

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

Jacquie 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

*He must increase; but I must
decrease. jn 3:30*

A minister was once extremely popular. His church was always full. As the years passed he grew older, his vitality decreased—so did his flock. One day a new minister moved into the same town. A couple of weeks later the old minister noticed how few people were present in his church. “Where are the others?” he asked. “They’ve gone to the new minister’s church,” someone reluctantly volunteered. The old man responded, “Then perhaps it’s time for us to go there too.” With that, he led the remaining members to the new church. Like John the Baptist, he saw that it was time for him to decrease and for another to increase.

How accepting are we of God’s plan for us? This month, the season of Lent is in full swing. We are being challenged each week to deepen our walk with Jesus. I pray that in your extended devotional time and in this Lenten time of reflection that you will seek our Lord’s guidance and plan for your life?

God’s peace,
Pastor Richard

Lessons and Themes for the Sundays in March, 2011:

**3/6/11: Transfiguration of our Lord
"Befriending"**

Ecclesiastes 4:9-16
1 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 19:1-10

**3/13/11: 1st Sunday in Lent
"Lead Us...Avoiding the Unavoidable"**

Genesis 2:5-17, 3:1-7
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

**3/20/11: 2nd Sunday in Lent
"Lead Us...Speaking the Unspeakable"**

Psalms 121
John 3:1-17

**3/27/11: 3rd Sunday in Lent
"Lead Us...Loving the Unlovable"**

Psalms 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

Praise the Lord

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

General Fund:

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Bal. 12/31/10: | \$1,407.34 |
| Inc., January | \$21,721.49 |
| Exp., January | \$30,161.81 |
| Bal. 1/31/11: | (\$7,032.98) |

Building Fund:

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Bal. 12/31/10: | \$16,086.20 |
| Inc., January | \$1,811.50 |
| Exp., January | \$0.00 |
| Bal. 1/31/11: | \$17,897.70 |

Holy Baptism



BAPTISM: We welcomed Anthony Lajuane Bents, son of Leon Bents & Rochelle

Barnes, as a fellow member of the family of God through Baptism on February 8, 2011. Sponsors are Calvin & Sandra Bents. Welcome to the Lord's family, Anthony.



DEATH & SYMPATHY: Barney Bishop died February 2, 2011 at the age of 96 years. His funeral was held here at First Lutheran Church on February 5, 2011. We extend our Christian sympathy to his family.



Reminder: On Sunday, March 13th the time changes. (Set Clocks Ahead 1 Hour)

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:

| | |
|------|----------------|
| 3/6 | Randy Potts |
| 3/13 | Mike Vosburgh |
| 3/20 | Dennis Selberg |
| 3/27 | Mike Burns |

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

| | |
|------|---|
| 3/6 | Gary & Marless Milbrath Byron & Cindy Swart |
| 3/13 | Bill & Sylvia Jacobson Robert & Bonnie Bents |
| 3/20 | John & Nora Leinen John Kramer/Karen Lewis |
| 3/27 | Mike & Gwen Peil Arond & Shaila Peil |

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

3/6 8:00 Jon Faragher
Nathan Russell
10:00 Katie Randgaard
Brandon Kempema
3/9 6:30PM Sarah Waldner
3/13 8:00 Kourtney Bauman
10:00 Brianna Kraft
3/16 6:30PM Logan Rogers
3/20 8:00 Nathan Russell
Sarah Waldner
10:00 Brandon Kempema
Jonathan Raley
3/23 6:30PM Jon Faragher
3/27 8:00 Kourtney Bauman
10:00 Katie Randgaard
3/30 6:30PM Brianna Kraft

Ushers (Contact Person: Julia Berger)

