

Weekly Word – For Sunday, May 31, 2026

Worship this Week:

The Christian faith teaches us that we are not meant to be alone. Yet being in community is hard, very hard some days. This Sunday is Graduation Sunday, when we bless our High School seniors and award church scholarships. It is also Trinity Sunday when we talk about the very nature of the God. In an age when it is easy to isolate ourselves and to feel estranged from our neighbors, how can our faith lead us into courageous community? This Sunday we will be asking the congregation to share their wisdom for our graduates (Words to Live By) which will be included in the college packs this fall. Join us at the 9:30 am summer worship service as Sarah Plum provides special music to bless our graduates and a cake reception following in the Fellowship Hall after worship. Join us and invite a friend to join you!

Link to Worship Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/4ZYgDWyu13g?si=q8GwLtdez5zlw0D>

Sunday Bulletin

This Week

Sun., May 31		Graduation Sunday
	9:15-10:45 am	Nursery Open
	9:30-10:30 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	10:30-11:00 am	Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM
Tues., June 2	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
Thurs., June 4	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	10:00-11:00 am	Knitting Group
Sun., June 7	9:15-10:45 am	Nursery Open
	9:30-10:30 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	10:30-11:00 am	Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM

Assisting in Sunday's worship service are:

Preacher:	Chris Myers
Celebrant:	Stacy Johnson Myers
Cantor:	David Reilly
Liturgist:	Steve Koecher
Deacons:	Laura Anderson, Liz Swank, Heidi Cavaness, Ann Nelson, Paul Shepherd
Organist:	Marsha Pearson
Nursery:	<i>Still Need Someone</i>
Live Stream:	Jeff Hoffman
Welcomers:	Rene Bylander, Jo Anne Friedell
Trustee:	Matt Bastien
Coffee Fellowship:	Christian Ed
Counters:	Diane Welsh, Scott Nelson

Altar table flowers are given in celebration of June birthdays.

Loving God

Summer Worship: During the summer, between Memorial Day and Labor Day, our **Worship Service is at 9:30 am** with Coffee Fellowship to follow. Please join us!

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

Mother's Day – Father's Day Diaper Drive: The Mission Ed Committee will once again sponsor a Diaper Drive between Mother's Day and Father's Day. Starting May 10th and running through June 21st, we will collect diapers and wipes in the gathering area. After Father's Day the diapers will be donated to Our Neighbors' Place, Turning Point and the River Falls Food Pantry. **Please note: Larger sized diapers are most needed.**

Summer Nursery Volunteers Needed: During the summer months our church nursery is staffed by volunteers while our weekly, faithful nursery worker Kahla Fuller enjoys some time off. Please sign up for a Sunday to staff the nursery. Thank you! Use the sign-up sheet at church or online:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-64011296-summer>

First Church Companions: Are you interested in being a companion to someone in our church connecting with them at least once a month with a call or visit? Or would you like to have someone for a companion. Please use the sign-up sheet to be a companion or request someone to visit you.

Grace Place is a homeless shelter run by the Salvation Army in New Richmond. They operate on a short shoe-string budget and are delighted that we will support them with donations and meals. The shelter has three family rooms, a men's wing and a women's wing. If you have any questions, please see Carole Mottaz.

Grace Place Donations: Needed items: 55-gallon garbage bags, 13-gallon garbage bags, paper towels, Kleenex, napkins, Ziploc bags, aluminum foil and plastic wrap, light bulbs, batteries: AA, AAA, and 9 volt, cleaning supplies: Fabuloso, window cleaner, disinfectant wipes, toilet bowl cleaner, toilet bowl brushes, cleaning scrubbers, good buys. There is a bin at church for donations.

Empty Pill Bottles (Prescription Only): The River Falls Lions Club is collecting empty pill bottles, only the 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 them at amongfriendsrf@gmail.com

Loving Self

Summer Choir is low stress and low commitment. We simply meet an hour before the service and sing a familiar song. The dates will be **June 21, July 26 and August 16.** Please consider joining us!

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, June 9 & 23.** 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, June 9 & 23.**

Merry Widows: They will meet on **Wednesday, June 17 at 1:00 pm at Juniors in River Falls**. All widows are welcome to join us for dinner and conversation! See Linda Morrow for more information.

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.

