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

August 2026 Evangel

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday—Thursday 8:00 am—12:00 pm
1:00—4:30 pm
Friday 8:00 am—12:00 pm
Church will be locked over the noon hour.
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 – Carrie Adams
(507) 329-5625

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

Arlene Lowe—Co-Treasurer

Debbie Koob—Financial Secretary

Jim & Paula Laffrenzen—Parish Visitors

PASTOR JEANETTE'S ARTICLE

Dear First Lutheran,

Recently, at Synod Assembly, I sat in on a "Question and Answer Time with the Bishop." Many topics were covered, but at one point, Bishop Dee Peterson noted that often, when she attends the closing of a congregation, people are frequently overwhelmed with how many people come back to attend the ceremony. These are people who were impacted by the life and ministry of the congregation. Perhaps they grew up in the congregation or maybe they were a part of the congregation for a period of time later in life. But eventually, they moved on, even though the ministry of the closing congregation shaped them. The encouragement they received during their time in the congregation had blessed them. The lessons they learned in the congregation guided them even when life took them elsewhere. So, they came back to honor the ministry of the closing congregation and give thanks for it. As the Bishop spoke, I watched an older man near me start to have tears in his eyes. My assumption was that he had been part of such a church closing in his life, as he was obviously impacted by, and resonated with, the description. The Bishop was clear as she spoke. Even if the congregation was closing, the ministry of that congregation was living on in the lives of those that were "sent" from that place.

During our 150th Anniversary Celebration, I considered something similar. I was able to talk with people throughout the weekend and heard from pastors, musicians, church lay leaders and more. I didn't even hear all the ways our former lay members are out serving the world, but I would imagine that many of them are educators, farmers, business people and more who are living out their faith that grew while they were at First. Many times, we act as though it is a great "loss" every time a member from our church leaves because they move away or join another church home. And this type of grief is appropriate. It *is* a loss in some ways. But, at the same time, every time a member leaves our church, we are, in a sense, sending them to bless the world in a different place. They are actually missionaries from our congregation. I hope we can all feel such great joy at the thought that we have blessed hundreds of other congregations by shaping Christians at First Lutheran.

Thank you to all who made our 150th Anniversary Celebration a blessed gathering. Many people pulled together to create a welcoming space. In addition, I know many of you hosted people who were returning back home, adding to our joyous time. May God continue to bless us and care for us as we serve the world around us.

Gratefully,
Rev. Jeanette McCormick

Lessons and Themes for the Sundays in August 2026:

8/2/26: Strength In Shared Life

Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 18:2-11, 16-19
2 Corinthians 6:2-10
John 6:51-59

8/9/26: From Denial to Hope

Acts 5:27-32, 40-41
Psalm 49:5-15
1 Corinthians 15:35-44
John 21:1-19

8/16/2026: Hearing the Shepherd's Voice

Acts 13:14, 43-52
Psalm 100:1-5
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

8/23/2026: Promise of Life

Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 97
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
John 17:20-26

8/30/2026: Life Through the Word and Spirit

Acts 5:12-16
Psalm 147:12-20
2 Corinthians 4:13-16
John 5:24-29

Praise the Lord

The following is the financial report for First Lutheran as of June, 2026:

General Fund:

Bal. 5/31/26:	$34,178.78
Inc., June	$21,091.22
Exp., June	$27,994.57
Bal. 5/30/26:	$27,275.43

Grace Lutheran Reimbursement—$19,790.40

Building Fund:

Bal. 5/31/26:	$45,962.84
Inc., June	$6,305.00
Exp., June	$0.00
Bal. 6/30/26:	$52,267.84

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 $2 (NEW PRICE). Funds will be designated to different groups as needed.

Backpack Blessing
Sunday, August 30, 2026
9:30 am

Bring your backpack to church this Sunday and receive a blessing for the school year.

<u>Attention College-Bound Students:</u> Please call the church office to let us know your college address so that we can update our mailing lists and directory. Thanks!

