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ORGANIZATION
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TAYLORS FALLS, MN
PERMIT NO. 5

First Evangelical
LUTHERAN CHURCH

561 Chestnut Street, Taylors Falls, MN 55084-1110



APRIL 2022

The Newsletter of
First Evangelical
Lutheran Church
561 Chestnut Street
Taylors Falls, MN
55084-1110
651-465-5265
www.tflutheran.org

SUNDAYWORSHIP

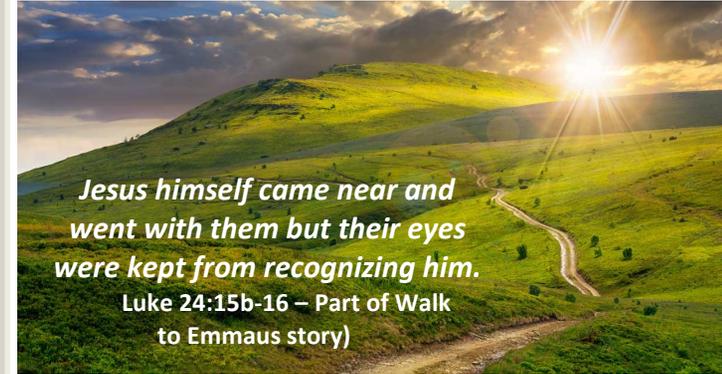
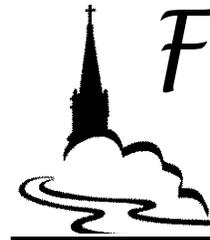
Worship 9:00am
Masks Required.

Online Worship
available every
Sunday, please
check out our
website:
www.tflutheran.org
or our YouTube
Channel:
First Evangelical
Lutheran
Church of TF.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday
8:30am—1:30pm
Tuesday
8:30am—12:30pm
Thursday
8:30am—11:30am
Hours may vary - please
visit the website for
updates.

First Things



Daryl showed up for Easter worship because it was the thing to do. He used to be quite involved in the church at one point in his life – even helped out with the youth group for a while, but for one reason and another he just let it slide. When worship was over, one of the youth that knew him came over and asked if he'd like to go to the nursing home – a bunch of the youth group and some of the other adults were bringing some of the lilies there and leading a short Easter service for the elderly residents. Daryl didn't really want to go, he hated nursing homes, but for some reason he agreed to go.

At the nursing home Daryl stood in the back of the room as the rest of the group led the worship service. But just as the service was ending, he felt someone grab his hand very tightly. He looked down and saw a man named Oliver, Oliver Leak – a very old and frail man slightly slumped over in his wheel chair. As the youth group started to leave, Daryl had this strange feeling like Oliver didn't want him to leave. He had this sense that Oliver had been left alone too many times in his life. Not knowing for sure what he should do, Daryl leaned over and told Oliver he would come back and visit him another time. Oliver squeezed his hand even tighter and Daryl left.

Over the course of several months Daryl came often to visit Oliver. At the end of his second visit with him, as he was saying goodbye, Daryl told the old man, "I love you." He shook his head as he left wondering where that came from – those aren't words he used very often. But he found himself repeating those words to Oliver after every visit.

One Saturday, Daryl arrived at the nursing home and Oliver wasn't in his normal spot. He usually found him by the bird sanctuary listening to the songbirds singing. He went down to Oliver's room and there he met a young woman who was putting Oliver's things in boxes. Oliver had died during the night and she was his granddaughter Nikki who was there to collect his belongings. Nikki told Daryl about how their family had gathered the evening before and how they asked Oliver if he was ready to die and if he knew Jesus was with him. She shared how Oliver's eyes brightened and he whispered that yes he knew Jesus was with him and he told us that Jesus came every Saturday, held his hand and told him he loved him.

Be certain of these two things, Jesus is always walking with you and that Jesus always wants to be seen through you. Because of God's great love for you in Jesus, you are and always will be Easter People!

Pastor Dwight Rudquist

New Members **Welcome!**

If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact the office at 651-465-5265.

SUNDAYWORSHIP

Worship every Sunday at 9:00am. We ask that you please wear a mask! If you forget your mask, we do have extras!

