

CIRCUIT



WRITER

Pastor Jess De Los Santos

February 2026

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Pastor's Corner



"Genuine Love"

"Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail. Love is eternal."
1 Corinthians 13:4-8a GNT

This month (February) is considered the "love month". But for me, expressing love is not only for a specific month or day, but it is done every day.

[1 Corinthians 13:4-8a](#) is about the qualities of genuine love as described by the apostle Paul, emphasizing patience, kindness, humility, selflessness, forgiveness, perseverance, and the eternal nature of love. "Love in truth. Truth in love. Never one at the expense of the other. Never the embrace of love without the torch of truth. Never the heat of truth without the warmth of love. . ." (*Max Lucado*). "We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them" (1 John 4:16 NLT).

The text from [1 Corinthians 13:4-5](#) beautifully encapsulates the essence of true love. It serves as a guiding light for how we should strive to love others. It challenges us to reflect on our own actions and attitudes in our relationships by outlining what love is not (envious, boastful, proud, rude, self-seeking, easily angered, holding onto grudges). This passage calls us to consider how we can embody the virtues of patience, kindness, and humility as we navigate our interactions with others. It prompts us to ask ourselves: Are my actions driven by selflessness and a desire to uplift others? Am I quick to anger, or do I strive to approach situations with patience, kindness, and understanding? Jesus said, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35 NIV).

We can cultivate love that is profound, authentic, and transformative by reflecting on these questions. Love ultimately serves as a poignant reminder of its power to heal, unite, and bring joy and peace to our lives as God's children. It challenges us to embody love in its purest form, encouraging us to approach our relationships with compassion, empathy, and forgiveness. Through applying the virtues in this chapter (1 Corinthians 13), we can nurture connections that are rooted in mutual respect, understanding, and genuine care for one another. God loves you, so do I (GLYSDI). **GOD BLESS EVERYONE!**



HELLO february

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Holy Communion</i> 9am RL Adult SS	2 7:30 Dartball	3 3:30 Worship Meeting	4 1pm UWF Meeting 4pm Confirmation Class	5	6 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	7
8 9am RL Adult SS 9am Canton SS Cake after RL Service	9 Bishop's Clergy Day Apart 1:30 Brentwood 7:30 Dartball	10	11 1pm Star Circle 4pm Confirmation Class	12	13 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	14 
15 9am RL Adult SS	16 4pm Newsletter Deadline  7:30 Dartball	17 1pm Game Day!	18 4pm Confirmation Class 5:30 Serving BH 5:30 Ash Wed Service @ RL	19 10:30 Prayer Shawl	20 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	21
22 9am RL Adult SS 9am Canton SS	23 1pm Card Making 7:30 Dartball	24 9am Folding the newsletter 2pm Woodstone Worship	25 8:30 Men's Breakfast 1:30 Office Closing Early 4pm Confirmation 5:30 Lent @ C	26 Office Closed—Vacation Day	27 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 11:30 Lunch Bunch	28 
RL Liturgists Feb. 1: Pam Forrester Feb. 8: Paul Toft Feb. 15: Mary Mattson Feb. 22: Larry Neve		RL Greeter Feb. 1: Jeanne Parker Feb. 8: Mary Pautsch Feb. 15: Gwen Rettenmund Feb. 22: Linda Dufner		Fellowship Hosts: Pat Asuma and Darcy Henderson		

Canton Service is at 9:00 am— Sunday School also at 9:00 am on February 8th and 22nd.
Rice Lake's Adult Sunday School is at 9:00 am, Coffee Fellowship at 10:00 am, and Service is at 10:30 am.



Lenten Reading Plan: A Countdown of Hope

Get ready for Easter with this family Bible Reading Plan. From Ash Wednesday to Resurrection Sunday, read a promise from God each day. May God bless you as you discover his love and faithfulness through Scripture.

