

Giving Thanks

November marks at least two important holidays in American culture. Many of us will come together at the end of the month, gathering with friends and family, to celebrate Thanksgiving. The second holiday, celebrated with nearly just as much reverence, is the day-after-Thanksgiving, where crowds of people cram department stores trying to get the best deal on Christmas presents. The fact that these two days occur right next to each other sends quite a message.

But, this year will likely be different. As COVID-19 continues to move through our communities, it should give us pause to reflect on how it is we choose to gather for these holidays. As of writing this, case numbers continue to rise, percent positive cases are on the rise, and hospitalization rate is on the rise. This isn't over yet, not by a long-shot. And, many are concerned that as we move into the flu season, there is a real possibility of a strain on our medical resources.

So, maybe this year will look different. Maybe you will gather with a smaller group. Maybe you will choose online shopping. Maybe you will visit with family and friends over Zoom, Facetime, or on the phone rather than in-person. Maybe you will go to stores during slow times to avoid the crowds.

Now, there are those who are going to tell us that the risk is overblown, that we need to get back to normal. I understand their concern and COVID fatigue is a real thing. I'm tired of COVID-19. I'm tired of wearing a mask. I'm tired of not getting together with extended family. I'm tired of not having a date night out in our favorite restaurant. I'm tired of limiting the kids' ability to play with the neighbors. I'm tired of online worship and not worshipping together in our sanctuary.

And, it would be easy to go down that road into despair over where we are right now. It would be easy to become overwhelmed with fear or concern or anxiety over our health and the health of our community.

But I think there is a better way. In this season of giving thanks, rather than focusing our attention and energy on how we get back to normal,

we can choose to focus on all that God continues to provide for us during this time: health, life, love, family, friends, food, a home, a church community. And, sure, these relationships look different right now, but it won't be this way forever.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul writes that while we were still sinners, God proves God's love through Christ's death for us (Romans 5.8) it sounds impossible, it sounds too-good-to-be-true, and it sounds a little ridiculous. But, that's who God is. Without any requirement or fee, without any examination to see if we are good enough, God loves us and is with us through Christ and the Holy Spirit. No matter what we face, no matter what happens during this time, God, through Jesus Christ, always remains faithful to us.

This is why we give thanks, not just on one day in November over too much food, but every day of our lives. And we pray. We pray to God who asks nothing of you, but invites you into a life-changing relationship with God and with one another. We are free to help out others, give our gifts to the work of the church, and other acts of charity, service, and love, not because we need to get something from God, but as a way of life lived in the mercy of God's grace. Though our lives look different for this season, God continues to shower us with mercy, love, and forgiveness; not because we earned or deserve it, but simply because God loves us. And that's something to be thankful for.

Pr. JonPaul



**Daylight saving time ends
November 1st**

Turn clocks back on October 31st



Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Council Minutes, October 14, 2020

The meeting began at 6:10 a.m. Pastor JonPaul led us in a devotional prayer.

Non-agenda - None

Reports

The secretary's report was read by members. Rather than as stated in the report, Ellery Kuehl's baptism will be celebrated later, probably in November.

The treasurer's report was read by members. The mission offering of \$236 was collected for the Mondovi Backpack Lunch Program. We are \$790.46 in the red for the year.

The Pastor's report will mostly be addressed during the meeting. He has been visiting a member that has been hospitalized.

The reports were accepted with a motion from Dwight. Second from Steph. Motion carried.

Unfinished business

Education – Plans are tentative to start on-line classes, along with on-line church services, when the weather is colder. The Zoom classes on-line that we used from March through July were well accepted and engaged the children.

The graduation quilt from the church went to Danielle Fuentes.

There will likely be a confirmation for Kyle and Kasey Bahr in the spring.

Property – The storm window covering the small window that says, "Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church" is badly cracked. It needs to be replaced before the stained glass is damaged.

The Olson Park access is done.

All permits, supplies, and materials for the shelter in the park are here.

Nate Zahara, the builder, plans on starting on October 24, depending on whether he can get a crew together then.

