



SPRING PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH

October 2026

Pastor Rick Bursh

N509 CTH C

DeForest, WI 53532

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springprairie.org

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Located at the corners of Hwys DM and C in Keyeser



Dear friends in Christ,

A week ago we gathered to remember Pastor Rolf Olson at his funeral. Pastor Olson, along with his wife Trudy, served Spring Prairie for 36 years. Rolf served with humility, patience, compassion, and with an undying love of neighbor. On this occasion, I took the opportunity to look again at those things that make up our sense of call as pastors of a congregation. The relationship between a pastor and a congregation is unlike any vocational setting primarily because the role of a pastor is incredibly unique.

I can think of no other vocation that requires such a wide variety of talents and disciplines. A pastor is called on to lead worship, sing as they are able, provide pastoral care, teach, oversee the administration of the church, visit those in need, preach, and engage the community as a representative of the congregation. All of this is done from within the congregation, and the pastor has very little formal authority to compel others to act. Couple this with the understanding that every pastor is the temporary caretaker of the position, and you begin to understand the complexity of being called into God's church.

Each pastor, like every human being, has their strengths and their weaknesses. Pastors are not called into ministry because they hold a moral high ground, they are called as an extension of God's love of all people expressed through the gospel. When pastors have served their tenure, they freely leave the pulpit to the one that is to come. Pastors understand that because of the nature of the position they are to carry their memories and relationships into the next calling of their lives, making room for the next pastor that will serve the congregation.

If someone were to ask me what the true message of Christ is I would answer unequivocally to love. This is what Jesus calls us to do, and Jesus understands everything flows from love. If we can just get the love part correct, everything else will be an extension of that love. Forgiveness, compassion, servitude, sincerity, friendship, loyalty, all find their roots and loving one another as Christ loves us.

God's love is a love without exception, a love that we can only aspire to as human beings because it is perfect love. When we emulate God's love, we see the other person as an extension of that love, and we treat them as God treats us. This is true of all people who consider themselves disciples of

Christ. Jesus understands that we can never be perfect and it is through Jesus's sacrifice that we are made right with God. To serve the church, to serve God, to serve a congregation is to love. It is the same love that Christ showed for the world.

Pastor Olson served as a good and faithful servant of the gospel. It is what we all aspire to when we bring our God-given talents to the role. More so, is what each of us are to aspire to as disciples of Christ. Embrace the love that you have for others allow it to fill your heart with God's presence.

God's love be with you all.

Pastor Rick Bursh



Spring Prairie C.A.R.E.S Ministry

For the month of October, the Spring Prairie C.A.R.E.S. Ministry will be holding a Winter Clothing Drive to help keep people in our community warm this winter! We are collecting ALL SIZES (children & adult) **Coats, Snow Pants, Boots, Hats, Gloves, Mittens, Scarves, Sweaters, Sweatshirts, Long-Sleeve Shirts, Pants & Blankets.**

***Items should be clean and free from any rips or stains.

All donations will be added to the **Windsor Elementary Clothing Giveaway** taking place on **Saturday, November 7th from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.** This is open to all in need and all items are free of charge. There is also an opportunity to volunteer to help sort clothes at Windsor Elementary School the evening before, starting at **4:00 pm Friday, November 6th.** To volunteer, sign up in the back of the sanctuary.

MacKenzie Center Fall Festival - Saturday, October 17th

In September our C.A.R.E.S Ministry collected items and donations for the MacKenzie Center. Members of our congregation also signed up to volunteer at the **Friends of MacKenzie Center Fall Festival** coming up on **Saturday, October 17th from 10am to 2pm.** If you were unable to sign up to volunteer, no problem! Bring the whole family for a fun filled day!

The MacKenzie Center is located at W7303 County Rd CS &Q, Poynette, WI 53955. Activities include pumpkin painting, face painting, hay bale maze, compass course, archery, fire building, pond study, wood cutting, wildlife viewing, hay rides, and food. \$15.00 vehicle admission covers parking and all activities (cash only), food not included. Come join in the fun!



