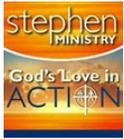




# RUSHFORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

## FEBRUARY 2021 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](https://www.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 Pastor's 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.

### RUSHFORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

# ANNUAL MEETING

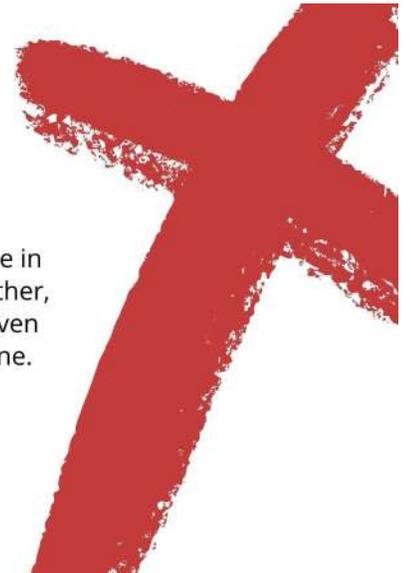
Sunday, February 7th  
10:30 am  
RLC Sanctuary

The meeting will review the past year, elect new council members and delegates, approve a budget, and discuss further capital improvements. All members of the congregation are invited to attend.

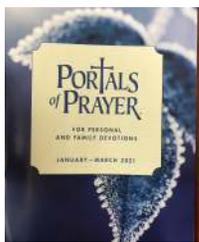


## John 17:11

And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.



## Portals of Prayer



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

(January—March)



Dear Servants in Christ,

In the Season of Light, we thank God for our many blessings and the gift of your partnership in ministry. Your prayers, love and financial support give us buoyancy when the waters of life get choppy. 2020 was a challenging year, but our Faithful Father didn't miss a beat when it came to advancing His Good News, and spreading His love, in our midst. "Grateful" is the word that best summarizes 2020 for the Servants of Emmanuel.

Presently, we are putting together a church site master plan and we hope to break ground, in some fashion, in 2021. We'll keep you posted as God reveals to us His will, His plans, and His vision for His beloved Emmanuel. Please continue to keep us in your prayers, that we may be found faithful, bearing fruit for our Father's glory. Likewise, we will keep you and your ministry in our prayers. We are grateful for you. We thank God for your love and support! Blessings!

With Gratitude & Thanksgiving,

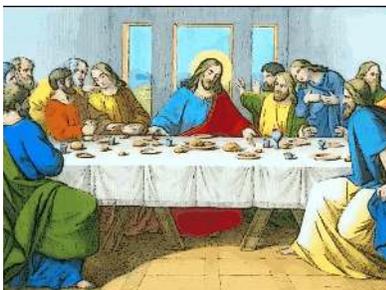
Pastor Dave Steffenson

What an unexpected surprise from treasured friends! You guys mean the world to me. Thanks for your prayers. I'm praying for the day when I can join you in worship.

## PASTOR'S CORNER

My friends, we have missed many a meal together over the past eleven months. Potluck dinners. Ladies desserts. Funeral lunches. THE Codfish Dinner. And of course the weekly "mini-lunch" of cookies, cakes and other assorted treats every Sunday morning after worship. (Well, at least that one we are rebooting. But who knows when on the rest?)

Jesus ate meals with his twelve disciples. A lot. Indeed, one of Jesus' last things on earth was his last supper with his chosen twelve. His last meal with them in the Upper Room on Maundy Thursday, the night he was betrayed. Of course Judas left the meal early. He had urgent business to attend to. But not before he had dipped his bread in Jesus' dish. But the rest of the twelve stuck it out as Jesus washed their feet, scolded Peter for his upcoming betrayal, warned them of what would be happening the very next day, and of course as Jesus prayed. And prayed. And prayed.



And we are not just talking the normal prayers that accompanied the normal Passover meal. A prayer of blessing on the meal itself. Prayers for Israel. Prayers of thanksgiving. All of the "normal" dinner prayers were said, but much more as well. Jesus prayed for his disciples, the men eating with him in the room. That they would get through the next few days and in the end give glory to God through their endurance. And Jesus prayed for you and me, the disciples to come.

