



O GIVE THANKS
UNTO THE LORD
FOR HE IS GOOD.

We have 10:30am in person worship services,

and also provide our service online at our Facebook page, at:

"First Lutheran Church ELCA"



# "THE FIRS EDITION"





REFORMATION DAY 10-29-2023

Baptism: Miss Eleanor 10-08-2023

Pastor: Pastor Rebekah Tarras
Email pastortarras@gmail.com
(020) 087 5151

 Office Phone
 (920) 987-5151

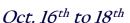
 Cell Phone
 (715) 897-5393

Council President:Mark HennHome Phone715-820-2565

Email cmhenn96@gmail.com

Office Administrator: Diane Warning
Office Assistant: Patti Langkau
Office Phone (920) 987-5151
Church Email - firstluthpoysippi@gmail.com









Oct. 18th to 20th

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah43:19

In a meeting with our synod staff a couple of months ago, Pastor Dara Clifford, the Director for Evangelical Mission, shared a document with us called Holy Conversations. She encouraged all congregations to use this resource as a tool for conversations. I gave copies of the questions to our church council and asked council members to take time to answer the questions in preparation for future conversations. Pastor Dara stated that these questions are meant to help us have conversations as part of discerning the season of our congregation's life and discerning what direction God is calling the congregation. It was suggested at the last council meeting that the whole congregation should be involved in this reflection so here are the questions for your reflection.

The first page of questions invites us to reflect on the previous 10 years in our congregation.

- 1. Do we have a pattern of growth in attendance?
- 2. Will that trend allow us to thrive and develop ministry for the future?
- 3. Can we maintain our own existence and provide ministry in the community?
- 4. Can we survive without some form of life support from bequests, or special gifts?
- 5. Do we have sufficient numbers of people to volunteer for ministry within the congregation and outreach into the community?
- 6. Are new efforts in evangelism and Christian education feasible?
- 7. Are there sufficient funds and interested membership to do ministry within the congregation as well as outreach and evangelism into the community and world?
- 8. Are we experiencing the presence of first-time visitors on a regular basis?
- 9. Do they return for a second or a third visit?
- 10. Do 20-25% of our first-time visitors eventually join the congregation?
- 11. Is the congregation's main focus on outreach/evangelism? 12.
- 12. Is the congregation striving to do more than trying to survive/keep the doors open?
- 13. Has the congregation grown in the last five years?
- 14. Do we have enough members to do ministry well?
- 15. Does giving in the congregation enable "Great Commission" work, or does most of the giving go towards maintenance and survival?
- 16. Are there young families active in the church?
- 17. Are the demographics (*age*, *race*, *gender*, *etc*.) of your congregation reflective of the community you are located in?
- 18. Has the congregation maintained a good level of stewardship including several families (10-12) who tithe faithfully to the congregation?
- 19. Is the congregation willing/able to adapt its ministry and lifestyle in order to develop the ministries that will meet the needs of a changing community?
- 20. Is the present facility physically adaptable for use?
- 21. Can the congregation afford the repairs that are needed to use these facilities for ministry?

The next set of questions is more reflective:

- 1. What exciting thing has God done in your midst [congregation] in the last year?
- 2. Where is your congregation afraid?
- 3. What is your dream for your congregation?

I would add one more, Where do you think God is leading us, guiding us, directing us as a congregation for the future of the church? As I have asked the council members, I now ask you to take some time and reflect on these questions. If you are willing, jot down some of your thoughts and share them with me or a council member. Together we can discern where God is at work making all things new.

#### Pastor Rebekah

PS. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the 'Drawn to the Word' event such a special day.

## October 2023 Church Office Hours:

#### Pastor:

9:00-12:00pm Monday & Wednesday, Pastor Rebekah 715-897-5393 ( Please note times may

vary due to home visits, etc.)

#### 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.

### **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 November newsletter by the **15th of October** to ensure the newsletter is emailed on time. You may **email** your news item(s) in Word format to Diane at <a href="mailto:firstluthpoysippi@gmail.com">firstluthpoysippi@gmail.com</a>.

