



SPRING PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 2026

Pastor Rick Bursh

N509 CTH C

DeForest, WI 53532

office: (608) 846-4178

springprairie.org

email: splc1847@gmail.com

facebook.com/springprairie

Located at the corners of Hwys DM and C in Keyeser



Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' - Matthew 26:44-45

My Dear Friends in Christ,

If you have been following news related to the discussions about the nature of our Christian faith, (and who doesn't? 😊) It is likely that you have heard reference to Matthew 25. It is bandied about as a reminder to us as Christians of what our call is in the world. This grounding in the gospel serves to connect us to Christ's mission to serve those of our siblings in need. We are to see all those in need as the embodiment of Christ.

Of late, the lectionary has been taking us through Jesus' commissioning of the disciples to carry the gospel out into the world (Matthew 10). Rather than promising them of how well the gospel will be received, and how comfortably they will live as emissaries of God, Jesus warns them that the message that they carry will not necessarily be embraced by those that meet them. It can be difficult for us to understand - probably difficult for the disciples as well - how Jesus' message of love and care of neighbor could be met with animosity. And yet, Jesus counsels them not to be afraid; God is with them in those moments when they might feel abandoned and persecuted.

If we believe that living the life of a disciple is a life that gains God's favor, we can be sorely mistaken. We may believe that if we do God's will, if we proclaim the gospel, that God will watch over and protect us and reward us. Jesus doesn't promise that. In fact, Jesus promises just the opposite. But what Jesus does promise, that brings hope, is that God will always be with us in those moments of our greatest need. It is God's love that inspires us to proclaim the gospel in whatever manner is available to us. We do this not to earn God's grace, but because we are already recipients of God's grace.

Today, perhaps more than ever, we are called as Christians to demonstrate our care for neighbor. Jesus compels us to reach out beyond our walls to those in our midst who are quietly crying out for our help. A true measure of our calling, and our mission as a community in Christ, is how and where we meet the world that we were called to serve. This is not a mission that is reserved for the pastor, or the leadership of the church, it is the true calling of a community built on the promise of a love from God that embraces us all. That love is meant to be shared.

I challenge you to consider how Spring Prairie can better serve our neighbors. Where can our energy go to ease the burden of our siblings who bear the face of the risen Christ? I suggest we begin by reminding ourselves when we meet the stranger, that it is Jesus we are encountering, and the grace we extend is the grace we have all received.

God's Peace to you,

Pastor Rick

New Member Celebration!

Spring Prairie will be welcoming new members to our congregation on **Sunday, August 9th**. If you are interested in becoming an official member here at Spring Prairie, please let Pastor Rick know or contact the church office at (608) 846-4178 or splc1847@gmail.com



Prayers



We lift up Gina Lee, Mike & Cathy Plyman, and Gloria Rortvedt into Your caring hands. Surround them with Your healing presence, comfort them in their struggles, and grant them strength for each new day. Ease their burdens, calm their fears, and fill them with hope and peace that comes from knowing You are near.

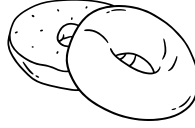
**** If you or a loved one are in need of prayers and would like to be added to our prayer listing, please let Pastor Rick or Jenny know.*



**Community VBS
with Sugar Creek
was held
June 15th - 19th**



Bagel Breakfast Fellowship returns
Sunday, July 19th
at 9:00 am!



Come early to enjoy a bite before worship!



President's Report

To All The Great Folks At Spring Prairie Lutheran Church:

It's summertime! Time for camping trips, bike rides, walking corn and soybean fields, ice cream cones, baseball, watermelon, strawberries, family vacations, family reunions, picnics, state and county fairs, athletic, music, and all kinds of other camps for kids, evening walks in the neighborhood, campfires, gardens, flowerbeds, and a hammock underneath the old oak tree. However, you spend your summer, I pray you be safe.

As friends and family come for their summer visits, be sure to bring them to church on Sunday morning. What a warm, friendly faith fellowship we have. Reaching out to visitors, offering a hand to say "Hello, my name is _____, welcome to Spring Prairie." Sharing our faith in a wholesome, respectful way is one of the most important things that we can do.

It's Mallards Baseball night July 16th. Come to the "All-you-can-eat" Preparty and watch a great baseball game. Great fun with great folks. Check with Jenny at the church office for your tickets.

