

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
1200 4th Avenue
Worthington, MN 56187
(507) 376-6148
Fax: (507) 376-6149
Email: felcwgtn@gmail.com
Website: felcwgtn.org

OFFICE HOURS: Monday—Thursday
8:00 am—12:00 pm
1:00—4:30 pm
Friday
8:00 am—12:00 pm

Church will be locked over the noon hour.

WORSHIP: 6:00 pm—Wednesday
9:30 am—Sunday

COMMUNION: Wednesday
First & Third Sunday

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 8:45 am (Sept–May)

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

April
2026

Evangel



ALLELUIA!

CHRIST IS ALIVE!

CONGREGATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT – Matt Russell
(507) 360-5835
VICE PRESIDENT – Lonnie Myrom
(507) 329-3849
SECRETARY – Carrie Adams
(507) 329-5625

CHURCH STAFF

Jeanette McCormick—Pastor
Natalie Zinnel—Administrative Secretary/
Co-Treasurer
Brenda Richards—Youth & Family Director
Todd Poppema—Custodian
Eric Parrish —Choir Director/Worship Planner
Lori Nienkerk—Choir Accompanist/
Organist/Pianist
Arlene Lowe—Co-Treasurer
Debbie Koob—Financial Secretary
Jim & Paula Laffrenzen—Parish Visitors

PASTOR JEANETTE'S ARTICLE

Dear First Lutheran,

As I write this, April and the Easter season are almost here! In Easter, we give thanks for the new life that Jesus gives us and celebrate all the ways that new life is evident in our world. Since we have been freed from the power of death, sin and the devil through the resurrection, we are freed to work against all forms of suffering and despair that we find in this world. This April, we will be celebrating Easter and having some important educational/informational opportunities available. While this is not my traditional newspaper format, I would like to highlight some major happenings this month.

April 2, Maundy Thursday: As many of you know, Maundy Thursday is my favorite worship service of the year. On this day, we wash hands and feet as we remember Jesus' command to serve each other in sacrificial ways. We remember how Jesus calls us and unites us through Communion. We will celebrate First Communions. On Maundy Thursday we also conclude the service with the stripping of the altar, remembering Jesus' arrest, unfair trial and crucifixion. First Lutheran's service will be held at 7:00 pm with the foot and hand washing taking place as people enter the Sanctuary.

April 3, Good Friday: On Good Friday, we remember how Jesus died on the cross. We remember that Jesus is present in all of the places of despair and suffering in the world. This year, we will hear the seven last phrases that Jesus spoke before his death. Church members from both Grace and First will share their reflections about these final phrases. This service will only be held at Grace Lutheran at 6:00 pm. A time of fellowship together at Grace will follow the service.

April 4, Easter Vigil: Join us at 7:00 pm at First Lutheran for stories and songs about new life and hope. The Easter Vigil traces the story of how God has been working to redeem humanity from the beginning of time through the resurrection.

April 5, Easter Sunday: Come and celebrate the resurrection! First Lutheran's service will begin at 9:30 am. We will share communion and our choir will sing.

Faith, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

Over the past few years, I have seen the importance of addressing the mental health crisis in our community. I reached out to some church members who work in the mental health field and community organizations for support. I want to help our congregations talk about this important topic and be better equipped to address problems that arise. I was grateful for the eagerness and willingness of many organizations and professionals to be involved with this work. Please see the flyer about a three-part series we will offer in April. We encourage and welcome members and nonmembers to attend sessions in this vital series.

May the hope and promise of the resurrection guide you and sustain you in this Easter season.

Gratefully,
Rev. Jeanette McCormick

FAITH, MENTAL HEALTH, AND SUICIDE PREVENTION



JOIN US FOR ONE OR ALL OF THESE
SESSIONS: 6:30 PM-8 PM EACH NIGHT

- All materials provided: free will donation for all resources and materials
- Sessions are appropriate for teenagers to adults
- Conversation time will take place but no one is expected to share
- You do not need to be a parent to benefit from these sessions
- Childcare is available
- All denominational backgrounds/no denominational backgrounds are welcome

APRIL 15: INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATION AND CONVERSATION

We will talk about how faith, the church and mental health/suicide are connected. There will be an introduction led by Pr. Jeanette McCormick. Then adults and youth will divide for small group conversations.

APRIL 22: QPR AND ENDING THE SILENCE SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING

Join us for QPR (Question, Persuade and Refer) training for adults or an "Ending the Silence" training for teens. Sessions will be taught by certified instructors, Marie Atkinson-Smeins and Renee Labat. **RSVPS for this session are useful to planning (see contact information below).**

APRIL 29: PANEL AND LANTERN MAKING

A panel of mental health workers and individuals affected by mental health/suicide will share their stories. Questions are encouraged. Youth will end the session by creating lanterns in honor of those lost by suicide or are struggling with mental health.

