

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

June  
2024

Evangel

HAPPY  
FATHER'S  
DAY!

**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*

### 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  
Cindy Anderson—Pianist  
Nancy Hofstee—Organist  
Arlene Lowe—Co-Treasurer  
Debbie Koob—Financial Secretary  
Jim & Paula Laffrenzen—Parish Visitors

# *PASTOR JEANETTE'S ARTICLE*

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“Don’t Harm Yourself! We are all here!” Acts 16:28

The above verse is said by the Apostle Paul to a jailer. Paul and Silas had been imprisoned for spreading the Gospel throughout the ancient world. Acts 16:25-28 says, “About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone’s chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, ‘Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!’”

I recently heard this quote in a very different context. It was highlighted at the start of a continuing education class. Though obviously different from its original meaning, the teacher noted that it is a good verse to consider when talking about suicide. That is, when people are contemplating suicide, we hope they will hear loud and clear that there is a community of faith that deeply loves them and will walk with them through whatever struggle they are facing. People are here to help them turn from despair and choose life. Therefore, the call to such individuals who are contemplating suicide is to “not harm themselves” but, rather, remember that we (the body of Christ) are “all here.”

The course offered many important insights. In my mind, the most important insight given by the course’s instructors was their advice to ask people directly if they are contemplating suicide. I encourage you all to follow the instructors’ guidance to ask people directly if they are considering suicide if you notice changes in their behavior or if their conversations concern you. Many times, people are worried about offending people by asking them if they are contemplating suicide. But most of the time, people are not offended by the question (even if they are not contemplating suicide), and, in fact, may be grateful for someone’s willingness to talk openly with them about their feelings and struggles. Some people think that mentioning suicide will cause someone to act on the comment. This is not true!

Furthermore, the course caused me to consider the resources in our community for people struggling with suicidal thoughts.

**The suicide and crisis lifeline is 988. It is available 24 hours a day.**

There is also a myriad of resources in our local community and Sioux Falls that may be helpful to individuals. Though I am, of course, not always immediately available, I am very open to talking with people who are struggling with thoughts of suicide. I promise to do my best to support people and help them connect with appropriate resources/people for their particular needs. Furthermore, from conversations with our local ministerial, I believe that any available pastor would seek to understand, care for and support anyone who is struggling with suicidal thoughts. Please reach out to someone if you are struggling in this way. As Acts 16:28b states, “We are all here!”

Finally, the class talked extensively about how churches in the past have responded to suicides in very harmful ways. Wrongly, shame was cast on individuals and families alike when people died by suicide. In the past, some people wondered whether someone who died by suicide could go to heaven. The pain, isolation and suffering caused by the harsh responses of congregations and Christians to suicide deaths is a sin that we as a church must confess. We are called to work harder to support grieving families and individuals, offering hope instead of more despair. If you lost a loved one by suicide and felt such isolation or condemnation, on behalf of the church, I offer my sincere apologies to you and yours. Though we know suicide is not what God wants, and we know that God has a purpose for all of us each day we are on earth, we also believe that “nothing can separate us from the love of God” (Romans 8:39). This includes death by suicide. My sincere prayer, hope and belief is that God meets people who have died by suicide in their hour of great despair and offers them new life. As a church and as Christian individuals, my prayer is that we would do all we can to offer care and support to family members and friends who have lost a loved one by suicide.

Thank you for supporting me in my efforts to participate in continuing education. I found this course very beneficial. I believe I am a better pastor because of what I learned. Please feel free to reach out to me for more conversation about suicide and loss by suicide.

In Christ, Rev. Jeanette McCormick



## Lessons and Themes for the Sundays in June, 2024:

### 6/2/24: 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 5:12-15  
 Psalm 81:1-10  
 2 Corinthians 4:5-12  
 Mark 2:23-3:6

### 6/9/24: 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 3:8-15  
 Psalm 130  
 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1  
 Mark 3:20-35

### 6/16/24: 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 17:22-24  
 Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15  
 2 Corinthians 5:6-17  
 Mark 4:26-34

### 6/23/24: 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Job 38:1-11  
 Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32  
 2 Corinthians 6:1-13  
 Mark 4:35-41

### 6/30/24: 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Lamentations 3:22-33  
 Psalm 30  
 2 Corinthians 8:7-15  
 Mark 5:21-43

### Dear friends at FELC,

Thank you for the visits from the church and the lovely prayer shawl. It is being put to use.

