+*Pl*easant Valley Lutheran Church
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Eleva WI 54738

"That all May come, Serving all the People of God"
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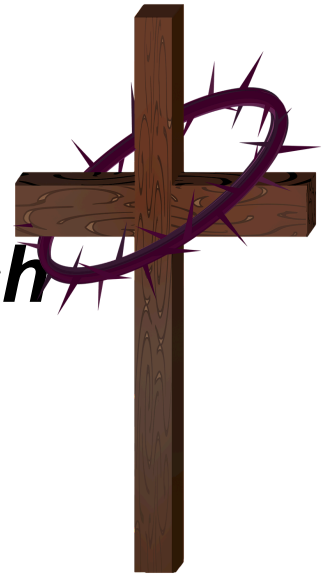
Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church



August Newsletter 2025

God's hope holds us

By, Bishop Eaton July 18, 2025

Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope (Zechariah 9:12).

One of Jesus' resurrection appearances is told in Luke. Two who had followed Jesus were on their way to Emmaus. It was the first Easter, but they didn't know that. What the two did know, and what life had taught them, was that death was final. Their Teacher and Lord was dead. Everything they had seen and felt and experienced was ended. The vision Jesus had shown them—complete, unconditional love; healed bodies and healed relationships; new life more glorious and harmonious than Eden; the redemption of the world, the whole world, all of creation—all of it was gone.

It's a wonder that these two could pull themselves together enough to go for a walk. Many of us have experienced deep loss. I remember leaving the hospital after my father died and being bewildered that the sun was still shining, that people were going about their lives, that the world was still turning. In that moment, my world had stopped. It must have been that way for the two on the road to Emmaus. In their grief they didn't even recognize Jesus. They said, "But we had hoped …" (Luke 24:21).

The week before Holy Week, I was in Jerusalem and the West Bank on a solidarity visit to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. The impact of the war between Israel and Hamas has been devastating. Gaza is almost completely destroyed. On Palm Sunday, the last operating hospital in Gaza was bombed. The situation in the West Bank is also dire. Tourism is a major industry in the Old City of Jerusalem, for Bethlehem and many other holy sites in Palestine. That part of the economy has come to a standstill. Many Palestinian Christians are emigrating because they can't see a future for themselves or their children. The pressure on Arab Christianity, once a vibrant part of the Holy Land (Mitri Raheb, a Palestinian pastor, points out that the ancestors of today's Arab Christians may have been Jesus' babysitters), is intolerable. Settler violence against Palestinians is a reality. When asked what he hoped to be doing in 10 years, one high school boy we met said, "Being alive." Some people we spoke with said they no longer had hope.

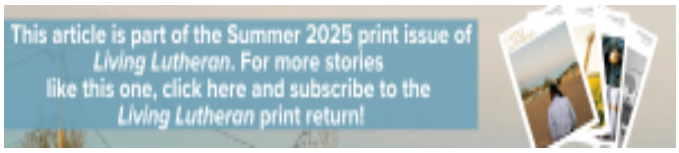
Our true hope lies not in our effort but in the infinite and intimate love of God in Christ.

There are many other places in our world and in our country that experience the same hopelessness. War, fires, earthquakes, droughts, floods, disease, corruption, isolation and political changes all contribute to a feeling of helplessness. This eats away at hope. When we were younger, we had hopes and dreams for our future, for the world's future. It's a cliché, but the possibilities did seem endless. We made plans and set goals. Like the two on the road to Emmaus, "We had hoped." It is just at this point that Jesus spoke to the two on the road and opened up the Scriptures. What's more, he sat down to dinner with them and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. Their hope had not been realized because their hope—our hope—is too limited to know the scope and completeness of God's hope.

God's hope for the world breathed into the creation. God's hope for God's people holds us through all our rebellions and pride. God's hope for our future is only possible in God's hope. And when we can no longer hope, God's hope holds us.

There is nothing in creation that can guarantee that our life and our future will work out exactly how we want. No matter how much we plan and struggle, there is no way that we can manage all the variables that life throws at us. That's the bad news. But it is also the good news. Our true hope lies not in our effort but in the infinite and intimate love of God in Christ.

"And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Romans 5:5).



Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Council Minutes
July 1, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Marianna Gilbertson at 6:32 P.M.

Stephanie Kuehl attended the meeting as a visitor. She reached out to Pastor Randy Olson from the

synod. He would like to meet with the council, call committee and anyone else interested in the process of calling a pastor for Pleasant Valley.

A motion from Rhonda with a second from Marty to approve the secretary's minutes and the treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

Education: Nothing to report at this time. Rhonda will reach out to Corissa about teaching.
Worship: Marty is continuing to reach out to fill some openings in our worship schedule for supply pastors.
Property: It is on Oium's schedule to complete the project for a new well sometime this summer.

