

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

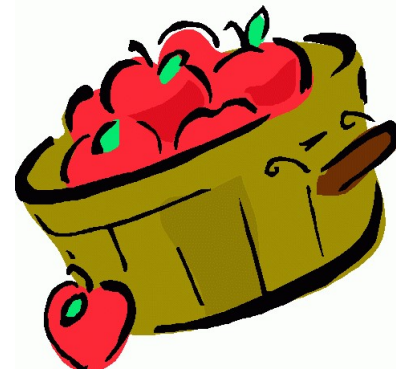
September 2023 Evangel

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

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 always have mixed emotions when the fall advertisements start. I love summer. The schedule, for me, is usually a bit more flexible. I love festivals and gatherings. The days are longer and I love playing outside later with Landon. On the other hand, despite all the planning and preparations that it entails, I enjoy fall start up season. There is a sense of new beginnings and excitement about how the academic year might unfold. I know, this year, that Landon is very excited to return to preschool with his teacher, and that gives me great joy, as well.

As we start another school year, there are many new things that are happening in our congregation. In September, we will be utilizing the Narrative Lectionary. This lectionary follows the Bible in a more "chronological" pattern compared to our Revised Common Lectionary. Furthermore, it focuses on Old Testament passages that we often don't emphasize in worship. (Thanks to Eric Parrish for encouraging us to explore this lectionary version.) Details are pending about our Scripture and Yoga sessions which will be led by certified, registered teacher Margaret Vosburgh. Brenda is planning monthly trips down to Youth Nights at the Ingham and Okoboji Bible Camps. Pr. Martin Lucin has joined us and we have been helping him get to know members and our programs here at First. He will be taking over certain tasks and ministry opportunities to allow us to better serve our whole congregation. We have discussed different possibilities for Bible Studies and explored ways to discuss various topics of interest as a congregation. As staff and leadership, we are still "working out" the details of some of these opportunities, but we hope to share them with you shortly. In short, the fall should bring a variety of new ministry experiences to our church.

Some of you might be hearing this with excitement. Others might find the proposed changes unsettling. What if the opportunities take away staff time from other things? What if I don't like the new topics or the new leader? What if we try something and it doesn't go like we want it to?

I encourage us all, as we set out into new adventures, to take a cue from the leaves around us. I know I have used this metaphor many times before, but, once again, I'd like to refer to the quote, "The trees are about to show us how lovely it is to let things go." (author unknown) I know I'm going to be meditating hard on this, as I let go of my own fears of, "What if we try something and it doesn't work?" I encourage you, as you walk by these beautiful leaves to think:

- *What preconceived notions do I have that are hindering me from enjoying something new?
- *What fears/past experiences are keeping me from being open to someone new or a new way of doing things?
- *What in my life is taking away my joy and energy so I can't truly experience new things? How can I let go of those burdens?
- *What barriers exist that are causing me to not really listen to someone else? How can I reduce such barriers? How can I practice openness?

We know that God will go with us and be with us as we experience being church together anew. We ask that God would help us to trust and be grounded in that.

Gratefully, Rev. Jeanette McCormick



Lessons and Themes for the Sundays in September, 2023:

9/3/23: 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalm 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

9/10/23: 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 33:7-11
Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

9/17/23: 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm 103:1-13
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

9/24/23: 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Jonah 3:10-4:11
Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

Praise the Lord

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

General Fund:

Bal. 6/30/23:	(\$32,114.00)
Inc., July	\$22,577.45
Exp., July	\$28,993.65
Bal. 7/31/23:	(\$38,530.20)
(The amount shows behind budget.)	
Grace Lutheran Reimbursement—	
	\$19,718.88

Building Fund:

Bal. 6/30/23:	\$17,231.96
Inc., July	\$1,131.00
Exp., July	\$0.00
Bal. 7/31/23:	\$18,362.96



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.

New
Address!



directory. Thanks!

Attention College-Bound Students:

Please call the church office to let us know your college address so that we can update our mailing lists and



The office will be closed on Monday, September 4 for the Labor Day Holiday.



