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

September 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

Beloved First Lutheran Family,

By the time you get this, we will be in "back to school" mode. Prayers for our families, staff and teachers as they handle back to school jitters, gather supplies, prepare lesson plans and more. May God go with all of us as we enter into a new school year. This year, I'm especially remembering and praying for the kids who are not eager to start school again, students for whom school is a struggle, youth who are new in school and not sure if they will have friends and people of all ages who are worried about the first days. May God give all of the adults wisdom as they care for our students and may God use all our youth to offer love and kindness to each classmate.

We are starting our school year church programs. Here are some of our main programs and events:
*__Wednesday evening worship__ services continue in the fall in the sanctuary. The service is from 6-6:30pm.
*__Choir__ begins practice for the year on September 2 at 6:30 pm. Choir meets weekly on Wednesdays throughout the school year. All are welcome to join!
*__2026-2027 Confirmation__

- *__A Confirmation outing__ at 6:30 pm on September 2 to the Nixon's home (27079 Quine Ave. Worthington) begins our Confirmation year. Transportation is available from the church or you can meet the group at the Nixon's home. (This event is optional.)
- *__Confirmation communication to families has begun.__ If you are not getting emails/text messages from us, please let us know!
- *__Fall Confirmation Retreat__ is on October 30-31. Confirmation students, please note that RSVP'S are needed to pastorjeanettemccormick@gmail.com by August 23.
- *__Confirmation parent/youth orientation__ is on September 9 at 6:30 pm.
- *__Confirmation Classes__ will start on September 16 at 6:30 pm.
- *__Youth Group__ begins September 16 at 7:30 pm

*__Wednesday meals__ will start at 5:15 pm on September 9. Please contact Brenda Richards at tinymustardseed1720@gmail.com or call the office at (507) 376-6148 if you are willing to help cook, serve or clean-up.
*__God's Work Our Hands__ is on September 13 after the 9:30 am service. Please join us in projects for all ages, including completing Love INC mailings, furniture delivery, setting up the winter clothing ministry for the year, wiping down pews, making Lutheran World Relief kits and more.
*__Grief Share__ will be held at the Meadows this year at 3:15 pm on Mondays starting September 14. Everyone is invited to participate. Please call the church office at (507) 376-6148 to RSVP each time you plan to attend.
*__Sunday School__ starts September 20 at 8:45 am. Registration is available by calling the office at 507-376-6148, via the QR code in our weekly emails or by emailing Brenda at tinymustardseed1720@gmail.com.
*__The Country Western Service__ will be held on September 20 at 9:30 am. Tentatively, Dave Anderson will lead worship.
*__Kids for Christ (KFC)__ starts September 23. Please contact Brenda Richards at tinymustardseed1720@gmail.com if you would like to help with or participate in Sunday school or KFC.

We have a wonderful September planned that is filled with many good things. We hope you can join us!

As we prepare for the fall, I find myself thinking about all the youth who will start KFC and Confirmation. It's always fun to see what each year brings. Even though I've focused on the Small Catechism for my entire Confirmation teaching career, every year is still different because the youth involved bring their own experiences and perspectives. Many of the KFC stories are also the same each year, but the ways the youth experience and understand those stories change as they age.

As we start the school year together, I urge each one of you to think, "Who can I invite to be a part of this faith-filled, fun community experience?" The grandparents in our congregation have done an amazing job of inviting their grandkids and supporting their involvement. I am so grateful for their efforts in this labor of faith and love. I urge all of us to think about who, in our family and among our neighbors or our friends, we might invite to participate in youth programming, share a meal with us, join choir or more. We invite people not to make sure our church survives, balance the budget or "fix" anyone. Rather, since we have experienced the life-giving power of community in Christ at church, we want others to be a part of this transformative experience with us. We look forward to sharing their talents and perspectives as we grow together in Christ's love.

Thank you, in advance, for the ways you help us build up our congregation and expand our reach. Thank you for sharing Christ's love at First and throughout our community.

