

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

1200 4th Avenue

Worthington, MN 56187

(507) 376-6148

Fax: (507) 376-6149

Email: felcwgtm@frontiernet.net

Website: felcwgtm.org

OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Monday through Friday

WORSHIP: 8:00 am and 10:00 am

COMMUNION: First and Third Sundays

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 am (Sept–May)

CONGREGATION OFFICERS

RICH LIAPIS, PRESIDENT –

(507) 727-6901

LONNIE MYROM, VICE PRESIDENT -

(507) 376-9039

KATIE FLEMING, SECRETARY –

(507) 376-5429

CHURCH STAFF

RICHARD RICKER--Pastor

Natalie Zinnel--Administrative Secretary

Amy Loker--Youth & Family Director

David & Robin Stoyke--Custodians

Lola Geisendorfer--Parish Visitor

Pam Fleming--Worship Planner & Visual

Coordinator

Eric Parrish--Choir Director

Jacque Frerichs--Organist/Choir

Accompanist

Lois Gruis--Bell Choir Director

Lori Nienkerk--Choir Accompanist/

Organist

Dennis Selberg--Treasurer

Deb Koob--Financial Secretary

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

Reflections

“Be Like the Tiny Magnet.”

Henry Ward Beecher once made this enlightening comparison. Suppose someone gave you a dish of sand mixed with fine iron fillings.

You search for the fillings with your eyes; you comb for them with your fingers. But you can't find them; they are too tiny.

Then you take a tiny magnet and drag it slowly across the sand. Suddenly it is covered with iron fillings.

The unreflecting person is like our fingers combing the sand. Such a person finds nothing to be thankful for. The reflective person, on the other hand, is like the magnet.

That person finds hundreds of things to be thankful for.

In this New Year take some time to reflect on what our Lord in Christ has done for you this past year. Where has he met you in the thin places in your life: those times when life has been challenging and difficult for you? Where has he met you in the day to day living of life: when you have been just working to provide for your family and get things done? Where has he met you in the joyous times: the times of celebration and vacation?

Close your time of reflection with these words of the apostle Paul: “In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I always give thanks for everything to God the Father. Amen.”

God's peace, Pastor Richard

Lessons and Themes for the Sundays in February, 2012:

**2/5/12: 5th Sunday of Epiphany
“Planting Seeds: The Who”**

Psalm 147:1-11
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
John 15:12-17

**2/12/12: 6th Sunday of Epiphany
“Planting Seeds: The Story”**

Psalm 30
Acts 9:1-18
Mark 1:40-45

**2/19/12: Transfiguration of Our Lord
“Planting Seeds: The Timing”**

Psalm 50:1-6
1 Corinthians 3:6-11
Mark 9:2-9

**2/26/12: 1st Sunday of Lent
“The Paul Problem”**

Isaiah 60:1-5a
Acts 9:1-19
Mark 1:9-15

Praise the Lord

The following is the financial report for First Lutheran as of December, 2011:
General Fund:

Bal. 11/30/11:	(\$4,382.09)
Inc., December	\$42,739.12
Exp., December	\$26,302.82
Bal. 12/31/11:	\$12,054.21

Building Fund:

Bal. 11/30/11:	\$23,826.89
Inc., December	\$1,185.00
Exp., December	\$0.00
Bal. 12/31/11:	\$25,011.89

Holy Baptism

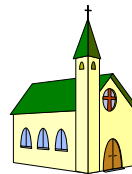


BAPTISM: We welcomed Aria Lynn Loker, daughter of Chris & Amy Loker, as a fellow member of the

family of God through Baptism on Sunday, January 22, 2012. Sponsors are Reed Lein, Timothy & Heidi Loker & Liz & Ryan Radtke. Welcome to the Lord’s family, Aria.



DEATH & SYMPATHY: Joan Erickson died December 25, 2011 at the age of 84 years. Her funeral was held here at First Lutheran Church on December 30, 2011. We extend our Christian sympathy to her family.



