



JULY 2021

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

SUNDAYWORSHIP

July 4: Indoor
July 11: Outdoor
July 18: Indoor
July 25: Outdoor

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.



Have you ever seen this story? It made the rounds on email and Facebook a while ago.

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of his local newspaper, complaining that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I've heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I can't recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I need to do my work. If my wife had not given me those meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

Did you know that when Coke a Cola was first being introduced the company gave away huge amounts of "stuff" to vendors – coolers, signs, coasters, etc. in order to make people

think of Coke. Between various advertisements and all these other promotional gadgets, it was their intention to make sure each person saw the name Coke at least 76 times each day. Today, in some segments of the world, when you're asked if you want a carbonated beverage they say, "Do you want a Coke?" If you say yes, the next question is, "What kind." Do you think the company's ads worked?

How many times a day do you hear that you are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people?" (1 Peter 2:9) How many times on the TV do you hear, "Do not let your hearts be troubled?" (John 14:1) Unfortunately we are bombarded with news and information that is constantly telling us to live in fear. We are told that we can only be acceptable if we use this or that product. Life on this side is conditional and quantified. "If you, when you, you should," are but a few of the words we hear over and over.

The good news however is unconditional, it is "you are" because that is what God in Christ has made you. You are God's people, you have received mercy, and you are free to be the people God has created you to be, all because of God's love for us in Jesus.

I promise that's the message you'll hear on Sundays – most of the time at least. Why – because you need to hear it! See you there!!!

Pastor Dwight Rudquist



PASTORAL VISITS

Over the past year, Pr. Dwight has visited church members by request only due to many safety restrictions. As those restrictions are being lifted, Pr. Dwight is available for visits on a more readily basis. Please call the church office to arrange a time and date if you are interested in a visit from Pr. Dwight.

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 July 11, 2021 at 10:00am.

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

05/16 & 5/23 Giving:	\$3,406.00
05/30 Giving:	\$2,385.00
06/06 Giving:	\$3,160.00
06/13 Giving:	\$2,404.00
06/20 Giving:	\$2,720.36

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.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Rachael Carlson	07/02
Jesse Loen	07/06
Jason Linngren	07/07
Scott Hasselquist	07/08
Deb Rhoads	07/10
Renee Alexander	07/11
Ryan Rogers	07/12
Cynthia Holmberg	07/16
Janet Shepardson	07/26
Joseph Alexander	07/27
Dustin Valez	07/28
Joe Mattson	07/29
Angie Linngren	07/30

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

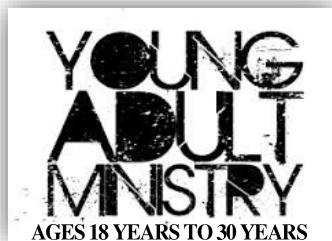
Hello church family!

Cody and I recently celebrated our second wedding anniversary (June 8th) and we were reminiscing about our wedding day. There have been 5 total weddings at TF First Lutheran for the Joe and Mary Anne Mattson clan! Now that it's been two whole years since our wedding, I wanted to give a little life update on us.

We have moved to Foley, MN and live in an apartment. Cody works for USPS out of Foley and enjoys having a 2 minute drive to work everyday. Cody also is working with the Navy Reserves out of Minneapolis/St. Paul and travels there once a month for drill. Brenna now works at the Farm Service Agency in Mora, MN delivering programs and working with Farm Loans. I enjoy getting back to my roots and working with farmers every day again. Cody and I return home most weekends to help with the crops and our nieces.

We hope to get back to some sort of normal where we can see and visit with you, our church family.

Brenna and Cody French



Summer Programs



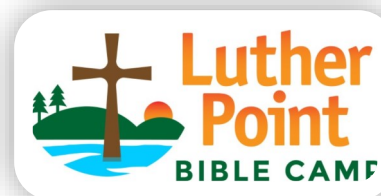
Together with Friends

Tuesdays & Thursday Mornings
9:00am to Noon
June 22 to July 22

Baptist Church: 6/22, 6/24
Lutheran Church: 6/29, 7/01, 7/06, 7/08
Baptist Church: 7/13, 7/15, 7/20, 7/22

Visit our website for more information! Brochures are available at the church on the bulletin board.

Visit our website:
www.lutherpoint.org for more information, a full summer schedule and information on summer camp discounts & incentive discounts!



We have brochures at the church on the bulletin board!

What I Love About First Lutheran

Spotlighting Wendy Szczepanski

To be honest, what first drew me to FELC was that it is only a couple of blocks from my house. But once I walked through those doors, I experienced a spirit of love and hospitality that made me feel instantly "at home". I am grateful to be in communion with my sisters and brothers in Christ at First Lutheran!



