



# THE "FIRST" EDITION

## September 2026

This fall, we're going to spend some time with some of the great stories of the Old Testament. We'll begin in Genesis with creation and then make our way through the flood, Abraham and Sarah, Joseph, the Exodus, the Commandments, the kings and prophets, exile, and return. By Christmas, we'll be ready to turn to the Gospel of Matthew and begin following the story of Jesus.

One of the things I appreciate about the Narrative Lectionary is that it helps us hear the Bible as a story rather than as a collection of disconnected passages. Week by week, we begin to see how the pieces fit together. And through it all, one question keeps coming up: What is God doing?

The people we meet in these stories are certainly not perfect. They trust God one minute and take matters into their own hands the next. They get it right. They get it wrong. Sometimes they get it *really* wrong. There is hope and disappointment, faith and doubt, suffering and redemption. Which, when you think about it, sounds a lot like life.

Yet through all of it, God keeps showing up. God creates and calls. God rescues and provides. God forgives and restores. Even when God's people wander, God remains faithful.

That's why these ancient stories still matter. They aren't just stories about Noah, Abraham, Moses, or David, they are stories that help us understand who God is and who we are as God's people.

So as we hear these stories again this fall, I invite you to listen for more than the familiar details. Ask yourself:

- **What does this story show me about God?**
- **Where do I see myself in this story?**
- **And what might God be doing in my life and in our world today?**

My hope is that as we make our way toward Christmas, we'll begin to see the larger story taking shape, the story of a God who simply refuses to give up on this world or on us. And when we finally arrive at Bethlehem, maybe we'll hear the story of Jesus a little differently too. Because Christmas isn't where God's story begins. It's where we discover just how far God is willing to go to be with us.

*Pastor Rebekah Tarras*



*Celebrating God's Faithfulness*

Give thanks to the LORD,  
for he is good;  
*his love endures forever.*

**For the month of September, our Noisy Bucket offering will support:**

**Poy Sippi Food Pantry!**

Did you know the Poy Sippi Food Pantry is located right here in our church? And this month, it's our Noisy Bucket Mission! Let's fill those buckets and help our neighbors right here at home. Every gift, big or small, is an opportunity to put our faith into action and share God's love.

**Make a little noise for a great local mission!**

*Our July Noisy Bucket Mission, Poy Sippi & Pine River Public Libraries, raised 163.05*

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

|                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 6<br>15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost<br>10:30am  | Genesis 2:4b–9, 15–25<br>Work is part of God's good creation<br>Communion at the Rail<br>Birthdays & Anniversaries<br>Cupcakes after Worship                                                | Greeter: Jim & Georgia Lee Laird<br>Reader: Mali<br>Usher: Mark & Joel<br>Bread: Jim Laird<br>Communion: Diane Warning |
| September 13<br>16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost<br>10:30am | Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17<br>Flood and Promise<br>Communion in the pew<br>First Day of Sunday School<br>Coffee & Fellowship resumes!<br>Pack the Pantry & Pews, and<br>Pancake Palooza | Greeter: Chris Monroe<br>Reader: Steve Macijeski<br>Usher: Harold Nigbor                                               |
| September 20<br>17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost<br>10:30am | Communion in the pew<br>Call of Abraham<br>Confirmation Class                                                                                                                               | Greeter: Sandy Anderson<br>Reader: Bill Deppe<br>Usher: Mark & Joel                                                    |
| September 27<br>18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost<br>10:30am | Communion in the pew<br>Joseph in prison                                                                                                                                                    | Greeter: Jerry Strehlow<br>Reader: Tom Wochenske<br>Usher: George Huerth                                               |

Heavenly Father,

We lift to You all who are in need of healing, comfort, and strength. Wrap them in Your loving care, calm their fears, ease their burdens, and renew their hope each day. When life feels uncertain, help us to trust in Your perfect plan. Give us the faith to rest in Your promises, knowing that You are always with us, guiding us with love and mercy. May Your peace fill every heart, Your healing touch bring renewal, and Your grace sustain us through every season. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mark & Gladys Feneyves – Healing through Grief - Family of the Laird's

Rodney – Lung Cancer

Teresa Evans – Finding Peace after Loss – Friend of the Laird's

John Luttrell – Hospice Care – Sue Wendt's dad

Gary T. - Cancer

Dan & Julie – Recovering from a car accident

Sam Behnke – Healing from a crash – Nephew of Rochelle Michels

LeRoy

Baby Maverick – Home from the NICU! - son of Macy Goehring

Peter – Health Issues

Jeri Latshaw – Healing – Coworker of Linda N.

