



First Things

AUGUST 2023

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



I bet you're thinking this is going to be an article about tithing – you're wrong. Have you ever heard the myth that we use only 10% of our

brains? I say it's a myth because, well, it is. We may use only 10% while we're resting, but typically we use all of our brain most of the time according to most neurologists. There are times my golfing buddies might refute this, however.

I recall walking to the nursing home one day on my way to do a monthly communion service I did there. As I walked over from where I had parked my car the sun hit the silver paten (communion plate) that I took with me. Not only did the reflection blind me, but the heat it kicked off was also instant and intense. It took me back to my Boy Scout days cooking with a reflection oven. But what it really did was made me think, "what if we really tapped into the power of 'THE SON'?"

Several months ago, in worship we kept coming back to the verse from Acts 1:8 that says, "*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*" What kind of power is Jesus talking about? How will the Holy Spirit intensify in us the reflection of Jesus (THE SON)? Are we only using 10% of that power? More? Less? What does that power look like? How does it come to us? These are all interesting but tricky questions.

Certainly, we experience the Holy Spirit's moving in us as we gather for worship, as we hear and study scripture, and as we communicate with God in prayer. But we also know how difficult it is to know if it's the Spirit or some undigested bit of beef (Scrooge – A Christmas Carol).

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We also know that Lord Acton's maxim is often true, that is that *"Power tends to corrupt, and that absolute power corrupts absolutely."* Sure, it would be great to harness "THE SON'S" power, but for what purpose and who's good?



My hope in reflecting on this is that we all do a little searching, "reflecting" if you will, on what it means for us to receive power and light from the Holy Spirit. To prayerfully consider how we are moved and where the Holy Spirit is moving us.

The challenge of course is not to turn our plates (our lives) away and not receive what Jesus has promised. Which is not only sad for those who do, but not good for the neighbors in need to whom the Spirit is directing us.

Maybe this ended up being a stewardship message without my intending it to be.

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. Recorded services from Sunday morning worship are available Sunday afternoons on our website www.tflutheran.org and can also be found on our YouTube Channel: First Evangelical Lutheran Church of TF - 2nd.

LIBRARYHOURS

Sunday 8:00am-10:30am

COUNCILMEETING

Council will meet August 6, 2023.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

08/05 Dylan Lynch
08/09 Darlene Mueller
08/10 JonTae Hackmann
08/11 Riley Linngren
08/13 David Hackmann
08/16 Arne Lagus
08/19 Kathy Carlsted
08/19 Sue Nelson
08/20 Dan Curry
08/24 Patty Davids
08/25 Jon Luschen
08/26 Mike Moberg
08/26 Julie Valez
08/30 Marcielle Rogers



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



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

06/25 Giving:	\$1,672.00
07/02 Giving:	\$2,308.00
07/09 Giving:	\$3,839.00
07/16 Giving:	\$2,250.00
07/23 Giving:	\$1,057.00

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.

Save the Date
**CONGREGATIONAL
ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, August 6th
Following Worship**



What's Happening in Our Church!

Every Sunday: Worship
at 9am followed by
Fellowship at 10am.

Bible Study, Church Choir, & Quilting

will take a break for the summer!
Watch for announcements this Fall!!



Prayer Shawl Ministry

A prayer shawl enables the
recipient to be surrounded by
prayer, and is a tangible
reminder of God's care and
love, encouragement and
inspiration.

If you'd like to be part of this
new ministry or have any
questions, please talk with
Becky Hulden.



We are planning to do a
special service to welcome
new members. If you are
interested in becoming a
member of FELC, please
speak with Pr. Dwight!

We Need Your Help!

The funds are low in our Samaritan Fund and we need your help! Since January, we've helped with over \$500 in rent and gas needs for people in our community. Please consider donating towards this fund. Did you know you can transfer your Maple Bucks into this account?

Are you interested in serving on this committee along side Don Hansen? We are in need of one additional person to serve on the Samaritan Committee!

Talk with Don or Angie
for more info!

Heart Strings & Apron Strings



We welcomed storyteller Pati Kachel from The Parable Fund on Wednesday, July 19th. She told delightful stories representing people who are loved and served us. Pati shared memories of ladies who paved her path throughout her life. A big thank you to Miriam Flysjo for setting up this event and to all the members who brought salads and treats for the luncheon! It was a great turnout!



Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures
forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story.

