



# RUSHFORD LUTHERAN CHURCH DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

**MISSION STATEMENT OF RUSHFORD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Rushford Lutheran Church is people gathered by God's Word and Sacraments  
and sent to make Christ known to all persons and to serve all people.



**CHRIST CENTERED \* BIBLE BASED \* FAMILY FOCUSED \* MISSION MINDED**  
Rushford Lutheran Church is a Stephen Ministries site.



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### SUNDAYS

8:00 AM Worship service  
(Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays)

Home Phones: Dial in for worship service

9:15 AM Worship service  
(Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays)

Home Phones: Dial in for worship service

Live stream of 9:15 service on  
youtube.com and search "Rushford  
Lutheran Church"

### MONDAYS

10:00 AM Recorded worship  
available on website

5:30 PM Coffee House Worship  
(Communion following 1st & 3rd  
Sundays )

### Private

### Communion is

available for those  
who are still not

able to come to live worship and  
receive Holy Communion due to  
personal health risks. Private  
communion will be administered in  
his office Mondays from 8:30 am to  
11 am. Appointments are not  
needed, but are appreciated by  
calling church office 507.864.7152  
or Pastor Steve at 507.703.1221.



## Merry Christmas RLC Family



Merry Christmas from all of us at  
Rushford Lutheran Church:  
Christine Anderson, Kristin Burdey,  
Pastor Steve Chellew,  
Shary Evavold, David Hinz,  
Jean Krambeer, Jessica Heiden,  
Portia Lee and the Church Council:  
Mike Messenger, Shari Michel,

Dean Hatlevig, Vicki Nelson, June Vitse, Amy Luhmann,  
John Munter, Jim Bernier and Barb Johnson.

## Christmas Eve Services

### Thursday, December 24th

3 p.m.—Non-Candlelight, Family Service with Special Music

5 p.m.—Candlelight Service with Special Music

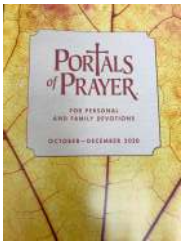
7 p.m. –Candlelight Service with Special Music

*\* Music will be contingent upon Covid-19.*

Each service will be  
broadcast live on  
YouTube.com, search for  
Rushford Lutheran  
Church. One will be  
recorded and posted to  
RushfordLutheran.com



## Portals of Prayer



Daily devotional books are available to pick up in the church office.

(October—  
December)

## Poinsettia Orders

Root River Floral is offering poinsettias in several sizes and colors:



\$8—4.5" Pot: Red, White, Pink & Marble

\$14—6.5" Pot: Red & White

\$24—7.5" Pot: Red & White

\$36—10" Pot: Red & White

Includes bow and foil. **Please order by December 8th.** Some plant sizes and colors may sell out, so first come, first serve.

**Root River Floral:  
507-864-2381**

Please remember to call the church office (864-7152) to recognize your poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one in our Christmas Eve bulletin.



## PASTOR'S CORNER

I heard the first of the year Christmas songs on the radio on November 11<sup>th</sup>. And to be quite honest, I didn't immediately switch stations in protest of it being way, way, too early to be playing Christmas music. Partially because it was one of my favorites from Trans-Siberian Orchestra. But partially because, well, heh, maybe even we traditionalists need a little more Christmas cheer this year.

Because both you and I know this year simply isn't going to be the same. Christmas, that is. And I have absolutely no judgment for those of you who are going to try really, really hard to make it that way. To deck the halls, cook the Christmas goose, set the house ablaze with lights, and invite the grandkids over for a traditional Christmas morn. We all need to make decisions that are best for us and our own situation, including what is best for our own mental health. While at the same time trying to keep everyone – not just our own family, but everyone else – safe.

But yes, Christmas is quite likely going to be a scaled back quite a bit. Maybe only half a goose (although there really isn't that much meat on a goose to begin with). A smaller tree. Decorating only half the house. Less time spent together, more time spent on Zoom, Skype, Twitter, and Facebook. Or whatever platform you use to connect.

Here at church, we are still planning three Christmas Eve services: 3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. We are also working toward some sort of Children's Christmas program, if we think it can be done safely. And we are still working hard on getting the bugs worked out of our livestreaming capability. So most likely we will record one of the three Christmas Eve services, while also livestreaming all three. Again, the choice of being here or being home is left up to you and yours. Do what makes you feel safe.

The only choice I don't recommend is doing nothing at all. Meaning, not worshipping because you can't worship the way you are use to doing it. That is hard for a traditionalist, like myself to say. But if this year has taught us nothing else, it's that being flexible just might be a spiritual gift.



