



First Lutheran Church
 W2314 Prospect Street
 P.O. Box 250
 Poy Sippi, WI 54967



10:30am
 Sunday Services.
 All are welcome!



We have 10:30am worship services, and
 also provide our service on our
 Facebook page, at:
 "First Lutheran Church ELCA"



“THE FIRST  EDITION”
 2024
JANUARY



January ~ 28th
 Immediately following worship,
 see page 5 for more info.

Pastor: *Pastor Rebekah Tarras*
Email pastortarras@gmail.com
Office Phone (920) 987-5151
Cell Phone (715) 897-5393

Council President: *Mark Henn*
Home Phone 715-820-2565
Email cmhenn96@gmail.com

Office Administrator: *Diane Warning*
Office Phone (920) 987-5151
Cell Phone (920) 716-4530
Church Email - firstluthpoyssippi@gmail.com





“Give joy ”

As I was reading through my emails the other morning, one from Margaret Feinberg caught my attention. I've used some of her Bible study materials and find them refreshing and hopeful. In her email, she shared the following story and I thought maybe it would speak to you as well.

“A few years ago, I wrote a book about joy where I tell the story of returning to the chemo ward for yet another brutal round of treatment. It was more than I could handle.

“I swung by a local party store on our way to the infusion center. My right hand clutched a bundle of red balloons. Intent on passing them out, I approached the long corridor of chairs filled with infusion patients . . .

A frail woman occupied the first chair.

“My name is Margaret, and I've had a really difficult time in treatment. I'm in the fight of my life,” I said. “I don't want to be here today, and I bet you don't either. I want to give you this red balloon in hope that it would bring you joy.”

The woman smiled as she extended her arm: “I'd like that.”

Turning to the man next to her, I repeated my offer, but with a different result.

“Not now,” he said with bone-tiredness, “but thank you very much.”

I approached the woman across from him.

“I don't need a balloon, but I do need a hug,” she preempted.

I reached down and wrapped my arms around her neck. The man who rejected my balloon cleared his throat, interrupting our moment.

“Wait,” he protested. “I didn't know you were giving away free hugs.”

I wrapped my arms around him, too.

One by one, I shuffled my way down the row, introducing myself and handing out balloons for nearly an hour. By the time I finished giving them all away, I had been inflated with just enough courage to take my seat and face the suffering that would come. That's when I discovered:

Joy is a gift we can offer even when we don't possess it ourselves.

When we give it away freely, something mysterious happens: Joy multiplies.

Jesus says, “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you” (Luke 6:38).

I always thought of the container as something external we hold as we watch it being filled, pressed down, shaken, and filled up more. I never considered that we are the containers. God fills us.

One of the best ways to receive joy is to give joy.

Like me, you may not always feel like it.
The day you need joy most may be the one you want to offer it the least.

Give anyway and give generously.

Take the leap.

Slip a grumpy store clerk a kind word of thanks.
Give that friend who's always down on herself a compliment.
Flash a smile to strangers who seem to be having a hard day.
Drop off a surprise bouquet. Send a card. Hand out a balloon.
Offer a five-second hug.
Then wait to see what kind of fruit these seeds of joy bear.

As you pour joy into others, joy will be poured into you."

Blessings to you friends as we begin this new year.
May we be people who pour joy into others!



Pastor Rebekah Tarras

Worship Schedule



January 7th Sunday – 10:30AM -
Baptism of our Lord

January 14th Sunday – 10:30AM -
Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 21st Sunday – 10:30AM -
Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 28th* Sunday – 10:30AM -
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Readers:
The Macijeski Family

Colleen Hein

Dar Cravillion

Kim Huerth

*The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following the service.

If you are unable to attend in person, you can watch online through our Facebook page, listen to worship via the radio station 93.1 FM or 1600 AM at Noon.