Worship – At least one door will need to be propped open during the drive-in services. This will keep the cord from being pinched. Also, Cathy and Steph will be able to hear the service so they know when to take part.

A Thanksgiving service will be available on-line Tuesday, November 24. There will be no in-

person Thanksgiving service. The service will be a "lessons and carols" service.

Bazaar – The bazaar was held on October 4. We raffled off 2 quilts, a half hog, cut wrapped, and frozen, and a face cord of firewood. We had a drive-in chicken dinner from 11:00 to 12:30, with charcoal chicken, potato chips, a pickle, a bun and butter, a pack of cookies, and water or milk. The meals were \$10. Next year, if we have an indoor bazaar, we should make drive-through dinners available as well as dine-in and take-out. Also next year, we should put the approximate value of the 1/2 hog on the ticket. We estimated that about 1/3 of the sales also attended the worship service. We made a net profit of \$1,389.15.

We are planning/assuming that the worship service will be drive-up during November. We will use the prayer/communication chain to let people know if it is only going to be on-line.

New Business

The Christmas Eve service, at 5 p.m. on December 24, will be a drive-up service. We have purchased battery operated votive candles. We will also have some kind of lighting for the workers safety. We will begin the service with the lighting of a Christmas tree, placed outside.

Due to Covid concerns and safety, we are going to put off lefse making until the spring, possibly Easter. We will take orders before we make the lefse. The cost will be \$5 per bag of 3.

Dwight made a motion that the Annual Meeting be postponed to April 25, 2021, due to Covid 19. Steph seconded the motion. Motion carried. John Poore will remain president until then.

Steph made a motion to change the approval of the 2021 annual budget from in-person voting at the Annual Meeting to in-person voting at the November 29 drive-up service. Roxie seconded the motion. Motion carried. We will need a quorum at the drive-up service to take a vote.

The proposed budget will be put in the November newsletter. We are also looking for a council member at-large. That will also be announced in the November newsletter so that member can be voted on at the November 29 drive-up service.

The council will again meet on October 21, at 6 p.m., to go over the 2021 budget (ministry plan).

Mission offering – October – Rick Bahr family – Rick was killed in a crash near Fall Creek

November – Feed My People Food Bank – Eau Claire
 December – Mondovi Food Pantry

Other

Next meeting – Wednesday, December 6, at 6 p.m.
 Ruth moved to adjourn at 7:33. Second by Randy and Roxie. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:
 Ruth Poore

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

Sunday School / Confirmation

Sunday school for the fall is being worked on. Pastor and parents will be making a plan. More information will follow.

Treasurer's Report

Summary of Offering and Expenses

	Offering	Misc. Income	Expenses
Y-T-D	\$37,179.61	\$1,775.00	\$38,395.79
June	\$3,550.00	\$0.00	\$3,271.65
July	\$4,280.00	\$0.00	\$2,951.38
August	\$4,575.40	\$0.00	\$3,837.67
Sept	\$1,849.34	\$0.00	\$2,965.94
Oct	\$2,995.83	\$1,614.00	\$3,410.55

Year to date the offering is MORE than expenses by \$558.92
 Thank you everyone for your continued offerings.

Mission Offerings:

August – Eleva Strum Backpack Program - \$351.00
 September – Mondovi Backpack Lunch Program - \$236.00
 October – Rick Bahr family

Memorials:

Building Fund/Furnace Fund:

In memory of James Teigen:
 From: Gary & Irene Isaacson, Dale & Sharon Anderson, Larry & Crystal Sands

General Fund:

In memory of Don Thorson, James Teigen and Cody Timm’s birthday month from Bob & Joan Timm

In memory of Jim Teigen a memorial from Margie Herbenson

Cemetery Association

In memory of James Teigen, from Greg & Roxie Ulness
 Joe & Robin Becker
 Sandy Schuch
 Dick and Monica Bahr

Respectfully submitted:
 Roxie Ulness, Treasurer



WELCA

November 22nd is the annual Thankoffering Sunday for the Women of the church. Please bring in your thankoffering tubs or envelopes or checks for the thankoffering gift for the Women of the ELCA. See more info in this newsletter.

