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

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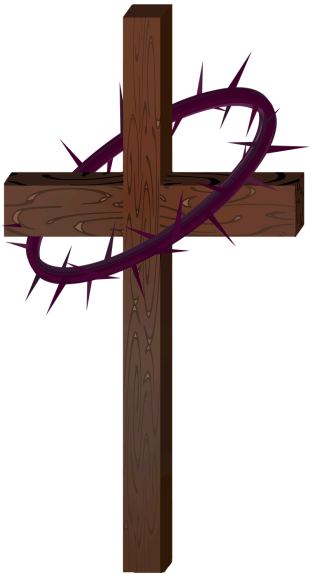
Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church

November Newsletter 2024



Bidden or not bidden, God is present

October 4, 2024

A dear friend gave me a plaque inscribed with the words "*Vocatus atque non vocatus Deus aderit*." Bidden or not bidden, God is present. It's an intriguing proverb, thought to have originated from the Oracle of Delphi in ancient Greece and later found in an anthology of Greek and Latin proverbs compiled by Erasmus in the 16th century. Carl Jung, the early-20th-century Swiss physician and psychiatrist, had it inscribed above his doorway and on his tombstone. These are very different eras and very different people, yet all were attracted to this adage. And here am I, in the 21st century, taken with these same words.

I didn't understand them at first. They seemed almost like a threat: "Like it or not, God is here—deal with it." Not very comforting, really. And what about invocations? Do we summon God? Do we invite the Spirit into our meetings as if we control access? Do we call on Jesus as if we need to get the Lord's attention?

But I have come to understand that these words declare a reality and a promise. God is already present, ever present, all in all. Instead of invoking or inviting God into our presence, wouldn't it be better and more accurate to acknowledge that God is present and to ask the Spirit to open our hearts to that presence? And that presence is pure love and peace.

God is near. God is here. God is not the distant, disinterested and disengaged architect of all things.

In his novel *The Wind in the Willows*, Kenneth Grahame describes this presence: "Then suddenly the Mole felt a great Awe fall upon him, an awe that turned his muscles to water, bowed his head, and rooted his feet to the ground. It was no panic terror—indeed he felt wonderfully at peace and happy—but it was an awe that smote and held him and, without seeing, he knew it could only mean that some august Presence was very, very near."

God is near. God is here. God is not the distant, disinterested and disengaged architect of all things. Scripture shows us that God, who brooded over the waters at creation, and walked and talked with Abraham and Sarah, was the constant companion of the people when Israel was delivered from bondage. We just don't always realize it.

The story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus puts us in the middle of an experience of an unrecognized encounter with the Holy. It was the evening of the Resurrection. Jesus joined two disciples who told Jesus about all the strange news they had heard about sightings of the risen Lord. But they were still unaware of Jesus' presence. How could we ever blame them? If we expect God's presence to be revealed and felt only in one prescribed way—extraordinary epiphanies—then it is not surprising that we do not recognize God's presence in everyday, ordinary experiences. "We had hoped" they said.

"Beginning with Moses and the prophets, [Jesus] interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures" (Luke 24:27). The two companions already knew the historical facts, but they did not recognize Jesus. Only when these disciples invited Jesus to dinner—when Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them—only then did they recognize Jesus. Such an ordinary thing, breaking bread. No herald angels, no earthquake, just this simple act of taking, blessing and giving bread—something we do on a regular basis—opened their hearts to the presence of the Lord.

How many times have we been in the presence of the Lord but didn't realize it? How many times has God's love been made real to us and we were looking in the wrong place—or not looking at all? Let us notice. Bidden or not bidden, God is present.

Read more about:

From the presiding Bishop ELCA presiding bishop, God, God's love, Jesus

Pleasant Valley Church Council Minutes
Friday, Oct. 11, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Stephanie Kuehl at 6:07 P.M.

The secretary's minutes and treasurer's report were read. Roxie stated that Jerry Larson would not accept payment for snow plowing this past winter due to the extremely mild winter. Since Jerry gave her back the payment at the bazaar, she placed it in with the money raised during the bazaar. A motion was made by Marty with a second by Dave to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Education Update: Stephanie is checking on the curriculum to be used beginning in January. Corissa has the scripts ready to start practicing with the Sunday school children on Sunday, October 13. Ruth Poore will serve lunch for the practice/Christmas party on Saturday, Dec. 7.

