



# Rush River Reminder

## January 2018

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

Thoughts from Pastor Dave:

Remember how those bad old novels began, "It was a rainy and dark night." That is how Dixie and I felt one night leaving church. We could not see a thing. Once we got into the car and turned the lights on, even though it was a sea of black, the lights penetrated the darkness. It also reminded me of growing up, laying out on our lawn watching the stars shine into our otherwise dark yard. Made me think also of my son, Nathan, who directed Kline Ranch Bible Camp in South Dakota. They would ride out and camp overnight on the Dakota prairie. He did this for five summers. One time he came back home and said, "Dad, I never knew the stars shone so brightly." I knew, though years apart, we shared the same experience of light overcoming darkness.

We still live in a world of darkness. There are wars, threats of war, hunger, unemployment, racism, sexism, loneliness and a sense of emptiness. I don't have to tell any of you about the darkness, because in one form or another, at one time or another, it has touched the life of each of us. The darkness is real and present. There is a light at the end of the tunnel. The prophet Isaiah wrote, "people who walk in darkness have seen a great light." John's Gospel records: "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." We come together and sing "yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light." The good news of Christmas is there came a light. The Christmas story affirms that whatever happens, the light of Christ still shines. A world without electricity, without hope, heard Jesus say he was the light of the world. In Jesus we cling to the hope that life overcomes death, that love conquers hate, and that truth will prevail over falsehood. We are the people of light and must share that light in a dark and dreary land. It is my prayer that the light of Christmas will shine in the dark corners of your life as you discover the pathway to Bethlehem.

Dixie and I want to thank Rush River for all you do for us and thank you for the Christmas wishes (and birthday wishes). May God continue to bless our ministry together.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Peace,

Pastor Dave and Dixie

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We extend our Christian sympathy to the family and friends of Roberta Sylla, who passed away on Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. The funeral for Roberta was held at Rush River Lutheran on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.

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**Remembering our friends and family in prayer:** Henry Bader (Carol Stephan's brother), Adelaide Boettcher, Edna Christenson, Betty Monicken, Ellen Monicken-Knuth, Gene Nelson, Mark Nelson, Evan Peterson, Wayne Ramberg, the family of Roberta Sylla, and Angie Symanietz

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](http://rushriverlutheran.org/prayer-request).

# Notice of Annual Meeting

January 28, 2018



Dear members of RRLC,

The Congregation Council asks for your attendance at the Annual Meeting of this church to be held on January 28, 2018. The meeting will be held after a potluck meal following the Sunday service on that day. As in the past, the Friends of Rush River will be holding a silent auction prior to the meeting.

The order of business at the Annual Meeting shall be as follows:

- a. Opening Devotions
- b. Recess for Cemetery Board report
- c. Reading of the minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting
- d. Reports of Pastor Teig, Building and Grounds Committee, Education and Youth Committee, and Worship and Witness Committee
- e. Report of the Endowment Fund Board
- f. Other reports
- g. Adoption of the budget
- h. Elections
- i. Unfinished Business
- j. New Business
- k. Motion to adjourn
- l. Lord's Prayer

Note: Budget and reports will be available at church.

Our constitution states: "The powers of this congregation are vested in the Congregation Meeting called and conducted as provided in this constitution and bylaws."

Thank you,

Wanda Wells  
Congregation Council Secretary

## Rush River Annual Silent Auction



Friends of Rush River will be hosting the Silent Auction on January 28, before the Annual Meeting. Many new items, handmade items, and baked goods are needed to make this a success. All profits will be used by Friends of RR to continue our outreach. This is our main fundraiser and we appreciate your support. We would welcome help in setting up tables before church on that day.



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On Sunday, December 17, Merle and Shirley Overvig and Anna Hoey joined Rush River Lutheran Church! Welcome to our church family, Merle, Shirley and Anna!



