

THE MESSENGER

Monthly Newsletter



ROSEVILLE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Lent



Lenten Theme for 2026 - "Bless the Lent we Actually Have"

Our Lenten theme, "Bless the Lent we Actually Have," from Kate Bowler.

Kate writes: During Lent, we ask God to show us the world as it is. We begin with the reality of our finitude rubbed on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday— from dust we were made, to dust we shall return. Then, we walk through that reality in a kind of dress rehearsal. It's the downward slope of God—the Great Descent, where the whole Church walks toward the cross.

Join us as we ask God to "Bless the Lent we Actually Have."

NEW THIS YEAR FOR LENT – Wednesday night Adult Small Group(s) concurrent with Confirmation (7:30pm-8pm), meeting with Pastor Kent in the new Prayer and Meditation room, 160. We will be using Kate Bowler's materials for conversation and reflection. Contact Pastor Kent to sign up kclaussengubrud@rosevillelutheran.org.

Wednesday evening schedule:

- 5pm – Evening Prayer Service
- 5:30pm – 6:45pm Soup Supper
- 7pm – Evening Prayer Service
- 7:30pm – Confirmation Small Groups and Adult Small Groups

Lenten Soup and Salad Suppers

Join us Wednesdays in March for Lenten soup and salad suppers from 5:30 to 6:45 pm. Each week will feature two different soups served along with a salad bar and an assortment of desserts.



Cost will be: Adults - \$10, Children 6-10 years old - \$8, Children 5 and under – Free. Cash or credit cards accepted.

Important Dates & Events in Mar./Apr.

March 25th
Lenten Soup Suppers End

March 28th
Communion Instruction Workshop

March 29th
Palm Sunday

April 2nd/3rd
Maundy Thursday - Good Friday

April 5th
Easter

For a full calendar of church events, please check out the church website at this QR code.



Sign Up for Our Weekly eBlast

Scan the QR Code Below



HOLY WEEK



Palm
Sunday



Maundy
Thursday



Good
Friday



Easter
Sunday

HOLY WEEK BEGINS, PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29!

Jesus enters Jerusalem, riding on a donkey, as the crowds shout “Hosanna!” and throw palm branches and cloaks on the ground as a sign of a royal and triumphant welcome. The King of the Jews has arrived in humble dignity. But soon the crowds turn on Jesus and his disciples betray, deny, and abandon him.

Maundy Thursday Worship at 7:00pm

Jesus institutes the new commandment to love one another as he has loved us. We gather in worship to receive Jesus’ love poured out for us in the bread and the wine, in the preaching of the Gospel, in the forgiveness of our sins, and then we are sent forth into the world with Christ’s love.

Good Friday Worship at 7:00pm

We come to the foot of the cross to witness to Christ’s death for us and for the sins of the whole world. The words of John the Baptist ring out, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

Easter Sunday Worship Services at 7:30am, 9:00am, and 10:30am

“Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia!” We gather to hear again the amazing good news of Christ’s victory over the powers of sin, death, and the devil. Through faith in Christ Jesus we are forgiven, we are saved, we are made into new people, bearers of Christ’s grace and love to the world and the people around us.

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to this celebration of Christ’s Victory at Easter!

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL UPDATE

Seeking Congregational Leaders

RLC is seeking volunteers to serve in lay leadership roles in the coming year. This is a meaningful opportunity to share your gifts, grow in faith, and help shape the future of our church.

We are looking for Council liaisons for:

- Congregational & Community Engagement (AKA hospitality)
- Operations & Infrastructure (inclusive of properties, technology, RLC operations)
- Stewardship (inclusive of annual stewardship, spiritual gifts, and endowment)
- Children, Youth & Family Ministry

We are also seeking members for the Endowment, Nominating, and Finance Committees.

Why serve?

Leadership at RLC is about relationships, purpose, and possibility. You’ll meet new people, help guide the direction of our congregation, and play a part in building a church that is vibrant, welcoming, and rooted in faith for generations to come.

If you feel even a small nudge to learn more, we’d love to talk with you. This might be where your gifts are meant to grow. Contact: Sarahirichter@gmail.com with your interest or questions.

