

The *VIEW*

News of the Ministries of Pleasant View Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 2023

Blessed Advent

On a recent shopping trip, I saw a sign hanging in the store window which expressed how all of the holidays we enjoy get run together in the world of retail. It read, *Happy Thankmas*. Happy Halloween, Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas. It's no wonder that we often feel rushed to purchase holiday items since they come back-to-back. As a good girl scout, I like being prepared but I am beginning to think that we are missing out on the most important things when the days rush by and get into one big retail extravaganza, a Happy Thankmas.

What we miss, I think, is the meaningful remembrances and faith building experiences of All Saints Day when we spend weeks getting ready for Halloween. On Thanksgiving, it's easy to get hung up cooking and enjoying traditional meals and football. We risk letting the day get away without feeling heartfelt gratitude and returning thanks for all of the blessings we have received.

One thing I have learned in life, especially in my shopping experiences, is that no one likes to wait. A split second goes by before the car horns urge on a well-intentioned driver when the traffic light turns green. Don't like to wait? Check yourself out in most stores these days. It's no wonder that Advent gets pushed aside for Christmas parties and activities. Even the most devout find it hard to abstain from the celebration that happens long before the 25th in our culture.

I would like to challenge you, as I challenge myself, to savor the waiting of Advent and hold off the celebration of Christmas. What if we slowed down and gave extra thought to all that came together to bring the Savior into the world? How was it that the prophets were given the messages of a coming messiah for the people? What was it like for Mary to receive the message of the coming birth of a son? How must Joseph have felt about being a father to a child who was not his own? In the waiting, we have time to consider these and many other wonders of his birth.

As we light the candles each week, let us take time to consider how the coming of Jesus into the world has changed it dramatically for the better. When we were children, the waiting and anticipation was almost unbearable. As adults, we have the ability to rush forward, but let us consider slowing down and enjoying the anticipation of the coming of God's beloved son to gather us into God's family as God's children.

Blessed Advent,
Pastor Phyllis

November 26: "Time and Talent" - 2024: 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. **Please return to Stephen Dickerson.**

Saturday, December 2, at 10:00 a.m.: Advent Wreath and decorating for Christmas. We need volunteers to help, especially men to help put up the tree.

Sundays, at 10 a.m.: Open Door Sunday School Class. Join us in an Advent study from November 19 through December 10 (Advent Reflections: "I Wonder as I Wander"). All are welcome to attend. The Class will not meet December 17, 24, or 31. Teachers: Bryan Huffman, Larry Landes, Bill Luders, Rosemary Spell and Stephen Troxell.

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

Change for Hope/"Red Bucket Collections:" The Council has approved the following "Red Bucket" collections: **December 3, 17, and 31: General Fund.**

Sunday, December 3 and 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 in 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 it no later than December 17th.**

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

December: Take A Little Christmas With You: There will be a display of Christmas Ornaments in the Narthex. You are welcome to take an ornament home to enjoy. We ask you to take one per household please. Merry Christmas!

December 3-24 is Advent Season.

Sunday, December 3, First Sunday Birthday and Anniversary Celebration will be held immediately following the Worship Service in the Main Hall. Thank you to Sandi and Doug Painter for providing the cake.

December 3-31: Evangelism Committee, 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.

Wednesdays, December 6 and 13, at 5 p.m.: Advent Services and fellowship with soup and sandwiches in the Social Hall. All are welcome; invite a friend. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the main hallway for those who would like to provide either soup or sandwiches.

Sunday, December 17, at 10 a.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. Newly elected Council members should plan to attend: Burke Simmons and Bill Luders. If you have any questions or suggestions for the Council's consideration, please submit them to Rosemary Spell (preferably in writing) no later than December 10.

The Blessings Group will not be meeting in December. Our next meeting will be January 13 at 9 a.m. @ Panara Bread in Waynesboro.

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 meatloaf and drinks. Please bring covered dishes, salads and desserts.

Sunday, December 17, 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 on November 12. If you have questions or comments, please contact either Rosemary Spell or Carol Troxell. 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 has been provided in a separate letter along with a copy of the proposed Constitution. If you have not received a copy and would like one, please contact Rosemary Spell.

Sunday, December 24, at 11 a.m.: Advent Worship Service, including Holy Communion.

Saturday, December 24, at 7 p.m.: Christmas Eve Worship Service, including Holy Communion.

Sunday, December 31, at 11 a.m.: Celebration of Christmas Season with Lessons and Carols.

Sunday, November 12: PVELC Congregational meeting highlights.

The congregation met and approved minutes from the February 12th congregational meeting and September 3rd called congregational meeting; reviewed selected 2023 year-to-date financials and approved the 2024 financial budget; received an update on multiple Property repair and replacement projects; and elected Council members (Burke Simmons and Bill Luders) for a three-year term. Thank you to Robyn Dean, Debbie Hastert, and Rebecca Perrin for serving on the Council for the preceding period. The following trustees were re-elected to serve five-year terms beginning in 2024: Roger Shiflett and Steve Troxell. Burke Simmons was elected to serve as trustee effective February 2024. A special thanks to David Simmons for serving several terms as our church trustee. If you wish to receive a copy of the approved 2024 budget, please contact either Karen Fauber or Rosemary Spell.

