

NOT FOR PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

US

POSTAGE PAID
TAYLORS FALLS, MN
PERMIT NO. 5

First Evangelical
LUTHERAN CHURCH

561 Chestnut Street, Taylors Falls, MN 55084-1110



MARCH 2022

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

SUNDAYWORSHIP

Worship 9:00am
Masks Required.

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.



The Season of Lent



Lent is always a powerful season of the church year for me. As much as I like to focus on the resurrection and the more positive sides of life, Lent is that stark reminder of who I really am and my desperate need for Jesus. I've been reminded of these realities several times over the years.

On Ash Wednesday, during the imposition of ashes, the words I speak to you as I mark the sign of the cross on your foreheads are always startling to me. It's always a humbling experience as person after person comes forward, and I speak these words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Looking into the faces of people I have come to love and respect and proclaiming these somewhat dark words is challenging.

I recall one time when a youth, 13-14 years old, came forward with his mother, and those words especially grabbed my heart. It wasn't the look in his eyes, but his mother's eyes, that struck me. What was she hearing as I spoke those words to her son: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return?" I can only imagine. But having said those same words to my own children for many years, I have a pretty good idea. Mostly it's a reminder of the frailty of life, the uncertainty of what tomorrow will bring --something that is particularly relevant for us in all we are facing today. But I am also reminded that, as a parent, I often forget the truth that my children are on loan from God, as are we all. And for that matter, so is everything else on this planet.

That notion connects with a second tug at my heart and mind these days. I was recently reminded of a documentary by Tom Shadyac my daughter Emily brought back from a college January-term class. Shadyac directed many major movies like *Ace Ventura Pet Detective*, *Bruce Almighty*, and *The Nutty Professor* to name a few. Following a bicycle accident, he had a life-changing experience. He asked himself two questions: “What’s wrong with the world?” and, “What will it take to fix it?” In his search for the answer to each of those questions, he talked with scientists, religious leaders, and experts from many other walks of life. In the end (sorry for telling you the punch line) he discovers that the answer to the first question was easy. *What’s wrong with the world?* “I AM” is what he came to realize. Sounds rather dust-like to me J! Sometime it would be interesting to share this video with you--bring some Kleenex.

But is that the end of the story, for this mother, Mr. Shadyac, or for you or me? Hardly! Dust is not the end, death is not the end. The mark I put on that boy’s forehead, the mark I will place on yours, is in the shape of a cross. It connects us all with our baptism into Jesus’ death and his resurrection. Likewise, the flipside of Shadyac’s question sheds some Easter morning light as well. If what’s wrong with the world is each of us (“I AM”), the same is true for what is right with the world (“I AM”). You and I are both the problem and the solution! Because we have been crucified with Christ, we get to live with him in the new life that is ours – both now (in making the world right) and forever.

As hard as it is to hear these stark realities of who we are, their very purpose is even more powerful. They bring us to the foot of the cross, so we can look into the eyes of God who says, “I Am your God, I have called you by name and you are mine.” And God quickly follows that with directions/instructions/a calling (pick one) to go follow Jesus, look and learn, and be the change the world needs you to be.

May this Lenten and Easter season be a time for you to realize who you are and whose you are. May you find yourself at both the cross and grave – dead and alive along with Jesus. Certainly you need it. So does the world.

Blessings and Peace!
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. We ask that you please wear a mask! If you forget your mask, we do have extras!

LIBRARYHOURS

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

COUNCILMEETING

Council will meet March 13, 2022 at 10:15am.

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

01/23 Giving:	\$2,410.00
01/30 Giving:	\$1,295.00
02/06 Giving:	\$1,347.00
02/13 Giving:	\$1,560.00