## Congregation Council Meeting - November 14, 2017

Present: Pastor Dave, Don Austrum, Bob Kotz, Wanda Wells, Kathy Swenson, Roberta Sylla, Jerid Peterson, Emily Pierson

Absent: Susie Mead

### Pastor's report – Pastor Dave

1. Martin Luther movie at Hope Lutheran went well. The movie will be viewed with the Martin Luther Bible Study participants
2. Confirmation Banquet went well. Thank you volunteers.
3. Quilters made a quilt for Wayne Ramberg. Thank you quilters.
4. Wednesday, Thanksgiving Eve Service will be at 7:00.
5. Bishop Hoyme resigned 1 year early. The Synod Assembly on June 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> (adjusted date) will include a Bishop Election.

### Treasurer's report – Roberta

1. Thrivent Donations - \$673
2. Rebate on lights – not here yet. "Focus on Energy" and Pierce Pepin rebate is being worked on.
3. Family Fresh – we have 50,302 points so far (please give the whole receipt, not just the bottom or top)  
Kwik Trip – 10 cards left                      Amazon Funds – funds may be coming soon

### Committee reports

1. Education & Youth – Kathy reported that 34-36 birthday bags were made at the first SOS project.
2. Worship & Witness - Susie was absent. Pastor reported that they met last Sunday. We will be doing the 3<sup>rd</sup> Setting Service during Advent. The committee will be more involved in planning worship services.
3. Building & Grounds – Emily reported that they will be replacing paper towel dispensers so that they are all the same. Remember to check temperature, lights and doors when leaving the church building. Bob will check on doors that lock automatically when shut.
4. Endowment Committee– Jerid gave us an update on the "open" Endowment List. They are accepting proposals now. Request forms are in the office. They are also doing a lot with marketing the fund.

### Unfinished Business

1. Organ – fixed. There have been several anonymous donations to cover the entire cost of the repair.
2. Elevator Service – Arrow Lift came and fixed the doors. We shouldn't have any more problems.
3. Temporary Handicap Parking signs – checking into this for big events at church

### New Business

1. Roberta handed out a working document for the 2018 budget. We will go through this at our December mtg.
2. Council Endowment Requests – Bob will write an Endowment Request to fund ½ the cost of the Facebook/Website upkeep. Wanda will write an Endowment Request for Katie Anderson and Stephanie Kelley to help pay for a Council approved Seminary School for 2018.
3. Wanda will contact committees and groups at Rush River to get info to Linda for the Annual Meeting Packet.
4. Auditing Committee – We appoint the members of this committee.  
Dave Austrum's term ends in 2018. He has agreed to continue for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term.  
Dennis Freese is filling an unexpired term until 2019 but is unable to continue.  
Sandy Gerwien's term ends in 2020.
5. Recent church shooting tragedy prompted a discussion on our own plan at Rush River.
6. Brush cleaning of the entryways will be done by Pierce County.
7. The Cemetery Fund/Committee hired a tree service to cut 2 trees in the cemetery that had split.
8. Discussion about salary increases for 2018.
9. Consider budgeting for custodial pay for 2018.

Acknowledgements: Barry Danielson and Pierce County for clearing the brush near the parking lot entrances.

Jim Knutson fixed the electrical problem in the first bathroom.

Nancy Nelson waters the plants and fills the humidifiers in the pianos.

Lawrence and Cindy continue to clean the upstairs at church.

Dianne Erickson purchased 2 Bunn Coffee Makers with Endowment Requested money.

Ariel Stephan continues to ring the bell at the beginning and end of worship services.

Adjourn – Next meeting is December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Close with the Lord's Prayer.

RRLC lost one of its most beloved members with the passing of Roberta. The feeling was mutual as Roberta loved this church and all of us.

She will be dearly missed on the Council. She has been our Congregation Treasurer pretty much forever, and her knowledge, experience, expertise and wit on the Council was much respected and appreciated. It is interesting to note that our constitution stipulates term limits for all elected positions within our church, with one exception. That one exception is for congregation treasurer in which there is no limit on elected terms. I remember thinking when we made some constitution changes a few years ago that, good, we will have Roberta forever.