Spring Prairie Youth Group Corn Maze Trip

Saturday, October 10th

Our first Youth Group Night was a great time, coming together for pizza and a movie! Youth Group will now continue to meet on the **2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 6:00 - 7:30 pm** and typically have one special outing a month as well. This month we will be headed out to spend an afternoon at the Creek Bed Farmacy Corn Maze on **Saturday, October 10th!** This is for youth 6th - 12th grade and their friends. Sign up is in the back of the sanctuary or email splc1847@gmail.com to reserve your spot!



Treasurer's Report

Things have tightened up considerably in the month of September. Giving was significantly lower than normal or expected. Please continue your giving to Spring Prairie so we can continue in a good financial position.

David Mickelson

Treasurer

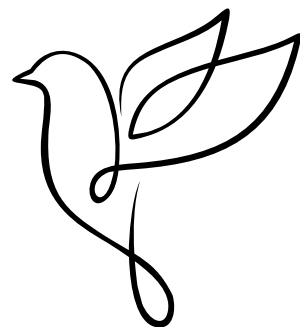


Prayers

† Lord, we pray all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit especially Gina Lee, Mike & Cathy Plyman, Darlene Griesen, David Baldwin and Gloria Rortvedt. Amen

† Lord, we pray at the beginning of this school year, grant poise and understanding to students as they return to school. Open their minds to learn and help them understand the things they are taught. Remove confusion, forgetfulness, and distraction from their minds.

† Lord, we pray for strength and healing for our bishop, Bishop Joy Mortenson-Weibe, as she fights illness. Grant her the comfort of your presence, and guide those that seek to bring her healing. Be with her family and loved ones as they gather to support her.



**** 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 Achterberg know.*

President's Report

To the Great Folks of Spring Prairie,



HARVEST!! October is the heart of the harvest. It's the culmination of a year's risk, preparation, planting, nurturing, and now harvesting. Whether you are harvesting the last few items from your garden, apples from an orchard, or corn and beans from an acreage, there is the same wonder of where in the world all this came from.

As a young boy, I remember the seed corn harvest and the pressures it brought. The seed corn had to be harvested before it froze. If it froze in the field, it would kill the germ in each kernel and become worthless. My dad would stay awake at night to watch the thermometer. He would say, "It is the coldest just before dawn." I always thought that was a tremendous metaphor. Just before the sun came up, when the source of all energy and living things appeared on the eastern horizon, the thermometer would dip. He would encourage and will the sun to appear quickly.

We harvested the seed corn on the ear. We dried the seed corn on the ear. We dried the seed corn by forcing hot air through bins with slotted floors. Big fans would push the hot air up through or down through (we could reverse the airflow) the corn. Coal-burning furnaces created the hot air. The thing I remember most about those days was the terrific scent in the air around the farm. The smell of burning coal and drying corn was unbelievable. What a fragrance!! Certainly, better than the deodorant I use every morning!! Now there's an idea. Create a deodorant with the scent of burning coal and drying corn. Oh my, it would be so unique. It would turn the tide to larger families again!

After the corn was dried, it would have to be shelled. The cobs would be blown outside into a huge pile. This was quite an attraction for a young, adventurous boy to climb and then slide down. Great fun!

Jesus knew the harvest. He spoke in terms of harvesting people. He planted seeds in people's hearts. Some seeds would sprout quickly but then lose interest. Some seed would sprout and grow but be thwarted by the world's cares and pressures. Many seeds would germinate, sprout, and grow, and grow, and grow to full maturity for a wonderful harvest.

Jesus encourages each one of us to sow seeds of love, joy, faith, peace, forgiveness, patience, understanding, and spiritual adventure among our friends, family, neighborhoods, communities, country, and the world. We can do this. We have a faith community whose planting ability knows no bounds. What we do every day, the choices we make every moment, show our dedication to the Master's challenge. The harvest is great, the laborers few. Each is needed. Each has a role to play. Each must look deep within, reflect, and act. Let us be a part of the few! What a great place to be!

Have a safe harvest. See you Sunday!

