



SPRING PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2025

Pastor Rick Bursh

N509 CTH C

DeForest, WI 53532

office: (608) 846-4178

www.springprairie.org

email: splc@centurytel.net

www.facebook.com/springprairie

Located at the corners of Hwys DM and C in Keyeser



My Dear Friends in Christ,

I think sometimes people may wonder why I love Jesus. After all, what Jesus has to say isn't particularly profound. When asked what the greatest commandment was - the mandate we all need to follow - he stated simply, "love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind" and, "love your neighbor as yourself." That's powerful but not particularly unique. You can be Christian, Jew, Muslim, Hindu, Shinto, Buddhist, spiritual, or even atheist and agree to love your neighbor as yourself. Why then Jesus?

Recently, I spent an afternoon working at a couple of local food pantries. One was in Pardeeville, and the other in Rio. During the day volunteers gathered to hand out food to those in need. At one location there was a line of about 50 cars, each representing a family in need. Families of five or six, which means that we helped around 300 people. We didn't know their circumstances; that wasn't a condition for helping them. We didn't judge; we were there to serve. Food insecurity strikes at the very core of our human needs, and seeking help can often be dehumanizing. We were there to help them out of compassion.

As for the volunteers, it's hard to assess their motives. I'm sure that each had their reasons for being there, but it wasn't discussed. Maybe for some it was just the need for camaraderie, a chance to be with others and work and laugh a little bit. Others may have felt a need to help, maybe they really didn't even know where that came from. I would like to think that someone in that group was using this as an opportunity to pay back a kindness that they had received in their life.

Humans are incredibly proud beings. We like to tell ourselves that our accomplishments come through our hard work or talents. That narrative can quickly become our mantra. Our culture encourages it; we love the story of the person who picks themselves up by their bootstraps. It is the myth of rugged individualism. But if we are truthful, we realize that somewhere along our path someone lent us a helping hand. Maybe that was a parent, or a teacher, a friend, or even a stranger who gave us the thing that we needed most at that moment, and it made all the difference. Perhaps it was someone who believed in us when we didn't believe in ourselves and had just the right words.

And so, back to that question of why I love Jesus. Jesus is that someone. That someone that knows me, and sees within me the potential for what I can be. Someone that is always there to help me be the best that I can be. What I have discovered is in those moments in my life where I felt the most challenged it was Christ's presence that helped me pull through. And I have come to realize that I couldn't have done it by myself.

Remembering again this Advent that Christ came into the world so that God could be present with and

for us in our suffering, I am humbled to know that I am seen by God. This is another opportunity to pass on the love that I have received and allow Christ to work through me to help others on their journey.

Many blessings this Christmas Season, may you come to know the presence of God in your life.

Pastor Rick



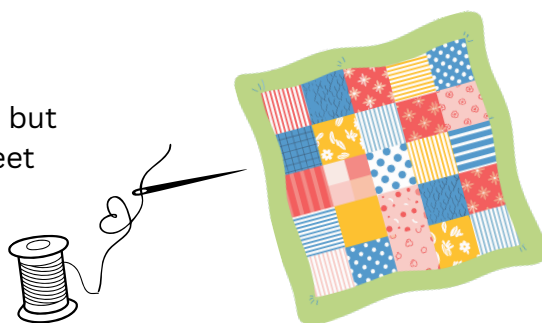
BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS!

Join us every first, second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 10:30 am to Noon as we discern the weeks scripture readings and it's application in today's world.

****No Bible Study on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve this month*

Quilting Ministry

Our Quilting Ministry is taking a break in December for the Holidays, but come join them again when they start back up in January. They'll meet again every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month downstairs in our fellowship hall from 9:00 am to Noon. No experience is necessary!



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.

**** The return of vases is much appreciated!*

Worship Volunteers Needed

We are always in need of Greeters/Ushers, Readers & Communion Assistants to help out during worship.

