

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

September 2024 Evangel

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

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 and Grace Lutheran,

Eric Parrish (the choir director of First Lutheran) and I were fortunate enough to attend the Conference on Theology, Worship and the Arts at St. Olaf College on July 29-31. We received free passes to the conference due to our participation in the Nourishing Vocation Project. During our time there, we were able to share some of the good ministry we are doing as congregations. In particular, Eric led a session about the worship service he prepared for us to use in the summer for our "Evenings of the Spirit" at First Lutheran. The service is designed around the order, processes, and principals of "Vocare," which is the basis of the Nourishing Vocation Project. As the Nourishing Vocation Project explains:

VOCARE is a regular **spiritual practice** designed to help you discern and embrace your multiple vocations so that you can more **intentionally live life on purpose** for the common good. "**VOCARE**" invites ongoing reflection upon values, openness, call, attentiveness, regret, and the sacred experience in everyday life.
V – Values: What do I value, and how am I living my values? **O – Openness:** To what am I being asked to be open? How do I respond? **C – Call:** What voices are calling to me? Which ones do I listen to, and why?
A – Attentiveness: Where am I giving my attention? Does my attention align with my values? **R – Regret:** What are my regrets? What insight do I gain from them? **E – Experience the Sacred:** When, where, and how have I encountered the presence of the holy in my everyday life?

Because the service follows the "vocare" values, the order of the service is slightly different than what we are generally accustomed to as Lutherans. Eric also explained the many benefits of having lay people share in worship (which we have been doing on Wednesday nights throughout the summer). The stories and wisdom shared have not only been blessings to us, but have helped us understand our faith communities better. We talked about how we utilize ice cream to better connect to the community that surrounds First Lutheran, how we utilize our outdoor courtyard to create a peaceful environment and how we have sensory toy boxes, etc. that are made available to children who join us. We were invited to share a 90 second spotlight about how the Nourishing Vocation Project has blessed our community, and we created a poster about our worship efforts and community for the ministry fair.

We also were blessed by being able to hear from a variety of speakers and preachers, as well. Both Eric and I came back with ideas from the "ministry fair" that we attended, where congregations shared an effort, project or idea that has been instrumental to them. I attended a workshop about connection to youth throughout the church year. The sessions provided ideas about how to make the church seasons more understandable, "hands on" and invigorating. The speaker helped note some important "pitfalls" or areas to be concerned about in the church seasons, and I found the guidance to be helpful (youth may be reminded of deaths in their lives more profoundly during Lent, etc.). The worship services included talented musicians and gifted preachers. Eric sang in the choir during the final worship service. The themes for the three days were "called, nourished and sent." I left with stories and concepts which I believe will be useful in my teaching and preaching.

Thank you for supporting me in completing my Continuing Education. We are so fortunate to have been able to attend this opportunity for free. If you have not attended a Wednesday night worship service in the summer at First, I encourage you to do so. People from both (Grace and First) congregations have attended, and we love having new friends. Also, if you are interested in diving more into the resources provided by the Nourishing Vocation Project, please consider joining us on any Wednesday throughout the school year or coming to Beverages and Bibles.

Gratefully,
 Rev. Jeanette McCormick



Lessons and Themes for the Sundays in September, 2024:

9/1/24: 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9
 Psalm 15
 James 1:17-27
 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

9/8/24: Creation and Fall

Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17; 3:1-8
 Psalm 8
 Luke 11:4

9/15/24: God's Promise to Abraham

Genesis 15:1-5
 Psalm 33:12-22
 Luke 3:8

9/22/24: God's Works through Joseph

Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21
 Psalm 37:1-6
 Luke 6:35

9/29/24: The Promise of Passover

Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8
 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
 Luke 22:14-20

back to
 School



First Lutheran Church Friends, Thank you for all the kind words of support and sympathy shared with calls, cards and greetings with the passing of both my mom, Joyce Larson and nephew, Bruce Larson. I truly appreciate my First Lutheran friends during this journey of loss.
 – Brenda Hurlbut

