



The First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Rush City  
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Thursday, February 18th, 2021

**Worship this Sunday** - Gather with us Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM! Join us online at [rushcityfirstlutheran.org](http://rushcityfirstlutheran.org), in the parking lot on 96.5 FM, or in-person in the sanctuary (*with masks and distancing*). Thank you for your patience as we adapt our worship during this difficult time.

**Flowers on the Altar** - Are placed in celebration of Gwen Olson's 92nd birthday by Glen and Carolyn Holmstrom.

**Zoom Coffee Fellowship** - Join us after worship this Sunday at 10:30 AM for Zoom Coffee Fellowship. A link to join the video conversation will be sent Sunday morning. You can also call in from a regular phone (*see the sheet mailed to you if on our mailing list*).

**Life on Earth** - God's covenant with Noah in the first reading is not with only humans, but with "every living creature" on the earth. This conclusion to the story of the flood reminds us of God's care for all of creation, which we are called to imitate.

**Connections with the Liturgy** - In the Lord's Prayer, we recall the temptation of Jesus in the gospel when we pray "and lead us not into temptation." In our thanksgiving at the table for communion today, just as Jesus endured the wilderness so we praise God for "leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey."

**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. February 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.

**Wood Hand Carved American Goldfinch** - Our congregation supports several students each year in Tanzania, to complete their high school education by providing scholarships. We can each help by donating \$5 toward this effort AND you have a chance to win a beautiful carving of an American Goldfinch by Jerry Mollberg our own talented wood carver has mounted it on a majestic carved wood perch. Stop by the church to make your donation or you may mail your \$5, or as many chances as you wish, to the church.

**Rule of 10** - Other than worship and other essential events in the sanctuary (*such as funerals, weddings and congregational meetings*), regular church and other activities inside the building still have a general limit of 10 people per event. We encourage groups to meet by Zoom. You are welcome to use the church's Zoom account - please inform the church office.

**"Brown Bag" Zoom Bible Study** - Looking for a mid-week opportunity to learn and fellowship? You can now join Pastor Nathan Wednesday's 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)

**Wednesday Evening Zoom Bible Study in Lent** - This year's gospel readings in Lent provide rich descriptions of Jesus' message and miracles: power over evil forces, taking up the cross, turning the tables in the temple, loving the whole world, and raising Lazarus from the dead. Join Pastor Nathan on Wednesdays from 7:00 - 8:00 PM for a brief background on each story, conversation and prayer with one another. These gatherings will take place by Zoom. Contact Pastor Nathan or the church office if you'd like to attend.

**A Story to Tell: Devotions for Lent 2021** - This beautiful, full-color Lenten devotional highlights readings from the gospel of Mark with 46 entries, one for each day from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Each reading is accompanied by a photo, a quote to ponder, a reflection, and a prayer. This accessible and colorful format makes it easy to incorporate a simple Christian observance into your Lenten journey. Suggested donation: \$5.

**February Youth Group** - will be meeting on Saturday, February 27th, 2021 at 4:30 PM to go to Chanhassen for Feed My Starving Children to pack food from 6:00 - 8:00 PM. Please contact JoAnn as soon as possible.

**Thrivent Members** - If you qualify for Choice Dollars, you have until March 31st, 2021 to direct your 2020 dollars. Visit [Thrivent.com/thrivent-choice](http://Thrivent.com/thrivent-choice) or call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted say "Thrivent Choice."

**Day Care for Children** - For the past few months, the Church Council and Mutual Ministry Committee have gathered information about providing child care in our building for our community. Now they invite any member of the congregation who can help us build on this groundwork and make this dream a reality. We are looking for those willing to help with the necessary steps of licensure, a business plan, applying for grants and, most important, who are passionate about caring for children. Please contact Pastor Nathan, President Denny Pederson or Mutual Ministry member Deb Dahlberg if you are interested.

**Toolkit for Congregations is Saturday, February 27th, 2021** - All are invited to this annual event for lay leaders from congregations in the Saint Paul Area Synod, including council and committee members, staff, dedicated volunteers, or anyone who's interested in what makes your church tick. The event begins on Zoom at 9:00 AM and features keynote speaker Dr. Michael Osterholm, an expert in public health and a member of Edina Community Lutheran Church. Topic-based workshops begin at 10:30 AM. You may register separately or join other members in the Fellowship Hall. Please speak to Pastor Nathan or President Denny Pederson if you would like to attend this free event.

**First Communion Instruction** - Children in 3rd-5th grade are invited to receive First Communion instruction on Sundays, February 28th, March 7th and March 14th following worship. This learning opportunity is for all children whether or not they have received communion in the past. We will celebrate their fellowship with us at the Lord's table on Maundy Thursday, April 1st, 2021.

**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.

**Free Frozen Meals** - Catholic Charities will be distributing free frozen meals of 10, 20 or 30 to those who are 60 and over on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 10:00 - 11:30 AM in the parking lot at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

**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	Diane Friday	Scott Kurtock	Elaine Pierce
Cary Behrendt	Cathy Gamache	Traci Kurtock	Pam Plash
Jeri Bergquist	Karen Guthmueller	Bonnie Larson	Corey Ploetz
Kyle Bergquist	Melanie Hedberg	Tennille Lewis	Heather Rasmussen
Matthew Bertram	Sarah Heling	Luke Maher	JoAnn Rieland
Bernice Blastervold	Janis Hendrick	Hazel Massey	Melissa Rossci
Darlene Walter Boyce	Steven Horazdovsky	LaDez Mell	Sue Roth
ReGina Clapp	Jenna Heibner	Christina Mercer	Rick Schellbach
Kelly Constenius	Jean Howard	Lola Mold	Ray Schoeberl
Margaret Craine	Al Hutchens	Jerry Mollberg	Richard Schultz
Evelyn Dahle	Chelsea Jacobson	Tyler Muchow	Ceil Shinler
Kari Dittberner	Megan Jacobson	Kathleen Munt	Cathy Stanley
Karissa Dittberner	Dan Jensen	Darla Nelson	Jeff Stevens
John Dreschel	Marsha Johnson	Gary Olson	Erika Matzke Stoltz
Terry Duban	Priscilla Johnson	Phyllis Olson	Zach 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

**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, February 21st, 2021**

9:00 AM: Worship in Sanctuary, Parking Lot or on-line

10:30 AM: Zoom Coffee Hour

11:00 AM: Christian Education Meeting

**Monday, February 22nd, 2021**

1:00 - 5:00 PM: Office Hours

**Wednesday, February 24th, 2021**

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

11:00 AM: Staff Meeting

12:00 Noon: Brown Bag Bible Study (via Zoom)

4:00 PM: 6th Grade Confirmation

5:00 PM: Praise Band Rehearsal

5:30 PM: 7th Grade Confirmation

7:00 PM: Lenten Bible Study (via Zoom)

7:30 PM: Bell Choir

**Thursday, February 25th, 2021**

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

**Saturday, February 27th, 2021**

9:00 AM: Toolkit for Congregations

4:30 PM: Youth Group - Feed My Starving Children

**Sunday, February 28th, 2021**

9:00 AM: Worship in Sanctuary, Parking Lot or on-line

10:00 AM: First Communion Instruction

10:30 AM: Zoom Coffee Hour