The celebration of Jesus' birth, of course, will go on as planned. No Covid-craziness can kill Christmas. We will still, either at church or at home, worship the new-born king. And whether we gather our family around the Christmas tree, or gather by Skype around our own family trees, we will still gather.

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

Or, as a very wise man once put it so well so many years ago: "So he paused. And the Grinch put his hand to his ear. And he did hear a sound rising over the snow. It started in low. Then it started to grow. But the sound wasn't sad! Why, this sound sounded merry! It couldn't be so! But it WAS merry! VERY! He stared down at Whoville! The Grinch popped his eyes! Then he shook! What he saw was a shocking surprise!



Every Who down in Whoville, the tall and the small, Was singing!  
Without any presents at all! He HADN'T stopped Christmas from  
coming! IT CAME! Somehow or other, it came just the  
same!" (How the Grinch Stole Christmas, By Dr. Seuss, 1957.)

It came, just the same. And may we, knowing that nothing can  
stop the celebration of the newborn King, may we all have a  
very, very Merry Christmas just the same.

In Christ's Loving Service,

*Pastor Steve*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### A message of Thanksgiving

Dear Beloved & Treasured Friends of Rushford Lutheran  
Church,

During seasons of uncertainty, we cling  
to Christ, we give thanks to God for the  
certainty of his love for us. He  
guarantees our salvation and seals us  
for eternity!! Blessed Assurance!

Julie and I cannot thank you enough  
for your prayers for us and Emmanuel  
Lutheran. Your Church Home has  
become a second home for us. Your support and love  
mean the world to us. This Thanksgiving, Emmanuel is  
thanking GOD for our many blessings. You are at the top  
of our list...after Jesus, of course.

May God grant each of you the spirit of Joy and  
Thanksgiving in joyful times and also in hard and  
challenging times. Our prayers are with you.

God loves you and so do we!!

Love,  
Pastor Dave and Julie Steffenson  
AND your grateful friends of Emmanuel



**Alley Parking:** To allow for safe and efficient snow removal  
in alleyways in the city of Rushford, vehicles will not be  
allowed to parked parallel on the side of an alleyway or to  
be parked in any manner which would obstruct or deter  
snowplow trucks from being able to clear the entire width  
of the alleyway. Vehicles may be ticketed or towed at  
owner's expense.

**Blood Drive:** MiEnergy is hosting a blood drive on Tuesday,  
December 15 from 2-6:00 p.m. Appointments ARE  
required. Call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org  
and enter the word MiEnergy to schedule an appointment.  
Free COVID-19 antibody test for all donors.

**Giving Tree:** The Membership Committee has put up the  
Giving Tree. Sign out a tag on the sheet by the tree. **Have  
your unwrapped gifts back under the tree by DECEMBER  
9th.** You can tape your tag to the bag. Giving is such a  
good feeling!

**Projectionists Wanted-** Our church is currently looking for  
individuals who would be willing to be on a rotation to run  
the projector at the Sunday morning worship services. If  
interested, please contact the church office by  
emailing [rlc@acegroup.cc](mailto:rlc@acegroup.cc). Also, specify which service you  
would prefer. Training will be provided.

**Sunday School** is temporarily suspended at this time, with  
hopes it will resume in the near future. Stay tuned!

**RLCW All Occasion Cards** are now \$7 a box in the  
Fellowship Hall (unless otherwise marked).

**E-mail Your E-mail** We know you are already getting this e  
-mail, but please think of a fellow member or a family  
member of RLC that are not yet receiving the news. Please  
send their email to [rlc@acegroup.cc](mailto:rlc@acegroup.cc) (With their  
permission, of course).

If you are not receiving the news in your e-mail after  
signing up, check the spam folder on your e-mail's inbox.  
Sometimes it get's swept into the spam folder  
automatically.

**No Internet? No Wi-Fi? You Can Still Tune In.** Our home  
phone system will be expanding so you don't need one of  
the church's special phones to dial in. Please contact Pastor  
Steve if you are interested. There are only 12 more lines  
available per licensing requirements held by the phone  
company. Please share this with our members who do not  
currently have access via the Web to our services.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING:** At Rushford Lutheran Church, we  
use **Vanco Services** for direct payments. Just go to our  
website [www.rushfordlutheran.com](http://www.rushfordlutheran.com) and look for the Tab

GIVING, click on that. There will appear a box. Click on Sign In/Sign Up at the top right corner of that box. It will walk you through the set up.