Happy Birthday!

To everyone who has a “November Birthday”, Blessings on your special day!



Praise Team News

The Praise Team is still on hold. Stay Safe.

Thank You's

Hello Neighbors!
 Thank-you for the note a few weeks ago, saying that you are praying for us! We are praying for you also! We are going through very trying times in our world and we need to pray always!
 With Love from your neighbors on Pine Road
 Kathy and Scott

Dear Pleasant Valley members

Thank you for contributing money from your Mission Sunday to the Mondovi Backpack Food Program. Your check for \$236.00 is very much appreciated as we begin a new school year. Mondovi Backpack program

TEXTS FOR NOVEMBER

22nd Sunday after Pentecost – 1st

All Saints Sunday

Drive-in service at Church if possible

Revelation 7:9-17

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

23rd Sunday after Pentecost – 8th

Drive-in service at Church if possible

Amos 5:18-24

Psalm 70

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

24th Sunday after Pentecost – 15th

Drive-in service at Church if possible

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

Christ the King Sunday /

Thankoffering Sunday– 22nd

Drive-in service at Church if possible

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

First Sunday in Advent– 29th

Drive-in service at Church if possible

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37



IN NEED OF PRAYER

Here is our Prayer Concern list:

Congratulations to the Poore family on the birth of Isaac Bentley the Poore's Grandson. He is

being treated for fluid on the lungs

The Family of Mary Edington– passed away - Art's sister-in-law's mother

Cathy Wingers mom- in need of healing

Troy Gilbertson – Healing after surgery, is home

Sandy Fletting and her family (Ruthann's daughter) healing from Covid.

Gwen Chubb - Monica's cousin. Chemo, preparing for surgery

John Smith – Dick's friend – healing at home

Art Syth – healing for shoulder, after a fall, may need surgery

Angie Petcsow – Dano's wife, healing after surgery

Kari Karnatz – has had more medical tests

Evan Kuehl - Nate's brother. Healing from a bicycle accident

Maureen Kuhn — Kay's sister-in-law, receiving cancer treatments

Kitty Ferrara – Kari's Aunt, heart surgeries

Catherine Erickson – pancreatic cancer

Gerri Sessions – strengthening & healing

Martha McCourt – Marianna Gilbertson's mother, living in a nursing home with dementia

Henry Karnatz – Kari's dad, living with dementia.

Holly Poore –teaching English and Spanish in Thailand

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 England

Brendan Poore - deployed to Somalia

The inmates at CVCTF and their Chaplin

All those on our visiting list

Bob Dutter

Janice Teigen

Gary and Sharon Hazen

Announcements –

If you would like to give to the mission offering any week, put it in the collection with a note and we will save it until the last week and add it to the mission offering gathered that week. November's mission offering is – Feed My People Food Bank – Eau Claire

We will have our annual Thankoffering Sunday on November 22nd. Please have your thankoffering gift with you to turn in to the ushers. If you want to bring it ahead of time, mark it well, and turn it in during the regular offering.

We will have the Thanksgiving Service on-line. It will be posted by Tuesday evening, November 24th. You can watch it then, with your family on Thanksgiving Day, or anytime. (You can even watch it more than once!)

We will be having a Special Congregational meeting to approve the 2021 Purposed Budget. It will be held on November 29th. The proposed budget will be in the November newsletter. We will need at least 15 members present to make a forum. We also need a new council member at large for the church Council. Dwight Sands will be going off.

We will have a drive-in Christmas Eve "Candlelight" Service on December 24th. It will be at 5:00.

During November and December we will tentatively hold normal drive-in services. If the weather will not permit a drive-in service, we will use the prayer/communication list, Facebook, and our website to let people know.

THANK YOU'S continued

Luther Park Bible Camp

Thank you so much for your prayers and support during this difficult time.

