



# SPRING PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH

April 2026

**Pastor Rick Bursh**

N509 CTH C

DeForest, WI 53532

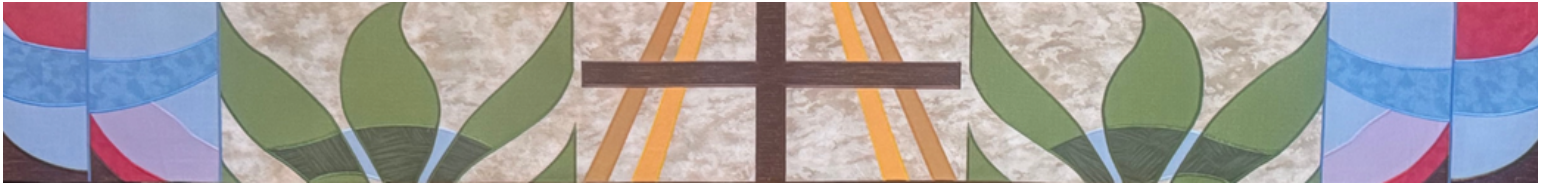
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[www.springprairie.org](http://www.springprairie.org)

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*Located at the corners of Hwys DM and C in Keyeser*



*Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." – John 21:15*

Dear Friends in Christ,

It's hard to imagine what the disciples were thinking when Jesus asked them to go out into the world and share the good news. Were they inspired? Were they joyful or empowered? Or perhaps they were afraid. Most likely, a combination of all of these and more. What is certain, is that without the love that they shared for Jesus they would not have had the strength and the courage for the journey. There would be times when they would be challenged and no other emotion, not anger or hate, no other connection to Jesus, would have been enough for them to face the trials beyond the unconditional love that they have for each other. It is this sustaining love that is at the very core of our understanding of who Jesus is. There is no hate in the message that we carry to the world because there is no hate in Jesus's message.

Unconditional love - agape love - can only come when we have established that we are in right relationship with one another. And that comes through our compassion, patience, forgiveness, and gratitude for one another. It is a process, and we build up to it through our actions. When we are at peace with another ... three simple words, "I love you." "I love you" said to those important people in our lives. "I love you" said to God. In fact, wouldn't it be an incredibly simple prayer; "Dear God, please love me, I love you. Amen."

At first, you may find it difficult to tell people in your life that you love them. Perhaps it's the nature of all the complicated emotions that we tie up in the uncertain meaning of that single word; love. But what I am suggesting is telling those in your life that you love them as God loves you. You can see them as beloved children of God, made in God's own image, and you recognize how blessed you are to have them in your life. It gets easier with time, because first we get more comfortable hearing it out of our own lips. But more importantly as we begin to recognize others out of love, we set aside those things that make us different for those things that bind us. Soon instead of emphasizing our differences, differences that can potentially lead to conflict, we see the incredible similarities and the beauty in each other that lead us to love for one another. And when we engage each other through love, our differences, instead of dividing us, take on a beauty that can be embraced.

That is what is meant to love one another as Christ loves us. Christ does not look at us and see perfection. Christ looks at us and sees us in our humanness and our brokenness. Christ sees us as we are. We are not loved for who we are but despite who we are. Understanding this, we see and experience God's love as the grace that is freely given to us. It is our faith alone in God's redeeming love and grace that makes us right

with God. And being in right relationship with God we cannot avoid passing on that love and grace to others. Simply reminding yourself of this and being conscious of it will change your heart. You will see people differently, you will experience them differently, and they will see and experience you differently, and together you will be filled with the love of the Holy Spirit today, tomorrow, and for all eternity.

May the peace that surpasses all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

*Pastor Rick*



**Financial Update**

We have been doing well financially, up until the last 2 weeks. We had the bad weather Sunday, and then a low giving Sunday. Please use this time leading up to and including Easter to give to Spring Prairie. Your regular contributions are needed and appreciated.