Council meetings always begin with a devotion and prayer from a Council member or Pastor Dave. I happen to have the prayer Roberta prayed at our October meeting, and I will share that prayer below:

“Dear Lord,

We thank you for the opportunity to work together for the good of Rush River Church and ask that you will be with us throughout the meeting to help us make the best decisions for every member of the church.

Thank you for the many blessings you have bestowed upon us all. Please help us to be the very best stewards we can possibly be.

In God’s name we pray.  
Amen”

So the Council moves ahead. Roberta requested, about ten months ago, that we have a plan in place if she needed to resign as our treasurer. I am very thankful to report that a plan was in place and it is now working well.

Emily, who volunteered to fill the treasurer’s position if needed, has taken over the duties of treasurer. Paula has helped Emily to become familiar with the many processes and procedures required of the treasurer’s position.

I am very confident that Emily can handle the position as she has gained a great deal of practical knowledge as a result of her work with the family’s business. Her minor in college was business. She is a quick learner and a good problem solver. She is diligent, patient and very computer savvy. The Council feels we are in good hands with Emily as our treasurer.

Thanks Roberta.  
Thanks Emily.

TOGETHER IN CHRIST  
Don

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**The new RRLC Shelter with all posts set!**

# January 2018 Calendar

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue                          | Wed   | Thu                 | Fri  | Sat   |
|--|--|------------------------------|---|---------------------|--|---|
|  | 1<br> | 2                            | 3   | 4<br>Quilters, 9 AM | 5  | 6   |
| 7<br>Sunday School:<br>9:15 am;<br>Worship: 10:30 am   | 8<br>Men in Mission<br>6:30 PM   | 9<br>Council Mtg,<br>6:30 PM | 10 7 <sup>th</sup> Gr.<br>Confirmation, 5:45<br>PM; Choir: 7 PM       | 11                  | 12   | 13 Peace Circle<br>@ Toni Lubich's;<br>Overnight @ RRLC<br>for Confirmation<br>age & up |
| 14<br>SS: 9:15 am; Friends<br>of RR Mtg, 9:30 am;<br>Worship: 10:30 am                             | 15   | 16<br>Endowment<br>Board Mtg | 17 7 <sup>th</sup> Gr.<br>Confirmation,<br>5:45 PM;<br>Choir: 7 PM    | 18                  | 19   | 20<br>Newsletter items<br>due   |
| 21 Sunday School:<br>9:15 am;<br>Worship: 10:30 AM   | 22   | 23                           | 24 7 <sup>th</sup> Gr.<br>Confirmation, 5:45<br>PM; Choir: 7 PM       | 25                  | 26   | 27  |
| 28 Sunday School:<br>9:15 am;<br>Worship: 10:30 AM;<br>Potluck/Annual<br>Meeting/Silent<br>Auction | 29   | 30                           | 31<br>7 <sup>th</sup> Gr.<br>Confirmation, 5:45<br>PM;<br>Choir: 7 PM |                     | Pastor Dave's<br>office hours:<br>Wed & Thurs;<br>10 am-noon | Linda's office<br>hours: Wed & Thurs,<br>10 – 1:30                                      |

## Worship Leaders in January

|        | Readers                | Communion Assistant | Greeters                    | Ushers  | Altar Preparation               |
|--------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Jan 7  | Karen Cowles           | Don Austrum         | Jane Swenson & Karen Miller | Stacy & Karen Danielson, LuAnn Johnson, Kathy Swenson | Loree Austrum & Karen Danielson |
| Jan 14 | Sunday School Students |                     | Danielson Family            | Stacy & Karen Danielson, LuAnn Johnson, Kathy Swenson |                                 |
| Jan 21 | Lisa Kotz              | Don Austrum         | Don & Loree Austrum         | Larry & Karen Knutson, Ethan Hayes, Don Austrum       | Loree Austrum & Karen Danielson |
| Jan 28 | Kelly Ebbens           |                     | Arnie & Evie Roen           | Larry & Karen Knutson, Ethan Hayes, Don Austrum       |                                 |

