

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

1200 4th Avenue

Worthington, MN 56187

(507) 376-6148

Fax: (507) 376-6149

Email: felcwgtn@frontiernet.net

Web Site: felcwgtn.org

OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Monday through Friday

WORSHIP: 8:00 am and 10:00 am

COMMUNION: First and Third Sundays

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 am (Sept.–May)

CONGREGATION OFFICERS

GARY GERDES, PRESIDENT –

(507) 376-3574

LISA WALDNER, VICE PRESIDENT -

(507) 372-4597

MARY LARSON, SECRETARY –

(507) 376-9182

CHURCH STAFF

RICHARD RICKER--Pastor

Natalie Zinnel--Administrative Secretary

Amy Lein--Youth & Family Director

David & Robin Stoyke--Custodians

Lola Geisendorfer--Parish Visitor

Pam Fleming--Worship Planner & Visual
Coordinator

Eric Parrish--Choir Director

Jacque Frerichs--Organist/Choir
Accompanist

Lois Gruis--Bell Choir Director

Lori Nienkerk--Choir Accompanist/
Organist

Dennis Selberg--Treasurer

Deb Koob--Financial Secretary

MISSION STATEMENT

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, WORTHINGTON, MN

God has called us, the baptized members of First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Worthington, Minnesota, to proclaim the Gospel and make disciples of all people.

Living out our Mission

In obedience, we commit ourselves to the Lord's ministry rooted in a fertile agricultural prairie of God's creation. Relying on the promise of the Holy Spirit, and through Word and Sacraments, we will grow toward wholeness through worship, learning, service, witness, support, and fellowship.

Adopted 5-31-87

Reflections

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others one of the prophets." Mark 8:27-28

This passage has always fascinated me. When his disciples are asked by Jesus who he is they respond with a broad answer. People experienced who Jesus was in a variety of ways. I have wondered what caused people to see Jesus as John the Baptist or Elijah. Could how they knew Jesus be influenced by where they were in their lives, what their connection to faith was, their needs at that time, or some other reason.

When I think about my own relationship with Jesus I find that I have seen Jesus at various times in my life as a healer, savior, counselor, redeemer, compassionate lover, and Son of God. My experience of Jesus has been shaped by the day to day living of my life.

Right now I am asking for Jesus to share his wisdom and counsel with me and you as we go through this difficult time in our churches long history. The ELCA churchwide vote to allow individual churches to call as ordained ministers actively gay people if they are involved in a long term same sex relationship is a concern for some members in this and other churches. Many concerns were shared at a recent open forum at FLC. The outcome of that meeting is that we would continue discussing this issue as we seek a way forward together as a church.

The discussion will continue on Tuesday, October 6th at 6:30 pm in the lounge. I will be there with other leaders to listen to your

concerns. On Saturday, October 10th at 6:30 pm in Centennial Hall Pastor Jeff Engholm from our Southwestern Minnesota Synod Office will be here to host an open forum for our church and American Lutheran to again discuss this issue. Jeff will also be preaching at FLC on Sunday, October 11th and hosting another forum between services. I encourage each of you to come and express your thoughts, feelings, and concerns on this issue. Your input is encouraged no matter how you feel. All points of view are welcome. After these forums your church council will gather to discuss what they have heard and will call a special congregational meeting to assist us in going forward together in the mission that Jesus Christ has called us to in this place: "To proclaim the Gospel and make Disciples of all people."

God's peace,
Pastor Richard

Lessons and Themes for the Sundays in October, 2009:

10/4/09: 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 8
Genesis 2:18-24
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16

10/11/09: 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 90:12-17
Amos 5:6-7, 10-15
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31

10/18/09: 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 91:9-16
Isaiah 53:4-12
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45

10/25/09: Reformation Sunday

Psalm 46
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36

Praise the Lord

The following is the financial report for First Lutheran as of August 31, 2009:

General Fund:

Bal. 7/31/09:	(\$17,701.00)
Inc., August	\$23,483.30
Exp., August	\$21,563.87
Bal. 8/31/09:	(\$15,781.57)

Building

Bal. 7/31/09:	\$27,907.19
Inc., August	\$816.50
Exp., August	\$663.66
Bal. 8/31/09:	\$28,060.03

Sunday Servants



If for any reason you are unable to serve on the Sunday indicated, please trade with someone else on the list or find a replacement and contact the church office so that the names can be listed correctly

in the church bulletin. Please watch the mail for the post card. This is a temporary schedule for the month so it may change. Thank you.