Thank you, ~The Office



### **Archive Committee**

This committee was established by the current Finance Committee on August 23rd, 2023. Currently, they have only met twice, with the goal of organizing and preserving First Lutheran's documented history. Acid-free pocket holders have been purchased and a log of the items being put in them, has been started by the committee. Archiving is an ongoing task and responsibility of First Lutheran's members. The committee's wish is that there are more members of First that are interested in helping preserve First Lutheran's history. It is known that the 125th Anniversary of First will be celebrated in 2025. The committee's goal is to safely display documented history of First at that time. For any member of First, wishing to be a part of this committee somehow, now or in the future, please contact Connie Henn, Dar Cravillion or Colleen Hein.

2023 Council Members					
Mark Henn	715-820-2565 (President)				
Jerry Wrage	920-290-0986 (V-Pres·)				
Dar Cravillion	920-987-5887 (Treasurer)				
Jan Strehlow	920-572-6098 (Secretary)				
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 avoid uninterrupted service of church news and mail, please let

the office know if your email, or mailing address has changed; or if you will be away.

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

~Thank you





### **Endowment Meeting -**

First Lutheran Endowment Committee Members will be meeting November 7th, 2023 at 6:30pm.

Questions regarding the Endowment Committee can be directed to any of the following members: Linda Nitzke, Kim Huerth, Patti Langkau, Katie Nitzke, Connie Henn or Steve Cravillion.

### **Worship Schedule:**



October 1st Sunday – 10:30AM - 18th Sunday of Pentecost, Worship with polka style hymns played by the Mel Albright Band, Potluck lunch following worship in the fellowship hall. Communion will **not** be at the rail this morning with the special service.

**Readers:** The Macijeski **Family** 



October 8th Sunday – 10:30AM - 19th Sunday of Pentecost Baptism: Miss Eleanor Fenner

**Dar Cravillion** 

Communion will be at the rail as well as in the pew this morning. October 15th Sunday – 10:30AM - 20th Sunday of Pentecost

**Colleen Hein** Kim Huerth

October 22nd Sunday – 10:30AM – 21st Sunday of Pentecost

Joan Everson







### All Saints Observance:

On Sunday, November 5 we will

be remembering those saints who have died during the past year. During worship on that day, we will light a candle in remembrance of each member and friend of the congregation who has died this past year. If you have a friend or family member who was not a member of First that you would like to have included, please call the church office. In addition, we plan to set up a memory table in the Fellowship Hall. We invite you to bring a picture of your loved one to be part of the memory table. Please drop the pictures off in the church office by

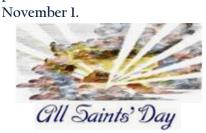




### Veteran Recognition

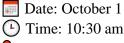
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED On Sunday, November 12, our congregation will recognize and honor our members who are living veterans or active military. We will be assembling a small information booklet and would like to include their information. We invite all members who are veterans or active military to share their information by completing one of the information forms available on the table in the narthex. Please submit completed forms to the church office along with a picture by November 5.





### Join us for Polka Sunday at First Lutheran!





P Location:

First Lutheran Church, W2314 Prospect St. Poy Sippi, WI



Highlights:

- Live Polka Band
- Delicious Potluck following worship
- Fellowship w/Friends and Neighbors

Get ready to kick up your heels and dance to the lively tunes of polka music on Sunday, October 1 at First Lutheran Church. It's a day of fun, fellowship, and fantastic music for the whole community to enjoy! This is a familyfriendly event, so bring your loved ones along for a

memorable worship with polka music and stay for a potluck following. We look forward to seeing you there!



### Vanco online giving



First Lutheran Vanco online giving:

We have made some updates to our giving choices with the

online/mobile app. We hope these added features will make it even easier for you to give anytime/anywhere. Feel free to speak with pastor or Diane with any questions you may have.





# Weekly Newsletter September 12, 2023 East Central Synod of Wisconsin



Thanks be to God for those called and sent to share the good news of God. Pictured above: some of our ECSW seminary students beginning another semester of study. (pictured in front row: Intern Kathy Cartwright)

### October hosts

1st - Germaine Schwebs 8th - Carolyn Holtz & Chris Monroe 15th - Jim & Georgia Lee Laird

22nd - Kim Huerth & Patti Langkau



The M-Team is looking for weekly hosts, please talk with an M-Team member.

