



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



Sunday Service 10:30



We also provide our service
 at our Facebook page:
 "First Lutheran Church ELCA"

“THE FIRST  EDITION”

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
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Office Administrator: *Michelle McClone*
Office Phone (920) 987-5151
Church Email - firstluthpoysippi@gmail.com



From our Pastor:

Dear Church Family,

As December begins, we enter into the season of Advent, a season of waiting, preparation, and hopeful expectation. This time of year draws our hearts to the coming of Christ—both in the humble birth in Bethlehem and the promised return of our Savior. It is a season rich with hope, peace, joy, and love as we reflect on the light that shines in the darkness.

The lights on our trees, candles in our windows, and festive decorations are not merely beautiful symbols of the holidays but also reminders of Christ, the Light of the World, who breaks into our lives with hope and renewal. I encourage you to take time this Advent to pause in the busyness, reflect on Christ's presence with us, and anticipate His continued work in and through our lives.

This month, our worship will offer many opportunities to prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. From joyful songs, to the choir cantata, a special Christmas program, and the candlelight Christmas Eve service - we will celebrate together the story of God's love breaking into the world. Be sure to invite family, friends, and neighbors to join us as we hear the story of Jesus' birth and share in the joy and hope it brings.

We also recognize that for some, this season may be difficult—marked by loss, loneliness, or uncertainty. Join us for the Blue Christmas Service on Sunday, December 22 at 6:30 pm at Grace. Let us be especially mindful of one another during this time. Reach out to those who may be struggling, offer a listening ear, or extend an invitation to share in the warmth of community. The light of Christ is meant to be shared, especially when the world feels dark.

As we move through Advent toward Christmas, let us remember the powerful truth that God is with us. This is the essence of our faith: Emmanuel, God with us, bringing peace, hope, and joy.

May the love of Christ fill your hearts this Advent and Christmas season. I look forward to celebrating this holy time with all of you.

Pastor Rebekah

December 1 - 10:30 am First Sunday of Advent and Deck the Halls

December 8 - 10:30 am Second Sunday of Advent

December 15 - 10:30 am Third Sunday of Advent featuring the Grace Choir Cantata

December 22 - 10:30 am Fourth Sunday of Advent with the Doorway to Christmas Program

December 22 - 6:30 pm Blue Christmas Service at Grace Lutheran

December 24 - 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight service

December 29 - 10:30 am First Sunday of Christmas

November Office Information

Pastor: Monday and Wednesday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Office: Monday and Wednesday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Michelle and Pastor out of the office – December 30th

Times may change and they will be noted when possible in the Sunday bulletin.

Bulletin Deadline

Information should be turned into the church by 10:00 Wednesday to ensure adequate time to process the information into the following Sunday's bulletin.

The First Edition

Please provide the church office with new items for the newsletter by 20th of each month. You may email your news in a Word Document format to firstluthpoysippi@gmail.com

WE NEED YOUR UPDATED EMAIL ADDRESS

With the rising cost of postage, our database system allows emails to be sent out to our members. This is a great way to communicate with you all. If you could please let Michelle know your most current and correct email, she will then update ICON. Please email it to firstluthpoysippi@gmail.com or call 920-987-5151

Worship Services in November

Date	Events	Reader	Notes
12/3/2024	10:30 Worship, First Sunday of Advent Luke 1:5-25	Karen Or Steve M	Communion at the rail and in the pew Communion Assistant: Joan Everson Bread Maker: Jim Laird
12/8/2024	10:30 Worship Second Sunday of Advent Baptism Luke 1:26 - 38	Kim H	Communion in the pew
12/15/2024	10:30 Worship Third Sunday of Advent Choir Cantata	Dar C	Communion in the pew
12/22/2024	10:30 Worship Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Program: Doorway to Christmas	Kim H	Communion in the pew
12/24/2024	6:30 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Luke 2 1-20	Joan Everson	Communion at rail and in the pew
12/29/2024	10:30 Worship Lessons & Carols First Sunday of Christmas	Jim Laird	No Communion

Reverse Advent Calendar

What is a reverse advent calendar? Traditionally, Advent calendars are used to count down the days of Advent in anticipation of Christmas. In church, we celebrate weekly the themes of Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy as we anticipate God's gift of Jesus. Traditional Advent calendars consist of a series of doors or windows to open, revealing a picture, a scripture verse, a small chocolate, or a little gift for each day.

