

August 16th, 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, August 16th

Ushers: Yvonne Lind & Elaine Waxberg

Musicians: Praise Band

AV: Cindy Hagen

Acolytes:

Lector: Marilyn Schoolmeesters

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

Communion Assistants: Chase Carlson & Alissa Zeltinger

Altar Guild: Muriel Bungert & Shari Schlagel

Flowers on the Altar: are placed in celebration of Shari
Schlagel's birthday by her children & grandchildren

Events This Week

August 16

9:00 AM: Worship

10:00 AM: Coffee Fellowship

August 17

7:00 PM: Church Council
Meeting

August 19

9:00 AM: Quilters

1:00 PM: Bible Study

7:00 PM: Call Committee
Meeting

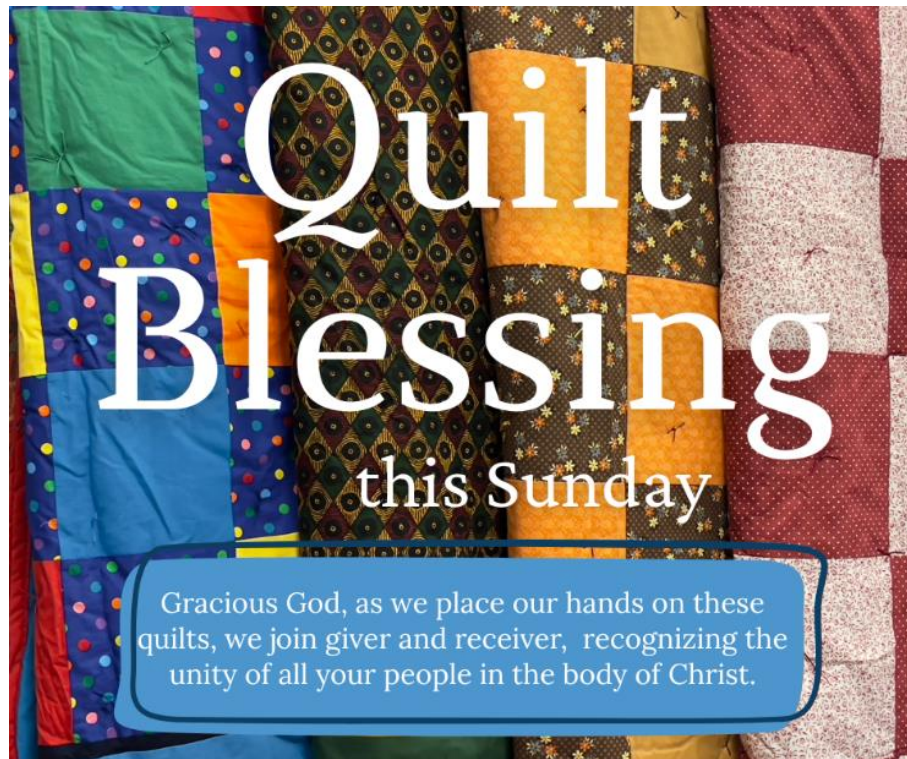
August 23

9:00 AM: Worship

10:00 AM: Coffee Fellowship

Church Office Door

*Please note: we are having trouble with the office door lock. If you need to get into the office, please stop in during church office hours or contact Pastor Manda at: 773-915-3455



Quilt Raffle

This week as we bless the quilts we're also kicking off a quilt raffle. Every so often a quilt is made by a friend or member of the quilting group that is beautiful and well made but doesn't match the specifications of our recipients' needs. The quilters put these gifts aside until an appropriate use comes up.

This year, we have a bevy of beautiful blankets and the quilters have chosen to raffle them off so that the proceeds could be used for good in our community. Originally the quilters thought that it would be clever and helpful to use the quilting proceeds to purchase fire blankets. These fire-resistant blankets advertise a safe way to extinguish fires at home - something quilts are not very good at! After consulting with the fire department, they found out that there are other tools which are more needed and useful to reduce the damage of fire in our community. So, the quilters have listened to those with experience and expertise and will donate these proceeds to the fire department to be used for smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and a special project in Rock Creek.

Turning our excess into abundance for our neighbors is one way we, as a congregation serve others. This is not a new practice for our congregation. However, the less often mentioned part of this gift is the way it helps us to grow in our faith, together. The quilters had a good idea but when they listened to others, they learned. The quilters then let that information change their plans to serve an actual need instead of a perceived need. This is a powerful testimony of how listening and learning is an important part of serving.

