

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

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

March 2025

Evangel



*Keeping
a Holy Lent*

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 and Grace,

Despite Lent being about as late as it could possibly be this year, I find myself still surprised that it is almost here! I hope you participate in Lenten meals and services as a way to grow in faith in God and love between each other. A special word of thanks to mentors in both our congregations who are guiding our Confirmation youth in faith conversations and spiritual growth. Consistently, youth mention that mentoring was an extremely positive part of their faith journey. I am grateful to so many adults who faithfully say yes to this opportunity so we can continue to offer it as part of our programming.

Recently, an individual on First Lutheran's Worship and Music team noted a conversation with a member about Holy Week (which starts on April 13 this year). The individual, who was newer to the church, wasn't really aware of what Holy Week is, when services would be held and why they should attend on those days. The person simply didn't know about the significance of these church observances. The conversation caused us, as a Worship and Music Team, to discuss more deeply how we can ensure that people are informed about religious holidays that do not fall on Sundays. Many of us who have attended church our whole lives assume everyone knows about these days. However, from my time teaching Confirmation and conversations with people who are less familiar with the church, it is evident to me that many people in our communities (perhaps most) are not informed about several of our church traditions. Perhaps they do not attend services because they don't understand the meaning of these experiences that are available to them.

March 5 is Ash Wednesday. Service at Grace Lutheran is at 5:30 pm and service at First Lutheran is at 7:00 pm. (There will still be Kids for Christ and a meal at First Lutheran.) As we get ready for Ash Wednesday, I am asking for your help. Think about a child, grandchild, friend or co-church member you could invite to the service. Or, perhaps, even just mention that you are planning to attend church that night so they know about the opportunity. If questions arise about the significance of this day, I encourage you to share that Ash Wednesday is a day during which we commemorate the start of Lent, a time that denotes Jesus' suffering on our behalf, encourages us to engage in deeper reflection and worship as well as calls us to serve our neighbors as Christ serves us. It is a time marked by simplicity, when we consider our relationship with Jesus, our neighbors and our material possessions, including wealth. Ash Wednesday specifically encourages us to remember that God is God and we are mere mortals. We pause to think about our priorities and relationships in this lifetime that pass quickly. The day also encourages us to confess our sins and be assured that we are forgiven by God so that we can turn towards the people around us in love. You, too, might have your own insights about Ash Wednesday that you could share with folks. I encourage you to do this so that everyone can experience Ash Wednesday, a day that so many of us find important and gratifying.

As Lutherans, inviting others to participate in our faith is often challenging and uncomfortable. However, as I often remind people, following Jesus isn't supposed to be easy. The invitation does not need to be pushy. (I discourage pushiness since it usually isn't helpful.) But, the invitation can simply be informative, welcoming and caring. Likewise, I urge you to start by inviting your family and friends closest to you. You might be surprised by who is not informed about Ash Wednesday.

Lenten blessings to you all. May these 40 days help you feel Christ's presence as well as challenge you in your faith journey and to welcome your neighbors to join you!

In Christ,

Rev. Jeanette McCormick



Lessons and Themes for the Sundays in March, 2025:

3/2/25: Transfiguration

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 36:5-10
Luke 9:28-45

3/5/25: Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, 21-22
Psalm 5:7-8
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6; 10
Luke 9:51-62

3/9/25: Good Samaritan (1st Sunday in Lent)

Romans 13:8-14
Psalm 15
Luke 10:25-42

3/16/25: Lament of Jerusalem (2nd Sunday in Lent)

James 5:1-6
Psalm 122
Luke 13:1-9, 31-35

3/23/25: Lost Sheep, Coin, Son (3rd Sunday in Lent)

Ephesians 2:1-10
Psalm 103:3-6
Luke 7:36-50

3/30/2025: Rich Man and Lazarus (4th Sunday in Lent)

1 Peter 3:8-12
Psalm 41:1-3
Luke 16:19-31

Praise the Lord

The following is the financial report for First Lutheran as of January, 2025:

General Fund:

Bal. 12/31/24: \$5,000.57
Inc., January \$25,810.52
Exp., January \$30,285.48
Bal. 1/31/25: \$525.61

Grace Lutheran Reimbursement—\$3,165.72

Building Fund:

Bal. 12/31/24: \$4,669.99
Inc., January \$398.00
Exp., January \$3,801.60
Bal. 1/31/25: \$1,592.75



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.



