

# THE GOOD NEWS



MARCH 2025 | CHRIST CENTERED | BIBLE BASED | FAMILY FOCUSED | MISSION MINDED

## Worship SERVICES

### SUNDAYS

8 A.M. AND 9:15 A.M.  
COMMUNION 1ST & 3RD SUNDAYS.

### MONDAYS

5:30 P.M.  
COMMUNION FOLLOWING  
1ST & 3RD SUNDAYS

### RECORDED SERVICES

CAN'T MAKE SUNDAY SERVICE?  
ALL 9:15 A.M. SERVICES ARE POSTED  
TO THE CHURCH'S YOUTUBE SITE



Fourth graders recited the Apostles Creed as part of their memory work at the 9:15 a.m. service on Sunday, February 23.

## Join us for MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES & POTLUCKS

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5 @ 7 p.m.  
The service includes Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

Lenten potlucks are Wednesday nights starting Wednesday, March 12.  
Potlucks are at 5:30 p.m. with the Lenten Midweek service at 7 p.m.

Our Lenten series is Words that Last Forever, the seven sayings of Jesus from the cross. Lent is a time of repentance and renewal. Join us for our Lenten journey to the foot of the cross.

## PASTOR'S CORNER

On her way to the guillotine, Marie Antoinette, a French aristocrat, stepped on her executioner's foot. Thus, her last words, the last thing she said before she died, was simply: "Pardonnez-moi, monsieur."

As he was dying, Alfred Hitchcock said, "One never knows the ending. One has to die to know exactly what happens after death, although Catholics have their hopes."

Basketball great "Pistol" Pete Maravich collapsed during a pickup game. His last words: "I feel great."

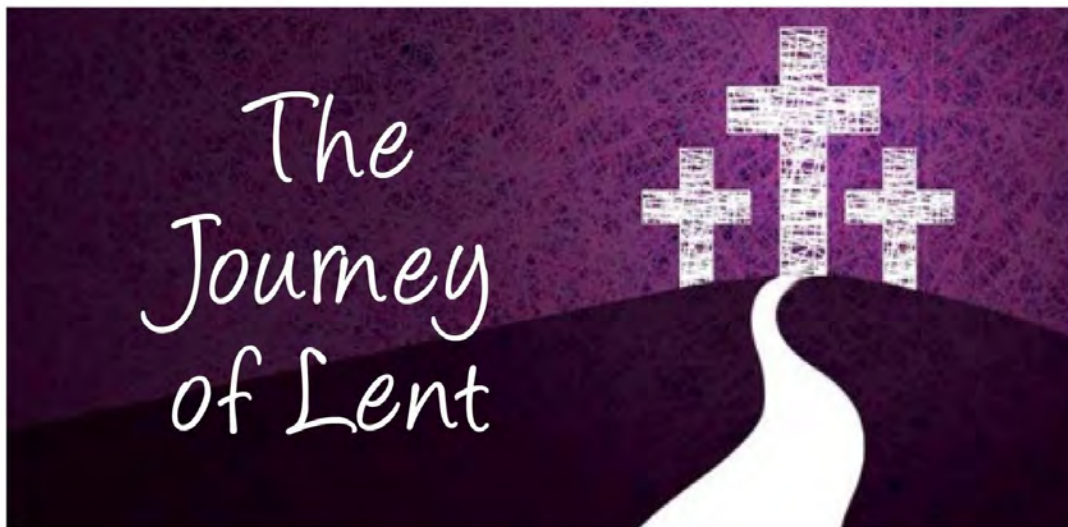
Then, of course, there is Groucho Marx. As Groucho was dying, he let out one last quip: "This is no way to live!"

I found these famous last words on a website called "Mental Floss." Honestly, I was hoping for something a little more, inspiring? The website listed 65 so-called famous last words. Here is just one more to help make my point:

In her 2014 memoir, Ginger Alden revealed Elvis Presley's final words before his death in 1977. During a night of sleeplessness, Presley told Alden, "I'm going to the bathroom to read."

It's kind of the icing on the cake, isn't it?

