*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
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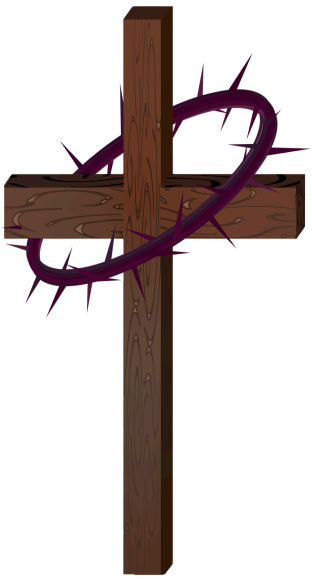
Website: www.pleasantvalleylutheran.com

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church

MAY

Newsletter 2026



Pastor Corner May 2026

As the earth is slowly reawakening from its winter slumber, spring seems a good time to think about and talk about our own need for renewal. Many of us look forward to “spring cleaning”; not only of our own houses and garages and sheds but perhaps of our own lives as well. I remember First Lady Michelle Obama once spoke about adopting her mother’s practice of engaging in “spring cleaning” wherein she would clean the house top to bottom, wash the windows and air out the curtains and the bedding while simultaneously taking stock of her life; considering what changes, if any, needed to be made. President Obama chimed in that when Michelle began spring cleaning he always felt a bit nervous wondering whether she would decide to keep him or toss him out with the rest of the clean-out! Obviously I would not suggest any of us take things to that extent but I do think it is a good idea to take a moment during our own spring cleaning to consider what changes we might make in our lives to assure we are not getting lost in the hub-bub and clutter of the world but, instead, are keeping our focus and our values on that which is most important.
This past weekend, I attended the Synod Assembly where we discussed what I consider to be a number of “spring-cleaning” ideas. This year’s Synod Assembly was titled: Cross Connections – Building Bridges; it is an expression of the desire to share our Christian Faith with the world around us. There were a lot of ideas of possible ways to accomplish this overall goal that were discussed and I hope to have future conversations in our own congregation as to which ideas might best fit our particular context and surrounding community. The one program that was particularly highlighted at the Assembly was the Neighbor-to-Neighbor initiative. The basic idea of this program is to reach out to our neighbors in new ways. This is in recognition of a couple of trends in our society including the fact that in our very busy lives, we all seem to have less time to visit with our neighbors and, as a result, we tend to know less and less about our neighbors, even the ones who live just down the road from us. Also, with population demographics changing, an increasing number of our neighbors are of Hispanic backgrounds and given that these neighbors have different language, heritage and cultural customs than we do, it is even more difficult to get to know these neighbors. Therefore, under the leadership of Deacon Lidixe Montoya our Synod is trying to bridge those gaps in our relationships. One of the ways she is doing this is by encouraging congregations to host Health Fairs for their surrounding community. She arranges for vendors to set up booths providing educational materials and health resources to the participants of these fairs. One pastor reported that his congregation gave Bibles to children at their fair. Fortunately, Kim Vlcek has already been in conversation with Deacon Montoya, and our Council is considering dates for us to host a fair this fall at Pleasant Valley. This will be a good way for us to build bridges across the gaps in our relationships with our neighbors and share the Good News that Jesus Christ is the Savior of everyone.
Happy spring-cleaning!
Pastor Sands

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Council Minutes

April 9, 2026

The meeting was called to order by President Dwight Sands at 6:31 P.M.
Pastor Dave Sands led the council in a prayer to begin the meeting.

Kim Vlcek attended the meeting as a visitor. She informed the council that
Lidixe Montoya is looking for a place to hold a health fair. Anyone is welcome to attend the health fair, although the target population is the Hispanic community. Kim explained that it would involve the use of the church for approximately 3 hours. We would need to provide volunteers to help with setting/cleaning up for the event regarding moving tables and chairs, etc. Other churches in the area have hosted this event. Council members were in favor of providing the use of the church to house the event. Kim will gather more information regarding the date, time and anything else that we should know before the event is held.

