



SPRING PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH

June 2026

Pastor Rick Bursh

N509 CTH C

DeForest, WI 53532

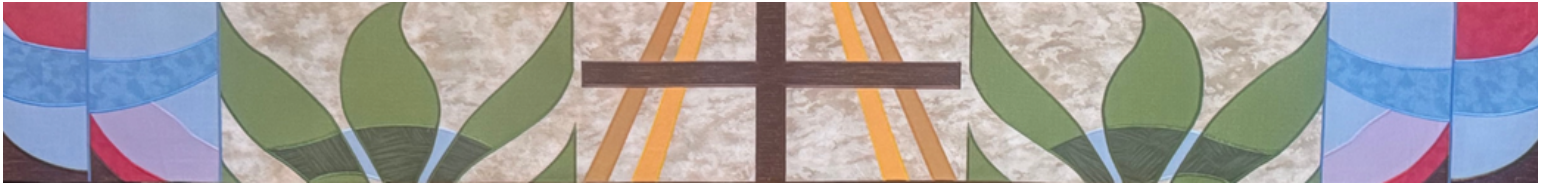
office: (608) 846-4178

www.springprairie.org

email: splc@centurytel.net

www.facebook.com/springprairie

Located at the corners of Hwys DM and C in Keyeser



Dear Friends in Christ,

Why is it that we have such a difficult time understanding the Holy Spirit? Is the Holy Spirit a rushing wind that descends on the disciples and the people of the diaspora on Pentecost? Or is the Holy Spirit a mere breath from Jesus to the disciples as they cower in fear and grief? Is the Spirit the wind that swept over the waters in the creation account in Genesis, or is it the fire that alights on the heads of those on that morning in Jerusalem? Does the Spirit abide within us or is the Spirit separate, aloof, distant, and unknowable?

We understand that Jesus is the son of God, we have accounts of the words that he spoke and the deeds that he performed. We understand that God is the creator, the lawgiver, omniscient, omnipresent, and eternal. Yet the Holy Spirit remains elusive. Too difficult for us to conceptualize, but the Holy Spirit truly is Emmanuel; God with us.

It is God the Holy Spirit who knows us better than we know ourselves. There is comfort in that; God knowing all of our sins loves us even still. The true nature of God's forgiveness is to see who we are, and accept us as we are, through grace alone. This simple statement is at the very core of our faith, because God loves us not because of who we are but despite who we are.

That can make us uncomfortable. Because we know the things that we have done and they bind us. Those memories can hold us captive and sometimes overwhelm us. The disciple John in his first letter wrote, "If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything." It is God the Holy Spirit that brings comfort in those moments that we realize we cannot free ourselves, it is God the Holy Spirit that speaks to us as a soft and gentle wind, and reminds us that we are loved, we are cared for, we are known, we are seen, and we are blessed. All we have to do is listen.

The power of God through the Holy Spirit unites us as one body of Christ in the world. Together, as that body, we can bring God's love to the world through the gospel; the good news of Jesus Christ. The things that divide us are no longer important because God the Holy Spirit makes us known to each other through the gospel of the Lord. When we cannot see beyond our differences, we can lose sight of the fact that we are all children of God made in God's image. We are bound together

through a common language that is the gospel of Jesus Christ. That language of the gospel transcends all earthly distinctions that we maintain to separate ourselves from “other”.

May the wind that swept over the waters, the roar of the wind that descended on Jerusalem, the gentle breath that Jesus breathed on the disciples, kindle in your hearts the fire, strength, and courage to spread the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ to all the world.

Pastor Rick



Prayers



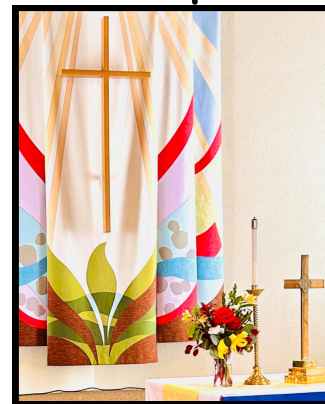
Heavenly Father, in times of affliction, we seek your comfort and strength. Be with Gloria Rortvedt, Mike & Cathy Plyman, Jean Buske, and Gina Lee in their time of need. Provide them with your peace that surpasses all understanding. Grant them strength, courage, and hope to face the challenges ahead. Let them feel your loving presence. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

**** 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.*



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!*



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.