Dan Biddick





5th Annual Norwegian Baking & Craft Day

Save the date for our 5th Annual Norwegian Baking & Craft Day on **Saturday, December 5th from 1:00 - 3:00 pm**. We'll have expert instructors on how to make flat bread, lefse, krumkake, rosettes, sandbakkels and even rommegrot! There will also be some fun crafts too! All are welcome to come together for an afternoon of fun and enjoyment and maybe learn a thing or two as well.



Come, Sing the Christmas Story! 🎵

There is something especially beautiful about voices coming together at Christmas. This year, we have the opportunity to share that joy in a very special way as singers from our five area ELCA churches: Spring Prairie, Norway Grove, United in Christ, Burke Lutheran and Christ Lutheran come together to learn and perform a Christmas Cantata.



Our combined choir concert will be held the evening of **Saturday, December 12th**, at Christ Lutheran Church in DeForest. Singers from each of our congregations will join their voices to tell the Christmas story through music and create a beautiful celebration for our whole church community. Following the cantata, we'll gather for a brief reception and a Christmas carol sing, inviting everyone in attendance to join their voices with ours.

Music will be available soon for those who would like to participate. Please reach out to Pastor Rick or Jenny Achterberg if interested. There will be opportunities to rehearse after worship on Sundays, as well as a few combined Wednesday evening rehearsals when singers from all five churches will gather together. Dates for those combined rehearsals will be announced soon.

You don't have to be a seasoned choir member to take part. If you love to sing and would enjoy being part of this special Christmas offering, we would love to have you join us!



Spring Prairie T-Shirts

There are still five Spring Prairie Logo T-Shirts available. Red, White, Light Blue, and Gray all in Size Large. And one Gray in Medium. If anyone would like another T-Shirt, or if you would like to order any for gifts, please let Jo Odegard, Jenny Achterberg or myself know.

We can place an order if there is a minimum of twelve shirts but must be the same color ink (black or white). Prices are \$10 for Adult sizes Small thru X-Large or \$12 for sizes XXL and above. Thank you to all who have purchase Spring Prairie T-Shirts thus far!

Shirley Clemons

Confirmation Classes

October 7th November 4th December 2nd

October 21st November 18th December 16th

Confirmation classes started up again last month. This is a two year class after which students are typically confirmed on Pentecost Sunday.

*Classes are held on alternating Wednesday evenings from 6:00 - 7:30 pm September through May at Spring Prairie.



***Thanks to all who helped clean up Hwy C in September for our Adopt a Highway Sponsoship! Ross, Ralph, Dave & Barb and not pictured - Jim, Alexander, Pastor Rick & Josh

Funeral Luncheons

I am so thankful and grateful to all the volunteers who help with setting up, work in the kitchen and also those who donate foods for funeral luncheons here at Spring Prairie. It is amazing the variety of the donated foods, from hot dishes, salads, deviled eggs, and many different kinds of desserts that come in through from friends, family and church volunteers.

When Pastor Rick gives the prayer to bless the food we are about to eat and the hands that prepare & serve the funeral luncheons... obviously, we have been generously blessed!

When so many churches have had to resort to completely catering luncheons, Spring Prairie has managed to keep the traditional funeral luncheons alive. We have heard after the funeral luncheon, the thanks and gratefulness (and amazement) from the family and their friends.

If anyone would like to be part of this church ministry by either a food donation or volunteering with setting up (usually this is done the day before, which includes setting up chairs, tables, flower arrangements) or working the day of the funeral, or even helping out later just for clean up, you can contact Pastor Rick, Jenny Achterberg or myself.

Again, thank you to all the wonderful persons who make funeral luncheons at Spring Prairie run smoothly.



Shirley Clemons

GREETINGS FROM JJ'S FELLOWSHIP CORNER!

Happy Fall everyone!

Cooler days and nights are here, apples are ripe, and pumpkin spice is everywhere!

September has been busy, with many opportunities to serve our community. Thank you to everyone who donated at the Minick Farm's blood drive—and a special thanks to Ron & Jean Minick for hosting again this year!