- ☐ The **Promise** of a Savior, *Genesis 3:15*
- ☐ The **Promise** to Never Again Flood the Earth, *Genesis 9:13-15*
- ☐ The **Promise** to Bless Abraham, *Genesis 12:1-3*
- ☐ The **Promise** to Multiply Abraham's Offspring, *Genesis 22:17-18*
- ☐ The **Promise** of Deliverance, *Exodus 3:7-8*
- ☐ The **Promise** of God's Presence, *Exodus 33:14*
- ☐ The **Promise** of Blessing for Obedience, *Leviticus 26:3-12*
- ☐ The **Promise** to Raise Up a Prophet, *Deuteronomy 18:15*
- ☐ The **Promise** of Strength Through God, *Joshua 1:6-9*
- ☐ The **Promise** of an Everlasting Covenant, *2 Samuel 7:12-16*
- ☐ The **Promise** of a Shepherd, *Psalms 23*
- ☐ The **Promise** of Wisdom, *Proverbs 2:1-6*
- ☐ The **Promise** of a Messiah, *Isaiah 9:1-7*
- ☐ The **Promise** to Strengthen and Help, *Isaiah 41:9-10*
- ☐ The **Promise** of a Suffering Servant, *Isaiah 53*
- ☐ The **Promise** of Restoration, *Jeremiah 29:10-14*
- ☐ The **Promise** of a New Covenant, *Jeremiah 31:31-34*
- ☐ The **Promise** of Renewal, *Ezekiel 37:1-14*
- ☐ The **Promise** of the Spirit, *Joel 2:28-29*
- ☐ The **Promise** of Jesus, *Luke 2:1-20*
- ☐ The **Promise** of Provision, *Matthew 6:25-34*
- ☐ The **Promise** of Rest, *Matthew 11:28-29*
- ☐ The **Promise** of Eternal Life, *John 3:16-17*
- ☐ The **Promise** of Christ's Return, *John 14:1-3*
- ☐ The **Promise** of Peace, *John 14:27*
- ☐ The **Promise** of Answered Prayer, *John 15:7*
- ☐ The **Promise** of Guidance, *John 16:13*
- ☐ The **Promise** of Power from on High, *Acts 1:8*
- ☐ The **Promise** of Grace, *Romans 6:14*
- ☐ The **Promise** of Freedom from Condemnation, *Romans 8:1-4*
- ☐ The **Promise** of Adoption, *Romans 8:15-17*
- ☐ The **Promise** of Purpose, *Romans 8:28*
- ☐ The **Promise** of Victory Over Death, *1 Corinthians 15:54-57*
- ☐ The **Promise** of Comfort, *2 Corinthians 1:3-4*
- ☐ The **Promise** of New Life, *2 Corinthians 5:17*
- ☐ The **Promise** of God's Faithfulness, *2 Thessalonians 3:3-5*
- ☐ The **Promise** of Eternal Glory, *2 Timothy 2:11-13*
- ☐ The **Promise** of Perseverance, *James 1:2-4*
- ☐ The **Promise** of a New Heaven and a New Earth, *Revelation 21:1-4*

Try the bonus activities to make
Lent more meaningful

Family Lenten Activities

Make promise stones. Paint and display small stones that remind you how God keeps his promises.

Fill a jar with blessings. During Lent, jot down ways that God is faithful to you. On Easter, read aloud the slips of paper as a family.



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United Women in Faith

UWF Meeting---Wednesday, February 4 @ 1 pm.

We will be assembling treat bags for special Valentines.

We, as Rice Lake United Women in Faith, need to forge a new path in 'Mapping Our Way Forward'. As we face this challenge, we will focus on our purpose and prayerfully work on ways to still have an impact.

The Executive Committee has decided to continue to meet in January and August. However, the unit meeting schedule will be February, May, September, and December. (The first Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m.)

Programs/Speakers/Activities for each unit meeting will be promoted in our church newsletter and bulletins. We will continue to nurture each other and offer fellowship and education.

Our Sock Collection is discontinued but some Easy Saves are listed below and can be tossed into the Blue Tub in the Narthex:

- Old toothbrushes-even the heads from electric tooth brushes
- Dental floss containers
- Old pens, pencils, dried up markers, used glue sticks
- Clean empty cereal bags and used postage stamps

"Small changes can have a big impact"

Just think-if we each saved 2 old toothbrushes times 50 United Women in Faith, that would be 100 toothbrushes NOT sitting in a landfill.

Kathy Wagenbach, co-president



World Thank Bank Suggestions for 2026

We can be grateful for everyday joys. Add coins to your Thank Bank for:

- February-Having a soft blanket to cover up with.

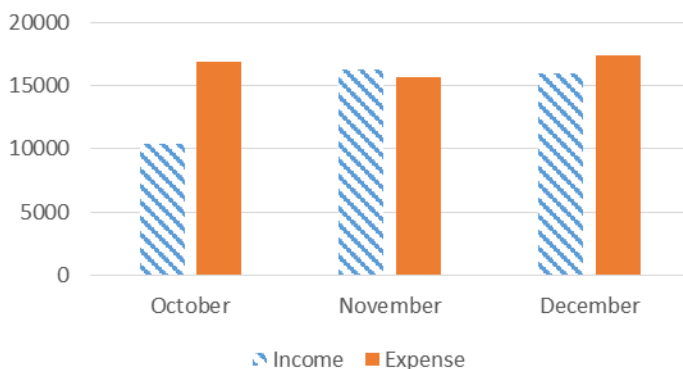


Thank You

To Church members and friends,
Thank you so much for the all prayers, cards, phone calls, flowers, gifts and visits. After being in therapy for 6 weeks it should helped. I am home and now doing well. ~Eleanor Falkner

YOU ARE
LOVED

General Fund



Canton UMC



Birthdays

7- Sheena Halvorson
7- Sarah MacDonald
10- Sue Boortz
18- Courtney Durand
24- Daniel Healy
27- Brody Saffert

Please call the office (715-234-3919) if we are missing any of your important dates.