3/6 8:00 Miles Veen
10:00 Rebecca Christensen
3/9 6:30PM Colton Poppema
3/13 8:00 Nathan Faragher
10:00 Trevor Wietzema
3/16 6:30PM Nick Demuth
3/20 8:00 Miles Veen
10:00 Zachary Kempema
3/23 6:30PM Tyler Faragher
3/27 8:00 Colton Poppema
10:00 Troy Feller
3/30 6:30PM Rebecca Christensen

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

3/6 8:00 Arnold Waldner
10:00 Karen Lewis
3/9 6:30PM Julia Berger
3/13 8:00 Linda Towne
10:00 Jacob Holck
3/20 8:00 Cindy Russell
10:00 Teresa Widboom
3/27 8:00 Vona Mae Vihlen
10:00 Mary Larson

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

3/6 8:00 Gene Christensen Family
10:00 Roger & Linda Nelson
3/9 6:30PM Ron & Karen Almjeld
3/13 8:00 Dana White Family
10:00 Dean & Marlene Swanson
3/16 6:30PM Pat & Lynette Demuth
Family
3/20 8:00 Kent & Valerie Wilkening
Family
10:00 Jeff & Sandy Randall
3/23 6:30PM Betty Burns
Florence Hinsch
3/27 8:00 Dave & Marjorie
Livingston
10:00 Keith & Mary Larson
3/30 6:30PM Gary & Judy Gerdes

Busy Bags (Contact Person: Sara Barber, 360-1368)

March – Paula Laffrenzen
April – Sara Barber
May – Bonnie Bents
June – Linda Neugebauer
July – Mary Larson
August – Julie Christensen
September – Teresa Widboom
October – Lynette Demuth
November – Dana White
December – Pam Fleming

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

3/6 8:00 Carrie Adams
Nicole Kempema
10:00 Doris Selberg
Adeline Larson
3/13 8:00 Ruth Yeske
Norma Woodbury
10:00 Marj Broich
Tami Rogers
3/20 8:00 Julie Bauman
Theresa Rotert
10:00 Ryan & Rebecca
McGaughey
3/27 8:00 Olivia Stanton
Kassie Wilkening
10:00 Janet Patten/Carol Seivert

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

3/6 8:00 Rich Liapis
10:00 Ryan McGaughey
3/9 6:30PM Leroy Merkel
3/13 6:30PM Rich Liapis
3/20 8:00 Leroy Merkel
10:00 Lonnie Myrom
3/23 6:30PM Lonnie Myrom

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

3/27 8:00 Brenda Stanton
10:00 Nancy Myrom

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

3/27 8:00 Lisa Waldner
10:00 Ed Philipp

March Birthdays

1 Winora Hallstrom
1 Robert Strouth
3 Nathan Faragher
3 Ed Philipp
4 Merle Elsing
4 Margaret Hurlbut-Vosburgh
5 Helen Beckman
6 Kim Hellstrom
6 Alex Myrom
7 Ashlyn Schaffer
9 Gunnie Mahlberg
9 Aaliyah Schaffer
10 Dylan Livingston
10 Roger Nelson
10 Jasmine Ober
10 John Ricker
11 Marcelline Alliband
11 Melissa Lancaster
11 Merlin Robinson
12 Amy Loker
12 Nicole Murray
13 Worrell Bremer
13 Greg Kempema
13 Lori Nienkerk

13 Kassandra Wilkening
14 Terry Neugebauer
14 Colton Poppema
15 Erving Graf
15 Leroy Merkel
15 Paul Swanson
16 Janet Patten
16 Chad Randgaard
16 Allyson Rotert
19 Scott Kraft
19 Bailey Kruse
19 Daniel Kruse
19 Chad Larson
19 Olivia Stanton
20 Stephanie Olson
20 Lonny White
21 Ken McNab
21 Paul Selberg
21 Miles Veen
21 Fred Wietzema
22 David Fitzhugh
23 Marion Hallstrom
23 Gayden Wohlman
23 Calvin Zuehlke
24 Sharon Engelson
24 Joshua Kruse
24 Marie Mews
24 Michael Patten
24 Nathan Patten
25 Don Craun
25 Pam Fleming
25 Elden Good
25 Kathryn Schreiber
26 Dana Larson
26 Keith Larson
27 Agnes Cross
28 DeLane Johnson
29 Vickie Peskey
29 Brenda Stanton
29 Elaine Weeks
30 Carter Como
30 Lynnea Faragher
30 Matthew Poppema
31 Joan Doeden