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL UPDATE

Support for our Neighbors:

After each quarter, Council assesses the best use of undesignated memorial and estate gifts greater than \$5000. After the second quarter, these gifts totaled \$46,890. In January, Council passed a motion, allocating sixty percent of these funds to support our neighbors who are unable to pay rent or utilities. The remaining forty percent was allocated to the reserve fund and to the endowment fund in equal proportions. These dollars (\$28,134) are being used as matching funds for a congregational appeal. You can still contribute by designating your gifts as "Neighborhood Support". This effort is managed by Pastor Marty, in conjunction with the Roseville Area Schools and Do-Good Roseville. Please contact Pastor Marty if you have questions.

Financial Audit:

Akins-Henke and Company has completed an audit of congregational finances, investments and financial procedures. Council recommended the audit because we have a new Senior Pastor and Business Administrator, and because there has not been an outside audit in several years. The audit results were positive. Some procedural updates were recommended and they are being implemented. The audit documentation is long. Members can review the audit information by contacting Nancy Johnson at the church office.

Congregational Constitution Review:

Our constitution is important because it provides governing framework that ensures orderly operations, legal protection and doctrinal consistency. Because of recent changes to the ELCA and St. Paul Synod's constitutions, our congregation is required to update our constitution. The changes are primarily procedural. However, we also have several congregational topics that need to be updated. Carrie Hefte has agreed to lead this effort. Please consider offering to assist her in this process. Contact Jim Stark. Email: jim.stark3215@gmail.com. Ultimately, changes will need to be approved by the congregation.

Heating and Cooling Systems:

The Worship Center heating system continued to have problems after early December repairs. Further repairs have been completed, and the systems have been stable since mid-December. The repair cost was approximately \$15,000, with funding from the Building Fund. These repairs could not have been prevented. However, systems in the Worship Center and Commons are thirty-years old and beyond their normal lifespan. A detailed inspection and repair analysis of the systems has been completed by our Facilities Manager and a contractor. Their report acknowledges that the systems are old but serviceable and worthy of maintenance and repair. Replacing the systems could cost more than \$600,000.

The Campus and Facilities Task Force has spent more than a year studying and prioritizing building and facility needs. These needs include building repairs and heating-plant, roof and parking-lot replacements. The cost of these upgrades would exceed the Building Fund and the Reserve Fund. Council, and the Properties Team, are discussing options for addressing these needs, which most likely will include a Capital Campaign in the next two to three years. Questions and comments can be routed to the Executive Council. Email: jim.stark3215@gmail.com

Church Safety and Security:

Recent events have raised our awareness about church security and safety. A task force team is being formed to assess the status of church safety and to make changes as necessary and affordable. Some of the topics being discussed include: physical safety, usher and greeter training, active shooter training, fire and weather alert safety, signage, security camera upgrades, electronic door locks and door policies, as well as cyber computer system upgrades. If you have skills in these areas, please consider being a part of this team by contacting Jim Stark. Email: jim.stark3215@gmail.com

Community Updates

Prayer and Meditation Room

Needing a quiet space to pray and reflect on the Lord? Room 160, connected to the Heritage Hall, has been turned into a Prayer and Meditation room for you to have some quiet time with God in prayer. There will be future opportunities for individual and group prayer, as well as other spiritual faith practices.



Pastoral Care Visits

In need of a visit from one of our pastors? We would love to come visit you! Please contact the church office if you or someone you love is desiring a pastoral visit. Call 651-4877752. One of our pastors will call you to arrange a visit.

NEW WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT



Website Project Update – Volunteers Needed!

Our Roseville Lutheran website redesign is underway, and we're excited to involve our community in shaping its look and content. We're looking for volunteers to help review layouts, test new features, and import information to the new site.

If you're interested in contributing your time and ideas, please contact our Communications Manager, Ryan Kotajarvi, at rkotajarvi@rosevillelutheran.org

Your help will ensure our new website is welcoming, informative, and fully up-to-date!

RLC Pop Machine

The RLC pop machine, located on the lower level by the elevator, now has Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, Orange Crush, Mountain Dew, A&W Root Beer and La Croix Lime. Enjoy a cold beverage for just \$1.

Care Team Ministry

The RLC Care Team is a group of volunteers who provide task-oriented support and friendly visits with members needing assistance and support with things like: light household chores/yard work, shopping assistance, and providing support for family and caregivers.

If you would like to join the Care Team and provide one or more types of assistance to members of our church community contact Dave Risinger at 651-206-6699 or Ken Groth at 651-488-2649.

Bible Study Opportunities at RLC

Monday Morning Pastors Bible Study – 10:00am in Room 40

Bring your Bibles (or we have plenty you can use) as we dig into the scriptures for the coming Sunday morning worship. Pastor Kent and Pastor Marty take turns leading this study and discussion. It is a time for asking questions, sharing our stories, experiences, struggles, and joys as we make connections between God's Word and our own lives. We are always learning and growing together when we open our ears, minds, and hearts to the Living Word of God! All are welcome!