A motion to approve the secretary’s minutes and treasurer’s report as presented was made by Cortney with a second from Stephanie. Motion carried.

Education Update
The last day of confirmation is tentatively set for Wednesday, June 3. Cortney will ask Corissa about her plans for the last day of Sunday school.

Worship Update
The Lenten and Easter services went well. We have pulpit supply through the month of May. Cortney will begin finding pulpit supply for the available dates during the summer months.

Property Update
Dave replaced the faucet in the women's bathroom in the basement. He said the iron filter appears to be working. He will continue to monitor it.

Old Business
Roxie will order 12 gray stacking chairs to replace the upholstered red chairs in the Sunday school area.

Kay will continue to work on the membership spreadsheet.

We are still looking for representation at the ELCA Synod Assembly on Saturday, April 25 in Rice Lake. Pastor Dave will also be attending on behalf of Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church.

Pastor Dave explained the church's relationship with the American Lutheran Home. It began as a partnership with several other churches to provide quality senior care in a Christian atmosphere. Representatives from those churches are asked to attend the annual meeting. He will share this information with the congregation and ask for volunteers to attend the meeting on Tuesday, May 26 at 6 P.M. in Menomonie. The deadline to register is May 1.

New Business
Stephanie informed the council that Shelby Cole is no longer working as a missionary in France. She expressed appreciation for our past support.

Cleghorn Harvest Fest registration for a booth space is now open. It will be held on September 12 and 13.

We discussed the age/grade for first communion. It was the consensus of the council with input from Pastor Dave to wait until the children are around third grade to receive instruction and their first communion.

Jeremy and Heather Nelson have expressed the desire to become members of Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church. Pastor Dave will reach out to them.

Mission Offerings
April - Community Table
May - Sojourner House
June - Luther Park Bible Camp

The next council meeting will be on Thursday, May 7 at 6:30 P.M.

Roxie made a motion to adjourn with a second from Dave Vlcek. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M. and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kay Sands

Members present: Dwight Sands, Stephanie Kuehl, Roxie Ulness, Dave Vlcek, Cortney Sands, Pastor Dave Sands, Rhonda Hoverson and Kay Sands

Treasurer's Report:
Summary of Offering and Expenses

	YTD	February	March	April
Offering /Misc	$15,118.81	$3,238.71	$4,005.10	$5,648.00
Expenses	$20,840.72	$6,449.71	$5,027.68	$6,736.60

Offering Under Expenses - Mar- $1,022.58
Offering Under Expenses - April- $1,088.60
Offering Under Expenses – Y-T-D: $5,721.91

*Expenses have exceeded offering every month this year. If you are able, consider increasing your Offering.

April expenses included:
Summit Fire Protection - $371.40
Sharing the Dream - $1,000.00
Chippewa Valley Energy Fuel - $1,025.13

Mission Offerings:
Feb- Jill Anderson - $229.00
Mar- David Gray - $375.00
Apr- Community Table- $310.00

Memorials:
Building Fund:
In memory of Sharon Hazen, from Lorraine Pine
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 May 24 and 31, and will lead worship at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility (CVCTF) those evenings at 6:30 pm. CVCTF is hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Banquet on May 20 and Praise Team members will attend. Practices will be held on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

H3 (Holy, Happy and Healthy)

H3 will continue meeting every Tuesday at 9:30 am through May 19 at Immanuel Lutheran in Eau Claire and on Zoom. The group is studying "A Beautiful Year" by Diana Butler Bass. Everyone is welcome to participate. Contact Kim Vlcek for more information.

RUTH (Rural Unity Through Hope)

The next meeting is Monday, April 27, 2026 at 6:30 pm at Peace Lutheran, Pigeon Falls and on Zoom. Contact Kim Vlcek for more information about RUTH.

