



Rush River Reminder

January 2017

Worship Service @ 10:30 AM

Sunday School @ 9:15 AM

Thoughts from Pastor Dave:

I want to think about compassion this Christmas season. I look at Joseph and see the mess he was in and how he handled it. I am sure, he assumed everything was going smoothly in his engagement to Mary, and then the bottom dropped out. He had concerns and doubts about Mary. What would his family, friends and gossipers say? He would fear what his future would be and also what would happen to Mary.

The thing I like about Joseph was that he didn't become self-righteous and condemning Mary, in the attempt to preserve his own reputation. He knew the rules of his time and culture. Instead, he did the right thing. The relationship mattered more than rules and regulations. He committed himself to honoring Mary. He responded out of compassion.

Compassion is a generous gift of love. It is easy to separate ourselves from someone we believe has done something wrong. It's easy to condemn and avoid that person. Joseph chose the higher path of compassion, offering understanding and caring.

We can learn from Joseph's example of compassion in all our own dealing with others. There was an article in Parade magazine in the Sunday newspaper that talked about this very thing. It was about a 33 year old all-pro linebacker for the Cleveland Browns named Chris Spielman, and how he showed compassion for his wife who was dealing with breast cancer. He was trying to make a comeback in professional football after having suffered a very serious neck injury when his wife Stephanie was diagnosed with breast cancer. Instead of making that comeback, he gave up his career in professional football to be with his wife and to care for their children. When she lost her hair from the chemotherapy treatments, Chris shaved his head. He identified with her pain and loss, and he gave a wonderful gift of love - his compassion and understanding.

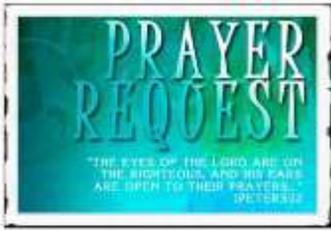
Joseph can be a model for us when we face crisis and wonder what to do. We, too, can find ways to offer compassion and caring for those around us. As Jesus put it, "Love one another, even as I have loved you."

Blessed Christmas,
Pastor Dave and Dixie

We want to thank the Rush River Congregation for all the support, cards, gifts and kind things you do for us now and all during the year.



Friends of Rush River will meet on January 8th at 9:30 AM in the fellowship hall.



Remembering our friends and family in prayer: Adelaide Boettcher, Katie Brown, Alicia Davis, Betty DeRoy (Carol Bennett's sister-in-law), Trent Gordon, the Kasten family at the loss of Jeff's mother, Glenn Knutson, Lois Lukasiewicz, Judy Minion, Betty Monicken, Ellen Monicken-Knuth, Mark Nelson, Evan Peterson (Jon & Linda Anderson's neighbor-friend), Margaret Ramberg, Leonard Suchy, Angie Symanietz, and Betty Zappa (Roberta Sylla's sister). If you would like your name added, or to add anyone else to our list, please call Kathy Swenson at 715-425-6046 or see the church website at rushriverlutheran.org/prayer-request.

Reminder: For every \$150,000 in receipts we collect from Family Fresh grocery stores, Rush River Lutheran Church will earn a \$1,000 check from Spartan Nash. This money will be used for our elevator fund.



Please submit your news items to the office **by email** or **drop them in the basket on the office desk!**
February newsletter items are due by **January 20th**.
 Thank you!

THANK YOU RECEIVED



Dear Rush River Lutheran Church;

On behalf of The Salvation Army and the families that pass through Grace Place, we wish to thank you for your generous donation. We want you to know that your gift will make a real and tangible difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate in your community.

It is through the generosity and efforts of friends like you, especially during this financially difficult time, that we are able to provide a safe haven and a fresh start to the residents of Grace Place. Your support is a blessing to this ministry! Again, we thank you.

In Christ,
 Lori Scheder
 Shelter Manager
 YOUR DONATION: Quilts


OUR CHURCH WELCOMES Howard and Edna Christenson back to Rush River Lutheran Church as they renew their membership here!