Unfinished Business:
~Maria Leverton's baptismal request is still on hold pending Lyle's health situation.
~Community picnic will begin at 3:00 P.M. with a meal being served at 5:00 P.M. The meal will consist of hotdogs, chips, beverages and dessert. Kay has received a Thrivent Seed card to cover expenses. John Poore will take care of the campfire.
~Cleghorn Harvest Fest will be on Saturday, September 6 from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Roxie will take care of the registration fee. We will need volunteers to work at our booth. Crystal will have a quilt ready for the quilt raffle. Kay has games for the kids to play. Roxie has filled out the form for the raffle license to get our new number.

New Business:
~Pleasant Valley Fall Bazaar Plans tabled.

Other:
Marianna Gilbertson announced that she is resigning from council due to personal reasons. This will take effect immediately. Thank you, Marianna, for your service on council.

Mission Offerings:
June: The Community Table
July: Nick & Abby Butchart and Baby Kenzie
August: Eleva-Strum Backpack meals/school supplies
September: Mondovi Backpack meals/school supplies

The next Council meeting has been set for Tuesday, August 5 at 6:30 P.M.

Marty made a motion to adjourn with a second by Roxie. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:44 P.M. and closed with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kay Sands

Members present: Marianna Gilbertson, Roxie Ulness, Rhonda Hoverson, Marty Johnson, and Kay Sands

Treasurer's Report:

Summary of Offering and Expenses

	YTD	May	June	July
Offering /Misc	$29,192.25	$2,824.67	$3,623.50	$3,316.00
Expenses	$27,413.71	$6,456.28	$2,747.83	$2,481.70

Offering Over Expenses - June- $524.42
Offering Over Expenses - July - $834.30
Offering Over Expenses – Y-T-D: $1,928.54

Mission Offerings:
April – Luther Park Bible Camp - $201.00
May – Agne's Table - $261.00
June –Community Table - $280.00
July – Kenzie Butchart - $235.00

Memorials:
Building Fund:
In memory of Don & Dorothy Hageness, from Andy & Shirley Brown

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 August 24 and 31, and will lead worship those evenings at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility (CVCTF) at 6:30 pm. Practices will be held on Wednesdays following worship.

H3 (Holy, Happy and Healthy)
H3 is taking a break this summer and will resume meeting on September 9. The group will be reading the book "Way of Love" by Norman Wirzba. Contact Marianna Gilbertson or Kim Vlcek for more information.

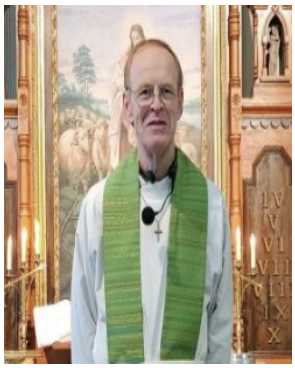
RUTH (Rural Unity Through Hope)
Members of the group gathered at Deb Pattee's home on July 21. Accomplishments for the year were reviewed. The next meeting will be on September 15 at 6:30 pm. Kim Vlcek is the contact for the group.

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 this month.

Pastor David Sands



Jeremiah Segerstrom

Pastor Randy Olson

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Mark your calendar for **Sunday, Sept. 7**, when congregations of the ELCA will join together for our annual day of service, "God's work. Our hands." 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.We are a church that is energized by lively engagement in faith and life. As we continue our tradition of service, we remember the words of Martin Luther, "**Our faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing**." With our hands, we do God's work of restoring and reconciling communities in Jesus Christ's name. If your congregation cannot participate on Sept. 7, 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 ELCA.org/DayOfService for updated resources soon. Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Join us on Sept. 7.

Announcements:

- ★ Cleghorn Harvest Fest will be on Saturday, September 6 from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M
- ★ Worship in the Park bring your own coffee for fellowship afterwards
- ★ Praise Team practice Wednesdays.
- ★ Let Teresa know if there are any announcements you would like included in the bulletin; Friday before Sunday Worship.

Mission offerings:

- ★ August: Eleva-Strum Weekend Backpack Meals and school supplies
- ★ September: Mondovi Weekend Backpack Meals and school supplies

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🎉 We Need Your Help! 🎉

We're looking for volunteers to lend a hand at this year's Cleghorn Harvest Fest! Whether it's setting up, helping at the booth, or keeping things running smoothly—your support makes the magic happen. Come be part of the fun and make a difference. Saturday, September 6 from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M Sign up sheets at worship or let Teresa know your interest. iSign up today! 🙌

TEXTS FOR MAY

August 3:
Hosea 11:1-11
Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

August 10:
Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
Psalm 50:1-8, 23-24
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

August 17:
Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:1-2, 8-18
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

August 24:
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

August 31
Jeremiah 2:4-13
Psalm 81:1, 10-16
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

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From our Mailbox

A Fresh Expression with Jesus Fit!