But the Reverse Advent Calendar is different! Instead of receiving a daily gift, those taking part in a reverse calendar DONATE an item each day, thus giving instead of receiving. This year I'd like to encourage you to participate by following this list of food items to donate to our Food Pantry.

You can also do this in a different way. It doesn't have to be food that you are donating. Maybe put \$1 in a basket each day for your reverse advent calendar and then donate the money to our Food Pantry or World Hunger. It is also completely fine to add an item every few days or weekly instead of daily. No matter how you choose to participate, consider doing something small for those in need this Advent season. We are blessed to be a blessing to others as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Put your food items in a box or bag that can be plain or decorated. You can bring the food items to church weekly or wait until Christmas Eve whichever works best for you. We will have a table in the fellowship room for donations.

Thank you for your participation in this Advent ministry.

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - jar of peanut butter
- December 3 - jar of jelly
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit cocktail
- December 7 - box of Jello or instant pudding mix
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - jar of applesauce
- December 10 - canned vegetable
- December 11 - canned pork and beans
- December 12 - bottle of pancake syrup
- December 13 - complete pancake mix
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal packets
- December 17 - package of pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - canned soup
- December 20 - box of pudding mix
- December 21 - box of tissue (Kleenex)
- December 22 - bottle of dish soap
- December 23 - toilet paper
- December 24 - paper towels
- December 25 - cake mix or frosting



Save the Date for some special upcoming events

- Jan 26 - annual meeting following worship
- Feb 1 - Bingo fundraiser for food pantries Jan 26
- Feb 9 - the Scott Street Puppets will be back

Mission of the Month
ELCA Good Gifts Endowment Challenge

Our congregation's December mission of the month is ELCA Good Gifts. You remember when you can buy a goat or chickens or a pig for someone's Christmas present. This year in addition to the animal tree in the fellowship hall, you will have an opportunity to give a donation towards something new from Good Gifts. It is called Abundant Community, and it is a gift for a whole community to share. The entire bundle includes a goat, rooster, cow, three chicks, seeds and gardening tools, honeybees, three fruit-tree seedlings, farmer's field school and a community garden. This gift will enable neighbors to nourish themselves and their families and generate income.

The endowment committee would like to challenge the congregation with matching funds up to \$1,020 (the cost of one bundle). This is an opportunity to gift a whole community with the ability to grow for generations to come. So drop your donations into the noisy buckets during December and send an Abundant Community through ELCA Good Gifts.

Noisy Bucket

October's Noisy Bucket was for School Lunch Assistance and we raised \$210.11 and we were able to donate to Wild Rose, Berlin and Weyauwega Fremont School Districts.

Deck the Halls & Soup Lunch

Sunday, December 1 After Worship

We invite everyone to stay after worship on Sunday, December 1, for our annual Deck the Halls event! Let's come together to decorate the church for the Advent/Christmas season. Whether you're great at hanging wreaths, stringing lights, or just lending a hand, your help will be much appreciated as we make our space beautiful for the holidays.

After we finish decorating, everyone is welcome to enjoy a soup lunch in the fellowship hall—a warm and delicious way to celebrate our time together. Bring your Christmas spirit, and join us for this joyful tradition!

Sunshine Bag Collection

Help Spread Joy This Holiday Season! The M-team is preparing Sunshine Bags to bring a little extra cheer to our older members and those in need this December. These bags will be filled with treats and gift items and delivered to members of our community as a gesture of love and support. The M-team will be assembling the bags at their meeting on December 9. If you would like to bring any items for the bags, please bring them to church by December 8. We anticipate packing 2 dozen bags this year. Items may be placed on the table in the pastor's office. If there is someone you think we should add to our list of recipients, talk to Georgia Lee or Jim Laird. Your generosity will help brighten someone's day during the holiday season!

Women's Advent Party

There will be an afternoon of Good Food, Entertainment and Fellowship on Sunday, December 8th at 11:30 am at Grace. The cost is \$15 and includes a catered meal by Moose Inn. There is a sign-up sheet for you to sign up if you would like to attend.

