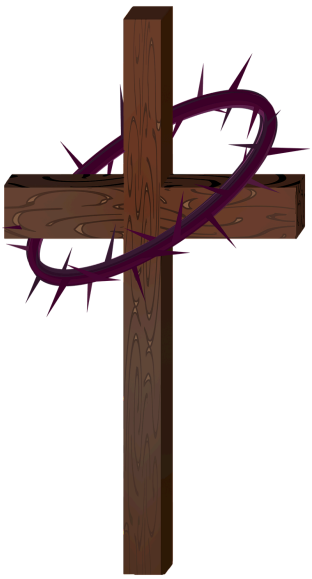
*Pl*easant Valley Lutheran Church
W2450 Cty, Rd. WW
Eleva WI 54738

*"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: [www.pleasantvalleylutheran.com](http://www.pleasantvalleylutheran.com)*

# ***Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church***

## APRIL Newsletter 2026



To the beloved of the NWSWI,

Happy Easter to you as we celebrate the most sacred day of the year when Jesus squarely looked death in the face and overcame the grave! When I think about what that says about our God, I am continually overwhelmed by feelings of gratitude because of the sheer depth of God's love. To think about what Jesus went through in those final days, it is simply the best illustration of what God's grace looks like – a gift to us as individuals and as a family of faith – all without merit.

While on a Civil Rights pilgrimage last month, I found myself quite perplexed when listening to the central message of many civil rights leaders, including many that I met in person. While visiting Birmingham, I worshiped at the 16th St. Baptist Church, which was bombed on a Sunday morning just before worship on Sept. 15, 1963. Four young women (all teens) died in the blast as they were preparing to serve in the youth led service. As our group heard about the story in the tour the day before our worship, this central message was proclaimed – love. Later that day we spent time with another black leader in the city whose ancestors were also victims of white supremacy. She too acknowledged the central message that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. taught over and over in his messages – a message of love, even for your enemies.

That struck me. When victims of oppression look at their oppressors and can maintain a posture of love in hopes that the hatred they've experienced would someday be extinguished, I could only think about the depths of God's love. While most of us would at minimum defend ourselves from the oppressive actions taken against them, if not fight back and seek retribution, they instead turned to love and forgiveness. It is their faith in God that could give them the strength to practice love.

We still live in a world where hatred and prejudice exist. But the story of Easter is rooted in love. Jesus went to the cross after praying in the garden of Gethsemane, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me, yet not my will but yours be done." (Luke 22:42) Your will be done. This is true sacrifice rooted in love for humankind. This is love revealed to broken and sinful people. This is a love for us all – no exception.

As we celebrate the day Christ rose from the dead, offering forgiveness to all humankind, let us rejoice in acts of love. Let us respond to God's gift of grace through acts of love!

**Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Council Minutes**
**March 12, 2026**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Stephanie Kuehl at 6:35 P.M.

Pastor Sands led the council in a devotion from the book of John and a prayer to begin our meeting. A motion was made by Dave with a second from Cortney to approve the secretary's minutes and the treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

**Education**

~Corissa is planning an Easter egg hunt following the Palm Sunday worship service on Sunday, March 29. She is involving the Sunday school kids in providing an Easter breakfast between the worship services on Easter Sunday, April 5. They will be serving scrambled eggs among other breakfast items. A donation will be collected for the breakfast, which will be used to support the youth attending Luther Park Bible Camp this summer.

**Worship**

~Pastor Dave Sands will lead a sunrise service at 6:30 A.M. on Easter Sunday. The Praise Team will lead the 9:00 worship service. Communion with gluten-free bread made by Stephanie will be served at both services. There will be a balloon drop during the 9:00 service. Breakfast will be served between the two services.

**Property**

~Dave put a filter on the well to address the staining due to the iron content in the water from the new well. He is going to repair the leak in the sink in the women's bathroom.

**Old Business**

~Chairs for the Sunday school area tabled for the April meeting.

~Stephanie will get the Easter postcard invitations printed. Kay will work with Teresa to get addresses and mail them out.

~Updating the membership list/letter tabled for the April meeting.

