

NOT FOR PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION

US

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TAYLORS FALLS, MN  
PERMIT NO. 5

*First Evangelical*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

561 Chestnut Street, Taylors Falls, MN 55084-1110



## DECEMBER 2021

The Newsletter of  
First Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
561 Chestnut Street  
Taylors Falls, MN  
55084-1110  
651-465-5265  
[www.tflutheran.org](http://www.tflutheran.org)

### **SUNDAY**WORSHIP

Worship 9:00am  
Masks Required.

Online Worship  
available every  
Sunday, please  
check out our  
website:  
[www.tflutheran.org](http://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.



### “One Tin Soldier”

Listen children to a story  
That was written long ago  
‘bout a kingdom on a mountain  
And the valley far below  
On the mountain was a treasure  
Buried deep beneath a stone

#### CHORUS:

Go ahead and hate your neighbor  
Go ahead and cheat a friend  
Do it in the name of heaven  
You can justify it in the end  
There won’t be any trumpets blowing  
Come the judgment day  
On the bloody morning after  
One tin soldier rides away

So the people of the valley  
Sent a message up the hill,  
Asking for the buried treasure,  
Tons of gold for which they’d kill.  
Came an answer from the kingdom  
“With our brothers we will share.  
All the secrets of our mountain,  
All the riches buried there.”

Now the valley cried with anger,  
“Mount your horses, draw your swords”  
And they killed the mountain people,  
So they won their just reward.  
Now they stood beside the treasure,  
On the mountain dark and red.  
Turned the stone and looked beneath it:  
**PEACE ON EARTH** was all it said.

This song, "One Tin Soldier" printed on page one, was popular when I was a kid. I loved singing it, and it was one of the first songs I learned to play on guitar. Some 30 years later it resurfaced on the lips of one of my daughters who learned it at Bible camp. And just a few weeks ago, when I was visiting my sister-in-law up in Grand Marais, we gathered around a campfire with some of her church friends who love to sing, and lo and behold, it popped up again. I searched briefly on the internet and found that it was written by Dennis Lambert and Brian Porter and first recorded in 1969 by a Canadian pop group called The Original Caste.



It's the last line of the song that really strikes me every time I hear or sing it. As I look at the world around me and as I try to make sense of what Advent and Christmas are all about, **PEACE ON EARTH** is a good thing to hope for, a good foundation on which to build our future.

Wouldn't it be something to be transported back in time to stand on that hillside with the shepherds who heard the multitude of the heavenly host saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." Peace on Earth: it's almost always on my Christmas wish list and the joked-about response of every Miss America Pageant participant. I wonder if we'll get what we want for Christmas this year?

However, as I've mentioned the last few weeks in worship, the coming of God's kingdom and true peace on earth is not some cosmic event somewhere in our future. The in-breaking of God's Kingdom is a continuous event of which we are a part – a vital part. And peace on earth is to be one of our major goals. The questions I have are: What kind of people are we – Mountain People or Valley People? What treasures do we seek, and is there a better one to be found? Or maybe it's about recognizing the treasure that finds us at Christmas!

So, may you and yours find true and lasting peace in the one who was and is and is to come – Jesus the Christ Child born for you, for all! Shalom!!

Pastor Dwight Rudquist

**Christmas Eve**  
4:00pm Worship and 10:00pm Worship

## *New Members* **Welcome!**

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

## **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

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

## **LIBRARY HOURS**

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

## **COUNCIL MEETING**

Council will meet December 12, 2021 at 10:15am.

## **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)*

### Budgeted Weekly Expenses: \$2771.60

10/31 Giving:	\$3,093.00
11/07 Giving:	\$2,465.00
11/14 Giving:	\$3,100.00
11/21 Giving:	\$1,560.00

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.



## **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**



James Goranson	12/01
Mary Anne Mattson	12/03
Caren Carlson	12/04
Dalton Langer	12/05
Makayla Langer	12/05
Whitney Loen	12/06
Gayle Langer	12/11
Isaac Moberg	12/12
Todd Hall	12/13
Joan Boleman	12/16
Jerry Rhoads	12/19
Geri Swenson	12/19
Rachael Lamb	12/20
Carol Nelson	12/21
Susan Berthiaume	12/22
Olivia Smith	12/23
Melissa Johnson	12/27
Luke Valez	12/29
Suntina Hackmann	12/31

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





Bible Study will take place downstairs after worship on Sunday mornings, social distanced. Bring your Bible and we'll dive into next week's readings. Printed materials will be available.

