

December 21st, 2025

# First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

rushcityfirstlutheran.org

320-358-4076

## Worship Leaders: Sunday, December 21st

**Ushers:** Craig & Tiffany Moulton

**Musicians:** Praise Band

**Acolytes:** Chloe & Skylar Nelson

**AV:**

**Lector:** Sandy Holmberg

**Prayers/Liturgists:** Alex Flaten, Gracie Larson,  
Sandy Holmberg, Al Tripp, Marilyn Schoolmeesters

**Communion Assistants:** Maureen Sybrant &  
Shari Schlager

**Altar Guild:** Shari Schlager

**Flowers on the Altar:** are placed in memory of  
Glenn Stream by Glenn's family

## Events This Week

### December 21

9:00 AM: Worship with Praise Band

10:00 AM: Coffee Fellowship

### December 24

4:00 PM: Christmas Eve Worship

9:00 PM: Christmas Eve Worship

### December 28

9:00 AM: Worship

10:00 AM: Coffee Fellowship

## Prayer List

If you have a name that you wish to have placed on the list, please contact the church office at the information above or indicate on the back of your Count Me In form.

Our prayer list is a public list, so please verify that the recipient of our prayers is O.K. with publication of their name or family name. The prayer chain members will be given a copy of this list to hold these names in prayer. The list will also be posted on the kiosk in the Narthex for anyone to review and pray for. Names will remain on the list for 30 days and can be resubmitted as many times as necessary.

## 2025 Annual Reports

The annual meeting is approaching fast, and we need to have all reports in by Wednesday, December 31st, 2025. Some of our committees and mission groups are merging with others next year, but for this year we need reports from all of this year's groups. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Hagen.

## Save the Date

Sunday, January 25th, 10:00 AM

Congregational Annual Meeting: To elect council, synod voting members, ratify constitution updates, and approve a 2026 budget.

## Church Office Hours This Week

Monday, December 22nd:  
1:00-5:00 PM

Wednesday, December 24th:  
CLOSED

Thursday, December 25th:  
CLOSED

## Scripture for the Coming Week

**Isaiah 63:7-9**

**Psalms 148**

**Hebrews 2:10-18**

**Matthew 2:13-23**

## Newborn Kits

Global Health Ministries supports health care in resource-poor places. The gift of a GHM Newborn Kit is a blessing for the woman who receives it, providing basic items to help her clothe and care for her child, and celebrate new life! Importantly, the promise of this gift can also motivate her to connect with a health worker when she is expecting - a connection that can save her life. GHM sends Newborn Kits along with medical supplies and equipment to partners in Liberia, Madagascar, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe where they are used to encourage women to visit their local hospital or clinic for prenatal care and assisted delivery. Once that connection is made, mom is more likely to return for postnatal care, vaccinations for all her family and other health interventions - and to tell her friends and family they should do the same! The Newborn Kit is a blessing multiplier! This year, our goal is to send 20,000 Newborn Kits to waiting partners overseas.

We invite you to join others in our congregation in GHM's Newborn Kit Challenge this Advent and Christmas.

One Newborn Kit contains these items:

- 1 regular-size bath towel: *lightweight, approx. 50" x 26"*
- 1 washcloth: *please not microfiber*
- 1 bath-size bar white Ivory soap: *in original packaging*
- 1 newborn cotton t-shirt or "onesie"
  - *Size 0-3, or newborn*
  - *No need to cut off the bottom of a onesie*
  - *Patterns for soft cotton shirts are also available on GHM's website*
- 1 newborn stocking hat
  - *Small size, a newborn's head is about 14" circumference*
  - *Pattern suggestions for knit and crocheted hats are available on GHM's website*
- 1 baby receiving blanket, between 30" x 30" and 48" x 48"
  - *Soft cotton or medium-weight flannel*
  - *Note: knit or crocheted blankets are not included in Newborn Kits (they are sent separately to partner hospitals)*
- 2 cloth pre-folded diapers
  - *Cotton with reinforced center panel, minimum size 12" x 16"*
  - *Gerber diapers online are a good source*
  - *A pattern to make diapers from t-shirts or flannel is available on GHM's website*
- 2 diaper pins: *please no safety pins. Pin diaper pins onto diapers*

Join us in this challenge by purchasing one or all of these items to be made into kits. You can drop the items in the box in the church Narthex. If you have questions, you can call Cindy Hagen at 612-518-3458.

## Supporting Our Siblings in Christ

To support Pete Carlson, April Klar, and their family as Pete recovers from a stroke, we are inviting you to join us in providing meals for their family for the next couple of weeks. If you can make a dish and drop it off at their house at 690 West 10th Street, it would be greatly appreciated. There are no food allergies in the family, so all kinds of dishes/offerings are welcome. If you want to view their meal train sign up online, scan the QR code to the right.



