

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

July
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,

On June 9th and 10th, I completed another Southwestern MN ELCA Synod Assembly at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN. This was their first in-person synod assembly in four years. Here are some important highlights:

*Thanks to Ed Phillip for being our delegate. I know these meetings can feel long at times (though many of the speakers are very good) and it's hard for most of us to give up two days for such an event. However, if we want the ELCA to reflect our opinions and beliefs as a congregation, it is important that we have a "voice at the table." Thanks to Ed for learning about the whole synodical process and serving in this capacity.

*Friday included multiple education sessions. My mother, Mary Simonson Clark, has taught grant writing and has helped me significantly in my efforts to receive funding for Sharing Seeds/Every Meal. I am currently on the Hunger Team for the synod. This group of individuals helps people who are addressing hunger issues to connect to others who are engaging in this work and helps people know about financial resources that are available. Our team compiled a list of grants and resources we thought would help other congregations and recruited my mom to teach two sessions about grant writing. Many participants in the sessions noted that applying for grants had felt very intimidating, so the tips and guidance were very useful. I also assisted our team's effort by sitting at a "Hunger Table" and answering questions from those who stopped by. During Friday evening's dinner, I co-presented the Bread Basket award for the congregation that gives the most per person to ELCA World Hunger (Borgund Lutheran was the recipient this year). I know this outside involvement has not always been the standard practice for the pastors of First Lutheran. However, I appreciate the support in engaging in this work. Not only do I feel called to such efforts, but with the current pastor shortage in the ELCA, I know that most pastors are serving in multiple capacities for the greater church. There is an awareness that either we work together to fill the positions, or important areas will be left uncovered and we (and our churches) will be the ones who will suffer. I believe that it is important that I do my part while I am grateful for the efforts of my colleagues who are serving in the areas that best fit their talents and gifts, as well.

*There was not a great deal of business to be conducted at synod assembly. Executive Council positions were elected (Secretary, Vice President and Treasurer) along with other synod council openings and committee openings (disciplinary committee, etc.). All elections were un-contested. Synod council also proposed a reduction of the quorum needed in order to conduct synod assembly. This was done to avoid a situation like 2022, where synod assembly was not held due to insufficient people registered to meet a quorum. The 2024 budget and 2024 compensation guidelines were presented, voted on and passed.

*Bishop Dee Pederson provided updates on our synod. In particular, I thought it was noteworthy that they highlighted the value of the "anchor church model" where a median sized/large church shares staff and partners with a smaller church. They have found these set-ups to be increasingly successful and beneficial to both congregations involved. (I was proud that we, at First and Grace, have already been doing this). Several camps and ministries of the church (Shetek, Green Lake, Luther Crest, Mission Investment Fund, Portico, etc.) provided updates. Rev. Kevin Jacobson, the ELCA Director for Global Service, spoke about the state of the ELCA. He noted that the ELCA is strong. We have many new congregations beginning. Globally, we are supporting educational opportunities for women, economic opportunities and training for the marginalized and more. Young adults are supported in traveling to various global communities and the ELCA has transitioned towards an "accompaniment" model of ministry throughout the world. A few Lutheran global partners celebrated their first ordinations of women during the past few years. Matt Bloom, Ph.D., spoke about wellness and shared research that he had completed with various clergy. Many of his insights were applicable and useful for me. Dakota Road and various synod individuals led us in worship.

Next years' synod assembly will be June 7-8, 2024 at Gustavus Adolphus College. Please let me know if you'd like more information about participating!

Gratefully, Rev. Jeanette McCormick



Lessons and Themes for the Sundays in July, 2023:

7/2/23: 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 28:5-9
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

7/9/23: 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Zechariah 9:9-12
Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

7/16/23: 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm 65:1-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

7/23/23: 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 44:6-8
Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

7/30/23: 9th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Praise the Lord

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

General Fund:

Bal. 4/30/23: (\$24,329.61)
Inc., May \$25,196.72
Exp., May \$29,376.87
Bal. 5/31/23: (\$28,509.76)

(The amount shows behind budget.)

Building Fund:

Bal. 4/30/23: \$16,251.41
Inc., May \$3,697.56
Exp., May \$3,137.01
Bal. 5/31/23: \$16,811.96



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.



DON'T FORGET
TO TITHE WHILE
YOU'RE AWAY



The office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th for the 4th of July Holiday.