~Psalm 107:1-2



We need volunteer kitchen assistants to help pack meals for delivery. You can support your community by volunteering a couple mornings a month from 9:00 and 11:30 at Parmly on the Lake in Chisago City. We appreciate your flexibility.

For more details and to register, call Coordinator Jackie Law at 651-257-0582

BACKPACK PROGRAM

Chisago County Food Shelf is asking for our help. They are collecting backpacks and school supplies for school children in the Chisago School District for the 2023-2024 school year. If you are interested in bringing backpacks and/or school supplies, we will collect through August 4th! Items needed are listed below.

- 24 pkg. crayons
- Red, Blue and Black Pens
- 10 pkg. wide tip washable markers
- Notebooks (wide & college)
- Scissors
- Bottles of white glue
- Rulers
- Glue sticks
- Yellow Highlighters
- Pencils
- Erasers
- Boxes of Kleenex
- Colored Pencils
- File Folders
- Sanitizing wipes
- Back Packs (New)



As July comes to an end and we realize that summer is entering its final month, families start to plan for the fall and the return to school. We are very thankful that the state has voted to provide school lunches to every student so we know that kids will be receiving at least one meal every day they are in school, but the weekends are a different story.

The return to school means that we will once again have access to send home the backpack program that ensures kiddos have food on the weekends and days where there is not school. I am reaching out for help to restock the supply of food for those backpack bags.

We are starting out with very minimal stock since most things were used up to keep them from expiring over the summer. Last year we sent out about 60 backpack bags a week and are expecting an increase of kids in need, as we have seen a rapid increase in families needing support over the past few months.

Here is a list of the items that kids receive in those bags, any support in restocking their shelves would be greatly appreciated. Many churches have volunteers that regularly bring donations to the food shelf, but if you need, please contact me and I can make arrangements to come and pick up your donations.

Canned Complete Meals like Ravioli, Spaghetti-O's, Beef-a-Roni

Ramen Noodles | Flavored Oatmeal Packets

Small Cereal boxes | Chicken Noodle and Tomato Soup

Individual Snack Packs | Peanut Butter | Macaroni and Cheese

Pop Tarts | Canned Vegetables and Fruits

There is a bin at the church to place donations in.



What's happening

IN OUR COMMUNITY



St. Croix Falls, WI
Public Library Plaza
Saturdays, May-October
10AM-1PM

Lindstrom, MN
Parking Lot of St. Bridget's in
July 6th to October 22th
Wednesday 3 pm to 6 pm
Saturday 8 am to 12 pm

FRANCONIA sculpture park

Franconia Art & Farmers Market
Sun, August 6th | 10am-2pm

The first Sunday of each month,
May-October from 10am-2pm,
local farmers and artists come
together to provide a variety of fresh
produce and handmade crafts.



Relay for Life Community Event

Flames of HOPE are lit at
nightfall in remembrance of those
we lost as well as to honor cancer
survivors.

Wednesday, August 2nd
5:00-9:00pm
Chisago Lake Lutheran

Contact Chisago Lake Lutheran for more information or to purchase a luminary.
651-257-6300, office@chisagolakelutheran.org

35th Annual Summer Celebration and Auction

Schedule

Saturday, August 5

4 p.m. Waterfront/Swimming Open
6 p.m. Community & Freind's BBQ
6:30 p.m. Chapel Quest
7:00 p.m. Tie Dye
7:30 p.m. Campfire

Sunday, August 6

8-9 a.m. Breakfast
11 a.m. Auction Preview Open
11:30 a.m. Worship
12 p.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. Live Auction

*Come and Support the
Many Ministries of
Luther Point Bible Camp!*

Free lodging will be available on a first come first
served basis by filling out the request form.
Families with young children will be given
preference for the family cabins and
retreat center.
Come for the day or enjoy the whole weekend at
Luther Point Bible Camp!

Reserve your lodging today:
www.LutherPoint.org



August 5 & 6, 2023



ALMELUND MINNESOTA THRESHING SHOW

AUGUST 11th, 12th, & 13th . ADMISSION \$25 FOR ALL THREE DAYS OR \$15 PER DAY
KIDS 12 AND UNDER: FREE **GATES OPEN @ 7:00 A.M.**



August 10 @ 6:30pm: Library dance
party! Dance out the summer with
DJ Woody and Genius of Fun. All
ages are welcome.



August 15, 2023

Watch for more details.