January 6th

January 2024 Church Office Hours:

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Pastor : 9:00-12:00pm Monday & Wednesday, Pastor Rebekah 715-897-5393 (Please note times may vary due to home visits, etc.)</p> | <p>Office Hours: 9:00-4:00pm Monday*, Tuesday and Thursday*, 10:00-12:00pm Wed. (Unless noted differently in the Sunday bulletins.) Thank you. *Days Patti is in the office.</p> |
|--|---|

Bulletin Deadline

Information should be turned into the church by **noon on Tuesday** to ensure adequate time to process the information into the following Sundays bulletin.



“THE FIRST EDITION”

Please provide the church office with news items for the February newsletter no later than **21st of January** to ensure the newsletter is sent on time. You may **email** your news item(s) in Word format to Diane at firstluthpoysippi@gmail.com.
Thank you, ~The Office

2023 Council Members

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mark Henn | 715-820-2565 (<i>President</i>) |
| Jerry Wrage | 920-290-0986 (<i>V-Pres.</i>) |
| Dar Cravillion | 920-987-5887 (<i>Treasurer</i>) |
| Jan Strehlow | 920-572-6098 (<i>Secretary</i>) |
| Kevin Birschbach | 920-266-3628 |
| Lenny Langkau | 920-229-3593 |
| Joan Everson | 920-295-9404 |



When calling after office hours, we invite you to leave a message on the church phone at 920-987-5151 with our voice messaging system, so that we can assist you at our earliest convenience. Thank you. ~the Office

Reminder:

To let the office know if your email, or mailing address has changed, or if you will be away, this will avoid uninterrupted service of church news and mail.

If you know of someone who would like to receive a copy of the newsletter via email, please let the office know. ~Thank



to the kids at the M-Team for the wonderful basket that I got for Christmas.



I am thankful for all the people at First Lutheran, for all the cards I got this past year. God bless all of you and have a wonderful Christmas and.

Marcella Jorgensen



HAPPY MEW YEAR DAY FOR CATS
JANUARY 2ND

Happy Mew Year Day For Cats: Jan. 2nd - a day dedicated to celebrating the new year with your beloved feline friend.

Congregation Annual Meeting



Our congregation's annual meeting will be held following worship on Sunday, January 28, 2024. This is an important time for us to make decisions about our life together as a congregation for the coming year. The business will include: approving a spending plan (budget) for the coming year; electing people to serve in leadership roles. We encourage all confirmed members to be part of this special meeting.



January Communion Bread



We are using prepared communion elements for those who wish to partake in Holy Communion during Sunday worship service. The first Sunday will be communing at the rail, as well as in the pew.

- Thank you, Altar Guild -



Midweek Lenten Services –

The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday services on February 14th,
 * 1:30pm at First in Poy Sippi,
 * 6:30pm at Grace in Berlin.

Each week the Wednesday Lenten services will continue with 1:30pm service at First and 6:30pm service at Grace.

Volunteer Need to do Video Inventory

Our church insurance agent has recommended we have someone go through the whole church and record a video or videos of the contents of our building to have on file in case of a catastrophic loss.

We are looking for a volunteer(s) to help us with this task. If you are willing, please talk with pastor Rebekah.



Apple Gifting Day: Jan. 1st



Apple Gifting Day is a celebration dedicated to the act of giving apples to others. It is a day to show appreciation and kindness by gifting this symbol of health and abundance. Why not celebrate it the whole month?

January Mission of the Month - Out Today Help Me Be Okay

Last fall, at a We ARE in Christ meeting (which includes representatives from Waushara County churches and other community leaders), it was noted that there have been several individuals in the Wautoma area this past year who are homeless. Some of these homeless individuals have been released from prison without any family to help them or any resources to start over.

