

**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*

*November*  
*2023*  
*Evangel*



**Thank You, LORD!**

### 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*

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Dear First Lutheran,

I want to start off, first and foremost, by saying thank you for all of your generous donations this past year. With high inflation, I know many of you are probably feeling the “pinch” of trying to keep up with expenses while still giving to the church. I know how easy it would be to simply stop or drastically reduce giving, but I know many of you have continued to give despite the challenging situation. Your sacrifice has been noticed and appreciated. Likewise, this year, we have not only been working to meet our general budget but also addressing many issues with our building such as tuck pointing, repairing the roof and fixing the wall of the sanctuary. These projects were necessary, but, of course, costly. Many groups and individuals covered over \$39,000 worth of repair expenses and our insurance covered much of the roof and wall repair. Only around \$17,000 is left to pay on these projects.

As the year went on, we noticed the deficit in our general budget increasing. Recently, though, three individuals gave over \$30,000 towards the general budget. Currently, we are around \$22,163 behind budget. (We borrow internally from non-designated funds to cover such deficits until we can “catch up.”) We know that many of you are planning to give generously after harvest has finished. Thank you in advance for your investment in our shared mission together.

Stewardship has several special events coming up to help us raise funds for First Lutheran. Starting on November 2, there will be a “Pie Event.” Various youth and adults will have buckets with their photos on it. A youth will be placed “against” an adult. People can give money for the person they would like to see pied. On December 10, we will pie the “winners.” On All Saints Sunday (November 5), volunteers are also hosting a brunch after worship. Thank you to Stewardship for creatively coming up with ways to help us raise money for the church. The “fun” nature behind these events reminds us that giving is not only a duty but also our joy! We give with joy, knowing that God has blessed us abundantly and will continue to do so while we give. We give with joy because it is a honor to be a part of doing God’s work in the world.

Please keep First Lutheran in your hearts and minds as you plan your giving for the end of 2023. God is doing great things here! Our Kids for Christ program has over 30 youth involved. We have Confirmation kids who are remaining involved despite being Confirmed. We are strengthening our partnership with not only Grace Lutheran but also First United Methodist and others. Grief Share has invited new participants. We visit many shut-ins/nursing home residents/hospital patients on a regular basis and complete services in a variety of locations with elderly people in attendance. Our choir has invited new people this year. Our funeral ministry supports families in times of great loss. We are planning great summer trips for our kids. We are engaging in life-changing outreach through our winter clothing ministry, God’s Work our Hands, Meals on Wheels, Every Meal distributions and more. It’s not just something we say during offering, our money, gifts, time and talents really are making good things happen here. I urge you to continue to invest in our many worthy ministry efforts.

Gratefully,  
Rev. Jeanette McCormick





## Lessons and Themes for the Sundays in November, 2023:

### 11/5/23: Elijah at Mount Carmel

1 Kings 18:17-39  
Psalm 50:7-15  
Mark 9:2-4

### 11/12/23: Hosea

Hosea 11:1-9  
Psalm 131:1-3  
Mark 10:13-14

### 11/19/23: Isaiah's Vineyard Song

Isaiah 5:1-7  
Psalm 80:7-8, 14-15, 17-19  
Mark 12:1-3

### 11/22/23: Thanksgiving Eve

Deuteronomy 8:7-18  
Psalm 65  
2 Corinthians 9:6-15  
Luke 17:11-19

### 11/26/23: Josiah's Reform

2 Kings 22:1-20; 23:1-3  
Psalm 119:105-112  
Luke 24:30-32



## Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service & Pie Fest

Wednesday, November 22, 2023

7:00 pm—Westminster Presbyterian Church

Westminster Presbyterian has invited First Lutheran and United Methodist for our annual Thanksgiving service. Everyone is invited — bring a friend.

**Calling all pie bakers!** As is tradition, pies will be served following the Thanksgiving Eve service. If you are able, please bring a pie (or pies!) to Westminster prior to the service. Everyone is welcome to stay after the service for fellowship and tasty treats!

