

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

March
2024

Evangel



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

Dear First Lutheran,

It's been strange to watch stores try to accommodate this unusual year. Valentine's Day goods went out right after New Year's (which is usual). St. Patrick's Day and Easter decorations were both simultaneously put out even before Valentine's Day had passed. I'm sure this is all to accommodate how close together those three holidays will come this year, as Easter is very early in our calendar year. We actually have a March 31 Easter this year!

I can't say that I love having an early Easter. This means that right when we returned from New Year's, we had to start planning things and lining up volunteers for Lent. Furthermore, I always feel like it is a recipe for a very snowy and cold Easter. Fortunately, the weather has been abnormally warm this year, so I am hopeful that despite the early date, our Easter will, in fact, feel springlike. Part of me, though, is prepared for the worst. I've already started to think about what sweaters might look Easter-like for Landon to wear if it is, in fact, a cold day.

I think there is a lesson of faith in this. Despite how the weather might feel and what our attire might suggest, Easter will still come. Though the promise of the resurrection is always true for us, many times our grief and despair cause us not to feel the hope that is given us through the Good News of Easter. This does not mean, though, that the Good News is any less good or true. When we listen to the news and hear about the state of our world, we can start to question if life really does conquer death. But, Jesus' resurrection affirms that no matter how it appears, life does and will always win. Even though the divisions amongst us often seem so strong and our grudges immense, through the cross and the resurrection, we are reminded of the power of love and that love will ultimately prevail over hatred.

In college, I was discussing Biblical interpretation with a professor. I was talking about the value of admitting and noting that our life experiences and social realities (age, gender, nationality, etc.) shape how we view various Biblical passages. He agreed with this but also noted that sometimes the Biblical text and Good News *defies* or *challenges* our realities. Furthermore, not only does who we are shape how we view the Bible but, also, the Bible should change and shape who we are and how we interact with the world. I see this as being especially true in considering the Easter story and the hope of the resurrection. The Good News we receive at Easter can seem contradictory compared to our daily realities that are shaped by struggles, suffering and illness. But, the Good News is still true. As we hear and are given new life through the Easter Story, we are changed. We, in turn, go out with courage and hope, knowing that the things that drag us down will eventually be defeated. Knowing that goodness and life have won in an eternal sense. We can face boldly all the evil that we encounter each day.

Happy Easter! May the hope of the risen Christ fill your lives today!

In Christ,
Rev. Jeanette McCormick





Lessons and Themes for the Sundays & Holy Week in March, 2024:

3/3/24: Parable of the Tenants/Taxes to Caesar

Deuteronomy 8:10-18
Psalm 86:8-13
Mark 12:1-17

3/10/24: Great Commandment

1 John 4:7-21
Psalm 89:1-4
Mark 12:28-44

3/17/24: End of the Age

Daniel 12:1-4
Psalm 102:12-17
Mark 13:1-8, 24-37

3/24/24: Palm Sunday—Triumphal Entry

Philippians 2:5-11
Psalm 118:25-29
Mark 14:3-9

3/28/24: Maundy Thursday—Prayer in Gethsemane

1 Corinthians 11:23-26
Psalm 116:12-19
Mark 14:22-42

3/29/24: Good Friday—Crucifixion

Psalm 22:1-2, 14-21
Mark 15:16-39

3/31/24: Easter—Resurrection

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:21-27
Mark 16:1-8

Praise the Lord

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

General Fund:

Bal. 12/31/23: \$5,574.58
Inc., January \$21,467.43
Exp., January \$43,198.57
Bal. 1/31/24: (\$16,156.56)

(The amount shows behind budget.)

Grace Lutheran Reimbursement—\$2,920.38

Building Fund:

Bal. 12/31/23: \$48,075.50
Inc., January \$678.00
Exp., January \$6,719.75
Bal. 1/31/24: \$42,033.75



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.

CHURCH DIRECTORY: I will be working on the church directory in March and would like to get it updated with the correct information. So if you have moved, changed phone numbers or have a child or children that have moved or gotten married and moved to a different address, please email (felcwgtn@gmail.com) or bring the information to the church office by March 1. Thank You! Natalie

LENTEN SUPPERS @ FIRST

March 6—Worship & Music Team (Ham & Turkey Sandwiches)
March 13—Evangelism Team (Tater Tot Hotdish)
March 20—Church Council (BBQ's)

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

Pastor Jeanette will be leading a Bible Study in the lounge during this time.
Bring your supper with you.



