



SPRING PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 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



My dear friends in Christ,

Groucho Marx famously said once, “I will belong to no club that would have me as a member.” Certainly, it's facetious, but it also represents an awareness of self and humility in a world that often wants us to be perfect. The expectation is that each of us is capable of being more than we truly are. But in our heart, we recognize this disconnect and it can leave us in a state of conflict. We're not worthy, we are not good enough, people don't truly know who we are, we don't belong. It's something that has probably plagued each one of us at times. In contrast to this there is the church.

When we are baptized, we are baptized into a community of believers and what we share with those believers is not our perfection but Christ's perfection. God does not accept us because of what we might be, God accepts us just as we are. God understands the things that make us imperfect and through God's grace we are cleansed of all iniquity. God's church doesn't know any four walls, it isn't dependent upon the grandeur of the building. God's church isn't about programming or community service. God's church extends beyond these four walls into all of creation and encompasses every individual made in God's image.

This September we will come together to celebrate our belonging within God's church. We will welcome back our siblings who may have ventured out into the world but never lost contact with us through the Holy Spirit. It will be an opportunity to share our stories, to remember our friendships, and to envision what we can do together as we head into the future.

Recently, we've discussed what it means to be a “member” of Spring Prairie. I don't know about you, but to me the word member suggests a division. It suggests that there is an inner and an outer group. It ignites my insecurity about junior high when social groups really begin to separate and define us. While it is necessary to define members of the church for purposes of the constitution, it seems to create unnecessary divisions; all are welcome here and always will be.

Our constitution was written with the foresight to add a bylaw that is somewhat unique. It reads, [Members who have not] “attended worship or supported the work of the church financially for a period of two years or more, shall be considered inactive.” Did you see the connective word, “or”? What makes this unique is that many congregations require both: that connective word would be “and”. What that means is that we recognize that some of our siblings will not be with us physically, but we will still be connected through the Holy Spirit. It is also an acknowledgement that there may be times in our lives when supporting the church through financial means isn't practical or possible. The lack of either one of these is not cause for separation.

God's church welcomes you as a member, and you will always be a member. This was assured when you were baptized and sealed with the sign of the cross forever. Spring Prairie welcomes you as a member. If your journey takes you someplace different, we pray that you will find a faith community to thrive within and be nurtured by. Regardless, we will always be connected through our common past and remain members together in God's church.

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

Pastor Rick



On **Sunday, September 7th** we will be holding a special "**Blessing of the Backpacks**" during Worship. This is a special time of prayer for students, teachers and school administrators as the new school year begins. If you are a student, teacher or administrator in any educational setting we invite you to bring your backpack, laptop bag or briefcase in for a special blessing!

A Celebration of Spring Prairie Lutheran Church Faith Community

Sunday, September 21st, 2025 10:00 am

Join us for a celebration of Faith, Fellowship & Community!

Sunday, September 21st we will be holding a very special worship service here at Spring Prairie starting at 10:00 am. Immediately following worship we'll have a good old-fashioned potluck lunch. Bring your friends and family and a dish to pass while we enjoy a great meal and day with friends and neighbors.

Hot sandwiches will be provided. See you there!



Hello Spring Prairie!

As we step into September, we find ourselves in a season of transition—summer fades, school begins, and the rhythm of life shifts once again. With school starting, it's important to bless the school year for children, teachers, administrators and parents. Bring anything you'd like blessed to our backpack service on September 7th to guide us with a new school year and God's steadfast strength in working through changes, opportunities, and possibilities.

This month, let us recommit ourselves to support our church by loving boldly, serving humbly, and growing faithfully.

To Serve Humbly: We'll have the opportunity to connect at our Membership Celebration on September 21. Invitations were sent and we all look forward to seeing everyone at our second annual appreciation event for terrific food and company. Be sure to invite others to join us for a great fellowship experience!

