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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 2022

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

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

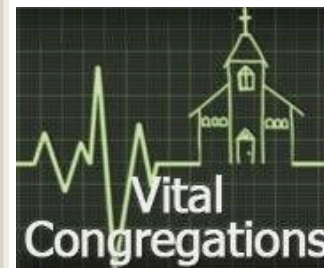
Thursday
8:30am—11:30am
Hours may vary - please
visit the website for
updates.



The following is a report I put together for the Congregational Council that I thought might be worth sharing with all of you. This report is from a January 8th Workshop I attended with Wendy and Craig. The workshop was called: Foundations of Vitality: Tools for the Church in an Uncertain Time.

This workshop, offered by the St. Paul Area Synod that Wendy, Craig, and I attended, provided a nudge for us to begin to examine who we are as a congregation, what we do (ministries and programs), and most importantly why we do them. We were encouraged to explore what our Mission/Vision and Values are and if they are clearly stated and understood by the congregation. It was stressed that if we don't have a clear foundation to lead from, it's hard to know where to go. That foundation, they contended, is the "why" of our existence. It makes sense that when there is a clearly defined purpose, vitality exists and conversely, where there is confusion or lack of clarity, there is confusion or lack of clarity.

Part of the morning was listening to a few stories from congregations who have worked through a process to determine their Mission/Vision/Values.



They worked from the assumption that "Vital Congregations" know how they are gifted to each other; to the community they are a

part of; and to the world at large. “Vital Congregations” also provide an environment for growth to happen and for new life to exist. They also live with a sense of what God is calling them to do. One quote that stood out to me was, “Our task is not to decide for ourselves how to be church. Our task is to listen deeply for how God is calling us to be church.” This kind of listening can be challenging!

Another thought/ideal that we were encouraged to keep in mind was that in our vision for congregational vitality it is important to believe that: Every Person is a missionary, every pastor is a mission director, and every congregation is a mission station for the sake of the world. The question that always goes along with these thoughts for me is, “How would our congregation be missed if we were no longer here?”

We ended by focusing in on “the why,” because they contend that it “All Starts with Why?” We played a sort of game called the “Five Whys” which tried to help us narrow in on why each of our congregation exists. Why does First exist? That’s a great question I believe will be helpful for us to wrestle with as we move forward.

My hope is that we will find some help, either through the synod or another source, who can help lead us through a process that will guide us in laying out a “Foundation of Vitality.” I think it will be very helpful for us work together to determine our “why” and let that guide all that we do as a congregation. These are exciting and also challenging discussions to have. I look forward to having them with you.

Pastor Dwight Rudquist

New Members **Welcome!**

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

SUNDAYWORSHIP

Indoor 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 February 13, 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

12/24-12/26 Giving:	\$2,812.00
01/02 Giving:	\$1,474.00
01/09 Giving:	\$4,325.00
01/16 Giving:	\$3,604.00

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.

Love Never Melts



**Let all that you do
be done with LOVE.**

~1 Corinthians 16:14

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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



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



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

Dates: February 6th, 20th, & 27th



Confirmation Class via Zoom

Wed, Feb. 2nd & 16th

Time: 5:30pm

**Please call the office if you
would like more information!**



Random Acts of Kindness Day February 17

Make a note to do nice things throughout the day! Need some
ideas to share kindness but remain safe?

Here are a few to get you started:

- ♥ Pay for the order of the car behind you at your favorite fast food restaurant!
- ♥ Drop off a load of groceries at the local food pantry.
- ♥ Mail a "thinking of you" card to someone you've not to talk to in a while.
- ♥ Send a thank you note to the local fire department, police departments, or any military personnel.
- ♥ Send a thank you card to a teacher or nurse!
- ♥ Just smile.

**"How do we change the world?
One random act of kindness at a time."**

~Morgan Freeman

Swedish egg coffee is a unique way of brewing coffee with an egg. According to legend, this recipe originated en route from Sweden to America in the late 1800s. It has become a long tradition for Lutheran church gatherings of Scandinavian-Americans in the Midwest and was dubbed "church basement coffee" for the large quantity it usually makes.

Coffee is always a great way to start off the day—go ahead and enjoy your egg coffee with the perfect accompaniment—a cinnamon roll or bagel.

CHURCH BASEMENT COFFEE

Ingredients

- 9 1/4 cups water, divided
- 3/4 cups freshly ground coffee
- 1 large egg (including the shell, if you like)
- 1 cup cold water

Steps to Make It

1. Gather the ingredients
2. Bring 9 cups of the water to a rapid boil in a saucepan or enamel coffee pot.
3. While waiting for the water to boil, stir together the ground coffee, remaining 1/4 cup water, and the egg in a small bowl or measuring cup. (You can omit the eggshell and use only the egg yolk and white if you prefer.)
4. Once the water is boiling, carefully pour in the egg and coffee mixture. Turn down the heat and simmer for 3 minutes, being watchful that it doesn't boil over.
5. The coffee grounds will gradually bind together into a single mass that floats to the top of the pot. Once this happens, immediately remove the pot from heat.
6. Pour in the 1 cup of cold water and let the coffee sit for 10 minutes. This allows the coffee ground to settle to the bottom of the pot.
7. Once the grounds have sunk to the bottom, pour the coffee through a fine-meshed sieve or strainer into cups and serve.