Over the course of six hours on Good Friday, Jesus died on the cross. Leaving us with not just a few "famous last words" but seven of them. Seven phrases



Jesus spoke during his six-hour torment on the tree—words with meaning and purpose. Many of the words are quoted directly from scripture. Words that help us better understand the depth of his sacrifice, the height of Jesus' love for you and me:

Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.

Today you shall be with me in paradise.

Woman, behold, thy son! Behold, thy mother!

My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

I thirst.

It is finished.

Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.

During our Lenten journey, starting March 5, Ash Wednesday, we will be looking at these famous last words in two different ways. We will hear a chancel drama on Wednesday evenings to help us better reflect on what Jesus said. Then, on Sundays, we will unpack the meaning of the previous week's "Word" a little deeper during the regular sermon.

These Words, Jesus' Words, truly are Words that Last Forever. And words that are worthy of us knowing, thinking about and remembering. Words that help us know Jesus just a little better. And, of course, Jesus' love for you and me.

In Christ's Loving Service,

*Pastor Steve*

Okay, okay, here's just one more. Richard B. Mellon, a multimillionaire, was the president of Alcoa (Aluminum). He and his brother Andrew had a little tag game going for about seven decades. When Richard was on his deathbed, he called his brother over and whispered, "Last tag." Andrew remained "it" for four years until he died. (mentalfloss.com)

### RUSHFORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

101 South Mill Street, PO Box 399, Rushford, MN 55971

507-864-7152

Office Hours: Monday– Thursday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

[www.rushfordlutheranchurch.org](http://www.rushfordlutheranchurch.org)

**PASTOR** Steven Chellew

507-703-1221 (cell), [stevechellew@gmail.com](mailto:stevechellew@gmail.com)

**CHURCH SECRETARY** Deanna Honsey, [rlc@acegroup.cc](mailto:rlc@acegroup.cc)

**FAMILY EDUCATION DIRECTOR** Brittany Agrimson

507-459-9600, [brittany2284@gmail.com](mailto:brittany2284@gmail.com)

**YOUTH & CHOIR MINISTRY DIRECTOR** Kristin Burdey

507-459-0731, [kristinburdey@gmail.com](mailto:kristinburdey@gmail.com)

**CUSTODIAN** David Hinz





**“If the earth is fit for laughter then surely heaven is filled with it. Heaven is the birthplace of laughter.”**  
**-Martin Luther**

If I had every page in this newsletter to use, I would still run out of room to sing the praises of “Church Basement Ladies” (CBL). Birthed out of an idea to raise money for the mission trip in a way that didn’t have students selling frozen pizzas, CBL ended up being both a fundraiser and a FUN-raiser. To save space, I’ll just list a few of the high points:

**The Cast:** Every single actor was dropped straight from heaven. They were all so perfect for their part and brought such joy to the show. Many nights we prayed together, and every night we laughed til our sides ached.

**The Crew:** So many people contributed their technical skills and knowledge, as well as equipment, props and set pieces. Turning a church basement into a space suitable for a full-scale theatrical production was no small feat, but with help from within and without the church, it came together beautifully!

**The Teamwork:** Each member of the mission trip committee had a specific role for CBL: set-building, meal-planning, to name a few. Seeing the different teams in action made me so excited for the mission trip--such teamwork! Such coordination! Such hard work and sacrifice for the greater good of our young people. Most involved have never worked on a musical before, so there was a lot of “on-the-job-training,” but that is the exact skillset we will need while being servants of Christ on the mission trip and each day of our life.

**The Community:** Numerous congregations in our community are represented on this mission trip, and it is beautiful to see them all coming together to support



Photos courtesy of Craig Johnson



the cause! RLC and DLC are spearheading these efforts, but our brothers in Christ were also buying the tickets and the advertisements, making donations and spreading the word. Although we laughed mightily at the Catholic versus Lutheran jokes in the show, there were no real hard feelings. The beauty of unity and community was on full display at each performance. And so many came from surrounding communities, driving miles in a snowstorm to enjoy an evening in the church basement.