**New Business**
~ Northwestern ELCA Synod assembly representatives are needed for the assembly (one male and one female) in Rice Lake on Saturday, April 25. Pastor Dave will make an announcement in church. Representatives need to register by Friday, April 3. Pastor Dave will be attending as our pastoral representative.
~Option for supply pastors was discussed. We have some who are willing within our congregation to fill in if we can't find a supply pastor. Pastor Dave is willing to share his sermon on the Sundays he is not at Pleasant Valley in exchange for some compensation. This would help those who are willing to lead the worship service, but may not be comfortable with preparing a message.
~We are seeking representatives from Pleasant Valley to attend the American Luther Home annual meeting in Menomonie on Tuesday, May 26. At our annual meeting in January, we did not ask for representatives due to lack of information on what role the representatives play. Pastor Dave will give more information on the role of the representatives. Anyone interested in being a representative should let a council member know. Registration needs to be completed by Friday, May 1.

**Other**
~Council discussed suggestions for upcoming mission offerings. It was the consensus of the members to support local needs rather than global needs. Our contributions to the Synod should be addressing global efforts.

**Mission Offerings:**
March - Dave Gray, diagnosed with Primary CNS
April - Community Table
May - Sojourner House
June - Luther Park Bible Camp

The next council meeting will be on Thursday, April 9 at 6:30 P.M.

A motion to adjourn was made by Roxie with a second from Cortney. Motion carried. The meeting closed at 8:04 P.M. with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kay Sands
Members present: Stephanie Kuehl, Roxie Ulness, Cortney Sands, Dave Vlcek,
Pastor Dave and Kay Sands.

**Treasurer's Report:**
Summary of Offering and Expenses

| | YTD | January | February | March |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Offering /Misc | $8,515.81 | $2,227.00 | $3,238.71 | $3,100.10 |
| Expenses | $12,741.78 | $2,626.16 | $6,099.71 | $3,865.34 |

Offering Under Expenses - Feb- $2,861.00
Offering Under Expenses - Mar- $765.24
Offering Under Expenses – Y-T-D: $4,025.40

**Mission Offerings:**
Jan- Natalie Evenson- $345.00
Feb- Jill Anderson - $229.00
Mar- David Gray - $

**Memorials:**
**Building Fund:**
In memory of Barb Anderson, from Dale & Sharon Anderson
**Lift Fund:**
In memory of Barb Anderson, from Larry & Crystal Sands
**Praise Team:**
In memory of Barb Anderson, from Dale & Sharon Anderson
**Cemetery Association:**
In memory of Sharon Hazen, from Dale & Sharon Anderson
In memory of Barb Anderson, from Richard & Monica Bahr

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

Respectfully submitted:
Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

**Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Special Council Meeting Minutes**
**March 25, 2026**

Dwight Sands called the meeting to order at 5:59 P.M. Stephanie made a motion to purchase a new refrigerator for the fellowship hall kitchenette according to the quote presented by Kay from Karl's TV & Appliance in Eau Claire. Dwight made a second to the motion. Motion carried.

A meeting to adjourn the meeting was made by Stephanie with a second from Dave. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:01 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kay Sands

Members present: Dwight Sands, Stephanie Kuehl, Dave Vlcek and Kay Sands

Note: Cortney Sands, Roxie Ulness and Rhonda Hoverson expressed they were in favor of the purchase, but would not be able to attend the special meeting.

**Praise Team News**

The Praise Team will play in worship at Pleasant Valley at 9 am on April 26, and will lead worship at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility (CVCTF) that evening at 6:30 pm. Practices will be held on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

**H3 (Holy, Happy and Healthy)**

H3 will continue meeting every Tuesday at 9:30 am at Immanuel Lutheran in Eau Claire and on Zoom. The group is studying "A Beautiful Year" by Diana Butler Bass. Everyone is welcome to participate. Contact Kim Vlcek for more information.

**RUTH (Rural Unity Through Hope) -** Highlights from the March 2026 meeting

Deb is continuing to research the house project. The RUTH website is in process. Tekla is purchasing supplies for raised beds for the Blair Community Garden. The Independence Community Garden site is being reviewed. Plans are to place a salsa garden and fruit and berry bushes on the site. Seventy-one IV hoodies have been gifted. Eleva Lutheran donated supplies for the community garden projects. Deb arranged for Braver Angels to present a workshop on "Depolarizing Within" on August 22 from 1 to 2:30. Site TBD. Kim is in discussion with Lidixe about sites for health fairs this year. The next meeting is Monday, April 27, 2026 at 6:30 pm at Peace Lutheran, Pigeon Falls and on Zoom. Contact Kim Vlcek for more information about RUTH.

