

Pastor's Pencil: *Power Outages*
Pastor Mark

When Pam and I lived in Page County, we and our neighbors got pretty good at re-setting bedside clocks, microwave ovens, video players, and so on. That is because of electric power outages, sometimes a couple a month, caused I think by tree limbs swiping at power lines. One evening, the lights went out about bedtime and remained out for a couple of hours. More than a few people were awakened by blazing lights in rooms of their homes, "Another light switch that got left on!" The longer an outage lasts the more it gets to be a pain. Nothing like a winter ice storm and a couple of days without electricity to make us thankful for everyday conveniences. We wonder, "How did our grandparents store food, wash clothes, cook meals, find out news, and more?"

Just as real and troubling, but less noticed, can be another disruption, a *spiritual power disruption*. For example, recall how the children of Israel entered Canaan with God's promise in their ears, to bless and prosper them. That help was very much needed because Canaan was already occupied by other peoples and by their gods. So, God told the people, "Remember me, follow my lead, heed my word, ask my counsel, and hold fast to me..." (Deuteronomy 30:11ff). In short, do not try this on your own power. But they did.

Do we face as many gods as Israel did? You bet we do! The spiritual powers set against us are real and the fight is on. Sometimes we may be tempted to say things like, "OK, I give up, this challenge is too big, that door has closed, things will never change." But maybe we have been relying too much on our own power. Here are questions for each to consider...

- How am I turning to God, and letting the Spirit speak to me?
- In what matter is God awaiting my obedience?
- Where does my living give evidence of the faith in me?

At the recent installation of Bishop Humphrey, ELCA bishop Elizabeth Eaton shared an insight along this line. When Jesus told people, "Follow me", he was not saying, "Walk behind me, get in line, try to keep me in sight." Rather, Jesus was saying, "Walk beside me, share my yoke and this adventure, talk with me, you are mine and I love you." Unlike electric power which can be fickle, God is sure and close-at-hand! As we admit our helplessness and ask Jesus to shepherd us we find our lives and community growing more like the one showing the way.

Pleasant View Women of the ELCA

Minutes – September 12, 2017

The Pleasant View WELCA met at Church on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

Program: Judy Shuey presented a program on Weathering the Storms of Life or “What to do When the Lights Go Out”. She read passages from the Bible as to how people handled their storms of life and how they believed in God and relied on and had faith in him to get them thru these storms. She told of how a friend of her’s had weathered a storm after his wife’s passing. Some of us expressed how we had weathered the storms in our life and how we had relied on our faith in God to get us thru.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Cards: We signed a Get Well card for Joy Campbell , and Birthday cards for Gladys Fockler and Carolyn Cox.

Treasurer’s Report: We currently have \$312.65 in our treasure and collected \$60 today.

Southern Valley Fun Trip: is Saturday, September 30, for a trip to Madison, Va. To tour Hebron Lutheran Church, the oldest Lutheran church in Va. (300 years old), with lunch at Graves Mountain Lodge. Linda Page e-mailed Betty Diehl, chairman of the Southern Valley Planning Team that no one from Pleasant View will be going this year. Joe Price announced that she understood that 48 people from the Southern Valley Group will be going on this trip.

Fall Gathering for Southern Valley, WELCA is Sunday, October 1 at 2:30 at Salem Lutheran. Speaker is: Rev. Lynn Litchfield, Dir. Of Development of GraceInside, Virginia’s Prison Chaplin Services. Goldie Shiflett has gotten a grant from Thrivent for \$250 and has purchased items for this program such as stamps, pens and pencils, etc. Judy will put a notice in the bulletin to ask members to bring any cards (birthday, holiday, blank notes etc.) they have and give to Goldie Shiflett by Sunday, October 1, 2017. We will sort them after church that Sunday and deliver them to Rev. Litchfield at the Fall Gathering that afternoon.

Memorial for Bernice Landes: Goldie Shiflett talked with Council and they suggested that an appropriate memorial for Bernice would be a Pall for Ashes. The cost is \$159 and after looking at the Almy Catalog, we decided on Pall #56474 (which is damask material with a metallic embroidered cross on the front) similar to the cross on our Casket Pall. Rosemary Spell made a motion that we purchase Pall #56474 and it was seconded by Mandy Lilly. Motion passed. Linda Page will have Becci Page order the pall from the Almay Catalog.

Heavenly Hands- We met and made 16 pints/quarts of dill pickles. Our next meeting will be Monday, September 25 at 1:00 p.m. at Church. Beth Bowers will teach us flower arranging. Each person attending should bring their own vase and flowers. Some of these arrangements will be taken to our shut-in’s.

New Business

Southern Valley Planning Team: Linda Page reported that she had gotten an e-mail from Betty Diehl, Chairman of the SV Planning Team that they needed another person to volunteer to be on the team. Linda will inform her that no one from PV is willing to serve at this time. However, Linda had talked with Lola Heffner and it appears that Lola is willing to take this position at this time.

Personals

Lucille Baker is now living at King's Daughters. **Joy Campbell** spent some time at AH but is back in church now.

On behalf of Debbie Blackwell's family and friends, thank you for your visits, prayers, and outreach services during the last several years of her life. In so many ways she was special in the unconditional love she shared with anyone she met. She made friends at school, in Special Olympics, in adult daycare services, and with her hospice caregivers. We are all better people for having Debbie touch our lives. As Debbie would say, "God bless you."

October birthdays

Judy Shuey	10-2
Howard Fockler	10-3
Ryan Leach	10-3
Berkley Dean	10-6
Weston Dean	10-6
Alma Landes	10-9
David Magoon	10-9
Howard Fockler	10-10
Amy Moyers	10-10
Andrew Luders	10-12
Julia Dixon	10-13
Gary Roudabush	10-13
Debbie Blackwell	10-14
Corbin Wheeler	10-17
Bob Hise	10-20
Malcolm Link	10-20
Betty Link	10-21
Alisha Cary	10-24
Marvin Fauber	10-24
Betty Cox	10-25
Hunter Richardson	10-25
Van Hizer	10-26
Andrew Cary	10-27
Michael Thompson	10-27
Kenneth Landes	10-29
Diane Hizer	10-30
Niall Hurt	10-31
Doug Painter	10-31
Steve Troxell	10-31

October Anniversaries

Bill and Janet Braithwaite	10-4-81
Dale and Amy Moyers	10-4-97