



THE “FIRST” EDITION

March 2026

As I write this, the sun is shining through my office windows, the birds are chirping outside, and it’s nearly 50 degrees, and it is only February. I heard a weather forecaster call this “false spring,” which feels about right, especially since we still have the entire month of March ahead of us.

March often gives us a false spring, just enough warmth to make us think winter is finished, followed quickly by a reminder that it’s not quite time yet. Lent works the same way. We catch glimpses of hope, but we don’t skip the hard parts. This year, as we journey through the Gospel of John, we are invited to stay with Jesus all the way to the cross.

I’m reminded of how tempting it is, on a warm February day, to put away the winter coat or stop checking the forecast, only to regret it a few days later. Lent asks us to resist that same temptation in faith. Not to rush ahead. Not to pack away the hard parts too soon. But to stay present to the story as it unfolds.

Our Scripture readings this month take us through the final days of Jesus’ life. On both Sundays and Wednesdays, we are slowly walking with Jesus toward the cross. *Slowly* is the key word here. No fast-forwarding. No skipping ahead to the resurrection.

Our Lenten journey is more like a slow cooker than a microwave. John’s Gospel takes its time, letting the story simmer. Jesus speaks honestly, loves faithfully, and stays all the way to the end. This season isn’t about rushing to Easter; it’s about letting God’s love sink in deeply, over time.

And as we walk this road with Jesus, we trust that God meets us not just at the end, but in every step along the way.

I hope you’ll join us for worship, prayer, and fellowship as we walk this road together.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Rebekah

My
KINGDOM
is not of this world.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Sunday School 9:15am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Worship Cupcake Sunday!	2 12:30pm Worship Committee 1:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Stampin	3 5pm Finance	4 10am Choir 11am Archive 12:30pm Soup Lunch 1:30pm Worship	5	6 *World Day of Prayer* Food Pantry 9-10:30am Stampin! 1-3pm Food Pantry 3-4:30pm	7
8 Daylight Savings Time! 9:00am Sunday School 9:15am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Worship	9 1:30pm Bible Study 2:45pm M-Team	10 6:30pm Council	11 10am Choir 12:30pm Soup Lunch 1:30pm Worship	12	13	14 8:00am Men's Breakfast at First 9am-4pm Craft Day at Grace
15 9:00am Sunday School 9:15am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Worship 11:30 Corned Beef Dinner & Pi Day Pies	16 1:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Parish Council	17	18 10am Choir 12:30pm Soup Lunch 1:30pm Worship	19	20	21
22 9:00am Sunday School 9:15am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Worship	23 1:30pm Bible Study	24	25 10am Choir 12:30pm Soup Lunch 1:30pm Worship	26	27	28
29 10:00am Joint Worship @ Grace 11:00am Brunch	30	31	1	2 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service at First	3 1pm Good Friday Service at Grace	4

Lent Lunch/Supper & Worship:

We will gather for worship at two times each week:

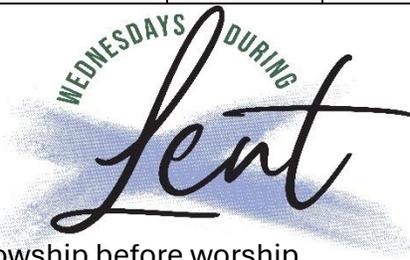
- * **1:30 p.m. at First Lutheran Church**
- * **6:30 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church**

Soup Lunches & Suppers

During Lent, join us for simple meals and shared fellowship before worship.

- **12:30 p.m. at First Lutheran** – Soup Lunch
- **5:45 p.m. at Grace Lutheran** – Soup Supper

If you are able, please sign up to provide a pot of soup, dessert, crackers, butter, or milk. These meals are a simple way to pause, connect, and care for one another during the Lenten season.



Summer Bible Camp Registration is Open

Crossways Bible Camp offers programs for all ages and families.

Online registration is live at CrosswaysCamps.org.

