

The *VIEW*

News of the Ministries of Pleasant View Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Soon we will enter the season of Lent. As we begin, we receive the sign of the cross upon our foreheads on Ash Wednesday. The cross is drawn with the ashes of palm branches which were waved in celebration and were laid on the road to soften the path of the animal which bore Jesus into Jerusalem. These ashes remind us of our mortality and the briefness of life. We hear the sobering reminder that we are made of dust and to dust we will return in the liturgy for Ash Wednesday.

The cross reminds us of his sacrificial love. It reminds us to imitate Jesus in denying ourselves and taking up our own crosses as we follow him. For the early disciples, taking up the cross meant risking one's life in order to follow Jesus and his teachings at a time when the forces of evil sought to destroy them. To take up the cross meant a literal death.

In our day, we don't face the persecution and the threats of death as they did, but the things which would draw us away from Jesus are ever present. The crosses we bear are different, not literal crosses, but they represent the ways in which we strive to die to ourselves and live a new life in Christ. These crosses are not the usual things which happen to us such as accidents, economic crises, illnesses of all sorts and even death. They are the things we endure for the sake of the gospel. They are the things we set aside because they hinder our spiritual growth and the health of the community of faith. We reject destructive habits, preconceived ideas about others and judgement of others. We embrace the things which mold us in the image of Christ. These things include prayer, meditation upon the Word, fasting and doing acts of love and charity for others just as Jesus did. The things that build faith are the things we embrace. The things which destroy faith are set aside, not only for Lent but on a daily basis throughout the year.

Just as we were marked with the cross of Christ in our baptism, we are marked with the ashen crosses of Lent. In the discipline of Lent, we prepare to meet Our Lord once more in his life-giving passion, death and resurrection. May we follow his example of prayer as in Gethsemane by laying down our wills in order to do the will of our heavenly Father.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Phyllis

January 28, following the Worship Service: Hospitality Committee 2024 Planning Meeting. New members are invited to attend.

Thursday, February 1: Council Meeting at 5 p.m. in the Social Hall: The Church Council has ongoing issues that must be addressed to ensure the appropriate planning for worship services, overseeing the operations of our Church, and discussing transition issues for the 2024 Council. If you have any questions or suggestions for the Council's consideration, please submit them to Terry Bunch (preferably in writing) no later than January 28.

Sundays, 10 a.m.: Open Door Class meets in the Social Hall. On February 11 we will begin the "Journeying through Lent with Mark." Teachers: Bryan Huffman, Larry Landes, Bill Luders, Rosemary Spell and Stephen Troxell. All are welcome to attend.

Change for Hope/"Red Bucket Collections:" The Council has approved the following "Red Bucket" collections: **February 4: GraceInside** is a chaplain service "bringing faith, hope, and love to incarcerated men and women in Virginia's correctional facilities."

February 4, First Sunday Birthday and Anniversary Celebration is in the Social Hall immediately following the worship service: In addition, we will celebrate with our appreciation for our PVELC employees and unpaid positions. Thank you to Robyn and Brad Dean for providing the cake for today's celebration. If you would like to provide the cake or cupcakes for a First Sunday celebration in 2024, a sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board in the Main Hall.

Wednesday, February 7, Choir Practice, at 6 p.m.: All are welcome as Choir Practice resumes. Choir Director, Gary Flavin. Organist, Stephen Dickerson.

Saturday, February 10, 9 a.m.: Blessings Group will meet at Cosette Café, 101 W. Beverley Street, Staunton. Anyone interested should contact Joy Landes.

Sunday, February 11, PVELC Congregational Meeting will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following the worship service. Please plan to attend. The agenda will include presentation and distribution of the annual report and income/expense report for 2023; distribution of the annual congregational directory; and approval of the Nominating Committee members for 2024. If you are unable to attend the congregational meeting and would like a copy of the 2023 Annual Report/Congregational Directory, please contact Stephen Dickerson or Becci Page after February 11.

Sunday, February 11, Called Congregation Meeting following the Congregational Meeting – also in the Sanctuary. Our current Constitution is dated 2013. This second called meeting will be to cast your vote to "ratify" 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. On December 17, 2023, at a special called meeting, those present

voted to approve the new Constitution – the first step in the approval process. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact any member of the Constitution Committee: Terry Bunch, Pastor Phyllis, Bryan Huffman, Larry Landes, Rosemary Spell, Carol and Steve Troxell, or Susan Wright.

