

World Communion Sunday
Little Prairie United Methodist Church
October 4, 2026, 9:30 a.m.



2980 130th ST E, Dundas, MN 55019
507.663-6150
www.littleprairieumc.org

Our Vision

Creating a welcoming community that worships well, disciples well, and serves well;
transforming the world for Jesus Christ.

WELCOME AND GATHERING

Gathering Music

Debbie Richman

Welcome

Theresa Siemers, Certified Lay Minister

Centering Time

Debbie Richman

Call to Worship

Come, let us quiet our hearts and turn our attention toward God.

We come ready to listen.

In a world filled with noise, opinions, and quick reactions, God calls us to be still.

Lord, teach us to listen before we speak.

When anger rises and emotions run high, God calls us to choose a different way.

Lord, make us slow to anger and quick to show grace.

When words are spoken, may they build up rather than tear down.

May our words bring healing, encouragement, and hope.

Jesus calls us to love—not only when it is easy, but even when it is difficult.

Lord, help us to love as You have loved us.

So let us open our hearts, quiet our minds, and make room for God's Word.

We are here, Lord. We are listening. Speak to us, shape us, and teach us to do everything in love.

Hymn: *Let There Be Peace on Earth* (UMH #431)

All

Opening Prayer

Gracious and loving God,

We come into Your presence today carrying all the things that fill our minds and hearts—the things that bring us joy, the things that weigh us down, the conversations we've had, and perhaps even the words we wish we could take back.

For this moment, Lord, help us to slow down.

Quiet the noise around us and within us so that we can hear Your voice. Open our hearts to Your Word and make us willing to hear what You are saying to us today.

Teach us to listen—not just to You, but to the people around us. Give us patience when we disagree, grace when we are hurt, and wisdom when we don't know what to say.

Remind us that our words carry power.

Help us use them to encourage, to heal, to forgive, and to build one another up.

And when anger rises within us, help us pause before we react. Give us the courage to choose love when it would be easier to choose frustration, judgment, or hurt.

Lord, shape our hearts so that the way we live reflects the love of Jesus.

As we worship together today, speak to us, challenge us, encourage us, and draw us closer to You.

We give You this time, our attention, and our hearts.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.

Amen.

Sharing the Peace

Children's Moment

THE WORD

Scriptures:

Proverbs 10: 11-21 (Old Testament)

The Power of Our Words:

- ¹¹ The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life,
but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.
- ¹² Hatred stirs up conflict,
but love covers over all wrongs.
- ¹³ Wisdom is found on the lips of the discerning,
but a rod is for the back of one who has no sense.
- ¹⁴ The wise store up knowledge,
but the mouth of a fool invites ruin.
- ¹⁵ The wealth of the rich is their fortified city,
but poverty is the ruin of the poor.
- ¹⁶ The wages of the righteous is life,
but the earnings of the wicked are sin and death.
- ¹⁷ Whoever heeds discipline shows the way to life,
but whoever ignores correction leads others astray.
- ¹⁸ Whoever conceals hatred with lying lips
and spreads slander is a fool.
- ¹⁹ Sin is not ended by multiplying words,
but the prudent hold their tongues.
- ²⁰ The tongue of the righteous is choice silver,
but the heart of the wicked is of little value.
- ²¹ The lips of the righteous nourish many,
but fools die for lack of sense.

Luke 6: 27-36 (New Testament)

Love for Enemies

²⁷ “But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

The Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Message

Theresa Siemers, Certified Lay Minister

Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (UMH #384)

All

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Joys and Concern/Prayers of the People

Gracious and loving God,

We come before You this morning with grateful hearts, carrying with us the joys and concerns that have been shared, as well as the things that remain quietly tucked away in our hearts.

Thank You for the joys—the celebrations, answered prayers, new beginnings, moments of laughter, the people who bring us encouragement, and the blessings that remind us of Your goodness. Help us not to overlook these gifts, but to pause and give You thanks.

And Lord, we also bring You our concerns. We lift up those who are hurting, those who are grieving, those who are facing illness or uncertainty, those who are lonely, overwhelmed, anxious, or simply tired. Meet each person where they are today. Bring comfort where there is pain, peace where there is worry, strength where there is weakness, and hope where the road ahead feels unclear.