Bible camp is one of those places where faith sticks - through worship, friendships, laughter, and a little healthy camp chaos. It's a gift that keeps on giving long after the mosquito bites fade!



- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 5 Rochelle Michels | 26 Shirley Geoffroy |
| 9 Robert Hansen | 26 Delores Jorgensen |
| 15 Glenn Gruett | 28 Tammy Hansen |
| 15 Sharon Schmidt | 29 Judy Schierland |
| 19 Kathy Chamberlin | 30 Katie Nitzke |

Cupcakes & Celebrations!

You are joyfully invited to join us after worship on the **first Sunday of each month** as we celebrate birthdays and anniversaries with sweet cupcakes and warm fellowship! May this time of celebration remind us of God's love and the blessings He shares through our church family.

For those who are unable to attend, we hold you in prayer, asking God to fill your hearts with joy, peace, and a sense of belonging, knowing that you are cherished and remembered in our community!

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



Men's Breakfast & Devotion

Start your day with good food, great company, and a little inspiration!

When: Saturday, March 14th at 8:00am

Where: First Lutheran

Sign up! All men are welcome! Come hungry, leave blessed!



CRAFT DAY @ GRACE

March 14th, 9am-4pm

All Crafters Welcome!

Bring your art/craft, enjoy fellowship and a light lunch! The crafting fun begins at 9am at Grace 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!



For the month of March, our Noisy Bucket offering will support: **School Lunch Debt Relief for the Wild Rose School District!**

Help relieve school lunch debt in our community. Every coin and contribution makes a difference, offering care and dignity to local families. Thank you for helping us share Christ's love in a practical way.



Our January Noisy Bucket Mission, Lutheran World Relief – Indonesian Flooding, raised \$259.30! Thank you for your generosity & caring hearts.

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.



Date	Theme and Text	Serving
March 1 Second Sunday of Lent 10:30 am	John 13:1-17 Foot washing as a sign of Jesus' love and example Birthdays & Anniversaries Communion at the Rail	Greeter: Jerry Strehlow Reader: Joan Everson Usher: Mark Henn, Joel Beine Communion: Diane Warning Bread: Bobbie Wochenske
March 4	John 18:1-11 Judas' betrayal	Reader: Bill Deppe Usher: Harold Nigbor
March 8 Third Sunday of Lent 10:30 am *Baptism	John 18:12-27 Jesus' trial before Annas	Greeter: Joan Everson Reader: Colleen Hein Ushers: Harold Nigbor, Tom Jewell
March 11	John 18:12-27 Peter's denial	Reader: Darlene Cravillion Usher: Harold Nigbor
March 15 Fourth Sunday of Lent 10:30 am *Baptism	John 18:28-40 Jesus before Pilate	Greeter: Darlene Cravillion Reader: Steve Macijeski Usher: Harold Nigbor, George Huerth
March 18	John 18:37-40 Barabbas	Reader: Kim Huerth Usher: Harold Nigbor
March 22 Fifth Sunday of Lent 10:30am	John 19:1-16a Jesus is condemned, they have no king but Caesar.	Greeter: Diane Warning Reader: Gary Boening Usher: Harold Nigbor, Joel Biene
March 25	John 19:16b -22 Lifted on the cross, Jesus is revealed as the true king who reigns through self-giving love.	Reader: Gen Everson Usher: Harold Nigbor
March 29 Palm Sunday 10:00 am @ Grace	John 12:12-36 Jesus enters Jerusalem as the crowds wave palm branches and shout hosanna	Reader: Mali Beine

Food Pantry Update: Meal Kits Needed

This month, our food pantry is especially in need of simple meal kits—think *Hamburger Helper-style meals* that help families put a hot, filling dinner on the table with minimal cost and prep. These kinds of meals are a gift of time, energy, and peace at the end of a long day. When life is heavy, having dinner figured out is no small miracle.