And later, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed for himself. "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." The prayer that we know the Father answered with a no.

Yes, we still gather for worship together to hear Jesus words; even if we can't dine together at Jesus' feet. And during the Lenten Midweek Services starting on Ash Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, we will be particularly focused on Jesus' words in that Upper Room. While Jesus eats with his disciples, while Jesus prays for them, while Jesus warns them of what is to come, and while Jesus says goodbye, we will join with them in that Upper Room. We may not be able to eat with Jesus, but we can certainly be like that busy-body waiter standing over the table overhearing the dinner conversation.

And soon, I pray, we will be eating together too. But why is this important? Well first, we know how well it is going talking through these masks. (Yes, yes, they are still important and all that...) And we know

how well it's going trying to talk with one another on Zoom, Facetime, Messenger and the rest. And even when we are in the same room together, we know how well it is going trying to talk with one another six feet away – while also not seeing facial expressions, etc...



But it's not just proximity. The family that eats together stays together. And the family that prays together stays together. So my guess is that one of the reasons Jesus spent one of his last nights together with the disciples doing both is that he wanted them to be one, with him, and with one another. Or as Jesus put it: John 17:11 (ESV) <sup>11</sup> "And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one."

Lenten Midweek Services begin on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. Join us in person, by live stream, on the home phones, or later in the week by watching the recording, Join us this Lent as we join Jesus and his disciples in the Upper Room on the night he was betrayed.

In Christ's Loving Service,

*Pastor Steve*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Youth Group Has Resumed** on Wednesday, January 27th with the return of the Homework and Heroes speaker series. Beginning at 5:00 pm, rooms will be available for study and fellowship, with snacks. Meal will be served at 6:00. Confirmation remains at 6:30 for 8th and 9th graders, and will be followed by dessert and a special guest speaker at 7:30 \*downstairs in the fellowship hall\*.

**Rushford Lutheran Cemetery Association** is actively looking for nominees to the Board of Directors of the Association. The Board's responsibility is to supervise the care and maintenance of the cemetery and elect a Superintendent who shall have supervision of the grounds

of the cemetery. The term is for three years and the Board normally meets 2 to 3 times a year. If interested, please contact Board President Rich Bjorlo at 507-458-0930.

**Movie Night:** The Membership Committee is hosting a movie night on March 7th, at 6:00 p.m. Overcomers will be shown in the Fellowship Hall with popcorn, candy bars and pop being served. Backup date will be March 21st if needed.



**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.

**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 Classes have resumed on Sundays at 10:15am.**

**RLCW All Occasion Cards** are now \$7 a box in the Fellowship Hall (unless otherwise marked). A selection of individual cards are available for purchase, as well.

**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.

## **RLC WOMEN NEWS**

This year's officers are: President, Marlene Boehmke; V-President, Linda Paulson; Secretary, Donna Boyum; Treasurer, Corrine Hill; Historian, Sandy Skalet

Ruth Circle is in charge of Coffee Fellowship for February. Feel free to help if you can.

Quilting will take place Monday, February 8, at 1:00 PM.

The 2021 RLCW Booklets are now out for distribution (in the back of the sanctuary). If you want to pick up for your whole circle, call the church as to how many booklets you'd like to pick up. That way we will make sure we have enough printed.

## **FAMILY EDUCATION**

Sunday school has resumed! In January, we gathered together in the sanctuary and continued our lessons about God leading the Israelites to the Promised Land. Here is a picture of the kids gathered around their "marshmallow memorial" made from 12 marshmallows and chocolate frosting. Just as Joshua built a memorial with 12 stones after God safely allowed the Israelites to cross the Jordan River, we built a marshmallow memorial as a reminder that God keeps us safe.



At the time this article was written, we were still in need of teachers to get the kids back in the classrooms with their fellow classmates and back to the more normal routine of Sunday school. The goal is to be in classrooms on February 7th! Who wants to volunteer as a teacher and help make this happen!