August 17th - 20th

Join our community to celebrate Ki-Chi-Saga Days! Enjoy one of the biggest craft/food/display

shows and many activities including a grand parade on Sunday. Don't miss this wonderful community celebration in Chisago City!



EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Monday Evenings
4:00pm - 6:00pm

Zion Lutheran in Chisago City

Spelmansstämma Saturday, August 19th | 10am-4pm Gammelgarden's, Scandia MN

Join us for Spelmansstämma as we celebrate the long-held Swedish folk music tradition of the immigrant fiddle. The festival opens at 1 pm with the traditional parade of folk musicians, followed by performances from each group. Come early (10am - 12pm) for a free tour of Gammelgården's historic buildings, and pack a picnic lunch to enjoy on the museum grounds.



St Croix Fall,s, WI -
Serverson Memorial
Overlook Park

June - August
Friday evenings at
6:30pm

FREE Friday Summer
Concerts at the
overlook.

Bring a lawn chair.

FREE ADMISSION!



2023 Summer Concert Series

Wednesday Nights at 6:30 pm
Lions Park Band Shell—(Next to City Hall)
All Concerts are FREE to the Public!

Aug. 2	Todd Anderson presents Absolutely Elvis	•Health Fair & Age Well Night •Sweet Adeline's Lakes Country Chorus
Aug. 9	Rockin' Hollywoods 50's-80's Rock	•Chisago Lakes Lions Corn Feed •River City Cloggers



Fri, Aug. 5
Sat, Aug. 6

Adam Moe 6-9
Skippin Stones 12:30-3:30
Rick & Kenny 4-7

Fri, Aug. 12
Sat, Aug. 13

Roberts Brothers 6-9
Jeff Brooks 12:30-3:30
St. Croix Crossings 4-7

Fri, Aug. 19
Sat, Aug. 20

Ryan VanSlooten 6-9
Andy Tackett 12:30-3:30
Jay Walter & The Rectifiers 4-7

Fri, Aug. 26
Sat, Aug. 27

Crimson Road 6-9
Scrapagoat 12:30-3:30
Slippery Steve & Scary Gary 4-8



16906 Wild Mountain Rd
Taylors Falls



Council Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday, July 9, 2023, 10:15am

Next meeting: August 6, 2023 (short meeting)

“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, Miriam Flysjo, Craig Loen, Becky Hulden, Kathy Carlsted, Pastor Dwight Rudquist **Members Absent:** None

A. Opening Devotions - Dwight

B. Sharing Story-

Becky, Kathy, Craig

C. Pastor’s Report - Pastor Dwight

Look at report

Pastor Richard Baumann will be the supply pastor when Pastor Dwight is on vacation.

D. Treasurer’s Report - Becky

1. Our income in June (\$7,751) is less than adequate for our budget.
2. Our income (114%) and expenses (99.475%) are healthy at the end of our budget year.
3. We have \$1671.39 less in our accounts than last month.

The council reviewed the present budget and made suggestions for the proposed budget to be presented at the Annual meeting in August. Pastor Dwight will finalize the proposed budget and email it to council members for approval before the annual meeting.

E. Property committee projects

There are no updates on the property projects. We do want a boiler installed before winter. Pastor Dwight will contact the property committee members to check on the progress. We also discussed having the pine tree cut down before the wind blows it down.

F. Vision Group -

Pati Kachel here on July 19, 11:30

Night Out on August 15, possible food truck or band

G. Motion to adjourn, second

11:45 Motion by Miriam, Second by Becky

Coming up:

Congregational meeting, August 6

Together with Friends June 20 – July 25, Tuesdays and Thursdays

Together with Friends salad supper fundraiser 5:00, July 23, Baptist church

MiChiLu potluck gathering July 23, Lions Park, Lindstrom

Festival Theatre rehearsals in church basement, noon to 9pm, M- F, July 10-28

Faithfully submitted,

Miriam Flysjo, council secretary



Pictures from the Mi Chi Lu picnic on Sunday, July 23rd. It was a great turnout, good food and awesome music!



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

2022-2023

Council/Officers:

Wendy Szczepanski—President

Craig Loen—Vice President

Becky Hulden—Treasurer

Miriam Flysjo —Secretary

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 August 6, 2023 at 10:30am.

Mission Statement

Proclaim the Gospel and Serve our Neighbors.

(Mission Statement approved 2023)

"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.