Tuesday, February 13, at 10 a.m.: WELCA will meet in the Social Hall. Program: Video on Micha's Ecumenical Ministries and further planning for this year. All are welcome. For further information on WELCA activities, please contact either Becci Page or Linda Page.

Shrove Tuesday, February 13, 5-7 p.m.: The Salem Lutheran Church Men's Group will sponsor a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in the Imagine Center at Salem.

There will be several varieties of pancakes, sausage patties and sausage gravy as well as condiments to go with the meal. A free-will offering will be appreciated.

Lent: February 14 through March 28

February 14, Ash Wednesday Worship Service, at 7:00 p.m., including Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

Here I Am, an interfaith learning event will be held on **Saturday, February 17th at Temple House of Israel from 12noon to 1pm**. This is a collaborative effort that will explore the response from Samuel, Moses, Isaiah and Abraham. The Shenandoah Valley Biblical Storytellers, Rabbi Randi Nagel and Pastor Phyllis Diamond will offer a retelling of these events and insights for application to our lives today. A light lunch will be served, and **registration is required before February 10th at thoirabbi@gmail.com**. Those who plan to come for lunch should RSVP as soon as possible and should plan to arrive at 11:15a.m. as lunch will be served before the program starts. There is a vegetarian option for the meal. There is no charge for this event. For more information, contact Pastor Phyllis.

Sunday, February 18, at 9 a.m.: **Worship and Music Committee:** Meeting in the Choir Room.

Wednesday Lenten Services: February 21 and 28, March 6, 13 and 20 at 5 p.m. in the Social Hall. Soup and Sandwiches followed by a Lenten vespers. The focus for the Lenten vespers is "Here, I Am: A Faithful Response to God's Call." The Council Committees will coordinate food for each Wednesday's meal. Everyone, please volunteer with your Council representative or Committee coordinator to bring either soup or sandwiches. Drinks will be provided.

Friday, February 23, at 12:30 p.m.: **Pleasant View Lutheran Men of Faith Gathering** at Rowe's Restaurant. Anyone interested should contact Larry Landes, Gene Lilly, or Steve Troxell.

Mondays, March 11, at 7 p.m. (also April 8): Pleasant View will serve a meal to the Spring Hill Ruritan Club in the Social Hall. Net proceeds benefit Open Door Class Projects. For details, please contact Goldie Shiflett.

March 24, Palm Sunday (Sunday of the Passion) at 11 a.m. The Worship Service will include procession with palm branches and a narrative reading of **“The Passion of Our Lord According to Mark.”** Please plan to attend and volunteer to participate as a reader. Contact: Pastor Phyllis or Gary Flavin.

Live Easter Lilies and “Easter Lily” Project (donations in lieu of live Easter Lilies): Forms are available in the Narthex, in the Main Hallway, and via email. The cost of a live Easter Lily is **\$11.75** each; checks are payable to Terry Bunch. The deadline for ordering is **March 24**. The deadline for the “Easter Lily” Donation Project is **March 28**, provide donation form to either Terry Bunch or Stephen Dickerson.

March 28, Maundy Thursday, at 6 p.m. in the Social Hall: Please bring a covered dish for the meal (meat and drinks will be provided). A Worship Service, including Holy Communion, will be held immediately following the meal.

March 29, Good Friday, at 7 p.m. Tenebrae Worship Service will be held in the Sanctuary.

March 31, Easter Sunday, at 11 a.m.: Easter Celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord.

February 2-4, Winter Celebration: This Virginia Synod faith formation retreat is open for 9th -12th graders and their adult advisors. The venue is Eagle Eyrie Conference Center, Lynchburg, VA. If interested, please contact Terry Bunch for scholarship support. Early registration discount ends January 8. <https://vasynod.org/event/winter-celebration/>

February 5-7, 5:45 to 7:15 p.m.: Mid-Winter Power in the Spirit Online Event. Commemorating Lydia (Acts 16.11-15), Dorcas (Acts 9.36-43), and Phoebe (Romans 16.1-16) and celebrating ministries of Business/Philanthropy, Compassion for Others, and Servant Leadership. Pastor Phyllis is planning to present the Bible study regarding Lydia. Register today at <https://vasynod.org/event/midwinter-power-in-the-spirit-2/>

Congratulations! Thank You to Staff Sergeant Chapman Toman for his service to our country for the last eight years. Except for his initial training, Chapman was assigned to the NSA at Fort Meade, MD. Best wishes to him in the next phase of his life. Chapman is the son of Shawn and Kimberley Toman.