GRADUATE

GRADUATE



Sunday, June 7th Graduation Celebration Potluck!



Join us after worship on Sunday, June 7th as we celebrate our graduates - Kayden Meyer & Cheyenne Johnson from High School, Jackie Weigen from UW Whitewater with her Bachelors & Pastor Rick Bursh from Wartburg Seminary with his Masters!

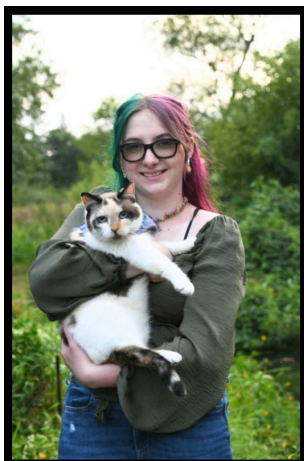
BBQ, Chips, Water, Soda and Cake will be provided! Feel free to bring a dish to pass as well. Sign-up Sheet is on the back table to prevent multiples of the same dish!



Happy
Graduation



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2026 GRADUATES!!!



Cheyenne Johnson
Graduate of Poynette High School



Kayden Meyer
Graduate of DeForest High School. Plans to next attend the University of Minnesota - Mankato to earn his commercial pilots license.



Jackie Weigen
Graduate of University of Wisconsin - Whitewater
Bachelor's of Science
Major: Political Science (Cum Laude)
Minor: Finance



Pastor Rick Bursh
Graduate of Wartburg Theological Seminary
Masters of Arts

President's Report

To the great Folks at Spring Prairie Lutheran Church:

Congratulations to the graduates! We are so proud of you! Goals achieved. Dreams to pursue. We want each of you to know that as your next chapter begins to unfold, the faith community of Spring Prairie Lutheran Church will be with you every step of the way, praying for you and keeping you in our thoughts. New tables have been purchased and arranged in the upstairs fellowship hall. This area tends to be the center of our wonderful fellowship as we gather for celebrations, sharing, and enjoying the great skills of our terrific cooks.

I can't wait. Mark your calendar and line up for your tickets to the Madison Mallards baseball outing on July 16th. This is a terrific outing to enjoy with all our friends. Last year was a blast. Be sure to catch all the action, of all you can eat, and a great baseball game. Whenever I go to a baseball game, I am reminded of the classic poem by Ernest Lawrence Thayer titled "Casey at the Bat." With the famous closing lines: "And somewhere men are laughing, and somewhere children shout, But there is no joy in Mudville—mighty Casey has struck out." They have some of the best ice cream treats!!

What a wonderful day we had on Saturday, May 2nd. The craft fair was a huge success. Keep an eye out for a possible instant replay this fall. As I write this on Memorial Day, I think of those who have given their lives that we might enjoy the many blessings of being an American, and living in this great land of the brave and the free. I think of my Dad serving in the United States Navy during World War II. He was aboard an aircraft carrier in the middle of the Pacific Ocean as Kamikaze pilots flew into his ship. I cannot imagine. I also think of my youngest son, Ben, serving a tour of duty in Iraq. This was one of the longest years of my life. Fortunately, these family members returned home. I know that many, many did not return, and some who did were never the same. With this in mind, I leave you with this:

The United States Army Soldier's Creed

I am an American Soldier.
 I am a warrior and a member of a team.
 I serve the people of the United States, and live the Army Values.
 I will always place the mission first.
 I will never accept defeat.
 I will never quit.
 I will never leave a fallen comrade.
 I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained, and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.
 I always maintain my arms, my equipment, and myself.
 I am an expert, and I am a professional.
 I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.
 I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.
 I am an American soldier.



