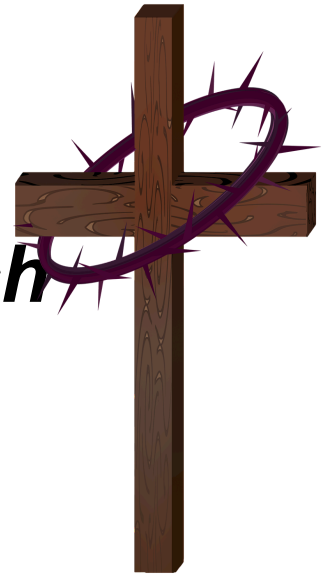
*Pl*easant Valley Lutheran Church
W2450 Cty, Rd. WW
Eleva WI 54738

"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



May Newsletter 2025

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Council Minutes
April 3, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Dwight Sands at 6:39 P.M.
Teresa Johnson attended the meeting to share information gathered regarding updating our membership list. She also proposed a revisement to our Communication Chain document.
A motion was made by Dave with a second from Marty to approve the secretary's minutes and treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

Education Update: Corissa Sands is planning for an Easter egg hunt on Palm Sunday. She is working with the Sunday school children to plan and prepare for the Easter breakfast. The balloon drop is being organized. Blankets were presented to Isabella, Elijah and Tommy Knutson on Sunday, March 30 in honor of their upcoming high school graduation. Rhonda expressed thanks to the Sunday school kids, Corissa Sands and Kay Sands for their involvement. Thrivent supported the project.

Worship Update: Roxie is picking up the palms for Palm Sunday. Pastor Dave Sands will lead a Maundy Thursday service with communion at 6:15 P.M. He will lead a Good Friday service at 5:00 P.M. There will be an Easter sunrise service with communion at 6 A.M. with Pastor Dave Sands. It will be followed by an Easter breakfast supported by Thrivent. The Praise Team will lead a worship service at 9 A.M. Kim Vlcek will give the message and has received permission from the Northwest Synod to serve communion.

Property Update: The painting of the exit doors will be done this spring along with repairing the soffit.

Unfinished Business:
~Insurance quotes are still being gathered.
~Maria Leverton's baptismal request is in the planning stage.

~Easter services and plans for breakfast have been completed.

New Business:
~Monica Bahr has requested an offering from Pleasant Valley to take to the Morning of Renewal event like she did last year. Roxie will get a check for her.
~Membership list is being updated.
~Paper Shredder will be purchased for the church office.

Other:
~The Northwest Synod Assembly is taking place on Saturday, April 26 at Bethany Lutheran Church in Rice Lake, WI. We can send one male and one female from our church as voting members. We will pay their $50 registration fee to attend. Kay will make an announcement in church and provide information about the event in the fellowship hall.

~Pastor Dave Sands gave Dwight a copy of his service contract with Chimney Rock Lutheran Church. He is willing to work with us on a similar contract. We have decided not to enter into any such agreements while we are working with the Northwest Synod on the call process.

Mission Offerings:
April: Luther Park
May: Agnes's Table
June: The Community Table
July: Nick & Abby Butchart (Baby Kenzie)

The next council meeting will be on Thursday, May 1, 2025. Marty made a motion to adjourn with a second from Dave. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M. and closed with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kay Sands

Members present: Dwight Sands, Roxie Ulness, Dave Vlcek, Marty Johnson and Kay Sands

Treasurers' Report
Summary of Offering and Expenses

	YTD	February	March	April
Offering /Misc	$14,809.72	$3,465.16	$8,934.51	$4,480.00
Expenses	$11,744.10	$5,247.55	$3,787.76	$4,140.21

Offering Under Expenses – February - $1,782.39
Offering Over Expenses – March - $5,146.75
Offering Over Expenses – April - $339.79
Offering Over Expenses – Y-T-D - $3,971.26

Mission Offerings:
February – Sojourner House - $235.00
March – Stella Michels - $325.00

No Memorials this month

Respectfully submitted:
Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

Praise Team News
The Praise Team will play in worship at Pleasant Valley at 9 am on May 25 and lead at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility (CVCTF) that evening at 6:30 pm. The group has been invited to a Volunteer Appreciation Banquet at CVCTF on May 15 at 5 pm. Reminder to RSVP to Laura Charipar by May 8. A new drum seat was purchased and donated to the chapel at CVCTF. Practices will be held on Wednesdays following worship.

