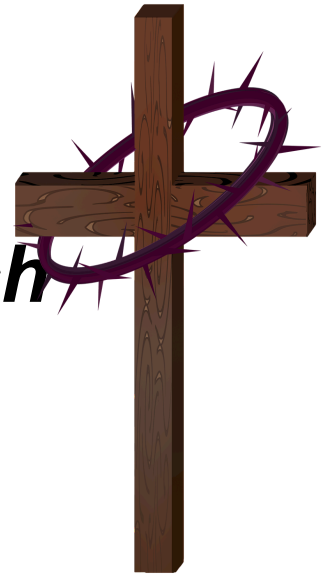
*Pl*easant Valley Lutheran Church
W2450 Cty, Rd. WW
Eleva WI 54738

"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 Lutheran Church



JUNE
Newsletter 2025

Pastoral Letter from Bishop Eaton on the Election of Pope Leo XIV

May 8, 2025

Dear church,

We of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America join with people around the world in praying for the ministry of Pope Leo XIV. We rejoice with the people of the Roman Catholic Church, especially those in our communities, as they joyfully receive their new shepherd.

Today we witnessed the historic election of the first Augustinian and the first U.S.-born pope — only the second to come from the Americas. Thus we share with him both context and theological roots (Martin Luther was also an Augustinian). We pray that this will provide us, as Catholics and as Lutherans, with an opportunity to strengthen our visible unity in Christ through dialogue and cooperation for the life of the world.

In his first appearance on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, the new pope extended the blessing of Pope Francis, saying: "God loves us, all of us, evil will not prevail. We are all in the hands of God. Without fear, united, hand in hand with God and among ourselves, we will go forward. We are disciples of Christ, Christ goes before us, and the world needs His light. Humanity needs Him like a bridge to reach God and His love. You help us to build bridges with dialogue and encounter so we can all be one people always in peace."

We pray that the Holy Spirit will sustain Pope Leo XIV for the ministry to which he has been called, and will strengthen us all in our vocations as bridge-builders and as witnesses to God's love for all people and creation.

In Christ,

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

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Council Minutes
May 1, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Dwight Sands at 6:29 P.M. A motion was made by Dave with a second from Marianna to approve the secretary's minutes and treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

Education Update: May 18th will be the last day of Sunday school for this school year.
Worship Update: We have supply pastors lined up for the next several Sundays.
Property: Nothing new to report.

Unfinished Business:
~The pavilion has been added to the property insurance policy.
~Maria Leverton's baptismal request is still in the planning stage.
~Updating the membership list is a work in progress.
New Business:
~Community picnic: The council has agreed to forego the picnic this summer in lieu of possibly doing something similar inside the church during the winter.
~Worship services in the park will begin on Sunday, June 1. Servers who are providing refreshments for fellowship after the service will not include beverages. **Everyone** should bring his/her own drink.
~Laminated offering cards will be placed in the pews soon. The cards will provide an opportunity for givers to put something in the offering plate even though they may give electronically or monthly, etc.
~Olson Park will be mowed by Randy Sands.
~Spring/fall cleaning of the church: It was decided to do a fall cleaning of the church in September. More information to come as it gets closer.
Other:
~Marty made a motion with a second from Dave to pay the bill from Access Elevator and to get contract information from them to continue to service the lift. Motion carried.
~Christine Berger would like to become a member of Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church.
~A motion by Marty with a second from Marianna to give Roxie Ulness $500 towards replacing her personal computer, which she also uses as treasurer for the church. Motion carried.
Mission Offerings:
May: Agnes's Table
June: The Community Table
July: Nick & Abby Butchart and Baby Kenzie
August: Eleva-Strum Weekend Backpack Meals and school supplies
September: Mondovi Weekend Backpack Meals and school supplies

Next council meeting: Tuesday, June 3 at 6:30 P.M.

Marty made a motion to adjourn with a second from Rhonda. Motion carried.
The meeting adjourned at 7:26 P.M. and closed with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kay Sands

Treasurer's Report:

Summary of Offering and Expenses

	YTD	March	April	May
Offering /Misc	$14,809.72	$8,834.51	$4,458.92	$2,821.00
Expenses	$11,744.10	$3,787.76	$3,787.76	$6,455.78

Offering Over Expenses - April-$318.71
Offering Under Expenses - May- $3,634.78
Offering Under Expenses – Y-T-D: $215.40

Some of the larger May expenses:
Fuel - $918.54
Sharing the Dream - $1,000.00
Property Insurance - $1,005.00
Randy Sands – Lawn Mowing - $400.00
Computer for Treasurer - $500.00
Access Elevator - $3,515.00 – this comes from Building Fund

Mission Offerings:
February – Sojourner House - $235.00
March – Stella Michels - $325.00
April – Luther Park Bible Camp - $201.00
May – Agne's Table - $261.00

Memorials:
Well Fund: In memory of mothers, Beulah Anderson and Loris 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 June 22 and 29, 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 be back in the fall with a new book study. Contact Marianna Gilbertson or Kim Vlcek for more information.

