



The First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Rush City
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NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER



**Church
Council**

November 18th, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

October 21st, 2020 Church Council Meeting Highlights: General Fund Balance \$32,911.34; Building Fund \$13,734.23. Updates from Worship and Music regarding holiday services, livestreaming equipment and organist position. Gave provisional acceptance of members to Personnel Committee. Update on new lighting system - working great! Clarified COVID-19 Preparedness Plan regarding worship. Approved 2021 health insurance through Portico for Pastor Nathan. Approved Pastor Nathan's request to work from home before Thanksgiving in order to fulfill a 14-day quarantine before travel to see family. Christmas Caring Tree will continue this year under the leadership of First Lutheran members. The next meeting is Wednesday,

Worship in the Home: For those unable to gather with us on Sunday morning, remember that you can still worship in spirit with us using the weekly "Worship in the Home." It's always available on our website, but let us know if you'd like to have one mailed to you weekly.



Fun Bus: Our education ministry to Sunday School and after school program children keeps driving ahead! Every month the church bus pulls up to their home and JoAnn, our children and youth ministry coordinator, hand delivers a bag of treats, crafts and educational materials for the whole family. Thanks also to Troy Heling for driving the bus.

Synod Assembly: This year's assembly was held entirely online but was nonetheless a meaningful experience. A few highlights: Bishop Patricia Lull was re-elected to a six-year term, along with elections to various committees; three resolutions addressing gun violence, immigration and racism were passed; and the 50th anniversary of women in ministry was celebrated. Our congregation thanks Shari Schlagel, Maureen Sybrant and Bev Anderson for serving as voting members this year. You can check out these, along with videos and more at spas-elca.org.



Trunk-or-Treat: Warmer weather greeted our parking lot trunk-or-treaters on Halloween. Vehicles spread out greeted children in costumes. Making social distancing fun, one group distributed candy via a long chute!

All Saints Sunday: On November 1st, 2020, we remembered members and friends of First Lutheran who died in the past year: Vernon Harry Boeck, Margaret Wilhelmina Johnson, Bradley Duane Lind, Kenneth Edwin Holmstrom, Edward Henry Rohlf, Myrna Marie Hanson, Marian Hillive Bendickson, Raymond LeRoy Millard, Harold Wayne Johnson, Jean Marie Boeck, Linda Luverne Blazek, Edith Ann Holmstrom, Carl Raymond Knutson, Phyllis May Borgstrom, Angela Marie Hagman, Robert Roy Erickson, Henry Robert Scheffer, Harley Boyd Johnson, Marion "Van" Vander Plaats. Rest eternal grant them, O Lord.



Christmas Caring Tree: Any parent in need of help purchasing Christmas gifts for their children can pick up a Christmas Caring Tree application at the Rush City Food Shelf. The Food Shelf is open Tuesday's from 3:00 - 5:00 PM at the Rush City Community Center. This offer is limited to children infant - 18 years old and live in the Rush City School District. The application deadline is Friday, November 20th, 2020.

The Christmas Caring Tree will be set up at Creek Side Café on Monday, November 23rd, 2020. It will be decorated with Christmas wish tags from children in the Rush City School District. Please select a Christmas wish tag, purchase gift(s) for the child and bring the unwrapped gift(s) to Creek Side Café by Friday, December 11th, 2020. Creekside Café is open Sunday, Monday and Tuesday from 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM and Wednesday - Saturday from 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM. Questions may be directed to Millie Peters at 320-358-3432 or Shari Schlagel at 320-358-3463.



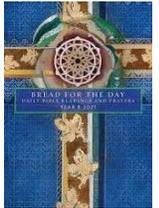
Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner: Thursday, November 26th, 2020 from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. * Drive-up meals will be delivered to cars outside First Lutheran Church. * (No inside meals will be served this year.) Home delivery of meals can be arranged by calling the Church Office at (320) 358-4076 by 1:00 PM on Wednesday, November 25th. Sponsors include: Rush City Churches, Rush City Lions and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Advent Devotionals: This beautiful, full-color Advent and Christmas devotional highlights readings from the gospel during this meaningful season. Each reading is accompanied by a photo, a quote to ponder, a reflection, and a prayer. Compact in size and beautiful in color, it's an easy way to incorporate a simple Christian observance into your celebration of Advent and Christmas. Available in large print. Pick-up at the church office or request delivery. Suggested donation: \$5.00.



Christmas Services: As conditions allow, in-person Christmas Eve services will be held at 3:00 PM and 9:00 PM and Christmas Day at 10:00 AM. Reservations beforehand will be required. See next month's newsletter for more details.

Bread for the Day Devotionals: Looking for a gift for 2021? Designed for personal, household or group devotions, Bread for the Day is a daily-use devotional resource filled with rich treasures: a brief scripture reading, prayer and hymn for each day of the year, seasonal and holiday household prayers, prayers for children and family life, blank pages for recording prayer requests, and more! Use Bread for the Day for personal, household or group devotions. Pick-up at the church office or request delivery. Suggested donation: \$10.00.



Thank You: "To everyone who has worked so hard to continue to serve us all with safe worship inside, outside, at home and through the website." - Kevin and Val Skogen

In the Family: We're happy to share births, baptisms, marriages and deaths for those connected to our church family. Keep in touch and let us know who we may have missed.

Deaths: Marion "Van" Vander Plaats (July 5, 1935 - October 19, 2020)

Compassionate God, give courage and faith to all who mourn, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead with steadfastness and patience; not as those who are without hope, but in thankful remembrance of your great goodness, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life in your presence, with those they love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Confirmation - Sunday, October 25th, 2020: Matthew Kempf, Spencer May, Nia Patzoldt, Autumn Stream and Brayden Zaske.

Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth; through Jesus Christ Our Lord.



Time, Talent and Treasure: Many more hands than can be named here work together to build up our common ministry. These individuals, however, were specifically named by those attending worship in October: for Jaime, Wendy, Jim, Marilyn, Dianne, Carolyn, Shari, Gloria, Pastors Jeri and Ron and all who help with worship and musical leadership; for JoAnn, our Fun Bus crew, and all who continue our outreach to youth and children; for Mike, Scott, the lawn mowing crew and all who care for our facilities; for Sue, Connie, Bev, Millie, Pam, Lael and all who make prayer shawls; for Bruce & Ilene, Dan & Deb and all who work hard to keep our church connected to the community's needs. We thank you, generous God, for the rich variety of gifts in this congregation. We pray for all those who labor, especially those known only to you. Continue to strengthen and support them, and give them the sustenance they need; in Jesus' name, Amen.



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.