

THE GOOD NEWS



Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ



FEBRUARY 2026 | CHRIST CENTERED | BIBLE BASED | FAMILY FOCUSED | MISSION MINDED

The RLC Praise Teams performed on January 18 at the 72nd Eagles Cancer Telethon in Rochester.

In addition to providing their singing and instrumental talents, they presented a check of \$1,000 from donations collected from the congregation.



Join us for
**MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES
& POTLUCKS**

FEBRUARY 18 | Ash Wednesday @ 7 p.m.
The service includes Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

FEBRUARY 25
MARCH 4
MARCH 11
MARCH 18
MARCH 25

■ SERVICES
7 P.M.
POTLUCKS
5:30 P.M.

PASTOR'S CORNER

As I hammered away at this year's Lenten series on the Parables of Jesus, one of the things I wondered about was "what are your favorites?" Not that it would have mattered, because my choice of the eight parables we look at during our Lenten Midweek Series did not come from a top-10 list. Six of the eight came from the Gospel of Matthew, as that is where our focus is on Sunday mornings. No, my question was simply one of curiosity.

Turns out, after a rather brief survey of websites, there really is no set list. The Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan most often appear toward the top, which is to be expected, due to their familiarity. But so does the Lost Sheep and the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant. Rather than a "best of the parables list" from Jesus, what I surmised was that a person's favorite parable tends to be a very personal thing. We all like particular parables. And we like them for our own particular reasons.

Personally, I like the one about the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. The one where we see two men praying at the temple. Both praying out loud and out in the open. The self-righteous Pharisee boasts of how righteous he thinks he is, and how thankful he is that he is not like other men. With a nod and a wink toward the Tax Collector. While the Tax Collector simply asks God for mercy. And of course, it is the Tax Collector who goes



home forgiven and blessed by God, simply because of his humble, receiving heart.

The Gospel writer Mark says: "Jesus did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything." (Mark 4:34, ESV) And Matthew adds: "All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world."

Honestly, if the point of a parable is to reveal that which is hidden, I think that I quite often may be missing the point. Yes, some parables seem really simple and clear. That is, until you really start to examine them closely. And then some seem quite complex, but again, are really quite simple up close. That is the nature of a parable. It tends to make sense to us when we are least expecting it. Or perhaps better yet, when we need to understand it the most.

Lent begins on February 18, with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday at 7 p.m. Wednesday evening services continue through Holy Week, the first week of April. Informal potlucks are held on Wednesday nights following Ash Wednesday, from February 25 to March 25, at 5:30 p.m. Easter falls in April again this year, on the first Sunday, April 5.

On Ash Wednesday, we will begin our Lenten journey with my second favorite parable, The Prodigal Son, which could quite easily be called the Parable of the Merciful Father. Or for that matter, the Parable of the Arrogant Older Brother. Again, depending on what you, my friend, might need to hear the most. Lent is a time of repentance and renewal. Join us for "The Parables of Jesus," our Lenten Midweek Series.

In Christ's Loving Service,

Pastor Steve

RUSHFORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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YOUTH & CHOIR MINISTRY DIRECTOR Kristin Burdey
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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
Tuesdays (March 3-May 12) 6-7:30 p.m.
Church Council Room

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



Make a donation February 8



RLC Sunday School will again participate in the annual Souper Bowl of Caring, part of the nationwide Tackle Hunger campaign. Wear a jersey of any kind to church! Soup kettles will be placed in the back of the church on Super Bowl Sunday (February 8), to collect monetary donations for our local food pantry at SEMCAC.

Church Council meeting highlights January 19, 2026

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

- The December minutes were approved
- A detailed financial report for the month of December was approved as presented.
- Overview of the pastoral acts completed for December: 3 hospital visits, 20 homebound visits, 2 baptisms (Cora Lynn Ziolkowski and Layah Ray Majerus) and 1 funeral (John Hoegh).
- Received an update from the nominating committee
- Reviewed the annual meeting agenda. The annual meeting will be held on February 8 at 11 a.m.
- An update and timeline for the necessary boiler replacement was provided.
- Available committee reports were provided for review.
- Acknowledgment and thanks were given to Amy Luhmann and Jim Bernier for their dedicated service during their six-year church council term.

