



THE “FIRST” EDITION

October 2026

What Does Your Front Door Communicate?

A few weeks ago, I participated in a webinar on evangelism. The speaker began with a simple exercise: Picture the eight homes closest to yours.

Do you know the names of the people who live there? Do you know anything about their lives... their families, their work, their joys, or their struggles? If not, what keeps you from knowing them?

Those questions made me stop and think.

When we hear the word *evangelism*, we may imagine knocking on strangers' doors, handing out religious pamphlets, or trying to persuade someone to come to church. But evangelism often begins much more naturally. It begins by learning someone's name. It grows through conversations across the driveway, a wave from the front porch, an offer to help, or a willingness to listen.

Jesus said, “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:31, NLT). Jesus was not speaking about a vague feeling of goodwill toward humanity. Love becomes real when it is offered to actual people (love with skin on) to the people next door, across the street, at work, at school, or beside us in the grocery store.

The webinar speaker reminded us that every church member is connected to the front door of the church. Each of us can create connections between the people around us and the community of faith. Most people who visit a church for the first time do so because someone they know personally invited them.

The speaker on the webinar shared a story that has stayed with me. One day, as a pastor pulled into her driveway, she noticed a neighbor outside and stopped to talk. The neighbor's young daughter came over, and the pastor introduced herself. The girl looked at her and said, “Oh, you're the one who is always leaving.” Ouch.

That encounter got that pastor thinking. What do her daily actions communicate to her neighbors? Do they only see her as a person who is always coming and going? Or do they see someone who has time for them? Do they know she cares about them?

That story has given me a lot to think about and it raises a good question for all of us:

What does the front door of your home communicate about you and about your church?

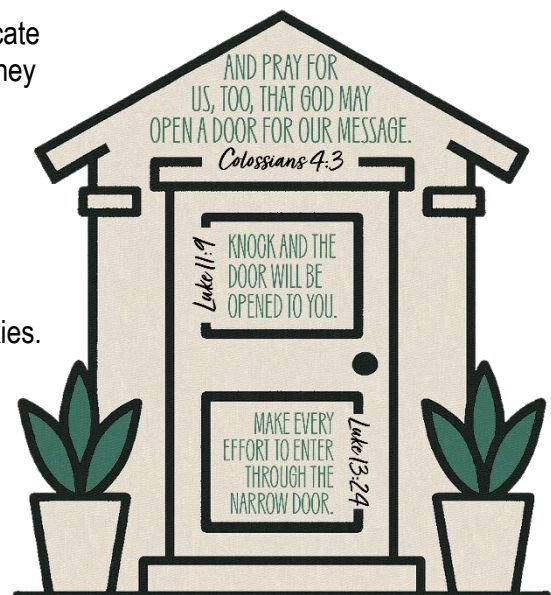
Does it communicate that you are too busy to be interrupted? Or does it communicate welcome, kindness, and genuine interest? Do the people living nearby know that they could ask you for help, share a concern, or simply stop and talk?

This does not mean we must become best friends with everyone on the block. It does mean that we can become more attentive to the people God has already placed around us.

This month, I invite you to picture those eight closest homes again. Choose one simple step: Learn someone's name. Begin a conversation. Deliver a plate of cookies. Offer help with a small task. Invite someone to a church event or simply take the time to listen.

We do not need a complicated evangelism program before we can share God's love. Sometimes it begins when we walk out our own front door.

Pastor Rebekah



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.

October 4 19 th Sunday after Pentecost 10:30am First Choir Sings	Exodus 14:5-7, 10-14, 21-29 Rescue at Sea Communion at the Rail Birthdays & Anniversaries Cupcakes after Worship	C&F: Dar Cravillion & Ann Heberer Greeter: Greg & Sharon Plamann Reader: Dar Cravillion Usher: Harold Nigbor Bread: Bobbie Wochenske Communion: Linda Nitzke
October 11 20 th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00am Joint Worship Grace Choir Sings	Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-17 Covenant and Commandment Communion in the pew	C&F: Judy S. & Chris M. Greeter: Dar Cravillion Reader: Kim Huerth Usher: Mark & Joel
October 18 21 st Sunday after Pentecost 10:30am Worship First Communion First Choir Sings	Joshua 24:1-15 Joshua renews the covenant Communion in the pew Confirmation Class	C&F: Lairds & Plamanns Greeter: Diane Warning Reader: Diane Warning Usher: George Huerth
October 25 22 nd Sunday after Pentecost 10:30am Worship Service of the Word	2 Samuel 11:1-5, 26-27; 12:1-9 David and Bathsheba No Communion	C&F: Joan E. & Wohlt Greeter: Joan Everson Reader: Karin Macijeski Usher: Harold Nigbor