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

**November Income: \$9,177.97**

**November Expenses: \$5,940.21**

**Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.**

**Emily Pierson, Treasurer**







Mara Christine Calland, Reid Robert Traeger and Kora Rose Traeger were baptized at Rush River Lutheran Church on Sunday, December 24, 2017. Parents are Laura & Eric Calland and Maren & Jake Traeger. Sponsors for Mara are Maren & Jake Traeger. We pray God's blessings upon Mara, Reid and Rose and their families!

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**LOST AND FOUND:** There are some jewelry items, one white glove, and a pair of women's glasses that have been found at church. If you are missing any of these items, they are located in the church office.



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Luther Point Bible Camp's Winter Retreats

"rooted"

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

— Colossians 2:6-7



Come experience Luther Point in the winter for our programed retreats. Sign up with your church group and be ready for a weekend filled with fun, faith and awesome times as we explore what it means to be "Rooted in Christ."

Space is limited so sign up quickly, registration began November 1!

Cost is \$60 per person and includes lodging, 4 meals and the program.

**Jan 12 – 14: Confirmation/Jr. High ~ Feb 9 – 11: High School ~ March 3 – 4: Family Camp Weekend**  
**Registration Open Now!** [www.LutherPoint.org](http://www.LutherPoint.org)

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**January 13 & 14: Overnight Retreat at RRLC for Confirmation age and older.**  
**More details to come!**

**February (date to be announced): Fun Night at RRLC, sponsored by RRLC's Men in Mission. More details to come!**

**The Minnesota Boy Choir will again be coming to RRLC! The date is set for April 8 during our worship time.**



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**SAVE YOUR EMPTY PILL BOTTLES**

Bring your clean, empty, plastic medicine containers to church. Please remove the label as best as possible. They can be left on the donation table by the elevator. Myron and Karen Cowles will get them where they need to go. If there are any questions, their phone number is 715-441-5921.

The Roberts Lions Club and 3 area Village Pharmacies in Baldwin and Glenwood City will get them to Matthew 25 Ministries.

<http://www.evansburgumc.com/ministries/outreach/matthew-25-empty-pill-bottle-recycling/>

In developing countries, medicines—when actually obtainable—are often dispensed into hands, pockets, leaves or any other available container. Matthew 25 Ministries accepts donations of basic medical supplies such as empty pill bottles to help improve health care quality in developing nations. Donations of clean, unlabeled pill bottles help the poorest of the poor in many ways: Medicine can be distributed in sterile containers. Pill bottles that are not appropriate for shipping are recycled for cash that goes towards Matthew 25:Ministries' programs.

This plastic recycling program keeps thousands of bottles out of landfills each year. Placing a nickel, dime or quarter in each pill bottle helps with shipping costs to send the bottles to developing countries.

**Matthew 25: Ministries** accepts the following types of empty pill bottles:

- Prescription pill bottles
- Large and small pill bottles
- Pill bottles with and without child resistant caps
- Over-the-counter pill bottles.



You can help improve the quality of health care in hospitals and health clinics in developing countries by saving and donating basic medical supplies such as pill bottles.

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**Ultimate Car Wash Cards Available**

- Undercarriage Flush
- Presoak
- High Pressure Wash or Soft Foam Wash
- Triple Shine Vehicle Enhancer/Cleaner
- Spot Free Rinse
- 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 that a portion of all sales stays here at Rush River Lutheran! Please contact Emily at 715.760.0573 with any questions or for your card!



# Rush River Lutheran Church

N8623 County Road Y  
River Falls, WI 54022



## Rush River Lutheran Church ~ January 2018

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

### Church contact information:

Pastor Dave cell: 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)



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