



The First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Rush City  
1000 South Jay Avenue • P.O. Box 73 • Rush City, MN 55069-0073

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Thursday, January 7th, 2021

**Worship this Sunday** - With the rise in local COVID-19 cases we are no longer worshipping in the sanctuary. Everyone is encouraged to use the weekly Worship in the Home resource, which will be supplemented by Online Worship and Holy Communion beginning at 8:00 AM Sunday morning. Thank you for your patience as we continue to adapt our worship during this difficult time.

**Can I Still Assist With Worship?** - Yes! If you are scheduled as a lector, musician, liturgist, acolyte or even usher, we would still appreciate your leadership. In most cases this will mean preparing by the Thursday before an audio or video recording of your role, either in the sanctuary or from your home. So keep that schedule handy, and we will be in touch with you!

**When Will We Return to the Sanctuary?** - Our COVID-19 Preparedness Plan indicates that when our local case rate drops below 50 per 10,000 we may resume worship in the sanctuary. Since the current 14-day average case rate for Chisago County is now 48.06 you can share in Holy Communion in the sanctuary or from your vehicle at the church entrance this Sunday at 9:30 AM. Plan to engage in the first half of the service (the "Word" portion) from home beginning at 8:00 AM, then arrive at the church by 9:30 AM to receive communion. Alternatively, you may listen from your vehicle in the parking lot beginning at 9:00 AM where the "Word" portion will be broadcast on 96.5 FM. You can also participate in communion online at 9:30 AM. Details on connecting will be shared through our email list by Sunday morning.

**Rule of 10** - Other than worship, all regular church and other activities inside the building now have a general limit of 10 people per event and no more than 3 different households or "pods." **At this time we encourage all groups whenever possible to meet by Zoom.** Please inform the church office if you'd like to use the church's Zoom account. All in-person groups are required to add their gathering to the church calendar and record their attendance at the information table outside the church office.

**Connections with the Liturgy** - The thanksgiving at the font at baptism from our red worship book describes the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan as one of the precursors of our own baptisms. "Pour out your Holy Spirit," we pray, just as God did at Jesus' baptism.

**Life on Earth** - According to the poem in Genesis 1, God proclaims all the universe, heaven and earth, to be good. This includes both its light and its darkness. We need not be sentimental about nature, admiring only those things that seem helpful for us. Because of its created natural balance of night and day, growth and decay, all of nature is good.

**Special Offering Envelopes** - If you give by envelope, once every two months there is an envelope designated as "Special Offering." These offerings support endeavors beyond the regular ministries of First Lutheran. January offerings support the Rush City Food Shelf.

**Rush City Food Shelf** - In addition to your special offering, you can also help the Food Shelf through gifts especially of bar soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Also helpful are \$20 gas cards (*you can purchase fuel only cards at Kwik Trip*). Any of these items can be dropped off at the church during office hours on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

**Zoom Coffee Fellowship** - Staying in touch these days is more challenging, but not impossible. This Sunday you are invited into the church's online "Zoom Room" for coffee and fellowship at 10:30 AM. We'll spend some time checking-in with one another while sipping our favorite morning beverage. A link will be sent out Sunday morning at 8:00 AM to the church's email list, along with the link to online worship.

**"Brown Bag" Zoom Bible Study** - Looking for a mid-week opportunity to learn and fellowship? You can now join Pastor Nathan beginning this Wednesday at 12 Noon. Grab your lunch, a Bible, and connect online by Zoom. Please email Pastor Nathan by 10:30 AM that morning if you'd like to join: [pastornathan@rushcityfirstlutheran.org](mailto:pastornathan@rushcityfirstlutheran.org)

**Baptism & Membership** - God's grace is a gift that is freely given to us. We don't earn a thing when it comes to God's love, and we only try to live in response to that gift. Please speak to Pastor Nathan if you interested in baptism or becoming a member of the congregation.

**Need Some Quiet?** - Our sanctuary is regularly open and quiet on many weekdays during office hours. As you are comfortable, you are welcome either individually or within your family to stop by for prayer and quiet. A daily scripture reading and other devotional items are available near the entrance.

**2021 Contribution Envelopes** - Are now available on the counter in the Narthex. If you do not see your name, please contact the church office.

