

THE GOOD NEWS



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



Sunday School Choir singing at the 9:15 a.m. service on March 23.

Join us for MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES/POTLUCKS & AN EASTER CELEBRATION

WEDNESDAYS APRIL 2 & 9. 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.

MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 17
Service with communion at 7 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 18
Service at 7 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 20
Services at 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. with communion

EASTER SUNDAY BREAKFAST
SERVED AT 7 A.M. & 9 A.M.
Proceeds go towards stained glass



PASTOR'S CORNER

As we anticipate celebrating this month the two greatest days of the church calendar, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, perhaps a short meditation on the word “cross” would be helpful.

First off, the word “cross” is very expansive. Obviously, when used at church, our first thought is to the cross Jesus hung upon. Or as the dictionary puts it: “a structure consisting essentially of an upright and a transverse piece, used to execute persons in ancient times.” (Dictionary.com) Jeff Michel and I talked about the dimensions of such a cross to hang in the Fellowship Hall a month or so ago. Today, we have a striking example made of walnut and maple, a way to enhance our worship and even perhaps our fellowshiping in that place.

But again, the word “cross” means so much more, including the X or signature of a person unable to write it. It's also used in boxing: a left jab followed by a right cross. In plumbing: a four-way joint or connection. In farming: a crossbreed produced by mixing plant or animal breeds. In theatre: to move from one side of the stage to the other. In stock trading: when a single broker simultaneously sells and purchases a block of stock. In astronomy: the Southern Cross, made famous by none other than Crosby, Stills, and Nash.

To cross someone is to make that someone an enemy. Then again, a crossing guard can be a child's best friend. But when we double-cross a person, we know the relationship is over (shades of Judas here). Sometimes, people just don't seem to know when they have crossed the line. This, too, of course, is simply the cross we must bear. But honestly, all of this negative talk is making me

a bit cross. So please, as I ramble on, don't get cross with me. Once we get across this part, I know where we need to go.

Crux. That is where it began. In the Latin word *crux*, from which we get crucial. And yes, of course, crucifixion. The crux of the matter is also the heart of the matter. The basic, decisive, pivotal point. Which brings us back to the beginning. Good Friday and Easter Sunday are the two great days of the Christian calendar year—the crux of Christianity. Neither is possible without the cross—the pivotal point of mankind, history, and our faith.

Jesus famously said: “Pick up your cross and follow me.”

Specifically, what he said was:

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” (Matthew 16:24–25 ESV)

Jesus knew by then that his destiny was the cross. An actual cross, the cross of Calvary. But he also knew that for those who would believe in him, for all those who would choose to follow him, they too would have a cross to bear. Knowing that, as a Christian, is crucial. To know that there are times, indeed, likely multiple times each and every day, that we stand at a crossroads. Deciding which way to go. To cross the road and go another way, that is, the easier, much simpler way. Or to follow the one who bore our cross. That is, to bear our own cross in his name.

That truly is the essence of the word, is it not? For you to see, the cross is not simply a large wooden pole used to execute persons in ancient times. The cross is a crossroad. A way of life, a way of living. A daily choice to follow. And knowing that, my friends, is crucial to your faith. Little better. And, of course, Jesus' love for you and me.

In Christ's Loving Service,

Pastor Steve



RUSHFORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

www.rushfordlutheranchurch.org

PASTOR Steven Chellew

507-703-1221 (cell), stevechellew@gmail.com

CHURCH SECRETARY Deanna Honsey, rlc@acegroup.cc

FAMILY EDUCATION DIRECTOR Brittany Agrimson

507-459-9600, brittany2284@gmail.com

YOUTH & CHOIR MINISTRY DIRECTOR Kristin Burdey

507-459-0731, kristinburdey@gmail.com

CUSTODIAN David Hinz

WELCOME

to Rushford Lutheran Church

NEW MEMBERS



Glen Boynton



Caitlyn Speece, Jamison Eichacker,
Tessie, Bella & Aaron Speece



Tarini Eggert



James & Virginia LaCroix



Richard & Pam Johnson



Danielle & Mya Kingsley



to Rushford Lutheran Church Council



Seventh grade teachers.



Seventh graders recited the Beatitudes.



Seventh grade teachers.



Junior Youth Group.



Ten Commandments recited by the second and third grade students.



Junior Youth Group.

March was filled with memory work, music and mixing up the teachers.

Our **seventh grade** students taught the preschool and kindergarten class about a lesson. They did a great job of acting this out. Then the preschool and kindergarteners were able to join in on the lesson.

The **fifth and sixth grade** students taught the first grade class about a lesson of their choosing. It was great to watch the older students teaching the younger students.

The **seventh grade** students recited the Beatitudes on March 9. They did such a fantastic job!

The **second and third grade** students recited the Ten Commandments on March 23 after the Sunday School choir sang. They also did an outstanding job at their memory work.

A reminder to **Confirmation** students and parents to sign up for the Feed My Starving Children event that takes place on Saturday, April 5. Check your email for more details or please reach out to Brittany directly.