Address Update: Mary Tueting is now at Brookdale, 1900 Hillsmere Lane, Room 109, Staunton, VA 24401. Mary's cell phone number is 540-430-7272.

In Memoriam: David Albert Helmick passed away on January 12. Our prayers and condolences to Christine Puffenbarger and her extended family on the loss of her brother-in-law.

COMMUNION OPTIONS: Prefilled (disposable) communion packets are located in the Narthex. Please pick up a packet of wine/wafer or juice/wafer if you choose this form of Holy Communion rather than participating in Intinction. During Communion you may either bring your disposable packet with you to the front of the sanctuary or you may remain in your seat.

Blessings Box: This project of the Evangelism Committee is the bright blue box which has been placed on the edge of the sidewalk. 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.

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. **Giving**

Envelopes: Please let Becci Page know as soon as possible if you want to change your current contribution method of giving. If you would like to stop receiving envelopes in lieu of using a "giving number" or do not have envelopes but would like to use them, let her know. Otherwise, Becci will continue your current method for 2024. **PVELC "Cash" Contributions:** Plain envelopes are available in the Narthex for donating cash to PVELC. Be sure to include your name. these envelopes may also be used for Red Bucket cash contributions. **Financial Giving:** Please contact Becci Page to request a copy of your personal 2023 PVELC Financial Giving.

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.

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:” January, February, March devotional booklets are available in the Narthex and Main Hall.

“Gathered into One,” Devotions for Lent: The booklet provides daily devotions for February 14 through March 30. “Devotions begin with an evocative image and a brief passage from 1 Corinthians. The writers then bring their diverse voices and pastoral wisdom to the texts with quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers.” Copies are available in the Narthex.

Lent Study Guide 2024 from ELCA’s 40 Days of Giving: Weekly Devotion on Psalm 32, 121, 95, 23 and 130 is available in the Narthex and Main Hall.

“World Hunger Calendar – Lent 2024:” February 14 – March 30 devotional leaflets are available in the Narthex and Main Hall.

Spark Quarterly Bulletin, “Faith, Hope, Love:” Spark Worship quarterly bulletins engage kids (and adults) with fun activities that connect them to worship practices, lectionary readings, and the people who are worshipping with them. If you would like to receive a copy for your children or grandchildren, please contact Larry Landes or Rosemary Spell.

“Living Lutheran:” The printed magazine is no longer available. “While this is the last print issue of Living Lutheran, the magazine’s content will continue to be available at <https://www.livinglutheran.org/> at no cost to our readers. No login information is needed to access the website. Sign up at <https://www.livinglutheran.org/subscribe/> for the magazine’s free e-digest, where you can get links to stories based on your preferences delivered to your inbox weekly, biweekly or monthly.” Living Lutheran, November/December 2023 issue.

“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.

**Pleasant View Women of the ELCA
Minutes January 10, 2024**

The Pleasant View WELCA met Wednesday, January 10, 2024 in the church social hall.

Program: We had no program as this was our yearly planning meeting.

Changing Day of Meeting: We had some requests to move our meetings back to the second TUESDAY of the month. After discussion it was decided we will move our meetings back to the 2nd TUESDAY of the month.

Treasurer's Report: Sue Cook reported we have \$450.27 in our treasurer including today's offering.

Cards: We signed and sent get well, thinking of you and birthday cards to our sick and shut-in's.

Pill Bottle Collection for Matthew 25 Ministries. Linda reported that during October, November and December, we collected 148 pill bottles. However, there are a few more people who still want to contribute. She will let us know the final total.

Thankoffering Zoom Meeting: We received notice from the Va. Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) about a church wide zoom meeting on Thank Offering to be held Sunday, January 28 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. EST. Those interested in viewing this zoom meeting, need to preregister on the VSWO website.

