

THE GOOD NEWS



DECEMBER 2024 | CHRIST CENTERED | BIBLE BASED | FAMILY FOCUSED | MISSION MINDED

MERRY *Christmas*

Wishing you a Merry Christmas from
all of us at Rushford Lutheran Church

Staff: Brittany Agrimson, Kristin Burdey, Steve Chellew, Shary Evavold,
David Hinz, Deanna Honsey, Portia Lee and Robin Steffens.

Council: Jim Bernier, Steven Burdey, Cory Feine, Jessica Heiden,
Robin Honken, Heather Larson, Amy Luhmann, Scott Nielsen and
John Petersen.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DECEMBER 22 AT 11 A.M.

The Congregation is invited to the Christmas program put on by
the Sunday School students. Lunch with birthday cake and
refreshments will be served after the program.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES DECEMBER 24 3:30 P.M., 5:30 P.M & 10 P.M.

All services are candlelit. All services are broadcast live on
YouTube at Rushford Lutheran Church.

PASTOR'S CORNER

Do you remember your grandmother? How about your great-grandmother? Great-great-grandparents? How far back do your family memories go? How far back does your family tree go?

My daughter, Caity, has taken a sudden interest in our family lineage. Like most family trees, it has a few nuts and bananas. (Sorry, bad pun.) And I'm sure you feel the same about yours. One of my aunts has a whole catalog of names, dates and places. She has done her homework. Another aunt took the time to visit the homeland in Cornwall, England, looking for grave markers with the name "Chellew" on them. Fascinating, sort of. In a very creepy way.

Meanwhile, Caity is busy cataloging and digitizing family photos. She even found some portraits I never knew existed. More likely, they are pictures I have long forgotten about, which is the puzzle piece of tracing your ancestry. You have to have enough memory of who, when and where to track down the real who, when and where, which means you have to remember just enough to refresh your old memories. But sooner or later, you'll begin to realize that so much more has been forgotten through the years than can ever be remembered, at least by yours truly.



Jesus has the longest family ancestry of any person I know. Indeed, the Gospel of Matthew begins with all of the "begats." Matthew 1:1-2 (KJV)¹ "The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham."² Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren..." And on and on it goes. Seventeen verses just listing Jesus' dead ancestors. Matthew takes it all the way back to Abraham. Luke does it one better by bringing it all the way back to Adam. And then, of course, to God. Luke 3:38 (ESV)³ the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

How is that for a family tree? A tree that God himself planted.

And one of the names in both Matthew and Luke's long lists is a man named Boaz. Here, Matthew breaks the protocol just a bit. But for a very good reason. Here again, is just a slice of Matthew's list (1:5-6)⁵ "...and Salmon the father of Boaz by

Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse,⁶ and Jesse the father of David the king."

Women are listed in the list! Of course, it doesn't seem scandalous to us today, but it was back then. And not just women – but Rahab. A prostitute. And then Ruth. A foreigner. A Moabite. Women of ill repute. Except for the fact that we have a book of the Bible named for one of them, the woman Ruth. And, of course, Ruth is pretty much why Jesus was born in a little town called Bethlehem, the home of Ruth's mother-in-law, Naomi. Ruth, one of Jesus' great-great-great...great-great-great grandmothers.

And how that all happened is a beautiful story. A family story. Jesus' family story, and thus, our family story as well! A story we are going to tell during the season of Advent, the first four Sundays in December. Ruth – Redeeming Love. Maybe you can't remember who your great-great grandmother was. If not, that's okay. But once you hear the story of this woman named Ruth, a woman who was willing to sacrifice everything she had for the sake of love, you'll know a little bit more about Jesus. And I think you'll remember Ruth. And the fact that Jesus had a family and a family tree. A tree that God himself planted!

In Christ's Loving Service,

Pastor Steve

RUSHFORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

www.rushfordlutheranchurch.org

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FAMILY EDUCATION DIRECTOR Brittany Agrimson

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YOUTH & CHOIR MINISTRY DIRECTOR Kristin Burdey

507-459-0731, kristinburdey@gmail.com

CUSTODIAN David Hinz



New church website

Rushford Lutheran Church is excited to announce our newly redesigned website. It can be found at www.rushfordlutheranchurch.org. The site was developed with a more modern look and feel, brighter colors and images that show the beauty of our church and church family. It will also provide a more user-friendly experience for those seeking information about our church. From the homepage, you can easily access the current week's bulletin, watch the service online and find information about how to give back to the church. It's easy to find the church's mission, contact information, calendar, worship times, family education, youth, music and much more. Forms will be available online for easy access and a photo gallery of our youth and church events. Please update any bookmarks you have set to reflect the new site, <https://www.rushfordlutheranchurch.org>.

