

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

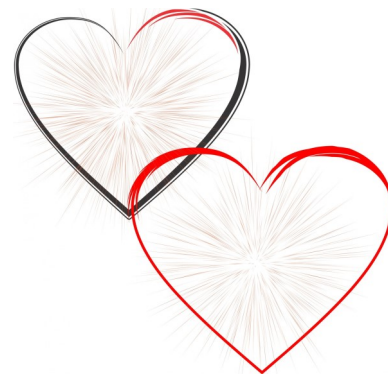
February 2025 Evangel

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

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

CONGREGATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT – Matt Russell
(507) 360-5835
VICE PRESIDENT – Lonnie Myrom
(507) 329-3849
SECRETARY – Erin Makela
(320) 223-3713

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 and Grace Lutheran,

During the month of January, which is National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, our Confirmands completed the “Not a Number” curriculum presented by Southwest Crisis Center. The Center explains that through:

“... videos, music, group activities, and classroom discussion the curriculum provides an interactive, age-appropriate program that defines human trafficking and exploitation, identifies recruitment tactics, talks about healthy and unhealthy relationships, builds skills to help avoid and/or navigate risky situations, and encourages youth to identify healthy support systems and local resources. The curriculum is presented in a dynamic and interactive way that sparks healthy debates and teaches youth how they can protect themselves against exploitation.”

On January 8, we also offered an adult educational session counterpart. In the session, Southwest Crisis Center Youth Program Manager, Stephanie Darnell, helped us learn how to dispel myths about trafficking and exploitation. She also explained Minnesota’s Safe Harbor Legislation and the “No Wrong Door Model” which means that any way a child/youth reports exploitation is the “correct” way. We talked about risk factors that might cause certain youth to be more vulnerable to being harmed and what “grooming” might look like in a variety of settings. We explored how one might identify common traits/warning signs of someone who has been harmed in this way, and we looked at how one might prevent or intervene in situations of exploitation. I was grateful that we had a few concerned parents, grandparents and community members in attendance. For folks who could not be present, information is available for anyone who would like to learn more. The Southwest Crisis Center always encourages us to reach out for support and more information when needed. Stephanie can be reached at stephanie@mnsbcc.org or 507-376-7357.

I know this type of curriculum is very different from what many of you experienced in your Confirmation experiences. To clarify, we generally cover this curriculum once every three years so all youth receive the information at some point in their Confirmation involvement, but it still leaves plenty of time for other topics to be discussed. We prioritize this opportunity in our efforts to support the overall well-being of our children and youth. Many youth note they do not receive any education like this in their school settings. We also know that potential risks for youth with the use of cell phones and social media is far greater than what was true for many of us during our formative years. We hope these sessions help youth and adults alike have tools that can keep them safe and support them if they find themselves in dangerous situations. Likewise, we hope these conversations assure youth and their parents that our churches are open and supportive in talking about challenging topics such as this one.

We are grateful to the Southwest Crisis Center for their partnership and their good work in the community. Please let me know if you’d like more information about the curriculum we are using or the resources offered by the Southwest Crisis Center.

Gratefully,
Rev. Jeanette McCormick

Southwest Crisis Center Informational Material for Parents.



Lessons and Themes for the Sundays in February, 2025:

2/2/25: Healing on the Sabbath

1 Samuel 21:1-6
Psalm 92
Luke 6:1-16

2/9/25: Raising the Widow's Son

1 Kings 17:17-24
Psalm 119:105-107
Luke 7:1-17

2/16/25: More than a Prophet

Proverbs 8:1-4, 10-17
Psalm 146:5-10
Luke 7:18-35

2/23/25: Forgiven at Jesus' Feet

Isaiah 40:27-31
Psalm 103:3-6
Luke 7:36-50

Praise the Lord

The following is the financial report for First Lutheran as of December, 2024:

General Fund:

Bal. 11/30/24: (\$10,836.00)
Inc., December \$61,665.48
Exp., December \$45,828.91
Bal. 12/31/24: \$5,000.57
Grace Lutheran Reimbursement—
\$35,044.56

Building Fund:

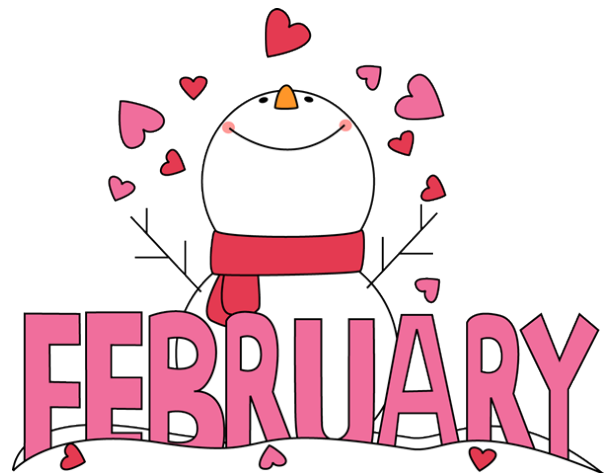
Bal. 11/30/24: (\$3,568.65)
Inc., December \$8,565.00
Exp., December \$0.00
Bal. 12/31/24: \$4,669.99



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.