Sunday Servants

If for any reason you are unable to serve on the Sunday 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. **Please watch the mail for the post card. This is a temporary schedule for the month so it may change. Thank you.**

Van Driver:

2/5	Bob Burmeister
2/12	Dennis Selberg
2/19	Jim Hudson
2/26	Randy Potts

Acolytes (Contact Person: Julia Berger, 376-6906)

2/5	8:00	Bailey Kruse
		Kourtney Bauman
	10:00	Matthew Schroeder
		Landon Rogers
2/12	8:00	Natalie Demuth
	10:00	Jonathan Raley
2/19	8:00	Jon Faragher
		Olivia Adams
	10:00	Brandon Kempema
		Gina Huber
2/22	6:30PM	Kourtney Bauman
2/26	8:00	Bailey Kruse
	10:00	Kimberly Kraft

Ushers (Contact Person: Julia Berger)

2/5 8:00 Nathan Russell
 10:00 Katie Randgaard
 2/12 8:00 Nick Demuth
 10:00 Colton Poppema
 2/19 8:00 Tyler Faragher
 10:00 Brianna Kraft
 2/26 8:00 Sarah Waldner
 10:00 Troy Feller

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

2/5 8:00 Lynnette Faragher
 10:00 Lola Geisendorfer
 2/12 8:00 Paula Laffrenzen
 10:00 Robert Bents
 2/19 8:00 Brenda Stanton
 10:00 Al Selberg
 2/22 6:30PM Nancy Myrom
 2/26 8:00 Marjorie Larson
 10:00 Rich Liapis

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

2/5 8:00 Diana & Dana White
 10:00 Troy & Angie Wietzema
 Family
 2/12 8:00 Kent & Valerie Wilkening
 10:00 Bob & LeAnn Feller
 Family
 2/19 8:00 Dave & Marjorie
 Livingston
 10:00 Matt & Teresa Widboom
 Family
 2/22 6:30PM Ron & Karen Almheld
 2/26 8:00 Doug & Julie Christensen
 10:00 Dennis & Shelly
 Gieselman Family

Busy Bags (Contact Person: Dana Larson, 360-5609)

February – Pam Fleming
 March – Dana White
 April – Lynette Demuth

Nursery Attendants (Contact Person: Church Office, 376-6148)

2/5 8:00 Pat & Lynette Demuth
 10:00 Charlene Wachter
 Nicole Kempema
 2/12 8:00 Jeff & Amber McNickle
 10:00 Janet Patten/Carol Seivert
 2/19 8:00 Jane Benson/Debbie Koob
 10:00 Doris Selberg
 Adeline Larson
 2/26 8:00 Paula Laffrenzen
 Carrie Adams
 10:00 Ryan & Rebecca
 McGaughey

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

2/5 Roger & Marjorie Larson
 Jeff & Theresa Rotert
 2/12 Bob & Fern Burmeister
 Bruce & Tara Kraft
 2/19 Dave & Marjorie Livingston
 John Kramer
 2/26 Gary & Marless Milbrath
 Jim & Paula Laffrenzen

Liturgist (Contact Person: Pam Fleming, 376-5429)

2/5 8:00 Rich Liapis
 10:00 John Vihlen
 2/19 8:00 Matt Russell
 10:00 Lonnie Myrom

Contemp. Liturgist (Contact Person: Pam Fleming, 376-5429)

2/12 8 & 10 Lisa Waldner
 2/26 8 & 10 Margaret Erickson

Synthesizer (Contact Person: Pam Fleming, 376-5429)