LIBRARYHOURS

Monday 8:30am-1:30pm
Tuesday 8:30am-12:30pm
Thursday 8:30am-11:30am

COUNCILMEETING

Council will meet April 3, 2022 at 10:15am.

MONTHLYGIVING REPORT

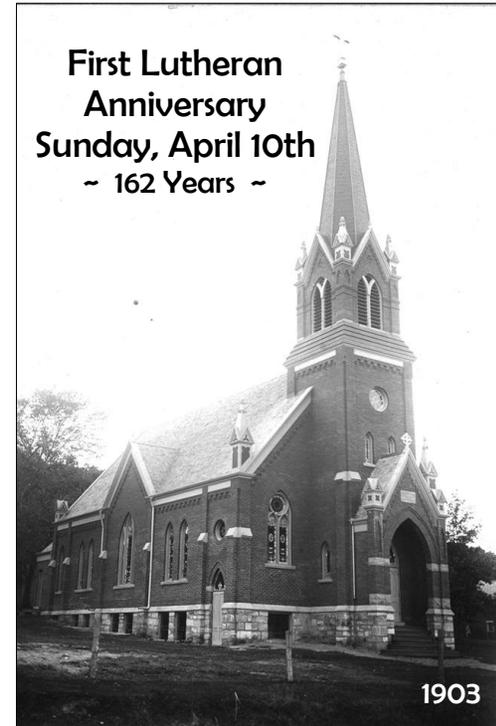
Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. —2 Cor. 9:7 (NIV)

Budgeted Weekly Expenses: \$2771.60

02/20 Giving:	\$4,512.00
02/27 Giving:	\$2,465.00
03/06 Giving:	\$2,960.70
03/13 Giving:	\$2,025.00
03/20 Giving:	\$4,595.10

Thank you for your faithful giving. Please contact FELC Treasurer, Becky Hulden with any questions or concerns at: 651-465-3631 or rhulden@gmail.com.

**First Lutheran
Anniversary
Sunday, April 10th
~ 162 Years ~**

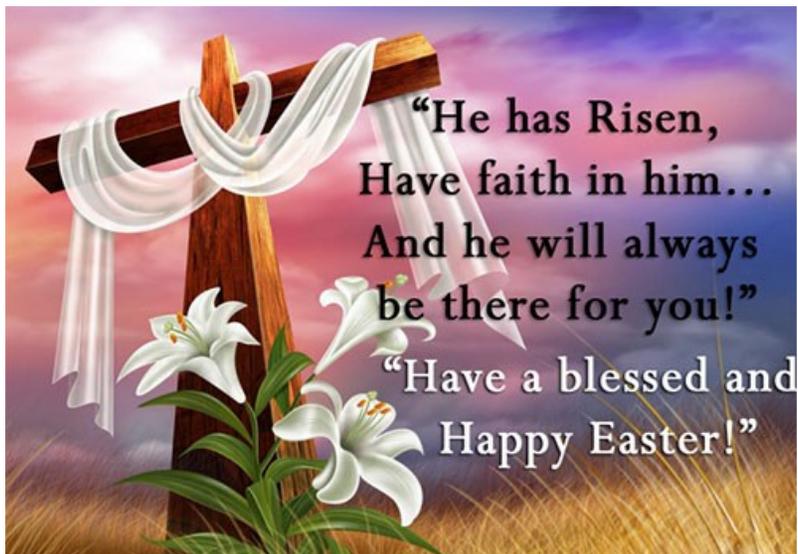


APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 04/01 Ashley Rhoden
- 04/02 Tristen Agar
- 04/06 Rod Olson
- 04/07 Jenni Brown
- 04/07 Miranda Tverberg
- 04/08 Gunner Hasselquist
- 04/11 Molly Moberg
- 04/14 Carol Vitalis
- 04/16 Amelia Tverberg
- 04/16 Vincent Tverberg
- 04/18 Dusty Vodenka-Reed
- 04/25 Joy Buchholtz
- 04/26 Jeanne Fick
- 04/30 Carver Lundholm



Please contact the church office if there are any errors or omissions. Thank you.





