

As we come to the close of the summer of 2022 and the start of the fall, we will be returning to a more “regular” pattern for our Sunday mornings.

Starting October 9, we will return to in-person, indoor worship full time. Masking will continue to be optional. We will once again invite members to do the readings. We will return to communion around the rail. Social hour will continue after worship, looking more like it did pre-COVID-19. And, we will once again start up Sunday School and Confirmation.

We have a lot to be grateful for here at Pleasant Valley.

We have moved together through a global pandemic and have seen an increase in average Sunday attendance. We have more young kids participating in Sunday School than many can remember in a long time. We have more kids attend Luther Park this summer than at any point in the 7 years I have served as your pastor.

We have found new ways to reach out to our community through a community picnic in the park. Members of our congregation and members of the community came together to connect and enjoy one another’s company. It was a fantastic day that gave a glimpse of what I think the Church must become.

We will also be wrapping up a book study together on the role of faith and politics. This has been a wonderful opportunity to have conversations together around how our faith is lived out in our daily lives and how we hold our elected leaders accountable for their words and actions. We have discovered together that faith is certainly *personal*, but it is never *private*, and is meant to be lived out in the world for the sake of our neighbor.

I am excited for what this fall will bring. I am excited to once again sing and learn Bible stories with our young people. I am excited to help deepen the faith of our confirmation students. I am excited to preach and lead worship. I am excited to explore new avenues for adult education. And, I am excited to see how we can continue to grow in our relationship with our neighbors.

And I am glad to be on this journey with you.

Peace,  
Pr. JonPaul

### **Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Council July 12, 2022**

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

**NON-AGENDA** – There were no non-agenda visitors or items to discuss.

The secretary’s report was read by members.

The treasurer’s report was read by members.

We are \$343.10 in the black for the month of July. We are \$1290.18 in the red for the year in July. The June Mission Offering, which went to Pichlas, totaled \$260.00. The Luther Park check has not cleared yet, but it will come from savings. They will also be refunding us for money paid when the youth will not be able to attend.

The Pastor’s report was read by the members. Sunday School will start again on September 18, 2022.

On August 8 Pastor will perform a graveside funeral for Kamilla Jo Sessions.

Neither Pastor nor Council president have been contacted about leading the church service on Sunday at Cleghorn Harvest Fest.

Dave made a motion to accept the reports. Second by Cortney. Motion carried.

**Education** – Pastor will ask parents about their wishes for first communion. Jordy, Ethan, and Eli are eligible for first communion. When Pastor finds out about the interest, he will plan a class or classes in the fall to instruct the youth in communion.

Pastor JonPaul will talk to the parents to see if the youth that attended camp this summer will do a short presentation to the congregation on their experience – perhaps a camp song.

**Worship** – The prayer/communication list is complete. We have phone numbers for several attendees at our services. We will correct any numbers that are incorrect and ask a couple families if they want to be included in the prayer concerns or just the communication. Ruth again sent the rough draft to the council members for help with corrections.

The transmitter has been working much better.

**Building** – The new furnace is installed. We have sent the \$400 for the lift maintenance agreement for the year 2022. All Star sent a man out to assess what is needed to get the lift up and running. They have not sent us an estimate as yet.

Dave will check the landscape lighting to see why it isn't coming on in the evening.

Sealing the blacktop still needs to be done.

The Clavinova is not working well. Ruth will follow up with Cathy and then see what can be done about that.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Even nice days, weather-wise, can be too cold to have hot coffee in the park, since the coffeepot used to make coffee won't keep it hot in the cool weather. On colder days, the coffee needs to be made in the church and put in already hot carafes to be brought up to the park. That all takes about an hour lead time. On July 17 I will try making the coffee in the pot in the park. I will plug it in during the middle of the service. Pastor will announce that there will be no coffee in the park from August on, and ask that people bring their coffee with them, as they did during the drive-up services. The two Praise Team Sundays in July will have coffee and treats served in the fellowship hall.