Thank you.



Steve Michels - 2nd \* Jacob Nitzke - 4th \* Josie Zimmerman – 4th \* Tina Hansen – 7th \* Mia Jewell - 7th \* Daniel Andersen - 8th \* Mark Henn - 11th \* Mary Ann Chase - 12th \* Dar Cravillion - 13th \* Jaci Boening - 15th \* Gabriel Disterhaft - 16th \* Donovan Rew - 16th \* Kim Huerth - 18th \* Beverly Tarras - 20th \* Tom Jewell - 22nd \* Mark Austin - 23rd \* Gary Boening - 24th \* Tory Behnke - 25th \* Keegan Hein – 31st \*

If someone is missed, a date is incorrect, or a name is misspelled, please let the office know. Thank you. ~Diane





Richard & Jackie Wendt - 6th Steve & Rochelle Michels - 7th Ashley & Zachary Brooks - 8th Jan Strehlow & Jerry Wrage - 8th Jim & Georgia Lee Laird - 16th Tom & Dawn Jewell - 19th Bill & Sharon Deppe - 20th Brenda & Charles Goehring - 21st

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

"The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." - Philippians 4:5-7

### Prayers of Concern & Healing



\* For the Families of Sherm Hamilton, and Rev. Ralph Hanusa.



PLease

- \* For Ryder D.
- \* For Kristina R.
- \* For Donna M.
- \* For Dani
- \* For Bill J.
- \* For Gary A.
- \* For Pastor Bill M.
- \* For Vi S.
- \* For Shannon M.
- \* For Dave L.
- \* For Georgia Lee L.
- \* For Jaci B.
- \* For Mali B. \* For Patti C. \* For Marcella J.
- \* For Carol S.
- \* For Liz B.
- \* For Annie R.
- \* For Jerry W.





Prayers Successful -Lymphoma Gone!! ~Mali B.





### The Library Lion

Do you like listening to music while you relax or work?

Well the church library has quite an

assortment of music CD's. Anything from Gospel to Bluegrass to Christian rock to kids songs.



Whatever your cup of tea may be, there is something for you. Enjoy!





### THANK YOU

for your cards, notes, texts and prayers. It's a wonderful feeling to be part of a caring church family.

Georgia Lee Laird



#### Free Online Bible Study

Do you ever wonder who Jesus is?

Maybe you've read the Gospels before,

but you still feel like you don't have a deep understanding of how they are different.

If you're looking to connect with Jesus on a deeper level, I encourage you to check out the newest free online course from Luther Seminary called Exploring the Gospel of John.





The Gospel of John exists for all of us

—to transform our belief when we recognize the difference Jesus makes in our everyday lives.

Martin Luther even once said, "Should a tyrant succeed in destroying the Holy Scriptures and only a single copy of the epistle to the Romans and the Gospel according to John escape him, Christianity would be saved."

The five-session bible study is completely online, with a new session emailed to you each week, to be explored at your convenience. You can start faithfully exploring the free online course today: <a href="https://www.luthersem.edu/resources/book-of-john/">https://www.luthersem.edu/resources/book-of-john/</a>

I encourage you to sign up for the free online course and explore this amazing book of the Bible for yourself. -Pastor Rebekah

#### **ELCA** Missionaries

This summer the ELCA welcomed 10 new missionaries who are now on their way to serving in eight countries around the world. They bring different skills, interests, and experiences, but they share a deep passion for global service.



ELCA missionaries are serving as teachers, healthcare workers, communicators, pastors, and more. The relationships they form build the foundation of our global community of faith.

For even more stories about our new missionaries, follow the ELCA on Facebook and Instagram and subscribe to the "Global Links" newsletter.

## October Mission: Lutheran Disaster Response Maui Wildfires

In August multiple wildfires broke out on the Hawaiian island of Maui. Exacerbated by strong winds, these fires destroyed homes, businesses, and lines of communication. Thousands of people were under evacuation orders, some moving to other Hawaiian



islands. Wildfires were also burning on the Big Island of Hawaii, and the islands remain vulnerable to more fires this season.

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires, working with them to provide for immediate needs and recovery amid the widespread destruction. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying recovering communities in the years ahead.