Servants

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)

8/2	9:30	Glenda Lais
8/9	9:30	Ryan McGaughey
8/16	9:30	Pam Fleming
8/23	9:30	Glenda Lais
8/30	9:30	Pam Fleming

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

8/2	9:30	Kathy Craun
8/9	9:30	Todd Hallstrom
8/16	9:30	Judy Selberg
8/23	9:30	Clinton & Alison Nixon Family
8/30	9:30	Adam & Morgan Vosburgh

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

8/2	9:30	Erin Makela
8/9	9:30	Diane Sletten
8/16	9:30	Ed Philipp
8/23	9:30	Youth
8/30	9:30	Adam Vosburgh

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

8/2	9:30	Matt Russell (360-5835)
8/9	9:30	Daren Bauman (360-9275)
8/16	9:30	Midg White (360-3215)
8/23	9:30	Larry Woodbury (360-2689)
8/30	9:30	Midg White (360-3215)

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

8/2	9:30	Doug Frisch
8/9	9:30	Ethan Nixon
8/16	9:30	Pat Demuth
8/23	9:30	Doug Frisch
8/30	9:30	Kevin Fleming

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

8/2	9:30	Dyson Neugebauer
8/9	9:30	Lexi Kleve
8/16	9:30	Kinsley Neugebauer
8/23	9:30	Olivia Gerdes
8/30	9:30	Braelynn Schroeder

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

8/2	9:30	Doug & Julie Christensen & Kathy Craun
8/9	9:30	John & Nora Leinen & Diana White
8/16	9:30	Robert & Bonnie Bents & Miles & Ady Hein
8/23	9:30	Mary Ferguson, Brenda Hurlbut & Diane Sletten
8/30	9:30	Larry & Norma Woodbury & Abbey Craun

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

8/2	9:30	Debbie Koob
8/9	9:30	Carrie Adams
8/16	9:30	Becca McGaughey
8/23	9:30	Ethan Nixon
8/30	9:30	Erin Makela

ATTENTION: During late August there will be sign-up sheets in Centennial Hall 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, Livestream, van driver or ushering, please sign on the sheets 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!

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 June 30, 2026, a total of $6,656.24 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 June 30, 2026, a total of $60,087.75 has been put into the general fund.

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

7th, 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation

FUN NIGHT: Join us on September 2 from 6:30-8:15 pm. We will have food, games and some time together. This is an "optional night." Come meet your Confirmation/Youth Group peers.

Confirmation will begin on September 9 with an orientation meeting with parents at 6:30 pm. On Wednesday, September 16, we will begin class. We will be meeting from 6:30-7:30 pm.

Youth Rummage Sale

Thursday, August 13
8:00 am – 8:00 pm

Friday, August 14
8:00 am – 8:00 pm

Saturday, August 15
8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Bag sale starts at noon on Saturday.

August Birthdays

1	Madyson Bixby	10	Katie Penning	20	Sandy Poppema
3	Korey Stinehart	11	Lesa Johnson	20	Troy Feller
3	Troy Fitzhugh	12	Kinley Feller	20	Aaden Wagner
3	Jason Gerdes	12	Marjorie Livingston	20	Aaron Hagen
3	Lisa Severance	14	John Milbrath	23	Jim Laffrenzen
5	Makynzli Erwin	15	Terry Langland	24	Judy Gerdes
5	Amanda Roberts	16	Lonnie Myrom	25	Marj Broich
6	Bruce Kraft	16	Nancy Myrom	25	Don Wasmund
6	Cyrus Eisele	17	Erin Makela	27	Haley Byroad
6	Hazel Veen	18	Gene Christensen	27	Dennis Zierke
7	Bruce Livingston	18	Pat Elsing	27	Gerald Wachter
7	Sandy Randall	18	Lauren Stanton	28	Adam Feller
9	Tony Potts	19	Linda Towne	30	Nicole Kempema
10	Glenda Lais	19	Jean Black	30	Marless Milbrath

"Jesus Walks on Water"

"Peter started to sink."

In the early days of sailing, a boy was on his first training voyage.

One day he was assigned to climb the mast. Halfway up, he made the mistake of looking down. He became dizzy and was in grave danger of falling.

