*Pl*easant Valley Lutheran Church
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Eleva WI 54738

"That all May come, Serving all the People of God"
Church office: 715-287-4473
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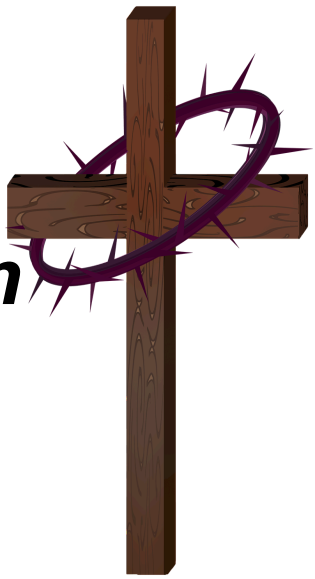
Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church



February Newsletter 2025

January 24, 2025

Dear church,

On Monday, our nation witnessed the peaceful transfer of power central to our democracy, followed by sweeping actions by the incoming Trump administration. Facing such changes, we receive guidance through Martin Luther's words in the Large Catechism.

In the fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer, where we pray “Give us this day our daily bread,” Luther writes about the importance of praying for our leaders, asking God to grant them wisdom and strength. He also speaks to the responsibility of leaders to provide stability, sufficiency and equity, saying, “[I]t would be very proper to place in the coat-of-arms of every pious prince a loaf of bread instead of a lion, or a wreath of rue, or to stamp it upon the coin, to remind both them and their subjects that by their office we have protection and peace, and that without them we could not eat and retain our daily bread.”[1]

This past week has been one of rapid and cascading change, from the inauguration of a new president and vice president to the flurry of activity in government orders and regulations. The policies and decisions reflected in this week's executive orders and regulatory changes have the potential to profoundly impact our lives, the well-being of our neighbors and the future of the planet. Therefore, I am concerned about the ways that many of the executive actions have created uncertainty and fear in our communities among neighbors struggling to survive, neighbors struggling to provide for their children, and neighbors struggling to be seen.

As a church, we are called to speak up when the government distorts or denies the image of God in each person by endangering access to protection, peace and daily bread. Where harm or inequity occur, we are called by God to respond with love and advocacy.

Luther also writes that in asking for daily bread, we are to pray for our leaders. We should pray that they act wisely and justly, protect all people and not cause harm.

Prayer is not passive; it's an act of hope. Prayer reminds us to ground ourselves in God's promise. We pray for strength, to love unconditionally and to serve one another. As we lift up our petitions, we must also act—advocating for policies that affirm the dignity of every person and standing against actions that demean or exclude.

This church is committed to upholding the humanity of everyone, regardless of who we are or where we come from. We are a church called to love our neighbors and accompany all people in their joys and struggles. We must remain steadfast in this calling. As the ELCA, we will continue to proclaim the radical inclusivity of Christ's love. And we will deepen our local and global partnerships with those working to build a just and compassionate society, especially through our ecumenical and interreligious networks.

I commend to you the social message “Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy,” which states on page 7: “To evaluate how well agencies of government are doing their proper work of providing for the safety and well-being of those within their borders and/or jurisdiction, Lutherans ask one simple but all-encompassing question: Is the neighbor being served?”

I encourage our congregations to use the resources of the ELCA Witness in Society Team with advocacy networks on the state and federal level. And get involved with AMMPARO, the ELCA’s strategy toward just and humane policies affecting migrants.

As we move forward, let us hold fast to our faith and to one another. Let us be bold in our witness to the gospel, steadfast in our prayers for those in authority and tireless in our efforts to seek justice for all.

May God grant us courage, wisdom and peace in these days.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Council Minutes
January 2, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Stephanie Kuehl at 6:34 P.M.
A motion was made by Dave with a second from Corissa to accept the secretary's minutes and treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

Education Update: Early Bird Discount Registration for Luther Park is due March 31.

Worship Update: Corissa presented her report to be submitted for the annual meeting.

Property Update: Marty will inform the members of the congregation at the annual meeting of his conversations with the DNR regarding our well and issue with nitrates.

Unfinished Business:
~Stephanie has created a spreadsheet for 2025 and sent it out to several pastors. We have a pastor for most Sundays up to March 23. She is going to add Lenten services to the spreadsheet.
~Ballots are printed for voting on becoming a Reconciled in Christ (RIC) designated church at the annual meeting on Jan. 26th.
~No additional information on insurance quotes at this time.
~Usage agreement to use the park was tabled.
~Stephanie is checking out prices and availability for purchasing 5 new tables. The purchase was approved at the December council meeting.
~Still seeking nominations for two council positions.
~The Ministry plan was reviewed and is ready to present for approval at the annual meeting.

