

August 30th, 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.

Quilt Raffle

We are 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 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.

Events This Week

August 30

9:00 AM: Worship

10:00 AM: Coffee Fellowship

September 2

9:00 AM: Quilters

1:00 PM: Bible Study

7:00 PM: Call Committee Meeting

September 3

9:30 AM: Ruth Circle Meeting

September 6

9:00 AM: Worship

10:00 AM: Coffee Fellowship

Can you Help?

We need someone to take 2 boxes to the Family Pathways Thrift Store. Can you help? Please call or email the church office to coordinate.

Ruth Circle Meeting

Meets on Thursday, September 3rd at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Blessing of the Devices

If you are a craftsman...only look at your tools, your needle, your thimble, your beer barrel, your articles of trade, your scales, your measures, and you will find this saying written on them..."My dear, use me toward your neighbor, as you would want him to act toward you with that which is his." – Martin Luther

Bring the devices and tools of your job, trade, or vocation to church on Sunday and we'll bless your work this Labor Day weekend. Kids bring your school devices & tools!



Prayer Shawl Meeting

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Thursday, September 10th at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome, so please join us for an afternoon of fellowship and creativity.

Fare For All

The Fare For All low-priced food sale is returning to Rush City High School (at Door 5) on Friday, September, 11th from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM! A selection of Hot Buys will be available, as well as Mega Meat Packs (\$25) and Produce Packs (\$10). Fare For All is open to ALL. There are no eligibility requirements and pre-registration is not needed, just show up and shop! Please note that Fare For All accepts cash, credit, debit, and EBT cards, but they do not accept checks.

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.

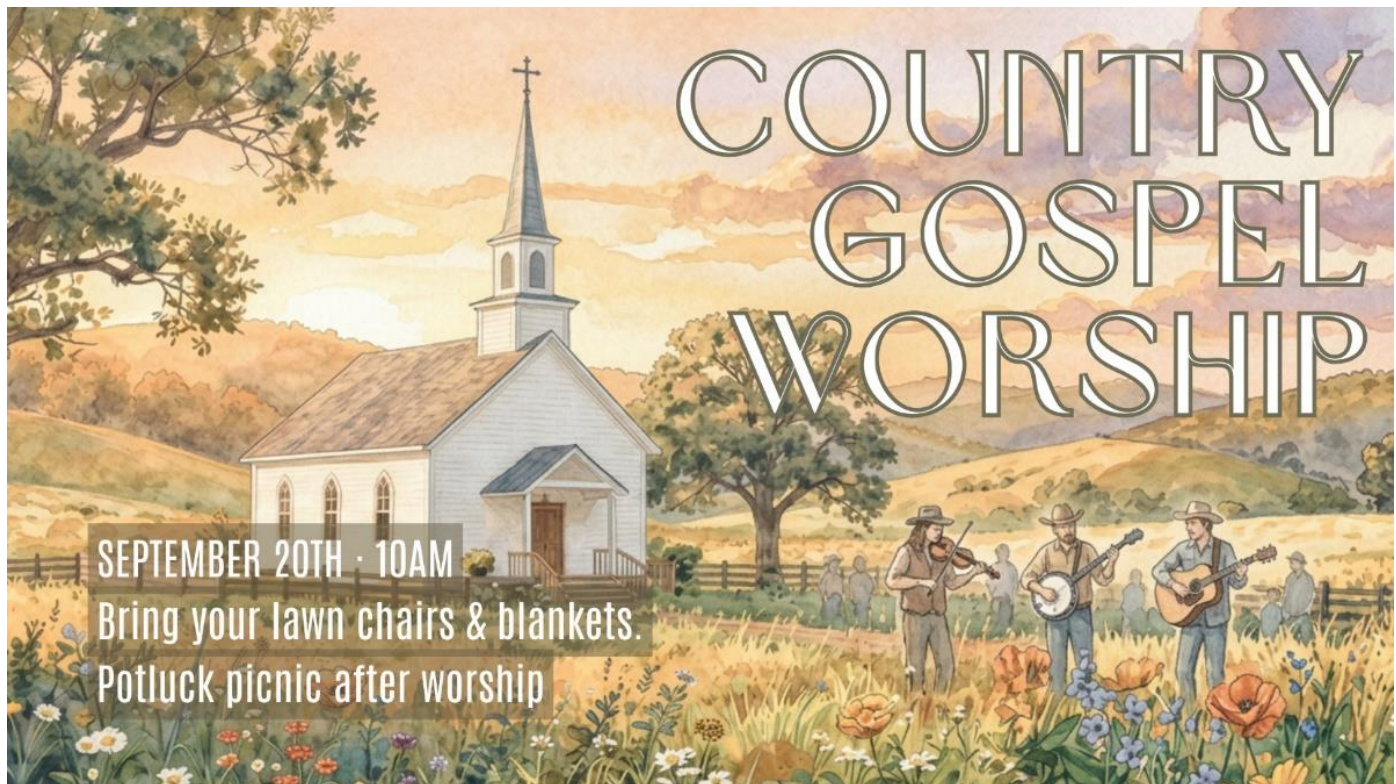
The bishop's installation will be at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Apple Valley on Sunday, September 13th at 3:30 PM. Presiding Bishop Yeheil Curry will preach. If you have not been part of a bishop's installation before, it is a unique and interesting experience!