Praise the Lord

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

General Fund:

Bal. 6/30/24:	(\$31,677.82)
Inc., July	\$22,689.58
Exp., July	\$24,287.29
Bal. 7/31/24:	(\$33,275.53)
(The amount shows behind budget.)	
Grace Lutheran Reimbursement—	
	\$20,442.66

Building Fund:

Bal. 6/30/24:	\$15,782.60
Inc., July	\$795.00
Exp., July	\$7,873.07
Bal. 7/31/24:	\$8,704.53



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.



The office will be closed on Monday, September 2 for the Labor Day Holiday.

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)

9/1	9:30	Pam Fleming
9/8	9:30	Glenda Lais
9/15	9:30	Kathy Summers
9/22	9:30	Pam Fleming
9/29	9:30	Ryan McGaughey

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

9/1	9:30	Daren Bauman (360-9275)
9/8	9:30	Midg White (360-3215)
9/15	9:30	Larry Woodbury (360-2689)
9/22	9:30	Matt Russell (360-5835)
9/29	9:30	Daren Bauman (360-9275)

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

9/1	9:30	Ryan McGaughey
9/8	9:30	Cooper Scripture
9/15	9:30	Erin Makela
9/22	9:30	Kelsey Hagen
9/29	9:30	Linda Towne

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

9/1	9:30	Leroy & Rosemary Merkel
9/8	9:30	Linda Towne
9/15	9:30	Todd Hallstrom
9/22	9:30	Sandy Poppema
9/29	9:30	Doug & Julie Christensen

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

9/1	9:30	Ethan Nixon
9/8	9:30	Aaden Wagner
9/15	9:30	Trey Milbrath
9/22	9:30	Ethan Nixon
9/29	9:30	Aaden Wagner

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

9/1	9:30	Becca McGaughey
9/8	9:30	Carrie Adams
9/15	9:30	Debbie Koob
9/22	9:30	Becca McGaughey
9/29	9:30	Debbie Koob

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

9/1	9:30	Larry & Norma Woodbury & John Kramer
9/8	9:30	Robert & Bonnie Bents & Todd & Darcy Poppema
9/15	9:30	Sandy Poppema, Fern Burmeister, & Diana White
9/22	9:30	Daren & Julie Bauman & Dale & Debbie Koob
9/29	9:30	John & Nora Leinen & Todd Hallstrom

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

9/1	9:30	Kevin Fleming
9/8	9:30	Pat Demuth
9/15	9:30	Doug Frisch
9/22	9:30	Paul Summers
9/29	9:30	Pat Demuth



*Our Deepest
Sympathy*

DEATH & SYMPATHY: Roger Floyd Larson died July 28, 2024 at the age of 93 years. His memorial service was held here at First Lutheran Church on August 9, 2024. We extend our Christian sympathy to his family.



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 July 31, 2024, a total of \$6,407.49 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 July 31, 2024, a total of \$57,261.50 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.

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, 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!

7th, 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation

FUN NIGHT: Join us on September 11 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 18 with an orientation meeting with parents at 6:30 pm. On Wednesday, September 25, we will begin with class. We will be meeting from 6:30-7:30 pm.

Attention College-Bound

Students: Please call the church office to let us know your college address so that we can update our mailing lists and directory. Thanks!



Our Deepest Sympathy

DEATH & SYMPATHY: Sandra “Sandy” Kay Marsh died July 22, 2024 at the age of 70 years. We extend our Christian sympathy to her family.

