*Pl*easant Valley Lutheran Church
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Eleva WI 54738

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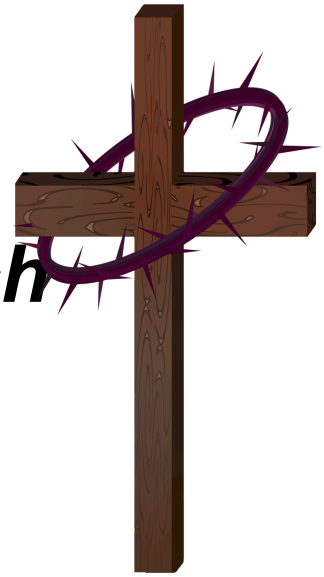
Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church



JULY

Newsletter 2025

Strengthening roots

Growing together — June 2025

By Kimberly Knowle-ZellerJune 4, 2025

Focal verse

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth” (1 Corinthians 3:6-7).

Reflection

Most summers, when we plant our garden, the same pattern emerges: we work the ground and soil, we weed and till, and we plant seeds and vegetables. We water, and then we wait. I say a few prayers and check the garden every morning. Every year, inevitably, our tomato plants get eaten before we put a fence around them. Whether the work of a groundhog, a deer, a rabbit or perhaps bugs, one morning I’ll go to the garden and find half-eaten tomato plants. With a sigh, I keep tending to the plants, and we erect a fence to keep the animals out. I usually feel defeated and question why I have a garden in the first place. But I wait. And I don’t give up.

Over time, the tomato plants keep growing. New leaves emerge, and the stalks and stems grow taller and wider. A yellow flower blooms, and soon, green and then red fruit begins to form.

What I fail to remember each year is that underneath the torn-up plant, strong roots are being strengthened and continue to grow. Just because part of the plant was eaten doesn’t mean it didn’t have what it needed to flourish.

Just as in our faith life, it takes work to see growth and the bearing of any fruits. Yet God continues to work in our lives. We pray and care for our neighbors, we go to church, we read our Bibles, we practice kindness, and we find our faith strengthened.

So often, our lives get battered and bruised by the world around us, by medical emergencies and relationship challenges, yet God continues to nurture and nourish us. God provides us with the faith, support and love to keep growing.

This summer, when your patience is tested and you’re tired of hearing your kids say they’re bored or that they want another snack, remember that God will be with you, strengthening you for the days ahead.

Practices

- Read SJ Okemow’s *Dear Dandelion* (Annick Press, 2023), which follows the life cycle of a dandelion and shows how a simple plant can bring beauty to our lives.
- Make a summer bucket list with your family. Think about how you want to spend your days—including both rest and fun. Consider adding ways to share kindness and help your community this summer.

Prayer practice

Think about all the creatures and plants below the ground. As you walk in your yard, in a garden or around a park, give thanks for the work and life that is humming underneath you. Say a prayer together: *Dear God, so much of your creation is full of mystery. We can’t always see the roots under the ground, but they are there, as are all the creatures that make their home underground. We thank you for the diversity of this earth. May we tend to creation so that others can experience this joy and beauty.*

Kimberly Knowle-Zeller is an ordained ELCA pastor, mother of two, spouse of an ELCA pastor and co-author of *The Beauty of Motherhood: Grace-Filled Devotions for the Early Years*. She lives with her family in Cole Camp, Mo. Her website is **kimberlyknowlezeller.com**.

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Council Minutes
June 3, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Dwight Sands at 6:34 P.M.

Ruth Poore attended the meeting as a visitor. She explained the recent bill from Access Elevator and the contract options for service. A motion was made by Roxie with a second from Rhonda to pay the $900 bill and accept a contract for service for one year for $850. Motion carried.

A motion from Marty with a second from Marianna to approve the secretary’s minutes and the treasurer’s report as presented. Motion carried.

Education: Nothing to report at this time.
Worship: Marty is continuing to reach out to fill some openings in our worship schedule for supply pastors.
Property: The church received a grant for up to $16,000 to replace the well. It is on Oium’s schedule to complete the project sometime this summer. The repainting of exterior doors and soffit repair is still on the to-do list.

