Dear Friends in Christ,

We enter a new season—one of waiting—but waiting doesn’t need to be passive. More and more, as brain research continues, we come to find more amazing things about the ways that God has made us.

Recent studies are showing that our general health is impacted by our level of gratitude, and that even stopping to write down 3 things we are thankful for each evening will make measurable significant improvements.

Five minutes—write what you’re grateful for in the day, don’t need to write a lot, just a note what they are; “Nathan, Jim, family” for example. As we watch for the Prince of Peace, perhaps we will see more of God’s effects in the world. No matter what the malls look like, or how busy our schedules are, or how tired we’ve been able to get ourselves….five minutes! “Thank you, God, for all you’ve given me. Help me see you!”

Blessed watching, waiting, thanking……much love in Advent and at Christmas & always,

Pr. Mary Kaye

Want to learn more about this? Visit http://holistichealingnews.com/the-neurology-of-thanksgiving/
**NEW MEMBER WELCOME!**

If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Pastor Mary Kaye Ashley.

**COUNCIL MEETING**

Council will meet on **Sunday, December 17th at 12:00pm** in the library.

**SARAH CIRCLE**

Sarah Circle will meet **Tuesday, December 5th at 10:30am** for a potluck hosted by Donna Lindgren. All are welcome!

**QUILTERS**

Quilting meets each 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 9:30am. No experience needed to join this enjoyable group!

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**OFFICE HOURS @ FELC**

Monday 9:00am—2:00pm
Tuesday 9:00am—1:00pm
Thursday 9:00am—12:00pm

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**December Worship Service Times**

December 3rd—9:00am
December 10th—9:00am
December 17th—9:00am
“Were You There on that Night?” will be performed!
December 24th—9:00am
Christmas Eve Services
4:00 pm and 10:00 pm
No Christmas Day Services
December 31st—9:00am
“Christmas Hymns”

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**Adult CHOIR SCHEDULE**

December Tuesday Rehearsals:
Dec. 5th and 12th
Cantata Practice: 7pm—8pm
FELC Choir then stays to work on Sunday anthems until 8:30pm.

Saturday, Dec. 16th—Dress rehearsal for Cantata and Sunday School Program at 9am.

**Sunday, Dec. 17th, 9am worship “Were You There on that Christmas Night?”**
Please report by 8:00 AM in the basement dressed in black bottom/white top for warm ups.

**Tuesday, Dec. 19th:** Choir final rehearsal for Christmas Eve service at 7pm. Please mark your calendars that we sing for the 4pm Christmas Eve service on Dec. 24th!!!

**Tuesday, Dec. 26th:** NO REHEARSAL! Rehearsals resume January 2nd

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**MONTHLY GIVING 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budgeted Weekly Expenses: $3114.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/29 Giving: $2,680.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/05 Giving: $3,773.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/12 Giving: $2,439.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/19 Giving: $3,158.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/26 Giving: $2,642.75</td>
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</table>

Thank you for your faithful giving.
Please contact FELC Treasurer, Joe Landgreen with any questions or concerns at: 715-417-1429 or jlandgreen.jl@gmail.com.

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**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- Goranson, James 12/01
- Miller, Katrina 12/01
- Mattson, Mary Anne 12/03
- Carlson, Caren 12/04
- Langer, Makayla 12/05
- Langer, Dalton 12/05
- Jorgensen, Justin 12/06
- Langer, Gayle 12/11
- Moberg, Isaac 12/12
- Hall, Todd 12/13
- Carlson, Lynnette 12/14
- Dexter, Colton 12/14
- Museus, Shelly 12/14
- Posey, Emily 12/17
- Rhoads, Gerald 12/19
- Swenson, Geraldine 12/19
- Lamb, Rachael 12/20
- Nelson, Carol 12/21
- Berthiaume, Susan 12/22
- Braucks, Darren 12/23
- Smith, Olivia 12/23
- Peterson, Deanna 12/24
- Johnson, Melissa 12/27
- Valez, Luke 12/29

Please contact the church office if there are any errors or omissions. Thank you.
**First Lutheran Youth**
YOUTH, GRADES 6-12 WELCOME!

