

March 15th, 2026

# First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

rushcityfirstlutheran.org

320-358-4076

## Worship Leaders: This Sunday, March 15th

**Usher:** Shari Schlagel

**Musician:** Paul Damico Carper

**Acolyte:**

**Lector:** Alex Flaten

**Assisting Minister:** Marilyn Schoolmeesters

**Communion Assistants:** Deb Dahlberg & Teresa Hasbrook

**Altar Guild:** Julie Carlson & Jill Olson

**Flowers on the Altar:**

## Events This Week

*March 15*

9:00 AM: Worship

10:00 AM: Coffee Fellowship

*March 17*

6:30 PM: Personnel Committee Meeting

*March 18*

9:00 AM: Quilters

5:15 PM: Family Dinner Church

6:00 PM: Senior Choir

7:30 PM: Bell Choir

*March 22*

9:00 AM: Worship with Bell Choir

10:00 AM: Coffee Fellowship

10:15 AM: Special Church Council Meeting

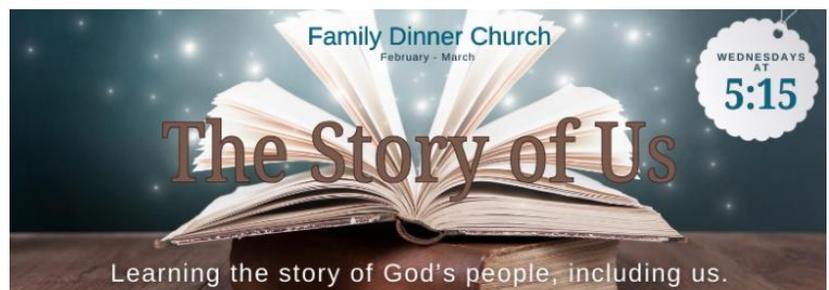
## Prayer List

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 on the bulletin board in the church hallway 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.

## Family Dinner Church this Lent

This Lent, join us for midweek worship and a meal as we hear the story of how God freed his people from slavery and brought them into freedom. It might have more to do with your own story than you know. To sign-up for food item donations and to get more details, please contact Dawn Nelson at 763-222-9771.



## Sacred Refuge: From Light to Light (National Lutheran Choir)

Sunday, March 22nd – 4:00 PM | Gloria Dei, St. Paul

Join the National Lutheran Choir under Artistic Director Jennaya Robison for Sacred Refuge: From Light to Light. This moving concert traces the arc from winter's stillness to spring's awakening, and features Shavon Lloyd's So Breaks the Sun, Jake Runestad's Under This Tree and Nada te Turbe, and Aaron McDermid's From Light to Light. Additional concerts will be held March 20th in Brainerd and March 21st in Moorhead. Call the church office for more information and to buy tickets.

## We're Hiring

First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Rush City is seeking a part-time (approximately 20 hours per week) Church Musician, with compensation of \$25 - \$30 per hour based on experience, to coordinate and lead music for worship in a range of styles from organ to praise band. This role partners closely with the Pastor, and congregational leaders to plan and lead worship music that reflects scriptural themes and liturgical seasons and fosters congregational participation. The position also manages worship audio/visual systems, including sound systems, projection, and livestreaming. Familiarity with the theology and worship practices of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and experience in a liturgical church setting are desired but not required. The full job description can be found on our website. Interested applicants may submit a resume to [personnel@rushcityfirstlutheran.org](mailto:personnel@rushcityfirstlutheran.org).

## Church History Wanted

The anniversary team is looking for someone who would be interested in writing a history of our church from the 125th anniversary to the 150th anniversary. We have archives and records from all the past years. We are looking for someone to add to those histories by writing about the years 2001 to 2026. If you are interested or curious to know more, please talk with Marilyn Schoolmeesters.

## Interior Church Spring Cleaning

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 29th for a spring-cleaning blitz! For 30 minutes after church, we'll be all-hands-on-deck to do some tidying up for Easter and all the big events we have planned for April. There will be jobs for all abilities and some exciting rearrangements to make our space welcoming for people of all ages. Cleaning supplies will be provided but you're welcome to wear your own aprons and gloves if you wish!

## Easter Egg Donations Needed

This Easter we will have an egg hunt on Easter Sunday, April 5th. If you can contribute plastic easter eggs to our efforts, please drop them by the church. If you can contribute stickers, small candy, or coins that we can stuff in the eggs, we welcome those gifts as well and thank you for helping us to make Easter Sunday welcoming for our families with children. Please drop all donations in the marked box in the Narthex no later than Sunday, March 29th.

