*Pl*easant Valley Lutheran Church
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Eleva WI 54738

"That all May come, Serving all the People of God"
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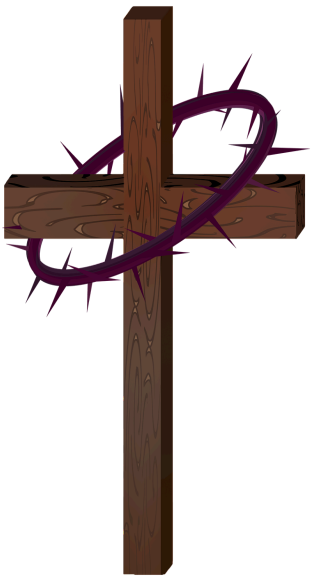
Website: www.pleasantvalleylutheran.com

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church October

Newsletter 2026



All Together in One Place

June 1, 2026

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place" (Acts 2:1).

Every day, I receive emails and messages from members across this church. Many of you share concerns about the state of the world and how faith informs your response to troubling or perplexing events. Sometimes you ask me to speak out more often regarding current affairs, and sometimes you ask me not to speak so much. I cannot answer every message, yet I am learning from you and feel the heartbeat of this church through the concerns, fears and hopes you share with me.

To continue our conversation and respond to what I am hearing from you, I will issue a monthly message through the end of this year in a series called "All Together in One Place." Each message will share a pastoral word that witnesses to God's presence today, rooted in Scripture, our rich theological tradition and the social teaching that connects us for life together.

At the first Pentecost, the disciples were guided by the prophet Joel's assurance that, even in troubling and perplexing times, God is faithfully present.

Our baptismal vocation together is to serve God and neighbor in daily life, fostering "a faith that is active in love, a love that seeks justice, and an insight that strives to discern what is right, good, and fitting" (ELCA social statement The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective, 1991, p. 6).

Baptism invites us to love our neighbor, to steward creation, to advocate justice and mercy in situations of brokenness, and to seek peace.

As much as we strive to be "all together in one place," we may not agree on how to do this. The letters I receive testify that we span a beautiful and God-given diversity that invites Lutherans into deep listening, moral deliberation and a certain humility as we seek the common good.

In our differences, we can still be together in one place, when that place is connection in the unity that only Christ gives us (1 Corinthians 12:12-27). We stand in one place when we embrace the dignity of every human being by engaging others with curiosity and respect. We stand in one place when we shake off the immobility of fear to nurture connection in diversity. Our witness to the world embodies 2 Timothy 1:7: "God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline."

Just as those early followers of Jesus Christ experienced the power of the Holy Spirit, may we also trust when the Holy Spirit comes blowing into our lives to connect the body of Christ.

In peace,

The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church Council Minutes

September 2, 2026

The meeting was called to order by President Dwight Sands at 5:49 P.M.
Pastor Dave Sands gave a devotion and prayer to begin the meeting.

Dave made a motion with a second from Rhonda to approve the secretary's minutes and the treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

Education Update: Sunday school will begin on Sunday, September 20. Rhonda will check with Corissa to see what materials she is using for her lessons. Confirmation with Pastor Dave will begin on Wednesday, September 16. Parents will be contacted to determine the best starting time. Pastor Dave has requested to purchase the same Bible for himself to use as the one used by the confirmation students. Council agreed to his request. He would also like to have confirmation materials available online. He will research what materials are available.

Worship Update: Cortney is working with Teresa and Stephanie to update all of our forms of communication with Pastor Dave's name and contact information. Cortney received a Thrivent Action Team card for $250 to support Crystal Sands's quilting ministry.

Property Update: Dave is working on repairing the outside church railing.

Old Business:
~The council reviewed the plans for our booth at Cleghorn's Harvest Fest.