**WELCA News**

The NW Synod of Wisconsin Women's Retreat will be held on June 29-30, 2026 at Luther Park in Chetek. Note it will be held on Monday and Tuesday, a change from previous years. The retreat flyer and registration form are included in this newsletter. The next W/ELCA Triennial Gathering is scheduled for July 16-19, 2026 in Des Moines, Iowa. Make plans to attend. More information is available at https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page

**IV Hoodie for You**

Are you receiving IV treatments, or do you know of someone who is? Then you or that person can receive an IV Hoodie …free of charge! An IV Hoodie has a zipper in the sleeve or in the chest for a port to help make treatments more comfortable. Monetary donations are welcome. If you'd like more information please call or text Ellen Hauser at 715-797-4354.

**Thanks to our visiting Pastors and members this month who helped with worship**

Dave Whelan

Marty Johnson

**Announcements:**

★ 6:30am Easter sunrise service with communion

★ 9:00am Easter worship service led by the Praise Team

★ Easter breakfast will be served between the two services from 7:00 - 8:30 A.M.

★

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**Mission offerings:**

★ April - Sojourner House

★ May - Luther Park Bible Camp/Scholarships

## TEXTS FOR April

**April 2:**
- Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14
- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- John 13:1-17, 31b-35
- Psalm 116:1, 10-17

**April 3:**
- Isaiah 52:13-53:12
- Hebrews 10:16-25
- *or* Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
- John 18:1-19:42
- Psalm 22

**April 5:**
- Acts 10:34-43
- *or* Jeremiah 31:1-6
- Colossians 3:1-4
- *or* Acts 10:34-43
- John 20:1-18
- *or* Matthew 28:1-10
- Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

**April 12:**
- Acts 2:14a,22-32
- 1 Peter 1:3-9
- John 20:19-31
- Psalm 16

**April 19:**
- Acts 2:14a,36-41
- 1 Peter 1:17-23
- Luke 24:13-35
- Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17

**April 26:**
- Acts 2:42-47
- 1 Peter 2:19-25
- John 10:1-10
- Psalm 23

## From our Mailbox

We need two representatives, one male and one female, to attend the ELCA Northwest Synod Assembly in Rice lake on Saturday, April 25th. The deadline to register is April 1.

We need one or two volunteers to be representatives for the American Lutheran Home. The representatives would be asked to attend the annual meeting in Menomonie on Tuesday, May 26. The registration deadline is Friday, May 1.

## Volunteer Opportunity: Ride Across Wisconsin Rest Stop – July 11, 2026

Our church will be serving as a rest stop utilizing Olsen Park for Ride Across Wisconsin (RAW) on Saturday, July 11, 2026, and volunteers are needed to help welcome and support the cyclists passing through. This rest stop plays an important role in keeping riders **fueled, encouraged, and energized** throughout their journey. Volunteers assist with handing out snacks and water, cheering riders on, and creating a warm, positive atmosphere for everyone who stops by. It's a fun, high-energy way to serve our wider community, and even a short shift makes a meaningful impact.

**Individuals, families, and groups are all welcome to participate.** If you are unable to join in person an option would be to provide baked goods for the riders.

If you're interested or would like more details about timing and roles, please reach out. We'd love to have you be part of this special day of service and hospitality. If you're interested or would like more details, please contact Heather at **(262) 210-0162** or heather@wisconsinbikefed.org.

