

NOT FOR PROFIT  
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TAYLORS FALLS, MN  
PERMIT NO. 5



## JANUARY 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**

Online Worship  
every weekend,  
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

**SONGS** ~ Think back for a moment and recall some songs that were particularly meaningful to you at various points in your life. Maybe it was a love song that expressed everything you felt for that special someone. In the 60's some of you might have resonated with a song of protest. I know I was moved by Dick Holler's 1968 song "Abraham, Martin, and John" recorded by Dion which laments the untimely deaths of Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., John and Robert Kennedy - "but it seems the good they die young." Gifted with three young girls when this song came out, I recall almost having to pull over my car as tears clouded my vision as Bob Carlisle sang about "Butterfly Kisses." My list of memorable songs ranges from the powerful music and lyrics in the musical Les Miserables to camp songs like One Tin Soldier - "Peace on Earth, was all it said."

Luke's Gospel is no stranger to songs. The first chapter has three. Elizabeth sings as she recognizes that the child in Mary's womb is blessed. Mary sings the "Magnificat" exclaiming how God will continue God's gracious and redemptive work through her Holy Child. And as his voice is restored, Zechariah sings of how his son John will announce to the world the salvation that is to come through Jesus. He proclaims how this coming one will transform us all. That he will

**BEHIND EVERY  
FAVORITE SONG,  
THERE IS AN  
UNTOLD STORY.**

KUSHANDWIZDOM

Continued on page two

restore us into a right relationship with God through the forgiveness of our sin, shining light in the darkness and guiding us into a way of peace. Then as the Christ Child is born in chapter two the heavenly chorus breaks into song, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those (that's you) whom he favors!" The songs in Luke might be limited to these first few chapters, but the adventure has just begun, the party is just starting (Luke 15).

This Christmas I sensed a deep longing in people for God to be real, for God to be extra close and reachable. I'm sure all that we've been through with COVID-19 was a big part of that sentiment along with any number of other troubling realities of life. One of my favorite choral pieces that I've sung is a moving arrangement of "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" by Daniel E. Gawthrop. The text was written by the famous English leader of the Methodist movement Charles Wesley.

*Come, Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's Strength and Consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear Desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.*

*Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit,  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.*

This song expresses much of what I was hearing from many of you.

Can you feel the tension in these words? It's the tension of life and of faith. There is the deep desire to be filled with the endless joy and rest that Jesus brings and yet this Child King's work is done as his spirit rules and reigns in each of us. His kingdom comes, but it comes ever so slowly. Hope and heartbreak side by side, O how we wish it were so much easier.

My prayer is that you and I in this New Year will be able to see Jesus Emmanuel, God with us, to see Jesus whom we long for, walking with us. And maybe that will lead us to whistle while we work or maybe even break into song as the revelation of Christ's light dawns upon us. Let hope win! *Because hope of all the earth Thou art!*

Pastor Dwight Rudquist

## New Members Welcome!

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

## LIBRARY HOURS

Monday 8:30am-1:30pm

Tuesday 8:30am-12:30pm

Thursday 8:30am-11:30am

## COUNCIL MEETING

Council will meet January 9th via Zoom.

## 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

11/29 Giving: \$3,360.00

12/06 Giving: \$1,555.00

12/13 Giving: \$3,717.00

12/20 Giving: \$2,335.00

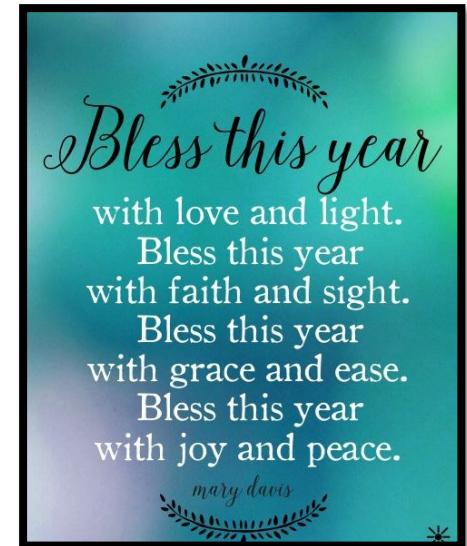
Thank you for your faithful giving. Please contact FELC Treasurer, Becky Hulden with any questions or concerns at: 651-465-3631 or [rhulden@gmail.com](mailto:rhulden@gmail.com).

