



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
www.rushcityfirstlutheran.org • www.facebook.com

Pastor Nathan Baker-Trinity • 218-280-8210 • pastornathan@rushcityfirstlutheran.org

AUGUST 2020 NEWSLETTER

July Church Council Meeting Highlights: Church Council met for its regular meeting on Wednesday, July 15th, 2020. Highlights of the meeting include: General Fund Balance of \$25,612.64 and a Building Fund Balance of \$14,541.69; Christian Education Committee shared about the Summer Fun Bus, Youth Group, cancellation of VBS and plans for the fall; Parking lot worship will continue with provisions being made in case of rain; PPP Loan to assist with salary and mortgage costs has been approved; Pastor Nathan given preliminary approval to be Chaplain for Lutheran Summer Music in 2021; Turkey Dinner in October needs to be decided upon. Full minutes and all reports from the meeting are available at the Church Office. The next Church Council meeting is on Wednesday, August 26th, 2020 at 7 PM.



Worship on Sunday at 9:00 AM: Services in the parking lot will continue through Sunday, August 30th, 2020. You can worship from your vehicle or your lawn chairs. Please maintain a 6-foot (2 arms length) physical distance between yourself and other family groups. We ask that masks be worn by those handing out bulletins, collecting offering and distributing communion. In the event of inclement weather, please remain in your vehicle and worship leaders will lead from the sanctuary via an FM transmitter.

Worship in the Home: For those unable to join us in the parking lot, a Worship in the Home guide for the coming Sunday is available by Friday morning on our church website. *(We can also mail it upon request mail to the Church Office.)* An online video service, using portions from the preceding Sunday's service, will be available by Wednesday morning each week.



Luther Point Summer Celebration Auction is August 2nd - 9th: This year's emphasis is on items at the heart of Luther Point's ministry that will assist them on opening their doors for summer 2021. New this year are several online events and socially distant activities on-site. See the flyer on our church webpage for more details.

Youth Campfires: The First Lutheran Youth (6th - 12th grade) are welcome to join us for a bonfire, s'mores, and outdoor games on Wednesdays, August 5th & 19th, 2020 at 7:30 PM at the church near the fire pit.



LifeTouch® Change of Dates: The Lifetouch church pictorial directory has been postponed to Tuesday, August 3rd - Saturday, August 7th, 2021.

Small Groups / Zoom Groups: Stay tuned in August for upcoming opportunities to stay connected this fall. Outdoor small groups and Zoom groups are currently being planned. Watch your email and Count Me In Forms.

Donation: A donation of \$237.75 was made to the FELC Youth from the proceeds of the DaySpring card sales.

Eagle Scout Ceremonies: In a journey that began as Cub Scouts in early elementary school, with several adult leaders and guides along the way, Levi and Kyle Armstrong have achieved the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. On July 11, 2020 the Armstrong family was able to celebrate the occasion with family and friends and Scout families. Thank you very much to so many people for your support and encouragement!

Joey Papke's Eagle Scout Court of Honor was held at First Lutheran on Saturday, July 25th, 2020 with our own Dennis Pederson as MC and Deb Dahlberg was a speaker representing the church as she was president in 2018 when the project was approved. The playground was constructed during summer 2019. Joey would like to thank the church for their help and support in adding the playground.



In the Family: We're happy to share who we know about in our church family. Keep in touch and let us know about others we may have missed.

Birth: Axel Dennis Yaggy was born June 15, 2020 to Justin & Bailey Yaggy. Scott Mollberg is proud grandpa and Jerry & Bev Mollberg are proud great-grandparents.

Baptism: Emilia Evonne Hambly will be baptized on Sunday, August 9, 2020. Parents are David and Kayla Hambly. *Creating God, grant grace to those preparing for baptism. Raise them by your Spirit. Revive them by your word. Form them by your hand. Bring them to the water of life, that with all your people they may bear witness to your grace and praise you forever through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Deaths: Carl Raymond Knutson (September 8, 1941 - May 3, 2020) - Committal was May 15th, 2020.

Phyllis Borgstrom (May 6, 1926 - June 11, 2020) - Funeral was June 22nd, 2020.

Angela "Annie" Marie Hagman (June 15, 1975 - July 19, 2020) - Funeral was July 25th, 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.

Scholarship Thank You: Dear Scholarship Selection Committee, As a recipient of the RC First Lutheran Frances Conner Sherman Memorial Scholarship, I would like to express my gratitude for choosing me to be your scholarship recipient. This means a great deal to me as college is very expensive. Going to college means a lot to my family, but it means the world to me because I can finally go out and explore all the world has to offer in furthering my education. I plan to attend the University of St. Thomas this fall and your contribution is greatly appreciated. Again, I want to thank you for your time and selecting me as your scholarship recipient. Sincerely, Matthew Papke, Rush City High School Class of 2020.

Thank You from Lutheran World Relief: Our Endowment Committee recently gave \$600 toward this partner in ministry: *Thank you! I'd like to share a story of the great work your gift will support. Kapinga Eudoxi, 43, lives in a village in the Democratic Republic of Congo that is plagued with water-borne diseases like typhoid. Children and adults were getting sick- and dying- and the community needed help. With your support, villages like Nsange-Nyembwe are receiving access to safe water...That's just one example of how your gift changes lives around the world. Please stay in touch!*

Update from Shobi's Table: This unique ministry to the streets of Saint Paul also received a \$600 gift from the Endowment Committee. A "Pay-As-You-Can" Cafe, Shobi's Table believes in building community by making delicious, nutritious, from-scratch cookin' available to everyone, regardless of whether or not you can pay. We hear Shobi's story in 2 Samuel 17:27-29. Shobi was said to provide radical hospitality for King David's soldiers in their time of need. He provided an abundant feast of bread, lentils, honey, barley, beans, as well as fellowship and a safe place to eat. That's exactly what this ministry of our synod hopes for: that we would bring more people to the incredible dinner table that God has set for all people.

Staying Connected

In his weekly podcast from CID-RAP (*Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota*), Dr. Michael Osterholm encourages us not to practice social distance. "Yes, physical distance. But not social distance." Osterholm urges physical distance, explaining that one of the key measures against COVID-19 is to prevent the occurrence of "clusters" known the "Three C's": 1. Closed spaces with poor ventilation. 2. Crowded places with many people nearby. 3. Close-contact settings such as close-range conversations. We're all struggling and learning to take these precautions to heart.

Yet Osterholm also urges not to practice social distance. "We need to find creative ways to stay in touch, because we need each other, now more than ever. We need a greater pandemic of kindness that will help us endure this other pandemic."

In our gospel reading for Sunday, July 26th, we heard Jesus say, "*The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.*" (Matthew 13:33). Yeast is the simplest and smallest of ingredients in our bread. Yet without yeast, our bread would be flat, hard, and have no "life" in it. (*Yeast is actually a living fungi. It literally makes the bread come alive!*)

A thousand acts of simple kindness can make all the difference as we navigate these difficult times. There will be no perfect choices. Sometimes we'll have to go along with something we'd rather not. No one will be fully satisfied.

But we can make a choice to show kindness. This is, in fact, our Christian freedom. Not the freedom to see the world through rose-colored glasses, but the freedom to show kindness even when the chips are down. And when we show kindness in Jesus' name, Jesus promises to show up for us.

Let's have a pandemic of kindness! Start your list now!

- Pastor Nathan