



# “THE FIRST EDITION”

## April 2025

I came across this quote: “Lent is spring training. Easter is opening day”. I have been pondering how this relates to our spiritual lives.

As we move into the month of April, there is the promise of new beginnings. The days are getting longer, my spring flowers are sprouting, and for baseball fans, it’s time for Opening Day. The season stretches ahead, filled with possibilities, hope, and the thrill of what’s to come. But before Opening Day arrives, teams spend weeks in spring training—preparing, refining their skills, and building up their endurance for the season ahead.



In many ways, our spiritual lives follow a similar rhythm. Lent is our season of preparation—a time to reflect, to refocus our lives, to strengthen our faith, and to practice the disciplines that shape us as followers of Christ. Like athletes in training, we commit ourselves to prayer, fasting, and acts of love and service, knowing that these practices shape us and form us into the people God calls us to be.

A story comes to mind of a young baseball player who struggled during spring training. No matter how hard he practiced, he couldn’t seem to hit the ball. Frustrated, he thought about giving up, but his coach saw his potential. "Trust the process," the coach said. "Keep showing up, keep practicing, and you will see results." Sure enough, by Opening Day, his persistence paid off, and he stepped up to the plate with confidence.

Isn’t that the way it is with our faith? There are seasons when we struggle, when we don’t feel strong in our prayer life, when doubts creep in. But Lent reminds us to keep showing up, to trust that God is at work even when we don’t see immediate results. Then comes Easter—our Opening Day! The tomb is empty, and Christ is risen! The victory has already been won, and we are invited to step into a new season of life with resurrection hope. Easter is not just one day but the beginning of a new way of living. Just as a baseball team takes what they’ve practiced in spring training and brings it into the real games, we carry the lessons of Lent into our daily lives all year long. We live as Easter people every day—filled with the joy, hope, and purpose of the risen Christ.

So this April, as you watch the first pitches of the baseball season, remember that we, too, are stepping into something new. May we embrace the fullness of the Easter season, stepping up to the plate with faith and confidence, knowing that in Christ, we are part of the greatest victory of all time.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In Christ’s love,  
Pastor Rebekah Tarras



## First Lutheran Church

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P.O. Box 250  
Poy Sippi, WI 54967  
(920) 987-5151

Email: [firstluthpoysippi@gmail.com](mailto:firstluthpoysippi@gmail.com)  
[www.firstlutheranpoysippi.org](http://www.firstlutheranpoysippi.org)

### Pastor Rebekah Tarras

(715) 897-5393

[pastortarras@gmail.com](mailto:pastortarras@gmail.com)

Office hours at First:

Monday 9 am to noon

Wednesday 9 am to noon

Office Administrator

Hours yet to be determined

### Myndi Margan, Bookkeeper

[firstluthboook@gmail.com](mailto:firstluthboook@gmail.com)

Mon and Thurs. 9 am to 1 pm.

### Bulletin Deadline:

Wednesday 9 am

### Newsletter Deadline:

20<sup>th</sup> each month



Follow us on Facebook:

"First Lutheran Church ELCA"

## 2025 Church Council

President: Bill Deppe	920-229-5547 <a href="mailto:sbdeppe@live.com">sbdeppe@live.com</a>
VP: Dar Cravillion	920-987-5887 <a href="mailto:dcravillion@icloud.com">dcravillion@icloud.com</a>
Secretary: Mali Beine	262-224-8336 <a href="mailto:malimeri@hotmail.com">malimeri@hotmail.com</a>
Treasurer: Joan Everson	920-295-9404 <a href="mailto:jceverson217@gmail.com">jceverson217@gmail.com</a>
Lenny Langkau	920-229-3593 <a href="mailto:emspof1954@yahoo.com">emspof1954@yahoo.com</a>
Judy Schierland	920-987-5582 <a href="mailto:djrayrocks33@yahoo.com">djrayrocks33@yahoo.com</a>
Jim Laird	(303)690-2428 <a href="mailto:wisconsinsouthwestern@gmail.com">wisconsinsouthwestern@gmail.com</a>

## Representatives Needed for Synod Assembly

We are seeking two dedicated individuals (one male and one female) to represent our church at the upcoming Synod Assembly on June 7 in Green Bay. This is an important opportunity to participate in the broader church community and contribute to important decisions.

Due to a prior commitment at her grandson's high school graduation, Pastor Rebekah regrets that she cannot attend the assembly herself. Therefore, we are looking for enthusiastic members who can fill this crucial role on behalf of our congregation.

If you are interested or would like to recommend someone, please contact the church office. Your participation ensures our church's voice is heard and represented at the Synod Assembly.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve!

## Join Our New Outreach Committee!

We are excited to announce the formation of a new Outreach Committee and are seeking members who are passionate about sharing God's love with our community and beyond. This committee will focus on developing and implementing new outreach initiatives, strengthening relationships with local organizations, and finding creative ways to serve others in Jesus' name.

If you have a heart for service and a desire to help make a meaningful impact, we encourage you to consider joining this important new ministry. Together, we can expand our church's mission to love and serve our neighbors.

