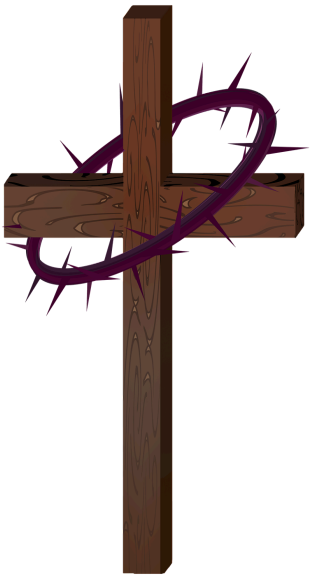
Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church
W2450 Cty, Rd. WW
Eleva WI 54738

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

Pleasant Valley

July Newsletter 2024



WE ARE ALSO CITIZENS

June 14, 2024

Archives
Follow Bishop Eaton
En español

The airwaves are filled with contentious political discourse. And, as we get closer to the November election, it will undoubtedly get louder and coarser. Each side seeks to catch the other with questions that aren't designed for clarity and dialogue but to further its own agenda. Martin Luther's explanation of the Eighth Commandment in the Small Catechism—"We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. *Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light"*—is barely visible in the rearview mirror. But the "gotcha" question isn't a modern invention. "Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. … Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar (the emperor) or not?" (Matthew 22:15-17). We know the answer. Jesus told them: "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's" (21).

This passage has been used to inform the relationship between the institutions of the state and the community of faith. In this relationship the authority of the state is real and respected—but limited. God's authority is acknowledged as ultimate and deserving of ultimate devotion and obedience, yet it doesn't necessitate withdrawal from or opposition to participation in civic life and its responsibilities. We Lutherans call this the doctrine of two kingdoms, and we understand that the church and the state, the spiritual and the temporal, are *both* established by God and are *both* part of God's twofold rule. Both church and state are good gifts from God.

Lutherans have been accused of congenital quietism. Our understanding of God's twofold rule and even the story about paying taxes in Matthew have been used to discourage participation in civic life. However, active participation in public life has been part of the Lutheran movement from its beginning. Lutherans don't withdraw from public life. In fact, the ELCA's constitution pledges us to "work with civil authorities in areas of mutual endeavor, maintaining institutional separation of church and state in a relation of functional interaction."

Active participation in public life has been part of the Lutheran movement from its beginning. Lutherans don't withdraw from public life.

I have been voting for 51 years. I can't think of an election cycle more fraught and divisive than this one. People all across the political spectrum claim that life as we know it is on the line. It's not possible to agree to disagree—one must decide and put a stake in the ground. There is the potential for violence.

But division and violence don't have to be our inevitable future. On Nov. 5, no matter the outcome, we will still be here together. Our church, our people, our congregations will still be here and will witness that unity doesn't mean uniformity; that what binds us together is new life in Christ; that the church—and our country—are bigger than our "tribe"; and that baptism proves that water is thicker than blood.

This is not "both side-ism." Based on Scripture and the Confessions and forged through prayer, there are principles that aren't debatable: love, community, sacrifice for the common good, to name a few. Instead, we are free and forgiven in Christ so that even when we disagree on deeply held convictions, we can still see the other as someone for whom Christ died.

Something that is missed when reading the story of Jesus and taxes is what he reveals about God and the world God so loves. We focus on Caesar. If Caesar's image and title are imprinted on a base metal coin, a humanly created, literal graven image, where is God's

image to be found? Human creatures—the living beings whom God created in God's own image, into whom God breathed the breath of life—are bearers of God's image in the world.

Dear church, our citizenship is ultimately in heaven. But we are also citizens of this country—this flawed, fractious, unequal, imperfect union. In U.S. political history, people have yearned and given their lives for what they had hoped for—democratic life for the sake of the flourishing of all. One of the ways we serve our neighbor is to participate in civic life. Can we see Election Day as a unifying event when the whole country goes to the polls?

Vote.

