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

October 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—Organist/Pianist
Arlene Lowe—Co-Treasurer
Debbie Koob—Financial Secretary
Jim & Paula Laffrenzen—Parish Visitors

PASTOR JEANETTE'S ARTICLE

Dear First Lutheran,

I want to take a moment and thank everyone who made it possible for my family to "get away" for a couple of weeks in August. We had a busy but good vacation/continuing education experience. I came back with renewed energy and a clearer perspective about the upcoming academic year. Since many of you have asked about what we did, I thought I'd share a little bit. Also, since many have asked, I was able to get all necessary precautionary shots for rabies (since a bat bit me on August 9).

We left on August 13 from the Sioux Falls airport. Unfortunately, our flight was delayed so we ended up missing our connecting flight in Denver. Therefore, we drove from Denver to Salt Lake City. In Salt Lake City, we met up with Landon's birth mom. My feet had started to look a little unusual, and we were not sure if it was due to bug bites or possible issues from the bat encounter, so we met up with his birth mom in the very hospital where Landon was born. While it wasn't what I was expecting, it was actually a beautiful encounter where I really saw how much his birth mom had grown and changed over the years. The next day, we spent the day at Urban Air together and walked around Silver Lake. On August 16, we spent a few more hours with Landon's birth mom, and then we drove to meet Landon's biological half-sister in Boise. We spent a few hours with her and her adoptive family. Landon and his half-sister immediately had a strong connection. I was really grateful to give Landon this opportunity to see where he was born and meet some important people in his biological family. Again, I really appreciate all the folks who filled in for me in various ministerial areas, prayed for us and supported our journey.

After meeting with Landon's half-sister, we drove to Walla Walla, Washington where we saw Fort Walla Walla. We stopped in Richland, Washington to see a good friend of mine from college and seminary. Then, we made our way to Chelan, Washington (stopping in Wenatchee). We had been really concerned that we would not be able to go to Chelan because of the intense smoke from nearby fires. Fortunately, the situation improved for most of our time there. We had a great time of learning and fun in Chelan, which is where I did my pastoral internship. My former internship supervisor, Rev. Paul Palumbo, has traveled the country talking about "Peace at the Last" and "Liturgy and Life." The former is a program regarding visitation of people who are dying, and the church created a book about this important ministry, which I have shared with some of you. (I recently ran out of copies, but I hope to order more if some of you would like to review it.). Liturgy and Life was developed from the Catechumenate program which I participated in during my internship. The series looks at different elements of worship and helps people consider the deeper meaning of all the worship rituals that are a part of our services. It was created for people new to Lutheranism but, lifelong Lutherans often say the program was extremely beneficial because they had engaged in worship throughout their lives without considering what they were doing. I plan to look for ways to implement Liturgy and Life in our congregations (probably after Easter). In the meantime, I hope to include some aspects of this program in my preaching and the newsletters. Pastor Paul is also a spiritual director. Cole and I spent much time discussing situations at our churches, how we should make positive steps forward and plans for the upcoming year. His outside and experienced perspective was very useful to me. We also joined in Chelan Lutheran's activities, including their weekly text study and Sunday services. On Wednesday, we participated in a time of reflection called "Breathing Space," which was named because people were struggling with smoke inhalation (due to the fires). One of the questions posed was, "Where have you received unexpected help?" This made me think about all of the people in my community and family who support me; I was able to leave with renewed gratitude. During these sessions, Landon spent time with trusted members of the congregation and was even able to work with a local art teacher on some projects. The woman who hosted me during my internship year held a lovely gathering of people from my time there, and it was so good to re-connect. We had a nice dinner with my former supervisor, and my family was able to spend some time resting and relaxing in the area too. Chelan is a known resort town, so we went blueberry picking, checked out local stores, spent an afternoon by the lake, went to a park and more. Finally, as part of my continuing education, I spent time reading "Ministry Staff Member" by Douglas L. Fagerstrom and came back with some useful plans for the year.

After Chelan, my family and I drove to Yellowstone and spent a wonderful day there. We also drove through Grand Teton National Park and loved the scenery. We stopped to spend a few hours with Cole's extended family in Fort Collins, Colorado. After that, we drove home.