- Greeters/Ushers are responsible for welcoming parishioners in before services, handing out bulletins, counting the total number of attendees, and dismissing pews for communion.
- Readers are responsible for reading the weekly scriptures & psalm at the lectern after the children's sermon. They also read the prayers of intercession during the second part of the service.
- Communion Assistants, assist Pastor Rick during communion by handing out the wine/grape juice to the congregation and also commune the pastor at the end of communion at the altar.

****If you would like to help out, sign up sheets are on the table at the back of the sanctuary.*

President's Report

Greetings!

As we enter the season of Advent and prepare our hearts for Christmas, we have so many blessings to be thankful about over the past year. December is always a month of anticipation—waiting for the birth of Christ, gathering with loved ones, and looking forward to the new year ahead.

Gratitude for 2025

- We've seen our ministries expand in exciting ways. From new events, regular outreach efforts, to youth participation, God has been at work among us.
- Our worship services have been filled with music, prayer, and fellowship that remind us of the true meaning of community.
- Volunteers have given countless hours to ensure our church remains a place of welcome and hope.

Looking Ahead

As we turn toward 2026, the council is committed to continuing our mission of being a light in the community. Here are a few areas of focus:

- Strengthening our youth activities and service participation.
- Expanding talent and volunteer opportunities, including special, limited-time projects.
- Deepening our spiritual life through new ways such as weekly devotions, prayer chain activities, and/or book clubs.

Christmas Blessings

In this holy season, may we remember that Christ came into the world not in grandeur, but in humility. His birth reminds us that God's love is found in the simplest of places—in a manger, in a child's laughter, in the kindness of one another.

On behalf of the church council, we wish you a blessed Advent and a joyful Christmas. May peace, hope, and love fill your homes and hearts as we celebrate the coming of our Savior.

Merry Christmas to you and yours!

Trish

PRAYERS

† We keep the family of Diann Mickelson in our prayers. Diann passed away Saturday, November 15th. She was remembered here at Spring Prairie on Tuesday, November 25th. The family would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make this day of remembrance special.



† Continued prayers of healing, strength, pain relief, and peace especially for Mike & Cathy Plyman, Gloria Rortvedt, Kim Baldwin & Tina Olson.

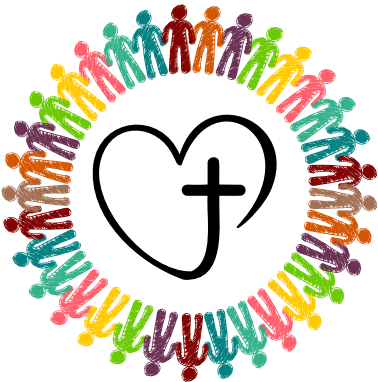
† We also pray for all those facing grief, loss, loneliness, financial hardship, depression, and/or health challenges this holiday season. Remember, you are never alone.

**** 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.*

Spring Prairie Prayer Partners

A few months ago, the church council discussed prayer within our church community. We considered several ideas. We decided to explore the concept of a “prayer chain.” We researched the concept and application. We spoke with several people who had experience with “prayer chains.” I put together a proposal for the church council's consideration. This was favorably received with the go-ahead to begin the concept within our church community.

This project will be called “Spring Prairie Prayer Partners.” I am excited about implementing this concept. Prayer is a fundamental of our faith, and sharing it as a community will be a privilege and an opportunity for personal growth and insight into the workings of Christ in our lives.



Those interested in learning about:
“Spring Prairie Prayer Partners” should contact me at:

Dan Biddick (608) 217-2199 phone & text / email: dbiddick1@gmail.com

How it works:

Anyone in our faith community or beyond may call in their prayer requests to Dan Biddick.

- Dan asks for the name and phone number of the caller
- Dan asks for the name and a brief description of the prayer need.
- Dan has a short prayer with the caller. (Serenity Prayer)
- Dan will keep a journal of calls and prayer requests for follow-up.
- Dan will text all Prayer Partners with the individual's name and prayer need.
- Each Prayer Partner is to acknowledge receipt of the prayer request by replying, "Got it."
- Each Prayer Partner prays once or more times a day: Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come and thy will be done in the life of _____ and his/her need of _____.
- Dan will follow up with the original caller in ten days and report to “Prayer Partners.”

