



THE "FIRST" EDITION – OCTOBER 2025

From Pastor Rebekah Tarras

A few weeks ago, I read a fascinating blog post by Rev. Anne Russ on her blog, Doubting Believer. Rev. Russ wrote about Edward Locard, a French pioneer in forensic science, who developed something called the Exchange Principle: "Every contact leaves a trace." (You can read it here: <https://resources.doubtingbeliever.com/blog/ce0dd542-8590-4a9c-bd5d-77f646336450>)

In forensic science, this means that a criminal always leaves something behind at the scene of a crime and always takes something with them. Even with gloves, masks, or protective suits, something is left and something is taken. Trace evidence is inevitable.

Rev. Russ suggests that this principle doesn't just apply to crime; it's true for all of life. Every interaction we have with another person leaves a trace, whether we intend it or not. The words we speak, the smiles we share, even the way we listen. We all leave marks on each other's lives, whether it is the cashier at the store, a friend in need, or a stranger on the street. And sometimes, the marks we leave can lift someone's day, strengthen their spirit, or remind them of God's love. Other times, the traces can weigh people down.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to be intentional about the traces we leave behind. Colossians 3:12-14 reminds us to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, and to forgive and love one another. If every contact leaves a trace, what better evidence of our faith could there be than love reflected in our words and actions?

At the same time, Rev. Russ reminds us that we must also be mindful of the marks we pick up from others, like hurt, worry, judgment, or negativity, that aren't meant to stay with us. God invites us to release what doesn't serve life and love, to let Christ's mercy wash away what we need to let go of.

This month, I invite you to consider your traces. What are you leaving behind? What are you taking with you? May every encounter reflect God's grace, and may the traces we leave be ones that bless, encourage, and draw others closer to Jesus.

Blessings,
Pastor Rebekah Tarras

I AM FILLED
WITH
Compassion.

Colossians 3:12



October Worship Notes

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.

Date	Text	Serving
October 5 17 th Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 am Worship Birthdays & Anniversaries Communion at the Rail	Lamentations 1:1-6 Lamentations 3:19-26 2 Timothy 1:1-14	Greeter: Mark Henn Reader: Gary Boening Communion Bread: Chris Monroe Communion Assistant: Gary Boening
October 12 18 th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 am Joint Worship	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 Psalm 66:1-12 2 Timothy 2:8-15	Greeter: Jim Laird Reader: Joan Everson
October 19 19 th Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 am Worship & Polka	Jeremiah 31:27-34 Psalm 119:97-104 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Luke 18:1-8 -	Greeter: Dar Cravillion Reader: Dar Cravillion
October 26 20 th Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 am Worship	Joel 2:23-32; Psalm 65 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18	Greeter: Diane Warning Reader: Diane Warning
November 2 All Saints Sunday 10:30 am Worship Birthdays & Anniversaries Communion at the Rail	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12	Greeter: Patti Langkau Reader: Joan Everson Communion Bread: Diane Warning Communion Assistant: Joan Everson



October Noisy Bucket Mission: Heat for Heroes

Heat for Heroes is a powerful cause that helps veterans and struggling families in cold-weather states keep their heat on during harsh winters. Many who served our country or face financial hardship are forced to choose between essentials like food, medicine, or heating their homes. Donations to Heat for Heroes go directly toward preventing utility shutoffs and ensuring vulnerable individuals stay safe and warm. It's a direct, compassionate way to honor those who've sacrificed and support neighbors in urgent need.

Our August Noisy Bucket: Lutheran World Relief 80-year Challenge, raised \$555.42! The money raised will support life-saving emergency relief, long-term development, and efforts to reach the most vulnerable communities around the world. Funds will provide clean water, food, shelter, and health care in crisis zones, while also investing in sustainable agriculture, education (especially for girls), and economic empowerment to help families build lasting resilience. LWR is committed to going where the need is greatest - including remote and conflict-affected areas - and staying as long as it takes to help communities recover and thrive.

OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 10:30 Worship	29 1:30 Bible Study	30	1 10:00 Choir 11:00 Archive	2	3 9-10:30 Food Pantry 1-3 Stampin 3-4:30 Food Pantry	4
5 10:30 Worship Cupcake Sunday! 	6 12:30 Worship Committee 1:30 Bible Study 2:45 M-Team 5:30 Finance	7 7pm Book Club @ Grace	8 10:00 Choir 6:30 Confirmation	9	10	11 8:00 Men's Breakfast at Grace 9am-4pm Craft Day at First!
12 9:00 Sunday School 9:15 Coffee Fellowship <u>10:00 Joint Worship at First</u> 11:00 Potluck	13 Pastor Out	14 6:30 Council	15 10:00 Choir Pastor Out	16	17	18 2pm Rio Lobo Sweetest Day
19 9:00 Sunday School 9:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship	20 1:30 Bible Study Newsletter Entry Deadline	21 7pm Book Club @ Grace	22 10:00 Choir 5:30 Taste & See at Grace 6:30 Confirmation	23	24	25
26 9:00 Sunday School 9:15 Coffee Fellowship <u>10:30 Polka Worship</u> 11:30 Potluck	27 1:30 Bible Study Due: <u>All Saints Day Names</u>	28 7pm Book Club @ Grace	29 10:00 Choir 6:30 Confirmation	30 11:15 Archive	31 9-10:30 Food Pantry 1-3 Stampin 3-4:30 Food Pantry	1 



