

July 5th, 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, July 5th

Ushers: Dawn & Chloe Nelson

Musician: Barbara Brooks

Acolytes:

Lector: Mike Carroll

Prayers/Liturgists: Teresa Hasbrook

Communion Assistants: Chase Carlson & Shari Schlagel

Altar Guild: Sue Griffin & Pam Meissner

Flowers on the Altar:

Events This Week

July 5

9:00 AM: Worship

10:00 AM: Coffee Fellowship

July 8

9:00 AM: Quilters

7:00 PM: Call Committee Meeting

July 9

1:00 PM: Prayer Shawl Meeting

July 12

9:00 AM: Worship

10:00 AM: Coffee Fellowship

Thank You, Pastor Richard

Thank you to Pastor Richard Baumann for being our preacher and presider this morning. Pastor Richard is a retired pastor of the ELCA and resident of our own Chisago County. He's preached for us before at First and we're glad to have him back again!

Thank You, Barbara

Thank you to our guest musician, Barbara Brooks for being with us this morning. Did you know Barbara is an accomplished vocal coach? She is (among other things) the choral advisor for the Minnesota Chorale and Music Director for Woven Voices. She has worked with various opera companies including the Canadian Opera, Minnesota Opera, New Orleans Opera, Opera Banff, Berkshire Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Kentucky Opera, as well as the University of Minnesota Opera and University of North Texas Opera programs. If vocal music is something that interests you, we encourage you to chat with Barbara after worship and get to know her.

Pastor Out of Office

Pastor Manda is away from church this week for her continuing education. Please hold her in prayer. If you are in need of pastoral care, please call the church office at the number at the top of these announcements or call council president Wendy Schmidt at 507-923-8298. They will help you get the assistance you need.

Chisago County Fair Parking

There aren't many spots open. Sign-up now to get your preferred time! Sign-up by clicking on the QR code, visiting the church website, or speaking with Becky after worship.



Bible Study

Is on pause this week while Pastor Manda is out of town. We will resume Bible Study again on Wednesday, July 15th at 1:00 PM.

America at 250: Holding Gratitude and Humility

As we look toward the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, many of us will celebrate with fireworks, parades and barbecues. Independence Day often brings us together with family and friends. Yet there is more that connects us than our communal celebrations. We are also connected through a common vision.

Signed in 1776, the Declaration of Independence proclaims a vision of equality for all people. While there were other nations pushing for equality at the time, the declaration was and is a monumental document in the way it names the aspiration so boldly. As we observe and celebrate the 250th anniversary of that signing, we also affirm the vision of freedom and equality it casts. We can be grateful.

And with contrition and humility, we acknowledge all the ways we have failed to embody that vision. As members of this church, we are called to “pray, participate in, and advocate for civic life in the United States that reflects God’s activity and call, which seek both the well-being of all people and a creation marked by justice and peace” (ELCA social statement *Faith and Civic Life*, p. 89).

As Lutherans, we know the importance of naming realities for what they are. As citizens, we confess the ways we have not yet realized the vision of the Declaration of Independence and, more importantly, as Christians we confess the ways we have participated in or been complicit in failures to live into the vision God provides. This vision is rooted in creation and redemption. God crafts each person in God’s own image and sends Jesus Christ to redeem us, setting us free to follow Christ’s new commandment to love one another.

The history of the United States is complex, and all too often we have fallen short of our stated values. Indigenous peoples across this land have been forced to cede their ancestral homes and pushed to reservations. Women and men have been prevented from voting because of their sex and race and spat on and jailed when they demanded their rights. Japanese American families were interned during World War II. Queer and transgender people’s lives are obstructed by federal and state orders.

There is a photograph of Elizabeth Eckford, one of the nine Black teenagers who integrated Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., in 1957. Books under her arm, she faces forward as angry white people crowd behind her. She was just trying to go to school.

Holding both the failures and the vision in our hearts and minds, I invite us to ask ourselves, “What does it mean to celebrate a promise that is real and yet still unfolding? What does it mean to be a people who always live in ‘the already but not yet’”?

This is a central question for us not only as we mark the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence but also in our daily lives as people of faith. The prophets repeatedly remind us of the vision God casts for all of creation, and they call us to account when, as God’s own people, we fall short.

When we fall short, we remember we are rooted in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We think, speak and live out faith through God’s future. God’s future is resurrection. As a church, we are

turned not only to the past but to the future God is making possible right now through us as we love and serve others.

As Lutheran Christians, we believe that God calls us to:

- Remember our connection to each other through baptism, as Scripture teaches us: “We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another” (Romans 12:5).
- Name sin for what it really is and to repent of it, as the Augsburg Confession and the catechisms remind us.
- Serve the common good in society as “earthly measures toward God’s intention” (**Faith and Civic Life**, p. 11).

As we celebrate 250 years of the Declaration of Independence, we can hold gratitude and humility, possibilities and shortcomings. We continue to live in the already and the not-yet. And we hold fast to the most important promise of all: the presence of God with us, the power of the resurrection of Christ, the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit and the ever-unfolding grace of God.

We celebrate this occasion neither as a perfect nation nor as a perfect church but as a people held in God’s grace and called into community in service to all neighbors and for the sake of the world God so loves.

In Christ,



The Reverend Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Luther Point Camperships Available

Do you want to take your kids on vacation but money is tight? Would you like to spend time with your grandkids but don’t have the energy to plan a bunch of kid activities? Might it be a good growing opportunity for your kids (and you) if they spent some nights having fun away from home? Luther Point Bible Camp has options for each of these scenarios and special camps for hobbies like fishing and boating this summer. If you’d like to go to camp or send someone you love to camp, we have the means to help you get there! Thanks to a bequest from Elmer R. Johnson upon his death, we have money to send you to camp! Follow the link in the QR code to request a scholarship.



Four families have taken advantage of this support this summer and we’re excited for the faith-forming fun they’re having this summer!

Our Special Offering for June is Luther Point Bible Camp. We have pledged \$100 to them in our 2026 budget. You can help fulfill that pledge!

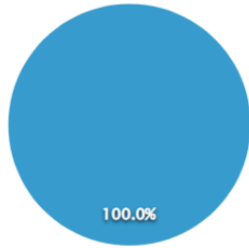
Fare For All

Is a low-cost food sale that is open to all. Affordable frozen meats and fresh produce are available for cash, credit/debit and SNAP. Friday, July 10th from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the Rush City High School (enter door 5).

May 2026 Giving

General Fund

\$20,680



Payment Type	Amount
Checks	\$17,170
Cash	\$1,320
Online	\$2,190
Total	\$20,680

WE ARE HIRING!

PART TIME
CHURCH MUSICIAN

**all details and
full job description
at**

www.rushcityfirstlutheran.org

Church Office Hours This Week

Monday, July 6th: 1:00 - 5:00 PM
Wednesday, July 8th: 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Thursday, July 9th: 8:00 – 1:00 PM

Scripture for the Coming Week

Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Worship Leaders: Next Sunday, July 12th

Ushers: Yvonne Lind & Elaine Waxberg

Musician: Malcolm Anderson

Acolytes:

Lector: Shari Schlagel

Prayers/Liturgists: Nadine Omans

Communion Assistants: Deb Dahlberg & Teresa Hasbrook

Altar Guild: Sue Griffin & Pam Meissner

Flowers on the Altar: Elaine Waxberg