

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

December 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

Dear First Lutheran,

This past week I have tried to talk to Landon more about the upcoming Christmas play. I told him he would probably be an animal in the play, to which he responded that he would like to be the lion. I have tried to explain that the lion does not make an appearance in the Christmas play as the lion is not a safe animal to be around baby Jesus. Then, I tried to get Landon to practice the Christmas songs to which he responded, "No! It's not Christmas yet." This might be what I get for insisting we hang up some fall and Thanksgiving decorations before hanging up the Christmas ones.

I think Landon's words, "It's not Christmas yet," have value for all of us to hear, though. Soon we will start the Advent season as a church, though the rest of the world will launch right from Thanksgiving to Christmas. (In many places and stores, they've skipped over Thanksgiving entirely). There is great beauty in the Advent season, so I hope that we all take time to experience it. While the world rushes around trying to get ready for Christmas, we try to steal some moments to think and reflect about what this all means and what we are waiting and hoping for. For hundreds of years, the world waited for the Messiah, the Anointed one from David's family tree. They had hoped for someone who would help them to live in freedom and safety, not worrying about Roman imperialism or attacks from foreign powers. Instead they received this leader in the form of a humble baby, born to peasant parents. Still, this king, though not who they were expecting, would forever change the world.

Today, we are still waiting for Jesus in many ways. We are waiting for Jesus to enter into the broken places of our lives: relationships that need repair, addictions that overwhelm us, and decisions that haunt us. Advent gives us time and space to reflect on the ways we are waiting for Jesus to enter into our hearts and lives. The four weeks of Advent are traditionally themed: hope, peace, joy and love. During Advent, we both give thanks for the ways these four themes are present in our lives and also pray that they would become more present still in the world around us.

But, soon, before we know it and even maybe before we are ready for it, Christmas will be here. Once again, we will be reminded that Christ enters into our broken world to give us hope. As you find yourself preparing for family gatherings, celebrations with social groups and more, may you find ways to remember Christ's birth in the middle of it all. God became flesh to live amongst us, going through all the pain and agony we go through every single day. God became weak and humble to show us what true power and what God's kingdom is really about. It's so easy to say and also so easy to forget that Christmas isn't about how nice our homes look, the gifts or how good the meal tastes. It's not really even about how "well" our worship services happen. It's about Jesus entering into our midst and our hearts. May we not lose sight of that.

In Christ,

Rev. Jeanette McCormick

Note: Please remember that First Lutheran's Annual Meeting will be held on January 28 after worship. Elections for church positions will take place. Resolutions and the budget will be voted on.



Lessons and Themes for the Sundays & Holiday's in December, 2023:

12/3/23: 1st Sunday in Advent

Jeremiah 33:10-11, 14-18

Psalm 25:1-10

Mark 8:27-29

12/10/23: 2nd Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Mark 1:1-4

12/17/23: 3rd Sunday in Advent

Ezra 1:1-4, 3:1-4, 10-13

Psalm 148

Luke 2:25-32

12/24/23: 4th Sunday in Advent

Psalm 113

Luke 1:5-25, 57-80

12/24/23: Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 146:5-10

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-20

12/25/23: Christmas Day

Isaiah 62:6-12

Psalm 108:1-4

Titus 3:4-7

Luke 2:8-20

12/31/23: 1st Sunday after Christmas

Genesis 3:8-15

Genesis 22:15-18

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

Isaiah 60:1-6

Luke 1:3-7

Luke 2:8-16

Matthew 2:1-12

John 1:1-14

Praise the Lord

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

General Fund:

Bal. 9/30/23: (\$22,163.23)

Inc., October \$21,858.05

Exp., October \$28,009.04

Bal. 10/31/23: (\$28,314.22)

(The amount shows behind budget.)

Grace Lutheran Reimbursement—

\$28,480.02

Building Fund:

Bal. 9/30/23: \$66,833.31

Inc., October \$850.00

Exp., October \$0.00

Bal. 10/31/23: \$67,683.31



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.



Poinsettias will be used at our Christmas services. If you would like to order one in memory or in honor of a loved one, contact the church office at 376-6148. Please indicate if you will be picking them up after the

Christmas Day Service or if you will leave them here to be delivered to the shut-ins or nursing homes. Please leave the name of the person or persons you are giving one for. The cost of a poinsettia will be \$12. **The deadline to have your order in is Friday, December 8.** Thank you!