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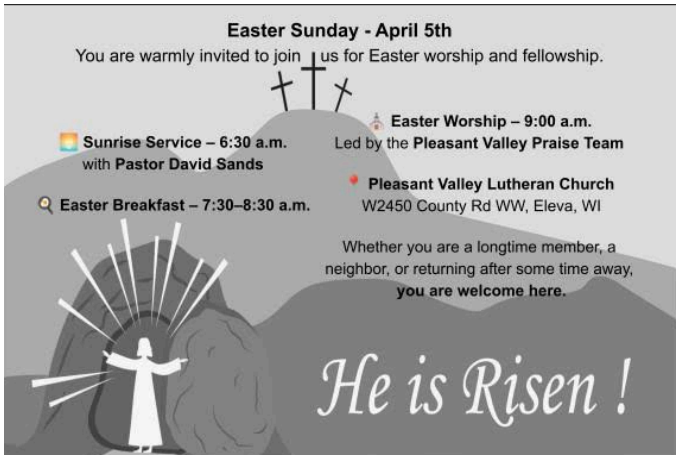
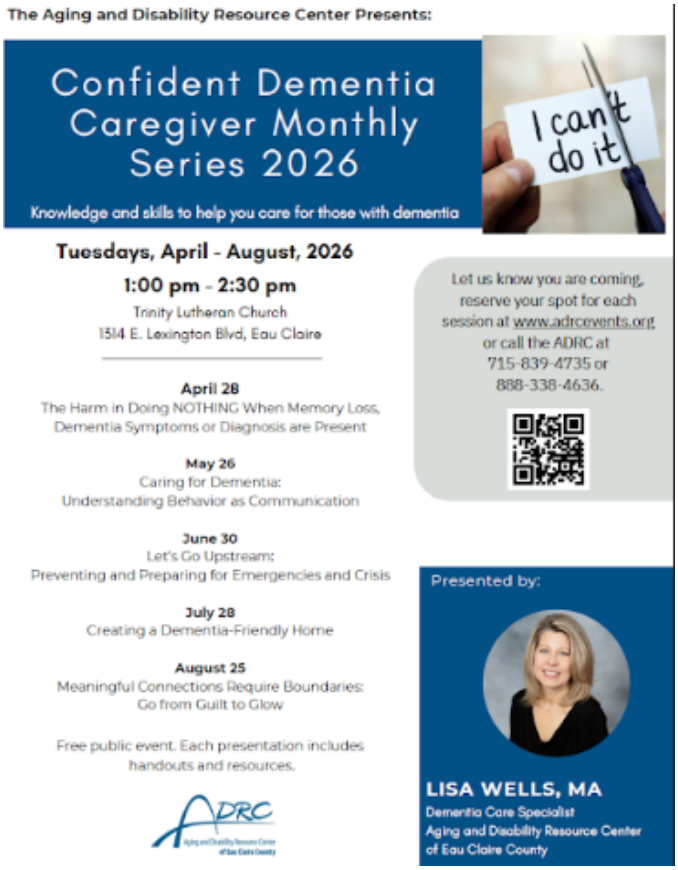
## Ruby's Pantry Pop-Up Pantry

Location: Mondovi County Shop
360 South Eau Claire St. Mondovi, WI
Held every 3rd Thursday of the month
Time: 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM
$30 Cash Donation
All are welcome to attend!

Ruby's Pantry is a community food pop-up pantry where guests receive an abundance of food for a small donation. This ministry helps individuals and families stretch their grocery budget while serving our community with dignity and care.



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This spring, we're excited to announce **the new ELCA.org**! If you've visited our website in the past week, you might have noticed our new look and feel, but the improvements don't stop there. You can enjoy these features:

- **One place to look**: Provides a central location to nurture your faith and discover community.
- **Enhanced search and guided exploration**: Includes pages on ELCA.org, the ELCA's resource library, congregation profile information, Living Lutheran articles and the ELCA's seeker site to provide better search results. Navigate our resources, learn about key topics and find communities of support.
- **Easier navigation**: Find and connect with the ministries and programs that help you act on your faith.
- **Clean and modern feel**: Enjoy an inviting, clutter-free design.
- **Made for everyone**: Follows accessibility best practices.

Explore ELCA.org today and discover more about who we are as a church.

**P.S. Check out our digital toolkit** for resources you can share with your congregation, including a poster, PowerPoint slide, and social media templates.

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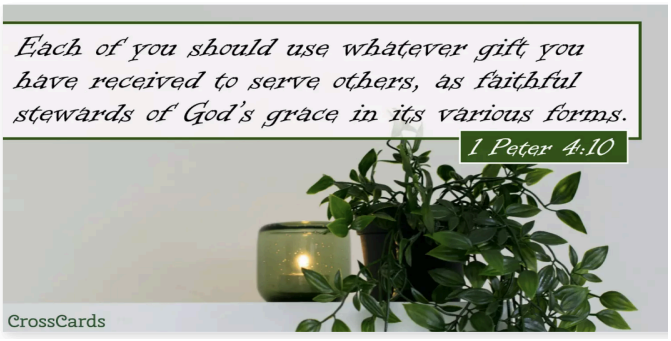
If you have any photos you would like to submit to the newsletter email them to: *pleasantvalleylutheranchurch@gmail.com* Subject: "newsletter photos"