The site was designed by SMG Design, of Preston. Thanks also to Pastor Steve, Deanna, Kristin and Brittany for creating the content and their commitment to maintaining it so all current and prospective church members have a resource to rely on for all news and information related to the church.

Grief Support Group

Need some help and encouragement after the death of a loved one?

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life. We know it hurts, and we want to help. Open to all community members.

Rushford Lutheran Church
Wednesdays at 6 p.m.
Multi-Purpose/Quilting Room

Becky Stocker 507-923-9051 | Glen Kopperud 507-458-6894



Rushford Lutheran Church Women's meeting highlights November 6, 2024

- The next meeting is December 4 at 1:30 p.m. This is the Christmas Cheer meeting with each circle preparing a dish for lunch. Martha Circle has the program.
- Sunday morning coffee served by Ruth (1st), Adah (8th), Hannah (15th) and Miriam (22nd) circles. No coffee Dec. 24 or 25.

President Bean welcomed everyone and turned the program over to the Adah Circle. Ione Olstad gave devotions from James 1 and read several humerus readings. She then shared a reading on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and closed with prayer. The group then sang "Jesus Loves Me." For the second month our speaker was unable to attend because of an unscheduled work conflict.

President Bean opened the business meeting. The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report balance was \$7,703.61.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Ushers are needed for the fifth Sunday in December. Faye Heiden and Bean Boehmke volunteered for the 8 a.m. service and Donna Boyum and Sandy Skalet will do the 9:15 a.m. service. Circles are asked to prepare a financial report for the December meeting. Circles drew for bringing either sandwiches, salads or dessert for the Christmas potluck. Also, a reminder of the \$10 gift exchange for those wishing to participate.

Announcements: Birthdays and anniversaries were noted and prayer requests received.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. We prayed the Lord's Prayer and sang the Table Prayer. Lunch was served by the Ruth Circle.



P3-First Grade Memory Work

At the end of November, our preschool through first-grade students recited the Lord's Prayer at the 9:15 a.m. church service. This is a part of our Memory Builders Program. They did a fantastic job.

Our second and third-grade students also worked hard on their service project this month. They went up to Good Shepherd Lutheran Home and decorated a tree in the Multipurpose Room.

Christmas program practice is in full swing. The students have been working hard to make the program memorable this year! The Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 22 at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary. After the program, there will be a meal served in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate Jesus' birthday!

December will be full of Christmas Program practice during the Sunday School hour for the preschool through fifth-grade students.



DATES TO REMEMBER

- 1 DEC** 6th & 7th graders shop for SEMCAC Christmas tags at 10:15 a.m.
- 14 DEC** 4th & 5th graders have dress rehearsal at 4 p.m. and then ride in the Parade of Lights at 7 p.m.
- 22 DEC** Sunday School Christmas Program at 11 a.m. with meal to follow.
- 29 DEC** NO Sunday School

If you have any questions regarding Family Education/Sunday School, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Brittany Agrimson, Family Education Director
507-459-9600, brittany2284@gmail.com

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

RLC Youth won the award for Best Dressed Trunk for the third year in a row at ECFE Trunk or Treat with their Barbie-themed trunk. Youth dressed as a variety of Barbies and Kens and handed out candy on October 28.



Thank you to everyone that bought a plant from students during the Blooms of Blessing campaign. Beautiful plants, courtesy of Root River Floral, were delivered to every resident at Good Shepherd, Bremer Suites, and the Good Shepherd Apartments, plus a few extras.

Students had a packing party on November 10 for Operation Christmas Child. Thank you to June Vitse and Heather Larson for letting us share in this wonderful ministry!



IGNITE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

MARCH 14-15, 2025

Early bird registration is now open for students seventh grade and up! We will be staying at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Urbandale, Iowa.

\$75 will cover your ticket and lodging for the event. Sign up after February 1 and the price will go up to \$100. Contact Kristin to sign up before it sells out!