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

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



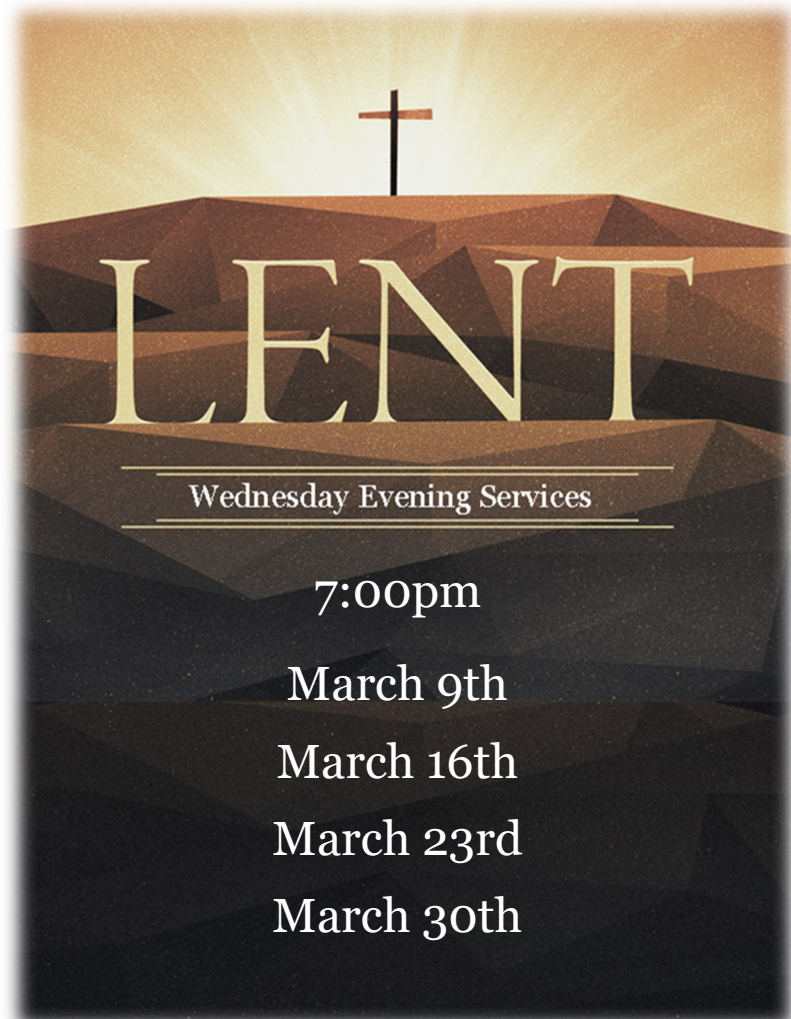
Please contact the church office if there are any errors or omissions. Thank you.

ASH

WEDNESDAY

March 2nd, 2022

7:00pm Service



Lenten Readings

March 2nd / Ash Wednesday

Luke 3:1-3

March 3rd

Luke 3:21-22

March 4th

Luke 4:1-2,13

March 5th

Luke 4:14,16-17

March 6th / Lent 1

Luke 4:17-19

March 7th

Luke 4:20-21

March 8th

Luke 6:6-10

March 9th

Luke 6:17,19-21

March 10th

Luke 7:11-13

March 11th

Luke 7:14-17

March 12th

Luke 7:18-20,22

March 13th / Lent 2

Luke 8:1-3

March 14th

Luke 9:12-13,16-17

March 15th

Luke 9:28-30,33-35

March 16th

Luke 10:25-28

March 17th

Luke 10:29-32

March 18th

Luke 10:33-37

March 19th

Luke 11:1-4

March 20th / Lent 3

Luke 11:5,8-9

March 21st

Luke 13:10-13

March 22nd

Luke 14:12-14

March 23rd

Luke 15:1-2

March 24th

Luke 15:3-6

March 25th

Luke 15:8-10

March 26th

Luke 15:11-13

March 27th / Lent 4

Luke 15:14-15,17-19

March 28th

Luke 15:20-24

March 29th

Luke 15:25-28

March 30th

Luke 15:28-29,31-32

March 31st

Luke 17:12-16,19



**Sunday, March 20th
following worship**

We will be discussing the basement project to help with the water problem. A proposal will be available and an approval will be needed to start this project. If you have questions, please attend the meeting.

Bible Study: Sunday mornings Bring your Bible and we'll dive into next week's readings. Printed materials will be available.

Dates: March 6th, 20th & 27th



If you are interested in being part of the Altar Guild, please call the church office.

We will meet again in April to change over the altar linens and prepare our sanctuary for Easter. We would love to have you be part of the Altar Guild Ministry!



In person at the church

Time: 5:30pm

**Ash Wednesday - March 2nd
& Wednesday, March 16th**

**Pizza will be served at 6:15pm
Worship begins at 7pm**

**Please call the office if you would
like more information!**



Does running the sound system during worship interest you? Contact the church office if you'd like to like more information!



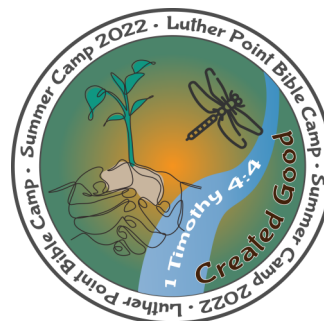
Luther Point
BIBLE CAMP

**Did you know that Luther Point has
family cabins that you can rent?**

The Pine Cove Family Cabins are nestled down along Akermark Bay of Big Wood Lake and are an excellent place for you, your family, and your friends to get away and renew and reconnect. Each of these cabins have been newly remodeled and are fully winterized for year-round use. Each cabin has a small kitchen where you can cook your own meals. We are also happy to provide meals (15 person minimum) for you. The 5 cabins situated along Akermark Bay share two docks (one located by Jerusalem and one by Zion) and a couple of charcoal grills. Finally, each cabin has a fire ring for use.