FELC Summer Reading Program July 4th - August 8th

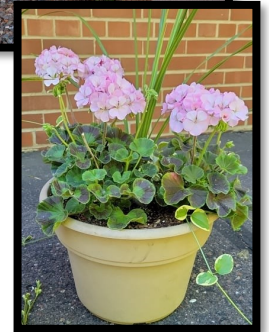
This six week summer reading program begins Sunday, July 4th. Check out the last page of the newsletter for more information!!!!





Our graduates were celebrated on Sunday, June 6th and received their quilts!

Thank you to our wonderful quilters!!!



THANK YOU!



There has been a lot going on around our church! Flowers planted, trees down, garden beds cleaned, playground mulched, new basketball hoops, grass mowing weekly and so much more! Thank you to all who have helped take care of our church!





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

Short Term:

1. Outside Sign Landscaping
2. Weeding - Front near building

Long Term:

1. Foundation Maintenance
2. Parking Lot Repair
3. Fellowship Hall Chairs
4. Paint the Outdoor Shed
5. Re-Build the Nativity Structure

We have had a few church members voice their desire for a Bible Study or Book Study group to begin. If you would be interested in joining, please call or email the church office; this will help us have a better idea of how many are interested! We do not have anything scheduled yet, but will keep you informed when dates have been set!



Money donations are needed for Together with Friends. There will be a jar available on Sunday mornings or donations can be mailed to the church!

TwF Wish List



Harmony in the Park

Wednesdays, starting at 6:30pm
Concert starts at 7:00pm
June 2 - August 5, 2021

Deutschland Meats will have BBQ, and Trinity Lutheran youth will have snacks, beverages & ice cream available. Bring your own lawn chair. Fun for the whole family! Lions Park Band Shell next to Lindstrom City Hall 13292 Sylvan Ave., Lindstrom, MN 55045

SCHEDULE: July 7: Bob and the Beachcombers ~ July 14: Monroe Crossing ~ July 21: Darlene and the Boys ~ July 28: Back Up and Push (Bluegrass) ~ Aug. 4: Rockin' Hollywoods

FREE FRIDAY CONCERTS 6:30 PM

<h4 style="text-align: center;">JUNE</h4> <p>4 CITY OF TRAILS FEST THE JORGENSENS BAND 11 SWONGOS & HOUNDS 18 BBQ & BLUES NIGHT 25 PAT DONOHUE & THE PRAIRIE HOME ALLSTARS</p> <h4 style="text-align: center;">JULY</h4> <p>2 KIDS & FAMILY NITE 9 BIG BAND & HORNS WANNIGANS WEEKEND! 16 VAN HALEN TRIBUTE SCHOOL OF ROCK SHOW 17 THE UNDERGROOVE + REX CACTUS + COMEDY 23 JIMMY BUFFET NIGHT 30 @ POLK COUNTY FAIR</p>	<h4 style="text-align: center;">AUGUST</h4> <p>6 COUNTRY NIGHT WITH USA'S #1 JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE SHOW 13 THE GIT BACKS 20 BLUEGRASS NIGHT W STRINGSMITHS BAND 27 KIDS & FAMILY NITE 28 FALLS' MUSIC FEST AT THE POLK COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS WITH CHRIS KROEZE BAND BEER BBQ RIBS + MORE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BE SMART + SAFE COVID-19 SAFETY HAVE FUN MUSICONTHEOVERLOOK.COM</p>
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2021 St Croix Falls Music On The Overlook Summer Concert Series

~ Spread out ~

~ Be Safe ~

~ Bring your own lawn chair ~

~ Enjoy The Music ~



Friday, July 16th to
Sunday, July 18th
Visit the website for a full
schedule of events:
www.tfwannigandays.com

Some Events to look forward to:

Friday, July 16th

12pm-10pm (SCF) Art, Craft &
Vendor Fair

5pm-9pm (TF) Classic Car Show -
Wannigan Park

6pm (TF) Cash Bingo -
TF Community Center

8pm (TF) Rockin' Hollywoods - Big
Stage by Romaine's Sport Bar
10pm (SCF) Tribute to Van Halen

Saturday, July 17th

10am-2pm (TF) Kid Fest -
Wannigan Park

1pm (TF) Bootlegger's Ball - Big
Stage by Romaine's Bar

1pm (SCF) Entertainment begins at
the Overlook including music,
comedy shows & Annual Talent
Show at 4pm

3pm-8pm St. Joe's Eats - St.
Joseph's Church

5pm Kids Parade - Line up at the
Big Stage by Romaine's Barb 4:45

7pm Grand Day Parade - Starts in
SCF at 6, arrives in TF around 7
10pm (SCF) Fireworks Display

