

THE GOOD NEWS



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



MT OLYMPUS

Water Park

RLC Youth made their way to Wisconsin Dells on Wednesday, June 24 to take on Mt. Olympus. It is a great way to start summer with a waterpark trip. Special thanks to our chaperones!



PASTOR'S CORNER



A few weeks ago, someone tried to convince me that we should change our national anthem. “The Star-Spangled Banner” is unsingable, was the gist of their argument. “America the Beautiful” is a much better choice, according to this person. Not only is it singable, but it’s also a beautiful song. I didn’t necessarily disagree, as far as the argument went. Although I doubt this person knew that “America the Beautiful” is actually considered a hymn. It’s found in our own Reclaim hymnal under the alternate title of “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies.”

**O beautiful for spacious skies;
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties,
Above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood,
From sea to shining sea!**

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

PASTOR Steven Chellew
507-703-1221 (cell), pastor@rushfordlutheranchurch.org

CHURCH SECRETARY Joyce Benson, rlc@acegroup.cc

FAMILY EDUCATION DIRECTOR Brittany Agrimson
507-459-9600,
familyeducation@rushfordlutheranchurch.org

YOUTH & CHOIR MINISTRY DIRECTOR Kristin Burdey
507-459-0731, kristinburdey@gmail.com

The author of the hymn is Katharine Lee Bates, who happened to be a pastor’s kid. Her father was a pastor in the Congregational church. Katherine followed the route of an English teacher, writing poetry, children’s stories, textbooks and travel books. Indeed, it was a trip to the top of Pike’s Peak, Colorado, in 1893, that inspired the four verses of the hymn. Another inspiration for Katherine was another Katherine. According to Hymnary.org: “She had an intimate relationship with Katharine Coman, dean of Wellesley, with whom she lived with for 25 years, until Coman's death.”

**O beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat,
Across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!**

So, would “America the Beautiful” be a better national anthem? Well, it certainly seems to address both the beauty and the agony of our great land. A land so rich in natural resources, political power, military strength, and of course, that great American ideal of “Manifest Destiny,” that sometimes we end up being our own worst enemy. Is it possible that our nation is actually too blessed? So far, we’ve had 250 years to try to figure out how best to use and temper the excessive resources and wealth we have. Unfortunately, it appears to be a lesson each new generation must learn anew.

**O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness
And every gain divine!**

While changing our national anthem is not likely a possibility at this divided point in our history, perhaps it’s enough to remember that we live in a land where we can freely sing – a hymn, mind you – about how beautiful our country truly is. And while singing, praying, that God shed his grace, as much grace as we need, that God mend our every flaw, and that God refine the golden virtues that undergird our nation. Not its wealth or power or success, mind you. That God refine, mend and gracefully bless its people. For the beauty of America is not found simply in its spacious skies and amber waves of grain. But our true beauty, American beauty, lies in our people, the brotherhood we share, from sea to shining sea.

In Christ’s Loving Service,

Pastor Steve

RLCW'S MEETING HIGHLIGHTS JUNE 3, 2026

- **The next meeting will be July 1, 2026, at 1:30 pm. Ruth Circle will have the program. Adah Circle will have the lunch.**
- **Sunday morning coffee will be served by the Hannah Circle.**

President Linda Paulson welcomed everyone and read a devotional from "Each New Day" by Corrie ten Boom.

Pastor Steve opened our program with us singing "Softly and Tenderly." He then shared with us 2 Timothy 3:14-17. ¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. Today's program was titled "How to Buy a Bible." He went on to explain how you must consider the age of the person receiving the Bible and how they are going to be using it. There are picture Bibles for the children, student Bibles for the youth, college age and study Bibles for men and women. There are also many translations. He then closed with a prayer.

President Linda Paulson opened the business meeting. Pam read the Secretary's report and it was approved. The balance on hand is \$3,768.97. Our Spring Salad Luncheon brought in \$1,520 (152 people including 29 carry outs). Linda then read thank you cards from Peggy Petersen and Marilyn Connaughty.

Old Business: The Spring Salad Luncheon was a success. Thank you to all who brought food and to those who set up, served and cleaned up. We are needing more help on Wednesday mornings at Women in Mission and on Quilting Days. Please consider joining us for some fellowship and crafting.

New Business: We will be handing out pie filling at the September meeting. We will be selling pies on Sunday, October 4 at church. Tuesday, October 6 we will be doing our Norwegian baking. RLCW meeting will be Wednesday, October 7. Friday, October 16 will be our bake sale at Sterling Drug. Our fall and winter displays in our planters out front could use some sprucing up. If anyone has any ideas it would be appreciated.

Birthdays and Anniversaries were observed.

