



The First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Rush City  
1000 South Jay Avenue • P.O. Box 73 • Rush City, MN 55069-0073  
Office: (320) 358-4076 • [office@rushcityfirstlutheran.org](mailto:office@rushcityfirstlutheran.org)

[www.rushcityfirstlutheran.org](http://www.rushcityfirstlutheran.org)

Pastor Nathan Baker-Trinity • (218) 280-8210 • [pastornathan@rushcityfirstlutheran.org](mailto:pastornathan@rushcityfirstlutheran.org)

Thursday, September 29th, 2022

### This Sunday

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost** - Luke's gospel, so full of forgiveness, also calls us today to lives of total transformation—a tree planted in the sea, humbled slaves serving their master. The good news is that we are not alone as we follow Jesus, but we live among others who also call Jesus their Lord. Let us all stand together at the watchpost of prayer! Worship begins at 9:30 AM this Sunday.

**Flowers on the Altar** - Are placed by for the Glory of God.

**Ham Dinner on Sunday, October 2nd** - A dinner of ham, cheesy potatoes and all the fixings will be served from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Get your tickets in advance of the dinner for \$10 up until the 9:30 AM Gospel service. After worship, the price increases to \$12.00. Invite your family and friends. Take out meals are available.

**Silent Auction** - Don't forget to get your bids in on the many Silent Auction items that will be available on Sunday, October 2nd.

**Sunday Church Bus Continues October 2nd** - Would you like a ride to Sunday morning worship? Please inform the church office by noon on Thursday, September 29th if you'd like a ride to church. The bus is walker and wheelchair accessible - no steps necessary! Pickups begin at 9:00 AM and departure from church will begin at 11:30 AM (*following the Ham Dinner*).

**W.A.S.P. and Sunday School Children** - Are welcome to join Amanda for Children's Word this Sunday during worship. We will also sing some of our familiar songs with Troy Heling and Pastor Nathan. Then all are invited to the Ham Dinner to follow! Worship begins at 9:30 AM.

**Connections with the Liturgy** - The Timothy reading speaks of the "*laying on of hands*." Christians continue the ancient practice of the laying on of hands, first described in the Bible when the dying Isaac blesses his sons (*Gen. 48:14*). Our red worship book suggests the laying on of hands in baptism (*p. 213*), the affirmation of baptism (*p. 236*), confession and forgiveness (*pp. 241, 244*), and marriage (*p. 289*), as well as in several of the occasional services, such as installation or ordination. The gesture evolved from the natural human sign of affection and usually symbolizes a prayer for God to bless the recipient, such as when parents bless their children each morning when they leave for school. Historically especially in ordination, it came also to denote a transfer of power.

**Life on the Earth** - Habakkuk sees "*destruction and violence*" all around, and that destruction is not only in the political realm, but also in the natural world. As we pray for those in the path of Hurricane Ian, we are called to acknowledge also the violence that humankind has done to God's created purpose.

**Prayers** - Blaine Erickson

**In Sympathy** - To the family and friends of Evelyn Erickson who died Monday, September 26th. Funeral services will be Thursday, October 6th at 11 AM with visitation one hour prior here at First Lutheran Church.

### The Coming Week

**Public Thank You & Farewell for JoAnn Belau** - Join us on Tuesday, October 4th from 4:30 - 6:30 PM at the Rush City VFW.

**Blessing of the Animals** - Francis of Assisi had a spirit of gladness and gratitude for all of God's creation. Since his commemoration is in early October, it has become tradition in many churches to bless pets and animals—creatures Francis called his brothers and sisters—on a Sunday near his commemoration. First Lutheran's Blessing of the Animals will take place Sunday, October 9th at 12:00 Noon. You are welcome to bring your animal companion! We will gather at our outdoor sanctuary on the north side of the church.

**Everyday Connections Bible Study** - Every Sunday, we hear God's challenges and promises for us in the Old Testament, New Testament, and Gospel. Interested in having weekly conversation and learning about these readings? Daily Connections provides devotional material, suggested spiritual practices, questions for journaling, and prayers for each week. Everyday Connections Bible Study will be offered on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM in the library and Sundays at 6:00 PM by Zoom (*contact Pastor Nathan or the church office for the link*). Groups begin on Wednesday, October 5th and Sunday, October 9th.

**Youth Group** - The Youth Group met for their first night this past Monday, September 26th and it was a blast watching the kids try to get marshmallows blindfolded into their partners cups on the ground! Take a peek at the Youth Group Board for some fun pictures. Even Pastor Nathan challenged the kids! The next Youth Group meeting is Monday, October 10th. Bring a friend for a bonfire and S'mores!

**Wednesday After School Program (W.A.S.P.) Continues** - Kids in K - 6th grades are still welcome to join after school for a snack, story and sharing time, music, crafts, games, and more! We offer after-school pickup from CE Jacobson Elementary on the church bus. The program runs from 3:15 - 4:45 PM. Registration forms are available outside the church office or by emailing Amanda at: [youth@rushcityfirstlutheran.org](mailto:youth@rushcityfirstlutheran.org).