2/12 8 & 10 Brenda Hurlbut
 2/26 8:00 Brenda Stanton
 10:00 Nancy Myrom

February Birthdays

- 1 Jean Bender
- 1 Doug Konold
- 2 Rolf Carlson
- 3 Wade Buchman
- 3 Derek Hellstrom
- 3 Gary Randgaard
- 3 Julie Vos
- 4 Doug Christensen
- 4 Kahla Gieselman
- 6 Rosann Boots
- 6 Jacquie Frerichs
- 6 Jaida Mason
- 6 Keith Stanton
- 6 Logan Waldner
- 7 Ashley Hein
- 8 Andrew Bents
- 8 Anthony Bents
- 8 Mary Tripp
- 8 Judy Wietzema
- 8 Ruth Yeske
- 9 Khantalie Heig
- 10 Thomas Bauman
- 10 Kinzie Myrom
- 10 Dustin Neugebauer
- 11 Daryl Raley
- 12 Jason Christensen
- 12 Craig Randgaard
- 12 Joan Tofteland
- 13 Nichole Lowe
- 13 Doug Mahlberg
- 16 Lola Geisendorfer
- 17 Chelsey Isder
- 17 Marilyn Starrett
- 18 Betty Burns
- 19 Viola Gerdes
- 19 Jacob Holck
- 19 David Stoyke
- 20 Karen Buchman
- 21 Kyle Isder
- 21 Emily Krommendyk
- 21 Judy Selberg
- 23 Kylee Milbrath
- 23 Adam Russell
- 23 Sarah Waldner
- 25 Terry Van Note
- 26 Robert Feller

- 26 Timothy Nunes
- 26 Melissa Randgaard
- 27 Keith Towne



Seasoned Citizens: We will meet on Thursday, February 23rd at 2:00 pm in Centennial Hall. Watch the bulletin for more information.

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 and between services on Sunday. We have \$10, \$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 December 31, 2011, a total of **\$25,535.50** has been put into the general fund.

First Lutheran Benefits from your Grocery Purchases. When you buy groceries at Fareway, with the Fareway Gift Card, First Lutheran receives 3% from the sale of the gift card. Get yours today! The cards are available in the church office and between services on Sunday. We have \$25, \$50 or \$100 gift cards to sell. You pay the full price for the card and the church receives 3%. As of December 31, 2011, a total of **\$577.44** has been put into the general fund.

Thank you for everything you have provided for me in the last five years that I have attended college. I appreciate all of the prayers, thoughts and scholarships given in the last few years. I hope to pursue a full-time career in graphic design now that I've graduated college. Thank you again.

Amanda Elsing

MARCH IS FOOD SHELF MONTH: One of the Evangelism Team's local Mission projects is collecting food items and gift cards for the food shelves in Worthington. This year we will be collecting the items from March 1st through March 25th. There will be a table set up in Centennial Hall where you can place non-perishable food items. Hy-Vee cards can be handed to a member of the team. Thank you for your generous giving for this mission project.



LENTEN SUPPERS @ FIRST

February 29th – Youth Team

Walking Taco's

March 7th – Worship & Music Team

March 14th – Finance Team

March 21st – Evangelism Team

Hot Dishes

March 28th – Church Council

The meal will be served from 5:00 to 6:15 pm.

Thursday Lenten Luncheons for 2012

March 1st at First United Methodist

March 8th at First Lutheran Church

March 15th at American Lutheran

March 22nd at Westminster Presbyterian

Services will begin at 12:05 pm and end at 12:30 pm with lunch from 12:30 to 1:00 p.m.

Each service will feature a different pastor.

These services are ecumenical in nature. Please come and bring a friend!

CHURCH DIRECTORY: I'm currently working on the church directory and would like to get it updated with the correct information. So if you have moved, changed phone numbers, or have a child or children that have moved or gotten married and moved to a different address, please bring the information to the church office by February 15th. Thank You! Natalie



Congratulations to Dustin & Tiffany Neugebauer on the birth of their son, Dyson Lynn, on January 5, 2012.

A Valentine Gift for Both of You

Leave the rest of the world behind and enjoy some quality time for just the two of you on a Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend. You'll spend two nights in a comfortable hotel and enjoy five delicious meals from Friday at 7:00 pm to Sunday at 5:00 pm. Engaging presentations by four Lutheran couples, including a clergy couple, give you valuable tools and information which are followed by exercises and questions the two of you discuss in the privacy of your hotel room. There is no counseling or required sharing.