One individual was transported and dropped off by the prison they were released from, without any other assistance. The individual was still in his orange prison jumpsuit and had an expired prison ID. Any attempts he made to cash a check (his remaining prison commissary funds) was rejected as he did not have a valid ID. Without money, he could not apply for a new valid Wisconsin state ID. Quite a Catch-22 situation. Also walking around in his prison orange jumpsuit evoked plenty of reactions from people who saw him and reached out to the police department. Local law enforcement had no funds to get any clothing for the individual so he could change out of his prison jumpsuit, nor did they have any way of providing him with some food or shelter. Eventually, he was driven to Oshkosh and an overnight shelter was found to take him in.

The members of We ARE in Christ recognize that for these inmates to begin to assimilate into society they need some basic clothing, a state ID or driver's license, a place to stay, food, and personal hygiene items. We ARE in Christ in cooperation with local law enforcement are seeking to provide much-needed assistance in this area by providing local law enforcement with gift cards and vouchers that can be used and redeemed for clothing at local thrift stores, food, and the cost of securing an ID or Driver's License when they are made aware that a former inmate is released in Waushara County. Such assistance reduces recidivism.



We ARE in Christ

Just before Thanksgiving, a woman was dropped off from out of town only wearing one shoe. The police chief, with funds from "Out Today" was able to help her get a pair of shoes and with help from human services found a place for her in a hotel until family could pick her up.

Our January mission focus is to collect funds to support the Out Today Help Me Be Okay fund.

Matthew 25:37-40: Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?" The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me."



Looking for person or persons interested in sewing quilts for our graduating seniors. Class of '25 has one graduate, the class of '26 has two graduates and the class of '28 has one graduate. Then there are a few years before another graduate. This is a great ministry and it gives the graduates something to remember their church family. Anyone interested can contact Jan Strehlow at 902-572-6098. Thank you.





Thank You

Thank you for the beautiful cards and gifts this Christmas season. Jeff, Bev, and I are feeling very loved and appreciated. Thank you for thinking of us. Pastor Rebekah



Financial Giving

Offering Envelopes for 2024 are available in the narthex at the church.

Please stop by to pick your box up if you have not already



done so. If we missed providing a box for you, stop by the church office and we will gladly get a box for you. Another option is to consider using online giving. To use this option, go to our website, go to the "Giving" tab, select "electronically" click on "link" and you will be taken to First's giving portal through Vanco. You can give a one-time offering and even set up recurring donations. Thank you in advance for your generous support of ministry at First.



Many Thanks

Thank you to all who helped with decorating the church for Christmas and to those who took care of all those little extra things behind the scenes that helped to enhance our worship this Advent and Christmas season. We appreciate all you do. Thank you.

Crossways Camps **NEW MAILING ADDRESS** now in effect!

Please update your records to reflect:
Crossways Camping Ministries
 W8160 Cloverleaf Lake Rd
 Clintonville, WI 54929



Adult Bible Study ~



We are currently studying the book of Isaiah. Join Pastor Rebekah and others at 1:30 pm on Mondays at First Lutheran. If you do not have a bible to bring or forget to bring one, there are plenty for you to borrow one during the study. Questions? Talk to Pastor Rebekah.



Confirmation Update

Confirmation Classes for 7th and 8th graders will resume on January 3 and continue each Wednesday at 6:30pm until Lent. This fall we completed an overview of the Old Testament learning about how God was at work in the lives of the Hebrew people. In the new year, we will shift to the New Testament focusing on the life of Jesus up to Lent and then the early church following Lent. Questions? Talk to Pastor Rebekah.



High School Youth



High School Youth are invited to attend Soul Food at Grace Lutheran. Each church (Grace Lutheran, River Shores, or All Saints) takes a turn hosting a noon lunch for high school students, weekly on Thursday.

Lunch service begins at 12:45pm thru 1:08pm, we ask a donation of \$1.00 towards the meal. Send a text to Pastor Rebekah at 715-897-5393, if you have any questions.



Summer Bible Camp Registration is Open

Crossways Bible Camp offers programs for all ages and families. Online registration is live at CrosswaysCamps.org. Sign up today.





