

By the time you are reading this, we will have celebrated our FINAL (we hope and pray!) virtual Sunday worship service!

It has been a long year.

With the exception of some late summer, fall, and a Christmas Eve worship service, we have worshipped online, virtually, for over a year now.

And, while that has not been anyone's favorite way to worship together, it has been the most safe for our whole community.

But, as we now sit, case numbers continue to decline, hospitalizations in our areas are low, and more and more of our community is able to be vaccinated. All these signs point to a hope that this pandemic will largely be behind us soon.

While we do not know a specific timeline for returning to worship in our sanctuary, we joyfully welcome the return of drive-in services. And, since weather continues to improve, we hope to be celebrating outdoor worship services in the park, under our new pavilion, this summer as well.

I will not miss the late nights recording and editing and posting worship services. I will not miss preaching to my cell phone as it records. I will not miss celebrating Sundays apart from our church community.

So, come and join us! Join us each Sunday as we gather together for drive-in services every Sunday moving forward (unless weather prevents us) starting March 28<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.. Celebrate Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday with us at 9am.

It is good to gather. It is good to share in worship and song. It is good to eat at Christ's table together. It is good to see one another.

We hope to see you there.  
Peace,

Pr. JonPaul

## **Special Notice!**

Special notice! Maundy Thursday and Good Friday will be online.

We will have drive-up service, for Easter, they will continue every Sunday in April.

## **Synod Assembly**

The Synod Assembly will be held virtually this year, on Thursday, April 15, and Saturday, April 17. The cost is \$30 per person and will be paid by the church. You need to register on Zoom by April 1. We are allowed 2 voting members, preferably one male and one female. The resolutions can be found on-line.

## **Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Council Minutes, March 10, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by President Kuehl at 6:07 p.m. Pastor JonPaul led us in a devotional prayer.

**Non-agenda** - none

### **Reports**

The secretary's report was read by the Council members.

The treasurer's report was read by the Council members. The mission offering of \$370 was collected for the Sojourner House. We put in a new water pump, which cost \$1,155.27, total. We paid for that from the building line item. (The well is 70 feet deep.) We ended the month \$342.45 in the red.

The Pastor's report was read by the Council members. The Holy Week services, Maundy Thursday, April 1, and Good Friday, April 2, will be on-line. We will plan to have both the Palm Sunday and the Easter Sunday services as drive-in services at 9 a.m. Randy will order more of the sealed communion cups that we have been using at drive-up services.

Palm Sunday will include the blessing of the quilts that Crystal has made. It will also include the installation of officers on the Council.

Our Easter celebration will not include a breakfast. We plan to have a balloon release

(biodegradable balloons) for the children. Ruth will check on helium. Steph and Cortney will handle the planning and execution of the balloon decoration and release.

Pastor will be taking April 18 and April 25 as vacation time. On Palm Sunday, he will settle on whether we will have lay people conducting the services on those days.

The reports were accepted with a motion from John. Second from Dave. Motion carried.

## **Unfinished business**

**Education** – The Zoom classes on-line are again being offered.

Luther Park has sent out the schedule for the 2021 summer camping season. Our church will fund one-half of the cost to each camper. April 17 is the cut-off date to have the registrations turned in to us to receive the backing from the church. Please pay your half to Roxie and she will send the whole amount for all campers to Luther Park. The parents and grandparents of possible campers have been alerted to this and given the information.

**Property** – The next step for the park project is to get the cement floor down. Then the plan is to put in electricity. There was some discussion on the planning for electricity – How many amps to support pot luck meals (roasters, coffee makers, etc.)? How many outlets are needed in the pavilion? Do we need a power source away from the pavilion?

The furnace that heats the sanctuary has stopped working. We will not replace the furnace now, since we will not be in the church sanctuary for quite some time. Since there is nothing that could freeze, we will replace it when needed, pushing the warranty time out further.

**Worship** – Has been gone over in Pastor's report. Drive-up services can be done in the park with the transmitter, using a generator. We would not start using the park until later in the spring, when the ground has firmed up.

