

## Mother's Day

Signed into law in 1914 by President Woodrow Wilson, the second Sunday in May is designated as Mother's Day. This holiday has its early roots in a Church tradition called "Mothering Sunday," typically the Fourth Sunday in Lent, where a special service was held for mothers. Over time, this tradition faded and the practice we have today of buying flowers, candy, and cards and calling or seeing our mother's gained prominence.

As this holiday quickly approaches, we are reminded of the many mothers in the Bible. In Genesis, we hear of Eve, the first mother, whose children would populate the Earth. Abraham's wife, Sarah, remained patient and faithful to God, becoming a mother later in older age. Rebekah, too, was barren. She trusted in God and gave birth to Esau and Jacob. Jochebed, fearing for the safety of her child, placed the infant Moses into a basket and sent him down the river, hoping and trusting he would find safety. Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, showed great faith and wisdom in bearing the prophet of the Lord. Mary, the mother of Jesus, trusted in God's plan and raised the Son of God into adulthood.

But, like all mothers, these mothers too had their share of heartbreak and disappointment. Eve, for her and her husband's disobedience, would be kicked out of the garden and one of her sons kills the other. Sarah, before having children of her own, watched her husband have a child with Hagar. Hagar herself, along with her son, Ishmael, get cast out and discarded once Sarah is pregnant. Elizabeth and Mary both see their sons executed by the religious and political authorities.

Being a mother is, at the same time, an incredibly joyous experience and terrifying one. It is filled with great successes and heartache and disappointment. Motherhood is unlike any other experience and is a life journey that can be extraordinarily fulfilling.

And yet, Mother's Day can be difficult time for many among us. Some continue to grieve the death of their mother. Some among us grieve the death of their children. Some women had hoped to become mothers, but were unable. Some have experienced the loss of miscarriage. Some have been unable to find a partner to share parenthood with and have not had children. And, there are those

among us, who choose not to have children and experience this holiday as a judgment on their choices.

So, we hold all this together; the joys, the sorrows, the loss, the grief, and circumstances of life and offer prayer to God. Whether we are mothers, are estranged from our mothers, have buried our mothers, still hope to one day become mothers, or are past the years where motherhood is no longer an option for us, it is Christ who holds us fast.

Together, on Mother's Day, we will offer prayers of thanksgiving, praise, healing, and comfort to God for all the experiences we share surrounding motherhood. We will pray that God will continue to bless our congregation and world with faithful mothers and mother figures who raise up servants of Christ. We will pray that God continues to bless all the women of Pleasant Valley as they lead us in our faithful ministry in the world.

Thanks be to God for the women of Pleasant Valley!

Pr. JonPaul

Peace,  
Pr. JonPaul



## **Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Council**

April 12, 2022

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

**NON-AGENDA** – There were no non-agenda visitors or items to discuss. Corissa was present as a potential council-at-large member.

The secretary's report was read by members. Pastor feels that all children could get Bibles with age appropriateness in mind. Also, Jordy's name is spelled wrong in the minutes.

The treasurer's report was read by members. We were \$491.55 in the red for the month of March. With many bills paid, we are now \$1900.31 in the red for the year at the end of March. The March Mission Offering, which went to Karl Bahr and his family for expenses due to his stroke, totaled \$740.00.

The Pastor's report was read by the members. Henry Karnatz, Kari's father, passed away yesterday. His funeral will be April 23, with Pastor JonPaul officiating.

The Synod Assembly is coming up on April 30, 2022. It will be a one-day hybrid format. We may have 2 delegates. Early-bird entry ends on April 17 (Easter Sunday) and is \$50 per delegate. April 30 is the deadline to register. Pastor JonPaul and Jessica plan on attending the Assembly.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be drive-up at 6:30 p.m. This is a change due to Pastor's work schedule.

Corissa is going to serve an Easter breakfast after the 6:30 Sunrise Service. It will be all take-out.

Pastor will also be officiating at the June 18 Poore wedding and an August 8 Sessions graveside funeral.