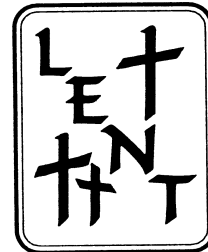


First Lutheran Benefits from your Grocery Purchases. When you buy groceries at Hy-Vee, with the Hy-Vee Gift Card, First Lutheran receives 5% from the sale of the gift card. Get yours today! The cards are available in the church office and between services on Sunday. We have \$10, \$25, \$50 or \$100 gift cards to sell. You pay the full price for the card and the church receives 5%. As of January 31, 2011, a total of **\$20,608.08** 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 January 31, 2011, a total of **\$219.75** has been put into the general fund.

MARCH IS FOOD SHELF MONTH: *One of the Evangelism Committee'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 February 27th through March 13th. 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 committee. Thank you for your generous giving for this mission project.*

Seasoned Citizens: We will not be meeting in March. We encourage you to attend the Lenten Luncheons. Please check the schedule below.



Thursday Lenten Luncheons for 2011

March 17th at First United Methodist
March 24th at First Lutheran Church
March 31st at American Lutheran
April 7th 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!

LENTEN SUPPERS @ FIRST

March 16th – Youth Team-**Walking Taco's**
March 23rd – Church Council
March 30th – Finance Team
April 6th – Men's Group
Evangelism Team
April 13th – Worship & Music Team

Chili & Chicken Noodle Soups

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





EASTER LILIES will be used at our Easter service on April 24th. 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 10:00 am service or if you will leave them here.

The cost for an Easter Lily will be \$10.

The deadline to have your order in is April 8th. There will be **NO** orders taken after this date, so get your order in early.

Dear First Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for choosing me as a recipient of the First Lutheran college scholarship. I am honored and appreciate your generous support. I am currently at Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota pursuing my Masters in E-Learning Technology and Administration. I plan to graduate this May.

I have appreciated First Lutheran's support towards my education over the past few years. First Lutheran has been a place where I have seen my relationship with God take shape and grow. The members of the church have always been very supportive and caring of me and my family. It is always great to come home and see such familiar faces on Sunday morning. First Lutheran will always have a special place in my heart. Thanks again for the support I appreciate it.

God Bless, Jill Hansen

First Lutheran Church,

Thank you very much for the award of \$300.00. It is great to have extra money to pay for tuition and other expenses that are part of going to college. I really appreciate all of your help.

Sincerely, Brittany Berger

Dear Scholarship Committee,

I would like to extend my thanks for selecting me for receiving a generous donation from the First Lutheran Church Scholarship Fund. It is greatly appreciated and will go towards furthering my education. I would also like to thank you for the encouragement that this scholarship has given me. It helps me push myself knowing that people do believe in me.

In Christ, Joe Christensen

Thank you Pastor Ricker, Natalie, Amy and everyone for the \$300 scholarship! Again, thank you for the money because it makes paying for school so much easier and besides the money, I thank God for the encouraging group of people back at home. Thanks again! I hope to see you all soon!

In Christ, Michael Harberts

“What is God Really Like?”

Most of us would never think that television commercials had any religious values, or that they could help us in thinking about God. However, a Sunday School teacher recently suggested to the children in her class that they take some phrases from commercials and see if they could make them applicable to God. She was amazed at the results. Here is a new version of the faith of a child:

God is like: Bayer Aspirin-He works wonders.

God is like: Ford-He's got a better idea.

God is like: Pan Am-He makes the going great.