Gratefully, Rev. Jeanette McCormick

Lessons and Themes for the Sundays in September 2026:

9/6/26: 15th Sunday of Pentecost

Ezekiel 33:7-11
Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

9/13/26: Flood and Promise

Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17
Psalm 46
Matthew 8:23-27

9/20/2026: Call of Abraham

Genesis 12:1-9
Psalm 121
Matthew 28:19-20

9/27/2026: Joseph in Prison

Genesis 39:1-23
Psalm 24:1-6
Matthew 5:11-12

Praise the Lord

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

General Fund:

Bal. 6/30/26:	$27,275.43
Inc., July	$18,486.11
Exp., July	$25,859.26
Bal. 7/31/26:	$19,902.28

Grace Lutheran Reimbursement—$23,088.80

Building Fund:

Bal. 6/30/26:	$52,267.84
Inc., July	$105.00
Exp., July	$10,831.99
Bal. 7/31/26:	$41,540.85

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.

The office will be closed on Friday, September 4 & Monday, September 7 for the Labor Day Holiday.

7th, 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation

FUN NIGHT: Join us on September 2 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 at the Nixon's home.

Confirmation will begin on September 9 with an orientation meeting with parents at 6:30 pm. On Wednesday, September 16, we will begin class. We will be meeting from 6:30-7:30 pm.

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)

9/6	9:30	Glenda Lais
9/13	9:30	Ryan McGaughey
9/20	9:30	Pam Fleming
9/27	9:30	Glenda Lais

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

9/6	9:30	Doug & Julie Christensen
9/13	9:30	Jane Benson
9/20	9:30	Kathy Craun
9/27	9:30	Diana White

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

9/6	9:30	Ed Philipp
9/13	9:30	Cooper Scripture
9/20	9:30	Matt Russell
9/27	9:30	Todd Hallstrom

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

9/6	9:30	Larry Woodbury (360-2689)
9/13	9:30	Daren Bauman (360-9275)
9/20	9:30	Midg White (360-3215)
9/27	9:30	Matt Russell (360-5835)

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

9/6	9:30	Ethan Nixon
9/13	9:30	Pat Demuth
9/20	9:30	Doug Frisch
9/27	9:30	Kevin Fleming

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

9/6	9:30	Dyson Neugebauer
9/13	9:30	Parker Kleve
9/20	9:30	Braelynn Schroeder
9/27	9:30	Jordan Blair

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

9/6	9:30	Debbie & Dale Koob & Jane Benson
9/13	9:30	Norma & Larry Woodbury & Abbey Craun
9/20	9:30	Clinton & Alison Nixon Family
9/27	9:30	Brenda Hurlbut, Diane Sletten & Kathy Craun

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

9/6	9:30	Carrie Adams
9/13	9:30	Debbie Koob
9/20	9:30	Ethan Nixon
9/27	9:30	Becca McGaughey

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, Livestream, 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!

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

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, 2026, a total of $6,653.74 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 July 31, 2026, a total of $60,159.00 has been put into the general fund.

Come join us for God's Work, Our Hands this September! We will be helping with a Love, Inc. furniture delivery, putting together mailings for Love, Inc., making care kits, organizing the coat closet, weeding the courtyard and cleaning the sanctuary. Please join us for this community service program after church on September 13, 2026.

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

29th ANNUAL COUNTRY WESTERN SERVICE
September 20, 2026
9:30 AM

Join us for a great service.

Sanctuary Choir will begin on Wednesday, September 2 at 6:30 pm.
All are welcome.

September Birthdays

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

Jesus makes a promise to Nathanael

"You will see angels rising and descending"

The word *angel* means "messenger". The Bible portrays angels as being God's messengers to his people. Ancient artists depicted angels as having wings. But you can no more depict an angel than you can the wind.