Tape Duplicator: Terry Bramel

Van Driver:

10/4	Jim Hudson
10/11	Randy Potts
10/18	Byron Swart
10/25	Dennis Selberg

Acolytes (Contact Person: Julia Berger, 376-6906)

10/4	8:00	Miles Veen Nathan Faragher
	10:00	Brianna Kraft Troy Feller
10/11	8:00	Tyler Faragher Nathan Russell
	10:00	Logan Rogers
10/18	8:00	Colton Poppema Sarah Waldner
	10:00	Nathan Patten Katie Randgaard
10/25	8:00	Trevor Wietzema Nick Demuth
	10:00	Troy Feller

Ushers (Contact Person: Julia Berger)

10/4 8:00 Courtney Faragher
 10:00 Levi Severance
 10/11 8:00 Lauren Stanton
 10:00 Zachary Kempema
 10/18 8:00 Logan Waldner
 10:00 Jordan Gieselman
 10/25 8:00 Courtney Faragher
 10:00 Rebecca Christensen

Greeters (Contact Person: Church Office, 376-6148)

10/4 8:00 Pat & Lynette Demuth Family
 10:00 Gary & Marless Milbrath
 10/11 8:00 Cal & Nancy Zuehlke
 10:00 Ray & Karen Buchman
 10/18 8:00 Kent & Valerie Wilkening Family
 10:00 Ryan & Rebecca McGaughey Family
 10/25 8:00 Roger & Linda Nelson
 10:00 Karen Lewis Betty Burns

Lectors (Contact Person: Church Office, 376-6148)

10/4 8:00 Lynnette Faragher
 10:00 Teresa Widboom
 10/11 8:00 Arnold Waldner
 10:00 Al Selberg
 10/18 8:00 Marjorie Larson
 10:00 Glennis Pearson
 10/25 8:00 Paula Laffrenzen
 10:00 Ed Philipp

Coffee Servers (Contact Person: Church Office, 376-6148)

10/4 Bruce & Robin Livingston
 Dave & Marjorie Livingston
 10/11 Mike & Gwen Peil
 Arond Peil Family
 10/18 Dave & Robin Stoyke
 Ross & June DeWitt
 10/25 Al Luing/Ken McNab/John Kramer

Contemp. Liturgist (Contact Person: Pam Fleming, 376-5429)

10/11 8 & 10 Margaret Erickson
 10/25 8:00 Matt Russell
 10:00 Ed Philipp

Liturgist (Contact Person: Pam Fleming, 376-5429)

10/4 Polka Service
 10/25 8:00 Leroy Merkel
 10:00 Jade Ternus

Synthesizer (Contact Person: Pam Fleming, 376-5429)

10/11 8 & 10 Katie Fleming
 10/25 8 & 10 Cindy Swart

Nursery Attendants (Contact Person: Church Office, 376-6148)

10/4 8:00 Carrie Adams
 Nicole Kempema
 10:00 Ryan & Rebecca McGaughey
 10/11 8:00 Pat & Lynette Demuth
 10:00 Lola Geisendorfer Adeline Larson
 10/18 8:00 Jane Benson/Debbie Koob
 10:00 Nancy & Alyssa Berg
 10/25 8:00 Julie Bauman
 Theresa Rotert
 10:00 Marj Broich
 Marilyn Frisch

Busy Bags (Contact Person: Sara Barber, 360-1368)

October: Paula Laffrenzen
 November: Dana White

October Birthdays

1 Chandler Kempema
 2 Marcia Linssen
 2 Dennis Selberg
 4 Patrick Demuth
 4 Sherry Randgaard
 4 Valorie Veen
 7 Robert Dieter