ONE RULE: “Prayer Partners” are not to gossip about callers or calls. Information provided is strictly confidential. One can request to become a “Prayer Partner” at any time. One can request to opt out of being a “Prayer Partner” at any time. There is no monetary commitment to becoming a “Prayer Partner.” This project will begin on December 1, 2025. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to providing this important service to our faith community.

-Dan Biddick



Financial Update



As we head into Thanksgiving, we continue to be current with all our bills. December is normally our biggest month for giving. Please help make that possible again this year so we can finish the year strong. Thank you for your contributions throughout the year.

Dave Mickelson

Treasurer

Prairie Coffeehouse with Old Time Wisconsin Music

Saturday, November 22nd, we welcomed back Amanda Thorstad and her tribe of musicians Old Time Wisconsin Music. We were thrilled to welcome seventy-five people who came out to enjoy the music, delicious food, and the cozy atmosphere. Thank you to everyone who joined us and thank you to our volunteers and very talented musicians who made the night so special!



Save the Date for our December Prairie Coffeehouse Christmas in Keyeser!

On December 13th, the newly formed DeForest Area Church Choir will perform beginning at 4pm followed by a reception and candlelit Christmas Carol Sing-Along with all those in attendance!

*** During the day, be sure to check out all the fun stuff Gilbertson's has going on across the street!

Christmas In Keyeser



Saturday, December 13th

**Join us in Keyeser, Wisconsin
for a festive day of holiday cheer!**

Morning Fun at Gilbertson's General Store

11 AM - 1 PM



**Photos with Santa (bring your camera!),
Delicious treats, Kids can decorate a Free Ornament**



Afternoon Tastings at Gilbertson's

1 PM - 4 PM



Sample Products From:

**J. Henry Bourbon, Berna's Bees Honey, Heartland Grains,
Bucket of Bread, St. Clair Teas, and More**



**Evening Entertainment
at Spring Prairie Church**

4 PM - 7 PM



**Prairie Coffeehouse Choir Concert & Carol Sing Featuring
singers from several local churches**



**Celebrate the season with community, joy, and holiday spirit!
All events are free and open to the public.**

GREETINGS FROM JJ'S FELLOWSHIP CORNER!

Happy December all!

November kept us very busy here at Spring Prairie. We had lots of opportunities to get together and share God's work and love. We are quilting every other Saturday, making beautiful keepsakes for foster children. We can always use more help, and no experience is necessary!

Our November Prairie Coffee House was a roaring success; we served about 78 people!!! That is the most I have ever seen! We ate; we danced and had a wonderful time. Thanks to Gina for getting Amanda and her fellow musicians back. The next day we had our fellowship finishing up the leftovers from the night before, and 40 people stayed to eat, and drink and visit after church.

- We have our tree trimming after service on **November 30th**, and there will be some cookies to enjoy for those who stay to help!
- **December 13th**, we have our special Christmas Coffeehouse Choir Concert featuring singers from SPLC and other local churches. So there will be goodies AND singing! What more can you ask for?
- We will have our Christmas Program & Ugly Christmas Sweater Sunday **December 21st**, so dress like you want to embarrass your children! I am asking everyone to bring a dozen of their favorite Christmas cookies to share for a fellowship after the service. We can laugh and enjoy some treats!!!
- Join us on **January 11th** for a bread fellowship. Bread enthusiasts are invited to bake and share their favorite loaf, and you're welcome to bring jams or spreads of your choice too

Until next time may God's love and peace be with you,



New Funeral Fees

Recently Spring Prairie Council voted to review the costs associated with funerals. These costs had not been revised since 2015 and were developed to be more in line with current costs. We looked at the charges from other local churches for reference. This may not have been clearly communicated in the Council meeting notes.

