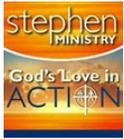




# RUSHFORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

## JANUARY 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.



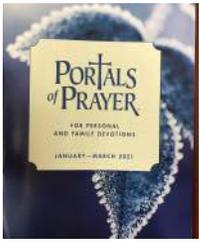
The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,  
and be gracious to you;  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you  
and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

## ***Annual Meeting of the Congregation Set***

Rushford Lutheran Church will be having their Annual Meeting of the Congregation on **Sunday, February 7th, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.** An official notice will be mailed in a few weeks.

## Portals of Prayer



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

(January—March)

### Dear Wonderful Church Family, Friends & Other Family,

This is a very long, long over due note of thanks. Eldon and I cannot say thank you enough for all the prayers, cards, words of encouragement, and FOOD!! It has all been appreciated. Also, for Pastor Steve's visits.

For the first two months, I sat with a straight leg and very little movement. Then the doctor said I could bend it to 40 degrees. So I worked at that and then he said I could put weight on it. Well, I thought I was going to go home and walk. That did not happen until time and my PT worker that came to the house and we worked at it. Now I can get around fairly comfortable with my walker and am very pleased.

Eldon is doing well after his gallbladder surgery, so our household is getting back to some normal.

So we would like to say "Thank You" again.

"I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength." Phil 4:13

We would also like to wish each and every one of you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!

God Bless All,

Eldon & Carolyn Jonsgaard



## PASTOR'S CORNER

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8 (ESV)

Well, the year 2020 is finally done. And most of us are saying: good riddance. And it wasn't just the pandemic, as if that were not enough. 2020 began with fires that raged across Australia, and then in our own West. It was also a record season for hurricanes, even if the damage was minimal. And then mid-summer, police activity that snowballed into riots in our own Twin Cities, and then throughout America. And throughout the year, political leadership, or lack thereof (both state and federal), culminating in one of the most nail bighting elections in decades. And through it all this unseen, un-predictable virus plugging along, silently taking away friends and family. Oddly enough in May, when we thought we had got through the worst, we had no clue then that the worst was yet to come.

Jesus, of course, is the same, yesterday, today and forever. As the writer of Hebrews reminds us. But how we worshipped him in 2020 was one of the many changes we had to get use to. Unfortunately, our stats in our church's annual report this year won't really reflect reality. Oh, the financial figures will be solid, as giving remained solid through the entire year.

(Thanks!) But what we don't know and can't really count is how many people worshipped and remained worshipping through the year. Do the "view counts" on You Tube accurately reflect worship attendance? Did the change to live-streaming our worship services toward the end of 2020 really help? What are the real numbers when so many of us still must stay at home instead of returning home to church?

I try really hard to not let the numbers game keep me awake at night. For as I think I already mentioned, Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and forever. Indeed, the church, Christ's bride on earth, has been through worse, much worse, than the year 2020. Pandemics and plagues, wars and communist take-overs, and of course persecution. No, not so much here in America, but nearly everywhere else the Christian church worships in the world. Indeed, it's good to remember that there really have been times when "going to church" could



result in your arrest and imprisonment, confiscation of your home and land, and your death, in the arena, by wild animals.

Yes 2020 has been stressful, but it was not the worst the church has ever endured. And so

*Jesus Christ  
is the same yesterday  
and today and forever.  
Hebrew 13:8*

often the church went through their own worst when it had much less resources to deal with it. And as we begin a new year, we continue to "live stream" worship. And record it for those who want to watch later. We continue to wear our masks going in and out of the building, social distance and sanitize. We continue to refrain from shaking hands, and passing the plate, and passing the peace. And you know? We are okay. We are okay. No, it's not good. But we have endured 2020, and we will continue to endure.

And you know why? Because Jesus (did I mention this already?), Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Which means he always was and always will be the same. The same Lord we worshipped together a year ago, and God willing, the same Lord we will be worshipping together very soon. In the meantime, we keep our eyes on him. Jesus that is. And because of that, because our eyes are on something that does not change, we look forward to a New Year. A New Year with Jesus.

In Christ's Loving Service,

*Pastor Steve*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Attention RLC Committee Chairs:** Your annual reports need to be received in the church office by January 14. Thank you!

**Alley Parking:** To allow for safe and efficient snow removal in alleyways in the city of Rushford, vehicles will not be allowed to be 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 resume on Sunday, January 3rd, 2021 at 10:15am.** (At the time this article was written, it was yet to be determined if classes will meet all together in the sanctuary or in separate classrooms.)

**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 give your offering or contribution to 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.

### **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

RLCW 2021 Yearbook is now available.

### Mark your calendars:

First meeting is planned for April 7th at 1:30 p.m.

Quilting will take place on January 11th at 1:00 p.m.



## FAMILY EDUCATION

### Happy New Year!

Are you happy that 2020 is over? Are you able to think of anything good that happened in 2020? I would much rather reflect on the good things than the bad. Some good things that happened for me was that I bought a new house and my son, Jarrett, graduated from high school. Both of those events have brought me joy. I hope that all of you have something from 2020 that brought you joy.