Michelle Nelson – Health – Germaine's Daughter-in-Law

Alyssa - Granddaughter of Dan & Judy Button

Pastor Rick Rieten – Health – Friend of Laird's

Carol Bergeon – Stroke - Germaine Schwebs' Cousin

Wiggie Benton – Cancer – Germaine Schwebs' Nephew

Russ Hofer – Overcoming Grief – Friend of the Lairds

Craig Monroe – Health – Son of Gary & Chris

Mike C. – Continued Healing – Friend of Vergins

Phyllis Jenks – Continued Prayers - Lee Chase's sister

Sue – Health & Continued Healing – Friend of the Lairds



Bill Deppe – Healing

Craig Smith – Friend of Monroes

Joe & Marilyn Smith

Patti Christie – Friend of the Langkaus

Jerry Wrage – Health

Jaci Boening – Surgery – Healing

Chris Monroe - Healing

Pastor Bill Meier

Lee Nelson – Healing

Kay Jeske – Continued Healing

Doris – Cancer & Heart

Mark Bongart – Continued Healing

Mark Kretzmann – Continued Healing

Tammy Kretzmann – Healing

For those battling cancer: Tom, Dave

# September

| Sunday                                                                                                                                  | Monday                                      | Tuesday                                                | Wednesday         | Thursday               | Friday                                                                   | Saturday                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 30<br>10:30am Worship                                                                                                                   | 31<br>1:30pm Bible Study<br>6:00pm Stampin! | 1                                                      | 2                 | 3<br>1:30pm<br>Finance | 4<br>9-10:30am<br>Food Pantry<br>1pm Stampin!<br>3-4:30pm Food<br>Pantry | 5                                                                          |
| 6<br>10:30am Worship<br>11:30am Celebration<br>Sunday!                                                                                  | 7<br>Labor Day<br>NO Bible Study            | 8<br>3-4:00pm Bible<br>Study @ Grace<br>6:30pm Council | 9<br>10:15 Choir  | 10                     | 11                                                                       | 12<br>8am Men's<br>Breakfast @ First<br>9am-4:00pm<br>Craft Day @<br>Grace |
| 13<br>9:00am Sunday School<br>9:15am Coffee &<br>Fellowship!<br>10:30am Worship, Pack<br>the Pews/Pantry<br>11:30am Pancake<br>Palooza! | 14<br>1:30pm Bible Study<br>2:45pm M-Team   | 15<br>3-4:00pm Bible<br>Study @ Grace                  | 16<br>10:15 Choir | 17                     | 18                                                                       | 19                                                                         |
| 20<br>9:00am Sunday School<br>9:15am Coffee &<br>Fellowship!<br>10:30am Worship<br>12:15-3:15 Confirmation<br>@ Grace                   | 20<br>1:30pm Bible Study                    | 22<br>3-4:00pm Bible<br>Study @ Grace                  | 23<br>10:15 Choir | 24                     | 25                                                                       | 26<br>12pm-4pm Party<br>on the Pond!                                       |
| 27<br>9:00 Sunday School<br>9:15am Coffee &<br>Fellowship!<br>10:30am Worship                                                           | 28<br>1:30pm Bible Study                    | 29<br>3-4:00pm Bible<br>Study @ Grace                  | 30<br>10:15 Choir | 1                      | 2<br>9-10:30am<br>Food Pantry<br>1pm Stampin!<br>3-4:30pm Food<br>Pantry | 3                                                                          |