If you are interested in being part of the Outreach Committee or would like more information, please contact council secretary Mali Beine or Pastor Rebekah. We look forward to working together to make a difference!

## Lent Soup and Worship

Join us on Wednesdays, April 2 and 9, for soup lunch starting at 12:30 pm with mid-week Lent worship at 1:30 pm. Can't make it during the daytime? Grace in Berlin invites you to join them for soup at 5:45 pm and worship at 6:30 pm.

## Steeple Memorial Bricks

Leading up to our 150th anniversary, we will be selling bricks for the steeple memorial. You may wish to purchase a brick in honor of or in memory of someone. Watch for more details to come.

## Email news

Pastor Rebekah is working on setting up a new emailing system for weekly updates as well as the monthly newsletter. If you have not been receiving emails and would like to, please send a note to [pastortarras@gmail.com](mailto:pastortarras@gmail.com) or go to our website and fill out the form on the newsletter page.



## Worship Notes for April

If you are unable to attend in person, join us online on our Facebook page or you can listen to worship via radio station 93.1 FM or 1600 AM at 9:45 am.

Note: the radio broadcast time has changed.

Date	Text	Serving
Wednesday, April 2 1:30 pm	Mercy in Relationships Genesis 45:1-15 Ephesians 4:25-32 John 13:34-35	
Sunday April 6 Fifth Sunday in Lent 10:30 am <i>First Communion Celebrated</i>	Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8	Greeter: Mark Henn Reader: Gary Boening Communion Bread: Mali Beine Communion Assistant: Gary Boening
Wednesday, April 9 1:30 pm	Mercy in Service Micah 6:7-8 Hebrews 6:9-12 John 13:12-17	
Sunday, April 13 Palm Sunday <b>10:00 am at Grace in Berlin</b> (384 Oak Street)	Mercy in Palms Zechariah 9:9-12 2 Corinthians 2:14-17 John 12:12-19	
Maundy Thursday April 17 <b>6:30 pm at First</b>	Mercy in Bread & Wine Exodus 16:4-5 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 Matthew 26:26-29	Reader: Dar Cravillion Communion Bread: Rebekah Tarras Communion Assistant: Dar Cravillion
Good Friday April 18 <b>1:00 pm at Grace in Berlin</b> (384 Oak Street)	Mercy in the Cross Isaiah 25:6-9 Colossians 2:13-15 Luke 23:33-49	
Sunday, April 20 Easter Sunday 10:30 am	Mercy in the Open Tomb Exodus 15:1-18 Romans 6:3-11 Matthew 28:1-10	Greeter: Joan Everson Reader: Mali Beine Communion Bread: Rebekah Tarras Communion Assistant: Joan Everson
April 27 Second Sunday of Easter 10:30 am	Acts 5:27-32 Psalm 118:14-29 or 150 Revelation 1:4-8 John 20:19-31	Greeter: Diane Warning Reader Diane Warning

### Easter Garden

We invite you to bring a spring plant of your choice to add to our Easter Garden! This is a beautiful way to celebrate the season of renewal and resurrection. Please have your plant at the church by 9 AM on Saturday, April 19, so it can be arranged in time for Easter Sunday. Thank you for contributing to this special display.



## Consider Bible Camp This Year!

Looking for a way to grow in faith and connect with others? Crossways Camps at Pine Lake offers something for everyone!

- **Kids & Teens:** Adventure, faith-filled fun, and friendships.
- **Families:** Quality time, outdoor activities, and spiritual renewal.
- **Adults:** Retreats and workshops to refresh your soul.

Experience the joy of Bible camp! Learn more at [www.crosswayscamps.org](http://www.crosswayscamps.org)



# PINE LAKE

CROSSWAYS CAMPING MINISTRIES



## New: Camp Senior A Golden Day at Camp

Join others for an adventure-filled day at Camp Senior, a day with laughter, camaraderie, and memory-making. From outdoor activities to cozy bible study chats, there's something for everyone. Embrace the spirit of youthfulness, reconnect with nature, and make new friends. Come experience the joy of Camp Senior at Pine Lake Camp !

Date: June 9th at Pine Lake Camp, Waupaca

Time: 9:30 am—3 pm

Cost: \$25 /participant

We are planning to take a group from First. Sign up with Patti Langkau if you are interested in attending.

Register online [CrosswaysCamps.org/senior](http://CrosswaysCamps.org/senior) or call (920) 882-0023 to request a paper registration.

## Pine Lake Camp Spring Kickoff: Camp Prep & Preview May 3, 2025

**CAMP PREP** Camp Prep includes a day of service onsite, preparing our site to welcome incredible campers! We will have projects and tasks for various ages and skills. If you have specialized skills to put to use, please share them with us to make the most out of your time.

**CAMP PREVIEW** We also welcome families to come for Camp Preview to see our site, take a tour, and meet some of the community before attending a program this summer. With a special invitation to first-time families or campers who may need additional accommodations or assurance, we welcome all participants for whom being onsite adds an extra layer of preparedness.