Pleasant Valley Church Council Minutes
Thursday, June 13th

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Marianna at 6:33 P.M. The secretary and treasurer reports were reviewed. Marty made a motion with a second by Corissa to approve the secretary's minutes and treasurer's reports. Motion carried.

Education update: The May mission offering for Luther Park Bible Camp of $195.00 will be sent to Luther Park Bible camp designated for the Campership program since the Soup & Sandwich and Easter Breakfast funds were enough to cover this years campers.

Worship update: 4th and 5th Sunday's with Praise team will be held inside the church and not in the park.

Property updates:
~~The RO systems have been installed and water tests taken to Eau Claire County Health department with zero nitrates found. However, the health department said they were not authorized to give us the ok to take down the drinking water warnings for nitrates and we received an email from the DNR that they are not ok with the RO systems and we have been asked to pull them out. The DNR is also not willing to entertain a whole building RO system and they want us to put in a new well. Marty will start checking into the cost of a new will and if a new well will solve the nitrate problem. The grant program for a new well is no longer available. Marty said that he is willing to purchase the RO systems when removed for $250.00, which is half the cost of a new one.
~~The doors are installed along with the push button activation switches.
~~The swing set donated by the Johnson's needs to be painted. Roxie will contact the insurance company to let them know we have added the swing set in the park for liability insurance.
~~The usage agreement for the park states that overnight camping is not allowed. The statement on the flyer is giving our permission to camp that weekend in the park.

Unfinished Business:
~No updates on ministry profile or supply pastors
~No updates on RIC designation
~Picnic flyers was sent to Teresa to print and mail the week of June 24th. Food will be decided at the July meeting.
~Fall Bazaar discussion postponed until next meeting.

New Business: No decision made on tables

Mission Offering:
June: Caring Ministry Fund
July: Kings Closet
August: Eleva Strum Weekend Backpack Lunch Program
September: Mondovi Weekend Backpack Lunch Program

Next meeting will be July 11th at 6:30 P.M. A motion to adjourn was made by Corrisa with a second by Dave. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:39 P.M. and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Roxie Ulness
Members present: Marianna Gilbertson, Dave Vlcek, Marty Johnson, Corissa Sands and Roxie Ulness

Treasurer's Report:
Summary of Offering and Expenses

	YTD	April	May	June
Offering/ Misc	$20,881.19	$3,529.00	$2,894.00	$3,467.00
Expenses	$17,716.84	$4,417.92	$2,262.53	$2,899.83

Offering Under Expense-April-$888.92
Offering Over Expense-May - $631.47
Offering Over Expense-June- $567.17
Offering Over Expenses – Y-T-D: $3,881.52

Mission Offerings:
April - Evansville Tornado Victims-$329.00
May - Luther Park Bible Camp - $195.00
June - Caring Ministry Fund -

Memorials:
Handicap Door Fund:

- ★ In memory of Selmer Anderson and Delaine Anderson on Father's Day, from from Dale & Sharon Anderson
- ★ In memory of Janet & Willard Wilson, from Randy and Kay Sands
- ★ In memory of Janet & Willard Wilson, from Pet and Debbie Rostad
- ★ In memory of Janet & Willard Wilson, Gary & Irene Isaacson

Cemetery Fund:

- ★ In memory of Janet & Willard Wilson, from Richard and Monica Bahr, Connie and Dan Vigesaa, Ken and Hope Berge, Edroy and Judy Anderson, Mike and Bonnie Isaacson, Wilson Lund, Douglas and Dawn Olson, Brenda Palubicki, Syver and Cathy Wilson

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 July 28 and will lead worship at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility (CVCTF) that evening. 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. Twenty-one IV Hoodies have been delivered to those in need. Area churches are receiving information to put in their bulletins and newsletters to advertise the program. The ADRC office wants to do a culture night highlighting Hispanic culture. The next meeting will be on August 19 at 5:30 pm at Deb's home.

