

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

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

July
2024

Evangel



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
Debbie Koob—Financial Secretary
Jim & Paula Laffrenzen—Parish Visitors

PASTOR JEANETTE'S ARTICLE

Dear First Lutheran,

On June 7-8, I attended the 2024 Southwestern MN Synod Assembly at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN. A special word of thanks to Tim and Heidi Tarus for representing First as delegates. I am grateful we have representation at these gatherings so that our congregational voice is "heard."

Friday evening, we gathered in fellowship and then celebrated ordination anniversaries and remembered pastors who have died during the preceding year. Gloria Dei (Redwood Falls) was given the Lutheran Social Services Servant of Christ award. Bishop Nikosinathi Myaka of the Southeastern Diocese of South Africa and one of his associates shared about the church in South Africa and ministry priorities there. They led us in song, as well.

On Saturday, I was a part of the worship procession for the service of Holy Communion and then the assembly started. This year's assembly was hybrid and delegates could choose whether to participate in person or online. The time of the assembly was also significantly reduced. Several important resolutions and votes were passed during this assembly. Resolution 24.03 referred to some bylaw changes to the Synod's constitution. In particular, references to the Engaging Leaders Board, Equipping Congregations Board and Serving in God's World were removed since those committees are no longer meeting. (The work of these committees are often being done in other groups. For instance, I serve on our Synod's Hunger Team. Serving in God's World used to address issues of hunger in our synod along with topics such as environmental justice. Now, smaller groups meet and address more focused topics.) The Synod's Policies and Procedures Committee then recommended to establish Management and Mission Support Committee, the Policies and Procedures Committee and the Servant Leadership Committee as standing committees in all the bylaws for the Southwestern MN Synod. The number of people serving on these committees was also established. Changes in the numbers of people needed in the committees were made to better place individuals in areas where the highest amount of help is needed and to better reflect the decline of rostered leaders/willing lay volunteers in our synod. The Policies and Procedures Committee also recommended that Synod Council members be eligible to serve for two consecutive terms. Though this decision does *not* affect my service, the synod council (myself included) felt strongly that this change be implemented. Serving on synod council requires learning about a wide variety of details in regard to the life of the Synod. Many council members feel like it takes at least a year to learn all that needs to be known. Therefore, each council member only feels "useful" for 1-2 years of service. Furthermore, with many seats on synod council being left open, there was limited "institutional memory" on Synod Council. In their background information about the recommendation, Policies and Procedures notes, "The recommendation strives to create broader Conference representation and voice through one lay member and one rostered minister member per Conference, while seeking representation of male/female balance and persons of color or whose primary language is other than English (per †S6.04.01). Conferences have the responsibility to identify and elect these members; if a member enjoys serving and wants to continue, there may not be an election for that position for 6 years. One youth member (under age 18), one young adult member (age 18-30), and four at-large members stand for election at the Synod Assembly. Both the current and the proposed maximum number of Synod Council members is 30 persons." People were elected to various Synod Council positions and to represent the Southwestern MN Synod at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in the summer of 2025. The 2026 proposed budget was also passed. This budget was, once again, a deficit budget. However, Synod Council has made moves to reduce the amount of deficit gradually for the upcoming years and work towards a balanced budget. This has involved some difficult changes such as reducing the Synod staff by half a person, reducing giving churchwide and reducing giving to various partners (Lutheran Campus Ministry, Minnesota Council of Churches, Lutheran Advocacy of Minnesota and Luther Seminary). A strong emphasis was placed on the reality that, if we all want our synodical resources (available to pastors and lay people alike) to remain strong, we must all do what we can to sustain and increase our synodical giving. Compensation guidelines were proposed by the Compensation Committee which advocated for a 3% cost of living increase for ordained leaders along with a step increase. As a forementioned, all of these noted areas "passed" in unanimous or near unanimous votes.