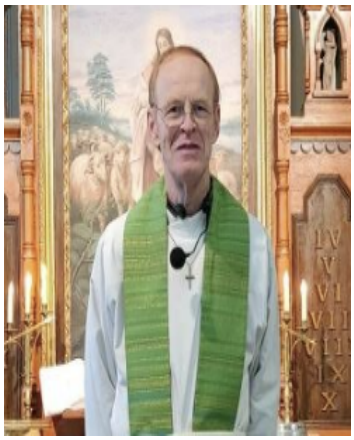
H3 (Holy, Happy and Healthy)
for one day and must be postmarked by 5/10/25. A flyer with more registration information and other details i
H3 is studying together with the book, "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer, along with scripture readings selected by the group leaders. The group meets at Immanuel Lutheran in Eau Claire and on Zoom at 9:30 to 11 am every Tuesday. Contact Marianna Gilbertson or Kim Vlcek for more information.

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 s included with this newsletter and posted on the bulletin board at church. Marianna Gilbertson is on the retreat planning group.

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.

Pastor David Sands



Pastor Paul Tobiason

From our Mailbox

I hope all is well with you and everyone at Pleasant Valley Lutheran.

I just returned from Guatemala, and I was able to meet with Keyla and Heber. They are both doing well. The school year started the day I saw them, and they were both looking forward to another successful academic year. Keyla is in 11th grade this year, and her goal for the year is to get good grades. She is studying to be a kindergarten teacher. Heber has just started high school, and his goal for the year is to finish all of his homework. He is starting a general high school program with a focus on electrical work.

I'm attaching a few pictures of the students, as well as their letters to the church. Thank you.

I also wanted to share a little about Isa's oldest boys. Carlos and Andy are doing okay. They are living in Solola with Isa's mother. Their father, Carlos, comes home from Guatemala City on the weekend. The move to a rural community of Solola after living in the larger, more metropolitan town of Panajachel, has been difficult for them. They finished out the school year last year in Pana but started school at a private school in Solola this year. Carlos is in 4th grade, and Andy is in 2nd. They are both receiving tutoring virtually with our tutors. Please pass along my thanks to the congregation for supporting the scholarship fund last year.

I'm also wondering if the church is willing to sponsor Heber and Keyla again this year? If so, the cost of their high school scholarships is $500/ student, for a total of $1000.

Please don't hesitate to let me know if I can answer any questions, and I'm happy to do so. Thank you for all that you do to make life better for our friends in Guatemala!

Best wishes,

Sharing the Dream IN GUATEMALA

LAUREN VASKE
Executive Director
605-624-6895
director@sharingthedream.org
www.sharingthedream.org
10 W. Main St., Vermillion, SD 57069

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Cantón Chijtinimit
Chichicastenango
March 12, 2025

Dear godparents of **Pleasant Valley Lutheran,**

I send you a warm greeting. I hope that you are all doing well and are in good health.

In this letter, I want to share with you what I did during my school vacation in December of this past year. December was a happy month, because my birthday was coming up. Birthdays signify the start of a new stage of life. Finally, my birthday arrived, and we celebrated. I turned 17 this year. My parents prayed for me, and asked God to protect me. Then, we shared a meal.

Christmas was coming up, and my family decided to exchange gifts. We drew names, and I pulled my sister's name. When Christmas Eve arrived, we exchanged gifts and wished each other a Merry Christmas. We shared a special dinner, and then we lit off fireworks.

I started 2025 off with my family. I started school again on February 19th, and I am in 11th grade this year. I was simultaneously happy and nervous for the school year. I have new teachers and new classes. The school principal welcomed us to the new school year in a school assembly.

The academic programs at Sharing the Dream have also started. I am doing my volunteer hours at three institutions in town. In the first institution (a seed bank), we learn about seeds and how to cultivate them. I the second institution, we help to take care of a public soccer field. The third location is new, and it's the public library. I've only been a few times, but we're learning to classify books. I receive my tutoring sessions on Wednesdays. Lucrecia, my tutor, helps me with more than my schoolwork. She also supports me psychologically by listening to me. I've had a few things happen at school, and she's been a great listener. We also work on my homework and schoolwork.

In February, we started our first Reading Circle, and we celebrated Carnaval. Each of us decorated cascarones (eggs filled with confetti), and everyone was very creative. The tutor asked a question about a new book we're reading, and if no one knew the answer, we had to break the cascarones on our heads. It was a lot of fun, and I enjoyed spending the time with my fellow students. It helped me to relax.