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

**Education** – The Early Bird registration for youth going to Luther Park, with a payment of half on the total amount, will be due at the church by April 17. Roxie will then write a check to Luther Park for the entire amount.

As past practice has been, Bibles will be given to Jordy Sands, our only third grader, and Teegan and Trygve Johnson as new members. This will be done on May 22, our New Member Sunday. Pastor will get the Bibles and Ruth will get a half-sheet cake and make the coffee and Koolaid. Bibles will not be given to youth when they are confirmed, since they will have been given Bibles in third grade that will carry them through adulthood.

Pastor will be asking parents about first communion. When he finds out about the interest, he will plan a class or classes in the fall to instruct the youth about communion.

**Worship** – The prayer/communication list is incomplete. We now have phone numbers for several attendees at our services. Pastor and Monica are working on a prayer chain/communication type format. The list will be updated at the Annual Meeting.

Both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be at 6:30. Maundy Thursday service will include the stripping of the altar. Good Friday will include prayers around the cross, with the congregation using the tea lights from the Christmas Eve service.

Plans for Easter, April 17, will include a traditional sunrise service at 6:30, a take-out breakfast at 7:30, and a 9:00 service, with the Praise Team. We hope to have Easter in the park, weather dependent. At the end of the 9:00 service we will supply bubbles for the kids, and whoever else might want to play with them. Steph will get 6 packs of 6 bubbles in each pack. (The profits from the breakfast will go to Luther Park. [Not mentioned at this meeting, but I included it so we don't lose sight of it.]

**Building** – The new furnace will be installed.

When the weather permits, we need to seal the blacktop in front of the church.

We will need to pay the \$400 cost for the lift maintenance agreement for the year 2022. We are going to hold off on that until we are in the church and using the lift. I will talk to Wayne about the whole process and ask whether we can turn off all power to the lift until further notice.

The front railing on the stairs will need to be repaired when the frost is out of the ground.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

We have had a number of people that have asked when we will return to in-church worshipping. We discussed our options. We would like to consider the people that are being excluded when we have outdoor services and also the ones that would be excluded if we return to indoor services. The questionnaire results showed that most people wanted to return to in building services, but would also be willing to attend any in-the-park services when the weather allows for that. Possibly, when we have in-building services we could also broadcast to the “parking lot.”

The statistics, according to the state, have Eau Claire County at high concern in new cases, and medium concern in both infection rate and test positivity. We based our decisions on The Wisconsin Council of Churches’ list of recommendations for each level of concern. We will have masks and hand sanitizer available for attendees.

Our Annual Meeting will be on May 1, after the church service. John and Steph will be going off the council. We have two people that have volunteered to be members-at-large. All reports need to be in to Monica on the week of April 17, in time to get printed by the April 24 service. Roxie’s treasurer’s report will be audited on Easter Sunday. We will have coffee and pre-packaged treats to serve at the meeting. Steph will line up the treats. Ruth will bring water to make the coffee.

After May 1, we will go back to serving coffee at our in-the-park services so we can have a social time after services. We will stay with individual servings for communion no matter where we hold the services. We talked about setting up a

TV monitor in the fellowship hall or down in the Sunday School room 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 monitor would also be very useful in both weddings and funerals, when there is over-crowding in the sanctuary.

Pastor JonPaul’s recommendation; on days that are too stormy or inclement, we have indoor worship, including social distancing, with masks suggested. We will not do contact tracing, but encourage attendees to let us know if they become ill with Covid. Coffee will not be provided on these days. On days with nice weather, we will have outdoor services in the park when it dries out.

## **Mission Sundays – April – Bolton house**

May – New Life Recyclery – a business in Chippewa Falls that helps those in need, especially Veterans, with bikes, food, clothes, and finding work and places to stay

June – Bob and Trisha Pichla – Bob needs out-of-state therapy for a spinal injury. Trisha is a special education aide in Eleva/Strum Schools.

## **Other**

A suggestion was made to give Cathy Winger a \$150 dollar gift card as a thank-you for all the times she has supplied our music in conditions that were not ideal. She has spent many cold hours at the keyboard! Carried.