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)

12/3	9:30	Ryan McGaughey
12/10	9:30	Pam Fleming
12/17	9:30	Kathy Summers
12/24	4:00PM	Ryan McGaughey
12/24	8:00PM	Terry Morrison
12/25	9:30	Glenda Lais
12/31	9:30	Pam Fleming

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

12/3	9:30	Aaden Wagner
12/10	9:30	Haley Schroeder
12/17	9:30	Ethan Nixon
12/24	4:00PM	Trey Milbrath
12/24	8:00PM	Aaden Wagner
12/25	9:30	Haley Schroeder
12/31	9:30	Trey Milbrath

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

12/3	9:30	Erin Makela
12/10	9:30	Cooper Scripture
12/17	9:30	Ed Philipp
12/24	4:00PM	Lonnie Myrom
12/24	8:00PM	Paula Laffrenzen
12/25	9:30	Marie Mews
12/31	9:30	Matt Russell

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

12/3	9:30	Ron Hallstrom (360-7891)
12/10	9:30	Midg White (360-3215)
12/17	9:30	Daren Bauman (360-9275)
12/31	9:30	Matt Russell (360-5835)

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

12/3	9:30	Pat Demuth
12/10	9:30	Doug Frisch
12/17	9:30	Kevin Fleming
12/24	4:00PM	Pat Demuth
12/24	8:00PM	Doug Frisch
12/25	9:30	Doug Frisch
12/31	9:30	Kevin Fleming

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

12/3	9:30	Dale & Debbie Koob & Todd & Darcy Poppema
12/10	9:30	Daren & Julie Bauman & Ed Philipp
12/17	9:30	John & Nora Leinen & Brenda Hurlbut
12/31	9:30	Sandy Poppema, Fern Burmeister & Diana White

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

12/3	9:30	Sandy Poppema
12/10	9:30	Lonnie & Nancy Myrom
12/17	9:30	John & Nora Leinen
12/24	4:00PM	Doug & Julie Christensen
12/24	8:00PM	Linda Nelson
12/25	9:30	John Kramer
12/31	9:30	Marie Mews

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

12/3	9:30	Becca McGaughey
12/10	9:30	Aaron Hagen
12/17	9:30	Paul Summers
12/24	4:00PM	Carrie Adams
12/31	9:30	Debbie Koob

December Birthdays



1	Kathy Summers	13	Daniel Anderson	30	Adam Vosburgh
2	Patrick Boe	14	Katherine Gavin	31	Kyle Fleming
2	Linda Neugebauer	15	Margaret Tambi		
2	Ethan Nixon	18	Alisa Russell		
2	Bob Vos	20	Marjorie Warborg		
3	Jackson Wajer	21	Connie Kuehl		
5	Isaac Kruse	21	Grace McGaughey		
5	Carter Poppema	21	Todd Poppema		
5	Matthew Schroeder	23	Shelly Gieselman		
6	Dorothy Bauman	24	Cody Livingston		
6	Kaden Larson	24	Matthew Wendt		
9	Nicholas Demuth	26	Scott Langland		
9	Sylvia Jacobson	27	Bailee Peil		
10	Jennifer Livingston	29	Brandon Kempema		
10	Midg White	29	Joan Mahlberg		
11	Mark Broich	29	Carmen Schuld		
11	Nate Van Note	30	Justin Thiner		



Jesus' Birth is Announced

"God's power will rest on you."

The word, which we translate into English as "rest on" or "overshadow" is rare in the Bible. One place you find it is in the book of Exodus. There it describes a strange cloud that overshadowed the tent when Israel placed it in the ark of the covenant, containing the tables of the commandments. As soon as the cloud overshadowed the tent, "the Lord's presence filled it." *Exodus 40:34*

Luke's choice of the rare word *overshadow* is not accidental; it is deeply symbolic.

Mary's body (new tent) houses her womb (new ark). When the Holy Spirit overshadows Mary, she is filled with the Lord's new presence, Jesus.

God now lives among his people., not just in the symbol of the tablets in the ark, but in the *person* of Jesus in Mary's womb.

How aware are we of Jesus' presence?

"From now on all people will call me happy, because of the great things the Mighty God has done for me."
- *Luke 1:48-49*

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.



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 October 31, 2023, a total of **\$6,276.24** has been put into the general fund.

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 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 October 31, 2023, a total of **\$56,182.75** has been put into the general fund.



There will be no Wednesday night worship service on December 20 or December 27.