Thank you for your support.

*Dave Mickelson*

Treasurer



**PRAYERS**

† We especially hold in prayer Mike & Cathy Plyman, Darlene Greisen, Gloria Rortvedt, and Gina Lee. May they feel God’s nearness in every moment, find rest in His care, and be strengthened by the support and love of those around them. May each day bring small signs of grace, encouragement for the journey, and the reassurance that they are not alone.

*\*\*\* If you or a loved one are in need of prayers and would like to be added to our prayer listing, please let Pastor Rick or Jenny know.*



Join us for  
Confirmation  
Sunday, on May 3<sup>rd</sup>  
this year during  
worship!

To the great folks of Spring Prairie Lutheran Church:

There are several reasons I love the spring:

1. The warming of the air. Oh, that sunshine feels good when it's 70 degrees!!
2. Planting begins. A new beginning. A new start. People who are close to the soil have a wondrous attraction to me. There is a closeness to nature. There is an understanding and appreciation of the life cycle.
3. Plants experience resurrection! Trees bud. Flowers emerge from their winter hiding. Grass becomes GREEN!! Oh, freshly cut grass sure smells good!!
4. The Passion Week and Easter and the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is the point of separation from all other thoughts, beliefs, philosophies. So much to celebrate but also to think about. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday service, and then it all concludes with Easter Sunday....
5. And just like the spring marches on, so does our faith in the doing and being of our lives.

See you Thursday. See you Friday. And....See You Sunday!

*Dan Biddick*

608-217-2199

dbiddick1@gmail.com

**Baptism of Ms. Stevie Ann**

On Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> we baptized baby Stevie Ann. She is the second daughter of Grace & Tayvon Hayes.





## Join us for our April Prairie Coffeehouse – Sat, April 25th!

Come on out for a fun evening of Tropical Island Music from Bahama Bob and his steel drums! Join us from 6:00 - 9:00 pm. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Come and enjoy lots of delicious snacks and refreshments before and during the performance from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. As always, admission is FREE, however goodwill offerings are kindly accepted to help support our performers. Join us for a night of music, food, and fellowship!



## March Prairie Coffeehouse with The Currach Irish Quadtet

Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, we had the Currach Irish Quadtet come out to Spring Prairie to perform for our Prairie Coffeehouse. It was a fantastic evening of food, fellowship & music, with 55 in attendance. So grateful to have them join us the week of St. Patricks Day. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this possible!



# GREETINGS FROM JJ'S FELLOWSHIP CORNER!

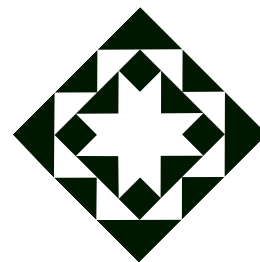
Happy Spring!

It has been a busy month here at SPLC. We've had many chances to connect with friends and our church family through Lenten suppers and Prairie Coffeehouse.

The Craft Sale planning for May 2<sup>nd</sup> is going well, with around 19 vendors signed up so far and 4 more awaiting confirmation. As of today, only 3 indoor booth spaces remain, but there is additional outdoor spaces available! We are looking for volunteers to donate baked goods, with all proceeds going to SPLC. Early setup and baked goods can be dropped off on Friday, May 1st. If you'd like to help by contributing baked goods, please let me know.

**\*\*\* We are seeking donated items for the raffle or silent auction to support SPLC. If you can contribute a gift basket or gift cards, please let me know.**

Take care and May God's blessings spring forth in your life!



## In Home Communion

We are bringing back in-home communion. If you or someone you know is unable to travel or join services on Sunday mornings but would like to partake in holy communion please reach out to: Pastor Rick at 608-846-4178 or rbursh@gmail.com or Ami Bliefert, council member, at 608-225-1867 or amicooper4@gmail.com.

