

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

October
2023
Evangel



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

Dear First Lutheran,

I found myself struggling to think about what to write about in this month's newsletter. The longer I'm with you all (nearly seven years if you can believe it), the more I find myself thinking, "Well, I just wrote on that," and "I just mentioned that." The main words I can think of this month are, "Thank you." In the words of Philippians 1:3-6, "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

This past month has been full of many highs and lows. My sister came home from California and we were able to spend a good long weekend together. We went to the State Fair, which was one of our favorite activities growing up, and it was fun to watch my adventurous sister take my adventurous son on some fun rides. I am grateful that Rev. Martin was able to cover several things, along with the support of our staff and leadership, so that I was able to get that time away.

Then, unexpectedly, as many of you know, Landon had a significant health incident on September 1. He turned blue, was struggling to breathe, was shaking, had a fever and more. I rushed him across the street to the hospital, where they were able to administer medicine to stabilize him. They airlifted him to Sioux Falls, and we stayed in the Children's Hospital through the next day. He continued with a fever and they completed many types of health tests on him. The only thing he tested positive for was rhinovirus/enterovirus (the common cold). They suspect it was febrile seizure (fever caused seizure), but are unsure what caused this health event. We did, subsequently, learn that Landon's birth mother has a history of seizures, so we have been following up with various appointments such as an EEG. We will need to continue to take Landon to appointments such as an upcoming MRI, etc. Of course, they are not sure it is a seizure at this point. We now have emergency medicine to administer in the instance of another seizure, and, mostly, we will have to wait and see what happens next.

Obviously this has felt like a tumultuous and challenging time in the life of our family. I am very grateful for how many of you have reached out with compassion, prayers and understanding. Rev. Martin Lucin, Rev. Karla Kirkeby, Natalie Zinnel, Brenda Richards, Erin Makela, Tony Stoecker (Grace Lutheran) and Shirley King (Grace Lutheran) have all had to make adjustments, help share information or complete tasks they were not planning on completing. I've had to reschedule or "put off" completing things for several of you. I'm so grateful for all of the grace I have received from everyone who has been affected by these things. Like most of us, I hate feeling like I can't "keep going like normal," but I've learned to accept that sometimes life throws us curveballs and we just have to adjust. We also have to rely on the compassion and understanding of those around us.

Things do seem to be settling out more and I hope to be able to "catch up" and go back to serving you all at my normal pace soon. We ask for continued prayers that Landon stays safe and well.

Gratefully,

Rev. Jeanette McCormick



Lessons and Themes for the Sundays in October, 2023:

10/1/23: Moses and God's Name

Exodus 1:8-2:10; 3:1-15
Psalm 105:8-9, 23-27, 42-45
Mark 12:26-27a

10/8/23: Hear O Israel

Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-9
Psalm 78:1-7
Mark 12:28-31

10/15/23: Ruth

Ruth 1:1-17; 4:13-17
Psalm 107:1-9, 19-22

10/22/23: David Anointed King

2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5
Psalm 24
Mark 11:8-11

10/29/23: Reformation Sunday—Kingdom Divided

1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29
Psalm 75
Mark 10:42-45

Praise the Lord

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

General Fund:

Bal. 7/31/23:	(\$38,530.20)
Inc., August	\$20,198.18
Exp., August	\$25,405.45
Bal. 8/31/23:	(\$43,737.47)
(The amount shows behind budget.)	
Grace Lutheran Reimbursement—	
	\$22,639.26

Building Fund:

Bal. 7/31/23:	\$18,362.96
Inc., August	\$11,802.74
Exp., August	\$603.00
Bal. 8/31/23:	\$29,562.70



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.

REMINDER: On Sunday, October 29, remember to wear red.



REFORMATION
Sunday



Serving ice cream this summer was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help out with this fun project. We used Thrivent Action Cards to purchase ice cream, toppings, bowls and spoons. Wednesday nights after church ice cream was served to friends and families in the neighborhood.

Approximately 517 people joined us on 10 Wednesday nights. We look forward to continuing this ministry next summer!

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)

10/1	9:30	Pam Fleming
10/8	9:30	Terry Morrison
10/15	9:30	Kathy Summers
10/22	9:30	Pam Fleming
10/29	9:30	Glenda Lais

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

10/1	9:30	Aaden Wagner
10/8	9:30	Ethan Nixon
10/15	9:30	Ashlyn Schaffer
10/22	9:30	Hailey Schroeder
10/29	9:30	Trey Milbrath

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

10/1	9:30	Marie Mews
10/8	9:30	Cooper Scripture
10/15	9:30	Ed Philipp
10/22	9:30	Cindy Russell
10/29	9:30	Todd Hallstrom

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

10/1	9:30	Daren Bauman (360-9275)
10/8	9:30	Matt Russell (360-5835)
10/15	9:30	Larry Woodbury (360-2689)
10/22	9:30	Ron Hallstrom (360-7891)
10/29	9:30	Midg White (360-3215)

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

10/1	Larry & Norma Woodbury & Diane Sletten
10/8	Bob & Bonnie Bents & Sandy Poppema
10/15	Dale & Debbie Koob & John Kramer
10/22	John & Nora Leinen & Judy Selberg
10/29	Brenda Hurlbut & Todd & Darcy Poppema

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

10/1	9:30	Kevin Fleming
10/8	9:30	Doug Frisch
10/15	9:30	Pat Demuth
10/22	9:30	Kevin Fleming
10/29	9:30	Pat Demuth

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

10/1	9:30	John & Nora Leinen
10/8	9:30	John Kramer & Todd Hallstrom
10/15	9:30	Diana White & Linda Nelson
10/22	9:30	Sandy Poppema & Marie Mews
10/29	9:30	Doug & Julie Christensen

