**Pastors Corner** **December 2022**

Advent is one of my favorite times of the year.

As the calendar year comes to a close and we anticipate the arrival of 2023, so too our Lectionary Calendar, that marks time in the Church, comes to a close.

This year, that occurred on Sunday, November 13th with Christ the King Sunday.

On this final Sunday of the church year, we give thanks to God for Christ’s victory over pain, suffering, illness, and death. We give thanks that the One who died and rose again now stands victorious over all the powers and forces of this world.

When things seem to spin out of control, when families argue and fight, when elected leaders seek their own interests above the common good, when nations posture for war, we remain confident that Christ reigns over all and nothing can separate us from God’s love in Jesus Christ.

And then we begin the journey toward Christmas.

This season is peppered with signs of the cultural preparation for the celebration of Christmas. Shopping malls and stand-alone stores are packed with people looking for the best deals. Black Friday and Cyber Monday are the biggest shopping days of the year. Christmas music plays over the radio, lights are hung, trees are cut and decorated, and family and work parties start to occur.

For 4 weeks, starting November 27th, the Church celebrates the season of Advent.

In Advent, we wait.

We wait for the birth of God in the world. We wait for the coming of Jesus Christ. We wait for that day when the victorious Christ the King will come into this world to conquer all sin, brokenness, and death.

We light candles around a wreath and we wait. We light candles and pray, knowing that the very thing we, and this whole world needs, is coming soon.

As you gather with family and friends and celebrate this holiday season, take a few moments each day to pray. Pray that the One who brings healing, wholeness, and life returns soon. Pray that all sin and brokenness are destroyed. Pray for that day when death is no more. Pray for your neighbors, your friends, your family, this country, and our world.

And join us.

Join us each Sunday this season as we, together, light candles and wait with hopeful expectation for the birth of God among us.

And may you and your family enjoy a wonderful and Merry Christmas.

Peace,



Pr. JonPaul

**Praise Team News**

The Praise Team will play in worship at Pleasant Valley on December 25.  The group will also lead worship at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility that evening.  Eight music stands were delivered to CVCTF in October.  The stands are for use by the praise band in the chapel at CVCTF.  Having music stands there will also reduce the amount of equipment the Praise Team will need to transport there each month.  The stands were purchased by Jan Isaacson and from funds donated to the Praise Team.

The Praise Team along with the congregation will be caroling on December 11th. See Kim for more details

**Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Council**

**November 10, 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 repost was read by members.

The treasurer’s report was read by members. The October Mission Offering, which went to Kjersten Booth, totaled $280.00.

The Pastor’s report was read by the members.

We will be starting Year A in the Lectionary. For Christmas Eve, we will have both candles and the tealights available for attendees. Christmas Day service will be at the normal time; 9 a.m. We will be using Setting 10 during Christmas.

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

**Education** – Cortney will get a Thrivent Seed Card to use for costumes and food for the Sunday School Christmas program and party. Right now, the plan is to have practice on Saturday, December 3, from 9 to 12:30. That may need to be looked at, since it is a long time for the younger youth to focus. There will be a Christmas party at 12:30. Corissa will work on definite times for that day. She will also get the candy bars and apples to hand out after the program. The plan is also to get pizza from Papa Murphey’s for the party. They will also have chips, applesauce, Kool-Aid, and gifts.

**Worship** – The Christmas season and Sunday School program are pretty well covered in the Pastor’s report and the Education minutes.

**Property** – Jacob, from Bucky Lift, Inc., was at church. He diagnosed and fixed the lift’s calling the emergency number on the second floor. He suspects that the switch on the top floor is causing problems with the opening and closing. He will be back with someone to help diagnose that problem.

Water quality – Eau Claire County will be working on a well water testing initiative in 2023. Between March and May the County would arrange to pick up water samples that have been dropped off at church and take them to be tested. We tabled this for the present time.

Hawk Electric has finished putting power in the park; including lights. It looks good!

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The communication/prayer chain is complete and has been included in the mailings and the November Newsletter.

The Small Library is on hold until we get a Thrivent Seed Card. At this point it was mentioned that Thrivent has Choice Money that has been largely untapped. Members can designate this money to go to the charity (Luther Park, food pantry, places that house the homeless?) or church that they wish.

The green hymnals can be recycled. They need the covers and spines removed first. Randy and John will see to this.

**NEW BUSINESS**

We will use the FM transmitter when in the park and in the building so the service will be available to those that want to participate from their cars. The Skype is working well from the basement so those that wish to wear masks can worship safely. We no longer use Zoom. We are putting most of the service on our YouTube page (video hosting). To find the YouTube page, click on the link on our website.

We have individual servings for communion for those that don’t want to come to the railing, and we will also take them to the prison. The TV monitor down in the Sunday School room works well, so people that aren’t comfortable with being up in the church can watch and participate in the service, masked, in a smaller group.