RUTH (Rural Unity Through Hope)
From the June 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes
A $100,000 grant was received for an exercise room by the Whitehall School District in collaboration with the State of Wisconsin. Many area churches are collecting food for local food pantries. The community garden in Arcadia was planted in May. It is being maintained by Sheyla Berg and her students, who are paid through the grant. Carol Martinez-Espino will create a website for RUTH.

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.

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

THE REV. MARTIN R. HALOM ELECTED BISHOP OF THE NORTHWEST SYNOD OF WISCONSIN – ELCA

The Rev. Martin R. Halom was elected June 8, 2024, to a six-year term as bishop of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) at the synod's assembly June 7-8 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

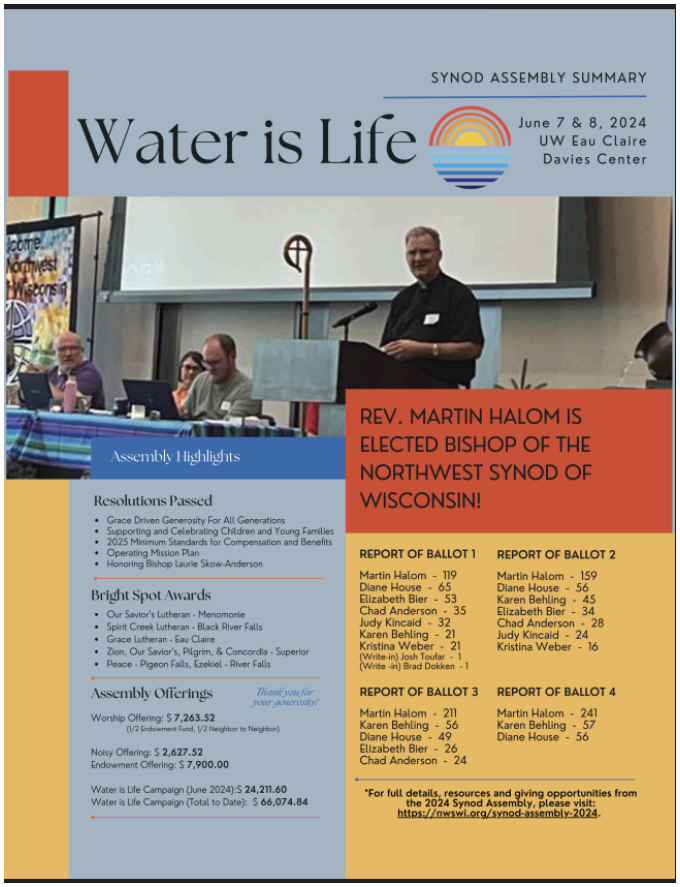
[1]*"Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today." This refrain, from the song, Christ Be Our Light, will be my guiding principle. In all that I do, in all that I say, Christ will be the central purpose.*

Halom was elected on the fourth ballot receiving 241 votes of 354 votes cast. The Rev. Karen Behling, currently serving Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Chippewa Falls received 57 votes and the Rev. Diane House, currently the Director of Evangelical Mission for the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, received 56 votes.

The bishop-elect is pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in Bloomer, Wisconsin. He has served that congregation since 2012. Prior to that, he was campus pastor at University Lutheran Church, East Lansing, Michigan (2003-2012); associate pastor, American Lutheran Church, Rantoul, Illinois. (1999-2003); youth and family ministries director, Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota (1995-1997, youth ministry associate, Lutherdale Bible Camp, Elkhorn, Wisconsin (1994-1995), and program associate at Green Lake Bible Camp, Spicer, Minnesota (1993-1994).

Halom earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa and a Masters of Divinity at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn. He and his wife, the Rev. Melinda Halom, have three grown sons, Nicholas, Jaden, and Dylan. His installation as bishop will be September 15, 2024, at Hope Lutheran, Eau Claire at 3:00 p.m.

The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin is one of 65 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The synod is comprised of 192 congregations, over 73,000 members, and over 300 clergy and rostered leaders.



