

September 14th, 2025

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

rushcityfirstlutheran.org

320-358-4076

Worship Leaders: Sunday, September 14th

Usher: Shari Schlager

Musicians: David Langemo

Acolytes: Addie Stavig & Kinley Zeltinger

Lector: Vern Koepp

Assisting Minister: Marilyn Schoolmeesters

Communion Assistants: Jean Hoffman & Linda Tripp

Altar Guild: Deb Dahlberg & Linda Tripp

Flowers on the Altar: are placed by Brenda Taylor in celebration of Alison's birthday

Events This Week

September 14

9:00 AM: Worship

10:00 AM: Coffee Fellowship,
Call Committee & Church
Council Temple Talk

10:30 AM: 2026 Budget
Meeting

September 16

6:30 PM: Personnel
Committee Meeting

September 17

9:00 AM: Quilters

6:00 PM: Children, Youth &
Family Ministry Meeting

September 21

9:00 AM: Worship

10:00 AM: Coffee Fellowship
& Call Committee Talk

Finance Report

How many of you are wondering about the finances of our church? Do you wonder how much is coming in and going out? Do you wonder where it is going? And what about all those fundraisers we keep doing and Stewardship drives? Do you wonder how to leave money to the church in your will and what will happen to it after the church receives it? Church Council has been investigating our finances for the past 6 months and are ready to share our findings after worship today.

Protecting Home & School: Safe Gun Storage

Monday, September 15th | 7:00 - 8:00 PM

This event will be held on Zoom. This session is for all parents and caregivers who want to protect the children and teens entrusted to us. Led by a dedicated parent and South Metro volunteer for the Be SMART campaign, this nonpartisan and non-legislative presentation provides simple, practical tools to foster safer homes, schools and meaningful conversations. The Be SMART framework encourages us to:

- secure all guns in our homes and vehicles ▪ model responsible behavior
- ask about unsecured guns in other homes ▪ recognize the role guns can play in suicide
- tell others to Be SMART

By embracing these steps, we uphold our commitment to the well-being of our youth, reflecting our values of integrity and care. Together, we can empower families to take simple but powerful actions that save lives and protect the future of our children. This session is offered by the synod's ENGAGE gun violence prevention work group. To get the zoom link for the event, call the church office.

Save the Dates!

Here are some upcoming events at church you might not want to miss!

Children, Youth, & Family Ministry Visioning Meeting: September 17th

Call Committee Activity: September 21st

Gracie Larson presentation about her Mission Trip: September 21st

Blessing of Quilts: Sunday September 28th

Personnel Committee Update: Sunday September 28th

Council's 2026 Budget Meeting with all ministry leaders: October 12th

Children & Youth Ministry Meeting

As you are aware First Lutheran Church is going through a transition and in this process, we have had some important people step down from the Christian Education Committee and from the Youth Director position. This transition has not been an easy one and has been very hard for parents, kids and volunteers.

The Church Council would like to meet with anyone who is invested in our Children, Youth, & Family Ministry so we can discuss it as a community. We would like your input, your thoughts, your ideas, your concerns, and everything in between. The Church Council has set up two meetings right away because we will not get everything done in one meeting, the second meeting is on September 17th at 6:00 PM. We hope you will join us at these meetings and help us to vision and plan for our Children & Youth Ministry in the future of this church.

If you have any questions, please email the council at council@rushcityfirstlutheran.org.

WELCA Fall Cluster Meeting: Saturday, September 27th

This year's Fall Cluster Meeting will be held at First Lutheran Church in Harris. Registration begins at 9:00 AM with the program at 9:30 AM. The program speaker is from Options for Women/Chisago County, an organization that provides free services, including free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, classes on pregnancy, parenting and life skills, diapers, wipes, infant clothing and more. Morning offering will be split one half to SWO and one half to Options for Women and their programs. A material offering of infant clothing and diapers (size 4, 5 & 6 and/or Pull-ups in the same sizes) will be given to Options for Women. If you would like to contribute to the material offering and cannot attend the meeting, please leave your contribution on the counter in the Narthex. Please have to the church by Wednesday, September 24th. All women are invited to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Mold at 320-358-3194.

