

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

January
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,

On December 3, I attended the Eagle's Nest Lodge dedication service and the Shetek Lutheran Ministries Annual Meeting. This was my last duty as a Shetek Lutheran Ministries board member. I will engage in some strategic planning and evaluation work during the upcoming months as part of my role as an "outgoing" board member. I want to thank First Lutheran for supporting me in this work. I feel passionately about supporting camp ministries for our larger church body. Both going to camp and working at camp were instrumental parts of my faith growth.

I also know that camp is an important part of the life of our congregation. I believe that my volunteer work in supporting camp is another way I support the ministry of First Lutheran. In the summer, many of our youth attend camp and articulate great joy and appreciation the opportunity. We have had young adults from our congregation work at camps. These young adults have made impactful friendships and gained valuable work skills, as well. Camp night (when Shetek Lutheran Ministries staff lead the day) is always a favorite night for our Kids for Christ program. The youth learn about summer camp options, engage in environmental education, play games and more on that night. Finally, we have found that the Confirmation Camp options organized through Shetek Lutheran Ministries are a great "fit" for our small congregation. That is, even if only a few youth are able to come on a designated date, we are still able to offer a weekend full of games, worship, faith activities, etc. with the other congregations that attend the retreats. Likewise, because the camp organizes many of the events and we are able to use the supplies at camp, we are able to offer more dates for our Confirmation retreat that work with the schedules of various youth. (In the past, we offered one option per year for the Confirmation students.)

Beyond all of this, I have learned a great deal through my time on the board. The Executive Director, Marv Nysetvold, is a skillful leader and I have learned immensely through his leadership. Other members have taught me a great deal about financial planning as an organization. Through being involved with their capital campaign, I learned more about how such efforts work. As part of our Board efforts, we read "The Corporate Person" by Harold Everson and watched board development movies produced by Lutheran Outdoors Ministry. I have already shared some of what I learned as a board member with First Lutheran. (I first learned about an operational reserve policy through Shetek Lutheran Ministries). I am sure more opportunities to share what I have learned will present themselves during my time at First Lutheran and in the future.

I encourage you all to continue to support Shetek Lutheran Ministries. First, please consider giving to the camp either to their general budget or Capital Campaign. Many of the improvements made possible through the capital campaign are completed or underway, but there is still work to do. These projects were identified by camp participants as necessary for camp to be relevant and appealing. Over 1.5 million has been received in donations, and the campaign is actively working towards the \$2 million goal desired to complete all designated projects. With increased building costs over the last few years, all funds are necessary in order to complete the planned projects.

Likewise, please urge young adults to work at camp. Finding staff is always a struggle for most Lutheran camps. Working at camp is a great way to build lifelong friendships, improve leadership skills, enhance capabilities for working with youth and grow in faith. Many young adults fear that the salary will not be sufficient, but I found (during my time working at camp) that through having my room and board covered, I was able to save more money than many other young adults I knew. Furthermore, supplemental support is available at many colleges and through other means, so if finances are the main deterrent, please urge the young adult considering working at camp to come talk to me.

Finally, please urge your youth to attend camp! It's a great way for them to grow in faith, make new friends, gain confidence in new skill areas and more. Check out www.shetek.org for more information and for information about programming for all ages.

Many prayers for Shetek Lutheran Ministries as they continue to work spreading the Gospel and helping us all find joy in God's wonderful creation,

Gratefully,

Rev. Jeanette McCormick



Lessons and Themes for the Sundays in January, 2024:

1/7/24: Baptism of Our Lord

Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

1/14/24: Parables in Mark

Isaiah 6:9-10
Psalm 126
Mark 4:1-34

1/21/24: Jesus and the Gerasene Demoniac

Isaiah 61:1-3
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-26
Mark 5:1-20

1/28/24: Jairus' Daughter Healed

2 Kings 4:8-37
Psalm 131
Mark 5:21-43

Praise the Lord

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

General Fund:

Bal. 10/31/23: (\$28,314.22)
Inc., November \$39,199.97
Exp., November \$25,211.73
Bal. 11/30/23: (\$14,325.98)
(The amount shows behind budget.)
Grace Lutheran Reimbursement—
\$31,400.40

Building Fund:

Bal. 10/31/23: \$67,683.31
Inc., November \$884.00
Exp., November \$5,193.14
Bal. 11/30/23: \$63,374.17



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.



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



The 2023 Annual Meeting of First Lutheran Church will be on Sunday, January 28, 2024 at 10:45 am in Centennial Hall. A brunch will be served by the youth.