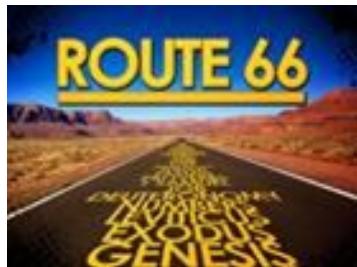


## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Krissy Hackmann	01/02
Sydney Paredes	01/02
Peter Vitalis	01/04
Isabella Langer	01/12
Coby Halstrom	01/14
Bill Davids	01/15
Patricia Vodenka-Reed	01/15
Natasha Johnson	01/16
Cody Larson	01/17
Attley Loen	01/18
Dylan Magnuson	01/19
Tim Nelson	01/19
Brian Kelley	01/21
Rylin McDonald	01/21
Freya McDonald	01/28
Marilyn Olson	01/28
Carli Linngren	01/31

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





# Intergenerational Faith Formation

## **January 10th: Library Day**

Library and Archives Trail Map: A Guide to Resources; Epiphany Book Video;

### Swedish Words of the Month

#### **Herren är i sitt heliga tempel**

“the Lord is in His holy temple “

(originally stenciled above the central arch at the front of the church)

#### **Frid vare med eder**

“Peace be with you “

(originally stenciled on the wall to the left of the central arch, above the pulpit)

#### **Se, jag kommer snart**

“ Watch, I come soon “

(originally stenciled on the wall to the right of the central arch)

## **January 17: ELCA Craft Day**

Campus Ministry Random Acts of Kindness Cards

## **January 24: Prayer Partner Day**

Story Starters

## **January 31: Game Day**

Color-Changing Carnations: A Baptism Experiment

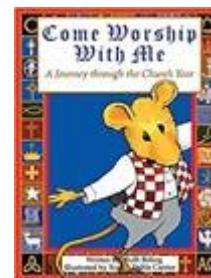
### Looking ahead to February:

ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts Valentine's Day Grams

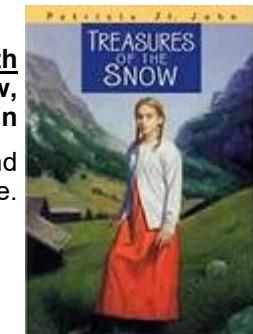
The purchase of an ELCA Good Gift helps provide families in need with fruit-tree seedlings, piglets, and the resources they need to escape hunger and poverty for good. Fruit tree Seedlings \$10: special varieties of fruit trees are known to thrive in the driest of conditions. These low-maintenance trees are an investment in the community that can span generations, protecting the soil from erosion and providing nutritious fruit to children and adults alike. Piglets \$30: 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!

## January Books of the Month

### Children – Come Worship with Me: A Journey Through the Church Year, by Ruth Boling

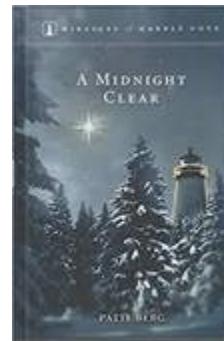


In this colorful and beautifully illustrated children's book, Advent, Christmas, Palm Sunday, Easter, and more come alive as the mice trace the journey of the church year and invite children of all ages to worship.



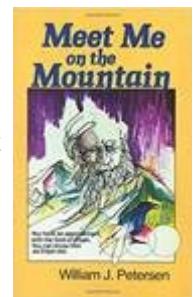
### Youth **Treasures of the Snow,** by Patricia M. St John

A story of revenge and  
repentance.



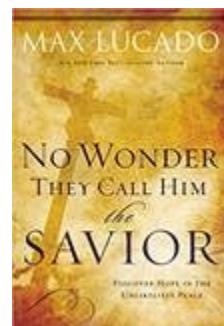
### Fiction **Miracles of Marble Cove #7: A Midnight Clear,** by Patti Berg

It's Christmastime, and  
surprises and miracles  
abound!



### Biographies **Meet me on the Mountain,** by William J. Peterson

How much like Elijah are you? At times he felt discouraged, yet he knew the God of Israel in a personal way and trusted and obeyed him.



### Large Print

### **No Wonder They Call Him Savior,** by Max Lucado

Max Lucado leads us up the hill of mankind's highest hope and reminds us why Jesus is our Savior.



## Confirmation Class

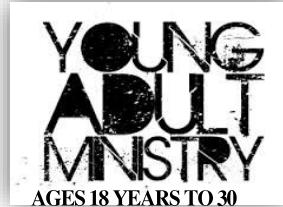
Grades 6 - 8

January Schedule

Wed, January 6th at 5pm

Wed, January 20th 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!

A historic practice among Greek Orthodox Christians is the blessing of homes on or near Epiphany. This year, Epiphany, January 6th, falls on a Wednesday. You are invited to join us to "chalk," pray over or bless homes on Sunday, January 10th. We will meet at FELC at 1pm and break into teams and we'll be done no later than 4pm. If you're interested in having your home or apartment blessed, please contact Angie in the church office with your address by January 5th. If you're interested in being on one of the blessing teams, please sign up at FELC call the church office at 651-465-5265 or email at [parishc@flutheran.org](mailto:parishc@flutheran.org)



Thank you for each of the children and youth that took part in our Outdoor Children's Pageant on Sunday, December 13th. We had a good turnout and ended with hot cocoa & cookies with free will donations towards the ELCA Good Gifts. A BIG thank you to Julie Magnuson for organizing this event!