Free will offering lunch will be served around 1PM, with advance registration. Drop-ins welcome for tours or guests opting out of lunch. Email [pinelake@crosswayscamps.org](mailto:pinelake@crosswayscamps.org) to inquire.

Date: May 3, 2025

Time: 9am-2pm

Signup: [www.crosswayscamps.org/spring-workdays](http://www.crosswayscamps.org/spring-workdays)

## February Noisy Bucket Offering: Generosity in Action

Our February Noisy Bucket offering was a remarkable testament to our congregation's generosity and commitment to helping those in need. Together, we raised \$1,078.41 to support Lutheran World Relief's (LWR) California Wildfire Response.

In addition, our church's Endowment Fund provided a matching gift of \$1,000, directing those funds to LWR's hurricane relief efforts, extending our impact even further.

Through your gifts, we are sharing Christ's love with communities affected by natural disasters, providing essential relief and long-term recovery support. Thank you for being part of this mission of care and compassion!



## April Mission of the Month: Wounded Warrior Project

This April, our Mission of the Month supports the Wounded Warrior Project, an organization dedicated to serving and empowering veterans who have been wounded in service to our country. Through rehabilitation programs, mental health support, career counseling, and community reintegration, Wounded Warrior Project provides critical assistance to those who have sacrificed so much. Your contributions will help ensure that these brave men and women receive the care and support they need to heal and thrive. Thank you for your generosity as we honor and uplift our nation's veterans!



## Help Us Grow and Share at the Lord's Acre!

As we look ahead to the summer growing season, we are excited to continue sharing the blessings of fresh produce through the Lord's Acre. This ministry provides an opportunity to share the abundance of our gardens with one another and with those in need.

We need volunteers to help manage the stand this summer! If you enjoy working with fresh produce, greeting neighbors, or simply lending a helping hand, this is a wonderful way to serve. If you're interested in helping or learning more, please talk with council president Bill Deppe or Pastor Rebekah. Let's plant, grow, and share together!

## Bed Sheets Needed for Quilt Backing!

As you tackle your spring cleaning this year, consider donating gently used or new bed sheets to support our quilting ministry! Bed sheets make excellent quilt backings, providing large, seamless fabric pieces that help create warm and comforting quilts for those in need. Cotton or cotton-blend sheets in solid colors or subtle patterns work best, but all donations are appreciated. Your spring cleaning can bring warmth and care to others through the work of our dedicated quilters!

## Food Pantry Needs

Our food pantry is running low on cereal and paper towels, and we could use your support! These items are essential for the families we serve. If you're able to donate, please bring your contributions to church on Sunday or during office hours on Monday or Wednesday mornings. Thank you for helping us care for our neighbors in need!



## Rummage Sale at Grace

The Women of Grace are having a rummage sale the first Saturday in May. They will be accepting donations of items after Easter. Proceeds of the rummage sale go to support a variety of mission projects.



## Special Palm Sunday Worship with Grace Lutheran!

We are excited to join our sister church, Grace Lutheran, for Palm Sunday worship on April 13 at 10:00 AM at Grace in Berlin (384 Oak St.). This special service will mark the beginning of Holy Week as we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

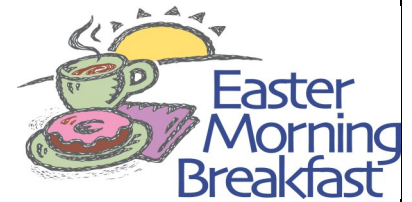
Following worship, we will share in a time of fellowship with a delicious brunch. Please sign up if you are planning to attend. To help make this gathering a success, we invite you to sign up to bring food items—look for the sign-up sheets at church. Come worship and enjoy time together!

### Join Us for Easter Breakfast!

Celebrate the joy of Easter morning with a delicious breakfast before worship on **Sunday, April 20 starting at 9 am!** Come enjoy a time of fellowship and a wonderful meal as we gather to rejoice in Christ's resurrection.

We'll be serving breakfast in the fellowship hall, and we'd love your help in making it a success. A **sign-up sheet** is available for those who would like to bring food items. Whether you can provide an egg dish, pastries, fruit, or other breakfast favorites, your contributions are greatly appreciated!

Mark your calendars, invite your friends and family, and start Easter Sunday with good food and great company. **Worship will follow the breakfast, so come hungry—both for food and for the Good News!**



### Men's Breakfast

The last men's breakfast for this school year will be on Saturday, April 12 at Grace at 8 am. Sign up on the clipboard if you are planning to attend

### Servers Needed for Coffee Hour!

We have just three dates left to fill for Coffee Hour, and we need volunteers to help serve! This is a great opportunity to offer hospitality and connect with our church family over coffee and treats. No experience is needed—just a willing heart and a friendly smile! Instructions and supplies are provided. If you can help, please sign up on the sheet in the fellowship hall or contact the church office. Thank you for supporting this ministry of fellowship!