Lenten Readings

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| April 1st
Luke 18:15-17 | April 9th
Luke 22:66; 23:1,3-4,7 |
| April 2nd
Luke 18:35-43 | April 10th / Palm Sunday
Luke 23:8-11 |
| April 3rd / Lent 5
Luke 19:1-7 | April 11th
Luke 23:13-21,24 |
| April 4th
Luke 19:8-10 | April 12th
Luke 23:26-27,32-34 |
| April 5th
Luke 19:28,35-40 | April 13th
Luke 23:34-38 |
| April 6th
Luke 22:14,19-20 | April 14th / Maundy
Thursday - Luke 23:39-43 |
| April 7th
Luke 22:39,47-54 | April 15th / Good Friday
Luke 23:44-49 |
| April 8th
Luke 22:56-62 | April 16th / Resurrection of
Our Lord - Luke 24:1-5 |

HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday
April 10th
9:00am
Worship



Maundy Thursday
April 14th
7:00pm Worship



Good Friday
April 15th
7:00pm Worship



Easter Sunday
April 17th
9:00am
Worship



Bible Study: Sunday mornings
Bring your Bible and we'll dive into
next week's readings. Printed
materials will be available.

Dates: To be announced in
upcoming bulletins.

Quilting Group

First and Third Thursday
mornings at 9:30am



Confirmation CLASS

Wednesday, April 6th
In person at the church

5:30pm Confirmation Class
6:15pm Pizza will be served at
7pm Lenten Worship

Wednesday, April 20th
In person at the church
Time: 5:30pm - 6:15pm



If you are interested in being part
of the Altar Guild, please call the
church office ~ we would love to
have your part of this ministry.

We will meet again in April to
change over the altar linens and
prepare our sanctuary for Easter.



Does running the sound
system during worship
interest you? Contact the
church office if you'd like to
like more information!

Is there something that you are interested in being part of within
our church? Helping with bulletin boards? Spring cleaning?
Gardening? Filming worship services? Other....? Call the
church office if you would like to share your thoughts!!!



Confirmation youth, Levi, Carli
and Lucy ushered for one of the
Wednesday Lenten Worship.



Saturday, April 2, 2022

10:00am-3:00pm

This years highlights: Spring Shopping in the Barn, Visits with the Easter Bunny, Wagon Rides, Easter Egg Hunt, Petting Zoo, Lots of Family Fun, and Easter Egg Decorating.

Admission: \$5, Free Parking; Kids 4 & under: Free

Location: 1674 WI Hwy 87, St. Croix Falls, WI

www.bigrockcreekwi.com

River Valley Christian Women's Connection (CWC) invites women to

TREASURE HUNT

Monday, April 18 ~ 11:30 LUNCHEON

Alliance Church of the Valley

1259 State Rd. 35, St. Croix Falls ~ Jon Ekstrom,

Caterer ~ Cost \$15 at door

Reservations are required for you and your guest by

Saturday, April 9th

Please call Sharon at 612-718-8546 or email: s.illgen@yahoo.com

Cancelled reservations need to be made with Sharon by Wednesday, April 13th since CWC is billed for all reservations made.

The program features Jenni Thyng's musical selection.

Inspirational speaker Heidi Studer's talk is "Let's go on a Treasure Hunt" and she'll also do a special feature on essential oils.

CWC is not a club, but a monthly connection for area women to have a fun time over lunch with a program. First timers are expected. We're especially encouraging women who are newly retired. Christian Women's Connection is affiliated with Stonecroft Ministries



Luther Point Bible Camp Summer 2022 Created Good!

"For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving"
~1Timothy 4:4

Each day the campers will experience a different way to encounter God's creation in the world. Some of the day's themes include: Created to Care, Created to Create, and Created to Flourish. Our identity as part of God's wonderful creation gives us a special opportunity to shape and be shaped in God's word.

Registration is open and we are ready for you to join us for our best summer yet at Luther Point Bible Camp! First Evangelical Lutheran Church is a member of Luther Point which means YOU get a discount! Register by May 1st and receive \$55 off your registration fees. Visit www.lutherpoint.org for more information and to register! There are brochures available at the church.

