Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church W2450 Cty, Rd. WW Eleva WI 54738

"That all May come, Serving all the People of God" Church office: 715-287-4473 Church Secretary: Teresa Johnson – Cell: 608-751-8836 Church Email: pleasantvalleylutheranchurch@gmail.com

Website: <u>www.pleasantvalleylutheran.com</u>





Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton | Easter 2024

"So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone for they were afraid." That's where the Gospel of Mark originally ended. And it just seems so odd to me. It's so abrupt. I mean, the women had seen the angel. He'd announced that Jesus was raised from the dead, and then he tells them all this good news and wants them to go on their way. And they just are not going to say a single word. There are three words in that passage that really stand out for me, especially in the Greek. One is fear — phobos. We get phobia from that. The other one is amazement - ekstasis. We get ecstasy from that. And the other one has to do with being seized. It actually means "being possessed." So we take a look at these women, and they've had this miraculous appearance by an angel. They've heard the good news that Jesus has raised from the dead, and they're too afraid to do anything about it, and they just are going to be silent. It seems that nothing changed. They came to take care of Jesus' dead body because on the Sabbath they could not work. But on the first day of the week, they were there. They have this announcement, and then it's all the same. Sometimes I think we feel like nothing's changed. Sometimes I think that the events in our country, in our church, around the world are just so terrifying and so overwhelming that it seems like the resurrection really didn't make a difference. But these three words really say something about the women, and I think about us and, most especially, about Easter. When they said that they were filled with amazement — this is this ecstasy, ekstasis — they were really standing. It means literally standing in a different place. So though they were still in the tomb and they hadn't reacted yet, nevertheless, everything had changed. And because of the resurrection, we, all of us, are standing in a different place. The whole of creation is standing in a different place. And the word for fear, phobos, phobia we get from that. But it's really a sense of

trembling in the presence of God, of awe that they were actually filled with awe - not paralyzed by fear but filled with awe. And I hope this Eastertide and all year round, we have a sense of the presence of God that fills us with awe. And it also says that they were seized with fear. Well, the word means "possessed." And yes, we believe that in baptism because of the resurrection, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit and we now are all Spirit-possessed. When things seem to be staying the same, when things seem to be happening and coming at us so quickly, I think it's very important to take time to be a little amazed, to be standing in a different place, to have a sense of this awe and trembling before the Lord, and to allow ourselves to be possessed by the Spirit, who will give us power and courage in these times. My favorite hymn is "Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song." It's ELW 808. And the last verse goes like this: "I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey: but courage will come with the sound of his steps by my side. And with all of the family Jesus saved by his love, we'll sing to his dawn at the end of our journey." Be well, dear church. Happy Easter.

Pleasant Valley Church Council Minutes

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Stephanie Kuehl at 6:36 P.M. The secretary's minutes and treasurer's report were approved as presented with a motion by Marianna and a second by Dave.

Non-agenda items:

Teresa is working out some of the glitches in the program that Pastor JonPaul used in preparing the bulletins. She will start bolding the prayer of the day in the bulletin.

Education Update:

Luther Park Early Bird registration date was March 1st instead of May 1st this year. It sounds like previous campers did not receive communication from Luther Park regarding summer camp information as in the past. Kay will contact Luther Park about the early bird registration date and how they are communicating upcoming camping opportunities. The last day of Sunday school and end-of-the-year celebration is tentatively scheduled for May 19th. We do not have any students graduating from high school this year. Tommy, Isabel, and Elijah Knutson will graduate in May, 2025.

Worship Update:

Corissa will plan for an Easter egg hunt on Sunday, March 24 (Palm Sunday). A Thrivent Seed card has been approved for our Easter breakfast. Funds raised will be used to support our youth attending Luther Park Bible Camp. Breakfast will be served starting at 8:00 A.M. with an Easter worship service to follow at 9:00 A.M. There will be no sunrise service this year.