**FLY Schedule**

**Wednesday Evenings**

Dec. 6th—6:30pm to 8:00pm
**Mission Trip Deposit DUE**

Dec. 13th—6:30pm to 8:00pm

Dec. 20th—6:30-8pm
Youth Christmas Party
Watch and listen for more info!!

Dec. 27th
NO YOUTH GROUP

Youth Leader Meeting
No meeting this month!

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**Connect**

to a Christian Community;

**Invite**

into the life and love of God;

**Equip**

to make God-honoring choices in their lives
and to put their faith into practice.

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The youth group watched the movie *Case for Christ!*

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**SUMMER 2018 MISSION TRIP**

To Milwaukee, WI—June 17th-22nd

Sign up is now happening! Signed Deposit Form and Non-Refundable payment of $50 DUE WED. DEC. 6th to Michelle Lynch. Checks payable to FLY. This will be another excellent Urban Mission Experience to continue what we learned in Minneapolis. Total Basic Youthworks Cost is $319. There may be additional transportation costs that are yet to be worked out. If you plan to go on the mission trip, it would be wonderful for you to really get a good start on your HOLIDAY SYRUP SALES!! Team Meetings will begin in January. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Lynch, Youth Minister. Any youth currently in grades 8-12 are eligible for this life-changing trip!!!
On All Saints Sunday, we remembered those who have passed away this year and others who we hold in our hearts.

Paul Olson
Jerry Streed
Jerry Boucher
Ollie Davis
Fred Fors
Mary Kuether
Bob Carlson
Edna Lawson
Florence Christensen
Chestine Carlsted
Annette Sedlund
Grace Flyjso
Mavis Eckes
Ann Erbes
Jerry Platzer
Suzanne Enchak
Ruby Ryan
Stewart Ryan
Ed Dunn
Douglas Brekke
Pastor Paul Roe
Addi Moberg

All-Confirmation Reunion was celebrated at First Evangelical Lutheran Church on Sunday, November 26th. A big thank you to Julie Magnuson for organizing this special event!

Jason & Riley Linngren

We are so blessed to welcome new members into our church. Welcome Hackmann family and old friends, Jason & Riley!!!

Jon, Krissy, JonTae, Taesia, David, & Miriana Hackmann
Nearly 80 guests enjoyed a delicious meal with all its trimmings including meatballs, potatoes, peas, rutabagas and more! A big thank you to Leo and Carol Nelson and all who volunteered their time to make this a great success!

**Lutefish Dinner**  
**October 20, 2017**

Part of the profit—$200—went to Union Gospel Missions for Hearts for Hunger and $100 went to Family Pathways. The balance to FELC Lutheran Companions Account is approximately $700.

Thank you to Thrivent Financial for their $250 contribution!

The big maple tree in our church yard came down in late October. A big thank you to Dallas Brown for tree removal and the generous donation of $400.00 towards half the total cost, for removal.

The 3rd Annual Free Make & Take Community Lefsa making was again at FELC. Over 50 lbs of potatoes were peeled and riced on Friday evening!

Saturday morning, over 15 attended the lefse making. Over 150 were made with many given to shut-in’s and local nursing homes. Another 150 lefse were made by Carol and Duane Olson. The profit of $75 again was given to Union Gospel Missions for Hearts for Hunger.

Thank you to all who attended and to Thrivent Financial who contributed $250!
Confirmation Day
October 29, 2017

We celebrated the confirmation for Ben Landgreen, Isaac Moberg, and Molly Moberg!

Giving Tree 2017

First Lutheran, in cooperation with Taylors Falls Elementary School, has committed to giving gift cards for gas, groceries and gifts for local families who might otherwise not have means to celebrate. If you are able to donate, fill the “gift tree cards” from of our Giving Tree at the church or leave a monetary gift or check made out to FELC in an envelope and place in the offering plate. If you’d like to mail a donation, send to FELC, 561 Chestnut St, Taylors Falls, MN 55084. Thank you for you consideration this Christmas season!