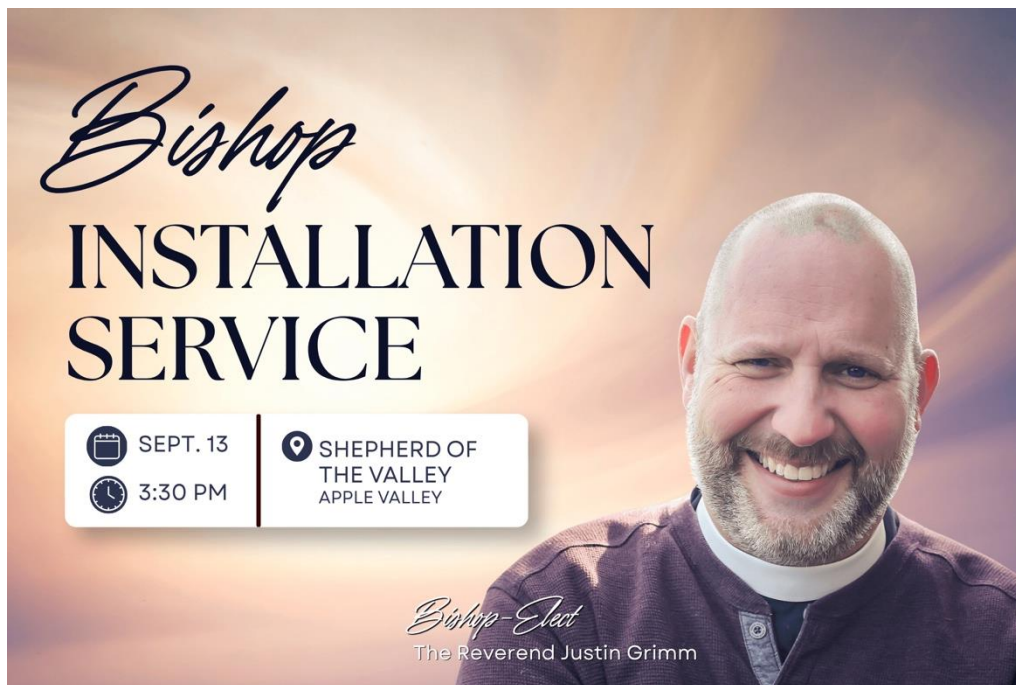
This quilt raffle will begin this Sunday, August 16th and close on Sunday, September 20th. If you would like to participate and join the quilters in supporting our local fire department, you can purchase tickets at First Lutheran Church.

Tickets can be purchased on Sunday or Wednesday mornings. Tickets will be sold at \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. Those who purchase a ticket will write their name on the ticket and then place it in the jar beside the quilt they'd like to take home. Winners will be drawn on September 20th at the potluck picnic at 11:30 AM.

If you have any questions, please contact Bev Anderson at 612-390-6705.

WELCA Fall Cluster Meeting

The Fall Cluster Meeting will be on Saturday, September 26th at Trinity Lutheran Church in North Branch. Registration begins at 9:00 AM with program at 9:30 AM. The program speaker will be Jenny Henthorn, community engagement coordinator for New Pathways, to tell us about their new building in Cambridge and how churches can continue to be involved in helping those experiencing homelessness. Morning coffee will be spilt, half to SWO and half to New Pathways. Material offerings of toilet paper, paper towels, laundry soap, dish soap, and cleaning wipes will be collected. If you cannot attend and would like to contribute, please leave on the counter in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Mold.



Bishop Installation

Newly elected Bishop Justin Grimm has begun his role as the new bishop of the St. Paul Area Synod! Like any pastor in a new call, there will be a worship service with a rite of installation to celebrate and solemnize this new call to our synod.

The bishop's installation will be at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Apple Valley on Sunday, September 13th at 3:30 PM. Presiding Bishop Yeheil Curry will preach. If you have not been part of a bishop's installation before, it is a unique and interesting experience!

You are welcome to attend the installation worship on your own schedule OR catch a ride on the First Lutheran bus. The bus will depart the church parking lot at 2:30 PM and is expected to return no later than 6:30 PM. If you are interested in riding the bus to the installation, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board.

Worship Leaders: Next Sunday, August 23rd

Ushers: Pastor John & Nadine Omans

Musician: David Langemo

Acolytes:

Lector: Gracie Larson

Prayers/Liturgist: Marlys Olson

Communion Assistants: Deb Dahlberg & Shari Schlager

Altar Guild: Muriel Bungert & Shari Schlager

Flowers on the Altar: Melissa Anderson



Global Health Ministries

where do our quilts go?

Global Health Ministries (GHM) focuses on strengthening health systems through access to medical equipment and supplies, support for community-based primary health care programs, and expert administrative and leadership consulting.

We've partnered for decades in resource-poor settings and these deep relationships are one of our core competencies. We journey together with our brothers and sisters in Christ, where Lutheran churches manage hospitals, clinics, and grassroots efforts - all focused on improving the health of even the most vulnerable.



