

In 1517, when Martin Luther first published his Ninety-Five Theses, he set in motion a series of events that would forever change the face of Christianity. Luther was, by no means, the first reformer of the church, nor was he the last, but the publication of these ninety-five grievances stands as a pivotal event in Christian history.

But it was never Luther's intent to break from the Catholic Church. Luther's intent was to work from the inside, to point out what he saw as problems in the Church and work for change. In 1517, Luther could not have imagined the break from the Church that would bear his name; Lutheran.

In truth, Luther was participating in a long tradition in Jewish and Christian faith. In the book of Numbers, a group of daughters come before Moses because there is no male heir to inherit the Land that should have been given to their father. But, based on prior laws, women could not inherit land. They argued against the injustice of the command and the loss of their father's name in the Promised Land. These women argue that they should inherit the Land. And the Law was changed!

In Matthew, Chapter 5, Jesus begins his Sermon on the Mount. Jesus repeatedly says, "You have heard that it was said...but I say to you." Jesus is reinterpreting the Law for a new generation of faithful Israelites as they struggle to be God's people in the world.

In May of 1882, another reformation was taking place. A group of dedicated and faithful Christians decided to form a congregation, one that would become Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church. Since that time, the congregation has been served by 21 pastors (including 2 interims) and an intern. Pleasant Valley has been a stand-alone congregation, a two-point parish, and even a three-point parish. Throughout its history, the people of Pleasant Valley have continually and carefully discerned who they were in their time and place, as

members of the Body of Christ, the whole catholic Church, and the Eleva community. Pleasant Valley has undergone many reformations.

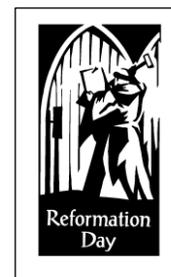
The global Church is now in the midst of challenges unlike those faced in our past. Following COVID-19, many people are not returning to church. Many churches are struggling financially. Many churches are considering whether it is time to conclude their ministry and disperse among other congregations. Many of our sister congregations are relying heavily on virtual options for worship to try to reach people.

I believe we are in the midst of the *next Reformation*. The Church cannot be what it has been for the past several decades. In fact, most sociologists will tell you that COVID-19 didn't create this reality, it simply hastened what was already coming toward us. Each congregation, the whole Church, in fact, will need to work to discover who we are in this new era of human history.

We are to be *Ecclesia semper reformanda*; a church in continual reformation. On Sunday, October 30th, we will join together to celebrate Reformation Sunday; a Sunday in which we celebrate our heritage in Luther's Reformation and pray for the reconciliation of all our churches.

Let our prayer that day also be that we, the people of Pleasant Valley, will dare to dream how once again we are being reformed to be the people of God in this time and place. Because I believe, wholeheartedly, that God has big plans for Pleasant Valley and our rural community. The question is: will we have the vision and courage to step forward into that future together? I pray we do.

Peace,
Pr. JonPaul



Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Council
September 13, 2022

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

NON-AGENDA – none

The secretary's report was read by members.

The treasurer's report was read by members. We are \$354.12 in the black for the month of September. We are \$1771.75 in the red for the year in at the end of September. The August Mission Offering, which went to the Eleva/Strum Backpack Meals program, totaled \$270.00.

The Pastor's report was read by members. Confirmation and Sunday School will begin this Sunday, September 18. Pastor will lead the programs.

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

Education – Pastor will ask parents or others to sign up to teach Sunday School. We may need to look for another source of videos to open the classes each Sunday. The plan is to open with the group together, and then split up with a teacher for the Sunday School, and Pastor teaching the confirmation. We are using Spark Bibles, but the Spark program doesn't have videos. Cortney will contact Rykals.

Jordy, Ethan, and Eli, Evelyn, Bretta, Emery, Abby, And Loretta are eligible for first communion. When Pastor finds out about the interest, he will plan a class or classes, probably in March, to instruct the youth in communion. The classes would probably last 3 weeks, and he may look to first communion being part of the Easter season.

The youth will also be getting a Bible, typically given in 3rd grade. We have yet to decide if all the youth in school will receive a Bible at the time of first communion. We will purchase 3 Spark Bibles to use in Sunday School.

Corissa is interested in taking care of the Christmas program this year. She would like to have it presented to the congregation on December 4 during church.

The youth that attended Luther Park camp this summer will give a short presentation to the congregation on September 18.

Worship – The prayer/communication list has been completed. It will be sent in the newsletter, e-mailed, and distributed before the church services.

