

# THE GOOD NEWS



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



High school seniors will be recognized at the 9:15 a.m. church service on May 18. They will have breakfast with the Council at 8 a.m. Letters will be sent to the students and parents. Scholarship recipients will be recognized.

**Devin Anderson**  
**Jonah Bunke**  
**Emerson Bunke**  
**Braden Danielson**  
**Kail Heiden**  
**Issac Oian**



**You're invited!**

Annual Spring

## Salad Luncheon

Wednesday, May 21 | 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Rushford Lutheran Church  
Fellowship Hall

Cost is \$10

Hosted by the  
Rushford Lutheran  
Church Women



## PASTOR'S CORNER

To me, the month of May feels like icing on the cake. The cake being families, to stick to the analogy. Mother's Day, graduation day(s), the end of Sunday school, and the end of the school year are all occasions for families to gather. And quite often to eat cake. But we all know that the cakes are not why we gather. No, when we gather, we take the time to acknowledge our progress. To mark and remember significant family milestones. May is also when we change gears and schedules for summer. Not to be overshadowed by the rest of the celebrations, May ends with one more important family day, Memorial Day. Another day of gathering, marking, and, again, remembering.

All of this is true for our church family as well. As a worshipping community, in May and early June, we transition from the "Festival" season of the year to the long, green season of "Pentecostide." We, too, change gears. Three Sundays mark this change from Easter to "Ordinary" time: Ascension Day, the Day of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday. While families wrap their schedules around the school calendar, the church, traditionally, wraps itself around this liturgical calendar. Both of these are wrapped around the seasonal change of Spring into Summer. Thus the "green" of the season of Pentecost.

Now, perhaps this idea of gathering, marking and remembering is more than simply frosting, more than simply the pretty decorations we add to the cake of our family life. I recall conversations with families many years ago at my congregation in Napoleon, Ohio. Home renovations took place in the months leading up to a



confirmation or graduation celebration. The family could remember when "so and so" was confirmed or graduated as the year they remodeled the kitchen, added the new deck or turned the garage into a "man cave." Celebrating together as a family pushes us to do the things we wanted to do anyway. To provide for our families. To be family, that is.

Again, the same is true for us as church. Being "family-focused" is one of our core values here at RLC. Brittany, our family education director, and Kristin, our youth ministry director, create this family focus not simply through the calendar of activities they schedule, but by adding a "Christ-centered and Bible-based" mindset to family life. Our youth and children's ministries are also quite "Mission Minded." Whether that means collecting food for the local food bank or heading way off to Pennsylvania on a mission trip, through these actions, we are teaching our kids that being church means being Jesus to others.

And so yes, through the month of May, we gather, we mark, and we remember. It's been a busy year. It's been a good year. And it's been a fast year, which is something I would like to remind our families gently. Or, as my old friend Ferris Bueller once put it: "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."

Put some icing on that cake you call family. It's not just for decoration. It's a way to remember.

In Christ's Loving Service,

*Pastor Steve*

## 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



# Rushford Lutheran Church Women's meeting highlights April 2, 2025

- **The next meeting is May 7 at 1:30 pm. Priscilla Circle will have the program and Ruth Circle will have the lunch.**
- **Sunday morning coffee served by Martha Circle for the month of May.**
- **The salad luncheon is May 21st, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Vice-President Linda Paulson welcomed everyone and read a Lenten reading. She turned the meeting over to the Miriam Circle. Jeanette Colbenson did a reading "For The Believers Spring is Eternal."

Guest Speaker was Annette Skrukrud, a volunteer for Bundles of Love. She explained that this is a statewide Minnesota organization. It has been going for 20 and is 100% volunteers. They make and deliver "Bundles of Love" bags to

the newborn babies. Each bag contains 25-30 items. Skrukrud showed us all of the items that are included in a bundle, and they are designated for boys and girls. The website is [bundlesoflove.org](http://bundlesoflove.org)

Paulson opened the business meeting. Nan Becken read the secretary's report and it was approved. The treasurer's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report balance was \$3,722.50. Michelle asked for a motion to give the Rushford-Peterson School Foundation \$125 from the RLCW to be a general sponsor, with funds to be used for scholarships. The motion was made by Bean Boehmke and seconded by Nan Becken.

There was no old business.

New Business: Faye Heiden will be in charge of the Easter breakfast. The salad luncheon is May 21. Each

circle is asked to bring 6 salads, 3 pans of bars, 2 breads and deviled eggs. At the May meeting, we will have a sign-up sheet for workers. It was noted that we need to notify the other churches in the area.

Prayer Requests: Ilene Larson is now at the Good Shepherd Nursing Home. Chris Hoiland, Renee (Magaard) Kluis, Scott Bestul and Jacob Welti. Jeanette Colbenson had a joy that she is now cancer free. We had a moment of silent prayer.

Birthdays: Jeanette Colbenson and Ginny LaCroix

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 Martha Circle.



## IMPORTANT NOTICE

# ENDOWMENT FUND

Endowment funds are available to supplement significant purchases for the church. The funds are allocated for general purpose, the Sunday School program, organ upgrades/repairs and scholarships.