New Business:
~Lenten services will be at 6:15 P.M. following a 5:30 P.M. soup supper.
~Council members will serve refreshments at the annual meeting on Jan. 26th.

Mission Offerings:
January: Feed My People
February: Sojourner House
March: Stella Michels (Chippewa Falls teenager who was severely injured in a scooter accident in August. She is still hospitalized.)

A motion to adjourn was made by Marty with a second by Roxie. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 P.M. and closed with the Lord's prayer.

Next council meeting will be on Thursday, February 6th at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kay Sands

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

Treasurer's Report:
Summary of Offering and Expenses

	YTD	January	February	March
Offering /Misc	$2,416.00	$2,416.00		
Expenses	$2,077.38	$2,077.38		

Offering Over Expense-January-$338.62
Offering Over Expenses – Y-T-D: $388.62

Mission Offerings:
December- Mondovi Food Pantry- $282.00
January - Feed My People - $279.00

No Memorials this month.

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

Respectfully submitted:
Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

RUTH (Rural Unity Through Hope)
The next meeting will be at 6:30 pm on 2/17/25 at Peace Lutheran, Pigeon Falls. The IV Hoodie project has gifted 40 hoodies since it began last year. RUTH will table at the Health Fair in February at the Osseo High School. The community garden in Arcadia was a mixed success. Plans are being considered to make a garden in Independence in conjunction with the building of the new library and community center. The clothing rooms at Peace and Our Saviour's have a fairly good supply for men and women leaving incarceration. There is a need for small and medium sized women's clothing. Contact Kim Vlcek for information.

Praise Team News
The Praise Team will play in worship at Pleasant Valley at 9 am on February 23 and will lead worship at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility (CVCTF) that evening at 6:30 pm. Practices are held on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

H3 (HOLY, HAPPY, AND HEALTHY)
H3 is studying together with the book, "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer, along with scripture readings selected by the group leaders. The group meets at Immanuel Lutheran in Eau Claire and on Zoom at 9:30 to 11 am every Tuesday. Contact Marianna Gilbertson or Kim Vlcek for more information.

Women of the ELCA
Save the Date!
The W/ELCA Dairyland Conference will hold their annual Morning of Renewal on April 9, 2025 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm at Immanuel Lutheran in Strum. Guest speaker, Paul Savides, currently works as a community organizer in Eau Claire for the past 17 years, primarily as a volunteer organizer with JONAH (Joining Our Neighbors, Advancing Hope). Previously, Paul was an English teacher in the Mondovi Schools District. More information about the event will be available soon.

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.

Pastor Vern Weeks

Pastor David Sands

From our Mailbox

Christmas from the Heart was a huge success because of the wonderful people like you! Whether it was donations, shopping, gift wrapping, selecting hearts from the tree, or helping in any other way - Thank you! This project would not be possible if it were not for your generous donations and wonderful support of our communities.
God taught us Faith, Hope and Love - and the greatest of these being love. Thank you for sharing your love with the families in need of a little extra Holiday Cheer.

Sincerely,
Debbie Wright

Day Camp -- Full Summer

Day Camp will now be offered during all our program weeks in the summer! This is a great ***affordable*** summer childcare option for families or can be a way for the youngest campers to get their first camp experience. Campers can sign up for one day, or up to the full week. Trained staff will lead age appropriate activities including Bible story time, games, swimming, arts and crafts, and much more. While we do many of our activities each day, we also have a unique theme every week to keep things fun and different. Day camp is provided Monday through Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm with lunch and snacks provided. **Grades: K-5**

Evergreen

Introducing Evergreen, a brand-new program at Luther Park designed for high school campers to deepen their faith, build lasting friendships, and grow in their relationship with God in a close-knit community. This exciting program focuses on leadership development, personal reflection, and confidence-building, while leaving plenty of time for adventure, intentional community, and classic camp activities. Campers will enjoy everything Luther Park has to offer, along with special experiences like an overnight at Luther Woods, a service project, and a specialty worship just for high schoolers, making Evergreen an unforgettable eek for our next generation of leaders! **Grades: 8-11**

Jump! (Junior Mentorship Program)