Worship Update:
~Women's Thank Offering service on Sunday, November 24.
~Thanksgiving Eve service on Tuesday, November 26 at 5:30 P.M. in the park. There will be a campfire. Hot dogs, chips, s'mores, hot chocolate and coffee will be served.
~Christmas Sunday school program will be on Sunday, December 8 during the 9:00 worship service.
~Christmas Eve service on December 24. Time is still to be determined.

Property Update: The handicapped door is now operating correctly.

Unfinished Business:
~Supply pastors still needed for the following dates: Nov. 3 and possibly Dec. 24.
~RIC (Reconciling in Christ) designation will be voted on at the annual meeting in January. Information will be available for members to become more informed on the topic. Members can find this information on a table in the fellowship hall.
~Lauren Vaske will do a presentation on Sharing the Dream at Pleasant Valley on Friday, November 8 beginning at 6 PM. A pasta bar meal will be served for a free will donation. The funds raised will go to a scholarship fund for children in Guatemala. A sign-up sheet to volunteer to help at this event will be on the table in the fellowship hall. Marty is applying for a Thrivent card to support this event.
~Stephanie and Marty will be meeting soon with representatives from the City/County Health Department/DNR regarding our well water.

New Business:~The fall bazaar raised $4,349.40. The money raised will be used to replace the folding tables in the basement dining hall and complete raising funds for the handicapped door project. Several donations were accepted that helped increase our profits. Thank you to:
Troy and Marianna Gilbertson for donating the potato salad, water, baked beans and pies.
Roxie Ulness for donating the ingredients for making lefse and pumpkin bars for the meal.
Marty and Teresa for donating a 5 gallon pail of pickle slices. Randy Sands for donating the charcoal, lighter fluid, chicken coating and grill rental. Thank you to all those, too numerous to mention, for donating your time crafting, baking, and working at the bazaar.

Raffle Winners:
- ½ hog donated by Thrivent River Valley Associates - Jordy Sands
- $150 meat bundle also supported by Thrivent - Maria Ishizaki Leverton
- Quilt made and donated by Crystal Sands - Ryan Heath
- Face cord of firewood donated by John Poore - Nancy Berger
- $50 KwikTrip gift card supported by Thrivent - Jackie Brorson
- $50 KwikTrip gift card supported by Thrivent - Jackie Brorson

Basket Raffle Winners:
- My Local Deals/Cheese donated by Kay Sands - Debbie Planert
- Baby Items donated by Monica Bahr - Santanna Freezy
- Date Night donated by Kim Vlcek - Joan Timm
- Candy donated by Cortney Sands - Kari Karnatz
- Bird feeders and food donated by Roxie Unless - Sandy Schuch
- Car care products donated by Crystal Sands - Joan Timm
- Road trip bag, snacks and gas card donated by Rhonda Hoverson - Santanna Freezy

Mission Offerings:
Oct.: Family of Steve Glende (Kathy Tweet)
Nov.: Christmas from the Heart, Debbie Wright (Eleva-Strum School District)

Dec.: Mondovi Food Pantry
Jan.: Feed My People
Feb.: Sojourner House
Next council meeting will be on Thursday, November 14 at 6:30 P.M.
Motion made by Dave with a second by Marty to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kay Sands

Members present: Stephanie Kuehl, Marianna Gilbertson, Roxie Ulness, Dave Vlcek, Marty Johnson, Corissa Sands and Kay Sands

Treasurer's Report:
Summary of Offering and Expenses

	YTD	August	September	October
Offering /Misc	$45,016.33	$7,793.03	$3,966.00	$4,739.00
Expenses	$29,644.30	$3,298.11	$3,370.31	$2,688.96

Offering Over Expense-August-$4,494.92
Offering Over Expense-September-$595.69
Offering Over Expense-October-$2,050.04
Offering Over Expenses – Y-T-D: $12,508.07

Mission Offerings:
August - Eleva Strum Weekend Backpack Program - $190.00
September - Mondovi Weekend Backpack Program - $240.00
October-family of Steve Glende - $456.00
Memorials:

Interested in online giving - go to the church website and click on **"Give Online Now".

Respectfully submitted:
Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

RUTH (Rural Unity Through Hope)
Neighbor to Neighbor has a Health Fair planned at Peace Lutheran, Pigeon Falls for Spanish-speaking community members. The event is set for November 9, 10 am to 1 pm.

