**Pastors Corner** **January 2020**

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends (1 Corinthians 13:4-8).

This month we celebrate Valentine's Day. Hundreds of thousands of dollars will be spent on chocolate, cards, and flowers. We make this day about romantic love; love between partners, whether they've been together a short time or most of their lives.

Too often, though, in the midst of these celebrations, we forget those for whom this holiday is painful. Some of us do not have a romantic partner. Some of us have gone through horrible experiences that make us question if we can risk love again. Some of us are in the midst of divorce or breakup and still feel the pain of a relationship that did not last.

The verse from First Corinthians may be one of the most famous passages of the Bible. There is hardly a wedding where this verse is not heard in some capacity. We may be tempted to think that romantic love is what Paul was talking about when he penned these lines.

But, Paul was thinking of something very different when he wrote to the Corinthians. Paul was writing to a group of Christians about what it means to be followers of Jesus and what it means to be a community of faith. Paul was writing to them to encourage them to set aside differences and live as one community in Christ. There is some discord in the community and Paul knew what we still know today; where the community of faith is fractured, there will be anger, resentment, and discord; things that keep us focused on us instead of living as Jesus calls us.

So, maybe, as we look toward Valentine's Day and share our time with those we love, let us also remember our community of faith. Love between one another is the key foundation of what it is to be followers of Jesus. When we build on our relationships with one another, we are able to better follow Jesus and serving those whom Jesus loves. If we don't have love for each other, we certainly will have difficulty loving the stranger.

Paul's words echo across these nearly 2,000 years and are a strong message for us yet today; love one another. We don't have to agree on everything. We don't have to always get along. We can foster debate and disagreement that seeks the best for the Church, our congregation, and our world. But, in the midst of it all; whether we agree or disagree, we see eye-to-eye, or we find ourselves in a heated debate with someone else; remember this: Love never ends. When we have love for one another—that same life-giving, respectful, honest love Jesus shows us, then truly we will be servants of Christ.

Peace,

Pr. JonPaul

**Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church**

**Council Minutes, January 6, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by President Poore at 6:10 p.m. Pastor JonPaul led us in a devotional prayer.

**Non-agenda** - None

**Reports**

The secretary’s report was read by the members.

 The treasurer’s report was read by the members. The mission offering of $255 was collected for the Mondovi Food Pantry. The December year-end number in the treasury was not available.

The Pastor’s report was read by the members. We will have a drive-in service for Ash Wednesday on February 17. We will have ashes distributed in one form or another.

 At this point we will plan the Easter Sunday service to be a drive-in service at 9 a.m. There is no breakfast planned for now, but we will think about distributing a breakfast, possibly of purchased muffins or doughnuts, fruit, and yogurt. Or we may decide to not have the Easter breakfast.

 Maundy Thursday and Good Friday will probably be virtual. We will try to have a Palm Sunday drive-in service, depending on the weather. There may be a part of one service that entails lighting a candle for those we are praying for. All the Lenten services and the Easter service are still in the planning stage.

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

**Unfinished business**

 **Education** – The Zoom classes on-line that we used from March through July will again begin next Sunday, January 10, 2021. Pastor again wondered about a Sunday School coordinator. Should we offer a stipend?

 Luther Park will have their Annual Meeting on-line on February 6, 2021, at 10 a.m. We may have 3 voting members “attend” the meeting. They should pre-register on-line.

 **Property** – Dwight has replaced the bulb in the security light nearest to Highway W. Thanks to Dwight.

 Also, two spotlights in the landscaping have been replaced. The third one that is out is near a security light and won’t be replaced at this time.

 **Worship** – We had decided in November that we should try to have one drive-up service a month. We will be having a drive-up service on January 17, at 9:00, weather permitting. Pastor JonPaul needs a least 3 days’ notice to plan for a virtual or drive-in service.

 The Christmas Eve drive-up service went well. It was well attended.

 Jerry Larson has agreed to plow the snow for the church when necessary this winter.

**New Business**

**Mission offering** – **January** – Chippewa Valley Free Clinic – We will have this mission offering on January 17, when we have our drive-in service, but any monies collected for the free clinic during the month will be added to the money we collect for them on the 17th.

 **February** – Sojourner House – Eau Claire – We will have this mission offering on February 17 at our drive-in service for Ash Wednesday. Again, any monies collected for Sojourner House will be sent with that collected for them on Ash Wednesday.

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

**Other**

 Our monetary gift to the Hill family has been sent directly to Shelby.

 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. The money will be taken out of the general fund, since we will not have soup-and-sandwich suppers or probably not an Easter breakfast. 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.

 Nate Zahara, a general contractor, volunteered his time and expertise to get the shelter in the park built. Several men from the church helped him. We are planning gifting him $2,500 dollars for his services and to pay for the “bobcat” he rented to get the work done. Dave made a motion to do so. Cortney seconded the motion. Motion carried.