Bible Reflections on RLC Facebook – Mondays

Following the Monday morning Bible Study, Pastor Kent and Pastor Marty take turns posting a reflection on the Bible texts discussed for the coming Sunday. They summarize the insights and questions shared, highlighting different aspects from the text, and invite viewers to reflect on questions related to the scriptures to ponder during the coming week.

Saturday Men's Bible Study – 8:30am - first and third Saturdays of the month

Sometimes it is studying a book of the Bible. Sometimes it is a topical study across scriptures. Sometimes it is a book study about a shared topic of interest. But it is always thought provoking, supportive, encouraging, and there is always coffee and goodies to share. Come for the learning, stay for the Christian comradery!

LOVE GOD • LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

Community Updates

RLC 2026 Food Drive

March is Minnesota Food Share Month!

The Mission and Outreach Team invites friends and members of RLC to support Keystone Food Shelf by donating peanut butter or pasta. Look for the blue donation bins in the Commons and place your items there.

Monetary gifts are also welcome. Financial donations allow Keystone to purchase other essential items needed by their clients.

The food drive runs Sunday, March 1, through Sunday, March 29. Thank you for helping support our neighbors in need.



Spring Plant Sale

The Lively Landscapers Team are sponsoring their Spring Plant Sale in partnership with Gerten's Nursery. The online sale through the Gerten's Fundraising website is February 16 - April 2 with delivery/pickup to RLC on Wednesday, May 6th.

This is a fundraiser for the Lively Landscapers to maintain the RLC Gardens. Go to gertensfundraising.com and enter 1118 for the 'StoreID' to place your order or scan the QR code below.

Gerten's GIFT CARDS are also available for purchase with this fundraiser!! Think SPRING!



ALL HANDS ON HOPE - 2026 Mobile pack

Feed my Starving Children (FMSC) Mobile pack is coming April 22 to April 26. Many have participated in this incredible work in the past. We need you again! The meals feed hungry children worldwide. We need volunteer packers, and we need donations to pay for the ingredients used by the packers.

The cost of one meal is 0.29. Our goal is \$180,000 for 614,304 meals, which will feed 1683 kids for a year. Please consider both signing up to pack and providing a donation. The cost to feed a child for a year is \$106. Any amount is appreciated. The online sign up is open now, please sign up via the QR code below. You will never look so good in a hairnet!

Questions, contact Kathy Miller 651-494-8639 or Beth Jacobson 651-230-2902.



Film Night: Sugarcane Documentary

Join us for a film screening of Sugarcane, a powerful documentary produced by Native American filmmakers about the history and impact of Indian boarding schools in Canada, and their lasting effects on Indigenous communities.

Wednesday, March 19

6:30-8:30 PM

RLC Activity Center

All are welcome--please sign up at the Welcome Desk.

Community Updates



Thank You from the RLC Quilters

The RLC Quilters want to thank the congregation for their prayers and good wishes when we displayed our finished quilts and sent them off to their forever homes in December!

Please know we received heartfelt thanks from many recipients.

The small and friendly Quilters group is seeking folks who might want to join us. We meet on every Wednesday from 9 til noon in Heritage Hall basement.

Questions please contact Debbie Kay

Debbie_kay@yahoo.com



Veterans Memorial Bench Project

A new Veterans Memorial Bench Project page is now available on the Roseville Lutheran Church website under the Serving section. The newly designed bench has been installed - thank you to Levi Bayer for completing this meaningful work as a part of his Eagle Scout Project.

The webpage includes a form where you can submit the names and information of veterans you wish to honor. A QR code linking directly to this page will also be available on the bench in the near future.

Scan the QR code to view the webpage and to submit veteran information.



9th Grade Retreat

Parents and 9th grade Confirmation students-Mark your calendars for March 28, 2026 for our 9th Grade Retreat! This retreat will be at church from 9am-2pm. This will be a time to work on faith projects and talk about the Affirmation of Baptism service. Please plan to attend!



Communion Instruction Workshop

Join us for the Communion Instruction Workshop on March 28th. If your child has not received Communion yet and is interested in receiving this Sacrament, please plan on attending this workshop with them. We will learn about a Lutheran understanding of Holy Communion together and go through the details of receiving Communion too. This will all be in preparation for receiving Communion for the first time on Maundy Thursday (April 2nd). The workshop is generally designed for students around 3rd grade, but if your child(ren) is/are older or younger than that, that is fine! We ask that one adult stays with their child during the workshop.