Bazaar Report – 2024

	Proceeds		Expenses
Meal	$1,373.00	Meal	$128.60
Raffle	$837.00	Ad-Delite	$78.00
Basket Raffle	$327.00	Flyers, tickets & booth	$75.00
Bake/ Craft Donations	$311.00	License Fee	$25.00
Bake/ Crafts Priced	$1,808.00		
Total	$4,656.00		$306.60

Net Profits: $4,349.40

Increase of $823.00 over 2023

- ★ Potato Salad, water and beans donated by Gilbertson's
- ★ Lefse supplies donated by Ulness'

Raffle Winners
- 1/2 Hog – Jordy Sands
- Meat Bundle – Maria Ishizaki Leverton
- Quilt – Ryan Heath
- Firewood – Nancy Berger
- $50.00 Kwik Trip gift card – Jackie Brorson
- $50.00 Kwik Trip gift card – Jackie Brorson

Basket Raffle Winners
- My Local Deals – Debbie Planert
- Baby Basket – Santanna Freezy
- Date Night - Joan Timm
- Candy Basket - Kari Karnatz
- Bird Basket – Sandy Schuch
- Care Care – Joan Timm
- Road Trip – Santanna Freezy

Praise Team News
The Praise Team will play in worship at Pleasant Valley at 9 am on November 24 and will lead worship at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility (CVCTF) that evening. Practices are held on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

H3 (HOLY, HAPPY, AND HEALTHY)
H3 is meeting again to study the book, Freeing Jesus by Diana Butler Bass. 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.

Women of the ELCA

Lutheran women have a long history of Bible study, discipleship, and desire to deepen their spiritual life and learn about issues. Women of the ELCA offers free, downloadable program resources—all in English and many in Spanish—to help you grow in faith and engage in ministry and action.
https://www.womenoftheelca.org/resources

IV Hoodie for You

Are you receiving IV treatments, or do you know of someone who is?Then you or that person can receive an **IV Hoodie**…free of charge!An **IV Hoodie** has a zipper in the sleeve **or** in the chest for a port to help make treatments more comfortable.If you'd like more information please call or text Ellen Hauserat 715-797-4354.

Sharing the Dream in Guatemala

Come for dinner and hear the story about Sharing the Dream in Guatemala (STDG) on Friday, November 8. A pasta bar dinner (free will donation) will begin at 6 pm, followed by guest speaker Lauren Vaske, STDG Executive Director. Lauren will also have a display of products for sale. Proceeds from the dinner will go to a scholarship fund for the children of Isabel Quinquisa, formerly STDG's Artisan Development Coordinator, who passed away in August.
Please sign up in the fellowship hall to assist with the dinner.

From our Mailbox

Our congregation has the unique opportunity to participate in a national study of worship attenders. The study is being conducted by Faith Communities Today (FACT), a research partner of the ELCA. Since 2000, FACT has conducted research that provides religious leaders of all traditions with critical information about the changing nature of congregational life and how to respond effectively. For participating in this survey, our congregation will receive a $200 Amazon gift card and, if at least 10 people respond, a report of our responses. Anyone 18 or older who is a regular participant can complete the survey. It should take between 12 to 15 minutes. To take the survey, please click the link below.
https://covidreligionstudy.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9GYI89a3NMOwuFw?congregation=20317
Please complete the survey by Friday, Nov. 22. If you are interested in learning more about this study, please visit:
https://www.covidreligionresearch.org/attender-survey/

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Everyone has a unique generosity story, including you. Attend Making an Impact: Your Generosity Story to discover the five primary ways each generation expresses generosity.
Register today to learn about the factors that shape and influence generosity and ways to create impact in your community.
https://thrivent.zoom.us/webinar/register/6817158677259/WN_8RHffrONR1-JTyQt7HrqaQ#/registration If you have questions or would like to learn more about Thrivent's resources for churches, please visit us at **Thrivent's resources** or contact **goodsteward@thrivent.com**

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Hello!
My name is Kendra Hasz, and I am Western Dairyland's Housing Outreach Worker for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP). I wanted to send out some information about our YHDP program and what we have to offer!

Part of our YHDP program is our Housing Assistance Program for Youth (HAPY). Based on a needs assessment and using comprehensive case management, HAPY provides supportive services to help young adults (ages 18-24) obtain permanent housing. One of our goals is to help young adults utilize their personal strengths to achieve self-sustainability. Some of our program services may include housing search assistance, education plans, job search assistance, limited financial and budgeting assistance and more. Everyone's path looks different, so the case management services are adapted to meet the individual's needs and goals.