~ Plans were finalized for our annual fall bazaar. It will be held inside the church on Sunday, October 4, 2026. Stephanie will contact the Praise Team members to see if they would like to lead the music portion of the service. The worship service will be at 10:00 A.M. with Aaron Athas leading the service. It will be followed by a chicken dinner and other activities. Randy Sands will apply for a Thrivent Action Team card to support the meal expenses. The grilled chicken dinner will consist of a piece of chicken, baked beans, potato salad or potato chips, pickle, bun, homemade dessert and a beverage for $12. There will be a drive-up option to purchase a dinner to go. The drive-up option will have a pre-packaged cookie instead of a homemade dessert due to the possibility of allergies. Bottled water will be the beverage for the drive-up meals. Kay Sands will place a sign-up sheet for working at the bazaar, and one to donate a themed basket in the fellowship hall. Dwight Sands received a Thrivent card to support some of the raffle prizes.

~The council reviewed our congregation's role in the health fair to be led by Lidxie Montoya on Saturday, November 7 from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. We will collect non-perishable food items for our October mission offering, which will be made available at the health fair. We will have a flyer available in English and Spanish with basic information about our church worship services, Sunday school, Praise Team and other events. Lidxie will attend our October council meeting to finalize plans for the event to be held at Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church.

New Business:
~Teresa received a request from Pastor Caleb Ziegler of Risen King Church to use our church for their worship services until they can secure a permanent location. The council discussed the logistics and areas of concern with the request. The council along with Pastor Dave will meet with Pastor Ziegler before an arrangement is made, if any.

~Pastor Dave presented a financial report from the ELCA Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. He will make this information available to the congregation at our annual meeting in January.

Mission Offering:
September - Mondovi weekend backpack lunch program
October - Collect non-perishable food/personal care items to be made available at the health fair in November.
November - Mondovi Food Pantry
December - Feed My People
January - Scott and Rhonda Dohms (They lost their home in the Appleton area from a tornado.)

The next council meeting will be on Thursday, October 8 at 7:00 P.M.

Stephanie made a motion to adjourn with a second from Cortney. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 P.M. and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kay Sands

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

Treasurer's Report:
Summary of Offering and Expenses

	YTD	July	August	September
Offering /Misc	$44,616.90	$5377.00	$4,565.09	$4,288.00
Expenses	$45,347.51	$4,902.51	$6,830.84	$3,838.88

Offering Over Expenses - July - $474.49
Offering Under Expenses - August - $2,465.75
Offering Over Expenses- September - $449.12
Offering Under Expenses -Y-T-D-$580.61

Mission Offerings:

July - Tony Mocarski -$492.00
August - Eleva Strum Weekend backpack program -$310.00
September - Mondovi Weekend backpack program - $310.00

Memorials:
General Fund:
In memory of Joan Timm: from family & friends of Joan
In memory of Joan Timm: from Randy & Kay Sands

In memory of Joan Timm: from Mike & Bonnie Isaacson
In memory of Ronnie Anderson, nephew – from Dale & Sharon Anderson
In memory of Kim Hodges, niece – from Dale & Sharon Anderson

Cemetery Association:
In memory of Joan Timm: from family & friends of Joan
In memory of Joan Timm: from Richard & Monica Bahr
In memory of Joan Timm: from Irene Isaacson

Lift Fund:
In memory of Joan Timm, from Larry & Crystal Sands

Your generosity directly supports the life of our church. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference and is deeply appreciated.

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

Respectfully submitted:
Roxie Ulness, Treasurer

If you have policies with Thrivent and get Choice Dollars to designate to organizations, please consider donating to Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church.

Praise Team News
The Praise Team will play in worship at Pleasant Valley at 10 am on October 4. The group will also play in worship at PV on October 25, and will lead worship at 6:30 that evening at the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility (CVCTF). Practices are held on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

H3 (Holy, Happy and Healthy)
H3 meets weekly on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11 am, and is continuing study of "A Beautiful Year" by Diana Butler Bass. Everyone is welcome to join the group on Zoom or in person at Immanuel Lutheran in Eau Claire. Contact Kim Vlcek for more information.