Virginia Snodical Women's Organization Annual Convention is July 26 and 27 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Norge, Va.. Love Offering Project for this year is Micah's Ecumenical Ministries in Fredericksburg, Va. They are in need of money, first aid kits, umbrellas, personal care items, notebooks, etc.

Plans for 2024: Since we had so few people attending the meeting today, we were not able to complete our yearly planning. So far we have the following:

February-Video on Micah's Ecumenical Ministries
May-SVWO Spring Bible Study
July- Love Offering month and Annual Convention July 26and 27
July/August-SVWO-fun get together
September-Picnic at Jo Cline's home
October SVWO Fall Gathering (usually 2nd Sunday of the month) Place TBA and Blanket Sunday.
November-Thank Offering
December-visit Shut-ins

Next Meeting: TUESDAY, February 13, in church social hall. We will do more planning for the year and view video of Micha's Ecumenical Ministries.

Those Present today: Sue Cook, Terry Bunch, Jo Cline, Linda Page and Becci Page

Linda Page, WELCA Secretary

Our Prayers

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

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For those serving on military active duty: Alex Rankin

For healing and recovery: Bill Braithwaite, Fred Cox, Pastor Price, Phil Dixon, Mary Tueting, Rebecca Perrin, Jimmy Cox, Tina Puffenbarger-Carrillo, Roger Shiflett, Susan St.Clair, Val Smith and Mike Lilly

For our friends and neighbors: Lilly Myers, granddaughter of a friend of Joy Landes; **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; **Terri Pomphrey and her mother**, friends of Tina Puffenbarger-Carrillo; **Jeremy Magoon**, family of Kenneth, Linda and Becci Page; **Vera Baker**, friend of Mandy Lilly; **Margo Leach**, prayers requested by her daughter Kimberley and the Leach family

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: Terry Bunch 292-1086

Council Vice President: Rosemary Spell 248-1450

Council Secretary: Mary Garber 480-0444

Committee Representatives:

Education: Larry Landes 448-0047

Evangelism: Mary Garber 480-0444

Finance and Stewardship: John Bowers 337-7061

Hospitality and Fellowship: Terry Bunch 292-1086

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

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

Worship and Music: Rosemary Spell 703-298-3604

Youth and Recreation: Bill Luders 271-1101

February Birthdays

Forester Wright	2/3
Ian Hensley	2/5
Tara Magoon	2/5
Goldie Shiflett	2/5
David Beisner	2/7
Rachel Coffin Townsend	2/10
Sibbie Jetton	2/10
Eddie Michael	2/11
Mary Tueting	2/16
Valerie Smith	2/18
Obsidian Sumner Hastert	2/21
Allison Simmons	2/19
Dylan Moyers	2/22
Christine Puffenbarger	2/24
Duane Perrin	2/25

February Anniversaries

Kenny & Betty Jordan	2/14/1992
Clark & Tanya Cook	2/24/2008



Worship Assistants for February

Assisting Minister: Michael Vayvada

Ushers & Communion Preparation: Roger & Goldie Shiflett

February 4, 2024	Lay Reader: Robyn Dean	Acolyte: James Cox
February 11, 2024	Lay Reader: Dale Rankin	Acolyte: Lisa Rankin
February 18, 2024	Lay Reader: Larry Landes	Acolyte: Dale Rankin
February 25, 2024	Lay Reader: Steve Troxell	Acolyte: James Cox

February

Everyday Faith from CPH

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1

Read
Luke 2:25–26.
What does the word
devout mean?

2

Read
Luke 2:27–32.
Pray for all to
see salvation.

3

Read
Luke 2:33–35.
Write a thank-you
card to Jesus.

4

Read
Psalm 147:1.
Choose a song to sing
as a family.

5

Read
Psalm 147:2–3.
Pray for someone you
know who needs healing.

6

Read
Psalm 147:4.
Learn about
a constellation.

7

Read
Psalm 147:5.
Memorize this verse.

8

Read
Psalm 147:6–7.
Choose a hymn to sing.

9

Read
Psalm 147:8–9.
Draw what you hear.

10

Read
Psalm 147:10–11.
What does it mean to
hope in His love?

11

Read
2 Corinthians 3:12–13.
Look up Exodus 34:27–35
and explain why Moses
wore a veil.

12

Read
2 Corinthians 4:1.
Pray for someone who
needs comfort and strength.