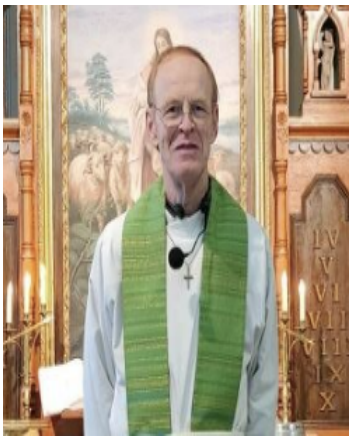
W/ELCA Retreat
The 2025 Women of the ELCA Retreat will be held on June 4 and 5 at Luther Park in Chetek. The presenter is Destiny Jackson, an author, artist and motivational speaker who shares the transformative love of Jesus. Early registration is $90 for two days and $60 for one day. A flyer with more registration information and other details is posted on the bulletin board at church. Marianna Gilbertson is on the retreat planning group.

Salad Luncheon
Peace Lutheran, Pigeon Falls, is hosting a salad luncheon on June 11, 2025 at noon. Guest speaker Stacia Christenson will present a motivational message, "Must Be Present to Win". RSVP's are encouraged but not required, by June 6 to 715-983-2242.

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 Nate Aaseng

Pastor Dave Whelan

From our Mailbox

Muli Bwanji, friends. Warm greetings on behalf of our partners and friends in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi. Here are a few updates for you. HEALTH In 2023, USAID granted UNICEF $2.1 million to strengthen the cholera Response in Malawi. This aid was important to expedite the resources needed to eliminate the epidemic worsened by cyclones and flooding. In September of 2024, USAID (US Agency for International Development) announced new commitments to strengthen several health and wellness programs in Malawi. The $8.725 million commitment included: collaborative problem-solving for health, education, natural resource and agriculture management, gender equity programs to help alleviate gender-based violence, and maternal health programs. [1] In November 2024, USAID also promised $17 million to boost STEM education in Malawi. [2] For more than 20 years, the US has also invested $136 million in reading programs and secondary education, $1.7 million for medical supply management, $2.1 billion to fight HIV/Aids, Malaria, and Tuberculosis, and assisted with flood and drought resistance and disaster response. [3] In February 2025, the US government shut down USAID, and recipients of these commitments received notice that all funding would be terminated. This freeze has now caused a health care crisis in Malawi. Although HIV/Aids testing and treatment needs resources, the immediate withdrawal of funding has also eliminated food supplies for malnourished children in the hospital, treatment for tuberculosis, funding for doctors and surgeons who are sent to train others, and protective equipment for medical staff to prevent the spread of disease. [4] Additionally, Malawi faced one of the most difficult droughts that southern Africa has experienced in nearly 100 years. Combined with a nearly 30% inflation rate in the past two years, fuel shortages, increased food and fuel costs, and an annual income average of $481 per person, there is concern about food insecurity, especially in the central and southern regions of the country. [5] [1] [2]

https://mw.usembassy.gov/usaid-announces-new-commitments-to-bolster-progress-in-malawi-at-unga79/
https://education.msu.edu/new-educator/2024/msu-receives-17m-from-usaid-to-improve-stem-education-in-malawi/ [3[USAID website - no longer active. [4[
https://thehill.com/opinion/5154669-usaid-aid-withdrawal-malawi/ [5[
https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/16f15a81-6eb8-4397-b3cc-409559ec0482/conten

Dear Friends at Pleasant Valley LC,

Spring … flowers, butterflies … **Transformation all around us** … Seafarers International House with its 152-year history has witnessed many transformations and abrupt changes, yet the organization and its staff faithfully provide services to seafarers and immigrants, throughout wars, political changes, and pandemics, not missing one day of service to those in need.
Throughout the decades, our approach has been simple: **To transform one life at a time.** To be there for the heartbroken seafarer feeling lonely on a 6 - 9 months voyage away from loved ones. To provide lodging and counsel for the homesick legal asylum seeker who had to flee from persecution for being a Christian in her homeland.
With the current fearmongering, asylum seekers are afraid to accept help. **Yet, we remain committed to assisting those most vulnerable with housing and social work assistance.**
Seafarers also face new challenges, especially those international mariners on containerships, who may not be allowed shore leave because of their nationality or whose vessels have been redirected amidst a trade war.
Seafarers International House's port chaplains offer lifelines by visiting them to offer pastoral care and fellowship, bringing essentials that seafarers ordered aboard, and by taking the few who can briefly leave the ship shopping, - a trip that is an opportunity to talk. This ministry of presence can be a transformative experience for a seafarer who has little opportunity to unburden their heart during a long voyage.
This spring, **help us transform the world**, one seafarer or one immigrant at a time. Thank you.
Peace,

Pastor Marsh Luther Drege
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Hi Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your recent $235.00 donation that you made on 3/18/2025 to the 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 and nearly 700 Sojourner House volunteers to respond to the needs of our struggling brothers and sisters in a like manner.