April 6

April 13 Palm Sunday Brunch at Grace

April 20 Easter Breakfast

April 27

May 4

May 11 Mother's Day Brunch



### Cupcakes & Celebrations!

Join us after worship on the **first Sunday of each month** as we celebrate birthdays and anniversaries with delicious cupcakes! Whether you're marking a special occasion or just love a sweet treat, come enjoy fellowship and celebrate together.



### Craft Day – All Crafters Welcome!

April 12th ~ 9AM-4PM

Do you like crafting? But not alone? Then come to First Lutheran on April 12th and craft with fellow crafters. There are many different forms of crafting being done. Sewing, knitting/croqueting, scrapbooking, Diamond Point, and the list goes on. You bring what you want to work on and enjoy fellowship as well as sharing ideas and enjoy a light lunch.

Feel free to bring your favorite snack(s) and beverage. The crafting fun begins at 9AM at First Lutheran Church, W2314 Prospect Street, Poy Sippi and ends at 4PM. Please sign up on the activity sheet, so we know how many crafting stations to have prepared. **ALL ARE WELCOME!!**

Come for as long as you like—stay the whole time or drop in for a bit. We can't wait to see what you're working on!

# PRAYER list



- The family of Pastor Paul Brinkman
- The family of Bill Carpenter
- The family of Bucky Wesner
- Lilyana Marauder—severe injuries from an accident (Tammy Hansen)
- Ann Fuhrman – Niece of Gen and Cousin of Joan
- Darlene Christie—COPD—friend of Patti Langkau
- Donna Christie – Rehab after surgery – Friend of Patti
- Mark Bongart – Multiple Myeloma – Linda N. Coworker's Husband
- Dick Tuner – Cancer – Nephew of Sandy Anderson
- Gen Everson – Continued prayers
- Carolyn Holz – At Preston Place
- John Trochinski - Continued prayers
- Phyllis Jenks – Lee Chase's sister
- Pastor Rick Rieten – Huntington's Disease (Laird's)
- Bill H – Health issues – Friend of the Buttons
- Doris Koepke – skin cancer surgery, friend of Germaine's
- Jaci Boening – Upcoming Medical tests
- Lee Nelsen – Germain's son – Heart Issues
- James Cartwright – Lung Cancer – Lenny's Cousin
- Mark Kretzmann – recovering from broken leg and wrist
- Tammy Kretzmann – healing
- Sue – Rare form of Breast Cancer – Friend of the Lairds
- Carl Anderson- injuries resulting from a Truck Accident – son of Sandy A.
- Victor Hansen – continued healing
- For those battling cancer: Tom, Dave L, Vicki

- 2 Karin Macijeski
- 4 Carissa Kettlewell
- 5 Tammy Hansen
- 6 Aaron Schliepp
- 7 Ginny Andersen
- 11 Christina Hein
- 12 Steven Andersen
- 23 Cali Dexter
- 20 Jacob Olsen
- 26 Aria Dexter
- 26 Brooklyn Dexter
- 27 Jerry Wrage

*If we missed a birthday or have a date wrong, please contact the office so we can update our records.*



Celebrating March Birthdays

**Minutes**  
**First Lutheran Church Council**  
**February 11, 2025 at 6:30 pm**

Mark Henn (outgoing pres.)	X	Mali Beine	X
Jim Laird	X	Joan Everson	X
Dar Cravillion	X	Bill Deppe	X
Lenny Langkau	X	Judy Schierland	X
Pastor Tarras	X		

**Called to Order** 6:31PM by Outgoing President Mark Henn.

**Devotion:** "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors, and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." - Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV) Pastor led us in prayer and asked us to consider: how we can work in our congregation as a council.

**Visitors:** None

**Approval of Minutes**

Reviewed Council minutes from December 2024.

MOTION: Approve December minutes. Seconded and Carried.

**Approval of Monthly Financial Reports**

Dar presented financial report.

MOTION: Use Memorial Donation in the Buildings and Grounds Fund to be used for upcoming projects. Seconded and Carried.

MOTION: Motion to accept the financial report as presented. Seconded and Carried.

**New Business**

Election of Officers - President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer

Review expectations for each role

Nominations for President: Bill Deppe

Nominations for Vice President: Dar Cravillion

Nominations for Treasurer: Joan Everson

Nominations for Secretary: Mali Beine

Paper Ballots completed and submitted.

2025 Council was elected as follows.

President Bill Deppe

VP Dar Cravillion

Treas. Joan Everson

Sec. Mali Beine

Receive into membership Eileen Korchunoff

MOTION: Receive Eileen Korchunoff into Membership. Seconded and Carried.

Update to continuing resolution C13.07.F23 to include the Church Bookkeeper as part of the Finance Ministry *and update the number to C13.07.F25*

MOTION: so moved. Seconded and carried.



**ANNIVERSARY**

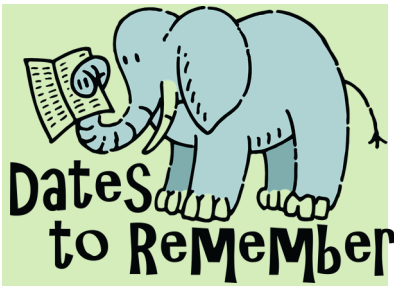
**Our 150th Anniversary  
Celebration is Coming  
Soon!**

First Lutheran will be celebrating our **150th Anniversary** on August 10! This milestone is a testament to God's faithfulness and the strong community we've built together over the years. Join us as we honor our past, celebrate our present, and look forward to our future.

