

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

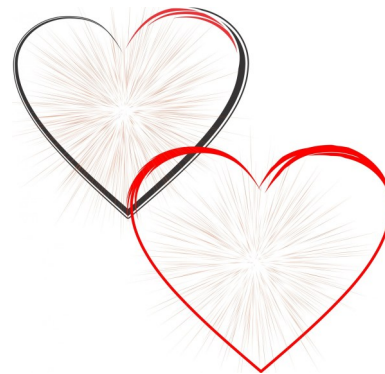
*In obedience, we commit ourselves
to the Lord's ministry rooted in a
fertile agricultural prairie of God's
creation. Relying on the promise of
the Holy Spirit, and through Word
and Sacraments, we will grow
toward wholeness through worship,
learning, service, witness, support,
and fellowship.*

Adopted 5-31-87

February

2026

Evangel



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,

I often hear from congregation members about how they are excited for upcoming services like Christmas and Easter. While, of course, I appreciate the good music, decorations and the meaning of these "joyful" services, they are, ironically not my favorite services. For me, there is something stunning, hopeful and comforting with somber services such as the service we share on Ash Wednesday.

This year, Ash Wednesday is on February 18. First Lutheran will have our service at 7:00 pm. The imposition of ashes and Communion will be available and the choir will share inspiring music.

Ash Wednesday is a celebration during which we remember "we are dust and to dust we shall return." In other words, we remember we are mortal human beings. No matter how great or weak we might seem to be, we are dust and to dust we shall return. For all the things we focus on which "divide" us, the truth is that death comes for us all.

While this all might sound terribly depressing, it can be freeing, too. When we remember Ash Wednesday, we remember that our lives are uncertain and short. What do we want to do with the limited time we have? When we remember that we are *all* dust, we realize that the ways we rank ourselves are often a foolish waste of time and money because, in the end, we are all just "dust." When I remember my loved ones are all "dust," I remember to really tell them that I love them and to be grateful for them. Before the imposition of ashes, we confess our sins in a more "in depth" manner than our normal Sunday worship services. For me, this is always a moment of remembering the ways I want to change so that I might better share God's love with others. It is a moment during which I also remember God's great forgiveness towards me, and that, despite the somber tone of the day, is so uplifting.

More and more, Ash Wednesday is not seen as a significant day in people's lives. If you know someone who has not experienced an Ash Wednesday service (or has not done so for many years), I urge you to invite them to First's special service. I hope our shared worship will provide meaningful clarity and purpose in their lives as it often does for me.

Ash Wednesday also begins Lenten services. On Wednesday evenings we will have Lenten services using the Holden Evening Prayer and monologues from the "Broken and Beloved" series. This series, created by the Nourishing Vocation Project, includes characters from throughout the Bible and how they were broken by grief, shame, etc. Join us as we consider the lives of these pillars of faith more fully. A meal will be available starting at 5:15 pm prior to the services and different teams from the congregation will take turns serving the meal.

On Thursdays, we will have noon services, which will rotate between these congregations, First United Methodist, Westminster Presbyterian and American Lutheran. These will be 30 minute services with lunch thereafter. We welcome Rev. Scott Prouty, the pastor at Westminster Presbyterian, as he joins us for this series.

Many people make these Lenten services and meals possible. Thank you to all who serve. Please join us and bring a friend.

Gratefully,
Rev. Jeanette McCormick



Lessons and Themes for the Sundays & Ash Wednesday in February 2026:

2/1/26: Woman at the Well

Jeremiah 2:4-13

Psalm 42:1-3

John 4:1-42

2/8/26: Healing Stories

Daniel 4:1-3, 34-37

Psalm 40:1-5

John 4:46-54; 5:1-18

2/15/2026: The Man Born Blind

Ephesians 5:8-14

Psalm 27:1-4

John 9:1-41

2/18/2026: The Good Shepherd (Ash Wed.)

Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalm 23

Revelation 7:2-17

John 10:1-18

2/22/2026: Jesus Raises Lazarus (Lent 1)

Romans 6:4-11

Psalm 104:27-30

John 11:1-44

Reminder of Winter Weather Protocol—If the schools are closed; the office will be closed. If there is an early out for the schools, there will be no after school programs and the office will also close. Notices will be posted through email, Facebook and the local radio stations. Thank you!



**Ash
Wednesday**

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 18 with Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm. Lenten meals begin the following week on February 25.

Praise the Lord

The following is the financial report for First Lutheran as of December, 2025:

General Fund:

Bal. 11/30/25: (\$21,816.83)

Inc., December \$47,656.60

Exp., December \$46,310.69

Bal. 12/31/25: (\$20,470.92)

(The amount shows behind budget.)

Grace Lutheran Reimbursement—

\$37,988.64

Building Fund:

Bal. 11/30/25: \$14,959.01

Inc., December \$465.00

Exp., December \$10,336.16

Bal. 12/31/25: \$5,087.85



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.



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)

2/1	9:30	Glenda Lais
2/8	9:30	Pam Fleming
2/15	9:30	Kathy Summers
2/18	7:00PM	Pam Fleming
2/22	9:30	Glenda Lais

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

2/1	9:30	Carrie Adams
2/8	9:30	Debbie Koob
2/15	9:30	Ethan Nixon
2/18	7:00PM	Becca McGaughey
2/22	9:30	Erin Makela

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

2/1	9:30	Matt Russell
2/8	9:30	Cooper Scripture
2/15	9:30	Ed Philipp
2/18	7:00PM	Ryan McGaughey
2/22	9:30	Diane Sletten

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

2/1	9:30	Doug & Julie Christensen
2/8	9:30	Kathy Craun
2/15	9:30	Clinton & Alison Nixon Family
2/18	7:00PM	Adam & Morgan Vosburgh
2/22	9:30	Todd Hallstrom

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

2/1	9:30	Matt Russell (360-5835)
2/8	9:30	Larry Woodbury (360-2689)
2/15	9:30	Daren Bauman (360-9275)
2/22	9:30	Midg White (360-3215)

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

2/1	9:30	Parker Kleve
2/8	9:30	Kinsley Neugebauer
2/15	9:30	Lexi Kleve
2/18	7:00PM	Dyson Neugebauer
2/22	9:30	Olivia Gerdes

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

2/1	9:30	Pat Demuth
2/8	9:30	Doug Frisch
2/15	9:30	Kevin Fleming
2/18	7:00PM	Ethan Nixon
2/22	9:30	Doug Frisch

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

2/1	9:30	Brenda Hurlbut, Todd Hallstrom & Kathy Craun
2/8	9:30	Doug & Julie Christensen & Diana White
2/15	9:30	John & Nora Leinen & John Kramer
2/22	9:30	Robert & Bonnie Bents & Miles & Addy Hein





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, 2025, a total of **\$6,598.74** 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.



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, 2025, a total of **\$59,331.50** has been put into the general fund.



Thursday Lenten Luncheons for 2026

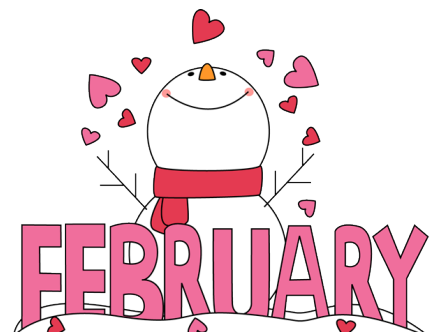
- February 26**— American Lutheran—Rev. Jeanette McCormick
- March 5** – First Lutheran —Rev. John Mitchem
- March 12**- Westminster Presbyterian—Rev. Jeremy Hallquist
- March 19** – First United Methodist—Rev. Scott Prouty

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!

