

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

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

Church will be locked over the noon hour.

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

2026

Evangel



Keeping
a Holy Lent

CONGREGATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT – Matt Russell
(507) 360-5835
VICE PRESIDENT – Lonnie Myrom
(507) 329-3849
SECRETARY – Carrie Adams
(507) 329-5625

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,

If you haven't heard yet, First Lutheran has a dedicated team of individuals who are working on planning the 150th Anniversary Celebration for First Lutheran. Thank you to Bonnie Bents and the many people who have already begun working on many aspects of the event. **The celebration will be held June 27- 28.** There will be worship opportunities both Saturday and Sunday. There will also be food, activities, and time for remembrances throughout the weekend. Several former pastors and pastors that grew up in the congregation have already committed to participating in the weekend's activities. If you have not received one already, there are postcards available in the fellowship hall of First Lutheran that you can use to remind yourself about the upcoming gathering and to send to folks who have moved from the area but might be interested in joining us. If you are interested in being involved in planning the gathering, please talk to Bonnie directly.

As I have thought about the upcoming gathering, I have found myself thinking about how the congregation has been of service to the community and to each other for over 150 years. Before she passed, Lois Graf remembered how she typed letters for Pr. Bloomquist to all the boys who were serving in WWII from the church. She also shared how her husband, Erving Graf, along with Eric "Skinny" Mahlberg and Ken McNab drove to the Crippled Children's Home every Sunday morning and loaded kids into their cars. They brought the youth to Sunday School at the church and back again.

During my time here, I have heard of all sorts of other efforts of service that have taken place through our members. Pr. Bob Knutson and some of our current members rode their motorcycles to deliver toys to kids in need. Pr. Bob also was a great photographer, sending pictures to members on their birthdays. For many years, people served annually for the Banquet in Sioux Falls (for individuals who were in need of food). Throughout the generations, people have visited each other when they were going through hard times and served each other faithfully at funerals. As time went on, traditions like the Friendship Supper (a meal served to people from group homes) and delivering mobile meals to the elderly emerged. The Morrison family started the Thanksgiving Community Dinner, which came to be a part of the life of the congregation in the over 40 years it has been held in our space. When Love INC formed, First Lutheran created a furniture delivery team and members served on the board and in volunteer capacities, helping Love INC support community members in need. Over the years, First Lutheran has engaged in God's Work Our Hands. At first, the event was held at Pioneer Village and included things like painting buildings. Over time, the service became centered at First Lutheran and included making bags for Lutheran World Relief, the Southwest Crisis Center, and Proclaim Aviation. Mailings for Love INC were completed and pews were cleaned. First Lutheran hosted an Ethiopian Orthodox congregation, a Hispanic congregation and/or We Care Day Care for many years.

Our service as a congregation continues to evolve. In 2017, we formed Better Together food packaging events which allowed Sharing Seeds (which provides food for students on the weekend) to form. Over time, we transitioned from Sharing Seeds to Every Meal, but First Lutheran continued to give financially and provide volunteer labor to make the distributions to students happen. We became a site to offer winter clothing to people in need. On Wednesday nights during the summer, we started offering ice cream for worship participants and our neighborhood alike. This fellowship time helped us better connect to our neighbors. Our youth go on trips where they learn about and serve various communities. Indeed, though the specifics have changed, a sense of service and love for each other and the community around us has always been a part of our identity. As we look forward to the future, may we prayerfully consider where and how God is calling us to serve.

Join us in June as we celebrate all our years of service, love, and community together!