RUTH (Rural Unity Through Hope)
The first community meal at the new Independence Library/Community Center will be held August 25, from 5:30-7 pm. A Hispanic meal will be served and demonstrations given. A pop up food distribution will be held on August 25 at the Catholic church in Independence. RUTH is supporting the Health Fair scheduled at Pleasant Valley on November 7. Lidixe Montoya is coordinating the fair. The next RUTH meeting will be on September 28 at 6:30 pm at Peace Lutheran in Pigeon Falls and on Zoom. Contact Kim Vlcek for more information about RUTH.

Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) Ministry
Pleasant Valley is partnering with Neighbor to Neighbor to host a health and community resource fair on November 7 from 10 am to 1 pm. The purpose is to provide community members with health and wellness services and information about social services. Volunteers will be needed to help set up and clean up and welcome visitors. Donations of the following are requested for food pantry items to give to those who attend. Most of these items can be purchased at Wal-Mart.

Food items
- ☐ Maseca corn flour
- ☐ Spicy salsa
- ☐ Canned peppers
- ☐ Tajin
- ☐ Corn tortillas
- ☐ Ducal refried beans
- ☐ Flavored cornstarch
- ☐ Homini
- ☐ McCormick mayonnaise
- ☐ Jarritos Mexican soda
- ☐ Fideo small pasta
- ☐ Horchata mix
- ☐ Flan mix

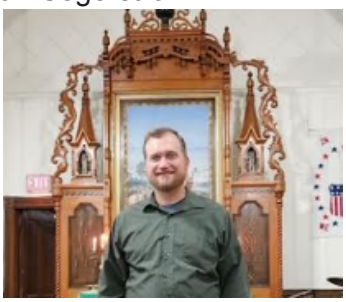
Personal items
- ☐ Body soap
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Toilet paper
- ☐ Roma powered laundry soap
- ☐ Socks

N2N's first health fair of the fall was held at St. Paul's Lutheran in Curtiss and they had a tremendous turnout! Besides Pleasant Valley, three more health fairs will be held in Eau Claire, Chippewa Falls, and rural Rock Falls.

Lisa's IV Hoodies

If you or someone you know is receiving IV treatments, you or that person can receive a Lisa's IV Hoodie…free of charge! Lisa's IV Hoodies have 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.

Jeremiah Segerstrom



Stephanie Kuehl

TEXTS FOR October

Oct 4:
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

Oct 11:
Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

Oct 18:
Exodus 33:12-23
Psalm 99
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

Oct 25:
Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

From our Mailbox

The Church Council would like to recognize Crystal Sands for using her passion to help others. She regularly uses her own time and supplies to make quilts to donate to our church and members. In addition, she generously donates quilts to Luther Park and other organizations for their fundraising raffles. She also finds local charities that distribute quilts to individuals in need. To support her continued mission, the council has obtained a Thrivent gift card to help her purchase supplies. Thank you, Crystal, for sharing your passion with us and with those in need, and for being an example of how to carry out God's mission.

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Immanuel Lutheran Church, Strum will host a pipe organ dedication concert featuring Dr Sam Backman and the Immanuel Choir and Chimes Sunday October 11 at 4:00 pm
Sam grew up in Independence and is currently the Director of Music Liturgy at Holy Cross Catholic church in Minneapolis. Immanuel recently completed their pipe organ renovation. Reception to follow.

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Dear Members~
We are deeply grateful for your mission support of $310 for our backpack program and others! This kindness shows why we are all in the community!
Gratefully,
Ann Kisv
E-S community Support Network
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THANK YOU for your SUPPORT~
We cannot say **THANK YOU** enough for your awesome support of the Strum Area Food Pantry with your food & Monterey gifts. The Strum Food Pantry sees a few new families/households each month that we are providing with food, the age of these new families are 0-50 years old.
All non-perishable items are great but other items we can use are paper products, cake mixes, Jell-o & instant pudding mixes, peanut butter & dish soap. We are very thankful for monetary donations also; we buy milk & egg vouchers. The pantry has been also buying meat for our clients. So, each month they get milk, eggs, at least 2 kinds of meat.THANK YOU for your strong support to this Community Ministry.