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Disability Ministry

Dear friends of ELCA Disability Ministries,

Thank you for considering Disability Ministries to potentially help fund your request or initiative through a grant. Grant applicants must follow the guidelines below to be eligible to receive grant funding through Disability Ministries.

All applicants seeking funds from Disability Ministries must demonstrate how the request or initiative addresses at least one of the following goals:

- Raising up people with disabilities for leadership positions, encouraging the participation of those with disabilities in the wider church and preparing

leaders for serving people with disabilities.
- Equipping our synods, congregations and members with relevant and practical information that enables them to welcome and support individuals with disabilities so that they might participate fully in the life of the congregation and that, together, all might experience being the body of Christ.
- Gathering and connecting people with disabilities and various groups in the church so that they might help us become an inclusive, supportive and whole community of faith.

Additionally, all applicants must show that they have or are actively building a relationship with people in their settings who live with disabilities.

This church wants to move beyond the attitude that "if we build it, they will come." So, for example, don't request funding for a ramp simply for the sake of installing one; instead, explain how your project would benefit disabled people in your setting and your ministry, and enrich your mutual relationship as disciples of Jesus Christ.

We will award grants in the range of $5,000-$10,000, for a total of $50,000. Previous applicants who were not funded may reapply.

The application window opened May 28 and will close July 31, or earlier if we have received 30 completed applications. Projects receiving grants will be announced before the end of October 2024.

To register with GrantMaker, please go to www.elca.org/grants/impact-church-ministry and follow the links and instructions. If you already have a profile with GrantMaker, log in to elca.fluxx.io/user_sessions/new to begin your application process.

Please email any questions to grants@elca.org or disability.ministry@elca.org.

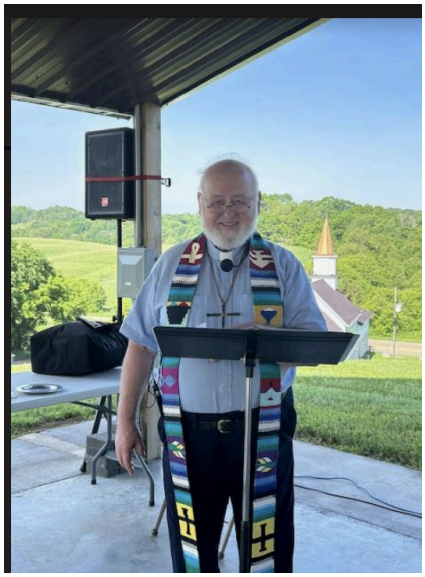
God's peace and blessings as you begin the application process!

ELCA Disability Ministries

- Church Service in the park at 9:00am; unless inclement weather.
- Please remember to bring your own coffee when service is at the park.
- Praise Team Sunday's Service will be in the Church.
- July 11, 6:30: Council Meeting
- July 20: Community picnic in Olson Park

Thank You!

Thank you to our Guest Pastor **Valerian Ahles**



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

	July	August
Communion Set-up	7/7 7/14 7/21 7/28	8/4 8/11 8/18 8/25
Communion Server	7/7 7/14 Pam 7/21 7/28	8/4 8/11 8/18 8/25
Usher	7/7 7/14 7/21 7/28	8/4 8/11 8/18 8/25
Reader	7/7 Kay 7/14 Kay 7/21 Kim 7/28 Kim	8/4 Marianna 8/11 Marianna 8/18 Marianna 8/25 Marianna
Church Cleaning	7/7 7/14 7/21 7/28 Monica	8/4 Rhonda H. 8/11 Rhonda H. 8/18 Rhonda H. 8/25 Rhonda H
Serve Coffee	7/7 Kay 7/14 Kay 7/21 Maranna 7/28 Marianna	8/4 Marianna 8/11 Marianna 8/18 Marianna 8/25 Marianna
Teach Sunday School	No Sunday School	No Sunday School

WE INVITE PRAYERS FOR:

WE INVITE PRAYERS FOR:

Betty Anna Hulson-Strength through radiation treatments
Marion- Kathy Tweet's granddaughter healing from surgery
Bob Dutter- memory care
Steve-Kathy T. son-in-law
Bob Timm- Healing
Renea- Art's wife's cousin
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
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
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:
Those on our visiting list: Gary and Sharon Hazen, Sandy Schuch, Sadie Hoverson Odegard

From our Mailbox

Dear Friends at Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your recent donation to Sojourner House. In his message on the third World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis reflected on God's care for the poor: "God's answer to the poor is always a saving act that heals wounds of body and soul, restores justice and helps to live life anew in dignity"(3). Your attentiveness to the needs of the poor will help the dedicated staff of nearly 700 Sojourner House volunteers to respond to the needs of our struggling brothers and sisters in a like manner.

In 2023, Sojourner House was able to provide safe shelter to hundreds of individuals. OUr guests were welcomed with kindness and respect; they had access to shower facilities, a warm meal, clothing and the resources they need to help them to survive on the streets or better yet to find permanent housing. We could not have done this without your help. Thank you!

In Christ,
Roberto Partarrieu

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Build Your Future with Us!

What is the Chippewa Valley Habitat for Humanity (CVH4H) Homeowner Program?

CVH4H offers an affordable homeownership program designed to help individuals and families achieve the dream of owning a home. Our program provides the opportunity to purchase a safe, decent and affordable home with a mortgage that fits your budget.

Who Qualifies for the Program?

To qualify for the CVH4H Homebuyer Program, applicants must meet the following criteria:

Need for Housing: Applicants must demonstrate a need for housing. This can include living in unsafe or overcrowded conditions, paying more than 30% of income on rent, or experiencing other forms of housing instability.

Ability to Pay: Applicants must have a steady source of income, typically $40K-$60K annual income; demonstrate the ability to make monthly mortgage payments; and, qualify for a mortgage of $160K-$180K. This includes having a credit history that shows a willingness to pay debts.

Willingness to Partner: Applicants must be willing to invest time in sweat equity by participating in the construction of their home and attending homeownership classes. This investment helps build pride and a sense of ownership.

Program Benefits: *Affordable Mortgage*:

Homes are built at a reduced cost due to donations, volunteer time, etc., making the mortgage payments more affordable, typically, $1,200 - $1,700 monthly.

Community Support: Join a supportive community of Habitat homeowners and volunteers.

Empowerment and Stability: Gain stability and empowerment through homeownership, creating a brighter future for you and your family.

How to Apply: *Application deadline is June 30, 2024*

1. ***Learn More****:* Visit our website at CVH4H Homeowner Program to learn more about our program, review the detailed qualification criteria and see the plans for the homes being built.
2. ***Submit Your Application****:* Complete the application form, provide necessary documentation and submit the application by the deadline.
3. ***Be Responsive & Available:*** The homeowner selection committee will review applications and will need to continue the dialog with you.

For More Assistance Contact: Elizabeth Gray at elizabeth@cvh4h.org or 1.715.833.8993 or www.cvh4h.org

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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

TEXTS FOR June

July 7
2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
Psalm 48
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

June 14
2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19
Psalm 24
Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6:14-29

July 21
2 Samuel 7:1-14a
Psalm 89:20-37
Ephesians 2:11-22
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 28
2 Samuel 11:1-15
Psalm 14
Ephesians 3:14-21
John 6:1-21

ELCA

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, Sept. 8**, when congregations of the ELCA will join together for our annual day of service, "God's work. Our hands."
Participating in service projects is one way to celebrate who we are as the ELCA — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

This year we also celebrate 50 years of ELCA World Hunger. In commemoration of this milestone, consider including ministries focused on alleviating hunger

and poverty in your plans for **"God's work. Our hands."** Or make it a season of service! Expand your volunteer opportunities, advocacy efforts or food drives until World Food Day on Oct. 16.

If your congregation cannot participate on Sept. 8, you are encouraged to pick another date that fits your schedule. **ELCA congregations participate in acts of service every day**. This day of service is an extension of the work you already do to make your community a better place.
Be sure to save the date and check ELCA.org/DayOfService for updated resources soon.
Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Join us on Sept. 8!**

Meal sponsorship opportunities with Agnes' Table.

