



SPRING PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH

October 2025

Pastor Rick Bursh

N509 CTH C

DeForest, WI 53532

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www.facebook.com/springprairie

Located at the corners of Hwys DM and C in Keyeser



“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” – (Matthew 22:36-40)

Earlier this year the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin passed a resolution at its annual assembly. After careful consideration by the members of the assembly, which included both clergy and lay persons, it was decided to issue a statement warning of the dangers of Christian Nationalism. It is likely that you have heard a great deal about Christian Nationalism of late, and perhaps you still have questions in your mind about what it is and how it can truly be harmful in our nation. That's a reasonable reaction, because as a first response it would be easy to say I love my country and I love God and loving both perhaps the solution to many of our problems, real or perceived, is to return to our faith.

“Christian Nationalism, is not Christian nor is it patriotic” Resolution 4 – “Christian Nationalism” – amended version, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin.

First, a little background. The framers of the Constitution incorporated a clause that has come to be known as the Establishment Clause. This clause prohibits the government from creating a state religion to consolidate power. The existence of this clause protects the freedom of religion for all people within the United States. This freedom is a core principle of our country. This freedom was established because the framers had experienced the tyranny associated with a state sanctioned religion. The Church of England was created in response to pressure from the Catholic Church against Henry VIII, and it was the Church of England that gave authority to the English monarchy. This combination paved the way for prejudice and oppression throughout the English empire.

The ideology of Christian Nationalism stands in stark contrast with our understanding of God's saving grace for all of creation through Christ's sacrificial act on the cross.

To be clear, as Lutherans we understand that we are guided by our faith as we engage the world. This faith calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves. We are to see the stranger as the one that God loves and to embrace them as Jesus would. We are to care for creation with an eye towards the future, conserving resources and protecting the environment. We are to feed and shelter those in need out of compassion and respect for the gospel. We are called to turn the other cheek and find common ground with those that we differ with. Finally, we understand the power of the gospel to be something that transcends the power of earthly kingdoms. We are instruments of that peace in the world.

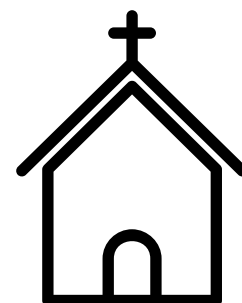
It is acceptable, and commendable for us go forth into the world as Christ would. But we are called to do that with respect for all creation, and all the people of the world. Our relationship with Christ is deeply personal and we live with the gift of God's grace. Let us continue to preach the Gospel into the world through our actions and love of neighbor. It is possible to do that and to love our country at the same time.

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Pastor Rick

Sunday School

At the beginning of September we held a special Backpack Blessing for all our youth and educators at Spring Prairie. The following week was our Sunday School Kick-Off! Sunday School is held weekly during worship from September through May and is led by our teachers Barb & Tracy Mickelson.



Fall Confirmation Dates

Confirmation classes started again in September. This is a two year class after which students are confirmed on Pentecost Sunday. If you have a young adult who is at least in the 7th grade or older and they aren't already enrolled, please contact Pastor Rick or the church office for more information. **Classes are held on alternating Wednesday evenings from 6:00 - 7:30 pm.*

October 8th
October 22nd

November 5th
November 19th

December 3rd
December 17th



THANK YOU!!!!

A huge thank you to all who helped in the kitchen and provided food donations for the recent funerals. SPLC has received so many compliments on the luncheons and the families are so very grateful.

Shirley

Hello Spring Prairie!



As the vibrant colors of autumn begin to grace our trees and the air turns crisp, October invites us into a season of reflection and gratitude. It's a time to pause and appreciate the beauty of change. This is my favorite time of year to slow down, marvel at the colors, and enjoy pumpkin everything!

Speaking of slowing down, we invite you to our brand-new event in October to enjoy family time at our Halloween Boo Bash & Movie Night. Be sure to invite others to enjoy all of our boo-fun!

In addition to creating fellowship and outreach opportunities, Council has been busy accomplishing more items from our Forward Planning roadmap for 2025. Really exciting news - we are moving forward with our sound system transition! Planning is underway - stay tuned for updates.

Big shout out for a wonderful member appreciation celebration! Thank you to those who spoke, brought food, helped serve, set up and cleaned up, provided administrative coordination and everything in between for our second annual event.

As always, thank you for your continued support and faith. Council is honored to serve Spring Prairie and all of us encourage your thoughts.

Fall blessings to you and yours,

Trish

Financial Update

We continue to stay on track paying our budgeted expenses. Thank you to everyone for making this happen. Please continue to support Spring Prairie.