The next meeting will be held on February 16 at 6:30 p.m.



As we got back into the swing of Sunday School, the students enjoyed Bible Bingo! We had such a great turn out! We look forward to the second half of the Sunday School year filled with singing in church, crafts, Camp Sunday, Palm Sunday, reciting memory work in church, and so much more!

Brittany Agrimson, Family Education Director
507-459-9600, familyeducation@rushfordlutheranchurch.org

Dates to Save

**FEB
1**

Decorate Valentine's Day cards for Good Shepherd Lutheran Home.

**FEB
8**

Souper Bowl of Caring - wear your favorite team jersey and bring donations for our local food shelf.

**FEB
22**

Sunday School Choir sings (grades PreK-5) and preschool students recite the Lord's Prayer at the 9:15 a.m. service. Annual Pancake Breakfast put on by our Confirmation students 8:30-11.

**MAR
8**

6th and 7th grade recite the Beatitudes at 9:15 a.m. service.

**MAR
22**

Sunday School Choir sings (grades PreK-5) and 4th and 5th grade recite the books of the Bible at 9:15 a.m. service. It's Camp Sunday! Learn about summer camp options students Kindergarten - 7th grade. Preschool students shop for the food shelf as a part of Food Share Month (weather pending).

**MAR
29**

Palm Branch processional during the 9:15 a.m. service. Easter celebration during Sunday School.





The RLC Youth and Adult Praise Teams and the Darr Family Band were once again a part of the Eagles Cancer Telethon, performing live on KTTC in the wee hours of Sunday morning. Thanks to contributions from RLC and its members, a check for \$1000 was presented in support of cancer research and patient care. Thank you to everyone that takes part in and supports this great cause each year!

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

FEBRUARY 8: GAME DAY!

Hosted by St. John's Lutheran Church in Hart, this community youth group event starts at 2:30 p.m. Meet at RLC at 2:15 p.m. to carpool or meet us there. Play some fun games and be home by the big game-RSVP appreciated for planning purposes.

FEBRUARY 22: PARABLES OF JESUS

This youth group series will cover Parable of the Lost Son Luke 15:11-32.

MARCH 13-14: IGNITE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

This event is SOLD OUT! RLC is at the top of the waiting list.

MONTHLY MISSION: HOMELESS SHELTERS

Let's support the ministries that take care of people experiencing homelessness this winter: The Winona Warming Center and The Landing. Requested donations are coffee, cereal, paper towels, Kwik Trip milk vouchers (WWC); individually wrapped snacks and "little luxuries" like perfumes/colognes; things that homeless people seldom get (Landing).



WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS

MARCH: Living Color flower sales

APRIL 19: Children's Royal Ball

July 6-9: Awaken the Wild Camp with DLC @ Whitewater State Park



ADULT CHOIR

NEW REHEARSAL TIME

Adult choir will be meeting Thursdays at 6 p.m. Upcoming performance dates February 1, February 18 (Ash Wednesday) and March 1.



YOUTH PRAISE TEAM

JOIN US!

Grades 7-12, meets Sunday mornings at 11:15 a.m. New members welcome to join! Upcoming performance dates February 8 and March 4.

TEACHING HYMN FOR FEBRUARY

"Jesus Calms the Storm" by Keith & Kristyn Getty.



"When my heart is filled with fear, like a stormy sky, Jesus says, 'Be not afraid'; He is at my side. There's a rock where I can go. Keeps me safe, and this I know-deep within my troubled soul Jesus calms the storm."

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

CHURCH COUNCIL

PRESIDENT

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Scott Nielsen, 507-993-5696
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Worship Committee



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, February 8 @ 11 A.M.
Fellowship Hall

Join us as we discuss past year expenses, budget for upcoming year, committee and program reports, and election of new Church Council members.