My favorite classes are Statistics, Art, and Natural and Social Sciences. I think these classes are easy, and my teachers do a good job explaining the content. My hardest class is math, because our teacher is too demanding. My goal for the year is to pass the year and have my internship approved.

I say goodbye to you for now. I hope that this letter that I've written with much love and care reaches you all. I hope to meet you one day. Thank you for your support for my schooling.

Your's truly,

Keyla Lisbeth Tiriquiz Calgua
Your scholarship student

Cantón Chijtinimit
Chichicastenango
14 de marzo de 2025

Dear godparents,

Greetings on behalf of your godchild, Heber Neftali. I wish you all the best in your daily activities. I sincerely hope you are doing well and that you've been able to achieve your goals.

It's a pleasure to be able to share with you what I did during my school vacation last year. The school year ended in November, and I had my last day of junior high on the 15th. We received our final report card on the 25th. We had our junior high graduation ceremony on December 10th. My parents came, and I said goodbye to my classmates. That day was also the start of our town festival, and my brother and I went to walk around.

This year, 2025, I started high school and a degree with a focus on electricity. I hope to be able to adapt to the new school system. I was very excited on the first day of class, and I am grateful to be able to continue to go to school and to have made it to high school. My favorite class is electricity, because we're studying content that I find to be interesting. So far, I haven't found any class to be too difficult, but we just started the school year. The goals that I've set for this year are to earn good grades, put in my best effort at every opportunity, and to not disappoint my parents and all of you.

The academic programs also started back up with Sharing the Dream. I started my volunteer hours again, and I continue to volunteer at the seed bank and the public soccer field. We are also learning to sort books at the library. I receive my tutoring sessions on Mondays, and we've been working on my grammar and handwriting, because those two things are difficult for me. We also had a general meeting, and all of the students and their parents were there. We went over the various activities for the year.

I joined in on the Reading Circle at the beginning of March. The first book we are reading is a book called "The Poems of Luis Cardoza and Aragon". I had a lot of fun making confetti filled eggs. After we made the eggs, we played a game with them. These eggs are part of the tradition of Carnaval here in Guatemala.

Thanks to God, my parents are doing well. My older sisters take good care of them. I have nine sisters and only one brother. My family and I are so grateful for your support for my schooling. We pray for all of you and your families. We ask God to repay your generosity. I say goodbye to you. I hope you read this letter and that it brings you a smile.

Sincerely,

Heber Neftalí Tiriquiz Calgua
Your scholarship student

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Thank you for all of your love and support that you all have given me and my children during this dark time in our lives.

God bless you all,
The Glendes

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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

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR

WELCA SALAD LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY JUNE 11, 2025

NOON LUNCHEON - SPEAKER TO FOLLOW

ALL ARE WELCOME!

MOTIVATIONAL MESSAGE:
"MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN"

Stacia serves as a Women's Ministry and Prayer Director in the Minneapolis area. After volunteering in a ministry organization, she discovered a new calling: presenting encouraging talks and devotions. She loves that she gets to blend her roles to help equip and encourage women internally, externally and eternally.

LUNCHEON SPEAKER:
Stacia Christenson

RSVP's encouraged but not required, by June 6 to 715-983-2242

PEACE LUTHERAN OF PIGEON FALLS

13083 EAST MAIN STREET PIGEON FALLS, WI

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The NW Synod of WI Racial Justice team invites you to join them for an

INDIGENOUS SACRED SITES TOUR

LEARN FROM AND WITH OUR INDIGENOUS NEIGHBORS IN MN

SATURDAY, MAY 17

Learn about Minnesota history from a Native perspective through story-telling and experiencing the sites in silence / meditation / reflection.

We visit sites located around confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, what the Dakota refer to as Bdote, or "meeting place of rivers," including:

- Fort Snelling State Park
- Dakota Internment Camp following the Dakota-U.S. War
- Pilot Knob Hill, a traditional burial ground

Your $75 registration includes the cost of the tour, transportation (coach bus), bus snacks and post-tour meal from Shobi's Table in St. Paul. You may also purchase snacks at a rest stop. 50 person maximum. Pick up locations on registration form.