Heavenly Father,

We lift to You all who need healing, comfort, and strength. Calm their hearts, lighten their burdens, and surround them with Your loving presence. When the path feels uncertain, help us trust Your promises and remember that You are always near. May Your peace, grace, and healing carry us through every season.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Renee Lepack – Cancer – Niece of Jerry Wrage

Kelly Olson – Pancreatic Cancer – Daughter of Jerry Wrage

Joanne Anderson – Ankle Replacement

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

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



Don Rew – Juliet Manor

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

OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 10:30am Worship	28 1:30pm Bible Study	29 3-4:00pm Bible Study @ Grace	30 10:15am Choir	1	2 9-10:30am Food Pantry 1pm Stampin! 3-4:30pm Food Pantry	3
4 10:30am Worship 11:30am Celebration Sunday! 1:00pm First Communion Class @ First	5 11:30am Finance 12:30 Worship Mtg 1:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Stampin!	6 3-4:00pm Bible Study @ Grace	7 10:15am Choir 11:00am Archive 5:30pm Lay Preaching	8	9	10 8am Men's Breakfast @ Grace 9am-4:00pm Craft Day @ First
11 9:00am Sunday School 9:15am Coffee & Fellowship! 10:00am Joint Worship @ First 11:00am Potluck	12 1:30pm Bible Study 2:45pm M-Team	13 3-4:00pm Bible Study @ Grace 6:30pm Council	14 10:15am Choir	15	16	17
18 9:00am Sunday School 9:15am Coffee & Fellowship! 10:30am Worship & First Communion 12:15-3:15 Confirmation Class @ Grace 5:00pm El Charro Sweetest Day Event	19 Pastor OUT NO Bible Study	20 NO Bible Study @ Grace	21 Pastor OUT 10:15am Choir	22	23	24
25 9:00 Sunday School 9:15am Coffee & Fellowship! 10:30am Worship	26 1:30pm Bible Study	27 3-4:00pm Bible Study @ Grace	28 10:15am Choir	29	30	31 



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

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

7 Steven & Rochelle Michels
8 Jan Strehlow & Jerry Wrage
16 Jim & Georgialee Laird
19 Tom & Dawn Jewell
20 Bill & Sharon Deppe
21 Charles & Brenda Goehring

Happy Anniversary



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!



The Lord's Acre is winding down! As harvest season comes to a close, we invite you to share the last fruits of your gardens, kitchens, and talents with the Lord's Acre. If you still have fresh garden produce, flowers, jams, crafts, or other items to share, we would be grateful for your generosity!

The Lord's Acre is a beautiful reminder that God provides in countless ways & that our abundance becomes a blessing when we share it with others. 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 have something to donate or would like to arrange a drop-off, please contact Judy Shierland at 987-5582.

Thank you for sharing the fruits of your harvest and the gifts God has placed in your hands. What a wonderful way to finish the season with grateful hearts and generous spirits!



Distribution Date:

October 2nd, 9-10:30am & 3-4:30pm

Collection: Paper Towels & Toilet Paper

These everyday necessities are always needed but cannot be purchased with SNAP benefits. Thank you for helping us share Christ's love by caring for our neighbors in need in such a tangible way!



CRAFT DAY @ FIRST

October 10th, 9am-4pm

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

Stay the whole time or drop in!



Men's Breakfast, October 10th at 8am

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

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

Heat for Heroes!

Heat for Heroes helps Wisconsin veterans facing energy-related emergencies keep their heat and power on when they are struggling to make ends meet. The program can provide energy assistance and connect veterans with additional resources during times of crisis.