## Praise the Lord

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

### General Fund:

Bal. 8/31/23: (\$43,737.47)  
Inc., September \$48,496.07  
Exp., September \$26,921.83  
Bal. 9/30/23: (\$22,163.23)  
(The amount shows behind budget.)  
Grace Lutheran Reimbursement—  
\$25,559.64

### Building Fund:

Bal. 8/31/23: \$29,562.70  
Inc., September \$49,887.61  
Exp., September \$12,617.00  
Bal. 9/30/23: \$66,833.31



**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.



**Poinsettias will be used at our Christmas services.** If you would like to order one in memory or in honor of a loved one, contact the church office at 376-6148. Please indicate if you will be picking

them up after the Christmas Day Service or if you will leave them here to be delivered to the shut-ins or nursing homes. Please leave the name of the person or persons you are giving one for. The cost of a poinsettia will be \$12. **The deadline to have your order in is Friday, December 8.** Thank 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)

11/5 9:30 Ryan McGaughey  
11/12 9:30 Kathy Summers  
11/19 9:30 Pam Fleming  
11/26 9:30 Glenda Lais

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

11/5 9:30 Ethan Nixon  
11/12 9:30 Haley Schroeder  
11/19 9:30 Trey Milbrath  
11/26 9:30 Aaden Wagner

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

11/5 9:30 Matt Russell  
11/12 9:30 Ryan McGaughey  
11/19 9:30 Karla Kirkeby  
11/26 9:30 Sandy Poppema

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

11/5 9:30 Daren Bauman (360-9275)  
11/12 9:30 Midg White (360-3215)  
11/19 9:30 Matt Russell (360-5835)  
11/26 9:30 Larry Woodbury (360-2689)

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

11/5 Doug & Julie Christensen & Ed Philipp  
11/12 Sandy Poppema, Fern Burmeister & John Kramer  
11/19 Larry & Norma Woodbury & Diane Sletten  
11/26 Bob & Bonnie Bents & Diana White

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

11/5 9:30 Kevin Fleming  
11/12 9:30 Doug Frisch  
11/19 9:30 Kevin Fleming  
11/26 9:30 Pat Demuth

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

11/5 9:30 Lonnie & Nancy Myrom  
11/12 9:30 Karla Kirkeby  
11/19 9:30 Todd Hallstrom & John Kramer  
11/26 9:30 Leroy & Rosie Merkel

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

11/5 9:30 Terry Morrison  
11/12 9:30 Paul Summers  
11/19 9:30 Carrie Adams  
11/26 9:30 Becca McGaughey

*The office will be closed on  
Thursday, November 23 & Friday,  
November 24 for the Thanksgiving  
Holiday.*



*Happy Thanksgiving!  
To You And Your Family*



# November Birthdays



1	Tayton Thiner	16	Allen Veen
2	Albert Selberg	16	Ann Bixby
3	Jim Hudson	17	Zachary Kempema
3	Trey Davis	19	Linda Schuck
5	Justin Dieter	20	Andrew Huber
6	Carrie Adams	21	Jeff Berger
6	Diana White	23	Ben Christensen
9	Tyler Faragher	24	Landon McCormick
10	Arlene Lowe	25	Natalie Demuth
11	Kari Lucin	30	Julie Christensen
12	Misti Dieter	30	Kenadie Thiner
12	Chris Kruse		
12	Karlie Lowe		
14	Rebekah Tarus		
14	Angela Twohy		



## “Jesus Loved Jerusalem”

*“I wanted to embrace you.”*

A speaker was telling parents to reach out more to their children. He said most parents spend far too little time with their children. “This is inexcusable,” he said.

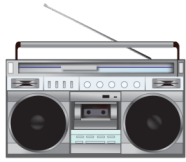
After the speaker finished his lecture, there was a question and answer period. One father got up and said to the speaker: “You’ve talked a lot about our failure to reach out to our children. I’ve reached out again and again and again to one of my teenagers, but my best efforts have been resented and rejected. What do I do now?”

Jesus knew the pain the father was feeling. Again and again, he reached out to Jerusalem, but his best efforts were resented and rejected.

How do we respond when our overtures of love are scorned, especially by those we love most?

Lord, help us keep on loving, as Jesus did, even when our love is thrown aside and trampled on..

*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 September 30, 2023, a total of **\$6,233.74** has been put into the general

**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 September 30, 2023, a total of **\$56,067.75** has been put into the general fund.



**REMINDER:** On Sunday, November 5, 2023 the time will change from Daylight Savings Time.

ALL SAINTS DAY



On Sunday, November 5, we will be remembering all the members that have passed this last year. A candle will also be lit in memory of others that have passed during the year.