Council Corner ~ January 2017

Our constitution is a constantly evolving document consisting of how we as a congregation and how we as a member church of the ELCA have decided to organize and govern RRLC to best serve God. Parts of our constitution are exclusive to RRLC and our identity, and it is we, the members of this church throughout our 162-year history that have put those words into our constitution. Other parts of our constitution are required by the ELCA to be included, not only by our church, but by each member church of the ELCA. Those parts that are required by the ELCA can easily be identified in our constitution as being preceded by an asterisk (*). I will attempt to summarize the required changes in this writing, but I have also provided you with a link to the changes at the bottom of this document.

The ELCA at its 2016 Church-wide Assembly adopted amendments that will in turn need to be adopted by all member churches of the ELCA. Since they are required amendments of the ELCA, we can adopt them at our Annual Meeting on January 29th, 2017 with a majority vote of voting members present.

Listed below are those constitution items the 2016 Church-Wide Assembly authorized the secretary of the ELCA to include as required language:

1. *Strike the words "ordained minister/s" and replace with the words "minister/s of Word and Sacrament."*
2. *Strike the word "clergy" and replace with the words "minister/s of Word and Sacrament."*
3. *Strike the word "pastor/s" and replace with the words "minister/s of Word and Sacrament" where appropriate.*
4. *Strike the words "associate in ministry, diaconal minister and deaconess and replace with the words "minister/s of Word and Service."*
5. *Make editorial corrections that identify the rosters of this church and implement the creation of the "minister/s of Word and Service roster."*

I think that it is easy for us at RRLC to relate to these required changes as we have had first-hand experience with the difference between "minister/s of Word and Service" and "minister/s of Word and Sacrament." We learned that our Associate in Ministry at the time, Laura Ramlow, could not administer the sacraments without special permission. Now, she is rightly classified as a "minister of Word and Service" (deacon) whereas Pastor Dave is a "minister of Word and Sacrament." I will also note that the word "pastor" was only to be stricken where appropriate, that is when differentiating between the two rosters of the church. The word "pastor" is still used over and over in the constitution.

There are some other required changes that seem to simplify and clarify. In the present constitution, whenever the word "congregation" is used, it refers to RRLC, and when the word "church" is used it refers to the ELCA. A required change replaces the word "church" where appropriate with the abbreviation "ELCA," certainly less confusing.

There also are required changes that are new or different than present language and those changes are as follows:

1. Under a section on "members" (#C8.02.), besides "Voting" and "Associate," a new membership, "Seasonal," has been added giving limited voting rights to those people who spend parts of the year in different areas of the country.
2. Beginning under a section on "Authority to call a minister of Word and Service" (#C9.21), there is lengthy language speaking to the calling, qualifications, duties, resignation and dismissal of the same.
3. There is some new and revised language concerning "Parish Authorization" (Chapter 20) dealing with those churches that enter into partnership with one or more other congregations.
4. In Chapter 17 under "Bylaws," a change will require a 2/3rds vote to adopt instead of just a majority vote of voting members.

Keeping our constitution current is a good thing. We strive to be a member in good standing within the ELCA, reflecting the underlying theology and doctrines of this historic church.

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregatio ns 2016.doc?_ga=1.251508366.983991269.1433960264](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Amendments%20to%20the%20Model%20Constitution%20for%20Congregatio%20ns%202016.doc?_ga=1.251508366.983991269.1433960264)



**Notice of Special Business Items
For Annual Meeting
on January 29, 2017**

The following business items (requiring advanced notice) will be on the agenda for the Annual Meeting of RRLC to be held January 29, 2017.

1. Vote on adopting the required amendments to the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* into the *Constitution for Rush River Lutheran Church of the ELCA*.

Note: Further information including a link to the required changes can be found in the January Council Corner.

2. Vote on extending the call of Pastor Dave Teig an additional one and a half years, thereby extending the call through May 31, 2019.

Note: Present call expires November 30, 2017

The Congregation Council will recommend votes in favor of both business items.