Family Good Friday Activity Day

The worship services of Holy Week are so special and at the same time, can be difficult for our youngest friends. Join us April 3rd at 10am in the Activity Center for a family focused way to engage with Holy Week. We will learn and tell the story of Holy Week together in age appropriate ways and with activities.

Guatemala Trip

Please pray for the team going to Guatemala March 7-14. They will be working on a school building project 40 minutes outside of Antigua and visiting the students we sponsor through scholarships at the Christian school in Santa Apolonia. Stay tuned for updates about this partnership when they return!

Looking ahead-Confirmation Sunday is April 26th at the 10:30 service!

Community Updates



Summer Trips

Middle School

Middle School students will have the opportunity for a few days of service, faith, and fun! We are partnering with Service Learning Camps to do a Middle School Service Trip to Duluth. This for those who are currently in 5th-8th grades.

High School

High School students will have the opportunity for a week of service, faith, and fun! We are partnering with Service Learning Camps to do a High School Service Trip to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This for those who are currently in 9th-12th grades.

These trips will focus on service as we assist different organizations. There will be time for fun, exploring the city, growth together, worship, and Bible study.

Sign up by scanning the QR code:



Vacation Bible School

Summer may seem like a long way off, but it'll be here before we know it! Save the dates for Vacation Bible School: June 22-26, 2026 from 9am-12pm. We'll gather for music, crafts, Bible stories, games, snacks, and fun for preschool and elementary students. Sign-up by scanning the QR code below:

Finance Committee Update (As of 1/31/2025)

Fiscal Year July 2025 to June 2026

Operating Budget (July-January)

	Actual	Budget	Budget vs. Actual	
Offerings	704,469	738,800	(34,331)	Offerings less than budgeted
Other Receipts	63,206	55,908	7,298	Other Receipts more than budgeted
Total Income	767,675	794,708	(27,033)	Total Income less than budgeted
Expenses	636,119	790,285	(154,166)	Expenses less than budgeted
Totals	131,556	4,423	127,133	Cash flow positive year to date

With January reports we start seeing a positive number in the budget and hopefully actuals will continue to run a surplus. We are running a surplus in Actuals due staffing expenses still running lower than budgeted due to open positions.

On line giving: Go to <https://www.rosevillelutheran.org/giving/offering>

If you need help signing into an account you already set up give

Tammy (ext. 232) or Nancy (ext. 203) a call to get a new password



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2168

Upcoming Adult Education Forums

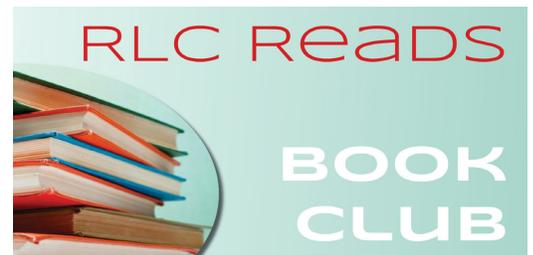
March 1st: Join Pastor Kent for a “back to the future” field trip through the different phases of ministry and discipleship at RLC, to discern where God may be inviting us forward into a new future, growing deeper in faith and love as Christ’s disciples.

March 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th: Pastor Jim Boyce will present “Martin Luther on Romans: Pure Undiluted Grace.”

April Preview: April 5 is Easter so no Adult Ed. Luther Seminary Professor, Pastor Thomason will present “The Illustrated Bible” on April 12, 19, & 26. And in special evening sessions, Jeff Thiemann of Braver Angels will present “Depolarizing Ourselves, Skills for Disagreeing” on April 13 & 20.

RLC Adult Education • 10:00 am Sundays

RLC Reads meets at 7:00 PM on the 2nd Thursday of the month in the “coffee shop”



area near the church office just inside the north doors. Use the upper parking lot and come join us. Even if you haven’t finished the book, we’d still love to see you there. Everyone is welcome! Contact Bob Bergstrom (rcbergstrom@comcast.net) with any questions. Here are the upcoming books:

March 12th:
My Friends by Frederik Backman (2025, 436 pps.)

April 9th:
Man’s Search for Meaning by Viktor Frankl (1946, 346 pps.)

May 14th:
West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge (2021, 346 pps.)