

Pleasant View Lutheran Church
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August 2022 Newsletter

A BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYER

O God, source of all goodness: we give you thanks for the gift of reason and the opportunity for education. Bless our schools, that they may be places of learning and safety where teachers challenge the minds and nurture the hearts of students. Grant that teachers and students may work together in mutual respect and find joy in the challenges of academic life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

AMEN.



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Greetings from Pastor Sarah & Pastor Bob Nowak

Did we catch your eye with the llama?
Hopefully!

It seems wise to use this space to spend time considering the elephant, or perhaps rather the llama, in the room: the desire for “no drama.” It’s probably safe to say that we’ve all faced “church drama” in the past and have been hurt, unsettled, or scarred by it. We don’t want to ever do that again. We saw the ugliness within one another and ourselves, have seen how it hurts the community, and how it feels like it goes against the mission that we share – the unity that we are called to as part of the Body of Christ.



And, so, we avoid all potential drama. We do our best to preserve peace. Remembering such scripture as: “How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1) And, “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. “ (Ephesians 4:3) And, especially when our culture is filled with so much incivility and violent language, we don’t want to create that hostile environment anywhere else.

Peace is good. Peace is what God wants for us and what we are called to work towards. But, avoiding drama isn’t going to get us there. What are we missing out on in our evasive tactics? Could our desire to avoid drama be getting in the way of moving into God intended future for us?

Jesus says: “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household.” (Matthew 10:34-36)

It is unsettling to hear Jesus use a reference of violence in this scripture from Matthew – the “sword.” Especially a sword that divides families. But, Jesus knows and wants to teach those who will listen that, even within families, one cannot find true peace until all of the necessary truths are spoken. When all is out on the table, the bandages ripped off of all the festering wounds, tears shed, forgiveness spoken – there is finally a hope for true peace being created.

As we continue to have tough conversations and decisions ahead of us as a church it is good to remember that we are a community centered around Christ – the Christ who urges us towards peace and the one who also knows that there is much work that needs to be done before we can get to that peace. But, letting the “no drama llama” lead the conversation is not going to get us there.

Peace, Pax, & Shalom,
Pastor Sarah & Pastor Bob

Isaiah 43:15-19

"I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King. Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Pastor Nancy Nyland of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod shared this scripture with Pleasant View congregants gathered in person and on Zoom after service on Sunday, July 24. Pastor Nyland has been a great resource – and will continue to be – as we discern our future in our physical space, as well as what we see as our mission as a congregation. She has guided many congregations through similar situations and had many examples of churches that have found new purpose and opportunities when they found new physical homes. She told us about congregations that are nesting with ecumenical partners, renting space and more.

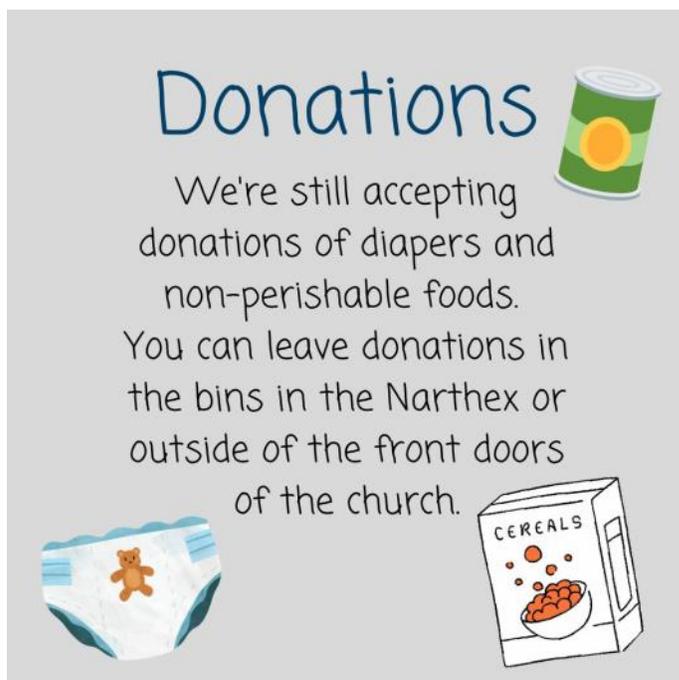
As we look to the future, she encouraged us to consider what the "right size" is for PVLC in 2022 and the future. Do we have the capacity to own and maintain a large facility or do we need to find "the right size"? Is our committee structure still the right size? Is our governance the right size? Is our outreach the right size? Is our budget the right size? Despite cost-control measures, our monthly expenditures continue to outstrip what we bring in from offerings and income. We have no reason to think this situation is going to change.

But right-sizing doesn't have to be only about reductions. Maybe the right size for outreach is to be greater? Maybe if we took all the time, energy and financial resources we spend on maintaining our physical home, the Spirit would move us to do something we can't even imagine.

So many opportunities! So many possibilities! Also so many emotions: Failure, guilt, regret, loss, grief, blame, anger, denial, sadness, depression ... a sense of betrayal. Pastor Nyland stressed that while we experience this turmoil of emotions, we should never see it as a lack of faithfulness – on our part or God's.

In the coming weeks, PVLC members will receive a survey asking for feedback on a myriad of questions that will be helpful during this discernment. I hope as many of you as possible will take the opportunity to fill it out.

Yours in Christ,
- Jennifer



Greetings from Outreach!

Dave and I have signed up for the Exodus Refugee Immigration, Inc. "Celebrate the Life Ahead" Gala. This will be August 18, 2022 from 6 – 9 pm. It is a fundraising dinner at the Marriott downtown in support of this great organization! For those of you not familiar with Exodus, they are the organization PVLC coordinated with to settle a refugee family from the Congo a few years ago. There will be live music, a silent auction and they'll serve international cuisine. If anyone is interested in going, you can check out their website: exodusrefugee.org. Or, feel free to reach out to Dave or me. If you do sign up on the website, be sure to put include our names to ensure we'll be seated at the same table!

Please do not hesitate to let Dave or me know if you have ideas of ways that we can serve our neighbors. We feel so blessed to be a part of such a generous congregation!

- Kathy Henkel

Join us for Worship

**Sundays at 10am
in the Sanctuary & on Zoom**



**Zoom link: [https://zoom.us/j/2171974317?](https://zoom.us/j/2171974317?pwd=c0V2TExzQWlmd09PQkxhOE1ZUEZmdz09)
[pwd=c0V2TExzQWlmd09PQkxhOE1ZUEZmdz09](https://zoom.us/j/2171974317?pwd=c0V2TExzQWlmd09PQkxhOE1ZUEZmdz09)**

Meeting ID: 217 197 4317

Password: 02261844

Join by phone (audio only): 1 929 205 6099

There is a place for you!