Property Issues Update: The right wall in the Sanctuary has been painted to address the water damage from the leak in the copper roofing. If you have any follow-up questions, please contact the Property Committee Council representatives: John Bowers and Doug Painter. If you would like to donate toward any of the 2023 projects, please designate “Building Fund” in the memo line of your check. Thank you.

Staunton Choral Society Christmas Concert: December 3, at 4 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church and December 10, at 7 p.m. at the Blackfriars Playhouse.

SACRA Christmas Benefit Concert: December 4, at 7 p.m. at Memorial Baptist Church, Staunton.

2024 First Sunday Celebration: If you would like to provide the cake for a First Sunday celebration in 2024, 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.

January 14: 2024 Committee Reports and Directory Updates:

Committee and Group Reports: Council Committees and PVELC groups (e.g., WELCA, Memorial Fund) should email their 2023 activities and initiatives report to Stephen Dickerson **no later than January 14.**

Updating Church Directory (addresses, email addresses, phone numbers): Please provide any changes to names, phone numbers (landline and cell), and email addresses to either Becci Page or Stephen Dickerson **no later than January 14**. The updated Directory will be part of release at the Congregational Meeting scheduled on February 11. Please include names for all family and church friends.

Blessing 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.

WELCA Is Collecting Used Pill Bottles for Third World Countries: (prescription and over the counter) through 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 "Cash" Contributions: Labeled 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.

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, December devotions) is available in the Narthex and Main Hall.

“Come, Emmanuel” (Devotions for Advent and Christmas 2023-2024) is available in the Narthex.

Families Celebrate: 2023-2024 Advent & Christmas: “Celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons! Each card features a ritual, prayer, reflection, or activity for families.” Cards are dated for use each day from the first Sunday of Advent, (December 3) to the Day of Epiphany (January 6). Card decks have been distributed to families and are available in the Narthex.

Advent Study 2023 from ELCA World Hunger; Weekly Devotion on Revelation, Invitation, Vocation, and Proclamation is available in the Narthex and Main Hall.

“Luther’s Small Catechism – pocket edition” is available in the Narthex and Main Hall. Please pick up a copy.

Spark Quarterly Bulletins: Spark Worship 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 either Larry Landes or Rosemary Spell.

“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.

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

The Pleasant View WELCA met Wednesday, November 8, 2023 in the church social hall.

Program: Linda Page presented a program on Thanksgiving

Cards: We signed a birthday card for Fred Cox and a birthday/get well card for Jackie Meeks.

Treasurers Report: Sue Cook reported that we had \$535 in our treasurer. Blanket offering was \$700. Offering today was \$45. Thank Offering was \$175.

Comfort Care: sent us a letter requesting we sponsor Christmas gifts for one of their recent patients. After discussion, we decided not to participate in this project this year.

Christmas Gifts: We will send a Walmart Gift Card for \$25 to our service members, Chapman Toman and Alex Rankin. We also are donating \$25 to Western State Hospital for Christmas gifts.

Those attending today were: Linda Page, Becci Page, Sue Cook and Terry Bunch

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER: We will visit shut-ins.

Next Meeting: Wednesday January 10, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in PV Social Hall. This will be our yearly planning meeting. We will decide then if we want to move our meetings back to Tuesdays.

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, Pastor Price, Phil Dixon, Mary Tueting, Rebecca Perrin, Jimmy Cox and Jackie Meeks

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; **Chevelle**, great-granddaughter of Mandy & Gene Lilly; **Terri Pomphrey and her mother**, friends of Tina Puffenbarger-Carrillo

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

December Birthdays

Laurel Simmons	12/3
Joy Landes	12/7
Rachel Dixon	12/9
Peyton Elizabeth Hevener	12/11
Fred Leach	12/12
Larry Meeks	12/12
Clark Fairll Cook	12/13
Tom Cox	12/14
Kenneth Page	12/15
Billy Coffin	12/17
Mike Cox	12/19
Brody Lilly	12/19
Betty Jordan	12/20
Jo Cline	12/21
Brock Patrick Bowers	12/22
Isabella Carrillo	12/23
Krissy Roudabush	12/24
John Knott	12/26
Clark James Cook	12/27
Shawn Toman	12/27
Rebecca Perrin	12/28
Emily Hensley	12/30

December Anniversaries

John & Frances Knott	12/1/1995
Dennis & Debbie Hastert	12/14/1985



Worship Assistants for December

Assisting Minister: Bill Luders

Ushers & Communion Preparation: Dennis & Debbie Hastert

December 3, 2023	Lay Reader: Duane Perrin	Acolyte: Robyn Dean
December 10, 2023	Lay Reader: Steve Troxell	Acolyte: Lisa Rankin
December 17, 2023	Lay Reader: Bill Luders	Acolyte: Robyn Dean
December 24, 2023	Lay Reader: Doug Diamond	Acolyte: James Cox
December 31, 2023	Lay Reader: Gary Flavin	Acolyte: Dale Rankin