Summer 2022 Discounts

Early Bird

Register between

12-1-21 & 5-1-22

Full Week Camps: \$15 off

Half Week Camps: \$7.50 off

Overnight Camps: \$3.75 off

Member Church Discounts

Full Week Camps: \$55 off

Half Week Camps: \$22.50 off

Overnight Camps: \$13.75 off

Volunteers are needed! Luther Point is need of your time and talents! We could use your help:

- Helping to prepare mailings and publications
- Cleaning and maintaining facilities and grounds
- Painting, remodeling, and other construction projects
- Volunteer work groups
- Splitting Wood
- Mowing the Lawn

Call the office (715-689-2347) or email us at info@lutherpoint.org to add yourself to our Volunteer List.



Council Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

March 13 (Sunday), 2022, 10:15 am at church

Next meeting: April 3, 2022

“To worship God as an intergenerational praying community, learning God’s Word, and building lasting relationships as we grow in God’s love and grace.”

Members Present: Wendy Szczepanski, Rose Anderson, Miriam Flysjo, Craig Loen, Becky Hulden (via Zoom), Pastor Dwight Rudquist, Kathy Carlsted

Church Council Email Meeting March 7, 2022

Pastor Dwight emailed the council a Project Proposal document outlining steps needed to fix the water seepage problem in the basement to be considered at a special congregational meeting on March 20, 2022. After discussion, Craig made a motion to accept the proposed document, Miriam seconded. Rose was informed via phone by Wendy. Motion passed.

A. Opening Devotions - Rose

April - Wendy

B. Sharing Story- Rose, Pastor Dwight

C. Pastor’s Report - Pastor Dwight

Pastor Dwight will meet with Craig to conduct the staff evaluations.

The Reopening task force made following recommendations:

1. We no longer need to sign in before worship.
2. Masks at worship will be optional as of 4/3,
3. Begin fellowship after the service on 4/3
4. Continue to use individual communion bread/cups until further notice.

Motion: Motion by Kathy, seconded by Rose, to accept the Reopening Task force's recommendations. **Amendment:** Craig made a motion to amend the motion, seconded by Kathy, to proceed with proposal 1 and 4 and table parts 2 and 3 until the April 3rd meeting. Amendment passed.

Palm Sunday- Breakfast- Order rolls and have fellowship. TBD

Community meal at Zion- Monday night at Zion starting May 2. Pastor will attend a meeting to find out what it would mean for First to be involved with the meal.

Feed my starving children sponsored by Hosanna church in Forest Lake. We could put together a group from our church. There was a documentary on

PBS that shows the impact the food has on people who are starving. It would be nice to have a link to the video.

Motion: Motion by Becky seconded by Rose to split the Lenten offering between Together with Friends, Feed my Starving Children and the Community Meal. Motion passed.

Meals on Wheels- Pastor Dwight got a call about one family that qualifies for meals but can’t get them because there is no Meals on Wheels program serving Taylors Falls. We need more information before we make any commitment since we don’t have a commercial kitchen. We need to check with The Lodge.

Outdoor summer worship- Listen to voices in congregation and discuss it at the next meeting.

D. Treasurer’s Report - Becky

We need to take in \$9408 a month to stay within our budget. In February we took in a total of \$9874 so we met our budget. We are 66% through the year. Our income is at 76% and our expenses are at 63%

We have \$41,725 available for property projects.

E. Basement Water - Special Congregational Meeting

The written proposal was given to people in church today. The special congregational meeting will be March 20.

Pastor Dwight will have Angie print ballots.

F. Meeting with Justin Grimm, March 22 at 7pm

Justin Grimm will train us in spiritual listening, which should assist us as we continue our journey to shared ministry.

G. Old Business

Motion: Becky made a motion, seconded by Kathy, that Dwight and Wendy complete the research on the directional signs and buy them. Motion passed.

H. Motion to adjourn Miriam, second Rose

Upcoming events:

Palm Sunday - April 10 rolls and coffee (TBD)

Easter - April 17

Synod Assembly - May 13, 14 Dwight, Wendy, Miriam

Respectfully submitted

Miriam Flysjo, council secretary



Church council made the decision to split the Lenten Offerings among:

1. Together with Friends
2. Feed my Starving Children
3. The Community Meal (held at Zion weekly)

If you are interested in giving specifically to one of these three programs, please indicate so on your check or envelope!