The Pastor's contract with the church is open ended. However, there was a question as to whether a new contract should be signed yearly to show increase in salary and other benefits. Pastor will check with the Synod to see what the protocol is.

We also discussed whether we need to add some time to the Pastor's duties, since we have a growing congregation with more children. He is at one-third time now. We need to discuss whether we can generate enough money to support a half-time pastor. We will put together a committee to discuss this and come up with suggestions.

The park is reserved for Sunday, August 7. The Sessions family will be having a memorial, starting at 2.

Rhonda Hoverson would like to reserve the park and the tables for August 20. This has been done. This brought up a question – When people use the park, are they also able to use the bathrooms in the church? We decided that they will not be able to use the bathrooms and will need to rent a port-a-potty to use in the park.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Cortney had a list from the schools listing needed school supplies for the year. The school system is holding a "Stuff the Bus" campaign in August, stuffing the bus with school supplies.

There will be a porta-potty delivered on Thursday for the picnic. I will put a cone where we want it to go. The sign for the picnic will be put down at the intersection of W and WW. We will arrive at 1 p.m. on Saturday to set up for the picnic.

Since we don't want renting/borrowing the park to become a problem, we talked about having a "rental agreement" for those that want to use it. It would possibly include clean-up, the providing of porta-potties by the users, and whether or not have to allow alcohol on the premises, as long as it is not supplied to everyone (bring your own).

The safety of the Praise Team instruments during outdoor services was brought up by a member of the congregation. To help protect the investment in those instruments, we decided to have Praise Team Sundays in the church on the last two Sundays in July and see how that works. On those Sundays we will have the book study outside on nice days.

The white tablecloths have been washed and ironed. There were mouse droppings on the tops of all the tablecloths, so the rest will need to be washed and ironed before being used. We would love to have a volunteer/volunteers to wash and iron the pastel and Christmas tablecloths. We now have an electronic mouse deterrent in the quilting room.

We looked at a picture of a small library. We are thinking about having a couple parishioners build one to be put near the handicapped entrance, but out of the way of the snowplow. It was felt that Thrivent would supply a Seed Card for the project.

We talked about the installation of a 30 amp breaker in the park, to replace one 20 amp breaker. That would be useful for campers with air conditioners. Also, should we put in a light or 2 to

use after dark or when pictures are being taken under the shelter? We have some money left from the donation for the shelter. We will talk to an electrician.

We will begin to have regular communion at the rail when we have indoor services. During Praise Team Sundays it will be just walk-up, but not at the rail. Roxie will see to it that we have supplies. The pre-packaged communion will still be used in the park and at the prison.

We have not begun to plan the bazaar, but we will have outdoor services as much as we can through the bazaar, except for inclement weather and Praise Team Sundays. After the bazaar, October 2, we will implement a list of volunteers - readers, communion set-up, cleaners, ushers. Roxie will set that up. When we go back to regular services, Steph will not need to solo the songs and liturgy. Thanks, Steph!

The communion chalice has been broken. Randy will check with Kay to see if she knows if it is special to anyone, or should we dispose of it. If you know who purchased, please let us know.

**Mission Sundays – July – Luther Park**  
August – Eleva/Strum Backpack Meals Program  
September – Mondovi Backpack Meals Program

#### **Other**

Pastor JonPaul is leading a Bible/book study in the park using God's Politics – Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It, by Jim Wallis.

Next council meeting will be Tuesday, August 9, 2022, at 6 p.m.  
At 7:46 p.m. a motion was made by Roxie to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Steph. Motion carried.  
We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Poore, Council secretary

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

## **Praise Team News**

The Praise Team will play in worship at Pleasant Valley on August 28. On Sundays the Praise Team plays in worship, the service will be held in the sanctuary. The group will also lead worship at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility on August 28. Practices will continue on Wednesday evenings at 6:30.

### **Outreach at Cleghorn Harvest Fest**

The Outreach Committee will have a booth at the Cleghorn Harvest Fest on Saturday, September 10. There will be free games and prizes for kids and raffles tickets will be sold for the Fall Bazaar. Contact Kim Vlcek or Ruth Poore for more information.