Unfinished Business:
~Maria Leverton’s baptismal request is still on hold pending Lyle’s health situation.
~Community picnic is back on for this summer. A motion by Roxie with a second from Marianna to host the picnic on Saturday, July 19th. Motion carried. It will begin at 3:00 P.M. with a meal being

served at 5:00 P.M. The meal will consist of hotdogs, chips, beverages and dessert. Kay will apply for a Thrivent Seed card to cover expenses. The picnic will be advertised via a sign outside of the church, FaceBook, our website, newsletter, Sunday bulletin and word of mouth.
~A motion was made by Rhonda with a second from Dave to accept Christine Berger as a member of Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church. Motion carried.

New Business:
~A motion was made by Marty with a second by Dwight to approve purchasing 450 disposable communion cups/wafers. Motion carried.
~A new transformer is being installed near the LP gas tank. Dave will contact Eau Claire Energy to get more information about their plans.

Mission Offerings:
June: The Community Table
July: Nick & Abby Butchart and Baby Kenzie
August: Eleva-Strum Backpack meals/school supplies
September: Mondovi Backpack meals/school supplies

Next Council meeting has been set for Tuesday, July 1 at 6:30 P.M.
Marianna made a motion to adjourn with a second by Rhonda. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:31 P.M. and closed with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kay Sands

Members present: Dwight Sands, Marianna Gilbertson, Roxie Ulness, Dave Vlcek, Rhonda Hoverson, Marty Johnson, and Kay Sands

Treasurer's Report:

Summary of Offering and Expenses

	YTD	April	May	June (thru 6/22)
Offering /Misc	$25,057.75	$4,458.92	$2,824.67	$2,805.00
Expenses	$24,314.76	$4,140.21	$6,456.28	$2,280.58

Offering Under Expenses - May- $3,631.61
Offering Over Expenses - June- $524.42
Offering Over Expenses – Y-T-D: $742.99

Mission Offerings:
March – Stella Michels - $325.00
April – Luther Park Bible Camp - $201.00
May – Agne's Table - $261.00
June –Community Table

Memorials:
Well Fund: In memory of fathers, Sam Anderson and Delain Anderson, from Dale and Sharon

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 27, and lead worship at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility (CVCTF) that evening at 6:30 pm. Practices will be held on Wednesdays following worship.

H3 (Holy, Happy and Healthy)
H3 is taking a break this summer and will resume meeting on September 9. The group will be reading the book "Way of Love" by Norman Wirzba. Contact Marianna Gilbertson or Kim Vlcek for more information.

RUTH (Rural Unity Through Hope)
New beds continue to be donated to children locally through Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Forty-five IV hoodies have been gifted to date. Four totes of men's clothing were given to the Trempealeau County Jail for those incarcerated and being released. There is a need for medium and large men's short sleeve shirts and men's jeans size 36 inch waist and smaller. The first planting of the Blair community garden was done on May 27. The Blair/Taylor High School is participating in this project. The fall health fair is on hold. The next meeting will be on July 21 at Deb Pattee's home. Kim Vlcek is the contact for the group.

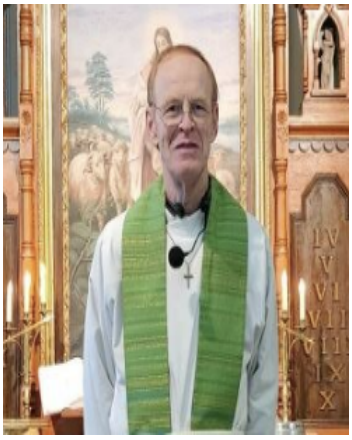
W/ELCA News
The next Triennial Gathering is scheduled for July 16-19, 2026 in Des Moines, Iowa. Make plans to attend. More information is available at https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page

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. Monetary donations are welcome. If you'd like more information please call or text Ellen Hauser at 715-797-4354.

Thanks to our visiting Pastors this month.

Pastor David Sands



Pastor David Natzke

Jeremiah Segerstrom

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Mark your calendar for **Sunday, Sept. 7**, 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.We are a church that is energized by lively engagement in faith and life. As we continue our tradition of service, we remember the words of Martin Luther, "**Our faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing**." With our hands, we do God's work of restoring and reconciling communities in Jesus Christ's name. If your congregation cannot participate on Sept. 7, 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. 7.

