*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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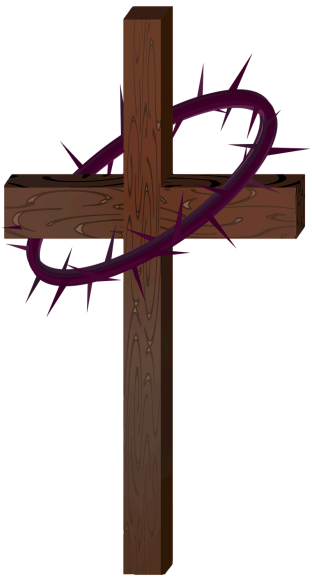
Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church AUGUST

Newsletter 2026



All Together in One Place

July 28, 2026

Choosing Reconciliation Over Division in a Multifaith America

Dear church,

From its earliest days, the United States has been shaped by religious diversity. Indigenous peoples sustained diverse spiritual and religious traditions long before the nation's founding, and successive waves of settlers, including Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists and others, brought a variety of beliefs that helped define the nation's unique and vital religious landscape.

Throughout the church today, many are struggling with debates regarding the religious identity of our nation. While religious diversity did not begin with the Constitution, the Constitution's framers recognized an important truth: the future of our nation could not be tied to a single religious identity. By rejecting religious tests for public office, the Founders created space for people of any or no faith tradition to participate in public life together. That commitment continues to be foundational to our nation's vitality, especially at a time when people are tempted to identify love of the nation, or the government itself, with a single religion. No one faith tradition should rule the United States, just as the framers desired.[1]

As the apostle Paul writes, God has given us "the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:18). Reconciliation involves living in God's future — including through renewed interreligious relationships.

Religious diversity is the reality of the world we live in. Recognizing this, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopted "A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment," which affirms that mutual understanding with other faith traditions can deepen our own faith. Through encountering neighbors and working side by side in shared commitments to love and compassion and community, our own Christian faith is strengthened. This conviction means that through my call as presiding bishop of the ELCA, our church develops and maintains relationships with Jewish, Muslim and many other faith communities. Like personal friendships we hold, these relationships do not require us to set aside Christian faith. Rather they reaffirm that in a nation as diverse as ours, being a good neighbor across religious differences is not optional. It's a part of the shared American experience. It is an experience we can support as everyday Lutherans in God's call to reconciliation.

"The ELCA will explore and encourage inter-religious friendship, accompaniment, and partnership with all who seek justice, peace, human wholeness, and the well-being of creation (ELCA Constitution, Chapter 4.03.f)." —"A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment," p. 10

"The ELCA will defend the full participation of all in our religiously diverse society, 'strengthening public space as a just place for all' regardless of religion or worldview ('The Church in the Public Space: A Statement of The Lutheran World Federation,' 2016)." —"A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment," p. 11

The ministry of reconciliation is both local and national. God invites us to love one another across differences. Trusting in God's grace, we boldly form relationships with neighbors of all faiths who share a commitment to justice, peace and the flourishing of all creation. I encourage you to engage in this essential ministry, which offers a powerful opportunity to heal divisions, deepen respect across differences and strengthen the bonds of our common life.

In Christ,

The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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[1] The ELCA social statement Faith and Civic Life, Seeking the Well-being of All states, "The Establishment Clause is cut from the same cloth as the Constitution's prohibition against religious tests for public office. Government is not the church, and the church is not the government. The intent of the Establishment Clause clearly is that government must not promote a particular faith or religion in general" (45).

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Council Minutes

July 1, 2026

The meeting was called to order by President Dwight Sands at 6:30 P.M. Pastor Dave Sands gave a devotion from the book of Matthew, Chapter 11 and a prayer.

Kim Vlcek and Lidixe Montoya attended the meeting. Lidixe informed the council of the plans for the upcoming Health Fair to be held at Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church on Saturday, November 7 from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Lidixe will attend the

council meeting in September to update the council members on the final plans for the event.

