



THE “FIRST” EDITION

June 2026



As we move into summer, the Narrative Lectionary invites us to spend time digging deeper into biblical books or topics that fall outside the narrative cycle. For the first half of this summer, we'll be turning to First John and continuing in the writings connected to John's Gospel.

Some refer to the book of John as the “gospel of love” because John mentions the word love thirty-nine times, more than Matthew, Mark, and Luke combined, and more than any other book in the New Testament. But in John's much shorter letter of 1 John, the words love, loved, loves, and loving show up forty-six times.

John clearly wants us to understand something about love.

John wants the people hearing this letter to see themselves through the lens of God's love. One writer put it this way: “John's purposes in writing will be met if you come to see yourself first of all as someone intensely and astonishingly loved by Jesus.” To me, that feels like the heartbeat of the whole letter.

So many people end up defining themselves by things like success or failure, appearance, accomplishments, regrets, politics, productivity, or what other people think of them. It's easy to start believing our worth depends on how well we're doing or how others see us. But John points us somewhere deeper and more lasting. He reminds us who we are because of Jesus.

One of my favorite verses is 1 John 3:1:

***“See what great love the Father has lavished on us,
that we should be called children of God!” (NIV)***




I love that word *lavished*. It's not stingy love or just-enough love. It's overflowing, generous, over-the-top love. The kind of love that is poured out on people who haven't earned it and could never deserve it. John says that is how God loves us. Not reluctantly. Not with an “I guess you'll do.” But with mercy and grace poured out freely through Jesus.

My hope is that as we hear these words together in worship this summer, we won't just learn more information about God, but that we will begin to see ourselves differently, as people deeply loved by Christ. Then, rooted in that love, we learn how to love others too.

Pastor Rebekah Tarras



June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 10:30am Worship	1 NO Bible Study Pastor Off	2	3 Pastor Off	4	5 9-10:30am Food Pantry 3-4:30pm Food Pantry	6
7 10:30am Worship & Graduate Recognition 11:30am Cupcakes!	8 1:30pm Bible Study 2:45pm M-Team 4:15pm Finance 6:30pm Stampin!	9 6:30pm Council Mtg	10 	11	12 1-3pm Stampin!	13 9am-4pm Craft Day at First
14 10:30am Worship	15 1:30pm Bible Study	16	17 5:30pm Brat Fry in Berlin	18	19	20
21 9:00am Father's Day Breakfast 10:30am Worship	22 1:30pm Bible Study	23 	24	25	26	27
28 10:30am Worship	29 1:30pm Bible Study	30	1	2	3 9-10:30am Food Pantry 1-3pm Stampin! 3-4:30pm Food Pantry	4 



- 2 Germaine Schweps
- 5 Connie Henn
- 6 Macy Goehring
- 7 Sawyer Fenner
- 7 Patti Langkau
- 22 Patty Anderson
- 29 Phyllis Jenks



- 1 Bradley & Katie Nitzke
- 4 Ron & Colleen Hein
- 6 Roger & Sheri Bahr
- 8 Rich & Delores Jorgensen
- 9 Samuel & Amber Fenner
- 10 Mark & Tammy Kretzmann
- 10 Steve & Karin Macijeski
- 25 Jacob & Megan Olsen
- 25 Paul & Joyce Jorgensen

Cupcakes & Celebrations!

We invite you to stay a little while after worship on the first Sunday of each month as we gather to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries with cupcakes & fellowship! And for those unable to join us in person, please know that you remain an important part of this church family. You are prayed for faithfully, and surrounded by God's grace & love wherever you are.

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





Samuel Behnke



Sam, who has a love for dirt biking & racing, graduated from Berlin High School & plans to attend UW-Stevens Point in the Fall for Biochemistry.

Gracious God,
 We give thanks for this graduate and the many gifts You have placed within him. As he begins this new chapter and heads off to college, guide his path with wisdom, purpose, and confidence. Grant him courage in new experiences, meaningful friendships, and joy in learning and growing. May he always know his worth, trust in Your presence, and carry Your light wherever he goes. Bless the journey ahead and fill his future with hope, peace, and opportunity. Amen.