Stay tuned for more details on special events and activities leading up to this joyous occasion.

**Anniversary Logo Wanted**  
Get involved in planning our 150th Anniversary Celebration. The planning committee would like a logo created to use on any memorabilia we order for the celebration. You can work on your own, in a team, or get a group together to get the creative juices flowing. Deadline for entries is April 15th. Entries should be submitted to the church office.





- April 6 First Sunday Cupcakes
- April 13 Palm Sunday at Grace
- April 17 Maundy Thursday
- April 18 Good Friday
- April 20 Easter Breakfast
- May 4 First Sunday Cupcakes
- May 11 Mother's Day Breakfast
- May 18 Graduate Recognition
- June 1 First Sunday Cupcakes  
for June & July  
birthdays
- June 15 Father's Day Breakfast
- June 18 Brat Fry in Berlin with  
Grace
- June 22 Special Event!!!!
- July 13 Worship in the Park,  
Berlin
- August 3 First Sunday  
Cupcakes
- August 10 150th Anniversary  
Celebration

- Proposed Bookkeeper hire  
3 interviews completed.  
MOTION: Offer Myndi Margan bookkeeper role at \$20/hr for up to 10 hours per week. Seconded and Carried.
- Update on the Admin job opening No internal applicants. No external applicants at this time. Pastor reviewing records from prior candidate search.
- Steeple Memorial Bricks  
Judy interested in helping with this sale.  
MOTION: Reopen Steeple memorial brick sales. Seconded and Carried.
- Endowment Committee membership - Connie Henn has submitted her resignation. We need to appoint someone for a one-year term.  
MOTION: Appoint Joan Everson for 1 year endowment committee. Seconded, carried.
- Stamping Ministry  
MOTION: enter stamping ministry as a sub-category under outreach ministry. Seconded. Carried
- Calling Tree Update  
Replace Kevin B. with Judy S. Replace Mark Henn with Bill Deppe. Verify Jerry Wrage will remain.
- Smoke Detectors  
Judy will verify with Building and Grounds committee that they are present and functional.
- Water Sensors located near sink and near water heater. Sensors will automatically notify (3) people via text if leaks are sensed.
- Parish Council meeting Tuesday, February 18, 6:30 pm at First for all officers

**Unfinished Business**

1. Update on Ceiling Project in Narthex/Entry – on hold pending completion of stage.
2. Update on Front Door Project – quote was received and was less than budgeted approved.  
Round tables sold.
4. Report on Windows – table until next meeting.
5. Update on stage project – Mark shared vision for stage removal and replacement with display and storage area.
6. Report on Winter Bingo – More than \$5,000 raised, pending payment of marketing expenses.
7. Outreach Committee - Committee was defined. Needs to be populated, scheduled, etc.
8. Update on Safety Plan - in the works
9. Lord's Acre plan – Needs a team to organize and maintain.
10. 2025 Monthly mission proposals
  - a. Feb - Lutheran World Relief California wildfire (with endowment match to Hurricane)
  - b. Mar - St. Jude
  - c. Apr - Wounded Warriors
  - d. May – Damascus Road
  - e. Jun – Waushara County K9
  - f. July
  - g. August
  - h. September – School Lunch Payoff
  - i. October – Heat for Heros
  - j. November – Honor Flight
  - k. December – ELCA Good Gifts



## Reports

- Pastor: 5 funerals this month, attended annual meetings, working on new Admin hire, preparing to train Communion visitors to support homebound members, Lay Speaker Training and First Communion Class - March
- Parish Council: Worship in the Park hosted by Grace will be held July 13th
- Worship Committee: Lent: Ash Wednesday services First at 1:30, Grace at 6:30
- Children's Ministry Committee (Dar Cravillion)
- M-Team
  - Fish fry this Friday
  - Soup Luncheons starting March 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Pi Day on March 14<sup>th</sup> (Pizza and Pie)
  - Easter Breakfast April 20<sup>th</sup>
- Finance Ministry
  - Connie has developed training and onboarding binder for new bookkeeper
  - New signature form for 2025 officers
- Property Committee
- Endowment Committee: Met Feb 4<sup>th</sup>. Five disbursements totaling \$3,700
- Custodian
- Archive Committee: Nearly complete.

## Other Business

Jim shared activities and ideas, his prior church sponsors Bible study at a bar, Fat Tuesday/ Mardi Gras celebration, etc.

### Church Access and doors

Discussion: we would like members to have access to the church. Can this be implemented when the new doors are installed? key cards, a lock box, pin pad, or an app as options?

## Closing Prayer

**Motion to Adjourn**, Seconded, Carried.

Adjourned at 8:49 PM.

## Note From Finance Ministry

First Lutheran is now offering an additional option for online donations through Vanco. You may prefer donating via Credit or Debit Cards. Here are a few facts about these donations.

