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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



FEBRUARY 2021

The Newsletter of
First Evangelical
Lutheran Church

561 Chestnut Street
Taylors Falls, MN
55084-1110
651-465-5265
www.tflutheran.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Online Worship
every weekend,
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.



I just starting reading a book entitled, “My Grandmother’s Hands” which was recommended by some of the other interim pastors in our synod (I can’t personally recommend it yet as I’m not far enough into it). It’s described as the “first self-help book to examine white-body supremacy in America from the perspective of trauma and body-centered psychology.” It is also described as “a call for Americans to recognize that racism isn’t just about the head, but also about the body.” Part of the introduction encourages the reader to pay attention to how one’s body reacts to what is printed in the book.

So as I sit down today and contemplate what to share with you in the midst of everything that has and is going on in our world, one of my first reactions was thinking back to the beginning of the Jonah story we studied this summer. There Jonah is called by God to go to Nineveh to speak out against the injustice and wickedness that is widespread throughout that land. As I think about what it might mean for God to be calling me to speak out against all the injustices and challenges we are facing, my body’s reaction is much like Jonah’s, I’d just as soon turn and run away like he did.

What we have witnessed and endured as of late has been overwhelming to say the least. I can’t even begin to comprehend how we might turn this ship around. However, as we’ve entered into Mark’s Gospel, I am renewed in hope because there the good news is quickly revealed, that God has not abandoned us. In fact, as we heard at Jesus’ baptism it says that, “Immediately as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased. (Mark 1:10-11)’”



Continued on page two

As I indicated in a recent sermon, I love the image Mark alone uses in telling us that the heavens were torn apart. It reminds us that God is on the loose! And with that, we are reassured that God is not distant, that in Christ Jesus, God is responding to our brokenness. I need to hear that promise and hope in these days, that God is still on the loose, that God is actively working in my life, and in the lives of all God's people, to let the light and love of Jesus shine into the darkness of our world.

Now, I don't have any Pollyannaish optimism that it will be easy. But I am buoyed up by the promise that God is here with us now, encouraging me and hopefully all of us to stand fast and not run away, but to speak with honesty, with boldness, and with hope that indeed, love wins.

I conclude with the prayer that has been echoing in my mind in the past few days and weeks - The Prayer of St. Francis

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, unity; where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.
Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned.*

Pastor Dwight Rudquist



New Members **Welcome!**

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

LIBRARYHOURS

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

COUNCILMEETING

Council will meet February 13th via Zoom.

COFFEE HOUR VIA ZOOM

Sunday, February 7th at 10am
Sunday, February 21st at 10am
Link will be on our website & in the weekly worship email.

QUILTERS & SARAH CIRCLE

Quilters and Sarah Circle will not meet until further notice.

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

12/27 Giving:	\$1,960.00
01/03 Giving:	\$3,837.00
01/10 Giving:	\$2,215.00
01/17 Giving:	\$2,469.00

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.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Miriam Flysjo	02/03
Gail Gustafson	02/03
Dena Johnson	02/05
Michelle Lamb	02/06
Edna Curry	02/07
Wendy Parks	02/07
Ian Anderson	02/12
Orval Curry	02/12
Scott Hansen	02/12
Valerie Lundsted	02/15
Jessica Vitalis	02/16
Cheryl Moberg	02/21
Shawn Valez	02/21
Jacob Vodenka-Reed	02/21
Kayla Donahue	02/23
Leo Nelson	02/24
Lowell Nelson	02/24
Marilyn Tangen	02/24
Michelle Lynch	02/26
Cullen Luschen	02/27
Randy Valez	02/28

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



We want to wish a very special birthday to

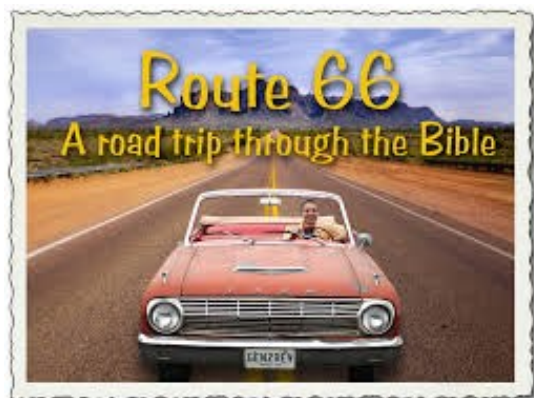
Lowell Nelson!

Let's create a birthday card shower by sending Lowell birthday cards!!!!

