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

November 2026 Evangel

CONGREGATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT – Matt Russell
(507) 360-5835
VICE PRESIDENT – Lonnie Myrom
(507) 329-3849
SECRETARY – Carrie Adam
(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—Organist/Pianist

Arlene Lowe—Co-Treasurer

Debbie Koob—Financial Secretary

Jim & Paula Laffrenzen—Parish Visitors

PASTOR JEANETTE'S ARTICLE

Dear First Lutheran,

"What do pastors do at Fall Theological Conference anyway?" I'm sure each time I announce that I am going to be away for Fall Theological Conference, some of you wonder what we are doing with that time. I know each time it comes up; I lament that not only will I need to arrange to be away from family, but it also makes the time after the conference very busy. But once I get to the conference, I am glad I am there and usually get quite a bit out of it. While we are required to attend Fall Theological Conference, I do appreciate the support and flexibility that that allows me to be away.

This year, Fall Theological Conference was held in Spicer, MN. The theme was "Who are the People in Our Neighborhood?" We had two sessions led by Dr. Ben Durheim, who is assistant professor of theology at the Colleges of Saint Benedict and Saint John's. Durheim is also the author of "Each in Our Own Language: Symbolization and Social Ethics in Rural America." We talked about how symbols create meaning for people and the often-jarring situation when symbols and realities don't align well in our congregations.

David Scherer (Agape) and Joe Davis led us in "JUSTmove" during which we talked about "taking space" when we need to be heard and "making space" when other people are not being noticed. We also talked about methodology in having challenging conversations with people. There were several important reminders during the time that I hope to intentionally use moving forward.

The Bishop also hosted a session talking about upcoming learning opportunities, Portico Benefits changes, educational opportunities about our Social Statements and more. At the end of the Bishop's presentation, we gave recognition and thanks to Pr. Heather Culuris, Assistant to the Bishop, who is transitioning into a congregational setting. Pr. Heather has been my "go to" person for questions, when I've needed to report information or concerns. I will miss her in this position, but I am glad she is heading to a good call.

There was an optional showing of "Dakota 38 + 2", which I attended. This documentary tells the story of the 38 Dakota men who were hanged on December 26, 1862 and the conflicts leading up to the hanging. To this day, there is an annual Memorial and Reconciliation Ride (part of which takes place in our synod) that seeks to bring peace between cultures and honor people who lost their lives. There was an intentional conversation about immigration concerns and the new facility opening in Appleton, MN. I learned more about the complexity of the situation from colleagues who work in surrounding communities. We also worshipped together a couple of times during the conference and we shared communion.

Of course, the time away was not "all work and no play." I was able to catch up with several colleagues and enjoyed meals with them. We talked about everything from summer vacations to clergy taxes. In many ways, the times of conversation and fellowship are often just as valuable as the formal sessions themselves. I had some intentional conversations with colleagues about ways we could support each other and ways our congregations could work better together. I was able to get a nice walk in on the nearby golf course during one of our breaks. I also got a little bit of work for church done while away.

Thank you again for your support in my continuing education.

Gratefully,
Rev. Jeanette McCormick

Lessons and Themes for Sundays & Holiday in November, 2026:

11/1/26: Solomon's Wisdom (All Saints)

1 Kings 3:4-28
Psalm 34:1-10, 22
Matthew 6:7-15

11/8/26: Elisha Heals Naaman

2 Kings 5:1-15a
Psalm 103:1-17
Matthew 8:2-3

11/15/2026: God Promises a Ruler

Micah 1:3-5; 5:2-5a; 6:6-8
Psalm 15
Matthew 9:9-13

11/22/2026: Promise of Life

Isaiah 36:1-3, 13-20; 37:1-7: 2:1-4
Psalm 122
Matthew 5:14-16

11/25/2026: Thanksgiving Eve

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

11/29/2026: 1st Sunday in Advent – Relentless Hope

Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3:3b-6, 17-19
Psalm 62:8-12
Matthew 26:31-46

REMINDER: On Sunday, November 1, 2026, the time will change from Daylight Savings Time.

Praise the Lord

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

General Fund:

Bal. 8/31/26:	$14,548.68
Inc., September	$18,492.39
Exp., September	$27,628.53
Bal. 9/30/26:	$ 5,412.54

Grace Lutheran Reimbursement—$29,685.60

Building Fund:

Bal. 8/31/26:	$33,964.41
Inc., September	$205.00
Exp., September	$0.00
Bal. 9/30/26:	$34,169.41

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. Funds will be designated to different groups as needed.

Sunday, November 1, 2026 will be our All Saints Service. We will be remembering all the members that have passed this last year. We will light one candle for all the saints of loved ones and friends that have passed. A letter has been mailed to the families with more details. Blessed be their memories!