Gratefully, Rev. Jeanette McCormick



Lessons and Themes for the Sundays in March 2026:

3/1/26: Jesus Washes Feet (Lent 2)

1 Peter 2:19-25

Psalm 51:7-12

John 13:1-17

3/8/26: Peter's Denial (Lent 3)

Hebrews 4:14-16

Psalm 17:1-7

John 18:12-27

3/15/2026: Jesus and Pilate (Lent 4)

Revelation 1:4b-8

Psalm 145:10-13

John 18:28-40

3/22/2026: Jesus Condemned (Lent 5)

Acts 3:12-26

Psalm 146

John 19:1-16a

3/29/2026: The Crucified Messiah (Palm Sunday)

John 12:12-27

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 24

Hebrews 13:1-16

John 19:16b-22

Praise the Lord

The following is the financial report for First Lutheran as of January, 2026:

General Fund:

Bal. 12/31/25: (\$20,470.92)

Inc., January \$96,722.83

Exp., January \$29,812.30

Bal. 1/31/26: \$46,439.61

Grace Lutheran Reimbursement—\$3,298.40

Building Fund:

Bal. 12/31/25: \$5,087.85

Inc., January \$79,618.89

Exp., January \$0.00

Bal. 1/31/26: \$84,706.84



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 **\$2 (NEW PRICE)**. Funds will be designated to different groups as needed.



Reminder:
On Sunday,
March 8 the
time changes.
(Set Clocks
Ahead 1 Hour)

Dear First Lutheran,

Thank you for the generous scholarship (Lee Anderson) for me to attend Gustavus. This scholarship allows me to participate in many musical and theater productions.

God Bless, Jocelyn Horn

LENTEN SUPPERS @ FIRST

March 4—Youth (Walking Taco's)

March 11—Worship & Music Team (Ham & Turkey Sandwiches)

March 18—Evangelism Team (Tater Tot Hotdish)

March 25—Church Council (BBQ's)



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

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)

3/1	9:30	Glenda Lais
3/8	9:30	Pam Fleming
3/15	9:30	Kathy Summers
3/22	9:30	Glenda Lais
3/29	9:30	Kathy Summers

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

3/1	9:30	Debbie Koob
3/8	9:30	Carrie Adams
3/15	9:30	Ethan Nixon
3/22	9:30	Becca McGaughey
3/29	9:30	Erin Makela

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

3/1	9:30	Lonnie Myrom
3/8	9:30	Cooper Scripture
3/15	9:30	Erin Makela
3/22	9:30	Ed Philipp
3/29	9:30	Matt Russell

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

3/1	9:30	Lonnie & Nancy Myrom
3/4	6:00PM	Doug & Julie Christensen
3/8	9:30	Judy Selberg
3/11	6:00PM	Diane Sletten
3/15	9:30	Diana White
3/18	6:00PM	John Kramer
3/22	9:30	Bob & Jane Benson
3/25	6:00PM	Kathy Craun
3/29	9:30	John & Nora Leinen

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

3/1	9:30	Kevin Fleming
3/4	6:00PM	Ethan Nixon
3/8	9:30	Pat Demuth
3/11	6:00PM	Kevin Fleming
3/15	9:30	Doug Frisch
3/18	6:00PM	Pat Demuth
3/22	9:30	Doug Frisch
3/25	6:00PM	Kevin Fleming
3/29	9:30	Ethan Nixon

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

3/1	9:30	Larry Woodbury (360-2689)
3/8	9:30	Matt Russell (360-5835)
3/15	9:30	Daren Bauman (360-9275)
3/22	9:30	Midg White (360-3215)
3/29	9:30	Larry Woodbury (360-2689)

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

3/1	9:30	Braelynn Schroeder
3/8	9:30	Kinsley Neugebauer
3/15	9:30	Olivia Gerdes
3/22	9:30	Parker Kleve
3/29	9:30	Dyson Neugebauer

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

3/1	9:30	Rolf & Joan Mahlberg & Todd Hallstrom
3/8	9:30	Debbie & Dale Koob & Jane Benson
3/15	9:30	Norma & Larry Woodbury & Diane Sletten
3/22	9:30	Clinton & Alison Nixon Family
3/29	9:30	Brend Hurlbut, Diana White & Kathy Craun



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, 2026, a total of **\$6,598.74** 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.



EASTER LILIES will be used at our Easter service on April 5. 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 **\$11**. The deadline to have your order in is March 20. There will be **NO** orders taken after this date so get your order in early.



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, 2026, a total of **\$59,459.00** has been put into the general fund.