Dave Mickelson

Treasurer



Blood Drive Success!

Thank you to everyone who helped out in anyway for our blood drive on September 9th. It was a great day with a total of 95 units collected! That is now our new record!

Our family, along with the American Red Cross really appreciate it! We are planning another drive again for next year about the same time.

Best wishes to you,

The Minick Family

Prairie Coffeehouse with Andy Braun

Friday, September 19th, we welcomed Andy Braun to Prairie Coffeehouse. It was a great time with great music, great food and great company! Thanks to all who helped make this evening a success!



Yoga FUNdamentals!



Cost:

\$15 per class OR \$120 for the series; get 1 class free!

Details:

Thursdays, 10-11am

October 16 - December 18

No Class on Thanksgiving, 11.27

Spring Prairie Lutheran Church
N509 Co. Rd. C, DeForest, WI

What you can expect

- Learn basic & fundamental yoga poses & practices suitable for any BODY, while having fun
- Expand your yoga practice
- Find simple ways to feel more peaceful, calm & joy in your life!
- Rejuvenation & relaxation

To Register:

Contact Jenny Atherberg
splc1847@gmail.com
608-692-6688

YOGA IS BACK AT SPRING PRAIRIE!

Join us Thursday mornings from 10-11 am for relaxing Yoga Classes with Dr. Rachel. This 9 Week Session will begin Thursday, October 16th and continue through Thursday, December 18th. Learn basic & fundamental yoga poses & practices suitable for ANY body, while having fun. Chair accommodations ARE available. Sign up with Jenny in the church office, or email splc1847@gmail.com for questions.



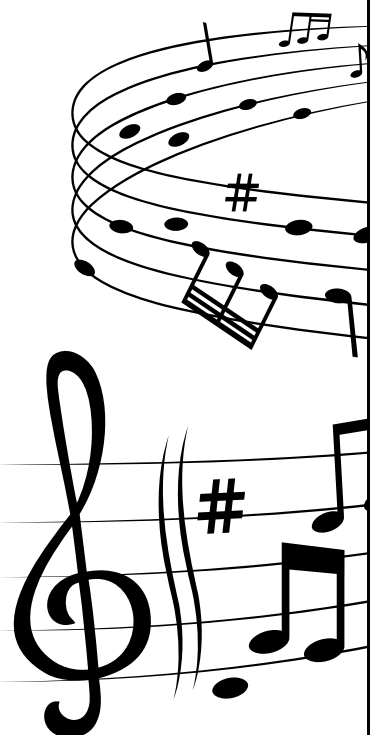
Thank You to those who came out for our Roadside Clean-Up on Sept 27th.

Many hands made light work!!!!



Dr. Rachel is on a mission to make the world a better place by helping others feel their best and enjoy life to the fullest! Learn more at WildlyGrounded.com

Spring Prairie October Events



PRAIRIE COFFEEHOUSE

presents:

JOSH HARTY

Saturday, October 18th, 2025

6:00 - 9:00 PM

Join us as we welcome Josh Harty back to Spring Prairie for an evening of music, food and fellowship! This year will include a Chili Cook Off! Bring a pot of your favorite Chili; we'll provide bread, butter and all the fixings among other delicious snacks. As always, admission is free, with good-will offerings gladly accepted to support our performers.




HALLOWEEN

Boo Bash & Movie Night

Spring Prairie Lutheran Church

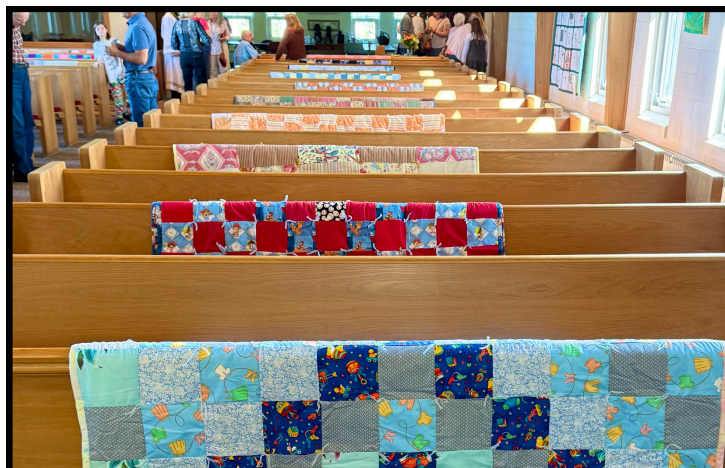
Oct 25th, 2025 | 4:00 - 7:00 pm

Join us if you dare for a kids night of ghoulish fun and wicked brews! This year we'll have hauntingly good music, dreadful delights to eat, a few surprises lurking around the church and spooky movies. So creep, float, or crawl on over in your best costume. Kids of all ages welcome - Bring a friend!