September Birthdays



1	Kourtney Bauman	16	Brittany Schroeder	25	Makenzi Kamm
2	Dennis Gieselman	17	Gary Frodermann	26	Kevin Fleming
2	Alyssa Korver	17	Nathan Lowe	27	Bonnie Bents
2	Bria Schroeder	17	Anneliese Wadzinski	27	Bridget Huber
5	Robert Benson	20	Todd Dolliver	28	Mike Burns
5	David Dieter	20	Jesse Schroeder	29	Paula Laffrenzen
6	Jeff Randall	20	Martin Lucin	30	Sophie Selberg
6	Dianne Sanderson	22	Vona Mae Vihlen		
7	Alan Winter	23	Charles Veen		
8	Mary Kraft	23	Tyler Wadzinski		
8	Robin Stoyke	24	Adalyn Hein		
8	Bayleigh Carey	24	Sandy Rogers		
12	Cathy Blair	25	Nora Leinen		



Paul Talks About Abraham

“Abraham’s faith was his glory.”

The glory of Abraham’s faith does not consist in believing what God said. Rather it consists in believing in God. Thus we read: “[Abraham] put his faith in the Lord, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness.” - Genesis 15:6

There’s an important truth here. Christian faith is, above all, faith in Jesus. And because we believe in Jesus, we believe what Jesus says.

Another important truth follows from this. If Christian faith is, above all, faith in Jesus, then we cannot pick and choose what to believe from what Jesus says. If we did that, it would mean we really don’t have complete faith in Jesus.

How strong is our faith in Jesus? In his Church, which is the extension of himself into space and time?

“If you believe only what you like, and reject what you don’t like, then it isn’t the Gospel you believe, but yourself.” - Augustine of Hippo

Illustrated Daily Homilies by Mark Lick, SJ

GriefShare®

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
September 3 - November 26*

First Lutheran Church
1200 4th Avenue, Worthington, MN 56187
To register, call 507-376-6148

griefshare.org



SEPTEMBER YOUTH NEWS

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

Our rummage sale was a HUGE success! Couldn't have done it without all of the AMAZING volunteers! THANKS SO MUCH!



YOUTH FUN NIGHT! - Join us on Wednesday, September 11 - more information to come

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION - Wednesday, September 18

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS: Sunday, September 22

SEPTEMBER 25 = First Night of Confirmation

Confirmation starts at 6:30 pm and Youth Group from 7:30-8:15 pm

SEPTEMBER 25 - First Day of Kids' For Christ

SAVE THE DATE: **Youth Sunday, October 13!!!** We can't wait to tell you about our trip to New Orleans and all the fun we had at summer camp.

KFC, our Wednesday after school program BEGINS September 25!!! Registrations will be available at the school during back to school registration days and at the church. KFC will run from September 25 - April 9 this school year. We meet the kids at Prairie Elementary and then they are bussed to the church. From 4:00-5:00 pm we have a Bible lesson, play games and do crafts; 5:00 pm we have music with Erin and then at 5:15 pm it's time for supper! The time really does fly by!

WE NEED YOU FOR KFC!

Can you help with the meals? Shopping? Cooking? Serving? THRIVENT CARDS? - check the youth board soon for sign ups, etc.

Can you help with supervising kids at church or at Prairie Elementary - teaching - crafts - just hanging out - eating with a group of kids?

Even behind the scenes - prepping crafts, set up, clean up, etc.

Can't make it until 4:30 pm- no problem

Weekly - Twice A Month - Once A Month - Once In A While

Talk with Brenda Richards today to see how you can help!

Please keep checking the church's website for updated announcements.
GRACIAS! THANK YOU! WE APPRECIATE YOU! MANY THANKS!

September 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



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.

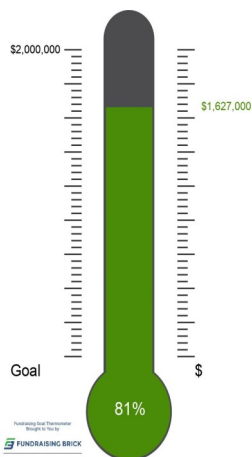
Good Bye Summer!
Please join us for our Fall events.

Mark your Calendar
October 18-19
Octoberfest

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/>



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!