

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 by President Stephanie Kuehl. Pastor led us in a devotional prayer.

The secretary's report was read by members. The treasurer's report was read by members. \$3,071 was taken from savings to pay for the power up to the park. \$884.50 was taken from the savings to pay for the plumber and the new pressure tank. The net profit from the bazaar is \$3,054. Year-to-date at the end of October, we are in the black by \$1,091.16. The Mission Offering for the month of October, sent to give aid to victims of Hurricane Ida, was \$255. Pastor's report was oral. He reported doing one funeral for a person that was baptized at Pleasant Valley many years ago. Confirmation is in flux, but Kyle and Kasey Bahr will be confirmed in the spring. Confirmation for the student we now have will be one-on-one through the winter. Also, we need to set up a new member Sunday for the Johnson family.

There was a motion from Cortney to accept the reports. Second from John. Motion carried.

**Education** – Pastor JonPaul presented an idea for a Christmas program up in the park. It entailed having each family do a part of the Christmas story, as they did last year. We would separate the families as much as possible and have the congregation go from one to the next. We will serve hot chocolate and warm apple cider. Cortney will get a Thrivent Seed Card for the program costs. Corissa Sands would like to be a part of the planning and presenting of the program. The parents of the 5 families will be contacted as to how the program will go. The program is being planned for December 12, 2021, at 10 a.m. and will take the place of our regular church service that day.

**Worship** – The bazaar was very successful! We wondered – was it the setting? Was it people being happy to get out after 15 months in quarantine with Covid? Was it the festival setting?

We will have our annual Thanksgiving service on Tuesday, November 23, 2021. It will be a drive-up setting, perhaps in the park if weather permits. We are planning to have a few "campfires" to be used by attendees to roast marshmallows, or hot dogs, or even just to sit around and enjoy the ambiance. The service would not include communion and would possibly be shortened to 20 to 30 minutes. Cortney, Steph, and

**Merry Christmas  
And a Blessed New Year**

I will try to add my article at a later date.

See you all at the Christmas Nativity program at 10:00 instead of 9:00 on Sunday December 12th.

Christmas Eve will be 5:00 Drive up style

Peace,  
Pr. JonPaul

Roxie will see about getting fire rings; one which can be used on the cement. John will supply the firewood and get the fires started. Pastor will announce this at the church services between now and the 23rd.

We will have the Christmas Eve drive-up service, as we did last year, at 5 p.m. on Friday, December 24, 2021. Ruth will check on the tea lights to make sure we have enough.

Pastor feels we are getting closer to in-church worship, since younger children are now allowed to be vaccinated.

**Property** –We now have power up to the park. Dave can now put the service on the FM transmitter, and speakers, without running a cord from the church up to the park. We will get a thank-you for him for all the Sundays he has kept us up and running – a Visa gift card in the amount of \$150. Steph will handle that and have it ready by this Sunday.

The furnace that heats the sanctuary is still not working as it should. We will put off purchasing a new one until we are planning on being in the church for services.

The lift has not been working well. There are signs on it asking that people don't try to use it. We will have a new maintenance agreement, starting in January 2022. We can use that agreement to pay for the service call to get the lift up to speed.

## NEW BUSINESS

Our annual meeting is, as always, the last week of January. That means it is set, according to our by-laws, for January 30, 2022. However, since we most likely will not be in-church at that time we will not have the congregation attend, call lack of a quorum, and set the Annual Meeting for a time later in the spring. Meanwhile, there was a motion by Roxie to call a Special Meeting, to approve a new budget, for January 16, after the regular church service. Second by John. Motion carried. There will be notices in the bulletins and newsletter making the congregation aware of this Special Meeting.

Also, we need two new members-at-large to be voted onto the council at the Annual Meeting.

### **Mission Sundays** –

November – Mondovi Food Pantry  
December – Feed My People  
January, 2022 – Sojourner House

Pastor will check with New Life Recycling, a veteran run business in Chippewa Falls that takes used bikes, in any condition, and fixes them to be given to veterans, to see if his need is seasonal and how we can best help him.

Next council meeting will be Tuesday, December 7, at 6 p.m.

### **Other**

Steph will forward our donation to Shelby Hill electronically.

At 7:44 p.m. a motion was made to close the meeting by Ruth. Seconded by Cortney. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Poore, Council secretary

Members present: Pastor JonPaul Dragseth, Roxie Ulness, John Poore, Stephanie Kuehl, Cortney Sands, Randy Sands, and Ruth Poore.

### **Praise Team News**

The praise team will play in worship at Pleasant Valley on December 26. The group will lead worship at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility on December 25 and 26. What a blessing to be with the men there in worship on Christmas!!

### **Treasurer's Report**

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\*\*The Mission Offering for the month of October, sent to give aid to victims of Hurricane Ida, was \$255.

Respectfully submitted:  
Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

## Women of the ELCA

Thank you for bringing your Thankoffering! It's not to late to bring in your Thankoffering or send it to Roxie.

Bring your hats and mittens to put on the hat and mitten tree during the month December.

## Did You Know:

**If you hang Eucalyptus in the shower...** the steam from the hot shower will activate the oils. The Eucalyptus will help with decongestion, headaches, inflammation, stress, and muscle tightness.

**When you burn Bay Leaves at home...** It helps to relieve; Anxiety, Reduce Inflammation, Boost Immune Systems, Increase Alertness, Open Respiratory Systems, and Increase Mindfulness.

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“Teach me thy way, O Lord.” Psalms 27:11

“Let me strive to be generous  
As you have been to me.”