NO RLCW MEETING UNTIL APRIL | COFFEE WILL BE SERVED BY ADAH CIRCLE IN FEBRUARY

DECEMBER CASH SUMMARY

Balance brought forward 11/30/2025	\$ 2,673.44
Total receipts	\$72,202.02
Total disbursements	<u>\$66,757.87</u>
Cash balance as of 12/31/2025	\$ 8,117.59

FEBRUARY WORSHIP LEADERS

		8 A.M. WORSHIP	9:15 A.M. WORSHIP	
FEBRUARY 1 COMMUNION	Readers: Ushers:	Shari Michel Marv Bestul, Claire Olstad, Claire Shepard	Natalie Lindmeier Donny Kjos, Eric Stocker	PASTOR Steven Chellew ORGANIST Shary Evavold, Portia Lee, Robyn Steffens
FEBRUARY 8	Readers: Ushers:	Carol Jeffers Dennie Darr, Gordy & Bonnie Elliott	Johanna Oian Jim Bernier, Tom Kopperud, David and Andrea Brand	FAMILY EDUCATION DIRECTOR Brittany Agrimson YOUTH & CHOIR MINISTRY DIRECTOR Kristin Burdey ALTAR GUILD Joan Kinneberg, Jodi Skalet
FEBRUARY 15 COMMUNION	Readers: Ushers:	Mark Reisetter Kerry Heiden, Wayne Meyer	Ryder Messenger Mike Messenger, Chad Steffens	PROJECTIONISTS David and Andrea Brand, Lisa Chellew, Donny Kjos, Sandy Rasmussen, Becky Stocker VIDEOGRAPHERS David and Andrea Brand, Barb Johnson, Jeremy Tesch, June Vitse
FEBRUARY 18 ASH WEDNESDAY, 7 PM IMPOSITION OF ASHES & HOLY COMMUNION	Reader:	READER NEEDED		
FEBRUARY 22	Readers: Ushers:	Pam Nielsen Seth Cichoski, Dale Evavold, Brendon Honken	Haylee Eddy Milford Paulson, Lowell Rasmussen	
FEBRUARY 25 LENT, 7 PM	Reader:	READER NEEDED		

FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8a & 9:15a Worship w/ Communion, Coffee & Fellowship to Follow in Basement 10:15a Sunday School 10:15a Bible Study 11:15a Praise Team	2 4:30p Worship Committee 5:30p Coffee House Worship w/ Communion	3	4 9a Men's Helping Hands 6p Family Education Committee 6:30p Confirmation	5 10a Bible Study w/ Pastor 6p Adult Choir	6 Office Closed	7
8 SOUPER BOWL OF CARING DONATIONS & ANNUAL MEETING 8a & 9:15a Worship, Coffee & Fellowship to Follow in Basement 10:15a Sunday School 10:15a Bible Study 11a RLC Annual Meeting 11:15a Praise Team 6p Youth Group	9 1p Quilting 5:30p Coffee House Worship	10	11 9a Ladies Mission Work 9a Men's Helping Hands 6p Youth Committee 6:30p Confirmation	12 6p Adult Choir	13 Office Closed	14
15 8a & 9:15a Worship w/ Communion, Coffee & Fellowship to Follow in Basement 10:15a Sunday School 10:15a Bible Study 11:15a Praise Team	16 1p Pastor at Bremmer Suites & Good Shepherd 1:30p Priscilla Circle 5:30p Coffee House Worship w/ Communion 6:30p Church Council	17	18 ASH WEDNESDAY 9a Ladies Mission Work 9a Men's Helping Hands 6p NO Confirmation 7p Ash Wednesday Worship, Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion	19 9:30a Ruth Circle 1p Miriam Circle 1:30p Hannah Circle 6p Adult Choir	20 Office Closed	21
22 PANCAKE BREAKFAST 8a & 9:15a Worship, Coffee & Fellowship to Follow in Basement 8:30a Pancake Breakfast 10:15a Sunday School 10:15a Bible Study 11:15a Praise Team 6p Youth Group	23 5:30p Coffee House Worship	24	25 9a Ladies Mission Work 9a Men's Helping Hands 5:30p Lenten Potluck 6p Confirmation 7p Lenten Service	26 6p Adult Choir 7p Adult Praise Team	27 Office Closed	28

Rushford Lutheran Church

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P A I D

Permit No. 1

Rushford, MN



ANNUAL

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

February 22

8:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Fellowship Hall



**Pancakes
Sausages
Milk
Juice**

Served by RLC's
Confirmation students

Free will donation to support the RLC Youth Group