Servants

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)

11/1	9:30	Glenda Lais
11/8	9:30	Ryan McGaughey
11/15	9:30	Pam Fleming
11/22	9:30	Glenda Lais
11/29	9:30	Pam Fleming

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

11/1	9:30	Ed Philipp
11/8	9:30	Cooper Scripture
11/15	9:30	Lonnie Myrom
11/22	9:30	Diane Sletten
11/29	9:30	Adam Vosburgh

Sound (Contact Person: Church

11/1	9:30	Pat Demuth
11/8	9:30	Doug Frisch
11/15	9:30	Kevin Fleming
11/22	9:30	Ethan Nixon
11/29	9:30	Kevin Fleming

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

11/1	9:30	Todd Hallstrom
11/8	9:30	Clinton & Alison Nixon Family
11/15	9:30	Lonnie & Nancy Myrom
11/22	9:30	Kathy Craun
11/29	9:30	Diana White

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

11/1	9:30	Matt Russell (360-5835)
11/8	9:30	Daren Bauman (360-9275)
11/15	9:30	Larry Woodbury (360-2689)
11/22	9:30	Matt Russell (360-5835)
11/29	9:30	Daren Bauman (360-9275)

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

11/1	9:30	Dyson Neugebauer
11/8	9:30	Lexi Kleve
11/15	9:30	Olivia Gerdes
11/22	9:30	Parker Kleve
11/29	9:30	Braelynn Schroeder

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

11/1	9:30	Debbie & Dale Koob & Jane Benson
11/8	9:30	Norma & Larry Woodbury & Abbey Craun
11/15	9:30	Clinton & Alison Nixon Family
11/22	9:30	Brenda Hurlbut, Todd Hallstrom & Kathy Craun
11/29	9:30	Rolf & Joan Mahlberg

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

11/1	9:30	Carrie Adams
11/8	9:30	Debbie Koob
11/15	9:30	Becca McGaughey
11/22	9:30	Erin Makela
11/29	9:30	Ethan Nixon

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service & Pie Fest
Wednesday, November 25, 2026
7:00 pm—Westminster Presbyterian Church

Everyone is invited to join us at Westminster for worship and following the service there will have a pie fest. Families are invited to bring a pie to share and join in the fellowship and fun.

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.

Our Worship Service is aired on Channel 3 at the following times:
Sunday – 4:30 pm
Thursday – 11:00 am
Friday – 1:00 pm

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, 2025, a total of $6,508.74 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.

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, 2025, a total of $60,381.50 has been put into the general fund.

The office will be closed on Thursday, November 26 & Friday, November 27 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Please join the Evangelism Team and the youth on Sunday, November 8 during the coffee hour to help pack boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Many hands make light work.

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 Services. Please leave the name of the person or persons you are giving one for. The cost of a poinsettia will be $11. **The deadline for having your order in is Monday, December 7**. Thank you!

November Birthdays

Happy Birthday

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

"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

Advent and the Gift of Music

This fall I have been reminded how much I love to sing. There is something about singing that allows us to carry things that are difficult to put into words. We can sing when we are afraid, angry, uncertain, or grieving. And when something good happens, even something small, we can sing about that, too. Music does not necessarily fix what is wrong, but it gives us a way to sit with what we are feeling, even when it is uncomfortable.

Advent begins on November 29, but by then many of us will have been surrounded by Christmas for weeks. Stores are already decorated, Christmas music is everywhere, and we will be encouraged to spend, spend, spend even though the holidays are still more than a month away.

Our culture is not particularly good at waiting. We are encouraged to get what we want now, feel better now, and move on as quickly as possible. We often approach our emotions the same way, looking for distractions from grief, fear, and uncertainty rather than allowing ourselves to feel them.

Advent is a season of waiting, anticipation, and hope. It is a time to slow down and listen to the promises of God. We hear the voices of the prophets who spoke to the people of Israel when the future was anything but certain. They spoke of peace when there was conflict, restoration when things were broken, and justice when people were suffering. As Christians, we do not simply leave the story of Israel behind; through Christ, we are welcomed into the story of a people who have waited and hoped for God's promises. Advent reminds us that God's work is often taking place long before we can see how the story will end.

This year, the Narrative Lectionary begins that journey two weeks earlier. Micah and Isaiah will speak of peace and justice, Habakkuk will ask the question so many of us have asked: How long?, and Esther will remind us that faithfulness sometimes requires courage. These are not always easy stories. Perhaps that is exactly why we need them.

There is a great deal for us to carry right now. Young people in our community are facing devastating accidents and terminal diagnoses. Families are navigating illness, financial uncertainty, food insecurity, and the loss of people they love. Many are struggling with their mental well-being. The weight of the world can leave us feeling overwhelmed and uncertain about what comes next. In these moments it can be difficult to hear words like “peace,” “joy,” and “hope.”