Scripture reminds us that “*God supplies the needs of his people*” (Philippians 4:19, NLT).

One small box placed in the pantry becomes part of how God shows up—quietly, faithfully, lovingly. Thank you for helping nourish our neighbors with dignity, care, and a whole lot of love.



March 15 – Corned Beef & Pie Fellowship!

Join us after Worship for a joyful time of food & fellowship as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day and Pi Day together! The M-Team will be serving an amazing corned beef dinner, and all are warmly invited to gather in community. RSVP's by March 8th are required, with your name and number attending using the sign-up sheet or by calling the office! You're also welcome to sign up to bring a pie to share!

A free-will offering will be received.



With grateful hearts, we thank our new and returning Church Council members! Your commitment to serve and lead helps our church grow in faith, mission, and community. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin this new year of service.

Alyssa - Granddaughter of Dan & Judy Button
Pastor Bill Meier
Megan
Carol Bergeon – Stroke - Germaine Schwebs' Cousin
Wiggie Benton – Cancer – Germaine Schwebs' Nephew
Gen Everson – Health & Healing
Russ Hofer – Overcoming Grief – Friend of the Lairds
Dean Schoen -Dar's brother-in-law
Judy Moeller – Broken Shoulder
Missy Miller – Healing
Craig Monroe – Health – Son of Gary & Chris
Harold Nigbor – Health & Healing
Mike C. – Continued Healing – Friend of Vergins
Patty C. – Cancer - Friend of Judy Vergin
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
Sue – Health & Continued Healing – Friend of the Lairds



Jaci Boening – Surgery, Healing
Chris Monroe - Healing
Lee Nelson – Healing
Kay Jeske – Continued Healing
Corrine – Healing – Cousin of Judy B.
Mark Bongart – Continued Healing
Mark Kretzmann – Continued Healing
Tammy Kretzmann – Healing
For those battling cancer: Tom, Dave L



Looking Ahead to Holy Week

This spring, Grace Lutheran and First Lutheran are continuing to live into our shared ministry by walking through Holy Week together. These days tell the heart of the Christian story - from joyful praise to deep sorrow, and finally to resurrection hope.

Experiencing them as one wider church reminds us that we do not journey with Jesus alone.

Palm Sunday – March 29

We begin Holy Week together with one **joint worship service at 10:00 am at Grace Lutheran**, followed by a brunch. In worship, we will hear John's telling of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, a moment filled with hope, tension, and longing. The crowd celebrates Jesus as king, not fully understanding what kind of king he will be.

Maundy Thursday – April 2 | 6:30 pm

We gather **at First Lutheran in Poy Sippi** for Maundy Thursday worship centered on John's account of Jesus at the cross. This service brings us to the place where love is poured out completely and nothing is held back. As we hear Jesus' final words—"I am thirsty" and "It is finished"—we will also share in Holy Communion, receiving the gift of Christ's body and blood, given for us. At the table, we are reminded that even in the shadow of the cross, grace is still being offered and love still meets us.

Good Friday – April 3 | 1:00 pm

At **Grace Lutheran in Berlin**, we gather for a Service of the Word shaped by several readings from the Gospel of John, woven together with hymns, silence, and reflection. We listen to the story of Jesus' final hours slowly and intentionally—lingering with the words, the music, and the weight of love poured out.

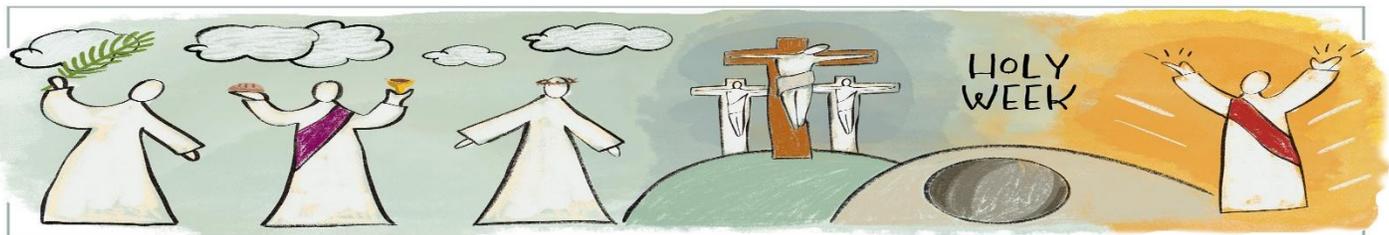
Easter Sunday – April 5

The journey leads us to resurrection morning!

