



The First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Rush City
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NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



Church
Council

September 5th Church Council Meeting Highlights: Church Council met for its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, September 5th at 7:00 PM with 8 of 10 members present. Financial Report as of August 31st: General Fund balance \$2,367; Building Fund balance \$1,194; Memorial Fund \$10,385. Following Committee Reports, Old Business included the upcoming worship together with Calvary/Spring Lake/Harris (*Sunday, November 26th*), and Thanksgiving Eve worship at Calvary (*November 22nd*), bus repair and maintenance items, strengthening and clarifying our financial reports and updating the webpage. New Business items included brainstorming fellowship and outreach ideas (*Pastor Nathan and Wendy*), updating our bulletin boards and volunteer sign-up station, inventory of the church keys, and updating our livestream (*including a motion to engage Ministry Technology Solutions to evaluate our systems and give an estimate on upgrading to an optimal level*). Complete minutes of the meeting will be approved at the next regular meeting and made available in the church office. The next regular meeting is Monday, October 2nd at 7:00 PM.

October 2nd Church Council Meeting Highlights: Church Council met for its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, October 2nd at 7:00 PM with 9 of 10 members present. Financial Report as of September 30th: General Fund balance \$2,366; Building Fund balance \$2,331; Memorial Fund \$10,532. Following Committee Reports, Old Business items included the upcoming Thanksgiving Eve and November 26th worship shared with Calvary/Spring Lake/Harris, motion to enter into a contract with Ministry Technology Solutions at \$28/hour, updating our bulletin boards and volunteer sign-up station, brainstorming ideas for fellowship and outreach, inventory of church keys, and an update to the Backpack Food Program. Complete minutes of the meeting will be approved at the next regular meeting and made available in the church office. New Business items included uplifting donations of time and talent at the next Annual Meeting.

October 15th Special Church Council Meeting Highlights: Church Council met for a special meeting following worship on Sunday, October 15th with 8 of 10 members present. Motion to approve a bid from Ministry Technology Solutions at \$1,423.84 plus \$28/hour labor of installation for a new Lenovo laptop for livestreaming, digital audio mixer, Cat5e Wire, Netgear 5 Port PoE switch, Netgear MESH system, and StarTech Docking Station. The current Lenovo laptop in the sanctuary will be used as a computer office upgrade. Complete minutes of the meeting will be approved at the next regular meeting and made available in the church office.

October 17th Special Church Council Meeting Highlights: Church Council met for a special meeting at 7:30 PM with 7 of 10 members present. Motion to accept the gift of \$330,000 from the Evelyn Erickson Estate to be used to pay off the current mortgage. The remaining balance will go into a capital improvement fund (*Investment Account*) to be used for major capital improvements designated by council and will require a 30% match from other funds in order to be used. Complete minutes of the meeting will be approved at the next regular meeting and made available in the church office.

That's A Lot of Food! 156 pounds! That's how much we collected over the summer months for the Rush City Food Shelf. 35 pounds of tuna, 20 pounds of chicken, 47 pounds of macaroni and cheese, 30 pounds of pasta, and 24 pounds of other items. Congratulations for Gavin Moulton for guessing closest to the correct weight (*he guessed 105 pounds*). We are so grateful for those who donated much-needed select items such as macaroni and cheese, canned tuna, canned chicken, and pasta. A reminder that Food Shelf donations can be dropped in the bin in the Fellowship Hall.



Gratitude Basket: In October, we started naming our "thank you's" to God during worship. Just as we regularly ask God's help for other people and the needs of the world, so we also want to take the time expressing gratitude. Each week before the final dismissal, we invite the children to pull one out to share. Here are those from the basket in October: *Thank you for good teachers in our school; Thank you for my church; Thank you for the reminder of Confirmation, that we belong to you, and that you always invite us to follow you and live in your love; Thank you, God, for music and for dedicated and talented musicians; Thank you for Officer Gage and all our law enforcement; Thank you for the beauty of nature; Thank you that you forgive me!; Thank you for everything!; I'm thankful for our Lord Jesus Christ, who takes care of all my life; Thank you for all children; Thank you for my grandma; Thank you for my church family.*



Evelyn Erickson Estate Gift: On October 17th we received wonderful news from the Estate of Evelyn Erickson. Many generations of children from Rush City remember Evelyn as a beloved elementary school teacher. At her wish and under the terms of her estate, Evelyn's gift has now paid off the remaining balance of our building mortgage effective October 20th. The remaining balance of Evelyn's gift will become a Capital Improvement Fund. Any project underwritten by this fund will require a 30% match from congregational contributions. Although future projects await, we can and must celebrate that our ministry can move forward with greater hope!