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)

9/3	9:30	Terry Morrison
9/10	9:30	Glenda Lais
9/17	9:30	Kathy Summers
9/24	9:30	Ryan McGaughey

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

9/3	9:30	Aaden Wagner
9/10	9:30	Kylee Milbrath
9/17	9:30	Ashlyn Schaffer
9/24	9:30	Trey Milbrath

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

9/3	9:30	Erin Makela
9/10	9:30	Cooper Scripture
9/17	9:30	Lonnie Myrom
9/24	9:30	Matt Russell

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

9/3	9:30	Larry Woodbury (360-2689)
9/10	9:30	Ron Hallstrom (360-7891)
9/17	9:30	Midg White (360-3215)
9/24	9:30	Matt Russell (360-5835)

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

9/3	9:30	Daren & Julie Bauman & Ed Philipp
9/10	9:30	Leroy Merkel & Todd & Darcy Poppema
9/17	9:30	Fern Burmeister, Sandy Poppema & John Kramer
9/24	9:30	Doug & Julie Christensen & Diana White

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

9/3	9:30	Pat Demuth
9/10	9:30	Kevin Fleming
9/17	9:30	Doug Frisch
9/24	9:30	Pat Demuth

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

9/3	9:30	Todd Hallstrom
9/10	9:30	Judy Selberg
9/17	9:30	Lonnie & Nancy Myrom
9/24	9:30	Sandy Poppema & Diane Sletten

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

9/3	9:30	Aaron Hagen
9/10	9:30	Debbie Koob
9/17	9:30	Paul Summers
9/24	9:30	Terry Morrison

ATTENTION: There are tables in Centennial Hall for you to sign up to help in different ministries of the worship service. If you are interested in assisting with being coffee servers, greeters, computer assistant, assisting minister/lector, sound, Facebook Live, van driver or ushering, please sign up on the sheets on the tables in Centennial Hall as to which ministries you are able to assist with. If you are currently serving, please sign up again so we know that you are still interested in serving. Thank You!

September Birthdays



1	Kourtney Bauman	16	Brittany Schroeder	26	Kevin Fleming
2	Dennis Gieselman	17	Gary Frodermann	27	Bonnie Bents
2	Alyssa Korver	17	Nathan Lowe	27	Bridget Huber
2	Bria Schroeder	17	Anneliese Wadzinski	28	Mike Burns
4	Ray Buchman	20	Todd Dolliver	29	Paula Laffrenzen
5	Robert Benson	20	Jesse Schroeder	30	Sophie Selberg
5	David Dieter	20	Martin Lucin		
6	Jeff Randall	22	Vona Mae Vihlen		
6	Dianne Sanderson	23	Charles Veen		
7	Alan Winter	23	Tyler Wadzinski		
8	Mary Kraft	24	Adalyn Hein		
8	Robin Stoyke	24	Sandy Rogers		
8	Bayleigh Carey	25	Nora Leinen		



Jesus makes a promise to Nathanael

“You will see angels rising and descending”

The word *angel* means “messenger”. The Bible portrays angels as being God’s messengers to his people. Ancient artists depicted angels as having wings. But you can no more depict an angel than you can the wind.

The Letter to the Hebrews says: “What are angels, then? They are spirits who serve God and are sent by him to help those who are to receive salvation.” - *Hebrews 1:4*

It was an angel who told Mary she was to be the mother of Jesus. It was an angel who told Joseph, Mary had conceived by the Holy Spirit. It was an angel who told Joseph to flee to Egypt with Jesus and Mary.

How deeply do we believe in God’s personal concern for us, as manifested by angels in biblical times?

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 July 31, 2023, a total of **\$6,144.99** 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 July, 2023, a total of **\$55,799.00** has been put into the general fund.



26th ANNUAL COUNTRY WESTERN SERVICE

September 17, 2023

9:30 AM

Join us for a great service. Paul Summers will be our guest musician.



7th, 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation

Confirmation will begin on September 13 with an orientation meeting with parents at 6:30 pm. On Wednesday, September 20, we will begin with class. We will be meeting from 6:30-7:30 pm.



Sanctuary Choir—We will be starting rehearsals for the season on Wednesday, September 27 at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. We welcome new members to the choir at any time. If you have any questions, please contact Eric Parrish.

back to School





*Our Deepest
Sympathy*

DEATH & SYMPATHY: Winora Kae Hallstrom died July 26, 2023 at the age of 80 years. Her memorial service was held on August 12, 2023 at First Lutheran Church. We extend our Christian sympathy to her family.