The health fair was corrected in the June 3, 2026 council minutes. Lidixe said the fair will be held on November 7 instead of November 14 as stated in the minutes. Roxie said she received notice that the lift passed inspection. She was able to obtain the certification after paying the fee of $50 for 2026 and $50 for the amount past due for 2025. Rhonda made a motion with a second from Dave to approve the minutes as corrected and the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Education Update: Rhonda will contact Corissa Sands about teaching Sunday school.

Worship Update: Jeremiah Segerstrom has accepted a ministry position in Belleville, IL. His last service with us will be in August. Cortney will be working on filling the supply pastor dates for September through November. Aaron Athas has indicated he may be available to lead a service in October and in December. Cortney will contact him.

Property Update: Dave has replaced the filter on the well and cleaned the filter on the faucet in the kitchenette. The water still has a tinge of color, but it is safe to drink. We will serve bottled water at events. He replaced the sump pump. The lift does not seem to be working again. He will contact Access Elevator.

Old Business:
~The summer community picnic will be on July 25 beginning at 3:00 P.M. Roxie has arranged for an ad to appear in the Ad-Delite. Kay has received a Thrivent Action Team card to support the event. John Poore will spearhead the campfire. Dwight mentioned the idea of getting a banner(s) printed that could be reused to advertise the event each year. No action taken at this time.
~Ride Across America (RAW) will use Olson Park from 6 A.M. - 10 A.M. on July 11, 2026. Buffalo River Johns will clean the porta-potty after the event. The park will be used after worship services on Sunday, July 12 for a family event not related to RAW.
~Cemetery Association request for additional funds to support mowing operations - tabled.
~Rhonda and Kay will donate the items remaining from cleaning out the storage rooms.

New Business:
~Harvest Fest is on September 12, 2026. Roxie has registered for a double booth. Dave will spearhead setting up for the event. Kay will put out a sign-up sheet to enlist volunteers to help with the event as it gets closer.
~Pleasant Valley Fall Bazaar will be on October 4. Dwight will ask Crystal Sands if she would like to donate a quilt for the raffle. Dwight or Cortney will apply for a Thrivent Action Team card to support her quilt ministry.
~Our Thanksgiving Eve service is tentatively set for Tuesday, Nov. 24 at 5:30 P.M. Cortney will reach out to Stephanie and Art regarding their involvement in the service. The Christmas Eve service will be on Thursday, Dec. 24th. The time has not been determined.
~Our current ministry model discussion was tabled for the next council meeting.

Other:
~A motion was made by Dwight with a second from Dave to purchase eight more chairs (up to $300) for the Sunday school area. Motion carried.

Mission Offering:
July - Tony and Juanita Mocarski
August - Eleva-Strum weekend backpack/lunch program
September - Mondovi weekend backpack/lunch program
October - Collect non-perishable food/personal care items to be available at the Health Fair.
November - Mondovi Food Pantry
December - Feed My People

The next council meeting will be on Wednesday, August 5 at 6:30 P.M.
A motion to adjourn was made by Dwight with a second from Roxie. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 P.M. and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kay Sands

Members present: Dwight Sands, Roxie Ulness, Rhonda Hoverson, Cortney Sands, Dave Vlcek, Kay Sands and Pastor Dave Sands

Treasurer's Report:
Summary of Offering and Expenses

	YTD	May	June	July
Offering /Misc	$15,118.81	$4,150.00	$11,118.00	$5377.00
Expenses	$20,840.72	$5,343.62	$3520.07	$4,902.51

Offering Under Expenses - May - $1,193.62
Offering Over Expenses - June - $7,597.93
Offering Over Expenses - July - $474.49
Offering over Expenses -Y-T-D-$1,236.02

Upcoming expenses for August:
Property Insurance - $1,300.00

Mission Offerings:

May- Sojourner House - $265.00
June - Luther Park Bible Camp- $286.00
July - Tony Mocarski -$492.00

Memorials:
General Fund:
In memory of Tom Murphy, from Dale & Sharon Anderson

Cemetery Association:
In memory of Gary Isaacson, from Mike & Bonnie Isaacson
In memory of Robert Timm, from Joan Timm

Building Fund:
In memory of Roger King, from Larry & Crystal Sands

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 23 and 30, and will lead worship on those evenings at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility (CVCTF) 6:30 pm. The group will be playing at the Barnabas Coffeehouse in Chippewa Falls on September 5 at 7 pm. Practices are held on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

H3 (Holy, Happy and Healthy)
H3 is taking a break for the summer. The group will resume meeting again in September, and continue studying "A Beautiful Year" by Diana Butler Bass. Watch for newsletter for updates. Contact Kim Vlcek for more information.

RUTH (Rural Unity Through Hope)
A presentation by Braver Angels is set for 1-2:30 pm on August 22. The purpose is to learn how to have conversation with people with have differing opinions. The event will be open to the community and will be held at the Whitehall Community Library,18560 Scranton Street, Whitehall.
The next RUTH meeting will be on August 17 at 6:30 pm at Peace Lutheran in Pigeon Falls and on Zoom. Contact Kim Vlcek for more information about RUTH.

W/ELCA News
The SWO **Synod Biennial Convention** will be held this year on September 26 at Bethany Lutheran in Rice Lake. This will be a **one-day** event, unlike other years. The Synod board has been busy planning the convention and Day of Awareness on the topic of ***Who Is My Neighbor?*** Guest speakers are Rev. Lori Ruge-Jones and Deacon Lidixe Montoya. In addition to the business meeting, at which new officers will be elected, worship will be led by Rev. Melinda Halom, and there will be numerous break-out sessions.

Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) Ministry
Spanish 102 is offered on August 19-20, 9:30 am to 2:30 pm by Deacon Lidixe Montoya, N2N Mission Developer at Trinity Lutheran in Eau Claire. Click on "Register Now." More information is available on the Synod website:
https://nwswi.org/neighbor-to-neighbor
Pleasant Valley is partnering with Neighbor to Neighbor to host a health and community resource fair on November 7 from 10 am to 1 pm. The purpose is to provide community members with health and wellness services and information about social services. Volunteers will be needed to help set up and clean up and welcome visitors. Donations are requested for food pantry items to give to those who attend. More information will be available closer to the event.

Lisa's IV Hoodies
If you or someone you know is receiving IV treatments, you or that person can receive a Lisa's IV Hoodie …free of charge! Lisa's 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.
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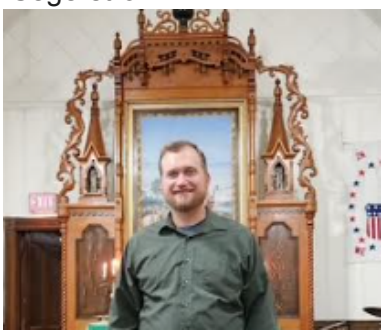
Thanks to our Worship Leaders and members this month who helped with worship.

Jeremiah Segerstrom



Jeremiah Segerstrom has accepted a ministry position in Belleville, IL. His last service with us will be on August 23.

Kim Vclek

TEXTS FOR MAY

Aug 2:
- Genesis 32:22-31
- Psalm 17:1-7,16
- Romans 9:1-5
- Matthew 14:13-21

Aug 9:
- Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
- Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
- Romans 10:5-15
- Matthew 14:22-33

Aug 16:
- Genesis 45:1-15
- Psalm 133
- Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
- Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

Aug 23:
- Exodus 1:8-2:10
- Psalm 124
- Romans 12:1-8
- Matthew 16:13-20

Aug 30:
- Exodus 3:1-15
- Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c
- Romans 12:9-21
- Matthew 16:21-28