CRAFT DAY @ FIRST

June 13th, 9am-4pm All Crafters Welcome!
 Bring your art/craft, enjoy fellowship and a light lunch! The crafting fun begins at 9am at First Lutheran and ends at 4pm. Please sign up so we know how many crafting stations to have prepared! Stay the whole time or drop!



Distribution Date:

June 5th, 9-10:30am & 3-4:30pm

June Collection:

During the month of June, we will be collecting cans of Pork n Beans for the Poy Sippi Food Pantry. Thank you for helping care for our neighbors and supporting local families in a practical way. Every donation makes a difference!

Hosted by:
 First Lutheran Church Poy Sippi
 Grace Lutheran Church Berlin

Worship
 IN THE PARK

July 19, 2026
10:00am

Poy Sippi Park
 W2332 Robert Street - Poy Sippi, WI
All are Welcome!

Fellowship & a Potluck after!
 Pulled Pork & Chicken Sandwiches provided.
 Bring a dish to share if you are able.

God is good!



Brat Fry & Bingo!

Everyone is Welcome!

Hosted by the Men of Grace

Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at 5:30 pm

Riverside Park - North Shelter House

Meat, beans, and beverages will be provided!

Please bring a salad or dessert to pass.

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

June 7 10:30am 2 nd Sunday after Pentecost	1 John 1:8 - 2:6 <i>Faith That Shows</i> Graduate Recognition Birthdays & Anniversaries Communion at the rail	Greeter: Colleen Hein Reader: Joan Everson Usher: George Huerth Bread: Katie Nitzke Communion: Gary Boening
June 14 10:30am 3 rd Sunday after Pentecost	1 John 2:7-17 <i>What Really Lasts</i> Communion in the pew	Greeter: Jim & Georgia Lee Laird Reader: Mali Beine Usher: Mark Henn & Joel Beine
June 21 10:30am 4 th Sunday after Pentecost	1 John 3:1-3 <i>Already God's Children</i> Communion in the pew Father's Day	Greeter: Chris Monroe Reader: Colleen Hein Usher: Harold Nigbor
June 28 10:30am 5 th Sunday after Pentecost	1 John 3:16-24 <i>Love With Skin On</i> Communion in the pew	Greeter: Sandy Anderson Reader: Steve Macijeski Usher: George Huerth

Jerry Wrage – Health Concerns
Grant – Parkinson’s – Friend of the Plamanns
Rich Evans – Stroke – Friend of the Lairds
Jeri Latshaw – Arm Surgery – Coworker of Linda N.
Michelle Nelson – Health – Germaine’s Daughter-in-Law
Jaci Boening – Surgery – Healing
Alyssa - Granddaughter of Dan & Judy Button
Pastor Bill Meier
Carol Bergeon – Stroke - Germaine Schwebs’ Cousin
Wiggie Benton – Cancer – Germaine Schwebs’ Nephew
Gen Everson – Hospice Care
Russ Hofer – Overcoming Grief – Friend of the Lairds
Kathy Piper – Friend of Judy V.
Sue – Health & Continued Healing – Friend of the Lairds
Craig Monroe – Health – Son of Gary & Chris
Chris Monroe – Healing
Mike C. – Continued Healing – Friend of Vergins
Kay Jeske – Continued Healing
Doris – Cancer & Heart
Linda Ewald – Healing – Sister in Law of Judy Vergin
Phyllis Jenks – Continued Prayers - Lee Chase’s sister
Pastor Rick Rieten – Health – Friend of Laird’s
James Cartwright – Healing, Heart Surgery – Lenny’s Cousin



Peter – Health Issues
Patti Christie – Friend of the Langkaus
Missy Miller - Healing
Jaci Boening – Surgery, Healing
Lee Nelson – Healing
Julie – Terminal Cancer
Corrine – Healing – Cousin of Judy B.
Mark Bongart – Continued Healing
Mark Kretzmann – Continued Healing
Tammy Kretzmann – Healing
For those battling cancer: Tom, Dave L.