Karen Lewis

## Praise the Lord

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

### General Fund:

Bal. 3/31/24: (\$21,673.04)  
 Inc., April \$21,321.14  
 Exp., April \$26,493.55  
 Bal. 4/30/24: (\$26,845.45)

(The amount shows behind budget.)

Grace Lutheran Reimbursement—\$8,761.14

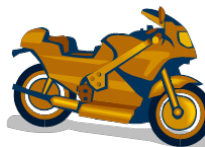
### Building Fund:

Bal. 3/31/24: \$35,926.25  
 Inc., April \$405.00  
 Exp., April \$0.00  
 Bal. 4/30/24: \$36,331.25



**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.



**ATTENTION All Bikers:** The annual motorcycle blessing is Sunday, June 2 at 2:00 pm. Come to the church parking lot, bring all your friends and

receive a special blessing. Refreshments to follow.



**Camperships are available!** The Memorials and Gifts Team is offering camperships for anyone who is attending camp. To request a campership, just write a letter to the Memorials and Gift Team and put it in Karen Buchman's box across from the office. Those attending a week long camp will receive \$100 and those attending a three day camp will receive \$50. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Buchman at 376-3225.

## 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)

6/2	9:30	Pam Fleming
6/9	9:30	Glenda Lais
6/16	9:30	Ryan McGaughey
6/23	9:30	Pam Fleming
6/30	9:30	Glenda Lais

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

6/2	9:30	Matt Russell (360-5835)
6/9	9:30	Daren Bauman (360-9275)
6/16	9:30	Midg White (360-3215)
6/23	9:30	Larry Woodbury (360-2689)
6/30	9:30	Matt Russell (360-5835)

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

6/2	9:30	Matt Russell
6/9	9:30	Cooper Scripture
6/16	9:30	Erin Makela
6/23	9:30	Todd Hallstrom
6/30	9:30	Diane Sletten

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

6/2	9:30	Marie Mews
6/9	9:30	Leroy & Rosie Merkel
6/16	9:30	Todd Hallstrom
6/23	9:30	Diane Sletten
6/30	9:30	Sandy Poppema

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

6/2	9:30	Aaden Wagner
6/9	9:30	Ethan Nixon
6/16	9:30	Trey Milbrath
6/23	9:30	Aaden Wagner
6/30	9:30	Ethan Nixon

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

6/2	9:30	Debbie Koob
6/9	9:30	Becca McGaughey
6/16	9:30	Carrie Adams
6/23	9:30	Debbie Koob
6/30	9:30	Becca McGaughey

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

6/2	9:30	Diane Sletten & Larry & Norma Woodbury
6/9	9:30	Dale & Debbie Koob & John Kramer
6/16	9:30	Doug & Julie Christensen & Diana White
6/23	9:30	Todd Hallstrom & Robert & Bonnie Bents
6/30	9:30	John & Nora Leinen, Sandi Poppema & Fern Burmeister

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

6/2	9:30	Kevin Fleming
6/9	9:30	Doug Frisch
6/16	9:30	Pat Demuth
6/23	9:30	Kevin Fleming
6/30	9:30	Doug Frisch

**There will be no Wednesday night worship services from now—June 12.**

# June Birthdays



1	Eric White	14	Shari Joens	22	Arond Peil
2	Bruce Amundson	14	Brea Waldner	23	Rosemary Merkel
2	Everly Scripture	15	Decklan Hurlbut	23	Paul Summers
4	Desmund Bixby	15	Linda Nelson	24	Benjamin Potts
4	Irene Janke	16	Elayne Rothbarth	24	Trysten Stamer
5	Kirk Vogen	17	Dawson Frodermann	26	Laura Christensen
6	Doug Frisch	18	Dustin Poppema	26	Robin Negrete
6	Gary Gerdes	18	Rhett Lowe	26	Joseph Ternus
8	Charlene Wachter	19	Jane Benson	27	Karen Lewis
9	Tyler Nienkerk	19	Kelli Peters-Smith	29	Elsie Wajer
11	Nicholas Nelson	19	Amber Wajer	30	Marilyn Frisch
12	Brenda Hurlbut	19	Larry Woodbury	30	Brock Schroeder
13	Cindy Swart	20	Alan Waage	30	Isaiah Casanova
14	Heidi Tarus	21	Allen Thiner		

## “Jesus Continues His Teaching”

*“The little you have will be taken.”*

A monk spent his whole life sitting in a dark cave, meditating. His disciples brought him the few grains of wheat that he ate and the few drops of water that he drank.