Game Day Sunday: Game Day is held on the third Sunday of the month. Our next Game Day is **July 19 at 11:45 am**. Join us!

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 St (Mei Mei's) and the Peer Support Group meets the same evenings at First Congregational 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.

Committee Needs for 2026-27 Program Year: During our Annual meeting in February, we learned about a number of programs that are happening inside and outside of our church. All of these activities and endeavors need volunteers to continue going forth. The Nominating committee will soon begin the work of filling open spots in our committees. Please say **YES** when one of the committee calls, emails or talks with you about the many opportunities for you to share your time and talents. **Our committee needs are as follows:**

Nominating: 2 people	Christian Ed: 1 person
Deacons: 4 people	Discipleship: 4 people
Endowment Grant: 1 person	Trustees: 2 people
Mission Ed: 1 person	Music: 1 person
Welcoming: 2 people	Investments: 1 person
Scholarship: 2 people	

Terms begin in September 2026 and run for 3 years. If you feel called to serve, please contact one of the Nominating committee members or call the church office. Thank you in advance for your consideration. *Marie Roe, Norma Revels, Karen Lloyd, Marsha Pearson, Kathy Rausch*

Community Life

Softball News: Our softball season begins next week, Monday June 1st at 7:30 pm at Hoffman Park, field #1. Come cheer us on! We play every Monday at Hoffman Park throughout the summer until August 24th. We are the team in the red shirts. Our next two games are June 8th at 7:30 pm (field #2) and June 15th at 6:15 pm (field #1). Looking forward to another fun season seeing friends and families play softball. If you still want to play on the team, contact Deb Hoffman at (612)308-4945, debhoffman234b@gmail.com.

VBS Volunteers Needed: The VBS program requires many adult and teen volunteers. Please join the excitement by volunteering to help. VBS will be July 27-30, from 9:00–11:30 am. To volunteer, please sign the list in the gathering space or online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-63968730-vbsvolunteers>

Needed Items: The choir is in need of more file drawer hanging file frames and folders for the choir music. Please let the church office know if you have these items to donate. Thank you.

Endowment Grants: Each quarter the Endowment Grant Committee meets to evaluate proposals for new ministries and projects submitted through our church committees. Consider applying for an Endowment Grant! All proposals must come from a committee, and the next due date is **July 5**. Forms can be accessed through the church office or on the church website.

Name Tags: We encourage you to wear your name tags so that everyone 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

Graduation Sunday: Mark your calendars as we celebrate Graduation Sunday on **May 31st** at the 9:30 am summer worship service. We will honor our graduating high school seniors as well as award church scholarships. Let us celebrate their many accomplishments together as a church family!

Summer High School & College Youth Bible Study: Our first meeting will be: **Wed, June 17 at 10:00 am at Selah Vie Bistro and Coffee Cottage**, 208 N Main Street, RF. Alex will buy coffee for the group!

VBS and Summer Children's Musical: Dates for the 2026 children's summer programs are:

VBS: July 27-30, 9:00 to 11:30 am. Theme is: My Peace I Give to You

Children's Musical: August 10-13, 9:00 am to Noon. The show will be *Rock Slinger and His Greatest Hits*

VBS is for children age 3 to completed grade 5. The musical is for children who have completed kindergarten through completed grade 6. Emma Cruciani will be the director. We will need adult and teen volunteers for VBS. Please save the dates and invite friends & neighbors! Registration forms are at church & online: [Registration Form](#)

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>May 24, 2026</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 6,680	\$ 240,262**
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 11,308	\$ 237,468

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

**Now also includes annual gifts given at the beginning of the year.

People

- For the gift of summer, may we savor every bit of it
- For those who have contributed to our Church Scholarship Fund over the years, may it be a blessing
- For those who donated and received blood at our last blood drive, may it bring life
- For Hope Lutheran Church who celebrates their 20th anniversary on Sunday, June 7th, may they grow in love, faith and service to their community

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 – Closed

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

Music: Jamie Mills - degolierjamie@gmail.com

Choir: Sarah Plum – sarah.e.plum.95@gmail.com

Building: Farnum Fuller – farnumfuller@gmail.com

Building: Troy Zakrzewski – ztruck51ford@gmail.com

Maintenance: Tim Bylander - timthefixitguy@gmail.com