We were very tired after this long trip, but also very renewed by the experience. Again, thank you to everyone who supported us in making this trip possible.

Gratefully and with renewed energy for ministry,
Rev. Jeanette McCormick

Lessons and Themes for the Sundays in October, 2026:

10/4/26: Rescue at the Sea

Exodus 14:5-7, 10-14, 21-29
Psalm 114
Matthew 2:13-15

10/11/26: Covenant and Commandments

Exodus 19:2-8a; 20:1-17
Psalm 19
Matthew 5:17-20

10/18/2026: Joshua Renews the Covenant

Joshua 24:1-26
Psalm 78:1-7
Matthew 4:8-10

10/25/2026: Promise of Life

2 Samuel 11:1-5, 26-27; 12:1-9
Psalm 51:1-9
Matthew 21:33-41

Bible distribution for K, 3rd & 7th Graders will be held on Sunday, October 4 during our worship service. A postcard has gone out to the families with youth in these grades. If you are unable to attend the worship service, please stop by the church and pick up your Bible. Thank you!

Praise the Lord

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

General Fund:

Bal. 7/31/26:	$19,902.27
Inc., August	$21,794.06
Exp., August	$27,147.65
Bal. 8/31/26:	$14,548.68

Grace Lutheran Reimbursement—$26,387.20

Building Fund:

Bal. 7/31/26:	$41,540.85
Inc., August	$5,360.00
Exp., August	$12,936.44
Bal. 8/31/26:	$33,964.41

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. Funds will be designated to different groups as needed.

REMINDER: On Sunday, October 25, remember to wear red.

On Sunday, November 1, we will be remembering all the members that have passed this last year. A candle will also be lit in memory of others that have passed during the year.

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)

10/4	9:30	Glenda Lais
10/11	9:30	Ryan McGaughey
10/18	9:30	Glenda Lais
10/25	9:30	Pam Fleming

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

10/4	9:30	Lonnie & Nancy Myrom
10/11	9:30	Diane Sletten
10/18	9:30	John & Nora Leinen
10/25	9:30	Doug & Julie Christensen

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

10/4	9:30	Lonnie Myrom
10/11	9:30	Cooper Scripture
10/18	9:30	Ryan McGaughey
10/25	9:30	Morgan Vosburgh

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

10/4	9:30	Matt Russell (360-5835)
10/11	9:30	Daren Bauman (360-9275)
10/18	9:30	Midg White (360-3215)
10/25	9:30	Larry Woodbury (360-2689)

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

10/4	9:30	Pat Demuth
10/11	9:30	Doug Frisch
10/18	9:30	Ethan Nixon
10/25	9:30	Kevin Fleming

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

10/4	9:30	Kinsley Neugebauer
10/11	9:30	Lexi Kleve
10/18	9:30	Miles Hein
10/25	9:30	Nelson Tarus

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

10/4	9:30	Doug & Julie Christensen & Diane Sletten
10/11	9:30	John & Nora Leinen & Abbey Craun
10/18	9:30	Robert & Bonnie Bents & Miles & Ady Hein
10/25	9:30	Rolf & Joan Mahlberg & Diana White

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

10/4	9:30	Debbie Koob
10/11	9:30	Becca McGuaghey
10/18	9:30	Carrie Adams
10/25	9:30	Erin Makela

ATTENTION: There are 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, Facebook Live, 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 August 31, 2026, a total of $6,661.24 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 August 31, 2026, a total of $60,314.00 has been put into the general fund.

BAPTISM: We welcomed Remington Lynn Vacura, daughter of Spencer & Brittany Vacura to the family of God through Holy Baptism on Wednesday, September 16, 2026. Sponsors are Joe Micklos & Kayla Daberkow. Welcome to the Lord's family, Remington.

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

Thank you to everyone who helped make Wednesday night services so special this summer. Worshipping in our beautiful outdoor courtyard makes the service extra meaningful. With many hands helping we were able to serve over 500 bowls of ice cream and toppings to friends in our neighborhood and church attendees. Thrivent cards were used to purchase the supplies. We look forward to seeing all of the smiling faces next summer!