Sunday School Parents:
We will continue to practice every Sunday for the Christmas Story Worship on December 17th at 9am. Please continue to practice at home with your child! Thank you for your support!!

Thank you!
FELC Sunday School Teachers

Important Dates:
Dec. 3 at 10:15—Practice
Dec. 10 at 10:15—Practice
Dec. 16 at 9am—Dress Rehearsal
Dec. 17 at 9am—Performance

Please have the children at church by 8:30am!

KIDS ON BOARD

Michelle will be looking to set up a rehearsal if possible on Saturday, Dec. 23rd from 9:30-10:30am. Please be at the church by 8:30am on Sunday, Dec. 24th as we will lead Advent Worship.

Food 4 Kids

In cooperation with Family Pathways, we help supply Taylors Falls elementary school kids in need of weekend food: 2 breakfast, 2 lunches, a vegetable, a fruit and 2 snacks. The cost is only $2.50 per week and is ongoing throughout the school year. You can donate money or time; if you are interested in helping, please Contact Deb Rhodes 257-1658.
Meeting Agenda
Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church
November 19, 2017

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

Members Present: Joe Landgreen, Gayle Langer Duane Olson, Pastor Mary Kaye, Don Hansen, Rose Anderson, Wendy Szczepanski Members Absent:

A. Opening Prayer– Don Hansen

B. Sharing story-Where you have seen God working in your life this month. Wendy visited relatives in Blue Earth County, made lefsa, lots of fun, blessing of family and friends. Duane is now a great-great grandfather. PMK joys of baby sitting

C. Pastor Report-PMK
The three big events this past year are now completed and we need to plan for next year. Several conferences and workshops are now available for signup:
1) The St. Paul Area Synod Assembly May 18-19, St Andrews in Mahtomedi-Don, PMK;
2) Conference Assembly February 24;
3) Tool Kit Saturday, in February-Wendy, Rose.
4) Luther Point Meeting -Duane,
5) Youth Leaders Recharge Conference
Saturday, January 6th-Rose
Signage for Church-Don will talk with Adam regarding placement and history. Received a call from St. Paul Area Synod, partnership and shared ministry coordinator Joe Lees. A meeting for area churches that may be look at possibilities of shared ministries. Don will call Joe to find out more about this program.

D. Worship Committee report-PMK
Confirmand reunion next Sunday, Pastor Phil Peterson will be preaching/PMK presiding, communion will be served. Riley and Jason will be received as new members November 26. Conversation regarding use of Psalm tone during worship. PMK welcomed all who are interested in further conversation to the worship committee meetings once per month on Tuesday mornings or to talk with her. Don received several compliments this week on how wonderful the choir sounded and music selection. Well done Michelle Lynch and Michelle Canaday.

Meeting Minutes Continued……
E. President’s Report- Don
Fiscal Concerns-I continue to be concerned about our ability to give the approved budgeted amount for the 2017/2018 year, which is about $161,000. In reviewing the giving to date, the decline in offering is because of people who have moved out of the area, transfers to other churches in the area, and the passing on of members. PMK sent a letter last week to all members sharing this information. Giving is usually greater November and December so I am hopeful that we will catch up.
Elevator repair update- The part needed to fix the elevator was ordered. Will take another week to get here. We have about $3,500.00 from special gifts which should cover the repair of the elevator.

F. Property Committee-Joe, Maple tree was removed by Dallas Brown Tree Service and Dallas donated half the cost of the removal. A special gift was received for the other half.

G. Finance Report- Joe. The balance in general checking account is $500.00. We have received $48,000 in offerings to date. Staff salaries were $47,000 to date. Thus are giving has only covered salaries. We had a $10,000 surplus in February, 2017 and have now used all of that to cover all other expenses. Motion by Duane, to accept finance report, PMK seconded, motion Carried

H. Duane-- Clarify where income from Lutefisk, Lefsa making, Funeral Food, and relationship to Lutheran Companions.
Lutheran Companions conversation deferred to next council meeting. The question will be to clarify committee members, who are the members, what is the role of the committee. Correction to December 11, 2016 minutes regarding Funeral Food. The Funeral and Hospitality fund is a separate fund not related to the Lutheran Companions. We serve the funeral food as an act of love for the family and ask the family pay the cost of the food.