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

10/1	9:30	Carrie Adams
10/8	9:30	Becca McGaughey
10/15	9:30	Erin Makela
10/22	9:30	Aaron Hagen
10/29	9:30	Debbie Koob



October Birthdays



1	Chandler Kempema	14	Ryan McGaughey	31	Lynette Demuth
3	Trey Milbrath	16	Dan Anderson		
4	Pat Demuth	16	Carla Buchman		
4	Valerie Veen	16	Ardys Jacobson		
6	Miles Hein	18	Robin Dolliver		
7	Janet Zierke	19	Evelyn Murray		
8	Sean Feller	20	Sandra Marsh		
8	Bev Frisch	22	Darcy Poppema		
9	Gina Huber	23	James Kraft		
9	Jay Larson	23	Tiffany Neugebauer		
10	Alison Nixon	23	Lisa Waldner		
10	Erin Schutte Wadzinski	25	Emery Korver		
12	Emersyn Nixon	26	Mary Ingenthron		
12	JoAnn Kruse	27	Dana White- Swanson		
13	Nicholas Schroeder	28	Hailey Schroeder		
13	Bode Scripture	30	Genna Scripture		



Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

“Forgive from the heart.”

Whenever we forgive another from the heart, we put a plank in the bridge across which we ourselves must travel on our way from earth to heaven.

For each of us is a sinner. And the only way we can pass from earth to heaven is across the bridge of God’s forgiveness. “Forgive others,” Jesus said, “and God will forgive you.”

The safest and surest insurance policy against the loss of heaven is the policy of forgiving others from the heart.

“Happy are those who are merciful to others,” said Jesus; “God will be merciful to them!” - Matthew 5:7

How do we work through an emotional block that makes it hard for us to forgive someone?

“Forgive one another, as God has forgiven you through Christ.” - Ephesians 4:32

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 August 31, 2023, a total of \$6,208.74 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.



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 August 31, 2023, a total of \$55,961.50 has been put into the general fund.



DEATH & SYMPATHY: Irene Eisele died August 22, 2023 at the age of 88 years. Her funeral service was held on August 25, 2023 at First Lutheran Church. We extend our Christian sympathy to her family.

Bible distribution for K, 3rd & 7th Graders will be held on Sunday, October 8 during our worship service. A post card has gone out to the families with youth in these grades. If you are unable to attend the worship service, please stop by the church and pick up your Bible. Thank you!

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.



Our Deepest Sympathy

DEATH & SYMPATHY: Douglas Lloyd Jacobson died August 19, 2023 at the age of 80 years. His funeral service was held on August 23, 2023 at Benson Funeral Home. We extend our Christian sympathy to his family.

OCTOBER YOUTH NEWS

This church really has amazing volunteers! That's the first thing I noticed here at this church, the people, the amazing people. I thought it would be pretty awesome if the rummage sale this year would double from the year before and that was when I was thinking we only raised about \$2,000 last year. We raised \$3,200 in 2022 and we more than doubled that this year! Many thanks to the amazing volunteers - those who organized all the clothes by size, organized the library section by author, and organized all our other areas as well. Not to mention all of the people that spread the word and all of you that donated and told your friends and they even donated! We never had no one shopping. There was constant traffic. And with that it brings lots of stories to mind but the one that hit me the hardest this year was one little girl at the very end of the sale. She came from a large family that barely spoke any English. She got a bed. She tried it out and when she realized it was her bed she came over to me and gave my legs a hug. She was so happy! It is THOSE moments. There are two others that stand out to me that couldn't believe the deal they were getting. Seriously?! Yes, seriously. This is why... sharing God's love with others. It's those stories and many more.

KFC IS IN FULL SWING!

On October 11 we are excited to have Shetek come and share with us! That is always a favorite day! If anyone is interested in helping ANYTIME, just let Brenda know. Help can be provided in many ways from: kitchen helper, clean up helper, just hanging out, helping out at the school, etc. Once a month, every week or otherwise.

DINNER WILL BE served starting at 5:15 pm

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

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

October 4 - Confirmation at First Lutheran

October 11 - Farmer Meal Delivery starting from First Lutheran and Grace Lutheran

October 18 - Confirmation at First Lutheran

October 25 - Confirmation at Grace Lutheran followed by outside games

HIGH SCHOOL ONLY "507"

October 4 at JBS Field House from 6:30-8:00 pm

Come for some pizza, stay for the games!!!

OKOBOJI OUTREACH NIGHT - October 8

WE ARE GOING TO Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp (1203 Inwan St., Milford, IA) for their game night. Please arrive at the church by 4:00 pm. We will return by 9:00 pm. Friends are welcome to attend but need a parent to fill out a consent form. **PLEASE RSVP to Brenda** no later than October 4 as we need to give a count to the camp and plan for drivers.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us for the year long Bible scavenger hunt!

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

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OCTOBER 22 due to MEA break

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

MANY THANKS!

October 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



Wish List

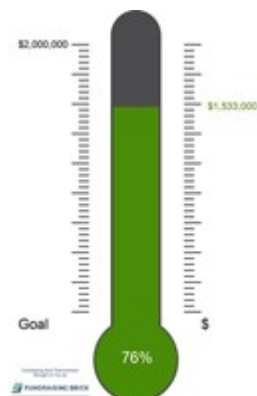
*17 foot Aluminum canoe
Vest style life jackets
Office supplies – reams of
paper
Good Vacuums
Volunteers*

Mark your Calendar

October 20-21 – Octoberfest
October 23-26 – Quilt & Craft
Retreat
November 3-4 Confirmation
Retreat

Register at shetek.org or
Call 507-763-3567 for more
information

We met our Phase 1 goal!
\$1,533,000 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!