

## **First Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**1200 4th Avenue**

**Worthington, MN 56187**

**(507) 376-6148**

**Fax: (507) 376-6149**

**Email: felcwgtn@frontiernet.net**

**Website: felcwgtn.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**

#### **“How Would the Repaired Violin Sound?”**

British violinist Peter Cropper was invited to Finland for a special concert. As a personal favor, the Royal Academy of Music, lent Peter their priceless 285-year old Stradivarius. That violin was known the world over for its incredible sound.

At the concert, a nightmare happened. Going on stage, Peter tripped and fell. The violin broke into several pieces.

Peter flew home to England in a state of shock. A master craftsman, Charles Beare, spent endless hours repairing the violin. Then came the moment of truth. What would the violin sound like? Those present couldn't believe their ears. The violin's sound was better than before.

The story of that violin is our story. Sin nearly destroyed us, but God, the master craftsman, repaired us. Our sound is now more beautiful than it was before.

In this new year take a step back and take a look at what in your life needs repair. Relationship? Your health? Your financial life? Just what could it be?

Pray about it, give it to Jesus. Allow him to guide you in putting your life together again.

God's Peace & Happy New Year,  
Pastor Richard

**Lessons and Themes for the Sundays in January, 2012:**

**1/1/12: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Christmas**

Psalm 148  
 Isaiah 61:10-62:3  
 Galatians 4:4-7  
 Luke 2:22-40

**1/8/12: Baptism of Our Lord  
 “Planting Seeds: The What”**

Psalm 29  
 Acts 19:1-7  
 Matthew 28:18-20

**1/15/12: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany  
 “Planting Seeds: The Why”**

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
 Ephesians 2:1-14  
 John 1:43-51

**1/22/12: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany  
 “Planting Seeds: The News”**

Psalm 65:5-12  
 1 Corinthians 15:3-11  
 Mark 1:14-20

**1/29/12: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany  
 “Planting Seeds: The Baptism Barrier”**

Psalm 107:1-9  
 Acts 8:26-37  
 Mark 1:16-20

**Praise the Lord**

The following is the financial report for First Lutheran as of November, 2011:

General Fund:

Bal. 10/31/11:	\$2,043.73
Inc., November	\$22,600.72
Exp., November	\$28,220.52
Mission Payable	\$806.02
Bal. 11/30/11:	(\$4,382.09)

Building Fund:

Bal. 10/31/11:	\$23,219.89
Inc., November	\$607.00
Exp., November	\$0.00
Bal. 11/30/11:	\$23,826.89



**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:**

1/1	Bryon Swart
1/8	Mike Burns
1/15	Mark Broich
1/22	Doug Frisch
1/29	Doug Konold

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

1/1	8:00	Jon Faragher
		Olivia Adams
	10:00	Kimberly Kraft
		Matthew Schroeder
1/8	8:00	Bailey Kruse
	10:00	Landon Rogers
1/15	8:00	Kourtney Bauman
		Natalie Demuth
	10:00	Brandon Kempema
		Jonathan Raley
1/22	8:00	Jon Faragher
	10:00	Gina Huber
1/29	8:00	Olivia Adams
	10:00	Kimberly Kraft

**Ushers (Contact Person: Julia Berger)**

1/1	8:00	Tyler Faragher
	10:00	Brianna Kraft
1/8	8:00	Nathan Russell
	10:00	Logan Rogers
1/15	8:00	Nick Demuth
	10:00	Troy Feller
1/22	8:00	Nathan Faragher
	10:00	Nathan Patten
1/29	8:00	Sarah Waldner
	10:00	Trevor Wietzema

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

1/1 8:00 Nick Demuth  
10:00 Teresa Widboom  
1/8 8:00 Travis Frazee  
10:00 Ryan McGaughey  
1/15 8:00 Marie Mews  
10:00 Brenda Hurlbut  
1/22 8:00 Leroy Merkel  
10:00 Rich Liapis  
1/29 8:00 Bob Dieter  
10:00 Matt Widboom

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

1/1 8:00 Keith & Brenda Stanton  
Family  
10:00 Al & Doris Selberg  
1/8 8:00 Roger & Marjorie Larson  
10:00 Gary & Judy Gerdes  
1/15 8:00 Agnes Cross  
Rosann Boots  
10:00 Dennis & Janet Zierke  
1/22 8:00 Loren & Dorothy Bauman  
10:00 Lonnie & Nancy Myrom  
Family  
1/29 8:00 Don & Kathy Craun  
10:00 Shirley Frisch  
Betty Burns

