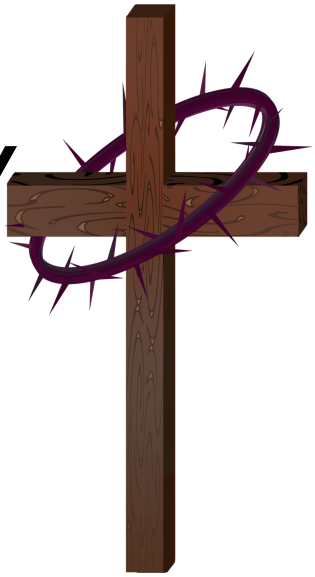
Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church
W2450 Cty, Rd. WW
Eleva WI 54738

"That all May come, Serving all the People of God"
Pastor JonPaul Dragseth: Cell: 715-271-2253
Church office: 715-287-4473
Church Secretary: Teresa Johnson – Cell: 608-751-8836
Church Email: pleasantvalleylutheranchurch@gmail.com

Website: www.pleasantvalleylutheran.com

Pleasant Valley



January Newsletter 2024

Pastor's Corner: January, 2024

A New Year

I'm going to get more exercise. I'm going to eat healthy. I'm going to spend more time with my family. I'm going to watch less T.V. I'm going to spend more time playing with my kids.

'Tis the season for New Years' resolutions. We start out strong- this year, we really are going to make these changes in our lives. "This is the year I will lose weight," we tell ourselves. "This is the year I stop eating out and pack a lunch instead," we insist to ourselves. "You will stop smoking," we demand of ourselves.

It seems to me that New Years' is about new beginnings. Like the birth of a child, a marriage, a divorce, or even a death, the start of a new year marks an opportunity to redefine ourselves. It's really, then, about hope. Hope that things can be different; hope that we can be different. Hope that this time, this year, we can make the changes we want for ourselves.

And then, like each year before this one, we slowly slide away from our resolutions. The initial calm after the busy holiday season quickly picks up again with work, school, community events, and family gatherings. That gym membership goes unused. Picking up fast food is just so much more convenient than preparing a salad. Smoking is just too ingrained in our daily habits, especially when stressed. And, January's promises fade to old patterns.

Hope is a powerful thing. Hope can keep us going in the darkest of times and bring us out of the depths of despair. Hope makes us confident in a future that is yet uncertain.

But, when we place our hope for a new future or a new life in our own ability to overcome obstacles, we set ourselves up for failure. I think this is what bothers me most about these kinds of resolutions; too often they set us up for defeat and lead to thoughts and feelings of not being good enough or strong enough or smart enough to do the things we hoped for.

But that is not what God says about you. In the waters of baptism, God has claimed you. You don't have to be skinny enough, smart enough, wealthy enough, eat the right foods, or read enough books. God loves you for the child of God that you are.

And yet, we all have unhealthy habits that affect our lives. We eat too much and do not get enough exercise. We really would be better off if we spent more time with our children and spouses. We would be much healthier if we drank less or quit smoking.

So, let me give you this as you set your resolutions for the coming year. Place your hope in God. Hope and trust that no matter what challenges you face; in your health, your personal life, or in the workplace, God walks alongside you. And, make your resolutions with a friend; someone who seeks the same change as you. Someone who will help you stay on track with your goals and will be there as a support when you aren't doing as well as you had hoped. Walk together this New Year.

Walk beside each other in times of great joy and great sorrow. Walk beside each other in heartache and in celebration. Faithfully remind one another that God is your hope and that regardless of your progress toward your goals, you are a claimed Child of God, loved and accepted in God's eyes.

Happy New Year!

Peace,
Pr. JonPaul

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Council
Thursday December 7, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Marianna Gilbertson at 6:42 P.M. The secretary's minutes, treasurer's report, and Pastor JonPaul's report were accepted as presented with a motion made by Marty and a second by Marianna. Motion carried. President Stephanie Kuehl arrived to preside over the council meeting.

Education Update: There will be Sunday School on December 10 and January 7, a movie or alternate activities will be planned for the students. Corissa will be with the students on December 10. Cortney will teach on January 14 and will return to the curriculum. A request for teachers will be put in the bulletin. Kay will teach on February 4.