January Birthdays:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Wayne Rew - 10th | George Huerth - 10th |
| Joanne Andersen - 12th | Ray Schierland - 13th |
| Dawn Jewell - 15th | Diane Warning - 15th |
| Jennifer Nelsen - 16th | Jennifer Kutchenriter - 19th |
| Chris Strehlow - 19th | Jeanne Theune - 22nd |
| Sheri Bahr - 27th | Brenda Strehlow - 30th |

ANNIVERSARIES

- Mark & Connie Henn - 1st
Eric & Mali Beine - 26th

"May the dear Lord bless you both throughout the year and always."

☞ May you enjoy your day and receive blessings from above. ☞

If I have missed anyone, dated anyone incorrectly, or misspelled a name, please let me know. Thank you. ~Diane




Prayers of Concern & Healing

You are in our Prayers . . .

* For the Families of Kelly Boening, Don Schlichting, Tim Schaetz, Ariel Fibiger & Shirley Drews.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| * For Joni B. | * For Diana K. | * For Phyliss J. | * For Patti B. |
| * For Tanya & William | * For Pastor Rick E. | * For Pastor Dean D. | |
| * For Cary E. | * For Linda N. | * For Jim E. | * Dana T. |
| * For Diane H. | * For Georgia Lee | * For Baby Ryder | |
| * For Marcella J. | * For Shannon M. | * For Mali B. | * For Carol K. |
| * For Bill H. | * For Liz B. | * For Jerry W. | * For Dave L. |
| * For Annie R. | * For Piper | * For Donna | |





Prayer requests can be called in to church or emailed to Patti at pattilangkau2023@gmail.com.



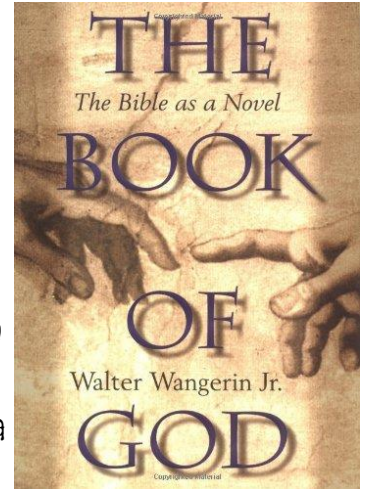


The Library Lion

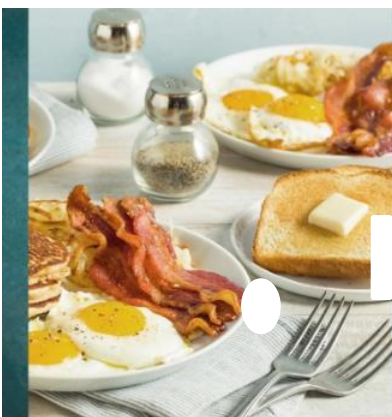
Have you tried reading the whole Bible, but get just so far and some of the verses are making it hard to understand?

Do you like the stories of the people of the Bible, but lose track of who is talking or who is being talked to? Well our library has a wonderful book written by Walter Wangerin, Jr. that you may enjoy.

Here is the story of the Bible from beginning to end as never told before. "The Book of God" reads like a fine novel retold by Wangerin. History and fact take on personality and warmth and helps you understand what it was like for each person to be caught up in the events of a particular time and place. A time and place where the eternal God somehow reached out and touched ordinary men and women.



"The Book of God" is an interesting and informative rendition of the greatest stories ever told. Check it out and enjoy learning of these people that are not so different from you and me. See you next month when I "catch" another interesting book from our library.



**MEN'S
BREAKFAST**
Second Saturday
of each month
January 13th
at Grace Lutheran
serving at 8am.

Men's Breakfast resumes in the New Year

The Saturday morning Men's Breakfast will kick off with Grace Lutheran hosting the first breakfast on Saturday, January 13th, 2024. All the men from First Lutheran and Grace English Lutheran are invited to attend, please sign up on the sign-up sheet by Sunday, January 7th, this helps with meal preparation.