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)

3/3	9:30	Pam Fleming
3/10	9:30	Ryan McGaughey
3/17	9:30	Glenda Lais
3/24	9:30	Terry Morrison
3/28	7:00PM	Pam Fleming
3/29	5:30PM	Ryan McGaughey
3/31	9:30	Glenda Lais

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

3/3	9:30	Midg White (360-3215)
3/10	9:30	Matt Russell (360-5835)
3/17	9:30	Daren Bauman (360-9275)
3/24	9:30	Larry Woodbury (360-2689)
3/31	9:30	Daren Bauman (360-9275)

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

3/3	9:30	Lonnie Myrom
3/10	9:30	Todd Hallstrom
3/17	9:30	Matt Russell
3/24	9:30	Marie Wasmund-Mews
3/28	7:00PM	Sandy Poppema
3/29	5:30PM	Paula Laffrenzen
3/31	9:30	Erin Makela

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

3/3	9:30	Dusty & Tiffany Neugebauer Family
3/6	6:00PM	Judy Selberg
3/10	9:30	Sandy Poppema
3/13	6:00PM	Todd Hallstrom
3/17	9:30	Diana White
3/20	6:00PM	Doug & Julie Christensen
3/24	9:30	Leroy & Rosemary Merkel
3/28	7:00PM	John Kramer
3/29	5:30PM	Diane Sletten
3/31	9:30	Lonnie & Nancy Myrom

Please see page 5 for Sound and Facebook Live schedules.

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

3/3	9:30	Todd Hallstrom & Doug & Julie Christensen
3/10	9:30	Bob & Bonnie Bents & Diana White
3/17	9:30	Larry & Norma Woodbury & John Kramer
3/24	9:30	Debbie & Dale Koob & Darcy & Todd Poppema
3/31	9:30	Sandy Poppema, Fern Burmeister & Ed Philipp

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

3/3	9:30	Trey Milbrath
3/10	9:30	Aaden Wagner
3/17	9:30	Ethan Nixon
3/24	9:30	Trey Milbrath
3/28	7:00PM	Ethan Nixon
3/31	9:30	Aaden Wagner





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 January 31, 2024, a total of **\$6,307.49** 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 January 31, 2024, a total of **\$56,554.00** 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.



EASTER LILIES

will be used at our Easter service on March 31.

If you would like to order one in memory or in honor of loved ones, contact the church office. Please indicate if you will be picking them up after the 9:30 am service or if you will leave them here. The cost for a Lily will be \$10. The deadline to have your order in is March 13. There will be **NO** orders taken after this date so get your order in early.

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

3/3	9:30	Kevin Fleming
3/6	6:00PM	Pat Demuth
3/10	9:30	Doug Frisch
3/13	6:00PM	Kevin Fleming
3/17	9:30	Pat Demuth
3/20	6:00PM	Doug Frisch
3/24	9:30	Kevin Fleming
3/28	7:00PM	Kevin Fleming
3/29	5:30PM	Doug Frisch
3/31	9:30	Pat Demuth

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

3/3	9:30	Becca McGaughey
3/6	6:00PM	Carrie Adams
3/10	9:30	Debbie Koob
3/13	6:00PM	Carrie Adams
3/17	9:30	Terry Morrison
3/20	6:00PM	Becca McGaughey
3/24	9:30	Debbie Koob
3/28	7:00PM	Paul Summers
3/31	9:30	Becca McGaughey

Thursday Lenten Luncheons for 2024

March 7— First Lutheran—American Lutheran Church Pastor
March 14 – First United Methodist—Rev. Jeanette McCormick

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!

March Birthdays



1	Ashley Ternus	12	Nicole Metz	21	Miles Veen
1	Nicole Ternus	13	Greg Kempema	24	Sharon Engelson
3	Nathan Faragher	13	Lori Nienkerk	24	Maggie Gerdes
3	Ed Philipp	14	Terry Neugebauer	24	Joshua Kruse
4	Merle Elsing	14	Colton Poppema	24	Marie Wasmund-Mews
4	Margaret Hurlbut-Vosburgh	15	Leroy Merkel	25	Don Craun
6	Kim Hellstrom	16	Allyson Hagen	25	Pam Fleming
6	Kerry Johnson	16	Janet Pedley	26	Dana Larson
7	Ashlyn Schaffer	16	Chad Randgaard	27	Olivia Gerdes
7	Jordyn Wasmund	18	Austin Peters-Smith	29	Brenda Stanton
9	Aaliyah Schaffer	19	Scott Kraft	30	Carter Como
9	Nathan Wajer	19	Bailey Kruse	30	Lynnea Faragher
10	Dylan Livingston	19	Daniel Kruse	30	Matthew Poppema
10	Roger Nelson	19	Chad Larson	31	Joan Doeden
10	Jasmine Ober	19	Olivia Stanton		
11	Melissa Ternus	20	Stephanie Olson		
		21	Paul Selberg		

Jesus Dies

“It is finished!