**First Lutheran Church**—I am beyond blessed to receive a scholarship. I will be using the money to help pay my tuition at South Dakota State University. I am at the Rapid City location and in the nursing program. Thank you for all the help!

Stephie Bauman

*Thank You!*

**Thanksgiving Day**

Thanksgiving is a wonderful day. A time to feast and a time to pray. Thanks to God or thanks to man. Depends upon the way we plan. Thanks to God for what he gives. Thanks for food and shelter and things like this. Thanks to God for freedom shores. Thanks for life and much, much more. Thanks to God for opportunities great. Thanks to God is something great but most of all thanks to God is an indicator of our faith. Anonymous

## Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is underway. Boxes are ready to be filled with school supplies, health items, stuffed animals and special toys. Church members may participate in this mission in several ways.

- Donate items to be packed in the boxes
- Pack a box as an individual or family by purchasing items
- Purchase a pre-package box including postage for \$20
- Pay the postage of \$10/box



Our goal for Christmas 2023 is 50 boxes. Donations of items, filled boxes or monetary gifts are due Sunday, November 12. Boxes will be packed Wednesday, November 15, by KFC students. All boxes need to be delivered to the American Reform Church, Worthington, MN by Friday, November 17.



need.

**The Coat Closet is open!** Individuals and families in need may access The Coat Closet by making an appointment by calling the Love, INC office (507-727-7291). In addition, an attempt is being made to have open hours on Monday, 10 am—noon; Wednesday, 4-6 pm; and Friday, 2-4 pm. Please share this resource information with anyone you believe is in need of winter apparel. Coats in sizes 2T to adult XXL, snowpants, adult to children's size boots, hats and scarves are available. Also available are a wide variety of gloves and mittens. Donations are always welcome. The Coat Closet accepts new and gently used clean items. Monetary donations are also accepted to purchase specific size boots. To begin the season, the largest need is children's boots. With your support and God's blessing, The Coat Closet reaches out to a community in

## Coloring Fun for Thanksgiving!





Stewardship would like to thank those who have generously donated to our general fund recently, reducing our deficit significantly. We do, however, still find ourselves in a budgetary shortfall. It is our goal to end 2023 in the black. So, Stewardship is asking you to participate in our No Red Challenge.

For the first part of the No Red Challenge, we ask that you prayerfully consider your weekly or monthly giving. We ask that you consider where you are on your journey of stewardship and what kind of giver you are or could be. Last spring, we gave out cards with the following on, and we ask you to think and pray about this again:

- **Initial Giver**

I am just beginning my journey of giving. I want to understand God's plan for me in regards to giving. "What do I do with my stuff?"

- **Consistent Giver**

I am making progress on my giving journey and I know I am giving from what God has provided me. "What do I do with God's stuff?"

- **Intentional Giver**

I'm breaking free from attitudes that have limited my giving. I know God owns everything I have and he wants to guide how I allocate those resources. "What does God want me to do with God's stuff?"

- **Spiritual Giver (Tither)**

I am experiencing true joy in my giving and my heart is open to God moving in me to give even more. I see giving as one of the marks of spiritual maturity in my life. "What does God want me to give from what God has provided me?"

- **Surrendered Giver**

I am moved to think about my lifestyle and how my choices allow me to give more. I want to experience deeper joy as I continue to follow God's pathway. "What does God want me to keep from what he has provided me?"

The second part of the No Red Challenge is a pie in the face event. Starting November 2, eight youth and eight adults from our congregation will be paired up. One from each pair will take a pie to the face on December 10. It is up to you who gets pied - the person from each pairing who receives the most donations will be the one to take the pie. Look for our display and donation buckets in Centennial Hall. We look forward to your participation and hope to see you after service on December 10!



# Grieving?

*Know someone who is?*

GRIEF SHARE®

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

When you are grieving a loved one's death, the holiday season can be especially painful.