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response will support wildfire survivors. Gifts will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by wildfires. Or make a general donation to Lutheran Disaster Response so we can respond to disasters whenever and wherever they strike.

Please pray for the Maui communities impacted by the wildfires. May God's healing presence bring them peace and hope in their time of need and give strength to those working diligently to contain the fires and care for affected communities.







### Grace Lutheran's Book Club Choice for October: "Wake Up With Purpose"

by Sister Jean with Seth Davis

Known to millions as simply "Sister Jean," the Loyola Chicago matriarch and college basketball icon invites you into her remarkable memoir filled with history, wonder, and common-sense wisdom for this century and beyond. As Sister Jean wisely says, "I've seen so many changes in the last 102 years, but the important things remain the same."



Meeting time and place to be determined later. If you would like to read this book, please contact Cindy Wallace for a copy.

If you have already read this month's selection and would like to join our discussion, please join us. - Cindy Wallace







i never want to be a Christian who makes it seem like life is perfect. i'm a sinner, i'm broken, i struggle, i fall more times than i care to admit That's why I need Jesus.
joyfully.rri

SISTER JEAN



Thank You to our volunteer grass cutting team: Harold Nigbor, Kevin Birschbach, Steve Macijeski & Mark Henn.

If I missed your name, my apologies. Please know your help is greatly appreciated. If you are able to assist with clearing the snow this winter, please talk w/Harold Nigbor (920) 291-6258. Thank you.

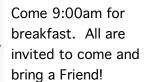
~ The Property Committee Harold Nigbor, Kevin Birschbach or Mark Henn

#### Ecumenical Adult Bible Discussions

Enjoy weekly casual conversation on Bible stories at 'The Four Corners' Restaurant, corner of Highways 21 & 49,

> Thursday 9:30am - 10:30am. The Bible Study is led by:







### Lord's Acre Produce Stand



The Lord's Acre will remain open as weather and the availability of produce permits. Thank you to our produce manager, Lee Chase, volunteering many hours to manage the stand, also thank you to Lee for



his produce goodies brought to church and at the stand. Blessings to all who provide some of their extra produce and hard work.





Inquiries can be made with Lee at (920-538-4056).



### Stampin' Ministry of First Lutheran -

The Stampin' Ministry will begin working on upcoming holiday/service projects. If you would like to assist in the creating and making, they will be gathering at church for a couple hours on Sunday, October 15th at 2:30pm, as well as October 22nd.







They will be working on Trunk or Treat bags and will begin work on cards for the November Mission of the Month: Honor Flight.









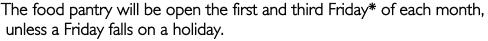
5,740 250+

If you can help - either date or both, that would be wonderful!! ~Diane, Patti, Kim, Linda & Katie



# The Poy Sippi Community Food Pantry News:

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



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.



Thank you so much for the surprise birthday celebration!

It was so wonderful to be honored by you with gifts for the food pantry. Your dedication to helping those in need is truly commendable, and it's heartwarming to see you support such a meaningful cause. The food pantry will undoubtedly benefit from your generosity, and many people will be grateful for the assistance they receive. Thank you so much for honoring me in this way. Pastor Rebekah

Thank you to Danny Button for the sweet ride in his restored '57 Chevy. He recently received an award at the Wild Rose car show and was pictured in the Resorter.

Job well done Danny – it's a beauty!



### First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

#### 2023 at 3:00pm

(Rescheduled from August 8)



Jerry Wrage, Dar Cravillion, Pastor Rebekah Tarras.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Mark Henn at 2:58PM.

**Devotions:** Matthew 14:22-33 was read and discussed, followed with prayer.

Visitors: No visitors.

