November 8th, 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, November 8th
Ushers: Cindy Hagen & Sue Mold
Musician: Natalia Peterson
Acolytes:
Lector: Sandy Holmberg
Prayers/Liturgists: Teresa Hasbrook
Communion Assistants: Chase Carlson & Teresa Hasbrook
Altar Guild: Julie Carlson & Jill Olson
Flowers by the Altar: are placed in memory of loved ones by Walter & Colleen Larson

Events This Week

November 8
9:00 AM: Worship with Natalia Peterson
10:00 AM: Coffee Fellowship

November 11
9:00 AM: Quilters
1:00 PM: Bible Study
7:00 PM: Bells

November 12
1:00 PM: Prayer Shawl Meeting

November 15
9:00 AM: Worship with Barbara Brooks
10:00 AM: Coffee Fellowship celebrating Norma Moulton's 100th birthday
Family Church Day
Kitowo Letter Writing

November Special Offering: Decorating Committee

The purpose of this committee is to enhance the sanctuary, narthex and fellowship hall. Enhancing these spaces is good hospitality; a sign that we celebrate our gathering together. It is also a way to tie our worship of God to the seasons of our lives.

We have decorated 2 large grapevine wreaths that are hung behind the altar with appropriate colors of the seasons. During Advent we have placed lighted artificial birch trees in several areas, lighted artificial evergreen trees in the front by the altar, and vases with mini lights and greens in the windows. We have also purchased a large evergreen tree for the narthex. Our love of lights also shows on the hedges that line the driveway. The tables in the fellowship hall also have seasonal decorations. Throughout the year we change the arrangements on the wreaths and add appropriate items to the tables.

The members of the decorating committee are: Diana Flaten, Sue Griffin, Cindy Koepp, Yvonne Lind, Kathy McDonald, Shari Schlagel, Marilyn Schoolmeesters, Maureen Sybrant. Our ladies are a fun group and we always welcome new members. If you'd like to be a member of the decorating committee, contact any of these members so we can include you.

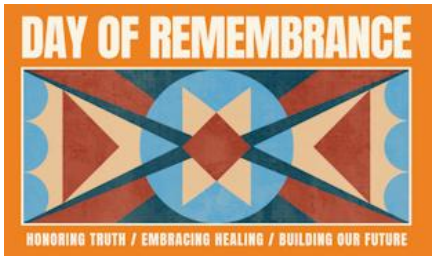
We have generous members that donate large fall flowers and decorated pots at the entrance to the church for each season. For everything else, we purchase items using donations from our members. Most of our fundraising until this point has been from coffee hour hosting for fellowship hour.

The decorating committee is a part of the ministry of our WELCA group (WELCA stands for Women of the ELCA) here at First Lutheran. This group is a separate non-profit organization within our congregation and is made up of all the women of the church. While their finances are separate, there is much overlap in the ministry and mission of the congregation that wouldn't be possible without the leadership and resources of WELCA.

The special offering for the month of November will be the decorating committee. Funds gathered from these donations will be used for things such as the new church photo taken on our 150th Anniversary, a new evergreen tree to put up with the others in winter, or updated decor for any of our communal spaces.

Medicine Ball

by Pastor Liesl Spitz (St. Timothy, St. Paul)



On Wednesday afternoon, September 30th, I sat in the gym of Powderhorn Park Recreation Center on a folding chair to watch a movie. Almost everyone in the gym was wearing orange to mark the National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools. The screening, put on by the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS), was of *Medicine Ball*, a short documentary about Native history as it intertwines with the development of basketball as a sport….

I learned from this film that the sport of basketball was influenced heavily by Native sports in North America. The game was played widely at Indian boarding schools through programs of the YMCA. Indian boarding schools were a deliberate part of the U.S. government's goal to assimilate Native Americans and take their land. But filmmaker and Dakota historian Syd Beane (Flandreau Santee) notes that basketball, part of this deeply harmful era, also became a form of connection and resilience...and medicine….

Telling the truth is only possible when there is access to the historical records themselves. This is precisely what the Truth Seeking and Truth Telling of the ELCA is about: finding, securing and digitizing our own records to make the history accessible. Not helping, not saving, not white savior-ing, not telling others' stories, but taking responsibility for our own part in the grave harm done to Indigenous people in this country….

I'm grateful that the Saint Paul Area Synod was a sponsor for this event, and that our synod was one of many that passed a resolution to commemorate the National Day of Remembrance, following approval at the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. As an institution, we are seeking to take responsibility for our role in history and encouraging our local churches to do the same. If you'd like to be part of the Truth Seeking and Truth Telling Initiative that is growing in our denomination, please contact me (pastorliesl@sttimothylutheran.org) or the synod office, and we will get you connected. There are plenty of proverbial folding chairs to go around. The story is still being told.

Read Pastor Liesl's full message at: spas-elca.org/2026/10/23/medicine-ball/



Church Office Hours This Week

Monday, November 9th: 1:00 – 5:00 PM
Wednesday, November 11th: 8:00 AM –1:00 PM
Thursday, November 12th: 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Scripture for the Coming Week

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

Prayer Shawl Meeting

Prayer Shawl Committee will meet Thursday, November 12th at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We will work on and bless prayer shawls for donation to those in need. All are welcome, regardless of experience.

Fare For All

The Fare For All low-priced food sale is returning to Rush City High School (at Door 5) on Friday, November, 13th 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.



Happy 100th Birthday, Norma Moulton!

Join us next week after worship to celebrate the 100th birthday of Norma Moulton! There will be cake for all to enjoy.

Christmas Caring Tree

The Christmas Caring Tree will be in the Rush City Library from November 17th – December 12th. The library hours are Tuesday: 10 AM – 7 PM, Wednesday: 10 AM – 5 PM, Thursday & Friday: 12 Noon – 5 PM, Saturday: 10 AM – 1 PM. Pick a tag from the tree and make a child happy!







CODA Concert



CODA is a smooth jazz duo consisting of Scott Dorff playing saxophones and Malcolm Anderson playing keyboards. The program will present both secular and sacred renditions of many holiday favorites in an energetic, contemporary style. This concert is guaranteed to enrich your holiday season and provides a marvelous opportunity for outreach to the local community. So, why not plan now to attend and invite your neighbors and friends to join you!

After the concert there will be holiday refreshments including a light soup supper. If you have questions or are able to contribute to the soup supper, please contact Teresa Hassbrook at 763-227-0056.

Annual Reports Due This Month!

Did you help to organize an event, project, or program in 2026? We need a recap of what you did for the annual report! Please write a paragraph or two about what you did, include any pictures you have, include any financial reports or bookkeeping, and send it all to Kayleen in the office by dropping them off during office hours or emailing it to: office@rushcityfirstlutheran.org. We're looking forward to reading reports from:

Council
Treasurer
Finance Secretary
Call Committee
Synod Voting Members
Property Committee
Cemetery Committee
Personnel Committee
Kitowo Committee
WELCA
Decorating Committee
Quilters
Praise Band
Choir
Handbell Choir
Ushers
Communion Servers
Readers
Prayer Shawl ministry
150th Anniversary Committee
Family Tubing outing
County Fair Parking

Please have your annual reports turned into the office **no later than** Monday, December 7th.

Worship Leaders: Next Sunday, November 15th
Ushers: Dawn & Skylar Nelson
Musician: Barbara Brooks
Acolytes:
Lector: Vern Koepp
Prayers/Liturgists: Marilyn Schoolmeesters
Communion Assistants: Jean Hoffman & Shari Schlagel
Altar Guild: Julie Carlson & Jill Olson
Flowers by the Altar: Rick Moulton