

October 11th, 2026

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

1000 South Jay Avenue - P.O. Box 73 Rush City, MN 55069-0073

320-358-4076 - rushcityfirstlutheran.org

Led by the Spirit, growing in faith, to welcome and serve all.

Worship Leaders: This Sunday, October 11th

Ushers: Jill Olson & Beth Shephard

Musicians: Praise Band

AV: Cindy Hagen

Acolytes:

Lector: Wendy Schmidt

Prayers/Liturgists: Praise Band Team

Communion Assistants: Jean Hoffman & Cindy Koepp

Altar Guild: Yvonne Lind & Kathy McDonald

Flowers by the Altar: are placed by Elaine Waxberg in celebration of her wonderful church

Events This Week

October 11

9:00 AM: Worship

10:00 AM: Coffee Fellowship

10:00 AM: Family Church Day

October 12

6:00 PM: Church Council Meeting

October 14

9:00 AM: Quilters

1:00 PM: Bible Study

7:00 PM: Bells

7:00 PM: Call Committee Meeting

October 18

9:00 AM: Worship

10:00 AM: Coffee Fellowship & Kitowo Letter Sunday

Family Church Day

DIVE INTO THE BIBLE



GATHER ONCE PER MONTH

LEARN THE BIBLE

MODEL FAITH

PREPARE FOR CONFIRMATION

FAMILY CHURCH DAY IS
AFTER WORSHIP ON:

SEPTEMBER 13

OCTOBER 11

NOVEMBER 15

DECEMBER 13

MORE INFORMATION @

RUSHCITYFIRSTLUTHERAN.ORG/CYF

Family Church Day

October 11th, November 15th,
December 13th

On Family Church Day, parents & their kids (grade 1 - High School) grab a treat from the coffee hosts and head to our youth room where, led by Pastors Manda & John, they dive deep into the Bible. Basing our lives on the Bible means diving deep every once in a while. Sometimes we do that together, sometimes we split up into family groups or age groups. Each month is unique and builds on what we learned the month before. Families of all kinds are always welcome to join us any time. No experience, knowledge, or skill is needed!

Backpack Ministry

Do you have time to share? We're looking for volunteers to pick up food, pack food into bags, and drop off food (3 different jobs for 3 different volunteers) for the Backpack Ministry. Sign up on the kiosk in the Narthex.

Tractor and Treat Halloween Event

This afternoon from 4:00 – 6:00 PM at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Almelund.

Fare For All

The Fare For All low-priced food sale is returning to Rush City High School (at Door 5) on Friday, October, 16th from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM! A selection of Hot Buys will be available, as well as Mega Meat Packs (\$25) and Produce Packs (\$10). Fare For All is open to ALL. There are no eligibility requirements and pre-registration is not needed, just show up and shop! Please note that Fare For All accepts cash, credit, debit, and EBT cards, but they do not accept checks.

Harvest Supper & Bake Sale

Thursday, October 22nd from 4:30 - 7:00 PM at Calvary Lutheran Church in Rush Point. Bake Sale begins at 4:00 PM. Take outs are available. All are welcome!

Bega Kwa Bega (shoulder-to-shoulder)



Bega Kwa Bega is a St. Paul Area Synod program that matches churches with parishes in the Iringa, Tanzania Diocese. First Lutheran of Rush City is and has been matched up with parishes of Kitowo, a smaller town about 51.6 km (32 miles) from the large city of Iringa. There are a few congregations in the Kitowo area (much like the Tri-United parish) and First Lutheran has been their partner in ministry for several years. In other words, we have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with them.

We stand shoulder-to-shoulder with one another in prayers, projects, and presence.

As a congregation, we can lift our brothers and sisters in Kitowo in prayer, not only in church, but in our daily prayer

life. In projects, our congregation recently raised more than \$5,000 to build the roof of the new church building in Kitowo. What a wonderful response from our people to our companion church! Every year, we send funds to support students, who otherwise would not have the opportunity to attend school. Such a common expectation in our society but such a privilege in places like Tanzania.

We have been present with our partners in the past. Throughout the years, Bev Anderson, Brenda Taylor, myself, and others have traveled to Kitowo. All of us came away with a great understanding and appreciation of the people and God's work in Kitowo. There is opportunity in the future to meet our partners over Zoom or to arrange visits across the ocean.

We would like to reignite our relationship with the people of our partner congregation in Kitowo. It's a good time to reintroduce ourselves to them and for us to get to know them. We are going to start a letter-writing project every 3rd Sunday of the month. We will each write notes to our friends to give them a picture of life in Rush City and to ask them about what life looks like in Kitowo.

Join us next Sunday as we gather in the Fellowship Hall and share brief messages with our friends in Kitowo of the things that keep us busy every day and ask them what life in their small town looks like. They will enjoy hearing from us!