Questions: 715.859.6810
racialjustice.nwswi@gmail.com

Register at
nwswi.org/home/calendar

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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- **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.
- Praise Team practice Wednesdays.
- Please email, call, or text Teresa with prayers and updates on our prayer list. If you leave a note on the Secretary's desk please print the name *clearly* for prayer. I feel bad when I have to guess and I get it wrong... Thanks

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TEXTS FOR April

May 4:

- Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)
- Revelation 5:11-14
- John 21:1-19
- Psalm 30

May 11:

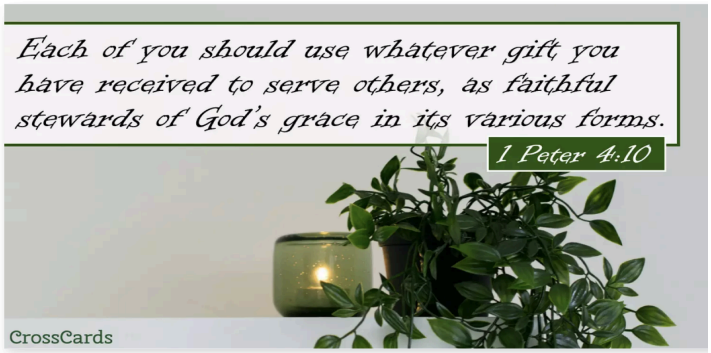
- Acts 9:36-43
- Revelation 7:9-17
- John 10:22-30
- Psalm 23

May 18:

- Acts 11:1-18
- Revelation 21:1-6
- John 13:31-35
- Psalm 148

May 25

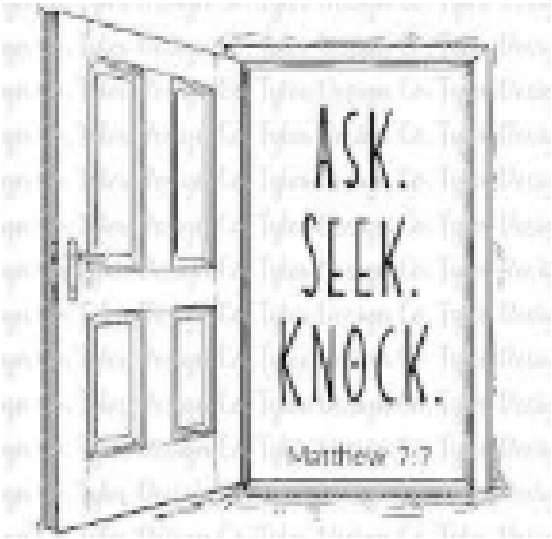
- Acts 16:9-15
- Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5
- John 14:23-29
- *or* John 5:1-9
- Psalm 67



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	MAY	JUNE	JULY
Communion Set-up	5/4 5/11 5/18 5/25	6/1 6/8 6/15 6/22 6/29	7/6 7/13 7/20 7/27
Communion Server	5/4 5/11 5/18 5/25	6/1 6/8 6/15 6/22 6/29	7/6 7/13 7/20 7/27
Usher	5/4 5/11 5/18 5/25	6/1 6/8 6/15 6/22 6/29	7/6 7/13 7/20 7/27
Reader	5/4 5/11 5/18 5/25	6/1 6/8 6/15 6/22 6/29	7/6 7/13 7/20 7/27
Church Cleaning	5/4 5/11 5/18 5/25	6/1 6/8 6/15 6/22 6/29	7/6 7/13 7/20 7/27
Serve Coffee	CRYSTAL & CORRISA	6/1 6/8 6/15 6/22 6/29	7/6 7/13 7/20 7/27



2025 WELCA Retreat

INFORMATION SHEET

Wed. June 4 & Thur. June 5

Presenter: Destiny Jackson

Music: *Looking for a volunteer to play the piano*

Hosted by: Chippewa Valley Conference
Jacki Johnson – coordinator 715-864-1489

Held at: Luther Park Bible Camp
944 24 ¼ Street Chetek, WI

Full 2 day - Retreat - Early Bird Registration **$90 postmarked by 5/10/25**. $100 postmarked after 5/10/25
This includes 4 meals, overnight lodging in a handicapped accessible cabin, cabins sleep 6 women (per side – 2 sides), Speaker, camp activities, and costs to host the retreat.
Needed items for overnight stay: Bible and pen along with personal items, towels, pillows, bedding or sleeping bag, flashlight, swimsuit (if you want to swim), snacks, camera, and spending money.