WELCA News

The NW Synod of Wisconsin Women's Retreat will be held on June 29-30, 2026 at Luther Park in Chetek. Note it will be held on Monday and Tuesday, a change from previous years. The retreat flyer and registration form are available at https://nwswi.org/event/tfz5mjb/2026-welca-retreat. The next W/ELCA 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

Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) Ministry Thrift Sale

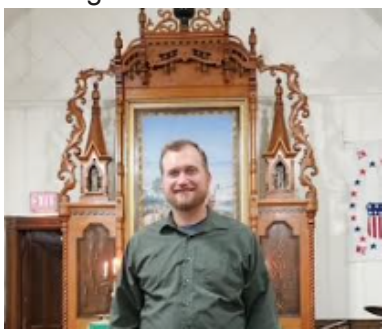
Spirit Lutheran in Eau Claire will host this year's N2N thrift sale on **May 14 (10 am-3pm), May 15 (9 am-12 pm) and May 16 (9 am-2 pm)** to benefit student scholarships at UWEC and CVTC. Community collection days are May 8 (3-7 pm), May 9 (2-5 pm) and May (1-8 pm) at Spirit's north side door #6. Requested items include clothing, shoes and accessories in large garbage bags tied; bed and bath soft items in bags; kitchen ware in boxes; and books and media in boxes. Plants and baked goods accepted the days of the thrift sale. No TVs, electronics or exercise equipment. Two flyers with more details are included later in this newsletter.

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 and members this month who helped with worship

Jeremiah Segerstrom



Kim Vclek

TEXTS FOR MAY

May 3:
- Acts 7:55-60
- 1 Peter 2:2-10
- John 14:1-14
- Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

May 10:
- Acts 17:22-31
- 1 Peter 3:13-22
- John 14:15-21
- Psalm 66:7-18

May 17:
- Acts 1:6-14
- 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
- John 17:1-11
- Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36

May 24:
- Acts 2:1-21
- or Numbers 11:24-30
- 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
- or Acts 2:1-21
- John 20:19-23
- or John 7:37-39
- Psalm 104:25-35, 37

May 31:
- Genesis 1:1-2:4a
- 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
- Matthew 28:16-20
- Psalm 8
- *or* Canticle 13 (or Canticle 2)

From our Mailbox

Volunteer Opportunity: Ride Across Wisconsin Rest Stop – July 11, 2026

Our church will be serving as a rest stop utilizing Olsen Park for Ride Across Wisconsin (RAW) on Saturday, July 11, 2026, and volunteers are needed to help welcome and support the cyclists passing through. This rest stop plays an important role in keeping riders **fueled, encouraged, and energized** throughout their journey. Volunteers assist with handing out snacks and water, cheering riders on, and creating a warm, positive atmosphere for everyone who stops by. It's a fun, high-energy way to serve our wider community, and even a short shift makes a meaningful impact.

Individuals, families, and groups are all welcome to participate. If you are unable to join in person an option would be to provide baked goods for the riders.

If you're interested or would like more details about timing and roles, please reach out. We'd love to have you be part of this special day of service and hospitality. If you're interested or would like more details, please contact Heather at **(262) 210-0162** or **heather@wisconsinbikefed.org**.

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Ruby's Pantry Pop-Up Pantry

Location: Mondovi County Shop
360 South Eau Claire St. Mondovi, WI
Held every 3rd Thursday of the month
Time: 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM
$30 Cash Donation
All are welcome to attend!

Ruby's Pantry is a community food pop-up pantry where guests receive an abundance of food for a small donation. This ministry helps individuals and families stretch their grocery budget while serving our community with dignity and care.

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Part-Time Adult Choir Director Grace Lutheran Church, ELCA 202 W. Grand Avenue Eau Claire, WI Grace Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, is seeking a qualified Adult Choir Director to enhance its worship ministry by providing leadership for its choral music program.

Purpose: The purpose of this position is to enhance Sunday worship services and special church events by providing leadership for the congregation's choral music.

Duties and Responsibilities: • Direct the Adult Choir in two rehearsals per week toward participation in the 10:00 a.m. worship each Sunday from September through May. Practices have been at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings and 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. • Prepare the choir for special services throughout the church year, including Christmas Concert, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Easter Sunday, and Music Sunday, as determined by consultation with pastors, musicians, and the Worship and Music Ministry. • Seek and contract with additional instrumental musicians for special services indicated above. Rehearse and conduct the ensembles for these services. • Actively recruit new members or substitutes when needed, providing an atmosphere for musical learning, growth, and mutual care. • Collaborate with the pastor, organist, and the Worship and Music Ministry to develop short- and long-range plans for music ministry.

