

The First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Rush City
 1000 South Jay Avenue
 P.O. Box 73
 Rush City, MN
 55069-0073

Interim Pastor Glen Bickford
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(JoAnn Belau - Interim)
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320-358-4076
 Fax 320-358-3365

Office Hours

Interim Pastor Glen Bickford
Days vary-call for appt.

Kayleen Kleven
 Monday
 1 PM-5 PM
 W-Th-F
 8 AM-1 PM

Muriel Bungert
 Monday
 9 AM-12 Noon

JoAnn Belau
 Wednesday
 3:30 PM-7 PM



Altar Flowers

Sunday, March 4th
 Bill Peterson
 Sunday, March 11th
 Chuck & Carol Swanson
 Sunday, March 18th
 Kevin & Val Skogen
 Sunday, March 25th
 Date Available

Envelopes with instructions are located in the Narthex Kiosk.



Members & Friends in Assisted Living

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Phyllis Borgstrom	Ecumen, North Branch
Wanda Erickson	Ecumen - Amador, North Branch
Jan Goebel	Ecumen, North Branch
Lela Jemma	Scandia House, Pine City
Margaret Johnson	Ecumen, North Branch
Wayne Johnson	
Ray Millard	Edgewood Vista, East Grand Forks
Lois Moses	Ecumen, North Branch
Shirley Jacobson-Nelson	Ecumen, North Branch
Margaret Stauffer	
Eileen Walton	Ecumen, North Branch

Prayer Requests

- Prayer requests can be emailed or phoned in to the Church Office: 320-358-4076 or email: 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.



Remember Our Christian Family in Prayer

Steve Bakken	Steven Horazdovsky	Bill Peno
Kyle Bergquist	Jean Howard	Alice Peterson
Matthew Bertram	Megan Jacobson	Doug Peterson
Debbie Biaginie	Marsha Johnson	Helen Peterson
Linda Blazek	Priscilla Johnson	Marcia Peterson
Diane Bondeson	Shirley Johnson	Elaine Pierce
Jason Brandt	Mike Just	Heather Rasmussen
Nancy Breiland	Stephanie Kasper	JoAnn Rieland
Phyllis Burton	Carl Knutson	Melissa Rossci
Larry Chapin	Katie Jo Kral	Sue Roth
Margaret Craine	Tammy Lautizi	Kim Sarago
Kirk Dahlstrom	Tennille Lewis	Richard Schultz
Terry Duban	Hazel Massey	Emily Stuber
Braydon Erickson	Christina Mercer	Daniel Taylor
Darrin Forcier	Debbie Milton	Janelle Toolsie
Diane Friday	Delores Mold	Percy Taylor
Cathy Gamache	Lola Mold	June Walberg
Suzie Grahm	Jerry Mollberg	Kristen Waxberg
Don Hanson	Maija Olsen	Elkie Weidenaar
Myrna Hanson	Gary Olson	Janelle Wilke
Melanie Hedberg	Andy Osland	Jen Witte
Jenna Heibner	Judi Peltier	Randy Ziesmer
Sarah Heling		

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
 Let's thrive!

Have you directed all of your 2017 Thrivent Choice Dollars? You have until Friday, March 29th, 2018 to do so. Call 800-847-4836 or visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice

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March 2018

March Scripture Text

- 4: Exodus 20:1-17
 Psalm 19
 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
 John 2:13-22
- 11: Numbers 21:4-9
 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
 Ephesians 2:1-10
 John 3:14-21
- 18: Jeremiah 31:31-34
 Psalm 119:9-16
 Hebrews 5:5-10
 John 12:20-33
- 25: Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm 31:9-16
 Philippians 2:5-11
 Mark 14:1-15:47 or
 Mark 15: 1-39 [40-47]

Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
 Sunday School 9:15 AM
 Coffee Hour 10:00 AM

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Lenten Soup & Sandwich Meals

Sign-up sheets are on the counter in Narthex for the 5:30 PM Lenten Soup & Sandwich Meals which continue through Wednesday, March 21st, 2018.

(Lenten Worship will be at 6:45 PM)



Midweek Lenten Worship Schedule



This year's midweek Lenten series is entitled "Spring Cleaning"

* We will begin each Wednesday evening with a soup & sandwich meal served from 5:30-6:30 PM.

