

Happy New Year

I'm going to get more exercise. I'm going to eat healthy. I'm going to spend more time with my family. I'm going to watch less T.V. I'm going to spend more time playing with my kids.

'Tis the season for New Years' resolutions. We start out strong- this year, we really are going to make these changes in our lives. "This is the year I will lose weight," we tell ourselves. "This is the year I stop eating out and pack a lunch instead," we insist to ourselves. "You will stop smoking," we demand of ourselves.

What all these resolutions seem to be about is a longing for new beginnings. Like the birth of a child, a marriage, a divorce, or even a death, the start of a new year marks an opportunity to redefine ourselves. We examine who we are and how we are living and set goals for change over the next year. And, if you're like me, you get pretty excited. You start with all the energy you can muster, diving headlong into your new goals.

And then, like each year before this one, we slowly slide away from our resolutions. The initial calm after the busy holiday season quickly picks up again with work, school, community events, and family gatherings. That gym membership goes unused. Picking up fast food is just so much more convenient than preparing a salad. Smoking is just too ingrained in our daily habits, especially when stressed. And, January's promises fade to old patterns.

Hope is a powerful thing. Hope can keep us going in the darkest of times and bring us out of the depths of despair. Hope makes us confident in a future that is yet uncertain.

But, when we place our hope for a new future or a new life in our own ability to overcome obstacles, we set ourselves up for failure. That is the false promise our resolutions too often give us; they set us up for defeat and lead to thoughts and feelings of not being good enough or strong enough or smart enough to do the things we hoped for.

But that is not what God says about you. In the waters of baptism, God has claimed you. You don't have to be skinny enough, smart enough, wealthy enough, eat the right foods, or read enough books. God loves you for the child of God that you are.

And yet, we all have unhealthy habits that affect our lives. We do eat too much and do not get enough exercise. We really would be better off if we spent more time with our children and spouses. We would be much healthier if we drank less or quit smoking.

So, let me give you this as you set your resolutions for the coming year: Place your hope in God. Hope and trust that no matter what challenges you face; in your health, your personal life, or in the workplace, God walks alongside you. And, make your resolutions with a friend; someone who seeks the same change as you. Someone who will help you stay on track with your goals and will be there as a support when you aren't doing as well as you had hoped.

Walk together this New Year. Walk beside each other in times of great joy and great sorrow. Walk beside each other in heartache and in celebration. Faithfully remind one another that God is your hope and that regardless of your progress toward your goals, you are a claimed Child of God, loved and accepted in God's eyes.

Happy New Year,

Pr. JonPaul



**Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Council
December 1, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 6:17 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 not available.

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.

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. There will be a Christmas party at 12:30. Corissa will get the candy bars and apples to hand out after the program. The plan is also to get pizza from Papa Murphy's for the party. They will also have chips, applesauce, milk or Kool-Aid, and gifts.

Worship – The Christmas program will be on December 4 at 10 a.m. For coffee we will have a birthday cake for Jesus.

Also, there will be a group that will go caroling on December 11. Anyone is welcome. We came up with a tentative list of people to visit. Ruth will get poinsettias for the folks we will be singing for.

Christmas Day service will be at the regular time. We will not serve coffee afterwards.

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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Thanksgiving Service went well. We had about 30 people in attendance. Next year, since we now have lights, we might try handouts with the words.

The Small Library is on hold until we get a Thrivent Seed Card.

Most of the green hymnals have been recycled. I will check Pastor's office to see what the boxes have in them.

The TV monitor down in the Sunday School room works well, but it needs some tweaking, especially when Pastor isn't at church with his I-pad. We need more people that can get it up and running. We are considering hanging the TV at the end of the room where the projection screen is now hanging.

Again, the Annual Meeting will be after worship on January 29, 2023. We need two new members-at-large for the council. We will need the meeting announcement in the bulletins all January. At the meeting, we will need to update our constitution.

The letters for the sign in front of the church have been replaced.

NEW BUSINESS

Monica is planning on retiring after the Annual Meeting in January. We are looking for candidates. We think much of the work can be done from home. The e-mail change may not need to be done until mid-2023 or later.

We received a \$500 check from the Scheel's Giving Back program.

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

April – Chippewa Valley Free Clinic

Other

Next council meeting will be Thursday, January 5, 2023, at 6 p.m.

At 6:43 p.m. the meeting ended.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Poore, Council secretary

Members present: Pastor JonPaul Dragseth, Randy Sands, and Ruth Poore.

Treasurer's Report

Summary of Offering and Expenses

	Offering	Misc. Income	Expenses
Y-T-D	\$52,013.38	\$3,994.28	\$54,233.75
October	\$5,456.00	\$2,683.00	\$3,892.81
November	\$3,200.00	\$429.28	\$4,319.78
December (thru 12/18)	\$4,245.00	\$0.00	\$4,152.59

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

Offering Under Expenses – Nov - \$690.50

Offering Over Expenses – Dec - \$92.41

Y-T-D Offering Over Expenses – \$1,773.91

Mission Offerings:

Oct – Kjersten Booth - \$280.00

Nov – Mondovi Food Pantry - \$245.00

Dec – Feed My People

Memorials:

General Fund:

In memory of Nancy Norby, from Dale & Sharon Anderson

In memory of Dave, Cathy Wingers' brother, from Dale & Sharon Anderson

Respectfully submitted:

Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

“Thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them
that seek thee.”
Psalms 9:10

“Never left alone. Never.”

By the light of the Psalms by Chris Shea

Thank You Just a quick note to say thanks for all the help and feedback I received doing the secretary/Pastor Assistant job over these past many years. I very much enjoyed doing it. And being there for my congregation and for all the different pastors we have had. I will still be around and plan on helping Teresa take over the office. Please be there for her also.

Thanks Monica

TEXTS FOR JANUARY

Sunday of Christmas – 1st

New Year's Day

Numbers 6:22-27

Psalm 8

Galatians 4:4-7

or Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 2:15-21

The Epiphany of Our Lord - 7th

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7,10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

The Baptism of our Lord – 8th

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

Second Sunday after the Epiphany -15th

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-12

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

Third Sunday after the Epiphany -22th

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1, 5-13

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany -29th

Annual Meeting

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12



WE INVITE PRAYERS FOR:

Steve Glende – needs healing and strengthening-
Kathy Tweet's son-in-law

Ruby – Cortney's Great Aunt - healing

Brenda – Steph's Mom – waiting on test next year

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

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

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

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

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

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



Praise Team News

The Praise Team led a fantastic group of carolers to visit the homes of several friends, neighbors and family and church members on December 11. The group will play in worship at Pleasant Valley on January 22 and 29. They will also lead worship those evenings at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility. Practices are scheduled at Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Come and join the fun!



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

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