**For the month of June, our Noisy Bucket offering will support:
Lutheran Disaster Response!**



When disaster strikes, Lutheran Disaster Response brings hope, care, and practical support to communities facing unimaginable loss. Through emergency assistance, long-term recovery, and Christ-centered compassion, lives are renewed and hearts are strengthened. This month, we invite you to join us in supporting this important ministry through your prayers, generosity, and encouragement.

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” — Galatians 6:2

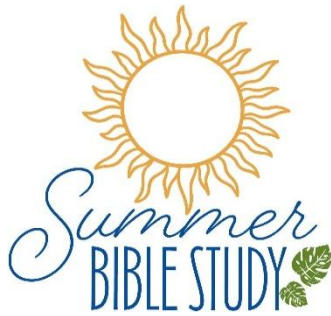
Our April Noisy Bucket Mission, School Lunch Debt relief for Weyauwega-Fremont, raised \$369.66!

Summer Bible study at First Lutheran

Mondays, 1:30 pm

This summer, we'll be making our way through the "Stories of Promise" from the book of Genesis.

Together we'll explore familiar stories like Creation, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Jacob, and Joseph, while discovering how God continues to work through imperfect people with grace, promise, and faithfulness. Whether you know these stories well or are hearing some of them for the first time, come join us for conversation, learning, questions, and encouragement as we dig into Scripture together. Everyone is welcome!



Congratulations!

Congratulations to former intern Kathy Cartwright, who has been called to serve Zion Lutheran Church in Fairwater! Kathy will be starting at Zion on July 1, ending her time serving as a licensed minister with the UCC congregation in Redgranite. Kathy's ordination will be on July 18, 10 am at Calvary Lutheran in Oshkosh.

Confirmation Classes

We are in the process of reimagining Confirmation classes for the upcoming year. One of the changes we are exploring is including sixth graders and shifting to a once-a-month Sunday afternoon format. The hope is to create a schedule & experience that allows for deeper conversations, relationship building, hands-on learning, and helping students connect faith to real life. More details will be coming later this summer as plans continue to come together.



Father's Day, June 21, Save the Date!

You're warmly invited to join us for our Father's Day Breakfast on June 21st at 9am as we celebrate and give thanks for the fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, and faithful men who bless our lives with love, guidance, and quiet strength. Come enjoy good food, fellowship, and a joyful morning together as a parish family.

Ladies, it's our turn to spoil the guys a little! Please sign up if you're able to help serve & make the morning extra special!

Men, please sign up too and include the number of family members attending so we can plan accordingly. Thank you!



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended and helped with our Mother's Day Breakfast! Your kindness & joyful fellowship made the morning so special! And a special thank you to our Sunday School children for serving ice cream sundaes with such sweet smiles and caring hearts – what a beautiful way to share God's love!



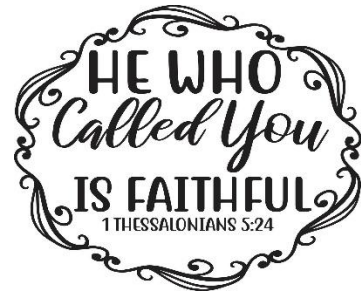
Notice to congregation regarding donation categories:

In the past, we have had multiple separate categories for classifying General Operating Fund donations as they were received each week. In order to make the process easier for our donation counters and bookkeeper, we will be eliminating some of those categories starting this summer.

Currently the General Fund categories are:

General Fund:

- Sunday Envelopes
- Lenten Offerings
- Maundy Thursday Offerings
- Good Friday Offerings
- Thanksgiving Offerings
- Christmas Offerings
- Plate Loose
- Other



Once we make the change, the General Fund categories will be simplified to three:

General Fund:

- Envelopes
- Plate Loose
- Other

What this means for you: Starting July 1, 2026, any donations you make to the General Fund will no longer be separated out by a special holiday, but simply by envelope or loose cash/check donations. **You are still encouraged to use your special event envelopes as part of your worship for each holiday**, but these monies will not be listed separately anymore in our accounting software. Additionally, on your giving statements starting in 2027, you will not see your donations separated out by holiday.