Thanks you,

Wanda Wells,
Congregation Council Secretary

**RRLC Annual Meeting will be on January 29, with a pot-luck meal
(both following worship service)**

**Fellowship Hall and Kitchen Floors
Stripped and Waxed
January 8-14, 2017**

RRLC has contracted with Service Master to strip and wax all hard surface floors in the lower level. The company will be at RRLC on January 10th and will complete the work in one day. We save money by removing all freestanding items (including appliances, kitchen islands, tables, chairs, etc.) from the kitchen and dining room.

HELP WANTED

Sunday, 1/8/17 after services: Help remove all freestanding items.
Bring tools and appliance dollies and carts

Tuesday, 1/10/17: Service Master work completed
(No outside help needed)

Saturday, 1/14/2017, 10:00 AM: Replace all freestanding items.
Bring tools and appliance dollies and carts



NOTE:

Church is only open to activities on a very limited basis during this week.

Questions: Contact Don Austrum or Tim Wells



OPENING DOORS
TO FAITH • FELLOWSHIP • SERVICE

**ELEVATOR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
RRLC IS BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE**

PLEASE CONSIDER A FINANCIAL GIFT(S) TO THE ELEVATOR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

GIFTS OF ANY AMOUNT ARE REQUESTED

YOUR SPECIAL GIFT WILL BE MATCHED WITH A DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR-GIFT FROM THE ESTATE OF GORDY BAKKE

TOTAL COST OF PROJECT: \$56,740.00

Elevator Capital Campaign Committee:

*Ione Hayes, Annette Kelley, Paula Knutson, Emily Pierson, Roberta Sylla,
David Austrum, Donald Austrum*



On Sunday, January 15th, we will be showing the movie, "Selma" at 6:30 PM. All are welcome!

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Faith Is

Faith is risking what is
for what is yet to be.
It is taking small steps
knowing they lead to bigger ones.
Faith is holding on when you want to let go.
It is letting go when you want to hold on.
Faith is saying yes when everything else says no.
It is believing all things are possible
in the midst of impossibilities.
Faith is looking beyond what is
and trusting what will be.
It is the presence of light in darkness,
the presence of God in all.

~ by Ellen M. Cuomo



January 2017 Calendar

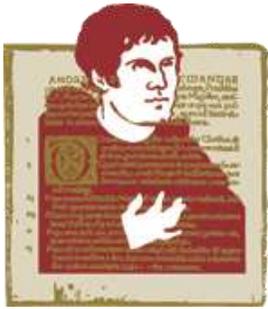
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship Service, 10:30 AM (No Sunday School)	2 Men in Mission, 6:30 PM	3 Pastor's Conf. @ Our Savior's	4 7 th /8 th Gr. Confirmation, 6-6:45 PM; Choir Rehearsal, 7 PM	5 Quilters, 9 AM	6	7
8 9:15 am Sunday School (SOS Project); 10:30 am Worship; Friends of RR mtg, 9:30 AM	9 Stripping & Waxing floors in fellowship hall this week – limited access to church this week	10 Council Mtg, 6:30 PM @ Kathy Swenson's	11 NO Confirmation; Choir Rehearsal, 7 PM	12 Women's Bible study @ Carol Stephan's, 1 PM	13	14
15 9:15 am Sunday School; 10:30 am Worship; Film, "Selma"	16	17	18 7 th /8 th Gr. Confirmation, 6-6:45 PM; Choir Rehearsal, 7 PM	19 Women's Bible study @ Carol Stephan's, 1 PM	20 Newsletter items due	21
22 9:15 am Sunday School; 10:30m Worship	23	24	25 7 th /8 th Gr. Confirmation, 6-6:45 PM; Choir Rehearsal, 7 PM	26 Women's Bible study @ Carol Stephan's, 1 PM	27	28
29 10:30 am Worship; 9:15 am Sunday School; Annual Mtg	30	31			Pastor Dave's office hours: Wed & Thurs; 10 am-12	Linda's office hours: Wed & Thurs, 10 – 1:30