See you Sunday!

Dan Biddick

608-217-2199

dbiddick1@gmail.com

Spring Prairie Lutheran Church



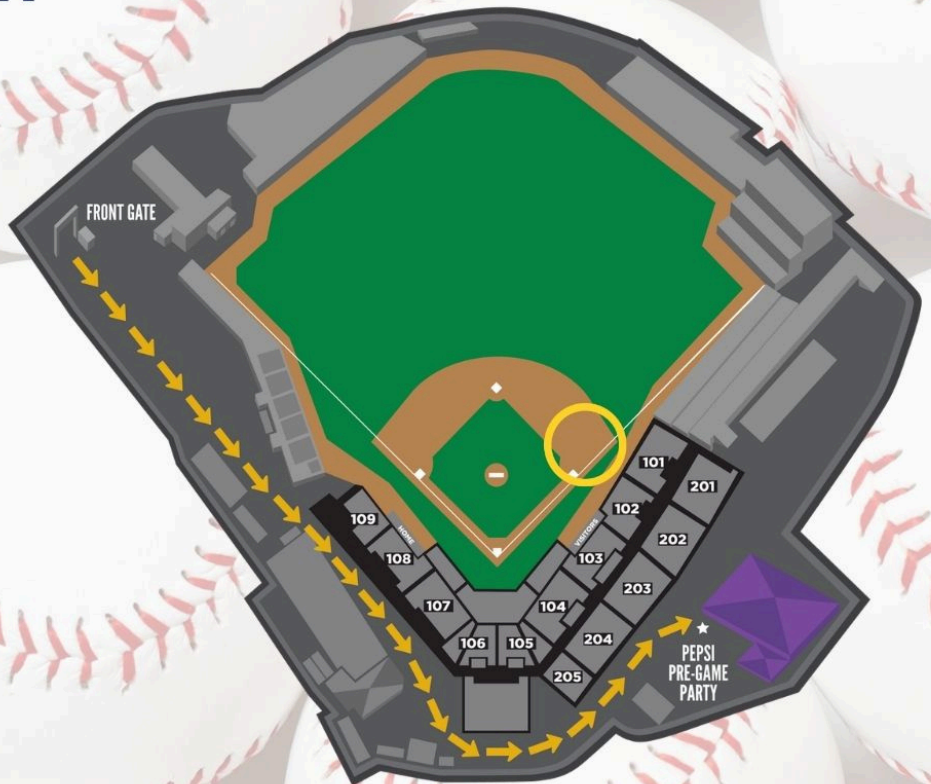
Thursday, July 16th, 2026

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

GREETINGS FROM JJ'S FELLOWSHIP CORNER!

Happy Summer everyone! Even if it isn't officially summer it sure feels that way this week!

I am so grateful to everyone who helped make the Spring Prairie craft sale such a success. I wish I could thank each of you by name, but the list would be long, and I know I may have missed some who quietly dropped off food or lent a hand while I was busy elsewhere. Ron and Jean Minick generously donated 50 pounds of hamburger for the sloppy joes, which were prepared and served by the Gullickson crew. Gayle and her crew did a wonderful job with the bake sale, Kim Henze secured a Thrivent grant to help cover costs, and many others brought food, helped with setup and cleanup, and worked throughout the sale. I was also delighted by the wonderful variety of silent auction items and deeply grateful to the members who donated them so generously.

Our council members were also deeply involved, and I believe our very first craft sale was a great success. We had only one vendor who signed up but did not show. I do not have the exact totals, but the bake sale raised more than \$900, the BBQ lunch brought in over \$400, vendor fees totaled \$625, and the silent auction raised well over \$600. None of this would have been possible without your kindness, generosity, and willingness to help. Thank you all so much.

We are truly blessed to have such wonderful members in this congregation who came together to make it all possible. Up next is our Graduation Fellowship on June 7th, immediately following worship. We'll be serving sloppy joes, along with chips, pop, water, sides, and, of course, cake. Bring a dish to pass if you'd like! I hope you'll stay and join us in celebrating Kayden, Cheyenne, Jackie, and Rick.