## Altar Flowers

Would you like to honor or remember a loved one? Maybe celebrate a birthday, anniversary or special day? Or maybe you would just like to add some beauty and color to your home... Sign up to have Sunday's Altar Flowers in their name. \$25 donation to the church and you can take the flowers home after service. The sign-up poster is on the table in the narthex.

*\*\*\* Return of vases much appreciated!*





**Spring Prairie Lutheran Church**

**presents**

**SPRING  
CRAFT FAIR**



**Saturday, May 2nd**



**Artwork, Handmade Crafts, Food,  
Baked Goods, Vendors, Raffle Baskets  
and More!**



**8AM - 4PM**



Vendor Spaces  
only \$25  
Contact Julie at  
(608) 513-3204 or  
dixietonks@yahoo.com

**Spring Prairie Lutheran Church  
N509 County Rd C  
DeForest, WI 53532 (Keyeser)**



## Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers

We had awesome attendance for our Wednesday Lenten Meals & Worship this year! Thank you so much to all who cooked the delicious soups, brought food and helped with set up and clean up each of those Wednesdays. It was a great time for fellowship and reflection every week this Lenten season.



## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



<b>March 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Passion (Palm) Sunday Service</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>April 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>*Maundy Thursday Service</b> <i>*at Christ Lutheran Church 220 S. Main St. DeForest</i>	<b>6:30 pm</b>
<b>April 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Good Friday Service</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>
<b>April 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Easter Sunday Service</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>



## Special Joint Maundy Thursday Service

\*This year we will again be joining together with Burke Lutheran, Norway Grove, Christ Lutheran, and United in Christ for Maundy Thursday service. We will be combining worship leaders, musicians, and choirs. The Bishop Joy Mortensen-Weibe from the South-Central Synod office will be preaching. This year's service will be held at Christ Lutheran Church in DeForest (220 S. Main St.) and is open to all. Worship will be on **Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm** with an opportunity for fellowship as well.



February 10, 2026

**Opening Items:**

**Council Members:** Pastor Rick Bursh, Dan Biddick, Josh Achterberg, Gina Lee, Laura Pingel, Julie Johnson, Ralph Pulver, Ami Bliefernicht and Dave Mickelson were present. Kayden Meyer was not present.

**Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 6:01 pm.

**Approval of Minutes:** First provided by Josh Achterberg; second by Laura Pingel; all approved. Abstention of Ralph Pulver and Ami Bliefernicht as they were not on Council in January, 2026.

**Devotion:** Provided by Gina Lee, 1 Peter 4:10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. Reminds us to serve others with our gifts to help both them and ourselves which brings us closer God's grace.

**Financial Review:** Dave Mickelson shared the comparison with the financial reports and indicated we are in good standing. Approval of the Financial Reports was from Josh Achterberg, the second by Julie Johnson, all approved. A motion was made to make the Synod payment of \$1,000 by Josh Achterberg and the second was by Laura Pingel, all approved.

**Pastor's Report:**

Pastor had 1 Funeral in January and 2 Baptisms – Chloe Runia and Benjamin McGrath. Pastor and Dave Mickelson went to the LEAD Conference focusing on collaborative untraditional giving options to explore. Making people aware of the challenges in 5 – 10 years the Church will face, need to be creative. Former Gov. Martin Schreiber who spoke on the caregiving for Dementia individuals effected and their caregivers. Confirmation will be having a Lock-In at Church on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> through Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup>, the Confirmation students will be assisting in the Church Service on Sunday morning. The Sound System still needs some fine tuning; this will be addressed in the next few weeks. The Collaborative Ministries is on temporary hold due to the United in Christ Council President passing away. We will be having a combined Maundy Thursday service at Christ Lutheran in DeForest at 6:30 pm. Ash Wednesday service will be held at Spring Prairie at 6:00 pm, Pastor will also be at United in Christ in Morrisonville at 1:00 pm to officiate their Ash Wednesday service; all are welcomed to attend. Lenten Soup/Suppers will begin on Wednesday. February 25<sup>th</sup>, sign up sheets will be located on the table to assist you on which date is best for you to share fellowship with our church family. We are blessed to have a supportive Congregation that loves to share their yummy talents with all of us. We are always looking for participation as well with our Services, Readers, Communion Assistants and Ushers, it would be wonderful for you to share your talents.