The Thanksgiving service will be easier this year, due to the lights up in the park. Art and Steph will lead us in song. There will be 2 campfires, s’mores, and cocoa. Please bring hot dogs if you wish to have supper. The service is November 22 at 5:30.

Again, the Annual Meeting will be after worship on January 29, 2023. We need two new members-at-large for the council. All reports need to be given to Monica by January 8 so she can compile them into a booklet for the meeting.

The letters for the sign in front of the church, which we purchased in 2006, are very worn and faded. Ruth would like to order a new set. Dave made a motion to spend up to $300 to replace the letters. Second by Corissa. Motion carried.

**Mission Sundays** –

December – Feed My People

January – Ruby’s Kitchen in Chippewa Falls

February – Sojourner House in Eau Claire

March – RUTH Initiative – Rural Unity Through Hope

**Other**

Next council meeting will be Thursday, December 1, 2022,at 6 p.m.

At 7:06 p.m. a motion was made by Ruth 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 Dragseth, Stephanie Kuehl, Randy Sands, Roxie Ulness, Dave Vlcek, Corissa Sands, Cortney Sands, and Ruth Poore.

**Treasurer's Report**

Summary of Offering and Expenses

Offering Misc. Income Expenses

Y-T-D $46,874.08 $3,964.28 $49,460.90

September $3,685.00 $50.00 $3,827.74

October $5,456.00 $2,683.00 $3,892.81

November $2,345.00 $399.28 $3,598.52

(thru 11/20)

Offering Under Expenses – Sept – 92.74

Offering Over Expenses – Oct - $4,246.19 ($2,683.00 from bazaar)

Offering Under Expenses – Nov - $854.24 (thru 11/20)

Y-T-D Offering Over Expenses – $1,527.46

Mission Offerings:

Sept – Mondovi Backpack School Lunch Program - $245.00

Oct – Kjersten Booth - $280.00

Memorials:

General Fund:

In memory of Dave, Cathy Winger’s brother

Respectfully submitted: Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

**Bazaar Report – 2022**

**Proceeds Expenses**

Meal - $1,313.00 Meal - $50.00 (donated)

Raffle - $865.00 Ad-Delite - $78.00

Basket Raffle - $455.00 Flyers - $49.00

Other/Donations - $100.00 License Fee - $25.00

Picnic Table - $200.00 Port-a-potty - $100.00

Total Expenses - $302.00

Total - $2,933.00 Net Profits - $2,631.00

Down $459.00 from 2021

**Raffle**

1/2 Pig, donated by Paul Dean, Thrivent Financial – Duke Berg

Meat Bundle - Irene Isaacson

Quilt, donated by Crystal Sands – Irene Isaacson

Firewood, donated by John Poore – Corissa Sands

**Baskets**

Kids Fun – Ann Hoverson

Sunny Day - Bretta Sands

Kids Fun – Natalie Evenson

Spa – Kari Karnatz

Pouf – Natalie Evenson

Mummy Fun – Eli Vlcek

Apple & Strawberry - Dwight Sands

Food Box – Joan Timm

Kayak Hoist – Poore

Frisbee Game – Eli Vlcek

Cheese & Syrup – Bob Timm

Kennedy Plate – Bretta Sands

Frankie Fun – Marty Johnson

Fishing – Eli Vlcek

Ghoulish Fun – Aaron Sands

Fall Pumpkin – Poores

Grab Bag – Michelle Komp

Candy – Jackie Bronson

**RUTH (Rural Unity Through Hope)**

The Health Fair held in Arcadia on November 19 was a great success!  More than 20 organizations attended the event and provided services that included hearing tests, free English and Spanish language books, information about voting.  The next RUTH meeting is set for 6:30 pm on December 12 at Peace Lutheran in Pigeon Falls.  If you are interested in being a part of RUTH, contact Jessica Dragseth, Marianna Gilbertson or Kim Vlcek.

**TEXTS FOR DECEMBER**

**Second Sunday in Advent – 4th**

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

**Third Sunday in Advent - 11th**

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalm 146:4-10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

**Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost – 18th**

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

**Christmas Eve p.m.-24th**

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-20

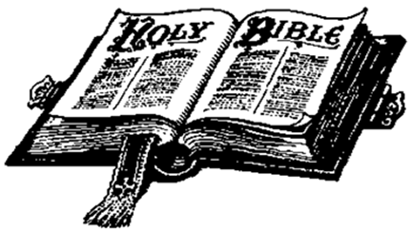
**Christmas Day -25th**

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm 98

Hebrews 1:1-12

John 1:1-14



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“Praise him all ye stars of light.”

Psalms 148:3

“Saying Merry Christmas to the

waking world below.”