May God's grace and Peace be with you, JJ ☺

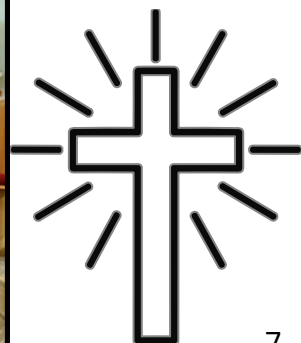
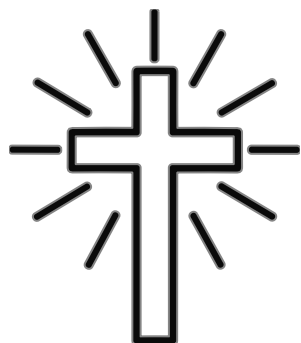
Spring Prairie Craft Fair

A few snapshots from our first Spring Craft Fair that was held on Saturday, May 2nd. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this possible!!!



Spring Prairie 2026 Confirmation

Congratulations to our five confirmands who were confirmed on May 3rd, 2026 - Daniel Mickelson, Parker Kvalo, Harper Marish, Kaylan Wolf & Chrissy Pingel.



Spring Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes**April 21, 2026****Council Members:**

Pastor Rick Bursh, Dan Biddick, Laura Pingel, Julie Johnson, Ralph Pulver, Amy Bliefernicht, Kayden Meyer (Not Present), Gina Lee (Not Present), Josh Achterberg

Meeting Called to Order: 6:00pm**Approval of Minutes:** First Provided by Amy Bliefernicht, Second by Ralph Pulver. All approved**Devotion:** Provided by Julie Johnson, Uplifting message for council.

Financial Review: Dave Mickelson presented a financial report. Several CDs have reached maturity. Josh Achterberg made a motion to accept the financial report. Julie Johnson seconded. All approved. Josh Achterberg made a motion to move interest in CDs, \$30,000 and \$100,000 to be deposited in the general fund. Reinvest \$30,000 in parking lot CD, \$62,600.99 to be renewed back in new CD. Julie Johnson seconded. All approved. Josh Achterberg made a motion to send \$1,000 to the Synod as part of our benevolence. Laura Pingel seconded motion. All approved.

Pastor Report: Synod assembly will be May 15th and 16th. They will be electing a new bishop. Pastor Rick Bursh, Josh Achterberg and Jenny Achterberg will be attending. 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 Volunteer Day will be Tuesday, June 16th. We are looking for any volunteers who can help out. Please be there at 8:30am with the program running from 9am-3pm. If interested in having your kids attend, enrollment is due by May 31st. Information is in the newsletter for enrollment.

Council Committee Reports:

Music/Worship: The April 25th Coffeehouse with Bahama Bob was cancelled. We are working on finding a live musician to fill in for church services.

Outreach: Discussed at home communion and reaching out to people to determine needs.

Property: County Highway DM will not be reconstructed until 2028. The elevator lift has been fixed and works. We received an estimate from Gorilla Lawn Care to mow the parsonage and church. The estimate was \$3200 for the year which is inline with previous costs. A motion to accept the proposal by Julie Johnson. Seconded by Amy Bliefernicht.

Stewardship/Participation: The road clean up is scheduled for April 11th. The Mallards game/picnic is scheduled for July 16th. This is the same package we did in 2025.

Christian Education/Youth: Working with other local churches to have a joint vacation bible school. (See Pastor's report above)

Technology and communication: Nothing new to report.

Fellowship: The craft sale is scheduled to take place May 2nd. We will be having BBQ, chips and water or soda for a lunch meal. Gift baskets were donated for a silent action. Fifteen sellers will be inside and five sellers will be outside.

A Church Membership Directory is being worked for those who would like one.

New Business: Julie Johnson made a motion to nominate Laura Pingel as secretary. Josh Achterberg seconded. All approved. Discussion was had on service times for services this summer. It was decided to keep the time the same and not change the time for summer services.