Men's Breakfast

A Sign-up sheet has been started, so please sign up if you would like to participate in the breakfast. The date is Saturday, December 14, 2025 and will be held at Grace.

Blue Christmas Evening Prayer Service

December 22, 6:30 pm at Grace Lutheran, Berlin

While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. Grief, illness, aging, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss are magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time. The Blue Christmas service is a time and place of solace during the often frenetic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas. We come together seeking healing and room to share grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays.

Confirmation Update

The confirmation students will be wrapping up their unit on the Apostle's Creed. There will be no confirmation class on December 18, 25 or January 1. Classes will resume on January 8

Preparing for Christmas

Our Christmas Worship service will be Tuesday, December 24th at 6:30 at First Lutheran

Thank you

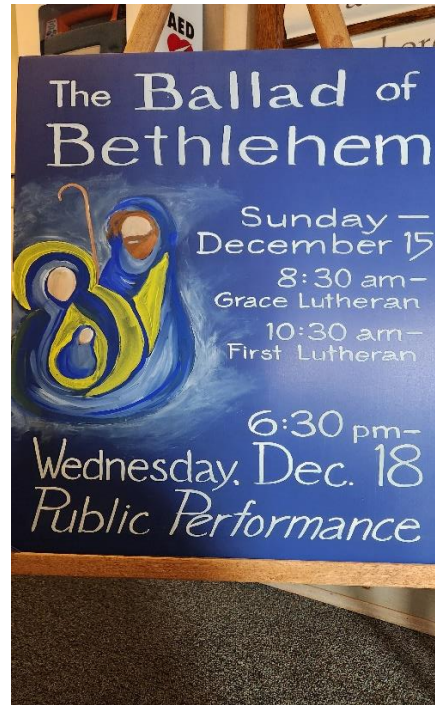
You may have notice some beautification being done around church and a BIG "Thank you" to all who have orchestrated all these change and worked so hard to make our place of worship so nice.

Monthly Celebration Fellowship

Reminder that the First Sunday of each month we will be celebrating the month's Birthday's by the M-Team providing cupcakes, coffee and fellowship following church. A great way to start off your Birthday month!



**Join us for the Christmas
Cantata**
**The public performance at
6:30 on 12/18 will be at
Grace in Berlin**



Crossways Camp will be opening Summer Camp registration on December 1st.



Coming Soon: Summer 2025

The countdown begins now!
Registration for our Summer 2025
Programs will open on December
1st, 2024!

We have more of what you love:

- Sprouts, Saplings, Timbers and Foresters for Youth Camp Grades 1st-12th.
- Camp Jr., Family Camp, GrandKid Camp, and Autism Community Family Camp for Intergenerational Experiences.
- The Grove, Mini Artisans, STEAM Camp (New!), and Self Determination Camp as Specialty Programs!

[PREVIEW SUMMER
2025 SCHEDULE](#)

We are asking that if you would like to bring your own poinsettia for the Christmas worship, please bring them in no earlier than December 22nd Thank you!



4th Joni Bahr & Bradley Nitzke
7th Sandy Anderson
9th Brittany Disterhaft
10th Bill Meier
13th Craig Monroe
15th Todd Chase
19th Jeff Tarras
20th Skylar Dexter & Kayla Nelsen
22nd Bill Deppe & Ron Hein
24th Carolyn Holz
29th Marcella Jorgensen

10th Dan and Judy Button
15th Gary and Chris Monroe

Please keep the following people in your continued prayers

John Latshaw	Mark Bongart	Doris Koepke
Dick Tuner	Gen Everson	Carolyn Holz
Larry Clark	John Trochinski	Judy Button
Phyllis Jenks	Pastor Rick Rieten	Diane Holz
Marcella	Shannon McPeak	Bill H
Viola Schwanke	Greg Auck	Lyle
Chris Monroe	Dean Schoen	

For those battling cancer: Tom, Dave L., Danan, Bill, Vicki and Donna

Kindness during this time of year.....