## CELEBRATE!

2 Kevin Birschbach  
2 Emersyn Deppe  
6 Rich Jorgensen  
6 Sharon Deppe  
7 Samuel Behnke  
12 Dan Button  
12 Anders Beine

14 Rebekah Tarras  
15 Andrew Hein  
15 April Yahr  
18 Brianne Langkau  
22 Jacklyn Wilson  
23 Steve Cravillion  
28 Tammy DeFilippo-Kretzmann

### 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!

17 Andrew & Christina Hein

21 Mick & Diane Warming



### Coffee & Fellowship Returns!

The coffee is brewing, the conversation is waiting, and everyone is invited! Join us as Coffee & Fellowship resumes on Sunday, September 13, at 9:15am, before our 10:30am worship service. Come enjoy a warm cup, friendly conversation, and the blessing of spending time together as God's family. We're also looking for *Coffee & Fellowship Hosts*! Please sign up on the volunteer sheet. *We look forward to seeing you around the table!*



**The Lord's Acre is open & thriving!** And we invite you to share the abundance of your gardens, kitchens, and talents! If you have fresh garden produce, flowers, jams, crafts, or other items you'd like to donate, we'd be grateful for your generosity. Every donation is a wonderful way to share God's blessings with our church family and community.

The Lord's Acre has long been a reminder that God provides in countless ways. As Scripture reminds us, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace." (1 Peter 4:10)

If you'd like to donate items or arrange a drop-off, please contact Judy Shierland at 987-5582.

Thank you for sharing the fruits of your labor and your generous hearts.  
*May God continue to bless your gardens, your homes, and all who give so faithfully!*



Distribution Date:

September 4<sup>th</sup>, 9-10:30am & 3-4:30pm

Collection: Cereal & Complete Pancake Mix

Thank you for helping us share Christ's love by caring for our neighbors in need.

**CRAFT DAY @ GRACE**

September 12<sup>th</sup>, 9am-4pm

Bring your art/craft, enjoy fellowship and a light lunch!

Stay the whole time or drop in!



**Men's Breakfast, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 8am**

Men, sign up to join us for faith & fellowship at First with a hearty breakfast together! All are welcome.



**PACK THE PANTRY**  
*Pack the Pews*  
**Pancake Palooza!**

**SEPTEMBER 13**  
**10:30AM WORSHIP**  
**First Lutheran Poy Sippi**  
W2314 Prospect Street, Poy Sippi, WI

**\*Free pancake meal after Worship\***  
-Non-Perishable Donations Support  
the Poy Sippi Food Pantry-

Presented by:  
First Lutheran Church Poy Sippi  
Poy Sippi Lions  
Poy Sippi Library  
Poy Sippi Fire Department  
Poy Sippi Betterment

You're Invited!

**Party on  
the Pond!**

Food & Fellowship!  
50/50 Raffle!  
Vendors!  
Live Music by  
The Desperate Ottos!

**Sat, Sept 26 | 12 PM – 4 PM**

Poy Sippi Park  
W2332 Robert St.

## **Come Sing With Us! 🎵**

Fall means it's time for our choirs to get singing again! Whether you've sung with the choir for years or have been thinking about giving it a try, new voices are always welcome.

First Lutheran Choir

Rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 9, at approximately 10:00 a.m.

Grace Lutheran Choir

Rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 2, at 7:00 p.m.

Interested in singing in the Christmas Cantata?

Members of First Lutheran who would like to sing in this year's Christmas cantata are invited to join the Grace choir for cantata rehearsals. You don't need to become a regular Grace choir member—just come and add your voice as we prepare to celebrate the Christmas story through music.

As Psalm 100 reminds us, "Come before him, singing with joy." (Psalm 100:2 NLT)

There's room for your voice!



