Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church
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Eleva WI 54738

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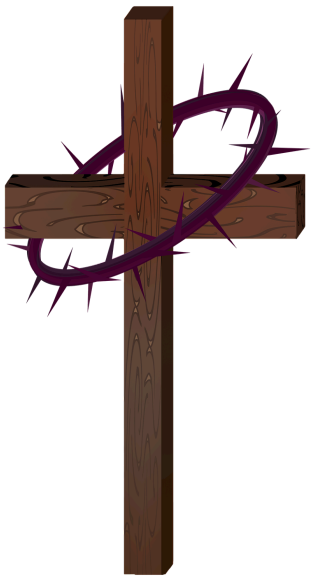
Pleasant Valley

AUGUST Newsletter 2024



Dear Pastors, Deacons, SAMs, Retired Rostered Leaders and Lay Leaders of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

Two of my children participated in track and field in high school and college. The final event of many track meets is the 4x4 relay. Four of the fastest runners on each team run 400 meters and hand off the baton to the next runner. It is an exciting race. It requires not only speed but also a smooth hand off of the baton. I hope to provide a smooth hand off to Bishop-Elect Martin Halom. Handing off the baton reminds me of how in scripture we read that Elijah handed off his mantle of prophetic leadership to Elisha in 2 Kings 2. (Except for the part about Elijah using his mantle to part the waters and then is taken up in chariot of fire.)

Friends, it is my prayer that you will support Bishop-Elect Martin Halom, pray for him and the synod ministers, afford him a measure of grace in these first few months, and trust his leadership. I am confident that he will serve you well.

My last day in the synod office will be July 24. I will be on call until July 31 and Bishop-Elect Martin will assume the office of bishop on August 1. After August 1st I will divide my time between our home in Menomonie and our lake cabin near Walker, MN. I hope to spend more time with my four above average grandchildren in Appleton, WI and my parents in Jackson, MN.

I will NOT be available for pulpit supply or any public ministry in the NWSWI. I will abide by the boundaries required of all retired pastors. I will not interfere in the ministry of this synod. A retired pastor “shall not exercise ministerial functions therein unless invited to do so.” (See page 36 Policies_Procedures_Roster_Mgmt.pdf). I will be present at the Bishop’s Installation on September 15, 3 p.m. at Hope Lutheran in Eau Claire and hope to see you all there.

In 2018, the last question asked during the bishop’s election process was, “What is one word others would use to describe you?” I answered, “Faithful.” That is at least what I aspired to be during these six years as bishop. I have aspired to be faithful to God’s will in our work together as a synod. The question I asked, especially during COVID was, “What is our next most faithful step?” As a follower of Jesus, that is the question I will continue to ask each morning.

It has been my privilege to serve in the synod office for the past 10 years, four years as Director of Evangelical Mission and six years as bishop. Thank you to each of you for your faithful ministry in your congregations! Thank you all for your partnership in ministry! I am especially grateful for the synod ministers. They have blessed me and taught me so much. Thank you to current synod ministers Liz Bartsch, Sara Bishop, Diane House, Lidixe Montoya, Randy Olson, Laura Ramlow and former synod ministers David Behling, Greg Kaufmann, and Erin Nelson.[1] Thank you for your partnership in the gospel! I will continue to pray for you all as you take your next most faithful step so that the next generation will come to know and love Jesus, and all generations will experience God’s grace in their lives.

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

Philippians 1: 3-7 - I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God’s grace.

[1] Check out photos and words of appreciation for the synod ministers here bishops_report_to_the_assembly_2024.pdf

Pleasant Valley Church Council Minutes

Thursday, July 11, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Stephanie Kuehl at 6:40 PM. The secretary’s minutes and treasurer’s report were approved as

presented with a motion by Marty and a second by Corissa.

~Education update: Nothing to report at this time.
~Worship update: The ramp is working well to make the communion railing more accessible.
~Property update: The cold patch has been applied by the handicapped access.
Some locations that may work for a new well were explored if deemed necessary in the future.

Unfinished Business
~Ministry profile/call process: Pastor Randy Olson will be our guest pastor on July 28th. He will meet with the Call Committee after the worship service to go over the ministry profile before it is submitted to the Synod. Anyone who is interested may attend.

~RIC designation: Tabled

~Community picnic planning: A Thrivent Seed card will be used to purchase the food and any other items needed for the picnic on Saturday, July 20th. Corissa Sands will provide outdoor activities. Kay will ask John and Ruth if they are willing to take charge of starting the campfire and cooking the hot dogs. Volunteers should come around 2:00 to set up.