Many of us aren't happy. There are many days I don't feel happy at all. But Jesus never wanted us to be happy. He never said that. He didn't want us to be unhappy either, but happiness was never what Jesus focused on. He wanted more for us. The Bible offers joy, not happiness. Expecting to be happy all the time completely neglects the fact that life is pretty hard. There are times I don't even know if I can make it to the next day. You will be rejected. You will fail. You will go through hardships and struggles, and you will never be 100% happy. You are going to suffer and suffer *a lot*.



Just look at Jesus' life. When his friend Peter denied him, his friend Judas betrayed him, and the Romans nailed him to a cross, he accepted it and let them do it. This doesn't mean you should simply let things just happen to you. But if you're unhappy, it means that what you're going through is normal and doesn't mean that there's something wrong with you. Just because Jesus was God, didn't mean he didn't suffer. Jesus knows something that we often neglect these days: life stinks, almost all the time except for a few savoring moments. Jesus never said don't be happy, but he never said to be happy either. When he said to love your neighbor, that meant that even if you don't like someone and are having

a horrible day, it's still on you to treat people with respect and like you would want to be treated. You're not going to feel fulfilled about yourself by seeking happiness, making money or having people like you – no, you feel fulfilled by you, and if you believe in God, you feel fulfilled by God and acting like a follower of God.

No person feels good all the time. The point of faith is that you get something a lot greater than happiness. You get a feeling of exceptional meaning and purpose knowing that you gave everything you could to others even when you didn't feel like it. I work hard and to be honest, I don't always like my jobs in the moment. I sometimes feel like I'm doing a horrible job at meeting deadlines, or preparing lessons, or rushing through the cares of a resident, or lacking at spending quality time with my family, but I always finish the day feeling like I gave everything I could on that day. And perhaps that's how we should focus on feeling every single day – like we did our best and gave it our all, even if we felt like it wasn't enough to make us happy. That's how we're going to find meaning above happiness...and joy.

A special thank you to the 7th grade students for your participation in the Advent services for the month of December. You did a fantastic job in helping us to celebrate Advent to spiritually prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas.



We hope you enjoyed the virtual Christmas program. Thank you to the 5<sup>th</sup> graders who read the Christmas story to us and acted out the scenes. And thank you to the families that submitted answers to the questions. And a HUGE thank you to Kristin for putting it all together! It will be something that can be watched and treasured for years to come.

**Classes resume on Sunday, January 3rd, 2021 at 10:15am.** (At the time this article was written, it was yet to be determined if classes will meet all together in the sanctuary or in separate classrooms.)

We encourage the students to bring an offering each week. While no student is required to bring an offering, we want to teach children that giving is part of Christian life. This offering goes right back to our Family Education program or to a charity. It helps provide the curriculum, Bibles, catechisms, music, supplies, snacks, and many other things needed to ensure the children enjoy attending Sunday school each week. It helps in our mission to bring God's Word into the lives of each student.

When the children are not able to give a monetary offering, we ask them to offer a prayer, write down a good deed, ask God for help, or share any other thoughts they'd like to with God and put it in their offering envelope. This makes it possible for all of them to participate in the offering.

The Family Education committee meets the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00pm.

Please feel free to join us or contact us with ideas or concerns.

May the Lord give you love that warms your heart, hope that lights your way, and joy that fills your home this day and through the year!

God Bless You,

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



## CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

**December 14, 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 & Prayer Concerns-Vicki Nelson: Love/Light in His Presence
2. Adoption of Agenda-MA
3. Secretary's Report: November Minutes-MA
4. Treasurer's Report: MA
  - a. Update on PPP Loan: Application for forgiveness of loan is being submitted this week.
  - b. \$30,400 (Covid Protection) excess will be transferred to reserve fund if forgiven.
  - c. November Financials: Very strong. \$21,000 first week in December-above normal. The congregation

has raised enough money to pay Jerome.

d. Approval of 2021 General Budget: What was allocated and what was budgeted is a \$6,000.00 difference. \$30,000 will go to the Tower Project. Giving has been strong and positive. We only need to raise \$10,000 for Jerome in 2021. Should be complete in the spring. The stain glass window total cost is \$120,000 (\$20,000-per window). In savings, \$12,500 for the windows. Otherwise, any changes are very minimal.

5. Pastoral Report: MA
  - a. 2<sup>nd</sup> week of November-Covid spike; phone calling-14 homebound members; 2 private communions; 4 hospital visits; 1 Baptism-Aviana Agrimson on 11/8/20.
  - b. Christmas Eve: 3 services: 3:00; 5:00 & 7:00-all livestreamed.
6. Unfinished Business:
  - a. Update on Technology Update 2020-Livestreaming is underway. It is working very well. Comments-video and sound quality is much better; better quality to see the screen. Views during worship-30; total count has jumped as well. Everything that is livestreamed; will be on RLC Webpage You tube.
  - b. Restoration of Building Update-Pray for Jerome-health
  - c. 2020 Benevolence Distribution – Worksheet MA (\$34,000) is what is in the bank.
7. New Business:
  - a. Set Annual Meeting Date-February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall
  - b. Approve Annual Meeting Agenda & Date: MA
  - c. Employee's Reviews: 2021 Spreadsheet and Budgets-MA
8. Committee Reports: MA
9. Motion to Adjourn: MA