 Next meeting – Wednesday, February 3, at 6 p.m.

Ruth moved to adjourn at 7:18. Second by Randy. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Ruth Poore

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

**Sunday School**

Sunday school started virtually on January 10. Pastor has mentioned that we maybe should think about a Sunday School Coordinator with a stipend.

**TEXTS FOR FEBRUARY**

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany – 7th**

*Online service*

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

**Transfiguration Sunday – 14th**

*Online service*

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

**Ash Wednesday – 17th**

*Drive in Service*

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**First Sunday in Lent – 21st**

Online service

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

**Second Sunday in Lent - 28th**

*Online service*

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15



* IN NEED OF PRAYER*

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

**The Family of Gerri Sessions** – has passed away

**The Family of Don Timm** – passed away at his home, brother to Bob and sister to Sandy Schuch

**Joan Timm** – healing at home

**Marg Timm** – Hospitalized with heart problem; both at Mayo

**Troy Gilbertson** - good test results in February

**Janice Teigen** – back at the home

**Dan Engum** – complications with infectious diseases

**Joann Lehman**- is home, needs strengthen and healing

**Glen Klevgard**– Thelma (Tweet - Goss); husband, in rehab at Mayo in Menomonie

**Kari Karnatz** - healing

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

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

**Loris Anderson** – Sharon’s Mom, healing

**Gwen Chubb** - Monica’s cousin. Healing

**Maureen Kuhn** — Kay’s sister-in-law, receiving stem cell transplant, at Rochester

**Catherine Erickson** – pancreatic cancer

**Emily** - 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

Brendan Poore - deployed to Somalia

**All those on our visiting list**

Bob Dutter & Janice Teigen & Gary and Sharon Hazen

**Thank you:**

Pleasant Valley Church,

When we began the regular hours open, in 2021, the food pantry averages 27 families visiting monthly. In 2015, the average increased 85 families. In 2016, the food pantry averages 112 families visiting monthly. Thank you so much for your donation of $225.00 check from the Mission Sunday in Dec. to the Mondovi Area Food Pantry. Your continued support and cooperation is greatly appreciated. In the month of November, we served a record number of 142 families. The majority of these households we serve are households with children. You do make a big difference in the lives of many children and adults. Again Thank You, Mary Ann Olson

Mondovi Food Pantry

Dear Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Women of the ELCA,

Thank you for supporting the ministries of Women of the ELCA with you recent gift of $170.00 your Thankoffering contribution. Your faithful generosity makes a real difference. Thank you.

Your giving really does make a difference. Thank You.

With gratitude, Linda Post Bushkofsky Executive Director

Dear Members of the Church,

We thank you for you generous donation of $523.79 to the Building and Rejoicing Capital Campaign at Luther Park. Truthfully, we could not do this without you. We, and those we serve, deeply appreciate your generosity. In Christ’s Service

Keith Newman

Executive Ministry Director

P.S. Thank you so much for your partnership in this project at growth and ministry. We pray you have a safe, blessed and happy New Year. Christ’s Peace, Luther Park Bible Camp

**Treasurer's Report**

Thank you everyone for your continued offerings.

See proposed ministry plan on next page.

Respectfully submitted:

Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

A Devotion

[Kind words can heal](https://womenoftheelca.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=38d837d7f50973ead605ee94e&id=6693e8f135&e=6011962af7)

*And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up* (Galatians 6:9).

For me, it was hard to close last year when we haven't been able to experience the fullness of activities that bring so much to our lives. The time we share at our conventions and synodical meetings is precious. I've missed being together, lifting our voices in praise, bowing our heads in prayer, leaning into one another to share experiences, the laughter and joy that comes from women worshipping together. I missed the renewal that I receive from those meetings—a renewal that helps strengthen my faith and supports me in practicing and living with God's light shining.

As Lutheran women, our faith is active. How can we continue to stay connected when we can't be together? Get involved with random acts of kindness. Remember that these pandemic constraints will come to an end. As we move through these uncertain times, let's do so with the grace and purpose we have within us.

*Love one another with mutual affection. Outdo one another in showing honor* (Romans 12:10).

*This message is an excerpt from a*[*Women of the ELCA blog*](https://womenoftheelca.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=38d837d7f50973ead605ee94e&id=825b87e68f&e=6011962af7)*by Margene Thompson.*

Luther Park Bible Camp

 Annual Meeting February 6th at 10am on Line with Zoom, 3 voting Member. You need to pre-register.

Their agenda is online along with the annual report. I have printed a copy it is in church office.

The proposed ministry plan for the year 2021 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% |  |

*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:* *plesantvalley@tcc.coop*

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



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2021

***Pleasant Valley Newsletter***