## On the Horizon

**Halloween Party** - We are excited to announce we are having a Halloween Party this year on Friday, October 28th from 6:00 - 8:00 PM. There will be many activities including two "haunted" rooms (*one for K-5th and another for 6th and up*) There will be bobbing for donuts, pop toss, and costume contests...so dress up!!! All proceeds benefit the Youth Programs.

**Confirmation is Sunday, October 30th** - We will celebrate five youth as they affirm the promises of God and give voice to their own faith. This will be a wonderful morning to pray for them and extend our hands in blessing. Our sanctuary will have enough room and extra seating for all of our regular worshippers, so don't stay away! Let's show our young people how we can be the church together!

**Trunk or Treat** - Get ready for the annual Halloween Trunk or Treat on Monday, October 31st from 5:00 - 6:30 PM with car/trunk set up at 4:30 PM. The best trunk theme gets a prize! So bring your family and friends for a safe fun night out! Confirmation kids get servant hours for this activity so sign-up with Amanda at youth@rushcityfirstlutheran.org

## Ongoing

**Wanted!** - The youth are looking for some random items for their skit trunk! Old sweater vests, ties, funny hats or scarves you may have lying around. Please feel free to bring an item or two to Amanda's Youth Office.

**Committee Brainstorm Ideas** - Do you have an idea for our life together in the coming year? Have a talent you'd like to share? Looking forward to an event you'd like to help out with? You are welcome to post your idea on the wall in the Fellowship Hall. These ideas will be shared with the Church Council and relevant committees.

**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 indicate on our "Count Me In" form or speak to Pastor Nathan if you are interested in baptism or becoming a member of the congregation.

**Church Bus Matching Program** - Because of you, we have the opportunity to pay off the bus early and move forward debt-free! For every dollar donated, the Church Council will match dollar-for-dollar up to \$17,500. When we reach that goal, the \$35,000 bus is paid off! Donation envelopes are available in the church office. As of September 15th we have already collected \$11,668.48 in donations. Thank you!

**Sunday Morning Greeters** - Be a part of our hospitality and a welcoming face to others! All are welcome to sign-up to greet those coming to worship at the door. A sign-up sheet is outside the church office.

**Prayer List** - Our prayer list for homebound members and those with ongoing needs has now moved to our monthly newsletter. Immediate prayer requests will continue to be listed in our weekly bulletin under the "This Sunday" heading.

**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. September offerings support the Decorating Committee.

**Power Point & Livestream Volunteer** - Enhance our worship and keep us connected with others! We are in need of a couple more individuals to oversee our worship Power Point and Sunday Livestream. All the steps are lined out and easy to follow.

**Livestream and FM Broadcast** - A reminder that we continue to livestream over the internet and broadcast on 96.5 FM all of our church services. Due to lack of volunteers, we may not be able to offer a livestream or FM broadcast every Sunday. A link to past worship livestreams can be found at rushcityfirstlutheran.org

**Pastoral Calls** - You are welcome to contact the church office anytime if you have a pastoral need, especially for a medical emergency or at the time of death. After hours emergency numbers are provided on the church's answering message. You can also use the "Count Me In" to request a pastoral visit.

**Giving Report** - Regular offering last week: General Fund \$1,150 and Building Fund \$160. Regular offering so far in September: General Fund: \$11,725.75 and Building Fund: \$1,680. (*Note: September totals do not yet include electronic giving totals.*) Regular offering last month in August: General Fund: \$11,533.81 and Building Fund: \$7,544.59. Beginning General Fund Balance as of September 1: \$1,11.96. Beginning Building Fund Balance as of September 1: \$12,171.44. Budgeted average monthly expenses for 2022: General Fund: \$16,928.58. Building Fund (*mortgage*): \$5,849. Actual expenses for August: General Fund: \$15,250.42 Building Fund: \$5,849.

### Sunday, October 2nd

9:00 AM: Advance Ham Dinner Ticket Sales

9:30 AM: Worship

11:00 AM: Ham Dinner

Silent Auction

### Monday, October 3rd

1:00 - 5:00 PM: Office Hours

7:00 PM: Church Council Meeting

### Tuesday, October 4th

4:30 - 6:30 PM: Public Farewell at the VFW for JoAnn Belau

### Wednesday, October 5th

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

9:00 AM: Quilters

12:00 PM: Staff Meeting

3:00 - 5:00 PM: W.A.S.P.

5:00 PM: Family Meal

5:30 - 6:30 PM: Confirmation

7:00 PM: Senior Choir

8:00 PM: Bell Choir

### Thursday, October 6th

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

10:00 AM: Visitation for Evelyn Erickson

11:00 AM: Funeral for Evelyn Erickson

### Sunday, October 9th

9:00 AM: Worship

10:00 AM: Coffee Fellowship

10:15 AM: Sunday School

12:00 Noon: Blessing of the Animals