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.



The birthday party we had to celebrate that God gave you a birthday.

DATES TO SAVE



Feed My Starving Children event for **Confirmation** students.



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



Easter Sunday. **No Sunday School.**



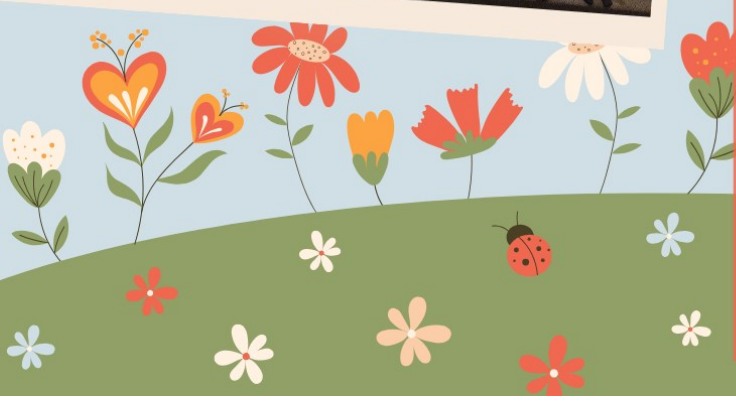
The **fifth and sixth-grade** students recite the Books of the Bible at the 9:15 am church service. This is also **Confirmation Sunday.**



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.



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



PLANT SALE - ORDERS DUE APRIL 6

Living Color plant sales happening now until April 6. Order from a student or youth committee member. Plants will arrive mid-May.

APRIL 13, MISSION TRIP @ 6 P.M.

APRIL 13, YOUTH GROUP @ 6:30 P.M.

APRIL 27, JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP @ 5:30 P.M. & YOUTH GROUP @ 6:30

MEMORIAL URNS - ORDERS DUE MAY 4

RLC Youth is working in partnership with Rushford Ace Hardware to prepare memorial urns for local cemeteries. For \$50, students will fill your planter with fresh dirt, geraniums, petunias and greens, and deliver to local cemeteries. You must provide the urn. Representatives will be taking orders Sunday mornings at church, or contact Kristin Burdey or Andrea Brand for more information. Orders are due by May 4.

MAY 4, FILLMORE COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S DINNER

This is the second annual dinner and will be held in conjunction with the Royal Ball. Carryout meals will be available from 4:30-6 p.m. in the narthex. There are limited tickets available, so plan ahead to get your ribeye steak sandwich meal to support youth activities throughout the year.

REVIEW OF IGNITE CONFERENCE

The Ignite Youth Leadership Conference was a wonderful experience for the 24 students and leaders that attended March 14-15 in Des Moines. Featuring big-name presenters such as Levi Lusko and Bob Smiley, this conference has something for everyone on your team. Attendees choose three breakout sessions on the topics they want to learn more about, and the whole group attends worship sessions together in the sanctuary with a thousand other teenagers. This is the fourth year students from RLC have attended the perpetually sold-out event. This year we spent the night at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Urbandale, Iowa, along with two other youth groups. They were wonderful hosts, providing late night entertainment like basketball and nine-square in their gorgeous facilities. Although we all came home a little sleep-deprived, we were filled with a fresh fire for the things of God. Thank you for supporting our students!

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

CHURCH COUNCIL

PRESIDENT

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Education Committee

Amy Luhmann, 507-864-3121
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Membership Committee

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

Church Council Meeting Highlights March 17, 2025

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

- The minutes of the February meeting were approved.
- A detailed financial report for February was reviewed and approved.
- Pastor Steve provided a verbal report which included the following:
 - Overview of the monthly activities for February included the funeral service for Edgar Evenson and 19 homebound visits.
- The lightning strike continues to be discussed. The dollar amount for the items damaged has not yet been finalized.
- An update will be completed on the organ.
- New RLC members accepted and approved: Cody, Grace and Lila Coulter, and Diane Darrington.
- Available committee reports were reviewed.

The next meeting will be held on April 21 at 6:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY CASH SUMMARY

Balance brought forward 1/31/2025.....	\$ 3,891.38
Total receipts	\$41,868.00
Total disbursements.....	\$43,684.95
Cash balance as of 2/28/2025	\$ 2,074.43

