



Pleasant View Lutheran Church  
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## February 2023 Newsletter

# Get ready...

Coming up this Lent we will once again be collecting donations for Lutheran World Relief.

This time for  
**Baby Care Kits!**  
More info as Lent beings.



# Greetings from Pastor Sarah & Pastor Bob Nowak



## How does one “participate” in Lent?

With the season of Lent beginning at the end of this month, it may feel a long way off, but, as we have learned, those weeks will fly by! So, we can all start planning now. And, this year, there are a few specific ways to really get involved in Lent around here, but more on that later. First, here are the words to the traditional “Invitation to Lent” that is usually read during the Ash Wednesday service to get us thinking:

“Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus’ passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God’s mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection.”  
*(from sundaysandseasons.com)*

These words are meant to inspire Lenten disciplines to help us grow closer to one another and to God – and, truth be told, sometimes they do and sometimes they don’t! But, if you’re not coming up with anything specific for yourself for this Lent, that’s ok because we have some opportunities together as a community this year...

The first is to bravely take more ownership over what we say together during worship. For each Sunday in Lent, there is the opportunity to write our community’s Confession and Forgiveness and/or Prayers of the People. This may seem like a daunting task, but, as the liturgy is supposed to be “the work of the people,” maybe you could try putting your own words out there for all of us to use, just for one Sunday?

Another opportunity is to participate in our collection of items for baby care kits for Lutheran Worship Relief. Last year we made 85 personal care kits for this organization. This year our initial goal is 20 baby care kits (because they are a little more complex!) You will be able to start claiming items to donate to this effort once Lent begins. And, a big thanks to Margaret Stratford for helping to organize this!

Finally, for those of you on Instagram, we hope to begin to use that platform to interact more with our community starting this Lent. Prompts for weekly reflection through images will be available throughout the season for you to engage with and participate in on your own profiles. Stay tuned for more information on this!

Is that enough to get thinking about what you will be doing this Lent?

Hope to see you around!

- Pastor Sarah & Pastor Bob

## How do you keep the Sabbath?

When I was growing up, keeping the Sabbath reminded me of a chapter in “Farmer Boy” – the Laura Ingalls Wilder book that focused on Almanzo Wilder’s childhood. It had an illustration by Garth Williams of Almanzo’s mother looking stern and sitting in a straight back chair reading the Bible:

*“Almanzo just sat. He had to. He was not allowed to do anything else, for Sunday was not a day for working or playing. It was a day for going to church and for sitting still.”*

I’m trying to do better at practicing the Sabbath (using the word practicing because it’s something we need to keep working at). But it’s hard when life feels overwhelming and your to-do list grows exponentially. How do you set time to just be with God? And, are you able to do it without feeling guilty about the laundry that piles up or the emails that go unanswered?

I’ve been reading a blog called [Lessen](#), which had an entry about this very topic. It reminded me that keeping Sabbath doesn’t have to be a list of don’ts (don’t shop, don’t scroll, don’t do chores) but rather it can be about things we CAN do, such as reading a book, spending relaxing time with friends or being out in nature. Anything where we rest and feel a connection to God.

Here are a couple of descriptions of keeping Sabbath I have found helpful:

- Is this restful or worshipful? If it doesn’t fit under either category, can it wait?
- “If you work with your mind, sabbath with your hands, and if you work with your hands, sabbath with your mind.”
- A Living Lutheran article even suggests we look for Sabbath moments every day if taking an entire day seems out of reach.

And here’s another thought: What day should we celebrate or keep the Sabbath? As a person who’s husband works on Sundays and has previously worked nights and weekends, I understand that Sunday is not the day everyone can rest. I know that Pastor Bob and Pastor Sarah set aside Fridays as their day of Sabbath. It is a day where they try to disconnect from their work and center their lives around their family.

I’d love to hear how other PVLC members practice the Sabbath!

- Jennifer

[jennyamorlan@gmail.com](mailto:jennyamorlan@gmail.com)

## Lenten Writing Challenge

Lent is a good season for reflecting on our own mortality and a time to meditate on our sins and failings as members of God's family in Jesus Christ. This season, instead of reciting the words of confession and forgiveness that are provided for us each week, we challenge you to create one for us to incorporate in our worship together. There are six Sunday services including Palm Sunday in the season of Lent, and we hope to have a different confession and forgiveness, written by a member of PVLC, for the community to use each week. Not sure about writing a confession? Perhaps you would like to write our prayers of intercession instead? We will have a signup for whoever wants to write either a confession or prayers—whether as an individual, with your family, or as a group—for each Sunday in Lent, as well as a writing guide to help you create. All submissions should be hand-delivered or emailed to Pastor Sarah the Sunday before your chosen date for inclusion in all worship materials.