* Worship begins at 6:45 PM

- Wednesday, March 7th, 2018
- Wednesday, March 14th, 2018
- Wednesday, March 21st, 2018

Holy Week Schedule

- Palm Sunday, March 25th, 2018: 9:00 AM Worship
 Palm Sunday Breakfast: begins at 8 AM
 New Member Installation during worship
- Maundy Thursday, March 29th, 2018: 6:45 PM Worship
 4th & 5th Grade: Seder Meal & First Communion
- Good Friday, March 30th, 2018: 6:45 PM Worship
- Easter Sunday, April 1st, 2018: 8:00 AM Traditional Worship (Senior Choir, Bell Choir, Songbeam Choir)
 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship



Contemporary Worship Team Leader Wanted



Please contact the Church Office if you or someone you know is interested.

Special Offerings



March special offerings will be designated to the Youth Mission Trip.

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle Meeting at 7:00 PM
Thursday, March 1st, 2018 at Marilyn Schoolmeesters.
Everyone is welcome!



Altar Guild

Meeting Sunday, March 4th, 2018 at 10:15 AM.



Men's Fellowship / Bible Study

Tuesday's at 6:00 PM.



Wednesday Quilters

9:00 AM
Wednesday, March 14th
Wednesday, March 21st
Wednesday, March 28th
* Quilters will NOT meet on Wednesday, March 7th due to the Large Group Choir Contest *



Church Council Report

President Deb Dahlberg called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, Monday, February 12th, 2018.

- **Welcome new Church Council Members:** Pastor Glen asked each member to meet individually with him.
- **2018 Church Council Officers:** Deb Dahlberg - President; Will Schmidt - Vice-President; Paul Pasche - Treasurer; Cyndy Tubbs - Secretary
- **Confidentiality Agreements:** Signed & collected.
- **Church Council Installation:** Sunday, February 18th, 2018 during worship.
- **Review:** 2018 goals broken down by quarter; council retreat Saturday March 17th at 9 AM, New Membership class Sunday March 18th, New Member Installation Sunday March 25th. Approved the February meeting agenda and the January minutes.
- **Pastors Report:** Reviewed.

Committee Reports

- **Cemetery:** No report.
- **Christian Education:** VBS, Youth Group, Mission Group and 1st Communion discussed.
- **Connections:** No report.
- **Finance:** No report.
- **Missions:** No report.
- **Marketing:** No report.
- **Personnel:** Pastor's full-time job description and janitorial time study discussed.
- **Property:** No report.
- **Security Team:** No report.
- **Stewardship:** new officers elected, gift policies reviewed, donation template letter, Dave Ramsey course, testimonial web posts, time and talents sheet reviewed, projects to use the available interest will be discussed during next meeting.
- **Technology:** No report.
- **Worship and Music:** No report.
- **Youth:** No report.



Old Business:

- Servant Keeper Software has been installed and member information is being transferred.
- Approved to purchase 30 Welcome Pads; ushers to collect pads each week. Council will need to determine who will enter the data.
- General ledger account for Equipment Maintenance to be added to the budget using the money saved from the lighting project; Paul Pasche to get more information to share at our next meeting.
- Janitorial duties and substitute pay item forward to next meeting.
- Approved to add an extra week of Continuing Education for Pastor Glen.
- Sabbatical and Parental policies to be discussed during a future meeting.
- The search for a Contemporary Worship Team Leader is still open and Deb D. will contact the Synod and several colleges to see if a student may want the job. Val Peterson is now a volunteer.

New Business:

- Approved employee back pay from January 1, 2018; including Pastor Glen.
- Approved Check signers will remain the same for 2018
- Motion made to pay Bell Choir Director made and seconded with discussion regarding more funds needed; Motion withdrawn.
- Approved to have W/ELCA purchase an electric fireplace in the Library. The pre-school books will be moved into the pre-school Sunday School classroom.
- Special Offering designations will be discussed during our March meeting.
- Approved the Financial Report with General Fund expenses exceeded income by \$1,114 and Building Fund income exceeded loan payment expense by \$179.