Quilting Ministry

Sunday, September 28th we held our yearly Blessing of the Quilts, where we bless all the volunteers and the quilts they made over the past year before they are distributed out into the world to people in need. Thanks so much for your continued service ladies!!!



This year our senior graduates Mia and Logan each received a quilt and we also gave a baby quilt in honor of Journee Lynn's baptism a few weeks ago. ***Quilting will be starting up again in October. Mark off the 2nd and 4th Saturday's of the month from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Everyone is welcome!

Shirley



PRAYERS



† In a world divided by fear, anger and mistrust, we pray for peace. May we heal the wounds that separate us and soften the hearts of those that have grown hard. Give us wisdom to listen with compassion, courage to seek understanding, and strength to work together for the good of all.

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

*** 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.

GREETINGS FROM JJ'S FELLOWSHIP CORNER!

October 2025

September was a busy month, and additional activities are planned at SPLC in the coming months. A Coffeehouse event was held on 9/19. Gina arranged for Andy Braun to perform for us, presenting a variety of musical genres. Food was provided for the attendees, and more than 40 people were served. If you were unable to attend that event, don't worry, Gina has arranged an additional evening of music and dining for October 18th with Josh Harty.



***** I am throwing out a challenge to all our chili makers out there to bring a pot of chili to the October Coffeehouse. We will provide crackers and bread and butter - let's see how many different chili recipes we can taste test!**

September 21st we were privileged to witness Journee Lynn Feit's baptism - she was adorable by the way! Though she did fall asleep before she saw her cake! Welcome Journee Lynn to your SPLC family!



** Journee Lynn is the great granddaughter of Paul & Donna Sharpee*

That same day we also celebrated with our SPLC friends and family during our Spring Prairie Membership Celebration. Pastor Rick held a special service where members shared what their faith meant to them, followed by a meal with over 76 people enjoying food and conversation. It was a great opportunity to connect with members we don't often see or have the time to visit with after church. Thanks to our speakers Deb Sharpee, Jackie Weigen & Dan Biddick!



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

jj 😊

Spring Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2025

October 2025

Opening Items:

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

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

Approval of minutes: 1st - Julie; 2nd Laura; all approved

Devotion: Provided by Dan shared how his journey in faith was guided by many hands and was blessed by this throughout his life through the Holy Spirit. Sharing the thought that by the use of all of our hands will help the Holy Spirit guide others on their faith journey

Financial Review: August synod payment of \$500 approved - 1st Bob; 2nd Julie; all approved. Annual report to show Council decided to move interest income of \$1,900 to general fund. Motion was made to address retaining wall repair by Bob, Dan gave the 2nd motion, all approved. We have designated memorials from Elaine Walls, Mary Sharpee, Bob Kronberg and Alice Zwiefel. Per Deb's report we received Paul and Elaine Gullickson memorial from their Estate. Motions were made for the Sound System, paying off the Loan and the Quilters Club, Bob made the 1st and Laura provided the second, all approved. The loan was paid off in full as designated.

Pastor's Report: Pastor has had 6 funerals from July 17th to August 11th. United Church of Christ in Morrisonville has dinner church on Thursday evenings at 5:30 pm. Pastor will be attending the Deans meeting the week of August 25th There has been some discussion of combining Vacation Bible School with other area churches next year. September 29th 6:30 to 8:00 pm all church council meeting. Regarding Jenny's fee for funeral services, we need to add 4 to 6 hours along with increasing the base fee by \$150.00 per funeral along with \$100 in Administration Fees, we will then charge \$150 for a member funeral and \$300 for a non-member funeral. Sunday morning musicians, Ivy will continue to record what is needed for Sunday during the week.

Council Committee Reports:

Music/Worship: A calendar has been created from August, 2025 to May, 2026 to outline Coffeehouse dates along with additional monthly events so that we can be better prepared as we go through our Church calendar year as a part of the 2025 Forward Planning items. We have Coffeehouse dates for September, October, November, December, February, March and April. We will extend an invitation to our sister churches to join in each of the Coffeehouse events. There is a possibility that Bill Dickman may assist with Music on some Sundays. We are also looking at Backpack blessings on September 10th.

