

SPRING PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH



Pastor Rick Bursh

N509 CTH C

DeForest, WI 53532

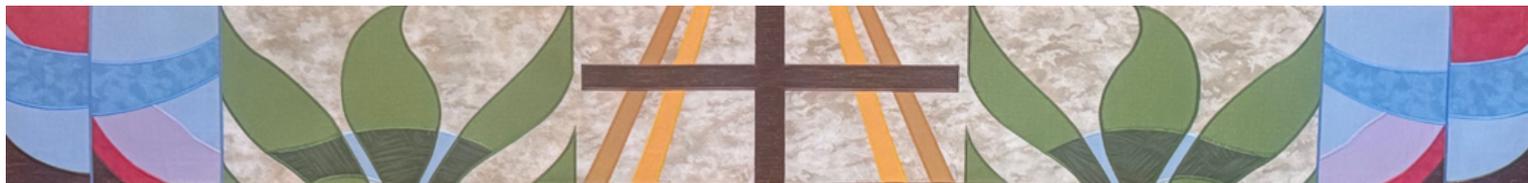
office: (608) 846-4178

www.springprairie.org

email: splc@centurytel.net

www.facebook.com/springprairie

Located at the corners of Hwys DM and C in Keyeser



Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.

A stark reminder each year that our time here is limited. What we choose to do with that time is up to us. Perhaps Jesus felt the same crush of time, knowing that his ministry would span only a few short years. Each day must have felt precious, each day must have been a challenge of opportunity to express to the world God's love.

We have developed an interesting tradition over the years during the Lenten season. People often use it as an opportunity to give up some pleasure as a sacrifice. We often lean into self-denial as a means of expressing our solidarity with God in God's sacrifice. Self-denial is a negative means of behavior modification. Behavior changes through negative reinforcement are often unsustainable. Our call is not to die as Christ died, but to live as Christ lived. Our call is not to suffer as Christ suffered but to overcome that suffering to live out the gospel. And so, while self-denial may help us to focus, it does nothing to move God's mission forward.

When we deny ourselves, it is a negative impulse, and as human beings, we often seek positive reinforcement for that sacrifice. We are all susceptible to it, who hasn't gone on a diet and sought out remarks from others to build up their strength. "I couldn't eat that, too many calories", "I'm watching my waistline". If we're honest, we are looking for validation that the sacrifice we are making is paying off. We're looking for someone to say, "you look great!" We want someone to acknowledge our sacrifice.

I'd like to suggest a different approach for you, this Lenten season and beyond. If the purpose of Lenten discipline is to make you more Christlike, then the question is what Christlike traits should you develop? If you are drawn to Jesus for his love, you could challenge yourself to love more. It requires seeing the best in others, and it requires us seeing everyone else as a beloved child of God made in God's own image. Christ's love for us is unconditional, it is a love that transcends all. Imagine looking at everyone with the love that Christ shows us.

If your understanding of Christ is that he is with you - and everyone - in your times of trial, then how would you go about developing yourself into a more compassionate disciple of Christ? Maybe your desire is to develop a richer, fuller, relationship with God through prayer. I imagine Jesus as being incredibly patient with us, how do you develop that patience within yourself?. For many 1

giving is a way of living out the Gospel. Giving doesn't have to be alms or money. It can be giving time or your God given talents. Your Lenten journey can be as simple as just coming up with a way to remind yourself to be kind. That kindness is an extension of God's love for you.

These changes are not really sacrifices because they are done out of love. If Christ's sacrifice for us is the greatest act of love, then our love for others is no sacrifice at all, it is our calling. When we do something out of love it is not hardship, it is not pain, it is not work, it is not inconvenient. When we base our actions in love it is Christlike.