Roxie will put together an Opportunities to Serve list. We will try it on a monthly basis, with individuals getting someone to replace them if they are not able to fulfill the job on any day.

We are also going to pilot serving grape juice during communion.

The Clavinova seems to be working OK now.

The book study, God's Politics – Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It, by Jim Wallis, is going well.

Building – Steph made a motion to allow up to \$3000 to get the lift fixed. Second by Dave. Motion carried. That is how much we All Star Elevator has estimated it will cost to replace the locks. We have been in contact with Mike from Bucky Elevators. I will contact him to see if he might be able to fix the lift by the end of November and if there is a guarantee that it will work when the locks are replaced.

The landscape lighting has been coming on in the evening and going off in the morning.

Sealing the blacktop still needs to be done. We have an estimate from Pavement Consulting Solutions for \$1,373. They ask for 30% down. A motion was made to pay \$1,373 to have the blacktop sealed. Seconds by Cortney and Roxie. Motion carried. John will clean and seal cracks in cement and stairs.

Dave has an estimate from an electrician to add lights in the ceiling and plug-ins on the other 3 corners of the shelter in the park. The estimate is \$1,684. Roxie made a motion to go forward with the lights and plug-ins. Dave seconded it. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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. We have not heard from the Synod as to what the protocol is. Pastor will recheck with them.

NEW BUSINESS

We talked about Steph getting a Thrivent Seed Card for a small library. She will apply for the card at the same time she and Cortney get together to plan for this year's Sunday School.

We discussed the October 2 bazaar. Worship will be at 10 a.m. The Praise Team will supply the music. Randy and Kay have volunteered to get the supplies for the dinner and cook the chicken. They have ordered 150 pieces of chicken, 50 cartons of white milk, and 50 cartons of chocolate milk. We will have chicken, a bun and butter, chips, pickles, a fruit cup, and a package of cookies. The butter, chips, fruit cup, and cookies will be in pre-packaged single servings. There will also be water and chocolate or white milk. Cortney will do the shopping for supplies that Randy and Kay are not getting.

Dave will put up the canopy and bring up some tables and chairs so folks can sit under the shelter to eat and visit.

The bazaar will include the raffle for a quilt; 1/2 hog, cut, wrapped, and frozen; a face cord of fire wood; and a meat bundle. Dwight is also making a picnic table to sell, and there are 4 quilts and 2 toddler quilts to sell. We will not have baked goods or lefse, but we will have baskets to raffle off.

It was felt that since we have road signs up and that the bazaar is a yearly happening, there was no reason to distribute flyers to neighbors by hand, like we did with the picnic.

We will need volunteers to work during the bazaar. We need 2 people that will sell tickets and collect money. We also need 3 to handle the food and 1 to direct traffic.

We still have 80 to 100 green hymnals to deal with. We will put them out at the bazaar. If we have any left, we may have to burn them. The Synod has not gotten back to us as whether there might be a start-up church that could use them.

Mission Sunday - October – Kristen Booth; daughter of Eleva/Strum retired teacher; baby girl and Significant Other both passed away
November – Mondovi Food Pantry

Other

Jessica has decided to attend Seminary. It will be on-line through Wartburg.

Next council meeting will be Thursday, October 13, 2022, at 6 p.m.

At 7:56 p.m. a motion was made by Ruth to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Stephanie. Motion carried.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

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

Praise Team News

The Praise Team will play in worship at Pleasant Valley on October 2, 23 and 30. They will lead worship at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility (CVCTF) on October 30.

The group recently attended a mock trial of Jesus put on by Chaplain Hull and some of the men at CVCTF.

Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) Thrift Sale

Trinity Lutheran in Eau Claire will be the site of thrift sale coordinated by the Neighbor to Neighbor Ministry. The thrift sale runs from 9 am to 4 pm on Friday, October 8, and 9 am to noon on Saturday, October 9. Proceeds will provide scholarships for Latinx students at UW-Eau Claire. N2N is led by Deaconess Lidix Montoya and is aimed at created bridges between Anglo Lutheran congregations and the Hispanic community in the Eau Claire area.

Last year's thrift sale raised \$4000 and benefited four students. N2N recently held a health fair for Hispanic community members at Immanuel Lutheran in Eau Claire. Another health fair will be held in Medford and N2N is working RUTH (Rural Unity Through Hope) on a third event to be held in Arcadia. Please support this important new ministry by attending the October 8-9 thrift sale!