Our volunteers are the heart and soul of our work. In 2025, **more than 2,300 volunteers** helped us achieve our mission. From volunteers in our Minnesota warehouse assembling newborn kits, packing boxes, and helping load containers, to skilled consultants working closely with our partners to share expertise in healthcare management and public health. Our volunteers are essential in helping the hands that heal.

Volunteers: 2,300 | Volunteer Hours: 28,500

GHM includes quilts whenever possible when shipping medical supplies and equipment to mission hospitals and clinics overseas. Quilts and blankets are carefully wrapped around precious medical equipment to help protect the equipment during shipping. Once the container arrives and the contents distributed, the quilts are given to the hospital for use with their patients, many of whom have no covering for comfort or warmth. Often the hospital encourages the patient to take the quilt with them when they go home, knowing it will probably be the family's only blanket.

BY THE NUMBERS:

16

containers
shipped

16

country
partners

64

community health and
sanitation projects

\$6.6

million in medical supplies
and equipment shipped

over
540,000

people served through
community health projects

Imagine the comfort and care you feel when you snuggle under a comforter or wear a piece of clothing made or worn by a loved one. That's the feeling you share through an LWR Quilt. In a simple combination of fabric and thread, you reach out to people in their time of greatest need with a strong message of hope — you are not alone. First and foremost, recipients use their LWR Quilts to shield against the cold and rain, and for warm bedding. But their versatility also makes quilts useful as simple tents, floor coverings, or a wrap to hold a baby on a mother's back.



THE BEST CHRISTMAS GIFT

Imagine the challenges of overcoming homelessness and addiction. You're so close to starting fresh, then a devastating hurricane threatens to rip everything apart.

This was the story of our neighbors living in a shelter in Asheville, North Carolina, when Helene struck — flooding the residence and leaving them without power for days and water for months. Many of the men felt defeated. Then, just in time for Christmas, **your love surrounded them with the warmth of quilts**, reminding them how much others cared.

"The gratitude was palpable," one volunteer said. "Time and time again we were told, 'This is the nicest Christmas I have ever had in my life.'"



"THANK YOU FOR NOT FORGETTING US."

Natalia Chernenka, 67, had nowhere else to go when Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. So she stayed in her home, even during the harrowing time when soldiers occupied her community. And she stayed in her home even after a missile blew off her roof, shattering all her windows and destroying everything in its path with force and fire. Whatever belongings didn't burn up have since turned moldy, because rain leaks under the tarps she uses as a roof.

"We built everything," she said through tears, "and now we have nothing."

For months, she had no electricity, no gas, no water, no heat. She survived on whatever foods she could grow herself, and that first winter of the war was brutally cold.

At the distribution, she clutched her new quilt to her chest and said, **"This quilt is very important to us, because the bedding that didn't catch fire is all ruined. At least we can cover ourselves, thank God."**

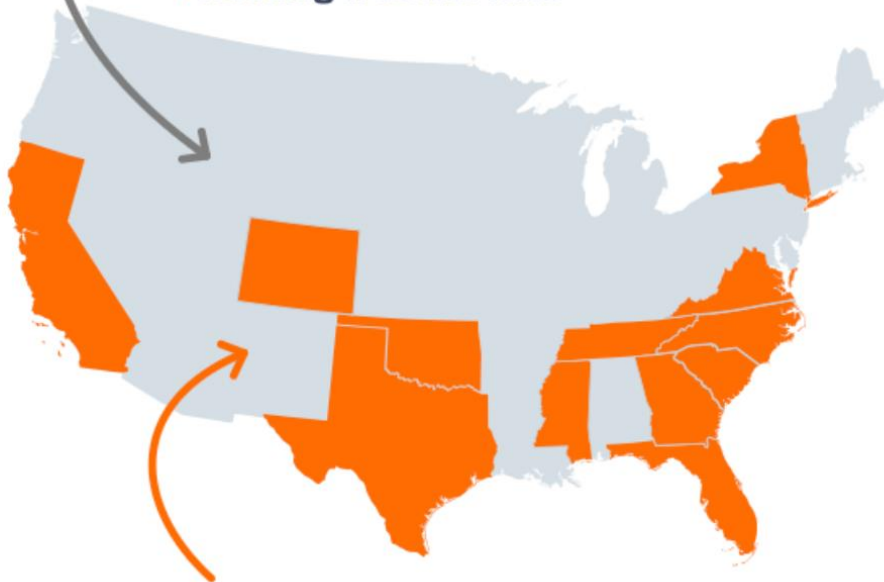
There's a reason LWR Mission Quilts have been part of our humanitarian response since 1945: they are practical, comforting and a sign that even on their darkest days, our neighbors are not alone.