## DECEMBER CASH SUMMARY REPORT

<b>Balance brought forward 11/1/2020</b>	<b>\$17,981.73</b>
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<b>\$37,423.50</b>
DISBURSEMENTS	<b>\$34,453.69</b>
<b>TOTAL ON HAND 11/30/2020</b>	<b>\$20,951.54</b>



## WORSHIP LEADERS FOR JANUARY

Worship led by Pastor Steven Chellew

Altar Guild: Ellen Eide, Bobbi Jo Eide, Ruth Peterson

Organist: Shary Evavold

Pianist : Portia Lee

Projectionists: Lisa Chellew, Beatty Darr, Linda Lea, Becky Stocker, Steve Burdey

Videographers: Barb Johnson, June Vitse, Jeremy Tesch, Dean Hatelvig

## Virtual Christmas Program

The 2020 Sunday School Christmas Program was held virtually, which was fitting of the times. If you haven't had a chance to see it, you can watch it at [rushfordlutheran.com](http://rushfordlutheran.com) anytime!

		8:00 Worship	9:15 Worship
1/3/21	Acolyte Duty and Scripture Reader: Ushering:	Tesh Kopperud  Marv Bestul and Claire Olstad	Madison Rhodes Christine Anderson Louie Boehmke and John Campe
1/10/21	Acolyte Duty and Scripture Reader: Ushering:  Special Music	Camdon Anderson-Ingram Andrew & Leandra Duneman Dennie Darr and Gordy Elliott	Aubrey Ingvalson Casey & Shannon Ingvalson Tom Kopperud and Jim Bernier Praise Team
1/17/21	Acolyte Duty and Scripture Reader: Ushering:	Emerson Bunke Dustin & Becky Bunke Carrol Hill and Wayne Meyer	Jordan Zibrowski Josh & Karen Zibrowski John Petersen and Mike Messenger
1/24/21	Acolyte Duty and Scripture Reader: Ushering:	Isaac Oian Steven & Toni Oian Brendon Honken	Gibson Darr Bruce & Tina Darr Lowell Rasmussen
1/31/21	Acolyte Duty and Scripture Reader: Ushering:	Daisy Darr Bruce & Tina Darr Angela Shepard & Marlene Boehmke	Beatty Darr Bruce & Tina Darr Donna Boyum & Ilene Larson

# JANUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Office Closed	2
<b>3</b> 8a Worship w/ Communion 9:15a Worship w/ Communion, Live Streamed 10:15 a– Sunday School	<b>4</b> 10a– Worship Posted Online 4:30p Worship Committee Mtg. 5:30p Coffee House Worship w/ Communion—Fellowship Hall	5	<b>6</b> 9a Men’s Helping Hands 9a Ladies Mission Project 6p Education Committee Mtg 6:30 p Confirmation	7	8 Office Closed	9
<b>10</b> 8a Worship 9:15a Worship, Praise Team, Live Streamed 10:15a– Sunday School	<b>11</b> 10a Worship Posted Online 1p Quilting 5:30p Coffeehouse Worship—Fellowship Hall 6:30p Finance Committee Mtg 7p Council Mtg	12	<b>13</b> 9a Men’s Helping Hands 9a Ladies Mission Project 6p Youth Committee Mtg 6:30p Confirmation	14 2020 Committee Reports DUE in office	15 Office Closed	16
<b>17</b> 8a Worship w/ Communion 9:15a Worship w/ Communion, Live Streamed 10:15a– Sunday School	<b>18</b> 10a Worship Posted Online 5:30p Coffee House Worship w/ Communion—Fellowship Hall 6:30p Membership Committee	19	<b>20</b> 9a Men’s Helping Hands 9a Ladies Mission Project 6:30p Confirmation	21	22 Office Closed	23
<b>24</b> 8a Worship 9:15a Worship, Live Streamed 10:15a– Sunday School	<b>25</b> 10a Worship Posted Online 5:30p Coffee House Worship Fellowship Hall	26	<b>27</b> 9a Men’s Helping Hands 9a Ladies Mission Project 6:30p Confirmation	28	29 Office Closed	30
<b>31</b> 8a Worship 9:15a Worship, Live Streamed 10:15a– Sunday School						

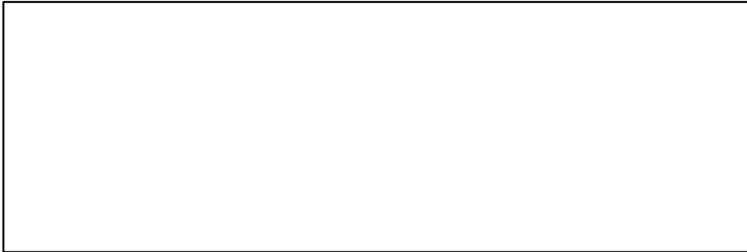
**Rushford Lutheran Church**

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**RUSHFORD LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**JANUARY 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*

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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**

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