Serving will begin at 8:00am.

If you need a ride – reach out to another attendee.



Poinsettia's

Thank you to those who shared a plant 'In Honor' or 'In memory' of a loved one for the Christmas Eve worship. Plants should be taken home after service on Sunday, January 7th, or call the office to arrange a time convenient for you.



January hosts

- 7th - Clara & Flora Voightlander
- 14th - Colleen Hein
- 21st - Sheri Bahr & Karin Macijeski
- 28th - Joan & Gen Everson

The M-Team invites you to enjoy light refreshments with coffee and juice prior to service. They are also looking for weekly hosts, please talk with any M-Team member to sign-up for hosting a Sunday. - Thank you, Jim & Georgia Lee



SNOW Blowing – Shoveling



The season of snowfall is here, and we will need volunteers each week to be ready to help keep the sidewalks and entrances clear of snow at both the church and house next door. There is a snow blower to use as needed and there are shovels for the lighter snowfall. Questions and inquiries can be directed to the property committee. Harold Nigbor at 987-5735, or Kevin Birschbach or Mark Henn.



I would like to express my thanks to those who gave me beautiful cards, and special items me this Christmas season. Happy New Year and blessings of health to you all in the New Year! - Diane Warning





The Poy Sippi Community Food Pantry News:

The food pantry is located at:
First Lutheran Church in Poy Sippi.



The food pantry will be open the first and third Friday* of each month, unless a Friday falls on a holiday. Hours are: 9:30am-10:30am and 3:30pm-4:30pm.

The Food Pantry graciously accepts 'in date' food and monetary donations.

We would not be able to serve the community without your generous help and support! Thank you to everyone who supports this great ministry.



*Coordinators of the pantry: Jody and Rodger Suprise, phone 920-987-5024,
Food Donations: Judy Schierland, phone 920-987-5582,
Backup: Patti Langkau 920-229-3193,*

*Money donations can be mailed to: Poy Sippi Community Food Pantry,
P.O. Box 250, Poy Sippi, WI 54967-0250.*

Seniors: Please note there is also a program for qualifying Seniors to receive additional food to what is available at the local food pantry's. Please contact the Dept. of Aging at the Waushara Courthouse to see if you qualify.

We would like to acknowledge and give a shout out to Tim Andersen for all the brown handled grocery bags he continually dropped off throughout the year, here at First. Those work great for the holiday food bag packing in December as well as heavy loads of food during client food pick up days. Thank you Tim!!
- P.S. Food Pantry

Worship with Scott Street Puppets
 Grace Lutheran invites you to join them for a special worship service featuring the Scott Street Puppet Ministry on Sunday, January 28 at 8:30 am. The puppets will share the word of God with all God's children from the youngest to the oldest.




Deadline for the February 2023 First Edition Newsletter items Wednesday, January 21st!





Stampin' Ministry:

The Stampin' Ministry helped the M-team assemble 20 Holiday Sunshine 'Thinking of You' bags for people who needed a little extra sunshine at this time of year; which also included a handmade Christmas card.



We had a great turn out for the Christmas breakfast served prior to morning service on Christmas Eve. There was a great selection of entrees, as well as items of lighter fare. There were fun table favors at each place setting for each person. Approximately 50 people attended Despite the foggy morning.



Fellowship Hall Update:

The major work of the flooring project has been completed. Mark Henn is busy giving the walls new texture and paint. Once that is completed the carpet tiles can be installed. We appreciate your patience with this project.



Looking for additional help with deep dusting. Talk with Joanie if you can help.



Pictured above is Kevin assisting Mark Henn and Steve Cravillion with the prepping of the flooring project. Picture to the right three different layers of flooring had to be removed.



