

September 27th, 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, September 27th

Ushers: Mary Hutchens & Clarice Stream

Musicians: Praise Band

AV: Brenda Taylor

Acolytes:

Lector: Riley Zeltfinger

Prayers/Liturgists: Praise Band Team

Communion Assistants: Chase Carlson & Deb Dahlberg

Altar Guild: Muriel Bungert & Deb Dahlberg

Flowers by the Altar: are placed in celebration of Marlen & Sandy Holmberg's 60th wedding anniversary

Events This Week

September 27

9:00 AM: Worship

10:00 AM: Coffee Fellowship

10:30 AM: 2027 Budget
Planning Meeting

September 29

4:00 – 6:00 PM: County Road 7
Improvement Project Open
House

September 30

9:00 AM: Quilters

1:00 PM: Bible Study

7:00 PM: Bells

7:00 PM: Call Committee
Meeting

October 1

9:30 AM: Ruth Circle Meeting

October 4

9:00 AM: Worship

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM: Animal
Blessing

10:00 AM: Coffee Fellowship



Worship
next Sunday is
9:00 – 9:30 AM

2027 Budget Meeting This Morning

All ministry leaders, committee chairpersons, and people with vision and ideas for next year are invited to our first of two budget planning meetings. We will briefly review how to plan and budget for events, ministries, and projects in the year ahead. Join us after worship in the double classroom. The follow-up to this meeting will be after church on November 1st. Save this date too!

County Road 7 Improvement Project

Chisago County will be having a Public Open House on Tuesday, September 29th from 4:00 – 6:00 PM here at First Lutheran Church. This open house is to gather input and information for the County Road 7 Improvement Project between I-35 and County Road 30.

Backpack Ministry

Do you have time to share? We're looking for volunteers to pick up food, pack food into bags, and drop off food (3 different jobs for 3 different volunteers) for the Backpack Ministry. Sign up on the kiosk in the Narthex.

Worship next Sunday is
9:00 – 9:30 AM



Family Church Day
DIVE INTO THE BIBLE

GATHER ONCE PER MONTH

LEARN THE BIBLE
MODEL FAITH
PREPARE FOR CONFIRMATION

FAMILY CHURCH DAY IS
AFTER WORSHIP ON:

SEPTEMBER 13
OCTOBER 11
NOVEMBER 15
DECEMBER 13

MORE INFORMATION @
RUSHCITYFIRSTLUTHERAN.ORG/CYF

Family Church Day

October 11th, November 15th, December 13th

On Family Church Day, parents & their kids (grade 1 - High School) grab a treat from the coffee hosts and head to our youth room where, led by Pastors Manda & John, they dive deep into the Bible. Basing our lives on the Bible means diving deep every once in a while. Sometimes we do that together, sometimes we split up into family groups or age groups. Each month is unique and builds on what we learned the month before. Families of all kinds are always welcome to join us any time. No experience, knowledge, or skill is needed!

Quilt Raffle

Thank you to everyone who participated in the quilt raffle over the last month! Four households walked away with a quilt and 1 lucky household walked away with 2 quilts! Best of all, we raised \$950 for the Rush City Fire Department. What an abundance we have in our community!

Church Office Hours This Week

Monday, September 28th: 1:00 – 5:00 PM
Wednesday, September 30th: 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Thursday, October 1st: 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

September Special Offerings: Compassionate Aid Fund

There is a story in the Gospel of John (12:8) when Mary anoints Jesus with a LOT of very expensive perfume, the disciples told her she was wasteful for being so reckless with her spending when people were starving. Jesus tells his disciples, **"You always have the poor with you."** Sometimes people think this means that we can't save everyone, so don't try to save everyone. Or, giving away money and resources recklessly is foolish and not the purpose of Christ.

Jesus was actually speaking in references to one of the oldest teachings of the Old Testament from Deuteronomy 15:7-11 where Moses is conveying the laws from God to the people and says:

*If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be...Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. **Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth**, I therefore command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.'*

There will always be someone in need in our community. And there are many ways that our community can and does help people. There is help for housing, utilities, food, gas, medical care, learning, working....all kinds of ways that we help. And still, there is more need. Sometimes all of the agencies and groups help, and still the need is not met. Sometimes the need does not qualify for help from one agency or another group.

Helping others has always been a practice of this congregation. It has taken many forms over the years, always shifting to meet the current needs of the community. This year, the council proposed a new line item in our budget called "Discretionary Assistance." That was a bad name because it's not clear what this money is for. So, we're going to try calling them Compassionate Aid Funds.

These funds take an old idea - of the pastor having a discretionary spending account from which he could give money to anyone in need - and expanding it to an ongoing ministry of the whole church. Thus, fulfilling our mission to "serve all".

These funds in our general operating expenses are an annual commitment that this congregation will try to help anyone in need. There will be times when the needs of individuals will reach beyond the boundaries and abilities of other helping groups, organizations, and individuals. This line item in our general budget means we foresee this eventuality and plan to commit a portion of our offerings to respond with grace and mercy.

Your regular giving funds this ministry of our church just as it does the backpack ministry, bus rides to worship, food pantry, the Kitowo partnership, Luther Point, ELCA ministries, and many others. If you would like to increase our ability to help individuals on an as-needed basis for the rest of this fiscal year, your special offering for the month of September will help us to say "yes" when others ask for help.

Scripture for the Coming Week

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalms 80:7-15

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

Youth Gathering 2027

Have you heard of the Youth Gathering? Every 3 years, tens of thousands of high school youth all over the country (and some from the Caribbean!) come together for one week to worship, serve, and share their faith with one another. This event only happens every 3 years and every time, it's in a different city. In the summer of 2027, the Gathering is happening in Minneapolis. First Lutheran is joining Fish Lake Lutheran and taking a group down to the cities for a week of faith filled fun. If you are in 8th - 12th grade this year, you can go and since it only happens every 3 years, this might be your only chance. You can learn more at elca.org/gathering or by joining Tiffany Moulton for an information meeting on Wednesday, October 7th at 6:00 PM at First Lutheran.





OCTOBER 23-25

Grades 6-9

ENCOUNTER

YOUTH RETREAT

"And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ." – Ephesians 3:17-19

Together we'll discover how we are called to live this out in our world today.

Visit rushcityfirstlutheran.org/cyf for more information and to register

Worship next Sunday is 9:00 – 9:30 AM

Worship Leaders: Next Sunday, October 4th

Ushers: Kathy Olson & Elaine Waxberg

Lector: Sandy Holmberg

Prayers/Liturgist: Tiffany Moulton

Communion Assistants: Teresa Hasbrook & Shari Schlagel

Altar Guild: Yvonne Lind & Kathy McDonald

Flowers on the Altar: Pastor Ron & Mary Becklund