We held our highway cleanup and began quilting on September 12th. If you missed it, we quilt every other Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. If you're curious, stop by the basement—we'll gladly show you how easy it is to help make quilts for children in foster care 😊

We celebrated the life of Pastor Olson, who spent so many years with us at Spring Prairie. Thanks to Shirley Clemons and all who helped with that on September 19th.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have hosted our membership appreciation potluck, and I'm sure it was wonderful!

We also will have our first Youth Group get together on Saturday September 26th. Look for an update in next month's newsletter or check in with Ami Bliefernicht to see how it went.

I am thinking of planning the second annual chili cookoff - if we have enough interested people- please let me know if you would like to attend and or bring your chili to be eaten and judged. I can promise another awesome prize for first place!

Till next time,

May God's love and peace be with you,

JJ 😊



Updating Our Records

Over the coming months, we will be reviewing and updating our membership records and invite you to help us keep our information current. If your address, phone number, or email has changed, or if you are now connected with another congregation, we would love & appreciate an update from you. Please call or email the church office at (608) 846-4178 or SPLC1847@gmail.com

We also welcome your preferences regarding our communications. If you would like to be removed from our mailing or email list, please let us know. Or if you are not currently receiving our emails and would like to, we would be glad to add you to our list.



Spring Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2026

Council Members

Pastor Rick Bursh, Dan Biddick, Laura Pingel, Julie Johnson, Ralph Pulver, Ami Bliefernicht, Josh Achterberg

Meeting Called to Order: 6:05pm

Devotion: Provided by Dan Biddick.

Approval of Minutes: First Provided by Julie Johnson, Second by Ami Bliefernicht , All approved

Financial Review: Dave Mickelson presented the financial report. Ralph Pulver made a motion to accept the financial report. Josh Achterberg seconded. All approved. Julie Johnson made a motion to send \$1000 to synod benevolence fund. Ami Bliefernicht seconded. All approved.

Pastor Report: Nothing new to report.

Council Committee Reports

Music Worship: Nothing new to report.

Outreach: Discussed Spring Prairie CARES ministry. Ami Bliefernicht presented a calendar for possible CARES events. Membership cards to verify membership will be created and mailed out. We will be having a fellowship on September 27th to celebrate members.

Property: Discussed getting future quotes on HVAC, boilers, gutters, and carpet. Also discussed having the roof on the north side checked as there is a possible leak. Highway cleanup is scheduled for September 12th at 8 am. Anyone available to participate to meet at the church.

Stewardship/participation: Nothing new to report.

Christian Education/Youth: Nothing new to report

Technology and communication: Nothing new to report.

Fellowship: Quilt blessing on August 23rd

New Business: Nothing new to report.

Old Business: Nothing new to report.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday September 8th, 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.



Winter Clothing Drive



ALL OF OCTOBER

Spring Prairie Lutheran Church

**ADULT & KIDS WINTER CLOTHING - ALL SIZES:
Coats, Snow Pants, Boots, Hats, Gloves, Mittens,
Scarves, Sweaters, Sweatshirts, Long-Sleeve
Shirts, Pants & Blankets.**

***Items must be clean and free of holes & stains**



Worship Participants for Oct & Nov**Sunday, October 4th**

Reader: Missy Bredeson

Communion Assistant: Kathy Schwade

Ushers/Greeter: Ron & Deb Sharpee

Sunday, October 11th

Reader: Ron Sharpee

Communion Assistant: Dave Mickelson

Ushers/Greeter: Ralph Pulver & Missy Bredeson

Sunday, October 18th

Reader: Kim Henze

Communion Assistant: Bob Henze

Ushers/Greeter: Jo Odegaard & Gayle Parker

Sunday, October 25th

Reader: Dave Mickelson

Communion Assistant: Carl Skalitzsky

Ushers/Greeter: Ann & Ross Meland

Sunday, November 1st

Reader: Barb Mickelson

Communion Assistant: Missy Bredeson

Ushers/Greeter: Bob & Kim Henze

Sunday, November 8th

Reader: Dennis Kindschy

Communion Assistant: Deb Sharpee

Ushers/Greeter: Dan Biddick & Bob Henze

Sunday, November 15th

Reader: Dan Biddick

Communion Assistant: Bob Henze

Ushers/Greeter: Ron & Jean Minick

Sunday, November 22nd

Reader: Kathy Schwade

Communion Assistant: Robert Schwade

Ushers/Greeter: Robert & Tracy Mickelson Fam

Sunday, November 29th

Reader: Tracy Mickelson

Communion Assistant: Dan Biddick

Ushers/Greeter: Ralph Pulver & Missy Bredeson

*****If you are unable to do your assigned date, please find a replacement & let us know.**

● **Church Office**

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● **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. Thank you.*

