

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

May  
2024

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 – Matt Russell  
(507) 360-5835  
VICE PRESIDENT – Lonnie Myrom  
(507) 329-3849  
SECRETARY – Erin Makela  
(320) 223-3713

### 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  
Cindy Anderson—Pianist  
Nancy Hofstee—Organist  
Arlene Lowe—Co-Treasurer

# *PASTOR JEANETTE'S ARTICLE*

---

Dear First Lutheran,

The end of the school year is around the corner, and I know many of us are excited to be looking toward summer. As we wrap up another year, I want to thank the many individuals who help with our “school year” programming: Kids for Christ, Confirmation, mentoring, Youth Group and youth events that happen during the school year. Your time, money and effort investing in our young people is so valued and appreciated. This year, we have seen increased participation in many of our youth programming. This has been so exciting and we are grateful for the support that has enabled this growth.

One area of “school year” programming that sometimes gets forgotten is our weekly Every Meal delivery team. On Thursdays from 3:15-4:15 pm, volunteers from First Lutheran join with other community volunteers to distribute approximately 250 bags of food. (In case of inclement weather or school events/no school days that prohibit distributions, food is distributed on a corresponding Monday.) Every Meal (headquartered in Roseville, MN) provides the food and sends the bags of food in a truck down to Worthington every month. Over 643 students in Worthington and Adrian receive this food on a weekly basis. Each student receives one bag of food per weekend. There are five meal types available, helping us to better accommodate our diverse community: Asian specific foods, African specific foods, Hispanic specific foods, a variety bag (standard USA food) and “ready-to-eat” items (for those who might not have regular access to a kitchen). Though several Worthington organizations, churches and individuals contribute towards the food costs, Every Meal’s staff has also garnered substantial financial support for our community. Every Meal can feed one child for one school year for \$368. With 643 students enrolled in the Weekend Meal Program in our schools, it cost Every Meal almost \$236,624 for the 2023-2024 school year. I invite you to make a donation towards this program by making a check out to First Lutheran with “Every Meal” in the memo line. This will help us meet our sponsorship goals towards this program and make a difference in the lives of our local youth.

I want to extend a great deal of thanks to those who have consistently volunteered in this effort. Nearly every week, Norma and Larry Woodbury, Doug Frisch and his family members (Kathy and Paul Summers, Marilyn Frisch) distribute the food. Additionally, Doug has often arranged the food for easier distributions each week. Marlys Wasmund has continued to assist with some of the administration of this program and distribute food, as well. Other volunteers have included: Heidi Tarus, Cindy Russell, Julie Bauman and Jeff Faragher. To anyone I have forgotten, I extend my sincere apologies. I am grateful that these individuals have helped us “extend” the mission and ministry of First Lutheran beyond our church walls. Additionally, I am so grateful that Rolf and Joan Mahlberg not only have assisted significantly in distributing meals, but they also have aided in the volunteer recruitment efforts. Each week, now, around half of those involved in the distributions are individuals from the greater community. Their connections have assisted us in making this project more sustainable for the long term. Next year, Rolf will be the volunteer coordinator for the Prairie distributions. Please contact him at [rolfmahlberg2@gmail.com](mailto:rolfmahlberg2@gmail.com) or call 507-260-0896 if you would like to participate. We are looking for some volunteers to assist with distributions on Thursdays until the end of the school year. Please contact Rolf or myself if you are interested in participating. You can come as often or as seldom as you choose.

I am so proud that our congregation views all kids as “our kids” and works towards the well-being of all children in our community. Furthermore, we know that our congregation has many teachers as members who work tirelessly to support our children and youth and help them grow. I view our congregational participation in Every Meal as a way we can support their vocations. Please stay tuned to church communications about planning, awareness building and fundraising efforts for Every Meal.