- **8:30 am at Grace Lutheran, Berlin**
- **10:30 am at First Lutheran, Poy Sippi**

We will proclaim the good news that death does not get the final word—love does.

As we move through these holy days together, may we find strength in shared worship, comfort in familiar stories, and renewed hope in the promise that God is always bringing life out of death.



Save the Date — A Joyful Easter Celebration! †

Rejoice in the hope of the Resurrection with your church family on Easter Sunday, April 5! All are warmly invited to gather as we celebrate the victory of Christ's love and new life among us. Begin the morning together with an *Easter potluck breakfast* before our 10:30 Worship Service — a time to share food & the joy of community as we welcome the risen Lord. Following worship, please stay as we continue the celebration with *Cupcake Sunday*, honoring our April birthdays and anniversaries and giving thanks for the many blessings God pours into our lives.

May this holy season draw us closer to Christ and to one another as we celebrate the promise of hope, renewal, and resurrection. Come and be part of the joy!

To all the members of First Lutheran Church: February 16th marked one year since you hired me to be your bookkeeper, and I want to say THANK YOU! Thank you for being such wonderful bosses & coworkers, thank you for the confidence shown by granting me a raise, and thank you for making this work so enjoyable. I am very grateful for this job!!

May the Lord bless each of you with JOY! -Myndi



We give thanks to everyone who helped make our Winter Bingo Fundraiser such a beautiful success! Because of your generosity, laughter, hard work, and spirit of fellowship, together we raised \$5,382 to support the food pantries serving Berlin and Poy Sippi.

Your kindness is a true reflection of Christ's love in action - neighbors caring for neighbors and ensuring that families in our community are supported and nourished. Thank you to all who donated, volunteered, organized, and joined us!

May God bless each of you for the generosity you share and the hope you help bring to others. ♥



Council Meeting – January 13, 2026

Attendance:

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 6:30pm

Devotions: Proverbs 3: Trust in the Lord

Visitor(s): none

Approval of Minutes:

Corrected two spelling errors “moth” to “month” and “Surprise” to “Surprise”.

MOTION: Accept minutes as presented with two corrections as noted. Seconded, Carried.

Approval of Monthly Financial Reports:

Joan Presented: Summary Trial Balance through November, General Operating Revenue/Expenses for Accounts with Activity, General Operating 13-month Fiscal Year, and Balance by fund

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

New Business:

1. Mission Unspecified – Ideas: Heat for Heros, St. Jude, Food Pantry, Honor Flight, Lutheran World Relief, PoySippi Fire Department, Saxville Community Church, Foundations for Living \$2,043.61

MOTION: Recommend to the congregation to distribute \$250 to each listed mission. Distribute balance to the PoySippi Food Pantry for a total of \$293.61.