God Bless,
Strum Area Food Pantry
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Important Dates to Remember

- ★ October 4: Fall Bazaar
- ★ October 8, 7:00pm: Council Meeting
- ★ Saturday, November 7 from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M: Health Fair
- ★ Praise Team practice Wednesdays at 6:30
- ★ Let Teresa know if there are any announcements you would like included in the bulletin.

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Mission offerings:

- ★ August - Eleva-Strum weekend backpack/lunch program
- ★ September - Mondovi weekend backpack/lunch program
- ★ October - Collect non-perishable food/personal care items to be available at the Health Fair.
- ★ November - Mondovi Food Pantry
- ★ December - Feed My People

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

WE INVITE PRAYERS FOR:

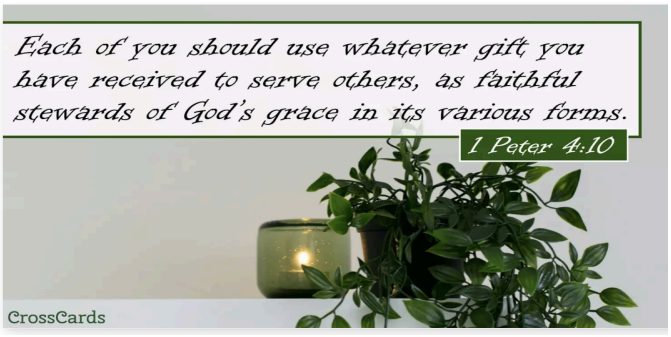
Maureen Kuhn-Kay Sand's sister
Tony Mocarski- Healing
Martha Johnson- Living with dementia (Marty's stepmom)
Marione
Duane
Chris
Eric Anderson
Beth Stoddard- hospital
David (Red) McElwanie
Kari-Healing
Sadie Hoverson Odegard- healing at home
Sandy Schuh-healing
Katie (Lammers) Household
Maria
Lyle
Sharon Anderson- Healing
Alice-Art's mother-in-law-healing
Barb-Steph's friend
Joy -Kathy T. daughter
Tony- waiting for kidney transplant
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
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 Hazen, Sandy Schuch, Sadie Hoverson Odegard

Our church runs on the time and talents of our congregation! We are currently looking for volunteers to help with upcoming needs, including reading during services, setting up, and helping with light cleaning. To sign up, please visit the table in the fellowship hall, email pleasantvalleylutheran.comor talk to Teresa.

If you have any photos you would like to submit to the newsletter email them to:
pleasantvalleylutheranchurch@gmail.com
Subject: "newsletter photos"

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE 2026



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.

2026	October	November	December
Communion Set-up	10/4 10/11 10/18 10/25	11/1 11/8 11/15 11/22 11/29	12/6 12/13 12/20 12/24 12/27
Communion Server	10/4 10/11 10/18 10/25	11/1 11/8 11/15 11/22 11/29	12/6 12/13 12/20 12/24 12/27
Usher	10/4 10/11 10/18 10/25	11/1 11/8 11/15 11/22 11/29	12/6 12/13 12/20 12/24 12/27
Reader	10/4- 10/25 **Roxie**	11/1 11/8 11/15 11/22 11/29	12/6 12/13 12/20 12/24 **Johnsons** 12/27
Church Cleaning	10/4 - 10/25 **Sharon**	11/1 11/8 11/15 11/22 11/29	12/6 12/13 12/20 12/24 12/27
Serve refreshments	10/4- **Bazaar** 10/11- **Roxie** 10/18 - **Roxie** 10/25- **Kathy T**	11/1 11/8 11/15 11/22 11/29	12/6 12/13 12/20 12/24 12/27

Confirmation students will also be participating in worship.

October 2026

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

Looking Forward:

November 7: Health Fair

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/