OR visit [www.vancopayments.com/OnlineGiving](http://www.vancopayments.com/OnlineGiving) to set up your giving account. You can also download the free app "Give+" on your smart phone, search for Rushford Lutheran Church and follow the set up. You may choose to give to the general fund, missions, building improvements, memorial giving, Easter or lent. You can set your offering or contribution to be a one time, weekly, biweekly, monthly, etc.

With these challenging times of "social distancing", this is a great option to submit your offerings and contribution to your church. It's fast and easy.



**OFFERINGS AND CONTRIBUTIONS AND MEMORIALS** can always be mailed to Rushford Lutheran Church, PO Box 399, Rushford, MN 55971 if electronic giving is not an option for you. **2020 offering deadline is Noon on Wednesday, December 30th.**

**Reminders for attending in-person worship**

- Face masks are required at all public gatherings in Minnesota.
- We encourage face masks brought from home. We do have a supply but appreciate it if you're able to bring one.
- Seating in the sanctuary will be every other pew. Please social distance between families.
- Offering plates will be on stands at the doors. (Thank you for keeping our congregation strong so far through this crisis.)
- Special instructions will be given for communion.
- As of now, fellowship coffee hour following each service will be suspended temporarily.
- The sanctuary will be limited to approximately 150 people.



**FAMILY EDUCATION**

*"Who can add to Christmas?*

*The perfect motive is that God so loved the world.*

*The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son.*

*The only requirement is to believe in Him.*

*The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life."*

*-Corrie Ten Boom-*

Due to the rise in Covid-19 cases in our community, we were not able to meet together for Sunday school at the end of November. I am hopeful we can resume class again soon. Tell the kids to check the mailbox for some review sheets of lessons we did together along with other special things. If we are not able to resume classes soon, I hope to continue to mail out things to the students that can be done at home to keep God's Word in front of them on Sunday mornings. I encourage families to have home devotions and to watch the service online together. Stay safe and keep praying.



We are pleased to have the seventh grade involved with our advent services again this year. The Advent Candle Lighting Schedule for the **seventh** graders emailed to parents on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is a wonderful way to get students involved in our worship services! The first worship service of Advent is Sunday, November 29th. Here's the schedule:

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent – Light one Purple Candle:**

- 8:00AM Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> Megan Rislove
- 9:15AM Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> Abigail Fenske

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent – Light two Purple Candles:**

- 8:00AM Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> William LaFleur
- 9:15AM Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> Landon Volkman

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent – Light two Purple candles and one Pink candle.**

- 8:00AM Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> Avree Connaughty
- 9:15AM Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> Kaia Drinkall

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent – Light two Purple candles, one Pink candle, and one more Purple candle:**

- 8:00AM Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> Christian Lindmeier
- 9:15AM Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> Jace Dvorak



The 2020 Christmas program is in planning mode with nothing finalized yet.

The Family Education department wants to thank everyone who shares in the Family Education ministry at Rushford Lutheran for their support and participation.

~ Wishing you all the happiness of the Holiday Season, may the Lord's peace, His love and His joy be your gifts at Christmas and your blessings all year through!

Christine Anderson  
Family Education Director  
[christineandersonmn@yahoo.com](mailto:christineandersonmn@yahoo.com) 507-858-5968

## RLC YOUTH NEWS

Stay tuned for updates on our 2020 Virtual Christmas Program!

## CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

**November 9, 2020, 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall**

**Reminder to turn in meeting notes from each committee to church office (email: [rlc@acegroup.cc](mailto:rlc@acegroup.cc))**

**1 Devotions-** Jean: God's presence is always with us. Prayer Concerns-Pastor shares the challenge of working with the Covid Pandemic.

### **2) Adoption of Agenda (MA)**

### **3) Secretary's Report (MA)**

- a. October Minutes
- b. Executive Minutes/Pastor's Review (MA)

### **4) Treasurer's Report (MA)**

- a. Update on PPP Loan-doing very well.
- b. October Financials:

General worship-up about \$6,000. Special offering down-because of the building project. We should meet the end of the year goal. We will be able to pay Jerome for work on the roof. Remind committees to give budgets to Jean. Capital Improvement will go up from \$2,500-\$3,000 which will be allocated for this next year. Keep \$15,000 in the budget for a youth director. Air Conditioners at each property are being looked at.