Dates: Dec. 5 and Dec. 19



### Confirmation Class

via Zoom

Wednesday, Dec. 1st and 15th

Time: 5:30pm

Please call the office if you would like more information!

## What I Love About First Lutheran

### Spotlighting: Carol Nelson

First Lutheran has been a part of my family for many generations, from the bricks on the outside of the building to the Altar articles and Archive pictures and information. My great grandparents, grandparents were among the early members of First Evangelical Swedish Lutheran Church. It was attending Sunday School and "Jr. Mission Band" that I first learned that Jesus loved me and enjoyed singing "Jesus Loves me this I know". It was sitting in the balcony each Sunday with my father while he sang in the choir, that made me realize that I too wanted to be part of that choir. Thankfully I was able to do that from my high school days through adulthood. Having been Baptized, Confirmed and Married and continue to be a member of First Lutheran for all these years, I have seen many changes and challenges and the congregation has persevered and continues to serve this community. I am so grateful to have been apart of this congregation and pray for it to continue for years to come.

We would love to spotlight YOU! If you'd like to submit something for this new section, please contact Angie in the office!



What things do you want to see on our wish list?

Short Term:

1. Fall Clean up: Raking Leaves
2. Fall Clean up: Log Cutting
3. New Flag - In Front of Church
4. New Vacuum with Attachments
5. New Kitchen Towels Replacing Old Ones
6. If someone has a dumpster, these could be added to it: old basketball hoop behind outdoor shed, two broken tables downstairs, & possible toilet located in the kitchen storage area.

Long Term:

1. Foundation Maintenance
2. Parking Lot Repair
3. Fellowship Hall Replacement Chairs - \$60 each
4. Paint the Outdoor Shed
5. New Faucets for Four Lower Level Restrooms
6. New Fan/Light Fixtures for Two Sunday School Restrooms

We want to thank the church members who cut trees, raked leaves, moved the picnic tables to their winter home, bought the new flag for out front, purchased new kitchen towels, and disposing the broken long tables from downstairs.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for all the ways you join together to care for our beloved church home!

**Psalms 133:1** Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

**Intergenerational Christmas Program**  
**Sunday, December 12 during 9am Worship**



**Sunday, December 12**

In the library  
 following worship

Each year, our generous congregation purchases gift cards for families who struggle at Christmas. These families are blessed with gift cards towards gas, food and presents. If you'd like to donate toward this wonderful cause, you can put your donation in the offering plate on Sunday morning, mail your donation to the church, marking "Giving Tree" on the envelope or drop the donation off at the church during open office hours.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 Attn: Giving Tree  
 561 Chestnut Street  
 Taylors Falls, MN 55084

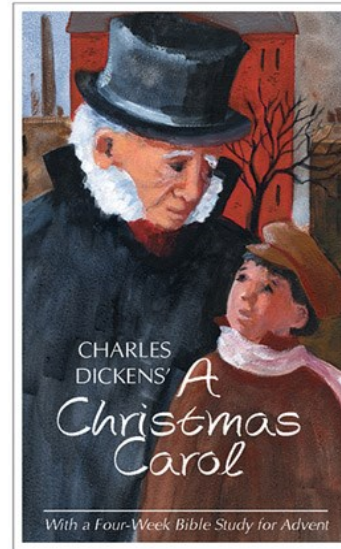
Thank you for opening your heart this upcoming Christmas season and blessing others!



Calling all bakers!!!! We need goodies for our Bake Sale. Please bring plated & bagged cookies, bars, bread, etc. to the church on Sunday, December 12th. All proceeds will go to the ELCA Global Barnyard. If you have any questions, call the church office.

**New for Advent! Available from our library!**

**Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol**



**WITH A 4-WEEK BIBLE STUDY FOR ADVENT**

The classic tale of Ebenezer Scrooge is a cherished symbol of Christmas and a wonderful story of redemption and hope - perfect for a study in Advent.

Contained in one spiral-bound volume are both the full original text of Dickens' A Christmas Carol as well as a four-part discussion guide that coincides with the four weeks of Advent. Perfect for small groups (with or without leaders), individual study, Sunday morning Bible study, or youth groups, the discussion guide incorporates the

story itself with study of Scripture, engaging activities, and thought-provoking discussion starters.

Did you know? Our library has many Christian biographies/ autobiographies for your reading inspiration.



