

The VIEW

News of the Ministries of Pleasant View Evangelical Lutheran Church January 2023

What If God Was One of Us?

As I write to you, it is this second day of Christmas. It is a joy to continue the celebration of Our Lord's birth. The celebration includes rest from the hectic pace of preparation as well as reflection on what it really means that God is with us. Joan Osborne wrote a song which was popular in the 1990s called, "What if God Was One of Us?" Maybe you have heard it and thought about the answer to her question. What if God was one of us? This is the question the gospel poses for God was indeed one of us for a while. It is not just the good news of Christmas but for all of us forever. God came to be one of us, to take on a human body, to experience what it is to be limited by time and place so that we can know he cares about all the things we experience in our bodies. The Co-Creator of all set this power aside to become a fragile and finite human being. He has pitched his tent among us. The light of God shines through him like a lantern through the fabric of the tent. Through him, we see the glory of God shining through the veil of flesh he assumed.

That is a lot to consider. We find ourselves like Mary, his mother, treasuring this thought, pondering it in our hearts. It's a good thing, we have some time to do that now. The darkness of winter causes us to come in sooner than we would otherwise. The weather drives us into the warmth and light within our homes. It's a perfect time to contemplate the mysteries of God as we read the scripture, read the paper, gaze at the beauty of nature. Even ice has its own crystalline beauty. Winter is a perfect time to ponder, to wonder and to listen in silence and talk with God in prayers.

In January, we begin the journey of Jesus' life through the eyes of the writer of Matthew. Why not take the opportunity to sit with it for a while and read this gospel through as if you would read a novel? It always amazes me how the story flows together when read this way. It gives an overall view when we normally get it in small pieces, or installments.

The month of January marks the beginning of the ministry of Jesus in the lessons. We will celebrate the coming of the Magi during Epiphany, will stand in the temple as Jesus is named and stand on the river bank as he is baptized. Together, we will move forward in faith as we move forward through all the new year has to offer.

May God bless us and keep us in his grace.

Pastor Phyllis

The COVID-19 Community Level is currently listed as MEDIUM for Augusta County. The State Health Department recommends: Wear a high-quality mask or respirator when indoors, in public, if you are at high risk of getting very sick. If you have household or social contact with someone at high risk for getting very sick, consider self-testing to detect infection before contact, and consider wearing a high-quality mask when indoors with them. Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines. Get tested if you have symptoms. All are encouraged to continue to wear masks as desired but are not required. Masks will continue to be offered as a sign of hospitality so that all may feel safe, comfortable and welcome in this place of worship. May God continue to heal, protect, and strengthen us as a community of faith so that all may know God's love.

COMMUNION OPTIONS: Due to the current level of COVID-19 in the community and the preference of some congregational members, 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.

Sunday, January 1, at 11 a.m.: Celebration of Christmas Season with Lessons and Carols. Pastor Phyllis will return to the office on Wednesday, January 4.

Change for Hope/"Red Bucket Collection:" The Council has approved the following "Red Bucket" collections: **January 1 and 15 - General Outreach**
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.

January 1, First Sunday Birthday and Anniversary Celebration is following the worship service: If you would like to provide the cake or cupcakes for a First Sunday celebration in 2023, 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 2022.

Sunday, January 8, Epiphany of Our Lord, concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ.

Sunday, January 15, Baptism of our Lord, In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God.

Sunday, January 8, at 10 a.m.: Open Door Class will resume. Teachers: Larry Landes, Rosemary Spell and Stephen Troxell. All are welcome to attend.

Sunday, January 8, at 11 a.m.: Installation of all Council members.

Wednesday, January 11, at 10 a.m.: WELCA will meet in the Social Hall. This is the group's annual planning meeting. It will be followed by a luncheon with soup and sandwiches furnished. All are welcome. For further information on WELCA activities, please contact either Goldie Shiflett or Linda Page.

Thursday, January 12: 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 2023 Council. Members are John Bowers, Terry Bunch (Vice President), Robyn Dean, Mary Garber (Secretary), Debbie Hastert, Larry Landes, Doug Painter, Rebecca Perrin, Rosemary Spell (President), Pastor Phyllis and Karen Fauber (Treasurer). If you have any questions or suggestions for the Council's consideration, please submit them to Rosemary Spell (preferably in writing) no later than January 9.

January 15: 2022 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 15.
- **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 15. The updated Directory will be part of release at the Congregational Meeting scheduled on February 12. Please include names for all family and church friends.

Sunday, January 25, at 9 a.m.: Worship and Music Committee Meeting in the Choir Room.

February 1, 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 1. Choir Director, Gary Flavin. Organist, Stephen Dickerson.

Thank you to the Worship Team, Council and Committee members for their 2022 initiatives. A special thanks to those participating in December Advent and Christmas activities:

- Worship Team: Pastor Phyllis, Gary Flavin and Stephen Dickerson; and to everyone who served during 2022 as Assisting Ministers, Lectors, Acolytes, Ushers, Communion Assistants, Altar Guild, Committee members.
- Council: A special thanks to Carol Troxell for her leadership for the last two years, and to the two other members who served a three-year term: Linda Page and Forester Wright.
- Financial Team: Karen Fauber, Becci Page, Janet Braithwaite, Offering counters (Gene Lilly, Duane & Rebecca Perrin, Terry Bunch and Burke Simmons) and Red Bucket counters (Debbie Hastert, Joy Landes and Susan Wright).

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.