Cabin prices range from \$80 - \$85 a night. Visit www.lutherpoint.org for more information!



**Luther Point Bible Camp
Summer 2022
Created Good!**

"For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving"
~1Timothy 4:4

Each day the campers will experience a different way to encounter God's creation in the world. Some of the day's themes include: Created to Care, Created to Create, and Created to Flourish. Our identity as part of God's wonderful creation gives us a special opportunity to shape and be shaped in God's word.

Registration is open and we are ready for you to join us for our best summer yet at Luther Point Bible Camp! First Evangelical Lutheran Church is a member of Luther Point which means YOU get a discount! Register by May 1st and receive \$55 off your registration fees. Visit www.lutherpoint.org for more information and to register! There are brochures available at the church.



Council Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 13 (Sunday), 2022, 10:15 am at church

Next meeting: March 13, 2022

“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:** Kathy Carlsted

Guest: Justin Grimm

A. Opening Devotions - Dwight

March - Rose

B. Sharing Story- Wendy

C. Mission Statement, the why - Justin Grimm

Justin was invited by Pastor Dwight to follow up on the “why” conversation presented at a synod workshop attended by members of the council.

Before we can determine what shared ministry will look like we need to determine what our congregation’s goals are. What do we feel God is leading us to do?

Justin discussed some programs offered by the synod and asked some questions about our history. He suggested we take the next 6 months to listen to members of the congregation to determine who we are and what God is calling us to do.

The council decided to have Justin come and train interested members of the congregation in spiritual listening so we can determine our goals prior to pursuing shared ministry.

D. Pastor’s Report - Pastor Dwight

Pastor Dwight had several in person and phone visits this month. He also officiated for two non member funerals.

Pastor Dwight will connect with Craig to set up staff performance reviews. He needs to determine if there is paperwork that needs to be done.

Evening Lent services will be held in person starting with Ash Wednesday, March 2. It will be a simple service incorporating sharing thoughts about the readings without a sermon. The services will not be recorded.

Confirmation students will come in early to meet in person prior to the Lent service.

Pastor Dwight will organize a meeting for the Reopening Task group to determine when it is safe to have fellowship time after the service.

E. Treasurer’s Report - Becky

January had 5 weeks. Our offering for January was \$3000 over budget.

We should be at 58% of our budget. Our Income is at 66% and Expenses are at 55%.

PPP loan forgiveness paperwork received back on February 8, 2022. We have successfully completed two rounds of this loan program.

We have \$41,725 available to for property projects

F. Road Sign(s) - Wendy

Wendy found out the county makes the sign and installs them. The charge is \$350 for each sign. It was decided to table the decision for a month so council members can look at signs in the county and think about what they want and where to have the sign placed.

G. Basement Water

The property committee has not received any replies for estimates for the gutter work.

The property committee will put together a proposal to present to the congregation so we know how much money will be needed for concrete work, gutters, caulking and landscaping.

A Motion by Rose, seconded by Craig, to have a congregation meeting after church on March 20 to approve a proposal to have work done to prevent water from coming in the basement. Motion carried.

H. Upcoming events

- **Member visits**
- **February 26, Toolkit for church leaders, 8:30-12:15, Prince of Peace, Burnsville**
- **Ash Wednesday – March 2**

I. Motion to adjourn, second

Craig motioned to adjourn. Becky and Rose second.

Respectfully submitted

Miriam Flysjo, council secretary

Fellowship Resources at First

- ✚ Nursery (rocking chair, changing table, busy bags)
- ✚ Youth room (games, books, music)
- ✚ Lending library
- ✚ Outdoor playground, sports lawn, yard games lawn, basketball hoop
- ✚ Prayer chain, visitation, mobility equipment loaners

Faith Resources at First

- ✚ Weekly Worship
- ✚ Faith Stepping Stones
 - * Baptism
 - * First Communion
 - * Confirmation
 - * Ministry Leadership Training
 - * Marriage
 - * Parenting Resources
 - * Care Ministry
- ✚ Summer Programs
 - * Bible camp – Together with Friends, Luther Point
 - * Summer Reading Program



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

2021-2022

Council/Officers:

Wendy Szczepanski—President

Craig Loen—Vice President

Becky Hulden—Treasurer

Miriam Flysjo —Secretary

Rose Anderson

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 March 13, 2022 at 10:15am.

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.