Join us in August! In collaboration with Bryan Willkom of Jesus Fit, we will explore a new expression of church participation and faith-filled community!

August 28, 2025

The Brewing Projekt
Eau Claire, WI

5:30 Dinner and Conversation
6:30 Beer Church

"Fresh Expressions is a movement of the HolySpirit cultivating new forms of church alongside existing congregations to reach a changing world."

~Deep Roots, Wild Branches, pg. 53

If you'd like to learn more about Jesus Fit:

Visit Jesus Fit Website

View Intro Video

RSVP HERE

This event is free but please RSVP for planning purposes

Questions? Contact Rev. Diane House, DEM 715-671-8333

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Scan to Register/RSVP Here!

Or click the button to Register/RSVP

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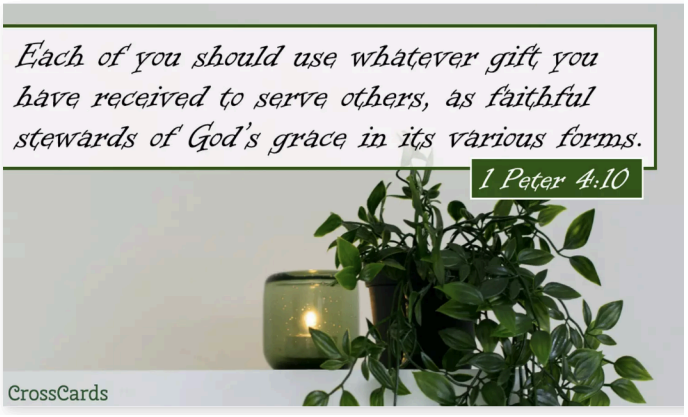


Opportunities to Serve

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

2025	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
Communion Set-up	8/3 8/10 8/17 8/24 8/31	9/7 9/14 9/21 9/28	10/5 10/12 10/19 10/26
Communion Server	8/3 8/10 8/17 8/24 8/31	9/7 9/14 9/21 9/28	10/5 10/12 10/19 10/26
Usher	8/3 8/10 8/17 8/24 8/31	9/7 9/14 9/21 9/28	10/5 10/12 10/19 10/26
Reader	8/3-8/31 Kim	9/7 9/14 9/21 9/28	10/5 10/12 10/19 10/26
Church Cleaning	8/3 8/10 8/17 8/24 8/31	9/7 9/14 9/21 9/28	10/5 10/12 10/19 10/26
Serve refreshments	8/3 8/10 8/17 8/24 8/31	9/7 9/14 9/21 9/28	10/5 10/12 10/19 10/26

Complete the crossword puzzle to fill in the blanks of today's memory verse.

Memory Verse

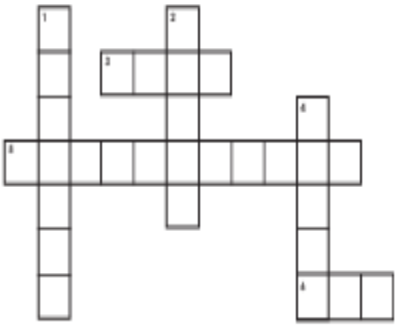
"_____ up
3 across

at the _____ and
6 across

_____ the _____ —if indeed you
2 down 4 down

can _____ them. So shall your _____ be."
2 down 5 across

-_____ 15:5
1 across



ACROSS

3. To view or see
5. Those who come after you
6. The space that is filled with stars, moons, and planets

DOWN

1. The first book of the Bible
2. What we do when we are adding up numbers
4. Burning balls of fire in the sky. Teachers draw them on your test when you get an answer right

Did You Know?

God told Abram that he would have as many descendants as there are stars in the sky. Do you know what *descendants* means? It means "those who come after." So the word descendant could includes children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, etc. Try to figure out who are descendants in your family:

Your grandma's or grandpa's name: _____

Their son or daughter's name: _____

Your name: _____

See? You're a descendant!

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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 email at marketing@thecommunitytable.org OR https://communitytable.org/
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	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 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 ***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. Contact: 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/

August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:00 am Worship Service in park 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship *PASTOR: David Sands	4	5 6:30 Council Meeting	6 6:30 Praise Team Practice	7	8	9
10 9:00 am Worship Service in park 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship *PASTOR: Paul Tobiason	11	12	13 6:30 Praise Team Practice	14	15	16
17 9:00 am Worship 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship *PASTOR: Dave Sands	18	19	20 6:30 Praise Team Practice	21	22	23
24/31 9:00 am Praise Team Worship Service in Church leads worship at CVCTF at 6:30 pm. 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship 6:30pm Praise Team leads worship at CVCTF 8/24*PASTOR: Diane House 8/31*PASTOR: Jeremiah Segerstrom	25	26	27 6:30 Praise Team Practice	28	29	30