

The *VIEW*

News of the Ministries of Pleasant View Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 2024



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It has been a great joy and privilege to serve the Lord with you this past year. I have been blessed by your encouraging words as well as your honest reflections of our work together. I think it is true that we are a work in progress, God's work. We are learning each other's ways and habits, where our strengths are and where we can strengthen the ministry we share. I am thankful for your flexibility and your support for new things such as the Blessing Box. I am so pleased to see that it seems to be meeting a need in the community and is a wonderful way to build connections with people we may never see. The real core of the gospel is being shared through food, Christian books and books for children. Prayer requests are being taken, warm hats and a number of small gifts are finding their way into the hands of those who may never have read the Bible or had a friend in the church. May they hear the gospel through our kindnesses and well as our words.

We have been blessed by your presence and your prayers this past year and look forward to our ministry together in the coming year. As we celebrate these twelve days of Christmas together, may the Lord continue to bless us as we gather around Word and sacrament and be strengthened for the days ahead.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Phyllis

Sunday, December 31, at 11 a.m.: Celebration of Christmas Season with Lessons and Carols. Pastor Phyllis will return to the office on Wednesday, January 3.

Change for Hope/"Red Bucket Collections:" The Council has approved the following "Red Bucket" collections: **December 31 and January 7 and 14: 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.

2024 Council and Executive Officers: Terry Bunch, President; Rosemary Spell, Vice President; Mary Garber, Secretary; Karen Fauber, Treasurer. John Bowers, Larry Landes, Bill Luders, Doug Painter, Burke Simmons, and Pastor Phyllis Diamond. Thank you to Robyn Dean, Debbie Hastert, and Rebecca Perrin for serving on the Council, 2021-2023.

Thursday, January 4: 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 2.

Saturday, January 6, Epiphany of Our Lord, concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ.

Sunday, January 7, Baptism of Our Lord. In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God.

Sunday, January 7, at 10 a.m.: Open Door Class will resume. Teachers: Bryan Huffman, Larry Landes, Bill Luders, Rosemary Spell and Stephen Troxell. All are welcome to attend.

Sunday, January 7: Dedication of Exterior Doors

January 7, First Sunday Birthday and Anniversary Celebration is following the worship service: Thank you to Sue Cook 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. Thank you to those who provided either cake or cupcakes for this monthly social event in 2023.

Wednesday, January 10, at 10 a.m.: WELCA will meet in the Social Hall. This is the group's annual planning meeting. We will decide at this meeting if we want to go back to having our meetings on Tuesdays. All are welcome. For further information on WELCA activities, please contact either Becci Page or Linda Page.

Saturday, January 13, 9 a.m.: Blessings Group will meet at Panera Bread in Waynesboro. Anyone interested should contact Joy Landes.

January 14: Installation of Council Members.

January 14: 2024 Committee Reports and Directory Updates:

- **Committee and Group Reports:** Council Committees and PVELC groups (e.g., WELCA, Pleasant Memories) should email their 2022 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.

Sunday, January 21, at 9 a.m.: Worship and Music Committee Meeting in the Choir Room.

Friday, January 26, 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.

Wednesday, February 7, Choir Practice, at 6 p.m.: The choir is taking a well-deserved choir practice break during the month of January. All are welcome when Choir Practice resumes on February 7. Choir Director, Gary Flavin. Organist, Stephen Dickerson.

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, 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.

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. The theme is “Witness Like the Women – Commemorating Lydia, Dorcas and Phoebe.” Additional information will be provided; there is no charge to participate. <https://vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit/>

Thank you to the Worship Team, Council, and Committee members for their 2023 initiatives. A special thanks to those participating in December Advent and Christmas activities:

- Council: A special thanks to the members who completed serving a three-year term: Robyn Dean, Debbie Hastert, and Rebecca Perrin.
- Worship Team: Pastor Phyllis, Gary Flavin and Stephen Dickerson; and to everyone who served during 2023 as Assisting Ministers, Lectors, Acolytes, Ushers, Communion Assistants, Altar Guild, Committee members.
- Financial Team: Karen Fauber, Becci Page, Janet Braithwaite, and to those who served as Offering and Red Bucket counters.
- Education: Distribution of youth and family devotional materials; Open Door class teachers.
- Evangelism: Christmas ornaments, greeting cards, gift exchange table, Blessing Box.
- Hospitality: decorations and set up for Christmas luncheons on December 18 and 25
- Property: New exterior doors, painting projects, roofing and gutter projects and to Jimmy Cox, Sexton.
- Social Ministry: Members supporting the Red Bucket and Change for Hope initiatives.
- Youth & Adults: Participation in the Cricket County play and Red Bucket collections.
- Volunteers who decorated the church sanctuary and Social Hall for special services.
- Prayer Chain: Thank you, Linda Page; Parish Nurse: Sue Cook
- WELCA: Visits to assisted living and homebound members.
- PVELC Members: Poinsettias and Poinsettia project donations.
- Special Groups and Committees: Blessings Group, Men in Faith Group, Memorial Committee, WELCA.
- Pleasant View Trustees: Roger Shiflett, David Simmons and Steve Troxell.
- Pleasant View Cemetery Association officers and organization members.
- Everyone: Thank you for your ongoing participation and financial support of PVELC.

In Memoriam: Faye Douglas (Truxell) Woods passed away on December 26. Our prayers and condolences to her immediate family and to the extended family of Walter and Ella Link.