In 2024, 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
Executive Director
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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!
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Read the new issue of "LifeLines" here!

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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

BUNTROCK SCHOLARSHIP

The Buntrock Scholarship at Augustana University supports students who are active and engaged in ELCA congregations throughout the Midwest by covering half of the net price of attendance at Augustana, up to $12,000 per year.

Learn more at augie.edu/BuntrockScholarship.

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- ★ Worship in the Park bring your own coffee for fellowship afterwards
- ★ **Save the Date!** The 2025 W/ELCA Retreat will be held on June 4 and 5 at Luther Park in Chetek. More information will be available soon. Marianna Gilbertson is on the retreat planning group.
- ★ Next Council Meeting June 3, at 6:30
- ★ Praise Team practice Wednesdays.
- ★ Let Teresa know if there are any announcements you would like included in the bulletin; Friday before Sunday Worship.

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TEXTS FOR MAY

June 1:

- Acts 16:16-34
- Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20-21
- John 17:20-26
- Psalm 97

June 8:

- Acts 2:1-21
- **or** Genesis 11:1-9
- Romans 8:14-17
- **or** Acts 2:1-21
- John 14:8-17, (25-27)
- Psalm 104:25-35, 37

June 15:

- Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
- Romans 5:1-5
- John 16:12-15
- Psalm 8
- ***or*** Canticle 13 **(or Canticle 2)**

June 22:

- 1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a
- Psalm 42 and 43
- Galatians 3:23-29
- Luke 8:26-39

June 29:

- 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
- Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
- Galatians 5:1,13-25
- Luke 9:51-62

WE INVITE PRAYERS FOR:

Calling of a new Pastor for our church

Barb Anderson(Chad's wife)**-**Cancer Diagnosis
Nicki Vlcek
Karen Voss
Katie (Lammers) Household-Cancer diagnosis
Kari
Maria
Lyle
Chris - Kathy Tweets grandson
Sharon Anderson- Healing
Christine Iverson- Pastor Valerian Ahles's wife
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 – continued healing

Duane Vlcek and Ayla Hakes and family

Abby and Nick, who delivered twin girls, Ellie and McKenzie, at 24 weeks, 6 days; Ellie has passed away, and they ask for prayers for strength and healing.

Lisa & Glen-Fostering children

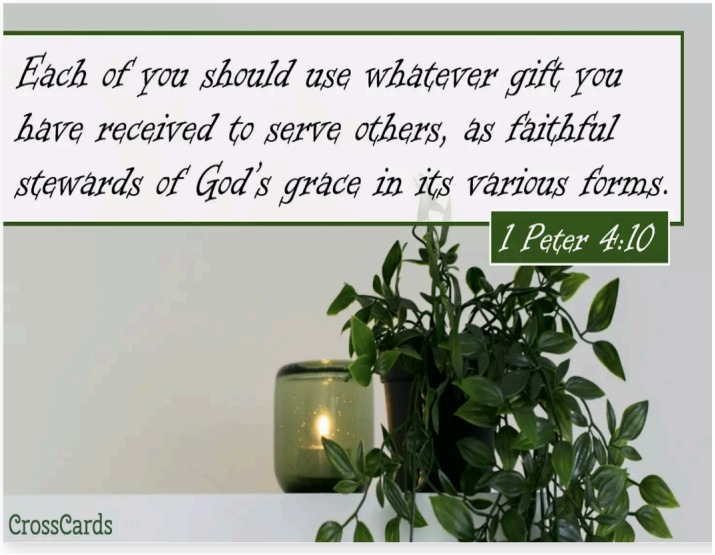
All our service men and women:
Alex Bauer- deployed to Pakistan
Middle East Guatemala
Ukraine

Shelby Cole and family - missionaries living in France
Keyla & Heber - the Sharing the Dream recipients, students in Guatemala

Men incarcerated 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



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	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
Communion Set-up	6/1- Kay 6/8- Kay 6/15 - Kay 6/22 - Roxie 6/29 - Kay	7/6-7/27 Kathy T	8/3 8/10 8/17 8/24 8/31
Communion Server	6/1-6/29 Roxie	7/6 7/13 7/20 7/27	8/3 8/10 8/17 8/24 8/31
Usher	6/1 6/8 6/15 6/22 6/29	7/6 7/13 7/20 7/27	8/3 8/10 8/17 8/24 8/31
Reader	6/1-6/29 Marianna	7/6-7/27 Kim	8/3 8/10 8/17 8/24 8/31
Church Cleaning	6/1 - 6/29 Sharon	7/6-7/27 Rhonda H	8/3 8/10 8/17 8/24 8/31
Serve refreshments	6/1- Kay 6/8- Kay & Marianna 6/15- Kay & Marianna 6/22 - Kim 6/29 - Kay	7/6 Rhonda H 7/13 7/20 Rhonda H 7/27	8/3 8/10 8/17 8/24 8/31

VOLUNTEER

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/

June 2025

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