~Fall bazaar planning: The Fall Bazaar will be on Sunday, October 7th. Randy Sands will apply for a Thrivent Seed card to offset the cost of the meal. We will offer a grilled chicken meal and a hot dog meal with potato salad or chips, baked beans, pickle spear, cookie and milk, water or coffee.

Kay will ask Cortney if she will apply for a Thrivent Seed card to purchase a meat bundle and other raffle prizes. Corissa will ask Crystal if she would be willing to donate a quilt. If John Poore is willing to donate wood, we will offer a cash alternative if the winner is not able to use the wood.

Stephanie will talk to the Praise Team about leading the worship service for that Sunday. Roxie will talk to Jerry Larson about the group that likes to come on their tractors. Perhaps we can include them on our flyer. This year we will bring back the bake sale. We will ask some of the older kids to work at that table. Baked goods will not be priced. We will ask for a donation instead. Anyone who would like to donate crafts will be asked to price the items. A donation will be collected for any item not priced.

Individual raffle baskets will be limited to 12. An example is on display at church along with a sign-up sheet. We are asking that individuals sign up for a specific basket theme, put the basket together and deliver it to the Sunday school area by Sunday, August 25th. Kay will take a photo and create a container to collect raffle tickets for each basket. The photos and containers will be on display at the Cleghorn Harvest Fest. This should increase our ticket sales for the baskets.

New Business
~Profits from the Fall Bazaar meal will go towards the handicapped access doors.
~Profits from the rest of the bazaar will be used to purchase new tables for the dining hall.
~Roxie will talk to Kim Vlcek about getting a booth at the Cleghorn Harvest Fest.

Mission Offerings:
August: Eleva-Strum Weekend Backpack Program
September: Mondovi Weekend Backpack Program

A motion to adjourn was made by Marty with a second by Roxie. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next council meeting will be on Thursday, August 15th at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kay Sands

Members present: Stephanie Kuehl, Roxie Ulness, Corissa Sands, Marty Johnson and Kay Sands

Treasurer's Report:

Summary of Offering and Expenses

	YTD	May	June	July
Offering/ Misc	$28,268.30	$2,897.46	$4,007.00	$3,373.00
Expenses	$23,045.88	$2,263.28	$3,184.83	$2,142.46

Offering Over Expense-May - $636.18
Offering Over Expense-June- $822.17

Offering Over Expense-July- $1,230.54
Offering Over Expenses – Y-T-D: $5,372.42

Mission Offerings:
May - Luther Park Bible Camp - $195.00
June - Caring Ministry Fund - $285.00
July - King's Closet -$230.00

Memorials:
Handicap Door Fund:
In memory of Bob Timm, from Dale & Sharon Anderson
In memory of Gary Isaacson, from Dale & Sharon Anderson
In memory of Bob Timm, from Randy & Kay Sands

Cemetery Fund:
In memory of Bob Timm, from Richard and Monica Bahr
In memory of Ardis Olson, from Richard and Monica Bahr
In memory of Gary Isaacson, from Richard and Monica Bahr
In memory of Bob Timm, from Richard and Darlene Pederson

Handicap Door costs:
Piltz Glass - $8,517.00
B&B Electric - $511.17
Concrete work - $1,500.00
Misc supplies - $305.01
Total - $10,833.18
Fundraising to date - $8,159.81 – balance needed - $2,673.37

We have started a Caring Ministry Fund to be used at the discretion of the pastor or council. Thrivent Grant dollars will be used to fund this ministry but you can also make donations, just include a note with check.

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 25 and will lead worship at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility (CVCTF) that evening. The group has been invited to play during the 9:30 am worship at Chimney Rock Lutheran on September 29. Practices are held on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

H3 (HOLY, HAPPY, AND HEALTHY)
The book study group is taking a summer break. Meetings will resume again in September. For information, contact Marianna Gilbertson at marianna.gilbertson@gmail.com, or Kim Vlcek at vlcekkr@yahoo.com.

Women of the ELCA
The Synodical Women's Organization of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin will hold their convention on September 27-28, 2024 at Spirit Lutheran in Eau Claire. The keynote speaker, Dr. Jim Boulder, lead a conversation about climate change, its effects, how we can make an impact on climate change as individuals, as a church, and at our workplace. More information about the event can be found in the flyer included later in this newsletter.

RUTH (Rural Unity Through Hope)
A picnic will be held at Deb Pattee's home near Whitehall on August 19 at 5:30 pm. The next meeting will be held on September 16. For more information about this organization, contact Kim Vlcek.