Brotherhood Mutual Insurance, which specializes in church insurance, has been at the church to assess what our insurance needs would be. We are due to reinsure the church in September. When the new Hastings Mutual (our current insurers) policy comes to us, we will

check to make sure it covers the park and pavilion. Church Mutual and Brotherhood Mutual have come in about \$100 more than we are currently paying.

The Synod Assembly will be held virtually this year, on Thursday, April 15, and Saturday, April 17. The cost is \$30 per person and will be paid by the church. "Attendees" will need to register on Zoom by April 1. We are allowed 2 voting members, preferably one male and one female. The resolutions can be found on-line. We will ask members about interest in the Assembly at the Palm Sunday drive-up service. Steph and Cortney may try to sign up for Assembly.

## **New Business**

**Mission offering – March** – Ruby's Pantry – a food pantry in Mondovi. The people using Ruby's Pantry pay \$20 to receive a large box of food.

**April** – Cornell firefighter Justin Fredrickson, accidentally shot while battling a house fire

**May** – Luther Park

## **Other**

Crystal has finished 12 quilts, with more to come. The only suggestion as recipients was the Chippewa Falls Veterans' Home.

We will purchase plants for the shut-ins for Easter. Along with Janis Teigen and Gary and Sharon Hazen, we will add Cathy Winger's mother, Emily Horban, Kari Karnatz's father, Henry Karnatz, and Bob and Joan Timm. Bob Dutter has asked that we not give him any plants. Ruth will handle purchasing the plants and get them to our visiting teams to distribute.

Pastor asked that if any of us that hear of someone who is having trouble getting the Covid vaccine, we try to help them. We could possibly refer them to Pastor JonPaul.

Cathy Winger has told Steph that there are some keys on the Clavinova that are not working well. Ruth will check that out.

Next meeting – Wednesday, April 7, at 6 p.m.

Ruth moved to adjourn at 7:37. Second by Cortney. Motion carried.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

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

Respectfully submitted:  
Ruth Poore

## Treasurer's Report

### Summary of Offering and Expenses

	Offering	Misc. Income	Expenses
Y-T-D	\$8,339.51	\$52.12	\$8,734.08
Jan	\$4,156.51	\$0.00	\$4,066.71
Feb	\$4,183.00	\$52.12	\$4,667.37

Year to date the offering is less than expenses by \$342.45.

#### Mission Offerings:

January – Chippewa Valley Free Clinic - \$230.00

February – Sojourner House - \$370.00

#### Memorials:

##### Building Fund/Furnace Fund:

In memory of Geri Sessions, from Dave & Kim Vlcek

In memory of Donald Timm, Roger Wampole and Geri Sessions, from Sandy Schuch

In memory of Donald Timm, from John & Ruth Poore

Respectfully submitted:

Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

## Sunday School

With weekend services returning to drive-in, the zoom Sunday school meetings will be put on hold. At the current time there are no solid plans as to how or when they will resume. However, we will be looking for some ideas and will run them by the parents when we are able. Can't wait to see everyone back in person!