Bagel Breakfast is scheduled for Sunday, July 19th. Serving begins at 9 am. Come and chow down on a Blueberry, Cinnamon Raisin, Whole Wheat, Cranberry, Plain, or even a Rainbow bagel. Hmmmm. Better than good.

The youth of our church are a precious part of our faith community. We are planning now for an effort to provide a meaningful faith-building experience for our youth. Keep a watch out for more as fall approaches.

If you happen to miss a Sunday service or two this summer, be sure to catch them live on YouTube! Pastor Rick emails the link out every Sunday morning and is also available on our Facebook page. If you miss it, you can also check our website after the service > springprairie.org. Our faith community is always with you every step of your journey.

See you Sunday!

Dan Biddick

Church Council President



Spring Prairie Lutheran Church

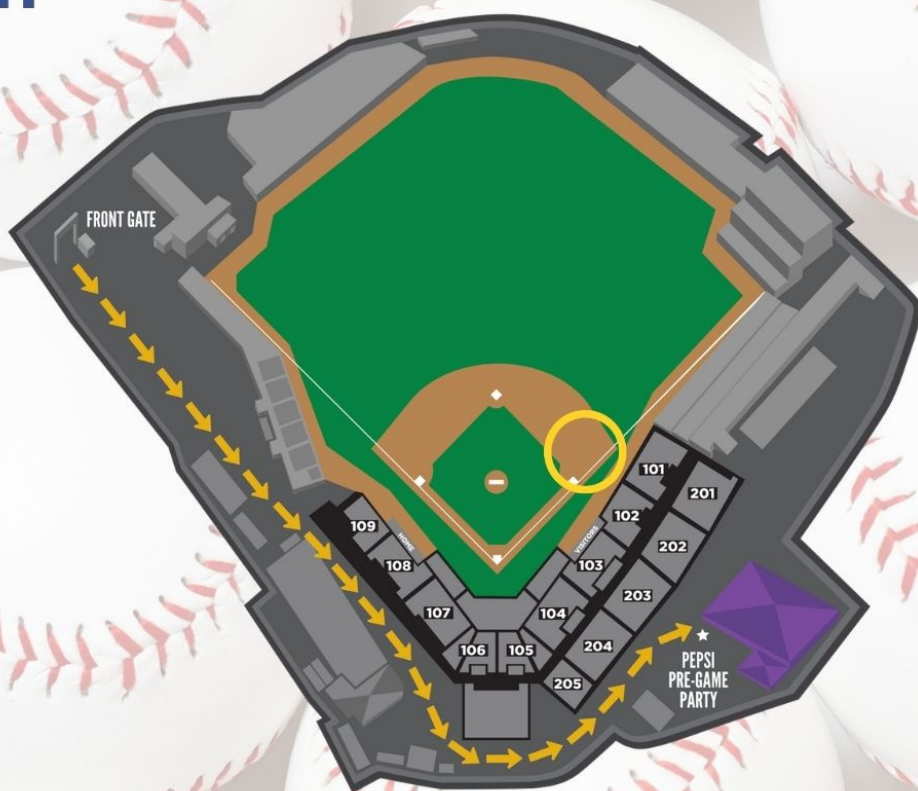
Thursday, July 16th, 2026

First Pitch: 6:05 PM - Gates Open 5:05pm

**Pepsi Pre-Game
Party
5:05 - 6:35 pm**

**\$27 Soda Tickets
\$34 Beer Tickets**

An usher will
provide you a
wristband at the
Pepsi Pregame
Party entrance
after you enter the
area.



All bags larger than 4.5 x 6.5 must be
CLEAR

< SCAN QR CODE FOR TICKETS

The Duck Pond at Warner Park 2920 N Sherman Ave, Madison, WI 53704 608-246-4277

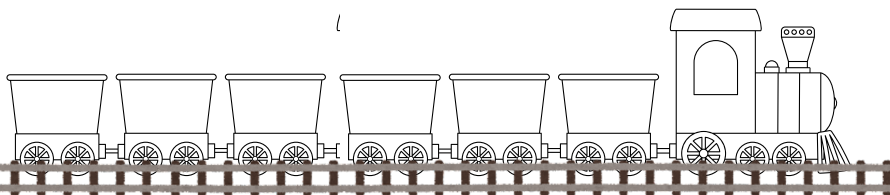


Financial Update

We are doing well as we head into summer. Giving has been steady and expenses are tracking as expected. Thank you to everyone who has made this possible by supporting Spring Prairie with your contributions.

David Mickelson

Treasurer



GREETINGS FROM JJ'S FELLOWSHIP CORNER!