Thursday Lenten Luncheons for 2026

- March 5** – First Lutheran —Rev. John Mitchem
- March 12**- Westminster Presbyterian—Rev. Jeremy Hallquist
- March 19** – American Lutheran—Rev. Scott Prouty

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!



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.

Mobile Meal Drivers: First Lutheran is scheduled to deliver meals in May. Our two weeks are May 4 - 8 and May 11 - 15. Natalie will put out a sign-up sheet by April 1. I will begin calling volunteers the middle of April. I can't stress enough how important this service is to our community. I look forward to another great turnout of volunteers.

Mary Ferguson, Mobile Meal Coordinator

Love Inc. is looking for volunteer drivers:

Help Bring Neighbors in Need to Appointments (Primarily Medical Appointments)

Choose which rides you can offer

Local and long distance requests

Volunteer as often or as seldom as desired

Be paired with someone who is the same gender

Background Check Required

Interested: Call 507-727-7291 or E-mail camila@loveincw.org



Love INC. is looking for board members:

Help maintain the organizational well-being of Love INC

Plan fundraisers and informational/promotional events

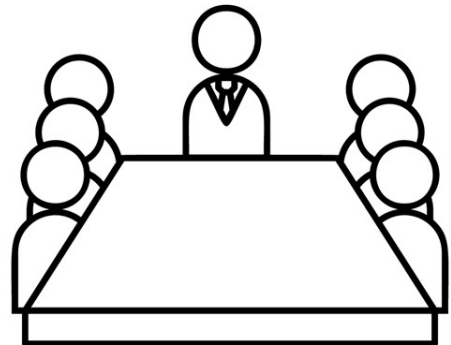
Help assess if Love INC is being true to its mission and if it is doing its work to the best of its ability

Keep congregations and community members informed of Love INC's work

Provide support for and guidance to volunteers and staff

1-2 meetings per month, 4 hours or less commitment per month

Interested: Call 507-727-7291 or E-mail camila@loveincw.org

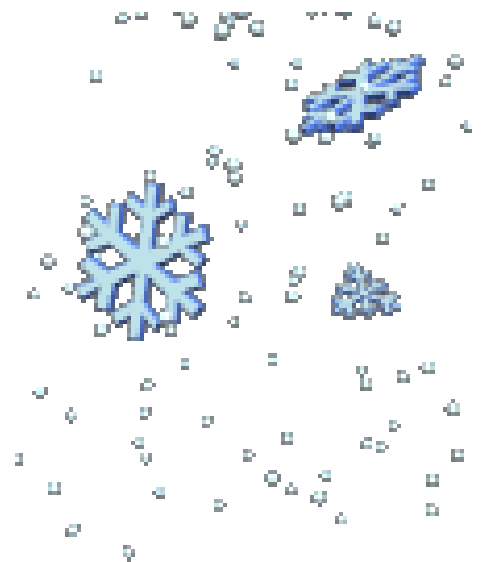


March Snow

This isn't just a winter snow; It's much too soft and warm.
Without the cold and freezing air, It hath a spring like charm.
'Tis almost gentle on my cheek; As though it tried to say,
Do let me have this little time; For soon I'll melt away.

This isn't January snow – For see, it's much too wet.
And certainly might prove to be; The very last we'll get.
The flakes are twirling in the air; As though they've surely found
Their beauty quickly fades from sight; When're they reach the ground.

This isn't really winter snow; It's part of early spring,
A fond farewell to wintertime; Before the birds shall sing.
So very gentle in its way, It brings a thrill to you;
A March snow soft against your cheek; Says winter's almost through.



March Birthdays



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

“Jesus is Rejected in Nazareth”

“They dragged Jesus out of town.”

Our popular image of Jesus is that of a person surrounded by loving crowds. But many times Jesus was surrounded by violent crowds. Luke 4:24-30 is an example of this.

Violent crowds also surround Jesus’ followers. The apostles were flagged. (Acts 5:40) Stephen was stoned. (Acts 7:58) Paul was stoned once and beaten eight times. (2 Corinthians 11:24-25) This reminds us of Jesus’ words in John 15:20: “If they persecuted me, they will persecute you.”