Each donation is charged 2.9% plus an additional \$.45 transaction fee.

Here are two examples:

- 1.If you make a \$100 donation with 2.75% Vanco fee additionally given (\$102.75 to the donor's credit or debit card) yields a bank deposit of \$99.32. The donor still gets credit for the \$100 donation, but the excess (\$3.43) is paid by First Lutheran.
- 2.If a Credit or Debit Card donation is made for \$100 without any extra contribution towards fees will yield a deposit to First Lutheran for \$96.65. Again, the donor will still get credit for donating \$100, but First Lutheran will be paying \$3.35 as an additional fee.

This is still a viable option for giving for anyone choosing to use their cards rather than their checking account for online giving. We wanted to make you aware that there is a cost to the church in doing so! And thank you for any and all donations that enable us to continue God's work.

## Worship Attendance

Feb 23	51
March 2	54
March 5	18
March 9	61
March 12	20
March 16	55
March 19	18
March 23	63

## Thank you Thrivent Members!

In 2024, First Lutheran received \$4,546 in Thrivent Choice Dollars® grant funding. Thank you for designating your Choice Dollars to the mission and ministry of First Lutheran.

## Free Funeral Planning Seminar

Barbola and Barbola-Hempel Funeral Chapels will be hosting a free pre-planning presentation on Wednesday, May 7.

There will be presentations in 3 different locations for convenience.

- 10 a.m. Barbola-Hempel Funeral Chapel (Poy Sippi)
- 2 p.m. Redgranite Lions Hall
- 6 p.m. Barbola Funeral Chapel (Berlin)

Pick a time and RSVP by phone to 920-361-2755 or email [barbolafc@yahoo.com](mailto:barbolafc@yahoo.com). Refreshments will be served.

## Pi Day Fun

A Delicious Slice of Math and Community! We celebrated Pi Day with a perfect pairing of pizza pie and sweet pies, enjoying both good company and tasty treats while diving into the fun of pi trivia and the joy of community!



## Soup's On

During the season of Lent we have been enjoying yummy soup lunches each Wednesday. There is still time to participate. Join us at 12:30 pm each week through Lent.



## Financial Summary for First Quarter

### General Operating Fund

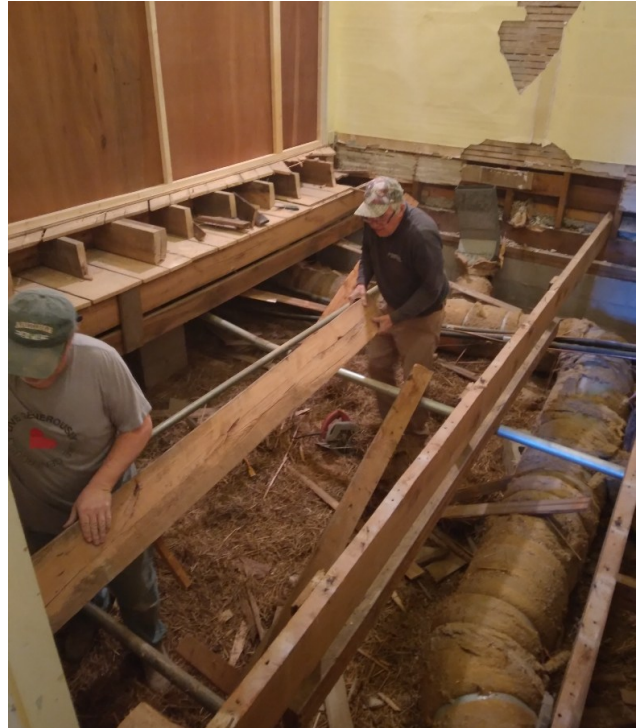
	First Quarter	2025 Budget
Receipts:	\$28,564	\$130,000
Expenses:		
Mission Support	\$1269	\$8003
Worship	\$816	\$4900
Education	\$269	\$1350
Fellowship & Caring	0	\$1000
Property	\$6273	\$15,170
Administration	\$20,795	\$94,420
Outreach		\$1000
Total Expenses	\$29,422	\$126,343
General Fund Balance 2/29/25		\$15,040

### Other Funds:

Buildings & Grounds	\$11,150
Door Project	\$6027
Library	\$820
M-Team	\$795
Roof	\$1638
Sound Technology	\$522
Steeple Memorial	\$2653
Youth Fund	\$3210
CD (designated projects)	\$26,779
CD (general)	\$20,466
CD (general)	\$10,313
CD (designated projects)	\$26,764
CD (future)	\$107,227
Money Market	\$11,493
Savings Account	\$145
MIF	\$8,000
Lord's Acre	\$400

## Stage Removal Project

Thank you to everyone who has been part of this project to remove the stage to create better storage.



We are still waiting for the doors to arrive and for shelving to be installed.