Annually, scholarships are paid out to students that apply through the Scholarship Committee. The Committee makes their choices and then submits a request to the Endowment Committee to pay for the allocated scholarships.

The organ fund just committed to funding the upgrades to the organ brought forward by the Worship Committee and Church Council. These upgrades will make the organ a digital player, similar to the Clavinova.

If you have any suggestions for utilization of these funds, please contact a church council member or a member of the Endowment Committee.

# Thank You

Thank you Faye Heiden and all who put in extra time to make Easter a very special day, including our worship servers, altar guild and Easter breakfast cooks and cleanup crews.







Confirmation students participating in Feed My Starving Children.



Our **Confirmation** students along with friends participated in Feed My Starving Children at the Winona High School. Thanks to all of the volunteers and donors the entire event packed 101,736 meals. That is enough to feed 278 children for an entire year.

April was full of blessings in the Sunday School classroom.

- Our **preschool** and **Kindergarten** classes went to Rushford Foods to shop for SEMCAC Food Shelf. The kids had a blast picking out food to purchase for others.
- For Palm Sunday, the students walked in church with palm branches during the opening hymn. They did a great job! During the Sunday School hour, the students watched a video that shared about how Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins. Then, they had a "cross hunt" which ended with goodie bags for all the students.
- Our **fifth and sixth-grade students** recited the Books of the Bible on April 27. This was part of our memory work for their classroom for the year.



Students at Rushford Foods shop for the SEMCAC Food Shelf.



On **May 11**, we will wrap up the Sunday School year with a fun filled hour with the **Rad Zoo!** Live reptiles and amphibians for the kids to learn about and even hold! During the 9:15 a.m. church service, the students will sing and the **second through sixth-grade students** will recite the **23rd Psalm**.

I pray that you have a blessed summer filled with relaxation and time with family!

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](mailto:brittany2284@gmail.com).



Palm Sunday

## DATES TO SAVE

**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 a.m. church service.

**MAY 18**

Graduate Recognition Sunday at the 9:15 a.m. service.

**SEP 7**

Rally Sunday for the 2025-2026 Sunday School year.



# 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



Students at youth group reflect on Holy Week stations prepared by Carlyn Wardwell.



## MAY 4, THIRD ANNUAL ROYAL BALL

The third annual Royal Ball for children will be held with a theme of "May the Fourth be With You" from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at RLC. There will be free admission for children of all ages, and many free activities, including a dance in the fellowship hall, games and stories. There will be ticketed items for cash only, including cotton candy, popcorn, and goodie bags.

## MAY 4, FILLMORE COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S DINNER

The Fillmore County Cattlemen's Association will be serving up ribeye steak sandwich meals from 4:30-6:00 p.m. on May 4. The \$15 meal will include a steak sandwich, chips, brownie, water and coleslaw. Carryout only. Tickets can be purchased in advance through youth group families, or online at [rlcyouth.ludus.com](http://rlcyouth.ludus.com). Proceeds go to support youth activities throughout the year.

## MAY 4, CEMETERY URN DEADLINE

The deadline to order your cemetery urn to be filled by the youth group in time for the holiday is May 4. For \$50, students will partner with Rushford Ace Hardware to fill your urn with flowers and deliver to local cemeteries. Contact Kristin for more info at 507-459-0731.

## MAY 18, YOUTH GROUP @ 6:30 P.M.

**WATCH FOR DETAILS ON A MEMEORIAL WEEKEND PICNIC FOR ALL AGES!**

## JUNE 17, VALLEYFAIR

Signup for the summer trip to Valleyfair will open May 5 for students completing grades 6-12. We meet at RLC at 8 a.m. and leave Valleyfair around 3 p.m. The cost is \$50/student; \$10 less for students that helped with Living Color flower sales and \$10 less for students that help with the Royal Ball/Cattlemen's meal. The price includes admission to the park AND the bus ride. Valleyfair has a waterpark as well as "dry" rides, so students should plan to bring a towel and/or extra clothes if they plan to use the waterpark. Valleyfair is CASHLESS. Students should plan to pack a lunch, bring electronic payment or purchase a meal plan online ahead of time. See their website for further details. Watch email for further info. Need not be a member of RLC to participate, or to qualify for the discounts.



Adult Choir & Praise Team on Easter Sunday



## THE ROYAL BALL 2025

**MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU**  
(AND ALSO WITH YOU)

**Sunday, May 4**

**Rushford Lutheran Church**

**3:00-5:00 PM**

**Free Admission!**

Princesses, dancing, cotton candy, games, and more for children of all ages! Some additional activities take cash.





## 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  
coryfeine@gmail.com

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 April 21, 2025

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

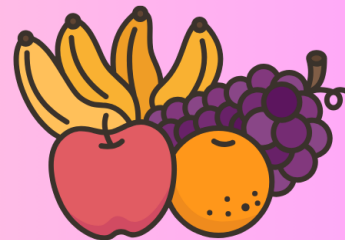
- The minutes of the March meeting were reviewed and approved.
- A detailed financial report for March was approved as presented.
- Pastor provided an overview of the pastoral acts completed for March: one hospital visit, 18 homebound visits and one baptism for Emily Lou Soppa.
- Lightning updates were provided on the following items:
  - Carillon will be looked at
  - Ceiling fans have been completely installed.
  - Sound and video system: Council received an educational tour regarding the current sound system.
- The organ project is anticipated to start soon.
- Discussion was held on holding an outside service this summer.
- Available committee reports were reviewed.