There is always a bittersweet feeling when a show ends. You’re happy to have your life back, after months of rehearsing every night of the week, but you feel a huge void. With CBL, it is more bitter than sweet. We bonded mightily and will remain friends forever; I know the cast will be praying for all of the students on the mission trip, and probably for the rest of their lives. I already miss sitting around the table with our scripts and stories, but I know this story isn’t over. Thank you to everyone that helped with and supported this adventure!

-- Kristin Burdey





February was a great month to focus on service to others. Our Sunday School classrooms made Valentine's Day cards to send to Good Shepherd Nursing Home. We had our annual Pancake Breakfast served by our Confirmation students. Thank you to everyone who came down and had fellowship during the pancake breakfast and donated to the youth group. We had such a great turn out!

If you have any questions regarding Family Education/Sunday School, please do not hesitate to reach out to Brittany Agrimson, Family Education Director, 507-459-9600, brittany2284@gmail.com.

## Dates to Save

MAR  
9

**Seventh-grade** students recite the Beatitudes during the 9:15 a.m. church service.

MAR  
23

**Sunday School choir** sings and the **second and third-grade** students recite the Ten Commandments at the 9:15 am church service.

MAR  
30

**Preschool and kindergarten** students shop at Rushford Foods for the Food Shelf as a part of the March Food Share Program.

APR  
13

**Sunday School choir** sings and Palm Branch processional at the 9:15 am church service on Palm Sunday.

APR  
20

Easter Sunday. **No Sunday School.**

APR  
27

The **fifth and sixth-grade** students recite the Books of the Bible at the 9:15 am church service. This is also **Confirmation Sunday.**

MAY  
11

Last Day of Sunday School and Mother's Day. **Grades 2-6** will recite the 23rd Psalm at the beginning of the 9:15 am church service.

MAY  
18

Graduate Recognition Sunday





# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

If you have any questions regarding youth events, Praise Team or adult choir, contact me: Kristin Burdey, Youth & Choir Ministry Director 507-459-0731, kristinburdey@gmail.com



"Lessons from the Ladies"  
Real-life church basement ladies Marcie Feine and Brenda Heimgartner shared wisdom and love with a wonderful bunch of students at youth group on February 23.



Brittany leads a game with junior youth and youth group students on Feb 23. The two groups overlap on the fourth Sunday of each month to build community and develop mentoring relationships between older and younger students.

## MARCH 9, MISSION TRIP REQUIRED MEETING FOR ATTENDEES @ 6 P.M.

## MARCH 9, YOUTH GROUP @ 6:30 P.M.

Special guest Kristen Ostrem. Kristen last visited us in 2023 before the West Virginia trip, and her message resonated with all in attendance. Come and see why she is one of our most requested speakers!

## MARCH 23, JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP @ 5:30 & YOUTH GROUP @ 6:30

## SUMMER SURVEY

Be on the lookout for a survey pertaining to the summer trip. Mt. Olympus as usual, or perhaps Valleyfair? We want your input before making plans!

SAVE THE DATE FOR  
**THE ROYAL BALL**  
SUNDAY, MAY 4  
AT RUSHFORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Royal Ball is a delightful opportunity for children to dress up, dance with princesses, play games and so much more!

\*More Details to Come\*

# MUSIC NEWS

The hymn of the month for March is "I Am Not My Own" by Skye Peterson. Inspired by the Heidelberg Catechism, this song is a beautiful reminder for believers that our lives belong to Christ, and our identity and true freedom are found in him.

""The One who made the heavens, made my heart and soul  
Before I drew a breath, I was loved and known  
I am His creation, the Maker's masterpiece  
And all that He designs will be done in me"

# WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

March 5 & March 19 at 6 p.m. Feel free to come when you are able -- you are not required to attend every Bible study to take part with this group!



## COMING SOON!

Living Color plant sales! This highly-anticipated plant sale supports youth activities throughout the year. Students will begin selling in mid-March until April 6. Plants will arrive mid-May.