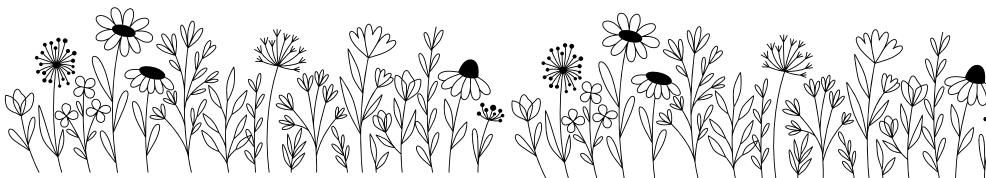
Happy almost 4th of July! As we prepare to celebrate our country's 250th anniversary with fireworks and cookouts, let's thank the Lord for the gift of freedom and honor those who have sacrificed to protect our liberties.

In June, we had a wonderful Graduation Sunday gathering for Cheyenne, Kayden, Jackie, and Rick. Susan Gullickson's BBQ was delicious, and the side dishes everyone brought were a big hit. Thank you to everyone who shared food, helped set up, and stayed to clean up. We are blessed with an amazing group of people who show up whenever they are needed!

Mark your calendars for July 19th! Join us for a bagel fellowship featuring delicious bagels provided by Dan Biddick. Come hungry, enjoy a bagel with us, and feel free to take some home to enjoy later or to share. Donations are appreciated, with proceeds going to our general fund.

If you have ideas for future fellowship opportunities, please share them with any council member. We appreciate your input!

May God's peace and love be with you,



Spring Prairie Youth Group (grades 7-12)



- A place to bring friends, make friends, get involved in meaningful service projects, grow together in Faith and have fun!
- Members will gather monthly for activities, discussions, and community outreach.
- Adult mentors will help guide the group and create a safe, positive environment.
- If you have a youth in grade 7-12 interested in joining, or are an Adult interested in being a volunteer for this group, please write your name on the sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary or email us at: splc1847@gmail.com

Spring Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2026

Council Members

Pastor Rick Bursh, Dan Biddick, Laura Pingel, Julie Johnson, Ralph Pulver, Ami Bliefernicht, Josh Achterberg, Dave Mickelson (Treasurer). Kayden Meyer & Gina Lee were not present.

Meeting Called to Order: 6:01pm

Devotion: Provided by Pastor Rick Bursh, Psalm 93.

Approval of Minutes: First Provided by Ami Bliefernicht, Second by Ralph Pulver. All approved

Financial Review: Dave Mickelson presented a financial report.

Julie Johnson made a motion to accept the financial report. Josh Achterberg seconded. All approved.

Josh Achterberg made motion to send \$1000 to synod benevolence fund. Ami Bliefernicht seconded. All approved.

Pastor Report: Pastor Rick Bursh gave a summary of confirmation.

Pastor will be graduating and gone May 17th. Filling in for the Pastor will be Dianne Deaton Vielhuber.

Vacation Bible School will be a collaborative effort with multiple churches in the area. VBS will be at Norway Grove with Sugar Creek responsible with leading the effort. It will be June 15th through June 19th. Each church will be in charge of a day. Spring Prairie's Day will be Wednesday, June 17th. We are looking for any volunteers who can help out. If interested in having your kids attend, enrollment is due by June 8th. Information is in the newsletter for enrollment.

Council Committee Reports:

Music Worship: June 7th we will be celebrating high school graduates that attend Spring Prairie. BBQ will be served and volunteers can bring a dish to pass.

Outreach: Pastor and Ami will start doing visits.

Property: Elevator lift inspection is due in June. Looking for a company to take over service.

Stewardship/participation: The Mallards game/picnic is scheduled for July 16th. This is the same package we did in 2025.

Christian Education/Youth: Discussed the possibility of putting together a youth group.

Technology and communication: Nothing new to report.

Fellowship: Craft sale went well. There were 21 vendors. Discussed the possibility of a fall craft sale. Church roster is being worked for those who would like one.

New Business: None

Old Business: Josh Achterberg made a motion to purchase six new tables up to \$1000. The funds to be used from the Mary Sharpee memorial fund. Julie Johnson seconded. All approved.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday June 9th, 2026 at 6:00pm

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned with a motion by Julie Johnson and seconded by Josh Achterberg. Approved by all.

Submitted by: Laura Pingel *council member.*



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2026 GRADUATES!!!