Prayer Requests: Donna Boyum, Pat Volkman, CoreyBeth Roberts, Peggy Petersen and Sharon Meyer.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. We prayed the Lord's Prayer and sang the Table Prayer, while Portia Lee accompanied us.

Lunch was served by Priscilla Circle.



Rushford Lutheran Church
WORSHIP SERVICES

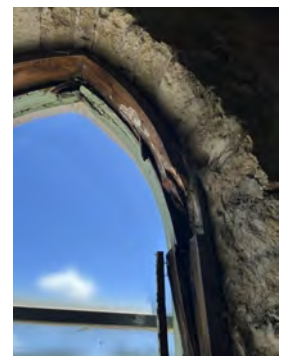
SUNDAYS
8 A.M. AND 9:15 A.M.
COMMUNION 1ST & 3RD SUNDAYS.
HOME PHONES: DIAL IN FOR WORSHIP SERVICE.

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

LIVESTREAM
9:15 A.M. SUNDAYS
SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE CHURCH'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL AT RUSHFORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

RECORDINGS
VIEW PAST 9:15 A.M. SERVICES ON THE CHURCH'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL

LINKS FOR DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE AT
WWW.RUSHFORDLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG



RLC stained glass restoration project continues

RLC stained glass restoration continues with five more windows on the front of the church. A north tower window frame experienced severe rot and will require attention. Fortunately, it was caught in time before damage or loss of the window occurred.



Vacation Bible School



AUGUST 17TH - 20TH
6 PM TO 7:30 PM

A Fun & Faith-Filled Experience for Children
Entering Kindergarten - 6th Grade

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Interactive Bible Stories
- Exciting Games & Activities
- Creative Crafts
- Music & Singing
- Friendship & Fun



 Link



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

ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS

RLC Youth is looking for Action Team partners as we serve people with needs in our local communities this summer! If you have unused Action Teams, please reach out to learn how you can help!

JULY 6, GOOD SHEPHERD BIRTHDAY PARTY

All are welcome to join us at 2 p.m. to help celebrate the Good Shepherd residents who have a birthday in July! The theme will be "Celebrating America's 250th birthday." Contact Kristin and watch your email for more info.

JULY 6, AWAKEN THE WILD

The Awaken the Wild camp is at Whitewater State Park. Scholarships are available! Contact Jason at jason.tgrealty@hotmail.com for more info or to sign up.

JULY 12, ARCHERY RENDEZVOUS

The RLC Teen Archery Rendezvous will take place at the Rooster Valley Ranch (Scott & Pam Nielsen's house for students who have completed grades 6-12. Bows and arrows will be supplied, and safe instruction from experts will be provided. RLC council member Ben Anderson, who has shot in tournaments with other pro archers, will be on hand to assist the youth. Andrew Nielsen, manager of Anthem Archery in Decorah will also be providing instruction. Pizza and sodas will be provided. Novice shooters are welcome and invited to the joy of target shooting. Meet at RLC at 4:30 p.m. to carpool. There is no cost, but advance sign up is required. Link was sent in an email June 5 entitled "YG Summer Schedule & Signups!" and will be resent!

JULY 13-15, School of Rock Praise Camp

Students entering grades 3-12 who would like to get involved in music ministry at RLC are invited to attend this FREE workshop led by the RLC Youth Praise Team and friends. Plan to rock at RLC from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Contact Kristin to sign up or watch for the link in your email!

JULY 26, Ronald McDonald House

Would you like to make a difference for local families? RLC Youth is signed up to prepare a meal at the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester on Sunday, July 26. We will be preparing food for between 50-80 people who have family members receiving medical treatment at Mayo or St Mary's in Rochester, giving them one less thing to worry about as they focus on caring for Up to 10 students who have completed grades 6-12 are able to sign up to help.

SUMMER 2026
STAYCATION
DRIFTLESS MISSION FEST

WORK & PLAY @ HOME

JULY 21-24, 2026

RLC YOUTH SERVE

SUMMER SERVE TRIP 2026

STUDENTS WILL SERVE ALONGSIDE ORGANIZATIONS IN OUR COMMUNITY, SUCH AS SEMCAC SENIOR DINING, MEALS ON WHEELS, GOOD SHEPHERD/BREMMER SUITES, RP COMMUNITY ED, AND MORE! GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR SILVER CORD HOURS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE!