To Grow Faithfully: Another opportunity to gather will be at one of our incredible upcoming Coffee Houses being planned for mid-September. Council is working on more fun and unique ways to gather in the coming months including inviting area congregations to participate in our events. Stay tuned for more details.

To Love Boldly: Know your presence matters - whether you're joining us for worship, volunteering your time, or simply offering a kind word - each interaction is important and matters deeply. Together we are building a vibrant, inclusive, and forward-thinking community.

Here's to embracing the changing season that September brings!

Blessings to you and yours,

Trish



Financial Update



We have made it through the summer in decent financial shape. We are comfortably current on all our bills. Electric bills for July and August were significantly higher at the church and parsonage, as well as my house and many others I have asked. Rates have increased, as well as hot weather bringing more AC and dehumidifier use. Two new dehumidifiers were purchased that hopefully will be more energy efficient. Our septic pumping has also been more frequent this year such that we are already over our projected budget for this. A warm fall like last year would help keep our heating bills down longer. Our long-term debt has been paid off thanks to a designated memorial donation. Thank you to everyone who has contributed.

Dave Mickelson

Treasurer

Prairie Coffeehouse w/ Andy Braun- Friday, September 19th 6-9pm



Join us for an evening of Music, Food & Fellowship at our first **Prairie Coffeehouse** of the fall season on **Friday, September 19th from 6:00 - 9:00 pm**. This special night will feature singer-songwriter **Andy Braun**, a WAMI-nominated artist whose folk-rock style blends heartfelt originals with timeless covers.

Andy's music features acoustic guitar, harmonica, and warm vocals, drawing inspiration from legends such as the Beatles, Neil Young, and Townes Van Zandt. Growing up as the son of a church choir director and organist, Andy began singing at a young age and has been performing ever since. Now a full-time musician, he has been featured on CBS-58 Milwaukee and continues to share his passion for music across Wisconsin and beyond. Prairie Coffeehouse is an alcohol-free listening environment for live acoustic music and other acts. Snacks and refreshments are provided. Admission is free, with free-will offerings are graciously accepted to support our performers.

Come be part of a welcoming evening filled with great music, good company, and the joy of a live performance!

A Night with Dr. Kristin Du Mez

Sunday, September 14th 5:30pm at Bethel Lutheran Church
Madison, WI

The first evening of our Synod's Fall Theological Conference will begin with a special keynote presentation by Dr. Kristin Du Mez. This free event is sponsored by the Bethel Foundation and is open to the public. Dr. Du Mez is a New York Times bestselling author and Professor of History and Gender Studies at Calvin University. She is known for her research on the intersection of gender, religion, and politics in American history. Her most recent book is, *Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation*, and she is a frequent commentator for the Washington Post, NPR and CBS.

In a time of division, how do we live with grace? Join author Dr. Kristin Du Mez for a thoughtful conversation.



Schedule:

5:30 pm - Welcome and Fellowship

6:15 pm - Opening Remarks

6:30 pm - Dr. Kristin Kobes Du Mez Keynote Address

8:00 pm - Q&A and Fellowship



Scan the QR code
to register or visit
scsw-elca.org/fall2025/#

Annual Minick Farms Blood Drive - Tuesday, September 9th


Mark your calendars! The annual Minick Farms Blood Drive is coming up on **Tuesday, September 9th from 1:00 - 6:00 PM**. Whether you're a seasoned donor or giving for the first time, you're invited to stop by - **walk-ins are welcome**, or you can **make an appointment** ahead of time for added convenience.

Remember, there must be **56 days between whole blood donations** and **112 days between Power Red donations**, so be sure to check your eligibility before donating.

Your donation could save a life - **give the gift of life today!**

Ron & Jean Minick





**American
Red Cross**

*Give the gift
of life today!*

Minick Farms

Blood Drive

(Between Rio & Columbus)
N2708 County Rd. A

Tuesday, September 9th, 2025

1-6 PM

APPOINTMENTS:

For an appointment, please call Jean at
(608)575-2445

or go online: www.redcrossblood.org

*You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using
RapidPass! Go to redcross.org/RapidPass for more information.*

Walk-ins & new donors welcome!