This is where music matters. Our Advent hymns are prayers. They are promises. They are cries of desperation and declarations of hope. They give us words when we cannot find our own. Over the next six weeks, we will sing the words of the prophets and the prayers of generations of people who have also waited, struggled, hoped, and wondered what God was doing.

We do not have to feel the same thing in order to sing together. One person may be grieving while another is celebrating. One may be frightened about what the future holds while another is filled with confidence. One may be desperately looking for hope while another has enough hope to share. Somehow, we can all sing the same words.

So sing when you are happy. Sing when you are hurting. Sing when you are afraid. Sing when you are hopeful. Sing when you are not sure what you believe. Sing until your heart's content.

Perhaps Advent is not asking us to pretend that everything is fine. Perhaps it is asking us to wait together, to listen together, and to trust that God is still at work.

And perhaps, in the middle of all that we are carrying, singing is one way we carry it together.

Eric E. Parrish, Worship & Music Coordinator

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

Sunday, November 22, 2026
2:00—4:00 pm
The Ecumen Meadows
1801 Collegeway
Worthington, MN 56187

NOVEMBER 2026 YOUTH NEWS

KFC (Kids For Christ)

KFC is off and running and we are having a great time! A big THANK YOU to all the many volunteers who help make this program possible. I also want to give a special thank you to everyone who helped decorate and paint the basement to prepare for all the fun. At this time we have a Bible Time room that has been transformed into an island adventure complete with palm trees, a fishing net, a beach backdrop, a treasure chest, a puppet stage, and more! The craft room is decorated as a space adventure and throughout the space we have paper ring streamers and colorful posters to add to the fun. We have been averaging a little over 20 kids each week, with a potential of 30 if everyone who is registered could attend the same week.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who has signed up to help serve Wednesday night meals. Your generosity and willingness to help are greatly appreciated! If you need to check the date you signed up for or see which dates are still available, the sign-up sheet is on the Youth Bulletin Board in Centennial Hall.
THANK YOU to everyone who makes KFC possible!

Still haven't signed up? It's not too late, talk with Brenda today! Ages: Preschool - 6th grade
Worthington school kids will go to Prairie Elementary (lunch room) where they will have a snack, play and then get bussed to the church for games, Bible lessons, crafts and fun. All other kids can be dropped off at the church at 4:00pm. Students will be picked up at 5:15pm and can join us for a meal with their families.

Sunday School

Sunday School has been welcoming between 5 and 9 kids downstairs each week. We have been blessed with the donation of a piano keyboard, which we use every week to sing together. The kids are also working on memorizing the books of the Bible in order, and most weeks our lessons follow the Narrative Lectionary readings. A special shout-out to Judy Selberg for helping prepare so many games and crafts for both Sunday School and KFC. Her time and creativity are a wonderful blessing to both programs!

Join us for Sunday School at 8:45am downstairs.
Christmas program practice begins on Sunday, November 15 during Sunday School.
The children's Christmas program is Sunday December 13.

We will be packing Operation Christmas Child boxes on Sunday, November 8 during coffee hour after church. Everyone is welcome to help pack some boxes to share God's love to kids in need.

FREE Fun Nights for Grades 6th -12th

Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp Fun Outreach Nights This Month is November 8 - Secret Agents
Who: 6th—12th graders
Where: Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp (1203 Inwan St., Milford, IA, 51351)
When: we will leave the church by 4:00 pm and return by 9:00 pm
RSVPs needed the Wednesday before each event – RSVP by November 4

Save the Date for the next Okoboji Outreach Night:
DEC. 6-CHRISTMAS MYSTERY JAN. 31-GLOW IN THE DARK PARTY
FEB. 21-HOONTING MAR. 14-GARGOYLES
APR. 4-CHURCH VS. CHURCH CAMP OLYMPICS/DODGEBALL

Save the Date for the next 507 - December 2 @ Worthington Christian Church
Who can come? 6th grade on up
What time? 6:30 - 8:00 pm
What is a 507? Local youth groups coming together.
What do you do at a 507? We eat pizza and have a short devotional, do a service project and play some games.

GRACIAS! THANK YOU! THANKS FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE! WE APPRECIATE YOU! MANY THANKS! MUCHAS GRACIAS Thank you to all who continue to share your time, talents, and energy to help our children grow in faith and build connections with one another.

November 2026

THE CANEWS FROM SHETEK

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

Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers

Check out our online store for your Christmas Shopping!

We are very THANKFUL for everything you do for your camp!

Upcoming Events

November 4 - Quilting Day
December 6 - Annual Meeting
December 6 - Lutefisk Dinner

Register online at Shetek.org or Call 507-763-3567

Wish List

- New Vacuum
- Corn Hole Games
- Spark Bibles
- Office Paper
- Arts & Crafts Supplies
- New Grill

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!