Worship Update: Caroling to shut-ins on Sunday, December 10. Meet at the church at 1:00.
Property Update: Since there are products containing chemicals stored in the cupboards of the kitchens, Stephanie will order some child-proof locks and Marty and/or Nate will install them.
New Business:
~Church ministry plan (budget) for 2024 will be finalized at the January council meeting for presentation at the annual meeting on January 28, 2024.
~Poinsettias for shut-ins have been purchased and will be delivered during caroling.
~Outgoing council member is Cortney Sands.
Mission Offering:
December: The Community Table
January: Luke 3:11 Project
February: Bolton Refuge House
The next council meeting will be on Thursday, January 4 at 6:30 P.M.
Motion to adjourn was made by Corissa with a second by Cortney. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 P.M. and closed with the Lord's Prayer.
Members present: Marianna Gilbertson, Stephanie Kuehl, Corissa Sands, Roxie Ulness, Cortney Sands, Marty Johnson, and Kay Sands

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Sands

Treasurer's Report:

Summary of Offering and Expenses

	YTD	October	November	December
Offering	$50.534.04	$5,793.57	$4,775.00	$4,902.76
Misc. Income	$1,169.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Expenses	$52,629,09	$4,655.96	4,933.00	$3,328.00

Offering Over Expense - Oct: $1,137.61
Offering Under Expense-Nov: $158.00
Offering Over Expense-Dec: $1,574.76
Offering Over Expenses – Y-T-D: $5,463.31

Mission Offerings:
October- Feed My People- $305.00
November- Mondovie Food Pantry- $322.00
December- Community Table-
Memorials: None this month

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 January 28 and will lead worship at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility that evening. A big thank you to all those who went Christmas caroling on December 10!! Join the group for practices every Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

H3 (HOLY, HAPPY, AND HEALTHY)
The book study group will begin again in January on Tuesdays at 9:30 am on Tuesdays at Immanuel Lutheran, Eau Claire, and on Zoom. Dates and book selection will be announced.

For more information contact Karen at betziglundberg@charter.net, Marianna Gilbertson at marianna.gilbertson@gmail.com, or Kim Vlcek at vlcekkr@yahoo.com.

RUTH (Rural Unity Through Hope)
The next RUTH meeting is scheduled for January 22 at 6:30 pm at Peace Lutheran in Pigeon Falls and on Zoom. Kim Vlcek and Marianna Gilbertson are contacts about the group.

Women of the ELCA
The 2024 Morning of Renewal is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, 2024 at Central Lutheran Church in Mondovi. Guest speakers will be Mercedes Falk and John Rosenow, Mercedes Falk, President of the Board of Directors for Puentes/Bridges, Inc. headquartered in Fountain City WI, works to help farming communities in west central Wisconsin and southeastern Minnesota bridge the cultural and language gaps between Mexican workers, the farmers with whom they work, and the communities in which they live. John Rosenow, co-owner of Rosenholm Wolfe Dairy and Cowsmo Compost, rural Cochrane, WI, is active in Puentes/Bridges and employs farm workers from Mexico. One of the ways Puentes/Bridges fulfills their mission is to facilitate travels to Mexico for employers to meet families of their farm workers and learn

about Mexican culture. More information will be available in the near future about this event. Monica Bahr and Kim Vlcek at contacts for W/ELCA.

Opportunities to Serve

We will be transitioning our opportunities from monthly to weekly opportunities. Feel free to sign up for a single week or a full month.