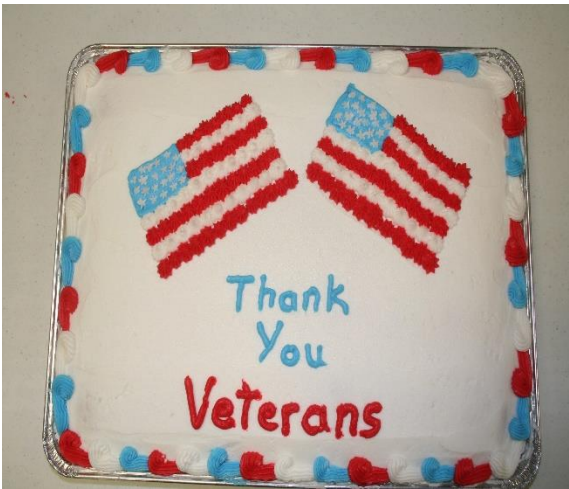
The holiday season is often portrayed as a time of joy, togetherness, and celebration, but it's also a time when many of the elderly, lonely, or those in need can feel isolated or forgotten. While we gather with loved ones, it's important to remember those who may not have the same support or companionship. A simple act of kindness—whether it's a phone call, a visit, or offering help with daily tasks—can make a world of difference. In a season focused on giving, extending warmth and care to those who may be struggling reminds us of the true spirit of the holidays: compassion, empathy, and community. No one should have to face this time of year alone, and even small gestures can create lasting memories and connections that brighten their season.



Celebrating November Birthdays



Honoring our Veterans, Thank you all for making this worship and fellowship unforgettable, from the thoughtful details to the vibrant atmosphere, ensuring everyone had an amazing experience."



DEC

MO N	TU E	WE D	TH U	FR I	SA T	SU N
						9:00-10:00 Sunday School 9:15-10:15 Coffee and Fellowship 10:30 Worship Deck the Halls and Soup Meal
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Pastor in 9:00-12:00 Michelle in 10:00-2:00 12:30-1:30 Worship Committee 1:30-2:30 Bible Study	Office Closed	Pastor in 9:00-12:00 Michelle in 10:00-2:00 10:15 Choir Practice 11:15 Archive Meets	Office Closed	Office Closed Food Pantry 9:30-10:30 3:30-4:30		9:00-10:00 Sunday School & Funding Forward 9:15-10:15 Coffee and Fellowship 10:30 Worship/Baptism
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Pastor in 9:00-12:00 Michelle in 10:00-2:00 10:00 Finance Ministry 1:30-2:30 Bible Study 2:45-3:45 MTeam	Office Closed 6:30 Council Meeting	Pastor in 9:00-12:00 Michelle in 10:00-2:00 10:15 Choir Practice	Office Closed	Office Closed	8:00-9:00 Men's Breakfast at Grace	9:00-10:00 Sunday School & Funding Forward 9:15-10:15 Coffee and Fellowship 10:30 Worship/ Christmas Cantata 1:00 4H Meeting
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Pastor in 9:00-12:00 Michelle in 10:00-2:00 1:30-2:30 Bible Study	Office Closed	Pastor in 9:00-12:00 Michelle in 10:00-2:00 10:15 Choir Practice	Office Closed	Office Closed Food Pantry 9:30-10:30 3:30-4:30		9:00-10:00 Sunday School & Funding Forward 9:15-10:15 Coffee and Fellowship 10:30 Worship
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Pastor in 9:00-12:00 Michelle in 10:00-2:00 1:30-2:30 Bible Study	Christmas Eve Worship 6:30	Office Closed- Merry Christmas 10:15 Choir Practice Deadline for Newsletter items	Office Closed	Office Closed		9:00-10:00 Sunday School 9:15-10:15 Coffee and Fellowship 10:30 Worship
30	31					
Office Close	Office Closed					

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL AGENDA

September 10, 2024, at 6:30pm

Attendance:

Mark Henn (*Pres.*) ___X___ Jan Strehlow ___X___ Jerry Wrage ___X___ Kevin Birschbach (*V-Pres.*)
 ___X___ Pastor Rebekah Tarras ___X___ Lenny Langkau ___X___ Joan Everson ___X___ Dar Cravillion
 (*Treas.*) ___X___ Mali Beine (*Sec.*) ___X___ Jim Laird ___X___

Call to Order: Called to order by Mark Henn at 6:30

Devotions: 1 Kings 18:1-18. Discussed the ways we hear and know God in our daily lives.