The gospel reminds us that we may have to suffer for our faith as Jesus did. But it also reminds us not to fear. “Be brave!” says Jesus. “I have defeated the world!” (John 16:33)

Luke 4:24-30 invites us to ask ourselves: How do we respond when our faith is cast in bad light by the media or in conversation?

Luke 4:24-30 reminds us not to give up, but to get up.

Illustrated Daily Homilies by Mark Lick, SJ



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!

Mondays; 2:00 - 3:30 pm
February 23 - May 19, 2026

First Lutheran Church
1200 4th Avenue, Worthington, MN 56187
To register, call 507-376-6148

griefshare.org



MARCH YOUTH NEWS

ATTENTION: “Pop machine” fridge has moved to the closet going to the garage. You’ll find it on the left hand side of the wall next to the youth fridge.

Save your pop tabs and bring them in to be taken to the Ronald McDonald House.

HELP NEEDED!

Looking for someone who would be willing to help lead our Sunday School kids in learning to play handbells. We have a set of colored bells and would love for the children to share their music during a Sunday morning worship service. All we need is someone who can come and help teach the kids how to play. If you’re interested in helping, please let Brenda R know! 🎵

Join us for **SUNDAY SCHOOL** each week at 8:45 am

On Palm Sunday, March 29 the youth will process into the service carrying palm branches.

Wednesdays:

KFC continues every week from 4:00–5:15 pm, followed by supper for all.

March 11 - Shetek Lutheran Ministries will be joining us for KFC

March 25 - last day of KFC

Confirmation youth are meeting with their mentors during Lent. THANKS to all who stepped up to be a mentor to our youth!

Silent Auction 2026

If anyone is interested in putting some baskets together with the supplies that we already have, please talk to Brenda. Set up will take place on Sunday, March 8 after church. Donations welcome.

The Silent Auction will run for only two weeks beginning March 11 and ending on March 25 at 5:55pm.



To stay up to date with the silent auction and other youth group fundraisers please scan this QR code. Like and follow the youth facebook page for all the most recent information.

March 15 - **Gargoyles fun** event at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp - 6th graders on up. The bus will leave at 4:00 pm and we will return at 9:00 pm RSVP by March 11.

March 22 - FREE **Ice Skating Fun** for Kids. 2-4 pm at the JBS Ice Arena.

Save the date:

May 6 - End of year picnic at church - stayed tuned for more information - ALL are welcome

June 8-11 Community Kids’ Camp

July 26-31 NIGHTLIFE Camp at Badlands Ministries in Medora, ND

GRACIAS! THANK YOU! THANKS FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE! WE APPRECIATE YOU! MANY THANKS! MUCHAS GRACIAS!

March 2026



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

Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers



New Cabin is Coming Along!

**Apply to work at Camp
this summer!**

Wish List

- Office Supplies – Dry Erase Markers, Paper
- New Vacuums
- Grill
- Spark Bibles
- Board Games
- Extension cords and Power Strips
- Arts and Crafts Supplies
- Volunteers

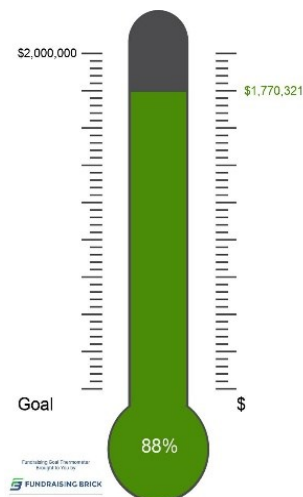
Upcoming Events

- Hiking Club: March 15
 - Confirmation Retreat: March 20-21
 - Pancake Breakfast: March 28
 - Confirmation Retreat: April 10-11
 - Hiking Club: April 19
 - Quilt and Craft Retreat: April 20-23
- Register online at Shetek.org or
Call 507-763-3567

We met our Phase 1 goal! Over \$1,770,000 in gifts and pledges! As we wrap up our campaign, we want to thank everyone who donated!

More info on our website.

<https://shetek.org/s/lm-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!