If you have any questions about our program, potential referrals, or would like to schedule a time to further discuss what HAPY has to offer, please do not hesitate to reach out!
Thank you for your time!

Kendra Hasz
Western Dairyland EOC
Housing Outreach Worker
Cell: 715-530-4043
Email: kendra.hasz@wdeoc.org
Website: https://www.westerndairyland.org

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★ Monday, November 4 the church will lose power around 10am for 2-3 hrs weather permitting. Inclement weather date Nov. 5 per Eau Claire Energy.
★ Students will be working on the Christmas program during Sunday School
★ **Friday, November 8**: Sharing of the Dream speaker Lauren Vaske and Pasta Bar here at Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church
★ **Thursday, November 14, 6:30 Church Council Meeting**
★ **Saturday, December 7,** Christmas program dress rehearsal and Christmas party
★ Christmas program Sunday, **December 8**
★ 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

Mission offerings:

★ Nov.: Christmas from the Heart, Debbie Wright (Eleva-Strum School District)
★ Dec.: Mondovi Food Pantry
★ Jan.: Feed My People
★ Feb.: Sojourner House

TEXTS FOR SEPTEMBER

November 3
Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9
or Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 24
Revelation 21:1-6a
John 11:32-44

November 10
Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17
Psalm 127
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

November 17
1 Samuel 1:4-20
1 Samuel 2:1-10
Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25
Mark 13:1-8

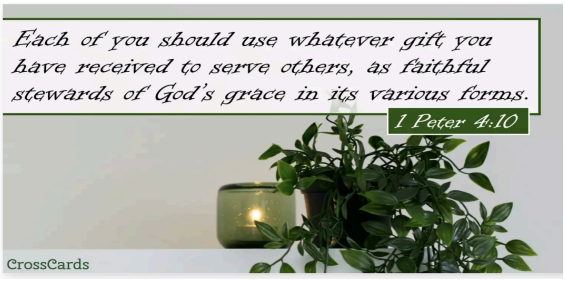
November 24
2 Samuel 23:1-7
Psalm 132:1-13 (14-19)
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37

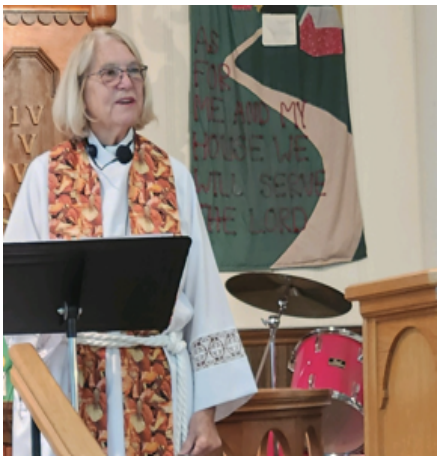
November 28-Thanksgiving Day
Joel 2:21-27
Psalm 126
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Matthew 6:25-33

Opportunities to Serve

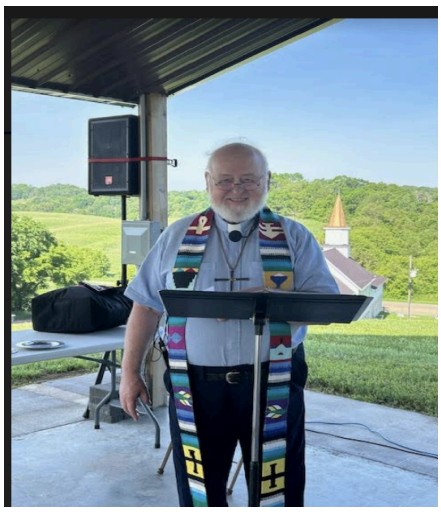
Feel free to sign up for a single week or a full month. Expectations of opportunities have been developed. The expectations are placed near to the area to be served.