**Approval of minutes:** One correction was made to the money for St. John's gift. The money will come from the memorial interest account. Motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

#### **New Business:**

- A. Proceeds Next Door-discussion
  - 1. Suggestion box was opened and the top 4 suggestions are a water heater, sealcoating parking lot, floor in the fellowship hall and hearing loop. Prices and more information are being checked on.
  - 2. Discuss Proceeds Deposit ideas: Motion was made and seconded to have a committee of Dar, Connie and Diane to address issues. Motion carried.
  - 3. Shed building: done
  - 4. Hearing Loops: Lenny checked on a company and more information to come.
  - 5. Lenny brought up the fact that the defibrillator needs new batteries and pads to work properly. Also needed is a proper first aid kit. Motion was made, seconded for Lenny to get what is needed and the money will come from memorial accounts from Rich Koglin, Marj Leipzig, memorial interest. Motion carried.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

- 1. St. John's, Saxeville 125th anniversary: gift has been purchased for \$142.17.
- 2. Winter Bingo: Ruth may help Mark and Connie with this event.
- 3. Calling Tree: Joanie has this completed more copies will be sent out.

**Other Business:** The Lord's Acre Stand is open. Lee is managing it this season. It was suggested that the nominating committee add two persons for council members. The council would have 9 members for 1 year. The insurance for the HND and the shed need to be addressed as soon as Diane is able to talk with our agent..

#### Reports:

Monthly Financials: No motion to accept reports, need clarification.

<u>Parish Council Committee</u>: Upcoming events: Drawn to the Word, joint worship at Grace, Sept. 24th at 10:00am with potluck following, (*no service at First*).

<u>Noisy Bucket</u>: September is P.S. Food Pantry (creative), October Lutheran Disaster Response (general), November - Honor Flight (\$500 to sponsor one veteran), December - ELCA Good Gifts.

<u>Children's Ministry</u>: A meeting is scheduled for Monday Aug. 14th. Sunday School class will start on Sunday, September 10th as start.



Worship: Nothing to report.

M-Team: October 1st - Polka Service with potluck. November 12th - Veterans service with potluck.

Endowment: Nothing to report.

<u>Property</u>: Lock box has been installed for the counters.

#### Staff Reports:

Pastoral Acts: Funeral: Ann Hochrein 8/02, Geraldine Robinson 8/04

Visitations: June Lubbert, Roland Bahr, Gerry Robinson and her family.

Office: Nothing to report.

Organist: Deb will be playing August 13th, will revisit a new schedule for the fall-winter.

Custodian: A new vacuum was purchased.

Adjourn: Motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 5:22, motion carried.

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

Pastor ended the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Strehlow Church Council Secretary





Deadline for the September

Firs Edition Newsletter

items is Monday, October 15th!





## October 2023 First Lutheran Church, Poy Sippi, WI

SUN Oct 1  18th Sun-Pentecost  9 am Sun.School Clas 9:30am Coffee Fellov 10:30am Polka - Wor 11:30am Potluck	MON 2 • 9am Pastor in • 12:45pm Worship coi • 1:30pm BibleStudy	TUE 3 Bulletin deadline	WED 4  • 9am Pastor in • 9:30am P.S. Food Pai • 6:30pm Confirmation • 7pm Choir - cantata j	THU 5  12:45pm Soul Food -	FRI 6 Office closed 9:30am Food Pantry 3:30pm Food Pantry	SAT 7
9am Sun.School Clas 9:30am Coffee Fellov 10:30am Worship 2 more	9 • 9am Pastor in • 1:30pm BibleStudy • 2:45pm M-Team Mtg	10  Bulletin deadline  6:30pm Council Mtg.	11 • 9am Pastor in • 6:30pm Confirmation • 7pm Choir - cantata;	12  12:45pm Soul Food -	13 Office closed	14 • 8am Men's Breakfast
15  20th Sun-Pentecost  9 am Sun.School Clas  9:30am Coffee Fellov  10:30am Worship  3pm Tailgate Event	Pastor at fall Theological  Deadline for Newslett  1:30pm No Bible Stur	Bulletin deadline	Office closed - ad+min re 6:30pm Confirmation 7pm Choir - cantata	19  ■ 12:45pm Soul Food - treat	9:30am Food Pantry     3:30pm Food Pantry	21
22 21st Sun-Pentecost 9 9am Sun.School Clas 9:30am Coffee Fellov 10:30am Worship 1pm Conf. Assembly	23 • 10am Pastor in • 1:30pm BibleStudy	24  Bulletin deadline	25 • 9am Pastor in • 6:30pm Confirmation • 7pm Choir - cantata ;	26 • 10am Altar Guild • 12:45pm Soul Food -	27 Office closed  1:30pm Stamp'nWork	28