Because the monk never walked or went outside into the light, he eventually lost his ability to walk and to see.

This may give us an insight into Jesus’ words that to those who have, more will be given and to those who have not, what little they have will be taken from them.

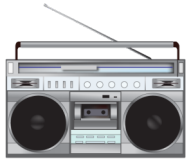
Spiritual powers are like physical powers. The more we use them, the stronger they get. The less we use them, the weaker they get. If we never use them, they soon lose the little power they once had.

How do we use spiritual powers, like faith?

“If you had faith as big as a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Pull yourself up by the roots and plant yourself in the sea!’ and it would obey you.—Luke 17:6

*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 April 30, 2024, a total of **\$6,357.49** 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 April 30, 2024, a total of **\$56,936.50** has been put into the general fund.



**Please join us** after church on Wednesday nights beginning June 19 for ice cream! Every Wednesday through August 21, ice cream and toppings will be served in the church parking lot. It's easy and fun to be part of this ministry to our church and community. If you would like to help serve ice cream, give me a call at 507-370-4218. There is not much work, a short time commitment and lots of smiling faces.

Mary Ingenthron

**Worship on Wednesday nights will resume on June 19 at 6:00 pm in the court yard.**

**What Makes a Dad**

God took the strength of a mountain, The majesty of a tree,  
 The warmth of a summer sun, The calm of a quiet sea,  
 The generous soul of nature, The comforting arm of night,  
 The wisdom of the ages, The power of the eagle's flight,  
 The joy of a morning in spring, The faith of a mustard seed,  
 The patience of eternity, The depth of a family need,  
 Then God combined these qualities, When there was nothing more to add,  
 He knew His masterpiece was complete,  
 And so, He called it ... Dad—**Author Unknown**



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

# Message from Pastor Martin

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When we lived in west central Minnesota, I was serving in my second call. There was a man in my church who owned a big factory that made plastic signs for people to put on their lawns. They were for every single holiday and time of year. Whenever I went to visit that factory, I noticed that they always worked about six months ahead. In June, for example, Christmas decorations were being developed and made, and so on.

Ministry, I have noticed, often works like that, though not everything a pastor or church leader does can be done that far ahead of time. In order to advertise our churches and their holiday ministries and services on the radio in December, a dialog would have to be written in the summer months, some students would need to be invited to participate and people lined up to cover the cost of the project, then after final arrangements were made (including coordinating it with other media forums) and practices took place, the final dialog could be recorded sometime in November so that it could go out around Thanksgiving. It is a process whose every step calls to mind something our seventh grade Sunday School teacher used to tell us kids nearly every week: every single day you will meet someone who most likely will never meet Jesus or get to know him better if they do not hear about him from you!

Consider the important upcoming holiday and even the seasons of the year that are approaching. What could you do, what gifts have you been given that might be very helpful at any of those times to introduce someone to Jesus or to help almost anyone get to know him a little better? Talk to a church leader or staff person or someone you know right away. It will be summer, then fall, then Christmas before you know it!

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**DEATH & SYMPATHY:** Raymond “Ray” Louis Buchman, Jr. died April 27, 2024 at the age of 82 years. His funeral service was held here at First Lutheran Church on May 1, 2024. We extend our Christian sympathy to his family.

**DEATH & SYMPATHY:** Roger Eugene Nelson died May 7, 2024 at the age of 80 years. His funeral service was held here at First Lutheran Church on May 11, 2024. We extend our Christian sympathy to his family.

**DEATH & SYMPATHY:** Terry Morrison died May 14, 2024 at the age of 78 years. His funeral service was held here at First Lutheran Church on May 20, 2024. We extend our Christian sympathy to his family.

# College Scholarship Information

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## High School Seniors and Current College Students

We have put together two information sheets regarding college scholarship financial assistance. Copies are available from the church office after you receive your letter. One is for the “FELC Scholarship” which is potentially available to students attending ANY institution of higher learning. Committee members are Don Craun, Jason Gerdes and Josh Hein.

The other is for the “First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Worthington, Minnesota Scholarship Fund” – commonly called the “LEE ANDERSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND”. Eligibility includes college sophomores or higher attending a LUTHERAN COLLEGE OR SEMINARY. Even though **freshman are not eligible**, they SHOULD still complete an application in June of their high school graduation year so their name is put on the list for future consideration. This is explained more on the information sheet. Rolf Mahlberg is the Trustee representing First Lutheran. Stop in or call the church office (376-6148) for copies of either or both information sheets. They contain more information about submission date deadlines and other details.