2 Steven Michels
 4 Jacob Nitzke
 5 AJ Olsen
 7 Mia Jewell
 11 Mark Henn
 12 Mary Ann Chase
 13 Darlene Cravillion
 15 Jaci Boening

16 Gabriel Disterhaft
 16 Donovan Rew
 18 Kim Heurth
 20 Beverly Tarras
 22 Tom Jewell
 24 Gary Boening
 25 Tory Behnke
 31 Keegan Hein



7 Steven & Rochelle Michels
 8 Jerry Wrage & Jan Strehlow
 16 Jim & Georgie Lee Laird
 20 Bill & Sharon Deppe
 21 Charles & Brenda Goehring

First Lutheran Church Council : August 12, 2025

Bill Deppe (Pres.)	X	Judy Schierland	X
Dar Cravillion (V.Pres.)	X	Jim Laird	X
Joan Everson (Treas.)	X	Lenny Langkau	X
Mali Beine (Sec.)	X	Pastor Rebekah Tarras	X

Call to Order: Pres Bill Deppe called meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

Devotions: Led by Pastor: "Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ."
-Colossians 3:23-24 (NLT)

Visitor(s): None

Approval of Minutes:

Clarify "Luther" is "Luther Seminary"

MOTION: approve minutes from July 8, 2025 with noted correction. Seconded. Carried

Approval of Monthly Financial Reports:

MOTION: approve financial reports as presented. Seconded. Carried.

New Business:

1. ELCA Churchwide Assembly – met July 28-Aug 2. New Bishop, budget approval, and new and updated Memorial statements. Full assembly available on line and Pastor has provided a summary in her Pastor's Report this month.
www.livinglutheran.org/category/religious-news-and-social-issues/

Unfinished Business

1. 150th Anniversary reflection
 - a. The council recognizes, and appreciates the participation and support we received from the Grace congregation.
 - b. Dar will purchase Thank-you cards for anniversary committee members, Bill will speak in an upcoming service.
2. Finance Ministry has discussed credit cards and current card holders will remain.
3. Offer made on copier and expected to be sold soon.
4. Bingo committee is starting to form and we've contacted the Grace team.

Reports:

- Pastor
- Parish Council – Next Meeting: Monday, August 25th. At PoySippi 6:30pm for Officers and Pastor.
- Worship Committee (pastor)
 - Pack the Pew Sunday, Polka Sunday, All Saints, Veterans', Thanksgiving Wednesday Service
- Children's Ministry Committee
 - September 14, 2025 thru May 10, 2026 will be Sunday School year.
 - Two classes 3-6 grades, and Pre-K thru 2.
 - "Child Safety Policy" returned for revision by committee
- M-Team (Jim Laird)
 - Party on the Pond – September 13
 - Pack the Pew and Pantry, Pancake Palooza – September 21
 - Veterans' Sunday – Potluck
 - Polka Sunday – Potluck
 - Deck the Halls – Soup Luncheon
- Endowment Committee (Joan Everson)
- Property Committee – window replacements will begin on Monday
- Archive Committee – on hiatus until December
- Outreach Committee - Inactive
- Staff – consider entryway mat vs tile vs carpet squares. Goal: reduce trip/slip hazards and make it easy to clean.

Other Business

1. Discussed ecumenical activities that have happened in the past (Thanksgiving service, ecumenical dinner) and were appreciated. Consider if there is interest in rekindling and what actions are needed.

Closing Prayer:

Adjourn: MOTION: Adjourn the meeting 8:20 pm. Seconded. Carried.