# CHURCH COUNCIL

## PRESIDENT

Jessica Heiden, 507-951-1643  
jess.heiden@gmail.com

## VICE PRESIDENT

Robin Honken, 507-429-0056  
honkenrobin@gmail.com  
Human Resources Committee

## SECRETARY

Heather Larson, 507-450-0334  
heatherklarson@gmail.com  
Scholarship Committee

## TREASURER

Cory Feine, 459-4628  
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Ben Anderson, 715-338-1100  
benjamin.anderson.2.ba@gmail.com  
Youth Committee

Jim Bernier, 507-261-4991  
jrbernier@hotmail.com  
Endowment Committee

Adam Brennan, 507-459-0688  
ajbno7@gmail.com  
Education Committee

Amy Luhmann, 507-864-3121  
amyluhmann8@gmail.com  
Membership Committee

Scott Nielsen, 507-993-5696  
sanoutdoors@gmail.com  
Worship Committee

# Church Council Meeting Highlights February 17, 2025

*Below are abbreviated board minutes. Complete board minutes are available by contacting the church office.*

- New council members Adam Brennan and Ben Anderson were welcomed.
- The minutes of the January meeting were approved.
- A detailed financial report for January was reviewed and approved.
- Pastor Steve provided an overview of Council and other responsibilities.
- The election of officers was held with the following being elected to serve as officers:
  - President - Jessica Heiden
  - Vice President - Robin Honken
  - Secretary - Heather Larson
  - Treasurer - Cory Feine
- Following the election of officers, the committee representatives were established and approved.
- Installation of Church Council will be held on Sunday, March 2 at the 9:15 service.
- Pastor Steve provided a report for the month of January which included one member hospital visit and 13 homebound visits.
- Available committee reports were reviewed.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 17 at 6:30 p.m.

## JANUARY CASH SUMMARY

<b>Balance brought forward 12/31/2024 .....</b>	<b>\$11,880.98</b>
<b>Total receipts .....</b>	<b>\$56,939.69</b>
<b>Total disbursements .....</b>	<b>\$65,929.29</b>
<b>Cash balance as of 1/31/2025 .....</b>	<b>\$ 3,891.38</b>

## MARCH WORSHIP LEADERS

		8 A.M. WORSHIP	9:15 A.M. WORSHIP	
<b>MARCH 2 COMMUNION</b>	Readers: Ushers:	Vicki Nelson Marv Bestul, Claire Olstad	Tanner Thesing Louie Boehmke, John Campe, Eric Stocker	<b>PASTOR</b> Steven Chellew
MARCH 5 ASH WEDNESDAY, 7 P.M.	Readers: Ushers:	Shari Michel		<b>ORGANIST</b> Shary Evavold, Portia Lee, Robyn Steffens
<b>MARCH 9 COMMUNION</b>	Readers: Ushers:	Pam Nielsen Dennie Darr, Gordy Elliot	Alex Oian Jim Bernier, Tom Kopperud	<b>FAMILY EDUCATION DIRECTOR</b> Brittany Agrimson
MARCH 12 LENT, 7 P.M.	Readers: Ushers:	Deb Holm		<b>YOUTH &amp; CHOIR MINISTRY DIRECTOR</b> Kristin Burdey
MARCH 16	Readers: Ushers:	READER NEEDED Kerry Heiden, Wayne Meyer	Issak Feine Ben & Alicia Anderson, Mike Messenger, Chad Steffens	<b>ALTAR GUILD</b> Deb Heiden, Kathy Ingram, Joyce Miler
MARCH 19 LENT, 7 P.M.	Readers: Ushers:	Deb Holm		<b>PROJECTIONISTS</b> David and Andrea Brand, Lisa Chellew, Donny Kjos, Becky Stocker
MARCH 23	Readers: Ushers:	READER NEEDED Brendon Honken, Dale Evavold	Tanner Thesing Milford Paulson, Lowell Rasmussen	<b>VIDEOGRAPHERS</b> David and Andrea Brand, Barb Johnson, Jeremy Tesch, June Vitse
MARCH 26 LENT, 7 P.M.	Readers: Ushers:	Deb Holm		
MARCH 30	Readers: Ushers:	READER NEEDED RLCW	Lauren Volkman RLCW	