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

Pastor Rick

2026 Church Council Installation



On Sunday, February 15th, The 2026 Spring Prairie Church Council was installed - Ami Bliefernicht, Dave Mickelson (Treasurer), Dan Biddick (President), Kayden Meyer, Gina Lee (Secretary), Laura Pingel, Josh Achterberg, Julie Johnson (Vice President) and Ralph Pulver (not pictured)

PRAYERS



† We keep in our prayers Sarrey Foss, who is receiving her second kidney transplant on March 6th. Her donor is her brother Tom O'Malley. They are the niece and nephew of Mike and DeLoma Cotter. Prayers for a successful surgery and recovery for both.

† Continued prayers of healing, strength, pain relief, and peace especially for Mike & Cathy Plyman, Darlene Greisen, Gloria Rortvedt and Robert Bredeson.

**** 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.*

President's Report

To my friends at Spring Prairie Lutheran Church,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I would like to thank everyone who attended our annual meeting on Sunday, January 25. Your participation is important as we forge the future of the Spring Prairie Lutheran Church. Among the many discussion topics, two new council members were elected:

Amy Bliefernict -- Amy will be heading up oversight of our Faith and Outreach.

and

Ralph Pulver – Ralph will be heading up oversight of our Church Building.

The council is committed to the church's mission. We will be meeting on the second Tuesday evening of every month. We will do our best to guide our faith community. The council serves you. Please feel free to contact any council member with questions, suggestions, ideas, or opportunities you feel warrant discussion.

I look forward to seeing you at our Lenten Soup Dinners and Services on Wednesday evenings. This will provide each of us an opportunity to self-examine for renewal and fulfillment of our personal missions of faith.

Many people in our faith community devote much time and effort to our mission. Many times, their efforts go unnoticed or unrecognized. Know that each of you is an inspiration to me. We are a great team, and I am fortunate to be a part of this great adventure.

See you Sunday!

Dan Biddick

608-217-2199

dbiddick1@gmail.com



Financial Update

We have started the year off in a good position with our operating budget. We have had some unexpected building repairs that will take some of our reserve building funds. While most expenses are on track, our utilities have been high for heating, similar to everyone's at home. Thank you for your offerings, and please continue to regularly support Spring Prairie and the mission we share.

Dave Mickelson

Treasurer

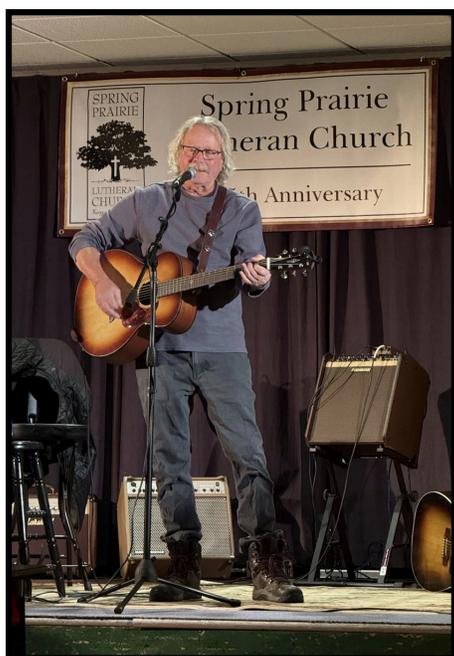
February Baptisms at Spring Prairie

We had two Baptisms in February, the first was of Benjamin Robert McGrath on Sunday, February 1st and the second was of Torvi Lou Couch in Sunday, February 22nd. Both were so sweet and calm during both of their ceremonies.