Next Meeting Date: Sept 9, 2025 @ 6:30pm

Financial Summary through August 31, 2025

General Operating Bank Accounts		General Operating Receipts & Expenses		
10 Mo CD CFCU #0002	\$ 10,022		YTD	2025 Budget
14 Mo CD CFCU #2650	\$ 20,981	Receipts:	\$ 92,645	\$ 130,000
14 Mo CD CFCU #9481	\$ 10,573			
Mission Investment Fund	\$ 8,000	Expenses:		
Checking account	\$ 15,617	Mission Support	\$ 4,471	\$ 8,003
Savings account	\$ 145	Worship	\$ 1,444	\$ 4,900
Total General Operating Balance	\$ 65,338	Education*	\$ 595	\$ 1,650
		Fellowship & Caring	\$ -	\$ 1,000
		Property	\$ 10,573	\$ 15,170
		Administration	\$ 62,916	\$ 94,420
		Outreach*	\$ -	\$ 1,500
		Total Expenses:	\$ 79,999	\$ 126,643

**These budget numbers were typed incorrectly in earlier newsletters; please forgive me that error! - Myndi*

Other Fund Balances			
150th Anniversary Celebration	\$ 1,760	M-Team	\$ 1,136
Building and Grounds	\$ 9,339	Sound Technology	\$ 5
Library	\$ 820	Steeple Memorial	\$ 2,953
Lord's Acre	\$ 1,230	Window Project	\$ (510)
		Youth	\$ 3,210

Cupcakes & Celebrations!

You're warmly invited to join us after worship on the 1st Sunday of each month as we celebrate birthdays and anniversaries with delicious cupcakes and joyful fellowship! It's a sweet way to connect and honor special moments in our church family. We'd love to celebrate with you!

****If we missed a special day or have a date wrong, please contact the office!**





The Lord's Acre continues to receive any and all of your extra garden goodies! If you have been blessed with a bountiful garden & would like to donate, contact Judy: 920-987-5582. Thank you to all who have donated so far!

Food Pantry:

October 3, November 7

Regular times: 9-10:30am & 3-4:30pm

Items Needed: Instant Potatoes, Pancake Mix

Lay School:

Did you know that our Synod offers a school specifically for you? The lay school exists to equip and challenge adults for their lives as disciples of Christ. The classes meet once a month on Friday evening and Saturday and meet in a hybrid format (in-person at two satellite locations and can be accessed remotely through a virtual link).

Find out more information:

<https://ecswlayschool.org/>

Polka Worship & Potluck

Oct 26, 10:30 a.m. at First Lutheran with the Albright Polka Group. Potluck to follow. Bring a dish and a friend –

let's make a joyful noise!



CRAFT DAY @ FIRST!

October 11, 9am-4pm All Crafters Welcome!

Bring your art/craft, enjoy fellowship and a light lunch! Feel free to bring your favorite snack(s) and a beverage. The crafting fun begins at 9am First Lutheran and ends at 4pm. Please sign up so we know how many crafting stations to have prepared! Come for as long as you like – stay the whole time or drop in for a bit! See you there!!

Joint Worship & Potluck – Sunday, October 12, 10:00 am at First Lutheran

Let's worship as one church family!

First Lutheran and Grace will gather **Sunday, October 12 at 10:00 a.m.** at **First Lutheran** for a joint service, with a **potluck meal** right after. **Grace Sunday School students** are warmly invited to join **First Lutheran classes at 9:00 a.m.** - new friends, same Jesus.

"In Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." (Romans 12:5, NLT) Bring a favorite dish to share, and come ready to sing, pray, and linger around the table. God keeps knitting us together - let's show up for it.

FAMILY & FRIENDS ALL WELCOME

Grace-Filled Conversations This Holiday Season

It may only be October, but the holiday season is just around the corner. Holidays often bring us together with people we love, but also with people we don't always agree with. Family gatherings, workplace parties, and community events can sometimes make us anxious about how conversations might unfold. What if there was a way to approach these conversations with more grace, less stress, and even a bit of hope?


This fall, pastor Rebekah will facilitate a book discussion on *I Think You're Wrong (But I'm Listening)* by Sarah Stewart Holland and Beth Silvers. Written by the co-hosts of the *Pantsuit Politics* podcast, this book is a guide to engaging in political and personal conversations with kindness and curiosity, rather than fear and division.

Over six sessions, we'll explore together how our identities shape our views, how to listen with empathy, and how to live out our faith in the way we speak and respond. Each week will include Scripture, practical tools, and space for honest reflection.

Details:

 Beginning October 7 at 7 pm

 Grace Lutheran library

 Books are available online or at your favorite bookstore

I Think You're Wrong (But I'm Listening) by Sarah Stewart Holland & Beth Silvers

As we enter a season of family gatherings and community celebrations, this is a perfect time to practice the art of grace-filled conversations. Imagine walking into Thanksgiving dinner or a Christmas party with more peace in your heart, ready to listen well and speak kindly - even when opinions differ.

Come join us. Let's learn together how to disagree without dividing, to listen with love, and to live as people of hope in a divided world.