	January	February	March
Communion Set-up	1/7 Ruth 1/14 Ruth 1/21 Ruth 1/28 Ruth	2/4 Sharon 2/11 Sharon 2/18 Sharon 2/25 Shoron	3/3 3/10 3/17 3/24 3/31
Communion Server	1/7 John 1/14 John 1/21 John 1/28 John	2/4 Randy 2/11 Randy 2/18 Randy 2/25 Randy	3/3 3/10 3/17 3/24 3/31
Usher	1/7 Ruth 1/14 Ruth 1/21 Ruth 1/28 Ruth	2/4 Kay & Randy 2/11 Kay & Randy 2/18 Kay & Randy 2/25 Kay & Randy	3/3 3/10 3/17 3/24 3/31
Reader	1/7 Ruth 1/14 Ruth 1/21 Ruth 1/28 Ruth	2/4 Kay & Randy 2/11 Kay & Randy 2/18 Kay & Randy 2/25 Kay and Randy	3/3 Marianna 3/10 Marianna 3/17 Marianna 3/24 Marianna 3/31 Marianna
Church Cleaning	1/7 Ruth 1/14 Ruth 1/21 Ruth 1/28 Ruth	2/4 Sharon 2/11 Sharon 2/18 Sharon 2/25 Sharon	3/3 3/10 3/17 3/24 3/31
Serve Coffee	1/7 Ruth 1/14 Ruth 1/21 Ruth 1/28 Ruth	2/4 Kay 2/11 Kay 2/18 Kay 2/25 Kay	3/3 Marianna 3/10 Marianna 3/17 Roxie 3/24 Roxie 3/31 Roxie
Teach Sunday School	1/7 1/14 1/21 1/28	2/4 2/11 2/18 2/25	3/3 3/10 3/17 3/24 3/31

WE INVITE PRAYERS FOR:

Bernie-In Hospital with Covid
Steve Moore-Hospice (Cathy's Brother-in-Law)
Lenny Odegard-Hospital
Chris-Kathy Tweet's grandson
Diane Kaufmann- Hospice care
Eleanor Erwin- Healing from mild stroke (Marianna's cousin)
April McCourt- Lymph node cancer (Marianna's sister-in-law)
Alton and Ruthann Hillesland- Alton just received a diagnosis of lung cancer
Tony- having surgery to remove mass along spine
Erica and baby Heidi Mercy Huffman-premature birth, Marianna's cousins
Otay "Bob" Tollefson-healing, Tony's brother
Kathy T- healing from ankle surgery
Kari-healing and comfort
Karen Ivins- healing
Al- healing
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
Allan Arneson - healing- great nephew of Bob and Joan Timm and Sandy Schuch
Michelle - Poore's sister-in-law's sister - cancer in the bone is improving
Guy Patrow – Tested positive for ALS
Karl Bahr – continues with therapy
Martha McCourt – Marianna's mother; living with dementia

Lisa & Glen-Fostering children
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 Lisbeth - the Sharing the Dream recipient, student 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
Those on our visiting list: Bob Dutter & Gary and Sharon Hazen, Sandy Schuch, Sadie Hoverson Odegard

- ★ January 4: Council Meeting 6:30
- ★ January 28: Annual Meeting
- ★ Please sign up for a Sunday to teach Sunday School. Lessons are planned for you.
- ★ Please consider getting your Monthly Newsletter emailed to you. Not only do we save postage and paper but there are links embedded in the Newsletter for more learning, meditation and information. Let Teresa know:)
- ★ Praise Team practice Wednesdays.
- ★ Please email, call, or text Teresa with prayers and updates on our prayer list.

From our Mailbox

Thank you to the carolers for the beautiful Christmas songs and also for the poinsettia. We will really enjoy it.

Merry Christmas,
Bob & Joan Timm

Dear Pleasant Valley Church,

What a surprise this morning to see an offer from you for Christmas. Thank you so much!! I already know what I'll do with it. I'll put it towards my grandkids presents. So you have made me and 14 other little people happy! Yes I have 14 grandkids with one more coming in March!

I am well. God's been good to me. Work is going well. I'm teaching 6 days a week most of the time. I teach English as a second language via vidéoconférence. Since I'm in business for myself no one can tell me not to talk about Jesus, so I do it as often as I can. ❤️

I'm going on my second year here in Juvisy sur Orge. It's in the southern part of the Paris suburbs. It's not terribly far from my kids and is well served by trains and buses. I'm not sure how long I'll be here because my relationship status may change in the future. I will keep you posted!

I've finally resigned from the Royal Rangers. I'm 60 now and all the camping I'll leave to the youngsters. ⛺

I'm in a small church that's been going through a long hard pastoral transition. Last week I preached and today I led the worship. I don't feel quite at home here but I know God wants me to stay as long as I'm in Juvisy.