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PASTOR JEANETTE'S ARTICLE

Two resolutions did not pass at the synod assembly. The first, Resolution 24.01, was entitled, “Clarifying Question Regarding Homosexual Relationships.” It resolved, “that the 2024 Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly, direct this resolution be forwarded to the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Council, to forward this resolution to the Church Council, with a request that it be transmitted to the Office of Presiding Bishop and the Task Force working on revisions to HS:GT, to make a clear statement on that homosexual relationships are not sinful...”. That is, currently, in the ELCA pastors, individuals and congregations alike are given great leeway in regards to their teaching and beliefs about gay and lesbian relationships. Therefore, there is not uniformity in belief amongst churches or pastors. The author noted that this has caused devastation amongst LGBTQ couples who have assumed that congregations would be supportive, only to learn that most in the congregation are not. Likewise, the author noted that this reality may lead people to leave Christianity out of frustration and causes hardships for pastors.

The author of the resolution rescinded the resolution before the vote noting that he did not want to lead to more hardship and conflict and did not feel confident in the resolution process. No vote was, therefore taken on the resolution. Conversely, Resolution 24.02 was entitled, “Regarding Revisions to Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust. It resolved “that the Shetek Conference memorialize the 2024 Synod Assembly of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA to officially oppose and urge the rejection of any changes to Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust which diminish its “profound respect for the conscience-bound belief,” of those who hold traditional Christian positions on same-gender sexual behavior, and be it further, that the Shetek Conference urges the 2024 Synod Assembly of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA to recommit itself to mutual respect for the conscience-bound beliefs of all congregations, clergy, and laypersons in all of its public expressions, and be it further [and] that the 2024 Synod Assembly of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod, direct this resolution be forwarded to the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Council, to forward this resolution to the Church Council with a request that it be transmitted to the Office of the Presiding Bishop and the task force working on revisions to HS:GT.” To clarify, when the ELCA voted to allow gay and lesbian individuals to serve as pastors, they also affirmed that “conscience-bound” individuals and congregations who did not agree with the decision would be allowed to act as they chose in their respective settings. This resolution is urging that that same pattern be upheld. Much discussion ensued about terminology in the resolution, if the resolution would prohibit any future changes to the Social Statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, if there was legitimacy in approving something that upheld a decision that was currently being upheld anyway, etc. The vote on this resolution also did not pass.

Beyond business, Bishop Dee Pederson provided a report on the Synod. In her report, she specifically noted the importance of churches working together with other ELCA congregation and with other denominations. I was very proud that we do both! Rev. Dr. Philip Hirsch (Executive Director of Christian Community and Leadership) for the ELCA provided an update on churchwide. Dr. Aaron Suomala Folkerds provided an informative and inspiring talk about what we are called to do as Christians. He, in particular, emphasized how he was transformed through the grief process after his young daughter died. As part of the Synod’s hunger team, I presented the Bread Basket Award to Borgund Lutheran (who gives the most per capita to ELCA World Hunger). We closed the assembly with the South African Delegates leading us in song.

With this Synod Assembly, I concluded my service on Synod Council. Thank you for supporting me in this work. I truly learned a great deal about available resources, how the greater church operates, struggles/successes throughout the Synod and met many inspiring individuals. Please don’t hesitate to reach out with questions about any of the noted decisions at Synod Assembly.

Gratefully,
Rev. Jeanette McCormick

https://swmnelca.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2024/05/UPDATED-PreAssembly-Book.pdf
Ibid.

Ibid, refers to “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust”



Lessons and Themes for the Sundays in July, 2024:

7/7/24: 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 2:1-5
 Psalm 123
 2 Corinthians 12:2-10
 Mark 6:1-13

7/14/24: 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 7:7-15
 Psalm 85:8-13
 Ephesians 1:3-14
 Mark 6:14-29

7/21/24: 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:1-6
 Psalm 23
 Ephesians 2:11-22
 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

7/28/24: 10th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 4:42-44
 Psalm 145:10-18
 Ephesians 3:14-21
 John 6:1-21

Praise the Lord

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

General Fund:

Bal. 4/30/24:	(\$26,845.45)
Inc., May	\$24,411.76
Exp., May	\$27,436.21
Bal. 5/31/24:	(\$29,869.90)
(The amount shows behind budget.)	
Grace Lutheran Reimbursement—	
	\$14,601.90

Building Fund:

Bal. 4/30/24:	\$36,331.25
Inc., May	\$700.00
Exp., May	\$6,463.99
Bal. 5/32/24:	\$30,567.26



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.



