

# The VIEW

News of the Ministries of Pleasant View Evangelical Lutheran Church

November 2023

Blessed to be a Blessing

With November comes thoughts of homecomings and Thanksgiving. The change in the weather and the turning of the leaves heighten the anticipation of the holiday. We gather with others and remember the ways in which we have been blessed in the previous year. The things for which we are thankful might range from everyday occurrences to another day of life. We often forget that the things we take for granted like shelter, water and food are our biggest blessings. Without these basics, we become vulnerable to the elements and are made acutely aware of our dependence upon others.

This is the reality of those experiencing homelessness. Through the ministries in the area, one can be fed, housed and encouraged. Pleasant View has long been partners with other Christians in the area in ministry to our neighbors which is something we should be very proud of.

Now we have an opportunity to bless those who travel past our building or use the parking lot during off hours through the Blessing Box. These blessings might be nonperishable food, Christian literature, books and Bibles. We might offer prayers for those who make us aware of their need by using a prayer request page. A prayer is a powerful thing because we bring our requests and those of others to God, trusting that God will intervene. From prayers to practical items, we find that a warm hat or gloves or a bottle of water may be just what is needed.

What else might we place in the Blessing Box in order to reach out to the travelers on Springhill Road? The items are limited only by our imaginations. All are invited to share a blessing with those who pass by.

Finally, we remember the promise of God to Abraham...<sup>2</sup> *I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. (Gen 12:2 NRS)*

We have indeed been blessed by his greatest descendant, Jesus, Our Lord.

May God continue to bless us so that we might be a blessing,

**Pastor Phyllis**

**October 29: Reformation Sunday:** In 1517, Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses to the doors of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, in protest against the abuse of indulgences in the teaching and practice of the Roman Catholic Church of his time. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free. Remember to wear something RED.

**Sundays, at 10 a.m.: Open Door Sunday School Class.** Join us in the study of the Old Testament ancestors (October 29 – Elijah; November 5 – Daniel; November 12 -- Jonah); November 19 through December 10 (Advent Reflections: “I Wonder as I Wander”). All are welcome to attend. Teachers: Bryan Huffman, Larry Landes, Bill Luders, Rosemary Spell and Stephen Troxell.

**Change for Hope/”Red Bucket Collections:”** The Council has approved the following “Red Bucket” collections: **October 29: General Fund:** Within PVELC’s approved 2023 budget, our Congregation has agreed to annually support the Virginia Synod (benevolence), Weekly Religious Education, the Valley Mission, SACRA, the Augusta Free Clinic, and the Verona Community Food Pantry. **November 5: “Backpack Pals”** is a weekend program providing snacks and food items to families (Clymore Elementary School, Fort Defiance). **November 19: Verona Community Center** is “a one-of-a-kind place where our community -- young and old, homeless persons and company presidents -- comes together.”

**Wednesdays at 6 p.m., Choir Practice.** All are welcome. Choir Director, Gary Flavin. Organist, Stephen Dickerson.

**Thursday, November 2, at 5 p.m.: Council Meeting** in the Social Hall. The Church Council has ongoing issues that must be addressed to ensure the appropriate planning for worship services and overseeing the operations of our Church. If you have any questions or suggestions for the Council’s consideration, please submit them to Rosemary Spell (preferably in writing) no later than October 27.

**November 5, Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m.:** Set your clocks back one hour.

**November 5, All Saints Sunday: PVELC members and friends:** At this service, we will commemorate members of our congregation, relatives, and friends who passed away since November 1, 2022. Please provide name and date of death to either Mary Garber or Rosemary Spell no later than October 29.

**Wednesday, November 8, at 10 a.m.:** WELCA will meet in the Social Hall for the “Thankoffering” program; please plan to attend. All are welcome. For further information on WELCA activities, please contact either Becci Page or Goldie Shiflett.

**Saturday, November 11, 9 a.m.: Blessings Group** will meet at Panera Bread in Waynesboro. Anyone interested should contact Joy Landes or Terry Bunch.

**Sunday, November 12, Congregation Meeting following the worship service in the Social Hall.** Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda: approval of budget for 2024; review of 2023 selected year-to-date financials; and election of Council members and trustees. Please plan to bring a covered dish or dessert; meatloaf will be served. Please plan to enjoy the meal and fellowship prior to the meeting.