Property Update:

A motion was made by Roxie with a second by Marianna to purchase two reverse osmosis systems for a total cost of \$1000. The systems will provide safe drinking water to be accessible from each kitchen faucet. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Roxie with a second by Dave to pay Trevor Cook \$1500 to put in a new concrete pad before the new handicapped accessible doors are installed. He is insured to do the work. The disposing of the old concrete will be our responsibility. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

~Ministry profile/call process: We will ask for volunteers to serve on a Call Committee. Stephanie will draft a request for Teresa to send out to members via email. It will also be announced during our worship services over the next few weeks. Anyone interested should contact Stephanie.

~Communion accessibility: Roxie is going to talk to Rhonda Hoverson to get her thoughts on having a ramp available for access to the communion railing.

New Business:

~Supply pastors/Pastor Vernon Weeks: Stephanie will contact Pastor Weeks about being our supply pastor through April. We can determine if Pastor Weeks and our congregation are interested in having him serve as our interim pastor at our April council meeting.

~Updating our website/FaceBook page/Youtube: Stephanie has access as an administrator and will take a look at what needs to be updated. We can address how these sites can be maintained at our April council meeting.

~Marianna will plan for the balloon drop on Easter Sunday.

Mission Offerings:

March: Sojourner House April: Evansville, WI for tornado relief efforts May: Luther Park camper scholarships

A motion was made by Corissa with a second by Marty to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 P.M. and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next council meeting will be on Thursday, April 11 at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by, Kay Sands

Members present: Stephanie Kuehl, Roxie Ulness, Corissa Sands, Marianna Gilbertson, Dave Vlcek, Marty Johnson and Kay Sands

Treasurer's Report:

Summary of Offering and Expenses

	YTD	January	February	March
Offering	\$13,136.00	\$4,492.00	\$3,974.00	\$4,670.00
Misc. Income	\$1319.79	\$83.43	\$211.36	\$1,025.00
Expenses	\$11,036.39	\$4,156.37	\$3,390.62	\$3,339.20

Offering Over Expense-February: \$794.74 Offering Over Expense-March: \$2,355.80 Offering Over Expenses – Y-T-D: \$3,569.40

Mission Offerings:

February-Bolton Refuge House -\$212.00 March- Sojourner House - \$280.00

Memorials: Handicap Door Fund:

★ In memory of Marge Timm from Bob & Joan Timm

Interested in online giving - go to the church website and click on "Give Online Now**".

Respectfully submitted: Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

Praise Team News

The Praise Team will play in worship at Pleasant Valley at 9 am on April 28 and will lead worship at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility (CVCTF) that evening. Practices are held on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

H3 (HOLY, HAPPY, AND HEALTHY)

The book study group is meeting on Tuesdays at 9:30 am at Immanuel Lutheran, Eau Claire, and on Zoom. In April, the group will finish studying the book "Short Stories by Jesus," by Amy-Jill Levine, along with several chapters from Matthew, Mark and Luke. For more information contact Karen at betziglundberg@charter.net, Marianna Gilbertson at marianna.gilbertson@gmail.com, or Kim

Vlcek at vlcekkr@yahoo.com.

Women of the ELCA

The 2024 Morning of Renewal is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, 2024 at Central Lutheran Church in Mondovi. Registration fee of \$20 is due **April 6**, **2024**. Guest speakers Mercedes Falk, John Rosenow and Roberto Tecpile will present about immigrant farm workers and connecting with immigrant's families in Mexico. A copy of the registration form is included with the Northwester newsletter. The WELCA Dairyland Conference board is looking for volunteers to participate as officers. Contact Monica Bahr or Kim Vlcek for more information.

RUTH (Rural Unity Through Hope)

At the most recent meeting, discussions focused on a new project creating hoodies with zippered arms for people receiving chemo or other infusions, the collection of men's clothing for individuals leaving incarceration, a grant request made to the United Methodist Church to help restart the community garden in Arcadia, and a shoe recycling project. Sleep in Heavenly Peace does not need donations of mattress protectors. There will be a bed build on April 20 from 9:30 am to 4 pm at the Buffalo Countv Highway Shop. All are welcome! Fundraising is continuing to purchase a property for a homeless shelter in Mondovi. The next RUTH meeting is set for 6:30 pm at Peace Lutheran in Pigeon Falls.

