

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

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

**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*

# August

# 2023

# Evangel



### CONGREGATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT – Erin Makela,  
(320) 223-3713

VICE PRESIDENT – Matt Russell,  
(507) 360-5835

SECRETARY – Sandy Poppema,  
(507) 360-3797

### 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

Organist/Pianist

Cindy Anderson—Pianist

Nancy Hofstee—Organist

Arlene Lowe—Co-Treasurer

Debbie Koob—Financial Secretary

Jim & Paula Laffrenzen—Parish Visitors

# *PASTOR JEANETTE'S ARTICLE*

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Dear First Lutheran and Grace Lutheran,

My family and I were able to attend Pastor's Family Camp at Green Lake Bible Camp the afternoon of June 18 to the evening of the 22. This is the third year we have attended this camp, and, therefore, we know the other families, staff and camp increasingly well. We have enjoyed building on these established relationships year after year. This opportunity is financially supported through the Southwestern MN Synod in an effort to support pastor families in completing their continuing education. Each year, pastors are to spend two weeks completing continuing education opportunities (approximately 50 hours). I often look for low cost opportunities for continuing education in our area (such as a class on Alzheimers, etc.). I have also participated in the Continuous Growth Pathways program (which offers classes at reduced rates). Thank you for supporting me as I complete my continuing education hours. Though it is a requirement for pastors, I know completing such education hours often requires others to "fill in" on various ministry tasks and entails financial costs, as well. I am grateful for those who have supported me as I have accessed such resources

This year, three different speakers shared about "story telling." Karen Kretschmann helped us to think about ways we can connect people's individual stories with the greater story of the church. We also considered the importance of how God is "with" us throughout the Biblical text and how we see ministries acting with each other, as well. Another speaker, Paul, helped us consider the importance of social media and how we should and should not utilize social media in our ministry. He helped us also consider which forms of social media would be more likely to connect with our target audiences. Lastly, Deacon Colleen Bernu, the Director of Evangelical Mission for the Northeastern MN ELCA Synod, shared her personal story of how she became a Lutheran and helped us consider how we could encourage people to share their stories. Since so much of Bible Study leading and preaching is, in fact, story telling, I found that the information was useful and insightful.

I encourage you to, as you read this newsletter article, consider your story of faith. What were the high points? What were the challenges? How does your story connect with our congregation's story? How does the story of your ancestors shape your story?

Of course, as always, the most valuable parts of continuing education were not the classes themselves. Rather, it was very useful to talk with other pastors and hear their insights from ministry and "pastor/parenting." The mutual encouragement was invaluable. Likewise, as a family, this opportunity is one of the few ways we get to worship together and our family appreciated the overall quality time we were able to spend together.

Thank you for your support in helping me complete my continuing education and take advantage of this good opportunity.

Gratefully,

Jeanette McCormick





## Lessons and Themes for the Sundays in August, 2023:

### 8/6/23: 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:1-5  
Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21  
Romans 9:1-5  
Matthew 14:13-21

### 8/13/23: 11th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:9-18  
Psalm 85:8-13  
Romans 10:5-15  
Matthew 14:22-33

### 8/20/23: 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8  
Psalm 67  
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32  
Matthew 15:10-28

### 8/27/23: 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 51:1-6  
Psalm 138  
Romans 12:1-8  
Matthew 16:13-20

## Praise the Lord

The following is the financial report for First Lutheran as of June, 2023:

### General Fund:

Bal. 5/31/23:	(\$28,509.76)
Inc., June	\$20,112.53
Exp., June	\$23,716.77
Bal. 6/30/23:	(\$32,114.00)
(The amount shows behind budget.)	
Grace Lutheran Reimbursement—	
	\$16,798.50

### Building Fund:

Bal. 5/31/23:	\$16,811.96
Inc., June	\$420.00
Exp., June	\$0.00
Bal. 6/30/23:	\$17,231.96



**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 \$1. Funds will be designated to different groups as needed.

**ATTENTION:** During August there will be sign up sheets in Centennial Hall to help in different ministries of the worship service. If you are interested in assisting with being coffee servers, greeters, computer assistant, assisting minister/lector, sound, Facebook Live, van driver or ushering, please sign on the sheets as to which ministries you are able to assist with. If you are currently serving, please sign up again so we know that you are still interested in serving. Thank You!

New Address!



### **Attention College-Bound**

**Students:** Please call the church office to let us know your college address so that we can update our mailing lists and directory. Thanks!