	November	December
Communion Set-up	11/3 Kim 11/10 Kim 11/17 Kim 11/24 Kim	12/1 Monica 12/8Mmonica 12/15 Monica 12/22 Monica 12/29 Monica
Communion Server	11/3 Kim 11/10 Kim 11/17 Monica 11/24	12/1Monia 12/8 Monica 12/15 Monica 12/22 Monica 12/29
Usher	11/3 11/10 11/17 11/24	12/1 12/8 12/15 12/22 12/29
Reader	11/3 Johnson's 11/10 Johnson's 11/17 11/24 Johnson's	12/1 Kari 12/8 kari 12/15 Kari 12/22 Kari 12/29 Kari
Church Cleaning	11/3 11/10 11/17 11/24	12/1 12/8 12/15 12/22 12/29
Serve Coffee	11/3 Teresa 11/10 Teresa 11/17 Monica 11/24	12/1 Roxie 12/8 12/15 Monica 12/22 12/29 Roxie

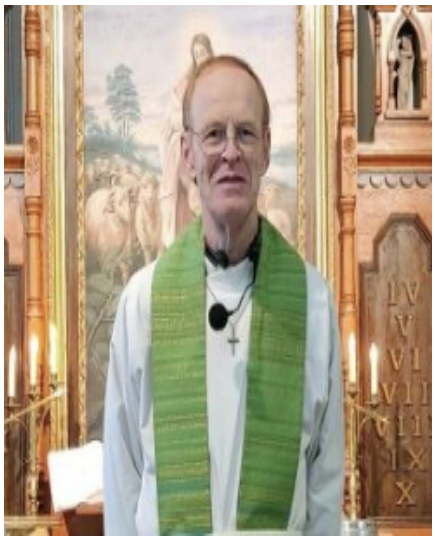


Pastor Janelle Harrison October 6

Pastor Vern Weeks October 13

Pastors Valerian Ahles October 20



Pastor Dave Sands October 27



WE INVITE PRAYERS FOR:

WE INVITE PRAYERS FOR:

William Hinshaw - Lung infection- (Marianna's cousin)
Kari-healing
Alice-Art's mother-in-law-healing
Barb-Steph's friend
Marion- Kathy Tweet's granddaughter
Joy -Kathy T. daughter
Chris-Kathy T. grandson
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
Sharon Anderson-healing-cancer, on chemo
Joan Timm- healing
Michelle - Poore's sister-in-law's sister - cancer in the bone
Guy Patrow – Tested positive for ALS
Karl Bahr – continues with therapy
Lisa & Glen-Fostering children
Kay Roskom and family-Custody battle
All our service men and women:
Alex Bauer stationed in England
Middle East
Guatemala
Ukraine

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

Duane Vlcek and Ayla Hakes and family
Inmates at CVCTF and **Chaplain Hull**

All those who are missing a loved one:

Those on our visiting list: Gary and Sharon Hazen, Sandy Schuch, Sadie Hoverson Odegard

Hope Gospel Mission's Thanksgiving Community Dinner

Free Dinner | Dine-In | Drive-Thru
Date: Thursday, November 28, 2024
Time: 11:30 am to 1:00 pm
Location: 2650 Mercantile Drive, Eau Claire

Individuals and families from all over the Chippewa Valley are invited to come to the Hope Renewal Center for Men to receive a FREE Thanksgiving Dinner. We will be offering a sit down dinner in our dining room once again this year, and we will continue providing meals with a drive-thru service as well. We look forward to serving you this Thanksgiving!
Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever. ~ 1 Chronices 16:34, NIV
Generous donations from caring members of our community make this Thanksgiving Community Dinner and the life-changing services Hope Gospel Mission provides possible.

Community ThanksGiving Dinner

Dates: November 28, 2024
Location: **Saving Grace Lutheran Church**
3735 Jeffers Rd, Eua Claire
Time: 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Price: FREE

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/

November 2024	# Pleasant Valley Lutheran November	Please Post

Sunday	*Monday*	*Tuesday*	*Wednesday*	*Thursday*	*Friday*	*Saturday*
Church services will be radio transmitted.						
					1	2
3 10:00 am Praise Team Worship Service 11:00 am Fall Bazaar	4	5 9:30-11am H3 Immanuel Lutheran Church Via Zoom	6 6:30pm Praise Team Practice	7	8 6pm presentation on Sharing the Dream	9
10 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship	11 Veterans Day	12 9:30-11am H3 Immanuel Lutheran Church Via Zoom	13 6:30pm Praise Team Practice	14 6:30 Council meeting	15	16
17 9:00 am Praise Team Worship Service 6:30 Worship and CVCTF 10 am Coffee & Fellowship	18	19 9:30-11am H3 Immanuel Lutheran Church Via Zoom	20 6:30pm Praise Team Practice	21	22	23
24 9:00 am Worship Service Women's Thank Offering Praise Team Worship 6:30 Worship and CVCTF	25	26 9:30-11am H3 Immanuel Lutheran Church Via Zoom 5:30 Thanksgiving Eve Service in Olson Park	27	28	29	30