## **Bible Day Camp**

Families of First Lutheran are planning summer day camp for children. Dates are not yet set, and we'd like to know when you would join us. Follow the QR code to get more details and let us know what week works for you. Registration will open in January when we've received feedback from families with children.



## **Call Committee Update**

To date, we have held six small groups, and the conversations have been incredibly positive. The insights, stories, and renewed sense of hope we've heard have been inspiring. Because these meetings have been so meaningful, we would now like to open additional small groups to the entire congregation.

If you have not yet participated in a small group, we ask you to sign up for one of the upcoming available dates. Please note that you only need to attend one—there is no need to attend more than one session.

### **Available Small Group dates**

Monday, January 5th at 6:00 PM

Tuesday, January 6th at 9:00 AM

Tuesday, January 13th 12:00 PM

Tuesday, January 13th at 6:00 PM

Thursday, January 15th at 6:00 PM

You can sign-up on the sheet on our call committee update kiosk in the Narthex or on the church website.

After all small groups are completed, our next steps will include speaking with community members. Once that phase is done, we will meet with the church council to clarify our mission and vision statements, which will allow us to complete our Ministry Site Profile (MSP).

We know some members are feeling frustrated with the length of this process. You may feel scared that our church is declining, you may feel sad that at one point we were a big church and now we are small church, you may feel angry on how people have left and programs have stopped, and most of all you just want the church to feel stable again. I would encourage you during this time, to look and feel how is God working in our church right now. We currently see him bringing people together that have never spoke before in our church, new relationships growing, and conversations on how we want to feel and learn with God. I encourage you when you are at church where do you see God at work right now? The Holy Spirit is calling us, to lean into his work, embrace his work, and let's meet God where he is in our church right now. We want to hear from you on where you see God at work, please share with the Call Committee.

We want to also let you know that Glen Holmstrom has resigned from the Call Committee. We are grateful for his service. The remaining committee members—Riley Carlson, Bev Anderson, and Tiffany Moulton—will continue moving forward with the work that needs to be done. We are still actively working toward completing our Ministry Site Profile (MSP), and this process will continue. As with any call process, there have been both challenges and moments of excitement, and we want to keep you informed every step of the way. Thank you for your patience, prayers, and continued support.

In Christ, The Call Committee

## **Worship Meeting**

On January 14th at 6:00 PM we will host a meeting for all worship coordinators & leaders, and anyone who is interested in the involvement of children and youth in worship. This will be a meeting to figure out how we can engage people of all ages in worship. We'll focus on identifying small things we can do that make a big difference. Pastor Jen Rome will be here to lead us. She is celebrating her 25<sup>th</sup> year of ministry bringing people of all generations together to deeply experience and creatively connect with God, the world, and each other. Creating and leading cross-generational, multi-sensory, interactive worship elements brings her joy. She is pastor with the dear people of Pilgrim Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Minnesota and she will give us some tangible ideas that we can try together. Please mark your calendars and prepare to join us. Parents with children – activities will be available for your children while we meet for the hour.

## **Quilt Blessings**

This Christmas season the First Lutheran quilters have completed 28 quilts, prayer shawls, & lap robes as Christmas gifts for the residents of The Estates nursing home. They were shared with residents on Wednesday and will provide warm comfort this winter.

## **Worship Leaders for Upcoming Worship Services:**

### **4:00 PM Christmas Eve**

Wednesday, December 24th

**Ushers:** Yvonne Lind & Elaine Waxberg

**Musician:** David Langemo

**Acolytes:** Chase Carlson

**Lector:** Shari Schlagel

**Assisting Minister:** Marilyn Schoolmeesters

**Communion Assistants:** Kathy McDonald

**Altar Guild:** Shari Schlagel

### **9:00 PM Christmas Eve**

Wednesday, December 24th

**Ushers:** Melissa Anderson & Clarice Stream

**Musicians:** Praise Band

**Acolytes:** Skylar & Chloe Nelson

**AV:** Brenda Taylor

**Lector:** Marilyn Schoolmeesters

**Prayers/Liturgists:**

**Communion Assistants:** Teresa Hasbrook & Shari Schlagel

**Altar Guild:** Shari Schlagel

### **Sunday, December 28th**

**Ushers:** Yvonne Lind & Elaine Waxberg

**Musician:** Dianne Kirchberg

**Acolytes:**

**Lector:** Shari Schlagel

**Assisting Minister:**

**Communion Assistants:** Sue Griffin & Teresa Hasbrook

**Altar Guild:** Shari Schlagel

**Flowers on the Altar:**