Reminder:
On Sunday,
March 9 the
time changes.
(Set Clocks
Ahead 1 Hour)

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

3/2	9:30	Braelynn Schroeder
3/5	7:00PM	Dyson Neugebauer
3/9	9:30	Parker Kleve
3/16	9:30	Aaden Wagner
3/23	9:30	Trey Milbrath
3/30	9:30	Ethan Nixon

Servants

Page 4

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)

3/2	9:30	Kathy Summers
3/5	7:00PM	Pam Fleming
3/9	9:30	Glenda Lais
3/16	9:30	Ryan McGaughey
3/23	9:30	Pam Fleming
3/30	9:30	Kathy Summers

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

3/2	9:30	Ryan McGaughey
3/5	7:00PM	Erin Makela
3/9	9:30	Cooper Scripture
3/16	9:30	Ed Philipp
3/23	9:30	Paula Laffrenzen
3/30	9:30	Todd Hallstrom

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

3/2	9:30	Midg White (360-3215)
3/9	9:30	Larry Woodbury (360-2689)
3/16	9:30	Matt Russell (360-5835)
3/23	9:30	Midg White (360-3215)
3/30	9:30	Daren Bauman (360-9275)

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

3/2	9:30	Diane Sletten
3/5	7:00PM	Doug & Julie Christensen
3/9	9:30	Diana White
3/12	6:00PM	Judy Selberg
3/16	9:30	John Kramer
3/19	6:00PM	Lonnie & Nancy Myrom
3/23	9:30	Kathy Craun
3/26	6:00PM	John & Nora Leinen
3/30	9:30	Adam Vosburgh & Morgan Rukstales

Acolyte Schedule on page 3.

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

3/2	9:30	Paul Summers
3/5	7:00PM	Ethan Nixon
3/9	9:30	Pat Demuth
3/12	6:00PM	Kevin Fleming
3/16	9:30	Doug Frisch
3/19	6:00PM	Ethan Nixon
3/23	9:30	Kevin Fleming
3/26	6:00PM	Doug Frisch
3/30	9:30	Paul Summers

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

3/2	9:30	Erin Makela
3/5	7:00PM	Debbie Koob
3/9	9:30	Becca McGaughey
3/16	9:30	Carrie Adams
3/23	9:30	Debbie Koob
3/30	9:30	Ethan Nixon

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

3/2	9:30	John & Nora Leinen & John Kramer
3/9	9:30	Todd Hallstrom & Bob & Bonnie Bents
3/16	9:30	Debbie & Dale Koob & Linda Nelson
3/23	9:30	Diana White & Daren & Julie Bauman
3/30	9:30	Larry & Norma Woodbury & Todd & Darcy Poppema



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 January 31, 2025, a total of **\$6,473.74** 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.



EASTER LILIES will be used at our Easter service on April 20. 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 9:30 am service or if you will leave them here. The cost for a Lily will be \$10. The deadline to have your order in is April 4. There will be **NO** orders taken after this date so get your order in early.



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 January 31, 2025, a total of **\$57,766.50** has been put into the general fund.

LENTEN SUPPERS @ FIRST

- March 12— Youth (Walking Taco's)
- March 19—Finance (Pizza)
- March 26—Worship & Music Team (Ham & Turkey Sandwiches)
- April 2—Evangelism Team (Tater Tot Hotdish)
- April 9—Church Council (BBQ's)

The meal will be served from 5:15 to 5:45 pm.



Ash Wednesday

During Lent, we will be having Lenten suppers at 5:15 pm and Lenten services at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary. Lent begins on March 5 with Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 pm. Lenten meals begin the following week on March 12.

Food Drive



Up coming Event: March is Minnesota Food Share Month. This means our faith community, by registering for the March Campaign, can increase donations to the local Manna Food Pantry. Place donated, nonperishable food items in the shopping cart in the lower narthex starting on March 1. Also consider donating cash or grocery gift cards. The food shelf can *stretch* cash donations further

because of their access to discount products and programs. Help us feed more local families and end hunger in our community.