**DON'T FORGET  
TO TITHE WHILE  
YOU'RE AWAY**

## Servants

Page 4

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)

8/6	9:30	Pam Fleming
8/13	9:30	Glenda Lais
8/20	9:30	Kathy Summers
8/27	9:30	Ryan McGaughey

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

8/6	9:30	Ashlyn Schaffer
8/13	9:30	Aaden Wagner
8/20	9:30	Kylee Milbrath
8/27	9:30	Trey Milbrath

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

8/6	9:30	Marie Mews
8/13	9:30	Todd Hallstrom
8/20	9:30	Matt Russell
8/27	9:30	Paula Laffrenzen

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

8/6	9:30	Ron Hallstrom (360-7891)
8/13	9:30	Leroy Merkel (360-6730)
8/20	9:30	Daren Bauman (360-9275)
8/27	9:30	Matt Russell (360-5835)

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

8/6	Bob & Bonnie Bents & Sandy Poppema
8/13	Larry & Norma Woodbury & Ed Philipp
8/20	Dale & Debbie Koob & Judy Selberg
8/27	John & Nora Leinen & Brenda Hurlbut

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

8/6	9:30	Kevin Fleming
8/13	9:30	Pat Demuth
8/20	9:30	Doug Frisch
8/27	9:30	Kevin Fleming

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

8/6	9:30	Diana White
8/13	9:30	Marie Mews & Linda Nelson
8/20	9:30	Doug & Julie Christensen
8/27	9:30	Diane Sletten & Karla Kirkeby

### Facebook Live (Contact Person: Church Office, 376-6148)

8/6	9:30	Terry Morrison
8/13	9:30	Carrie Adams
8/20	9:30	Becca McGaughey
8/27	9:30	Erin Makela



# ATTENTION

**ATTENTION:** If you will be using a headset or lapel mic for a worship service, please plan to come 20 minutes early so we can do a mic check. Thanks!

# August Birthdays



1	Madyson Bixby	12	Marjorie Livingston	20	Aaron Hagen
3	Korey Steinhart	14	John Milbrath	23	Jim Laffrenzen
3	Troy Fitzhugh	15	Terry Langland	23	Kathy Myer
3	Jason Gerdes	16	Lonnie Myrom	24	Judy Gerdes
3	Lisa Severance	16	Nancy Myrom	25	Marj Broich
5	Amanda Roberts	17	Marjorie Larson	25	Don Wasmund
6	Bruce Kraft	17	Erin Makela	27	Haley Byroad
6	Cyrus Eisele	18	Gene Christensen	27	Dennis Zierke
7	Bruce Livingston	18	Pat Elsing	27	Gerald Wachter
7	Sandy Randall	18	Lauren Stanton	28	Adam Feller
9	Tony Potts	19	Linda Towne	30	Nicole Kempema
9	Harvey Berg	19	Jean Black	30	Marless Milbrath
10	Glenda Lais	20	Sandy Poppema		
11	Lesa Johnson	20	Troy Feller		
12	Kinley Feller	20	Aaden Wagner		

## "Jesus Exorcises a Boy"

*"With a little faith, all is possible."*

One day a lion caught a mouse. As the lion prepared to swallow its tiny victim, the mouse cried out, "Spare me, great beast!" Someday I may be able to repay you."

Well, the lion roared with laughter at this. But he was so amused at the idea that a tiny mouse could help him that he freed the little animal.

Sometime later, hunters captured the lion. They tied him to a tree and went to get a cage. While they were gone, the mouse happened by. Seeing the lion's predicament, he gnawed the ropes and set the lion free.

That day the lion learned an important lesson. It's the same one Jesus taught his disciples in Matthew 17:14-20: Bigness isn't everything. Jesus said, "If you have faith as big as a mustard seed, nothing would be impossible to you."

How big is our own faith?

We may not be able to do big things, but we can do little things in a big way.

*Illustrated Daily Homilies by Mark Lick, SJ*



**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.

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



**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 June 30, 2023, a total of **\$6,104.99** has been put into the general fund.



**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 June 30, 2023, a total of **\$55,724.00** has been put into the general fund.

**Youth Rummage Sale**

**Friday, August 18**  
8:00 am – 6:00 pm

**Saturday, August 19**  
8:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Bag sale starts at 12 pm on Saturday.



Donations can be dropped off at the church during the week.

**The Evangelism Team** has agreed to continue support for Operation Christmas Child. First Lutheran Church has filled an average of 75 boxes a year for hurting children around the world. This hands-on mission project gives our entire church family a tangible way to demonstrate the true meaning of Christmas, God's gift of His Son. Operation Christmas Child also provides the opportunity to minister with other churches to reach the poor around the world with hope and love.



The gift filled shoe boxes contain a variety of items appropriate for boys and girls. Boxes are age specific; 2-4, 5-9, 10-14; to insure each child receives a gift of needed materials. Gifts requested are school supplies, hygiene items, small toys and personal accessories. New last year, we made sewing and fishing kits as well.