By the light of the Psalms by Chris Shea

**WE INVITE PRAYERS FOR:**

**Ruby –** Cortney’s Great Aunt - healing

**Brenda –** Steph’s Mom – healing

**Michelle** - Poore's sister-in-law's sister - cancer in the brain

**Delbert Helland**– had surgery, went well **–** Kim Bahr’s dad

**LouAnn Helland –** hadtest on a mass; waiting results;Kim Bahr’s mom

**Sandra Kilde –** is home; very weak and sick; using a walker; doing the pill chemo – Ruthann’s sister

**Maureen Kuhn –** has a mass on her kidney; waiting test results

**Guy Patrow –** Tested positive for ALS

**Adelle Vlcek -** broke her leg; Dave and Kim’s granddaughter

**Tracie Hein -** Pr. JonPaul's sister; recovering

**Mary Froehlich –** needs healing

**Karl Bahr –** continues with therapy

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

**Gina Stevens –** fighting cancer; has finished chemo

**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

**Cole Kowalczyk –** deployed to S.W. Asia –

Monica’s cousin

**Duane Vlcek and Ayla Hakes and family**

**Inmates at CVCTF** – and Chaplain Hull

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

**Family of Joan Heneman –** passed away

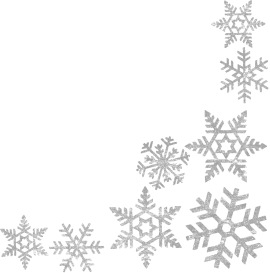
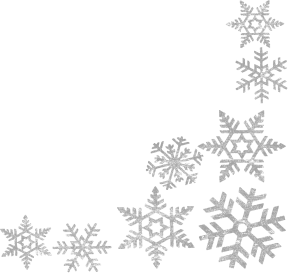
**Family of Greg Hazen –** passed away

**Family of Rose Haas –** lost her battle with cancer

**Family of Mary Ellen Green –** Kim Bahr’s step -mom; lost her battle with cancer

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





“From Worry to Wonder”

A Christmas Message from Bishop Laurie

On June 19, 2020 our granddaughter was born. She was born three months into the pandemic. Her parents were worried. Her grandparents were worried. It is challenging enough to be pregnant and give birth in the best of times but to give birth in the middle of a worldwide pandemic is an even greater worry. We worried about the unknown dangers this virus might present to the mother, the unborn baby, and the new born baby. Our worries kept us up at night. Our worries were relieved when she was finally born, perfect in every way. Our worry gave way to wonder-filled joy. Worry transformed to wonder as we looked back to see how God was holding and carrying them through the unavoidable worry. Our worry transformed to gratitude and wonder watching for what God would be up to next in her tiny life.

It’s December 2022. We prepare to celebrate the birth our Lord Jesus. This Advent we come with our fears and worries too. We are living in the midst of challenging times in our country. The very foundation of our nation seems less stable. We each come with our own personal set of worries and fears about our families, health, finances, work, safety, the future…What is it that keeps you up at night? What are you worried about today?

Folks across our church are experiencing doubts and uneasiness about the future of their church. Does it keep you up at night? What are the threats to your church’s future? How can the conversation move from fear and worry to wonder? As the miracle of Christ’s birth is celebrated this season, we can move from worry to wonder. We wonder what God is up to now in this day and age. Together we wonder what God’s will is for the future of our church. Together we wonder; how can we use the abundance and blessings, (what we do have and opportunities in front of us), to make a difference in Jesus’ name.

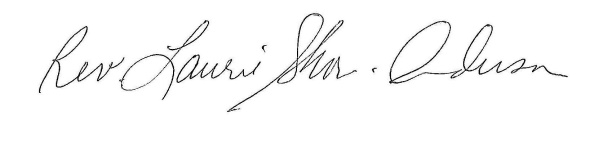
*Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. Luke 2:8-10a*

Shepherds living in the fields watched over their sheep to keep them safe. There were dangers that kept the shepherds up at night and plenty of things for the shepherds to worry about in the cold night like wild animals, predators, thieves, & bad weather. There was so much to worry about, but one night an angel of the Lord, all shiny and bright appeared and transformed their fears and worldly worry to divine wonder.

*To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,**“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” Luke 2:11-14*

Friends, you are precious, beloved, baptized children of God. We know that the antidote to worry is to trust in God.

During this Advent, Christmas and Epiphany season I pray that your worries will be transformed to wonder at what God **is** doing and promises **to** do in your lives and in our churches. May the miracle of Christ’s birth transform your worries to wonder! I am grateful for your partnership in ministry.

Peace be with you,

*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*](mailto:plesantvalley@tcc.coop)

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

Worship with Praise Team at 9am





**December 11th**



**Service at 5:30**



Christmas program Dec 4th

During 9 am worship

December 11th

***Pleasant***

***Valley***

 Newsletter 2022