### **Scholarship Student**

I recently received the following email from Lauren Vaske, regarding Keyla Lisbeth, the scholarship student we sponsor through Sharing the Dream in Guatemala. A letter from Keyla is also included. As you will note, Keyla has been struggling a bit in school. Distance learning has created some difficulties for her, as well as coping with her mother's recent illness. Fortunately, Lauren reported that Keyla's mother is recovering. She also indicated that Keyla's sister, Maritza, who is our former scholarship student, is doing well. Maritza has "continued to go to school, and she's in high school now. Now that she's paying for her own schooling, she appreciates the opportunity she wasted. She's been Keyla's number one cheerleader to study hard and make the most of the scholarship." If you would like to know more about Sharing the Dream, please let me know.

Kim Vlcek

## **Lauren's Email Message:**

Attached you will find a letter from the church's scholarship student, Keyla. Keyla is doing okay in school. The school year was scheduled to start off as in-person classes, and was changed to distance learning. In her letter, Keyla writes about workbooks, which is the way that her school has been doing distance learning. Currently, she is back to in-person classes three days a week for a few hours each of those days. She is loving being back in the classroom and able to see her friends and classmates again.

Keyla has been struggling in math and English, so they have been working on those subjects during her tutoring sessions. She also struggles with handwriting and grammar, so Lucrecia, the tutor, has been working closely with Keyla to help her to improve those areas as well. Keyla is enjoying the Reading Circle that we hold for the scholarship students, and she's liked being able to read with her fellow scholarship students.

A new project that we've implement in Chichicastenango this year is the School for Parents, a monthly workshop for the parents of our scholarship students aimed at helping them to better support their children's academic journey. The parents seem to be really enjoying the workshops, and we've gotten great feedback. In fact, the parents have been enjoying the workshops so much that they've asked for us to implement them with their children as well.

Keyla's mother was very sick and in the hospital for several weeks earlier this year. Sadly, due to Covid restrictions, they weren't able to visit her, which was extremely difficult for the family. Thankfully, she is doing better now and has been able to return home. However, she is still on bed rest, and the rest of the family is helping out even more than before.

Please don't hesitate to let me know if I can answer any questions, and I am happy to do so. Please pass along my thanks to everyone at the church for all that all of you do to make life better for people in Guatemala.

Best wishes,

Lauren Vaske  
Executive Director  
Sharing the Dream in Guatemala  
[www.sharingthedream.org](http://www.sharingthedream.org)  
1-605-624-6895  
1-605-540-6159

## **Keyla Lisbeth's letter to the congregation:**

Dear sponsors,

It's a pleasure to write to you again. I hope that you are all doing well.

I want to tell you about what I have been up to since my last letter. In November, we had school vacation. I spent the first part of November doing schoolwork from our workbooks. I didn't have any time to play with my siblings, because I was so busy. Luckily, I was able to pass the grade. In Guatemala, we celebrate All Saints' Day, and my family's tradition is to make a large plate of fiambre (a platter of pickled vegetables and meat). I don't like fiambre very much, but we also make corn on the cob, squash, and sweet pumpkin. When everything was cooked, we shared the meal as a family.

In December, we prepared for Christmas. We made tamales, fruit punch, and cake. We also celebrated my birthday. I turned 14 years old. December is a special month, because it's filled with family times, and we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

For New Year's, we took a trip to a town called Panajachel. It had been a long time since we visited there, and it is a beautiful place filled with culture and natural beauty. My entire family enjoyed the trip, and it was fun to see the lake and the volcanoes.

In mid-January, I went to enroll for the school year. They told us that we would have in-person class three days a week. Later, they held a parents' meeting and changed it to only twice a week. When all was said and done, they canceled our in-person classes because of the high number of

COVID-19 cases. For distance learning, we filled our workbooks again. We turned our workbooks in every week.

I've enjoyed what I've learned from all of my workbooks, but my favorites are computers, math, and English. We also work on those subjects during my tutoring classes, and thanks to that, I think it's easy to do the activities. My teacher has congratulated me on doing a good job on my homework. I am satisfied with the effort that I am putting in to my classes, and I know that I am also improving in my tutoring sessions.