Saturday, September 27th - 8:00 am Adopt a Highway CleanUp

Fall is coming, and this is a great time to give back to our community! Join us Saturday, September 27th as we come together to clean up Hwy C near Spring Prairie Lutheran Church as part of our Adopt a Highway Sponsorship.

Many hands make light work, and this is a great way to serve while enjoying some fresh air and fellowship. Bring gloves & dress for the weather. We'll have Hi-Vis vests available. Let's make a difference together!

Fall Confirmation Dates

Confirmation classes will be starting up again this month. 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.**



September 10th

October 8th

November 5th

December 3rd

September 24th

October 22nd

November 19th

December 17th

Warm greetings from JJ's fellowship corner! I hope everyone enjoys what is left of summer - fall will be here before we know it. It was a busy summer at SPLC, but there are still more enjoyable events on the horizon.

Vacation Bible School

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who brought desserts, helped cook, set up, serve, and clean up in the kitchen during VBS. We fed 27 people on Tuesday and 21 on Wednesday. Special thanks go to our two Bobs: Bob Henze, who cooked the sweet corn, and Bob Brockel, who grilled the hot dogs. We also appreciate Kim and Sue for volunteering them! Many thanks to Ron and Jean Minick for supplying, husking, and cleaning the sweet corn—it was delicious!

Kitchen Improvements

We now have a new microwave and some much-needed fans in the kitchen. One of the microwaves we were trying to use was 38 years old! Although it served us faithfully, the new one is a welcome improvement. The fans are a relief for those working in the kitchen, keeping us cool as we cook, clean, and serve meals.

Craft/Bake Sale – New Date

Our Spring Prairie Craft/Bake Sale is now tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 2026. We needed more time to organize and properly advertise the event to ensure plenty of sellers and buyers. If you have already reserved a selling spot, don't worry -it is being held for you. I look forward to hearing from anyone interested in reserving a spot or donating baked goods for the sale. I will gladly add your name to our list.

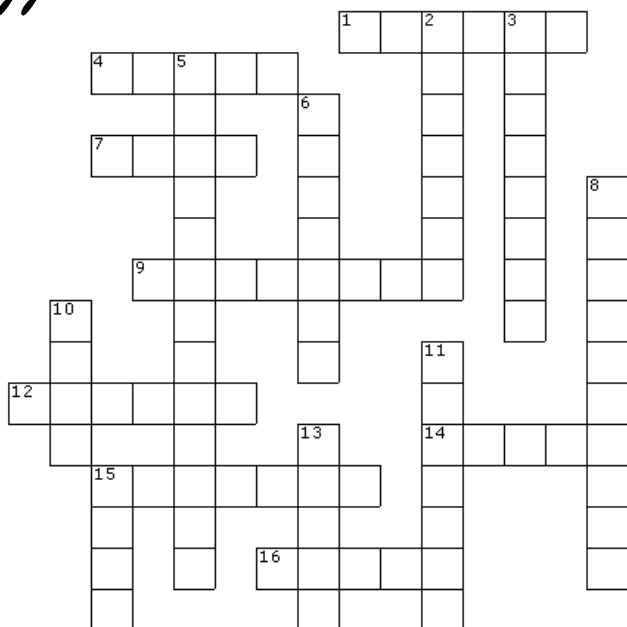
Celebrating Our SPLC Community

Mark your calendars for a wonderful opportunity to gather and enjoy delicious food with SPLC members on September 21st. Potlucks are always a fun way to try new dishes.

Ideas for the Future?

If you have suggestions for future fellowship opportunities, please reach out to me or any of our council members. We are always eager to hear from you.