Winter Weather Closings: Church closings, due to inclement weather, will be broadcast on WHSV (Channel 3) and an email will be sent to everyone on the church mailing list who has provided an email address. If you prefer to receive a telephone call informing you of church closures, please contact Rosemary Spell or Steve Dickerson. Current contact information (updates/ changes) should be given to Becci Page.

“Word in Season” (January, February, March devotions) and “Living Lutheran” are available in the Narthex and Main Hall.

Spark Quarterly Bulletin – “Let’s Follow Jesus”: Spark Worship quarterly bulletins engage kids (and adults) with fun activities that connect them to worship practices, lectionary readings, and the people who are worshiping with them. If you would like to receive a copy for your children or grandchildren, please contact Debbie Hastert or Rosemary Spell.

“Daily Grace” is an on-the-go companion for your journey, offering a faith 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 Evangelical Lutheran Church: search website and Facebook posts: <http://www.pvelc.org/> and [Pleasant View Evangelical Lutheran Church - Posts | Facebook](#)

COVID Information: The church council has agreed to follow current CDC and Virginia Synod guidelines regarding COVID-19 restrictions. The Council will be using the following websites (CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker and www.vasynod.org) when making decisions concerning necessary restrictions during our Sunday morning worship services and all other church-related activities. Currently the Community Level for Augusta County is **MEDIUM**. Refer to the guidance listed in the first announcement for additional information. The COVID-19 Community level rating will be provided in the weekly announcements and the monthly newsletter.

Free COVID-19 Home Tests are once again available to order at: <https://www.covid.gov/tests/>.

Our Prayers

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

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

For healing and recovery: Bill Braithwaite, Gladys Fockler, Carolyn Cox, Pat Luders, Fred Cox, Bill & Mary Tueting, Dale Rankin and Rebecca Perrin

For our friends and neighbors: **Peter Harrison**, brother-in-law of Rebecca Perrin; **Lilly Myers**, granddaughter of a friend of Joy Landes; **Linda Holbert**, aunt of Joy Landes; **Lisa Fauber**, friend of Sue Cook; **David Helmick**, brother-in-law of Christine Puffenbarger; **Austin Bowers**, son of John & Beth Bowers and grandson of Wanda Bowers; **Frank Carter**, neighbor of Alice Fauber; **Kamden Bunch**, grandson of Terry Bunch; **Mark Tueting**, son of Bill & Mary Tueting; **Kelly Kessler**, cousin of Roger Shiflett

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 292-0327

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 281-1450

Council Vice President: Terry Bunch 292-1086

Council Secretary: Mary Garber 480-0444

January Birthdays

Stephanie Jetton	1/1
Brooklyn Burns	1/4
Bill Tueting	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
Frances 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



Worship Assistants for January

Assisting Minister: Duane Perrin

Ushers & Communion Preparation: Roger & Goldie Shiflett

January 8, 2023	Lay Reader: Phil Dixon	Acolyte: Lisa Rankin
January 15, 2023	Lay Reader: Janet Braithwaite	Acolyte: Michael Vayvada
January 22, 2023	Lay Reader: Terry Bunch	Acolyte: James Cox
January 29, 2023	Lay Reader: John Bowers	Acolyte: Robyn Dean

January

Everyday Faith from CPH

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1

Read
Philippians 1:1–2.
Pray over your week
ahead.

2

Read
Philippians 1:3–5.
Ask one person in your
family how you can pray
for them.

3

Read
Philippians 1:6–8.
Pray for your neighbor.

4

Read
Philippians 1:9–11.
Pray with or for someone
you meet today.

5

Read
Philippians 1:12–13.
Pray for your community.

6

Read
Philippians 1:14–16.
Pray for your church
ministry staff.

7

Read
Philippians 1:17–20.
Reflect on how God was
with you this week.

8

Read
Philippians 1:21–22.
Pray over your week
ahead.

9

Read
Philippians 1:23–26.
Ask one person in your
family how you can pray
for them.

10

Read
Philippians 1:27–28.
Pray for your neighbor.

11

Read
Philippians 1:29–30.
Pray with or for someone
you meet today.

12

Read
Philippians 2:1–3.
Pray for your community.

13

Read
Philippians 2:4–7.
Pray for your church
ministry staff.

14

Read
Philippians 2:8–9.
Reflect on how God was
with you this week.

15

Read
Philippians 2:10–11.
Pray over your week
ahead.

16

Read
Philippians 2:12–16.
Ask one person in your
family how you can pray
for them.

17

Read
Philippians 2:17–19.
Pray for your neighbor.

18

Read
Philippians 2:20–24.
Pray with or for someone
you meet today.

19

Read
Philippians 2:25–27.
Pray for your community.

20

Read
Philippians 2:28–30.
Pray for your church
ministry staff.

21

Read
Philippians 3:1–3.
Reflect on how God was
with you this week.

22

Read
Philippians 3:4–8.
Pray over your week
ahead.

23

Read
Philippians 3:9–11.
Ask one person in your
family how you can pray
for them.

24

Read
Philippians 3:12–15.
Pray for your neighbor.

25

Read
Philippians 3:16–19.
Pray with or for someone
you meet today.

26

Read
Philippians 3:20–4:1.
Pray for your community.

27

Read
Philippians 4:2–4.
Pray for your church
ministry staff.

28

Read
Philippians 4:5–8.
Reflect on how God was
with you this week.

29

Read
Philippians 4:9–12.
Pray over your week
ahead.

30

Read
Philippians 4:13–18.
Ask one person in your
family how you can pray
for them.

31

Read
Philippians 4:19–23.
Pray for your neighbor.