**Sunday, November 19, at 9 a.m.: Worship and Music Committee Meeting** in the Choir Room.

**Sunday, November 19, Poinsettia (“live”) order forms** (available by email or in the Narthex and the back hallway). Poinsettias may be ordered at a cost of **\$9.00** each and may be designated in memory or honor of loved ones/individuals. **Please make checks payable to Rosemary Spell and give your check or cash to Rosemary Spell with the order form no later than November 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**Pleasant View Lutheran Men of Faith Gathering:** The group will not meet the months of November and December. The group will resume meeting in January 2024. Anyone interested should contact Larry Landes, Gene Lilly, or Steve Troxell.

**November 26: Christ the King Sunday** is a recent addition to the Western liturgical calendar, having been instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI for the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church. Most major Protestant and Anglican groups, including Lutherans, observe this holiday on the final Sunday of their liturgical years.

**2024 - Time and Talent:** Please complete the “You Can Count on Me” form indicating your commitments to PVELC worship services, committees, and ongoing initiatives. The forms are available in the Narthex entry. This form is included in the email distribution. **Please return to Stephen Dickerson no later than November 26.**

**2024 - Altar Flowers:** It's that time of year! Please let Mary Garber know if you are interested in providing altar flowers for next year. Thank you to those who provided flowers for the altar and on special occasions throughout 2023. You will remain on the list unless you let Mary know to remove you by December 2. You may call 540-480-0444 or email: [imlgmd2a@gmail.com](mailto:imlgmd2a@gmail.com)

**2024 - First Sunday Celebrations:** If you would like to provide the cake for a First Sunday celebration in 2023, a sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Thank you to those who volunteered for this social event throughout 2023.

**December 3-24 is Advent Season. Wednesdays, December 6 and 13: Advent Services and fellowship beginning at 5 p.m. with soup and sandwiches in the Social Hall.** All are welcome; invite a friend.

**Sunday, December 17, Poinsettia fund donation “in memory” or “in honor” forms** are available by email or in the Narthex and the main hallway. Donations may be designated in memory or honor of loved ones/individuals. Donations may be designated to a specific church fund or multiple funds, if desired. Donation forms, with accompanying cash or check (payable to PVELC), may be given to Becci Page, placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church at 2733 Spring Hill Rd, Staunton, VA 24401. Please submit no later than December 17.

**Sunday, December 17, at 11 a.m. Worship Service: “Candles & Carols” Choir Christmas Cantata; Luncheon immediately following the Worship Service.** The Hospitality Committee will provide ham and drinks. Please bring covered dishes, salads and desserts.

**Sunday, December 17, (tentative timeline): Called Congregation Meeting following the meal in the Social Hall.** Our current Constitution is dated 2013. This called meeting will be to review the 2024 PVELC Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolution as recommended by the Constitution Committee, Church Council, and approved by the office of the Virginia Synod.

- Earlier this year, the Council appointed a Constitution Committee to update the PVELC Constitution. In 2019 and again in 2022 the ELCA released updates for a “Model Constitution for ELCA Congregations.” A copy of the proposed PVELC Constitution will be distributed no later than November 2 via email. Anyone requiring a printed copy may notify Stephen Dickerson or Rosemary Spell.
- A special thanks to the Committee for their work over the last six months: Pastor Phyllis, Terry Bunch, Bryan Huffman, Larry Landes, Rosemary Spell, Carol Troxell, Steven Troxell, and Susan Wright. Also, thanks to the Virginia Synod attorney who is reviewing our changes prior to its submission to the congregation. Further information on the Committee’s process and the required approval and ratification process will be provided in a separate letter.

**WELCA Is Collecting Used Pill Bottles for Third World Countries:** (prescription and over the counter) during November and December. There is a collection box in the Narthex. BEFORE putting them in the box please do the following:

1. Remove all labels, leaving no residue
2. Wash bottle and lid in hot water
3. Dry bottle and lid and put the lid back on the bottle
4. Then place bottle in the box in the Narthex

WELCA members will take care of the rest. Thanks for helping WELCA participate in this project.