Canton Liturgists

1st Sunday: De Los Santos
2nd Sunday: Arlene Ciulla
3rd Sunday: Halvorsons
4th Sunday: Kristie Kringle

If you're interested in being a liturgist, please let Kristie know.



Church

Ash Wed. service will be held at Rice Lake @ 5:30. The Wed. night Lenten services will again be alternated between Canton & Rice Lake. Canton will host the services on Feb. 25th, March 11, and March 18th at 5:30 pm.

The Trustees are looking for volunteers to help clean and organize the storage room. Please call Michele @458-4294 if you can help.

UWF

The UWF will meet on Thurs., Feb. 12th at the Rice Lake Family Restaurant at 1:30. Please bring a valentine, handmade or bought. Also, bring your ideas for our year's fundraisers and any other ideas for our work in missions.

Sunday School

Sunday School will be held on Feb. 8th and 22nd. We have a special project coming up for class and would love to have everyone there.

Thursdays @ the U

This series, partly funded by the UW-Barron County Foundation, will explore topics in the arts, sciences, public affairs, literary fields and cultural areas. These lectures are free and open to the public every Thursday from 12:30-1:30 and are held in our Blue Hill's Lecture Hall, BRRH234.

Details of the Spring 2026 Thursday@U Presentation Lineup can be found at <https://calendar.uwec.edu/barron-county/>

- 5 Feb.: Matthew Meyer AI and Our Humanity
- 12 Feb.: Nickolas Butler WRITING FROM HOME: Finding Inspiration in Small Town, WI
- 19 Feb.: Paige Veserat Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network: CoCoRaHS
- 26 Feb.: Susan and Dave Tindell Adventure Travel with Sue & Dave

If viewing the newsletter online, you can click the links for more information.

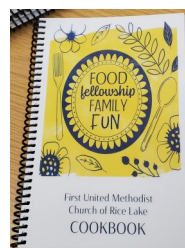
Invitation and Member Care

What's Happening in February:

- ♦ **Celebrating February Birthdays!**- Cake following service on Feb. 8th.
- ♦ **Game Day!**- February 17th at 1:00 pm. Bring your favorite game or try one of ours.
- ♦ **Lunch Bunch**- is February 27th at 11:30 am at Applebees. Lunch Bunch is a casual gathering at various restaurants in the area. Please call the office to let us know if you are coming by 3pm on Thursday.

We only have 27 out of 100 cookbooks left! Thank you for your support!

Only \$17 each!



For God so loved the world.
JOHN 3:16



Church & Society

Americans generally are very compassionate and wonderful people but something doesn't seem right.

On one hand, we are told to love our neighbor- not only the one living next door, but everyone. We are to love them not only when things are going well, when we agree with each other, if we look alike or even if we worship together, but also if we disagree about certain matters.

We see speech and action seeming to disrespect and even showing hatred toward nations and groups of people. Something isn't right!

It's understandable due to its size, wealth and military might that the United States of America has great power and influence in our country and throughout the world. How should we use that power and influence? Should we use it by trying to respect and work with all people and nations or proceed from the standpoint of Might Makes Right?

Should we sit down with others to seek solutions and good will or should we blow them out of the water, take over countries, or threaten countries and people like Mexico, Colombia, Cuba, Canada, Greenland, Iran, or immigrants?

It's coming across that some think that since "we have the biggest guns, we can do whatever we want." Again, something just doesn't seem right!

Does our church have anything to say about it?

In his book "Every Monday Matters," Matthew Emerzian says, "None of us choose to be born, but all choose how to live." We all must choose how to live together. We are a world full of people, who are both different and the very same all at once.

South African Luminary Bishop Desmond Tutu once articulated; "the truth is we need each other. In our world, we can only survive and experience freedom together." Bishop Tutu writes, "It is not a great good to be successful through being aggressively competitive succeeding at the expense of others."

Just as Jesus demands all be fed with whatever resources are at hand, so we as followers of Jesus must declare that there is more than enough for all of humanity to thrive in health, peace and harmony.

From Bishop Julius C. Trimble: Jesus, the one who rebukes retaliation and calls for a radical commitment to a love that extends to neighbors and "enemies." This same Jesus that calls for an expansive understanding of neighbor and a generous grace compels me to pray more and worry less.

As a United Methodist, I am inspired by a Wesleyan motivation to do all the good we can because of a call to love God and neighbor. This good we do is not because we are so "good," but because the Bible tells us that our sacredness is connected to the sacredness of the rest of God's creation and humanity, for which we have stewardship responsibility.