13

Read
2 Corinthians 4:2.
Read the portion on Con-
fession and Absolution in
Luther's Small Catechism.

14

Read
2 Corinthians 4:3.
Sing "From Depths
of Woe I Cry to Thee"
(LSB 607).

15

Read
2 Corinthians 4:4.
Pray for someone who
doesn't know Jesus.

16

Read
2 Corinthians 4:5.
Shout, "Jesus is Lord!"

17

Read
2 Corinthians 4:6.
Draw a picture of light.

18

Read
James 1:12.
Ask a grown-up
about a time he or she
was under trial.

19

Read
James 1:13–14.
Read the explanation of
the Sixth Petition in
Luther's Small Catechism.

20

Read
James 1:15–16.
What does it mean to
"not be deceived"?

21

Read
James 1:17–18.
Thank God for the gifts
He gives!

22

Read
Mark 1:9–10.
Talk about your Baptism.

23

Read
Mark 1:11–13.
What is the season
of Lent?

24

Read
Mark 1:14–15.
Take turns explaining
the Gospel.

25

Read
Romans 5:1–2.
Choose one way to rejoice
in the glory of God today.

26

Read
Romans 5:3–5.
Sing "Holy, Holy, Holy"
(LSB 507).

27

Read
Romans 5:6–8.
Say "Christ
died for us" together.

28

Read
Romans 5:9–10.
What does **reconciliation**
mean?

29

Read
Romans 5:11.
Memorize this verse.



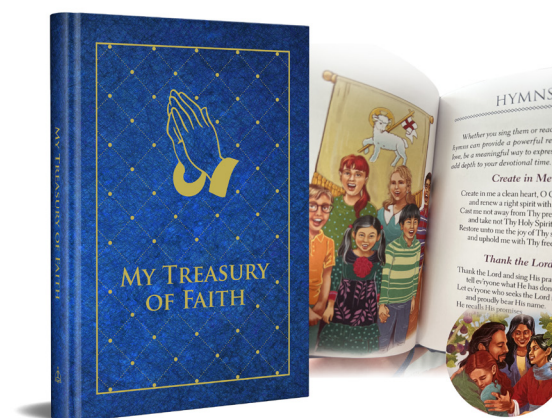
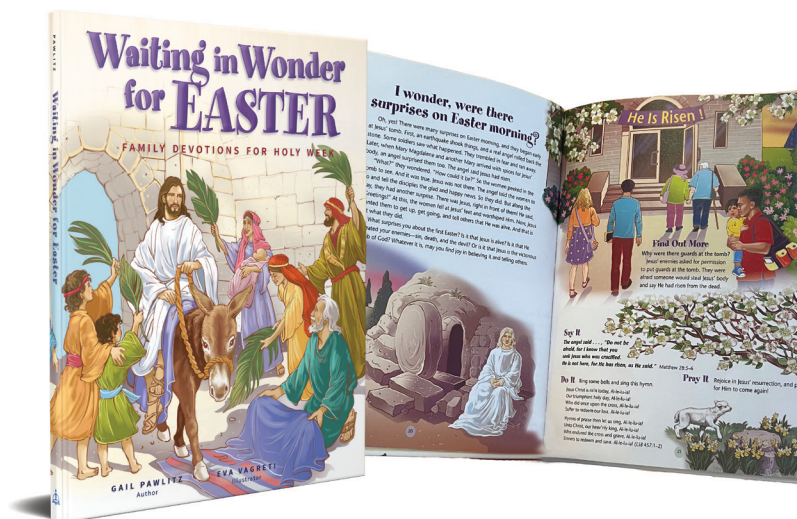
Featured Family Resources for Lent and Easter

Waiting in Wonder for Easter: Family Devotions for Holy Week

Bring your children on a journey to the empty tomb with these fifteen devotions. With colorful illustrations, Bible verses, suggested activities, and prayers, *Waiting in Wonder for Easter* will help your family better understand the significance of Lent and Easter.

My Treasury of Faith

Perfect for a keepsake gift in your child's Easter basket, *My Treasury of Faith* outlines the foundations of faith—like Scripture, hymns, prayers, and faith basics—in a pocket-sized, illustrated format.



Browse more Easter books at cph.org/easterbooks.

Browse more Easter books at cph.org/my-treasury-of-faith.