Sunday, July 18th

10am (SCF) Church Service - The
Overlook & Free Community Meal
to follow

12pm (SCF) Self guided hikes,
biking & trail outings in SCF

12:30pm Croquet School for
Children - TF Elementary

2pm Senior Croquet Tournament -
TF Elementary



Firth Lutheran's Weekly Farmer's Market

Maple Syrup - Don's Sugar Shack

Honey - Pete Lindgren

Farm Fresh Eggs - Becky Hulden

St. Croix Falls, WI

Every Saturday
May through October
10:00am to 1:00pm

Lindstrom, MN

2021 Season Begins July 7
Open July to October
Wednesdays 3pm to 6pm
Saturday 8am to 12pm





Council Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

June 13 (Sunday), 2021, 10am at church
Next meeting: July 11, 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, Becky Hulden, Pastor Dwight Rudquist **Members Absent:** Craig Loen

A. Opening Devotions – Pastor Dwight

July - Rose

B. Sharing Story- Rose

C. Pastor’s Report- Pastor Dwight

Pastor Dwight recorded the final service and led services outdoors and indoors. He attended Zoom meetings with the Reopening Task Group and the synod led Interim Pastors meeting. He met with the Finance committee to write up a proposed budget.

After learning about how slow the office computer is, the council would like to update the office computer by the fall. There are a couple of old computers in the Youth room that need to be disposed of. Pastor will work with Angie to get rid of the old computers and price a new one for the office.

The council is concerned about how to continue Intergenerational Sunday School. Pastor will check with Julie in the hope she will continue to lead it this fall.

Pastor will be gone June 27. Jerry Rhodes will preach and Becky and her husband will lead songs.

We went over the proposed budget and made a couple of changes.

Motion: Wendy made a motion, which was seconded by Becky, to adopt the proposed 2021-22 budget with amendments. Motion passed.

D. Treasurer’s Report – Becky

May had 5 Sundays. In May we were a little above what we need for our

monthly income. Expenses ahead of where we should be. Program expenses above where should be. Becky will go over the deposit sheets to determine where the money that should be in the electronic equipment fund was deposited.

E. Transition

The council read through a draft letter to the congregation about working with the Synod to keep Pastor Dwight. It was decided we need to include the timeline and the members of the call committee. The letter will go out in a couple of weeks explaining the transition process.

F. Planting Hope Campaign- St. Paul Area Synod (SPAS)

Wendy told about a 3 year fundraising campaign that the St. Paul Synod is launching which involves the following:

1. Invite neighbors
2. Renewing congregation with synod
3. Raise up the next generation of leaders... support for newly ordained pastors to help with their college debt.
4. Invest in a transformative project in East St. Paul neighborhood. Like a missionary situation where we are supporting an area where people are unchurched. The details haven’t been finalized yet.

Council will revisit it in September when it is more complete.

G. Other business-

The Lodge has indicated that they are ready to resume the Book Study that FELC had been holding before the pandemic. We will probably start up in the fall.

H. Motion to adjourn Becky, second Rose

Coming up: Together with Friends Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9am - noon

June 22,24 Baptist Church

June 29, July 1,6,8 Lutheran Church

July 12,15, 20,22 Baptist Church

Respectfully submitted, Miriam Flysjo, Secretary



FELC Summer Reading Program

July 4th - August 8th

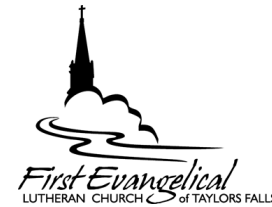
For all ages!!!



How it works

1. The six week summer reading program begins Sunday, July 4th.
2. There are many ways to join in:
 - Check out books from our lending library (including First Lutheran history books)
 - Read your own faith-based books
 - Read an entire book, chapters within a book, short stories, articles, poems, play scripts, listen to an audio book
 - Read at the beach, read at sunrise or sunset, take a book-themed staycation
 - Learn about a Christian author
 - Start or end your day with daily devotions
 - Start a virtual book club
 - Meet your book club for coffee at the outdoor picnic tables on Sunday mornings
 - Bake or cook recipes from faith-based fiction books or cookbooks
 - And more!
3. Keep a reading log.
4. Turn in your reading log before worship on Sunday, August 8th - - for a chance to win prizes for all ages.

Prizes include 4 ice cream cones from the Drive In Restaurant, 2 tickets to Fawn-Doe-Rosa, or an annual Minnesota state park pass!



Church Office
651-465-5265
www.tflutheran.org

Pastor Dwight Rudquist
c: 651-829-4884
pastorrudquist@gmail.com

Angie Linnngren
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 July 11th at 10:00am.

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.