Visitor(s): None

Approval of August minutes:

MOTION: approve August minutes as written. Seconded, Carried.

Unfinished Business:

1. Countertops - Table for now
2. Steeple painting update-Jerry still pursuing.
3. Steeple Landscaping Rock – plastic and rock laid. Project complete
4. Joint Council Cookout update - Bishop Anne and Cathy Cowling will attend.
5. Review updated petty cash policy.
 The Finance Ministry recommends issuing reimbursements via check and eliminating petty cash policy.
 MOTION: Eliminate the current petty cash program and obsolete petty cash policy.
6. Ideas for use of 14-month CD.
 Discussion: Money was benchmarked for “future repairs and replacements” no currently scheduled projects. It is an option for the finance ministry to reinvest.
7. Livestreaming Changes– Lenny has trained two new volunteers to take over recordings. Lenny will continue to act as a backup and will continue to load the videos to YouTube. Mark will be adding a small workstation/table at the front of the church to make recording easier.
8. Funding Forward Course begins Sept. 22nd at 9:00am. Joan will facilitate.

New Business

1. Suggestion to consider another option for cashless donations/reimbursements. EX: Venmo, square 2.
 Reviewed health insurance options. Compared Gold vs. Silver plans.
 MOTION: Select Silver Plan. Seconded. Carried

Reports:

Monthly Financials

Clarified M-Team donation and monthly balance.

MOTION: approve financial reports as presented. Seconded. Carried

Finance Ministry

Last meeting was September 9th, at 10:30am, next meeting is set for October 7th at 10:30am

Archive Committee:

We are back from taking the summer off. Connie met with some of the Endowment Committee members and went through the Endowment paperwork that was stored in a file cabinet in the library. Important paperwork was transferred to the Archiving safe, and the Archiving Committee will be working on those papers next. We are meeting once a month on the first Wednesday of each month after Choir finishes. (Approximately 11- 11:15 am) Just a reminder to the congregation the Archive Safe is available to anyone. The code to unlock is on the left-hand side of the safe. We ask that anyone using the safe be sure to see that it is shut and locked in order to keep all documents safe.

Parish Council *(Mark Henn)*

Next meeting is September 22nd at 6:30 at Grace.

Christmas worship schedule will be on the agenda.

Noisy Bucket

August – Tri County Boys and Girl Club -\$106.56

September – P.S. Food Pantry, October - School Lunch pay off, November - Honor Flight, December - ELCA Good Gifts. January-Boys Town

Children's Ministry Committee *(Dar Cravillion)*

Sunday School starts this Sunday! Additional volunteers for teachers are needed and welcome.

Worship

Sept 15 - Pack the Pew and Pantry, Oct 13 - Polka Sunday, Working on plans for the Veteran's service, All Saints Sunday, and Thanksgiving

M-Team

Birthday cupcakes 1st of the month; Oshkosh Conference Pastors brunch and lunch served; Pancake Palooza on Sunday; Polka Sunday; Sweetest Day trip in October.

Endowment Fund Committee**Property Committee** *(Mark Henn, Kevin Birschbach, & Steve Macijeski)*

Outdoor power outlet has a bee/wasp nest.

Clipboard for improvements is posted in kitchen.

Staff Reports:**Pastoral acts:****Organist**

Choir started. Will play 2 Sundays per month.

Office**Custodian****Adjourn:**

✓ MOTION: Adjourn. Seconded. Carried 7:52PM

✓ Next meeting – Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Pastor led us a closing prayer.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES First

Lutheran Church
 Sunday September 22, 2024
 11:30 AM

Attendance:

Mark Henn (Pres.)	X	Jan Strehlow	X
Kevin Birschback (VP)	X	Jerry Wrage	X
Dar Cravillion (Treas.)	X	Lenny Langkau	
Mali Beine (Sec.)	X	Joan Everson	
Pastor Rebekah Tarras		Jim Laird	

Call to Order: Called to Order by Mark at 11:35.

