

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

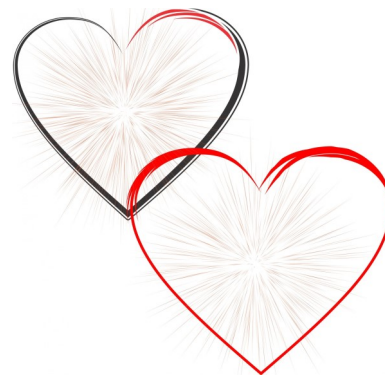
God has called us, the baptized members of First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Worthington, Minnesota, to proclaim the Gospel and make disciples of all people.

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

February 2024 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 week, I have been working on preparing an Ash Wednesday and Lent on lessons for Confirmation. I try to re-write my lessons and choose different topics each year so that we explore concepts and passages from different angles. This year, for Lent, I am emphasizing with our youth the importance of finding time for silence. Silence in prayer. Silence in worship. Silence in study. Lent is a season that is often less appealing than Christmas or Easter for the obvious reasons. But, the somber, quiet, reflective, calm, and serious nature of Lent is a gift to us. Our church calendar creates time and space for us to be intentionally quiet and look inward at our motives and longings. When we do this, we are sustained through the peace we find and gain clarity so that we can better serve the world. Silence may not always feel comfortable, fun or good. But, silence is a gift. Lent is a gift.

God speaks to us powerfully in silence. Our world is full of noise. People wanting things from us. News and information coming at us. Work demands being expressed to us. Music filling the air. These things are not inherently bad. In many ways, they are good. But, noise is bad if it is all we hear. We must make space for silence. When we create silence, we usually rid our lives and minds of distractions so we can consider what God desires for us and through us. We calm our mind and spirit so that we can better respond to the chaos around us.

This Lent, I encourage you to worship. I encourage you to explore one of First's Bible Studies. (We are planning on having a Lenten study during the Wednesday meal via the Nourishing Vocation Project's information and resources.) I encourage you to also find time to simply be in silence. I am someone who often has the tv on "for noise" in the background. On the way home or to work, I usually have a book, the radio or a podcast on. But, now, occasionally, I have decided to turn off all of these forms of noise and just listen to the silence. It has amazed me at how thirty minutes of silence in my commute makes me calmer for the workday or my family. It gives me a chance to think about the conversations that inspired me and the ones that troubled me. It gives me a chance to think about what I might really be called to do with my time, talent and treasure and what might, more so, be a distraction from my true calling. I do not naturally gravitate towards silence, but I have found silence to be a gift for me. I pray it may be a gift for you.

Lenten Blessings, Rev. Jeanette McCormick



Lessons and Themes for the Sundays & Ash Wednesday in February, 2024:

2/4/24: Death of John the Baptist

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 122
Mark 6:1-29

2/11/24: Transfiguration

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Psalm 27:1-4
Mark 8:27-9:8

2/14/24: Ash Wednesday—Passion Prediction

Romans 6:1-11
Psalm 32:1-5
Mark 9:30-37

2/18/24: First Last and Last First

1 Timothy 6:6-19
Psalm 19:7-10
Mark 10:17-31

2/25/24: Bartimaeus Healed

Ephesians 1:15-23
Psalm 34:11-14
Mark 10:32-52

Praise the Lord

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

General Fund:

Bal. 11/30/23: (\$14,325.98)
Inc., December \$47,387.82
Exp., December \$27,487.26
Bal. 12/31/23: \$5,574.58
(The amount shows behind budget.)
Grace Lutheran Reimbursement—
\$34,320.78

Building Fund:

Bal. 11/30/23: \$63,374.17
Inc., December \$412.00
Exp., December \$15,710.67
Bal. 12/31/23: \$48,075.50



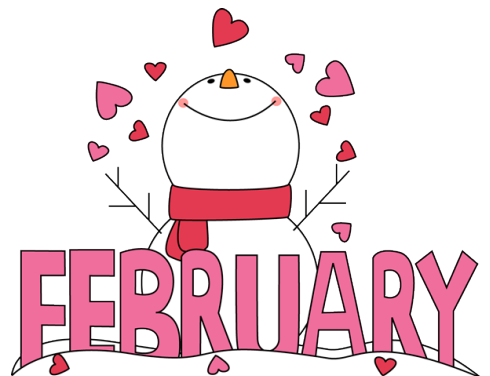
Card Ministry meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Come join the fun. No experience necessary! Check

out our display in Centennial Hall to purchase a card for \$1. Funds will be designated to different groups as needed.