March Birthdays



1	Robert Strouth	10	Jasmine Ober	20	Stephanie Olson
1	Ashley Ternus	11	Melissa Ternus	21	Paul Selberg
1	Nicole Ternus	12	Nicole Metz	21	Miles Veen
2	Charles Woizeschke	13	Greg Kempema	24	Sharon Engelson
3	Nathan Faragher	13	Lori Nienkerk	24	Maggie Gerdes
3	Ed Philipp	14	Terry Neugebauer	24	Joshua Kruse
4	Merle Elsing	14	Colton Poppema	24	Marie Wasmund-Mews
4	Margaret Hurlbut-Vosburgh	15	Leroy Merkel	25	Don Craun
6	Kim Hellstrom	16	Allyson Hagen	25	Pam Fleming
6	Kerry Johnson	16	Janet Pedley	26	Dana Larson
6	Presley Orwig	16	Chad Randgaard	27	Olivia Gerdes
6	Presley Orwig	16	Letti Harms	29	Brenda Stanton
7	Mariah Lowe	18	Austin Peters-Smith	30	Carter Como
7	Ashlyn Schaffer	19	Scott Kraft	30	Lynnea Faragher
7	Jordyn Wasmund	19	Bailey Kruse	30	Matthew Poppema
9	Aaliyah Schaffer	19	Daniel Kruse	30	Kohen Luhman
9	Nathan Wajer	19	Chad Larson	31	Joan Doeden
10	Dylan Livingston	19	Olivia Stanton		

“Parable of Two Pray-ers”

“I’m glad I’m not like the others.”

William Barclay was on a train. He looked out the window at a white cottage. It looked lovely against the green hillside.

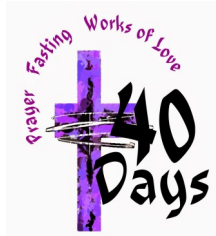
Ten months later he was on the same train. A layer of new snow covered the ground. Barclay remembered the lovely white cottage and watched for it again. This time, however, he was shocked. Against the new snow it looked drab, soiled, and downright dirty.

When we compare ourselves to others, we might appear pretty good. But if we could see ourselves alongside the person God made us to be, we might be shocked. We might respond as the tax collector did: “God have pity on me, a sinner!”

How much do we compare ourselves to others?

Lord, help us take to heart Paul’s words: “Each one should judge his own conduct. If it is good, then he can be proud...without having to compare it with what someone else has done.—Galatians 6:4

Illustrated Daily Homilies by Mark Lick, SJ



Thursday Lenten Luncheons for 2025

March 13– American Lutheran—Rev. John Mitchem
March 20 – First United Methodist—Rev. Galen Smith
March 27 - First Lutheran—Rev. Jeremy Hallquist
April 3 – Westminster Presbyterian—Rev. Jeanette McCormick

Services will begin at 12:00 pm and end at 12:30 pm. Each service will feature a different pastor. These services are ecumenical in nature. Please join us and invite a friend!

Starting March 1—New Office Hours



Monday—Thursday

8:00 am—12:00 pm

1:00—4:30 pm

Friday

8:00 am—12:00 pm

The church will be locked during the noon hour (12:00—1:00 pm).



DEATH & SYMPATHY:

MarjorieAnn Louise Larson died December 31, 2024 at the age of 93 years. Her memorial service was held here at First Lutheran Church on January 3, 2025. We extend our Christian sympathy to her family.

DEATH & SYMPATHY:

June Rene Black died December 29, 2024 at the age of 58 years. Her memorial service was held here at First Lutheran Church on January 24, 2025. We extend our Christian sympathy to her family.

DEATH & SYMPATHY:

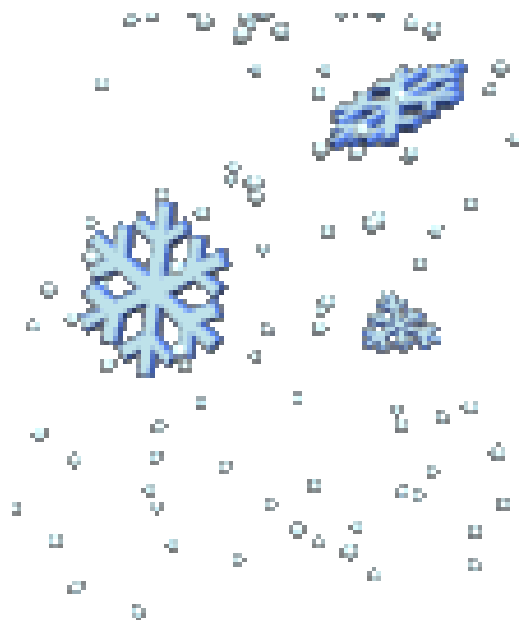
Betty Marie Nelson died January 22, 2025 at the age of 87 years. Her memorial service was held here at First Lutheran Church on January 30, 2025. We extend our Christian sympathy to her family.