## **Lay School of Ministry Registration Now Open!**

Are you looking to deepen your faith, grow in your understanding of Scripture, and discover new ways to serve in your congregation and community? The East Central Synod of Wisconsin's Lay School of Ministry invites you to register for the 2026–2027 school year. Lay School equips and encourages adults for lives of discipleship through engaging courses in theology, the Bible, Lutheran identity, worship, church history, spirituality, and practical ministry. Students may enroll in the Core Program or choose from several continuing education electives. Courses are designed for lay leaders and anyone seeking to grow in faith—no previous theological education is required. Registration is due Friday, September 4, 2026, and class sizes are limited. Learn more and register at [layschool.ecsw.org](https://layschool.ecsw.org)



## **Walking by Faith, Constantly Tripping**

Our Synod Women's Organization is organizing a Fall Retreat for Saturday, November 7, 2026 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Mount Morris Conference Center in Wautoma. Our theme is "Walking by Faith, Constantly Tripping" and our keynote speaker is songwriter and speaker Franki Moscato. We will also have crafts, fellowship, and relaxing workshops, including sessions on the labyrinth and tai chi.

**Please register by Monday, September 7th!** <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/11214605>

Registration forms are also available at the front entrance to the church.

## **Sunday School Begins September 13!**

We're excited to welcome our kids back to Sunday School beginning Sunday, September 13!

Sunday School is open to children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. This year we'll be using Spark Classroom, a fun, Bible-centered curriculum that helps kids explore Scripture through stories, conversation, activities, and hands-on learning. Each week, kids will discover that the Bible isn't just a collection of old stories—it's God's story, and they are part of it too!

Whether your child has been coming to Sunday School for years or this will be their first time, there's a place for them!

**First day: Sunday, September 13**

**Grades: Kindergarten–5th Grade**

We can't wait to learn, wonder, laugh, and grow in faith together!

## **First Communion Class**

Is your child asking questions about Holy Communion or ready to begin receiving communion?

A First Communion Class will be held on Sunday, October 4, from 1:00–4:00 p.m. at First Lutheran Church (W2314 Prospect St., Poy Sippi).

The class is open to children and youth who are interested in learning more about Holy Communion and preparing to receive the sacrament. Parents are encouraged to attend with their child as we learn together about what Holy Communion means, why we celebrate it, and the promise of grace Jesus gives us in this meal.

Those participating will celebrate their First Communion with their own congregation on Sunday, October 18, during regular worship:

- **8:30 a.m.** — Grace Lutheran Church, Berlin
- **10:30 a.m.** — First Lutheran Church, Poy Sippi

There is no required age or grade for First Communion. If you're wondering whether the time is right for your child, Pastor Rebekah would be happy to talk with you.

To register or ask questions, please contact Pastor Rebekah or the church office.

## **Confirmation Begins This Month!**

Our revamped confirmation program begins Sunday, September 20, and we're excited to get started!

This year, students from First and Grace Lutheran will gather together five Sunday afternoons throughout the year for an extended time of learning, conversation, worship, prayer, service, and community. Our goal is bigger than simply preparing students to be confirmed. We want to help young people know the story of Scripture, grow in their relationship with Jesus, and develop practices that will help them live their faith long after confirmation day.

Our first year will follow the big story of the Bible—Creation, Fall, Redemption, and New Creation. Along the way, students will learn how to navigate and read the Bible, explore Luther's Small Catechism, practice different ways of praying, ask honest questions, and discover how faith connects with everyday life.

We'll also be getting out of our chairs! Students will participate in hands-on activities and service and learn more about how the church works. Members of our congregations will occasionally join us to share how they use their gifts and live out their faith.

Our First Gathering: Sunday, September 20

12:15–3:15 p.m.

Grace Lutheran Church, Berlin

We'll begin by sharing lunch together. Parents are welcome and encouraged to participate in our sessions too.

Confirmation isn't something that happens only between a pastor and a group of students. At baptism, the whole congregation promises to support and pray for those growing in faith. Our confirmation ministry is one way we live out that promise.

So we ask you to pray for our students and their families. Get to know them. Encourage them. Ask them what they're learning. Share your own faith with them. And when you see them, remind them that they are an important part of this community right now—not someday when they're older.

We're looking forward to seeing where God leads us as we begin this new chapter together!