The Spring Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends in Minnesota are February 10th-12th in Brooklyn Center, March 23rd-25th in Duluth and May 4th-6th in Walker. Please register several weeks in advance. For more information, contact Dick & Judy Dehnel at [952-432-3105](tel:952-432-3105), Pete & Phyllis McMahon at [763-561-1575](tel:763-561-1575) or visit www.godlovesmarriage.org.



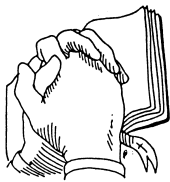


EASTER LILIES will be used at our Easter service on April 8th. If you would like to order one in memory or in honor of loved ones, contact the church office.

Please indicate if you will be picking them up after the 10 am service or if you will leave them here.

Watch for the cost in the March Evangel.

The deadline to have your order in is March 19th. There will be **NO** orders taken after this date, so get your order in early.



Please call or email the office with any prayer concerns that you would like on the prayer chain or in the bulletin as Natalie will be managing the

prayer chain for the immediate future. If any questions or concerns; speak with Natalie or Pastor Richard.

Step by Step

He does not lead me year by year,
Nor even day by day,
But step by step my path unfolds,
My Lord directs my way.

Tomorrow's plans I do not know,
I only know this minute.
But he will say, "This is the way,
By faith now walk ye in it."

And I am glad that it is so,
Today's enough to bear,
And when tomorrow comes,
his grace
Shall far exceed its care.

What need to worry then, or fret?
The God who gave his Son
Holds all my moments in his hand
And gives them one by one.

—Author unknown

Tuesday Prayer Gathering

The Tuesday Prayer at the Northland Mall was birthed in June 2009. I had just returned from a meeting in Elk River, MN the end of May '09, with Rick Heeren, who compiled and edited the book, "The Elk River Story". He is also associated with Ed Silvoso's ministry, Harvest Evangelism. This meeting was to let us see and hear what God had done and was continuing to do in transforming the city of Elk River because of prayer. At this meeting were many from other towns in MN. We met with pastors and business leaders who told us what God had done in their lives and their churches/businesses because of united prayer for their city.

I had been home less than a week when I heard an inner voice telling me to go to the mall. That Monday, the first week of June '09, a friend took me to the mall and put my name and phone # on the white board on the custodians door. Wednesday he called asking what I was interested in. I felt a little foolish but I asked for an empty store where Christians could come pray for one hour each week for our city of Worthington. He right away said he knew just the store we could have and would even have chairs for us but he needed to check with the owner. Friday morning he called and asked, "When do you want to start?" God made a way and we officially started "Pray Worthington" on June 23.

I know that God has greater things to be done and greater things are still to come in our city and we all have the privilege to join Him in that work as we come together and lift high the name of Jesus so that He can draw all men to Himself. It has been just a handful or two who have faithfully come each week or whenever schedules have allowed. If you can only make it for a few minutes, or 30, please join us. We meet at the old Maurice's store where the black curtains are, next to Christopher Banks. Tuesdays, 12:00 - 1:00. May God bless you as you pray for the peace of our city! Nancy Cook

**Bible Readings
For
February, 2012**

1	Leviticus	1-3
2	Leviticus	4-6
3	Leviticus	7-9
4	Leviticus	10-12
5	Leviticus	13-15
6	Leviticus	16-18
7	Leviticus	19-21
8	Leviticus	22-24
9	Leviticus	25-27
10	Numbers	1-3
11	Numbers	4-6
12	Numbers	7-9
13	Numbers	10-12
14	Numbers	13-15
15	Numbers	16-18
16	Numbers	19-21
17	Numbers	22-24
18	Numbers	25-27
19	Numbers	28-30
20	Numbers	31-33
21	Numbers	34-36
22	Deuteronomy	1-3
23	Deuteronomy	4-6
24	Deuteronomy	7-9
25	Deuteronomy	10-12
26	Deuteronomy	13-15
27	Deuteronomy	16-18
28	Deuteronomy	19-21

These books might seem a bit “dull”. They form the basis for the ‘culture’ we will observe during the remainder of the Old Testament. The promises of Genesis and Exodus lay the foundation for the greatest Promise of all from God – the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