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.If you'd like more information please call or text Ellen Hauserat 715-797-4354.

Pleasant Valley Fall Bazaar
It's never too early to start planning! The bazaar will be on Sunday, October 7th. The council would like to share with you a few changes taking place with this year's bazaar. First, we are bringing back more of the traditional grilled chicken dinner with potato

salad and beans. We will offer a hot dog option, too.

A bake sale table will be added. However, instead of pricing the items, we will ask for donations.

If you have craft items to donate to the bazaar, please price them. If an item is not priced, we will accept a donation for the item.

We will continue to include individual raffle baskets. However, we are asking that they be put together and delivered to the church Sunday school area by Sunday, August 25th. Kay will take a photo and create a container to collect raffle tickets for each basket. The photos and containers will be on display at our booth at the Cleghorn Harvest Fest. We hope this change will generate more ticket sales. A sign-up sheet and example of a basket can be found on the table in the fellowship hall at church. Any baskets that are brought to the bazaar beyond the ones on the sign-up sheet will be available for donations.

- **Worship Service in the Park except for Praise Team Sundays Mission Offering: last Sunday of the Month:**
  - **August: Eleva Strum Weekend Backpack Lunch Program**
  - **September: Mondovi Weekend Backpack Lunch Program**
- **Council Meets August 15**
- **We need readers, sweet servers, ushers ect. For the summer. Please consider signing up for a Sunday. (Email the church email and Teresa can write your name down 🙂)**
- **Remember to bring your own coffee when service is in the park.**
- **When you get your Newsletter emailed, you get instant access to all the church news on the 1st of every month. Let Teresa know you would like the Newsletter emailed:)**
- **Praise Team practice Wednesdays.**
- **Please email, call, or text Teresa with prayers and updates on our prayer list. If you leave a note on the Secretary's desk please print the name *clearly* for prayer. I feel bad when I have to guess and I get it wrong... Thanks :)**

TEXTS FOR August

August 4
2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a
Psalm 51:1-13
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:24-35

August 11
2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33
Psalm 130
Ephesians 4:25-5:2
John 6:35, 41-51

August 18
1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14
Psalm 111
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58

August 25
1 Kings 8:[1, 6, 10-11], 22-30, 41-43
Psalm 84
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69

Opportunities to Serve

Summer is a busy month: please sign up as you are available:) 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.

Opportunities to Serve

	August	September	October
Communion Set-up	8/4 8/11 8/18 8/25	9/1 9/8 9/15 9/22 9/29	10/6 10/13 10/20 10/27
Communion Server	8/4 8/11 8/18 8/25	9/1 9/8 9/15 9/22 9/29	10/6 10/13 10/20 10/27
Usher	8/4 8/11 8/18 8/25	9/1 9/8 9/15 9/22 9/29	10/6 10/13 10/20 10/27
Reader	8/4 Marianna 8/11 Marianna 8/18 Marianna 8/25 Marianna	9/1 Kari 9/8 Kari 9/15 Kari 9/22 Kari 9/29 Kari	10/6 Marianna 10/13 Marianna 10/20 Marianna 10/27 Marianna
Church Cleaning	8/4 Rhonda H. 8/11 Rhonda H. 8/18 Rhonda H. 8/25 Rhonda H	9/1 9/8 9/15 9/22 9/29	10/6 10/13 10/20 10/27
Serve Coffee	8/4 Marianna 8/11 Marianna 8/18 Marianna 8/25 Marianna	9/1 Rhonda H 9/8 9/15 9/22 Monica 9/29 Rhonda H.	10/6 10/13 10/20 Monica 10/27
Teach Sunday School	No Sunday School	9/1 No Sunday School 9/8 9/15 9/22 9/29	10/6 10/13 10/20 10/27

WE INVITE PRAYERS FOR:

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Barb-Steph's friend
Betty Anna Hulson-Strength through radiation treatments
Marion- Kathy Tweet's granddaughter healing from surgery
Bob Dutter- Burn Center in Minneapolis
Joy & Steve-Kathy T. daughter & son-in-law
Chris-Kathy T. grandson
Tanner- Hodgkins
Heather York and baby Diesel- healing-Kari's friend
Tony- having surgery to remove mass along spine
Huffman Family-, Marianna's cousins
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
Joan Timm- cancer and starting treatment
Michelle - Poore's sister-in-law's sister - cancer in the bone
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 & Heber Lisbeth - the Sharing the Dream recipients, students in Guatemala

Duane Vlcek and Ayla Hakes and family
Inmates at CVCTF and **Chaplain Hull**

All those who are missing a loved one: Family of Gary Isaacson, Family of Bob Timm and the Family of Ardis Olson
Those on our visiting list: Gary and Sharon Hazen, Sandy Schuch, Sadie Hoverson Odegard

From our Mailbox

Dear Friends in Christ,

On September 15, 2024, my husband, Bishop-Elect Martin Halom, will be installed as the next Bishop of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA. This is not only a celebration in the life of Bishop-Elect Halom and his family, but also in the life of this synod and wider Church.