Announcements:

★ Teresa will be on vacation July 13-31st. Prayer concerns for those weeks can be added for August.

★ Due to vacation the Newsletter will be delayed a week in August. Thank you for your understanding.

★ Worship in the Park bring your own coffee for fellowship afterwards

★ Praise Team practice Wednesdays.

★ Let Teresa know if there are any announcements you would like included in the bulletin; Friday before Sunday Worship.

Mission offerings:

★ July: Nick & Abby Butchart and Baby Kenzie

★ August: Eleva-Strum Weekend Backpack Meals and school supplies

★ September: Mondovi Weekend Backpack Meals and school supplies

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TEXTS FOR MAY

July 6:
2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30
Galatians 6:(1-6)7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 13:
Amos 7:7-17
Psalm 82
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

July 20:
Amos 8:1-12
Psalm 52
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

July 27:
Hosea 1:2-10
Psalm 85
Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)
Luke 11:1-13

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Luther Park Bible Camp

Cut and paste the following link into your browser to access the latest Luther Park Newsletter.

https://mailchi.mp/d01824c6cf25/g8nvwlicb3-6748165?e=c8892b2a79

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From our Mailbox

Dear Friends at Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church-

Thank yuou so much for thinking of us and collecting funds for us on a recent mission Sunday. We appreciate your prayers and support as we feed our community and see the needs increase.

Sincerely,
Julia Prorie & Agne's Table

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Ladies,

Thank you so much for all you did for the memorial luncheon for Don & Dorothy Hageness. We appreciate all of you.

Thanks,
Hageness Family

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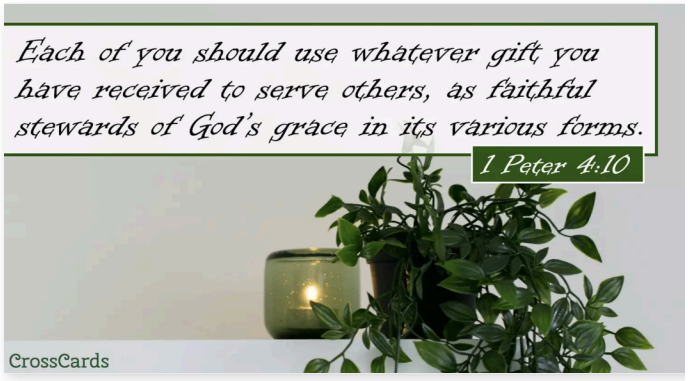

Opportunities to Serve

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	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
Communion Set-up	7/6-7/27 Kathy T	8/3 8/10 8/17 8/24 8/31	
Communion Server	7/6 7/13 7/20 7/27	8/3 8/10 8/17 8/24 8/31	
Usher	7/6 7/13 7/20 7/27	8/3 8/10 8/17 8/24 8/31	
Reader	7/6-7/27 Kim	8/3 8/10 8/17 8/24 8/31	
Church Cleaning	7/6-7/27 Rhonda H	8/3 8/10 8/17 8/24 8/31	
Serve refreshments	7/6 Rhonda H 7/13 7/20 Rhonda H 7/27	8/3 8/10 8/17 8/24 8/31	

Due to vacation the Newsletter will be delayed a week in August. Thank you for your understanding.

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/

July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30pm Church Council	2 6:30 Praise Team Practice	3	4 Independence Day 	5
6 9:00 am Worship Service in park 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship *PASTOR: David Sands	7	8	9 6:30 Praise Team Practice	10	11	12
13 9:00 am Worship Service in park 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship *PASTOR:	14	15	16 6:30 Praise Team Practice	17	18	19 4:00pm Community Picnic 5:00 pm Dinner
20 9:00 am Worship 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship *PASTOR: Dave Sands	21	22	23 6:30 Praise Team Practice	24	25	26
27 9:00 am Praise Team Worship Service in Church leads worship at CVCTF at 6:30 pm. 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship 6:30pm Praise Team leads worship at CVCTF *PASTOR: Jeremiah Segerstrom	28	29	30 6:30 Praise Team Practice	31		