

Weekly Word – For Sunday, November 9, 2025

Worship this Week:

Join us this Sunday as we welcome the Rev. Franz Rigert, Wisconsin Conference Minister as our guest preacher. It is an honor to host Franz who is head of the 200+ churches of the Wisconsin Conference. He is a gifted leader and preacher. Let us pack the church to welcome him this Sunday at the 10:00 am worship service. Sunday School continues and Bible Study will be at 9:00 am with the choir providing special music. This is also the last Sunday to sign up for the Giving Thanks Meal in two Sundays on Sunday, November 16 following worship. Join us and invite a friend!

Link to Worship Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/Yg-4xD7zrPs?si=50ivrX80xOqoTFV->

Sunday Bulletin

This Week

Sun., Nov 9	9:00-9:45 am	Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
	9:00-9:45 am	Sunday Morning Text Study in the Youth Room
	9:45-11:15 am	Nursery Open
	10:00-11:00 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	10:30-11:15 am	Sunday School (Pre-School – Grade 8)
	11:00-11:30 am	Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM
Mon., Nov 10	7:00-8:30 pm	Cribbage
Tues., Nov 11	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	12:00-1:00 pm	Women's Group
Wed., Nov 12	1:00-2:30 pm	Adult Bible Study
	3:45-5:15 pm	Wednesday School
	5:15-6:00 pm	Wednesday Meal (sign up!)
	6:00-7:00 pm	Bells
	6:30-7:30 pm	HS Class
	6:30-7:30 pm	MS Youth Group
	7:00-8:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Thurs., Nov 13	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	10:00-11:00 am	Knitting Group
Sat., Nov 15	10:00-11:00 am	Set Up for Giving Thanks Meal
Sun., Nov 16	9:00-9:45 am	Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
	9:00-9:45 am	Sunday Morning Text Study in the Youth Room
	9:45-11:15 am	Nursery Open
	10:00-11:00 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	10:30-11:15 am	Sunday School (Pre-School – Grade 8)
	11:00-11:30 am	Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM
	11:15 am	Giving Thanks Meal in the Fellowship Hall

Assisting in Sunday's worship service are:

Preacher:	Rev. Franz Rigert
Celebrant:	Chris Myers
Cantor:	David Reilly
Liturgist:	Rebecca Ferguson
Deacons:	Lance Lueck, Ann Nelson, Loral Keil, Brian Miller, Liz Swank
Organist:	Marsha Pearson
Nursery:	Kahla Fuller

Live Stream: Jeff Hoffman
Welcomers: Deb Hoffman
Trustee: Vicki Sippel
Coffee Fellowship: Mission Ed Committee
Counters: Marie Roe, Dennis Linder

Altar table flowers are given by Lillian Tan in memory of her parents' anniversary, John and Ruth Tandias.

Loving God

Sunday Morning Bible Study: Please join us on Sunday mornings to discuss the Bible passages used in worship. The group meets from **9:00–9:50** in the Youth Room. For more information, contact Pastor Stacy.

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study: The group is studying the Gospel of John. Copies of the discussion book are available for \$20.00 in the church office. If you have questions, contact Pastor Stacy.

Damascus Project: Our Wisconsin Conference sponsors an online learning community called the Damascus Project with a wide variety of options to grow in faith and living. Their website is: www.the-damascus-project.org. And upcoming topics include a class on UCC History and Polity as well as Theology and Ecology. Check it out!

Loving Neighbor

Basics for Local Kids: A big thank you to everyone who has donated items. Your support keeps us going. The next few months will be busy times at BLK and volunteers are needed. You can help families shop or you can help sort, restock or organize winter wear. Shifts are usually 2 hours and new days and times are available. To sign up for a day and time that works for you, go to <https://www.basicsforlocalkids.org/> or call Kim at 715-821-1623. Contact Renee Whipple at 715-307-5074 if you have any questions.

Simpson Shelter Supply Needs: Women's white crew socks, men's white crew socks, men's t-shirts sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL, personal size shampoo, personal size conditioner, personal size body lotion, rain ponchos, eye masks, umbrellas, washcloths, padlocks, good buys on out-of-season clothing. All items MUST BE NEW. There is a box at the church for donations.

Empty Pill Bottles (Prescription Only): The River Falls Lions Club is collecting empty pill bottles, only the clear prescription bottles that are filled by our pharmacists, to send to Africa where there is an urgent need. The bottles will be washed, and the labels soaked off before they are shipped. A tub is in the gathering area. If you have questions, contact Carole Mottaz.

Thrivent Free Money: Do you have a retirement account through Thrivent? If so, you can designate some or all of your 'choice dollars' to a non-profit such as First Congregational Church. We are now set up to receive such gifts. Talk to the church office if you need more information.

Among Friends is a community-based social respite program serving adults who have memory loss who reside in Pierce and St. Croix Counties. For more information, contact them at (715) 293-2561. Check out the website: amongfriendsrf.com and Facebook page. It is held at the church on **Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am to 3pm**.