Take care and may God's Grace and Peace be with you,

ACROSS

- 1** This Roman governor condemned Jesus
- 4** The disciple Peter's other name
- 7** She was Jesus' mother
- 9** He climbed a tree to see Jesus
- 12** This disciple was known as "Doubting ___"
- 14** This disciple walked on water with Jesus

- 15** This man was the first Christian stoned to death
- 16** This disciple betrayed Jesus
- DOWN**
- 2** Jesus brought this man back to life
- 3** He tempted Jesus (2 words)
- 5** She found Jesus' tomb empty (2 words)
- 6** This disciple was a tax collector

- 8** Jesus visited the house of these sisters (2 words)
- 10** He had a vision and wrote in down in the Book of Revelation
- 11** John the ___
- 13** Christ
- 15** This man became known as Paul after Jesus spoke to him on the road to Damascus

2025 Vacation Bible School at Spring Prairie

September 2025



Spring Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

July 8th, 2025

Opening Items:

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

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm.

Devotion: Provided by Julie on guiding our thoughts and communications by remaining open and receptive.

Approval of minutes: 1st - Dan; 2nd Kayden; all approved

Financial Review: July synod payment of \$500 approved - 1st Dan; 2nd Josh; all approved. Motion to move interest income of \$2,100 to operating budget made by Julie; 2nd by Laura; all approved. Due to some questions for the Treasurer, the July financial approval was delayed until August.

Pastor's Report: We are having cake for Ivy on July 13, in honor of her service through our music program. 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, we will vote on this at the August meeting.

Council Committee Reports:

Music/Worship: Coffeehouse is being scheduled for the months of October, November, December, February and March. 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.

Outreach/Faith in Action: Dan reported our next Membership Celebration will be on Sunday, September 21. 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.

Property: Bob was not present at this meeting as such the Parsonage shower discussion was put on hold. Stewardship/Participation: Getting a quote on getting the bells repaired. Schedule a Movie and Popcorn night, get parishioners involved. Outreach in different ways to bring new parishioners to Spring Prairie Lutheran Church. Visitor parting gift with a flyer to share with them. Getting youth to assist with lighting candles on Sundays.

Christian Education/Youth: Kayden shared VBS will be two nights, Tuesday, August 5th and Wednesday, August 6th, more details to follow. Julie Johnson will be assisting Kayden; they will be needing volunteers to set up and clean up each day.

Technology/Communication: Josh is continuing to work on the sound system. At present we have analog and need to upgrade to digital. 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 she will be creating a streamline ordering process allowing her to buy in bulk for items needed to support fellowship and other events. After contacting Costco, it will be the most efficient way for Julie to use her personal card and submit for reimbursement from the church as needed.

New Business:

Creating a leadership program through committees to engage fellow parishioners in training, structure systems to inspire through direction with more to follow. Council spent the rest of the meeting discussing the ELCA strategic five commitments, starting the alignment of our 2026 strategy with these objectives, reviewing progress so far in 2025, and discussing next steps. Committee Leads will provide more action items (where needed) for 2026 at our September meeting for continued 2026 forward planning.

Old Business: There is no old business.

Next Council Meeting: Our next meeting is scheduled for August 12, 2025, at 6:00 pm. Dan Biddick will provide the devotion.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned with a motion by Josh Achterberg; seconded by Laura Pingel at 8:42pm; approved by all and ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by: Gina Gray, Council Secretary

Bible Study



Join us for Bible Study in our upstairs fellowship area every 1st, 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month from 10:30 am - Noon



PRAYERS



- Prayers of healing, strength, pain relief and peace especially for Helen Cook, Mike & Cathy Plyman, Gloria Rortvedt, Kim Baldwin, Gina Lee & Tina Olson.
- We also lift in prayer all who are struggling—those facing mental health challenges, illness, homelessness, job loss, financial hardship, the grief of losing loved ones, or doubts in their faith. May they feel God's presence, comfort, and strength in the midst of their trials

**** 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.*

Worship Participants for September**Sunday, Sept 7th**

Reader: Jackie Weigen

Communion Assistant: Missy Bredeson

Ushers/Greeter: *Need Volunteers***Sunday, Sept 14th**

Reader: Kathy Schwade

Communion Assistant: Trish Kienitz

Ushers/Greeter: *Need Volunteers***Sunday, Sept 21st**

Reader: Dan Biddick

Communion Assistant: Bob Henze

Ushers/Greeter: Missy Bredeson & Ralph Pulver

Sunday, Sept 28th

Reader: David Mickelson

Communion Assistant: Trish Kienitz

Ushers/Greeter: Gayle Parker & Jo Odegaard

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

Happy Birthday!