Gratefully, Rev. Jeanette McCormick



## Lessons and Themes for the Sundays in May, 2024:

### 5/5/24: Faith, Hope and Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Solomon 8:6-7

Mark 12:28-31

### 5/12/24: Death Swallowed in Life

1 Corinthians 15:1-16, 51-57

Psalm 30:1-5

Mark 12:26-27a

### 5/19/24: Gift of the Spirit

Acts 2:1-4

Psalm 139:7-14

1 Corinthians 12:1-13

Mark 1:4-8

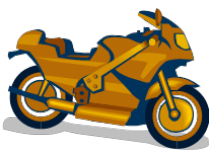
### 5/26/24: The Holy Trinity

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 29

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17



**ATTENTION All Bikers:** The annual motorcycle blessing is Sunday, June 2 at 2:00 pm. Come to the church parking lot, bring all your friends and receive a special blessing. Refreshments to follow.

## Praise the Lord

The following is the financial report for First Lutheran as of March, 2024:

### General Fund:

Bal. 2/29/24: (\$21,417.82)

Inc., March \$25,350.21

Exp., March \$25,605.43

Bal. 3/31/24: (\$21,673.04)

(The amount shows behind budget.)

Grace Lutheran Reimbursement—\$8,761.14

### Building Fund:

Bal. 2/29/24: \$36,841.75

Inc., March \$460.00

Exp., March \$1,375.50

Bal. 3/31/24: \$35,926.25



**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.



On Monday, May 27, the office will be closed for the Memorial Day Holiday.



**Camperships are available!** The Memorials and Gifts team is offering camperships for anyone who is attending camp. To request a campership, just write a letter to the Memorials and Gift Team and put it in Karen Buchman's box across from the office. Those attending a week long camp will receive \$100 and those attending a three day camp will receive \$50. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Buchman at 376-3225.

## Servants

Page 4

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)

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

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

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

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

5/5	9:30	Marie Mews
5/12	9:30	Todd Hallstrom
5/19	9:30	Ed Philipp
5/26	9:30	Diane Sletten

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

5/5	9:30	Mary Ferguson
5/12	9:30	Judy Selberg
5/19	9:30	Diana White
5/26	9:30	Dusty & Tiffany Neugebauer Family

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

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

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

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

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

5/5	9:30	John Kramer & John & Nora Leinen
5/12	9:30	Todd Hallstrom, Sandy Poppema & Fern Burmeister
5/19	9:30	Daren & Julie Bauman & Dale & Debbie Koob
5/26	9:30	Diana White & Todd & Darcy Poppema

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

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

**There will be no Wednesday night worship services from now—June 12 except May 15 for the year-end picnic and worship at Centennial Park.**

**Gift Cards** are available on communion Sunday mornings in Centennial Hall and in the office during the week.



# May Birthdays



1	Marie Mehls	10	Jordan Gieselman	17	Roger Larson
2	Andrea Mahlberg	11	Robin Negrete	19	John Leinen
2	Terry Morrison	12	Erica Creighton	20	Kelly Peterson
3	Jayden Dass	12	Deb Jacobs	21	Mary Ferguson
3	Kelsey Hagen	12	Gerret Larson	22	JoAnn Amundson
6	Caycee Bixby	12	Braelynn Schroeder	23	Fern Burmeister
6	Rylan Bixby	13	Jay Myer	23	Nancy Hellstrom
6	Randy Potts	13	Collin Nienkerk	23	Levi Severance
7	Lynnette Faragher	14	Brayden Feller	28	Rebecca Alvarez
7	Daniel Frisch	15	Paul Nunes	29	Austin Neugebauer
7	Ryan Marsh	16	Robert Bents	30	Mike Vosburgh
8	Dave Frisch	16	Paige Bixby	30	Nevaeh Isder
8	Justin Isder	16	Raygan Feller		
8	Diane Sletten	16	Paul Glorvigen		
8	Chealsey Veen	16	Brian Livingston		
9	Kyle Stinehart	16	John Murray		

## Jesus Cures Peter's Mother-in-law

*She got up and served them.*

A car driven by a University of Cincinnati student was struck by a speeding freight train. Miraculously, the student was uninjured.