Opportunities to Serve

Feel free to sign up for a single week or a full month. Expectations of opportunities have been developed. One will be included with the newsletter each month:)

Expectations of an Usher



- Arrive approximately 30 minutes prior to the worship service.
- Position yourself at the entrance to the sanctuary.
- Greet worshippers as they arrive and give them a bulletin.
- □ For visitors when appropriate:
 - □ Point out location of bathrooms.
 - Activity bags for young children.
 - □ Prepackaged communion cups.
- Place a couple of bulletins in the Sunday school area downstairs.
- Collect offering:
 - Select a young person to help collect offerings.
 - □ Walk to the altar area to receive the offering plates.

- Each usher walks along the pews to collect the offering.
- Collect offerings from worshippers seated in the balcony.
- Stand at the back of the sanctuary. Pastor will motion to bring plates Forward.
- Return to your seat.

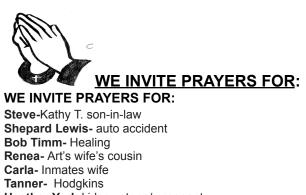
□ Communion:

Wait for the pastor to give communion to assistants and Praise Team members on those Sundays

when they provide music.

- Starting on one side, send about 15 communicants to the railing.
- Continue until all worshippers have been invited to commune.
- Count how many worshippers are in attendance (including children).
- Record the number on the calendar located on the wall next to the stairway leading to the balcony.
- During the worship service, be aware of any situations that arise that may need assistance.
- If you are not sure about something, just ask someone! Adopted June 2023

Opportunities to Serve				
	April	Мау		
Communion Set-up	4/7 Roxie 4/14 Roxie 4/21 Roxie 4/28 Roxie	5/5 5/12 5/19 5/26		
Communion Server	4/7 Roxie 4/14 Roxie 4/21 Roxie 4/28 Roxie	5/5 Roxie 5/12 Roxie 5/19 Roxie 5/26 Roxie		
Usher	4/7 4/14 4/21 4/28	5/5 5/12 5/19 5/26		
Reader	4/7 Roxie 4/14 Roxie 4/21 Roxie 4/28 Roxie	5/5 Kim 5/12 Kim 5/19 Kim 5/26 Kim		
Church Cleaning	Church Wide Spring Cleaning	5/5 Kim 5/12 Kim 5/19 Kim 5/26 Kim		
Serve Coffee	4/7 Kim 4/14 Kim 4/21 Kim 4/28 Kim	5/5 Teresa 5/12 5/19 Teresa 5/26		
Teach Sunday School	4/7 Teegan 4/14 Teegan 4/21 4/28	5/5 5/12 5/19 5/26		



Heather York-kidney stone/ pregnant **Joy Glende-** Hospital due to kidney stones and infection (Kathy Tweet's daughter)

Chris & Marion-Kathy Tweet's grandchildren

Diane Kaufmann- Hospice care

Tony- having surgery to remove mass along spine Otay "Bob" Tollefson-healing, Tony's brother

AI- healing

Randy Walker- fighting cancer

Don (Stich)-Stichen- Kathy's friend

Sharon Anderson-healing-cancer, on chemo

Larry Prochnow- Healing - Kim Vlcek's brother-in-law Allan Arneson - healing- great nephew of Bob and Joan Timm and Sandy Schuch

Michelle - Poore's sister-in-law's sister - cancer in the bone is improving

Guy Patrow – Tested positive for ALS

Karl Bahr – continues with therapy

Martha McCourt – Marianna's mother; living with dementia Lisa & Glen-Fostering children

Kay Roskom and family-Custody battle

All our service men and women:

Alex Bauer stationed in England Ali-deployed to Africa-friend of Steph Middle East Guatemala Ukraine Shelby Cole and family - missionaries living in France Keyla Lisbeth - the Sharing the Dream recipient, student in Guatemala

