

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

May
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,

This month, May 2026, I will conclude my two-year term as President of the Worthington Area Ministerial Association. I am grateful for all of the support as I served in this capacity. Most of the long-standing pastors in Worthington have served on the executive committee at some point in their ministry and I felt good about “doing my part” and serving, as well.

Over the past two years, the executive committee has coordinated several efforts and addressed several issues. Several organizations such as Public Health, Helping Hands Pregnancy Center, Worthington Hospice Cottage, Our Lady of Guadalupe Free Clinic and the Worthington Christian School have wanted to make connections to the Association. The executive committee coordinates presentations/emails from such groups. Also, after the flooding of 2024, FEMA wanted to build stronger connections to our local communities to help them plan better for emergency situations. Members of the executive committee, including myself, met with representatives and have continued conversations with Town Hall, the Emergency Management Director/Deputy Administrator, of Nobles County. Over time, we have expanded conversations with the county to include topics such as utilizing church buildings to serve our communities in emergency situations, responding to disasters/school shootings and providing evacuation plans for vulnerable community members. We plan that these topics will continue to be addressed in the future. One of our greatest accomplishments was working with United Community Action Partnership (UCAP) to create a fund (via their system) for transient individuals who stop by various congregations seeking support. The previous system for providing support had not been working well, and it was often unclear whether or not funds were available for those in need. While we still hope to improve the newly established system with UCAP, having a central, known funding source seems to have reduced the amount of times transient individuals pass through many congregations in town seeking resources. In addition, the executive committee discusses how to ensure that the Globe editorial schedule, nursing home services and commissioner prayer opportunities go as smoothly as possible.

One of the main topics the executive committee has been working on has been lack of ministerial attendance at the meetings. Currently, many congregations in Worthington have at least one vacancy in their pastoral staff. This, of course, translates to fewer individuals being available to attend meetings. Many pastors express having more and more work to do with fewer people to support them in such work. Therefore, ministerial meetings cannot be a top priority for them. Over the year, the executive committee has created surveys and led conversations about how to manage this reality. Next year, the ministerial plans to have fewer business meetings and more prayer/get to know each other meetings that are shorter in nature. The ministerial also plans to offer more continuing education opportunities as many pastors noted they desired more local opportunities. Finally, we found that pastors seemed eager to go and visit various organizations in town and see their operating spaces, so we hope to coordinate at least one such opportunity.

I believe my greatest contribution as President has been working to connect our long standing Anglo congregations to our immigrant/refugee congregations in the committee. During the past couple of years, we hosted several “multicultural pastors” meetings to try to help congregations get to know each other better and hear about the needs of some of our newer congregations. I plan to continue to stay engaged in this work. Furthermore, there has been increased conversation about how we can better connect to Mormon, Buddhist and non-mainline groups in town, more fully engaging them in conversations about community issues and needs. I plan to work with other pastors in such efforts, as well.

Again, thank you for your support as I serve our community. I truly believe that our whole community does better when every pastor and congregation seeks to build up the entire area, using his/her gifts in service to the entire region.

Gratefully,

Rev. Jeanette McCormick



Lessons and Themes for the Sundays in May 2026:

5/3/26: Paul's Sermon at Athens

Psalm 19:1-4, 7-10
Acts 17:16-31
John 1:16-18

5/10/26: Partnership in the Gospel

Psalm 138:1-8
Philippians 1:1-18a
Luke 9:46-48

5/17/2026: The Christ Hymn

Psalm 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24
Philippians 2:1-13
Luke 6:43-45

5/24/2026: Rejoice in the Lord (Pentecost)

Psalm 104:1-4, 10-15, 24-34
Acts 2:1-21
John 14:16-17

5/31/2026: Trinity Sunday

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
Psalm 8
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

There will be no Wednesday night worship services from May 13—June 10, 2026. Services will resume on June 17 with our outdoor worship in the courtyard.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Coat Ministry with your time, clothing items, Thrivent cards and cash donations. With all of your help, we were able to give away over 900 items to those in need in our community. The Coat Ministry Committee

Praise the Lord

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

General Fund:

Bal. 2/28/26:	\$43,873.17
Inc., March	\$24,391.04
Exp., March	\$32,424.05
Bal. 3/31/26:	\$35,840.16

Grace Lutheran Reimbursement—\$9,985.20

Building Fund:

Bal. 2/28/26:	\$85,116.85
Inc., March	\$235.00
Exp., March	\$44,677.54
Bal. 3/31/26:	\$40,674.31



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.