All Events Will Occur at First Lutheran: 1200 4th Ave. Worthington, MN 56187

Community organizations will be present to share information and resources. Books about mental health for children/youth of all ages will also be available.

Questions/Concerns? Please contact Pr. Jeanette McCormick at 507-376-6148 or 612-636-1533 (cell) or email pastorjeanette McCormick@gmail.com





Lessons and Themes for the Sundays in April 2026:

4/2/26: Jesus' Last Words (Maundy Thurs.)

Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 26:3
Hebrews 10:16-25
John 19:23-30

4/3/26: Jesus the Passover Lamb (Good Fri.)

Psalm 31:9-18
1 John 5:1-9
John 19:31-42

4/5/2026: Jesus Resurrection (Easter)

Jeremiah 31:1-6
Psalm 118:21-29
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
John 20:1-18

4/12/2026: Thomas

Psalm 145:13-21
Hebrews 10:35-11:1
John 20:19-31

4/19/2026: Paul's Conversion

Psalm 67
Acts 9:1-19a
Matthew 6:24

4/26/2026: Paul and Silas

Psalm 119:55-62
Acts 16:16-34
Luke 6:18-19, 22-23

Praise the Lord

The following is the financial report for First Lutheran as of February, 2026:

General Fund:

Bal. 1/31/26:	\$46,439.61
Inc., February	\$25,332.79
Exp., February	\$27,899.23
Bal. 2/28/26:	\$43,873.17

Grace Lutheran Reimbursement—\$6,596.80

Building Fund:

Bal. 1/31/26:	\$84,706.84
Inc., February	\$410.00
Exp., February	\$0.00
Bal. 2/28/26:	\$85,116.85



Card Ministry meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Come join the fun. No experience necessary!

Check out our display in Centennial Hall to purchase a card for **\$2 (NEW PRICE)**. Funds will be designated to different groups as needed.



Our Deepest Sympathy

DEATH & SYMPATHY: Doris Joanne Selberg died February 8, 2026 at the age of 89 years. Her funeral service was held here at

First Lutheran Church on February 21, 2026. We extend our Christian sympathy to her family.

Easter Sunday Services



**8:00 am—
Worship @
Grace Lutheran**

**9:30 am -
Worship @ First
Lutheran**

Servants

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If for any reason you are unable to serve at the time 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. This is a temporary schedule for the month so it may change. Thank you.

Computer Assistant (Contact Person: Church Office, 376-6148)

4/2 7:00PM Pam Fleming
4/5 9:30 Glenda Lais
4/12 9:30 Glenda Lais
4/19 9:30 Pam Fleming
4/26 9:30 Glenda Lais

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

4/2 7:00PM Brealynn Schroeder
4/5 9:30 Kinsley Neugebauer
4/12 9:30 Lexi Kleve
4/19 9:30 Olivia Gerdes
4/26 9:30 Dyson Neugebauer

Assisting Minister & Lector (Contact Person: Church Office, 376-6148)

4/2 7:00PM Lonnie Myrom
4/5 9:30 Matt Russell
4/12 9:30 Cooper Scripture
4/19 9:30 Ryan McGaughey
4/26 9:30 Todd Hallstrom

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

4/2 7:00PM Diana White
4/5 9:30 Doug & Julie Christensen
4/12 9:30 Diane Sletten
4/19 9:30 John Kramer
4/26 9:30 Kathy Craun

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

4/2 7:00PM Pat Demuth
4/5 9:30 Doug Frisch
4/12 9:30 Ethan Nixon
4/19 9:30 Kevin Fleming
4/26 9:30 Doug Frisch

Van Driver: (Van will be picking up members for the Sunday service only)

4/5 9:30 Matt Russell (360-5835)
4/12 9:30 Daren Bauman (360-9275)
4/19 9:30 Midg White (360-3215)
4/26 9:30 Larry Woodbury (360-2689)

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

4/2 7:00PM Carrie Adams
4/5 9:30 Becca McGaughey
4/12 9:30 Debbie Koob
4/19 9:30 Erin Makela
4/26 9:30 Ethan Nixon

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

4/5 9:30 Doug & Julie Christensen & Diana White
4/12 9:30 John & Nora Leinen & John Kramer
4/19 9:30 Robert & Bonnie Bents & Miles & Ady Hein
4/26 9:30 Rolf & Joan Mahlberg & Kathy Craun



The office will be closed on Friday, April 3 and Monday, April 6 for the Easter Holiday.