March Snow

This isn't just a winter snow; It's much too soft and warm.
 Without the cold and freezing air, It hath a spring like charm.
 'Tis almost gentle on my cheek; As though it tried to say,
 Do let me have this little time; For soon I'll melt away.

This isn't January snow – For see, it's much too wet.
 And certainly might prove to be; The very last we'll get.
 The flakes are twirling in the air; As though they've surely found
 Their beauty quickly fades from sight; When're they reach the ground.

This isn't really winter snow; It's part of early spring,
 A fond farewell to wintertime; Before the birds shall sing.
 So very gentle in its way, It brings a thrill to you;
 A March snow soft against your cheek; Says winter's almost through.





Grief Support Group

*Help and encouragement
after the death of a loved one*

At a GriefShare group, you'll find understanding, guidance, relief, and a safe place to navigate the challenges of grief. Come join us!

Tuesdays; 2:00 - 3:30 pm

March 4 - May 27

First Lutheran Church

1200 4th Avenue, Worthington, MN 56187

To register, call 507-376-6148

griefshare.org



MARCH YOUTH NEWS

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sundays at 8:45 am

Confirmation and Youth Group: Wednesdays from 6:30-8:15 pm

SILENT AUCTION LENT 2025 - We will start setting up on Wednesday, March 5 and plan to have it all ready to go on Sunday, March 9. Donations will be accepted throughout the auction. We will end the auction on Sunday, April 6 at 11:00 am.

We have received several donations from businesses so far and there are more coming in. As of the first week of February the following businesses have graciously donated items for the silent auction:

Arnold's Park
Memorial Auditorium
Nickel & Associates
Minnesota Twins (Austin Martin signed baseball)
Rune's Furniture
Sioux Falls Canaries
Sky Force Basketball
Washington Pavilion
Wild Water West
RiseFest
Johnson Jewelry
Indian Island Winery
Great Bear
And more.....



We are taking donations just like last year: single items, items for baskets, gift cards, etc. There is a pink donation bucket outside of Brenda's office if you want to leave anything there. Talk with Brenda with any questions.

Save the Date:

Friday and Saturday, April 11-12 - Confirmation Retreat @ Shetek

Sunday, May 4 - 507 at Living Waters Covenant Church

Wednesday, May 21 - All church end of the year picnic

June 9-12—Community Kids' Camp (VBS)

July 20 - July 25—High School Mission Trip to Lake Traverse Reservation, SD

July 20 - July 25—Elementary and Middle School groups going to Shetek Bible Camp



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

March 2025



14 Keeley Island Drive
Slayton, MN 56172
507-763-3567
camp@shetek.org
www.shetek.org

Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers



Please apply to join our fun staff this summer. <https://shetek.org/work-at-shetek/>



Please join us for our upcoming events!

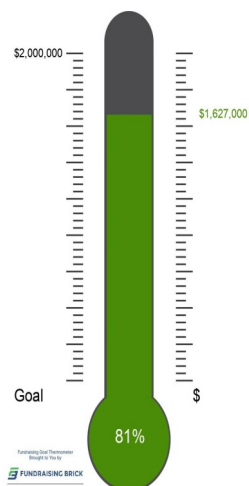
Wish List

- Volunteers*
- New Vacuums*
- Keurig*
- Spark Bibles*
- Board Games*
- Office Supplies – Staplers, dry erase markers, paper*

Mark your Calendar

- March 10 Hiking Club*
- March 14-15 Confirmation Retreat*
- March 29 Sugarbush Saturday 9am-1pm*
- April 6 Hiking Club*
- April 11-12 Confirmation Retreat*
- April 21-24 Quilt & Craft Retreat*

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/>



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!