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)

7/2	9:30	Terry Morrison
7/9	9:30	Ryan McGaughey
7/16	9:30	Kathy Summers
7/23	9:30	Glenda Lais
7/30	9:30	Ryan McGaughey

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

7/2	9:30	Trey Milbrath
7/9	9:30	Ashlyn Schaffer
7/16	9:30	Kylee Milbrath
7/23	9:30	Aaden Wagner
7/30	9:30	Trey Milbrath

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

7/2	9:30	Ed Philipp
7/9	9:30	Cooper Scripture
7/16	9:30	Ryan McGaughey
7/23	9:30	Cindy Russell
7/30	9:30	Paula Laffrenzen

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

7/2	9:30	Matt Russell (360-5835)
7/9	9:30	Daren Bauman (360-9275)
7/16	9:30	Leroy Merkel (360-6730)
7/23	9:30	Larry Woodbury (360-2689)
7/30	9:30	Midg White (360-3215)

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

7/2	9:30	Judy Selberg & John & Nora Leinen
7/9	9:30	Leroy & Rosie Merkel & Brenda Hurlbut
7/16	9:30	Todd & Darcy Poppema & Sandy Poppema
7/23	9:30	Daren & Julie Bauman & Diana White
7/30	9:30	Doug & Julie Christensen & John Kramer

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

7/2	9:30	Pat Demuth
7/9	9:30	Doug Frisch
7/16	9:30	Pat Demuth
7/23	9:30	Doug Frisch
7/30	9:30	Pat Demuth

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

7/2	9:30	Linda Nelson & Diane Sletten
7/9	9:30	Doug & Julie Christensen
7/16	9:30	Todd Hallstrom & John Kramer
7/23	9:30	Leroy & Rosie Merkel
7/30	9:30	John & Nora Leinen

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

7/2	9:30	Becca McGaughey
7/9	9:30	Erin Makela
7/16	9:30	Paul Summers
7/23	9:30	Aaron Hagen
7/30	9:30	Debbie Koob



July Birthdays



2	Travis Thiner	13	Rolf Mahlberg	30	Jeanette McCormick
3	Nelson Tarus	13	Valeri Wilkening	31	Olivia Adams
4	Angie Randgaard	14	Ruth Rehborg		
4	Tim Tarus	15	Nicholas Dieter		
4	Arnold Waldner	16	Jordyn Sholes		
5	Devin Frodermann	17	Courtney Faragher		
5	Betty Nelson	19	Katelyn Frodermann		
5	Shari Nelson	20	Zachary McGaughey		
6	Russell Miller	22	Jim Black		
7	Crystal Severance	24	Krista Van Note		
9	Josh Hein	25	John Widboom		
9	Cindy Rogers	26	Irene Eisele		
9	Matt Russell	27	Debra Thueson		
10	Jordon Rogers	28	Daren Bauman		
11	Dennis Christensen	28	Emily Nienkerk		
11	James Engelson	28	Rod Poppema		
11	Kimberly Kraft	28	Grayson Waldner		
12	Robin Nelson	29	Amber Waldner		



“Trust God”

“Your reward will not be lost.”

An old poem describes a man walking through a field, meditating as he goes. He came to a field of ripe pumpkins. In the field was a huge oak tree.

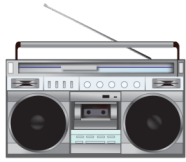
As he studied the tiny acorns on the huge branches and the huge pumpkins on the tiny vines, he thought to himself, “God blundered! He should have put the acorns on the tiny vines and the pumpkins on the huge branches.”

Then the man lay down under the tree and fell asleep. A few minutes later he was awakened by a tiny acorn bouncing off his nose and thought, “Maybe God was right after all.”

Do we sometimes question God’s wisdom regarding some of the things in our world? How ready are we to put total trust in whatever God asks of us in this life?

“The foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom.” - 1 Corinthians 1:25

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 May 31, 2023, a total of **\$6,104.99** 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.



BAPTISM: We welcomed Rory Jean Wietzema, daughter of Trevor & Laura Wietzema to the family of God through Holy Baptism on Sunday, June 4, 2023. Sponsors are Tanner & Anna Rogers. Welcome to the Lord's family, Rory.



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 May 31, 2023, a total of **\$55,636.50** has been put into the general fund.



“A Prayer for Our Nation”

Almighty God, we remember that you are the Lord of all nations including the United States of America. We are mindful that we stand responsible and accountable before you as we consider our stewardship as citizens of this land. Make us equal to our challenges, O Lord. Guide us into providing justice for all. Turn our hearts toward our children that we may teach them rightly to please you in their citizenship. Enable us to make certain that all citizens, affluent and poor, young and old, male and female are treated fairly and never forgotten. Most of all, keep us aware of your providential care and guidance that we may never assume that we are totally on our own. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



I think I shall never see a church that's all it ought to be: a church whose members never stray beyond the straight and narrow way. A church that has no empty pews, whose pastor never has the blues.

A church whose deacon's always "Deak" and none are proud and all are meek. Such perfect Churches there may be, but none of them are known to me. But still, we'll work and pray and plan to make our own the best we can.

Author unknown

Worthington Crailsheim International, Inc. Host Families Are you ready to experience a new culture at home while sharing and representing your own? The Worthington Crailsheim International Inc. committee is looking for host families for the student representative for the 2023-2024 school year. Hosting an exchange student gives you the chance to learn about new cultures, create lasting friendships and build a global family. This experience will enrich the life of your family and community! Host families usually house the student for three months. For more information about this amazing opportunity please visit: <https://wgtn-crailsheim.org/> or call Lon Lien at 507-360-9142.

