

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 FIRS TEDITION" Ground Hog Day February EBRUARY 2nd - will he see 2024 his shadow?? Pastor Rebekah Tarras Pastor: Email pastortarras@gmail.com **Office** Phone (920) 987-5151 Wednesday Cell Phone (715) 897-5393 February ~ 14th Service details Page 5 Council President: Mark Henn Home Phone 715-820-2565 National cmhenn96@gmail.com Email Latte Day February 11<sup>th</sup> **Office** Administrator: **Diane Warning Office** Assistant: Patti Langkau National Tootsie Roll **Office** Phone (920) 987-5151 Day ~ Feb. 22nd Cell Phone (920) 716-4530 Tootsie Church Email - firstluthpoysippi@gmail.com Roll®

#### From the Pastor :

A friend of mine does ministry with the Portage County Juvenile Detention Center. In a recent newsletter, she shared that she has been working with a young man who was a former student at the detention center. This young man reached out on social media with a lot of questions about faith. He shared that he is homeless and struggles with sobriety and then he shared "I need to find a church that won't kick me out."

Liz said that comment got her thinking. What are the places and spaces people like this young man would be welcome in our community and how often is it our churches? While a faith community might not blatantly escort someone out, what other things are they (or perhaps I should say "we as a church) doing? Maybe it's a lack of acknowledgment, side looks, or being asked to stay only in certain parts of the church. Are we being fully welcoming to anyone and everyone who has faith questions regardless of personality traits, mental illness, appearance, etc?

I keep thinking of the words from Matthew 25:34-36, 40, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me..... 'Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.'"

I once heard it said there are only two people in this world - yourself and Christ. Christ comes among us in disguise. He is hidden in the form of the most vulnerable and even the downright wretched. Isn't that a challenging perspective? I know it challenges me. Do I see each person I meet as Christ in the flesh? And even more than that do I serve them as if they are Jesus with skin on?

We aren't called to serve others because we think they're worthy. We are called to serve others because Christ thought them worthy of dying for. We are called to serve others because Christ thought we were worth dying for. Jesus chose to die for you and for me, and for all the least of these including the young man I mentioned above.

It is my hope and prayer, that you know the love and mercy of Jesus, and that that love overflows from you into the lives of everyone around you. It is my hope and prayer that I will be known as a person who shows love to all people and welcomes them in our midst. I know I'm far from perfect, but I also know that if each of us makes an attempt to welcome others in our midst, and show the love of Christ, together we will make a difference in our world.

Pastor Rebekah Tarras

### February 2024 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\*, and Thursdav\*. 10:00-12:00pm Tuesday and Wed. (Unless noted differently in the Sunday bulletins.) \*Days Patti is in the office.

Bookkeeper Hours: TBD - flexible

### **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.

#### EDITION" "THE FIRS

Please provide the chut office with news items for the March Lwsletter by the 18th of February to ensure the newsletter is emailed on time. You may email your news item(s) in Word format to Diane at firstluthpoysippi@gmail.com. Thank you, ~The Office

### Did you know?



In the Northern Hemisphere, February is the third month of winter. Meanwhile, in the Southern Hemisphere, February is the last month of summer. Between the North and South Hemispheres, February is the equivalent of August.





The Stampin' Ministry can help! There'll be samples available to View during coffee fellowship for the month of February.

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2024 Council Members			
(President)			
(V-Pres·)			
(Treasurer)			
(Secretary)			
715-820-2565			
920-290-0986			
920-266-3628			
920-987-5887			
920-229-3593			
920-572-6098			
920-295-9404			

2021 Council Momboro



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 а сору



of the newsletter via email, please let the office know. ~Thank you.



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### Annual Ministry Members & 2024 Delegates Candidacy

Church Council: Jim Laird & Mali Beine Endowment Fund Committee: Katie Nitzke & Patti Langkau Crossways Camp Delegates: Dawn & Marisa/Makenna Jewell Synod Delegates: Bethany Homes Delegates: Sheri Bahr & Karin Macijeski

UW-Oshkosh The Gathering Place Delegates: Judy Schierland & Ruth Hanson

Oshkosh Conference Delegates: Germaine Schwebs & Joan Everson

Nominating Committee: Megan Olsen, Natalie Deppe, & outgoing council member Church Audit Committee: Eric Beine (3 yr.),

FYI: Steve Macijeski (3yr. of 3 yr. term) Connie Henn (2yr. of 3yr. term),

Almighty God, grant that all who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray for the newly elected leaders of this congregation and officers of council, and for our delegates, as they begin their service to you. Amen.