**Are you ready to put winter behind you and get ready for summer camp? SUMMER CAMP** registration is now open at many camps and the camps have made changes to allow campers back and stay safe. Don't delay registering your child for camp before the dates fill up. RLC has funds set aside to assist in sending our youth to Bible camps. I'd love to see the

youth from our congregation go to camp this summer! Many camps have year-round events, even in the winter...sledding, retreats, etc. Bible study, campfires, swimming, crafts, village games, horseback riding, creek stomping, challenge course, pool parties, hiking, mountain biking, tubing and nature time are just some of the things you'll enjoy at camp. There are even specialized camps, such as Horse Camp, High Adrenaline Camp, Art Camp, Culinary Camp, Drama Camp, just to name a few! Check out these camps, or look for other camps, too. Be sure to view their faith statements to help choose what is right for you.



**Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp, Camp Victory, Living Waters Bible Camp, Good Earth Village, Sugar Creek Bible Camp, and Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch**



**Boy Scout Sunday** is Sunday, February 7th, 2021. The Scout Sunday tradition was started to make people in houses of worship aware of Scouting, and to allow Scouts to live out their "Duty to God" pledged each week. We welcome Boy Scouts of all ages to wear their uniform!

Please keep collecting **pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.**



Have a fabulous and, hopefully warm, February.

God Bless You,

Christine Anderson

Family Education Director

[christineandersonmn@yahoo.com](mailto:christineandersonmn@yahoo.com) 507-858-5968

## YOUTH GROUP/PRAISE TEAM

Praise Team began meeting again after a two-month hiatus, and what a joy it was! The group plans to resume providing special music during the 9:15 service on the second Sunday of the month. During the dialback hiatus, which unfortunately covered the entire Christmas season, we made lemonade out of those lemons and featured some solo and small group work, an excellent opportunity for the older students in particular. I am very proud of the way the kids of all ages work so well together, and the older ones are always helping the younger students to get their legs strong and steady beneath them.

Cherub choir will be on hold until more of the little ones return to Sunday School.

RLC Youth Group's special series "Homework and Heroes" resumed at the end of January, filling in the three weeks before Lent. Featured speakers are Police Chief Adam Eide on January 27<sup>th</sup>, MN Army National Guard Veteran and Rushford Police Officer Nathan Klinski on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Rushford Ambulance

members David and Andrea Brand on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Doors open for snacks and lightly-supervised fellowship at 5:00pm, meal served at 6:00pm, and speaker after Confirmation classes end at 7:30, with dessert. When Lenten midweek services begin February 17<sup>th</sup>, there will be no speaker, but snacks and game rooms will continue to be available for youth aged 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade.

The adult Ladies Chorus continues to meet on Monday evenings after the 5:30 service. If you like to sing, you are more than welcome to join us for music and fellowship. We hope to incorporate some men into a few songs this spring, so don't wait to be asked- reach out to Kristin or any of the ladies for more information.

## CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

**January 11, 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))**

**PRESENT:** Mike Messenger, John Munter, Jim Bernier, Dean Hatlevig, June Vitse, Amy Luhmann, Barbara Johnson, Shari Michel, Vicki Nelson

**ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Pastor Steve Chellew; Jean Krambeer (Business Office Coordinator)

**Devotions & Prayer Concerns:** Amy-sweet prayer. John Kinneberg-Leukemia; 2 contacts from family and friends- depression concerns; children-Sunday school and wellness.

**Adoption of Agenda:** MA

**Secretary's Report:** MA

**Treasurers Report:** Update on PPP Loan: additional questions of the forgiveness of the loan.

**End of the Year Financials:** Very strong. \$30,000. Brought up to withdraw \$15,000 to set aside for the windows and the rest toward the glass windows. MA

This year the congregation brought in \$350,000 in contributions excluding memorials. Met our goal. Closed out end of the year; and did great. Thank you to the congregation and committee members!

**Pastoral Report:** 4 Hospital visits: 1-in person; 19 home bound; 4 in office; 9-home; 6-phone; committal service for Russel Agrimson. MA

**Unfinished Business:** Building Renovation: Jerome-health conditions interfered with the rate of moving forward on the chimney project. John will check with Tony Heiden on estimate of project cost.