Worship Leaders in January

	Readers	Communion Assistant	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Preparation
Jan 1	Annette Kelley	Loree Austrum	Kelley Family	Jim Knutson Family	Nancy Nelson & Murlona Austrum
Jan 8	Sunday School Students		Jim & Paula Knutson Family	Jim Knutson Family	
Jan 15	Toni Lubich	Loree Austrum	Wells Family	Jim Knutson Family	Nancy Nelson & Murlona Austrum
Jan 22	Cindy Johnson		Lawrence & Cindy Johnson	Jim Knutson Family	
Jan 29	Lawrence Johnson	Loree Austrum	Bob Kotz & Lisa Anderson Kotz	Jim Knutson Family	Nancy Nelson & Murlona Austrum

Thank you to Kelly Ebbens for baking communion bread for the month of January!
Thank you to Ariel Stephan for faithfully ringing the church bell!

November Income: \$5,802.66	November Expenses: \$5,950.14
Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments or for more information if you would like any.	
Roberta Sylla, Treasurer	



Art and Artifacts: The Life and Times of Martin Luther

An exhibition coming to Minneapolis offers a rare look at art and historic objects in preparation for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

By Jodie L. Ahern

Travel back to the time of Martin Luther in a new exhibition coming to the U.S. "Martin Luther: Art and the Reformation" features hundreds of objects from noted German art collections, his actual childhood homes and recent archeological digs. This comes as the world prepares to mark the 500th anniversary of Luther distributing his famous "Ninety-Five Theses," which ultimately revolutionized religion and society.

The unique exhibition (which includes works from the Thrivent Financial Collection of Religious Art*) will make just one appearance in the U.S., at the Minneapolis Institute of Art (MIA) from October 30, 2016, through January 15, 2017.

*Thrivent's collection started in 1982 as a shared expression of Thrivent's heritage and commitment to supporting the arts, culture, education and the community. Open to the public, it features original works on paper and religious subject matter spanning nine centuries. Visit Thrivent.com/offers/art.html to find out more.

Clinical Services Center - University of Wisconsin - Stout

Stout's Clinical Services Center provides a practice setting for well-trained and supervised Marriage and Family Therapy and School Psychology graduate students. It does this by providing affordable individual, couple, and family therapy services and educational assessment services to the general public. Brochures with additional information are available on the bulletin board.

Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin

Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin is now offering counseling services to individuals, families and couples in the Rice Lake and Eau Claire areas. Jennifer Larson LaRue is a licensed marriage and family therapist, and an ordained ELCA pastor with 15 years of ministry experience. She is also a board-certified chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains and has worked for the past several years for Mayo Clinic Health System in Barron, Bloomer and Eau Claire. Her areas of expertise and interest include: spirituality and mental health, grief and loss, bereavement, marriage, relationships and communication, family issues, life cycle transitions, stress management, depression and anxiety. To make an appointment, call 888-867-4840.

Ultimate Car Wash Cards Available

The Ultimate Car Wash Includes:

- * Undercarriage Flush
- * Presoak
- * Spot Free Rinse
- * High Pressure Wash or Soft Foam Wash
- * Triple Shine Vehicle Enhancer/Cleaner
- * 95 Second Super Dry



Does your car need a wash? We can help! The Ultimate Car Wash Card is good at any Kwik Trip or Kwik Star Store. It includes 5 Ultimate Car Washes for \$36.00. The best part is a portion of all sales stay here at Rush River! Please contact Emily at 715.760.0573 with any questions or for your card.

"Faith is the doorway that all miracles come through, but prayer is the key that unlocks the door."
(Source unknown)



Recipe for a Happy New Year

Serves Everyone

Ingredients:

Faith Good Spirits Patience Fun Courage Play Work Good Humor
Hope Love Generosity Joy Kindness Smile Prayer Quietness Meditation
Unselfishness Good Deed Cheerfulness

Directions:

Take 12 whole months, clean them thoroughly of all bitterness, hate & jealousy. Make them just as fresh & clean as possible.

Now cut each month into 28, 30, or 31 different parts, but don't make up the whole batch at once. Prepare it one day at a time out of these ingredients.

Mix well into each day one part of faith, one part of patience, one part of courage & one part of work.