Schedule:

October 7	Chapters 1–2 (Identity and why it matters)
October 21	Chapters 3–4 (How our stories shape us)
October 28	Chapters 5–6 (Family, friendships, and navigating tension)
November 4	Chapters 7–8 (Church and community conversations)
November 18	Chapters 9–10 (Politics in action - what grace looks like in public life)
December 2	Wrap-up + What practices will I carry forward?

AS FOR ME
AND MY
family,
WE WILL SERVE
THE
Lord.

JOSHUA 24:15, NLT

We're
thankful
for you!

A heartfelt thank you to **Marisa Jewell** for creating & donating the beautiful cake  for our 150th anniversary celebration. It was a true blessing and added something special to the day. We're grateful for your generosity and for the way God works through your hands and heart!



Taste and see that the Lord is good! (Psalm 34:8, NLT)

Bring the whole crew for our **Family Event** on **Wednesday, October 22 at Grace**.

We'll share a **simple meal at 5:30 p.m.** (BBQ, chips, veggies, fruit), a brief **devotion at 6:00**, and then jump into hands-on fun at **6:15** so we can wrap by **7:00 p.m.** sharp - home in time for baths, backpacks, and blessed quiet.

Choose your own creative adventure:

- **Pumpkin Cookie Decorating** (sprinkles for days!)
- **Pumpkin Painting** (bring your inner Picasso)
- **Make-Your-Own Station** options so kids and grown-ups can pick what fits

All supplies provided. Wear paint-friendly clothes. Friends and neighbors are welcome - let's practice community, "encourage each other and build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11, NLT). God's love is creative, colorful, and way more fun together.

RSVP by calling the office (Grace Lutheran 920-631-1820) or signing up in the narthex.



November 1 – Adjust Clocks for Daylight Savings Time

November 2 – All Saints Worship Service

November 9 – Veteran's Day Service with Meal to Follow

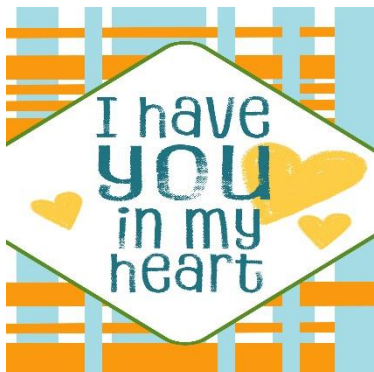
November 19 – Thanksgiving Service with Pie

November 30 – Deck the Halls with Soup Luncheon

Remembering the Saints

In our Worship on November 2, we will be remembering friends and loved ones who died in the past year.

If you have someone you would like us to remember on that day, please submit the name to the church office by October 27.



Sweetest Day at Rio Lobo, Saturday, October 18th:

Join us with your sweetheart or closest friends at Rio Lobo!

Enjoy wine, beer, pizza & fellowship. We'll meet at Rio Lobo at 2pm. If interested, please sign up by Sunday, October 12!

Rio Lobo : E6485 County Road F, Weyauwega



A Grateful Thank You to Our Amazing Volunteers!

The “buzz” was that it was nice to have the various Poy Sippi organizations all working together at *Party on the Pond*. Estimated attendance was 15-200! -and it simply wouldn’t have been possible without YOU. And our community is beyond grateful! To every volunteer who gave their time, energy, and heart - thank you. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!



Veteran's Sunday, November 9th:

Save the date & invite family & friends!

A meal will be provided by the M-Team following 10:30 Worship Service. Enjoy a time for fellowship and honor our Veterans.



First Lutheran Church

W2314 Prospect Street P.O. Box 250
Poy Sippi, WI 54967
(920) 987-5151

www.firstlutheranpoysippi.org

Pastor Rebekah Tarras

(715) 897-5393
pastortarras@gmail.com

Office hours at First:

Monday 9 am to noon

Wednesday 9 am to noon

Carolynn Rynish, Office Admin.

firstluthpoysippi@gmail.com

Mon & Wed 7:30 am to 12:30

Myndi Margan, Bookkeeper

firstluthbook@gmail.com

Mon and Thurs. 9 am to 1 pm

Bulletin Deadline:

Wednesday 9 am

Newsletter Deadline:

20th each month

Church Council

President: Bill Deppe	920-229-5547 sbdeppe@live.com
VP: Dar Cravillion	920-987-5887 dcravillion@icloud.com
Secretary: Mali Beine	262-224-8336 malimeri@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Joan Everson	920-295-9404 jceverson217@gmail.com
Lenny Langkau	920-229-3593 emspof1954@yahoo.com
Judy Schierland	920-987-5582 djayrocks33@yahoo.com
Jim Laird	(303)690-2428 wisconsinsouthwestern@gmail.com

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"First Lutheran Church ELCA"



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

October

I will give thanks
to the Lord because
of his righteousness.

PSALM 7:17