Stained glass windows: Presently we have 2 bids for windows: \$25,000 and \$40,000. Concerns on what variables

need to be considered for increase of cost. We will try to get another bid with a multiyear plan for the rest of the windows.

**Nominating committee:** Tony Heiden, Tesh Kopperud & Mike Messenger

**New Business:** Review of Annual Meeting-February 7<sup>th</sup>-the meeting will take place in the sanctuary with the agenda on the screen. Projectionist will be needed. New council will meet directly after in the quilting room.

**Fellowship Time:** The women would like to serve coffee on a consistent basis.

**Rental Properties:** Alley House is in transition for new lease.

**Committee Reports: MA**

**Adjournment/Closing Prayers**

Respectfully Submitted, Vicki Nelson

**DECEMBER CASH SUMMARY REPORT**

<b>Balance brought forward 12/1/2020</b>	<b>\$20,951.54</b>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<b>\$81,895.23</b>
DISBURSEMENTS	<b>\$72,467.53</b>
<b>TOTAL ON HAND 12/31/2020</b>	<b>\$30,379.24</b>

**WORSHIP LEADERS FOR FEBRUARY**

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

**Souper Bowl of Caring**

Sunday, February 7th



The RLC Youth will be collecting donations in the soup pots at the back of the church. Collected monies will be donated to the Rushford Food Shelf. Souper Bowl of Caring empowers youth and unites communities around the time of the BIG Game to help those in need.

		<b>8:00 Worship</b>	<b>9:15 Worship</b>
<b>2/7/21</b>	Acolyte Duty and Scripture Reader:	Madison Rhodes	Kallie Eide
	Ushering:	Christine Anderson	Trever & Kendra Eide
		Marv Bestul and Claire Olstad	Louie Boehmke and John Campe
	Special Music	Ladies Choir	Ladies Choir
<b>2/14/21</b>	Acolyte Duty and Scripture Reader:	Evan Skalet	Riley Huntley
	Ushering:	Troy & Audra Skalet	Rodney & Kate Heyer
		Dennie Darr and Gordy Elliott	Tom Kopperud and Jim Bernier
	Special Music		Praise Team
<b>2/17/21</b>	Acolyte Duty and Scripture Reader:	Beatty Darr	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
<b>7p Service</b>	Ushering:	Bruce & Tina Darr	
<b>2/21/21</b>	Acolyte Duty and Scripture Reader:	Kaylee Hahn	Aubrey Ingvalson
	Ushering:	Troy & Laura Hahn	Casey & Shannon Ingvalson
		Carrol Hill and Wayne Meyer	John Petersen and Mike Messenger
<b>2/24/21</b>	Acolyte Duty and Scripture Reader:	Kail Heiden	<b>Wednesday Lenten Service</b>
<b>7p Service</b>	Ushering:	Tony & Jessica Heiden	
<b>2/28/21</b>	Acolyte Duty and Scripture Reader:	Lauren Honken	Cassandra Boyum
	Ushering:	Mike & Robin Honken	Darren Boyum
		Brendon Honken	Lowell Rasmussen

# FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 10a- Worship Posted Online 4:30p Worship Committee Mtg. 5:30p Coffee House Worship — Fellowship Hall	<b>2</b> 1p Ladies Bible Study	<b>3</b> 9a Men's Helping Hands 9a Ladies Mission Project 5p Homework & Heroes 6p Education Committee Mtg 6:30 p Confirmation 7:30p Guest Speaker w/ Dessert	<b>4</b> 10a RCLW Bible Study- Quilting Room	<b>5</b> Office Closed	<b>6</b>
<b>7 Boy Scout Sunday</b> <b>Supper Bowl of Caring</b> 8a Worship w/ Communion 9:15a Worship w/ Communion, Live Streamed, Ladies Choir 10:15a Sunday School in Classrooms 10:30 a Annual Meeting in Sanctuary 11a Praise Team	<b>8</b> 10a Worship Posted Online 1p Quilting 5:30p Coffeehouse Worship— w/Communion, Fellowship Hall	<b>9</b> 1p Ladies Bible Study	<b>10</b> 9a Men's Helping Hands 9a Ladies Mission Project 5p Homework & Heroes 6p Youth Committee Mtg 6:30p Confirmation 7:30p Guest Speaker w/ Dessert	<b>11</b> 5p Martha Circle- Quilting Room <i><b>*Note change in time, place*</b></i>	<b>12</b> Office Closed	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8a Worship 9:15a Worship, Praise Team, Live Streamed, Coffee & Fellowship to follow in Basement 10:15a Sunday School, Bible Study 11a Praise Team	<b>15</b> 10a Worship Posted Online 5:30p Coffee House — Fellowship Hall 6:30p Membership Committee	<b>16</b> 1p Ladies Bible Study	<b>17 ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 9a Men's Helping Hands 9a Ladies Mission Project <b>NO Confirmation</b> 7p Lenten Service	<b>18</b> 9:30a Ruth's Circle Carol Jeffers Hosts Quilting Room 1:30p Hannah Circle	<b>19</b> Office Closed	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 8a Worship w/ Communion 9:15a Worship w/ Communion, Live Streamed, Coffee & Fellowship to follow in Basement 10:15a Sunday School, Bible Study 11a Praise Team	<b>22</b> 10a Worship Posted Online 5:30p Coffee House Worship— w/Communion, Fellowship Hall	<b>23</b> 1p Ladies Bible Study	<b>24</b> 9a Men's Helping Hands 9a Ladies Mission Project 6:00p Confirmation 7p Lenten Service	<b>25</b> 8a-3p Fellowship Hall Reserved	<b>26</b> Office Closed	<b>27</b>
<b>28a</b> Worship 9:15a Worship, Live Streamed, Coffee & Fellowship to follow in Basement 10:15a Sunday School, Bible Study 11a Praise Team PM-Fellowship Hall Reserved						

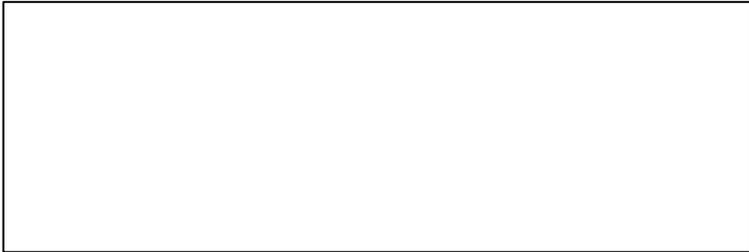
**Rushford Lutheran Church**

Physical Address: 101 S Mill Street, Rushford, MN

Mailing Address: PO Box 399, Rushford, MN 55971

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**RUSHFORD LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**FEBRUARY 2021 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: [stevechellew@gmail.com](mailto:stevechellew@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)**

**2021 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**PHONE**

**EMAIL ADDRESSES**

Mike Messenger, Council Chair, Youth .....	864-2174 .....	<a href="mailto:mike@rushfordmfg.com">mike@rushfordmfg.com</a>
Shari Michel, Vice Chair, Education .....	875-2818 .....	<a href="mailto:sharimichel@r-pschools.com">sharimichel@r-pschools.com</a>
Dean Hatlevig, Council Treasurer, Finance, Membership .....	864-7001 .....	<a href="mailto:dhatlevig65@gmail.com">dhatlevig65@gmail.com</a>
Vicki Nelson, Council Secretary, Worship .....	864-2027 .....	<a href="mailto:nelson@acegroup.cc">nelson@acegroup.cc</a>
June Vitse, Human Resources .....	864-7876 .....	<a href="mailto:jvitse@mienergy.coop">jvitse@mienergy.coop</a>
Amy Luhmann, Membership .....	864-3121 .....	<a href="mailto:ageiwitz@acegroup.cc">ageiwitz@acegroup.cc</a>
John Munter, Properties .....	429-2969 .....	<a href="mailto:johnmunter@yahoo.com">johnmunter@yahoo.com</a>
Jim Bernier, Finance, Endowment.....	261-4991 .....	<a href="mailto:jrbernier@hotmail.com">jrbernier@hotmail.com</a>
Barbara Johnson, Scholarship .....	421-5472 .....	<a href="mailto:johnson.barbara4@mayo.edu">johnson.barbara4@mayo.edu</a>