Thank you Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous gift of sweet corn. So many families appreciate the fresh produce they receive. Thank you for being our partner to make sure everyone has enough to eat.
With Gratitude, Michelle Pride Feed My People

Rural Unity Through Hope (RUTH)

A new social justice and advocacy organization is taking shape in Trempealeau County called RUTH. Members of this non-denominational group have been meeting at Peace Lutheran, Pigeon Falls and Reaching Out Ministries, Whitehall. They are working to identify unmet social needs of people in rural communities and partner with congregations and community resources to address those needs.

RUTH has worked with the Reentry Coalition and the Whitehall Public library on a bicycle loan program to help meet transportation needs of men and women who were recently incarcerated; identified two individuals to serve as the co-coordinators for Trempealeau County's Sleep in Heavenly Peace program; and is working with the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Ministry to coordinate a health fair for members of the Hispanic community in Trempealeau County. If you are interested in being involved, contact Pastor JonPaul or Jessica Dragseth, or Kim Vlcek.

Treasurer's Report

Summary of Offering and Expenses

	Offering	Misc. Income	Expenses
Y-T-D	\$38,393.08	\$832.00	\$41,724.57
July	\$4,639.83	\$ 0.00	\$5,011.01
August	\$4,811.52	\$822.00	\$4,457.40
September (thru 9/18)	\$3,005.00	\$ 0.00	\$3,582.74

Offering Under Expenses – Jul – \$371.18

Offering Over Expenses – August - \$354.12

Offering Under Expenses – September - \$577.74 (through 6/19)

Y-T-D Offering Under Expenses – \$2,349.49

Mission Offerings:

June – Bob & Trisha Pichler - \$260.00

July – Luther Park Bible Camp - \$255.00

August – Eleva-Strum Backpack School Lunch Program - \$270.00

Memorials:

General Fund:

In memory of Connie Heath, from Dale & Sharon Anderson

In memory of Dale, Avid & Ken Erickson, from James & Jayne Bellesbach

In memory of Ron Anderson, nephew and Kim Hodges, niece, from Dale & Sharon Anderson

Building Fund:

In memory of Connie Heath, from Randy & Kay Sands

Cemetery Association:

In memory of Kamilla Sessions Berzinsky, from Dick & Monica Bahr

In memory of Kamilla Sessions Berzinsky, from Ben Sessions

In memory of Kamilla Sessions Berzinsky, from John Sessions

Respectfully submitted:

Roxie Ulness, Treasurer



TEXTS FOR OCTOBER

We will be meeting back in the Church

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – 2nd

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4
Psalm 37:1-10
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost - 9th

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c
Psalm 111
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – 16th

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Luke 18:1-8

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost -23rd

Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22
Psalm 84:1-7
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost – 30th

Isaiah 1:10-18
Psalm 32:1-8
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
Luke 19:1-10



“Peace be within thy walls.”
Psalms 122:7

“Something every home needs.”

By the light of the Psalms by Chris Shea

WE INVITE PRAYERS FOR:

Maureen Kuhn - having tests done
Ruth – Roxie Syth’s Aunt – hurt in a car accident; is 88 years old; in Gunderson Hospital in Lacrosse
Guy Patrow – Tested positive for ALS
Adelle Vlcek - broke her leg skateboarding; Dave and Kim’s granddaughter
Carla Prochnow - diagnosed with Covid; Kim Vlcek’s sister
Tracie Hein - Pr. JonPaul's sister; recovering from kidney transplant
Rose Haas - Healing
Mary Froehlich – needs healing
Bob Peterson – Spine injury; Crystal’s Cousin
Karl Bahr and family – continues in therapy
AnnaMae Stone - Marianna’s cousin – breast cancer
Lenny Odegard - Sadie’s husband - liver cancer
Gwen Chubb – Monica’s cousin - cancer;
Gina Stevens – restarted chemo
Aunt Cindy – Steph’s Aunt – fighting Covid
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
All those who are missing a loved one
Those on our visiting list: Bob Dutter & Gary and Sharon Hazen



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

Website: www.pleasantvalleylutheran.com



October 2
Worship at 10:00 with
Praise Team;
Chicken dinner at 11:00

Pleasant
Valley
Newsletter

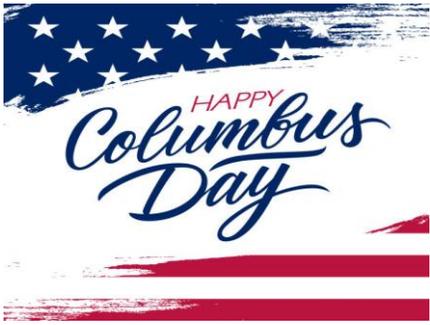


OCTOBER



2022

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HAPPY
Columbus
Day



Happy
Halloween

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