God is like: Dial Soap-He gives round the clock protection.

God is like: Coke-He's the real thing.

God is like: Scope-He makes you feel fresh.

God is like: GE Bulbs-He lights our path.

AND

God is like: Hallmark Cards-He cares enough to send the very best.

Come be a part of a fun new ministry at First Lutheran. We will be gathering in the Centennial Hall monthly to make cards, have devotions, pray, have a treat, and share a lot of laughs. The goal of the card ministry is to share the love of our congregation and Christ through the making of cards. Examples of cards that may be made include: thank you's, sympathy, anniversaries, thinking of you, get well, or seasonal. Cards will be distributed to members in the congregation at various times. No talent is needed! There will be a job for everyone. All ages are welcome. Come with a willing heart to serve. Our first get together is March 21st at 6:30 pm in Centennial Hall. For more information, contact Mary Larson or Darcy Poppema.

Economy Affects Marriages!

It takes a lot of effort just to make ends meet with today's economy. Do you wish you could talk about something besides all the stresses in your life? A Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the time and tools to revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage.

In a relaxed atmosphere, four presenting couples, including a Lutheran clergy couple, give a series of presentations followed by questions you discuss in the privacy of your hotel room. There is no counseling or required group sharing

The next Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends in Minnesota are March 11-13 in Brooklyn Center and April 8-10 in Duluth. Please register several weeks in advance. For more information, contact Dick & Judy Dehnel at 952-432-3105, Pete & Phyllis McMahon at 763-561-1575 or visit www.godlovesmarriage.org.

A COUPLE was enjoying a Sunday morning breakfast when the wife went to put on her church clothes. When she returned, her husband was still in his bathrobe.

"Aren't you going to church this morning?" she asked.

"No, I'm not going this morning. In fact, I'm not going to church anymore."

"What do you mean? We've always attended church."

"There are people there who don't like me, and frankly, there are people at that church I don't like and I'm not going!"

"I'll give you two good reasons why you will go to church," the wife said. "One, you're 42 years old. Two, you have to go – you're the preacher."



Due to lower attendance for our service in the park; we are in need of your input. Should we have a service at the park? Do you want to have a special Sunday at church with pot-luck? Any suggestions are welcome. Place these in the suggestion box so we can decide on this question. We will consider all suggestions.

Thanks!

Worship & Music Committee

**Bible Readings
For
March, 2011**

| | | |
|----|-------------|-------|
| 1 | Deuteronomy | 22-24 |
| 2 | Deuteronomy | 25-27 |
| 3 | Deuteronomy | 28-30 |
| 4 | Deuteronomy | 31-32 |
| 5 | Deuteronomy | 33-34 |
| 6 | Mark | 1-2 |
| 7 | Mark | 3-4 |
| 8 | Mark | 5-6 |
| 9 | Mark | 7-8 |
| 10 | Mark | 9-10 |
| 11 | Mark | 11-12 |
| 12 | Mark | 13-14 |
| 13 | Mark | 15-16 |
| 14 | Romans | 1-2 |
| 15 | Romans | 3-4 |
| 16 | Romans | 5-6 |
| 17 | Romans | 7-8 |
| 18 | Romans | 9-10 |
| 19 | Romans | 11-12 |
| 20 | Romans | 13-14 |
| 21 | Romans | 15-16 |
| 22 | Joshua | 1-3 |
| 23 | Joshua | 4-6 |
| 24 | Joshua | 7-9 |
| 25 | Joshua | 10-12 |
| 26 | Joshua | 13-15 |
| 27 | Joshua | 16-18 |
| 28 | Joshua | 19-21 |
| 29 | Joshua | 22-24 |
| 30 | Judges | 1-3 |
| 31 | Judges | 4-6 |

The Gospel of Mark is the earliest Gospel. Romans is Paul's great letter on sin and grace. Joshua is the story of the Israelites coming into the Promised Land.