New Business:

A. Bids received for tree removal for ease in mowing and lawn maintenance. Will be paid from Building and Grounds fund.

Mark will ask the service provider if Digger's Hotline needs to be contacted prior to tree removal.

- a. Northwoods Tree Service - \$1,600 – Tree and brush removal by machine. Does not do grinding of stump or root.
- b. Name unknown (Not recommended) -- \$1,400 – Tree and brush removal by hand. Does not do grinding of stump or root.
- c. Granite Land Maintenance, LLC \$1,200 – Tree and brush removal by machine as well as stump and root grinding – special rate for Church

MOTION: Approve contracting Granite Land Maintenance, LLC to remove pine trees for quoted price, to be paid from the building and grounds fund. Motion seconded, motion carried.

Adjourn:

MOTION to adjourn seconded and carried. At 11:36 AM.

First Lutheran Church PoySippi, WI Council Minutes October 8, 2024

Attendance:

Mark Henn (Pres.)	X	Jan Strehlow	X
Kevin Birschbach (V.Pres.)	X	Jerry Wrage	X
Dar Cravillion (Treas.)	X	Lenny Langkau	X
Mali Beine (Sec.)	X	Joan Everson	X

Pastor Rebekah Tarras	X	Jim Laird	X
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Call to Order: Called to order by Mark Henn at 6:35pm

Devotions: Mark 10:17-31

Visitor(s): None

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Approve September Minutes Seconded and Carried.

MOTION: Approve Special Council Meeting Seconded and Carried.

New Business

1. Brainstorming about clipboards used for volunteer or event sign-up
 - a. Discussion: prefer table or bulletin board to passing in church, sign-up genius website is an option, 2. New tables set up and what is going to happen with the old round tables – Table
3. Share updates from the Parish Council meeting
 - a. Christmas Eve Service will be 4:00 at Grace and 6:30 at First
 - b. February 1st BINGO with Grace
 - c. February 9th at 10:00am will be joint service at Grace
4. Review and approve Credit Card policy
 - a. Add a bullet under section A to identify card holder roles
 - b. Have a date in header or footer
 - c. Change second section C to D.
5. Times on highway signs are worn off and not visible. Need updated numbers (similar to mailbox) 6. Church Insurance notice will likely be arriving soon. Expecting an increase.
7. Discussed potential for a new photo directory.
8. Sunday School curtain
 - a. Not needed at this time.

Unfinished Business:

1. Countertops - Table for now
2. Steeple painting update-Jerry still pursuing. No update. Dollars are approved.
3. Tree removal happening this week.
4. Office Painting and Carpet complete
5. Technology desk complete.
6. Lutheran World Relief kits delivered to Appleton. Tim K. stopped at church to say thank-you for our support of these programs
7. Funding Forward update:
 - a. Good conversation and many good ideas being captured.

Reports:

Monthly Financials

1 of 2

First Lutheran Church PoySippi, WI Council Minutes October 8, 2024

MOTION: Accept financials as presented, seconded, and carries

Finance Ministry

Need to begin budget conversations for next year.

Consider 150th Celebration (Steve, Kim, Richie, Patty)

Archive Committee:

Parish Council (*Mark Henn*)

Will meet November 4, 5:00

Noisy Bucket

October - School Lunch pay off, November - Honor Flight, December - ELCA Good Gifts. January-Boys Town

Children's Ministry Committee (*Dar Cravillion*)

Worship

Oct 13 - Polka Sunday, Working on plans for the Veteran's service, All Saints Sunday, and Community Thanksgiving Service

M-Team

Sweetest Day trip in October.

Potluck for Veteran's Sunday

Endowment Fund Committee

Will meet in November

Property Committee (*Mark Henn, Kevin Birschbach, & Steve Macijeski*)

Fall building prep: trim bushes and attach storm windows.

Staff Reports:

Pastoral acts:

Organist

Office

Michelle will be out Monday, October 28th.

Custodian

Adjourn:

MOTION: Adjourn 7:55pm Seconded. Carried

Next meeting – Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Pastor led us a closing prayer.