“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



September 10
2023

Come join us for God’s Work, Our Hands this September! We will be helping with a Love, Inc. furniture delivery, making bags for shut-ins, putting together mailings for Love, Inc. and doing some cleaning projects around the church. This is the 10th anniversary of God’s Work, Our

Hands, so please join us for this community service program after church on September 10, 2023 and enjoy some pizza when the work is done!

The Coat Closet

The Coat Closet hosted by First Lutheran Church as a Love INC Gap Ministry is preparing to open for the 2023-2024 winter season. Letters will be sent to Love, INC churches, school counselors, Head Start and local agencies. Each letter includes a sample voucher to be used to refer individuals and families. The process implemented during the COVID pandemic appeared to be successful and will continue for 2023-2024. Times available for appointments as well as drop-ins will be scheduled to provide access to meet the needs of variable work schedules in the community. The Coat Closet hours will be Monday, 10 am to noon; Wednesday, 4 – 6 pm, and Friday, 2 – 4 pm. Additional hours will be available by appointment. The closet will open on October 1st and close on March 1st. If March weather conditions warrant it, appointments will continue. To staff the closet, additional volunteers are needed. **ALL help is welcome!** Please consider a day a week, random times a month or on-call. Contact Kathy Craun, Linda Nelson or Diana White for questions or information.

Following is a report of items distributed October 2022 through April 2023.

Coats:		Boots:	
Adults:	100	Adults	43
Childrens:	85	Childrens	64
Snowpants:	47	Hats:	140
Gloves/mittens:	140	Scarves:	25
Sweatshirts/vests:	36		

TOTAL ITEMS DISTRIBUTED: 680

I invite you to think about the last birthday party you attended. Did you sing “Happy Birthday”? I am going to guess that the answer is probably “yes,” and probably not everyone sang it perfectly or even in the same key. Perhaps it was a little too high, or maybe some notes were just too low? Obviously, that wasn’t the point. You were celebrating! And as a group you were coming together to honor another individual.

Now, I invite you to think about a major event from your life (i.e. funeral, wedding, graduation, etc.) Did someone sing at this event? Perhaps you sang together. What song was chosen? Why? If you were to think of your favorite song, what about it makes it your favorite? Was it the lyrics? Was it the way the tune sounded? Or perhaps it was how it made you feel?

Whether you were singing with family at a funeral or with friends at a concert, singing is a part of our everyday life no matter how “good” we may or may not be at it. Across generations, cultures, and even religions, singing has always been a part of the worship experience. But why is that? Here are some of the reasons we sing in church:

- **God commands us to sing.** There are hundreds of verses in the Bible with references to singing. We read that Jesus Himself sang songs after the Last Supper. The book of Psalms is literally a collection of songs, written by a variety of biblical figures including King David.
- **Christians have sung throughout history.** Hymnody was a way for the early Christians to put their belief into song as a way to spread the Good News. It allows us to connect with the believers that have gone before us.
- **Singing connects us emotionally.** Songs filled with joy can help us feel like dancing. Songs of lament can bring us to tears. Music has the power to reach our soul, and that can help us respond to moments that are beyond words. This assists us in expressing our hopes, our prayers and our thanks to God.
- **Songs can be filled with theology.** The hymns we sing are mini-studies of the nature of God and our religious belief. The act of singing utilizes both parts of the brain and therefore singing can help us learn about faith.
- **Singing helps to unite the church.** Music is a tool that literally brings us together as a community of believers. We recognize that God gives each of us different gifts, but we are called to sing together in Psalm 96: “Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Sing to the Lord!”

As we begin a new season at First Lutheran Church, I invite you to consider why we sing in church. Selecting music each Sunday is a job I take very seriously, and as you may or may not know, it is a complicated task. There are so many great songs out there! Just as we each have certain songs that are significant to us, or remind us of someone special, or are our favorite; our neighbor has those important songs too. When we worship together each Sunday, the songs we sing are more than just melodies; they are a spiritual experience that resonates with the Word of God. But how do I decide what songs to include in our service? This decision is guided by careful consideration of several factors that reflect the spirit of the occasion, the congregation's familiarity, and the teachings we aim to reinforce. Here’s a list of questions I ponder:

- Are there any songs that fit immediately with the texts for the day?
- Do the songs reflect a global faith?
- Are there any familiar tunes?
- Is there enough joy?
- Is there time for quiet reflection?
- Is the language accessible and/or inclusive?
- Are we singing a "new song"?