Church Office Hours This Week

Monday, October 12th: 1:00 – 5:00 PM
Wednesday, October 14th: 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Thursday, October 15th: 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Scripture for the Coming Week

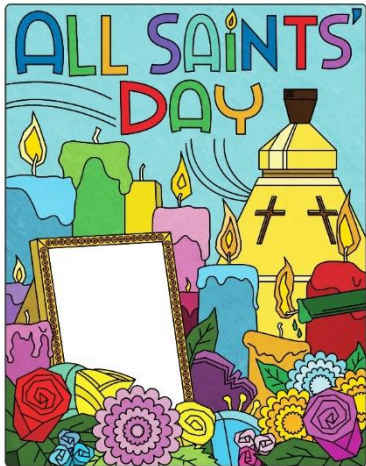
Isaiah 45:1-7
Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

Call Committee Update October 2026

To issue a call to a new pastor, two thirds of the voting members of the congregation need to approve two things: The person being called as pastor and the compensation agreement for the call.

The call committee was commissioned to find a candidate to serve as pastor of this congregation. The committee has identified such a candidate and is ready to recommend them to the congregation. The next step in the process is for the council to work with this recommended candidate to find an acceptable compensation agreement for the call.

Once they find an agreement, then it will be time to schedule a special congregation meeting and vote on these two recommendations. In preparation for this meeting is when the candidate's identity will be made public and the whole congregation will be invited to learn about (and possibly meet) the recommended candidate and the proposed compensation agreement. We hope all this will happen before Thanksgiving but ask for your patience and consideration of our volunteer leaders' and candidate's schedules in this busy season. We thank you also for your continued prayers and support as the discernment process grows to include more people.



All Saints Day

November 1st, the day after All Hallows' Eve is All Souls / All Saints Day. On this day every year we remember those who have died in years past but remain, with us, in the company of saints.

Some religious traditions distinguish between saints, who obey God's will and sinner, who disobey. Others set apart saints as super-holy people. Regular Christians like you and me aren't particularly bad, they would say, but we haven't done anything extraordinary enough to be called saints. Being a saint isn't about what I do or don't do but about who I am in relationship with God. That's also true of being a sinner. Martin Luther describes Christians as "simultaneously saint and sinner" because he redefines "saint" as a forgiven sinner.

On All Saints Day we remember that we are all made holy by Jesus and remain in the same communion of saints as all of our loved ones who have gone before us. To celebrate this, we're asking everyone to bring a photograph, a little trinket, or an old keepsake that tells the story of a loved one who has passed away. We're going to place them all up front to decorate the sanctuary together. During the service, we will remember them by name, light candles in their honor, and praise our God who overcame death and the grave.

Worship Leaders: Next Sunday, October 18th

Ushers: Mary Hutchens & Clarice Stream

Musician: Natalia Peterson

Acolytes:

Lector: Maureen Sybrant

Prayers/Liturgists: Jaime Holmstrom

Communion Assistants: Sue Griffin & Kathy McDonald

Altar Guild: Yvonne Lind & Kathy McDonald

Flowers by the Altar: Carol Swanson

All Together in One Place: Celebrating Our Diversity

Dear beloved children of God,

As a church, we collectively continue to celebrate the diversity with which God has created the world. Scripture tells us that, from the very beginning, we were made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27). In the book of Acts, many were gathered in one place when the Holy Spirit came upon them. Each was given the power to witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:32-33). In 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, the human body serves as a metaphor, demonstrating that a healthy Christian community relies on the many distinct gifts and qualities of each unique member — emphasizing unity through continuing to be a connected church.

I am thankful to serve this church in the office of presiding bishop. I am also grateful for my experience as an activist and leader in communities and congregations that are at the margins. Whatever our role and wherever our place in the church, God calls us to develop trusting relationships with our neighbors. In the service of Affirmation of Baptism, the presiding minister asks, “Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism ... to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?” (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 236). Striving for justice involves learning about underlying causes of division and inequity. It is a commitment our church makes because of baptism.

Celebrating diversity and striving for equity, inclusion and accessibility for all reflect this baptismal call. The words “diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility” and the initialism “DEIA” mean different things to different people. For the ELCA, as church together, these terms reflect our “delight in the fact that the people called, gathered, and enlightened” by God represent such a wide array of identities, backgrounds and life stories (ELCA social statement Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture, 1993, p. 3). The terms remind us of the gospel vision of community, in which all are truly welcome. They are terms this church has chosen to include in its teachings and constitutions as reflections of our faith in God, who creates, redeems and sustains all people.

Everyone matters in this church. I have celebrated with synods and congregations as they build communities that reflect the people and neighborhoods around them. I have worshiped in places where many languages are spoken and people from different backgrounds feel welcome. Together we have expanded our understanding of what it means to be church through relationships with companion churches around the world and through relationships between congregations in rural, urban and suburban settings here in the United States. We are joined together through holy baptism, through which God calls us to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. “Diversity,” “equity,” “inclusion” and “accessibility” are reflections of justice when it is fulfilled. Like many saints before us have said, justice is the form love takes in society.

The road is long, but we go forth in faith, trusting in the risen Christ and inspired by one another for the work ahead. Let us continue in the covenant God has made with us, to serve all people in love.

In Christ, The Rev. Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Please Note:

Pastor Manda is out of the office Monday – Wednesday for the Bishop’s Conference of St. Paul Area Synod. If you have a pastoral need please text her at 773-915-3455.