Prairie Coffeehouse with Chris Utley

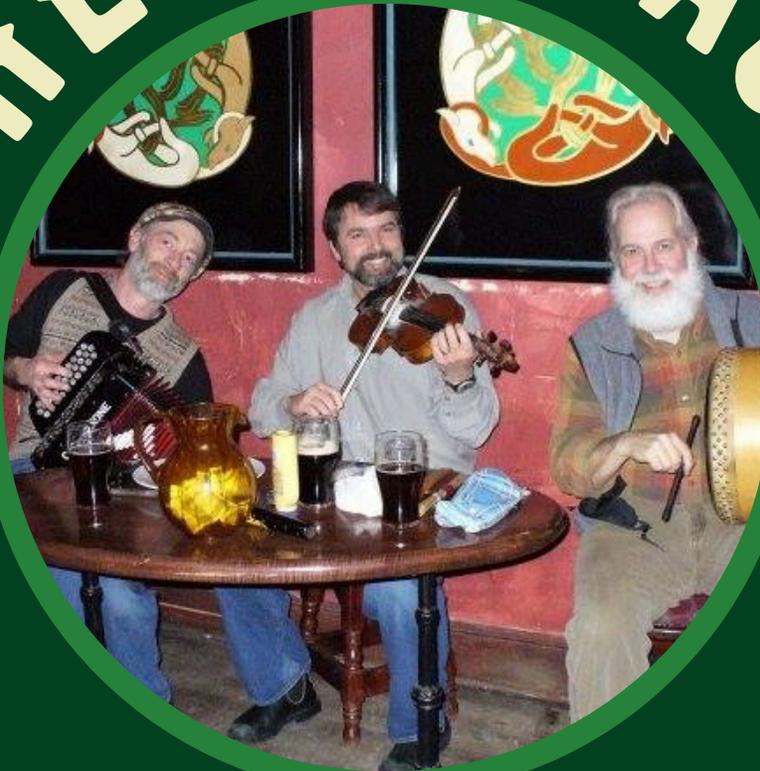
Friday, February 20th, we welcomed Chris Utley back to Prairie Coffeehouse. It was a great evening of music, delicious food, jokes and sing-alongs! We even got an impromptu duet performance with Laura Bursh!



PRAIRIE COFFEEHOUSE

presents

THE CURRACH



20
MAR

6-9
PM

IRISH TRIO

FRI. MARCH 20TH

FREE ADMISSION!

N509 County Rd DM
DeForest, WI 53532
(Keyeser)

.....
Come on out for this fun evening of Irish tunes and feel free to clap, sing or dance along! Doors open at 6:00 pm. Come and enjoy lots of delicious food and refreshments before and during the performance from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. As always, admission is FREE, however good-will offerings are kindly accepted to help support our performers.

MUSIC • FOOD • FELLOWSHIP

springprairie.org

SPRING
PRAIRIE



LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Keyeser, Wisconsin

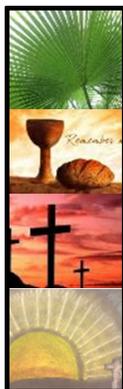
Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers



Again this year, we are holding soup suppers during the five Wednesdays of Lent. Our first one took place on February 25th and was quite delicious! March 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th. Our Soup Supper will begin each evening at 6pm followed by a brief Lenten Worship Service at 7pm. Sign up sheets for bringing soup, bread or dessert are on the table in the back. Please join us!



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



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



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 and is open to all. Worship will be on **April 2nd at 6:30 pm** with an opportunity for fellowship as well. If you would like to participate in the joint choir, music is available and we will be practicing Sunday's after worship.



GREETINGS FROM JJ'S FELLOWSHIP CORNER!

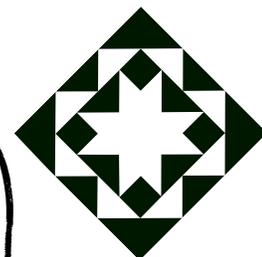
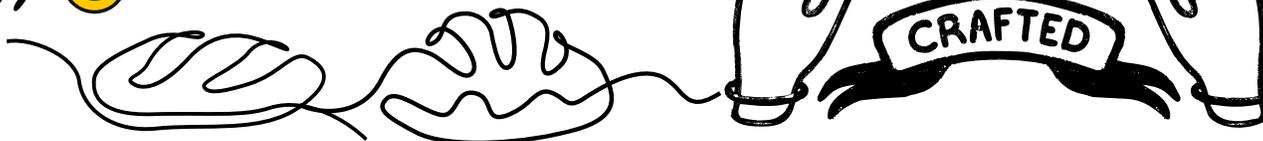
Happy March everyone! The good news is that spring is almost here, just as it says in Isaiah 35:1-2: "the desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus it will burst into bloom, it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy..."