Larry Neve,
Church & Society Chairperson



5- Zetra Zegarowicz
6- Julie Buerge
11- Stephanie Byrnes-Hampton
18- Peter Bandli
23- Carolyn Kaupanger
24- Zach Manley
25- Lorene Millard
27- Sue Tollander
28- Shirley Toft



1- Bernie & Nancy Kahl
6- Bruce & Carolyn Kaupanger
14- Art & Kathy Duerkop
15- Curtis & Jeanne Kemnitz

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed then please call the office 715-234-3919. Thanks!

Worship Committee

Feb. 18th: Ash Wednesday service at Rice Lake at 5:30

Lenten services:

Feb 25th: Lenten service at Canton at 5:30

March 4th: Lenten service at Rice Lake at 5:30

March 11th: Lenten service at Canton at 5:30

March 18th: Lenten service at Rice Lake at 5:30

March 25th: Lenten service at Canton at 5:30

April 2nd: Maundy Thursday Service and communion at Rice Lake at 5:30

April 3rd: Good Friday Service also at Rice Lake at 5:30

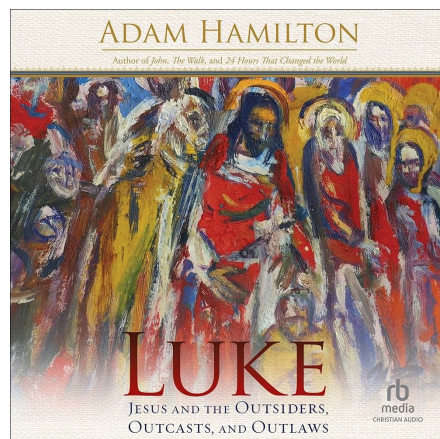
(No phone service, just Facebook.)



Lenten Study

The Adult Sunday School Class will begin a 6-week Lenten study on Sunday, Feb. 26. Using Adam Hamilton's book "Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws", along with a weekly video presentation, we will explore Luke's gospel account of the life of Jesus, focusing on his concern for the marginalized and those considered lowly or lost. Rev. Hamilton uses stories from his own life and from people he has met throughout his ministry to bring alive Luke's story of compassion and care for all.

All are welcome to join in on Sundays at 9 AM for discussion and learning in a casual setting. If you are interested and have not been a regular Sunday School participant, please contact Lisa Mink about getting a book.



February 1

Holy Communion

Micah 6:1-8

Psalms 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

February 8

Birthday Cake

Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalms 112:1-10

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Matthew 5:13-20

February 15

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalms 2

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

February 22

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalms 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

BIBLE QUIZ

The New Testament uses several Greek words to describe love. Which of the following best represents the selfless, sacrificial love that God shows to humanity?

- A. Eros
- B. Phileo
- C. Agape
- D. Storge



Answer: (See John 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 13)

**First United Methodist Church
Canton United Methodist Church
1221 Wesley Drive, Rice Lake, WI 54868**

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February 2026 The Circuit Writer



First United Methodist Church

1221 Wesley Dr., Rice Lake, WI 54868
Phone: (715) 234-3919
Email: office@ricelakeumc.org
Website: www.RiceLakeUMC.org

Worship Service: 10:30 am
Coffee Fellowship: 10:00 am
Adult Sunday School: 9:00 am

Canton United Methodist Church

2408 15 3/8 Ave., Rice Lake, WI 54868
Office: 1221 Wesley Dr., Rice Lake, WI
Phone: (715) 234-3919
Email: office@ricelakeumc.org

Worship Service: 9:00 am
Sunday School: Feb. 8th & 22nd at 9:00 am

Pastor: Rev. Jess De Los Santos

Email: pastorjess@ricelakeumc.org
Cell: 1-757-761-2735
Office Hours: Tues.-Thurs. 9:30am-12:30pm & by appmt

Office Manager: Stephanie Byrnes-Hampton

Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 am-4:00 pm



Facebook— search for First United Methodist Church of Rice Lake, make sure to “Like” us and Facebook should notify you when we go “Live.”

You-tube— you can find the latest Sunday services on our You-tube page: First UMC of Rice Lake Media. Facebook is deleting the videos after 30 days so I am moving them to Youtube weekly.

Over-the-Phone— Call 1-855-788-3919 and sign up for it to call you automatically any time we go “live” by pressing 1 when it asks you to, or you can call or email the church office to manually add you to the list that is called automatically, OR you can just call in every week. If you call before the service “goes live” you will hear some of last week’s service but it will switch over automatically to the new service. Just hang on the line.

****Reminder:** 2026 offering envelopes are in the overflow area. If you don’t see yours give me a call.