The ruins of an old cathedral stands on a high bluff overlooking the harbor of Macao, China. Towering over the wreckage is a bronze cross. It can be seen for miles at sea.

One of the stories connected with the cross concerns the survivor of a shipwreck when he spotted the cross on the horizon and was guided to safety by it.

Some think it was this story, or one like it, that inspired Sir John Bowering’s famous hymn, “In the Cross of Christ I Glory.”

“In the cross of Christ I glory towering o’er the wrecks of time; All the light of sacred story gather round its head sublime.”

What does the cross of Christ mean to us?

“All I want is to know Christ....and become like him in his death, in the hope that I myself will be raised from death to life. *Philippians 3:10-11*

Illustrated Daily Homilies by Mark Lick, SJ



Food Drive



Up coming Event: March is Minnesota Food Share Month. This means our faith community, by registering for the March Campaign, can increase donations to the local Manna Food Pantry. Place donated, nonperishable food items in the shopping cart in the lower narthex starting on March 1. Also consider donating cash or grocery gift cards. The food shelf can *stretch* cash donations further because of their access to discount products and programs. Help us feed more local families and end hunger in our community.

Maundy Thursday, March 28

Grace Service—5:30 pm
First Service—7:00 pm



Good Friday, March 29
First Service—5:30 pm
Grace Service—7:00 pm



Reminder:
On Sunday, March 10 the time changes.
(Set Clocks Ahead 1 Hour)



Easter Sunday Services

8:00 am—Worship @
Grace Lutheran
9:30 am - Worship @
First Lutheran

Happy
Spring!



The office will be closed on Friday, March 29 and Monday, April 1 for the Easter Holiday.

Message from Pastor Martin

Two years ago on a cold Sunday in March, before meeting my daughter for lunch, I stopped by to visit with Pastor Jeanette. Soon I would close out my years of full time service as a pastor and my family would be looking to be supportive of a new, welcoming congregation. But I still had my own work to do, and still wanted to be available to help others.

In order to accomplish all those things, I knew I would need reliable secretarial help. I also wanted an office away from home. So, in exchange for what I needed, I offered to help do some of the work here.

Council here quickly became a part of the discussion and also supportive of it. In August of that summer (2022) I gave my notice of my intention to leave Grace Lutheran Church in Spirit Lake, Iowa, and ten months later on June 30, 2023, I did just that. Your faith journey became our faith journey the next day.

So far I have left what I do to your discretion and have no regrets. Have I told you how much I have enjoyed meeting and getting to know your young people on Wednesdays? Be ready for a lengthy conversation, if I haven't!

I think we can ask ourselves each summer if we would like to continue this arrangement and even how we might make it better. I guess I don't mind spilling a few beans even now and saying that I am looking forward to trying something in the area of outreach ministries. More than anything, though, my family and I thank all of you for your gracious hospitality.

At the Heart of Our Hymns: The Cross of Christ During Lent

As we enter the Lenten season, a time of introspection and penitence, our thoughts turn to the core of our faith: the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. The cross, a symbol of suffering and victory, calls us to reflect on the depth of Christ's love and sacrifice. In this holy time leading to Easter, we shall engage with hymns that not only serve as expressions of worship, but also as reflections on the cross's enduring message.

Music possesses a unique ability to touch the soul and convey truths that words alone cannot. The closing hymns chosen over the next five weeks are not merely songs; they are prayers set to melodies, theological reflections that remind us of the sacrifice of Christ and guide us in our own spiritual journeys.

In the timeless hymn "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross," we find an echo of the Apostle Paul's declaration in Galatians 6:14, where he finds his only boast in the cross of our Lord. Each stanza calls us to remember Christ's redemptive act and to live within the shadow of its grace. It is a prayer that beckons us to never stray far from the profound truth of Christ's atoning work.