New Bookkeeper Hire ...



My name is Nina Monacelli, and I'm thrilled to be your new bookkeeper. I live in Redgranite with my husband and children. My favorite hobbies include gardening, home improvement, and coaching volleyball & basketball. I'm currently a teacher in Wautoma the past 5 years. Prior to that my career was in law enforcement and county government. My current financial experience is secretary/treasurer of the Redgranite Area Fire District and Office Administrator

at Lake Lucerne Camp. I look forward to sharing my financial expertise with First Lutheran.

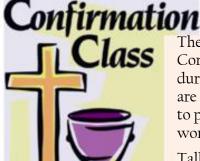


Pastor Rebekah will be offering communion instruction for

any students in 4-6th grade who have not yet had their first communion. The class will be Sunday, February 18th, 1:30-4:30 pm at Grace Lutheran in Berlin.

To ensure we have enough materials, please sign up by February 12th by calling the church office.

Thank you.



There will be no weekly Confirmation classes during Lent. Students are encouraged to participate in worship. Questions?

Talk to Pastor Rebekah



## Worship Schedule

February 4th Sunday – 10:30AM -				
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany				
February 11th Sunday – 10:30AM -				
Transfiguration of Our Lord				
February 14th Ash Wednesday -				
Wednesday – 1:30PM service at First				
February 18th Sunday – 10:30AM -				
First Sunday in Lent				
February 21st Wed. – 1:30PM -				
Midweek Lenten Services				
February 25th Sunday – 10:30AM -	ŀ			
Second Sunday in Lent				
February 28th Wed. – 1:30PM -	ŀ			
Midweek Lenten Services				
Weekly 6:30PM Lenten worship is also				
available at Grace.				

Scripture Readers:	<u>Monologue Readers:</u>
The Macijeski Family	N / A
Colleen Hein	N / A
Diane Warning	TBD
Dar Cravillion	N / A
Patti Langkau	TDB
Kim Huerth	N / A
Kim Huerth	Lenny Langkau

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.



### February Communion Bread: Jim Laird

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 -





February 14th

### Midweek Lenten Services begin on Feb. 14th

The Lenten season begins with Ash Wed. services on February 14th. The midweek services will be 1:30pm at First Lutheran in Poy Sippi, and 6:30pm at Grace Lutheran in Berlin. Our mid-week Lent Theme this year "Thy Will Be Done" Not as I will, but as you will," Jesus prayed to his Father the night before he went to the cross for our salvation. And that is our prayer as well this Lent as we seek to do God's will in our lives, as we draw near to the observance of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection during Holy Week.



### Sabbath for this year and beyond taken from ELCA Bold Cafe newsletter

01/04/2024 | Monthly Topic by Dr. Crystal L. Hall

Here's how you know this article is for you: You're telling yourself that if you read your emails but don't respond to them

on your day off, you're not "really working." You tell yourself that if you take your vacation, you'll be behind when you return, and it won't have been worth it. You can't turn your brain off even if you're not working when you want to be resting. You're ruminating about your to-do list, anxious because you have no idea how you will get it all done. In short, you feel like you've got way too much going on, but you're not doing enough, so you might as well work anyway.

And here's what I would offer: keeping sabbath in the productivity-obsessed culture of the United States is absolutely a counter-cultural practice. And it's completely possible, even for the busiest people. You know "intellectually" the importance of taking time off but haven't been



able to connect the dots. In my work as a coach for women in ministry, I do just that: connect what you think you "should" be doing with a pathway to actually creating the rest that restores the soul. Creating sabbath practices that stick is not about finally getting more organized or figuring out how to get people to stop texting you on your day off. What I'd offer instead are four principles to change your thinking.

You can create the sabbath rest you need when you unwind and rewire the habitual thinking driving you to work more than you want.

Principle one is to recognize. Recognize that you are socially conditioned by the Protestant work ethic. You've been taught that being busy and working hard is morally virtuous. You've also been taught the opposite. That to not be working is immoral and lazy. That sloth is one of the seven deadly sins. That idle hands are the devil's workshop.