“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



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)

2/2	9:30	Kathy Summers
2/9	9:30	Pam Fleming
2/16	9:30	Ryan McGaughey
2/23	9:30	Glenda Lais

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

2/2	9:30	Midg White (360-3215)
2/9	9:30	Larry Woodbury (360-2689)
2/16	9:30	Matt Russell (360-5835)
2/23	9:30	Daren Bauman (360-9275)

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

2/2	9:30	Matt Russell
2/9	9:30	Cooper Scripture
2/16	9:30	Lonnie Myrom
2/23	9:30	Diane Sletten

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

2/2	9:30	Lonnie & Nancy Myrom
2/9	9:30	John & Nora Leinen
2/16	9:30	Dusty & Tiffany Neugebauer Family
2/23	9:30	Todd Hallstrom

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

2/2	9:30	Trey Milbrath
2/9	9:30	Lexi Kleve
2/16	9:30	Ethan Nixon
2/23	9:30	Cooper Scripture

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

2/2	9:30	Erin Makela
2/9	9:30	Debbie Koob
2/16	9:30	Becca McGaughey
2/23	9:30	Carrie Adams

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

2/2	9:30	Debbie & Dale Koob & Linda Nelson
2/9	9:30	Diana White & Larry & Norma Woodbury
2/16	9:30	Daren & Julie Bauman & Diane Sletten
2/23	9:30	Doug & Julie Christensen & Brenda Hurlbut

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

2/2	9:30	Paul Summers
2/9	9:30	Kevin Fleming
2/16	9:30	Doug Frisch
2/23	9:30	Pat Demuth



**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 March 5 with Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm. Lenten meals begin the following week on March 12.





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!

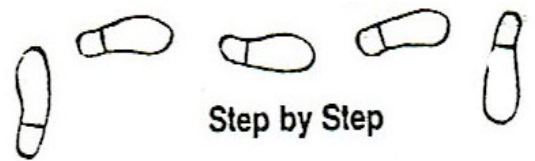
The cards are available in the church office. We have \$25, \$50 or \$100 gift cards to sell. You pay the full price for the card and the church receives 5%. As of December 31, 2024, a total of \$6,488.74 has been put into the general fund.



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, 2024, a total of \$57,896.50 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.



Step by Step

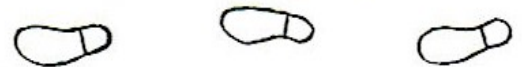
He does not lead me year by year,
Nor even day by day,
But step by step my path unfolds,
My Lord directs my way.

Tomorrow's plans I do not know,
I only know this minute.
But he will say, "This is the way,
By faith now walk ye in it."

And I am glad that it is so,
Today's enough to bear,
And when tomorrow comes,
his grace
Shall far exceed its care.

What need to worry then, or fret?
The God who gave his Son
Holds all my moments in his hand
And gives them one by one.

—Author unknown



Thrivent Choice Dollars and Thrivent Action Teams

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Submitted by Kevin Fleming

As we begin 2025, I wanted to take this opportunity to provide a refresher to Thrivent members (and possible future client members). Over the past several years Thrivent members have moved on or passed which has resulted in a noticeable drop in Choice Dollars coming into First Lutheran Church and some missed opportunities on the part of Thrivent members for giving/fundraising.

As a former Chair of the Worthington Thrivent Branch (and Aid Association for Lutherans prior to that), I wanted to try to refresh Thrivent members' minds of what they can do for the Church and the community. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. If I can't answer your question right away, I will find the answer and get back to you.

Any Thrivent client with membership has access to the following:

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Thrivent eligible clients with membership may choose where Thrivent distributes a portion of its funding each year. Each year you acquire Choice Dollars to distribute to enrolled organizations. You can distribute these dollars through the Thrivent Website or by calling Thrivent directly. If a Thrivent Member's allotment goes unused, they are directed elsewhere by Thrivent.

There are over 45,000 enrolled organizations to choose from. Some examples in SW Minnesota include: Shetek Lutheran Ministries, Client Community Services, most Churches in Worthington (including First and Grace), LOVE INC, and more. Many Lutheran Colleges and Camps are also listed. Be sure you allocate your accumulated Choice Dollars each year.

THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS (Community Impact Cards)

In recent years this has been referred to as "Thrivent Cards" which has caused some confusion as to their purpose and intended use.

How they work:

Thrivent eligible clients with membership gather a volunteer team of family, friends, or neighbors to put on a fundraiser, educational event, or service activity in the community (like school supply drives, hosting a car wash fundraiser, fundraiser to cover a person's medical costs, etc.). Nearly any organization, person, or cause within your community is acceptable.

Thrivent will provide customized resources and digital tools to get the project started, including up to \$250 in seed money. You are eligible to lead an Action Team two (2) times per year.