Lord, Your Word reminds us to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. Help us live those words—not only here in worship, but in our homes, our workplaces, our friendships, and our communities.

Teach us to listen before we answer. Help us to pause before our words become weapons. When we are hurt, help us respond with grace. When we disagree, help us seek understanding rather than simply trying to be understood. And when anger rises within us, remind us that we can bring it to You before we bring it to someone else.

Give us hearts that are willing to listen—to You and to one another. May our words encourage rather than tear down, heal rather than hurt, and bring hope rather than discouragement.

And when we don't know what to say, Lord, remind us that sometimes our greatest gift is simply to be present—to sit beside someone, to listen, and to let them know they are not alone.

Help us to live the words, “Do everything in love.”

We offer all of these prayers to You, trusting that You hear us even when our words are imperfect.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and our friend, we pray.

Amen.

Offering

Debbie Richman

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God,

Everything we have comes from You—our time, our talents, our resources, our relationships, and the many blessings You place in our lives.

As we receive these offerings today, we ask You to bless them and use them to further Your work in this church and beyond these walls.

May they provide for those who are in need, bring hope to those who are struggling, strengthen ministries that serve others, and help us share the love of Christ with our community and our world.

But Lord, we know that giving is about more than what we place in an offering plate.

You call us to give our whole selves—to give our time, our attention, our compassion, our gifts, and our willingness to serve.

Help us to be people who don't simply hear Your Word but live it.

May everything, we give, everything we say, and everything we do be offered with grateful hearts and motivated by love.

We dedicate these gifts and ourselves to You.

In Jesus' name, Amen!

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (UMH # 95)

All

Holy Communion

Theresa Siemers and Rev. Mel Henrichs

Lord's Table

May the God of all be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And the prayer which unites us...

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the Power and the Glory forever. Amen.

Hymn *What a Friend We Have in Jesus (UMH # 526)*

All

Sending

Go now in the love of Christ.

Be quick to listen,

slow to speak,

and slow to anger.

When you are hurt, choose grace.

When you are frustrated, choose patience.

When you disagree, seek understanding.

And when you don't know what to say, be willing to simply listen.

May your words bring healing.

May your presence bring peace.

May your actions reflect the love of Christ.

And in all that you do and in all that you say,

may you remember:

Do everything in love.

Go in peace, serve with kindness, and let the love of Christ shine through you. Amen.

Go in hope, peace, joy and love. Shalom. Amen.

Postlude

Debbie Richman

Little Prairie UMC UPCOMING EVENTS

Sundays, Worship at 9:30 am

Tuesdays, 8:30 am: Breakfast Club, at L&M

Wednesdays,

9-10:30 am James Gang coffee shop with Pastor Penny

Saturdays 9-11 am Soul Sisters (see Theresa for details)

See our website for more details at www.littleprairieumc.org.

Wed. Oct 7, 6-7:30 pm Fall Book Study Philippians Sept.16-Nov. 18

Sun Sept 27, 9:30 am Cowboy Church and New Member Sunday

Fri. Oct 16, 6:30 pm Youth Parent Meeting

Sat. Oct 17, 10 am Little Hands Ring and Sing

Sun. Oct. 18, 2:00 pm Movie Matinee *Mary Poppins*

Fri. Oct 30, 6-7 pm Little Prairie Trunk-or-Treat in Dundas

Sat. Nov. 21, 3-7 pm Ham Dinner Supporting CAC local food shelves

Thurs. Dec 24, 4:00 pm Candle light Christmas Eve Service

INFORMATION

Pastor: Penny Bonsell, Administrator: Sara French, Certified Lay Minister and Youth Director: Theresa Siemers, assistants Maddy Heinz-Kline and Kory Larson, Technology Administrator: Jesse Steed, Admin Council Chair: Kevin Larson, SPRC Chair: Deb Little, Treasurer: Lori Noreen, Finance Committee Co-Chairs: Kevin Larson and Mel Henrichs, Trustees Chair: Tom Stowe, Missions, Nurture and Outreach: Barb Liebenstein, Lay Servant: Karen Nelson, Soundboard Technician: Tom Hollenhorst and Karen Matthies



[Website](http://www.littleprairieumc.org)



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