The second principle is to detach. To create restorative rest, you get to detach your worthiness of rest from your accomplishments. Related to the Protestant work ethic, you've been taught that your worthiness is connected to your accomplishments. But I'm here to tell you that, as much as you've been conditioned to think otherwise, your worthiness as a human being has nothing to do with what you've done or left undone. How well you do your job has nothing to do with your belovedness as a child of God. You are in right relationship with God, your fellow humans and all of Creation not because of what you did or didn't accomplish today. The only thing that brings you into the right relationship with God is your faith in Christ. Justified by grace through faith.

So, hear me when I say you are not your accomplishments. You are not your work. Not even your work in the church.

Principle three is permission. To create restorative rest requires giving yourself permission to rest. There is no one giving you permission to rest. This permission gets to come from you. Rest is an inside job.

#### How?

By resting in the assurance that you are enough regardless of what you accomplish or don't during the week.

Principle four is trust. Resting when you think you "should" be working can be deeply uncomfortable. This is the part where you get to build trust, especially trust in yourself. Trust in your belief that rest will create more of what you want and less of what you don't when everything about your socialization suggests otherwise. The word in the Greek New Testament that's typically translated as "faith" is pistis. This word can just as equally mean "trust."

Faith is trust. Trust is "firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something." And what is belief, if not thoughts, you've thought repeatedly?

Right now, through no fault of your own, you have more "faith," more "trust," believing that your worthiness is based on how hard you work and how much you accomplish. That's only because you've practiced those thoughts, largely unconsciously, more than you've practiced any other thoughts about rest.

When you're willing to apply these four principles, you change your thinking and your doing. You spend quality time resting with your loved ones and with yourself. You don't feel guilty about taking an hour to go to the gym by yourself. You don't worry that you're being selfish. Instead, you know how important it is to care for yourself by resting instead of modeling endless self-sacrifice as the only way to be in relationship. You're fully present because your brain and your body are in the same place instead of your body being on the floor with your kids and your brain a million miles away drafting an email. And you remember the last time you had a couch day because you're scheduling them regularly into your calendar.

Here's the final thing I would offer: Rest is good in and of itself. You don't need to justify, explain, or rationalize it. You get to rest simply as a function of being human. Simply because that is the way God created you.

#### Closing prayer

God of Sabbath rest, We ask for your grace to remember that we are created in your image not just for work but also for rest. Help us remember that, even when it feels hard to do, our rest is good and holy and precious in your sight. Amen.

Dr. Crystal L. Hall is a certified coach (https://www.crystalhallphd.com/)serving women in ministry and holds a PhD in Biblical Studies from Union Theological Seminary in New York. A former seminary professor, Crystal creates connections between what women learned in the classroom and the everyday demands of church work to create truly sustainable, live-giving ministries. She's a frequent speaker in churches and denominational conferences on topics including women's leadership, LGBTQIA2S+ inclusion, and immigration. She resides in New Haven, CT with her husband and their cat, Lady Blue.

February-March Noisy Bucket – Mission of the Month:





Our mission focus for the next two months is Lutheran World Relief. All money put in the Noisy Bucket or envelopes marked Lutheran World Relief in February and March will go to Lutheran World Relief. In addition, for the season of Lent, there is a hands on Lutheran World Relief project. We will be assembling Personal Care Kits. Lutheran World Relief states that Personal Care Kits are one of the most requested items and make a simple yet profound difference for families struggling in poverty. The kits and generous financial gifts will help deliver hope to our neighbors in need around the world. Items needed for each Personal Care Kit:

• ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended. Note: Be sure to shop for light- or medium-weight towels, which are easier for Kit recipients to hand wash and air dry, take up less storage space and are considerably less expensive than the fluffier towels we may prefer to use. Bath towels vary in size. The 52" X 27" size listed in the guidelines is the maximum size. 20" x 40" is a good guideline for a minimum size.

- TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- ONE adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- ONE sturdy comb
- ONE metal nail clipper (we already have 144 of these on hand)

Many of these items can be purchased in bulk. If you would like more information on doing that talk with Pastor Rebekah. Thrivent members, consider applying for a Thrivent Action Team to work to purchase, items for this project, especially towels.



January Noisy Bucket Mission of the Month: We Are in Christ Our collected total through January 21st for the Noisy Bucket so far is \$137.82. Thank you for your generous contributions.