I have enjoyed the tutoring sessions and Reading Circle. I enjoy reading, and I like the activities that we do. My tutor, Lucrecia, always reminds me when to send in the activities. I don't have a phone, so she sends me messages through my older sisters. Lucrecia is a good tutor, and she takes the time to explain things to me. Lucrecia helps me to learn how to solve our math exercises. She also helps to correct my grammar and gives me more assignments to help me to correct my grammar. I make a lot of grammatical mistakes.

My family is doing well. My mom is still sick, and we all try our best to not worry her. I have two nephews that make her smile with their naughtiness. I thank God that she is getting better.

I say goodbye to you for now and ask God to protect all of you. I wish you much success in all that you do. Thank you for your continued support for my schooling.

Sending you a big hug,  
Keyla Lisbeth

### Treasurer's Report

None submitted

Respectfully submitted:  
Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

### TEXTS FOR AUGUST

*We will be meeting in Olson Park during good weather and in church during inclement weather, also for Praise Team Sundays.*

#### **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost – 7<sup>th</sup>**

Genesis 15:1-6  
Psalm 33:12-22  
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16  
Luke 12:32-40

#### **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost - 14<sup>th</sup>**

Jeremiah 23:23-29  
Psalm 82  
Hebrews 11:29-12:2  
Luke 12:49-56

#### **Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost – 21<sup>th</sup>**

Isaiah 58:9b-14  
Psalm 103:1-8  
Hebrews 12:18-29  
Luke 13:10-17

#### **Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost -28<sup>th</sup>**

Proverbs 25:6-7  
Psalm 112  
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16  
Luke 14:1, 7-14



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“Truly my soul waiteth upon God.”  
Psalms 62:1

“Today I will wait to hear from You.”

By the light of the Psalms by Chris Shea

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## **WE INVITE PRAYERS FOR:**

**Mary Froehlich** – hoping to be home soon, needs healing from heart surgery

**Kari Karnatz** – healing after surgery

**Bob Peterson** – Spine injury; healing; Crystal's Cousin

**Don & Barb** – Serious traffic accident; hospitalized at St. Mary's in Rochester; Mariah's Aunt and Uncle

**Karl Bahr** – continue healing/strengthening

**AnnaMae Stone** - Marianna's cousin – breast cancer

**Lenny Odegard** - Sadie's husband - liver cancer

**Ashly Marie** – Kari's friend – Covid 19

**Gwen Chubb** – Monica's cousin - cancer; is holding her own

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

**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

**Duane Vlcek and Ayla Hakes and family**

**Inmates at CVCTF** – and Chaplain Hull

**Family of Lee March** – passed away from Liver cancer

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

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



## **Month of August Mission we will be gathering School supplies For Eleva-Strum**

**If you wish to donate, school supplies needed are:** scissors, glue sticks, glue bottles, Crayola crayons, Crayola markers (regular and thin tipped), #2 pencils, erasers, colored pencils, rulers, highlighters, pens (black, blue, red), pencil boxes, Expo markers, black Sharpie markers, spiral notebooks, folders (red, blue, green, yellow), 3 ring 1 inch binders, compasses, rulers, erasable pens, loose leaf lined paper, baby wipes, Clorox wipes, paper towels, Kleenex, Ziploc bags (sandwich, quart, gallon sizes).

## **Announcements:**

**\*Worship will be inside the church if weather is bad, and on Praise Team Sundays also**

**\*Adult book study after worship to discuss how people of faith are called to engage in the world in which we live**

**\*Bring your own coffee on 'Sundays in the Park' for fellowship time**

**\*Cleghorn Harvest Fest will be in September 10-11**

**\*Sunday School and Confirmation will begin a week later than usual September 18<sup>th</sup>**

**\*Fall Bazaar will be October 2<sup>nd</sup> plan ahead**

**\*We will be back inside for worship on October 9<sup>th</sup>**

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*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)*