Sunday, June 7th was our Graduate Sunday Celebration where we celebrated Kayden Meyer, Cheyenne Johnson, Jackie Weigen and Pastor Rick Bursh

CONGRATULATIONS



GRADUATE



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 / rbursh@gmail.com or
Ami Bliefernicht, council member, at 608-225-1867 / amicooper4@gmail.com.

Worship Participants for July & August

Sunday, July 5th

Reader: Dennis Kindschy
 Communion Assistant: Deb Sharpee
 Ushers/Greeter: Ann & Ross Meland

Sunday, July 12th

Reader: Dan Biddick
 Communion Assistant: Kayden Meyer
 Ushers/Greeter: Bob & Kim Henze

Sunday, July 19th

Reader: Kathy Schwade
 Communion Assistant: Robert Schwade
 Ushers/Greeter: Dan Biddick & Kayden Meyer

Sunday, July 26th

Reader: Tracy Mickelson
 Communion Assistant: Dan Biddick
 Ushers/Greeter: Ron & Jean Minick

Sunday, August 2nd

Reader: Missy Bredeson
 Communion Assistant: Kathy Schwade
 Ushers/Greeter: Robert & Tracy Mickelson Fam

Sunday, August 9th

Reader: Ron Sharpee
 Communion Assistant: Dave Mickelson
 Ushers/Greeter: Ralph Pulver & Missy Bredeson

Sunday, August 16th

Reader: Kim Henze
 Communion Assistant: Bob Henze
 Ushers/Greeter: Ron & Deb Sharpee

Sunday, August 23rd

Reader: Dave Mickelson
 Communion Assistant: Carl Skalitzky
 Ushers/Greeter: Jo Odegaard & Gayle Parker

Sunday, August 30th

Reader: Barb Mickelson
 Communion Assistant: Missy Bredeson
 Ushers/Greeter: Ann & Ross Meland

*****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

● **Laura Pingel** - Secretary/ Stewardship / Participation

● **Josh Achterberg** - Technology / Communications

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

● **Ralph Pulver** - Property

● **Ami Bliefernicht** - Outreach

● **Rick Bursh** - Pastor



July Birthdays



7/1 Brandon Storm

7/3 David Mickelson

7/4 Karen Kronberg

7/4 Julie Mickelson

7/4 Dylan Storm

7/6 Michael Ihland

7/6 Avery Funches

7/7 Betsy Jorgensen

7/8 Gary Andler

7/10 Randy Mickelson

7/10 David Kienitz

7/11 Gary Georgeson

7/13 Shelly Paulman

7/17 Jonathan Guenther

7/18 Giovanni Cacahua

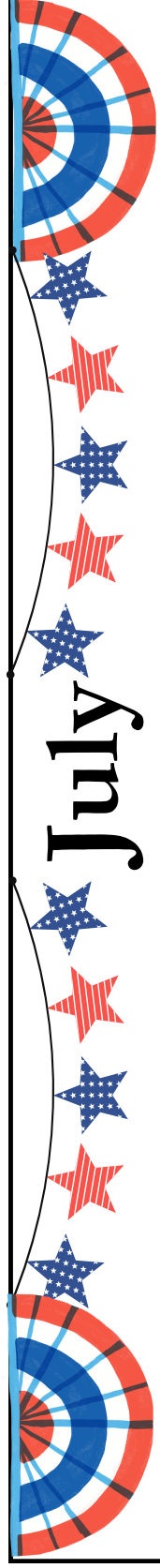
7/21 Alexander Henze

7/23 Jim Henze

7/23 Melissa Schultz

7/28 Kaylan Wolf

7/30 Jeralee Stiemke



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Bible Study 10 - 11:30 am	2	3 Church Office Closed	4 Happy 4 th of July
5 Worship Service 10:00 am	6	7	8 Bible Study 10 - 11:30 am	9	10 Church Office Closed	11
12 Worship Service 10:00 am	13	14 Church Council Meeting (Offsite) 6:00 pm	15 NO Bible Study	16 Spring Prairie Mallards Game Night	17 Church Office Closed	18
19 Bagel Breakfast 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	20	21	22 Bible Study 10 - 11:30 am	23	24 Church Office Closed	25
26 Worship Service 10:00 am August Newsletter Articles Due	27	28	29 Bible Study 10 - 11:30 am	30	31 Church Office Closed	

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

July 2026 NEWSLETTER



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

Spring Prairie Mallards Game
Thursday, July 16th!



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.