- Janet Williams

## Ash Wednesday

Service at 7pm  
February 22, 2023  
PVLC Sanctuary & Zoom



*Join Us For Worship!*

**Sundays at 10am  
Sanctuary and on Zoom**

Meeting ID: 217 197 4317

Password: 02261844

Join by Phone: 1 929 205 6099

(Audio Only)

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/2171974317?pwd=c0V2TExzQWlmd09PQkxhOE1ZUEZmdz09>

## Elementary Age Group

- ♦ On any given week, there are two to four young ladies in this class encompassing age groups preschool to 3rd grade.
- ♦ As always, your generous assistance is needed to teach God’s word to them. Please let me or Margaret Stratford know if and when you can support this important activity. Please find below the schedule and gaps for the next two months.

Sunday		LESSON		Teacher(s)
Feb. 5		Congregational Meeting		No Sunday School
Feb. 12		JESUS TEACHES ABOUT ANGER	Winter A lectionary	Amber
Feb. 19	Ash Wednesday – February 22nd	<i>Intergenerational Sunday School</i>		Margaret
Feb. 26	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent	THE FIRST SIN Genesis 3:1-24	Spring A lectionary	Susan
March 5	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent	WOMAN AT THE WELL John 4: 5-42	Spring A lectionary	
March 12	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent	POOLS AT SILOAM John 9:1-41	Spring A lectionary	Amber
March 19	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	<i>Intergenerational Sunday School</i>		Margaret
March 26	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	LAZARUS John 11: 1-45	Spring A lectionary	Susan

- The adult class continues with its study of Luther’s Small Catechism
- Your ideas for future God’s Work, Our Hands (Intergenerational Sundays) activities are also welcome and appreciated.
- Diaper donations continue to be accepted. There are several ways to donate, as follows:
  - You can drop diapers off at the church in a bin located under the portico at the main church/ office entrance.
  - You can bring your diaper donations to worship service and drop them off.
  - If you would like to donate money for the purchase of diapers, you have two options:
    - 1) You can send your monetary donations to the church office (writing “GWOH Diapers” in the note section of your check), or 2) you can donate diaper funds directly to <https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/IndianaDiaperBank/general>.

- Robert Stratford

# Faith and Activism *through* Revolutionary Love

Featuring  
*Valarie Kaur*

PRODUCED *by the*  
CENTER FOR FAITH *and* VOCATION

MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2023

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

MORE INFORMATION AT  
BUTLERARTSCENTER.ORG

*Photo by: Amber Castro*



**BUTLER**

CENTER for FAITH  
*and* VOCATION

## Regular Office Hours

Pastor Sarah:  
Mondays & Wednesdays  
10am-4pm  
Email: [prsarah@pvlcelca.org](mailto:prsarah@pvlcelca.org)  
Cell: 419-343-2559

Pastor Bob:  
Tuesdays & Thursdays  
10am-4pm  
Email: [prbob@pvlcelca.org](mailto:prbob@pvlcelca.org)  
Cell: 419-944-1345

## Join the PVLC Book Group!

Currently reading: *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love* by Valarie Kaur

We Gather via Zoom on Wednesdays at 7pm.

**Bonus:** Valarie Kaur will be coming to Butler in March and we can take a field trip to hear her speak ourselves!

Contact Pastor Sarah with any questions.

## Annual Meeting:

Sunday, February 5th, 2022,  
Noon

All current members are encouraged to join in as we vote on our usual church business and discuss plans for the future. This meeting will follow 10am Worship and lunch at 11am, so roughly around noon. The meeting will also be accessible with the Zoom worship information. If you would like to contribute to the lunch, feel free to bring a dessert to share.



Did you know...

You can help our neighbors in need by donating to Wheeler Mission. Please consider purchasing some of their most urgently needed items during these winter months. You can support and donate at the following link:

<http://wheelermission.galaxydigital.com/urgent-needs>

## 2022 Giving Statements

The 2022 statements of giving have been emailed (or mailed to those without email addresses). If you have not received yours, please contact Kathy Henkel at [dkhenkel@yahoo.com](mailto:dkhenkel@yahoo.com) or 317-334-1341. Thank you!