Thursday, February 10th through Sunday, February 13th

Dogsled Races ~ Candlelit Hike
Chili Feed ~ Medallion Hunt
Ice Car Racing ~ Ice Carousel
Dodgeball Tournament ~ Polka Dance
Fireworks AND MORE!

Visit Chisago Lakes Chamber of Commerce for more info!

Center City ~ Lindstrom ~ Chisago City



Ice Fishing Retreat

February 10-13, 2022

The weekend will be spent fishing and hearing God's call to seek, with the promise that we will find, and the call to go out and live. Each day will begin with fishing, followed by Brunch with Daily devotion, followed by more fishing, coffee hour, and then supper. In the evening there will be time for relaxation, games and fellowship. This event will be taking place at the same time as the 28th Annual Grantsburg American Legion Ice Fishing Contest. The \$10 registration fee for that event is included in the cost of the retreat.

Cost: 3 nights (Thurs- Sun) \$260 (light meal Thurs. Evening as you arrive, 5 meals, includes registration for ice fishing event) Arrive after 5pm on Thursday, Welcome begins at 7pm or stay for 2 nights (Fri-Sun) \$210 (5meals, includes registration for Ice fishing event) For full day of activities. arrive between 8-10:30 on Friday, Brunch and morning Devotions begin at 11am.



Stillwater, MN

**January 14th -
February 20th**

Welcome to the largest Ice Maze in the USA!

Ticket Prices

Children 4 yrs & under - Free
Children 12 yrs & under - \$12.00
(\$14 at the gate)
Adults 13 yrs & older - \$20.00
(\$22 at the gate)
Adults 100 yrs & older - Free

- * More than 2000 Blocks of Ice
- * 1/2 mile of twisty little passages
- * HUGE Ice Slide!
- * Hot Chocolate & S'Mores
- * Ice-Bar
- * An Ice Queen or Two

Visit www.icepalacemaze.com for more information & tickets!

**Sat, February 26th, 10am-4pm &
Sun, February 27th, 11am-3pm**

Looking for fresh ideas for home improvement, saving energy, building, remodeling, landscaping health and finance? This event helps people gather a multitude of ideas at one location. Make a

connection with area businesses, share ideas and get ready to take the next step. Enjoy seminars and entertainment.

Find it all under one roof.





Council Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 9 (Sunday), 2022, 10:15 am at church

Next meeting: February 13, 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), Kathy Carlsted, Pastor Dwight Rudquist **Members Absent:** none

A. Opening Devotions - Craig

February - Pastor Dwight

B. Sharing Story- Rose, Craig

C. Pastor’s Report - Pastor Dwight

The council agreed that Pastor Dwight should ask synod leaders to help us move forward with shared ministry.

The Reopening task group will meet Thursday to discuss how to keep our members safe during this time when Covid cases are increasing at an alarming rate. He will meet with area clergy via Zoom to find out what precautions MiChiLu congregations are taking during this Covid spike.

Pastor Dwight will continue phone visits with parishioners. .

It was determined that more individual Communion cups will be ordered to follow the Covid protocol.

Pastor Dwight, Wendy and Craig attended “Tools for the Church in an Uncertain Time: Rediscovering Your Why- Purpose, Vision, Values” workshop on January 8. They briefly explained how the workshop questioned why we do things in church and how it was helpful to get to the core of our beliefs. It was suggested that the council will go through the exercise in a Saturday retreat and determine how to use the information to help First move forward with our shared ministry. Pastor Dwight will summarize the workshop and share the information with other council members.

- February 12th visits to homes

Becky will help Pastor Dwight and Angie determine what to bring to the families who are visited. (Devotionals and N95 masks were suggested) The committee will determine which families to visit.

- Lent – Ash Wednesday, March 2- in person or pre taped?

After discussing a number of options for Lenten services it was decided that Pastor Dwight would confer with other MiChiLu pastors to find out what they were doing and if we can collaborate. Most likely we will have an in person service for Ash Wednesday.

Pastor Dwight suggested meeting individually with the staff to have a conversation about how their job is going and if they need anything from the council to do their job better. Craig and Wendy would be willing to help with the process.

D. Treasurer’s Report – Becky

Our offering income for December was \$2000 over budget. At six months into our fiscal year we should be at 50% of our budget. We are at 54% for income and 46% for expenses.

The PPP Loan Forgiveness paperwork was submitted on Friday, January 7, 2022.

The loan will be forgiven.

Funds available for the property project are about \$41,700.

E. Basement Water

Pastor Dwight met with the Property committee who presented two options to correct the problem with water in the basement. The council reviewed the options. We have water in the basement when it rains so it does not appear to be a water table issue.

Motion: Becky made a motion that we go with Option 1, steps 1-4, including installing commercial grade gutters and getting estimates with solid numbers so we have a complete proposal to bring to the congregation. Motion seconded by Craig. Motion passed.

F. Upcoming events

- February 12, North Conference Assembly at 10am via Zoom- We need 2 people. Council voted to send Miriam and Wendy as voting members to the assembly.

- February 26, Toolkit for church leaders, 8:30-12:15, Prince of Peace, Burnsville

- Ash Wednesday – March 2 wait to see if it is on Zoom.

G. Directional Signs for church

Wendy’s calls to the city were not returned. She will try to contact the mayor.

H. Motion to adjourn, second- Kathy/Rose

Respectfully 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

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 February 13, 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.