

## Narthex & Balcony

After passing through the front doors and climbing a short flight of stairs, on the left is the **altar** from the first church built in 1860. It is currently used to distribute church periodicals. No one now living personally remembers the first church, and we have no photographs of its interior, but long-time elderly members of the congregation are unanimous in the opinion that this is the altar from the first church. Beautifully painted on the front of the altar are a cross and a crown of thorns.

The door to the right opens to a stairway to the **belfry** and **balcony**. The belfry houses the 1250 pound bell in the steeple that calls people to worship and in the past tolled for the death of members. The balcony is used by the choir and is the location of the **pipe organ**. The original organ was installed in 1910 with the help of grant money from Andrew Carnegie. Over the years the organ was renovated and remodeled several times until further renovation was not feasible. In 2007, Leonore Moberg donated a modern pipe organ to the church and the Moe Piano and Organ Co. of Wadena, Minnesota, combined it with parts of the original organ to create the 19 rank present organ. This organ was played for the first time on the Sunday after Easter, 2007, and was dedicated with a concert by Diane (Moberg) Aikin on July 15, 2007.

## The Nave

Returning our steps to the entryway, the double swinging doors lead to the sanctuary. The oak pews are original to the church. The **wainscoting and trim** around the windows and doors is yellow pine. Looking more closely you will see the beautifully **embossed tin ceiling**, which was repainted in 2008 (along with the rest of the sanctuary) by Carlisle Studios of Mora, Minnesota, just in time for the Sesquicentennial celebration.

The **stained glass windows** were installed when the church was built. Their beauty is enhanced by the simplicity of design and the artistic choice of colors. The center windows on either side of the sanctuary are wider than the other windows and each is constructed around a central motif.

The **center aisle** is a symbol of the way that leads to the throne of God.

## The Chancel

The **altar** is a symbol of Christ's sacrificial death and the symbol of God's presence in the church. The altar occupies the center part of the chancel, and faces east as did the altar of ancient churches.

The symbol IHS appears on the cross that stands in the center of the altar. The candlesticks on the altar remind us of the words "I am the Light of the world" (John 8:12). They also represent the two natures of Jesus Christ – the human and the divine. The eternal light, the candelabra, the holder for the Bible and more have been added over the years and enhance the worship experience.

An **eleven-spire structure** is located at the rear of the altar. The eleven-spire structure is the location of the **replica statue of the risen Christ**. Created in 1821 by noted Danish sculptor



Bertil Thorvaldsen, it is commonly referred to as Thorvaldsen's Christ. It was created for Vor Frue Kirke (The Church of Our Lady) in Copenhagen. Critics have considered it to be "the most perfect statue of Christ in the world". Still clad in His burial robe, His outstretched arms welcome all believers to receive the sacraments.

On either side of the altar is a stained glass window; one emphasizing a font, the other a chalice. These remind us of the two sacraments observed by the Lutheran Church: Baptism and Holy Communion.

The half-circle **altar rail** and kneeling arrangement for communion are also original parts of the church.

The octagon has long been the favorite shape for **baptismal fonts**. Eight was the symbol of regeneration.

The **ceiling of the chancel area** is painted to represent clouds in the heavens as the natural veil of the blue sky to draw your eyes upward and is therefore symbolic of the unseen God. And the dove descending from the clouds is the symbol of the Holy Spirit.

The **pulpit and tester** are typical of Augustana Lutheran churches built at the time of this one. Sermons are traditionally preached from the pulpit and the Gospel may also be read from there. The pulpit is also basically an octagon with six sides exposed from the wall and again emphasizes the regenerative power of God's Word.

# The Education Wing

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Main Level

Continuing south through the doors near the pulpit is the new part of the church, erected in 1962. To the left are the church office, the pastor's office, and the library and council room. The **library** is not just a repository of old books about religion and church life, but is an active and well-functioning circulator of information and publications of value to recipients of this service. The library is also where some of the church archives are kept on display. One of particular interest is a scale model of our first church building. The first church building was built in 1860 when ten members of our church separated themselves from Chisago Lake Lutheran Church at Center City to form a new congregation. Andy Swenson designed and constructed this model in 2008.

On the other side of the hallway is the **handicapped accessible rear entrance**, the elevator, a lavatory, and several other rooms used for youth activities.

## Lower Level

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There is a south and north stairway inside and outside the church to access the lower level. The lower level is used for Sunday School, a meeting place for other activities, church dinners, coffee after worship, and general **fellowship**.

More archives are found in the fellowship hall including **confirmation photographs**. There are photographs also in the display case. One photo shows the church under construction. It shows the scaffolding and the windows have not yet been installed.

Another photo shows the church with the original **parsonage**, which was located immediately north of the church. The parsonage was destroyed by fire on Palm Sunday in 1930 and a bungalow style parsonage was constructed using the old foundation. This structure was remodeled and renovated with the arrival of each new pastor and was largely neglected between times. It was finally removed (burned to the ground as a fire department training session) in 1986 and the pastor now owns his/her own home.

## General Information

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Thank you for your interest in touring our church. Each brick, each note of music, each word spoken is supported by gifts of individuals.

The church is open **Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM–12:00 PM**  
*(Please call to confirm office hours as schedule is subject to change)*

**Sunday 8:00 AM –12:00 PM**

Worship services are held Sunday mornings at  
**9:00 AM**

Additional information – special services, upcoming programs – can be found on the website [www.tflutheran.org](http://www.tflutheran.org). For tours after office hours, arrangements may be made by calling (651) 465-5265.



**561 Chestnut Street**  
**Taylors Falls, MN 55084**

(651) 465-5265      [www.tflutheran.org](http://www.tflutheran.org)

**Pastor Mary Kaye Ashley**, First Evangelical Lutheran Church TF  
**Bishop Patricia Lull**, St. Paul Area Synod - ELCA  
**Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton**, ELCA

*Walking tour excerpts written by John Jackson for the congregation's sesquicentennial.*



## Self Guided Walking Tour

of First Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
Taylors Falls

## The Architecture

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Starting at the steps leading to the church from Chestnut Street, we see the locally manufactured brick from the Dombrock Brick Yard in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin. The original building was 90' long by 38' wide by 16' tall and the steeple, visible from Highway 8 in Wisconsin, is 106' tall and is designed to draw your focus to the cross at its pinnacle. Only once since 1903 the cross was struck by lightning and damaged to the point that steeplejacks had to be engaged to repair it.

The church is constructed in the Gothic style, which originated in France in the twelfth century. The term Gothic is derived from a Greek word meaning magical. Gothic style includes pointed arches and large lancet windows (long and narrow with a pointed arch) filled with stained glass.

Above the front doors is the stone plaque proclaiming this to be the First Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church. The 1903 cornerstone is located to the right of the entrance stairway on the church proper and indicates the date the church was built. Early members of this church were immigrants from Sweden and affiliated themselves with the Augustana Synod. All services were conducted in the Swedish language and church records were written in Swedish as well. Swedish services were finally discontinued in 1938 and the word "Swedish" was dropped from the congregation's name in 1939.