Take the leap into a transformative 3-week program designed to equip you with real-life leadership skills while experiencing the best of Luther Park. Spend the first week enjoying all the fun of camp, the second week learning and practicing leadership, and the third week shadowing a counselor to mentor younger campers. Grow in confidence, faith, and leadership while making a meaningful impact on others! This program takes applications, meaning our high schoolers that choose to participate will apply online and interview with our Program Director Abby. There is no fee for this program, as you are an active participant in the leadership of our camp program. **Grades: 10+ Cost: No fee, application here --->** JUMP Application

You may notice that we no longer will be offering PALS. A combination of Jump! and Evergreen are taking over for this program. Jump! covers the leadership part, Evergreen covers the *regular* high school camper part! If you have questions about this don't hesitate to call the office 715-859-2215 and we can share more about the changes with you.

God bless and we are excited to partner with your congregations for a great summer in 2025!

NWSWI CREATION CARE

Join us for our meetings on the Third Wednesday each month at 1pm on Zoom.

Meeting ID: 811 4473 3838
Passcode: 739625

Email: creation.nwswi@gmail.com

★ Lenten services will be at 6:15 P.M. following a 5:30 P.M. soup supper. Please sign up in the fellowship hall for bringing soup and/or sweets.

★ Early Bird Discount Registration for Luther Park is due March 31.

★ New Council Members are Rhonda and Dwlght. Thank you for volunteering!

★ Thank you Steph and Corrissa for serving on the council.

★ New sign up sheet for 2025 Opportunities to Serve Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church in the Fellowship Hall: Communion Set-up, Communion Server, Ushers, Readers, Church Cleaning, Serve Coffee & provide snack, help with Sunday School

★ 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 FEBRUARY

February 2

- Malachi 3:1-4
- Hebrews 2:14-18
- Luke 2:22-40
- Psalm 84
- *or* Psalm 24:7-10

February 9

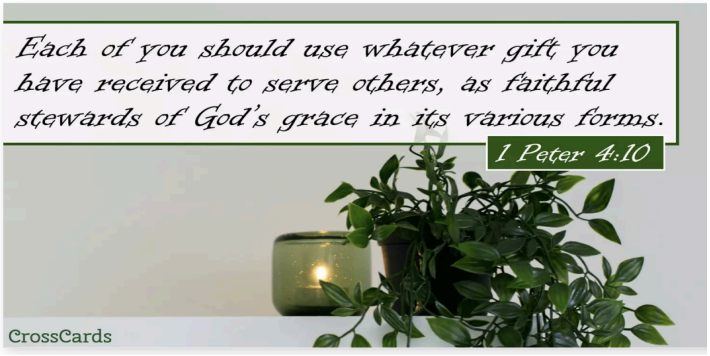
- Isaiah 6:1-8, [9-13]
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
- Luke 5:1-11
- Psalm 138

February 16

- Jeremiah 17:5-10
- 1 Corinthians 15:12-20
- Luke 6:17-26
- Psalm 1

February 23

- Genesis 45:3-11, 15
- 1 Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50
- Luke 6:27-38
- Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42



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	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
Communion Set-up	Roxie	Monica	4/6 4/13 4/20 4/27
Communion Server	Roxie	Monica	4/6 4/13 4/20 4/27
Usher	2/2 2/9 2/16 2/23	3/2 3/9 3/16 3/23 3/30	4/6 4/13 4/20 4/27
Reader	Roxie	Monica	4/6 4/13 4/20 4/27
Church Cleaning	**SHARON**	3/2 3/9 3/16 3/23 3/30	4/6 4/13 4/20 4/27
Serve Coffee	Crystel & Corissa	3/2 3/9 3/16 Monica 3/23 3/30	4/6 4/13 Easter 4/27
Teach Sunday School	2/2 2/9 2/16 2/23	3/2 3/9 3/16 3/23 3/30	4/6 4/13 Easter 4/27

WE INVITE PRAYERS FOR:

Calling of a new Pastor for our church

Kari
Maria
Lyle
Chris - Kathy Tweets grandson
Sharon Anderson- Healing
Christine Ahles- Pastor Valerian Ahles's wife
Nicki Vlcek
Alice-Art's mother-in-law-healing
Barb-Steph's friend
Joy -Kathy T. daughter
Tanner- Hodgkins
Heather York and baby Diesel- healing-Kari's friend
Tony- waiting for kidney transplant
Randy Walker- fighting cancer
Don (Stich)-Stichen- Kathy's friend
Joan Timm- healing
Michelle-Poore's sister-in-law's sister - cancer in the bone
Guy Patrow – Tested positive for ALS
Karl Bahr – continues with therapy