CHURCH DIRECTORY: I will be working on the church directory in March and would like to get it updated with the correct information. So if you have moved, changed phone numbers or have a child or children that have moved or gotten married and moved to a different address, please email (felcwgtn@gmail.com) or bring the information to the church office by March 1. Thank You! Natalie



During Lent, we will be having Lenten suppers at 5:15 pm and Lenten services at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary. Lent begins on February 14 with Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm. Lenten meals begin the following week on February 21.



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)

2/4	9:30	Kathy Summers
2/11	9:30	Ryan McGaughey
2/14	7:00PM	Pam Fleming
2/18	9:30	Terry Morrison
2/21	6:00PM	Ryan McGaughey
2/25	9:30	Glenda Lais
2/28	6:00PM	Kathy Summers

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

2/4	9:30	Ryan McGaughey
2/11	9:30	Cooper Scripture
2/14	7:00PM	Ed Philipp
2/18	9:30	Karla Kirkeby
2/25	9:30	Sandy Poppema

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

2/4	9:30	Todd & Darcy Poppema & Ed Philipp
2/11	9:30	Diana White & Dale & Debbie Koob
2/18	9:30	Sandy Poppema, Fern Burmeister & Diane Sletten
2/25	9:30	Daren & Julie Bauman & John Kramer

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

2/4	9:30	Doug & Julie Christensen
2/11	9:30	John Kramer
2/14	7:00PM	John & Nora Leinen
2/18	9:30	Judy Selberg
2/21	6:00PM	Diana White
2/25	9:30	Lonnie & Nancy Myrom
2/28	6:00PM	Sandy Poppema

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

2/4	9:30	Ethan Nixon
2/11	9:30	Aaden Wagner
2/14	7:00PM	Trey Milbrath
2/18	9:30	Ethan Nixon
2/25	9:30	Aaden Wagner

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

2/4	9:30	Midg White (360-3215)
2/11	9:30	Larry Woodbury (360-2689)
2/18	9:30	Daren Bauman (360-9275)
2/25	9:30	Matt Russell (360-5835)

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

2/4	9:30	Doug Frisch
2/11	9:30	Pat Demuth
2/14	7:00PM	Kevin Fleming
2/18	9:30	Doug Frisch
2/21	6:00PM	Kevin Fleming
2/25	9:30	Pat Demuth
2/28	6:00PM	Doug Frisch

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

2/4	9:30	Paul Summers
2/11	9:30	Becca McGaughey
2/14	7:00PM	Terry Morrison
2/18	9:30	Carrie Adams
2/21	6:00PM	Terry Morrison
2/25	9:30	Debbie Koob
2/28	6:00PM	Paul Summers

February Birthdays



1	Jean Bender	13	Nichole Lowe	27	Keith Towne
3	Julie Vos	15	Cooper Scripture	28	Vickie Milbrath
4	Doug Christensen	16	Adalyn Schaffer		
4	Kahla Gieselman	17	Marilyn Starrett		
6	Rosann Boots	18	Betty Burns		
6	Keith Stanton	19	Viola Gerdes		
6	Logan Waldner	19	David Stoyke		
7	Ashley Hein	20	Karen Buchman		
8	Judy Wietzema	21	Judy Selberg		
8	Hayes Lowe	23	Kylee Milbrath		
10	Thomas Bauman	23	Adam Russell		
10	Kinzie Lund	23	Sarah Waldner		
10	Dusty Neugebauer	24	Emily Winter		
12	Craig Randgaard	25	Terry Van Note		
12	Jason Christensen	26	Robert Feller		
12	Joan Tofteland	26	Melissa Randgaard		



Parables of the Tenants

“Surely they will respect my son.”