Skills and Qualifications: • Bachelor's degree in music or equivalent. • Experience in choral conducting. • Knowledge of appropriate church music (classical, contemporary, folk, and gospel) and the role of music in worship. • Ability to relate to others with good interpersonal skills. • Satisfactorily complete the Applicant Screening Questionnaire.
About Grace Lutheran Church: • Location & Community: Centrally located at 202 West Grand Avenue in Eau Claire, the church acts as a hub for community organizations, with services on Sundays at 10 AM. • Inclusivity & Vision: The congregation affirms the sacredness of all people, welcoming individuals regardless of race, culture, age, ability, family structure, economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression. • Musical Tradition: Music is central to worship, boasting a 100+ year history of high-quality music, an extensive library, and an active Grace Adult Choir who willingly and generously share their musical gifts. • Worship & Staff: Worship is focused on a progressive message within traditional worship and is supported by an experienced organist/pianist/accompanist and available substitute choir directors.
Salary: Salary range from $5500 to $6000 depending on credentials and experience, to be reviewed and set annually on a calendar year basis. Approximately 5 hours per week, September through May.
Application Process: Please submit a cover letter and resume to: Barbara Eidahl, Congregation President Grace Lutheran Church 202 West Grand Avenue Eau Claire, WI 54703 or, email materials to: eidahlb@live.com A candidate will be selected as soon as possible
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Hello,
My name is Kendra Hasz, and I serve as Western Dairyland's Outreach Specialist for the Housing Assistance Program for Youth (HAPY). I'm reaching out to give a refresh about our program and the services we offer before the end of the school year.
To be eligible for the Housing Assistance Program for Youth (HAPY), individuals must meet one of the following criteria:

- They are currently street homeless (staying outside, in a car, emergency shelter, etc.)
- They are at imminent risk of losing their housing within 14 days.
- They are fleeing domestic violence (DV).
- They are residing in either Buffalo, Chippewa, Eau Claire, Jackson, or Trempealeau Counties

Additionally, applicants must be between the ages of 18-24, and everyone in their household, including partners, siblings, etc., must be under 25.
Through comprehensive case management and a personalized needs assessment, HAPY offers supportive services to help young adults secure permanent housing. Our goal is to empower individuals to use their unique strengths to achieve self-sustainability. Some of the services we provide may include:

- Housing search assistance
- Education and employment support
- Job search assistance
- Limited financial and budgeting support
- And much more

Since everyone's journey is different, our case management services are tailored to each individual's needs and goals. Like every housing program there is a waitlist, but until they come up for this program we can get them on our housing list to potentially be pulled for other programs they'd be eligible for!
If you have any questions about the HAPY program, potential referrals, or would like to schedule a time to discuss how we can help, I'd love to meet with you.
Here is our referral link for your convenience, should you have anyone in mind who could benefit from our services:
HAPY Referral Form – Fill out form
Thank you for your time and consideration!
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The newest issue of "LifeLines" is on its way, if it hasn't already arrived! In the spring edition, you'll find powerful stories about how you support a soup kitchen in Peru, doctor trainings in Tanzania, a new feeding ministry in Minnesota and disaster preparedness in India. Below is just one preview of your gifts' life-changing impact.
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If you have any photos you would like to submit to the newsletter email them to:
pleasantvalleylutheranchurch@gmail.com
Subject: "newsletter photos"
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WE INVITE PRAYERS FOR:

WE INVITE PRAYERS FOR:

Calling of a new Pastor for our church
Kathy Tweet-healing
Eric Anderson
Beth Stoddard- hospital
David (Red) McElwanie
Kari-Healing
Sadie Hoverson Odegard- healing at home
Sandy Schuh-healing
Karen Voss
Katie (Lammers) Household
Lyle
Sharon Anderson- Healing
Alice-Art's mother-in-law-healing
Barb-Steph's friend
Joy -Kathy T. daughter
Tanner- Hodgkins
Tony- waiting for kidney transplant
Randy Walker- fighting cancer
Joan Timm- healing
Guy Patrow – Tested positive for ALS
Karl Bahr – continued healing
Lisa & Glen-Fostering children
All our service men and women:
Alex Bauer- now stationed in Virginia
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**

Chimney Rock Church

Highway 93 - halfway between Independence and Eleva

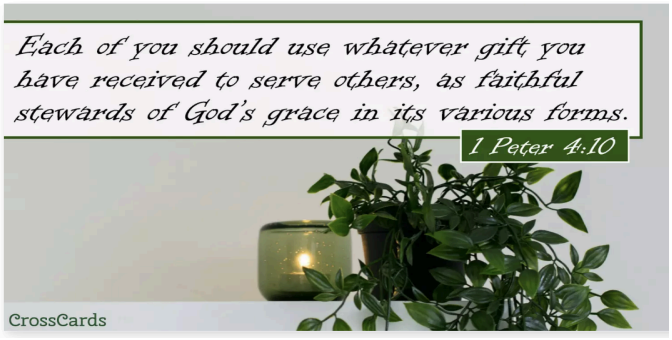
Drive -Thru Dinner

Sunday, April 26, 2026

Serving 10:30am until gone

Charcoaled Chicken
Bush's Beans
Bag of Chips
Dinner Roll
Bar
Bottle of Water

$10.00 per dinner



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 the area to be served.

2026	MAY	JUNE	July
Communion Set-up	5/3 Kim 5/10 Kim 5/17 Kim 5/24 Monica 5/31	6/7 6/14 6/21 6/28	7/5 7/12 7/19 7/26
Communion Server	5/3 Kim 5/10 Kim 5/17 Kim 5/24 Monica 5/31	6/7 6/14 6/21 6/28	7/5 7/12 7/19 7/26
Usher	5/3 5/10 5/17 5/24 5/31	6/7 6/14 6/21 6/28	7/5 7/12 7/19 7/26
Reader	5/3- 5/31 Roxie	6/7 6/14 6/21 6/28	7/5 7/12 7/19 7/26
Church Cleaning	5/3-5/31 Sharon	6/7 6/14 6/21 6/28	7/5 7/12 7/19 7/26
Serve refreshments	5/3 Kay 5/10 Roxie 5/17 Roxie 5/24 Monica 5/31 Julie	6/7 6/14 6/21 6/28	7/5 7/12 7/19 7/26

Memorial Day Trivia: Write True or False next to each statement (A-J). Answers are on the calendar

Unscramble the words related to Memorial Day listed below.

1. resldoi _____
2. mfeedro _____
3. ncutyro _____
4. bemrerem _____
5. nohor _____
6. drapea _____
7. glfa _____
8. rbvae _____
9. dyhoial _____
10. varge _____
11. tceyerem _____
12. aliyrtmi _____

A. Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday in May.

B. A day to honor fallen soldiers started during World War I.

C. A Memorial Day concert takes place on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol every year.

D. Traditionally, Presidents lay a wreath on soldier graves at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

E. The month of May was chosen because no other national holidays were declared for that month.

F. On Memorial Day, a flag should be flown at half-staff until noon only, then raised to the top of th staff.

G. The south refused to honor the dead on Memoria Day until after World War I.

H. There is a National Moment of Remembrance at 3:00 PM every Memorial Day.

I. A Memorial Day tradition is to wear green scarves to honor those who died in war.

J. Memorial Day used to be called Decoration Day.

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 2026

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

Answers for Memorial Day word Scramble and Trivia: 1)soldier 2)freedom 3)country 4) remember 5)honor 6)parade 7)flag 8)brave 9)holiday 10)grave 11) cemetery 12)military **Trivia:** A)T B) F C) T D) T E) F F) T G)T H) T I) F J) T