

MARCH 2021

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

SUNDAYWORSHIP

Online Worship
every weekend,
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.



*For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your
slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who
said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has
shone in our hearts to give the light of the
knowledge of the glory of God in the face of
Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:5-6*

These words of Paul that we heard a few weeks ago on Transfiguration Sunday, reminded me of a recent drive home late one night. As I was rounding a corner in a rather remote area the moon, which was bright and full, came into clear view. I realized I hardly needed my headlights on as the light from the moon beamed down and reflected off the snow, breaking the deep darkness of the night.

I've always loved the image of the moon's relationship to the sun. That is, the moon gives off no light of its own; it is purely a reflection of the sun's rays. How well that fits when I hear Paul reminding me that, "I do not proclaim myself; I proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord". Jesus is the light and I am not. And it is Jesus that makes light shine out of darkness. But I do have a role in that here and now. I am a vessel through which Jesus uses to reflect his light to those around me. Sometimes I'm like a waxing or waning moon, not willing to let his light reflect fully. I let other things block his light from reaching me or from reaching others.

Sometime I'm totally eclipsed, hiding fearfully or begrudgingly from Jesus. And then there are times when it feels like despite myself, Jesus is shining through me, reflecting his light to give glory to God. I just wish I could be full more often.

Looking back, it seems as if the times when I'm most open to Jesus shining through me is when I'm connected, when I'm living in relationship with him. Those times most often include worship, hearing and reading God's Word as it comes through scripture and the preached word, taking time to listen to God speak to me, and when I share what God has given me with others. And it's not a "do these things so I get something out of it," although I have to admit my humanity and my sinfulness tries to drag me into that kind of thinking at times. But moreover it just feels right. It's like most any other relationship I'm in, the more time I spend with those I love, the more connected we are and the fruits are evident.

As we continue this season of Lent, I encourage you to be **lunatics** with me – that is to be moonlike in receiving and reflecting the light of the SON!!!

Pastor Dwight Rudquist



New Members **Welcome!**

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

LIBRARYHOURS

Monday 8:30am-1:30pm
Tuesday 8:30am-12:30pm
Thursday 8:30am-11:30am

COUNCILMEETING

Council will meet March 6 at 3pm via Zoom.

QUILTERS & SARAHCIRCLE

Quilters and Sarah Circle will not meet until further notice.

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

01/24 Giving:	\$0,385.00
01/31 Giving:	\$1,125.00
02/07 Giving:	\$1,950.00
02/14 Giving:	\$3,835.00
02/21 Giving:	\$1,640.00

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.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS



Wendy Szczepanski	03/01
Michael Halstrom	03/03
Benjamin Landgreen	03/06
Craig Loen	03/07
Kathleen Carlson	03/09
Verna Grover	03/16
Abby Loen	03/17
Brenna French	03/23
Ted Goranson	03/23
Darrin Berthiaume	03/24
Becky Goranson	03/25
Chase Lundholm	03/25
Honey Vodenka-Reed	03/25
Marinda Carlson	03/30
Tammi Hasselquist	03/30
Levi Linngren	03/30
Anna Johnson	03/31
Natalie Landgreen	03/31

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

Intergenerational Faith



Formation

March 7: Lent Bucket List Faith Practice: ***ENCOURAGE***

ELCA craft day: Trinity shamrocks from Great Britain
(our international companion)

March 14: Lent Bucket List Faith Practice: ***PRAY***

Prayer Partner Sunday

March 21: Lent Bucket List Faith Practice: ***SERVE***

Gather food shelf food drive items for collection next week (during our
Palm Sunday To Go Breakfast and Fellowship Time)

March 21: Lent Bucket List Faith Practice: ***WORSHIP/INVITE***

Outdoor fellowship time with some special guests: BABY GOATS!
Palm Sunday Breakfast To Go



Swedish Word of
the Month

English: good morning
Swedish: god morgon



Children – Where the Sunrise Begins by Douglas Wood

Where does the sunrise begin? Douglas Wood asks this question by focusing on the world of one child, then moving to another child's world farther away, and then yet still farther, to the ends of the Earth, before bringing the text back to its starting point.

Youth – Cherokee Run by Barbara Claassen Smucker

Vintage hardcover. After leaving Ukraine in search of religious freedom, Katie and her Mennonite family are ready to settle into their Kansas homestead for good. However, when a hate-filled neighbor and swarms of grasshoppers tarnish their dreams, the family decides to take the risk and race to stake a claim in the land of Oklahoma.

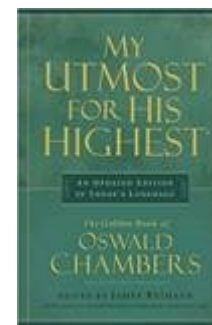
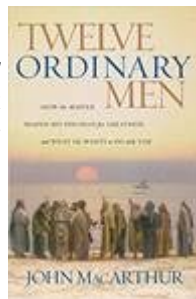


Fiction – The Preacher Had 10 Kids, by Frances Bradsher

A heart-warming story from an
old-fashioned parsonage.

Inspiration – Twelve Ordinary Men by John MacArthur

Jesus chose ordinary men - fisherman, tax collectors, political zealots - and turned their weakness into strength. MacArthur draws principles from Christ's careful, hands-on training of the original twelve disciples for today's modern disciple - you.



Large Print – My Utmost for His Highest, by Oswald Chambers

My Utmost for His Highest is a daily Christian devotional by Oswald Chambers that compiles his preaching to students and soldiers.

**MARCH
BOOKS**



Confirmation Class

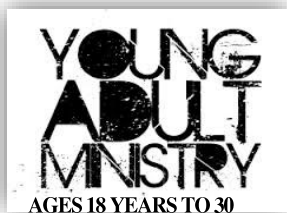
Grades 6 - 8

March Schedule

Wed, March 3rd at 5pm

Wed, March 17th at 5pm

Both classes will be via Zoom. The invite link will be sent 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!



Summer Camp 2021

Plans are that Luther Point will have a full summer program offered, but because of COVID-19 uncertainties, they are waiving cancelation fees up to May 1, 2021. Visit their website for a full up to date covid plan and procedure.

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

Join us this summer as we dive into the stores and teachings of Exodus has to offer and learn with us as we adventure through being both Broken & Blessed.



Palm Sunday Breakfast Sandwich To Go

Sunday, March 28, 2021

Time: TBD

No need to
pre-register

**Breakfast Croissant Sandwich
with Egg & Cheese**

Choice of Canadian Bacon, Sausage or No Meat

Coffee, Orange Juice or Water

Free will offering to go towards new filming equipment

Special Guests: Baby Goats on the Lawn!!!



Spring is right around the corner and so is Maple Syrup season. Plans for this year will be similar to last year. I will plan to send out a text when we are tapping, collecting sap, bucket maintenance etc. Sap collection will begin at 4 pm and will meet at the St. Croix Park Site on Jefferson street. Please carpool when possible as they will post no parking signs on Jefferson again this year. Each person, from First Lutheran, will earn \$25 in maple bucks each time they help. Please make sure you sign in with Vicki Koehler from Peace Lutheran when you get to Jefferson

street. Your maple bucks can be designated toward any Church mission that you choose.

March 15th is when we usually begin to tap and the season typically runs through April 10. Bucket cleanup at season's end will look like last year because of Covid 19, scheduling people in shifts to safely clean buckets in taps.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Dons Cell Phone 612-201-1086 or Email: don@tfmaple.com



Council Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church
February 13, 2021, 3:00 - 4:45 pm

Via Zoom

Next meeting March 6 at 3:00

“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, Pastor Dwight Rudquist

Members Absent: none

A. Opening Devotions - Craig; **March** - Rose

B. Sharing Story - Rose

C. Pastor’s Report- Pastor Dwight

Things are going well. Pastor Dwight recorded several services including the Ash Wednesday service. He visited with various people in person or on the phone. He has attended Zoom meetings with the council, confirmation students, coffee hour participants, and other pastors.

For Lent Pastor Dwight is recording midweek educational Lent services that focus on the catechism. A Lent devotional will be mailed or delivered to the members of the congregation.

Pastor will continue to meet with the task force to look at when it is safe to commence in person worship once people are vaccinated.

D. Treasurer’s Report – Becky

Our monthly income was about \$10,000 for January, perhaps because there were 5 Sundays. We are at 58% of our budget. Tithes are close to 58%. Becky did not check with Angie and Janelle about the accounts that are somewhat over budget. Becky will check before the next meeting. The Samaritan checking balance is \$6, which might be a misprint. Becky will check with Janelle. Money earmarked for the steeple will continue to go into account 3040 (Property Projects - other). Currently there is \$2600 in the account.

Lighting of the steeple- The property committee is planning on making some internal repairs and cleaning in the belfry and continues to plan how to light the steeple.

Another project to start thinking about would be the repair or recoating of the parking lot

E. Production equipment for church services

Bitworks submitted a quote does not include new microphones since the set-up includes tying into our current system. They bid \$8192 total: \$6642 for equipment (which includes 2 cameras that will be mounted in the sanctuary), \$1,550 for labor, which includes 4 hours in shop, 4 hours installation and 3 hours of training. There will be an additional cost for a cable to the office used for live streaming. Without the cable the service would be recorded on Sunday and be uploaded later for people to watch. It wouldn’t take long to install this system. Perhaps a month to get the equipment and then they can install it quickly.

We need to raise the money before the equipment is purchased. We talked about getting some masks and asking for donations. Another idea is a drive through Palm Sunday breakfast with breakfast sandwiches. Palm Sunday is March 28 so we need to decide before the next meeting what we want to do so we can get it organized. We decided to email about additional fundraising ideas.

Motion: Becky made a motion and Rose seconded it to start fundraising for the production equipment. We will use the money in Account 3040 (property projects-other) as the seed money for the fund raising. Motion carried.

We would like to get a second bid. Pastor will check with other churches to see what companies they have used.

We need to think about fixing the parking lot blacktop. It is a good place for outdoor worship but it’s in rough shape.

F. Renting of church office space

No more news on renting office space. Pastor will check with Angie.

G. Transition

During the last meeting, it was suggested that we should have a small group take an historic look at membership, staff, pastoral trends via the archives, council minutes and any other records that are at church. How should we move forward? The council decided we should table this for now but keep this in mind for when we are ready to search for a long term pastor.

On February 4, the council met with Krista Lind from the St. Paul Synod about our plans to go forward. It was suggested that we re-evaluate Pastor Dwight’s contract to see if it states what our church needs from him and if that is something that he is willing/able to help us with and for how long.

Pastor is agreeable to becoming the called pastor for a two year term call.

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He wants to be sure what is best for the congregation. Switching from interim to settled pastor term call would involve very similar expectations and compensations.

Motion: Rose made motion and Craig seconded to change Pastor Dwight's interim status to a settled pastorate call. Motion carried.

Wendy, Becky and Pastor Dwight will determine the process to move forward to change Pastor's status and they will look at the constitution.

H. Becky - new role

Becky is a trained Parish nurse. In the past she has taught classes on babysitting and home alone classes for youth, she provided programming for aging adults out in the community and resources for churches. She has led care ministry teams.

Becky is interested in providing classes for aging adults on topics like chronic diseases, preventing falling, and staying fit. She can teach classes online. She also can help when someone goes home from the hospital or rehab... to make sure they understand their meds and know when their next appointment is. Becky wants to be an unpaid staff person. She will connect with other MiChiLu congregations, write some articles for the newsletter and website as the faith community nurse. Becky has many connections with other faith community nurses. Becky will get a job description which can be on file at First. She figures she will put in 2-5 hours a week.

Motion:

Wendy made the motion, Miriam seconded, to consider Becky's offer to become our unpaid faith community nurse. Wendy and Becky will look into completing the proper paperwork. Motion carried.

Upcoming events: Toolkit for Congregational Leaders , Saturday Feb.27, 9-11:45 Zoom

Motion to Adjourn by Rose, seconded by Craig



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

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 March 6 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

Articles due the 10th of each month.