One day only. Early Bird Registration **$60 postmarked by 5/10/25.** $70.00 postmarked after 5/10/25
Wednesday is the full day of activities. Thursday has limited activities.
This includes 2 meals, Speaker, camp activities, and costs to host the retreat.
Needed items for one day retreat: Bible and pen along with swimsuit (if you want to swim), towel, camera, and spending money.

NO ONSITE Registration* and *No early check-ins for Cabins
No refunds, but registration can transfer to another woman

Registration: Wednesday - 9:15 A.M. – 10:15 A.M. in the Ministry Center
First time participant orientation begins at 9:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m.
Registration: Thursday - 7:30 A.M. – 7:45 A.M. in the Ministry Center
Retreat begins at 10:15 a.m. on Wednesday and concludes at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday

A free will offering will be taken each day with proceeds going to
(Church women's group and Personal offerings are encouraged)
⅓ WELCA for Synod use
⅓ Feed My People
⅓ Lutheran Disaster Relief

TO BE ECO FRIENDLY – PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN RE-FILLABLE WATER BOTTLE
WATER JUGS WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE CAMP - PLASTIC BOTTLES OF WATER WILL NOT BE PROVIDED

2025 WELCA Retreat

Wed. June 4 &
Thur. June 5
ACTIVITIES

Chair massage - $2.00 per minute (10 minute) – pay therapist at appointment – both days
Sign up needed and will be at a separate table in the Ministry Center *(look for the sign)*

Card Making - $2.50 per card – pay at time of activity to instructor – both days
No sign up needed

Bookmark making – Wednesday only – No sign up needed

Swimming, Kayaking and Canoeing – both days – No sign up needed

Pontoon and **Wagon Rides** – both days – Sign up needed (look for sign in Ministry Center)

Chair Yoga – both days – Sign up needed (look for sign in Ministry Center)

SIT & SIP – Wednesday only – No sign up needed
Enjoy a little wine and relaxation in the beautiful setting of Luther Park Bible Camp

Candy Bar BINGO – Wednesday only – No sign up needed

KING'S WAY BIBLE & GIFTS

will have an assortment of Bibles, gifts, apparel, boxed cards, pens, and fun stuff to purchase - both days.

Luther Park Bible Camp

sits on 10 beautiful acres along Prairie Lake in Chetek, Wisconsin.
Their 15 buildings include a Dining Hall, a Chapel, 4 Retreat Facilities, Indoor Worship Space, 8 Cabins, and offices.

The offices of the ELCA Synod of Northwest Wisconsin are located at Luther Park as well.

Joan Moe, our WELCA Synod President and Bishop Martin Hallom will extend greetings.

REGISTRATION FORM

Early bird rates apply if postmarked by 5/10/25

2025 WELCA Retreat

Wed. June 4 & Thur. June 5

Meet our Presenter: Destiny Jackson

Destiny has a joyful love for Jesus. She has a heart for the broken; to walk alongside them on their journey of healing, restoration and freedom. This led her from behind the salon chair to writing workbooks, speaking at events, and teaching healing through art classes as the Lord spoke to her. No matter what form of communication, Destiny is committed to sharing the transformational love and healing from Jesus that she has experienced firsthand.

----------PLEASE DUPLICATE THIS FORM AS NEEDED----------

Make Checks Payable to **WELCA** (not your church or Luther Park)

Send to: Barb Krug @ 883 Brucker Street Medford, WI 54451
Questions: call or text 715-965-5696 email: barbkrug@charter.net

Name: First & Last (as you would like it on your name tag) _____

Is this your 1st retreat? _____ Would you like an orientation of/at the camp?_____

Address: _____

Email_____

Telephone: _____

Church Name and City_____

If attending only one day – which day? _____

Do you have any special dietary requirements? _____

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/

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 	2	3
4 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship *PASTOR:	5 	6 9:30-11am H3 at Immanuel Lutheran Church and Via Zoom	7	8	9	10
11 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship *PASTOR: David Sands	12	13 9:30-11am H3 at Immanuel Lutheran Church and Via Zoom	14	15	16	17
18 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship *PASTOR: Dave Whelan	19	20 9:30-11am H3 at Immanuel Lutheran Church and Via Zoom	21	22	23	24
25 9:00 am Praise Team Worship Service 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship 6:30pm Praise Team leads worship at CVCTF *PASTOR: David Sands	26 Memorial Day	27 9:30-11am H3 at Immanuel Lutheran Church and Via Zoom	28	29	30	31