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

1/1 8:00 Theresa Rotert  
Marj Broich  
10:00 Janet Patten/Carol Seivert  
1/8 8:00 Julie Bauman  
10:00 Doris Selberg  
Adeline Larson  
1/15 8:00 Diana & Dana White  
10:00 Lola Geisendorfer  
Marilyn Frisch  
1/22 8:00 Lynnea Faragher Family  
10:00 Ryan & Rebecca  
McGaughey  
1/29 8:00 Ruth Yeske  
Norma Woodbury  
10:00 Merle & Pat Elsing

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

1/1 Ryan & Rebecca McGaughey  
Nate & Krista Van Note  
1/8 Doug & Julie Christensen  
John & Vona Mae Vihlen  
1/15 Bill & Sylvia Jacobson  
Don & Kathy Craun  
1/22 Diana & Dana White  
Dave & Robin Stoyke  
1/29 Lola Geisendorfer  
Mark & Marj Broich

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

January – Kathy Craun  
February – Pam Fleming  
March – Dana White  
April – Lynette Demuth

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

1/1 8:00  
10:00  
1/15 8:00  
10:00  
1/29 8:00  
10:00

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

1/8 8:00  
10:00  
1/22 8:00  
10:00

# January Birthdays

1 Eric Koob  
1 Chol Opiew  
1 Amot Othow  
2 Terry Entinger  
4 Jessica Frodermann  
5 Cindy Russell

- 7 Timothy Bents
- 7 Gary Stewart
- 8 Gage Wasmund
- 9 Adelia Hawkinson
- 9 Kristina Pineda
- 9 Ayden Schaffer
- 10 Karen Almjeld
- 10 Carmen Kamm
- 10 Alvin Kuehl
- 10 Robin Livingston
- 11 Emily Kirkeby
- 11 Tonya Langland
- 11 Jeff Murray
- 12 Kellie Dagal
- 12 Helen Wachter
- 13 Marlys Wasmund
- 14 Veronica Cuperus
- 14 Julie Krommendyk
- 15 Julie Bauman
- 15 Brandon Berger
- 15 Shirley Frisch
- 15 Jacob Livingston
- 15 Nathan Russell
- 16 Evelyn Lambert
- 16 Mary Smith
- 16 Hope Stanton
- 17 Jessica Anderson
- 17 Julian Casanova
- 17 Peggy Konold
- 18 Doris Selberg
- 18 Kent Wilkening
- 19 Ron Hallstrom
- 20 Russell Hawkinson
- 20 Brianna Kraft
- 21 Helen Johnson
- 21 Troy Olson
- 21 Diane Ushinski
- 22 Rebeccah Larson
- 23 Byron Swart
- 24 Dennis Peterson
- 26 Wayne Radenbaugh
- 28 Caiden Mason
- 29 Kathy Craun
- 29 Gary Peterson
- 30 Hailey Como
- 31 Dorothy Hallstrom



**Seasoned Citizens:** We will meet on Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> 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 November 30, 2011, a total of **\$24,630.25** 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 November 30, 2011, a total of **\$533.94** has been put into the general fund.

**We would like to thank** everyone who picked up a Christmas box, filled it and brought it back to be delivered to children all around the world. Also, thank you to everyone who donated money for supplies, postage, etc. That really helped out a lot! Last, we would like to thank all the youth who helped put together the Christmas boxes. Together we put together 145 boxes! Christmas will be extra special because of the boxes we put together. Thank you again!

Sincerely, Evangelism Team

We just want to thank everyone who helped decorate the church for the Christmas Holiday. We appreciated the great turn out!

Bob & Jane Benson

**Thank you** to everyone who participated in our recent Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner. There were very few families in the congregation who did not have some part in its success. There was a full house at each serving with many, many complements on the food and the way it was presented. The profits will go to some special needs of the church. Working together as a congregation makes us feel much closer as a family. A big thank you to everyone who donated or helped work.