**Council Committee Reports:**

**Music Worship:** Coffeehouse will continue in February, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> with Chris Utley, then on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> The Currach, an Irish musician group, finally on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, Bahama Bob and his steel drums will be our final performance of the 2026 Coffeehouse season. We need to inspire more members to participate in Sunday services. There is a possibility of finding a keyboard player to play on Sundays to be shared with United in Christ is the goal as we have 3 possible candidates.

**Outreach:** There are no new items to share at this time, during the transition of Council Members.

**Property:** There are no new items to share at this time, during the transition of Council Members.

**Stewardship/Participation:** Laura shared she had created a Volunteer Sign-up sheet to be put on each table at the Pancake Breakfast, we received several possible interested parties in several areas. We will be reviewing them and reaching out to all who indicated interest; to encourage the Congregation to share their interest in areas that would benefit our building and our Congregation.

We held another Pancake breakfast with the service downstairs at the Annual meeting at Spring Prairie on January 25, 2026.

**Technology/Communication:** Josh shared that in these two areas, all is going well.

**Fellowship:** Julie said we served 57 at the Pancake Breakfast, and at the Bagel we served 24 and the Baptism we served 42. May 2<sup>nd</sup> is the tentative date for a possible craft sale at Spring Prairie, if you are interested in participating or want to assist in any way, please contact Julie

**New Business:**

Two New Council Members attended their first meeting; Ralph Pulver and Ami Bliefernicht. Ralph Pulver will be taking over the Property and Ami Bliefernicht will be in charge of the Outreach portion of our Council Committees. We will install our 2026 Council Members on Sunday, February 15 during our Church service. We will be having a New Member Sunday on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Kitchen fan is in progress, the Furnace will be needing some mechanical attention in the near future, finally the Elevator is going to require some repair. A motion was made by Josh Achterberg for the elevator repair up to \$3,500 the second was provided by Julie Johnson, all approved.

**Old Business:** We will still be looking at new tables and chairs for the upstairs fellowship area.

Next Council Meeting: Our next meeting will be on March 10, 2026, at 6:00 pm. Dan Biddick will provide the devotion.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned with a motion by Josh Achterberg, seconded by Ami Bliefernicht at 7:42 pm; approved by all and ended with the Lord's Prayer.

**Submitted by:** Gina Lee, Council Secretary



**Quilting Ministry**

Come join our Quilting Ministry!

They meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month, downstairs in our fellowship hall from 9:00 am to Noon.

No experience is necessary!

**Worship Participants for April & May**

**Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> (Easter)**

Reader: Dennis Kindschy  
 Communion Assistant: Dave Mickelson  
 Ushers/Greeter: Ron & Deb Sharpee

**Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**

Reader: Kim Henze  
 Communion Assistant: Bob Henze  
 Ushers/Greeter: Robert & Tracy Mickelson Fam

**Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**

Reader: Barb Mickelson  
 Communion Assistant: Carl Skalitzky  
 Ushers/Greeter: Ralph Pulver & Missy Bredeson

**Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>**

Reader: Tracy Mickelson  
 Communion Assistant: Missy Bredeson  
 Ushers/Greeter: Ron & Jean Minick

**Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> (Confirmation)**

Reader: Ron Sharpee  
 Communion Assistant: Deb Sharpee  
 Ushers/Greeter: Jo Odegaard & Gayle Parker

**Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**

Reader: Dan Biddick  
 Communion Assistant: Kayden Meyer  
 Ushers/Greeter: Ann & Ross Meland

**Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**

Reader: Kathy Schwade  
 Communion Assistant: Robert Schwade  
 Ushers/Greeter: Bob & Kim Henze

**Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>**

Reader: Dave Mickelson  
 Communion Assistant: Dan Biddick  
 Ushers/Greeter: Dan Biddick & Kayden Meyer

**Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>**

Reader: Missy Bredeson  
 Communion Assistant: Kathy Schwade  
 Ushers/Greeter: Ron & Jean Minick

***\*\*\*If you are unable to do your assigned date, please find a replacement & let us know.***

● **Church Office**

● **Pastor Rick Bursh**

● Church: 608-846-4178  
 ● Cell: 262-475-6407  
 ● rbursh@gmail.com

● *\*\*\*Please call the church office before you call Pastor Rick's cellphone. Thankyou.*

● **Jenny Achterberg**, Church Office Administrator

● splc1847@gmail.com, 608-846-4178

● **Office hours:** Mon - Thurs 9-2, (may vary)

● **Dave Mickelson** - Treasurer

● **Deb Sharpee** - Financial Secretary

● **Dorie Bindrich** - Asst. Fin. Secretary

● **Doug Bindrich** - Custodian

● **Josh Achterberg** - Cleaning

● **Shirley Clemons** - Funeral Lunches

● **Church Council**

● **Dan Biddick** - President

● **Julie Johnson (JJ)** - Vice President / Fellowship

● **Gina Lee** - Secretary

● **Josh Achterberg** - Technology / Communications

● **Kayden Meyer** - Christian Education / Youth

● **Laura Pingel** - Stewardship / Participation

● **Ralph Pulver** - Property

● **Ami Bliefernicht** - Outreach

● **Rick Bursh** - Pastor



**April Birthdays**



- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 4/1 Brad Stiemke       | 4/7 Maddie Cypher     |
| 4/2 Zach Mickelson     | 4/9 Corey Kvalo       |
| 4/2 Alvin Bliefernicht | 4/12 Lindsey Guenther |
| 4/4 Lynn Bement        | 4/16 Henry Berg       |
| 4/5 Darlene Greisen    | 4/16 Casey Kvalo      |
| 4/5 Lori Miller        | 4/17 Eric Quam        |
| 4/6 Trish Kienitz      | 4/18 Pete Cypher      |
| 4/7 Doug Harvey        | 4/25 Susan Sharpee    |



# April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Bible Study 10 - 11:30 am	2 Joint Maundy Thursday Service at Christ Lutheran DeForest 6:30 pm	3 Good Friday Service 7:00 pm	4
5 Easter Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am	6	7	8 Bible Study 10 - 11:30 am  Confirmation 6:00 - 7:30 pm	9	10 Church Office Closed	11 Quilting Ministry 9:00 am - Noon
12 Worship Service 10:00 am	13	14 Church Council Meeting 6:00 pm	15 NO Bible Study	16	17 Church Office Closed	18
19 Worship Service 10:00 am	20	21	22 Bible Study 10 - 11:30 am  Confirmation 6:00 - 7:30 pm	23	24 Church Office Closed	25 Quilting Ministry 9:00 am - Noon  Prairie Coffeehouse w/ Bahama Bob 6:00 - 9:00 pm
26 Worship Service 10:00 am	27	28	29 Bible Study 10 - 11:30 am	30		

# 2026

## Spring Prairie Lutheran Church Calendar

Phone: (608) 846-4178    Email: splc1847@gmail.com    Website: springprairie.org

Spring Prairie Lutheran Church  
N509 County Highway C  
DeForest, WI 53532

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Permit No. 3

Return Service Requested

*growing in faith ... reaching out in love*

## APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER



**Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>**

**BAHAMA BOB**

**PRAIRIE COFFEEHOUSE**

### Guiding Principles

- Jesus is Lord
- Everyone is welcome and valued
- We are called to be loving, compassionate, and just
- We strive to forgive, as we are forgiven
- We strive for open, honest, and respectful communication
- We practice faithful stewardship of God's gifts



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.