The narrow escape had a profound effect on the student's attitude toward life. He no longer felt his life was his own to do with as he pleased. He had been saved from certain death by no merit or skill of his own. He believed he had been "saved to serve."

Peter's mother-in-law responded similarly. When she was cured by Jesus, the Gospel says, "The fever left her and she began to wait on them."

When was the last time we experienced God's saving or healing power in our own lives?

Lord, "save me, for I am your servant and I trust in you. Teach me what you want me to do, and I will obey you faithfully; teach me to serve you with complete devotion." - Psalm 86:2, 11

*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 March 31, 2024, a total of **\$6,332.49** has been put into the general fund.



**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 March 31, 2024, a total of **\$56,821.50** has been put into the general fund.

**We, at First Lutheran, congratulate the Senior Class of 2024** on their accomplishments and wish them the best for the future. On Sunday, May 19 we will be honoring our senior at coffee hour.



**Aria Larson**

**Parents: Jay & Dana Larson**



**WORSHIP**

## Year-End Picnic & Worship

Wednesday, May 15

Centennial Park

**Picnic will begin at 5:15 pm**

**Worship at the park at 6:00 pm**

Food will be provided by the Christian Education Team. Games & fun for everyone.



# College Scholarship Information

---

## High School Seniors and Current College Students

We have put together two information sheets regarding college scholarship financial assistance. Copies are available from the church office after you receive your letter. One is for the “FELC Scholarship” which is potentially available to students attending ANY institution of higher learning. Committee members are Don Craun, Jason Gerdes and Josh Hein.

The other is for the “First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Worthington, Minnesota Scholarship Fund” – commonly called the “LEE ANDERSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND”. Eligibility includes college sophomores or higher attending a LUTHERAN COLLEGE OR SEMINARY. Even though **freshman are not eligible**, they SHOULD still complete an application in June of their high school graduation year so their name is put on the list for future consideration. This is explained more on the information sheet. Rolf Mahlberg is the Trustee representing First Lutheran. Stop in or call the church office (376-6148) for copies of either or both information sheets. They contain more information about submission date deadlines and other details.

As soon as you know that you plan to attend an institution of higher learning (even though you may not have yet selected a specific school) please call the church office to enable Natalie to get your name on the list so she can send applications to all interested students. Natalie will send out scholarship application letters in May. You only need to complete ONE application – it will be used by both scholarship committees. Applications should be submitted to the church office by June 28



## FELC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR POST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Each year any student from FELC is eligible to apply for a FELC Scholarship. The applicant needs to be a graduating high school student or someone currently attending an institution of higher education such as a community college, a state college or private four year college, etc. The amount of the scholarship given will vary and is contingent upon the activity of the investments during the preceding year. Principal amounts for these investments have come from bequests by various members, memorials and personal donations.

High school graduates continuing their education can apply for a scholarship as well as currently enrolled students at higher education establishments. **STUDENTS DO NEED TO APPLY EVERY YEAR** by June 28 (If you applied last year, you have a shorter application to fill out) to be considered for a scholarship for the ensuing academic year. Criteria for a scholarship will emphasize participation and achievement in service to church and community beginning at confirmation entry up to the present time. Applications are available at the Church Office.

Questions may be directed to the FELC Scholarship Committee members: Don Craun, Jason Gerdes and Josh Hein.

Note: This scholarship is NOT the same as the “Lee Anderson Scholarship Fund”.

---

# Message from Pastor Martin

## What's Next?

So, it was Easter morning and a very beautiful light jacket kind of a day in Fargo, ND, at that. I noticed lots of ribbons and sparkles in little girls' hair and mischievous looks on little boys faces as they tried to run ahead of their parents. What were these families with young children thinking, I wondered., as I walked with my son and his family across a busy crowded parking lot toward their chosen house of worship on this special day.