- 7 Beverly Kruse
- 7 Janet Zierke
- 8 Bev Frisch
- 9 Gina Huber
- 9 Justin Larson
- 10 Marion Ager
- 10 Alison Christensen
- 10 Tim Toso
- 11 Rebecca Ward
- 12 JoAnn Kruse
- 12 Nichole Stoyke
- 13 Nicholas Schroeder
- 14 Haley Fitzhugh
- 14 Ryan McGaughey
- 14 Samuel Olson
- 14 Mike Peil
- 14 Teresa Widboom
- 15 Linda Goolsby
- 16 Dan Anderson
- 16 Carla Buchman
- 16 Vivian Heig
- 16 Ardys Jacobson
- 18 Robin Dolliver
- 19 Evelyn Murray
- 19 Arlene Muse
- 20 Susan Kruger
- 20 Philip Larson
- 20 Sandra Marsh
- 21 Ryan Benson
- 21 Brittany Elsing
- 22 Darcy Poppema
- 23 James Kraft
- 23 Lisa Waldner
- 24 Carol Seivert
- 25 Nancy Berg
- 25 Saundra Kaiser
- 26 Mary Larson
- 27 Deb Heikes
- 27 Dana White
- 28 Mary Kimberling
- 31 Lynette Demuth



Seasoned Citizens: On Thursday, October 8th, we are excited to have Tim Graf (Lois and Erving's son) share with us about the ice harvesting business that his grandparents ran in Worthington. He has been sharing this information with many students and groups in the Twin Cities area.

First Lutheran Benefits from your Grocery Purchases. When you buy groceries at Hy-Vee, with the Hy-Vee Gift Card, First Lutheran receives 5% from the sale of the gift card. Get yours today! The cards are available in the church office and between services on Sunday. We have \$10, \$25, \$50 or \$100 gift cards to sell. You pay the full price for the card and the church receives 5%. All the cards are prepaid and are like cash when you purchase them. As of August 31, 2009 a total of **\$16,211.08** has been put into the general fund.

MILITARY BOARD: The military board will soon be updated. If you have any family members that need to be added to the board, a change of address or military status that has changed, please contact Brenda Hurlbut (376-5907) or leave the information in the church office. New photos may be added too. This is a great way to recognize and support our men and women serving in the armed forces state-side or abroad. We will continue to keep each service-person in our prayers.

Thanks, Brenda Hurlbut

Now Open: The ARC Thrift Store at 310 10th Street in Worthington. They are looking for people to volunteer Monday-Friday from 9 am – 4 pm. Also, looking for donations of gently used clothing and goods.

For Your Information – Regarding Video System in Sanctuary

I checked with Natalie, Amy, and the preschool and asked if they have ever watched videos in the sanctuary using our video system. The answer is no they have not. They always watch their videos in the basement where the preschool is. I don't know how the rumor got started but be assured there is no truth to it.

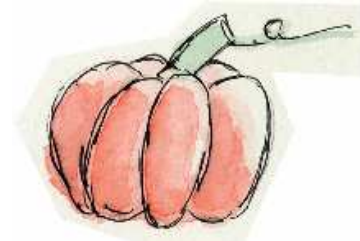
A couple of years ago when the a pipe broke in the basement and it flooded the kids were forced, due safety concerns, to spend the day in Centennial Hall and at that time they did watch videos on the screen in Centennial Hall using our portable projector. At no time however were they in the sanctuary and since that time they have been downstairs. I hope this clears up any questions you may have. Please pass this information along to any you know who have concerns.

We do use the video system in the sanctuary for our Sunday School and Vacation Bible School programming which involves many young children.
God's peace Pastor Richard

WOMAN & FORK

There was a young woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as she was getting her things 'in order,' she contacted her Pastor and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in. Everything was in order and the Pastor was preparing to leave when the young woman suddenly remembered something very important to her. 'There's one more thing,' she said excitedly. 'What's that?' came the Pastor's reply. 'This is very important,' the young woman continued. 'I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand'. The Pastor stood looking at the young woman, not knowing quite what to say. 'That surprises you, doesn't it?' the

young woman asked. 'Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request,' said the Pastor. The young woman explained. 'My grandmother once told me this story, and from that time on I have always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement. In all my years of attending socials and dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, 'Keep your fork.' It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming...like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful and with substance! So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder 'What's with the fork?' Then I want you to tell them: 'Keep your fork ...the best is yet to come.' The Pastor's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the young woman good-bye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the young woman had a better grasp of heaven than he did. She had a better grasp of what heaven would be like than many people twice her age, with twice as much experience and knowledge. She KNEW that something better was coming. At the funeral people were walking by the young woman's casket and they saw the cloak she was wearing and the fork placed in her right hand. Over and over, the Pastor heard the question, 'What's with the fork?' And over and over he smiled. During his message, the Pastor told the people of the conversation he had with the young woman shortly before she died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to her. He told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either. He was right. So the next time you reach down for your fork let it remind you, ever so gently, that the best is yet to come.