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

Note to watch the RLC Youth Facebook page and email for further details about upcoming events

DEC 9 @ 4 P.M. | Baking Night

It's the second annual youth group baking night! With a host of seasoned bakers coming to lead, students will get to try making lefse, krumkake, rosettes, and all kinds of other Christmas cookies and treats! Perfect night to come for the first time and/or invite a friend!

DEC 15 @ 9 A.M. | Cookie Walk

It's the most highly-anticipated fundraiser of the year! All families are asked to bring two dozen baked goods (or more if you like!) to church by 8:45 a.m. Sunday morning. Dropoff Friday or Saturday is totally fine as well! Sales will begin at 9 a.m. and go until 11 a.m. or sold out. Proceeds support youth activities at RLC.

DEC 15 @ NOON | Movie Day at JEM

RLC and DLC Youth invite you to attend "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" at JEM Movie Theatre in Harmony. All ages are welcome to attend! This is our Christmas gift to the Congregation. Thank you for all of your support of youth programs at church! Based on the 1972 book by Barbara Robinson, this faith-based new release has gotten rave reviews. It is rated PG, and is 1 hour and 39 minutes long.

DEC 22 | Christmas Caroling

After the Christmas Program luncheon, join us for Christmas caroling at Good Shepherd.

DEC 27 @ 8 P.M. | Youth Lock-In

Our third annual youth lock in will take place on the Final Friday of 2024! Beginning at 8 p.m. and ending at 6 a.m., a jam-packed, fun-filled night will take place for grades 7-12. College students are invited to chaperone, as are any adults that are willing.

JAN 18-19 | Eagles Cancer Telethon

MUSIC NEWS

The teaching hymn for the month of December is "What Love My God" by CityAlight. *"What love my God would bring you down to earth? What king would take a low and lonely birth? Yet to this dark and broken place you came, to sleep beneath the stars that you had made."*

CHURCH COUNCIL

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Membership Committee
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993-5696, sanoutdoors@gmail.com
Worship Committee

Church Council Meeting Highlights November 18, 2024

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

- The minutes of the October meeting were approved.
- A detailed financial report for October was reviewed and approved.
- Pastor Steve provided a verbal report for the month of October which included:
 - Four member hospital and 14 homebound visits.
 - Baptism of Paige Louise Viljoen on October 19.
- The new church website is now live and has more information and capabilities. The domain is now www.RushfordLutheranChurch.org.
- An update was provided on the repairs and projects that have been completed due to the lightning strike.
- The benevolence giving was reviewed with the previously suggested amendments.
- The Nominating Committee will be seeking two members to serve on the council. Council terms are for three years.
- Spencer Majerus was accepted and approved as a new member of RLC.
- It was noted that the repairs have started on the stain glass window in the balcony.
- Available committee reports were reviewed.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 16 at 6:30 p.m.

OCTOBER CASH SUMMARY

Balance brought forward 9/30/24.....	\$ 2,474.91
Total receipts	\$42,175.18
Total disbursements.....	<u>\$42,850.51</u>
Cash balance as of 10/31/2024	\$ 1,799,58

DECEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS

	8 A.M. WORSHIP	9:15 A.M. WORSHIP	
DECEMBER 1 COMMUNION	Readers: Pam Nielsen Ushers: Marv Bestul, Claire Olstad, Claire Ione Shepherd	Tanner Thesing Louie Boehmke, John Campe, Donnie Kjos, Eric Stocker	PASTOR Steven Chellew ORGANIST Shary Evavold, Portia Lee, Robyn Steffens
DECEMBER 8	Readers: Vicki Nelson Ushers: Dennie Darr, Gordy & Bonnie Elliot	Lauren Volkman Andrea and David Brand, Jim Bernier, Tom Kopperud	FAMILY EDUCATION DIRECTOR Brittany Agrimson
DECEMBER 15 COMMUNION	Readers: READER NEEDED Ushers: Ben & Alicia Anderson, Kerry Heiden, Wayne Meyer	Mannix Darr Mike Messenger, John Petersen, Harlan Richards, Chad Steffens	YOUTH & CHOIR MINISTRY DIRECTOR Kristin Burdey
DECEMBER 22	Readers: READER NEEDED Ushers: Seth Cichoski, Brendon Honken, Dale Evavold	Haylee Eddy Milford Paulson, Lowell Rasmussen	ALTAR GUILD Lisa Chellew, Cindy Vitse, June Vitse
DECEMBER 24 3:30 PM CANDELIGHT	Reader: Pam Nielsen Ushers: John Campe, Jack Martinka		PROJECTIONISTS David and Andrea Brand, Lisa Chellew, Donny Kjos, Becky Stocker
DECEMBER 24 5:30 PM CANDELIGHT	Reader: Shari Michel Ushers: USHERS NEEDED		
DECEMBER 24	Reader: Lisa Chellew Ushers: USHERS NEEDED		VIDEOGRAPHERS David and Andrea Brand, Barb Johnson, Jeremy Tesch, June Vitse
DECEMBER 29	Readers: Lisa Chellew Ushers: RLCW	Cayne Eide RLCW	

DECEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8a & 9:15a Worship w/ Communion, Coffee & Fellowship to Follow in Basement 10:15a Bible Study 10:15a Sunday School 11:15a Praise Team	2 4:30p Worship Committee 5:30p Coffee House Worship	3	4 9a Men's Helping Hands 1:30p RLCW Christmas Cheer Meeting 5p Choir Practice 6p Confirmation Class 6p GriefShare Last Meeting 6p Family Education Committee	5 10a Bible Study w/Pastor	6 Office Closed	7
8 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8a & 9:15a Worship, Coffee & Fellowship to Follow in Basement 10:15a Bible Study 10:15a Sunday School 11:15a Praise Team 4p Youth Group Bake Night	9 5:30p Coffee House Worship 6:30 Membership Committee	10	11 9a Ladies Mission Work 9a Men's Helping Hands 5p Choir Practice 6p Confirmation Class 6p Youth Committee	12	13 Office Closed	14 4p 4th & 5th Grade Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal Followed by Parade of Lights at 7p
15 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8a & 9:15a Worship w/ Communion, Coffee & Fellowship to Follow in Basement 9a Cookie Walk 10:15a Bible Study 10:15a Sunday School 11:15a NO Praise Team 12p Movie at JEM	16 1p Pastor at Bremmer Suites & GSLH 1:30p Priscilla Circle 5:30p Coffee House Worship 6:30p Church Council	17	18 9a Ladies Mission Work 9a Men's Helping Hands 5p Choir Practice 6p Confirmation Class	19 9:30a Ruth Circle 1p Miriam Circle 1:30p Hannah Circle 5p Martha Circle	20 Office Closed	21
22 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8a & 9:15a Worship, Coffee & Fellowship to Follow in Basement 10:15a Bible Study 10:15a Sunday School 11a Sunday School Christmas Program with Meal to Follow 11:15a NO Praise Team 6:30p NO Youth Group	23 5:30p NO Coffee House Worship	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 3:30p, 5:30p & 10p Candlelit Services, Livestreamed, NO Coffee & Fellowship	25 CHRISTMAS DAY Office Closed NO Choir Practice NO Confirmation	26	27 Office Closed 8p Youth Lock-in	28
29 8a & 9:15a Worship, Coffee & Fellowship to Follow in Basement 10:15a NO Bible Study 10:15a NO Sunday School 11:15a NO Praise Team	30 5:30p Coffee House Worship	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE				

Rushford Lutheran Church

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P A I D

Permit No. 1

Rushford, MN



DON'T FALL FOR IT!

About every three months, scammers try to use the Church Council listing we provide publicly in our newsletter to solicit funds. A typical message sounds something like: "This is Pastor. I'm really busy right now. Would you please pick up some gift cards from local stores for our homebound members..." Or something to that effect. Please know that the pastor, staff members, or any of the members of the Council would never directly solicit funds from members, ask for gift cards, or ask for money in any way using e-mail. If you check the e-mail addresses carefully, you will see that they did not originate from the staff or Council person's actual e-mail, but from one that appears much like it. It is highly recommended that when you receive such solicitations, you block the sender. Don't fall for it!



Christmas POINSETTIAS

It's that time of the year, Root River Floral will be offering several sizes and colors of poinsettias this year. Confirm your order by December 2 by calling them at 864-2381.

\$9
red 4.5" pot

\$16
red & white 6.5" pot

\$27
red & white 7.5" pot

\$49
red & white 10" pot

Please let Deanna in the office know how you would like it listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