Join us this summer for our Evening of Spirit series at First Lutheran Church! Centered around the practice of VOCARE, our worship service will provide space for reflection, connection and divine inspiration.

VOCARE is a spiritual practice that invites us into deep contemplation of our Values, Openness, Call, Attentiveness, Regrets and Experiences. This practice guides us to examine our lives through the lens of these six pillars, prompting us to live and engage in our communities more intentionally and purposefully.

Taking place every Wednesday evening this summer in our newly developed courtyard space, our VOCARE worship service begins at 6 pm. The service is designed to be family-friendly and engaging for people of all ages, making it a perfect midweek spiritual retreat for the whole family.

But the fun doesn't stop there! Once the service concludes at 6:30 pm, we'll break out the ice cream. Indulge in a sweet treat while connecting with friends old and new at our Ice Cream Social.

Join us at 1200 4th Ave., Worthington, MN. All are welcome at our table and in our fellowship - come for the worship, stay for the ice cream!

Let's spend our summer evenings together, delving deeper into our faith journey, growing as a community and enjoying the simple pleasures of life - divine inspiration and delicious ice cream.

We can't wait to see you there!

Experience Reflection, Connection, and Divine Inspiration

EVENINGS OF SPIRIT

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1200 4TH AVE.
WORTHINGTON, MN

**EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING THIS SUMMER
WORSHIP: 6 PM | ICE CREAM: 6:30 PM
AT OUR NEW COURTYARD SPACE**

- Outdoor Worship Experience
- Family-Friendly
- Ice Cream Social Post-Worship
- Featuring VOCARE Worship
- Values
- Openness
- Call
- Attentiveness
- Regrets
- Experiences

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

"All Are Welcome! Come for the Worship, Stay for the Ice Cream!"

JULY YOUTH NEWS



COMMUNITY KIDS CAMP was a HUGE success! We had over 70 kids and over 30 volunteers every night. Our camp (VBS) this year was combined with three other local churches and we got a lot of positive feedback from it. Every day there were a lot of happy smiling kids and adults! If you haven't had a chance to check out the pictures feel free to check out the Facebook group, "Community Kids Camp." Our mission project for the week was collecting supplies for emergency care kits for kids in need in Worthington. We filled several coolers with many fun things to brighten a child's day! A special thanks to all who made cookies for our meal on Tuesday, and those who cooked, prepared and cleaned it up. Much thanks to those in our church that volunteered their time for part of the week. And many thanks to those who volunteered every day - especially Erin Makela for being a rockstar and teaching the 20 plus

preschool kids every night! Heidi Tarus who was awesome with her science station. As well as Grace McGaughey who was our amazing game master! We couldn't have done it without our awesome trail guide, Kelsey Hagen. Thanks to all for your support in this community endeavor!

Stay tuned to next month's newsletter for updates on how our high school mission trip to Denver, CO went! A special thank you to Austin Peters-Smith and Tony Stoeker for helping to drive and chaperone the trip. Thanks so much for your prayers while we were gone.

At the end of July we have two middle school youth going to Medora, ND to the Badlands Ministries camp for Night Life camp!



Last year's rummage sale was a HUGE success! I'm excited to let you know that on August 18-19 we will be having our youth group rummage sale again. We hope to make it an even BIGGER success than last year! In order to do that we need your help. If you know of friends, family or neighbors that need to get rid of stuff (or are moving) encourage them to donate their stuff to our sale. We will start setting up after church on Sunday, August 13. After that you will be able to bring your donations to Centennial Hall. We have limited space to store donations before then, but feel free to bring any donations to the **Sunday School room** as long as there's space. We cannot accept

mattresses or older (CRT) TVs as we have to pay to dispose of them if they do not sell. *If you need help getting your stuff here, contact Brenda Richards for a pick-up.*

THANKS SO MUCH for your continued support of the youth program. We could not do what we do without you! Your prayers and support are very much appreciated!

Thank
You

July 2023



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Slayton, MN 56172
507-763-3567
camp@shetek.org
www.shetek.org

Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers



Please keep our staff in your prayers!



When I feel the warm sun on my face, I better understand "God is light, in Him is no darkness at all."

Mark your Calendar

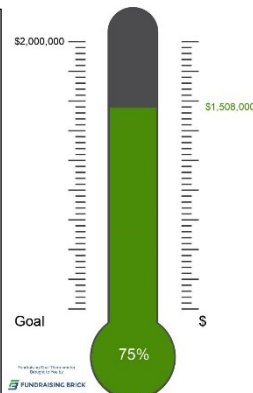
June 11-August 11
Summer Programs
We still have openings!
Register at shetek.org or
Call 507-763-3567 for more
information

Wish List

- 17 foot Aluminum canoe
- Vest style life jackets
- Office supplies - reams of paper
- Good Vacuums
- Volunteers



We met our Phase 1 goal!
\$1,533,000 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/](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!