**Psalms
For
March, 2011**

| | | |
|-----|-------|----------|
| 1. | PSALM | 27 |
| 2. | PSALM | 28 |
| 3. | PSALM | 28 |
| 4. | PSALM | 29 |
| 5. | PSALM | 29 |
| 6. | PSALM | 30 |
| 7. | PSALM | 30 |
| 8. | PSALM | 31 |
| 9. | PSALM | 31 |
| 10. | PSALM | 32 |
| 11. | PSALM | 32 |
| 12. | PSALM | 33 |
| 13. | PSALM | 33 |
| 14. | PSALM | 34 |
| 15. | PSALM | 34 |
| 16. | PSALM | 35 |
| 17. | PSALM | 35 |
| 18. | PSALM | 36 |
| 19. | PSALM | 36 |
| 20. | PSALM | 37:1-13 |
| 21. | PSALM | 37:1-13 |
| 22. | PSALM | 37:14-26 |
| 23. | PSALM | 37:14-26 |
| 24. | PSALM | 37:27-40 |
| 25. | PSALM | 37:27-40 |
| 26. | PSALM | 38 |
| 27. | PSALM | 38 |
| 28. | PSALM | 39 |
| 29. | PSALM | 39 |
| 30. | PSALM | 40 |
| 31. | PSALM | 40 |

Read the Psalms 'prayerfully.' Let God speak through the cries of the writer. Let Him speak to your heart in these words.

YOUTH NEWS

Do you know who Merlin is? No, Merlin is not a member of this church, and no Merlin is not a guy either. Merlin is the 14 year old girl that our congregation and specifically our youth sponsor. Merlin has been writing us letters and sending us drawings for almost two years now. Have you read them? They are up for your view on the board by the bathrooms. Now, you may be wondering why does this matter? The main reason would be because as Christians we are called to try to be Christ like and to reach out to others. We do that for Merlin. Every month the youth send \$38 to Compassion who help Merlin by giving her a meal every day, medical attention such as annual doctor visits and shots, and an education, not only in reading, writing, and arithmetic, but in the Bible as well. I can't tell you how many times Merlin has thanked us and told us she was praying to God with thanks for the blessing of our generosity. That money that we use to help her comes from donations not only from the youth but from other members. Last year in VBS the youth raised enough money to sponsor Merlin for 3 months which is great but there are 9 other months in the year. We have had a box with Merlin's photo on it on the table underneath the board that displays her letters for over a year. I opened that box and found around five dollars. No matter how much money comes in that box our youth will send the \$38 every month but it is frustrating to see how many times we pass that box by without a thought to putting even a nickel in. If one member would put a nickel in every Sunday that would raise nearly \$3 to help Merlin. Yet how many times do we put our money in the basket so we can have a donut or in the pop machine so we can have that pop we crave. I'm not looking down, or trying to shame anyone. I just hope that the next time you pass that table by and that board that you stop to check up on Merlin, maybe put a coin or two in the box, and say a little prayer for her. Remember she is praying for you.

God's Peace,
Amy Loker

Youth Updates:

* Place your bids now 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 20th at 11:30 am. Auction winners will be contacted Sunday, March 20th so please be sure to include your phone number when placing a bid. All items will be available for pickup Wednesday, March 23rd from 7-8:30 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 Locker (507-376-6148) with any questions.

* Our Elementary Camp Out/Bowling day is Saturday, March 26th. We will be meeting here at FLC at 3:30 and will be wrapping up around 7:00. Any parents who wish to help should talk to Amy about opportunities.

*The youth will be having their Annual Pancake Breakfast with the Elks on Sunday March 27th. Come enjoy those yummy and fluffy pancakes and help support our youth. Adults are \$6.50 and youth 12 and under are \$3.50.

*The youth will be putting on the service on March 13th. If any youth want to participate and are not already planning on it they should come to Y.F.C. on Wednesday nights to see what is available for them to help out with.