**Sermon Manuscripts** for each Sunday’s sermon is available in the Narthex and is sent to our shut-ins.

**PVELC Contributions:** Please mail your contributions (or correspondence) to: **PVELC, 2733 Spring Hill Road, Staunton, VA 24401**. If you wish for your contribution to be designated to a special fund (e.g., Outreach, HVAC, Change for Hope request, new Doors), please make a note in the memo section of your check or include a note along with the contribution. Other options for making contributions include designating your IRA distribution as a qualified charitable distribution that will be directly sent to PVELC from your IRA account. This distribution will be tax free to you. PVELC also maintains an investment account with Truist Investments, formerly Scott and Stringfellow, if you would like to donate stock directly to the church. This type of donation will save you from paying capital gains tax on the appreciated value of the stock donated. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Fauber or Terry Bunch. Thank you for your ongoing support of PVELC.

**PVELC Communications:** If you need pastoral consultation, please contact Pastor Phyllis either by phone or by email. If you have issues for the Church Council, please contact Rosemary Spell. For additions or corrections to the bulletin prayer list or email distribution, please contact Stephen Dickerson.

**Prayer Chain Requests:** To initiate specific prayer chain requests, please contact Linda Page either by phone or by email. To be included in the prayer chain text list, please contact Linda Page. In addition, please refer to the “Our Prayers” section of the weekly Announcements.

**Pleasant View Evangelical Lutheran Church:** search website and Facebook posts: <http://www.pvelc.org/> and [Pleasant View Evangelical Lutheran Church - Posts | Facebook](#)

**Good Stuff** is a section of the bulletin board beside the pastor's study. The good stuff may include newspaper articles related to faith, background information for the seasonal or weekly liturgies, photos and definitions of difficult words, to name a few. So, as you go down the hall, check it out.

**Bulletins, Newsletters, Emails.** If you are having difficulty accessing the email distributions or are not receiving emails, please contact either Stephen Dickerson or Becci Page.

**“Word in Season” (October, November and December devotional booklet) and “Living Lutheran”** are available in the Narthex and Main Hall.

**“Daily Grace”** is an on-the-go companion for your journey, offering a faith-based reflection every day. Signup up for an email message. [Daily Grace, Reflections of Faith - Women of the ELCA](#)

**Staying in Touch:** Holidays, Get Well, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Thinking of You: Please take time to send a note of encouragement to one another, make a phone call, send a text message, post a social media message, light a candle, donate to a charity serving those in distress, and pray for our brothers and sisters at home and around the world.

**Verona Community Food Pantry:** The VCFP needs plastic bags. Contact: Goldie Shiflett.

## **News from the Evangelism Committee:**

**The Blessing Box** has arrived. This project of the Evangelism Committee is the bright blue box which has been placed on the edge of the parking lot. It is an outreach ministry to those who travel Springhill Rd and those who use the parking lot during the week. It is a place where members can place things that may be a blessing to those who pass by. These things include food, water, hats and gloves and Christian literature for people of all ages. A clipboard for prayer requests and communication will also be in the box. It will be checked on regularly as people leave what they can and take what they need.

**Take A Little Christmas With You** – In December, there will be a display of Christmas Ornaments in the narthex. You are welcome to take an ornament home to enjoy. We ask that you take one per household please. Merry Christmas!

**Gift Exchange Table-** There will be a table in the main hallway, across from the bulletin boards, which will remain up through Advent. Bring items that you no longer want, need, or have room to keep, that you think others might appreciate! (No Clothing) Items may be new or lightly used. This is a way for us to practice environmental and financial stewardship while still enjoying the seasonal tradition of gift giving. All items left after Christmas will be donated to a local thrift store.

**Pleasant View Women of the ELCA  
Minutes October 8, 2023**

The Pleasant View WELCA met on Sunday, October 8, 2023 for the Southern Valley Women Organization Fall Gathering at Muhlenberg Lutheran Church in Harrisonburg, Va. There were 25 women in attendance.

**Theme:** Weave Us Together. June Nabers had opening devotions, Anne Putnam had Offertory Prayer and Meditation on the WELCA Purpose Statement and Rosemary Spell conducted the business meeting and the Sending Prayer. We had a visitor for our Virginia Board, Carol Bailey. She thanked us for still getting together. Apparently the Southern Valley Women are the only women meeting as a group (outside of the individual churches).

**Program:** Quilts in the Shenandoah Valley presented by Alicia Thomas, Director of the Virginia Quilt Museum, Harrisonburg, Va. Alicia talked about how quilting got started, the different types of quilting and had three beautiful quilts on display.

**Announcements:**

**Virginia Synod Fall 2023 Bible Study** “Justice for Women Tapestry Thread” led by Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick on November 6, 13, 27 and December 4 at 7:00 p.m. on **Zoom**. Register at [WWW.virginiasynod.org/events](http://WWW.virginiasynod.org/events).