2. Audit Committee: Myndi is ready and audit will occur this Sunday afternoon.
3. Mission Month
 - a. JAN Lutheran World Relief Indonesia
 - b. FEB King Veterans' Home
 - c. MAR School Lunches Wild Rose
 - d. APR School Lunches Weyauwega/Fremont
 - e. MAY School Lunches Berlin
 - f. JUN Lutheran Disaster Relief
 - g. JUL Local Libraries (PoySippi, and Saxville/Pine River)
 - h. AUG Foundations for Living
 - i. SEPT PoySippi Food Pantry
 - j. OCT Heat For Heros
 - k. NOV Honor Flight
 - l. DEC ELCA Good Gifts
4. Annual Meeting Agenda
 - a. Reports, budget, elections
 - b. Will announce in church this Sunday
5. Nominating Committee
6. Internet
 - a. Currently with US Cellular/T-Mobile. Last two months have been having issues and outages
 - b. About 1/wk reset.
 - c. Have purchased a new router
7. Live Stream
 - a. Recommended to not use OBS for recording. Seeking external recommendation.
8. Funeral Luncheon Policy
 - a. New policy to be distributed to clarify M-Team, Family, Caterer responsibilities.

Unfinished Business

1. Food Pantry Coordinator – Job descriptions have been created.
2. Update on All Policies/Child Safety
 - a. Financial Policy-Draft 1 reviewed. Edits will be sent to Financial Ministry for further review.
3. Bin
 - a. Donations due to church by February 1st
 - b. Bingo event will be held February 7. Volunteers still needed for event.
4. Budget

Reports:

- Pastor's Report submitted
- Parish Council – Next Meeting February 16 @ 6:30 @ First.
- Worship Committee (Pastor)
- M-Team
 - Feb Soup Lunches at 12:30 before Lenten services
 - March 15 Pi Day / St. Patty's

- March 29 Brunch and Palm Sunday at Grace
- April 5 Easter Breakfast
- May Mother's Day, Father's Day, Graduates, Worship in the Park
- July 19 Worship in the Park
- Aug 8 Back to the Beach noon-3 at Lake
- Aug 16 Legacy Sunday
- Sept 18 Pack the Pews/Pantry & Pancake Breakfast
- Oct Polka Sunday or Other
- Nov 8 Veterans Day Lunch
- Nov 29 Deck the Halls and Soup
- Endowment Committee – next meeting February 3
- Property Committee - none
- Archive Committee – none
- Children's Ministry – New Student!
- Staff –

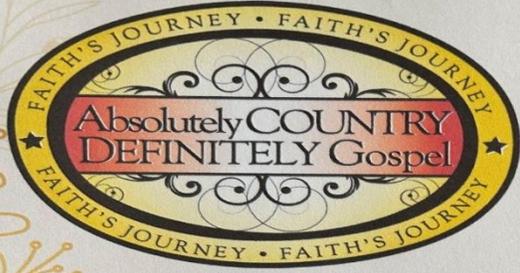
Other Business:

- Consider community service opportunities in town.
 - Free firewood to people who use it for heat
 - Work crew for outreach programs

Closing Prayer:

Adjourn:

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting 8:42 pm. Seconded. Carried.
 Next Meeting Date: February 10, 2025 @ 6:30pm




SAT, MARCH 21, 2026
5:00 PM - DOORS OPEN 4:30 PM

St. John's Lutheran Church
W4570 S County Rd A
Saxeville WI

Admission is free. Freewill Offering

St. John's Lutheran Church in Saxeville is excited to host Faith's Journey Trio of Branson, Missouri. They are a dynamic music ministry dedicated to spreading the message of hope by their soul-stirring performances. The trio stands as a beacon of excellence in the realm of Gospel music with many awards. Their latest awards include 2025 Duet of the Year (Jonathan and Deana) & 2025 Keyboard Player of the Year (Lee Hendrix.)

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 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 Thurs. 9:30am - 2:30pm

Bulletin Deadline:

Wednesday 9 am

Newsletter Deadline:

20th each month

Church Council

President:	920.229.5547
Bill Deppe	sbdeppe@live.com
	920.369.6575
Aron Nelson	
	262.224.8336
Mali Beine	malimeri@hotmail.com
Treasurer	715.820.2565
Mark Henn	cmhenn96@gmail.com
Judy	920.987.5582
Schierland	djayrocks33@yahoo.com
Jim	303.690.2428
Laird	wisconsinsouthwestern@gmail.com

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