LENTEN SUPPERS @ FIRST

- February 25— Finance (Pizza)
- March 4—Youth (Walking Taco's)
- March 11—Worship & Music Team (Ham & Turkey Sandwiches)
- March 18—Evangelism Team (Tater Tot Hotdish)
- March 25—Church Council (BBQ's)

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



February Birthdays



1	Jean Bender	12	Joan Tofteland	26	Melissa Randgaard
3	Julie Vos	13	Nichole Lowe	26	Owen Schroeder
4	Doug Christensen	15	Cooper Scripture	27	Keith Towne
4	Kahla Gieselman	16	Adalyn Schaffer	28	Vickie Milbrath
5	Sue Isder	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		
8	Emerson Wietzema	23	Adam Russell		
10	Thomas Bauman	23	Sarah Waldner		
10	Dusty Neugebauer	24	Emily Winter		
12	Craig Randgaard	25	Terry Van Note		
12	Jason Christensen	26	Robert Feller		



“Jesus Talks of the Lost Judgement”

“I was a stranger...I was sick”

Two boys were canoeing in the Canadian wilds. They had been roughing it for a week and were tired and in need of rest. Suddenly they spotted a trapper’s cabin. The boys beached their canoe and headed up the river bank toward the cabin. It was open, clean and vacant. On a table was an open Bible. Lying across the pages was a note saying:

“Your cabin saved my life. I had taken seriously ill and needed shelter. Your cabin provided it. I can’t give you money, only God’s blessing. Read Matthew 25:31-46 below:”

“Come and possess the kingdom...

I was a stranger and you received me...

I was sick and you took care of me..”

In the reading it invites us to ask ourselves: When was the last time we helped a stranger or a sick person?

The reading invites us to recall “There’s more pleasure in loving than in being loved.” - Thomas Fuller

Illustrated Daily Homilies by Mark Lick, SJ

FEBRUARY YOUTH NEWS

Join us for Sunday School each week at 8:45 am

Wednesdays:

KFC continues every week from 4:00–5:15 pm, followed by supper for all.

Confirmation and Youth Group meet every week beginning at 6:30 pm

February 4 - 507 @ the JBS Fieldhouse 6:30-8 :00 pm

6th graders on up

Pizza, short devotion, service project and FUN!

Bring some canned food for the service project this month.

February 22 - Valentine's Dinner Fundraiser after church. Sign up on the sign-up sheet in Centennial Hall by February 15.



HELP NEEDED!

Looking for someone who would be willing to help lead our Sunday School kids in learning to play handbells. We have a set of colored bells and would love for the children to share their music during a Sunday morning worship service. All we need is someone who can come and help teach the kids how to play. If you're interested in helping, please let Brenda R know!

Twenty-three people of all ages joined in the fun at our All Church Escape event! Together, we solved puzzles and clues that helped us learn more about Jesus' parables and miracles. The evening wrapped up with a shared meal and fellowship. Sponsored by Shetek through the *Rhythms of Faith* project.

Silent Auction 2026

Set up will be Sunday, March 8 after church. Donations welcome.

Silent Auction will run for only two weeks this year: March 11 - March 25 and end at 5:55 pm.

If you are going on a summer trip, please check your letter for the multiple ways you can help with this fundraiser.

March 15 - Gargoyles fun event at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp - 6th graders on up. The bus will leave at 4:00 pm and we will return at 9:00 pm. RSVP by March 11.

Save the date:

June 8-11—Community Kids' Camp

July 19-24—High School Only Mission Trip

July 26-31 NIGHTLIFE—Camp for 6th-9th graders

There is a "pop machine" fridge outside of Brenda's office.
Save your pop tabs and bring them in to be taken to the Ronald McDonald House.

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

February 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!**



Registration is open for summer camp!

Wish List

- Office Supplies – Dry Erase Markers, Paper
- Spark Bibles
- Board Games
- Extension cords and Power Strips
- Arts and Crafts Supplies
- Volunteers

Upcoming Events

- Hiking Club February 15
- Hiking Club March 15
- Confirmation Retreat March 20-21
- Register online at Shetek.org or Call 507-763-3567

We met our Phase 1 goal! Over \$1,725,000 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/sl-m-master-plan/>

Goal	\$2,000,000
Current Amount	\$1,725,000
Completion Percentage	86%

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!