**Confirmation Class**



## **Fall Bible Study: Galatians**

What does it really mean to be set free by grace? This fall, our Monday Bible Study at First Lutheran will turn to Paul's letter to the Galatians.

Galatians takes us right to the heart of the Gospel: We are made right with God not by what we accomplish, but through faith in Jesus Christ. That good news changes not only our relationship with God but also how we live with and love one another.

Along the way, we'll explore questions that are still very much alive today:

- What does it mean to be saved by grace?
- Why do we so easily turn faith into a list of rules?
- What does Christian freedom look like?
- How does the Holy Spirit shape the way we live?
- What does Paul mean by the fruit of the Spirit?

No previous Bible study experience is necessary. Bring your Bible, your questions, and your curiosity as we read and discuss Galatians together.

Mondays at 1:30pm at First Lutheran

## **Tuesday Bible Study Returns at Grace!**

After our summer break, Tuesday Bible Study at Grace returns this fall! This year, we'll be doing something a little different. Each week we'll take a closer look at the Bible story we heard in worship the previous Sunday as we follow the Narrative Lectionary.

The Narrative Lectionary will take us through some of the Bible's great stories this fall—from Noah and Abraham to Joseph, Moses, the kings, and the prophets. Bible study will give us a chance to slow down, dig deeper into these stories, ask questions, and discover connections we may have missed on Sunday morning.

You don't need to be a Bible expert. Bring your Bible, your questions, and your curiosity. Everyone is welcome!

**3:00pm Tuesdays at Grace Lutheran**

**Beginning September 8**

Come and discover where the story takes us!

### **Are you dealing with the loss of a loved one?**

A support group may be able to help you move through the grief process. A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 13-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way.

Join us Thursday nights at River Shores Church in Berlin, WI.

When: 6:00pm from August 20th through mid-November

Where: River Shores Church, 253 S. Church St. Berlin WI 54923

Who: Anyone grieving the loss of a loved one

Any questions? Contact Debby at (520)330-9379 or email: [redheddeb@msn.com](mailto:redheddeb@msn.com)

### **Grow in Faith. Serve with Confidence. Lay School of Ministry!**

The East Central Synod of Wisconsin Lay School of Ministry exists to equip and challenge adults for lives of discipleship, empowering them for service and ministry in their congregations, communities, and daily vocations. Rooted in the Lutheran understanding of the priesthood of all believers, Lay School helps participants discover their gifts, deepen their faith, and grow in confidence as baptized leaders.

Through engaging instruction, worship, and a supportive learning community, students explore Scripture, theology, church history, worship, Lutheran identity, spirituality, and practical ministry. Courses combine biblical, historical, and theological study with practical application, encouraging participants to reflect critically on their faith while strengthening their ability to serve Christ in the world.

#### **The 2026–2027 Core Program features:**

- Introduction to Theology: A Journey Through Death and Resurrection
- Old Testament/Hebrew Bible
- Introduction to the New Testament
- Liturgy and Life

Students may complete the eight-course Core Program over two years or take courses at a pace that fits their schedule. Additional continuing education electives this year include Christian art, evangelism, pastoral care, and preaching. Classes meet one weekend each month from September 2026 through May 2027.

**Registration is open now and is due Friday, September 4, 2026.** Because enrollment is limited to 25 students per course, early registration is encouraged.

Whether you are serving on a church council, teaching, leading worship, visiting members, discerning a new ministry, or simply seeking to grow in your faith, Lay School offers a rich opportunity to learn & serve alongside fellow disciples.

Visit [layschool.ecsw.org](https://layschool.ecsw.org) for complete course descriptions, schedules, tuition information, and registration.

### **Social Statement Synod Study Offered this Fall: Faith and Civic Life**

The ELCA's "Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All" social statement explores how Christians and congregations can faithfully engage in civic life for the good of their communities. It offers a vision for promoting the well-being of all while reflecting on the relationship between faith and public life.

#### **Synod Study Series**

The East Central Synod of Wisconsin leadership, including Bishop Anne Edison-Albright and Vice President Nancy Schanke, will host a six-session study series to help congregations explore and discuss the social statement.