Duane Vicek and Ayla Hakes and family Inmates at CVCTF and Chaplain Hull

All those who are missing a loved one: Family of Ron Williams

Those on our visiting list: Bob Dutter & Gary and Sharon Hazen, Sandy Schuch, Sadie Hoverson Odegard



- ★ April 11 Council Meeting at 6:30.
- ★ April 20 Bed Build 9:30-4:00
- ★ May 19 Last day of Sunday School
- ★ We are looking for volunteers to be on the call committee for a pastor.

Thank You!

Thank you to our Guest Pastor for March Vern Weeks.

Thank you for your support. You will receive quarterly updates on the impact of your donation and the work happening at Feed My People. Thanks for being our partner.

Michelle Pride Feed my People

Pastor vern and Emilie Weeks would like to thank you at Pleasant Valley for the beautiful Yellow Tulip. It is blooming brightly on our table and we are enjoying it. Thanks. Pastor Vern



TEXTS FOR March

- <u>April 7</u>
 - <u>Acts 4:32-35</u>
 - <u>1 John 1:1-2:2</u>
 - <u>John 20:19-31</u>
 - <u>Psalm 133</u>

<u>April 14</u>

- <u>Acts 3:12-19</u>
- <u>1 John 3:1-7</u>
- <u>Luke 24:36b-48</u>
- <u>Psalm 4</u>

<u>April 21</u>

- <u>Acts 4:5-12</u>
- <u>1 John 3:16-24</u>
- John 10:11-18
- <u>Psalm 23</u>

<u>April 28</u>

- <u>Acts 8:26-40</u>
- <u>1 John 4:7-21</u>
- <u>John 15:1-8</u>
- <u>Psalm 22:24-30</u>

Troubling the Waters for Healing of the Church

You are invited to join Deacon Lidixe Montoya and Michelle Pride to Trouble the Waters. Based on the ELCA's Social Statement "Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture" this 18-session course explores the power, privilege, and prejudice that belongs to White Christians. Many of us know racism is a sin – a mix of power, privilege, fragility, and prejudice. As leaders and members of primarily White congregations in a White denomination in a mostly White state, we are called upon to recognize the power of implicit bias and whiteness in order to live more fully as the people of God. Join as individuals or with a group for awareness & growth and to work for change together within your congregations and communities. We will examine the history of the United States, the church, and your own personal history for the legacy of White Privilege. This is an intentional journey to enter into addressing hard questions, or what needs to die in order for new life to rise. Sign up to join your neighbors in Troubling the Waters here:

https://subsplash.com/northwestsynodofwiscon si/lb/ev/+m45ms55

Access Participant Materials here: https://www.elca.org/Resources/Racial-Justice

To learn more contact: Deacon Lidixe Montoya: neighbor2neighbor@nwswi.org. or Michelle Pride: mapride@hotmail.com

Easter

- April 9 Entering Healing waters
- April 16 Walking the Journey Toward New White Identity
- April 23 Building Toward a Multicultural Church

Pentecost

- May 7 Stepping Out in Faith
- May 14 Beholding God's New Vision
- May 21 Taking Steps to Act
- June 4 Reporting Back and Reflecting
- June 11 Experiencing Change..Praising God...Continuing the Journey



Mark your calendar for **Sunday, Sept. 8**, when congregations of the ELCA will join together for our annual day of service, <u>"God's work. Our hands."</u>

Participating in service projects is one way to celebrate who we are as the ELCA — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

This year we also celebrate <u>50 years of</u> <u>ELCA World Hunger</u>. In commemoration of this milestone, consider including ministries focused on alleviating hunger and poverty in your plans for "**God's work. Our hands.**" Or make it a season of service! Expand your volunteer opportunities, advocacy efforts or food drives until World Food Day on Oct. 16.