"Thank you for not forgetting us," Natalia added. "Thank you very much." ■

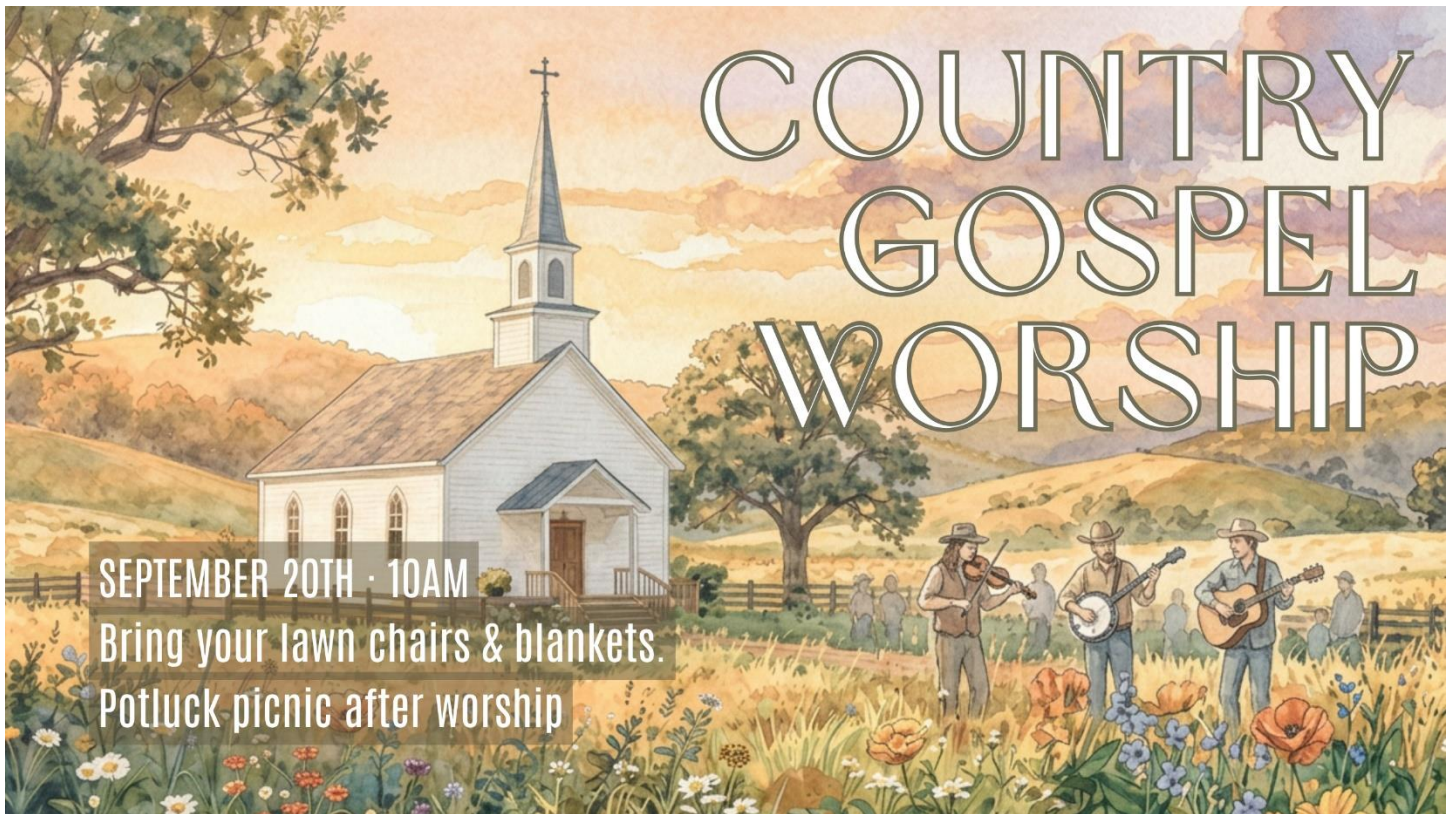
LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Neighbors reached coast-to-coast including those impacted by:

- **Hurricanes Helene and Milton**
- **Wildfires** in California
- **Severe weather** across the South and Midwest
- **Flooding** in Central Texas



Partners in **12 states** for rapid deployment of assistance in areas with reoccurring natural disasters.



Church Office Hours This Week

Monday, August 17th: 1:00 - 5:00 PM
Wednesday, August 19th: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Thursday, August 20th: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Scripture for the Coming Week

Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

July 2026 Giving

General Fund

*\$30,896

Special Offerings

\$95

In Kind

\$80

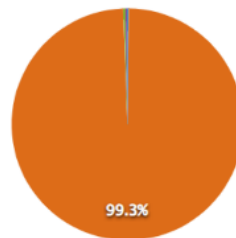
Endowment Fund

\$50

Processing Costs

\$4.20

This includes Fair Parking Money



Payment Type	Amount
Checks	\$9,855
Cash	*\$19,296
Online	\$1,974.20
Total	\$31,125.20