Session Dates (choose either the morning or evening session each week)

- November 3, 2026: 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. or 6:00–7:30 p.m.
- November 10, 2026: 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. or 6:00–7:30 p.m.
- November 17, 2026: 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. or 6:00–7:30 p.m.
- November 24, 2026: 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. or 6:00–7:30 p.m.
- December 1, 2026: 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. or 6:00–7:30 p.m.
- December 8, 2026: 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. or 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Registration information will be available soon.



## **Fox Valley Disaster Relief Updates - August 12th**

Dear Synod,

As I was preaching this past Sunday, I shared that one might have thought the Scripture readings from last weekend had been handpicked for the occasion of recovering from a storm. But they were not. Those texts were already in the lectionary, waiting for us to hear them and to think about the way Jesus walks with us through the storms of life.

As we bear the presence of Christ to one another and across our communities, one of the themes that Lutheran Disaster Response has continually shared with the leaders from Neenah and Menasha who are on the ground is this: disaster response is a marathon, not a sprint. As efforts shift from response to recovery, the needs continually change—as do the names and faces of those who are still in need of support and care.

Some of those needs are practical. People who have lost everything are trying to identify places to stay while they wait for the long process of recovery to unfold. Other needs are about supporting those who are currently sprinting—the people who have stepped into the immediate work of caring for their neighbors.

One example of these “sprinters” is St. Paul Lutheran Church in Neenah, which is currently hosting [Rapid Response America](#) in their building for 1-2 months. Rapid Response is a nonprofit organization of Christian volunteers who respond to communities impacted by disasters. They have served after Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Sandy, and many other disasters. One of the immediate needs of this group, as they provide direct support in the valley, is meals. You can read more about that need here and respond through the [link](#) if that is something you or your congregation would like to support directly.

Our Synod Council Executive Team will meet this Thursday to begin creating a distribution and “thank you” plan for the local disaster relief funds that so many of you have already shared with our synod. We expect these funds will help support the work of partner ministries already on the ground in the valley. We also recognize that ministries may emerge from among our own leaders and congregations as needs continue to be identified. If you are aware of on-the-ground needs, please reach out to [ecsw@ecsw.org](mailto:ecsw@ecsw.org) for consideration.

As our collective learning continues, one thing we are recognizing is that we were not prepared for a disaster of this magnitude in our synod. The good news is that we are not alone. Substantial support has already been shared by the Greater Milwaukee Synod through synod staff and Bishop Paul Erickson, whose wisdom and experience were gained through navigating the devastating floods in Southeast Wisconsin last fall. Their financial generosity and accompaniment have been deeply inspiring. Congregations and leaders of the Greater Milwaukee Synod have already shared more than \$15,000 with our synod for disaster relief.

Learning from these neighbors, we expect to be in conversation about forming a disaster response task force. But, as I mentioned at the beginning, there is time to work on all of those pieces, because this is a marathon, not a sprint.

Disaster management also includes mitigation and preparation. Thankfully, [Lutheran Disaster Response has many resources](#) that can help congregations and communities think more intentionally about disaster preparedness. The work we are doing now is not only about responding to this disaster; it is also about learning how we might be better prepared to accompany one another when the next storm comes.

And so, as we look toward the long road of recovery, there are still so many ways to give, serve, learn, pray, and receive support. The list below has been updated and will continue to be updated as needs emerge and circumstances change.

Perhaps that is one of the gifts of these Scripture readings in this particular moment. Elijah experienced the presence of God not in the earthquake, the wind, or the fire, but in the sheer silence. Peter encountered Jesus in the midst of a terrifying storm and was called to trust that he was not alone.

We may not know everything that the coming weeks and months will bring. We may not yet know all the ways this disaster will change our communities or our synod. But we do know this: Christ is present in silences and in the storms. And Christ is present in the people who show up for one another.

So we will keep showing up. We will keep listening for the needs that emerge. We will give when we can, serve where we are able, pray for those who are hurting, and receive the gifts of those who walk alongside us. And we will remember that recovery takes time. This is a marathon—not a sprint—and we do not run it alone.