**WE INVITE PRAYERS FOR:**

**WE INVITE PRAYERS FOR:**

**Calling of a new Pastor for our church**
**Kathy Tweet-**healing
**Eric Anderson**
**Beth Stoddard-** hospital
**David (Red) McElwanie**
**Kari-**Healing
**Sadie Hoverson Odegard-** healing at home
**Sandy Schuh-**healing
**Karen Voss**
**Katie (Lammers) Household**
**Lyle**
**Sharon Anderson-** Healing
**Alice-**Art's mother-in-law-healing
**Barb-**Steph's friend
**Joy -**Kathy T. daughter
**Tanner-** Hodgkins
**Tony-** waiting for kidney transplant
**Randy Walker-** fighting cancer
**Joan Timm-** healing
**Guy Patrow –** Tested positive for ALS
**Karl Bahr –** continued healing
**Lisa & Glen-**Fostering children
**All our service men and women**:
**Alex Bauer-** now stationed in Virginia
**Middle East**
**Guatemala**
**Ukraine**
**Shelby Cole and family** - missionaries living in France
**Keyla & Heber** - the Sharing the Dream recipients, students in Guatemala
**Men incarcerated at CVCTF** and **Chaplain Hull**




## Opportunities to Serve

Feel free to sign up for a single week or a full month. Expectations of opportunities have been developed. The expectations are placed near the area to be served.

| 2026 | APRIL | MAY | JUNE |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Communion Set-up** | 4/5 Easter -Monica<br>4/12<br>4/19 Monica<br>4/26 | 5/3<br>5/10<br>5/17<br>5/24<br>5/31 | 6/7<br>6/14<br>6/21<br>6/28 |
| **Communion Server** | 4/5 Easter -Monica<br>4/12<br>4/19 Monica<br>4/26 | 5/3<br>5/10<br>5/17<br>5/24<br>5/31 | 6/7<br>6/14<br>6/21<br>6/28 |
| **Usher** | 4/5 Easter<br>4/12<br>4/19<br>4/26 | 5/3<br>5/10<br>5/17<br>5/24<br>5/31 | 6/7<br>6/14<br>6/21<br>6/28 |
| **Reader** | 4/5 Easter-Monica<br>4/12<br>4/19 Monica<br>4/26 | 5/3<br>5/10<br>5/17<br>5/24<br>5/31 | 6/7<br>6/14<br>6/21<br>6/28 |
| **Church Cleaning** | 4/5 Easter<br>-4/26 Sharon | 5/3<br>5/10<br>5/17<br>5/24<br>5/31 | 6/7<br>6/14<br>6/21<br>6/28 |
| **Serve refreshments** | 4/5 Easter -none<br>4/12<br>4/19 Monica<br>4/26Julie Rykal | 5/3<br>5/10<br>5/17<br>5/24<br>5/31 | 6/7<br>6/14<br>6/21<br>6/28 |

# 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: Marianna.gilbertson@gmail.com or go online to view the websites.

| Agency | Activity/Program | Contact |
|---|---|---|
| **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<br>email at marketing@thecommunitytable.org OR<br>https://communitytable.org/ |
| **Feed My People Food Bank (FMPFB)**<br>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 | 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.<br>**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 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<br> <br>_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<br>Use this ***link*** ***today*** 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.<br>Contact:<br>volunteerwisconsin@redcross.org for any questions regarding opportunities. |
| **Volunteer Wisconsin** | One-stop site connecting nonprofits in need of help with people who can are interested in volunteering | Click here for a full list of every organization currently looking for volunteers. Then, click on “Filters” at the top to sort the openings by city, interest, agency, age range, or about 20 different factors. After doing so, you’ll be left with a list of opportunities. |
| **Agnes' Table** | Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 8am to 12pm. Up to 3-4 volunteers at 1 time, preferably 1 shift. The tasks range from: serving breakfast, helping unload food rescue, restocking our pantry, cleaning jobs or meal prep for the next day. | https://www.agnestable.org/ |