As soon as you know that you plan to attend an institution of higher learning (even though you may not have yet selected a specific school) please call the church office to enable Natalie to get your name on the list so she can send applications to all interested students. Natalie will send out scholarship application letters in May. You only need to complete ONE application – it will be used by both scholarship committees. Applications should be submitted to the church office by June 28



## FELC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR POST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Each year any student from FELC is eligible to apply for a FELC Scholarship. The applicant needs to be a graduating high school student or someone currently attending an institution of higher education such as a community college, a state college or private four year college, etc. The amount of the scholarship given will vary and is contingent upon the activity of the investments during the preceding year. Principal amounts for these investments have come from bequests by various members, memorials and personal donations.

High school graduates continuing their education can apply for a scholarship as well as currently enrolled students at higher education establishments. **STUDENTS DO NEED TO APPLY EVERY YEAR** by June 28 (If you applied last year, you have a shorter application to fill out) to be considered for a scholarship for the ensuing academic year. Criteria for a scholarship will emphasize participation and achievement in service to church and community beginning at confirmation entry up to the present time. Applications are available at the Church Office.

Questions may be directed to the FELC Scholarship Committee members: Don Craun, Jason Gerdes and Josh Hein.

Note: This scholarship is NOT the same as the “Lee Anderson Scholarship Fund”.



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# JUNE YOUTH NEWS

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**Monday, June 3** from 2:00 - 4:00 pm Shetek Lutheran Camp will be at our church for a dry run day camp experience. Grades K-6th grade.

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**Thursday, June 6** - food, fun and games at Pastor Jeanette's house in Jackson. Bus leaves the church at 5:15 pm and we will leave Jackson at 8:00 pm. Fourteen can fit in the bus so we will need to carpool. Confirmation youth and their families are invited! Please RSVP.

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**Community Kids' Camp** - come and help us decorate on Sunday, June 9 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. A short informational meeting we will be at 1:00 pm for those who will be helping during the week. Come early if you would like. I will be here!

**JUNE 10** - We are serving the first meal of Kids' Camp. We need people to help serve the meal and straighten/clean up the fellowship hall, etc. afterwards. We also need people to bring in cookies or bars. See Brenda or sign up on the youth bulletin board today!

June 10-13 Community Kids' Camp. Thanks to all who have signed up to help in some way.

## **KIDS' CAMP DRESS-UP DAYS:**

MISMATCH MONDAY

TECHNICOLOR TUESDAY (FAVORITE COLOR, HEAD-TO-TOE)

WRINKLED WEDNESDAY

TOUSLED & TANGLED (HAIR) THURSDAY

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**Don't forget** about our huge rummage sale in August! We start prepping on Sunday, August 11 after church and will be working all week to get it ready. The sale will run from Thursday - Saturday this year (August 15-17). Start saving your stuff! We will start collecting items after Community Kids' Camp!



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**July 16-20** - National Gathering. We have seven youths and three adults going. Plans are coming along for that. We made over \$900 with the lefse sale and almost \$4000 with the silent auction. We really appreciate all of your support!

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

**June 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**



***Come to the Quilt Auction!  
June 22nd***



***Check out who made this list!***

<https://www.newsweek.com/rankings/americas-best-summer-camps-2024>

**We think these kids Agree!!**

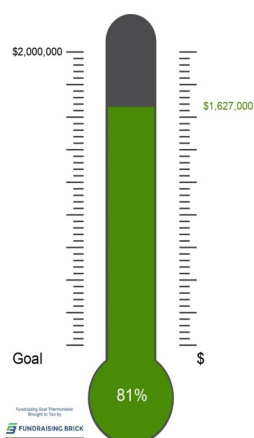
**Wish List**

- Glue and Glue Sticks*
- Power Strips*
- Mini Vans*
- Volunteers*

**Mark your Calendar**

- June 9 First day of Camp – Still Room
  - June 17 GOLF Fundraiser
  - June 21 Garden Tour and Quilt Preview
  - June 22 Pelican Fun Run/Walk
  - June 22 Quilt Auction
- Register at [shetek.org](http://shetek.org) or  
Call 507-763-3567 for more information

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/sl-m-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!