**Psalms
For
February, 2012**

1.	PSALM	17
2.	PSALM	18:1-12
3.	PSALM	18:1-12
4.	PSALM	18:13-24
5.	PSALM	18:13-24
6.	PSALM	18:25-37
7.	PSALM	18:25-37
8.	PSALM	18:38-50
9.	PSALM	18:38-50
10.	PSALM	19
11.	PSALM	19
12.	PSALM	20
13.	PSALM	20
14.	PSALM	21
15.	PSALM	21
16.	PSALM	22:1-11
17.	PSALM	22:1-11
18.	PSALM	22:12-21
19.	PSALM	22:12-21
20.	PSALM	22:22-31
21.	PSALM	22:22-31
22.	PSALMS	23 & 24
23.	PSALMS	23 & 24
24.	PSALM	25
25.	PSALM	25
26.	PSALM	26
27.	PSALM	26
28.	PSALM	27

Remember to read the Psalms “prayerfully” as if Jesus were praying them with you. As you listen, you will hear His words within the Psalms.

YOUTH NEWS

This month something really amazing is going on in our town. We are blessed to have a TEC or Teens Encounter Christ weekend going on the weekend of February 17th at American Reformed Church. Some of you may know I've been involved with TEC since coming to Worthington and I wish to share with you why I feel this youth event is a blessing. For me, Teens Encounter Christ isn't just about the teens that go to the weekend, it's also about the teens that work it, the adults that help put it together, the parents that pray and guide their children, and the body of Christ. I have to say that as an adult working, I have not only encountered Christ at work again and again, but I have witnessed how the Spirit can bind together strangers and give youth a support system that is rooted in Christ. TEC may be a lot different than what we are used to, but it is above all centered in the Easter story. Christ came to this world to die for my sins, for your sins, because of his love for us! Isn't that amazing? I would encourage any youth grades 9-12 to give TEC a try. It's not for everyone, and I'm happy to answer questions about it if you have any. I know the youth in our church who have attended since I've been here have enjoyed this experience. For more information, go to www.crossroadstec.com

God's Peace,
Amy Loker

Youth Updates:

* **Donations needed for Annual Youth Silent Auction/Quilt Raffle.**

The youth are in need of donations for their Annual Silent Auction/Quilt Raffle fundraiser. They are requesting handcrafted items, new items, gift certificates, gift baskets, or gently used items. Please ensure any gently used items are in good working condition, all parts present, clean and you believe would be of use to someone else. Donations should be dropped off in Amy's office by Sunday, Feb 12th. Please be sure to include your name with your

donated item(s) so the youth can acknowledge your gift/talents with a special thank you. If you have any questions or need to arrange someone to pick up your item(s), please contact Marie Livingston (507-360-7080).

Youth Silent Auction/Quilt Raffle will be underway starting February 19th

Place your bids on the wonderful items up for bid on this year's youth silent auction. Additionally, you could become one of the proud owners of one of the lovely quilts that are up for raffle this year by purchasing your raffle tickets for only \$1.00 per chance. The silent auction and quilt raffle ends Sunday, March 18th at 11:30 am. Auction winners will be contacted Sunday, March 18th so please be sure to include your phone number when placing a bid. All items will be available for pickup on Wednesday, March 20th from 7:00-8:30 pm. This year the quilt raffle winners will be drawn at the beginning of pickup night in Centennial Hall. During this time, the youth will be serving you desserts and beverages as a way of thanking you for your continued support and generosity. Plan to stay awhile and watch a presentation illustrating our youth as they put their faith into action! Contact Marie Livingston (507-360-7080) or Amy Loker (507-376-6148) with any questions.

* There will be a brief meeting for those youth attending the Mission trip along with their parents following the second service on February 12^h. This is a mandatory meeting.

* Youth are needed to help set up the auction starting at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, February 15th. By helping set up you will get a credit to receive part of the profits from this amazing fundraiser. Help set up, take down and with our pickup night to earn the most from this fundraiser!

* Youth and families will be serving walking tacos again this year for our Lenten supper on Wednesday, February 29th. Families please keep your eyes open for a mailing on this.