How Does God Love Us?

One way is through the nurturing love a married couple gives to each other. Discover that love at a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend. You'll spend two nights in a comfortable hotel and enjoy five delicious meals from Friday at 7:00 pm to Sunday at 5:00 pm. Four presenting couples, including a Lutheran clergy couple, give a series of presentations followed by questions the couples discuss in the privacy of their hotel room. There is no counseling and no group sharing. No one tries to change who you are. It's great for couples who already have a good marriage and want to enrich their relationship, but it also does wonders for those marriages that have lost their luster though years of child rearing and work obligations.

The next Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends in Minnesota are October 16-18 in Duluth and November 20-22 in Brooklyn Center. Please register a month in advance. For more information, contact Dick & Judy Dehnel at 952-432-3105, Pete & Phyllis McMahon at 763-561-1575 or visit www.godlovesmarriage.org.



I CAN'T GO TO CHURCH TODAY

I woke up this morning all achy and slow,
The church service starts in an hour or so.
My clothes are all wrinkled, the car isn't clean,
Now it's too late to show up on the scene.
I can't go to church today.

I hear that the preacher is really the best,
Smiling and happy, yet never a pest.
He visits my grandma and calls on my aunt,
If the sermons are short, what more could I want.
I can't go to church today.

I really am thankful for blessings each day,
Our family is healthy, what more can I say.
There's soccer and football and all kinds of fun,
We boat and fish and golf in the sun.
I can't go to church today.

My fam'ly is growing so fast—as you know,
An exemplary life is what I should show.
Next week will slow down the way it now looks,
Today I'll sleep in, watch TV, do the books.
I can't go to church today.

I give to the church, when I go, if I can,
But right now it doesn't fit into the plan.
There's the camper, the snowmobile and the new car
My paycheck just doesn't go that far!
I can't go to church today.

I have fields and nice gardens, I do lots of work,
To every detail I never will shirk.
There's not time for church because I must spray,
And hoe all the weeds by the end of the day.
I can't go to church today.

The fam'ly has plans in the 'cities' today,
For fun and safe travel we really should pray.
We should arrive early for visit and play,
An hour for church sure would mess up the day.
I can't go to church today.

I've missed several weeks and that makes me blue,
But I plan to attend when there's nothing to do.
Next week I can't go, the next is the game,
Forgive me I pray, I know it's a shame.
I can't go to church today.

St. Peter called for me yesterday,
I was way too young, I'll have to say.
I'll be kept in the morgue 'till Tuesday,
So I won't be in church today.
I can't go to church today.
(Writer - John Vihlen)

**Bible Readings
For
October, 2009**

1	Jeremiah	49-50
2	Jeremiah	51-52
3	Lamentations	1-4
4	Ezekiel	1-3
5	Ezekiel	4-6
6	Ezekiel	7-9
7	Ezekiel	10-12
8	Ezekiel	13-15
9	Ezekiel	16-18
10	Ezekiel	19-21
11	Ezekiel	22-24
12	Ezekiel	25-27
13	Ezekiel	28-30
14	Ezekiel	31-33
15	Ezekiel	34-36
16	Ezekiel	37-39
17	Ezekiel	40-42
18	Ezekiel	43-45
19	Ezekiel	46-48
20	Daniel	1-3
21	Daniel	4-6
22	Daniel	7-9
23	Daniel	10-12
24	I Timothy	1-3
25	I Timothy	4-6
26	II Timothy	1-4
27	Philemon	1
	Titus	1-3
28	Hosea	1-3
29	Hosea	4-6
30	Hosea	7-9
31	Hosea	10-12

The readings this month are from prophetic books in the Old Testament and some of the smaller letters in the New Testament.