9/1 Laura Bursh	9/18 Tom Kvale
9/1 James Runia	9/19 Kathy Schwade
9/3 Caitlin Vorpahl	9/20 Jerald Sullivan
9/5 Ali Madrid	9/22 Deb Mickelson
9/6 Kurt Bindrich	9/22 Tim Hasey
9/8 Tracy Mickelson	9/24 Mike Plyman
9/9 Randy Bussian	9/25 Shirley Quamme
9/10 Kim Baldwin	9/25 Gary Gullickson
9/11 Donald Bussian	9/27 Diane Melotte
9/12 Sandra Lee	9/28 Susan Gullickson
9/14 Vicki Sharpee	9/30 Steve Weichmann
9/14 Kyle Roate	Hong Quam
9/17 Madeline Gogert	Marge Hermanson

Church Office**Pastor Rick Bursh**

Church: 608-846-4178

Cell: 262-475-6407

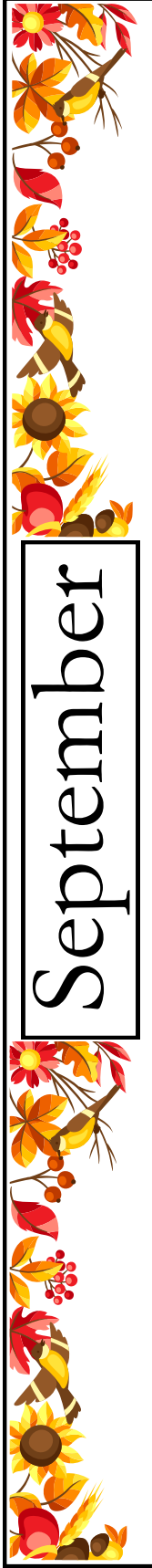
rbursh@gmail.com

****Please call the church office before you call
Pastor Rick's cellphone. Thankyou.*

**Jenny Achterberg**, Ministry Support Specialist

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** - Fellowship**Kayden Meyer** - Christian Education / Youth**Laura Pingel** - Stewardship/Participation**Rick Bursh** - Pastor



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Pastor Rick at Wartburg Seminary</i>	2 <i>NO Bible Study</i>	3 <i>NO Bible Study</i>	4	5 Church Office Closed	6
7 Blessing of the Backpacks Worship Service 10:00 am	8	9 Minick Farms Blood Drive 1:00 - 6:00 pm	10 Bible Study 10:30 am - Noon Confirmation 6:00 - 7:30 pm	11	12 Church Office Closed	13
14 Worship Service 10:00 am	15	16 Church Council Meeting 6:00 pm	17 NO Bible Study	18	19 Prairie Coffeehouse w/ Andy Braun 6:00 - 9:00 pm	20
21 Membership Celebration Service, Baptism & Potluck 10:00 am	22	23	24 Bible Study 10:30 am - Noon Confirmation 6:00 - 7:30 pm	25 Oct Newsletter Articles Due	26 Church Office Closed	27 Roadside Clean Up 8:00 am
28 Worship Service 10:00 am	29 Five Church Council Meeting 6:30 - 8:00 pm	30				

2025

Spring Prairie Lutheran Church Calendar

Phone: (608)846-4178 Email: splc1847@gmail.com Website: springprairie.org

Spring Prairie Lutheran Church
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Return Service Requested

growing in faith ... reaching out in love

SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



Friday, September 19th

ANDY BRAUN
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.