Lisa & Glen-Fostering children
All our service men and women:
Alex Bauer stationed in England

Middle East Guatemala
Ukraine
Shelby Cole and family - missionaries living in France
Keyla & Heber - 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:
Those on our visiting list: Gary and Sharon Hazen, Sandy Schuch, Sadie Hoverson Odega

2025 COUNCIL MEMBERS

2025 Council Members	Positions to be decided
Dwight Sands	
Marianna Gilbertson	
Kay Sands	
Roxie Ulness	Treasurer
Dave Vlcek	
Marty Johnson	
Rhonda Hoverson	

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you." Jeremiah 1:5a

Memory Verse

You might not be familiar with the word *consecrate* from today's memory verse, but it's very important to the verse's meaning! Look at the chart below. Each word has a number for its column (written at the top) and for its row (written to the left). If the word's column number and row number add up to 6, then that word is a synonym for consecrate. Shade in the right words.

	1	3	4	2	5
5	Dedicate	Ignore	Change	Forget	Name
4	Push	Condemn	Poke	Bless	Hold
1	Await	Hide	Assemble	Take apart	Set apart
2	Imagine	Write	Make holy	Smell	Raise
3	Make secret	Anoint	Hope for	Remember	Juggle

Look It Up!

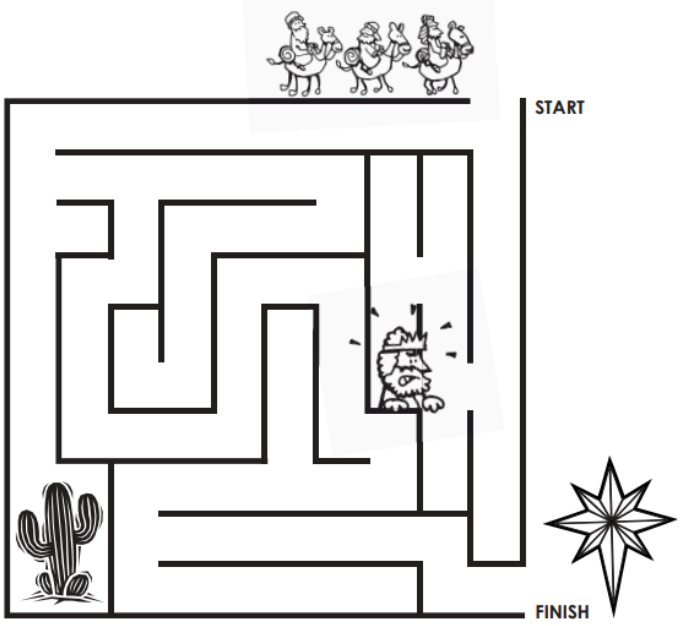
The books in the Bible with the most chapters are Psalms, Isaiah, and Jeremiah. Look up how many chapters each one has.

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS IN PSALMS: _____

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS IN ISAIAH: _____

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS IN JEREMIAH: _____

The symbol of Epiphany is a star. It reminds us of the star that the Magi followed to find Jesus. Go through the maze to help them reach the star, but don't run into Herod or get lost in the desert!



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/

February 2025	# Pleasant Valley Lutheran February	Please Post

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Church services will be radio transmitted.						
						1
2 **Groundhog's Day 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship**	**3**	**4** **9:30-11am H3 Immanuel Lutheran Church Via Zoom**	**5** **6:30pm Praise Team Practice**	**6**	**7**	**8**
9 **9:00 am Worship Service 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship**	**10**	**11** **9:30-11am H3 Immanuel Lutheran Church Via Zoom**	**12** **6:30pm Praise Team Practice**	**13**	**14**	**15**
16 **9:00 am Worship Service 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship**	**17** **6:30 pm RUTH meeting at Peace Lutheran, Pigeon Falls**	**18** **9:30-11am H3 Immanuel Lutheran Church Via Zoom**	**19** **6:30pm Praise Team Practice**	**20**	**21**	**22**
23 **9:00 am Praise Team Worship Service Praise Team Worship 6:30pm Worship and CVCTF**	**24**	**25** **9:30-11am H3 Immanuel Lutheran Church Via Zoom**	**26** **6:30pm Praise Team Practice**	**27**	**28**	