Old Business: None

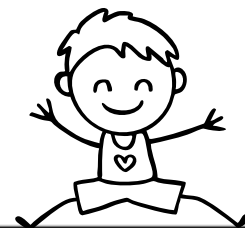
Next Council Meeting: Tuesday May 12th , 2026 at 6:00pm

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned with a motion by Amy Bliefernicht and seconded by Laura Pingel. Approved by all.

Submitted by Laura Pingel council member.



**Combined VBS this year at Norway Grove
June 15th - 19th**



Bible Camp at Norway Grove
820 RIVER RD, DEFOREST

AGES: K -6th Graders **DATES:** June 15 - 18, Mon. – Thur., Camp from 9 am-3 pm
Fri., June 19 - Camp from 9 am - Noon

**SUGAR CREEK
BIBLE DAY CAMP
JOINT EVENT BY:
Burke Lutheran, Christ
Lutheran, Spring Prairie,
Norway Grove**

For kids entering Kindergarten through 6th Grade, camp is a place to discover, play, and grow in faith. Your camper will be the hero of their own story as they explore the outdoors, make new friends, and build confidence in a safe and welcoming community.

***No Fee for Day Camp. Donations are appreciated.**

Registration cutoff date June 8, contact Spring Prairie Office for details.

Worship Participants for June & July

Sunday, June 7th

Reader: Ron Sharpee
 Communion Assistant: Dave Mickelson
 Ushers/Greeter: Robert & Tracy Mickelson Fam

Sunday, June 14th

Reader: Kim Henze
 Communion Assistant: Bob Henze
 Ushers/Greeter: Ralph Pulver & Missy Bredeson

Sunday, June 21st

Reader: Dave Mickelson
 Communion Assistant: Carl Skalitzky
 Ushers/Greeter: Ron & Deb Sharpee

Sunday, June 28th

Reader: Barb Mickelson
 Communion Assistant: Missy Bredeson
 Ushers/Greeter: Jo Odegaard & Gayle Parker

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

******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 / Worship & Music

● **Josh Achterberg** - Technology / Communications

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

● **Laura Pingel** - Stewardship / Participation

● **Ralph Pulver** - Property

● **Ami Bliefernicht** - Outreach

● **Rick Bursh** - Pastor

June Birthdays



- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 6/1 Janice Berg | 6/13 Tayvon Hayes |
| 6/1 Richard Nelson | 6/14 Gordy Paulman |
| 6/2 Cheri Kinzler | 6/15 Jean Buske |
| 6/2 Karen Schmitt | 6/16 Vivian Greiber |
| 6/2 Elijah Kvalo | 6/21 Kory Childs |
| 6/2 Jean Hawker | 6/22 Diane Kvalo |
| 6/3 Josh Achterberg | 6/26 Chelsea Privett |
| 6/4 Jenny Achterberg | 6/27 Bob Brockel |
| 6/7 Ross Meland | 6/27 Gary Paulman |
| 6/10 Caydence Achterberg | 6/27 Ron Minick |
| 6/10 Grant Gullickson | 6/28 Dorie Bindrich |
| 6/10 Laura Pingel | Clara Mickelson |



June



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Bible Study 10 - 11:30 am	4	5 Church Office Closed	6
7 Worship Service 10:00 am Graduation Fellowship	8	9 Church Council Meeting 6:00 pm	10 Bible Study 10 - 11:30 am	11	12 Church Office Closed	13
14 Worship Service 10:00 am	15	16	17 NO Bible Study	18	19 Church Office Closed	20
21 Worship Service 10:00 am	22	23	24 Bible Study 10 - 11:30 am <i>July Newsletter Articles Due</i>	25	26 Church Office Closed	27
28 Worship Service 10:00 am	29	30				

Sugar Creek VBS at Norway Grove Memorial Church-----X

2026

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

June 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

**Combined Vacation Bible School
at Norway Grove Memorial Church
June 15th - 19th**



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