Among Friends Volunteers Needed: The program meets two days a week and has 12 active guests. Training is provided & the rewards are phenomenal! They are particularly in need of male volunteers but are willing to receive all. Contact then at amongfriendsrf@gmail.com

Loving Self

New Members Received – Sun, Nov 16: New members will be received on **Sun, Nov 16** at the 10:00 am worship service. If you wish to join, please make sure the church office has your information by Sunday, November 9. Please see Missy in the office or Pastor Chris for more information.

Art Exhibit: The exhibit: *Cardboard Chronicles* is displayed in the Fellowship Hall until November 10. The exhibit features 25 original paintings by Rudolph Bostic that depict biblical stories painted on cardboard with enamel and house paint. Artist Rudolph Bostic is a longtime member of the Second African Baptist Church in Savannah, Georgia. Bostic found inspiration in the works of masters such as Rembrandt, Leonardo da Vinci, and Michelangelo. His art has appeared in folk art museums and galleries, particularly in the southern United States. Bostic paints as a reflection of his own spirituality. He wrote, "I try to express my love for God and the world."

Next Learning Community: Exploring Polarization: Tues, Nov 25, 6:30 pm: American legislatures are more polarized today than at any moment in the past half-century, and there is little end in sight. Two important questions are: Why are American legislatures so polarized? And what policies might help bridge this growing ideological gulf? In the upcoming Learning Community event, Andy Myers (congregation member and PhD candidate in Political Economics) will present his ongoing research that helps address these questions, focusing on campaign finance, local press coverage, election administration, and candidate supply.

It is possible to allow fear and impressions to dominate one's understanding of issues. This presentation will be a nonpartisan conversation focused on data-driven evidence to help people explore an important challenge of the day. Please come! Please sign up at church or online:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-59595578-learning>

Merry Widows: They will meet on **Wed, Nov 19 at 1:00 pm at Perkins in Hudson.** All widows are welcome to join us for dinner and conversation! See JoAnn Lentz for more information.

Men's Group: Our church men's group meets **every other Tuesday from 9:00-10:00 am** in the Youth Room. All men are welcome to join us for coffee, donuts and lively conversation. We gather for an hour and Pastor Chris leads us into a brief discussion. Our next gatherings are **Tues, Nov 18 & Dec 2.** Join us!

Women's Group: Interested in fellowship & community with other women? You are invited to join the group at noon every 2nd & 4th Tuesday. Please bring a lunch. The next meetings will be **Tues, Nov 11 & 25.**

Let's Knit/Craft Together: Join us on **Thursdays at 10:00 am.** We meet at **The Sycamore on the first Thursday of each month and in the Fellowship Hall the other Thursdays.** We have a great time sharing our current projects and enjoying each other's company. Any questions, contact Marie Roe at 715-781-2103 or firstroe@gmail.com

Church Yoga: The church yoga group meets on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** in the church Fellowship Hall from **9:00-10:00 am** and via Zoom. Please contact the church office to receive the Zoom link.

WISE Corner: NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Family Support Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 6:30 pm at 113 East Elm Street (Mei Mei's) and the Peer Support Group meets the same evenings at Luther Memorial Church at 6:30 pm. Our church WISE Team meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. For more info, call Marg Downing 715-307-5905.

Community Life

Let's celebrate! Please join together as we celebrate 60 years of the combined ministry of Pastors Chris and Stacy during coffee fellowship (11:00) on **Sunday, November 23rd.** Their ministry with us for 22 years has helped our church thrive, grow and has given us a deeper understanding of our faith and our commitment to God's message of love. We will have cake, fruit and other treats to recognize and give thanks for their dedication to our church family. Note cards will be available that day to pass along your words of thanks and gratitude. Come celebrate their gift of giving to us!

Veteran's Day Celebration: Among Friends will host a Veteran's Day Celebration of song and words at **1:30 pm on Tuesday, November 11 in the Fireplace Room.** All Veterans in our church are invited to join in honoring the service to country by the men and women in our community.

Wednesday Meals: On Wednesday nights, we offer a home-cooked meal in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$9 per person with a family max of \$30. **Meals are served from 5:15 to 6:00 pm.** You can get your meal to go if you go through the line (indicate when you sign up). **Reservations must be placed by noon on Tuesdays.** You can make a reservation online, the sign-up table or by calling the church office.

Nov 12 Parmesan crusted chicken over rice pilaf, salad, croissant

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-59411201-wednesday>

Nov 19 Bruschetta chicken over pasta, asparagus salad, garlic toast

Giving Thanks Meal: The Annual Giving Thanks Meal will be **Sun, Nov 16**, after the worship service in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$10 per meal. Join us for a home-cooked Thanksgiving meal as we kick off the season of giving thanks. Please include your pie choice of pumpkin or apple and let us know if you will bring a side dish. Sign up by Nov 12: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-59753941-giving>

Cookie Exchange: The WISE team has a Cookie Exchange planned for **Sunday, December 7** in the Fellowship Hall following service. Please bring four dozen cookies. Place six cookies in a baggie or clear container, labeling it with the cookie type and recipe. You will go home with six different types of cookies. Please can sign up at church on the gathering table.