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.

Quilt Bingo

Fish Lake Lutheran Church in Stark will be having their 19th Annual Quilt Bingo Event on Saturday, September 19th. Lunch is at 11:30 AM with Bingo at 1:00 PM.



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.

Fall Jamboree

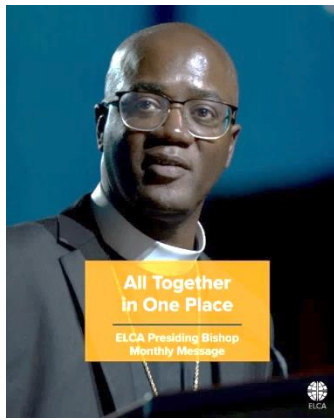
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Pine City will be having their Fall Jamboree on Sunday, September 27th. Dinner will be served from 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM. Join them for Basket and 50/50 Raffles, live music and activities for children of all ages!

Church Office Hours This Week

Monday, August 31st: 1:00 - 5:00 PM
Wednesday, September 2nd: 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Thursday, September 3rd: 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Scripture for the Coming Week

Ezekiel 33:7-11
Psalms 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20



Dear church,

From its earliest days, the United States has been shaped by religious diversity. Indigenous peoples sustained diverse spiritual and religious traditions long before the nation's founding, and successive waves of settlers, including Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists and others, brought a variety of beliefs that helped define the nation's unique and vital religious landscape.

Throughout the church today, many are struggling with debates regarding the religious identity of our nation. While religious diversity did not begin with the Constitution, the Constitution's framers recognized an important truth: the future of our nation could not be

tied to a single religious identity. By rejecting religious tests for public office, the Founders created space for people of any or no faith tradition to participate in public life together. That commitment continues to be foundational to our nation's vitality, especially at a time when people are tempted to identify love of the nation, or the government itself, with a single religion. No one faith tradition should rule the United States, just as the framers desired.¹

As the apostle Paul writes, God has given us "the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:18). Reconciliation involves living in God's future — including through renewed interreligious relationships.

Religious diversity is the reality of the world we live in. Recognizing this, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopted "A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment," which affirms that mutual understanding with other faith traditions can deepen our own faith. Through encountering neighbors and working side by side in shared commitments to love and compassion and community, our own Christian faith is strengthened. This conviction means that through my call as presiding bishop of the ELCA, our church develops and maintains relationships with Jewish, Muslim and many other faith communities. Like personal friendships we hold, these relationships do not require us to set aside Christian faith. Rather they reaffirm that in a nation as diverse as ours, being a good neighbor across religious differences is not optional. It's a part of the shared American experience. It is an experience we can support as everyday Lutherans in God's call to reconciliation.

The ministry of reconciliation is both local and national. God invites us to love one another across differences. Trusting in God's grace, we boldly form relationships with neighbors of all faiths who share a commitment to justice, peace and the flourishing of all creation. I encourage you to engage in this essential ministry, which offers a powerful opportunity to heal divisions, deepen respect across differences and strengthen the bonds of our common life.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Gene Robinson".