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. 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.

- **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.
- **Financial Giving:** Please contact Becci Page to request a copy of your personal 2023 PVELC Financial Giving.

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.

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

“Living Lutheran:” 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.

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

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 Tina Puffenbarger-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; **Terri Pomphrey and her mother**, friends of Tina Puffenbarger-Carrillo; **Hannah Lockhart-Lawson, her husband Matthew and their pre-mature newborn son.** Hannah is the granddaughter of Howard Ratcliffe and his wife June; **Jeremy Magoon**, family of Kenneth, Linda and Becci Page

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: TBA

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: TBA

January Birthdays

Stephanie Jetton	1/1
Brooklyn Burns	1/4
Michael Vayvada	1/5
Noah Mason Roudabush	1/7
Sydney Moyers	1/7
Dale Rankin	1/10
Pastor Phyllis Diamond	1/11
Becci Page	1/12
Doug Diamond	1/16
Gary Flavin	1/20
Dennis Hastert	1/24
Jennifer Cline	1/26
Francis Michael	1/26
Jeremy Roudabush	1/27
Mike Cary	1/28
Von Simmons	1/28
Erika Leach	1/29

January Anniversaries

Jeremy & Tara Magoon	1/1/2000
Howard & June Ratcliffe	1/1/1986
Bill & Rebecca Coffin	1/17/1992



Thank You: “Thank you for the cards, visits and the meal brought in when I came home from the hospital. All of your prayers were appreciated and still are. I couldn’t ask for a church family like Pleasant View. Thanks Jimmy”

Thank You to Our Choir for the beautiful Christmas Cantata, “Carols and Candles,” presented during our Worship Service on December 17. Pleasant View is fortunate to have the talents of our choir members and a special thanks to Gary Flavin, Choir Director, and Stephen Dickerson, Organist, for the music they coordinate for us every Sunday.

Worship Assistants for January

Assisting Minister: Duane Perrin

Ushers & Communion Preparation: Steve & Carol Troxell

January 7, 2024	Lay Reader: Michael Vayvada	Acolyte: Dale Rankin
January 14, 2024	Lay Reader: Phil Dixon	Acolyte: Lisa Rankin
January 21, 2024	Lay Reader: Janet Braithwaite	Acolyte: James Cox
January 28, 2024	Lay Reader: Terry Bunch	Acolyte: Robyn Dean

January

Everyday Faith from CPH

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1

Read
Hebrews 13:8.

Write this verse on a sticky note as a reminder for this year.

2

Read
Psalm 18:33.

Look up pictures of a deer on a tall mountain.

3

Read
James 1:17.

Name a good gift God has given you.

4

Read
Matthew 7:24–25.

Draw a cross on a small rock and keep it in your pocket today.

5

Read
Matthew 7:26–27.

Ask God to forgive you for trusting in things or people more than Him.

6

Read
Psalm 90:1.

How has God been your family's "dwelling place" for generations?

7

Read
Psalm 90:2.

Look at the stars tonight and ponder the bigness of God.

8

Read
Psalm 90:4.

Read or sing "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" (LSB 733).

9

Read
Psalm 90:12.

Pray God would give you "a heart of wisdom."

10

Read
Psalm 90:14.

Pray this verse over breakfast.

11

Read
Psalm 63:6–7.

Pray these verses before bedtime.

12

Read
2 Corinthians 1:20.

Write the first sentence of this verse and decorate the word yes.

13

Read
1 Peter 1:24–25.

Count the Bibles in your home. Thank God for His Word.

14

Read
Isaiah 41:10.

Tell God what you are afraid of or worried about today.

15

Read
Ephesians 4:1–3.

Pray for unity and peace in your country.

16

Read
2 Corinthians 1:3–4.

Hug each family member to share God's comfort.

17

Read
Psalm 90:17.

Look up the definition of "establish."

18

Read
Psalm 25:16.

Pray for those who feel lonely.

19

Read
Ephesians 2:19–21.

Thank God for your church family.

20

Read
1 Corinthians 10:13.

What temptation do you struggle with most?

21

Read
John 6:35; 9:5; 10:7; 10:11; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1.

Make a poster listing Jesus' 7 "I am" statements.

22

Read
John 8:12.

Light a candle and read this verse.

23

Read
John 10:7–9.

Pray for courage to tell others about Jesus.

24

Read
John 10:11.

Read or sing "My dear Shepherd, watch over me that I may never stray from You" (TLSB, p. 1802).

25

Read
John 11:25.

Look up the context of this verse.

26

Read
John 14:6.

Memorize this verse.

27

Read
John 15:5.

What does it mean to "abide"?

28

Read
Matthew 26:26–28.

Thank God for giving us the forgiveness of sins in Holy Communion.

29

Read
Romans 6:4.

Write each person's baptismal birthday on the calendar.

30

Read
Psalm 121:7.

Pray for God to keep you safe on the road.

31

Read
Colossians 1:16–17.

Underline or highlight "in Him all things hold together."



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Featured Family Devotional Resources

Happy Times

Happy Times is a magazine series for young children and their families. Issues, delivered six times a year with a subscription, are full of stories, hands-on crafts, songs, and recipes for faith-filled family fun!



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My Devotions

My Devotions is a children's devotional series, delivered quarterly with a subscription, which features Scripture, story-based devotions, journaling prompts, and prayers for each day, along with Bible-related games and activities.



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