Below is a chart of fees:

Cost	Members	Inactive Members	Service or Other
\$ 250.00	X	X	Minister for funeral service
\$ 150.00	X	X	Organist/musician
\$ 300.00	X	X	Cleaning, worship supplies, admin, luncheon, supplies, bulletins etc.
\$ 150.00		X	Use of the sanctuary
\$ 150.00		X	Use of the Fellowship Hall
TBD			Soloists & Other Musicians*

October 14th, 2025

Opening Items

Members Present: Pastor Rick Bursh, Trish Kienitz, Josh Achterberg, Kayden Meyer, Gina Lee, Bob Henze, Laura Pingel and Dave Mickelson were present. Dan Biddick and Julie Johnson were not present.

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm.

Approval of minutes: 1st – Bob Henze; 2nd Josh Achterberg; all approved

Devotion: Provided by Gina Lee from Psalm 61 shares that we have Holy refuge with God, we can be confident that God hears our prayers and responds in love always.

Financial Review: Dave Mickelson reported that we are tracking close to last year. A motion for a synod payment of \$2,000 and \$100 to World Hunger in October was made by Josh Achterberg and Bob Henze provided the second, all approved. Motion to renew the \$57,000 Parking Lot CD and \$30,000 Memorial Fund CD was made by Bob Henze and the second was provided by Josh Achterberg, all approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor had three funerals in September, one in October and will have one in November and is still doing funerals for United in Christ and Our Saviors. There is a Synod meeting on October 15th and a Conference meeting at Spring Prairie on October 16th. A call on October 15th to discuss the Bells being completed this year with the company from Ohio if sufficient funds are available. A conversation with Bill Dickman on his interest in assisting with the music worship here at Spring Prairie. December Coffeehouse will be a compilation of all five church choirs to celebrate the caroling season, this will include readings.

Council Committee Reports:

Music/Worship: Coffeehouse has been scheduled for the months of October, November, December and February. We will extend an invitation to our sister churches to join in each of the Coffeehouse events. We need to inspire more members to participate in Sunday services which will be supported by the Confirmation students throughout the school year.

Outreach/Faith in Action: Dan submitted a Prayer Chain proposal for the Councils review. We all decided this would be a wonderful addition to Spring Prairie and approved of his outline. Dan will be having a meeting on Sunday, November 9th for members interested in participating in the Spring Prairie Prayer Chain Group.

Property: Bob is working with Doug Bindl to repair the outside faucets and work on the shower at the Parsonage. He will be having an electrician to address the power in the Kitchen along with looking at a better lighting solution for the front of the church when we have evening events. Bob is looking into getting a tree trimming estimate and plan as there are trees down at the parsonage and the church has some trees that need to be addressed.

Stewardship/Participation: Laura will be hosting the Boo Bash on October 25th which will have games movies, along with fun treats for all who attend. Kayden will be helping along with Cole and the confirmation kids to make this event filled with fun and fellowship.

Christian Education/Youth: Kayden is proposing that we do another Pancake breakfast with the service being held downstairs. He also is considering we do this when we have our Annual meeting at Spring Prairie.

Technology/Communication: Josh received a good quote on the elevator phone, and it was installed on October 16th by Best Defense out of Waunakee, it is called a Cellevator phone, Best Defense monitors the cell line 24/7. Bright Speed will be cancelled. The Sound System has been ordered and we are waiting on the schedule to install it. Action Plumbing was contacted regarding the possibility of air conditioning for the church. They are holding off on their portion of the bid as based on our electric panel, an electrician will need to come and see what would be needed to complete the installation of this type of a system. We may have a quote by the next council meeting.

Fellowship: Julie was not in attendance but shared through an email that for October Coffeehouse we will be having a Chili Cookoff competition, with a prize awarded at intermission. Julie is looking at also having a bread fellowship, where everyone brings their favorite bread to share with the rest of the members during fellowship after church.

New Business: We are looking into updating the tables in the upstairs meeting area. Trish Kienitz will provide ideas/options at the November meeting.