An old sailor called out to him, "Look up at the sky, boy! Look at the sky!" The boy followed the instructions and resumed his climb safely.

Peter made the same mistake the boy did. He took his eyes off his goal. He looked down into the wind-whipped sea and began to sink.

When things get stormy in life, do we fix our eyes on the storm or on Jesus?

Lord, completing the work of your church, our Father's kingdom on earth, is a lot like walking on water in a storm. The only way we can do it is to keep our eyes fixed on you.

Illustrated Daily Homilies by Mark Lick, SJ

AUGUST 2026 YOUTH NEWS

Friday, August 7 from 6:00-8:00 pm
HIGH SCHOOL/YOUNG ADULT ONLY hangout at Pizza Ranch for dinner and fun zone

Sunday, August 23
Join us for YOUTH SUNDAY and come to hear about all the amazing adventures we had at Badlands Ministries and Shetek Lutheran Bible Camp this summer.

Sunday, August 30
Backpack Blessing & Noisy Offering Resumes

RUMMAGE SALE

There are sign-up sheets on the youth bulletin board for times to help with set-up prep and help during the sale. If you would like to help with organizing before the set-up, stop by during church office hours and there is a list on Brenda's door as to what needs to be done. The old youth room (next to the Coat Ministry Room) is our Adult Clothing Room for the rummage sale. Thanks to the many people that have come so far to help sort, fold and hang clothes. If you'd like to come and help, feel free to stop by whenever the church is open. If possible, sorting donated clothing by size before bringing it in is appreciated, but not required. There are labels on the tables for sorting pants and labels on racks for hanging clothes.

Rummage Sale hours are August 13 (Thursday) and August 14 (Friday) from 8:00 am – 8:00 pm and August 15 (Saturday) from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.
Want to shop early? Come help prep for the sale and buy some treasures before everything gets picked over.
This year we are also doing a **church only** pre-sale for our **library room**. STARTING **SUNDAY, AUGUST 2** check out the Lion's Den and find a treasure or two or more. All proceeds from the rummage sale support the ministries of First Lutheran - youth summer trips, church projects, etc. as decided by the youth committee team.

The Lion's Den Room is our Library Room for the rummage sale. Volunteers are welcome to help sort and organize books and media anytime the church office is open. There are many children's books that could be sorted by chapter books, board books, etc. if anyone is interested. Our goal is to have the clothing and library rooms organized ahead of time so we can focus on the main sale areas during the week of the sale.

There will not be a meal served during the rummage sale this year. We will have food for workers. If anyone is interested in providing meals for volunteers during the busy prep and sale days, just talk to Brenda Richards.

Whether you can help with planning, sorting, pricing, setting up, working during the sale, or cleaning up afterward, we would love to have you join us. Any help you can provide is greatly appreciated. Did you know that the youth group has a fundraising Facebook page? The link can be found on the church's website. Check it out for updates on this fundraiser and please share. Questions? Want to help? Contact Brenda Richards. Thank you for supporting our youth ministry and helping make this fundraiser a success!

KFC registrations will be available at the Intermediate School on August 26 and at Prairie Elementary on August 27 from 8:00 am-8:00 pm each day. Use this QR code to register online easily and at any time.

Dates to put on your calendar:
Wednesday, September 2 = Confirmation youth fun night
Wednesday, September 9 = Confirmation parent night
Wednesday, September 23 = First day of KFC

Save the dates for next summer: June 28 - July 2, 2027 = National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN

GRACIAS! THANK YOU! THANKS FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE! WE APPRECIATE YOU! MANY THANKS! MUCHAS GRACIAS

August 2026

THE CANEWS FROM SHETEK

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 all the beautiful items that were donated and your amazing support for camp!

Thank You for a Great Summer!

Upcoming Events

August 1 - Hiking Club

August 12-15 - See us at the Murray County Fair

September 9 - Quilting Day

Register online at Shetek.org or Call 507-763-3567

Wish List

- New Vacuum
- Children's Books
- Spark Bibles
- Office Supplies-Dry Erase Markers, paper
- Arts & Crafts Supplies
- Washing Machine

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!