DON'T FORGET
TO TITHE WHILE
YOU'RE AWAY



The office
will be
closed on
Thursday,
July 4th &
Friday, July 5 for the
4th of July Holiday.

Servants

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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)

7/7	9:30	Ryan McGaughey
7/14	9:30	Pam Fleming
7/21	9:30	Kathy Summers
7/28	9:30	Glenda Lais

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

7/7	9:30	Daren Bauman (360-9275)
7/14	9:30	Midg White (360-3215)
7/21	9:30	Larry Woodbury (360-2689)
7/28	9:30	Matt Russell (360-5832)

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

7/7	9:30	Paula Laffrenzen
7/14	9:30	Matt Russell
7/21	9:30	Ed Philipp
7/28	9:30	Sandy Poppema

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

7/7	9:30	Doug & Julie Christensen
7/14	9:30	John Kramer
7/21	9:30	John & Nora Leinen
7/28	9:30	Judy Selberg

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

7/7	9:30	Trey Milbrath
7/14	9:30	Aaden Wagner
7/21	9:30	Ethan Nixon
7/28	9:30	Aaden Wagner

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

7/7	9:30	Debbie Koob
7/14	9:30	Carrie Adams
7/21	9:30	Becca McGaughey
7/28	9:30	Debbie Koob

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

7/7	9:30	Todd Hallstrom & Daren & Julie Bauman
7/14	9:30	Todd & Darcy Poppema & Diane Sletten
7/21	9:30	Sandy Poppema, Fern Burmeister & Diana White
7/28	9:30	Larry & Norma Woodbury & Robert & Bonnie Bents

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

7/7	9:30	Paul Summers
7/14	9:30	Kevin Fleming
7/21	9:30	Doug Frisch
7/28	9:30	Pat Demuth



We are looking for co-chairs for the 150th Anniversary Celebration to be held the summer of 2026. If you are interested, please contact a council member or the church office by August 15!

July Birthdays



2	Travis Thiner	11	Kimberly Kraft	29	Amber Waldner
2	Jesse Cain	12	Robin Nelson	30	Jeanette McCormick
3	Nelson Tarus	13	Rolf Mahlberg	31	Olivia Adams
4	Angie Randgaard	13	Valeri Wilkening		
4	Tim Tarus	14	Ruth Rehborg		
4	Arnold Waldner	15	Nicholas Dieter		
5	Devin Frodermann	16	Jordyn Sholes		
5	Betty Nelson	17	Courtney Faragher		
5	Shari Nelson	19	Katelyn Frodermann		
6	Russell Miller	20	Zachary McGaughey		
6	Estelle Nienkerk	22	Jim Black		
7	Crystal Severance	24	Krista Van Note		
9	Josh Hein	25	John Widboom		
9	Cindy Rogers	27	Debra Thueson		
9	Matt Russell	28	Daren Bauman		
9	Pam Stewart	28	Emily Nienkerk		
10	Jordon Rogers	28	Rod Poppema		
11	Dennis Christensen	28	Grayson Waldner		



“Jesus Sends Out the Twelve”

“They went out and preached.”

A missionary in New Guinea tells this story. An old man, a recent convert to Christianity, used to come daily to the mission hospital to read the Gospel to outpatients.

One day the man experienced trouble reading. The doctor checked the old man’s eyes and discovered he was going blind. Next day the old man didn’t show up at the hospital. Someone said he had gone off into the hills alone. Weeks later a boy led the doctor to the man.

The old man explained to the doctor that he was memorizing the Gospels while he could still see. “Soon I’ll be back at the hospital, doctor,” he said, “and I’ll continue my work of teaching the Gospel to the outpatients.”

How do we overcome obstacles that keep us from sharing the Gospel?

Jesus said, “There is a large harvest, but few workers to gather in it.” - Luke 10:2

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 May 31, 2024, a total of \$6,382.49 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 May 31, 2024, a total of \$57,044.00 has been put into the general fund.