Radio Broadcast: You can sponsor the broadcast in memory or in honor of a family member or an event in your life. The cost to sponsor a broadcast is \$75.00. Please sign up on the sheet in Centennial Hall. Thank you.



First Lutheran Benefits from your Grocery Purchases. When you buy groceries at Fareway, with the Fareway Gift Card, First Lutheran receives 5% from the sale of the gift card. Get yours today!

The cards are available in the church office. We have \$25, \$50 or \$100 gift cards to sell. You pay the full price for the card and the church receives 5%. As of February 28, 2026, a total of **\$6,623.74** has been put into the general fund.

Gift Cards are available on communion Sunday mornings in Centennial Hall and in the office during the week.



Blessing of the Seed

Spring is here. It's planting time again. Bring your seed to our service on Sunday, April 26 for a special blessing before planting.



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. We have \$25, \$50 or \$100 gift cards to sell. You pay the full price for the card and the church receives 5%. **The card can also be used when you purchase gas.** As of February 28, 2026, a total of **\$59,576.50** has been put into the general fund.

Some thoughts to ponder...If Jesus came to our church today, what would we do? Would we welcome him and make him feel like a highly regarded guest? Or would we be annoyed that he was in our way and disrupting our routine? Would we talk with our friends how happy we were that he came? Or would we complain about his presence? "And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!' Matthew 25:40



Maundy Thursday, April 2

Grace Service—5:30 pm
First Service—7:00 pm

Good Friday, April 3

Service @ Grace Only—6:00 pm

Easter Vigil, April 4

First Service—7:00 pm

Thank you for all the prayers, cards and sympathies expressed during Doris' death. We would like to express our appreciation to all the kitchen workers and ushers for the funeral.

Al Selberg & family



Please note the upcoming sessions for the Memory Café. If you would like more information, please contact Joanne Bartosh at 507-295-5262.

Please join us! *Memory Cafe'* All are welcome!

Thursday, March 19th
1:30pm - 2:30pm

1st Evangelical Lutheran Church
1200 4th Ave., Worthington MN

Memory Cafe' sessions offer a wonderful opportunity for individuals with dementia and their Care-partners to access their memories and strengthen their sense of Community.

Join us on Thurs. March 19!

In the spirit of St. Patrick's Day, guest Speaker Pat Mahoney will talk about Saints, Soccer, and Specials

Upcoming sessions

Thurs. April 16 - Plant, Pot, and Ponder with speaker Linda Reasonover

Thurs. May 21 - Great Graduation Gumption (speaker to be determined)



Call today to reserve your spot!
Nobles Co. Program Manager
Joanne Bartosh
(507)295-5262



A.C.E. of SW Minnesota is committed to supporting caregivers in our community. This Memory Cafe' is part of our ongoing efforts to provide resources and care to those who give so much of themselves. It is funded in part by United Way of Nobles Co., donations, and a grant from the Southwest Initiative Foundation's Paul and Alma Schwan Aging Trust Endowment Fund.

Awake, thou wintry earth
Fling off thy sadness!
Fair vernal flowers,
Laugh forth
Your ancient gladness!
Christ is risen.
— Thomas Blackburn



Directory: Please inform me of any changes to your address or phone numbers by April 15. I will be working on getting a new address directory published by the end of May. If you notice any changes on the online directory, please inform me of that information also as some of the numbers didn't transfer right when I put it into that system.

Thank you! Natalie



April Birthdays



1	Alan Olhausen	15	Alida Scripture	30	Christopher Black
2	Janice Berger	16	Jason Johnson		
2	Mike Johnson	16	Tinleigh Ober		
3	Cindy Glorvigen	17	Gregory Amundson		
4	Sydney Burns	17	Kendra Frodermann		
4	Debbie Koob	18	Stephanie Bauman		
4	Norma Woodbury	18	Calvin Rehborg		
5	Gayle Huehn	19	Eryn Nixon		
5	Morgan Vosburgh	20	Jonathan Raley		
6	Letti Lowe	21	Barbara Olson		
7	Jon Faragher	22	Daren Christensen		
7	Theresa Rotert	23	Dustin Hurlbut		
7	Jim Russell	23	Rebecca McGaughey		
9	Emily Anderson	25	Julie Christensen		
9	John Kramer	25	Hailey White		
9	Lindsey Potts	26	Shelby Faragher		
12	Arlene Zeiner	26	Kevin Lowe		
14	Allan De Roo	28	Richard Ricker		
14	Eric Milbrath	29	Lance Hellstrom		
15	Robert Schreiber	29	Joshua Wasmund		



“Jesus Foretells His Betrayal”

“Judas said, “You don’t mean me?”