Shared by a church member:

Counting Your Blessings

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who won't survive the week. If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 20 million people around the world.

If you attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than almost three billion people in the world. If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy. If your parents are still married and alive, you are very rare, especially in the United States.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not. If you can hold someone's hand, hug them or even touch them on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer God's healing touch. If you can read this message you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read anything at all. You are so blessed in ways you may never even know.



2022 Project Proposal discussed March 20th

Over the past several years, water seepage into the basement has not only been a nuisance, but has caused damage especially in the kitchen area. The assessment by the Property Committee is that most of the issue is from runoff during periods of heavy rainfall. They had meet and received information and bids from a couple of companies who install drain tile inside the building. However, it is their recommendation that another option with the following four steps be taken to alleviate this issue before pursuing the major expense of the drain tile:

1. Have the needed concrete work done on the north side of the building to shed water away from the building. (Estimated cost:\$8,700 – bid received)
2. Do landscaping on the south side of the sanctuary which would include the installation of a water shielding membrane. (Estimated cost:\$2,000)
3. Have a professional grade caulk applied to the west and north side of the building, particularly around the sanctuary structure. (Estimated cost:\$300)
4. Install new gutters that would handle the large surface area of the roof of the main church structure and drainpipe under north sidewalk.

(Estimated cost:\$4,000)

The congregational council agrees with this assessment and is asking that at this Special Congregational Meeting approval be granted to spend up to \$20,000 (estimates total \$15,000 – additional \$5,000 for potential increases in costs) to have these improvements completed. Approval from such a meeting is required by our constitution for items not included in our budget that exceed \$3,000.

As of the financial statement from the end of January, 2022, FELC has \$41,725.75 in available funds that could be used for this project. The bulk of those funds are in undesignated memorials, some in designated property funds, and some in miscellaneous savings funds.

This proposal is being brought forward from the congregation council and needs a second from the floor to be brought under consideration, followed by discussion, and a vote (a quorum of 10% of voting members is required). A simple majority from those present is needed for approval.

At the special congregational meeting, members voted unanimously to approve the proposal which allows the use of up to \$20,000 from the available funds to make the repairs as outlined in the proposal to help prevent water seepage into the basement.

Fellowship Resources at First

- ✚ Nursery (rocking chair, changing table, busy bags)
- ✚ Youth room (games, books, music)
- ✚ Lending library
- ✚ Outdoor playground, sports lawn, yard games lawn, basketball hoop
- ✚ Prayer chain, visitation, mobility equipment loaners

Faith Resources at First

- ✚ Weekly Worship
- ✚ Faith Stepping Stones
 - * Baptism
 - * First Communion
 - * Confirmation
 - * Ministry Leadership Training
 - * Marriage
 - * Parenting Resources
 - * Care Ministry
- ✚ Summer Programs
 - * Bible camp – Together with Friends, Luther Point
 - * Summer Reading Program



Church Office
651-465-5265
www.tflutheran.org

Pastor Dwight Rudquist
c: 651-829-4884
pastorrudquist@gmail.com

Angie Linngren
Ministry Coordinator,
parishc@tflutheran.org

2021-2022

Council/Officers:

Wendy Szczepanski—President

Craig Loen—Vice President

Becky Hulden—Treasurer

Miriam Flysjo —Secretary

Rose Anderson

Kathy Carlsted

Financial Secretary

Jerry Rhoads

Please hold the ministers and council members in your prayers that God would give them the wisdom, strength, courage, patience and perseverance to serve this community of faith as they lead us in our mission for the sake of the world and the glory of God.

Next council meeting will be on April 3, 2022 at 10:15am.

Mission Statement

The mission of FELC is to worship God as an intergenerational praying community, to learn God's Word, and to build lasting relationships as we grow in God's love and grace.

(Mission Statement approved 2017)

"Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations." Psalm 90:1

Please send submissions to: parishc@tflutheran.org

Articles due the 10th of each month.