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● **Jenny Achterberg**, Church Office Administrator

● splc1847@gmail.com, 608-846-4178

● **Office hours:** Mon - Thurs 9-2, (may vary)

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● **Dave Mickelson** - Treasurer● **Deb Sharpee** - Financial Secretary● **Dorie Bindrich** - Asst. Fin. Secretary● **Doug Bindrich** - Custodian● **Josh Achterberg** - Cleaning● **Shirley Clemons** - Funeral Lunches

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● **Church Council**● **Dan Biddick** - President● **Julie Johnson (JJ)** - Vice President / Fellowship● **Laura Pingel** - Secretary/ Stewardship / Participation● **Josh Achterberg** - Technology / Communications● **Ralph Pulver** - Property● **Ami Bliefernicht** - Outreach/Youth Group● **Rick Bursh** - Pastor

●



10/1 Jennifer Dobbs

10/2 Deb Sharpee

10/6 Amanda Kvalo

10/7 Karen Gullickson

10/9 Charlene Andler

10/10 Julie Johnson

10/10 Fern Skalitzky

10/10 Logan Kvalo

10/11 Tom Kienitz

10/12 Desiree Johnson

10/13 Zach Peper

10/14 James Rocolle

10/17 Janice Gullickson

10/19 Andrew Selje

10/25 Barb Mickelson

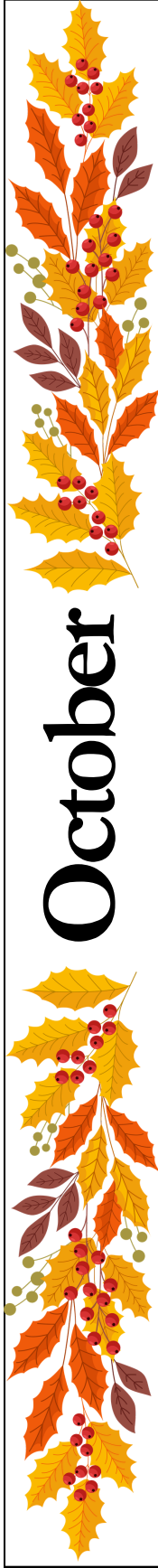
10/25 Logan Storm

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	2 Church Office Closed	3
4 Worship Service 10:00 am	5	6	7 Bible Study 10 - 11:30 am Confirmation 6:00 - 7:30 pm	8	9 Church Office Closed	10 Quilting Ministry 9am - Noon Youth Group Corn Maze
11 Worship Service 10:00 am	12 Youth Group 6:00 - 7:30 pm	13 Church Council Meeting 6:00 pm	14 Bible Study 10 - 11:30 am	15	16 Church Office Closed	17 MacKenzie Center Fall Festival 10 am - 2 pm
18 Worship Service 10:00 am	19	20	21 NO Bible Study Confirmation 6:00 - 7:30 pm	22	23 Church Office Closed	24 Quilting Ministry 9am - Noon
25 Worship Service 10:00 am <i>November Newsletter Articles Due</i>	26 Youth Group 6:00 - 7:30 pm	27	28 Bible Study 10 - 11:30 am	29	30 Church Office Closed	31

2026

Spring Prairie Lutheran Church Calendar

Phone: (608) 846-4178

Email: splc1847@gmail.com

Website: springprairie.org

Spring Prairie Lutheran Church
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DeForest, WI 53532

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Return Service Requested

growing in faith ... reaching out in love

OCTOBER 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



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