**Psalms
For
October, 2009**

1	PSALM	115
2	PSALMS	116 & 117
3	PSALMS	116 & 117
4	PSALM	118:1-14
5	PSALM	118:1-14
6	PSALM	118:15-29
7	PSALM	118:15-29
8	PSALM	119:1-8
9	PSALM	119:1-8
10	PSALM	119:9-16
11	PSALM	119:9-16
12	PSALM	119:17-24
13	PSALM	119:17-24
14	PSALM	119:25-32
15	PSALM	119:25-32
16	PSALM	119:33-40
17	PSALM	119:33-40
18	PSALM	119:41-48
19	PSALM	119:41-48
20	PSALM	119:49-56
21	PSALM	119:49-56
22	PSALM	119:57-64
23	PSALM	119:57-64
24	PSALM	119:65-72
25	PSALM	119:65-72
26	PSALM	119:73-80
27	PSALM	119:73-80
28	PSALM	119:81-88
29	PSALM	119:81-88
30	PSALM	119:89-96
31	PSALM	119:89-96

Most of the time this month will be spent in Psalm 119. The subject of this Psalm is God's Word. Each grouping sings praises about God's Word. Let His Word become alive in your life.

YOUTH NEWS

I bet all of you who are reading this have at one point in your lives picked up a pebble or even a rock and have thrown it into a lake, pond, or river. The effect of ripples on the water is an awe inspiring thing. To think that a small rock could make all those ripples in the still surface of the water. I have recently taken a trip down memory lane and thought of all the people who have been in my life who caused the ripple effect. So many hands were helping to form me to become the woman that I am and I want to share some of the more important people in my life who especially helped me as I grew in Christ.

First I have to mention my mother, Robin. Growing up I thought my mom was pushy and selfish because she got me up every Sunday for church. I thought back then that she just didn't want to go to church alone. Looking back I am so thankful for her perseverance. It wasn't her who was being pushy and selfish, it was me. My mother wasn't taking me to church so she could have someone by her side; she was taking me so I would learn that God was always by my side.

Next I would like to tell you all about my friend in faith, Betty Zeilke. Betty was my mentor through confirmation, which lasted five years. She went to some of my Confirmation classes with me and learned as I learned. Betty was an older lady in my church. She had already raised her children and her and her husband were retired and lived on their acreage where they grew trees for the paper mill. Betty is a rock. Her faith is unshakable. I have seen this woman after tragedy struck when she lost her husband in an accident and am amazed at her willingness to turn to the cross at all times. She is a great example for me of what it means to be a strong woman of Christ. To this day Betty is part of my family, she shares the holidays with us and has become a second mother to me. It is wonderful that a practical stranger from my church could become one of my dearest friends by just being in my life and guiding me as I followed Christ.

Then there are my grandparents. I don't remember much of my grandpa Paul Lein, but what I do remember is that he was a

strong man of God. I remember him singing in the church choir and I remember his love of God's creation. My grandpa was the person who gave me my first Bible when I was in third grade. I still have that Bible, and I cherish it because he gave it to me, and what better gift to give a child than the word to direct them. My grandma Lein is still as strong influence in my faith life. I know she prays for me constantly and I appreciate her prayers and her spirit of worship. She is always singing praises to God, even while she is cooking!

As I look back on how these people have helped form my faith life, I realize how blessed I am and how their simple actions are still affecting my life. I also realize that there are many more people who have helped me grow and there are still people I am growing from. I would like to mention that I have learned the true spirit of service from some of the youth here. Many of them humble me and bring me back to why I am here; to serve Christ. No matter what age I am, many people still can cause the ripple effect in my life. No matter what age you are, you too cause that ripple effect in the lives of youth, adults, and strangers. Think of who you can reach, talk to a youth or if you are a youth reach out to someone in church. You never know who you can learn from, or who you can help, and always remember to pray.

God's Peace,
Amy

Youth Updates:

* There is a box outside of Amy's office for dropping off forms or payments. This is an attempt to keep better track of trip payments and fundraiser donations. Please do not hand forms or check to Amy; rather put them in the box.

*The Way is on the 7^h at the high school cafeteria.