Your Gifts Are Appreciated: Overall giving to our congregation's ministries continues to improve from last year, however, we are running a small budget deficit of \$11,910 year-to-date in our General Fund. That means our greatest need now is contributions toward the General Fund. These essential contributions support the "bread and butter" of our life together—staff salaries, programs for youth and children, utilities and basic maintenance—all the things that make it possible for us to gather together, serve God and neighbor, and maintain a visible presence in our community. For those who filled out a commitment card to the General Fund for 2023, the good news is that our current pledge deficit would more than cover our budget deficit and put us on a solid foundation beginning in 2024. Please check your latest giving statement or contact our Contributions Clerk, Muriel Bungert at finance@rushcityfirstlutheran.org. Because of you, our ministry can move forward in hope!

Thank You from Keith and Kayleen Stromberg: Dear First Lutheran Church Council: Thank you for the generous Wayne's Greenhouse Gift Card you gave us for our wedding. We really appreciate it! Thank you for remembering our special day. Thanks again!



Thank You from Barb Behrendt: Dear First Lutheran Church: Dan Larson, my brother-in-law and Dan Dahlberg kindly got permission to borrow your van. Mike, my husband, has ALS which is an incurable disease. He cannot stand or walk. Dan Larson drove the van to Cambridge and assisted Mike to transfer to the van so he could be driven to Allina in Cambridge for a physical exam so he can enter Rosewood Senior Living. Thank you for your kindness and understanding. God bless all of you!

Thank You from Pregnancy Resource Center: Dear Friends: Your support in our Baby Bottle Campaign has been amazing. Your congregation was so very generous with more than \$397 given in support of the ministry. We sincerely hope to continue working together in the future to bring our important services to our community in support of our mission: "Saving Lives, One Mom and Dad at a Time."



Thank You from Luther Point Bible Camp: Thank you for supporting our ministries by donating items to our 2023 Summer Celebration and Auction! Our partnership with you helped raise over \$14,400 to support the work of Luther Point's ministry. The items donated by you raised \$725 to support our Ministry!

An outstanding group of young adults guided over 560 campers who came from all over the Upper Midwest, to learn more about "Walking with Jesus" based on Leviticus 26:12, "I will walk among you, and will be your God, and you will be my people." Luther Point continues to be a place of "Forming Faith and Pointing to Christ."

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



Deaths: Bruce Alan Wennberg (July 28, 1952 - July 4, 2023)
Gladys Leona Haugrud (November 6, 1934 - August 18, 2023)
Moses Renault-Moses (April 19, 1951 - September 14, 2023)
Dorothy Jean Folkema (August 11, 1931 - October 29, 2023)

Geraldine Isabelle Roll (August 7, 1931 - August 6, 2023)
Loren George Jennings (June 30, 1951 - September 9, 2023)
Leland Myron Olson (August 9, 1946 - October 11, 2023)

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.

Baptisms: Rowan Kathryn Stauff (October 8, 2023)

Maxwell Jeffrey Medina (October 29, 2023)

Gracious God, we thank you for the new life you give us through holy baptism. Continue to strengthen us with the Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Confirmation: Ahna Currie, Maxwell Medina, Lola Mold, Hunter Zaske, Riley Zeltinger (October 29, 2023)

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.



Marriage: Donnie Peterman and Abbey Charbonneau (October 14, 2023)

Gracious God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ into the world to reveal your love to all people. Enrich couples with every good gift, that their life together may continue to show forth your love; and grant that at the last we may all celebrate with Christ the marriage feast that has no end; through Jesus Christ our Lord.