Please join us as we celebrate both the arrival of spring and the resurrection of our Lord at our Lent suppers, featuring soup, bread, and dessert before the Lent service.

February was full of activities, including fellowships, baptisms, and our coffee house event. I hope you had a chance to stop by, mingle, and enjoy some cake or bagels!

As previously discussed, I am excited to announce our first **SPLC craft and bake sale, scheduled for May 2nd from 8 am to 4 pm**. Sellers will have the opportunity to set up their tables on Friday. There will also be a donation-based bake sale—please consider contributing baked goods, as all proceeds will benefit SPLC. If you are interested in reserving a booth for your crafts, please contact me soon; priority will go to SPLC members, and space is limited. Let me know if you have questions or suggestions. Your input is very much appreciated.

May God's love and peace be with you,



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!*

January 13th, 2026

Opening Items:

Members Present: Pastor Rick Bursh, Dan Biddick, Kayden Meyer, Josh Achterberg, Gina Lee, Bob Henze, Laura Pingel, Julie Johnson, and Dave Mickelson were present.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm.

Approval of minutes: first – Bob Henze; second by Josh Achterberg; all approved

Devotion: Provided by Laura Pingel, the Lord spoke and said, "This is my Son, with whom I am pleased" What is your approval rating with the Lord? Do we love our neighbors as ourselves so that the Lord will be pleased with us as his children? As his children we need to reach out to help others to share God's word and please our Father.

Financial Review: Dave Mickelson shared the proposed budget for 2026 along with an overview of items we accomplished: paying off the Audio System, paying off the Line of Credit, gift to Quilting Club, there are some Memorial Scholarships, along with three Certificate of Deposits that mature in April and June 2026. We need to revisit the Parking Lot fund as Columbia County still has not determined the date when they will start their end of the reconstruction. A motion was made by Josh Achterberg and the second was provided by Laura Pingel; all approved. We will continue with the Synod salary of \$1,000 and the Benevolence fund of \$1,000 monthly. We are working on turning off Simply giving monthly fees. There are three capital projects we are looking at 1. Parish Bathroom –the funds for these updates will come from the funds in several memorials that the Church has received. 2. The_Bells— there is a breakdown of the costs that will be provided at the annual meeting and based on the amount needed we will need a vote from the Congregation before we can proceed. Along with how the total cost would be needed from the Congregation and Church to complete this project. 3. Air Conditioning - there is a breakdown of the costs that will be provided at the annual meeting and based on the amount needed we will need a vote from the Congregation before we can proceed. Along with how the total cost would be needed from the Congregation and Church to complete this project. Motion to move forward on 2026 Budget was made by Bob Hemze, 2nd provided by Laura Pingel, all approved.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor stated he would use the next Council meeting to update information for the Congregation.

Council Committee Reports:

Music/Worship: Coffeehouse will resume in February, Friday 19th and continue in Friday, March 20th and Saturday, April 25th 2026. We need to inspire more members to participate in Sunday services with Confirmation students throughout the school year.

Outreach/Faith in Action: Dan's proposal for the Prayer Partners is moving forward, the interest has been minimal, he is looking to put together a meeting soon to help bring light to all who participate as the benefits to not only the individuals we pray for but to the individuals who participate in the group. In home communion is being put together. Dan said the next Bagel Breakfast will be on February 8th, 2026,

Property: Bob received the contract to rent farmland for 2026. The quote on the parish bathroom from Arlington Hardware will still be honored. A new coffeepot was purchased for the fellowship area.

Stewardship/Participation: Laura shared she has created a Volunteer Sign-up sheet to be put on each table at the Pancake Breakfast to encourage the Congregation to share their interest in areas that would benefit our building and our Congregation.

Christian Education/Youth: Kayden confirmed that we do another Pancake breakfast with the service held downstairs at the Annual meeting at Spring Prairie on January 25, 2026.