Our Surviving the Holidays seminar helps participants discover:

- How to deal with emotions
- What to do about traditions
- Helpful tips for surviving social events
- How to find hope for the future

Please join us for this encouraging seminar on

**Saturday, November 18, 2023**

**9:30—11:30 am**

**First Lutheran Church**

**1200 4th Avenue**

**Worthington, MN 56187**

**To register call 507-376-6148.**

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# NOVEMBER YOUTH NEWS

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## **KFC! Kids For Christ! KFC!**

We have 30 kids coming regularly to our Wednesday after school program. Three of our kids came to get coats with their mother and then signed up for the program right after as they wanted to be a part of the fun! If anyone would like to come and help us once or twice a month, or even every week, we would love to have you join us! We start by supervising ALL of the kids (for both churches doing KFC) at Prairie Elementary at 3 pm.

They get a snack and then go outside to play. The bus takes them to the church by 4 pm and then we play games, have a craft, have a Bible lesson, music with Erin and have supper at 5:15 pm. We had Shetek come and share with us last month and that is always a favorite day! The kids got to pet Cuddles the snake and are all excited about going to camp next summer. Come any time!

MUCH THANKS TO ALL FOR YOUR HELP PROVIDING MEALS ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS. WE APPRECIATE YOU SO MUCH! I have posted the schedule on the youth bulletin board if anyone wants to sign up or check when they did sign up!

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Confirmation Retreat is November 3-4

We will leave at 5 pm on Friday and return no later than 6:45 pm on Saturday.

Dinner will be served Friday night and Saturday before we leave.

**CONFIRMATION each Wednesday from 6:30-7:30 pm**

**YOUTH GROUP follows from 7:30-8:15 pm**

November 1 at First

November 8 at Grace (bus leaves at 6:10 pm from First)

November 15 at First

November 22 - NO CONFIRMATION or YOUTH GROUP

November 29 - Confirmation followed by Christmas Party @ Church

**507**

ALL CONFIRMATION KIDS

December 6 from 6:30-8:00 pm

At Worthington Christian

Pizza will be served

**Confirmation is Serving Dinner on Wednesday, November 18. Please come by 4:30 pm or as soon as your schedule allows!**

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## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Each Sunday in November from 8:45-9:30 am except for:

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL NOVEMBER 26 due to THANKSGIVING

**Christmas Program practice starts November 26**



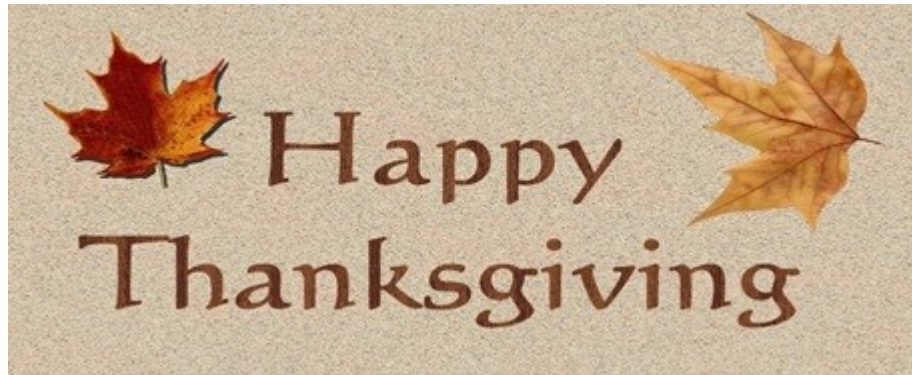
We could not do what we do without you! Your prayers and support are very much appreciated!  
**MANY THANKS!**

**November 2023**



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

**Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers**



Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever! 1 CHRONICLES 16:34

**Wish List**

- 17 foot Aluminum canoe*
- Vest style life jackets*
- Good Vacuums*
- Volunteer*

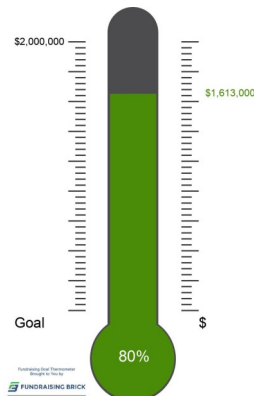
*We thank you for all your generosity this year!*

**Mark your Calendar**

- November 3-4 Confirmation Retreat
- December 3 Annual Meeting
- December 3 Scandinavian Dinner
- December 28 Winter Fun Day

Register at [shetek.org](http://shetek.org) or  
Call 507-763-3567 for more information

We met our Phase 1 goal!  
\$1,613,000 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/>



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!