## Lay School Open House

The East Central Synod of Wisconsin Lay School of Ministry invites you to be our guest and experience any course for free in March or April 2025. Courses are available both virtually and in-person at St. Andrew in Wausau, WI, or Christ the King Lutheran Church in Combined Locks, WI. This is an opportunity to explore faith-based learning, including core program courses and continuing education classes. Whether you're deepening your faith or seeking new perspectives, there's something for everyone. RSVP at [layschool@ecsw.org](mailto:layschool@ecsw.org) to join as a guest or learn more at [ECSWLaySchool.org](http://ECSWLaySchool.org).



# BE OUR GUEST

Join any course.

Virtually or In-person.

In the months of March or April.

Contact us at [layschool@ecsw.org](mailto:layschool@ecsw.org) with questions or to participate as a guest.

Learn more at  
[ECSWLaySchool.org](http://ECSWLaySchool.org)



### Congratulations to Ben Strehlow!

We celebrate with Ben Strehlow who qualified for the NCAA Division III National Wrestling Championships! Ben placed third in his weight class at the NCAA III Region VI Tournament, securing his spot at the national competition in Providence, Rhode Island, March 14-15. His hard work and dedication are an inspiration to us all. Congratulations, Ben!

## Report from Crossways Camping Ministries

The 2024 Crossways Camping Ministries Annual Meeting was held on March 8th, 2025.

As part of their mission statement, they “strive to be a place of hope – where people grow in confidence, generations connect, and faith is made real.” Where can you find hope? At camp! Between the three campsites they had 752 youth campers: Imago Dei Village (64% increase), Pine Lake Camp (31% increase) and Waypost (no increase). Their summer team included 21 dedicated staff and 23 bonus staff for specific programs. Besides all their regular programs such as Youth Camp, Confirmation Camp, and Adult Programs, they also host intergenerational programs like Family Camp, Autism Community Family Camp, Grandkid Camp, and Camp Jr. Along with all their variety of programs they also have a ‘no-phone’ policy component at Crossways which helps campers disconnect and build real connections and return to camp. They also have ways for volunteers to come and help where there is a need.

In 2024 camp attendees learned about ELCA World Hunger’s global efforts and raised \$5,150 in offerings. What a wonderful way to serve others and make an impact.

At the heart of their programs is faith, community, and growth. These experiences lay the foundation for a vibrant and inclusive church community.

The Ministry Report for 2024 showed how Imago Dei and Pine Lake camps are thriving and growing, while they are sustaining the health of Waypost. But with this continued action, Waypost will decrease the other two camps financial stability. Prior to the annual meeting the Financial Stability Committee did in-depth research and discussions regarding the future of Waypost. This information was shared at the annual meeting and more discussion was held followed by a vote, which was taken and passed. The Financial Stability Committee is to explore the options for the sale, donation, and financial sustainability of Waypost Camp. Once they gather all additional necessary information, they will ask the delegates to reconvene for another meeting to vote on Waypost’s future.

Outgoing Board Members: Laura Staats, Pastor Karoline Schwantes

Election of New Board Members: Stacy Darga, Jay McDivitt, Perry Smith

Pastor Karen Jewell led a beautiful commissioning for the incoming and returning Crossways Board of Directors.

Board member and treasurer, Steve Denker, gave an overview of the financial activity of each camp. He stated that Pine Lake ended with a surplus, Imago Dei nearly broke even, and Waypost experienced a loss. The Board of Directors have decided to discontinue programming at Waypost while maintaining routine site maintenance.

A 2025 Crossways Camping Ministry update was given which included adding the following new programs: STEAM camp, Camp at Rib Mountain State Park, and expanding offsite programming to reach more families, as well as a half-week family camp at Imago Dei.

One Step More was presented by Ellie Fuerbringer, giving examples of how churches are expanding ways to support the camping ministries of Crossways.

Invitation to Monthly Giving was presented by Grace Barlow. She explained how she became a monthly donor after becoming a teacher and using many of the skills she learned at camp. She invites all churches and their members to consider giving monthly online at the Crossways Camping website, Thrivent Choice Dollars, or special offering collections.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Warning & Patti Langkau,  
Delegates for Crossways Camping Ministries

## Report from Bethany Home Annual Meeting

We attended the Bethany Home annual meeting on Sunday, March 2nd.

They approved the minutes from February 25, 2024 and then the CEO gave his report.

The CEO said that the top challenges are cost of labor, labor shortages, reimbursement, cyber security, managing payor contracts, leadership burnout, technology investments, and technology integration. He also said we have an aging population and that baby boomers are turning 79 and 3.4 million boomers will turn 79 each year until 2036. Then it will jump to 4.3 million annually.

The CEO reported that the capacity remains at 100 beds in the nursing home and at Bethany Shadow Woods there continues to be a waiting list. Then he listed several goals.

1. Stabilize the workforce. They employ approximately 200+ employees. They restructured nursing pay to attract more nurses, which is the hardest position to fill.
2. Ensuring quality care and services. They have systems in place for fall reduction, wound prevention and ways to improve quality care.
3. Financial. They want to increase revenue and decrease waste. They replaced the front sidewalk, bought two new boilers, replaced some mattresses, and put in security cameras.