This carefully constructed parable fits the facts of biblical history. In Jesus’ time absentee landlords were common. They rented their land to tenants who repaid them in crops rather than cash.

When harvesttime came, the landlord sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his share of the crops. Hostility between tenants and landlords frequently ran high.

The vineyard in the parable stands for the people of Israel. The vineyard owner stands for God.

The tenants are the leaders of Israel. The slaves are the prophets. The owner’s son is Jesus. The new tenants are the apostles of Jesus.

Who are the successors to the apostles today? Do we accept them and follow them as such?

Lord, help us keep our hearts open to your messengers and your representatives.

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 December 31, 2023, a total of \$6,302.49 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 December 31, 2023, a total of \$56,459.00 has been put into the general fund.



LENTEN SUPPERS @ FIRST

- February 21 – Youth Team (Walking Taco’s)
- February 28 – Finance Team (Pizza)
- March 6— Worship & Music Team (Ham & Turkey Sandwiches)
- March 13—Evangelism Team (Tater Tot Hotdish)
- March 20—Church Council (BBQ’s)

The meal will be served from 5:15 to 5:45 pm.

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

Thursday Lenten Luncheons for 2024

- February 22** – American Lutheran—Rev. Daren Flinck
- February 29**– Westminster Presbyterian—Rev. Galen Smith
- March 7**– First Lutheran—American Lutheran Church Pastor
- March 14** – First United Methodist—Rev. Jeanette McCormick

Services will begin at 12:00 pm and end at 12:30 pm. Each service will feature a different pastor. These services are ecumenical in nature. Please join us and invite a friend!



Meals on Wheels is looking for a new coordinator for our church. If you are interested in this position, please talk to Julie Christensen. Thank you Julie for all the years that you have coordinated this for our congregation.



The 2024 Evangelism Team Projects

The Evangelism Team chooses projects to meet three goals:

Worship that is welcoming to members and visitors.

Christian growth as missionaries creating an evangelical congregation.

Ministry through intentional outreach to non-churched, visitors and non-active members.

The Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas and loose offerings are designated to the following: 25% to Kids for Christ, 25% to The Coat Closet, 25% to Love INC and 25% for school food program.

Continuing projects include Lenten and Advent devotion booklets for adults and children. Devotions are also mailed to members attending college. March is the annual food drive and provides donations to three local food shelves. In the coming months, collection of items for Operation Christmas Child boxes will begin. Boxes will be packed in November to be shipped to children around the world.

Currently the Team is creating a new brochure which will be distributed to visitors and utilized to highlight First Lutheran's opportunities. Times and dates of worship and Christian growth activities will be included.

The Evangelism Team continues to support ongoing projects. New ideas are being explored and congregation members are encouraged to share new projects. Thank you for donating your resources to the Team's efforts.

“For God so Lo**V**ed the world
That He g**A**ve
His on**L**y
Begott**E**n
So**N**
That whosoever
Believeth **I**n Him
Should **N**ot perish,
But have **E**ternal life.”
John 3:16

Food Drive



Up coming Event: March is Minnesota Food Share Month. This means our faith community, by registering for the March Campaign,

can increase donations to the local Manna Food Pantry. Place donated, nonperishable food items in the shopping cart in the lower narthex starting on March 1. **Please do not bring items before then.** Also consider donating cash or grocery gift cards. The food shelf can *stretch* cash donations further because of their access to discount products and programs. Help us feed more local families and end hunger in our community.



Grief Support Group

*Help and encouragement
after the death of a loved one*

At a GriefShare group, you'll find understanding, guidance, relief, and a safe place to navigate the challenges of grief. Come join us!

Tuesdays, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

March 5 - May 28, 2024

First Lutheran Church

1200 4th Avenue, Worthington, MN 56187

To register, call 507-376-6148

griefshare.org



FEBRUARY YOUTH NEWS

On Sunday, February 4, all CHILDREN and TEENS are invited to spend an afternoon ice skating at the Arena! Cost of the event (including skate rental) will be covered. If you'd like to chaperone, please let Brenda know.