Lowell Nelson
2055 Gulf of Mexico Dr
Long Boat Key, FL 34228

Intergenerational

Faith Formation



February 7: ELCA Craft Day

ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts Valentine's Day Grams

See page 6 for more information!!!

February 14: Prayer Partner Sunday

Valentine's Day Book Recording

Outdoor Valentine's Day Fellowship Time -- 11:00am to 12:00pm
In church parking lot - weather permitting.



February 21: Lent

"Bucket List" faith practice for week one: **GIVE**

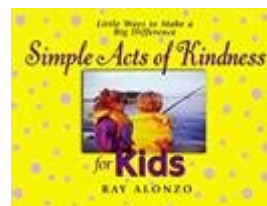
Our 1000 lb food shelf drive kicks off today for Lent!

February 28: Lent

"Bucket List" faith practice for week two: **STUDY**

Children's Book Drive - donate gently used or new faith based picture books for the children's section of our church library

Book Video - "Have you Filled a Bucket Today?"
Read by author Carol McCloud



Children – Simple Acts of Kindness for Kids by Ray Alonzo

Simple Acts of Kindness will inspire readers to spread kindness in everyday ways to the everyday people in their lives. And the recipients will want to pass on kindness, too. One life at a time--that's how the difference is made!

Youth – Red Rock Mysteries #4: Wild Rescue, by Jenkins and Fabry

Bryce and Ashley Timberline are excited about being hired to take care of the neighbor's alpaca farm, but is it safe for them to be alone at the farmhouse?

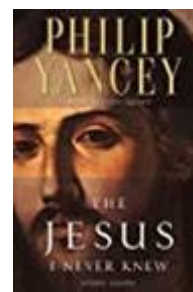


Fiction – Love Finds you in Prince Edward Island Canada by Susan Page Davis

In the summer of 1860, Prince Edward Island's inhabitants eagerly await their first visit from a British royal.

Inspiration – Finishing Strong: Going the Distance for Your Family by Steve Farrar

Good news for the average man: it doesn't matter if you've stumbled time and again. What matters most is the man who hangs in there for the long haul.



Large Print – The Jesus I never Knew, by Philip Yancey

From the manger in Bethlehem to the cross in Jerusalem, Yancey presents a complex character who generates questions as well as answers; a disturbing and exhilarating Jesus who wants to radically transform your life and stretch your faith.



English: thank you
Swedish: tack

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Confirmation Class

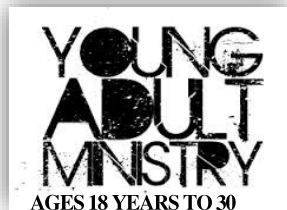
Grades 6 - 8

February Schedule

Wed, February 3rd at 5pm

Wed, February 17th at 5pm

Both classes will be via Zoom. The invite link will be send by email. If you'd like more information on attending confirmation classes, please call the church office!



Calling all young adults!!! We'd love to hear from you - share with us what you are up to! Have you gotten married? Started a family? Are you in college? What things are you doing in your life ~ we'd love to hear from you and see pictures! Please email, mail or call us with anything you'd like to share!

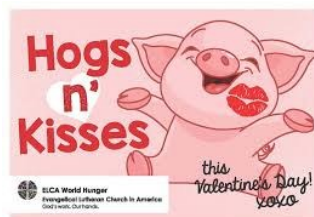
ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts Valentine's Grams

The purchase of an ELCA Good Gifts gram helps provide families in need with fruit-tree seedlings, piglets, and the resources they need to escape hunger and poverty for good. There are THREE ways you can give: 1. Mail donations to the church office, payable to First Lutheran and indicate if your donation is for fruit trees or piglets - a Valgram will be mailed to you! 2. Drop off donations and pick up Valgrams at church during office hours. 3. Drop off donations and pick up Valgrams during the outdoor fellowship time on Sun. February 14th, 11a-12p.



Fruit tree seedling \$10

Special varieties of fruit trees are known to thrive in the driest of conditions. These low-maintenance trees are an investment in the community that can span generations, protecting the soil from erosion and providing nutritious fruit to children and adults alike.



Piglet \$30

Just \$30 can provide a piglet to a family in need. When this little piggy grows up, she will give birth to as many as 16 piglets each year. Pigs help fertilize fields, provide food to eat and can be sold at market for much-needed income. Within months, a tiny piglet grows to weigh over 200 pounds. What a BIG difference a pig can make!