We need to brainstorm ideas for fun activities to do in the park from June through August or September.

Next council meeting will be Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at 6 p.m.

At 7:57 p.m. a motion was made by Ruth to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Dave. Motion carried.

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Poore, Council secretary

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

## Treasurer's Report

None submitted

Respectfully submitted:  
Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

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“I will remember the works  
of the Lord.”  
Psalms 77:11

“That way I’ll be focused on  
only the goodness of life.”

By the light of the Psalms by Chris Shea

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### **Praise Team News**

The Praise Team will play in worship at Pleasant Valley on May 22 and 29, and will also lead worship at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility on those evenings. The group played to a "full house" at CVCTF on Good Friday afternoon and was blessed by faith stories shared by many of the men in attendance.

On April 20, the group attended the CVCTF's Volunteer Appreciation event which included presentations by the director of security, the volunteer coordinator, and the Chaplain; a delicious meal; volunteer orientation; and thank yous by many of the men who attend the Sunday evening worship services. The group was also treated to a demonstration by the men that are training puppies to be future service dogs. When asked to provide feedback on the volunteer appreciation program, several people agreed—more Puppies!! The praise team was also honored to play at the memorial service Henry Karnatz on April 23. Practices are at 6:30 pm Wednesday evenings.

## **Women of the ELCA**

The Dairyland Conference Morning of Renewal was held on April 20 at Sabylund Lutheran, Stockholm. Four people from Pleasant Valley attended. Kim Vlcek and Monica Bahr were elected to serve on the conference board as Financial Secretary and Mission Action office, respectively.

The Chippewa Valley Conference will host the annual women's retreat at Luther Park on June 8-9. Guest speaker Sally Ankerfelt is an ordained ELCA pastor and is an Adoption Coach with Renew Family Coaching, LLC and Growing Intentional Families Together, LLC. She co-authored a book "Reimagining Adoption: What Adoptees Seek from Families and Faith". The retreat will include chair yoga, basket weaving, water aerobics, foot soaks, card making, swimming, paint pouring on tile, and pontoon and wagon rides. Please note the retreat is scheduled so you can attend one or both days.

The Synodical Women's Organization will meet the afternoon of June 9 (following the Women's Retreat) at Luther Park. The main purpose of the meeting will be to hold election of officers to the SWO Board in 2022. Vacancies that need to be filled include: the office of the President and Dairyland Conference Representative. If interested contact Dawn Olson, dawndoug41@yahoo.com.

If you would like copies of the above registration forms or newsletter, or for more information about the events, contact Kim Vlcek, vlcekk@yahoo.com

**Invitation from Luther Park Bible Camp:**  
Hello Ladies. Just sending a friendly reminder that the early registration will be ending soon. We are working hard on spreading the news. As of right now we only have about 30 registrations that have been sent in to Eileen. We are hoping for big numbers this year since it's in June and we will have more help while we are there. :)

Hope you all had a very special Easter Weekend.  
God Bless and see you soon....

Jacki Johnson

Chippewa Valley Conference Coordinator

## Thank you

To Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church  
Pastor JonPaul Dragseth

Dear Pastor JonPaul,

I want to thank you for the very generous gift of \$255.00.

Your support helps provide people access to food, health services, a safe place to live, skills to acquire employment and programs and services that serve the elderly, disabled, veterans, single parents and families.

I must share it has been extraordinary to witness the tremendous support we have received from caring people like you from all across the country. You are a sign of hope in the midst of extreme anxiety for so many of our sisters and brothers!

May God continue to bless you always, and in all ways.

Luis Marques

Senior Director, Annual Giving

Catholic Charities USA

## Thank you

To Pastor JonPaul and to the Pleasant Valley Congregation

Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts. We cannot begin to express how much we appreciate your Mission Offering gift. God is at work in it! We had to call the gas(LP) company to check on our tank we had used a lot more than we thought we should have, it was down to only 5%. They found a small crack and had to replace it and charged us with an emergency fill all at our expense. The bill came to about the same exact amount that the Mission Offering was both just over \$700.00 dollars. The Lord provides!