Old Business: There is no old business

Next Council Meeting: Our next meeting is scheduled for November 11, 2025, at 6:00 pm. Bob Henze will provide the devotion.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned with a motion by Josh Achterberg; seconded by Laura Pingel at 7:37 pm; approved by all and ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by: Gina Lee, Council Secretary



New Sound System Installed

Our new sound system has been installed by Audio Contractors, LLC out of Oregon. This upgrade was made possible by memorials from Elaine Gullickson and Bonnie Lerum Bruce. It includes a new digital sound system with live stream capabilities, all new speakers, new amplifiers and sound board.





Christmas Card Exchange!

The box for Christmas Cards is now on the back table in the fellowship area. Feel free to add your Christmas Cards for those members who come to church and save on postage! They will be alphabetized and ready for pick up starting December 14th and on subsequent Sundays.

4th Annual Norwegian Baking & Craft Day - Saturday, December 6th at 1:00 pm

Join us for our 4th Annual Norwegian Baking & Craft Day, when we come together and celebrate Spring Prairie's Norwegian Heritage! We have expert instructors on how to make flat bread, lefse, krumkake, rosettes, sandbakkels and even romeogrot!

There will also be some fun crafts as well! All are welcome to come together for a day of fun and enjoyment and maybe learn a thing or two as well. Signup at church or email Jenny at splc1847@gmail.com to RSVP, so we can get enough supplies for all of those planning to attend!



DANN Christmas Giving 2025

Way to go Spring Prairie - the Children Tags & Senior Tags on the Giving Tree have all be taken! Remember, children's gifts should NOT be wrapped and be returned by December 10th. Senior gifts should be wrapped and returned by December 16th. Keep in mind, the max to spend on each gift is \$30. If you did not get a gift tag, we are still collecting TOYS for *Toys for Tots*. So please feel free to bring in any new unwrapped toys to donate also.

***Any questions contact Kim Henze or call (608)635-6415.



Annual Spring Prairie Christmas Program

Join us for our Annual Spring Prairie Christmas Program on **Sunday, December 21st, at 10:00 am!** Participants include current and past confirmation students & all Sunday School students. It is also **CHRISTMAS SWEATER SUNDAY!** So be sure to wear your ugliest or most beautiful Christmas Sweater and stay after for our group picture! We will also have a **CHRISTMAS COOKIE FELLOWSHIP** afterwards, so feel free to bring a dozen of your favorite cookies to share!



REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:

***Rehearsals prior to worship will primarily focus on handbells, while rehearsals during worship will focus on the main program parts. Any questions, please see Barb Mickelson.

Sunday, November 30th: 9:00 - 9:45 am (& during 10:00 am worship)

Sunday, December 7th: 9:00 - 9:45 am (& during 10:00 am worship)

Sunday, December 14th: 9:00 - 9:45 am (& during 10:00 am worship)

Friday, December 19th: 6:00 - 7:30 pm (Dress Rehearsal)

Sunday, December 21st: 9:00 - 9:30 am (Performance during 10:00 am worship)



Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm

Wednesday, December 24th, 2025

YOGA CONTINUES AT SPRING PRAIRIE!

Join us Thursday mornings through December 18th from 10:00 - 11:00 am for some relaxing Yoga Classes with Dr. Rachel. Learn basic & fundamental yoga poses & practices suitable for ANY body, while having fun. Chair poses ARE available. Cost is \$15 per class.

Contact Jenny Achterberg with any questions :)



CHURCH WEATHER CLOSING INFORMATION

We will strive to have Sunday services every week; However, it is the responsibility of everyone to decide if the roads are safe enough for them to drive. While we would love to see you in church, please check the conditions before you leave. In the event of a major blizzard, we will post church closing notices on the Spring Prairie Facebook page and our website; ideally the night before. Please check there first if you are able or you can also call us. Watch for our Live Streamed Services Worship Services coming soon!

Stay safe this winter!