**Thank you to everyone who donated money and gift cards toward the giving tree this holiday season.**

**Principle Jason Riebe was overjoyed with what was delivered to the school and the families in need.**

We have a lighted parking lot!!!! Thank you to Stan Peterson for installing a light by the backdoor and to Bruce Carlsted for fixing the two large parking lot yard lights.

Julie Valez is looking to help others while providing an income for her family. Give Julie a call if you need help with:

- Shopping
- Cleaning
- Running Errands
- Companionship

Phone: 651-465-3159.





## Council Meeting Minutes

December 12, 3:00pm via Zoom

Next meeting: January 9, 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 Flysjø, Becky Hulden, Pastor Dwight Rudquist

**Members Absent:** Craig Loen

**A. Opening Devotions** - Rose Next month Wendy

**B. Sharing Story** - Becky- what a blessing we finished the steeple repair. God worked through us to make it happen. We need to celebrate what God has done for us. What else does God have in mind for us to do next?

**C. Pastor’s Report- Pastor Dwight**

Pastor is trying to get all the online services for the month done early so Angie will have ample time to edit before Christmas.

Pastor is hoping to make some contacts before the end of the month.

Christmas gifts are being distributed to church staff.

Blessings of homes will be Jan 10. We will ask if anyone is interested in having their home blessed. People doing the blessing can go in individual cars and homeowners can step outside to receive the blessing. It will be a good way to connect with our members. If people aren’t comfortable with visitors a blessing could be posted online for people to bless their own home.

**D. Treasurer’s Report – Becky**

This month we are about \$2800 ahead of our budget. It helped having 5 Sundays in the month. We continue to get money for the steeple fund...\$1350 in November. The bill for the steeple was paid.

Janell and Becky completed the PPP loan forgiveness request forms.

## E. Production equipment for church services

Immanuel in Almelund had Bitworks come in to give a bid about what would be helpful to produce their service online. They outfitted Immanuel with 2-3 new cameras and additional sound equipment so they could have live or recorded services. We will have Bitworks come and assess our situation and make a bid. When we get a bid, the property committee can decide if we need another bid before proceeding.

## F. Transition - Shared Ministry with Trinity Lutheran, Lindstrom Discussion of “Issues to be addressed” worksheet

The council will meet with Trinity members on Thursday evening via We have a meeting in a few days with Trinity.

The biggest concern for First is losing Pastor Dwight. We have not had such a good fit with previous pastors. Having him here has been a balm.

What would it look like if Dwight stayed with us longer? If Pastor Dwight stayed we could still work with Trinity. Our confirmation students and youth could join Trinity to be a part of a larger group. Both churches have a strong emphasis on serving the community. Maybe we can find ways to work together to serve the community.

Maybe we need to see how far along Trinity is in the process. If they want to hire someone right away there are other churches in MiChiLu that might be willing to do a shared ministry with us in a few years.

When we looked at our assets we didn’t sound as good as we would have liked. If we share leadership sometimes it is harder to grow. We need time to heal and determine our mission. It seems like partnering now might not be the best for us.

It was amazing all the different ministries Trinity is able to do. What does it mean to flourish? Is flourishing having enough energy and people to be able to reach out? People who used to participate in ministry at First are gone or tired.

Our last two pastors left because we couldn’t afford them any more. What happened? We have to reckon with our past. We need input from everybody. What has been the impact of our history?

Covid has made this process extremely difficult. We can’t meet in

## Council Minutes Continued.

person to discuss the process and get input from everyone. We are in survival mode. This can't count as interim time until we are back in the church. This is not a healthy time to try to transition to another pastor. Covid came fast, but it will go away slowly. We still have a number of months to get through Covid.

Pastor Dwight said it's a great opportunity for First to do shared ministry with Trinity but it makes sense to need more time to transition to shared ministry because of the restrictions due to Covid. He is enjoying the part time call and being able to preach. Pastor Dwight does not know how long he will be able to continue with First because at some point he will want to be completely retired. He wants what is best for First.

### G. Parking lot lights.

The parking lot lights aren't coming on at night. Stan Peterson replaced one of the parking lot lights near the back door and is planning on replacing the one on the southwest corner as well. We also have some street lights in the parking lot that do not work. Pastor Dwight will check with Don and Bruce to get the lights fixed.

### H. Motion to adjourn, second

Miriam motioned to adjourn. Rose seconded.



**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)

**2020-2021**

### **Council/Officers:**

**Wendy Szczepanski**—President

**Craig Loen**—Vice President

**Becky Hulden**—Treasurer

**Miriam Flysjø** —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 January 9 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](mailto:parishc@tflutheran.org)  
Articles due the 10th of each month.