## Birthdays:

Colleen Hein – Ist Kay Jeske – 2nd Kelsi Cravillion – 8th Emily Goehring – 14th Victor Hansen – 17th Morgan Collins – 18th Gary Monroe – 20th Gen Everson – 24th

Diana Krutzik – Ist Melissa Poitras – 3rd Chloe Auck – 9th Michael McPeak – 15th Paul Jorgensen – 17th Charles Goehring – 20th Sam Warning – 21 st Debbie Sattler – 25th

Harold Nigbor – 2nd Linda Gruett – 6th Anna Schliepp – 13th Joan Everson – 17th



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





Anniversaries: Steve & Joanne Andersen - 14th



"May the dear Lord bless you both."

**Prayers of Concern & Healing** 

### You are in our Prayers . . .

\* For the Family of Jerry Weber.



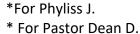


- For Joni B.
- \* For Patti B.
- \* For Patti C.
- \*For Diane H.
- \* For Baby Ryder
- \* For Mali B.
- \* For Liz B.

- \* For Diana K.
- \* For Pastor Rick E.
- \* For Danan T.
- \*For Carolyn H.
- \* For Marcella J.

PRAYING YOUFEEL BETTER SOON.

- \* For Carol K.
- \* For Dave L.



- \* For Tanya & William
- \* For Georgia Lee
- \* For Shannon M.
- \* For Bill H.
- \* For Annie R.
- \* For Piper
- \* For Donna









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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.





### Stampin' Ministry at First



During the month of February during the coffee hour Fellowship, you can view some friendship cards. As stated earlier in the newsletter Wednesday, February seventh is 'Send A Card To A Friend' day.

We will cards for you to view and purchase and plan to have a card project if you prefer to make your own.

We welcome you to be a part of this fun and creative ministry, please talk with any of the stampers: Kim Huerth, Patti Langkau, Linda Nitzke, Katie Nitzke and Diane Warning.

Next card making workshop is planned for Friday, February 23rd, 2023, 1:30PM-3:30/3:45PM.



We give thanks for our wonderful church family. Thank you to all who helped put together the Sunshine bag of goodies and to the food pantry for the Christmas goodie

bag; which were filled with many delicious things and fun activity books along with the special handmade card.

Blessings to all. The Everson's

Dear Members of First Lutheran, Thank you for sharing food from your Christmas breakfast with your needy neighbors and friends! The Poy Sippi Food Pantry is so appreciative of church members for sharing so freely that overflow. Lynn Selle for the P.S. Food Pantry



## The Poy Sippi Community Food Pantry News:

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



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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.

Don't forget – Soup lunch prior to Ash Wednesday 1:30pm service. We will begin serving at noon. ~the M-Team P.S. Check the sign-up.



**Deadline** for the March 2024

Firs<sup>†</sup> Edition Newsletter items Sunday, February 18th!



## THANK YOU !!





### **SNOW Blowing – Shoveling**

Will Punxsutawney Phil see his shadow or no?? If the groundhog does see his shadow, we'll have six more weeks of winter, and we will need help if Mother Nature drops more snow on the ground. Any <u>volunteers</u> that can help clear the snow (as needed) would be helpful. The load is lighter as we no longer need to worry about having the HND cleared out as well.

Check with the property committee, they'd be happy to answer your questions and inquiries. Harold Nigbor at 987-5735, or Kevin Birschbach or Mark Henn.

17th century: Valentine's Day flower gifting tradition dates back to the 17th century, when roses, which have always represented love in all its various incarnations, became the flowers of choice to mark this day.

The earliest dates of gifting flowers go back to the time of Ancient Egyptians, Greeks, and the Roman Empire. These three societies often used flowers in religious traditions. They based their personal use of flowers on their beliefs. The Greeks used them as props for storytelling.





#### The Value of A Smile

It costs nothing, but gives much.

It enriches those who receive, without making poorer those who give.

It takes but a moment,

yet the memory of it lasts forever.

- None of us is so rich or mighty that he can get along without it, and none is so poor but that he can be made rich by it.
- A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters good will in business, and is the countersign of friendship.
- It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad and it is Nature's best antidote for trouble.
- Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away.
- Some people are too tired to give a smile. Give one of yours, as none needs a smile so much as he who has no more to give.



### First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

### December 12, 2023



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

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Vice President Jerry Wrage at 6:31PM.

Devotions: Pastor read the first part of the Christmas Story followed by prayer.

### Visitor(s): No visitors.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made, seconded & carried to approve the minutes as read.