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)

1/7	9:30	Pam Fleming
1/14	9:30	Kathy Summers
1/21	9:30	Terry Morrison
1/28	9:30	Glenda Lais

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

1/7	9:30	Ethan Nixon
1/14	9:30	Aaden Wagner
1/21	9:30	Trey Milbrath
1/28	9:30	Ethan Nixon

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

1/7	9:30	Matt Russell
1/14	9:30	Todd Hallstrom
1/21	9:30	Erin Makela
1/28	9:30	Diane Sletten

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

1/7	9:30	Midg White (360-3215)
1/14	9:30	Larry Woodbury (360-2689)
1/21	9:30	Matt Russell (360-5835)
1/28	9:30	Daren Bauman (360-9275)

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

1/7	9:30	Doug & Julie Christensen & Diane Sletten
1/14	9:30	John & Nora Leinen & Todd Hallstrom
1/21	9:30	Larry & Norma Woodbury & Bob & Bonnie Bents
1/28	9:30	Youth Brunch

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

1/7	9:30	Karla Kirkeby
1/14	9:30	Diane Sletten
1/21	9:30	Todd Hallstrom
1/28	9:30	Sandy Poppema

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

1/7	9:30	Kevin Fleming
1/14	9:30	Doug Frisch
1/21	9:30	Pat Demuth
1/28	9:30	Kevin Fleming

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

1/7	9:30	Terry Morrison
1/14	9:30	Paul Summers
1/21	9:30	Carrie Adams
1/28	9:30	Debbie Koob



2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES: Your offering envelopes for 2024 are in your mail box. If you didn't get a box but would like envelopes, please contact the church office. Your envelope numbers have changed for the year, so please do not use them until after January 1. Thank you!

January Birthdays



2	Kinsley Neugebauer	15	Julie Bauman	28	Kathy Craun
4	Jessica Frodermann	15	Brandon Berger	30	Hailey Como
5	Dyson Neugebauer	15	Shirley Frisch	31	Evalyn Gerdes
5	Cindy Russell	15	Jacob Livingston		
7	Ashlyn White	15	Nathan Russell		
8	Gage Wasmund	16	Mary Smith		
9	Kristina White	17	Jessica Anderson		
9	Ayden Schaffer	17	Rory Wietzema		
10	Carmen Kamm	18	Doris Selberg		
10	Alvin Kuehl	18	Joan Wachter		
10	Robin Livingston	18	Kent Wilkening		
11	Romi Dieter	19	Ron Hallstrom		
11	Tonya Langland	20	Brianna Kraft		
11	Jeff Murray	21	Troy Olson		
13	Marlys Wasmund	21	Todd Scripture		



“Jesus is Baptized”

“You are my beloved Son.”

Three important images emerge in Mark 1:7-11. The first is Jesus standing in the water. The second is the dove hovering over Jesus. The third is the voice speaking about Jesus.

These three images point to the three persons of the Holy Trinity: the Son, standing in water, the Spirit, symbolized by the dove, and the Father, symbolized by the voice.

The trinitarian theme of Jesus’ baptism is present at every baptism. The officiating person at the baptism pours water on (or submerges) the person to be baptized three times, saying, “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

Do we feel more comfortable praying to the Father? To the Son? To the Holy Spirit? To all three at once?

“Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations

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 November 30, 2023, a total of \$6,281.24 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 November 30, 2023, a total of \$56,311.50 has been put into the general fund.



Don't forget that a purchase of a Hy-Vee or Fareway gift card helps our general fund. The more we sell, the more we can deposit into the general fund. These make great gifts.

Recipe for a Happy New Year

Clean thoroughly 12 whole months. Divide into 365 parts; set aside, preparing only one part at a time, as follows:

Mix well into each day:

1 part patience, 1 part work, 1 part courage

Add to each day:

1 part each of hope, faithfulness, generosity and kindness

Blend with:

1 part prayer, 1 part mutation, and 1 part good deed

Season the mixture with a dash of good spirits, a sprinkle of fun, a pinch of play, and a cup of good humor. Pour mixture into vessel of love. Cook over radiant joy, garnish with a smile. Serve with quietness, unselfishness and cheer.

Yield = 1 Happy New Year



JANUARY YOUTH NEWS

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

January 5 - 6 hour fun night with the Methodist Church!!! Stay tuned for more information!!!

The youth will be selling Pizza Ranch pizzas again to help fund their summer trips. Medium Sized, thin crust pizzas only \$12. Pepperoni, Sausage, Bronco. Breakfast: Sausage or Bacon/Sausage. Orders due by January 28. Pizza should be ready for pickup/handout on February 7, in plenty of time before the big game!

We are collecting items for our big silent auction during Lent. If anyone has anything they would like to donate, please talk with Brenda.



OKOBOJI OUTREACH NIGHT - January 28 - WINTER GAMES

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 dress warmly - hat, boots, gloves, coat, etc.

RSVP to Brenda no later than WEDNESDAY, January 24, 2024

KFC - January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 - Class

We are a little over half-way through our year of fun! Thanks for all of your support and help with this growing program

SUNDAY SCHOOL Sunday at 8:45 am

CONFIRMATION Wednesday from 6:30-7:30 pm

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

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

January 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



Join us for our Winter Family Camp

Or just come out and see the beauty of the season here.

Wish List

- Vest style life jackets*
- Extension Cords*
- Volunteers*
- Summer Staff -***

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

Mark your Calendar

- January 17-21 Quilt and Craft Retreat
- February 23-25 Winter Family Camp

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

We met our Phase 1 goal!
\$1,616,000 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
Current	\$1,616,000
Progress	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!