In our prayers, we give such thanks for each and every congregation's mission and ministry. We are the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin ELCA, together. In my call as a stole maker, I plan to make a stole using fabric provided by each congregation in our Synod. We are all unique, but we are sewn

together in mission to serve the Northwest Synod of WI.

Because of this, I'm writing to invite each congregation to contribute a piece of cloth with the primary color being red, orange, or yellow; colors

found in the flames of the Holy Spirit! The piece needs to be at least 6 inches square.

I will be putting together a book with a picture of each fabric and your congregation's name to remind Bishop Elect Martin Halom that he is wrapped in the prayers of the people in our Synod.

Please bring this fabric to worship and pray over it as a congregation using this prayer.

We give you thanks, O God, for the ways you stitch us together by your grace. Bless this fabric as a tangible symbol of our prayers for Bishop Elect Martin Halom as he prepares to lead us in Your creative work. You have given us all unique gifts for the work and mission of Your church. Stitch us together in you. In Jesus's name, Amen.

September 15 will come quickly and I will need time to piece together his stole! **Please send your fabric to me by August 15 th** at the synod office. Shhhhh this is a surprise for him.

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
c/o Melinda Halom
944 24¼ Street, Suite 2
Chetek, WI 54728

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me!

Together in mission,

Pastor Melinda Halom
www.quiltedwithprayer.com
pastormelindah@Gmail.com
517-402-2536

July 2024

Dear Luther Park Supporters,

Summer is in full swing at Luther Park, campers are having fun and our gifted summer staff is inviting "people of all ages to explore and experience the life changing love of God." One parent shared, "Dylan was our son's counselor. He was very positive and great to be around. He was a great role model to my son and helped him want to go to church more." Luther Park creates these beautiful stories and experiences. But faith-growing experiences like this don't happen on their own.

We need your help.

At our annual meeting in February, we approved a stretch budget knowing that we'd be fully staffed year-round for the first time in years. We are thrilled that Abby, our program director, hired and trained a full complement of seasonal summer counselors and support staff, but this great blessing brings us an additional challenge: the summer is our greatest time of financial need. We budgeted (and the constituency approved) $115,000 to attract, train, and retain our wonderful summer staff. Quite frankly, our current giving levels are not meeting our needs.

Will you help us sustain the excellence of summer staff and year-round ministry by making an extra gift this month? Gifts of any amount will have an impact.

To give a gift now, please click here: make a gift to Luther Park

At this time, in order to reduce our monthly expenses, we have suspended making payments on the ministry center loan. We are also grateful that gifts from congregations have increased significantly from the first 6 months of 2023.

Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your partnership. Thank you for your financial support.

In Christ,

Eric Klein <>< Luther Park
Executive Director Board of Directors

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming events to support Luther Park:

- **Sunday, August 4th:** Heart for Luther Park
- **Sunday, August 25th:** Luther Park Golf Outing at Sioux Creek Golf Course

Thank You!

The recent Synod Assembly was an exciting time for ministry throughout the Synod. We elected Pastor Martin Halom as the next bishop, received encouraging and helpful workshops raising up the importance of anti-racism and youth ministries as part of faithful, discipleship, and we concluded the **Today, Tomorrow, Together** campaign for the Synod Endowment Fund.

As chair of the endowment campaign, I am delighted to report that we nearly met our goal for giving to the campaign. Our goal was $125,000 in immediate gifts and we received $118,000 from congregations, individuals, and from affiliated ministries within the synod. We are deeply grateful for the extraordinary response and we continue to accept gifts to hopefully meet our goal! The interest and dividends from these gifts will enable the endowment committee to provide resources for congregations to advance new and creative ministries as well as provide much needed seminary debt relief for pastors of the synod. Thank you.

We hope all of you will continue to consider gifts to the Synod Endowment Fund in the future as the Fund provides resources **Today, Tomorrow, Together.** May God bless your generous hearts and minds. Thank you.

Reverend Gary Hedding, Endowment Campaign Chair

Thanks to everyone who helped with the community picnic!