Dinner Meal Sponsorship requirements for sponsorship are as follows:
$150 donation, 5-7 volunteers from 3pm to 7 pm (can be all in 1 shift or split 2 shifts).
When volunteers arrive, our cook will have workstations for the meal prep and cooking to serve up to 150 guests. No food or planning on your part. The volunteers will also serve the meal and finish with cleaning up. We do require 1 person designated for dishes in the group.
When a sponsorship like this is set up, it will include several social media posts and recognition for the organization. We are currently booked for dinner sponsorships through June. For open dates past that, let me know what month(s) you would be interested in.

Breakfast Meal Sponsorship requirements for sponsorship are as follows:
$150 donation, 2-3 volunteers from 8 am to 12pm (can be all in 1 shift or split 2 shifts).
When volunteers arrive, they will serve breakfast until 10 am, will help take down breakfast and then will have other various tasks depending on what day of the week it is. The tasks range from: helping unload food rescue, restocking our pantry, cleaning jobs or meal prep for the next day. When a sponsorship like this is set up, it will include several social media posts and recognition for the organization. We are currently open for all breakfast sponsorship dates.

Community Involvement Volunteering requirements for volunteering are as follows:
These opportunities are on 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. We are currently open for community involvement volunteering. There are a couple dates booked out, but not many.

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ELCA

On **Sunday, Sept. 8**, congregations of the ELCA will join together for our annual day of service, **"God's work. Our hands."** This day continues to be an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the ELCA — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

As you explore opportunities to participate in your community, explore these resources to plan and promote your day:

- Planning toolkit.
- Worship resources.
- Slides for projection screens or online worship.
- Posters and social media graphics.
- Spanish-language resources.
- Promotional banners.
- Special hymn text, sheet music and recording.

This year we also celebrate 50 years of ELCA World Hunger. In commemoration of this milestone, consider including ministries focused on **alleviating hunger and poverty** in your plans for **“God’s work. Our hands.”** Or make it a season of service! Expand your volunteer opportunities, advocacy efforts or food drives until World Food Day on Oct. 16.

Old Lutheran has T-shirts and other items available for purchase. The deadline for ordering your congregation’s personalized T-shirts is Aug. 16.

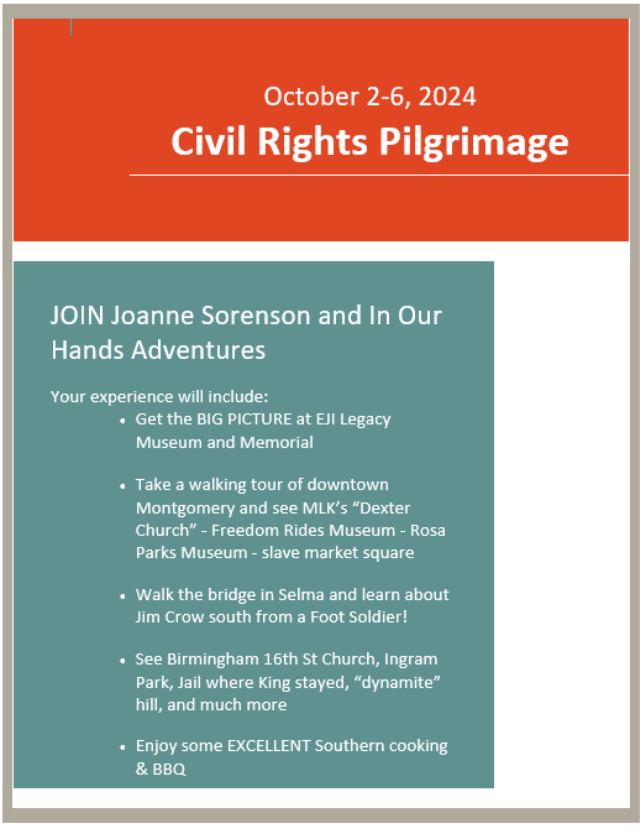
Don’t forget to share your congregation’s participation with us! Send stories and photos to LivingLutheran@elca.org so that together we can celebrate what God accomplishes through you.