## February Giving Report

### Last Month's Giving

**General Fund**

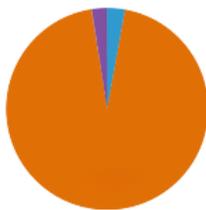
**\$13,305.81**

**Facility Use Fees**

**\$400**

**Special Offering**

**\$340.00**



Payment Type	Amount
Check	\$9,952.29
Cash	\$1,328.52
Online	\$2,777.40
Non-Cash Gift	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,058.21</b>

### Church Office Hours This Week

Monday, March 16th: 1:00 - 5:00 PM  
Wednesday, March 18th: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Thursday, March 19th: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

### Scripture for the Coming Week

*Ezekiel 37:1-14*  
*Psalms 130*  
*Romans 8:6-11*  
*John 11:1-45*



### **It's Our Anniversary!**

2026 marks the 150th year of First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Rush City. We have 2 events planned in celebration of this special milestone in the life of our church. Please tell anyone you know who is connected to First Lutheran about our upcoming celebrations and events:

On Sunday, April 26th, 2026 we request the honor of your presence to worship and give thanks to God for the blessings of the past 150 years. We will be joined by former pastors, synod representatives, and friends and former members. After worship we will share memories and cake with one another and take a group picture as has been our tradition since 1939.

## *Memories*

In celebration of our history, you are invited to send in or drop off photographs of your baptisms, confirmation, wedding, funeral, or other life events that may have taken place in our church over the past 150 years. These photos will be set into a curated display of our history for our celebration and returned to the owners afterwards.

Please drop off your photos to the church no later than Sunday, April 19th. Digital photos can be emailed to [office@rushcityfirstlutheran.org](mailto:office@rushcityfirstlutheran.org)

On Sunday, September 13th, 2026 we will hold a community celebration at 10:00 AM with gospel worship outdoors, a catered meal, and games for all ages. This event will be our big rally celebration to kick off the next 150 years of growing in the Spirit.

In the coming months, all updated information can be found on our website. If you have questions or want to pitch in, please contact a member of our Anniversary team: Jill Olson, Beth Shepherd, Marilyn Schoolmeesters, or Jaime Holmstrom.



### **Call Committee Update**

The call committee is delighted to share that we're almost done with the Ministry Site Profile (MSP)! The MSP will be completed and published for you to read and review by Sunday, March 29th. You can pick up a copy at church that Sunday or read a digital copy on our website where we publish updates of the call process.

Sunday, April 12th will be our MSP Town Hall in coffee hour immediately after worship. At the Town Hall meeting, the committee will present their work and receive feedback. The purpose of this meeting is to gain clear congregational understanding and ensure a common ground between the congregation, call committee, and synod.

Sunday, April 19th will be a special congregation meeting to elect the remaining members of the Call Committee. There are 2 remaining members of the Call Committee, and our constitution says we can have up to 6 members. The congregation will elect these members to continue with the discernment process.

In May the Call Committee will begin meeting with our synod liaison to search for and discern with potential pastoral candidates. We are grateful for your participation and investment in the transition and call process thus far. Please keep us in your prayers as we finish drafting the MSP with our council and prepare for the next step.



### **The Call to Be Peacemakers**

In a pastoral message following Presiding Bishop Curry's statement on the war in Iran, Bishop Patricia Lull writes:

Death and destruction, political turmoil, and the testing of nations globally are the toll in every war. I ask you to join me in the call to be peacemakers, which was the theme of the statement of Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry on March 4th.

Pray for our nation's leaders, who wield tremendous power over human lives. Pray for those serving in our military, including those from this state, as well as our military chaplains. In your prayers, please acknowledge before God the loss and heartache experienced by the family of Nicole Marie Amor and others in the armed service who have died. Pray for the children throughout Iran and the Middle East, who are not the cause of this conflict and who have no power to defend themselves. In your prayers, remember the armed conflicts in other parts of the world, including the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, now in its fourth year.

And then, because we do have the constitutional power to engage with our country's leaders, use your voice and influence to help lead us back into diplomatic resolution of our conflict with Iran. We won't all agree on specific strategies for ending this conflict, but this is urgent work we are all called to out of our love for neighbors.

### **Worship Leaders: Next Sunday, March 22nd**

**Ushers:** Randy & Sue Mold

**Musicians:** Praise Band

**AV:** Brenda Taylor

**Acolyte:** Chase Carlson

**Lector:** Wendy Schmidt

**Prayers/Liturgists:** Alex Flaten, Gracie Larson & Marilyn Schoolmeesters

**Communion Assistants:** Jean Hoffman & Cindy Koepp

**Altar Guild:** Julie Carlson & Jill Olson

**Flowers on the Altar:** Jill Olson