Courtney Sands

## TEXTS FOR APRIL

*All services will Drive-up unless indicated*

### **Munday Thursday – 1<sup>st</sup>**

*On line*

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

### **Good Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>**

*Online*

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

Psalm 22

Hebrews 10:16-25 or 4:14-16; 5:7-9

John 18:1—19:42

### **Easter Sunday- 4<sup>th</sup>**

Job 14:1-14

Psalm 114

Romans 6:3-11

John 20:1-18 or

Mark 16:1-8

### **Second Sunday of Easter – 11<sup>th</sup>**

Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31

### **Third Sunday of Easter – 18<sup>th</sup>**

Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

### **Fourth Sunday of Easter – 25<sup>th</sup>**

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18





## IN NEED OF PRAYER

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

**Family of Henrietta Bauer** – has passed away, She was a Hoverson; funeral at a later date

**Susie Sands** – Clyde’s wife – is on hospice care in their home

**Sandy Schuch** –surgery went well, has moved to the rehab floor at Sacred Heart

**Bob Timm, Jr.** - healing

**Claudia Wampole** – at home with her daughter; doing chemo treatments

**Troy Gilbertson** – strengthen and healing

**Dan Engum** – complications with infectious diseases

**Glen Klevgard**– Thelma’s (she was a Tweet); husband, now in Azura Memory Care, at the Larson House, in Eau Claire

**Kari Karnatz** - healing

**Theresa Edison**- fighting cancer, treatments are working – Monica’s cousin

**Jan Murphy** – healing and strengthening from COVID, Sharon Anderson’s sister

**Loris Anderson** – Sharon’s Mom, healing at Grace Prairie Pointe

**Maureen Kuhn** — Kay’s sister-in-law, is home – strength and healing

**Catherine Erickson** – pancreatic cancer

**Emily Horban** - Cathy Winger’s mom- living with dementia, is at Care Partners

**Martha McCourt** – Marianna’s mother, living with dementia

**Henry Karnatz** – Kari’s dad, living with dementia, healing from back surgery

**Holly Poore** –teaching English and Spanish in Thailand

**Shelby Hill and family** - missionaries living in France

**Keyla Lisbeth** - the Sharing the Dream recipient, student in Guatemala, we will be her sponsor for another year

**All Students and Teachers**

**All medical workers**

**All our service men and women:**

**Alex Bauer** stationed in England

**Brendan Poore** - deployed to Somalia

**All those missing a loved one who has passed away**

**All those on our visiting list:**

Bob Dutter, Janice Teigen, Gary and Sharon Hazen

## A Devotion

### Clay and potter

A new calendar year often brings a fresh perspective with promises of a clean slate. We remember the past year and take inventory of successes and failures. We also look ahead with hope and anticipation of what will be. In the book of Romans, Paul compares us to clay and God to a potter. Perhaps this is where our successes and failures meet—in God's hands. Then God takes the many and varied experiences of our lives and uses them—the bitter and the sweet—to mold us, shape us, renew us and transform us. In God's hands, we are works of art still under construction. Sometimes the promises we make to ourselves, our New Year's resolutions fall flat. But thanks be to God! We do not solely rely on our will power, faithfulness, or intellect. Ultimately our hope rests with our God who always keeps promises.

*This message is an excerpt from "Faith reflection: Risky transformation" by Angela T. Khabeb in the January 2020 issue of Café*

### **Luther Park April Newsletter article**

**Register early for summer camp programs offered at Luther Park and Luther Woods? While June and July may seem a long way away, the staff at Luther Park is already gearing up for another exciting summer filled with fun and faith. Whether you are a first-time camper or a veteran senior high, there is something for everyone at Luther Park! If you register and pay in full before May 1<sup>st</sup> you will receive the Early Bird Discount. (The Church pays half). To sign up for camp, pick up a brochure and send in your registration today or visit [www.luthrpark.org](http://www.luthrpark.org) to register online. If you have questions call Pastor or the park 715-859-2215**

### **“The little hills rejoice”**

**Psalms 65:12**

**Nothing is left out of the celebration of Spring!**

April 1<sup>st</sup> verse of the day

By the light of the psalms

by Chris Shea

## Crosses We Don't Choose<sup>1</sup>

*Then Jesus told them, "... take up their cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24b*

Dear Members and Friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

My friend Julie's mom had dementia. Julie picked up that cross and carried it as her beloved mother faded away. Paul was in second grade when he was diagnosed with diabetes. It was a cross he would carry for the rest of his life. Erica's drug addiction was a cross she and her family carried for years until she found sobriety. They were all crosses they didn't choose.

Jesus carried his cross on the road to his crucifixion. Along the way he falls, and a man named Simon of Cyrene<sup>2</sup> is forced to pick up Jesus' cross and carry it the rest of the way to Calvary. Simon was most likely a reluctant cross bearer. Most of us are reluctant cross bearers. We don't choose the pain or suffering we've been dealt, and yet we carry the load. We don't choose to carry another person's cross when they are too weak to carry it themselves, but we are at times compelled by love to do so.

This month marks the one year anniversary of the pandemic. It is a cross that we've all carried to one degree or another. For some it has been an inconvenience and for others a heavy burden of suffering and profound grief. Theologically there is no way to put a positive spin on the coronavirus or 2020. It has been a cross we didn't choose. The strain of carrying this cross is evident in our country and congregations. We are all weary of it.