Participate on social media using **#GodsWorkOurHands**.

If your congregation cannot participate on Sept. 8, you’re encouraged to consider another day for your service activities.

“God’s work. Our hands.” is an extension of **the work you do every day** to make your community a better place. We look forward to working together on Sept. 8!

BROWSE ESOURCES



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) 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 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.
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/

July 2024

Pleasant Valley Lutheran

July

Please Post

Sunday	*Monday*	*Tuesday*	*Wednesday*	*Thursday*	*Friday*	*Saturday*
Church services will be radio transmitted.						
	1	**2**	**3** **6:30pm Praise Team Practice**	**4** 4th of July	**5**	6
7 **9 am Worship Service in the park** **10 am Coffee & Fellowship**	**8**	**9**	**10** **6:30pm Praise Team Practice**	**11** **6:30pm Council Meeting**	**12**	**13**
14 **9:00 am Worship Service in the park** **10:00am Coffee & Fellowship**	**15**	**16**	**17** **6:30pm Praise Team Practice**	**18**	**19**	**20** **Community Picnic at Olson Park**
21 **9:00 am Worship Service in the park** **10 am Coffee & Fellowship**	**22**	**23**	**24** **6:30pm Praise Team Practice**	**25**	**26**	**27**
30 **9 am Praise Team Worship Service in Church** **6:30 Worship and CVCTF Mission offering: Kings Closet**	31					

CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION

Renew - Reuse - Repurpose

SEPTEMBER 27 – 28, 2024

2024 Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Synodical Women's Organization Convention

AT SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH,
1310 Main St, Eau Claire

RESERVE THESE DATES on your calendar. COME! Be inspired as together we sing, pray, laugh, worship, and learn from keynote speakers and awareness session leaders!

We also ask you to participate:

- **display what your congregation is doing for Caring for God's Creation – this can be a display board set on a table or simply a handout describing what you're doing**
- **if you or someone you know makes items by repurposing something, you are welcome to bring for display**
- **Since we are caring for God's creation, we ask that you bring your coffee mug, your favorite water bottle, and your favorite bag or tote for carrying your items**
- **Bring colorful used t-shirts sizes M, L, XL, XXL, and larger to be made into rugs**

Friday evening:
6:00 p.m. registration, snacks and beverages for voting members
7:00 p.m. business meeting - each church unit is entitled to send a voting member for the business meeting which will include financial report, election of officers and conference board members, SWO budget, and any other business to come before the meeting.
Approximately 8:15 close with Holden Evening Prayer.

Saturday:
8:00 a.m. registration, coffee and morning treats
9:00 a.m. Welcome and worship

After worship, Dr. Jim Boulter will have a conversation with us about climate change, its effects, how we can make an impact on climate change as individuals, as a church, and at our workplace. Come with your questions for the Q&A session.

After lunch there will be 5 awareness sessions: how to establish a green team in your congregation, the synod creation team will address their goals and display environmentally safe items that we can use in our daily routines; we hope to have sessions on establishing a homegrown natural park for pollinators, one addressing food waste and another on Composting 101. As you can see, we're still looking for presenters.

COST: Unknown at this time but it will be very reasonable. We will have final cost, registration form and listing of motels in Eau Claire by July 1st!

Phyllis Beastrom, Convention Chair 715-821-5847 beastrom@redwing.net

3rd Annual Community Picnic

Olson Park

Saturday July 20th

Connect or Reconnect with your neighbors

Gather around 3:00 with dinner at 5:00

Yard Games
Campfire with S'mores
Food & beverages provided
Bring lawn chairs or blankets
Camp overnight if you would like

Hosted by Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church
W2450 County Rd WW, Eleva, WI 54738

Visit us on Facebook for updates

Sponsored by Thrivent Financial