**All Lutheran Women’s Retreat:** Thursday-Saturday, November 7-9 2024 at the Hilton Garden Inn 4050 Cox Road, Glen Allen, Va. Speaker: Jacqueline Bussie, Author of “Love Without Limits” Radical Vision of Love with No Exceptions.”

**2024-State WLCA Convention:** At Our Savior Lutheran Church in Norge, Va. The dates will be July 26-27, 2024. Project is “Micah’s Ministeries” in Fredericksburg, Va. Items to be collected are: chapsticks, socks, ponchos, umbrellas, foot spray and deodorant.

After the program and business meeting we had refreshments.

Those attending the Fall Gathering from PV were: Linda Page, Becci Page, Rosemary Spell, Sue Cook, Jo Cline and Goldie Shiflett

**Next Meeting: Wednesday November 8, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in PV Social Hall. Program will be on “Thanksgiving.” . Please bring your yearly Thank Offering to this meeting.**

**Linda Page, WELCA Secretary**

## Our Prayers

**For the good of the church:** Our bishops, Elizabeth and Phyllis, Pastor Phyllis and all pastors and deacons.

**For those serving on military active duty:** Chapman Toman and Alex Rankin

**For healing and recovery:** Bill Braithwaite, Fred Cox, Dale Moyers, Pastor Price, Phil Dixon, Rebecca Perrin, Mary Tueting and Tina Carrillo

**For our friends and neighbors:** Lilly Myers, granddaughter of a friend of Joy Landes; **Connie**, friend of Pastor Phyllis; **Dwight Dart**, son of Karen Fauber; **Pam**, friend of Alice Fauber and Mary Garber; **Barbara Burch**, former member and choir member; **Timmy Simmons**, friend of Mark Price

### Church Contacts

Parish Secretary: Stephen Dickerson 434-996-0934

Music Director: Gary Flavin 885-8479

Organist: Stephen Dickerson 434-996-0934

Parish Nurse: Sue Cook (540) 248-1123

Financial Secretary: Becci Page Home 886-3220;; Cell 255-3887

Assistant Financial Secretary: Janet Braithwaite 886-5880 Cell (540)448-3466

Sexton: Jimmy Cox 241-8500

### Church Leadership Contact information

Pastor: Phyllis Diamond: 540-589-6988

Treasurer: Karen Fauber 290-1999

Council President: Rosemary Spell 248-1450

Council Vice President: Terry Bunch 292-1086

Council Secretary: Mary Garber 480-0444

### Committee Representatives:

Education: Larry Landes 448-0047

Evangelism: Mary Garber 480-0444

Finance and Stewardship: Rebecca Perrin 434-981-5587; John Bowers 337-7061

Hospitality and Fellowship: Debbie Hastert 430-0000

Property: Doug Painter 280-0882; John Bowers 337-7061

Social Ministry (Outreach): Rosemary Spell 703-298-3604

Worship and Music: Terry Bunch 292-1086

Youth and Recreation: Robyn Dean 490-1884



## November Birthdays

Lee St. Clair	11/1
Daniel Worrell	11/2
Mark Cline	11/3
Sue Cook	11/3
Brad Dean	11/3
Robyn Dean	11/3
Terry Bunch	11/5
Ruth Worrell	11/5
Paula Cox	11/7
Jackie Meeks	11/9
Ashby Parker Dixon	11/10
Chris Cary	11/10
Tyler Hevener	11/10
Fred Cox	11/11
Martha Arehart	11/12
Abigail Mae Bowers	11/16
Jason Garrison	11/19
Steven Link	11/19
Caden Richter	11/20
Katie Wright	11/21
Dustin Wright	11/24
Keith Richter	11/25
Cheryl McKay	11/29
Meghan Garber	11/30

## November Anniversaries

Burke & Allison Simmons 11/11/1998



## Worship Assistants for November

Assisting Minister: Terry Bunch

Ushers & Communion Preparation: Lisa & Dale Rankin

November 5, 2023	Lay Reader: Dale Rankin	Acolyte: Robyn Dean
November 12, 2023	Lay Reader: Steve Troxell	Acolyte: James Cox
November 19, 2023	Lay Reader: Emily Vayvada	Acolyte: Bill Luders
November 26, 2023	Lay Reader: Janet Braithwaite	Acolyte: James Cox