On Palm/Passion Sunday and Good Friday we are drawn into the story of Jesus' arrest, trial, and death. We walk alongside him in the crowd as he carries his cross, our cross, compelled by love. We walk with a suffering Jesus straining under the weight of this cross, stumbling, falling, getting back up and finally letting go, letting another carry it. Jesus knew pain in his human body, and so Jesus knows our every weakness. Jesus himself was beaten, knew suffering and was unable to carry the weight of this cross. He falls to the ground under the weight of his love for us.

As a church we invite others to walk in the way of Jesus knowing that they are carrying crosses they didn't choose for themselves. We invite others to walk in the way of Jesus because as a community of faith we shoulder the burden and carry it all together. We help another carry their cross out of love. We are Simon of Cyrene.

Maybe that is what this past year has taught us; that we need each other; we aren't alone. We've been isolated, quarantined, but not alone. We can't take our congregations for granted. We need our faith communities and the relationships with other believers because we can't carry our own crosses. We follow the way of Jesus together bearing our neighbor's crosses out of love.

It is in the cross that Jesus carried and on which he was crucified that we can know the love of God and salvation. This is Luther's Theology of the Cross. It is in the crosses that we as a community of faith carry together as we follow in the way of Jesus that we too see and know the love God.

Dear friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, I am grateful for you, that during the pandemic, we were able to walk in the way of Jesus together. May you each know the joy of Easter! Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed.

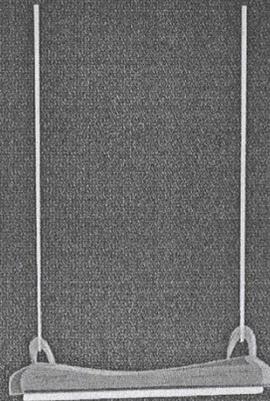
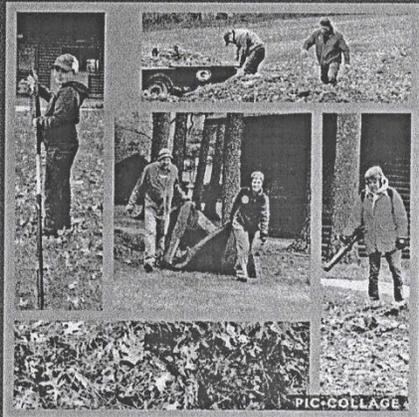
Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

<sup>1</sup> Inspired by an article titled Crosses we don't choose in March 10, 2021 Christian Century by Debie Thomas

<sup>2</sup> Simon of Cyrene Matthew 27:32

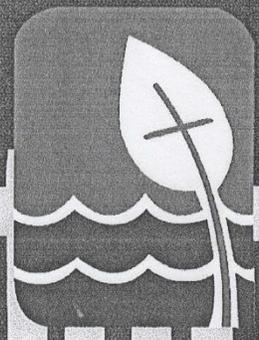
# Spring Work Day at Luther Park

Saturday, April 24th  
8:30am to 4:30pm



Help prepare Luther Park Bible Camp for the  
upcoming season!

Sign up at: [lutherpark.org/spring-work-day](http://lutherpark.org/spring-work-day)



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

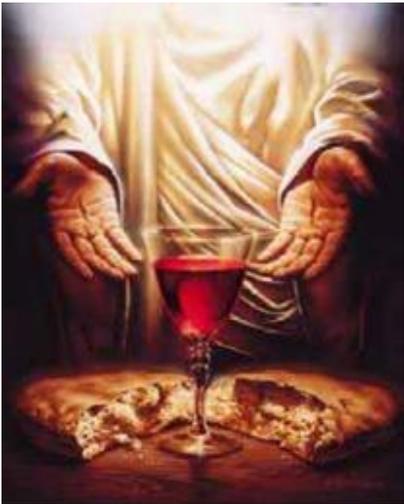
Church Secretary: Monica Bahr – Home: 715-287-4742

Church E-mail: [pleasantvalley@tcc.coop](mailto:pleasantvalley@tcc.coop)

Website: [www.pleasantvalleylutheran.com](http://www.pleasantvalleylutheran.com)



## *Pleasant Valley Newsletter*



**MUNDY THURSDAY**



2021



**GOOD  
FRIDAY**