



Pastor's Corner: February 2023

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 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, I don't think so.

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.

The Corinthian church was struggling with a lot of conflict. Paul was writing to them to encourage them to set aside their differences and live as one community in Christ. Paul knew what we still know today; when the community of faith is fractured there will be anger, resentment, and grudges; things that keep us focused on us instead of living as Jesus calls us.

When we do, the community is fractured and Christ takes a back seat to our personal grudges, preference, or desires. And when the community of faith is fractured, that faith community is no longer able to be a beacon of hope in Jesus for its neighbors.

In some ways, COVID-19 has had this effect on many congregations. Many have been so worried about attendance numbers, financial giving, youth programming, and *getting back to normal*, that they struggle to see the work of the Spirit calling us to love one another in the same way that Jesus loves us.

As we look toward Valentines and share our time with those we love, let us also remember our community of faith.

Loving one another is a foundation of what it is to be followers of Jesus. When we build up our relationships with one another in mutual love and respect, we are able to better follow Jesus and serve those whom Jesus loves.

If we don't have love for each other, we certainly will have difficulty loving the stranger, the orphan, the widow, and the foreigner.

Paul's words echo across these nearly 2,000 years and are an important 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, remember this: ***Love never ends.***

When we have love for one another—that same life-giving love Jesus shows us—then truly we will be servants of Christ, held together in community, ambassadors of Jesus Christ in a world that desperately needs his love.

Peace,

Pr. JonPaul

**Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Council
January 5, 2023**

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

NON-AGENDA - Stephanie Kuehl asked to borrow 3 roasters and a large coffee pot. It was suggested that we have a system for checking out items. Kay Sands will make sign-out sheets. The laminated lists will be posted on the refrigerator in each kitchen with instructions for checking out and returning items.

The secretary's report was read by members. The treasurer's report was read by members. Pastor did not have a written report, but orally presented the following: ~We will be doing Setting 10 for our worship services through the Epiphany season. ~Sunday school/Confirmation classes will resume on Jan. 8th. ~Teegan will be confirmed in May. Pastor will contact the Johnson family to set a date. ~Pastor suggested mounting the TV in the Sunday school area in the basement. It would be nice to purchase a device for streaming services to that area for worship services, Sunday school, and confirmation. Pastor currently uses his own device. A motion was made by Dave Vleck and seconded by Cortney Sands to approve the suggestion as presented. Motion carried.

Education - The Christmas program went well. Thank you to Corissa Sands and all who worked with her. A discussion was held on how to cover teaching Sunday school classes. Pastor would like to develop a stronger connection between the students and other members of the congregation. This will be an item for discussion at the Annual Meeting. Pastor will have some sample lessons for members to view and encourage participation from the congregation.

Pastor will prepare for First Communion in March/April.

Property - We are still working with Bucky Lift, Inc. to address issues with the elevator. Dave Vleck did not have anything else to report at this time.

Worship - It was suggested that we start an usher sign-up list per month. Ushers should continue to count the number of people attending each worship service and write the number on the calendar in the back of the sanctuary. Although giving has remained consistent without ushers collecting the offering, we will bring back collecting and bringing the offering forward to the altar. Ushers will also be responsible to help Roxie Ulness count the offering after services. If an usher is unable to serve for the entire month, he/she should find a replacement.

A discussion was held on getting kids more involved in the worship service: collect offering with an adult and pick up communion cups.

Cortney Sands suggested writing a job description for each of the jobs we ask members to sign up for so everyone knows what is expected of them when they sign up.

Unfinished Business A Thrivent Seed Card to fund a library project is on hold until spring.

New Business Proposed ministry plan (budget) for 2023 will be presented at the Annual Meeting. In addition to the areas that have incurred increased expenses, it was suggested to increase the pay for the organist from \$80 per service to \$90. The rate for the church secretary remains the same at this time. As Monica Bahr transfers her duties over to Teresa Johnson, there may be a need to update equipment along with setting up a new email address. TCC will no longer offer email services some time after May, 2023. A 6% raise has been proposed for Pastor JonPaul. A motion was made by Corissa Sands with a second by Stephanie Kuehl to approve the proposed budget. Motion carried.

Jerry Larson is doing the snow plowing. Roxie will touch base with him when the time comes for plowing services for next winter.

Monica Bahr will be retiring after the Annual Meeting in January. We will thank Monica for her years of service at the Annual Meeting with a cake and gift card from the congregation. A motion was made by Cortney Sands with a second by Roxie Ulness to purchase a cake and \$200 Visa gift card. Motion carried. Ruth Poore will be asked to make arrangements for getting the cake and Visa gift card.

Teresa Johnson has agreed to take on the role of church secretary. She will work with Monica and Pastor JonPaul as she assumes this position.

Synod Constitution/Pleasant Valley Constitution Updates - Pastor is checking with the synod to see what we need to do.

Annual meeting is set for January 29th. Marty Johnson and Marianna Gilbertson have agreed to serve on council pending approval from the congregation. Council members will bring treats for the annual meeting.

Denise Froehlich nominated Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church to receive a \$500 gift from Scheels. Corissa Sands will send a thank you to Denise for nominating Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church. She will also send a thank you to Scheels for the generous gift. After a discussion, a motion was made by Dave Vlcek with a second by Cortney Sands to use the money to purchase the equipment necessary to mount the TV on the wall in the basement Sunday school area and purchase the device(s) needed to address the streaming needs. Motion carried.