I. Memorial Committee report-Duane submitted report and is attached.
Motion by Joe and seconded by PMK to adjourn. Motion carried.

***Please see page 14 of the Newsletter for Memorial Committee Minutes.
Memorial Committee Minutes
October 19th, 2017 7:00 PM

Attendance: Present: Rebecca Hulden, Darlene Mueller, Tim Nelson, Duane Olson, Judy Peterson and Wendy Szczepanski Absent: Meeting called to order by Duane Olson

Quarterly Meeting dates scheduled for 2017-2018
January 18th, 2017 7:00pm, April 19th, 2017 7:00pm, July 19th, 2017 7:00pm
Review and Approval July 20th Meeting Minutes

Agenda Items:
1. Wish List – Memorial Committee is required to make up a “Wish List” to be posted in the Church office. This list will be available for anyone that would like to make a donation to the church, but is not sure where they would like the donation of funds to be designated to.

Memorial Committee members “Wish List”
   1) Elevator Maintenance Fund- repairs and yearly maintenance fees for elevator
   2) Outdoor Beautification Fund- Outdoor Gardening and upkeep, Flowers/Plants for church grounds.
   3) Property Maintenance/Outside Environment Fund- Sidewalk and parking lot repair, repair of steeple from woodpecker damage etc.
   4) Organ Maintenance Fund
   5) Kitchen Needs- replacement of dishes, utensils, silverware, dishcloths, small appliances etc.
   6) Quilt Fund- This fund covers many services and includes the layettes for St. Croix and Osceola newborns. Quilts are also made for local Women’s shelters. The cost of a roll of batting is $100.00 which is used up quickly in making these quilts.
   7) Wellness Fund- AED (Automated External Defibrillator), First Aid Kits for Office, Kitchen and Youth Area. Funds for AED Replacement Batteries (every 2 years) and maintenance also. There are grants that are available for 1st time purchase of AED and these could also be explored.
   8) Samaritan Fund-
   9) Backpack for Kids Program

2. Review Memorial Fund Bulletins for the church pews. There is an existing Tri-Fold Memorial bulletin with Information on what the fund is and how to participate that needs to be reviewed and updated for use in the church pews.
   1) Group discussion regarding the current Memorial bulletin brought forward concerns of outdated and duplicate information that would need to be corrected. The decision was also made to use headings at the top of the columns and bullet points to be less confusing. We would also like to insert the “Wish List” into the Bulletin for easy viewing. It was felt that after these changes have been made, the information may fit on a laminated 2 inch two-sided card.
   2) Duane asked for 2 volunteers to make the suggested adjustments to the bulletin. Becky Hulden and Judy Peterson volunteered to work together on that project and will bring the sample to the Memorial Committee meeting in January.

Adjournment of meeting called by Duane Olsen, Wendy Szczepanski motioned to Adjourn, Darlene Mueller Seconded Motion Next Meeting January 18th, 2018 7:00pm

Minutes Respectively Submitted: Judy Peterson, Secretary Recorder, Memorial Committee

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

Pastor Mary Kaye Ashley
c: 612-532-7083
felcpastor.mk@gmail.com

Michelle Lynch,
Youth Minister/Choir Director
c: 715-220-2782
felcyouthminister@gmail.com

Angie Linngren
Ministry Coordinator,
parishc@tflutheran.org

2017-2018
Council/Officers:
Don Hansen—President
Duane Olson—Vice President
Joe Landgreen—Treasurer
Gayle Langer—Secretary
Wendy Szczepanski
Rose Anderson
Pastor Mary Kaye Ashley

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 is Sunday, December 17th at 12:00 pm in the Library.

Mission Statement

The mission of FELC is to worship God as an intergenerational 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