Worship Participants for December**Sunday, December 7th**

Reader: Lorre Paulman

Communion Assistant: Bob Henze

Ushers/Greeter: Carl Skalitzky & *Volunteer Needed***Sunday, December 14th**

Reader: Dan Biddick

Communion Assistant: Dan Biddick

Ushers/Greeter: Jo Odegard & Gayle Parker

Sunday, December 21st (Christmas Program)

Reader: Spring Prairie Youth

Communion Assistant: **Not Needed**

Ushers/Greeter: Spring Prairie Youth

Wednesday, December 24th (Christmas Eve)Reader: **Volunteer Needed**

Communion Assistant: Dave Mickelson

Ushers/Greeter: **Volunteers Needed****Sunday, December 28th**

Reader: Kathy Schwade

Communion Assistant: **Volunteer Needed**Ushers/Greeter: **Volunteers Needed**

***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**● **Trish Kienitz** - President● **Dan Biddick** - Vice President, Outreach● **Gina Lee** - Secretary, Worship / Music● **Bob Henze** - Property● **Josh Achterberg** - Technology / Communications● **Julie Johnson (JJ)** - Fellowship● **Kayden Meyer** - Christian Education / Youth● **Laura Pingel** - Stewardship/Participation● **Rick Bursh** - Pastor

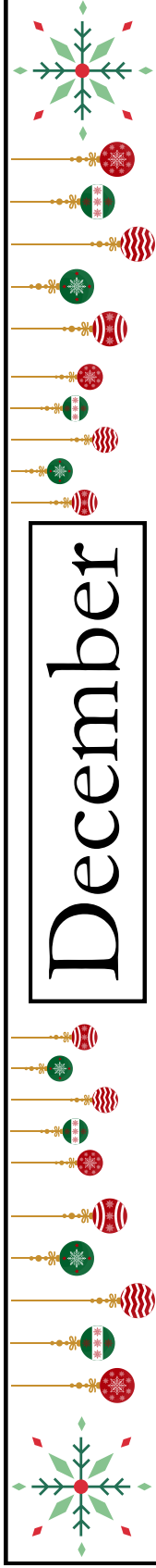
●






**December Birthdays****Happy
Birthday!**

12/1 Derek Waldner
 12/3 Kaela Kvalo
 12/3 Samantha Kvalo
 12/3 Brishel Paulman
 12/4 Jonny Gullickson
 12/5 Tim Schultz
 12/6 Paul Sharpee
 12/7 Kim Henze
 12/7 Joe Pingel
 12/7 Brooklyn Marish
 12/9 Richard Gogert

12/12 Sue Brockel
 12/12 Carol Bredeson
 12/12 Timmy Runia
 12/14 Keith Mickelson
 12/15 Gary Quam
 12/15 Gracin Steckel
 12/15 Karen Mickelson
 12/17 Dan Biddick
 12/17 Scott Miller
 12/17 Derek Quam
 12/17 Brigham Runia

12/18 Simon Albrecht
 12/20 Harper Marish
 12/23 Richard Bredeson
 12/23 Maddon Funches
 12/24 Jackie Weigen
 12/26 Kelly Lockman
 12/29 Rebecca Lainberger
 12/30 Chloe Runia
 12/31 Gregg Sharpee



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	Bible Study 3 10:30 am - Noon Confirmation 5:30 - 6:45 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm at Christ Luth.	4 Yoga 10:00 - 11:00 am	5 Church Office Closed	6  Norwegian Baking & Craft Day 1:00 pm
Program 7 Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	8	9 Church Council Meeting 6:00 pm	10 Bible Study 10:30 am - Noon	11 Yoga 10:00 - 11:00 am	12 Church Office Closed	13  Christmas in Keyeser Coffeehouse 4:00 - 7:00 pm
Program 14 Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	15	16	17 NO Bible Study Confirmation 6:00 - 7:30 pm	18 Yoga 10:00 - 11:00 am	19 Church Office Closed Program Dress Rehearsal 6:00 - 7:30 pm	20
 21 9am Rehearsal 10 am SPLC Christmas Program & Christmas Sweater Sunday!	22	23	24 NO Bible Study Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm	25 	26 Church Office Closed	27
28 Worship 10:00 am	29	30	31 NO Bible Study New Year's Eve			

2025

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DeForest, WI 53532
Permit No. 3

Return Service Requested

growing in faith ... reaching out in love

DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



Saturday, December 13th
CHRISTMAS IN
KEYESER
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.