There will be no changes to the following categories:

Designated Funds:

- Building Envelope/Buildings & Grounds
- Youth Ministry
- Altar Guild
- M-Team
- Library
- Merchandise
- Steeple Memorial
- Other

In/Out Funds:

- Noisy Bucket
- Missions (Unspecified)
- World Hunger
- Food Pantry
- Sunday School Mission/Offerings
- Lord's Acre
- Memorial
- Other

I am very happy to answer any questions about this change! Please come see me in person in the office, or call or email if you would like anything clarified.

Myndi

First Lutheran Church bookkeeper

firstluthbook@gmail.com

920-987-5151

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30am – 2:30pm **note change of days from M/H to M/W

First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes April 14, 2026 at 6:30pm

Present: Bill Deppe, Mali Beine, Jim Laird, Mark Henn, Aron Nelson, Pastor Tarras, Judy Shierland

Visitors: None

Call to Order: 6:30pm by President Bill Deppe

Devotion & Prayer by Pastor Tarras

Minutes from the last meeting were approved by Mark Henn and seconded by Aron Nelson.

Financial Minutes were given by Mark Henn. Approved by Aron Nelson and seconded by Judy S.

New Business:

1. The approval of new members Greg & Sharon Plamann
2. Library to possibly be disbanded and used for something else. Ideas welcome and what to use the \$820.38 from the Designated Library Fund for.

Unfinished Business:

1. Mali has put together a Facilities Policy concerning rental of tables & chairs, funeral policy, etc. Binder will be kept in cupboard.
2. Mali will be working on information for the bulletin board.
3. Peace Lutheran Church and Endowment donation, Jim Laird will fill out form to Endowment for a donation for their frozen pipe problem this winter.
4. Christ Waushara County Representative. Pastor will check when their next meeting is.
5. Jim Laird had 4 options for new lighting in the Sunday School rooms. Mark Henn will do some investigating.

Reports:

President: Bill is pleased with our combined ministry. Next Joint Council meeting is at Grace on May 18th, at 6pm.

Pastor: Will be on vacation May 26-June 3. Had 2 baptisms at First. Pastor Dale Harrison's wife, Lois, passed away.

Parish Council will meet with Grace in May for Joint ideas.

Worship Committee: The upgrade in technology was installed, going well! Bill will check with his cousin for Veteran's Sunday.

Children's Ministry: Last day of Sunday School is Mother's Day.

M-Team:

May 3 – Celebrating Cinco de Mayo at El Charro

May 10 – Mother's Day Breakfast, men will cook

May 17 – Graduation Celebration with cake/cupcakes after Worship

June 21 – Father's Day Breakfast, ladies will cook

July 12 – Cupcake Sunday (postponed from 1st Sunday of the month due to BBQ)

August 5 – Brats, hot dogs & potluck at Kusel Lake

August 16 – Legacy Sunday potluck

September 13 – Pack the Pews, Pack the Pantry & Pancake Palooza

September 26 – Party on the Pond

October ? – Aebleskiver Dinner

Property: Mowers are ready to go! Cleaned lights & replaced bulbs.

Endowment: Next meeting is May 5.

Archive: On hiatus until October.

Staff: This summer Myndi would like to move her days to Monday & Wednesday.

Next meeting: May 12 at 6:30pm

Mark Henn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm, Judy S. seconded.

Submitted by Judy Schierland



First Lutheran Church

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Pastor Rebekah Tarras

(715) 897-5393

pastortarras@gmail.com

Office hours at First:

Monday 9am to noon

Wednesday 9am to noon

Carolynn Rynish, Office Admin.

firstluthpoysippi@gmail.com

Mon & Wed 7:30am to 12:30pm

Myndi Margan, Bookkeeper

firstluthbook@gmail.com

Mon and Wed 9:30am - 2:30pm

Bulletin Deadline:

Wednesday 9 am

Newsletter Deadline:

20th each month

Worship 10:30am Sundays

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



First Lutheran Church
W2314 Prospect Street
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