With so many things on my own mind, I put myself in the place of these young families as I approached an open door and heard one of two nicely dressed greeters wish me a hearty "Good Morning!", as well as a sincere "Happy Easter!" I realized right away that I would be wondering, what's next, what is the next step? I know that there will be something special for my little ones here today, but what will there be for them here in this place after today?

As I stepped into the lobby area of that church, I saw the answer to my unspoken question right away and it was bigger than me: Huge posters everywhere inviting everyone and anyone to Vacation Bible School with tiny reproductions of those ginormous posters (that included all the particulars) being handed out to each person. I have noticed that at Grace and First you always seem to have an answer to that important question, "What's next?" to the delight of the little ones and people of every age. Our mission is to bring those answers to people, sometimes even before they ask the question out loud.

### **"I Can't Go To Church Today"**

I woke up this morning all achy and slow, the church service starts in an hour or so. My clothes are all wrinkled, the car isn't clean, now it's too late to show up on the scene. I can't go to church today.

I hear that the preacher is really the best, smiling and happy, yet never a pest. He visits my Grandma and calls on my aunt, if the sermons are short, what more could I want. I can't go to church today.

I really am thankful for blessings each day, our family is healthy, what more can I say. There's soccer and football and all kinds of fun, we boat and fish and golf in the sun. I can't go to church today.

My fam'ly is growing so fast—as you know, an exemplary life is what I should show. Next week will slow down the way it now looks, today I'll sleep in, watch TV, do the books. I can't go to church today.

I give to church, when I go, if I can, but right now it doesn't fit into the plan. There's the camper, the snowmobile and the new car, my paycheck just doesn't go that far! I can't go to church today.

I have fields and nice gardens, I do lots of work, to every detail I never will shirk. There's no time for church because I must spray, and hoe all the weeds by the end of the day. I can't go to church today.

The fam'ly has plans in the 'cities' today, for fun and safe travel we really should pray. We should arrive early for visit and play, an hour for church sure would mess up the day. I can't go to church today.

I've missed several weeks and that makes me blue, but I plan to attend when there's nothing to do. Next week I can't go, the next is the game, forgive me I pray, I know it's a shame. I can't go to church today.

St. Peter called me yesterday, I was way too young, I'll have to say. I'll be kept in the morgue 'till Tuesday, So I won't be in church today. HUH—I CAN'T GO TO CHURCH TODAY! - Author Unknown





### The Coat Closet



The Coat Closet closed on April 1. This winter weather has been mild and we have been able to meet all needs and requests for winter clothing. We were also able to meet the needs of those who have just arrived in our community.

The Coat Closet Team would like to thank the members of First Lutheran, their extended families and friends for the wealth of donations to The Coat Closet. Your Thrivent Dollars purchased snowpants for students from pre-school to middle school and men’s coveralls for those working outside or in cold facilities. Donations of gently used coats and outgrown children’s wear clothed community members of all ages. The purchase of gloves and mittens met an additional need.

Our request for boots was also filled by your generosity. Thank you for blessing The Coat Closet Ministry.

From October 1, 2023 to April 2, 2024; The Coat Closet provided winter wear for 184 adults and 117 children. The difference in numbers reflect two trends in our community. First, the Head Start, Adopt a Family Program expanded to include the entire family not just the student attending. The school was also blessed with expanded donations. Second, a significant number of adults from warm weather climates arrived to work at JBS. These individuals arrived ill prepared for even a mild winter.

#### Report of items distributed:

adult coats:	170	children’s coats:	90
adult boots:	60	children’s boots:	45
adult snowpants:	46	children’s snowpants:	45
gloves/mittens:	162	hats:	193

In addition, a significant number of scarves, insulated vests, heavy sweatshirts, and socks were offered.