SCHOOL OF ROCK
PRAISE CAMP

LED BY THE RLC PRAISE TEAM

13 - 15 JULY 2026

FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 3RD GRADE & UP
WHO ARE INTERESTED IN MUSIC MINISTRY

WATCH FOR SIGN UP INFO,
OR TALK TO KRISTIN

CHURCH COUNCIL

PRESIDENT

Jessica Heiden, 507-951-1643
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VICE PRESIDENT

Robin Honken, 507-429-0056
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SECRETARY

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Scholarship Committee

TREASURER

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Ben Anderson, 715-338-1100
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Scholarship Committee

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Education Committee

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

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

Curtis Paulson, 507-703-8883,
Paulson.curtis@yahoo.com
Youth Committee

Church Council meeting highlights June 15, 2026

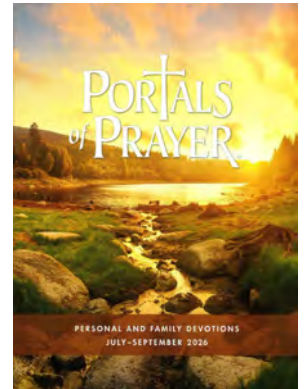
Below are abbreviated board minutes. Complete board minutes are available by contacting the church office.

- The May minutes were approved.
- June Vitse was in attendance to provide a mid-year financial update. The detailed financial report for the month of May was approved as presented.
- Overview of the pastoral acts completed for May: 1 hospital visit and 16 homebound visits.
- Continued discussion was held on the transition planning.
- Quotes were reviewed and approved for the necessary soffit and roof repair.
- A strategic planning committee was created.
- A verbal property committee report was provided.

At this time, there will be no meeting held in July.

MAY CASH SUMMARY

Balance brought forward 4/30/2026	\$ 988.39
Total receipts	\$32,193.00
Total disbursements.....	<u>\$30,780.55</u>
Cash balance as of 5/31/2026	\$ 2,400.84



JULY WORSHIP LEADERS

		8 A.M. WORSHIP	9:15 A.M. WORSHIP	
JULY 5 COMMUNION	Readers: Ushers:	Pam Nielsen Trevor Eide, Clair Olstad, Claire Shepard	Pam Nielsen Cory Feine, Jim LaCroix, Donny Kjos	PASTOR Steven Chellew ORGANIST Shary Evavold, Portia Lee, Robyn Steffens FAMILY EDUCATION DIRECTOR Brittany Agrimson
JULY 12	Readers: Ushers:	Carol Jeffers Bonnie and Gordy Elliott, Scott Nielsen	Harlan Richards David and Andrea Brand, Jim Bernier, Tom Kopperud	YOUTH & CHOIR MINISTRY DIRECTOR Kristin Burdey ALTAR GUILD Shari Michel, Linda Paulson
JULY 19 COMMUNION	Readers: Ushers:	Mark Reisetter Kerry Heiden, Wayne Meyer	Harlan Richards Mike Messenger, Chad Steffens	PROJECTIONISTS Andrea and David Brand, Lisa Chellew, Donny Kjos, Becky Stocker
JULY 26	Readers: Ushers:	Pam Nielsen Seth Cichoski, Dale Evavold, Brendon Honken	READER NEEDED Milford Paulson, Lowell Rasmussen	VIDEOGRAPHERS Barb Johnson, Jeremy Tesch, June Vitse

JULY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9a Men's Helping Hands 1:30p RLCW meeting w/Luncheon 6p Family Education	2	3 Office Closed	4 FOURTH OF JULY
5 8a & 9:15a Worship w/ Communion, Coffee & Fellowship to Follow in Basement 10:15a Bible Study	6 4:30p Worship Committee 5:30p NO Coffee House Worship w/ Communion	7	8 9a Ladies Mission Work 9a Men's Helping Hands 6p Youth Committee	9	10 Office Closed	11
12 8a & 9:15a Worship, Coffee & Fellowship to Follow in Basement 10:15a NO Bible Study 4:30p Youth Group Archery	13 1p Quilting 5:30p Coffee House	14	15 9a Ladies Mission Work 9a Men's Helping Hands	16 9:30a Ruth Circle 1p Miriam Circle 1:30p Hannah Circle 5p Martha Circle	17 Office Closed	18
19 8a & 9:15a Worship w/ Communion, Coffee & Fellowship to Follow in Basement 10:15a Bible Study	20 1p Pastor at Bremmer Suites & Good Shepherd 1:30p Priscilla Circle 5:30p Coffee House Worship w/ Communion	21	22 9a Ladies Mission Work 9a Men's Helping Hands	23	24 Office Closed	25
26 8a & 9:15a Worship, Coffee & Fellowship to Follow in Basement 10:15a Bible Study 4:30p Junior Youth Group 6p Youth Group	27 5:30p Coffee House Worship	28	29 9a Ladies Mission Work 9a Men's Helping Hands	30	31 Office Closed	

Rushford Lutheran Church

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

Non Profit Org.

U. S. POSTAGE

P A I D

Permit No. 1

Rushford, MN



RALLY SUNDAY

September 13

Our preschoolers will be recognized at the 9:15 a.m. church service and those that have not already, will receive their Storybook Bible and a blanket made by our Junior Youth Group students.