Please invite your friends—the more the merrier! Time is from 12:30-2:30 pm.

If you bought Pizza Ranch pizzas they should be ready for pickup/handout on February 7.

February 7 - HIGH SCHOOL only 507 at the Methodist Church 6:30-8:00 pm, pizza served.

We are collecting items for our big silent auction during Lent.. We are accepting donations of new/homemade items or gift cards. If anyone has anything they would like to donate, please place them in the baskets in the fellowship hall. Or if you know of any businesses that might be interested in donating please reach out! FOR MORE INFO or ideas please look at the idea posters in the fellowship hall!

OKOBOJI NIGHT - Feb 18 4:00-9:00 pm—RSVP to Brenda by WEDNESDAY February 14

KFC - February 7, 14, 21, 28 and March 13 and 20

Thanks for all of your support and help with this growing program.

SAVE THE DATE: Sweetheart's Dinner Sunday, February 25 at 11 am.

On January 5, we had a six hour fun night with the Methodist Church. Together we had ten youth and six adults participating in the fun. We took the bus to buy white elephant gifts, had pizza, ice cream and played lots of fun games.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—Sundays at 8:45 am

CONFIRMATION Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 pm only on Feb 7

Feb 14 join us for the Ash Wednesday service @ 7:00 pm

During Lent NO CONFIRMATION = MEET WITH YOUR MENTORS!

YOUTH GROUP Wednesdays from 7:30-8:15 pm

Dates to put on your calendar:

Confirmation Camp - April 19-20

Community Kids' Camp (VBS) - June 10-13 here at First Lutheran

Middle School Camp - we are looking at the week of June 23 @ Shetek

HS - National Gathering in New Orleans July 16-20

Garage Sale - middle of August

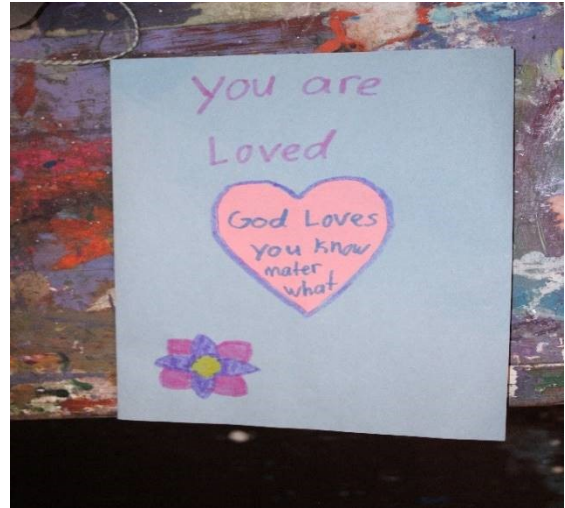
GRACIAS! THANK YOU! WE APPRECIATE YOU! MANY THANKS!

February 2024



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

Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers



Happy Valentines!

Wish List

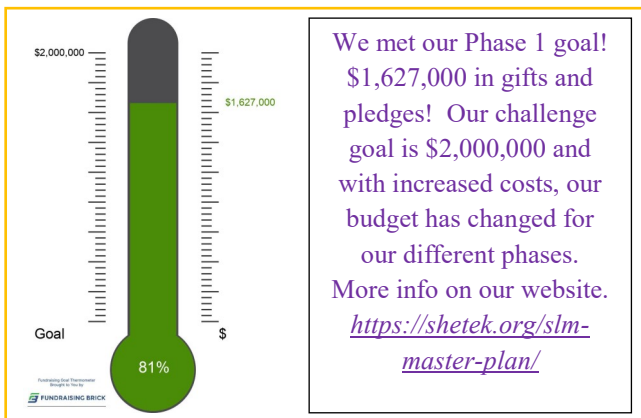
- Glue and Glue Sticks
- Extension Cords
- Volunteers
- Summer Staff -**

<https://shetek.org/work-at-shetek/>

Mark your Calendar

- February 4 Comfort Bird Whittling Class
- February 23-25 Winter Family Camp
- March 15-16 March Confirmation Retreat

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



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!