On Friday, May 22 & Monday, May 25, the office will be closed for the Memorial Day Holiday.



We are collecting glass vases (12" or taller) to decorate for the 150th celebration. If you have any you would like to donate, please put them on the kitchen counter. Thanks so much, Jane.

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)

5/3	9:30	Glenda Lais
5/10	9:30	Glenda Lais
5/17	9:30	Pam Fleming
5/24	9:30	Glenda Lais
5/31	9:30	Pam Fleming

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

5/3	9:30	Adam & Morgan Vosburgh
5/10	9:30	Mary Ferguson
5/17	9:30	Judy Selberg
5/24	9:30	Todd Hallstrom
5/31	9:30	Clinton & Alison Nixon Family

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

5/3	9:30	Morgan Vosburgh
5/10	9:30	Cooper Scripture
5/17	9:30	Ed Philipp
5/24	9:30	Adam Vosburgh
5/31	9:30	Paula Laffrenzen

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

5/3	9:30	Matt Russell (360-5835)
5/10	9:30	Daren Bauman (360-9275)
5/17	9:30	Midg White (360-3215)
5/24	9:30	Larry Woodbury (360-2689)
5/31	9:30	Midg White (360-3215)

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

5/3	9:30	Pat Demuth
5/10	9:30	Doug Frisch
5/17	9:30	Kevin Fleming
5/24	9:30	Pat Demuth
5/31	9:30	Ethan Nixon

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

5/3	9:30	Olivia Gerdes
5/10	9:30	Braelynn Schroeder
5/17	9:30	Kinsley Neugebauer
5/24	9:30	Parker Kleve
5/31	9:30	Dyson Neugebauer

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

5/3	9:30	Dale & Debbie Koob & Jane Benson
5/10	9:30	Larry & Norma Woodbury & Abbey Craun
5/17	9:30	Clinton & Alison Nixon Family
5/24	9:30	Rolf & Joan Mahlberg & Mary Ferguson
5/31	9:30	Todd Hallstrom, Diana White & Brenda Hurlbut

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

5/3	9:30	Becca McGaughey
5/10	9:30	Debbie Koob
5/17	9:30	Ethan Nixon
5/24	9:30	Carrie Adams
5/31	9:30	Erin Makela



Camperships are available! The Memorials and Gifts Team is offering camperships for anyone who is attending camp. To request a campership, just write a letter to the Memorials and Gift Team and put it in Karen Buchman's box across from the office. Those attending a weeklong camp will receive \$100 and those attending a three-day camp will receive \$50. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Buchman at 376-3225.



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.

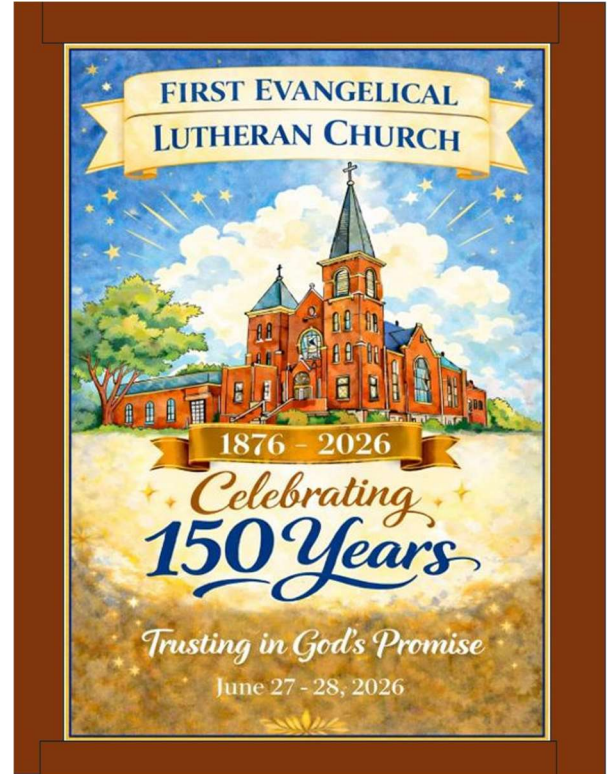
Gift Cards are available on communion Sunday mornings in Centennial Hall and in the office during the week.