**FELC's Farmer's Market**

**Maple Syrup**

Don's Sugar Shack

**Farm Fresh Eggs**

Becky Hulden

**FELC RESOURCE ROOM**

Maple Syrup - Prices Vary  
 Maple Syrup Pitchers \$10  
 (This would make an adorable  
 combo Christmas Gift!!!)

Honey (Only 4 bottles left) \$4

First Lutheran Cookbook \$5







## Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 2021

Carli Linngren

Jonah Landgreen

Angie Linngren

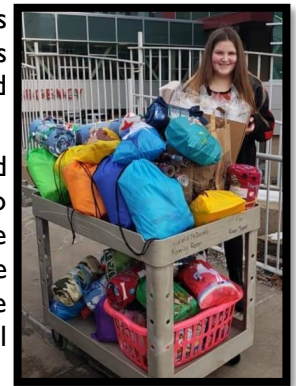


Hi Church Family!

I am busy getting ready for my annual Christmas donations. This year, my focus is on the Children's Hospital, the women's shelter in Miltown, WI, and Mental Health of Polk County, WI.

I want to say thank you for all the prayers and donations that I have received so far. I am excited to share that I've been busy getting purses for the women's shelter and back packs for children at the shelter. I've purchased toys and crafts for the Children's Hospital, too! It's exciting to see it all coming together!

If you are interested in helping me, please call the church office at 651-465-5265! If you could please keep me in your prayers as I work toward my goals, it would mean a lot to me! Thank you!



Love, Carli Linngren

## *Poinsettias & Greenery*



We have ordered ten single and two triple poinsettias for church decorations this year! If you are interested in purchasing one or giving a donation towards the cost of the poinsettias in memory or honor of someone, complete a form on Sunday morning or call the church office!

Estimated Cost:     \$15.00 Single  
                                 \$35.00 Triple

The poinsettias can be picked up after Christmas, first come, first serve, until gone! Thank you!



**St. Croix Valley Orchestra  
2021 WINTER CONCERTS**

**Sunday, Nov. 28, 3:00pm**

United Methodist Church, Taylors Falls, MN

**Saturday, Dec. 4, 7:00pm**

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Amery, WI

**Sunday, Dec. 5, 3:00pm**

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Almelund, MN

ADMISSION BY FREE WILL OFFERING

Check our website: [www.scvorchestra.org](http://www.scvorchestra.org)

Masks are required for guests and performers.  
We don't want anyone to get sick from attending  
a concert. Thank you!

Christmas Lights, Food  
Trucks, Santa, Sledding,  
Fireworks, S'Mores, Vendors,  
free parking and more!



**November 26th thru  
January 2nd**

1674 WI-87

St Croix Falls, WI

Drive Thru Mon-Wed - \$35/Car

Walk Thru Thurs-Sun

\$12 Kids / \$17 Adults

[www.miracleatbigrock.com](http://www.miracleatbigrock.com)

**Unexpected Company Chorale  
"Returning to You"!!!**

You are invited to a wonderful  
winter concert.

**Friday, December 3rd**

Trinity Lutheran Church in  
Lindstrom at 7:30 PM

**Sunday, December 5th**

Forest Hills Church in Forest  
Lake at 3:00 PM.

Tickets are \$10 each and can  
be purchased at the door or in  
advance from our website:

<http://www.ucchorale.org>

**MASKS REQUIRED**



**Campfire Christmas  
December 4th**

A time to gather around the campfire, share a meal, drink hot chocolate, sing Christmas carols and hear the Christmas story. So, put on your favorite, festive Christmas sweater and head on over to spend the evening at Luther Point.

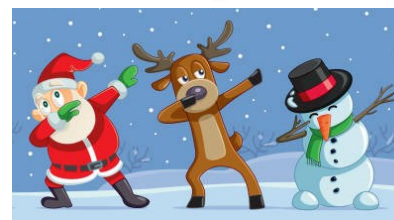
If the weather is right, come and spend a winter wonderland day out at Luther Point. Campfire Christmas will begin at 4pm with hot beverages, outdoor games, campfire and spontaneous Christmas caroling. Supper will be served at 5:30 with a worship service, the Christmas story, caroling and more at 6:30 around the campfire.

Cost: \$7 per person (max \$35 per family)

We are looking forward to celebrating Jesus' birth and kicking off this season of Joy and Love with you out here at Luther Point.