Karl continues to improve. He has come a long way. By the time you receive this mailing he will be home! Praise the Lord.

Again, Thank you so much

God Bless; Love Karl & Kim Bahr

Karl and Kim Bahr's home address is:

26705 E 30<sup>th</sup> Ave. Cadott, WI 54727

## TEXTS FOR MAY

*We will be meeting in Olson Park during good weather and in-church during inclement weather.*

### **Third Sunday of Easter – 1st**

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)

Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

### **Fourth Sunday of Easter - 8<sup>th</sup>**

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

### **Fifth Sunday of Easter – 15<sup>th</sup>**

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

### **Sixth Sunday of Easter -22<sup>nd</sup>**

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

John 14:23-29

or John 5:1-9

### **Ascension Day – 26<sup>th</sup>**

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47 or Psalm 93

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

### **Seventh Sunday of Easter -29<sup>th</sup>**

Acts 16:16-34

Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

John 17:20-26



## WE INVITE PRAYERS FOR:

**The family of Henry Karnatz** – Kari’s dad  
**Lenny Odegard**, Sadie’s husband - Cancer  
**Lee & Amy Marsh** - Liver Cancer and Chemo;  
neighbors of the Gilbertson’s

**Gwen Chubb** – Monica’s cousin - cancer; is on hospice care

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

**Karl Bahr** – has moved back home, continues to do therapy

**Sharon Hazen** –has moved back home

**Alton Hillesland** - is home and is going well

**Duane Vlcek and Ayla Hakes and family**

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

**Keyla Lisbeth** - the Sharing the Dream recipient, student in Guatemala

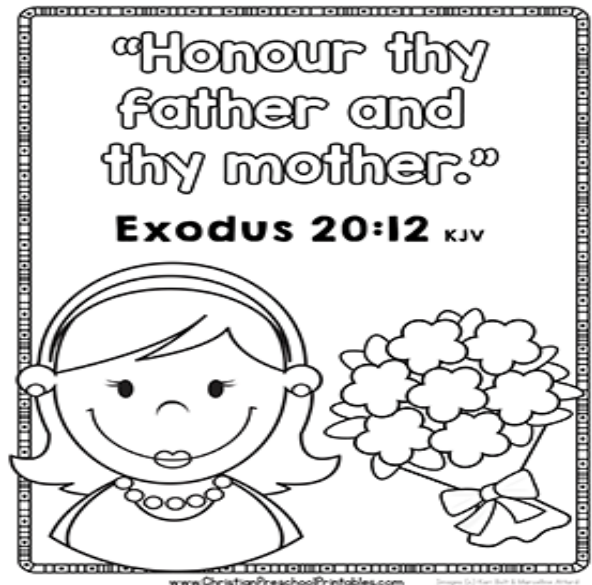
**All our service men and women:**

**Alex Bauer** stationed in England

**Inmates at CVCTF** – and Chaplain Hull

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

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



**Kids Color page**

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church  
W2450 Cty, Rd. WW  
Eleva WI 54738

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

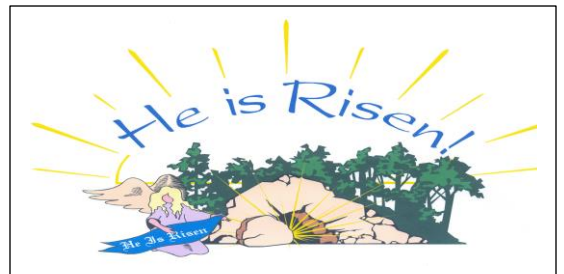
Pastor JonPaul Dragseth: Cell: 715-271-2253

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)



May 5<sup>th</sup>



National  
Day of  
Prayer

Happy  Mother's  
Day

*Pleasant  
Valley*  
Newsletter

May 



*Ascension*  
OF THE LORD

**MEMORIAL  
DAY**