Outdoor Valentine's Day Fellowship Time

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

(in the church parking lot, weather permitting)



Above-ground bonfire

Hot Cocoa & Heart-shaped cookies in Swedish paper heart baskets

Selfies with the Nordic Goat Sleight



Fellowship with your church family!



World Hunger Valgrams

Maple Lumber & instructions to make your own wooden bucket!



Council Meeting Minutes

January 9 (Saturday), 2021 3:00 via Zoom

Next meeting: February 13, 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

Members Absent:

A. Opening Devotions - Wendy February - Craig

B. Sharing Story - Rose, Becky

C. Pastor’s Report- Pastor Dwight

In the past month, Pastor Dwight has checked on some members of the congregation via phone. He has attended council and MiChiLu meetings via Zoom, officiated over two graveside services for non members, and recorded Christmas and December services.

It is difficult to think about moving forward with the shared ministry during Covid since we aren’t able to meet in person with the members. We hope to continue to talk about what we can do together with Trinity even if we don’t share a pastor.

The council feels the congregation needs to learn from the past before we can go forward. Maybe we need a committee to look back at our history of membership, giving trends and staffing to get an idea of what the congregation has looked like in the past. Pastor Dwight will call Krista to ask what steps we need to take to move forward.

Rose suggested we buy the Lenten devotional for the congregation. They cost \$2.25 each so we could get 50 for about \$100.

Motion: Wendy motioned to order Lenten devotionals to distribute to our members and friends of First Lutheran with funds taken out of the adult education budget. Second by Craig. Motion passed.

D. Treasurer’s Report – Becky

Our Income for the month is on track for our budget. We are halfway through the year, so we should be at 50% of our budget. Staff expenses are at 57% and Program expenses are at 62%. Becky will look at what is driving our program expenses.

We continue to get donations for the steeple fund. This month we received \$3700. The money will replace money we borrowed from our checking account.

Becky was happy to announce our PPP loan was forgiven.

E. Production equipment for church services

Bit Works is coming on Tuesday to look at the sanctuary and make suggestions for equipment so we don’t have to use Angie’s phone to record the service now and to enable us to record our services when we return to worshipping in person. Wendy, Don, Angie and Pastor will be there to explain our needs.

New fundraiser:

We are looking for a way to help pay for production equipment. Old Lutheran makes masks that we can buy for \$5 which we could suggest a \$10 donation. Maybe we can combine a pie fundraiser along with the mask fundraiser.

Jeanne Fick is excited about the steeple. She really wants to get the steeple lit up. Pastor Dwight will talk to Bruce about getting an estimate soon so it can be passed along to Jeanne.

F. Blessings for the New Year, January 17

The date of the blessing has been changed to Jan. 17 and will focus on blessing the new year.

G. Renting of Church Office Space

Judy Peterson would like to rent a room from April - Nov. Pastor Dwight and Wendy will look into finding a contract we can use. Wendy will contact Judy.

H. Motion to adjourn, second

Rose motion to adjourn Craig second.

Coming up: Toolkit for Congregational Leaders, Saturday Feb. 27, 9-11:45 Zoom

1000 lb Food Shelf food drive during Lent

How do we meet the goal?

If 40 families donate 5 lbs of food each week for 5 weeks during Lent, we will meet the 1000 lb goal!!

How to join in:

Set up a cardboard collection box and add 5 lbs of food to the box each week. Watch it grow. Pack up your box and drop it off to one of the delivery trucks at church on Palm Sunday.



Most Needed Items

- Canned Fruit
- Canned Vegetables
- Boxed Pasta or Rice
- Baking or Cooking Items
 - ⇒ Vegetable Oil
 - ⇒ Flour
 - ⇒ Sugar
 - ⇒ Spices
- Canned Meats
 - ⇒ Tuna
 - ⇒ Chicken
 - ⇒ Salmon
- Hearty Canned Soups
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Personal Hygiene
 - ⇒ Shampoo/Conditioner
 - ⇒ Body Wash
 - ⇒ Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
 - ⇒ Mouthwash
 - ⇒ Tampons & Pads
- Baby & Toddler
 - ⇒ Shampoo/Conditioner
 - ⇒ Body Wash
 - ⇒ Diapers - All Sizes
 - ⇒ Wipes
- Household
 - ⇒ Laundry Detergent
 - ⇒ Dish Soap
 - ⇒ Disinfectants



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

2020-2021

Council/Officers:

Wendy Szczepanski—President

Craig Loen—Vice President

Becky Hulden—Treasurer

Miriam Flysjo —Secretary

Rose Anderson

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 in February 13 via Zoom.

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.