Technology/Communication: Josh shared that Best Defense was able to complete the installation and the Cellevator in the elevator is completely functional. The additional information he obtained on our capital projects will be shared at the Annual Budget meeting with the Congregation.

Fellowship: Julie said the bread fellowship went very well. We have several baptisms coming up in the next few months. Quilting is doing well.

New Business:

Three Council Members' three-year terms are up; Trish Kienitz and Bob Henze will be leaving. Gina Lee will be staying on, and Laura Pingel will be on for either a two- or three-year term. We are still in need of one to two new council members. Information for the Annual Budget will be shared at the January 25th church service

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 February 10, 2026, at 6:00 pm. Gina Lee will provide the devotion.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned with a motion by Bob Henze; seconded by Josh Achterberg at 8:01 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 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month, downstairs in our fellowship hall from 9:00 am to Noon.

No experience is necessary!

Worship Participants for March & April

Sunday, March 1st

Reader: Ron Sharpee
 Communion Assistant: Deb Sharpee
 Ushers/Greeter: Ron & Jean Minick

Sunday, March 8th

Reader: Dan Biddick
 Communion Assistant: Kayden Meyer
 Ushers/Greeter: Jo Odegaard & Gayle Parker

Sunday, March 15th

Reader: Kathy Schwade
 Communion Assistant: Robert Schwade
 Ushers/Greeter: Ann & Ross Meland

Sunday, March 22nd

Reader: Dave Mickelson
 Communion Assistant: Dan Biddick
 Ushers/Greeter: Bob & Kim Henze

Sunday, March 29th

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

Sunday, April 5th (Easter)

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

Sunday, April 12th

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

Sunday, April 19th

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

Sunday, April 26th

Reader: Tracy Mickelson
 Communion Assistant: Missy Bredeson
 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

● **Gina Lee** - Secretary

● **Josh Achterberg**

● **Kayden Meyer**

● **Laura Pingel**

● **Ralph Pulver**

● **Ami Bliefernicht**

● **Rick Bursh** - Pastor

●



March Birthdays



- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 3/1 Emma Pingel | 3/20 Emma Stiemke |
| 3/2 Sydney Achterberg | 3/21 Jerry Guenther |
| 3/4 Gloria Rortvedt | 3/23 Rusty Selje |
| 3/12 Connor Tjugum | 3/23 Gordon Paulman |
| 3/12 Leonardo Cacahua | 3/23 Baylee Achterberg |
| 3/13 Dawn Gogert | 3/26 Jim Langdon |
| 3/14 Clark Bindrich | 3/27 Trista Nelson |
| 3/19 Bob Henze | 3/28 Richard Lainberger |
| 3/20 Cathy Plyman | 3/30 Ole Gilbertson |
| 3/20 Justin Kvalo | 3/31 Emily Mickelson |



March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship Service & Baptism 10:00 am	2	3	4 Bible Study 10 - 11:30 am	5	6 Church Office Closed	7
8 Worship Service 10:00 am	9	10 Church Council Meeting 6:00 pm	11 Bible Study 10 - 11:30 am Confirmation 6pm Lenten Soup Supper 6pm Worship 7 - 7:30 pm	12	13 Church Office Closed	14 Quilting Ministry 9:00 am - Noon
15 Worship Service 10:00 am	16	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day	18 NO Bible Study Lenten Soup Supper 6pm Worship 7 - 7:30 pm	19	20 Prairie Coffeehouse w/ Currach Irish Trio 6:00 - 9:00 pm	21
22 Worship Service & New Member Celebration 10:00 am	23	24	25 Bible Study 10 - 11:30 am Confirmation 6pm Lenten Soup Supper 6pm Worship 7 - 7:30 pm	26	27 Church Office Closed	28 Quilting Ministry 9:00 am - Noon
29 Worship Service 10:00 am	30	31				

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

MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER



Friday, March 20th

THE CURRACH IRISH TRIO

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.