Add to each day one part of hope, faithfulness, generosity & kindness. Blend with one part prayer, one part meditation & one good deed. Season the whole with a dash of good spirits, a sprinkle of fun, a pinch of play & a cupful of good humor.

Pour all of this into a vessel of love. Cook thoroughly over radiant joy, garnish with a smile and serve with quietness, unselfishness and cheerfulness.

Your final results may vary depending on your attitude.

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Cleaning Closets?

Friends of Rush River are still collecting gently used or new winter clothing for children and adults. Coats, hats, gloves, mittens, boots, snow pants, scarves, etc. are needed locally. Cash donations will be used to purchase more items. Local shelters are also in need of children's new underwear and socks. Please put items on the collection table in the entry or give to one of our members. Thank you for working with us to Reach Out in Love.



Thank you for your time!

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From The Salvation Army:

Greetings:

Right now, Grace Place is in real need of New Bed Pillows. We have been serving so many and at one point we were completely out. Also, household supplies are a real need along with personal care items. AND, we always need diapers and wipes. We appreciate you all so much and the support you give throughout the year.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks so much!

Angela L. Moulton
Media and Fundraising Manager



St. Croix, Polk and Burnett Counties
Salvation Army
715-246-1222 St. Croix
715-485-1221 Polk
715-497-4438 Cell

Doing the most good every year, The Salvation Army helps nearly 30 million people, roughly one per second. Support us at donate.salvationarmnyusa.org



Upcoming Events

Annual Synod Assembly: April 29, 2017 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Eau Claire

10th WELCA Triennial: July 13-19, 2017, Minneapolis, MN

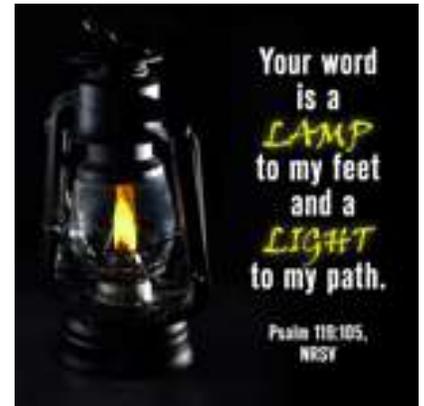
Lutheran Men In Mission: BOLD GATHERING

Watch for more information to come!

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### God's Lamp

The old-fashioned lantern is a humble little light. I remember using it so often as a boy when doing chores on the farm. Its light seemed so dim and shone such a little way. But one thing can be said for the old lantern. It gave sufficient light for the next step! If one carried the lantern while walking, it was satisfactory because the light moved on a way, always enough for another step. When one thinks seriously about life, one is led to ask, "Isn't that all the light one needs—enough for that next step?" Yes, God cannot reveal our life plans all at once. We could not bear it if God did. But God reveals as much as we are capable of receiving.



The Bible does not fall completely open at any single moment. In fact, the most seasoned student of the Word must live with its many mysteries still. Faithful use of the Bible will yield the daily light of truth and the daily measure of power that you and I will need. Let us not pout and grumble about mystery. Let us rather love God's mysteries and follow God even where we cannot fully see. Let us happily carry the lantern of God's word!

~ by Gerhard E. Frost

*God in heaven, give us this day the humble trust that is needed if we are to walk faithfully with you. Amen.*

*(from "Christ In Our Home – Volume II)*



# Rush River Lutheran Church

N8623 County Road Y

River Falls, WI 54022



## Rush River Lutheran Church - January 2017

Worship Service at 10:30 AM ~ Sunday School at 9:15 AM

Annual Meeting (and pot luck): January 29, 2017 following worship service

### Church contact information.

Pastor Dave mobile: 715-557-0095 home: 715-268-9663

Church: 715-684-3701



Website

[www.RushRiverLutheran.org](http://www.RushRiverLutheran.org)



Facebook

[Facebook.com/RushRiverLutheran](https://www.facebook.com/RushRiverLutheran)



Email

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[PastorDave@RushRiverLutheran.org](mailto:PastorDave@RushRiverLutheran.org)