Outreach/Faith in Action: Dan reported our next Membership Celebration will be on Sunday, September 21. He will be looking for 4 people to share what their faith community here at Spring Prairie means to them, possibly looking for one of our younger members to speak at the service. We will be having a potluck on that day as well and providing handouts to all visitors who attend Dan is working on a preliminary draft for a prayer chain and daily meditation concept. This could

be provided on our website that would be a way of providing a closer outreach to our Members during their time of need. Further, he is looking at setting up communion for our members that can't make it to church.

Property: Bob purchased humidifiers and a microwave for downstairs and the kitchen. An outlet is needed on the west wall downstairs for the freezer. We are in the process of getting the outside spigots replaced by Arlington Hardware. A motion was made to repair the Parsonage shower by Julie, Gina made the 2nd and all approved.

Stewardship/Participation: Laura is putting together a welcome packet for any visitors who attend Sunday Service. Schedule a Movie and Popcorn night, get parishioners involved, the first event will be held in October. We have the Norwegian cookies event in December and are looking at reaching out to our sister churches to see if they might want to participate.

Christian Education/Youth: Kayden was not in attendance at this meeting, updates will follow in the September minutes.

Technology/Communication: Jim Hermanson will be reviewing the Sound System on August 16th. The sound system will be digital, which will allow streaming capabilities. We will be 6 to 8 weeks out to get the system installed after full review. The approval will have to come through a church meeting as the cost is between \$32,000 and \$43,000. The elevator phone is in the process of getting a quote involving upfront and service fees.

Fellowship: Julie shared that Vacation Bible School went very well, we had lots of help, especially from our youth leaders. All the kids enjoy all the events. We are looking into a craft fair for church.

New Business: We are still in the process of getting quotes on the Bell repair.

Old Business: There is no old business.

Next Council Meeting: Our next meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2025, at 6:00 pm. Kayden Meyer will provide the devotion.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned with a motion by Dan Biddick; seconded by Julie Johnson at 8:08 pm; approved by all and ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by: Gina Gray, Council Secretary



SAVE THE DATE!!!!

The 4th Annual Norwegian Baking & Craft Day at SPLC is on **Saturday December 7th** from 1:00pm to 3:00 pm. We have expert instructors on how to make flat bread, lefse, krum kake, rosettes, sandbakkels, and even romeigrot. Unfortunately, no lutefisk. Everyone is welcome!!!!

Shirley



Worship Participants for October**Sunday, October 5th**

Reader: Missy Bredeson

Communion Assistant: Dan Biddick

Ushers/Greeter: **Volunteers Needed****Sunday, October 12th**

Reader: Dan Biddick

Communion Assistant: Kayden Meyer

Ushers/Greeter: **Volunteers Needed****Sunday, October 19th**Reader: **Volunteer Needed**

Communion Assistant: Trish Kienitz

Ushers/Greeter: Missy Bredeson & **Volunteer****Sunday, October 26th**Reader: **Volunteer Needed**

Communion Assistant: Missy Bredeson

Ushers/Greeter: Jo Odegaard & Gayle Parker

****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 Gray** - 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**October Birthdays**

10/1 Jennifer Dobbs

10/2 Deb Sharpee

10/3 Cole Kienitz

10/6 Amanda Kvalo

10/7 Karen Gullickson

10/9 Charlene Andler

10/10 Julie Johnson

10/10 Logan Kvalo

10/11 Tom Kienitz

10/12 Desiree Johnson

10/13 Zach Peper

10/14 Tabitha Estorf

10/17 Janice Gullickson

10/19 Andrew Selje

10/25 Barb Mickelson

10/25 Logan Storm

10/26 Christy Waldner

10/28 Piper Howe

10/29 Andrea Slaney

10/31 Diana Bussian



October



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Bible Study 10:30 am - Noon	2	3 Church Office Closed	4
5 Worship Service 10:00 am	6	7	8 Bible Study 10:30 am - Noon 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 Prairie Coffeehouse w/ Josh Harty 6:00 - 9:00 pm
19 Worship Service 10:00 am	20	21	22 Bible Study 10:30 am - Noon Confirmation 6:00 - 7:30 pm	23	24 Church Office Closed	25 Spring Prairie Halloween Party 4:00 - 7:00 pm
26 Worship Service 10:00 am	27	28	29 Bible Study 10:30 am - Noon	30	31 Church Office Closed	↑↑↑↑ Also OCT 25 th Quilting Ministry 9:00 am - Noon

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

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DeForest, WI 53532
Permit No. 3

Return Service Requested

growing in faith ... reaching out in love

OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



Saturday, October 18th

JOSH HARTY

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.