If your congregation cannot participate on Sept. 8, you are encouraged to pick another date that fits your schedule. **ELCA congregations participate in acts of service every day**. This day of service is an extension of the work you already do to make your community a better place.

Be sure to save the date and check <u>ELCA.org/DayOfService</u> for updated

resources soon.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Join us on Sept. 8!

ELCA



Dear friends,

Right now, thanks to support from donors such as you, over 130 ELCA missionaries are at work in 41 countries. These missionaries are meeting the needs of their neighbors as pastors, teachers, health care workers, communicators and more. Most importantly, they are forming the deep relationships that connect us as a global community of faith.

The new, interactive <u>Global Mission Personnel</u> <u>directory</u> gives you the opportunity to get to know these missionaries a little better. It also allows you to see some of the ways they walk alongside our companions around the world.

Use the 2024 directory to:

- Learn This year's directory includes links to full profiles of many missionaries, with more information about their lives, work and communities. To find these, look for the licons.
- Share Spread the word about the impact of ELCA Global Mission by forwarding this message to members of your congregation and community. You can also <u>download</u> <u>a printable version of the directory</u> here.
- Give Consider supporting an individual missionary at <u>ELCA.org/MissionaryGiving</u>, or make a direct gift to Global Mission at <u>ELCA.org/GlobalGive</u>. More ways to give can be found in the directory, on page 22.

If you have any questions about the 2024 directory or any of our Global Mission work, please reach out to us at

GlobalChurch@elca.org. We would love to hear from you. Thank you for your commitment to your neighbors in Christ, near and far! In gratitude,

Daniel Rift

amanda Whi

Rev. Dan Rift Director, Service and Justice Giving

Amanda White Director, Congregationa Generosity



🖤 "Love is partient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast. 🏸

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

The ABC's of Active Bystander Intervention

This not proud. This not rude,

, 14 15 noti salf-seeking, 14 15 noti easily angered, 16 keeps no record of wrongs

Assess for safety. Ensure that all people involved are safe, and assess whether the situation requires calling police. When you take the step to intervene, safety should be your #1 priority. Whenever in doubt, call for help.

<u>Be with others.</u> If it is safe to intervene, you are more likely to have a greater influence on the situation when you work together with other people. Your safety is increased when you stay with a group of people who know you.

<u>Care for the victim</u>. Ask if the victim of the unwanted sexual advance, attention, or behavior is okay. Ask if they need medical attention, or if they would like to talk to the authorities about reporting the incident. Ask the victim if they have a trusted person

🛇 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 🔗

🖤 "Love ts partient, love ts kind. 14 does not envy, 14 does not boast. 00 tons 18.4-8 April is Child Abuse th is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wro **Prevention Month** ove never forls" 1 Cortroll + Educate yourself about child abuse and the resources in your area. Believe a child if/when they disclose abuse to you. Display awareness posters in offices, local crisis line flyers in restrooms, and local dwars hopes, dwars persevers. domestic violence agency brochures in fellowship halls. + Sponsor and/or attend a fundraiser for a local domestic violence agency. Schedule prevention and educational presentations for groups you belong to. Discuss child abuse prevention during worship, with your friends, and with family. Make connections between faith teachings and healthy parenting. ✤ Call New Horizons for more information; new Trempealeau County: Business: 715-538-2810 orizons 24 hour Crisis Line: 1-800-706-8586 🛇 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 0

Did you know?

The first Earth Day took place April 22, 1970, and was founded by Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin and organized by Denis Hayes. Nelson said, "The wealth of the nation is its air, water, soil, forests, minerals, rivers, lakes, oceans, scenic beauty, wildlife habitats and biodiversity... that's all there is. That's the whole economy. That's where all the economic activity and jobs come from. These biological systems are the sustaining wealth of the world."



Opportunities to Serve our Community

There are many ways to stay connected in our community and extended rural areas: Many organizations need volunteers. Please sign up ONLINE; many will not take drop in help. If you have any interest to help out or ask questions, you can call Marianna at 715-828-2185 (cell), email: <u>Marianna.gilbertson@gmail.com</u> or go online to view the websites.

