

March 22nd, 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: 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: are placed in memory of Lael Erickson by Gretchen, Brayden & Addison

Events This Week

March 22

9:00 AM: Worship with Bell Choir

10:00 AM: Coffee Fellowship

10:15 AM: Special Church Council Meeting

March 25

9:00 AM: Quilters

5:15 PM: Family Dinner Church

6:00 PM: Senior Choir

7:30 PM: Bell Choir

March 28

10:00 AM: Praise Band

Rehearsal

12:00 PM: Baby Shower

March 29

9:00 AM: Worship with Praise Band & Choir

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 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.

Call Committee Update

The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) is complete and published for you to read and review by Sunday, March 29th. You can pick up a copy at church this Sunday or read a digital copy on our website where we publish updates of the call process.

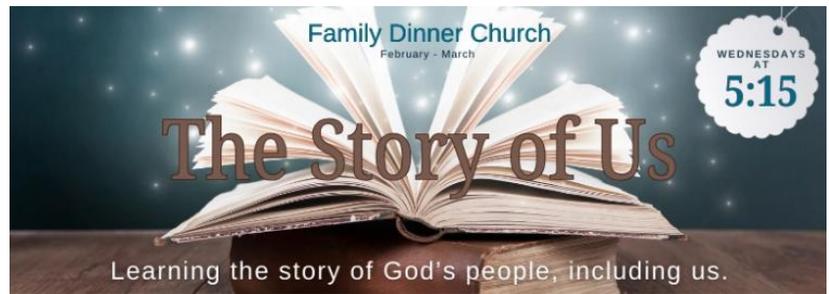
Sunday, April 12th will be our MSP Town Hall in coffee hour immediately after worship. At the Town Hall meeting, the committee will present their work and receive feedback. The purpose of this meeting is to gain clear congregational understanding and ensure a common ground between the congregation, call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

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.



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.

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.

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.

Scholarship Applications

The Glenda Lou Newcomb Naadi and the Frances Conner Sherman Scholarships are given each spring to First Lutheran graduating high school seniors. Two winners will be selected by the Scholarship Committee and announced at the Baccalaureate Worship Service on Sunday, May 17th. The applications were mailed this past Tuesday. Please return applications to the church office by Wednesday, April 15th.

1876 - 2026



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.

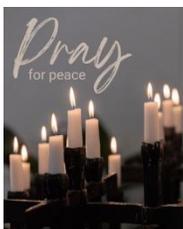
Memories

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

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.



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.

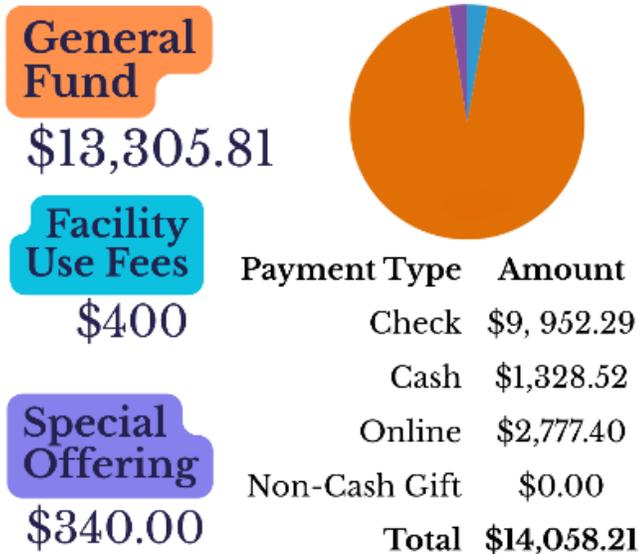
Pray for our nation's leaders, who wield tremendous power over human lives. Pray for those serving in our military, including those from this state, as well as our military chaplains. In your prayers, please acknowledge before God the loss and heartache experienced by the family of Nicole Marie Amor 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.

February Giving Report

Last Month's Giving



Church Office Hours This Week

Monday, March 23rd: 1:00 - 5:00 PM
 Wednesday, March 25th: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
 Thursday, March 26th: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Scripture for the Coming Week

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalms 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54

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Acolyte:

Lector: Maureen Sybrant

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

Communion Assistants: Maureen Sybrant & Alissa Zeltinger

Altar Guild: Julie Carlson & Jill Olson

Flowers on the Altar: Jill Olson