Mission Offering:

January - Ruby's Kitchen in Chippewa Falls
February - Sojourner House in Eau Claire
March - RUTH Initiative (Rural Unity Through Hope)
April - Chippewa Valley Free Clinic

Other Business - Corissa stated that Luther Park will hold their annual meeting on February 4th. Kay Sands and Crystal Sands are representatives for Pleasant Valley Lutheran

Church. The donations from the Lenten Soup-and-Sandwich suppers and Easter breakfast will continue to support our youth in attending Luther Park programs.

The next council meeting will be on Thursday, February 16th at 6:00 p.m. A motion was made by Stephanie Kuehl with a second by Corissa Sands to adjourn at 8:12pm We closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Kay Sands
(substituting for Ruth Poore) Members present: Pastor JonPaul, Randy Sands, Cortney Sands, Roxie Ulness, Corissa Sands, Dave Vlcek, Stephanie Kuehl, and Kay Sands

Treasurer's Report

None submitted. Please reference the Annual Meeting Report.

Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

Praise Team News

The Praise Team will play in worship at Pleasant Valley on February 26. They will lead worship that evening at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility. Practices are Wednesday evenings--check the newsletter calendar for times.

Women of the ELCA

The Dairyland Conference Board is planning the 2023 Morning of Renewal for April 12, 2023. Peace Lutheran of Pigeon Falls will host the event. Guest speaker will be Deacon Lidixe Montoya, Mission Developer for the NW Synod of Wisconsin. Mark your calendar to attend and watch for more information coming soon!



From our Mailbox

Dear Friends at Pleasant Valley,

Thank you for your gift of \$305.00 to help the most vulnerable in our community. At this time of uncertainty, when rising food and transportation costs create daunting challenges for the food bank and those we serve, your donation helps remain strong and able to respond to the increased need. We are grateful, with your support, to continue serving those who need it most. Your partnership is so important. Thank you & Happy New Year!

Suzanne Becker,
Executive Director of Feed my People

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for the support of funds and continued prayers for Kjerstin booth and her boys Abel and Jamison. The tragic loss of her loved one, Dalton, and baby Ava have left many difficult days of grief. Our family is healing, thanks to the vast prayers, compassion and support from so many people. We are forever grateful for each one of you.

With a grateful heart, Blessing to your church community,

Julie Booth

I want to thank everyone who came to my home for Christmas caroling. It truly made my Christmas.

Love this holiday season,
Sandy

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for your donation of \$245.00 to the Mondovi Area Food Pantry. The majority of these households we serve are households with children. Know that you do

make a big difference in the lives of both children and adults.

Again thank you,
MaryAnn Olson (Mondovi Food Pantry)

Needed: Luther Park Bible Camp in Chetek is looking for a reliable, mechanically sound vehicle for camp use. If you have such a vehicle that you would like to donate please contact us at 715-859-2215.



TEXTS FOR FEBRUARY

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany – 5th

Isaiah 58:1-9a, [9b-12]
Psalm 112:1-9, (10)
1 Corinthians 2:1-12, [13-16]
Matthew 5:13-20

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany - 12th

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

Transfiguration of Our Lord – 19th

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2
or Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

Ash Wednesday-22nd

Joel 2:1-2,12-17
or Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 103 or 103:8-14 or 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

First Sunday in Lent -26th

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11



WE INVITE PRAYERS FOR:

Aleigha Hainz- healing for tonsils removed-

Teresa's niec

Monica Branner- healing from cancer

Allen Arneson- healing from cancer

Ruby – Cortney's Great Aunt - healing

Brenda – Steph's Mom – waiting on test

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

Sandra Kilde – doing the pill type chemo –
Ruthann's sister

Maureen Kuhn – healing

Guy Patrow – Tested positive for ALS

Karl Bahr – continues with therapy

Lenny Odegard - Sadie's husband - liver
cancer

Martha McCourt – Marianna's mother; living
with dementia

Bishop Annie- As she begins her travels to
Israel, Palestine, and Jordan

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 Vicek and Ayla Hakes and family

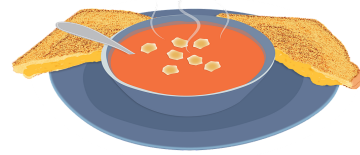
Inmates at CVCTF – and Chaplain Hull

All those who are missing a loved one.

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

**Evening Lent service
Soup and Sandwich supper**

Sign up sheet to bring soup and bars available
during Annual Meeting.



Pastor Bill Wendt has passed away. If you
would like to send a card to Pastor Bill Wendt's
family the address is as follow:

Marilyn Wendt
8138 9th St. Place N
Oakdale MN 55128



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

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

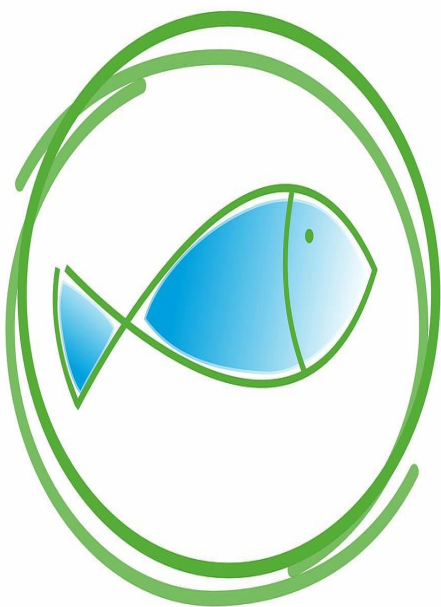
Pastor JonPaul Dragseth: Cell: 715-271-2253

Church office: 715-287-4473

Church Secretary: Teresa Johnson – Cell: 608-751-8836

Church E-mail: pleasantvalley@tcc.coop

Website: www.pleasantvalleylutheran.com



Pleasant Valley

February
Newsletter 2023