**Annual Report Deadline** - Please have your items to the church office by Monday, January 11th, 2021. The annual meeting is Sunday, January 31st, 2021.

**Happy 90th Birthday** - Dorothy Siljendahl will be 90 on Monday, January 18th, 2021. Here are some ways to help her celebrate: Video (share memories or pictures) <https://share.vidday.com/b-emetfo> Send a birthday card to her at P.O. Box 51, Rush City, MN 55069-0051 Join in a Parade on Sunday, January 17th, 2021 at 1:30 PM. Start at the Pool and drive pass her house (565 3rd Street) You can honk, yell, make a sign or wave. She will be sitting in her front porch.

**Members and Friends Homebound or in Assisted Living**

- Dorothy Folkema ■ Jan Goebel ■ Vada Hanson ■ Gladys Haugrud ■ Shirley Jones
- Lois Moses ■ Gwen Olson ■ Pastor Beverly Robinson ■ Cliff Shoberg ■ Randy Ziesmer

**Remember in Prayer**

Prayer requests can be emailed or phoned in to the Church Office: 320-358-4076 or email: [office@rushcityfirstlutheran.org](mailto:office@rushcityfirstlutheran.org)

Please specify if the request is to be on the prayer chain, on the prayer list, or on both.

Please let the Church Office know when a name can be removed from the prayer list. -Thank you.

Cindy Bauerfeld	Cathy Gamache	Traci Kurtock	Pam Plash
Cary Behrendt	Karen Guthmueller	Bonnie Larson	Corey Ploetz
Jeri Bergquist	Melanie Hedberg	Tennille Lewis	Heather Rasmussen
Kyle Bergquist	Sarah Heling	Luke Maher	JoAnn Rieland
Matthew Bertram	Janis Hendrick	Hazel Massey	Earl Roehlke
Darlene Walter Boyce	Steven Horazdovsky	LaDez Mell	Melissa Rossci
ReGina Clapp	Jenna Heibner	Christina Mercer	Sue Roth
Kelly Constenius	Jean Howard	Lola Mold	Rick Schellbach
Margaret Craine	Al Hutchens	Jerry Mollberg	Ray Schoeberl
Evelyn Dahle	Chelsie Jacobson	Tyler Muchow	Richard Schultz
Kari Dittberner	Megan Jacobson	Kathleen Munt	Ceil Shinler
Karissa Dittberner	Dan Jensen	Darla Nelson	Cathy Stanley
John Dreschel	Marsha Johnson	Gary Olson	Jeff Stevens
Terry Duban	Priscilla Johnson	Phyllis Olson	Erika Matzke Stoltz
Will Dunker	Helen Johnston	Andy Osland	Emily Stuber
Jeff Elsenpeter	Josh	Mary Ann Pearson	Joann Sybrant
Braydon Erickson	Terry Kay	Helen Peterson	Keith Weller
Darrin Forcier	Angela Kuhlman	Linda Philips	Jen Witte
Diane Friday	Scott Kurtock	Elaine Pierce	

**Pastoral Calls** - You are welcome to contact Pastor Nathan anytime for a pastoral visit by phone or video call. You can use the "Count Me In" available through online worship or contact the church office to request a pastoral visit.

**This Week**

**Sunday, January 10th, 2021**

8:00 AM: Online Worship (*available one week*)

9:00 AM: Worship on 96.5 FM in Church Parking Lot

9:30 AM: Holy Communion in Sanctuary, Church Entrance, or on-line

**Monday, January 11th, 2021**

1:00 - 5:00 PM: Office Hours

6:00 PM: Worship & Music Committee Meeting (*via Zoom*)

**Wednesday, January 13th, 2021**

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Office Hours

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Wednesday Quilters Come & Go (*COVID rules apply*)

11:00 PM: Staff Meeting

4:00 PM: 6th Grade Confirmation (*via Zoom*)

5:00 PM: 7th Grade Confirmation (*via Zoom*)

7:00 Mutual Ministry Committee Meeting (*via Zoom*)

**Thursday, January 14th, 2021**

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Office Hours

1:00 PM: Prayer Shawl Meeting

**Sunday, January 17th, 2021**

8:00 AM: Online Worship (*available one week*)

11:00 AM: Christian Education Committee Meeting