To help with preparation, Luther Point encouraged you to preregister at <https://lpbc.breezechms.com/form/campfire>

You can come the day of the event and pay at the door as well.



**River City Dance Holiday Recital  
Sun., Dec. 19th, 2021**

**3:00pm-5:00pm**

Chisago Lakes High Sch. PAC

Tickets are \$10.00/ticket

(5yrs and under are free)

You are sure to leave with a heart  
full of holiday spirit and a smile on  
your face! For more information call  
651-500-3214.



## Council Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday, November 14, 2021 10am at church

Next meeting November 12, 2021

“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, Pastor Dwight Rudquist, Kathy Carlsted (via phone) **Guest-** Don Hansen

### A. Opening Devotions - Wendy

December - Miriam

### B. Sharing Story- Wendy, Becky

### C. Basement Water

There are four parts to eliminating the problem:

1. Replacing the sidewalk on the north side of the sanctuary.
2. Resloping and installing nonpermeable material on the southside of the sanctuary.
3. Replacing the current residential-sized gutters with larger ones that have a cover to prevent pine needles from clogging them.
4. Installing drain tiles on the inside perimeter of the whole building.

After much discussion about where to start and what needs to be done, it was decided to form a task group that will decide the best course of action and to get quotes for demolition, restoring the inside space if drain tiles are installed, the cost of new rain gutters and gutter helmet. Pastor Dwight will organize the task force and the group will report back to the council in January with a proposal for the congregation to vote on in February.

### D. Pastor’s Report- Pastor Dwight

The Thanksgiving Eve service will be at First and the Methodist church will be invited to participate.

Bernie is selling the bakery and will donate a small popcorn maker to church.

Christmas Eve worship will be at 4 & 10.

December 26 will be a service of Lessons and carols.

Pastor Dwight will be gone December 26, January 2 and January 9.

Since Covid cases continue to rise, masks will be worn during worship. We will continue to use disposable communion cups and not have coffee time.

The Archive committee needs to decide what to do with archives now that the shelves are removed from the storage area. The confirmation pictures need a new way to be displayed.

Pastor decided to start the stewardship campaign in the spring before the annual meeting.

Pastor Dwight mentioned two articles Becky shared with him about the future of the church. He suggested the council have a retreat day on a Saturday in January to discuss the questions in the article and present the questions to the congregation after Sunday service. Becky will email the articles to the council members.

### E. Treasurer’s Report – Becky

Our offering income for October was about \$6000 above our budget, more than making up for the low income in September

At four months into the fiscal year, we should be at 33% of our budget. We are at 38.6% for income and 32.6% for expenses.

The Klinke fund name is changed to Undesignated Memorials. There is about \$37,000 available for property projects in various accounts.

### F. Child Protection Policy

Rose moved/Kathy seconded to accept vulnerable person abuse prevention program proposal. Motion carried. It will be sent on to the insurance company.

### G. Upcoming events

On Saturday, November 27 from 1:00-3:00 First will participate in the Lighting Festival Advent event. We will have material available to make Advent wreaths. There will be a Nativity picture booth with props for families to take their picture posing as the nativity scene in front of the stable. We will hand out Advent calendars. Kathy and Bruce will donate cider.

Angie will arrange for families to light the candles on the Advent wreath every week.

Angie will arrange to decorate the sanctuary between Thanksgiving and Nov 28.

We will have a sign up sheet for members of the congregation to donate Poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary.

We will keep the current stable for now and look at getting a new one later.

The Christmas program will be Dec. 12. The kids wear masks and unmask at the lectern to read their parts. Pastor Dwight will work with Julie and Angie to finalize the details. After the program there will be a Christmas bake sale fundraiser for global barnyard.

### H. Lending Library –

We have noticed there are many community members who use the playground so it was discussed that we should find someone to build a replica of our church to use as a Little Free library to be filled with children’s books. Let Pastor Dwight or Angie know if you are interested in building the replica.

### J. Motion to adjourn by Miriam, second by Becky

Faithfully submitted,  
Miriam Flysjo, council secretary



## *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](http://www.tflutheran.org)

**Pastor Dwight Rudquist**  
c: 651-829-4884  
[pastorrudquist@gmail.com](mailto:pastorrudquist@gmail.com)

**Angie Linngren**  
Ministry Coordinator,  
[parishc@tflutheran.org](mailto: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 December 12, 2021 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](mailto:parishc@tflutheran.org)

Articles due the 10th of each month.