# April 2026

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1<br> | 2<br> | 3<br> | 4 |
| 5<br>6:30am Easter sunrise service with communion<br>9:00am Easter worship service led by the Praise Team<br>7-8:30 Easter breakfast will be served between the two services from 7:00 - 8:30 A.M. | 6 | 7<br>H3 meets 9:30 am at Immanuel Lutheran in Eau Claire and on Zoom | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12<br>9:00 am Worship<br>10:00am Coffee & Fellowship<br>*PASTOR:<br>Dave Sands | 13 | 14<br>H3 meets 9:30 am at Immanuel Lutheran in Eau Claire and on Zoom | 15<br>6:00pm Confirmation | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19<br>9:00 am Praise Team Worship Service in Church 10:00am Coffee, Fellowship<br>6:30pm Praise Team leads worship at CVCTF<br>LEADER: Jeremiah Segerstrom | 20 | 21<br>H3 meets 9:30 am at Immanuel Lutheran in Eau Claire and on Zoom | 22 6:00pm Confirmation<br> | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26<br>9:00 am Praise Team Worship Service in Church 10:00am Coffee, Fellowship<br>6:30pm Praise Team leads worship at CVCTF<br>*PASTOR:<br>Dave Sands | 27 | 28<br>H3 meets 9:30 am at Immanuel Lutheran in Eau Claire and on Zoom | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 |

# 2026

## WELCA WOMEN'S RETREAT

## INFORMATION SHEET

## Mon. June 29 & Tue. June 30

**Presenter:** Pati Kachel

# God Is Writing Your Story

**Music:** Sue Saarem

**Hosted by:** Women of the ELCA

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Jacki Johnson – coordinator 715-864-1489

**Held at:** Luther Park Bible Camp

944 24 ¼ Street Chetek, WI

Full 2 day - Retreat - Early Bird Registration **$95 postmarked by 6/5/26**. **$120 postmarked after 6/5/26** *This includes 4 meals, overnight lodging in a handicap accessible cabin, cabins sleep 6 women (per side – 2 sides), Speaker, camp activities, and costs to host the retreat.*

**Needed items for overnight stay:** Bible and pen along with personal items, towels, pillows, bedding or sleeping bag, flashlight, swimsuit (if you want to swim), snacks, camera, and spending money.

Monday only. Early Bird Registration **$65 postmarked by 6/5/26**. **$90.00 postmarked after 6/5/26** *This includes 2 meals, Speaker, camp activities, and costs to host the retreat.*

**Needed items for one day retreat:** Bible and pen along with swimsuit (if you want to swim), towel, camera, and spending money. ***NO ONSITE Registration* and *No early check-ins for Cabins***

***No refunds, but registration can transfer to another woman***

**Registration: Monday – 9:00 A.M. – 10:15 A.M. in the Ministry Center**

**First time participant orientation begins at 9:15 a.m. and 9:40 a.m.**

A free will offering will be taken with proceeds going to *(Church Women's Group and Personal offerings are encouraged)*

½ WELCA for Synod use

¼ Luther Park

¼ Feed My People

**TO BE ECO FRIENDLY – PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN RE-FILLABLE WATER BOTTLE WATER JUGS WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE CAMP - PLASTIC BOTTLES OF WATER WILL NOT BE PROVIDED**

# REGISTRATION FORM

***Early bird rates apply if postmarked by***

***6/5/2026*** 2026

WELCA WOMEN'S RETREAT

Mon. June 29 & Tue. June 30

**Meet our Presenter: Pati Kachel**

Pati loves God, His people, and His Holy Word….and she loves to tell stories about all of these!

Pati's stories are humorous, heartwarming and above all, Christ-centered. Drawing on her Norwegian and German heritage, Pati weaves family stories and colorful characters into her homespun tales. Check out The Parable Fund to learn more about Pati.

https://www.theparablefund.org/bio

**PLEASE DUPLICATE THIS FORM AS NEEDED** **Registration required by June 22nd**

Make Checks Payable to **WELCA** (not your church or Luther Park)

**Send to:** Barb Krug @ 883 Brucker Street Medford, WI 54451

**Questions:** call or text 715-965-5696 email: barbkrug@charter.net

**Name:** First & Last (as you would like it on your name tag) _____

**Is this your 1st retreat?** _____ **Would you like an orientation at the camp?**_____

**Address:** _____

**Email**_____

**Telephone:** _____

**Church Name and City**_____

**Attending only on Monday** _____

**Do you have any special dietary requirements?** _____