The Letter to the Hebrews says: "What are angels, then? They are spirits who serve God and are sent by him to help those who are to receive salvation." - *Hebrews 1:4*

It was an angel who told Mary she was to be the mother of Jesus. It was an angel who told Joseph, that Mary had conceived by the Holy Spirit. It was an angel who told Joseph to flee to Egypt with Jesus and Mary.

How deeply do we believe in God's personal concern for us, as manifested by angels in biblical times?

Illustrated Daily Homilies by Mark Lick, SJ

A Summer of Listening, Learning, and Living in Community

This summer, our outdoor worship life was shaped by a simple question: What does it mean to be better together?

Inspired by our study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Life Together* earlier this year, we spent the summer exploring what Christian community looks like when we truly receive one another as gifts from God. We considered how Christ forms us into a people who welcome, love, forgive, serve, and encourage one another.

One of the special gifts of this summer was that our worship messages were shared by a younger member of our congregation. Each speaker chose a Scripture passage from a collection inspired by Bonhoeffer's chapter on Christian community and reflected on what that passage revealed about life together. While each week brought a unique perspective and personality, a beautiful pattern emerged. Together, we heard calls to:

- Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed us.
- Love one another deeply and sincerely.
- Walk together in the light of Christ.
- Use our freedom to serve one another.
- Clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, and patience.
- Restore one another through honesty, prayer, and forgiveness.
- Listen with care and bear one another's burdens.
- Put love into action and encourage one another.

Many voices were part of the message itself. The church is not built around one person, one generation, or one perspective. Christ calls all of us to participate in the life and ministry of the body of Christ. Hearing Scripture through different perspectives reminded us that God is continually at work among us and that each person has something to offer. We experienced the richness that comes when many voices contribute to the life of the church.

As we look ahead to fall, we carry with us the reminder that Christian community is something Christ creates among us. We are called to be a people who welcome, listen, forgive, serve, and encourage one another.

Thank you to all who shared their faith, their reflections, and their stories this summer. Thank you also to those who supported the service with preparation, setup, and tear down outside. May we continue to grow as a community where every person is welcomed, every voice is valued, and Christ's love is made visible through the way we live together.

Eric E. Parrish, Worship & Music Coordinator

SEPTEMBER 2026 YOUTH NEWS

RUMMAGE SALE

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Rummage Sale a success! Money is still coming in, but we have already raised over $7,000! We couldn't have done it without the amazing volunteers who helped sort, price, organize, set up, work during the sale, and clean up afterward. Thank you to everyone who donated items, spread the word, told friends and family, and came out to shop! A special thank you to Cathy Blair for keeping all of our hardworking volunteers very well fed throughout the week! Thank you all for supporting our youth ministry and helping make this fundraiser such a success!

Sunday School Begins Sunday, September 20 at 8:45 am - use the QR code below to sign up

KFC IS COMING SOON!

Worthington public school kids will go to Prairie Elementary (lunch room) 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.

Kids For Christ (KFC) registration will be available:

Wednesday, August 26 @ Intermediate School from 8:00 am–8:00 pm

Thursday, August 27 @ Prairie Elementary from 8:00 am–8:00 pm

You can also use the QR code to register online anytime for Sunday School and KFC!

KFC is open to children who are potty trained and age 3 through 6th grade.

KFC Helper Training:

We will have a training day for all KFC helpers before the program begins: Wednesday, September 16 at 4:30 pm

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.

DATES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, September 2 – Confirmation Youth Fun Night

Wednesday, September 9 – Confirmation Parent Night

Sunday, September 20 - First Day of Sunday School

Wednesday, September 23 – First Day of KFC

Wednesday, October 7 = 507 for 6th grade - High School at the JBS Fieldhouse @ 6:30pm

Sunday, October 4 = Bible Blessing for Kindergarteners, 3rd graders, and 7th graders

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

September 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!

Fall is a Great Time to Join the Hiking club

Upcoming Events

September 9 Quilting Day
September 13 Hiking Club
October 14 Quilting Day
October 16-17 Octoberfest
October 19-22 Quilt & Craft Retreat
October 30-31 Confirmation Retreat

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!