The next meeting will be held on May 19 at 6:30 p.m.

## MARCH CASH SUMMARY

<b>Balance brought forward 2/28/2025 .....</b>	<b>\$ 2,074.43</b>
<b>Total receipts .....</b>	<b>\$32,850.50</b>
<b>Total disbursements .....</b>	<b>\$29,004.24</b>
<b>Cash balance as of 3/31/2025 .....</b>	<b>\$ 5,920.69</b>

**Food Shelf Opportunity:** Prior to Covid, the Rushford Food Shelf received items like fresh produce and breads from HyVee in Winona. In order to resume this program, they need volunteer drivers on Sunday mornings. Food would be available for pickup between the hours of approximately 7:30 a.m. - 11 a.m., and would need to be returned to director Andrea Andresen in Rushford. If you are willing to be in a rotation to be an occasional driver, please contact Kristin! Senior volunteers may qualify for mileage reimbursement.



## MAY WORSHIP LEADERS

		8 A.M. WORSHIP	9:15 A.M. WORSHIP	PASTOR Steven Chellew
<b>MAY 4 COMMUNION</b>	Readers: Ushers:	Carol Jeffers Marv Bestul, Claire Olstad	Pam Nielsen Louie Boehmke, John Campe, Eric Stocker	<b>ORGANIST</b> Shary Evavold, Portia Lee, Robyn Steffens
MAY 11	Readers: Ushers:	Carol Jeffers Dennie Darr, Gordy Elliott	Portia Lee Jim Bernier, Tom Kopperud, David and Andrea Brand	<b>FAMILY EDUCATION DIRECTOR</b> Brittany Agrimson
<b>MAY 18 COMMUNION SENIOR RECOGNITION</b>	Readers: Ushers:	Pam Nielsen Kerry Heiden, Wayne Meyer	Deb Holm Mike Messenger, Chad Steffens	<b>YOUTH &amp; CHOIR MINISTRY</b> <b>DIRECTOR</b> Kristin Burdey
MAY 25	Readers: Ushers:	READER NEEDED Brendon Honken, Dale Evavold	Deb Holm Milford Paulson, Lowell Rasmussen	<b>ALTAR GUILD</b> Marlene Boehmke, Becky Stocker
				<b>PROJECTIONISTS</b> David and Andrea Brand, Lisa Chellew, Donny Kjos, Becky Stocker
				<b>VIDEOGRAPHERS</b> David and Andrea Brand, Barb Johnson, Jeremy Tesch, June Vitse

# MAY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10a Bible Study w/Pastor	2 Office Closed	3
4 8a & 9:15a Worship w/ Communion, Coffee & Fellowship to Follow in Basement 10:15a Bible Study 10:15a Sunday School 11:15a Praise Team 3p Children's Royal Ball 4:30p Cattlemen's Dinner Youth Fundraiser	5 4:30p Worship Committee 5:30p Coffee House Worship w/ Communion	6	7 9a Men's Helping Hands 1:30p RLCW Meeting 5p Choir Practice 6p Women's Bible Study	8	9 Office Closed	10
11 MOTHER'S DAY 8a & 9:15a Worship, Coffee & Fellowship to Follow in Basement 10:15a Bible Study 10:15a Last Day of Sunday School 11:15a Praise Team	12 1p Quilting 5:30p Coffee House Worship 6:30 Membership Committee	13	14 9a Ladies Mission Work 9a Men's Helping Hands 5p Choir Practice 6p Mission Meeting at Destiny Life Church	15 9:30a Ruth Circle 1p Miriam Circle 1:30p Hannah Circle 5p Martha Circle at RLC	16 Office Closed	17
18 SENIOR RECOGNITION 8a & 9:15a Worship w/ Communion, Coffee & Fellowship to Follow in Basement 9:15 Senior Recognition 10:15a Bible Study 11:15a Praise Team 6:30 Youth Group	19 1p Pastor at Bremmer Suites & GSLH 1:30p Priscilla Circle 5:30p Coffee House Worship w/Communion 6:30p Church Council	20 6p Youth Committee	21 9a Ladies Mission Work 9a Men's Helping Hands 11a RLCW Spring Salad Luncheon 5p Choir Practice 6pm Women's Bible Study	22	23 Office Closed	24
25 8a & 9:15a Worship, Coffee & Fellowship to Follow in Basement 10:15a Bible Study 11:15a Praise Team	26 MEMORIAL DAY Office Closed  5:30p NO Coffee House Worship 6:30p Property Committee Meeting	27	28 9a Ladies Mission Work 9a Men's Helping Hands 6p Family Education Committee	29	30 Office Closed	31

**Rushford Lutheran Church**

Physical Address: 101 S Mill Street, Rushford, MN

Mailing Address: PO Box 399, Rushford, MN 55971

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