First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2023 at 6:30pm



Attendance: Mark Henn, Kevin Birschbach, Lenny Langkau, Jan Strehlow, Joan Everson, Jerry Wrage, Dar Cravillion, Pastor Rebekah Tarras.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Mark Henn at 6:30PM.

Devotions: Pastor led in prayer.

Visitors: No visitors.

Approval of minutes: Concerning the CD-the wording needed to be changed from emergency to reinvestment. Motion made, seconded and carried as corrected.

New Business:

- A. Financial Ministry Software: The software in use now costs \$303.00 annually. Icon software offers more options for the finance committee. The cost is \$462.00 annually. A motion was made, seconded, carried to purchase this new program.
- B. Remove procedure for HND from policies: All policies for the HND are void. It was brought up that the insurance for the church needs to be updated and/or check into other companies.
- C. Procedures for and duties for Financial Ministry: To be added to the constitution 13.06A21 Finance Ministry. Motion made, seconded, 13.06A23 carried. Also 13.07E21 to be added to the constitution. Motion made, seconded, 13.07F23 carried.
- D. Proposal of Bookkeeper position: After discussion, motion was made and seconded to have a bookkeeping position. Mark will post it. A motion was made and seconded to purchase a computer for the bookkeeper. The funds will come from the general fund. That motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

1. Suggestion Box: The computer in the sanctuary needs replacing. Motion made and seconded to purchase a new computer, funds will come from Sound Technology Designated Funds. The old computer will be used by the Archive Committee.
2. Archive Storage: Kevin is going to do some pricing on fireproof safes.
3. Handling of Money policy/instructions: Tabled til December meeting
4. Lent Worship Services: No decisions are made yet
5. Update on Flooring: No updates at this time
6. Update on blacktop bids: "Wolf River Asphalt" is being looked into.

Other Business: None.

Reports:

Monthly Financials: Dar explained that all accounts are changed to Community First. Motion made, seconded and carried to accept the report as printed.

Finance Ministry: The committee is meeting regularly.

Archive Committee: Five persons are working on this committee.

Parish Council Committee: Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday December 14th at 6:30 at First.

Noisy Bucket: November - Honor Flight, December - ELCA Good Gifts, January - "We are in Christ".

Children's Ministry: They will be ordering winter materials.

Worship:

- Altar Guild: On December 3rd after service anyone interested in helping to decorate the church for Christmas season and following will be a light lunch. Lent is in discussion.
- Technology - The new "Hearing Loop Listeners" are here and ready for use. Also the defibrillator is in working order.

M-Team: November 22, Thanksgiving Eve service is at the New Hope Church at 6:30pm. The Sunshine Gift Bags will be filled December 11th. The kitchen will be cleaned in January.

Endowment: Theu met on November 7th.

Property: A motion light for the West door is needed. The large cross is not always lit.

Staff Reports:

Pastoral Acts: Baptism: Eleanor Rose Fenner 10/08

Visitation: Don Rew, Marcella Jorgensen, Judy Vergin, & Victor Hansen.

Office: Diane will be out of the office Nov. 20-22nd.

Organist: Deb plans to play two times each month for Sunday worship (November 5th & 26th).

Adjourn: Motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 8:15PM, motion carried.

Next meeting will be Tuesday December 12th at 6:30PM.

Pastor ended with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Strehlow
Church Council Secretary



January 2024 First Lutheran Church, Poy Sippi, WI

| SUN 31 | MON Jan 1 | TUE 2 | WED 3 | THU 4 | FRI 5 | SAT 6 |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| First Sun.-Chri <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Coffee F | Office Closed | Bulletin deadli | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Confi | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:45pm Sou | Office closed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Food 3:30pm Food | Epiphany |
| Baptism of our <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Coffee F 9am Sun.Sch 10:30am Wor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Pastor in 12:30pm Wor 1:30pm Bible! 2:45pm M-Te | Bulletin deadli <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Coun | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Confi | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:45pm Sou | Office closed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Men's Br |
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