2023 Offering – The last days to get your offering in for 2023 will be Wednesday, December 27 to the office or Sunday, December 31 at worship. Please drop it off during office hours. All offering received through the mail will need to be in before Christmas. This allows us to get it deposited for this year. Thank you!



Annual Reports are due in to the church office by Friday, December 29.



The office will be closed Monday, December 25 & Tuesday, December 26 for the Christmas Holiday.

**There will be no 9:30 am
worship service on Sunday,
December 24 .**



Christmas Services

Saturday, December 24

4:00 PM—Traditional candlelight communion service
Christmas hymns.

8:00 PM—Traditional candlelight communion service
with Christmas hymns.

Sunday, December 25

9:30 AM—Intimate traditional communion service with
Christmas hymns.



**The office will be closed
on Friday, December 29, 2023
& Monday, January 1, 2024
for the New Year's holiday.**

Christmas Concert by
Paul & Nicole Summers
Wednesday, December 20, 2023
6:30 pm—Prelude Music
7:00 pm—Concert
At First Lutheran Church



The family of Barb Waage would like to thank the members of the church for their outstanding support during her recent illness and death. Thanks to Pastor Jeanette for doing a wonderful memorial service, the men and women that did an outstanding job preparing the luncheon, ushers, singers, organist, Facebook and all the others that assisted behind the scenes to make her memorial service special.

DEATH & SYMPATHY: Hilde Monika Brisson died October 20, 2023 at the age of 60 years. Her memorial service was held on October 30, 2023 at First Lutheran Church. We extend our Christian sympathy to her family.

DEATH & SYMPATHY: Barbara Jo Waage died November 4, 2023 at the age of 68 years. Her memorial service was held on November 9, 2023 at First Lutheran Church. We extend our Christian sympathy to her family.





Debbie Koob
Brenda Richards
Natalie Zinnel
Pastor Jeanette McCormick
Dr. Martin Lucin
Jim & Paula Laffrenzen
Todd & Darcy Poppema

“For unto you is
born this day in
the city of David
a Savior, who is
the Messiah, the
Lord.” Luke 2:11



Arlene Lowe
Eric Parrish
Lori Nienkerk
Nancy Hofstee
Cindy Anderson
Midg White



DECEMBER YOUTH NEWS

Merry Christmas!

New Orleans Minute: Next summer the senior high youth are going to New Orleans for the National Gathering in July. We have seven youth and three adults going. We have lots of fun fundraisers planned for the new year, including a big silent auction during Lent.

If anyone has any THRIVENT cards that you need to use up this year, please talk with Brenda and she can give you more information for applying for this or for something else.

OKOBOJI OUTREACH NIGHT - December 3 - CHRISTMAS MYSTERY

WE ARE GOING TO Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp (1203 Inwan St., Milford, IA) for their game night. Please arrive at the church by 4:00 pm. We will return by 9:00 pm. Friends are welcome to attend but need a parent to fill out a consent form.

PLEASE RSVP to Brenda no later than **WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 29th** as we need to give a count to the camp and plan for drivers.

KFC! Kids For Christ! KFC!

MUCH THANKS TO ALL FOR YOUR HELP PROVIDING MEALS on WEDNESDAY NIGHTS and for those who volunteer their time to help spread the love of Christ to the kids. WE APPRECIATE YOU SO VERY MUCH!

I have posted the meal schedule on the youth bulletin board if anyone wants to sign up, or check when you did sign up! I have some easy meals that can be prepared or you are welcome to come up with your own ideas.

See Brenda today!

The youth had a blast, like always, at the confirmation retreat at Shetek in November.

Thanks for all of your support for all of the youth programs!

507 - ALL CONFIRMATION KIDS

December 6th from 6:30-8:00 pm

At Worthington Christian

Pizza will be served

January 5 - Six hour fun night with the Methodist Church!!! Stay tuned for more information!!!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL Christmas Program will be on
December 10 at 9:30 am**

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



December 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



Shop for your favorite apparel at shetek.org/store

Wish List

*Vest style life jackets
Extension Cords
Volunteers*

We thank you for all your generosity this year!

Mark your Calendar

- December 3 Lodge Dedication 3:00
- December 3 Annual Meeting 3:30
- December 3 Scandinavian Dinner 5:00 pm
- December 28 Winter Fun Day 9:30 am -3:00 pm
- January 17-21 Quilt and Craft Retreat

Register at shetek.org or Call 507-763-3567 for more information

We met our Phase 1 goal! \$1,613,000 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/>

Goal \$2,000,000
\$1,613,000
80%
Fundraising Brick

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!