Personnel Committee Update

How are staff people hired in our church? Who manages staff and what is expected of them? The First Lutheran personnel committee (Kristen Papke, Diana Flaten, and Craig Moulton) have been hard at work since January of 2025 to discern these and many more questions. Come hear these 3 people give a presentation of updates on staffing and personnel in our congregation. This presentation will be during coffee hour on Sunday, September 28th immediately following worship.

Fare for All

When: October 3rd, November 7th & December 19th

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Where: Rush City High School

Low-cost food sale! Open to all - no eligibility requirements or pre-registration needed! Affordable frozen meats and fresh produce. Cash, Credit/Debit and SNAP accepted (no checks). For more information visit fareforall.org or call 763-450-3880.

New Book in Our Library

Pastor John and Nadine Omans shared on Sunday, July 25th, 2025 their experience of attending the Eco-Summit in Duluth, Minnesota. This day of dreams and plans for a sustainable environment involved the St. Paul Area Synod, the Northeastern Minnesota Synod, and the Northwestern Wisconsin Synod the ELCA. The book "Building A Moral Economy" by Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, a professor at Pacific Lutheran Seminary, is NOW AVAILABLE TO BORROW FROM OUR FIRST LUTHERAN LIBRARY! Here is a summary of the book:

You have the power to dream, to forge a future of justice and ecological wholeness for our children and ourselves. This book equips people for building more ecological, equitable, and democratic forms of economic life. The book defies the idea that exploitative economies are inevitable and unchangeable. Readers may explore the role of spirituality and religion in building more socially just, ecologically sane, and democratic economies. "Building A Moral Economy: Pathways for People of Courage" by Cynthia D. Moe-Lobeda presents a theological and ethical framework for rethinking and transforming economic life in the face of current global challenges. The book is structured around the idea of a "sacred journey" toward healing our relationships with Earth, self, neighbors, and God, through fostering more equitable, ecological, and democratic economies.

Spiritual Gifts Retreat

Saturday, October 11th | 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Roseville Lutheran Church, Roseville

"Who has God created me to be?" This retreat will provide you with an opportunity to look deeply at who you are and how God has uniquely blessed you with certain gifts. Using spiritual gift inventories, conversation and other tools, you'll go home with a better sense of who you are and how you might best serve your faith community and the world! Retreat leaders include Pastor Justin Grimm (Saint Paul Area Synod), Pastor Kirsten Fryer (Bethlehem in the Midway, St. Paul), Deacon Nina Joygaard (Faith, Forest Lake) and Pastor Wendy Steger (All Saints, Eagan).

The cost is \$30 per person and includes lunch. To register, call the church office.



The Word in an Inviting Church

Saturday, October 25th | 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Prince of Peace Church, Burnsville



For rostered ministers, lay leaders, worship planners and others who have a heart for worship and the importance of scripture.

The featured speaker is the Rev. Regina Hassanally, the bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. The day will include three workshop offerings on writing/compiling liturgies, making God's word attainable for and understandable by children and youth, and the transformative power of the word. Our closing worship service will be blessed by the leadership of Prince of Peace and their contemporary style of worship. Lunch is included.

This event is the second in a three-part series called "Renewing Worship in an Inviting Church." Threading through this worship renewal emphasis is an encouragement to consider the question, "How are we inviting and warmly welcoming those who are newer to participate fully in our liturgical life?". If you are interested in attending this event, please call the church office so we may register you for the event.

Church Office Hours This Week

Monday, September 15th: 1:00 – 5:00 PM
Wednesday, September 17th: 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Thursday, September 18th: 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Scripture for the Coming Week

Amos 8:4-7
Psalm 113
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

Worship Leaders: Sunday, September 21st

Ushers: Yvonne Lind & Elaine Waxberg

Musicians: Praise Band

Acolytes:

AV:

Lector: Mike Carroll

Communion Assistants: Kathy McDonald & Alissa Zeltinger

Altar Guild: Deb Dahlberg & Linda Tripp

Flowers on the Altar: Mary Hutchens & family