Thank you for your donation 6/09/2020 of \$500.00

CHRIST PEACE

Keith Newman

Executive Ministry Director

THANKOFFERINGS **GIVE THANKS FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS 2020**

Thankofferings are a long-standing custom among Lutheran women. We give in thanksgiving for blessings received—and we do receive so many blessings, don't we? And we are so grateful. That's why we give Thankofferings.

What do our Thankofferings support?

The founders of Women of the ELCA decided back in 1988 that Thankofferings are to support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization. Our founders would be amazed to see what that covers these days!

Our ongoing ministries include our many online and printed communications channels (including this website), our justice and advocacy work, training and development for elected leaders throughout the women's organization, our constant work in support of congregational and synodical women's organizations, the administration of our grants and scholarship programs, all that goes into our triennial convention (the business meeting, that is), and so much more.

Come join the Thankoffering Sunday November 22nd. Please have your Thankoffering gifts, money, ready to turn in. If you want a tub I have extra's in my office you can get to build up next year's offering or to put this years into.

BE THANKFUL



"Acknowledging the good that you already have in your life is the foundation for all abundance."
Eckhart Tolle

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Council Minutes
Wednesday, October 21, 2020

The meeting began at 6:08 a.m.

The purpose of this meeting was to have a proposed 2021 ministry plan (budget) to put in the November newsletter coming out at the end of the week. The ministry plan will be voted on by the membership at a November 29, 2020, drive-up church service. This will take the place of the Annual Meeting vote for the ministry plan, since the Annual Meeting has been postponed to April 25, 2021.

Roxie presented the proposed budget. She had highlighted where we had come up short in the 2020 budget and raised each line accordingly. Also, a raise for the secretary's position, the "organist's" position, and the Pastor's total package was presented.

We talked about the Church Mutual representative wanting to meet with us and talk about our insurance. We also think we should meet with the Hastings Mutual representative – out current insurance – and talk about coverage and premiums.

Next meeting – Wednesday, December 2, at 6 p.m.

Ruth moved to adjourn at 6:41. Second by Randy. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:
 Ruth Poore

Members present: Roxie Ulness, Randy Sands, John Poore, Ruth Poore

The proposed ministry plan follows:

** 2020 Actual is an estimated amount based on projected spending for Nov/Dec

Mission and Benevolence	2020 Actual	2020 Ministry Plan	(Over)/Under	2021 Proposed	* denotes increase
Benevolence (ELCA)	1,800.00	1,800.00	-	1,800.00	
Lutheran Social Services	250.00	250.00	-	250.00	
Luther Park Bible Camp	500.00	500.00	-	500.00	
Mission Offering	2,911.00	2,500.00	(411.00)	3,000.00	* avg mission is \$250.00
Missionary	100.00	100.00	-	100.00	
Subtotal	5,561.00	5,150.00	(411.00)	5,650.00	
Worship and Service					
Organist	4,410.00	4,410.00	-	4,725.00	* \$5.00 per service
Offering Envelopes	94.61	120.00	25.39	120.00	
Communion/Worship Supplies	524.66	300.00	(224.66)	500.00	* Sundays & Seasons
The Lutheran and Christ in Our Home	323.08	570.00	246.92	570.00	

Office Expenses	64.97	200.00	135.03	200.00	
Postage	67.90	400.00	332.10	400.00	
Copier Maintenance	471.12	500.00	28.88	500.00	
Pastoral Education	-	350.00	350.00	350.00	
Other Education	-	250.00	250.00	250.00	
Study Guides and Material	-	100.00	100.00	100.00	
Youth Ministry	179.99	500.00	320.01	500.00	
Ambassadors	-	500.00	500.00	500.00	
CCLI	137.00	130.00	(7.00)	140.00	* increase in rates
Synod Assembly	-	400.00	400.00	400.00	
Guest Speakers/Performers	-	375.00	375.00	375.00	
Sunshine Fund	-	230.00	230.00	230.00	
Misc Expense	488.84	500.00	11.16	500.00	
Bazaar	217.25	650.00	432.75	650.00	
Subtotal	6,979.42	10,485.00	3,505.58	11,010.00	
Church Home					
Fuel	1,512.69	3,000.00	1,487.31	3,000.00	
Electricity and Heat	2,615.64	3,000.00	384.36	3,000.00	
Telephone	1,469.05	1,100.00	(369.05)	1,500.00	* additional line in lift
Treasurer	-	600.00	600.00	600.00	
Secretary	1,800.00	1,800.00	-	1,920.00	*10.00 per month
Repairs & Maintenance	501.20	1,000.00	498.80	1,000.00	
Yard Work/Snow Removal	600.00	600.00	-	600.00	
Workers Comp Insurance	510.50	500.00	(10.50)	520.00	* increase in rates
Fire/Property Ins	2,056.00	2,000.00	(56.00)	2,060.00	* increase in rates
Subtotal	11,065.08	13,600.00	2,534.92	14,200.00	
Salary	7,796.64	7,796.57	(0.07)	8,450.23	