From our Mailbox

Dear Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church-
We are beyond grateful for the generous monetary gift to help with the expenses for our daughter, Allison.
She was three days shy of spending seven months in the NICU.
Allison, with her twin sister, Clare, were born at 24 weeks last August. We had 30 beautiful days with Clare before she became our perfect angel.
We know exactly what Clare looks like as the girls were 100% identical, except for fingerprints!
Allison has shown us just how strong she is and we will continue to advocate for her needs as she will have some Cerebral Palsy as she gets older.
Thank you all so very much!
Jill Anderson- Mom
Zach Montgomery-Dad
Big Brother-Robert "Bob"
Allison
Angel sister Clare

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Thank you for the use of the church. Everything worked out very well. Thanks again- stay cool!
Bonnie & Mike Isaacson

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Dear Pleasant Valley Church Family,

Thank you so much for all the love, support and prayers given to me through a real sad and rough time of my life; during my wife Barb's illness and passing away.

I am so blessed and thankful to have such a loving and caring church family.

God's Blessings",

Chad Anderson

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You Are Invited To Heart For Luther Park

Each summer, children and youth from our congregation grow in faith at Luther Park Bible Camp, where camp extends the ministry of the church and home. Support this shared ministry by joining us for **Heart for Luther Park** on **Saturday, August 1, from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.** This annual fundraiser for all ages features an **outdoor live quilt auction**, **silent auction**, **maker's market**, **two raffles** with prizes including a **Solo Stove, a handmade quilt, and a free week at camp**, plus **live music, a food truck lunch, friendship bracelets, gagaball and nine-square, and more!** Every bid, purchase, and raffle ticket helps ensure Luther Park can continue sharing the life-changing love of God with campers of all ages. Learn more about lutherpark.org.

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Tee Off for Luther Park

Support Luther Park's ministry on the links! Join us for the **Luther Park Golf Outing** on **Thursday, August 6**, at **Sioux Creek Golf Course** in Chetek. Gather a team for a fun **9-hole scramble** ($50 per golfer, cart included) with **check-in at 8:30 a.m.** and a **9:00 a.m. shotgun start**. Stay after golf for a **silent auction, prizes, and awards**. Proceeds support Luther Park's ministry with campers and guests of all ages. Register today at **lutherpark.org/golf-outing**.

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Additionally, Luther Park's Facebook and Instagram pages continue to share information about Heart for Luther Park and the Golf Outing, so we ask that you consider sharing those posts on your congregation's pages as well. Questions? Call our office at 715.859.2215 or email me (Heather) at heather@lutherpark.org.

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Through your gifts to ELCA ministries, you are making a difference in the lives of our neighbors around the world. To show you your impact, you'll soon be receiving the newest issue of "Boundless," if it hasn't already reached your mailbox. In it, you'll read stories of faith, community and resilience. Below is a preview of just one of those stories.

"Everybody Has Something to Give"

The Rev. Violet Little leads Welcome Church, a church without walls for people experiencing homelessness and chronic poverty in Philadelphia, Pa. She began building relationships in this community over 30 years ago while she was leading a traditional congregation.

One member of Welcome Church who is finding creative ways to give back to the community is Jibril. He started coming to Bible studies a few years ago after a series of devastating losses in his personal life that ultimately cost him his house. He didn't say much at first, but Violet noticed him doodling on scraps of paper. Over time, she learned that Jibril had gone to art school, but in his grief, he had lost his ability to use many of the techniques he had learned there.