There are four simple steps to get started:

1. Apply to lead a project online – apply at least three weeks in advance of the project
2. Get your Thrivent Action Kit - package of resources
3. Take Action – bring your project to life
4. Share your success story – must complete a project report after completion of event.

Please note the terms and conditions on the Thrivent website when selecting a project or event to lead. A couple of these include:

1. Seed Money must be used responsibly, benefiting the community, and not for you or your family.
2. Seed money cannot be used for organization operating funds, alcohol, firearms, gift cards, direct cash donations, personal expenses, etc.

Thrivent wants your team to **take action within the community** rather than directly giving or granting the Community Impact Card to the organization or cause you are supporting.

PERSONAL DONATIONS

Thrivent eligible clients with membership can also make personal donations (over and above their Choice Dollars allotment) to enrolled organizations through Thrivent's On-Line Giving program. Thrivent will cover any fees associated with your donation so 100% of your donation would go to the enrolled organization(s) you selected.

February Birthdays



1	Jean Bender	13	Nichole Lowe	26	Owen Schroeder
3	Julie Vos	15	Cooper Scripture	27	Keith Towne
4	Doug Christensen	16	Adalyn Schaffer	28	Vickie Milbrath
4	Kahla Gieselman	17	Marilyn Starrett		
5	Sue Isder	18	Betty Burns		
6	Rosann Boots	19	Viola Gerdes		
6	Keith Stanton	19	David Stoyke		
6	Logan Waldner	20	Karen Buchman		
7	Ashley Hein	21	Judy Selberg		
8	Judy Wietzema	23	Kylee Milbrath		
8	Hayes Lowe	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		
12	Joan Tofteland	26	Melissa Randgaard		



“Jesus Begins His Ministry”

“Jesus moved to Capernaum”

Some Bible readers ask, “Why did Jesus leave Nazareth and go to Capernaum in Galilee?” Matthew says it was “to make come true what the prophet Isaiah had said.” But there was another reason. Nazareth was one out-of-the-way hill town. No one bothered to visit it. (John 1:40)

Capernaum, on the other hand, lay on the busy shores of the sea of Galilee. Josephus, the ancient Jewish historian, says Capernaum was one of 204 towns that circled the shores of the large sea.

But there is still another reason. Galileans were known for their openness and for their courage. Josephus says that Galileans were “by nature disposed to change” and “full of courage.”

Capernaum was an ideal place for Jesus to begin his ministry.

Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25 invites us to ask ourselves: How open are we to truth?

The reading invites us to pray: Lord, give us open minds and courageous hearts.

Illustrated Daily Homilies by Mark Lick, SJ

FEBRUARY YOUTH NEWS

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sundays at 8:45am

Confirmation and Youth Group: Wednesdays from 6:30-8:15

Save the Date:

Wednesday, March 5 - Silent Auction begins (set up tables, etc. on Sunday March 2)

Friday and Saturday, April 11-12 - Confirmation Retreat

Sunday, May 4 - 507 at Living Waters Covenant Church

Wednesday, May 21 - All church end of the year picnic

June 9-12 Community Kids' Camp

July 20 - July 25 High School Mission Trip to Lake Traverse Reservation, SD

July 20 - July 25 Elementary and Middle School groups going to Shetek Bible Camp



507 on Wednesday, February 5
Confirmation will be at the JBS Field House.
6:30-8:00 pm
6th grade on up

February 19—Shetek Lutheran Bible Camp will join us for KFC.

Youth will be selling Pizza Ranch pizzas and Fun Zone cards again. Orders will be due January 30 and pizzas will be here on Friday, February 7 in plenty of time before the big game.

Valentine's Dinner - Sunday, February 9. Right after church we will have fellowship, play some games and then have dinner. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for kids. Sign up today!

SILENT AUCTION LENT 2025 - We already have Arnold's Park Tickets! I've sent other requests out, but if you think of anyone else we can reach out to, let me know. OR FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT YOURSELF. Feel free to make something as well, I know a few that are. Talk with Brenda with any questions.

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

February 2025



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

Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers



Please apply to join our fun staff this summer.
<https://shetek.org/work-at-shetek/>

Please join us for our upcoming events

Wish List

- Volunteers*
- New Vacuums*
- Keurig*
- Spark Bibles*
- Board Games*
- Office Supplies – Staplers, dry erase markers, paper*

Mark your Calendar

February 8 Family Winter Fun Day

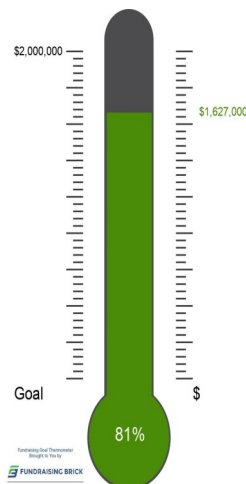
February 10 Hiking Club

March 10 Hiking Club

March 14-15 Confirmation Retreat

March 29 Sugarbush
Saturday 9am-1pm

We met our Phase 1 goal! \$1,627,000 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!