Please join us after church on Wednesday nights beginning June 19 for ice cream! Every Wednesday through August 21, ice cream and toppings will be served in the church parking lot. It's easy and fun to be part of this

ministry to our church and community. If you would like to help serve ice cream, give me a call at 507-370-4218. There is not much work, a short time commitment and lots of smiling faces.

Mary Ingenthron

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

“A Prayer for Our Nation”



Almighty God, we remember that you are the Lord of all nations including the United States of America. We are mindful that we stand responsible and accountable before you as we consider our stewardship as citizens of this

land. Make us equal to our challenges, O Lord. Guide us into providing justice for all. Turn our hearts toward our children that we may teach them rightly to please you in their citizenship. Enable us to make certain that all citizens, affluent and poor, young and old, male and female are treated fairly and never forgotten. Most of all, keep us aware of your providential care and guidance that we may never assume that we are totally on our own. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

There will be no worship service on Wednesday, July 3.



JULY YOUTH NEWS

Community Kids' Camp was a HUGE success! On average we had 75 kids per night along with over 60 volunteers!. I always say we have amazing volunteers. Half of these volunteers came from our congregation! THANK YOU! Thanks to all who helped serve and prepare our meal. Thanks to those that taught and led the stations along with those that assisted with leading all of the kids around. Thanks to the registration crew, the skit group, the decoration/set up crew, the final night clean up crew and we can't forget about the tech crew!!! And a **HUGE THANK YOU** to the custodial crew that REALLY made a difference in keeping the church clean (every night!) during a busy and messy week when our custodians were on vacation - cleaning the bathrooms, taking out the trash, vacuuming, not to mention running around assisting me with taking all of the many awesome pictures! We are thankful for the great collaboration between the four churches that made Community Kids Camp happen! Thanks again to all the volunteers who served our kids and all of the families who brought their kids here! We had a super fun and MESSY week!

A huge thank you to Shetek Lutheran Bible camp for leading a two hour day camp for us on June 3. The kids had a blast. We had 22 kids join us for all of the fun.

Speaking of Shetek, we had two 4th graders spend a week at camp with me at the end of June, as well as one 8th grader from our Ethiopian church friends. We had two 2nd graders spend half of a week at camp that same week. Thanks so much for your support for all of our youth and programs.

June 21 - We took several of our young people to Getting's Garden in Iowa for a fun day of strawberry fun!

July 9 - Youth and children please join us from 8:00 am—4:00 pm for day camp fun at church. Please RSVP. If you want to volunteer, talk with Brenda today! We have lots of fun planned!

RUMMAGE SALE - YES - you can bring your stuff now! Please check where you can put your stuff until we get the signs posted and ESPECIALLY if you have LARGE items. We are planning to organize as much of the items ahead of time by sections, size, etc. and if you would like to help with that talk to Brenda about helping. If you are bringing bigger items or need a pick up, please talk to Brenda Richards. We start official garage sale week prep on Sunday, August 11 after church and will be working all week to get it ready.

The RUMMAGE SALE will run from Thursday - Saturday this year.

August 15—8 am-8 pm August 16—8 am-8 pm August 17—8 am-4 pm

Feel free to help anytime. Want to shop early????? Come and help us prep!



July 2 from 2:00-4:00 pm the National Gathering trip crew will be meeting for some team building activities.

July 16-20 - National Gathering. We have seven youths and three adults going. If anyone has any clear stadium bags, let Brenda know ASAP. Sending for Gathering Crew will be during the service on Sunday July 14.

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

July 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



Still time to come to the lake!

Welcome to the new Shetek Hiking Club - our monthly gathering to explore trails all across southwest Minnesota! Hike with us once a month throughout the year to meet new friends and explore our region. Hikes range from easy to strenuous, and include state parks and trails, county parks, and more. Let's move and learn together! Contact Katie at Katie@shetek.org or 507-763-3567 for more information.

**Register at shetek.org or
Call 507-763-3567 for more information**

Wish List

- Glue and Glue Sticks*
- Power Strips*
- Mini Vans*
- Volunteers*

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/>

Goal

81%

FUNDRAISING BIRCH

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!