Casey Brown, the Director of Life Enrichment talked about things to help improve the lives of residents. Some of the activities they do are Bingo, play music, or a game, and then have happy hour, watch movies, and make ice cream sundaes. Casey said they are looking for music groups to come in and play for the residents. She also said that their current needs are bingo prizes, such as word search puzzles, jewelry, lotions, or body wash; Christmas presents such as blankets; revamping the chapel to accommodate the growing campus, assisting with replacing the roof on the old part of the building; assisting with replacing a tub in the CBRF; re-doing bathrooms in the CBRF; updating the call light system; volunteers to assist with activities, and several other needs.

For new business, there was one change in the bylaws. No member of the board shall serve more than three consecutive three year terms. (Previously no member could serve more than two consecutive three year terms.)

Thank you for the opportunity to attend this annual meeting of Bethany Home.

Sheri Bahr and Karin Macijeski



### Youth Bowling Event

Gutter balls and strikes. Bring what you have to the Synod youth bowling event on Saturday, April 26th at Revs Bowl Bar & Grill in Oshkosh. Cost is \$15 per person and includes two games, shoes and lunch. Voted best bowling alley in Winnebago County, Revs will serve up a pitcher of soda and a 16" pizza for every four people. The fun will start "rolling" at 12:00 pm and wind down at 3:00 pm. This event is open to all youth with adequate adult supervision. Let us know you are coming by signing up [here](#).

Any questions, contact Christine Loppnow at [christusyouth@christuschurch.org](mailto:christusyouth@christuschurch.org).

# POWER OF ATTORNEY EVENT

*Join Waushara County representatives in learning about POAs and establishing your own POA of healthcare or finance.*

**APRIL 10, 2025**

**9AM-12PM**

**THIS IS AN OPEN HOUSE FORUM; STOP IN DURING THESE HOURS**

**Waushara Cty Govt Center**  
380 S. Townline Road, Wautoma

## WHAT YOU'LL DO:

- Learn more about POAs
- Learn about local resources
- Prepare your own POA
- Notary officials on site
- Legal experts available to assist with understanding of the POA process
- Ask questions!

**No need to register in advance. Questions? Contact Human Services Crisis/APS unit at 920-787-6550**





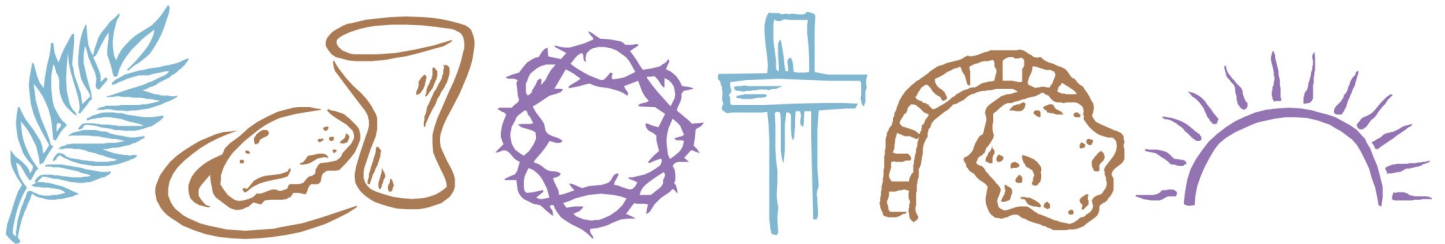


# APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 	2 12:30 pm Soup Lunch 1:30 pm Lent Worship	3 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal 11:15 Archive Committee	4 9:00—10:30 am Food Pantry 1:00 pm Stamping Workshop 3:00—4:30 pm Food Pantry	5
6 9:00 am Sunday School 9:15 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30 am Worship	7 10 am Finance 12:30 pm Worship Committee 1:30 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Stamping Workshop	8 Pastor at Oshkosh Conference 6:30 pm Council Meeting	9 12:30 pm Soup Lunch 1:30 pm Lent Worship	10 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal	11	12 8:00 am Men's Breakfast at Grace 9am —4:00 pm Craft Day at First
13  10:00 am Worship & Brunch at Grace, Berlin	14 1:30 pm Bible Study 2:45 pm M-Team meeting	15	16 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal	17  6:30 pm worship at First	18 1:00 pm worship at Grace, Berlin 	19
20 9 am Easter Breakfast 10:30 am Worship 	21 1:30 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Preaching class Newsletter Deadline	22	23 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Confirmation	24	25	26
27 9:00 am Sunday School 9:15 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30 am Worship	28 1:30 pm Bible Study	29 Blood Drive at Grace	30 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Confirmation			



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



# Holy Week Schedule

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Sunday, April 13   | 10:00 am Palm Sunday worship at Grace in Berlin (384 Oak Street) with brunch to follow  |
| Thursday, April 17 | 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday service at First Lutheran                                       |
| Friday, April 18   | 1:00 pm Good Friday service at Grace in Berlin  |
| Sunday, April 20   | 9:00 am Easter Breakfast at First Lutheran<br>10:30 am Easter Worship at First Lutheran |