Maranatha Evangelical Free Church

3340 South Main Street, Rice Lake, WI 54868
Maranathafree.com

Position Opening for fulltime Lead Pastor

About Maranatha Evangelical Free Church

Maranatha is a warm, vibrant, and loving multi-generational church community in Rice Lake, Wisconsin, where you feel like you've come home the moment you walk through the doors. Since our beginnings in 1935, we have grown into a family that focuses on teaching the truth of the Word of God while calling people to be disciples of Jesus. We are grateful to be one of the more than 1,600 Evangelical Free Churches of America.

On Sundays, you'll find an active congregation averaging nearly 300 in attendance each week experiencing quality worship with substantive biblical preaching. We want to be known as the church in Barron County where you will hear engaging preaching drawn from the text of the Bible and be led to become a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. With about half of our congregation under the age of 46, the growing children's, youth, men's and women's ministries support families who find a warm welcome at Maranatha.

People in the Rice Lake community see Maranatha as the church that is willing to go beyond to serve the people of our local community. We have helped the local police, served those impacted by local disasters, searched for missing children, housed the homeless, and have an ongoing 'Helping Hands' ministry of moving, repairing, and building for those in the community who need assistance. We actively support missionaries missions ministries who extend the gospel both locally and around the world.

The church is very healthy financially with giving above budget and solid reserves. We currently have two full-time pastors (an Interim Lead Pastor and a Youth Pastor), a part-time Worship Arts Director and a part-time Children's Ministries Director, along with other support staff. As our previous two Lead Pastors have served for 15 and 10+ years, we anticipate that the next Lead Pastor will continue in the legacy of Maranatha's long-term Lead Pastors. When he is called, he will be able to build on the healthy ministry that the current Interim Pastor will leave.

What is Rice Lake, Wisconsin, Like?

Located in Wisconsin's north woods country in the beautiful Red Cedar River valley, the community of Rice Lake offers residents a unique blend of what the Chamber of Commerce calls *Big Time Fun, Small Town Nice*. This city of 9,000, the largest in Barron County (45,000 residents), is 100 miles northeast of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul and an hour and a half from magnificent Lake Superior. It is the primary retail shopping area for the entire region between Eau Claire, WI and Duluth, MN.

The overall cost of living in Rice Lake is 7-12% lower than the national average. While groceries and healthcare are about the same as elsewhere, housing costs are 22% lower, utilities are 11% lower, and gasoline is currently about $0.20 per gallon lower than the national average.

Rice Lake earned its name from the wild rice beds harvested by the Chippewa and other American Indian groups in the past. Now it is surrounded by vast corn and soybean fields and dairy farms overseen by a mix of large-scale operations and generational family farms.

You can spend a day exploring the city's friendly small-town setting, varied restaurants, and quaint stores lining Main Street, or take a walk along the quiet Rice Lake waterfront or the popular Cedar Side Trail that runs alongside the Red Cedar river. Shop for what you need at major national retailers or visit one of the many local stores.

The outdoor recreation opportunities in the Rice Lake area are outstanding. The long list of trail activities include hiking, biking, UTV/ATVing, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing. This area boasts some of the best-designed and expertly groomed cross-country ski trail systems in Wisconsin within a short drive of downtown Rice Lake, and is home to downhill skiing and tubing slopes. Area lakes afford fantastic opportunities for fishing and boating on Rice Lake area's big and small lakes which during the winter make this area one of Wisconsin's top ice fishing destinations. The region has 7 golf courses, including the 18-hole Turtleback Golf course and the famed Tagalong course.

Manufacturing, healthcare, and retail trade are the leading industries driving the economy in Rice Lake, Wisconsin. Serving as the primary economic, medical, and educational hub for Barron County and surrounding communities, Rice Lake supports a resilient job market anchored by major regional employers. The largest employers are Rice Lake Weighing Systems, Marshfield Medical Center, Quanex, the Rice Lake Area School District, and Northwood Technical College.

In Rice Lake you get to experience all four seasons. Summers can be quite warm and sunny with a bit of humidity; Fall features comfortable weather and colorful leaves; Winter is ... real winter (bring a warm coat, thick gloves, and tall boots!), and Spring has the beauty of new life that can be seen bounding up all around.

Rice Lake is a great part of the world to serve as a Pastor and to experience as a family.

Roles Priorities for Maranatha's next Lead Pastor

Every Lead Pastor needs skills as Leader, Preacher, and Counselor. However, because no one man can do them all equally effectively, MEFC's Elders prioritize those roles this way:

Leader, Preacher, Counselor

Maranatha's Elders see our next Lead Pastor's key role is that of a *Leader*, but he must also be an excellent *Preacher* who has a shepherd's heart for offering counsel to the people of the church he leads.

Lead Pastor Profile

Character

1. He is a man of integrity and faithfulness, and clearly fulfills the Bible's qualifications of an Elder in Timothy & Titus.
2. He shows clear commitment to the well-being and growth of his family.
3. He *desires to* and is *able to partner* with and bring visionary leadership to an Elder Board while *willingly* serving under their ultimate authority.
4. He is a lifelong learner, especially of God's Word

Competence

1. He focuses on the Church's mission to make disciples who make disciples.
2. He is a gifted preacher who can effectively communicate the meaning and application of the Bible to a broad range of listeners.
3. He multiplies his gifts and ministry through others.
   He's committed to developing and equipping leaders who can effectively do the work of ministry.
   He ensures that congregational care is well done by developing others to do shepherding.
   He is responsible that the church is well administrated and organized through gifted people.
4. He has successful experience finding, hiring, and developing gifted staff and leaders.

Calling

1. He has a God-given sense of vision and can lead fellow elders and a congregation toward that vision.
2. He agrees without hesitation with the EFCA Statement of Faith and the Nashville Statement on Sexuality.
3. If not currently credentialed, he agrees to obtain EFCA licensure within 3 years of hiring and desires to move toward EFCA ordination.

In addition to the above, the following may be true of an ideal candidate, *but we're flexible*:

1. He has a Master's degree from a recognized Seminary.
2. He has experience administrating the activities and staff of a multiple-staff church, or has a track record of ministry that demonstrates an equivalent capacity
3. He would fit with Maranatha's culture and practice of a complementarian, not egalitarian, view of marriage and women's leadership roles in church, and believer's baptism by immersion.

Factors that *may* enable the best *Chemistry* fit as Maranatha's Lead Pastor:

1. He and/or his wife has experience in the mid-west, and in particular the upper mid-west culture and environment.
2. His family is positive toward a strong homeschooling presence in the church.
3. His preaching generally tends to be more biblically text and passage-driven than topic-driven.

Compensation and Benefits

$92,000 - $100,000 compensation includes salary & housing. No separate medical Insurance.
Vacation commensurate with experience (2-4 weeks)
Ministry expenses (mileage, books, conferences & study leave)
Sabbatical available every 7 years

How to Apply for this Position

Learn more about Maranatha by visiting our website at Maranathafree.com. If you believe Maranatha might be a fitting place for you, please email your resume to our Pastoral Search Team at **NextPastor@maranathafree.com**. Besides what your resume says about yourself, your education, and your ministry experience, please include a photo of you and your family and links to two representative sermons you have recently preached. It will not be helpful to phone call the church.