The Coat Closet could not complete the mission without the help of several volunteers on Monday mornings, Wednesday evenings and Friday afternoons. We wish to thank the committee Kathy Craun, Linda Nelson, and Diana White. In addition; Abbey Craun, Mary Ingenthron, Debbie Koob, Nora Leinen, Joan Mahlberg, and Judy Selberg volunteered to assist. As more walk-ins arrived for assistance; Pastor Jeanette, Natalie, and Brenda also helped. Please consider learning more about the mission and participating in The Coat Closet efforts. By giving of our time we are blessed to meet and expand our community.

Again thank you for your generous donations and prayers for The Coat Closet!



Thank you everyone who contributed to the Coat Closet and who furnished Thrivent cards to buy items. Your generosity helped many people, adults & kids, be warmer this winter.—Linda Nelson



---

# MAY YOUTH NEWS

---

Hard to believe that summer is almost upon us! Remember to stay up to date with all of the latest happenings by checking out the first page of our church's webpage.

In April, we had four youth join Pastor Martin and I at Shetek for confirmation camp. We had two of our KFC helpers come and join us for that which was awesome!

---

**May 1** - 507 Night - ALL YOUTH @ JBS Fieldhouse. Pizza will be served at 6:30 and then we will have games and fun until 8:00 pm.

**May 8** - Youth @ Grace

**May 15** - End of Year Picnic at Centennial Park.

**May 19** - Graduation Recognition Sunday



Baccalaureate will be on Wednesday, May 29 at the High School.

---

**June 10-13** - Community Kid's Camp = VBS = we need LOTS of volunteers. WE NEED YOU! It will be at First Lutheran from 5:30 - 6:00 pm for supper and then 6:30 to 8:00 pm for all of the fun. Sign up today with the QR code which is on the youth board. You can also sign up on the sign up sheet on the youth board.

The theme for Kid's Camp (VBS) is WHAT A MESS! We plan to decorate on Sunday afternoon, June 9. We also plan to have a decoration prep day sometime in May. Stay tuned to Facebook/website/bulletin for more information about all of that.

**June 23-28** - We have several kids going to camp Shetek at the end of June. There is still time to sign up! [www.shetek.org](http://www.shetek.org)

---

**July 16-20** - National Gathering. We have seven youth and three adults going. Plans are coming along for that. We really appreciate all of your support!

---

SUNDAY SCHOOL—Sundays at 8:45 am

We are wrapping up in the middle of May. We have had a lot of fun this year! Check out the youth bulletin board for all of the youth pictures from all of our events.



**Garage Sale - August 15, 16 and 17 = 3 days of fun! You can start bringing your stuff after we are done with Kid's Camp!**

GRACIAS! THANK YOU! WE APPRECIATE YOU! MANY THANKS!

**May 2024**



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

## Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers



**Apply to work at camp.**  
<https://shetek.org/work-at-shetek/>

*We still have room on our river trip!*

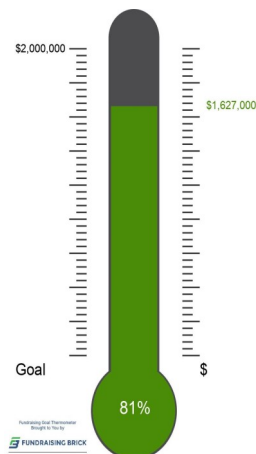
### **Wish List**

Glue and Glue Sticks  
Power Strips  
Mini Vans  
Volunteers

### **Mark your Calendar**

May 4 Spring Cleanup  
May 11 Spring Cleanup  
June 9 First day of Camp  
June 17 GOLF Fundraiser  
June 21 Garden Tour and Quilt Preview  
June 22 Pelican Fun Run/Walk  
June 22 Quilt Auction  
[Register at shetek.org](https://shetek.org) or  
Call 507-763-3567 for more information

We met our Phase 1 goal! \$1,627,000 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/sl-m-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!