Why did Judas betray Jesus? Some think Judas never intended Jesus’ death. He really believed Jesus was the Messiah. He believed that part of Jesus’ mission was to rally the people behind him and drive the Romans out of Palestine.

But when it came to this part of the mission, Jesus seemed to be dragging his feet. Judas intended his action of betrayal to be a trigger to get Jesus moving.

This theory would explain why Judas took his life when things backfired. If this theory is correct, Judas’s sin was that of trying to play God. He had his own ideas of what God wanted done and how Jesus should do it.

Do we tend to play God in people’s lives?

“ ‘My thoughts,’ says the Lord, ‘are not like yours, and my ways are different from yours. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways and thoughts above yours.’ “ Isaiah 55:8-9

Illustrated Daily Homilies by Mark Lick, SJ

APRIL YOUTH NEWS

Sign up today to attend Community Kids' Camp! Use this QR code to register your student or to register as a volunteer.



THANKS to all the many mentors that met with our youth during Lent. This really makes a difference in the lives of our youth, thank you for serving.

We resume confirmation at the regular time in April - 6:30 pm. On April 8 the quilting ladies will be joining us to lead us in our service project of tying the denim quilts.

Kids For Christ

Hard to believe that our KFC year has now ended. Thanks to all who stepped up to help each week or on occasion. Thank you also to everyone who helped keep us fed - from providing food, to cooking and serving. We really appreciate all of you. Thanks to the coat ministry ladies for always being willing to lend a helping hand. It truly does take a village. The youth are our future and I appreciate all the many hands that help to make everything happen each week here.

May 6 - End of year celebration at church - ALL are welcome

Join us at First Lutheran for a meal at 5:15 pm followed by an informal worship service at 6:00 pm in Centennial Hall led by the youth.

Silent Auction 2026 - Thank you to all who donated, placed a bid, etc. Your support for the youth of this church means a lot.

RUMMAGE SALE - due to the 150th Anniversary celebration, donations will not be accepted until after July 1. The rummage sale will be happening in the middle of August. Talk with Brenda Richards with any questions.

ATTENTION: "Pop machine" fridge has moved to the closet going to the garage. You'll find it on the left hand side of the wall next to the youth fridge.

Save your pop tabs and bring them in to be taken to the Ronald McDonald House.

July 26-31 NIGHTLIFE Camp at Badlands Ministries in Medora, ND

GRACIAS! THANK YOU! THANKS FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE! WE APPRECIATE YOU! MANY THANKS! MUCHAS GRACIAS

COMMUNITY KIDS' CAMP

CREATED BY GOD...
FOR GOD!

CREATE!

June 8-11
5-5:45pm Meal + 5:45-8pm Activities
American Lutheran Church
915 Winifred Street, Worthington
For children age 5 (& potty trained) through completed grade 5.
Suggested donation: \$5/child or \$10/family
**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (507)372-5264
OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER (BY MAY 26).**

NEW!
AdultEngagement
devotion, refreshments, activities.
Register using the QR Code.
(6:15pm-7:45pm)

Sponsored by American Lutheran, First Lutheran,
First United Methodist, and Living Waters Covenant Churches.

Community Kids Camp

Sunday School continues each week at 8:45 am
No Sunday School on Easter Sunday

April 2026



14 Keeley Island Drive
Slayton, MN 56172
507-763-3567
camp@shetek.org
www.shetek.org

Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers



Apply to work at Camp this summer!

Siding is getting put on the new cabin!

Wish List

Upcoming Events

- Extension Cords & Power Strips
- New Vacuum
- Children's Books
- Spark Bibles
- Office Supplies-Dry Erase Markers, paper
- Arts & Crafts Supplies
- Board games

Confirmation Retreat April 10-11

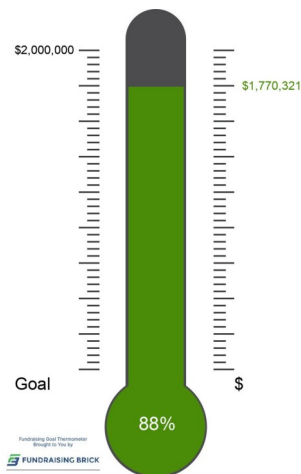
Hiking Club April 19

Quilt & Craft Retreat April 20-23

Hiking Club May 17

Register online at Shetek.org or Call 507-763-3567

We met our Phase 1 goal! Over \$1,770,321 in gifts and pledges! Our challenge goal is \$2,000,000 and with increased costs, our budget has changed for our different phases. More info on our website.
<https://shetek.org/sl-m-master-plan/>



Help send kids to Camp...Become a Pelican Club or Timber Society member today. Pelican Club members support the ministry with a gift of \$100 - \$499 a year and Timber Society members give \$500 or more a year. Thanks for your support!