### **New** Business:

- A. Approve Bookkeeper candidate There is no candidate at this time.
- B. Approve Money Handling Policy after discussion: motion was made to accept the new policy, seconded and carried.
- C. Approve Jennifer Togstad McPeak as a new member motion was made, seconded and carried to accept Jennifer as a new member.
- D. Reminder to submit reports by January 1st for annual report.
- E. Submit budget requests by January 1st Budget meeting is Dec. 27th, requests need to be in before then.
- F. Safety & Security discussed this issue, council was asked to help be eyes & ears to different situations.
- G. Adding two council members the nominating committee is working on adding two more members to council.

### **Unfinished Business:**

- 1. Review and approve the insurance recommendations from the finance ministry Dar handed out comparison sheets from two insurance companies. Church Mutual and our current insurance Grinnell Mutual. After discussion a motion was made and seconded to switch our policy to Church Mutual effective immediately, motion carried.
- 2. Review suggestion box no suggestions this month.
- 3. Update on archive storage Kevin brought pictures and price of a Winchester Safe for \$900.00. The inside has shelves for storage. Motion was made to purchase this safe. The funds will come from a money market account. Motion seconded and carried. Kevin also showed a dehumidifier that will control humidity inside the safe for \$24.99. Motion was made, seconded to purchase it. Motion carried.
- 4. Update on blacktop project still waiting for estimates.
- 5. Update on flooring project Project will start December 26th; price of carpet tiles has increased.
- 6. Update on Lent worship New Hope church is interested in joining us for the 1:30pm services.

**Other Business:** The Stampin' Ministry is providing a Christmas morning breakfast before worship service on Sunday, December 24th. Also suggested was to have a Wheelchair for the church. Lenny reported that the two computers for the church are here. One for the bookkeeping position and the other for the technology.

### **Reports:**

Monthly Financials: Motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the report.

Finance Ministry: New software is being set up. The next meeting is January 3,2024.

Archive Committee: Nothing new to report.

February 2024 - 'The First Edition', First Lutheran Church, Poy Sippi, WI Parish Council Committee: Meeting is scheduled for Thursday December 14th at First at 6:30pm.

<u>Noisy Bucket</u>: December - ELCA Good Gifts, January - "We are in Christ" - Waushara Cty. (homeless individuals recently released from prison.)

Children's Ministry: There is no Sunday School on Dec. 24th or Dec. 31st; will resume Jan. 7th, 2024.

<u>Worship</u>: Lenny is working on setting up the new computer. The old one will be used by the Archive Committee.

<u>M-Team</u>: 20 sunshine bags were put together and will be distributed.

Endowment: Meeting is scheduled for November 7th at 6:30 at First.

Property: Solar light has been installed by the West door.

#### Staff Reports:

Pastoral Acts: Baptism: Novin Jeffrey 11/26/2023 at First

Funeral: Arwayne Weiss 11/15/2023, Kelly Boening 12/13/2023, both at Barbola's, Berlin. Visitations: Marcella Jorgensen & Victor Hansen.

Adjourn: Motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 7:46PM, motion carried.

Pastor closed with prayer.

Next meeting will be Tuesday January 9th, 2024 at 6:30PM.

Respectfully submitted, Jan Strehlow, Church Council Secretary

### JOINT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

First Lutheran Church & Grace Lutheran Church December 14, 2023

All officers from both churches were present and Pastor Rebekah Tarras. The meeting was called to order by First Lutheran council President Mark Henn at 6:30PM. Pastor read a continuation of the Christmas story followed by prayer.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda, motion carried.

- A. Bingo Event: Event will be Feb.3, 2024 at Grace. Committees will have a short meeting following worship service on Dec. 31st at Grace.
- B. Pastor Rebekah's compensation/wage package: Motion was made and seconded to accept the synod recommendation of ministry cost. Discussion followed. Motion was carried.
- C. Joint Service time: December 31, 2023 we will have a joint service at Grace. The service is set for 9:00am.
- D. Palm Sunday service: March 24, 2024 Palm Sunday Service will be at Grace at 10:00am. Brunch following. First will help with some of the expenses of the meal.
- E. Review Covenant: Motion was made and seconded to accept the Shared Ministry Covenant. After much discussion not all were in favor of signing, Motion did not carry.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 7:32PM, motion carried. Pastor Rebekah closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Strehlow, council secretary for First Lutheran

# February 2024 First Lutheran Church, Poy Sippi, WI