Sometimes the answers to these questions depend on the celebration for the day, and sometimes the list of songs can be *very* short! It is unlikely that there will be “something for everyone” in every service (we only sing 3-5 songs a week), and sometimes that is not that point, but I try to get a fairly broad mix on a monthly basis. And of course, this can be complicated by the availability of musicians and singers each week. The chosen songs and hymns reflect the complexity and beauty of our community of believers, and ensure that each one of us “Sing to the Lord!” purposefully.

Whether it’s a beloved hymn passed down through generations or a contemporary melody that speaks to our young people, singing in church is a shared expression of faith, love and community. As we raise our voices together, we not only honor God, but also reinforce the bonds that tie us together in faith. I invite you to join in this harmonious celebration, and let our voices be a joyful testament to our beliefs. “Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!” (Psalm 98:1)

GRIEF RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP



**GRIEF SHARE IS A SPECIAL WEEKLY SEMINAR AND
SUPPORT GROUP FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE GRIEVING
THE DEATH OF SOMEONE CLOSE TO THEM**

Our group is led by caring people who have
experienced grief and want to help you through
the difficult days ahead.

TUESDAYS 2:00 - 3:30 PM

September 5 - November 28, 2023

First Lutheran Church
1200 4th Ave, Worthington

Call First Lutheran to register: 507-376-6148
(Join any time)

We know it hurts, and we want to help.

Call Us Today

YOUR
JOURNEY FROM
MOURNING TO JOY

SEPTEMBER YOUTH NEWS

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone that helped donate, prep, spread the word, sell and clean up for the HUGE youth rummage sale! This church really has amazing volunteers! We expanded into seven other areas this year and we also sold food.

At the end of July we had two middle school youth go to Medora, ND to the Badlands Ministries camp for NightLife camp! They made lots of friends and had a blast. Every night they stayed up later and later until the last night they stayed up all night. Which meant that breakfast was at a normal lunch time and lunch was at a normal supper time and supper time was around midnight. Thanks to all for your support!

KFC BEGINS SEPTEMBER 20th

Our Wednesday after school program starts on September 20. Snacks and games will be provided at Prairie and the Intermediate school and the bus will bring them to the church after. We have lots of fun things planned for the year. Games, crafts, and lessons; it's going to be a great year! If anyone is interested in helping, just let Brenda know. Help can be provided in many ways from: craft helper, dinner table helper, game helper, just hanging out with the kids, helping out at the school, etc, etc. Once a month, every week or otherwise.

DINNER WILL BE served starting at 5:15 pm.

CONFIRMATION

We will kick off the confirmation year with a fun night on September 6. Come from 6:30-8:15 pm for games, food and fun!

Come September 13 for pizza and orientation. Bring a parent. We will be going over the year and talking about the youth trips.

September 27 we have our quilting service project night.

SERVICE PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

Join us for God's Work Our Hands after church on September 10. Pizza after.

Help with puppets - September 3 or September 17

Help with KFC starting September 20



YOUTH GROUP

Stay after confirmation until 8:15 pm

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Starts Sunday, September 17 at 8:45 am



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

MANY THANKS!

September 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



Thank you for your part in sending kids to camp. We had a great summer!

Wish List

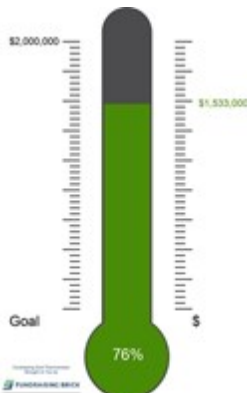
- 17 foot Aluminum canoe
- Vest style life jackets
- Office supplies – reams of paper
- Good Vacuums
- Volunteers

Mark your Calendar

- September 30 – Pre-Marriage Retreat
- September 30 - Shetek WELCA Conference at SLM
- Octoberfest – October 20-21
- 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!