Please pray for me. I'm going to have surgery on Nov 16. It's elective surgery for my abdomen after all the weight loss I've had. I'm happy to get it done but a little apprehensive also.

Please pray also for my residency papers and nationality. After 35 years I've decided to become French 🥖🥖. I can keep my American nationality as well. Pray that all the paperwork will go through smoothly.

Thank you so much for your love and care 😘

Shelby.

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Dear Pleasant Valley Church Family,

Thanks so much for the beautiful poinsettia pland and for the wonderful christmas caroling. We sure enjoyed and so appreciated it. It was so kind and thoughtful of you.
Also, thank you all for your continued prayers, love, and support for us during my cancer journey. It means so much. You all are such a blessing!

With our love and gratitude,
Sharon and Dale

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Dear friends,
May the peace and joy of Jesus be with you this season.
Merry Christmas and a blessed new year!
Together in Christ,

Bishop Laurie Skow-AnderSon
Rev. Randy OlSon
Rev. Diane House
Rev. Sara Villarreal Bishop
Deacon Lidixe Montoya
Deacon Laura Ramlow
Liz Bartsch

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Dear Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Women of the ELCA,

Thank you for supporting the ministries of Women of the ELCA with your recent gift of $253.88. Your faithful generosity makes a real difference. Thank you.

Thanks for your generosity. Together, thanks to your support, we'll get through this. Thank you. For regular updates on our ever-growing work together, please see our website, www.womenoftheelca.org .

Your giving really does make a difference. Thank you.

With gratitude,
Linda Post Bushkofsky
Executive Director

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Dear Friends of the Foodbank,

Here are 3 ways **you can help** Feed My People with just a little effort and still make a big impact.

1. **Carols for a Cause** – Help FMP win $15,000 by voting for our video.
2. **Vote now for FMP in** Volume One's 'Best of the Chippewa Valley' reader poll.
3. **Nominate Feed My People** in Scheel's 2023 Giving Campaign.

Read more about each chance to help and how to vote here:
https://www.fmpfoodbank.org/about_us/news.phtml/nominate-feed-my-people

Thank you so much for your support.

Michelle Pride
Community Engagement Specialist
Feed My People Food Bank
Phone: 715-835-9415, x110
Direct Line: 715-708-2410
Email: michelle@fmpfoodbank.org

2610 Alpine Rd
Eau Claire, WI 54703

fmpfoodbank.org

One of the Greatest gifts you can give is your time.

Volunteers Urgently Needed for the Following Positions in Your Community:

Disaster Dispatcher: Become the liaison between emergency service/clients and DAT responders with ensuring timely activation and monitoring of responses.
Preferred Commitment: 4 on-call shifts/month.
Disaster Action Team (DAT) Specialist: Assist individuals and families who have been impacted by a home fire or local other disaster.
Preferred commitment: monthly on-call shifts.
Blood Donor Ambassador: Help Save lives in your community by supporting blood collection at a local blood drive. Preferred commitment: 1 shift (4-6 hour shift) per month.
Recovery Caseworker:
Support the recovery of disaster affected individuals, households and communities by providing referrals, advocacy, and financial assistance. Preferred commitment: 4-8 hours/week.

To learn more:
Visit www.redcross.org/volunteer.
Contact: volunteerwisconsin@redcross.org for any questions regarding opportunities.

Scan with cell phone camera to apply

Luther Park Bible Camp
Summer Camp Registration Opened December 1st!

Make sure to check out our program overview to see what's new for Summer 2024. We have added two brand new programs, and adjusted the grade level on some of our classics.

Hiring Summer Staff!

We are hiring Summer Staff! We are Looking for individuals aged 18+ who are interested in an unforgettable summer experience. LPBC is a great employment opportunity for people who genuinely enjoy working with children and youth. Working at LPBC gives you the chance to work with different visitors and guests from around the world including (but not limited to) campers, students, teachers, parents, volunteers, alumni, wedding guests, rental/ retreat guests, and church members. Counseling and support staff positions are available. Applications Are open now and can be found at lutherpark.org/summer-staff

View December Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, Issue 8 Justice Newsletter. To view please click on this link.