**5) Pastoral Report-Funerals:** Milton Eide, Margaret Sorem, and Virgil Mehus committal service. (MA)

### **6) Unfinished Business**

- a. Update on Technology Update 2020. Live streaming is working. New laptop is working great. It is getting a better resolution on screen. No more expenses for upgrades for this year.
- b. Restoration of Building Update-Jerome is coming next week. Equipment is provided. A bid is needed from Jerome for work next year-(\$40,000) It should be around this.
- c. Ratify motion to approve Norman's Electric work on Alley House (MA)

### **7) New Business**

a. Potential New Members (John & Kristen Loney and children: Evan (17), Adam (14), and Kaia (11.) At this time, this family will not be joining.

b. Benevolence Percentages-Review of Worksheet to plan for 2021. This is put on hold.

c. Personal Information to Public-The council is to be aware of spam emails/messages.

d. Upcoming Events: We need to follow school protocol on distance learning-no youth programs-including Praise Team/Sunday School and Confirmation. All will be "on hold" until further notice. The hope is that the school will re-open the end of November. Other events discussed:

- i. Christmas Breakfast Brunch-December 13<sup>th</sup> (Due to Covid, this will not happen at this time).
- ii. Surviving the Holidays (Grief Share Workshop)-December 6<sup>th</sup> is scheduled to happen.
- iii. Children's Christmas Program-is scheduled to be produced.
- iv. Praise Team lead 7:00PM Christmas Service-Christmas Eve if deemed allowed. Otherwise, the Darr Family will be asked.

The council discussed how important communication is among the council, the council and the pastor and the council/pastor and Rushford Lutheran Church members. This continues to be a challenge, and can get confusing, frustrating, and basically not fun! What the council all agreed upon was to speak with love, and to be available for others in time of need. Balancing this is difficult when we need to practice safety and provide care. If you are reading this report, please help RLC reach out through loving words and acts of kindness. If not in person, via email, phone calls and by mail. Be creative...Everyone likes receiving letters and cards Thank you for Your consideration.

e. RLC being the pick-up for SEMCAC Fillmore County Christmas (December 14) was discussed. RLC gives 80% of these gifts. It has been requested that the RLC be the central place to pick up their gifts. A system will be in place so there will be limited contact. No staffing. Only host site.

f. 6th Grade Christmas Shopping-a plan will be in place to safely do this activity. (Could be online)

### **9) Committee Reports: (MA)**

### **10) Adjournment / Closing Prayers (MA)**

## NOVEMBER CASH SUMMARY REPORT

<b>Balance brought forward 10/1/2020</b>	<b>\$21,202.41</b>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$37,070.50</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$40,291.18</b>
<b>TOTAL ON HAND 10/31/2020</b>	<b>\$17,291.73</b>

### **Building Restoration Update:**

Jerome began work mid-November and has been making great progress. We have left to raise \$7,580 by the end of the year. Thank you for your generous donations to our building restoration project! See photos of project underway on next page.



## WORSHIP LEADERS FOR DECEMBER

Worship led by Pastor Steven Chellew  
 Altar Guild: June Vitse, Cindy Vitse, Lisa Chellew  
 Organist: Shary Evavold; Portia Lee  
 Pianist : Portia Lee  
 Projectionists: Lisa Chellew, Linda Lea, Beatty Darr, Sandy Rasmussen, Steve Burdey  
 Videographers: Barb Johnson, June Vitse, Jeremy Tesch, Dean Hatelvig

		8:00 Worship	9:15 Worship
12/6/20 2nd Sunday Of Advent	Acolyte Duty and Scripture Reader: Ushering:	Matthew Brand David & Andrea Brand Marv Bestul and Claire Olstad	Cassandra Boyum Darren Boyum Louie Boehmke and John Campe
12/13/20 3rd Sunday Of Advent	Acolyte Duty and Scripture Reader: Ushering:	Kallie Eide Trevor & Kendra Eide Dennis Darr and Gordy Elliott	Kaylee Hahn Troy & Laura Hahn Tom Kopperud and Jim Bernier
12/20/20 4th Sunday Of Advent	Acolyte Duty and Scripture Reader: Ushering:	Madison Rhodes Christine Anderson Carrol Hill and Wayne Meyer	Lauren Honken Mike & Robin Honken John Petersen and Mike Messenger
12/24/20 3pm	Acolyte Duty and Scripture Reader: Ushering:	Kail Heiden Tony & Jessica Heiden	John Campe, Jack Martinka
12/24/20 5pm <b>Candlelight</b>	Scripture Reader: Ushering:	Shari Michel Men's Club	
12/24/20 7pm <b>Candlelight</b>	Acolyte Duty and Scripture Reader: Ushering:	Evan Skalet Troy & Audra Skalet	Dale Rasmussen
12/27/20	Acolyte Duty and Scripture Reader: Ushering:	Scholarship Winners Dale Evavold	Scholarship Winners Dale Rasmussen & Lowell Rasmussen

# DECEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>End of Year Contribution Deadline</b> Is Noon Wednesday, December 30.</p>		1	2 9a Men's Helping Hands 9a Ladies Mission Project	3	4 Office Closed	5
<p><b>6 Second Sunday of Advent</b> 8a Worship w/ Communion 9:15a Worship w/ Communion, Praise Team 10:15a— Bible Study with Pastor 11:15a— Praise Team Practice</p>	7 10a— Recorded Service Online 4:30p Worship Committee Mtg. 5:30p Coffee House Worship w/ Communion— Fellowship Hall	8	9 9a Men's Helping Hands 9a Ladies Mission Project 6p Youth Committee Mtg 6p Endowment Committee Mtg. Last Day to Order Poinsettias	10	11 Office Closed	12
<p><b>13 Third Sunday of Advent</b> 8a Worship 9:15a Worship 10:15aa— Bible Study with Pastor 11:15a— Praise Team Practice</p>	14 10a Recorded Service Online 1p Quilting 5:30p Coffeehouse Worship— Fellowship Hall 6:30p Finance Committee Mtg 7p Council Mtg	15	16 9a Men's Helping Hands 9a Ladies Mission Project 5p—Homework & Heroes 6:30p Confirmation 6:30p Grief Share 7:30p H&H: Adam Eide	17 Newsletter Article Deadline 9:30a Ruth Circle (Hosted by Carol Jeffers) 1p Miriam Circle 1:30p Hannah Circle 5:00p Martha Circle	18 Office Closed	19
<p><b>20 Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> 8a Worship w/ Communion 9:15a Worship w/ Communion 10:15a— Bible Study with Pastor 11:15a— Praise Team Practice</p>	21 10a Recorded Service Online 1:30p Priscilla's Circle 5:30p Coffee House Worship w/ Communion— Fellowship Hall 6:30p Membership Committee	22	23 9a Men's Helping Hands 9a Ladies Mission Project 7p Thanksgiving Service	24 Office Closed <b>Christmas Eve</b> <b>Worship Services</b> <b>3p, 5p, 7p</b>	25 Office Closed	26
<p><b>27</b> 8a &amp; 9:15a Worship, Scholarship Participants 9a- &amp; 10:15a—Coffee 9:15a Worship 10:15a— Bible Study with Pastor</p>	28 10a Recorded Service Online 5:30p Coffee House Worship Fellowship Hall	29	30 <b>*Contribution Deadline*</b> <b>by Noon</b> 9a Men's Helping Hands 9a Ladies Mission Project	31		

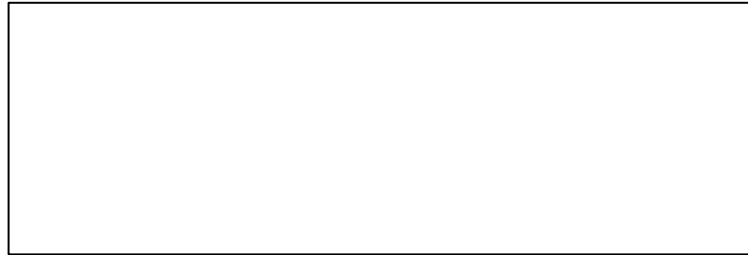
**Rushford Lutheran Church**

Physical Address: 101 S Mill Street, Rushford, MN

Mailing Address: PO Box 399, Rushford, MN 55971

**FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED**

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**RUSHFORD LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**DECEMBER NEWSLETTER**

Jessica Heiden, Editor

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RUSHFORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

101 South Mill Street, PO Box 399, Rushford, MN 55971 (507) 864-7152

*Church Office Open to the Public: M-Th 8 AM to Noon*

**Pastor Steven Chellew (Ext. 11) or cell 507-703-1221;** email: stevehellew@gmail.com

Jean Krambeer, Business Office Coordinator (Ext. 10)

Christine Anderson, Family Education Director; Kristin Burdey, Praise Team & Cherub Choir Director; David Hinz, Custodian

**E-Mail Address: [rlc@acegroup.cc](mailto:rlc@acegroup.cc) \*\* Web Page: [www.rushfordlutheran.com](http://www.rushfordlutheran.com)**

**2020 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**PHONE**

**EMAIL ADDRESSES**

Mike Messenger, Council Chair, Youth .....	864-2174 .....	mike@rushfordmfg.com
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