Agency	Activity/Program	Contact		
ELCA Youth Gathering	The ELCA Youth Gathering couldn't happen without the love and support of volunteers. Applications are now open to volunteer at the 2024 Gathering. This cycle offers five different volunteer opportunities for which you can apply. For a detailed list of responsibilities and deadlines, or to apply go to website	ELCA.org/Gathering.		
The Community Table(TCT)	The Community Table has been nourishing hungry bodies and spirits in the Eau Claire Community by serving one meal each day, 365 days a year on a no-questions asked basis. Anyone can join our table during meal time.	TJ Atkins director email at <u>marketing@thecommunitytable.org</u> OR <u>https://communitytable.org/</u>		
Feed My People Food Bank (FMPFB) Our volunteers make our mission possible. Because of their dedication, grit, and passion, they're connecting folks to much-needed food through thick and thin. Last year, our dedicated army of volunteers donated their time to the tune of what 12 full-time staff members put in. That's incredible, and you can be a part of it.	Feed My People rescues nationally and regionally donated food from manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, and growers that might otherwise be thrown away. We welcome individuals and groups to come volunteer at the food bank. Opportunities include packing emergency food bags, repacking bulk products, and picking orders for our food pantry partners.	Learn more and sign up through our volunteer portal. Did you know we have regular group volunteer opportunities on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays? Your group of 6-15 people can help us pack food from 9-11 am and 1-3 pm. Email Ken at ken@fmpfoodbank.org to get started.		
Inclusive Ministry Church	A church experience where you are welcomed with abilities and disabilities, just as you	See facebook their facebook page for more information.		
Beacon House	A group of congregations in Eau Claire County collaborated together to support families in our community who were homeless.	https://www.familypromisecv.org/?utm_source= beacon-house.org		
Sleep In Heavenly Peace	A group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling and delivering single beds or bunk beds to children and families in need.	https://shpbeds.org/chapter/wi-chippewa-valley/		
Respite for All	Provides training for congregations to launch this outreach ministry and it offers ongoing support and mentoring.	www.respiteforall.org		
Chippewa Valley Habitat For Humanity (CVHFH)	Christian non-denominational organization whose mission is "to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope."	Habitat Affiliate Manager, Elizabeth, elizabeth@cvh4h.org or 715-833-8993 Or Use this <i>link today</i> and take a look at the volunteer opportunities!		
Neighbor to Neighbor	Is organized by Deacon Lidixe Montoya. church about N2N and how we can help or understand our Latin Speaking neighbors.	https://nwswi.org/neighbor-to-neighbor		
American Red Cross	Volunteers Urgently Needed	www.redcross.org/volunteer. Contact: volunteerwisconsin@redcros s.org for any questions regarding opportunities.		

April 2024	Pleasant Valley Lutheran				Please Post		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
Church services will be radio transmitted.							
	1	2	3 6:30pm Praise Team Practice	4	5	6	
7 9 am Worship Service 10 am Coffee & Fellowship Sunday School Adult Education	8	9 9:30am H3, Immanuel Lutheran and on zoom	10 6:30pm Praise Team Practice	11 6:30pm Council Meeting	Saviour's Lut	13 Morning Renewal, Central Lutheran in Mondovi of Ministry, Our teran, Chippewa d on Zoom	
14 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship Sunday School	15	16 9:30am H3, Immanuel Lutheran and on zoom	17 6:30pm Praise Team Practice	18	19	20 Heavenly Bed Build, Buffalo County Highway Shop	
21 9 am Worship Service 10 am Coffee & Fellowship Sunday School	22 6:30pm RUTH meets, Peace Lutheran Pigeon Falls	23 9:30am H3, Immanuel Lutheran and on zoom	24 6:30 Praise Team Practice	25	26	27	
28 6:30 worship and CVCTF Mission offering: Evansville, Wi Tornado Relief Fund.	29	30 10am H3, Immanuel Lutheran and on zoom					