# MARCH 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<b>2</b> 8a & 9:15a Worship w/ Communion, Coffee & Fellowship to Follow in Basement 9:15a Installation of Council 10:15a Bible Study 10:15a Sunday School 11:15a Praise Team	<b>3</b> 4:30p Worship Committee 5:30p Coffee House Worship w/ Communion	<b>4</b>	<b>5 ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 9a Ladies Mission Work 9a Men's Helping Hands 5p Choir Practice 6p NO Confirmation Class 6p Women's Bible Study 7p Lenten Service	<b>6</b> 10a Bible Study w/Pastor	<b>7</b> Office Closed	<b>8</b>
<b>9 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS</b> 8a & 9:15a Worship, Coffee & Fellowship to Follow in Basement 10:15a Bible Study 10:15a Sunday School 11:15a Praise Team 6p Mission Trip Attendee Meeting 6:30p Youth Group	<b>10</b> 1p Quilting 5:30p Coffee House Worship 6:30 Membership Committee	<b>11</b> 6p Mission Trip Sub-Committee Meeting	<b>12</b> 9a Ladies Mission Work 9a Men's Helping Hands 5p Choir Practice 5:30p Lenten Potluck 6p Confirmation Class 7p Lenten Service	<b>13</b> 5 p.m. Martha Circle	<b>14</b> Office Closed <div style="background-color: #800080; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">             Ignite Youth Leadership Conference           </div>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 8a & 9:15a Worship w/ Communion, Coffee & Fellowship to Follow in Basement 10:15a Bible Study 10:15a Sunday School 11:15a Praise Team	<b>17</b> 1p Pastor at Bremmer Suites & GSLH 1:30p Priscilla Circle 5:30p Coffee House Worship w/Communion 6:30p Church Council	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9a Ladies Mission Work 9a Men's Helping Hands 5p Choir Practice 5:30p Lenten Potluck 6p Confirmation Class 6p Women's Bible Study 7p Lenten Service	<b>20</b> 9:30a Ruth Circle 1p Miriam Circle 1:30p Hannah Circle 5p Martha Circle	<b>21</b> Office Closed	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 8a & 9:15a Worship, Coffee & Fellowship to Follow in Basement 10:15a Bible Study 10:15a Sunday School 11:15a Praise Team 5:30 Junior Youth Group 6:30 Youth Group	<b>24</b> 5:30p Coffee House Worship	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9a Ladies Mission Work 9a Men's Helping Hands 5p Choir Practice 5:30p Lenten Potluck 6p Confirmation Class 6p Family Education Committee 7p Lenten Service	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Office Closed	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 8a & 9:15a Worship, Coffee & Fellowship to Follow in Basement 10:15a Bible Study 10:15a Sunday School 11:15a Praise Team	<b>31</b> 5:30p Coffee House Worship					

**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, MN



Next RLCW meeting is April 2 at 1:30. Program is Miriam Circle. Lunch is Martha Circle. Sunday morning coffee for March is Adah Circle.

**THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS**

If you have life insurance or financial products with Thrivent Financial, you likely also have "Choice Dollars" waiting to be allocated to your favorite charitable organization (hint, hint, that's us!) Designations need to be made before the end of March. There is no cost to you, other than the time it takes to log into your Thrivent Financial account and follow the prompts to allocate this "free money." As a fraternal benefit society, Thrivent gives away buckets of money every year. Why not keep it close to home by allocating it to your home congregation? If you need assistance accessing your account, our local Thrivent Financial Advisor, Jeff Metz, is available at 507-450-4317. (Or you can contact Thrivent at 800-847-4836, [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice).)



**RLC Servanthood Scholarship**

Rushford Lutheran Church's high school seniors planning to attend a technical school or college in the fall of 2025 can apply for the Rushford Lutheran Church Servanthood Scholarship. For an application, please email the church office at [rlc@acegroup.cc](mailto:rlc@acegroup.cc).

**The application must be returned to the church office on or before Monday, April 7, 2025. Get your application today by emailing [rlc@acegroup.cc](mailto:rlc@acegroup.cc)**

No late applications will be considered. The amount of the scholarship is determined by a point system. The criteria is based on:

1. Interview (punctuality/appearance);
2. Question responses;
3. Church involvement;
4. Community involvement; and
5. Application appearance.



Maximum scholarship will be \$500 with minimum of \$100. Please take this into consideration when you return your application.