 17th

Cancelled

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

Ascension of our Lord – 24th

Cancelled

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47 or 93

1Ephesians 1:15-23 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:44-53

Pentecost Sunday – 31st(wear something Red)

Red - Might be cancelled – Monica Bahr

Memorial Day

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b–13

John 20:19-23



Share the message of Easter

As we welcome Christ's resurrection and share the message of Easter, let us take a moment to remember the women, past and present, who have shared their faith with others and told the good news!

We share a commitment to bringing the gospel to others. As disciples created in God's image, during Easter and at all times of the year, we must remember our role in the great commission and our call to share the message of resurrection. Whether we tell it, sing it, yell it, blog it, pray it or even tweet it, we are carrying out our calling as disciples.

This is taken from "Sharing the good news," a devotion written by Emily Hansen that appeared in the March 2010 issue of [Interchange](#).

Ordinary like us

An egg doesn't seem like much. But at Easter time, eggs of all sizes and colors appear everywhere. They are made, hidden, gathered and loved by Christians and non-Christians alike to [celebrate](#) the holiday.

Eggs are also a miraculous incarnation of new life: A seemingly inanimate object, resembling a stone or sealed tomb, cracks open to reveal a living, breathing creature.

Easter eggs are meant to enhance our Easter joy, to remind us that this is a time of feasting and celebration. They also remind us that the Resurrection calls us to something deeper and more serious—to Christ, alive among us. An egg is small and ordinary, but also miraculous. In Jesus, God became small and ordinary too, like us.

This message is an excerpt from "Symbols of the Resurrection" by Heidi Haverkamp in the April 2019 issue of [Gather](#) magazine

From the NW Synod COVID-19 response

With the outbreaks of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the United States and around the world, our church and its leaders continue to minister to its members, to those who are hurting and searching for peace, and to those in need. You can help the ministries of the ELCA by supporting your local congregation and making a gift to the ELCA's [COVID-19 Response Fund](#). Your donation will provide funds to the ministries of the ELCA most in need and best positioned to help. This includes our congregations as well as local and churchwide ministries capable of reaching and assisting those in need. Additional resources for congregations and members regarding worship, stewardship and assistance programs are available at [ELCA.org/PublicHealth](https://www.elca.org/PublicHealth).

BULLETIN BLURBS

Follow the ELCA on social media

Do you follow the ELCA on social media? Keep informed with church news, events, pictures and video across many platforms. Look for us at [Facebook.com/Lutherans](https://www.facebook.com/Lutherans); [@ELCA on Twitter](https://twitter.com/ELCA); [@ELCA on Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/ELCA) and [YouTube.com/ELCA](https://www.youtube.com/ELCA). We are church together! Engage your faith through these online communities of Lutherans.

ELCA sanctuary memorial survey

At the August 2019 Churchwide Assembly, the ELCA became a sanctuary church body. If you have had the opportunity to read the text of the memorial, you will see that it contains important information about what is meant by "sanctuary." The memorial directed the ELCA Church Council to provide guidance to all three expressions of the ELCA on sanctuary. Here is your opportunity to give your input. Results from this survey are anonymous and will be used to shape the guidance the ELCA Church Council provides in response to this action.

Visit [surveymonkey.com/r/PMWFTY6](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PMWFTY6) to participate.



April 21, 2020

Dear Friends of Luther Park Bible Camp

This is truly an unprecedented time in our lives and the life and ministry of Luther Park. We pray that you are all doing well and finding moments of grace, peace and love. Please know that we are following guidelines of our governing agencies and will continue to seek their support and guidance as we plan for the future of the ministry of Luther Park Bible Camp.

As of now the board and staff have made the decision to suspend the June portion of our summer programs as well as all VBS/Day Camps for the 2020 summer. This decision was not taken lightly, but rather by seeking the wisdom of many.

In my 37 years of summer camp ministry, camps have experienced setbacks due to storms, fires, viruses and economic hardship. However, this is a first, we have never experienced the reality of a pandemic and its resulting effects on all our lives.

At this time summer camp programming will begin on July 5th. We will continue to monitor recommendations from the CDC as well as state and county guidelines. Our primary goal is the continued health and safety of all our campers and guests. We also deeply desire to provide a quality Christ filled experience for all children. If further decisions are needed to assure these outcomes the board and staff are meeting regularly to respond.

As of now, Luther Park Bible Camp is actively taking registrations for the summer! Those that have already registered for sessions in June may opt to move their registration to a later date or cancel if they feel it is necessary. Staff have been reaching out to camper families and churches over the last couple days letting them know of the changes. Please know that in this season of COVID-19 we have suspended our refund policy. If you feel it is wiser to cancel your registration you may apply any fees paid to a future event, donate the fees to the camp during this time of crisis or request a full or partial refund.

Luther Park will provide further updates as needed. You are always welcome and encouraged to contact the camp for more information. Please keep us in prayer as we continue to plan for an exciting season of ministry.

"We hold unwaveringly to hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful." Hebrews 10:23

In Christ's Service

Keith Newman
Executive Director

Prepare The Way Of The Lord

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

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PLEASANT VALLEY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2020

April 7th



The Annual
**NATIONAL
DAY OF
PRAYER**

First Thursday of May



Ascension Day