Likewise drawing inspiration from Galatians, "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" contemplates the cross's unwavering presence through life's pains and pleasures. The hymn articulates a spiritual paradox: the cross is a symbol of both suffering and immense joy, offering peace that surpasses all understanding. It invites us to see every moment of our lives through the lens of Christ's sacrifice.

"Lift High the Cross" compels us to consider the cross as more than a symbol—it is a call to action. Like Constantine's vision, it beckons us to be carriers of Christ's love. The hymn speaks of unity, healing, and praise, encapsulating the manifold implications of the cross. It is a rallying cry for the church to embody the courage and hope found in Christ's victory.

As we sing these hymns and others throughout Lent, let them be more than familiar tunes. Let us see into their rich theology and embrace their call to carry the cross with dignity and purpose. May these songs guide us through a season of genuine transformation, preparing our hearts to celebrate the resurrection with renewed wonder and profound gratitude.

In Christ's Service, Eric E. Parrish



Grief Support Group

*Help and encouragement
after the death of a loved one*

At a GriefShare group, you'll find understanding, guidance, relief, and a safe place to navigate the challenges of grief. Come join us!

Tuesdays, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

March 5 - May 28, 2024

First Lutheran Church

1200 4th Avenue, Worthington, MN 56187

To register, call 507-376-6148

griefshare.org



MARCH YOUTH NEWS

A noisy offering will be collected during Lent and will be for the youth summer trips.

March 3 - put on your calendar - FREE Archery from 4:00—6:00 pm!!! Please bring a snack to share.

March 17 - Calling all children and teens!!! FREE Ice skating at the Arena from 12:30-2:30 pm. If you have your own skates feel free to bring them along. Hot cocoa and snacks will be provided. Feel free to bring a snack if you would like to share. If you would like to chaperone, please let Brenda know. INVITE YOUR FRIENDS, the more the merrier!

MARCH 17 - the silent auction closes at the end of the day. Please keep a look out at the Facebook event page or contact Brenda for any questions.

Who likes Lefse? LEFSE! Lefse making party anyone?

We are prepping the potatoes on **Friday, March 22** from 3:00-5:00/6:00 pm and could use several of our amazing volunteers to help. **NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!** If anyone is interested in joining our lefse making party, we would sure appreciate your help on **Saturday, March 23** starting at 10:00 am and going until we are finished. And to make it even more enticing, there is a good chance we will have to have some fresh off the griddle samples! **More information coming soon with information on ordering/pricing.** Proceeds benefit our youth summer trips. Please let Brenda know if you have any questions or are interested in helping. Thank you so much for your support!!

There will be NO Sunday School on Sunday, March 31 (Easter).

KFC FINAL TWO DAYS - March 13 and 20

Thanks for all of your support and help with this growing program.

SAVE THE DATE - we are planning a game afternoon for the whole church family on Sunday, April 7. Stay tuned for more information.

April 19-20 - Confirmation camp

June 10-13 - Community Kid's Camp = VBS needs LOTS of volunteers. This will be at First Lutheran from 5:30 to 8:00 pm with supper to begin at 5:30 pm.

July 16-20 - National Gathering. Leave Sioux Falls at 7:20 am. Arrive in New Orleans at 11:50 am. Leave New Orleans at 4:30 pm. Arrive Sioux Falls at 9:00 pm.

June 23-28 - Summer camp... Sign up today!

- SUNDAY SCHOOL Sundays at 8:45 am

- During Lent NO CONFIRMATION = MEET WITH YOUR MENTORS!

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

March 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



Tapping Trees for Sugar Bush

Happy Easter!

Wish List

*Glue and Glue Sticks
Extension Cords
Volunteers
Summer Staff -*

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

Mark your Calendar

March 15-16 Confirmation Retreat

March 24 Sugar Bush Pancake Breakfast
& Square Dance

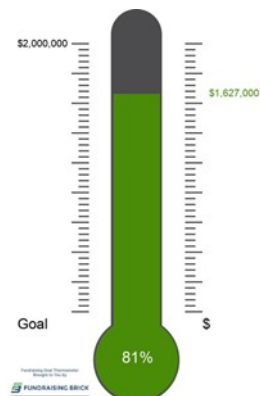
April 19-20 Confirmation Retreat

April 22-25 Quilt & Craft Retreat

Register at 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/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!