Housing Allowance	13,992.00	13,992.00	-	13,992.00	
Social Security Allowance	1,666.80	1,666.83	0.03	1,716.83	
Mileage	-	100.00	100.00	100.00	
Pastoral Ministry	23,455.44	23,555.40	99.96	24,259.06	* 3 %
Total Ministry Plan	47,060.94	52,790.40	5,729.46	55,119.06	
Overall Increase				2,328.66	4.41%

From the Northwest Synod

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress.. James 1:27

Recently, the domestic abuse shelter, Embrace, which serves Barron, Price, Washburn and Rusk counties in NW Wisconsin, lost county funding for the work that it does to help individuals and families find safety and protection from abusive partners. The reported \$25,000 cut in funding was in reaction to the organization's display of Black Lives Matter placards at its facilities and its antiracism statement on its website. Several local and national news agencies picked up the story.¹ About 15% of the victims that are served by Embrace are Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC). When I read Embrace's anti-racism statement², I was struck by how it echoed many ideas expressed in statements of my church, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's condemnation of racism and white supremacy.³

It grieves my heart that funding for the only domestic abuse shelter in four counties in Northwest Wisconsin has been cut. A study from Rutgers documented⁴ an increase in domestic violence since the beginning of the COVID 19 pandemic. Access to the support of a domestic abuse shelter can be a matter of life or death. Surely this conflict will put the most vulnerable families among us in even more danger.

My response to this situation may be perceived as a partisan political statement. Let me assure you it is not. It is a matter of faith. Racism and the resulting racial violence is a sin. Domestic violence is a sin. As Christians we are called to "Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God." Micah 6:8. For me to be silent in the face of this injustice is sin.

As a church, as people of faith, we are called to care for the "least of these my brothers and sisters," for those on the fringes, the weak, the poor, and the vulnerable. We are called to end the root causes of injustice, violence, and poverty. As ELCA Lutherans we often say, God's Work, Our Hands, and I add Our Voices. Addressing injustice in our society is God's work and it requires our voices.

If you are a person of faith, I invite you to pray about how you can speak the truth and act justly in the face of this situation. Pray that the conflict between the board and Embrace is resolved and funding restored. Pray that we work together to end racism, racial violence and domestic violence. Pray for courage and wisdom. Use the voice God has given you to speak on behalf of those whose voice has been silenced or unheard.

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA

¹ https://www.huffpost.com/entry/domestic-violence-black-lives-matter-police_n_5f88c8a1c5b66ee9a5ee43d7?fbclid=IwAR0MCfBEV9aeWybM91X82jKBVPd7X9sBMRoS0v1xbGWsILtZzO-2lDbdBtQ
<https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/20/us/wisconsin-embrace-police-funding-cut-trnd/index.html>
<https://wqow.com/2020/10/14/25k-in-funding-cut-from-domestic-violence-shelter/>

² <https://www.embracewi.org/antiracism-statement>

³ ³ https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/8039?fbclid=IwAR3lOEtrOMxn5wc3t6A_VJIW2aUB7COOexHWgP3ii-iNKTTfZMihCnKzBA

⁴ https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2020-09/ru-adv091120.php

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

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PLEASANT VALLEY NEWSLETTER