By the light of the Psalms by Chris Shea  
.....

## \*Announcements:

\*December's Mission Offering will be –  
Feed My People.

\*We will have a special meeting on January 16 to vote on the budget for the 2022 year. It will be after the service, and will be drive-up again. We will have ballots to accept or reject the proposed budget. We will need a quorum.

\*The next Council meeting will be Tuesday,  
December 7, at 6 p.m.

\*The 5:p.m. p.m. Christmas Eve "candlelight"  
service – will be, drive-up.

## TEXTS FOR DECEMBER

*All services will be drive-in  
Unless you are notified*

### **Second Sunday of Advent – 5<sup>th</sup>**

Malachi 3:1-4

The Song of Zechariah - Luke 1: 68-79

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

### **Third Sunday of Advent - 12<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Children program drive-up station**

Zephaniah 3:14-20

The First Song of Isaiah - Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

### **Forth Sunday of Advent – 19<sup>th</sup>**

Micah 5:2-5a

The Song of Mary Magnificat \* Luke 1:46-55

or Psalm 80:1-7

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

### **Christmas Eve at 5:00pm**

#### **Outdoor Drive-up Service**

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm 98

Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)

John 1:1-14

### **Christmas Day**

No service

### **First Sunday after Christmas – 26<sup>th</sup>**

1 Samuel 2:18-20,026

Psalm 148

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52



## **WE INVITE PRAYERS FOR:**

**Ayla Vlcek**- Duane's wife – fighting Covid; healing;

**Brett** – fighting Covid; healing

**Deb Sorenson** - recovering from Covid; friend of Kim's

**Maureen Kuhn** – bone marrow biopsy - Kay Sands Sister-in-law

**Alice Kleist** - Art's Mother-in-law; home care, healing after a fall

**Kari Karnatz** - good test results; healing

**Carol and Howard** – Joan Timm's family – fighting cancer

**Missy** – friend of Kari's; has pancreatic cancer

**Gwen Chubb** – Monica's cousin –cancer; healing

**Teresa Edison**- Monica's cousin - cancer; healing

**Emily Horban** - Cathy Winger's mom- living with dementia

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

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

**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

**All our service men and women:**

**Alex Bauer** stationed in England

**Inmates at CVCTF** – and their Chaplain

**All those who are missing a loved one**

**Those on our visiting list:** Bob Dutter & Gary and Sharon Hazen

## **Thank you:**

Dear Friends of Pleasant Valley Church

Thank you for your recent donation! Your generous and thoughtful gift, which we forward to Catholic Charities USA for Hurricane Ida Relief, will help to provide greatly-needed services to struggling individuals and families. As we work together to help them, we are honored to share with you the privilege of serving Christ in the most needy amongst us. God bless you.

In Christ, Roberto Partarrieu

Executive Director

Donation Amount \$255.00 on 11/8/2021

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**Psalm 137:4** *How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?*

## **Christmas Message to the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin**



In 1926, my maternal grandmother left Germany and immigrated to the United States. One of my earliest memories is singing *Silent Night (Stille Nacht)* in German by the Christmas tree in her small house in Jackson, MN. I wonder what it was like for her to move to a foreign land not speaking the language. I wonder how difficult it must have been for her to sing her song in a foreign land.

Last Christmas most of us couldn't gather inside our church buildings to sing *Silent Night* on Christmas Eve. Some of us sang to our computer screens, some sang in their cars in the parking lot, some sang with masks. We were all trying to sing the Lord's song in a foreign land, the land of COVID. It has been difficult. Our song has been muted.

**Psalm 137 is a lament Psalm.** The writer of Psalm 137 is describing the pain of the people who were forced to live in a foreign land after witnessing the destruction of their homeland and their temple. They are grieving the losses, lamenting, crying, and finding it impossible to "sing the Lord's song in a foreign land."

My heart goes out to the Afghan Refugees<sup>1</sup> who are experiencing their first winter at Fort McCoy. I wonder how difficult it will be for them to sing their songs of faith in a foreign land. Many know that they will never go home again.

In Luke 1 Mary sings her song in unknown territory. She has received the message from Gabriel that she will bear God's son and his name is to be Jesus, and he will reign as king forever. This incomprehensible message is confirmed by her relative Elizabeth and changes Mary's life's circumstances. Mary is asked to do what no one has ever done before. This is uncharted and foreign territory for a young girl. She sings her song in a foreign land like her sisters before her Miriam, Ruth, and Hannah. She sings a song of courage, faith, hope, and love.

Luke 1:46-49 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

This Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season I invite you to reflect on Mary's song as an old song sung in new circumstances. Many of us and our churches find ourselves dealing with circumstances we might not have chosen for ourselves and wish were different, circumstances that might cause us to lament and grieve. We are here now. Sing. Join Mary and the faithful of every time and place, that great cloud of witnesses, and sing of courage, faith, hope, and love. Sing. Sing an old song of trust in unfamiliar territory, and sing a new song of hope in a new land. We are here now.

May the Hope of Advent, Joy of Christmas and Light of Epiphany bring you Peace. Bishop Laurie

<sup>1</sup> For more information about helping Afghan refugees

Volunteering at Fort McCoy contact Wisconsin Council of Churches [volunteer@wichurches.org](mailto:volunteer@wichurches.org).

Resettling families contact LSSWI [Refugee Resettlement - Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan \(lsswis.org\)](http://www.lsswi.org). Sarah Halstad

Donations contact Catholic Charities in La Crosse <https://cclse.org/afghanistan-refugee-assistance/>

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

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