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 March 31, 2025, a total of \$6,638.74 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 March 31, 2025, a total of \$59,725.25 has been put into the general fund.



Year-End Celebration & Worship Wednesday, May 6 Centennial Hall



**Celebration will begin at 5:15 pm
Youth Lead Worship at 6:00 pm**

Food will be provided by the Christian Education Team.
Games & fun for everyone.





May Birthdays



1	Marie Mehls	12	Erica Creighton	20	Kelly Peterson
2	Andrea Mahlberg	12	Deb Jacobs	21	Mary Ferguson
3	Jayden Dass	12	Gerret Larson	22	JoAnn Amundson
3	Kelsey Hagen	12	Braelynn Schroeder	23	Fern Burmeister
5	Brady Schwartzbauer	12	Kim Lucin	23	Nancy Hellstrom
6	Caycee Bixby	12	Holly Roberts	28	Rebecca Alvarez
6	Rylan Bixby	13	Collin Nienkerk	29	Austin Neugebauer
6	Randy Potts	14	Brayden Feller	30	Mike Vosburgh
7	Lynnette Faragher	15	Paul Nunes	30	Nevaeh Isder
7	Daniel Frisch	16	Robert Bents		
7	Ryan Marsh	16	Paige Bixby		
8	Dave Frisch	16	Raygan Feller		
8	Justin Isder	16	Paul Glorvigen		
8	Diane Sletten	16	Brian Livingston		
8	Chelsey Veen	16	John Murray		
9	Kyle Stinehart	19	John Leinen		
10	Jordan Gieselman	19	August Demuth		



“Jesus Speaks More About the Spirit”

“The Spirit will guide you.”

A young Hindu and a Christian seminarian were attending the same week-long seminar on the Sermon on the Mount. In the course of the week, the two young people became good friends.

At one point the young Hindu confided to the seminarian that he had problems with Jesus’ sermon. He knew how much it had influenced Gandhi and he wanted to live his life by it. But he feared it was too lofty an ethic for ordinary people to live by.

Toward the end of the seminar, however, the Hindu gained new insight into his problem. The ethic was indeed lofty, but he had forgotten about Jesus’ promise. The Holy Spirit will not only teach the people the value of the ethic but also empower them to follow it.

How open are we to the Holy Spirit’s guidance and help?

“Where the human spirit fails, the Holy Spirit fills.” – Anonymous

Illustrated Daily Homilies by Mark Lick, SJ

College Scholarship Information

High School Seniors and Current College Students

We have put together two information sheets regarding college scholarship financial assistance. Copies are available from the church office after you receive your letter. One is for the “FELC Scholarship” which is potentially available to students attending ANY institution of higher learning. Committee members are Jason Gerdes and Josh Hein.

The other is for the “First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Worthington, Minnesota Scholarship Fund” – commonly called the “LEE ANDERSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND”. Eligibility includes college sophomores or higher attending a LUTHERAN COLLEGE OR SEMINARY. Even though **freshman are not eligible**, they SHOULD still complete an application in June of their high school graduation year so their name is put on the list for future consideration. This is explained more on the information sheet. Rolf Mahlberg is the Trustee representing First Lutheran. Stop in or call the church office (376-6148) for copies of either or both information sheets. They contain more information about submission date deadlines and other details.