**The 2011 Annual Meeting of First Lutheran Church will be on Sunday, January 29, 2012. There will be a potluck dinner following the 2<sup>nd</sup> service with the Annual Meeting to follow the dinner.**



**The office will be closed on Monday, January 2nd for the New Year's holiday.**

### **“How Can You Show Your Love?”**

Want to do something special for your spouse to show how much you care? Attend a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend and focus on just the two of you. Engaging presentations by both lay and clergy leaders give you tools and information while exercises and conversations with your spouse in the privacy of your hotel room revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage. The Spring Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends in Minnesota are February 10-12 (think Valentines!) in Brooklyn Center, March 23-25 in Duluth and May 4-6 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](http://www.godlovesmarriage.org).



**Dear First Lutheran Family,**

Thank you very much for the scholarship money and the quilt. I used the money for tuition and the quilt for the cold northern night at Concordia.

Sincerely, Daniel Anderson

**Bible Readings  
For  
January, 2012**

1	Genesis	1-3
2	Genesis	4-6
3	Genesis	7-9
4	Genesis	10-12
5	Genesis	13-15
6	Genesis	16-18
7	Genesis	19-21
8	Genesis	22-24
9	Genesis	25-27
10	Genesis	28-30
11	Genesis	31-33
12	Genesis	34-36
13	Genesis	37-39
14	Genesis	40-42
15	Genesis	43-45
16	Genesis	46-48
17	Genesis	49-50
18	Exodus	1-3
19	Exodus	4-6
20	Exodus	7-9
21	Exodus	10-12
22	Exodus	13-15
23	Exodus	16-18
24	Exodus	19-21
25	Exodus	22-24
26	Exodus	25-27
27	Exodus	28-30
28	Exodus	31-33
29	Exodus	34-36
30	Exodus	37-38
31	Exodus	39-40

These lessons for January are for the month of beginnings. These books – Genesis and Exodus are the books of ‘beginnings’ for the people of God – of which we are a part.

**Psalms  
For  
January, 2012**

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

Keep this page with your Bible for easy reference. The key to this program is faithfulness and patience. Each day will take you further and further into God’s Word.

## YOUTH NEWS

Do any of you remember the time I brought my dog Hawkins to church for the children's sermon? Hawkins, who is now just over a year old is sometimes what I refer to as a dumb dog. But I do not give him enough credit. This dog is smart enough to know when our other dog is in distress. When we moved to town we got a bark collar and put it on our other dog Sadie. She would like to bark at the critters that would come into our yard and our neighbors yards. We tried putting it on Hawkins before but his thick lab skin prevented it from working on him. Hawkins must have realized that this collar was something she didn't like because he chewed it off of her! And this isn't the first time he's done something like that. When training collars were on both dogs he chewed hers off! And her regular pink collar that she always wears has never once been touched. This leads me to think that he may actually have known what he was doing. While he may not walk that well on a leash, which he is improving on slowly but surely, while he may get sit and lay down confused, while he is quiet is something he just doesn't understand, he really does get some things that surprise me. This "dumb" dog was the easiest dog to potty train. He learned to ring the Christmas bells hanging from the door with his nose when he wanted to go out and even trained our "brilliant" dog Sadie to do this as well. As I said I don't think I give him enough credit. I believe that at times we think of ourselves as I often think of Hawkins. So often people tend to think that God can't use them because of whatever flaw they may possess. Are you underestimating yourself? A lot of times I hear the excuses of I'm too young, or too old, too poor, or too busy. In the Bible we see people with all types of excuses who God used to do great things when they trusted in Him. Know that yes as humans we are not perfect, we have flaws. Remember my flaw of impatience I wrote about last month? Even with that God chooses to work through me to reach others.

We all can be reflections of His love to others. This year don't focus on what you want to change in yourself, instead focus on what God can do through the person that you are. Often times we will see the things we thought were flaws don't always exist.

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 12<sup>th</sup>. 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).

\* Our ski trip is scheduled for January 15<sup>th</sup> and is open to all youth grades 6-12 and college age youth. Ski/board rental is \$17, lift tickets \$18, and tubing for 5 hours is \$30. If we do not have enough youth sign up to meet the minimum this trip will be cancelled. Sign up by January 8<sup>th</sup>.

\* **There will be a brief meeting for those youth going on the Mission Trip along with their parents following the second service on February 5<sup>th</sup>. This is a mandatory meeting.**