Our goal for Christmas 2023 is 50 boxes. Following is a list of items needed to fill 50 boxes. We will also be accepting monetary donations for shipping costs. Thank you to church members who have already given items and each of you for joining us in the Operation Christmas Child mission.

**Toiletries and personal items:**

- washcloths
- combs
- toothbrushes (need 15)
- nail clippers
- T-shirts
- hair ties
- boys socks (need 12 pairs)

**School supplies:**

- 24 pack crayons
- glue sticks
- scissors
- note pads
- erasers
- rulers
- water color paints

**WOW items:**

- small toys
- balls with pump cars
- small dolls
- puzzles
- small game boards
- books

We are excited to complete the boxes by filling them in November and writing letters of hope and love to children of the world.

# GRIEF RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP



**GRIEF SHARE IS A SPECIAL WEEKLY SEMINAR AND  
SUPPORT GROUP FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE GRIEVING  
THE DEATH OF SOMEONE CLOSE TO THEM**

Our group is led by caring people who have  
experienced grief and want to help you through  
the difficult days ahead.

**TUESDAYS 2:00 - 3:30 PM**

September 5 - November 28, 2023

First Lutheran Church  
1200 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Worthington

**Call First Lutheran to register: 507-376-6148**  
(Join any time)

We know it hurts, and we want to help.

Call Us Today

YOUR  
JOURNEY FROM  
MOURNING TO JOY

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# AUGUST YOUTH NEWS

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The High School youth group traveled to Denver, CO in the middle of June for a week filled with serving the less fortunate. There were seven youth from First Lutheran and Grace Lutheran that came on the trip. A HUGE thank you to Austin Peters-Smith and Tony Stoeker for helping to drive and chaperone.

Our group was split in half and we were joined with other youth from all around the country. One of our teams spent some time working in a local garden, working in a thrift store, and did some painting and clean up. The other group spent the first two days helping to paint two homes and the last two days working in a thrift store helping to organize shelves amongst other things. We slept in a church basement in Lakewood, CO. The first night we stayed in a church in Loveland, CO.

Each night we did some fun activities with the other groups that were there. Fun activities included going to the Denver City Park and playing games in the grass, going to Lookout Mountain where we could go on a hike or see Buffalo Bill's grave. Our free night got rained out and everyone came back to the church early to hang out. The last night was Rocky Mountain National Wildlife Refuge.

We ended the trip by stopping for a couple of hours of fun at the Amazing Pizza Machine, in Omaha, NE. Thanks so much for all of your prayers and support for this trip! We will be sharing more about the trip on August 6. We can't wait to tell you all about it!

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*At the end of July we have two middle school youth going to Medora, ND to the Badlands Ministries camp for Night Life camp!*

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Last year's rummage sale was a HUGE success!

SAVE THE DATE: August 18-19 we will be having our youth group rummage sale again. We hope to make it an even BIGGER success than last year! In order to do that we need your help. If you know of friends, family or neighbors that need to get rid of stuff (or are moving) encourage them to donate their stuff to our sale. We will start setting up after church on Sunday, August 13. After that you will be able to bring your donations to Centennial Hall. We have limited space to store donations before then, but feel free to bring any donations to the **Sunday School room (IT'S MARKED GARAGE SALE)** as long as there's space. We cannot accept mattresses or older (CRT) TVs as we have to pay to dispose of them if they do not sell. *If you need help getting your stuff here, contact Brenda Richards for a pick-up.*

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We could not do what we do without you! Your prayers and support are very much appreciated! MANY THANKS!





**August 2023**



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

**Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers**



*Thanks for all those that help out with SOS (Sharing our Services) camp!*



*Thank you for another great Quilt Auction! We raised \$43,646!!*

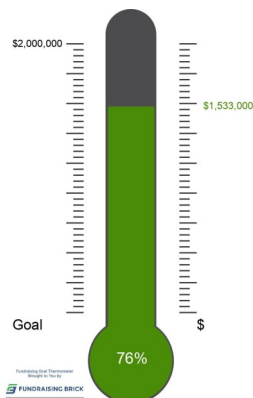
## **Mark your Calendar**

August 16-20 – Come see us at the Murray County Fair  
September 30 – Pre-Marriage Retreat  
Register at [shetek.org](http://shetek.org) or  
Call 507-763-3567 for more information

## **Wish List**

17 foot Aluminum canoe  
Vest style life jackets  
Office supplies – reams of paper  
Good Vacuums  
Volunteers

We met our Phase 1 goal!  
\$1,533,000 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/slm-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!