TEXTS FOR January

January 7
Genesis 1:1-5
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11
Psalm 29

January 14
1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20)
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51
Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17

January 21
Jonah 3:1-5, 10
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20
Psalm 62:6-14

January 28
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28
Psalm 111

Troubling the Waters for Healing of the Church

You are invited to join Deacon Lidixe Montoya and Michelle Pride to Trouble the Waters. Based on the ELCA's Social Statement "Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture" this 18-session course explores the power, privilege, and prejudice that belongs to White Christians. Many of us know racism is a sin – a mix of power, privilege, fragility, and prejudice. As leaders and members of primarily White congregations in a White denomination in a mostly White state, we are called upon to recognize the power of implicit bias and whiteness in order to live more fully as the people of God. Join as individuals or with a group for awareness & growth and to work for change together within your congregations and communities. We will examine the history of the United States, the church, and your own personal history for the legacy of White Privilege. This is an intentional journey to enter into addressing hard questions, or what needs to die in order for new life to rise.

Sign up to join your neighbors in Troubling the Waters here:
https://subsplash.com/northwestsynodofwisconsi/lb/ev/+m45ms55

Access Participant Materials here:
https://www.elca.org/Resources/Racial-Justice

To learn more contact:
Deacon Lidixe Montoya:
neighbor2neighbor@nwswi.org. or
Michelle Pride: mapride@hotmail.com

Troubling the Waters Course Schedule
Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:00 pm via Zoom

Epiphany
- January 9 Listening and Learning

Lent
- February 20 Searching for what is Lost
- February 27 Entering the Story of the United states
- March 5 Examining attitudes of Privilege
- March 12 Entering the story of Church
- March 19 Examining the Construction of Culture
- March 26 Entering My Story of Privilege

Easter
- April 9 Entering Healing waters
- April 16 Walking the Journey Toward New White Identity
- April 23 Building Toward a Multicultural Church

Pentecost
- May 7 Stepping Out in Faith
- May 14 Beholding God's New Vision
- May 21 Taking Steps to Act
- June 4 Reporting Back and Reflecting
- June 11 Experiencing Change..Praising God…Continuing the Journey

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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
ELCA Youth Gathering	The ELCA Youth Gathering couldn't happen without the love and support of volunteers. Applications are now open to volunteer at the 2024 Gathering. This cycle offers five different volunteer opportunities for which you can apply. For a detailed list of responsibilities and deadlines, or to apply go to website	ELCA.org/Gathering.
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)	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.	https://www.fmpfoodbank.org/get_involved/volunteer.phtml Sign up online with Ken; or call Michelle Pride at 715-835-9415 or email michelle@fmpfoodbank.org
Inclusive Ministry Church	A church experience where you are welcomed with abilities and disabilities, just as you	See facebook 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.

January 2024

Pleasant Valley Lutheran

Please Post

Sunday	*Monday*	*Tuesday*	*Wednesday*	*Thursday*	*Friday*	*Saturday*
Church services will be radio transmitted.						
	1	2	3	4 **6:30pm Council Meeting**	5	6
7 **9 am Worship Service** **10 am Coffee & Fellowship** **Sunday School** **Adult Education**	8	9 **9:30am H3, Immanuel Lutheran and on zoom**	10 **6:30pm Praise Team Practice**	11	12 Lay School of Ministry, Our Saviour's Lutheran, Chippewa Falls and on Zoom	13
14 **9:00 am Worship Service** **10:00am Coffee & Fellowship** **Sunday School**	15	16 **9:30am H3, Immanuel Lutheran and on zoom**	17 **6:30pm Praise Team Practice**	18	19	20
21 **9 am Worship Service** **10 am Coffee & Fellowship** **Sunday School**	22 **6:30pm RUTH meets, Peace Lutheran Pigeon Falls**	23 **9:30am H3, Immanuel Lutheran and on zoom**	24 **6:30pm Praise Team Practice**	25	26	27
28 **9:am Praise Team leads worship and CVCTF at 6:30** ****Annual Meeting**	29	30 **10am H3, Immanuel Lutheran and on zoom**	31 **6:30pm Praise Team Practice**			

Upcoming Events: