

First Things

JULY 2023

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



Jesus said to Peter the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. John 21:17

I recall a book by Philip Gulley and James Mulholland entitled If Grace Is True that emphasized the radical nature of God's love for you and me and how contrary to everyday life God's message of grace is to us. Here's a portion I think many of you can identify with.

Growing up, I spent nearly every Saturday afternoon at the Royal Theater. I'd do my chores in the morning and my parents would give me fifty cents to go to the movies. My favorites were the Westerns. I remember watching the movie Shane starring Alan Ladd. It was the story of a retired gunfighter who takes a job as a farmhand, only to have the evil rancher, Ryker, abuse the townsfolk.

By the end of the movie, I'd worked myself into a bloodlust and was elated when Shane reluctantly strapped on his pistols and blasted the bad guys in a hail of lead. Shane may have been reluctant, but I was overjoyed. I wasn't alone. The theater was full of skinny, nerdy boys who'd suffered at the hands of bullies but lacked the courage to do anything about it. Shane's triumph was ours, and we stood and cheered.

The next day, Sunday, I went to church and heard stories about a meek and mild Jesus teaching about love, healing the sick, and feeding the hungry. But one day, his mercy strained to the limit, he reluctantly took up a whip, went to the Temple, and turned over the

Continued on page two



tables of those who abused the poor. I always liked that story. In my imagination, Jesus looked remarkably like Alan Ladd.

Then the story took a twist, Jesus was arrested, convicted on trumped-up charges, flogged, and nailed to a cross. His followers scattered while his enemies celebrated his demise. Still, I'd watched enough Westerns to know never give up on the hero. The train might be bearing down, the fuse on the gunpowder keg lit, his fate apparently sealed, but I never despaired.

So, Jesus' resurrection didn't surprise me. Heroes never die. They return to destroy their enemies. If the disciples had been raised on Saturday matinees, they would have waited at the tomb, confident of Jesus' triumph.

It was what happened after the resurrection that disappointed me. Jesus didn't follow the script. He should have returned to the Temple and blasted his enemies. He should have marched into the Roman palace to find Pilate quaking in fear, begging for mercy. All of Jerusalem should have carried Jesus on their shoulders and proclaimed him king. That's how Hollywood would have ended the Easter story.

Jesus would never have made it in Hollywood. Instead of vanquishing his enemies and parading in triumph, Jesus met with his friends and encouraged them. Not a single verse indicates Jesus made his resurrection known to his enemies. Neither did he urge his disciples to avenge his suffering. He told them to preach, teach, and heal – to spread his gospel of love. Instead of using the resurrection as evidence of his power, he used it to serve, cooking breakfast for his followers. Instead of using the resurrection as an opportunity to wreak revenge, he used it to offer forgiveness, pardoning Peter for his betrayal. It is an odd ending.

To Proclaim the Gospel and Serve our Neighbors is quite a mission we have before us. Not a new one by a long shot – but certainly a challenging one. We have something to say to a world that lives by Hollywood endings. As the kids sing, “Don’t you know He’s a radical God?” Yes – God is your radical God!!

Pastor Dwight Rudquist

New Members **Welcome!**

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

SUNDAYWORSHIP

Worship every Sunday at 9:00am. Recorded services from Sunday morning worship are available Sunday afternoons on our website www.tflutheran.org and can also be found on our YouTube Channel: First Evangelical Lutheran Church of TF.

LIBRARYHOURS

Sunday 8:00am-10:30am

COUNCILMEETING

Council will meet July 9, 2023 at 10:30am.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

June Birthday that was missed:
Grason Voss

07/06 Jesse Loen
07/07 Jason Linngren
07/10 Deb Rhoads
07/12 Ryan Rogers
07/16 Cynthia Holmberg
07/26 Janet Shepardson
07/28 Dustin Valez
07/29 Joe Mattson
07/30 Angie Linngren



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



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

05/28 Giving:	\$2,204.00
06/04 Giving:	\$2,134.00
06/11 Giving:	\$2,203.00
06/18 Giving:	\$1,742.00

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.

Save the Date
**CONGREGATIONAL
ANNUAL MEETING**
Sunday, August 6th
Following Worship



Every Sunday: Worship
at 9am followed by
Fellowship at 10am.

**Bible Study,
Church Choir, & Quilting**
will take a break for the summer!
Watch for announcements this Fall!



A prayer shawl enables the
recipient to be surrounded by
prayer, and is a tangible
reminder of God's care and
love, encouragement and
inspiration.

If you'd like to be part of this
new ministry or have any
questions, please talk with
Becky Hulden.



We are planning to do a
special service to welcome
new members. If you are
interested in becoming a
member of FELC, please
speak with Pr. Dwight!

We Need
Your Help!

The funds are low in our Samaritan Fund and we need your help! Since January, we've helped with over \$500 in rent and gas needs for people in our community. Please consider donating towards this fund. Did you know you can transfer your Maple Bucks into this account?

Are you interested in serving on this committee along side Don Hansen? We are in need of one additional person to serve on the Samaritan Committee!

Talk with Don or Angie
for more info!

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
of Taylors Falls warmly invites you to our
COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Program starts at 11:30 AM
followed by a meal



Heart Strings & Apron Strings

Presented by Storyteller
Pati Kachel



Pati will take us along on a trip down memory lane while she showcases her colorful collection of vintage aprons. She'll tell the enchanting stories of the women and men who made them and wore them. With good humor, poems, songs and tender tales Pati honors the important role of all homemakers. Be sure to wear an apron to this fun event!

Invite a friend or neighbor!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

It will be our pleasure to serve you.

27th Annual Together with Friends

Who can be a TwF Day Camper?

Any child entering grades 2-6 in the fall of 2023

What happens at TwF Day Camp?

Games, crafts, singing, Bible stories, snacks, outdoor activities, miniature golf, water carnival, meeting friends, having fun and more!

Cost

\$3 per child per session
\$25 per child for all 10 sessions
\$50 maximum per family
for all 10 sessions

(Financial scholarships easily available
at your request. No one will be turned
away because they cannot pay.)



Tues & Thurs mornings | 9am-12pm

At the Taylors Falls Churches listed below

****Please pick up children promptly at noon!**

Tuesday 6/20	Baptist Church
Thursday 6/22	Baptist Church
Tuesday 6/27	Lutheran Church
Thursday 6/29	Lutheran Church
Tuesday 7/04	NO DAY CAMP
Thursday 7/06	Lutheran Church
Tuesday 7/11	Methodist Church
Thursday 7/13	Methodist Church
Tuesday 7/18	Methodist Church
Thursday 7/20	Baptist Church
Tuesday 7/25	Baptist Church

*You can register at the
church the first day you
attend, but it helps us in
planning if you are able to
pre-register! Thanks!

**Brochures available
at the church!**



Summer 2023

Welcome to Summer 2023,
"Walking With Jesus"

It's time to get excited for Summer
2023! Our theme this summer is
Walking with Jesus, one of the amazing

things about Jesus is that he once walked among us on
earth. When we read stories about Jesus from the bible there
is often a place named: Galilee, Jerusalem, and Nazareth to
name a few. These are places Jesus was during his time on
earth and they are places that still exist today. Join us as we
Walk with Jesus to the places of his life through Bible study,
crafts, games, and summer fun!

Member Church Discounts

This discount applies if you are a member of one of Luther Point's 75
member congregations and your congregation contributed their full
per-baptized member assessment in 2021.

Full Week Camps: \$55 off | Half Week Camps: \$22.50 off

LUTHER POINT BIBLE CAMP - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We need help with:

Arts & Crafts, Swim Time,
Boat Beach, Rec Room,
Camp Connect, Kitchen
Help, Camp Breakaway,

Free lodging available for those who wish
to volunteer multiple days in a row!

Interested In Joining Us?

More Info & to Sign Up Online:
www.lutherpoint.org

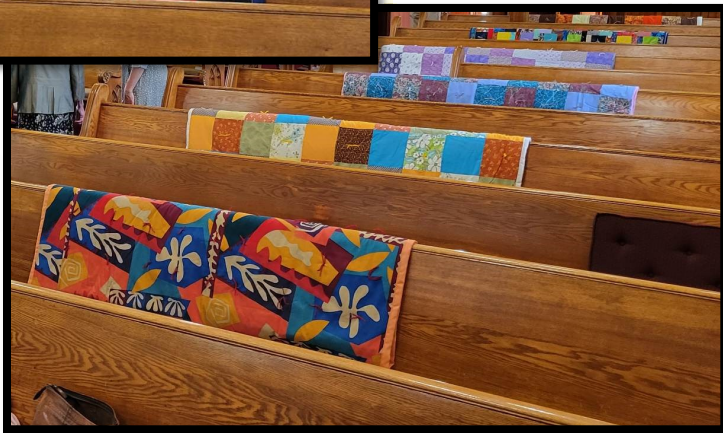
Call us at: 715-689-2347

Email: info@LutherPoint.org

Looking forward to your help!



class of
2023



Mercedes Dravis
Amery High School

Plans to take a year off and then attend culinary school.



Taryn Lappe
Osceola High School

Plans to the Minnesota School of Horseshoeing to be a farrier.



Congratulations!



Ethan Landgreen
Osceola High School

Plans to attend St. Olaf College and hasn't made a decision on his major.



Daily and Sunny Vodenka-Reed
Chisago Lakes High School

Daily - Plans to attend Northwood Technical College for Cabinetry and Wood Working.

Sunny - Plans to attend Century College for Graphic Design.



Wyatt Johnson
Chisago Lakes High School

Plans to attend college for welding.

We hope your dreams take you.....
to the corners of your smiles, to the highest of your hopes, to the windows of your opportunities, and to the most special places your heart has ever known.
Congratulations on your accomplishments!



A big thank you to our wonderful quilting ladies who worked hard on these beautiful quilts for the graduating seniors this year! Each graduate gets to pick out their very own quilt!

What's happening IN OUR COMMUNITY



St. Croix Falls Public
Library Plaza
Saturdays, May-October
10AM-1PM

We are looking forward to
another great season of
abundant fresh produce,
sustainably raised meats and
cheese, preserves, honey,
flowers, body care, and more!



Parking Lot of St. Bridget's in
Lindstrom, MN

July 6th to October 22th
Wednesday 3 pm to 6 pm
Saturday 8 am to 12 pm

Local vendors offer seasonal
vegetables, flowers, home canned
goods, soap, eggs,
baked goods & more.

FRANCONIA
sculpture park

Franconia Art & Farmers Market
Sunday, July 2nd | 10am-2pm

The first Sunday of each month,
May-October from 10am-2pm,
local farmers and artists come
together to provide a variety of fresh
produce and handmade crafts.



EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Monday Evenings
4:00pm - 6:00pm

Zion Lutheran in Chisago City

Karl Oscar Days



Lindström, MN
July 5-8

Many activities
throughout Lindstrom!

All Together Now
This Summer at ST. CROIX FALLS public library

July 13 @ 1pm: Bad Art Festival! Make some bad art to share!

July 17 @ 1pm @ Dresser Community Park: Homeward Bound Theatre Company presents Cory and Friends!

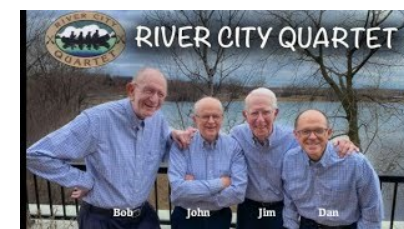
July 25 @ 10am: Escape Room! One scenario, many puzzles, lots of clues.



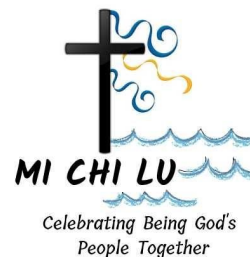
Sunrise River Trio Band

Almelund Immanuel Lutheran Church
members playing songs of love,
prison, and redemption - and
everything in between.

July 9th | 1:30 - 4:30pm
Wild Mountain Winery



A night of Barbershop with
River City Quartet on
Thursday, July 20th at 7pm.
Concert is free will offering
and held at St Bridget Catholic
Church in Lindstrom.



**Wanted: Volunteers
to be on the MiChiLu
committee to plan
events. Talk with Pr.
Dwight if interested!**

July 23rd | 5:00pm

Join the MiChiLu
churches for a potluck
dinner at the Lions park
in Lindstrom. It's an
event to reconnect with
the other MiChiLu congregations.

Watch for more details!



5th Annual Wannigan Days

The annual two-city reunion!

JULY 14, 15, 16, 2023

ST. CROIX FALLS, WI & TAYLORS FALLS, MN

Fun for all!

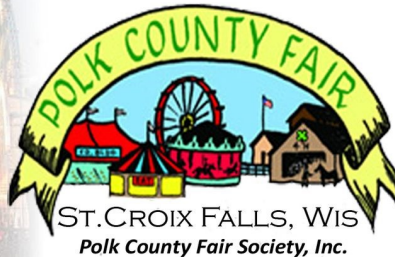
LET THE
summer
fun
BEGIN



THE BEST 4 DAYS OF SUMMER
ARE COMING SOON!!!

CHISAGO COUNTY FAIR

JULY 20-23, 2023
WWW.CHISAGOCOUNTYFAIR.ORG



Thurs. July 27th - Sun. July 30th



St Croix Falls, WI -
Serverson Memorial
Overlook Park

June - August
Friday evenings at
6:30pm

FREE Friday Summer
Concerts at the
overlook.

Bring a lawn chair.

FREE ADMISSION!



2023 Summer Concert Series

Wednesday Nights at 6:30 pm
Lions Park Band Shell—(Next to City Hall)
All Concerts are FREE to the Public!

July 5	Bob & the Beachcombers <i>Surfin' the 60's & Rockin' the 70's</i>	•Karl Oskar Days Kickoff Night •Lakes Appreciation Night
July 12	Jonah & The Whales <i>Rock/Variety</i>	•Non-Profit Night •Craft Show Night
July 19	Monroe Crossing <i>Bluegrass / Classic Country</i>	•Faith Community Night •Unexpected Company Chorale Group
July 26	The Dweebs <i>Top Hits from the 60's thru Today</i>	•Family Pathways Night

Music in the Vineyard

Fri, July 1
Sat, July 2
Fri, July 8
Sat, July 9
Fri, July 15
Sat, July 16
Fri, July 22
Sat, July 23
Fri, July 29
Sat, July 30

Mean Gene & The Woodticks 6-9
Andy Tacket 3-6
Mary Cutrufello 6-9
Jeff Brooks 3-6
The Alternatives 6-9
Scrapegoat 3-6
Glen Everhart 6-9
Slippery Steve & Scary Gary 3-7
Crimson Roots 6-9
Jay Walter & The Rectifiers 3-7



16906 Wild Mountain Rd
Taylors Falls



Council Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

June 11, 2023, 10:25am at church

Next meeting: July 9, 2023

“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, Miriam Flysjo, Becky Hulden, Kathy Carlsted, Pastor Dwight Rudquist **Members Absent:** Craig Loen

A. Opening Devotions - Miriam

July - Dwight

B. Sharing Story- Wendy, Becky

C. Pastor’s Report - Pastor Dwight

Pastor Dwight met with the MiChiLu pastors. They planned a few events:

July 23 - Potluck dinner at 5:00 at the Lions park in Lindstrom. It’s an event to reconnect with the other MiChiLu congregations. They are looking for volunteers to be on the MiChiLu committee to plan events.

October 29 - Beer and Hymn sing at the Loon in Center City.

February 13, 2023 - Fat Tuesday Pancake dinner at Chisago Lake Lutheran.

D. Treasurer’s Report - Becky

Our income in May (\$14,839) is more than adequate for our budget.

Our income (104%) and expenses (90%) are right on according to our budget.

We have \$5,520 more in our accounts than last month.

E. Property committee projects

Boiler replacement - Don contacted Scandia Heating and Air Conditioning but hasn’t heard back from them.

Pastor will set a building task group meeting to follow up on bathroom and landscaping projects.

F. Vision Group -

Pati Kachel will be here on July 19 to present an inspirational program prior to the luncheon.

Night Out in August - we are hoping to have a food truck. We still don’t know the date.

The week of Aug 14th - Becky’s son will be in MN. He might be willing to perform a Broadway review.

G. Motion to adjourn, second

At 11:50, Kathy made a motion to adjourn, Miriam seconded the motion.

Coming up:

Together with Friends June 20-July 25, Tuesdays and Thursdays
FELC - June 27, 29, July 6

Together with Friends Salad Supper Fundraiser 5:00, July 23,
Baptish Church

Faithfully submitted,

Miriam Flysjo, council secretary

First Lutheran Church,

We want to thank you for your generous "love offering" to our group. We will use the money to help cover our expenses as we continue our musical ministry.

Thank you for the good ice cream, cookies, & watermelon - it was so refreshing.

And to the "two door ladies" that were there to help us, thanks for the help & laughter while we were setting up!!

Glory Bound,
Craig, Terry, Starr, Carl, Roger & Dawn

Thank you



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

2022-2023
Council/Officers:

Wendy Szczepanski—President

Craig Loen—Vice President

Becky Hulden—Treasurer

Miriam Flysjo —Secretary

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 July 9, 2023 at 10:30am.

Mission Statement

Proclaim the Gospel and Serve our Neighbors.

(Mission Statement approved 2023)

"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.

JULY Bucket List

- ★ HANG A FLAG OUTSIDE
- ★ SEE FIREWORKS
- ★ GRILL HOT DOGS
- ★ FAMILY BIKE RIDE!
- ★ PLAY MINI GOLF
- ★ GO TO THE LIBRARY
- ★ RUN THROUGH A SPRINKLER
- ★ HELP SOMEONE IN THEIR YARD
- ★ GO SWIMMING