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Church Council Report

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Approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cyndy Tubbs, Church Council Secretary



Special Names

Why do we have the special names for the week before Easter?

Holy Week: considered by Christians to be the Holiest Week for the year, because Christ died during this week.

Palm Sunday: the old name for the Sunday before Easter, it commemorates the final entrance into Jerusalem by Jesus and the disciples, where Palm branches were laid in front of Christ's path on His way.

Passion Sunday: the new name for the Sunday before Easter, it commemorates the events of Good Friday. Why the change? Many people don't or can't attend midweek services and would skip from the joy of Palm Sunday to the joy of Easter without experiencing the sorrow and meaning of Good Friday. Churches are free to celebrate either Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday, as they choose.

Maundy Thursday: 'Maundy' comes from the Latin word 'mandatum' meaning 'command.' It is the day Jesus spoke his last command, 'do this in remembrance of me.'

Good Friday: is the day Christ died on the cross. It is also Called Holy Friday; I always thought it should be called 'Bad Friday' because of what happened to Jesus, it is called 'Good' because of the good Jesus did for us, to bring us back into right relationship with God.

Easter: The holiest day of the Christian year and the oldest holiday, even older than Christmas (Christ's mass). It is the day Christ rose from the dead. Nobody knows how exactly the name for the festival of Jesus' resurrection became Easter in English. In other languages the name for Easter is similar to the word for Passover.

- Pastor Glen

A Note From Pastor Glen

Dear Friends,
Now we are in the middle of Lent at the end of one of the easier winters we've had in a while weather-wise, even though the flu has been horrible.

It's easy to get down at the end of the winter, because there is still not a lot of daylight and sunshine. Scientists say the human body can store vitamin D (the vitamin we get from sunlight), but only for a limited time. That means by the end of the winter, our vitamin D levels are low or even gone entirely. Lack of vitamin D has been linked to depression and even cancer. Many doctors recommend that people take extra vitamin D in the winter, even twice or three times as much as the current USDA levels. And March, the snowiest month of the year, is still ahead. Many years there has been a foot of snow in March, or even more!

But what does this have to do with Christianity and with Lent? Well, winter taps our spiritual reserves, too, the reserves we had built up during the Christmas season. Why? We have more pain in the winter. Bones ache from cold and skin cracks. It takes a lot of energy to stay warm when the wind chill is way below zero!

With all the suffering that winter gives us, we can get discouraged. We may snap at those we love and those we don't. We may think that life is a pain and pure drudgery instead of a gift from God. We may even find it harder to forgive others. By winter's end we may have a lot of sludge in our souls. We may have a lot of guilt from the times we insisted on our own way.

Enter Lent. It's no coincidence that Lent comes at winter's end. Just as the world begins to experience a reawakening this time of year as the days start to get longer, so our souls experience a reawakening of sorts in Lent. As we push through the first days of Lent, the days seem difficult, as we learn how used to or dependent we are on the things we choose to give up. Or the practices we take on (more prayer, more Bible reading, and so on) can seem not very helpful at first. But then comes the time when we are no longer dependent on the caffeine or sugar or other bad habit and we start gaining real growth from the straight paths we're following. We take joy in giving back to God. About that time, near the end of Lent, spring begins and the whole world is renewed. Through the simple hard days of Lent, we are renewed, too. These are the gifts of Lent. Blessed rest of Lent! The equinox and 12 hours of daylight are coming March 21st and beyond! Blessed Holy Week to follow at the end of the month! Straight on until Easter!

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Prov 3:5-6 (NRSV)

Christian Education Meeting

Sunday, March 18th, 2018 at 10:30 AM



Worship Team Rehearsal

Monday, March 19th, 2018 at 7:00 PM.



Reminder...



Worship at Ecumen

Thursday, March 29th, 2018 at 2:00 PM.

4th & 5th Grades

First communion for 4th and 5th graders is coming up! We will be having a Seder meal before the 6:47 PM service on Maundy Thursday, March 29th, 2018. A Seder meal is how Jews celebrate Passover. The Last Supper of Christ and the disciples was a Seder meal. Then, after the Seder, those participants will take communion for the first time. Please contact Pastor Glen to participate.