NORTHWEST SYNOD OF WISCONSIN
WOMEN OF THE ELCA

BIENNIAL CONVENTION

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026
8:30 am – 3:00 pm

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH RICE LAKE, WI

Worship with Pastor Melinda Halom
Guest speakers:
Deacon Lidixe Montoya & Rev. Lori Ruge-Jones
Breakout Sessions:
Tracy Fischer from ADRC
(Protect our neighbors)
Michelle Pride from Feed My People
(Feed our neighbors)
Mary Trettin from Justice Seekers
(Help our neighbors)
Monica Dejno from Dejno Acres
(Employ our neighbors)
Deacon Lidixe Montoya/Synod & Neighbor to Neighbor
(Including our neighbors)
Rev. Lori Ruge-Jones from UW Eau Claire
(Educating our neighbors)

$20.00 per person
(Lunch included)

Each congregation unit may have one representative as a voting member for our morning business meeting.

To register send a check made out to WELCA to Phyllis Beastrom
NW Synod of WI SWO Treasurer, W6244 410th Ave. Ellsworth, WI 54011
Questions: beastrom@redwing.net cell # 715-821-5847 home # 715-273-5847

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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"

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

WE INVITE PRAYERS FOR:

Calling of a new Pastor for our church
Maureen Kuhn-Kay Sand's sister
Tony Mocarski- Esophagus cancer treatment starting
Juanita Mocarski- Fell breaking both elbows
Martha Johnson- Living with dementia (Marty's stepmom)
Kathy Tweet-healing
Eric Anderson
Beth Stoddard- hospital
David (Red) McElwanie
Kari-Healing
Sadie Hoverson Odegard- healing at home
Sandy Schuh-healing
Katie (Lammers) Household
Lyle
Sharon Anderson- Healing
Alice-Art's mother-in-law-healing
Barb-Steph's friend
Joy -Kathy T. daughter
Tony- waiting for kidney transplant
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
Keyla & Heber - the Sharing the Dream recipients, students in Guatemala
Men incarcerated at CVCTF and **Chaplain Hull**

All those who are missing a loved one: the family of David Larson
Those on our visiting list: Gary Hazen, Sandy Schuch, Sadie Hoverson Odegard

Community Picnic 2026

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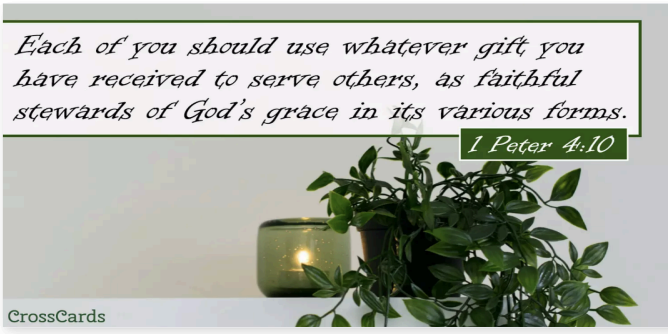
Our church runs on the time and talents of our congregation! We are currently looking for volunteers to help with upcoming needs, including reading during services, setting up, and helping with light cleaning. To sign up, please visit the table in the fellowship hall, email pleasantvalleylutheran.comor talk to Teresa.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE 2026



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.

2026	August	September	October
Communion Set-up	8/2-8/30 KIM	9/6 9/13 9/20 9/27	10/4 10/11 10/18 10/25
Communion Server	8/2-8/30 KIM	9/6 9/13 9/20 9/27	10/4 10/11 10/18 10/25
Usher	8/2 8/9 8/16 8/23 8/30	9/6 9/13 9/20 9/27	10/4 10/11 10/18 10/25
Reader	8/2-8/30 KIM	9/6 9/13 9/20 9/27	10/4 10/11 10/18 10/25
Church Cleaning	8/2-/8/30 SHARON	9/6 9/13 9/20 9/27	10/4 10/11 10/18 10/25
Serve refreshments	8/2- KAY 8/9 8/16 8/23 8/30	9/6 9/13 9/20 9/27	10/4 10/11 10/18 10/25

If you have policies with Thrivent and get Choice Dollars to designate to organizations, please consider donating to Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church.

August 2026

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

Looking Forward:

September 12	Harvest Fest
October 4	Fall Bazaar
November 7	Health Fair

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/