APRIL WORSHIP LEADERS

		8 A.M. WORSHIP	9:15 A.M. WORSHIP	
APRIL 2 LENT, 7 P.M.	Readers: Ushers:	Deb Holm		PASTOR Steven Chellew
APRIL 6 COMMUNION	Readers: Ushers:	Mark Reisetter Marv Bestul, Claire Olstad	Mannix Darr Louie Boehmke, John Campe, Eric Stocker	ORGANIST Shary Evavold, Portia Lee, Robyn Steffens FAMILY EDUCATION DIRECTOR Brittany Agrimson
APRIL 9 LENT, 7 P.M.	Readers: Ushers:	Deb Holm		YOUTH & CHOIR MINISTRY DIRECTOR Kristin Burdey
APRIL 13 PALM SUNDAY	Readers: Ushers:	Pam Nielsen Dennie Darr, Gordy Elliot	Haylee Eddy Jim Bernier, Tom Kopperud	ALTAR GUILD Barb Johnson, Karen Nelson, Vicki Nelson
APRIL 17 MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION 7 P.M.	Readers: Ushers:	Pam Nielsen		PROJECTIONISTS David and Andrea Brand, Lisa Chellew, Donny Kjos, Becky Stocker
APRIL 18 GOOD FRIDAY, 7 P.M.	Readers: Ushers:	Carol Jeffers		VIDEOGRAPHERS David and Andrea Brand, Barb Johnson, Jeremy Tesch, June Vitse
APRIL 20 EASTER SUNDAY 8 A.M. & 10 A.M. SERVICE COMMUNION	Readers: Ushers:	Carol Jeffers Kerry Heiden, Wayne Meyer	Cayne Eide Ben & Alicia Anderson, Mike Messenger, Chad Steffens	
APRIL 27	Readers: Ushers:	READER NEEDED Brendon Honken, Dale Evavold	READER NEEDED Milford Paulson, Lowell Rasmussen	

APRIL 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 9a NO Ladies Mission Work 9a Men's Helping Hands 1:30p RLCW w/ Luncheon 5p Choir Practice Class 5:30 Lenten Potluck 6p Confirmation Class 6p Women's Bible Study 7p Lenten Service	3 10a Bible Study w/Pastor	4 Office Closed	5
6 8a & 9:15a Worship w/ Communion, Coffee & Fellowship to Follow in Basement 10:15a Bible Study 10:15a Sunday School 11:15a Praise Team	7 4:30p Worship Committee 5:30p Coffee House Worship w/ Communion	8 6:30p A Lifetime Gift	9 9a Ladies Mission Work 9a Men's Helping Hands 5p Choir Practice 5:30 Lenten Potluck 6p Confirmation Class 6p Youth Committee 7p Lenten Service	10 5p Martha Circle at RLC	11 Office Closed	12
13 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 Meeting 6:30p Youth Group	14 1p Quilting 5:30p Coffee House Worship 6:30 NO Membership Committee	15	16 9a Ladies Mission Work 9a Men's Helping Hands 5p Choir Practice 6p NO Confirmation Class 6p Women's Bible Study	17 MAUNDY THURSDAY 9:30a Ruth Circle 1p Miriam Circle 1:30p Hannah Circle 7p Maundy Thursday Service w/Communion	18 GOOD FRIDAY Office Closed 7p Good Friday Service	19
20 EASTER SUNDAY 7a & 9a Easter Breakfast 8a & 10a Worship w/ Communion, Coffee & Fellowship to Follow in Basement	21 1p Pastor at Bremmer Suites & GSLH 1:30p Priscilla Circle 5:30p Coffee House Worship w/Communion 6:30p Church Council	22	23 9a Ladies Mission Work 9a Men's Helping Hands 5p Choir Practice 6p Confirmation Class 6p Family Education Committee	24	25 Office Closed	26
27 8a & 9:15a Worship, Coffee & Fellowship to Follow in Basement 10:15a Bible Study 10:15a Sunday School 11:15a Praise Team 2p Rite of Confirmation 5:30 Junior Youth Group 6:30 Youth Group	28 5:30p Coffee House Worship	29	30 9a Ladies Mission Work 9a Men's Helping Hands 5p Choir Practice			

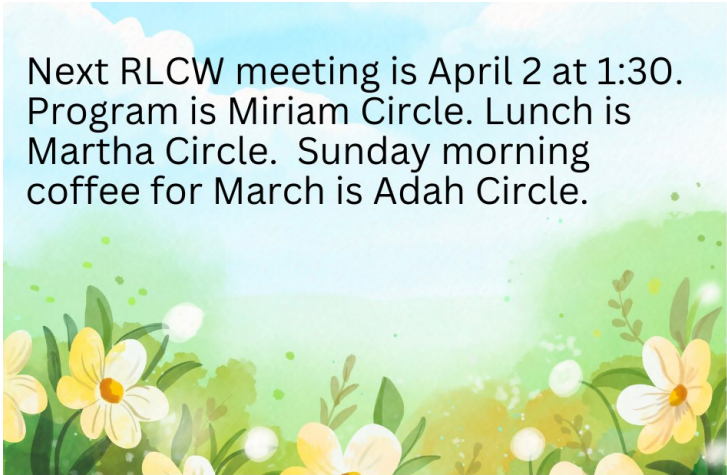
Rushford Lutheran Church

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Mailing Address: PO Box 399, Rushford, MN 55971

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

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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.



Thank you!

Thank you, Jeff Michel for designing and crafting a new cross for our Fellowship Hall. The Fellowship Hall is our second "sanctuary" at RLC, used for worship almost every Monday night at 5:30 p.m. The cross is made from maple and walnut wood.

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.

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.

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.