Annual Christmas Luncheon: You are invited to attend a Christmas Luncheon on **Tuesday, December 9, at 12:00 noon.** The menu features Norwegian meatballs and a large collection of Christmas cookies. Please come! The cost is \$10.00 per person. Please make a reservation by signing the list on the sign-up table, calling the church office or online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-59975675-christmas>

Volunteers Needed for the Christmas Luncheon: Please volunteer to help with the Christmas luncheon. We need cooks, kitchen workers, and cookie bakers. Please indicate your willingness to help by signing the lists on the sign-up table in the gathering space.

The Advent Workshop: The 2025 Advent Workshop for families will be in the Fellowship Hall following Sunday School on **December 7**, the Second Sunday in Advent. The event includes making a variety of Christmas ornaments. If you have friends or neighbors considering participation in a church family, invite them to join you! Please sign up at church or online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-59975616-advent>

Giving Tree (Sharing Families): The Giving Tree will be available on Sunday, November 16. The gifts (with ornaments) are due back to the church by noon on Thursday, December 11. If you have questions, please contact Diane Welsh at 651-334-3128.

Christmas Shoebox: The drive for donations for Christmas Shoebox items for the gentlemen at the Kinnic Falls Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services in River Falls has begun. The items we collect are so very much appreciated by them. When you are out and about and see the items we have listed, grab a couple and before we know it, our list will be complete. If you would rather donate money, designate it for "Christmas Shoebox" and we will make sure all items are purchased. The list of items is on the gathering table. Blessings, Jean Smith and Marie Roe

Name Tags: We encourage you to wear your name tags so that new people and some not so new, can call you by name. It would also help the deacons when you take communion. If you do not have one, please let Missy in the church office know at missy@firstchurchrf.org. In appreciation, the Welcoming Committee.

Youth Events

Children's Advent Musical: Sunday School children in pre-school through grade 5 will begin rehearsing the 2025 Advent Musical on November 9 during Sunday School. The dress rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 20, 10:00 – 12:00 noon. The musical will be presented during worship on Sunday, December 21. It is important for all children to regularly attend Sunday School and be present for these rehearsals.

Wednesday School: All children in kindergarten through Grade 5 are invited to participate in Wednesday School. Elementary students in River Falls are picked up at the 4 elementary schools in town at the end of the school day. Wednesday School concludes at 5:15. Registration & permission forms are at church and on the website. Please contact Pastor Stacy with questions.

Sign Ups

Coffee Fellowship Hosts Needed: Please sign up to help host and serve. Everything you need is provided, you just need to get there a little early to get things ready, serve and do a quick clean up. Sign up at church or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-coffee>

Liturgists Needed: Please sign up to be a Sunday liturgist. You will lead us in the Call to Worship and a Scripture text. The bulletin will be sent via email to you on Thursday. Sign up at church or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-liturgist>

Welcomers Needed: Please sign up to be a welcomer on Sunday morning before the worship service. One person is needed at the bottom of the stairs & one person is needed at the ramp entrance. Please arrive 20 minutes prior to the service. Sign up at church or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-welcomers>

Altar Table Flowers: Please sign up to provide flowers for the altar for Sunday worship. Sign up at church or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-altar>

Church App: The church has a mobile phone app. You can download it from the church website or by scanning the QR Code found on a flyer on the sign-up table and Facebook.



Offering QR Code

1. On your mobile device, open your Camera app or QR Code app
2. Point your camera at the QR Code
3. Click the tab 'Give Online'

Finances

THANK YOU to all of you for your support of the mission and ministry of our church through your tithes, offerings, and gifts. Your generosity empowers our church! Please be sure to sign up for e-giving or mail/drop off your gifts. There is also an option to give online via our church website.

Treasurer's Report

	<u>Oct 26, 2025</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 17,683	\$ 448,422
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 10,623	\$ 456,789

A full accounting of all income and expenses is available in the church office.

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

People

- For 10 years of generating clean solar energy with our church solar panels, thanks be to God!
- For those battling cancer, may they be given strength and support
- For the dementia event held in our Fellowship Hall this past Tuesday
- For the gift of this beautiful fall with all its pleasures, may we bask in it (because we know what follows!)
- For all those working at and preparing for the annual Giving Thanks Meal, may it be a thankful time

Do you have upcoming news or celebrations to share with the congregation? Graduations? Birthdays and Anniversary celebrations? Please email them to office@firstchurchrf.org by Wednesday of each week to be included in the Weekly Word which is sent out on Thursdays.

Prayer: Prayer connects us with God and our neighbors. Each week in the bulletin there is a prayer list of people, situations and thanksgivings that is also sent out by email to help people in their prayer life. You can sign up by contacting the office at office@firstchurchrf.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday – 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Friday – 8:30 am to 12:00 pm

Church Staff Contact:

Church Office - 715-425-2052

Pastor: Chris Myers - chris@firstchurchrf.org

Education: Stacy Johnson Myers - stacy@firstchurchrf.org

Youth: Alex Plum – rfyouthgroup@gmail.com

Office/Finance: Missy Luedtke - missy@firstchurchrf.org

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