October Birthdays

Happy Birthday

1	Chandler Kempema	13	Bode Scripture	28	Hailey Schroeder
3	Trey Milbrath	14	Ryan McGaughey	30	Genna Scripture
4	Pat Demuth	16	Dan Anderson	31	Lynette Demuth
4	Valerie Veen	16	Carla Buchman		
6	Miles Hein	16	Ardys Jacobson		
7	Janet Zierke	18	Robin Dolliver		
8	Sean Feller	19	Evelyn Murray		
8	Bev Frisch	22	Darcy Poppema		
9	Gina Huber	23	James Kraft		
9	Jay Larson	23	Oscar Berning		
10	Alison Nixon	23	Tiffany Neugebauer		
10	Erin Schutte Wadzinski	23	Lisa Waldner		
12	Emersyn Nixon	25	Emery Korver		
12	JoAnn Kruse	26	Mary Ingenthron		
13	Nicholas Schroeder	27	Dana White-Swanson		

"The Israelites Cross Over the Jordan"

"The waters backed up."

There's a striking similarity between Israel's crossing of the Jordan River and Israel's crossing of the Red Sea. In each crossing the water steps aside.

This remarkable similarity is not accidental. The events are two sides of the same coin. The crossing of the Red Sea marks Israel's *exit* from a land of slavery. The crossing of the Jordan River marks Israel's *entry* into a land of freedom.

Christians see the two crossings reflected in baptism. Baptism marks our exit from a land of slavery, where Satan held us hostage. It also marks our entry into a land of freedom, where God makes us his people.

How different is our life because of our crossing through the waters of baptism?

"God the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ has freed us from sin, [and] given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit. You have become a new creation." – *Baptismal rite*

Illustrated Daily Homilies by Mark Lick, SJ

OCTOBER 2026 YOUTH NEWS

Sunday, October 4 = Bible Blessing for Kindergartners, 3rd Graders and 7th Graders

Join us for Sunday School at 8:45am downstairs.

Confirmation retreat will take place this year on October 30-31 at Shetek Lutheran Ministries.

Join us for Confirmation Sunday on Sunday October 25 at the 9:30 am service.

Wednesday, October 7 - meet at the JBS Fieldhouse from 6:30-8:00 pm for 507 (see below)
Wednesday, October 14 - service project and fun night at First Lutheran
Wednesday, October 21 - confirmation will be at Grace Lutheran - bus will leave by 6:15 pm

This year we ARE NOT doing Trunk-or-Treat. Thanks to all who have participated in the past year's event.

Fun Nights for grades 6th on up this school year:

Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp Fun Outreach Nights This School Year:
Who: 6th —12th graders
Where: Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp (1203 Inwan St., Milford, IA, 51351)
When: we will leave the church by 4:00 pm and return by 9:00 pm
RSVPs needed the Wednesday before each event
OCT. 11-BLOCK PARTY/CTF
NOV. 8-SECRET AGENTS
DEC. 6-CHRISTMAS MYSTERY
JAN. 31-GLOW IN THE DARK PARTY
FEB. 21- HOONTING
MAR. 14-GARGOYLES
APR. 4-CHURCH VS. CHURCH CAMP OLYMPICS/DODGEBALL

What is a 507?
Local youth groups coming together.

What do you do at 507?
We start with pizza and have a short devotional, do a service project and play some games.

Who can come?
6th grade on up

When are they this year?
October 7 @ the JBS Fieldhouse
December 2 @ a church TBD
February 3 @ the JBS Fieldhouse

What time? 6:30 - 8:00 pm

KFC has begun!

Worthington public school kids will go to Prairie Elementary (lunchroom) where they will have a snack, play and then get bussed to the church for games, Bible lessons, music and fun.
All other kids can be dropped off at the church @ 4:00 pm
Students will be picked up at 5:15 pm and can join us for a meal with their families.

We are also looking for people interested in helping prepare and serve the Wednesday evening meal. If you would like to help, please talk with Brenda Richards.

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

October 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

Register for Octoberfest!

Welcome Liz Prairie our new Environmental Ed Director

Upcoming Events

October 14 Quilting Day

October 16-17 Octoberfest

October 19-22 Quilt & Craft Retreat

October 30-31 Confirmation Retreat

November 4 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!