Thanks be to God for the neighbors who have already shown us what accompaniment looks like, for the communities who continue to care for one another, and most of all for the promise that wherever the storm takes us, Jesus is there.

With gratitude for you, through Christ -

Pastor Jenn Pockat

Associate to the Bishop,

Director for Relationships and Resources



### ♥ What a blessed Legacy Sunday we had!

Thank you to everyone who helped make this special celebration possible.

We are grateful for the faith, wisdom, stories, and love that have been shared with generations before us... and continue to inspire us today.

**What a gift it is to celebrate our legacy together!**



### Did You Know? ELCA Social Statements

Did you know that the ELCA has **Social Statements** that explore important issues facing the church and society?

Social Statements are teaching documents that bring together Scripture, Lutheran theology, research, and the experiences of people across the church to help us think faithfully about complex social questions. They are developed through an extensive process of study, conversation, and participation and must be adopted by a two-thirds vote of an ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

Current Social Statements address topics including education, economic life, health care, the environment, racism, criminal justice, human sexuality, peace, abortion, and civic life and faith.

Social Statements aren't meant to replace our own study and discernment. Rather, they provide a Lutheran framework for thinking, talking, and acting faithfully as we seek to love our neighbors and participate in God's work in the world.

## First Lutheran Church Council Agenda

August 11, 2026 at 6:30 pm

X-Bill Deppe   X-Mali Beine   X-Mark Henn   X-Jim Laird   X-Aron Nelson  
Absent-Judy Schierland   X-Pastor Tarras

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

**Devotion:** Luke 6:12-19 Up, In, and Out. We considered having a relationship with God (Up), ministry and relationships in our group (In), and our relationship with people beyond ourselves (Out). Keep all three of these aspects in mind as we make decisions.

**Visitor(s):** Archive Committee, Connie Henn

**Approval of Minutes:** MOTION - Approve July 14, 2026 minutes. Seconded. Carried

**Approval of Monthly Financial Reports:** MOTION to approve financial report as presented. Second. Carried

### New Business

1. Connie presented Endowment history and founding, endowment giving guidelines, and what has been given recently.
2. Altar area spotlights. Many are burned out and need replacement. Council requests buildings and grounds to verify cost of switch to LED.
3. Communication Brainstorm: free lunch tickets for Veterans Sunday. Put sign board out regularly, offer a script to invite, collect feedback at October potluck and meeting.

### Unfinished Business

1. Synod Social Statement/Resolution – committee did not have discussion on this

### Reports

- Pastor
- Parish Council
  - Meeting was August 3, Next meeting November 16 @ Grace in Berlin @ 6:00 pm
- Worship Committee (pastor)
  - Legacy Sunday will be August 16 - honoring our members 80+
  - Pack the Pew and Pantry September 13
  - Party on the Pond September 26
  - Aebleskiver Dinner – October ?
  - November 8, Veteran Recognition speaker Chris Ingraham
- Children's Ministry Committee (pastor)
  - Sunday School schedule
- M-Team (Jim Laird)
  - Legacy Sunday Potluck August 16
  - Coffee and Fellowship resuming in September
  - Pack the Pew & Pantry Pancake Palooza September 13
  - Party on the Pond September 26
- Property Committee
- Endowment Committee-See above
- Archive Committee - on hiatus until October
- Staff-some upcoming vacation.



### Other Business

- Jim reached out to Waushara county health department RE: coffee on Friday's. If there is no charge, no inspections are required. Free will offering may be collected.

### Closing Prayer

**Motion to Adjourn** 7:53PM Seconded. Carried.

*Next Meeting Date: September 8*

## First Lutheran Church

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

[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 9am to noon

Wednesday 9am to noon

**Carolynn**, Office Admin.

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

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

**Myndi**, Bookkeeper

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

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

### **Bulletin Deadline:**

Wednesday 9 am

### **Newsletter Deadline:**

20<sup>th</sup> 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.



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