Supporting Heat for Heroes is one small way we can say *thank you to those who served our country*. A gift can help provide something many of us take for granted... a safe, warm home.

Make a little noise for a great local mission!

Our August Noisy Bucket Mission, Foundations for Living, raised \$197.91



We're excited to have our children back for another year of Sunday School as we learn Bible stories, ask questions, have fun, and grow together in faith.

And remember... it's never too late to join us! Children are welcome throughout the year, whether they've been coming since September or are walking through the door for the very first time. Thank you to our Sunday School teachers, helpers, families, and everyone in our congregation who helps us keep the promises we make at baptism: to help our children know God's love and grow in faith.

If you didn't receive a "Serving Together" form highlighting our ministry and volunteer opportunities, please be sure to fill one out! We'd love to have you share in the joy of ministry together!



All Saints Day Remembrance

On All Saints Day, we gather in quiet reflection and give thanks for those who have gone before us in faith.

On Sunday, November 1 we will be remembering those saints who have died during the past year. During worship on that day, we will light a candle in remembrance of each member and friend of the congregation who has died this past year. If you have a friend or family member who was not a member of First that you would like to have included, please call the church office.

Joint Worship & Potluck – Sunday, October 11, 10:00 a.m. at First Lutheran

Let's worship as one church family! First Lutheran and Grace will gather Sunday, October 11 at 10:00 a.m. at First Lutheran [W2314 Prospect St., Poy Sippi] 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 & ready to sing, pray, and gather around the table.
God keeps knitting us together... let's show up for it.

Keep Feeding those Pigs!

How are those little pigs doing? Hopefully they're getting nice and full!

Keep dropping in your spare change, a few dollars, or whatever you can give as we collect for ELCA Good Gifts. We'll bring our piggy banks back to church in December and combine our gifts to help provide animals and other resources that help families and communities around the world build sustainable livelihoods.

So when you find some change in the couch cushions or have a few dollars to spare... feed the pig! Every little bit adds up & together our gifts can make BIG a difference.



Pre-Confirmation Class

Confirmation Has Begun!

This fall we launched a new approach to Confirmation for our young people from Grace and First. Instead of gathering for a traditional weekly class, students meet for several longer Sunday sessions throughout the year, giving us more time to learn, talk, eat together, ask questions, and experience faith rather than simply memorize information.

Over the next two years, our students will explore the big story of the Bible, from Creation through Jesus and the early church. Along the way, we'll learn about the sacraments, prayer, the Small Catechism, Lutheran faith, and what it means to follow Jesus in everyday life.

One of our biggest goals is to help our young people understand that Confirmation isn't about having all the right answers—or "graduating" from church. It's about discovering more deeply who they are as beloved children of God and learning to live out the faith into which they were baptized.

Please keep our Confirmation students, families, and leaders in your prayers as we learn and grow together!

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!

♥ Sweetest Day is sweeter when shared! ♥

Join us at El Charro at 5:00pm as we celebrate the gift of love, friendship, and the people God has placed in our lives. ♥ Come enjoy some good food, good conversation & even better company. Because some of life's sweetest blessings are simply time spent together!

Sunday, October 18 • 5:00pm • El Charro in Berlin

Come hungry, come happy, and come ready to share a little love!



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
W2314 PROSPECT ST
POY SIPPI, WI

VETERAN'S DAY

WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 8, 2026

10:30AM

A **free meal** provided by our
M-team will follow the
Worship Service

ALL ARE WELCOME



A humble and heartfelt **thank you** to everyone who helped make Pack the Pews & Pantry and Pancake Palooza such a wonderful & delicious success! From the hands that flipped pancakes to those who brought donations, cleaned up and simply showed up... we are so grateful. Every act of kindness was a blessing to others.

Thank you for sharing your time, talents, and generous hearts. What a joy to serve together!

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

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 offerings 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

Pastor Rebekah Tarras

(715) 897-5393

pastortarras@gmail.com

Office hours at First:

Monday 9am to noon

Wednesday 9am to noon

Carolynn, Office Admin.

firstluthpoysippi@gmail.com

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

Myndi, 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
P.O. Box 250
Poy Sippi, WI 54967