As soon as you know that you plan to attend an institution of higher learning (even though you may not have yet selected a specific school) please call the church office to enable Natalie to get your name on the list so she can send applications to all interested students. Natalie will send out scholarship application letters in May. You only need to complete ONE application – it will be used by both scholarship committees. Applications should be submitted to the church office by June 30.



FELC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR POST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Each year any student from FELC is eligible to apply for a FELC Scholarship. The applicant needs to be a graduating high school student or someone currently attending an institution of higher education such as a community college, a state college or private four-year college, etc. The amount of the scholarship given will vary and is contingent upon the activity of the investments during the preceding year. Principal amounts for these investments have come from bequests by various members, memorials and personal donations.

High school graduates continuing their education can apply for a scholarship as well as currently enrolled students at higher education establishments. **STUDENTS DO NEED TO APPLY EVERY YEAR** by June 30 (If you applied last year, you have a shorter application to fill out) to be considered for a scholarship for the ensuing academic year. Criteria for a scholarship will emphasize participation and achievement in service to church and community beginning at confirmation entry up to the present time. Applications are available at the Church Office.

Questions may be directed to the FELC Scholarship Committee members: Jason Gerdes and Josh Hein.

Note: This scholarship is NOT the same as the “Lee Anderson Scholarship Fund”.



We, at First Lutheran, congratulate the Senior Class of 2026 on their accomplishments and wish them the best for the future. On Sunday, May 24 we will be honoring our seniors at our worship service and at the coffee hour to follow.



Zachary McGaughey

Parents: Ryan & Becca McGaughey



Kylee Milbrath

Parents: Eric & Lisa Milbrath



Ashlyn Schaffer

Parents: Amy Erwin & Andy Schaffer



MAY YOUTH NEWS

Sunday, May 3 - Multigenerational Service Project Day

Join us as we help plant on the farm @ Shalom Hill Farm in Windom, MN.

We will take the bus and carpool as needed.

We will leave the church by 11:40 am or you can meet us there any time between 12:30 - 3:30 pm.

We will have lunch when we arrive. FREE to attend, donations accepted.

Please RSVP by Sunday, April 26. Talk with Brenda Richards to reserve your spot today.

Wednesday, May 6 - End of year celebration at church

All are welcome to join us at First Lutheran for a meal at 5:15 pm followed by an informal worship service at 6:00 pm led by the youth.

Sunday, May 17 - Last day of Sunday School

Sunday, May 24 - Graduation Sunday

Sign up today to attend Community Kids' Camp! Use the QR code below to register your student or to register as a volunteer. We are serving our meal on Thursday night, June 11 and extra help is needed for that. Talk to Brenda R about helping today!

COMMUNITY KIDS' CAMP

CREATE!

June 8-11

(Location: American Lutheran Church)
5-5:45pm Meal ✦ 5:45-8pm Activities

NEW!

Adult Engagement
(6:15pm-7:45pm)

REGISTER USING THE QR CODE.



Community Kids Camp



TO REGISTER:
SCAN THE QR CODE (BY MAY 26)
OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE.



For children age 3 (8 potty trained) through completed grade 5.
Suggested donation: \$5/child

RUMMAGE SALE - Due to the 150th Anniversary celebration, donations will not be accepted until after July 1. The rummage sale will be happening August 13, 14 and 15. Talk with Brenda Richards with any questions.

July 26-31 NIGHTLIFE Camp at Badlands Ministries in Medora, ND we have nine youth attending this summer!

Save the date 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

May 2026



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

Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers



Register for a FUN Golf Day!



Mark Your Calendar for our 40th Quilt Auction!

Upcoming Events

Hiking Club May 4

GOLF Tournament June 22

Hiking Club June 22

Quilt Preview June 26

40th Quilt Auction June 27

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

Wish List

- Extension Cords & Power Strips
- New Vacuum
- Children's Books
- Spark Bibles
- Office Supplies-Dry Erase Markers, paper
- Arts & Crafts Supplies
- Board games



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!