

NOT FOR PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US
POSTAGE PAID
TAYLORS FALLS, MN
PERMIT NO. 5



MAY 2021

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Outdoor Worship
(weather permitting)
Sundays at 9am

Online Worship
every weekend,
please check out
our website:
www.tflutheran.org
or our YouTube
Channel:
First Evangelical
Lutheran
Church of TF.

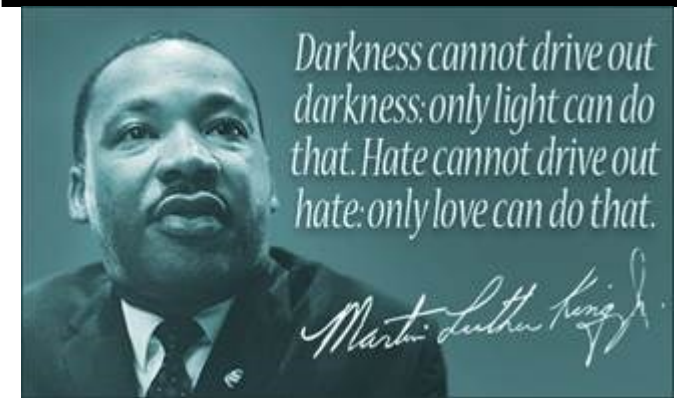
OFFICE HOURS

Monday
8:30am—1:30pm

Tuesday
8:30am—12:30pm

Thursday
8:30am—11:30am
Hours may vary - please
visit the website for
updates.

First Things



Not often does this happen, but I'm stumped. I want to be able to write something profound in light of all of what is going on right now in the world, but I just don't quite have the words. I have a lot of feelings about people's perspective on the pandemic and vaccinations and how best to live our lives. I'm sure you do as well. I am also overwhelmed and unsure of how to feel or think or respond to the recent shootings, the prospect of a verdict from the Derek Chauvin trial, and the perpetual news about immigration.

One comment has really struck me as I watched the news about the shooting of Daunte Wright. I've always been very proud to be from Minnesota. I've had the fortune to travel to much of the country and experience life in a lot of other states. My perspective and general conclusion is that Minnesota is a great place to live, and it is. But I've come to learn that MN is a great place to live – IF YOU'RE WHITE. I realize that I have been much more sheltered from the reality that my black brothers and sisters live with on a daily basis. I'm

Continued on page two

guessing that's true for many of us. I want this to change! I want MN to be a great place to live for everyone. I want education, healthcare, housing, and the legal system to be as favorable to blacks and other people of color as they are to me.

Since the death of George Floyd, some of my family (daughters, nieces, a sister-in-law) have been intentional about having conversations about "justice" issues. I'm very thankful for Zoom that we can connect for these discussions. We've read various books and articles and shared our thoughts about what we've read and what's happening in the world. Emmanuel Acho, the son of Nigerian immigrant parents, who went on to play for the Philadelphia Eagles in the NFL, has created some videos entitled "Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man." I'm now reading his book by the same title. What continues to strike me, much like my earlier comment about MN, is the reality of "systemic racism." It has been way too easy for me to sit back in the comfort of my home, my life, and ignore how biased the systems are in my favor, just because of my skin color. Acho writes, "You've likely spent your whole life enjoying the fruits of systemic racism and never having to directly engage with its fallout." He's right, at least for me. He goes on to say,

**To bring about change,
you must not be
afraid to take the first
step. We will fail
when we fail to try.**

|
Rosa Parks

"NO ONE CAN fight systemic racism alone. It's too big and in too many areas. On the flip side, that means there are a million ways to help. ... Dismantling systemic racism is nothing short of dismantling white supremacy. It's going to take a herculean effort by all of us to tear it down." I think he's right on all fronts and I want to be part of how to help.

I'm guessing that not every one of you who is reading this agrees with me or sees things even remotely the same. My hope is that somehow, sometime in the near future, we too can have some uncomfortable conversations which might enlighten us and to help us see our role in making this world a better place ... for all! I have to believe that's what Jesus died for! Please commit with me to not sit back, but to work through these issues together.

Pastor Dwight Rudquist

WORSHIP

We continue to provide online worship services each week. Please check our website for the link to the worship videos.

Outdoor Worship: Every Sunday at 9am, weather permitting!

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 May 8th via Zoom.

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

03/28 Giving:	\$3,259.00
04/04 Giving:	\$4,570.00
04/11 Giving:	\$1,325.00
04/18 Giving:	\$2,852.00

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.



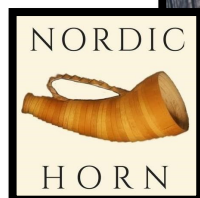
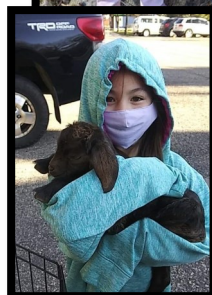
MAY BIRTHDAYS

Lisa Clasen	05/01
Ethan Lundsted	05/02
Sunshine Vodenka-Reed	05/03
Daytona Vodenka-Reed	05/03
Don Hansen	05/04
Eleanore Collins	05/06
Don Grover	05/06
Steven Johnson	05/06
Gail Johnson	05/06
Julie Magnuson	05/06
Chieko Rogers	05/07
Callie Halstrom	05/09
Spencer Langer	05/10
Daniel Hasselquist	05/15
Lisa Rudquist	05/18
Sally Lundholm	05/20
Judy Peterson	05/21
Michael Carlson	05/22
Pete Lindgren	05/22
Timothy Donahue	05/24
Rita Johnson	05/25
Tom Enebak	05/26
Zachary Johnson	05/26
Lyla Johnson	05/26
Jacob Loen	05/27
Poppy Vodenka-Reed	05/27
Anthony Vogt	05/30

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



We were so blessed to share our Palm Sunday worship service with ten adorable goats from the Nordic Horn Farm.



Our Palm Sunday breakfast looked a bit different than years past, but we made the best of it and had a great time! Croissant sandwiches & beverages, enjoyed by those who stayed for our first outdoor worship service this year or took them home to enjoy our online worship. Free will donations were collected and a total of \$1,211.00 was raised towards our new filming equipment.

Thank you to Miriam and Arne Lagus for the Thrivent Grant that helped supply the food and supplies. We appreciate Pr. Dwight, Rose Anderson, Eleanore Collins, Natalie Landgreen, Diane Howlett, Craig & Janna Loen, Jason, Angie, Levi & Carli Linngren, Jerry Rhoads, & Wendy Szczepanski for helping make this event run smooth.



Confirmation Class

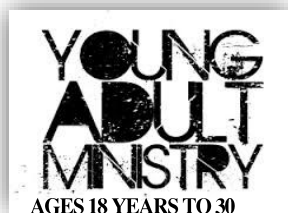
Grades 6 - 8

May Schedule

Wed. May 5th

We will be sending more information about this date
- watch for an 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 cancellation fees up to May 1, 2021. Visit their website for a full up to date covid plan and procedure.

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



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 - call the office for more info!

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: June 2: The White Sidewalls ~ June 9: Buddy Holly ~ June 16: The Dweebs ~ June 23: The World According to Garth SPECIAL 2 hour show ~ June 30: A Hard Days Night ~ 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

JUNE	AUGUST
4 CITY OF TRAILS FEST	6 COUNTRY NIGHT WITH USA'S #1 JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE SHOW
11 THE JORGENSENS BAND	13 THE GIT BACKS
18 SWONGOS & HOUNDS	20 BLUEGRASS NIGHT W STRINGSMITHS BAND
25 BBQ & BLUES NIGHT	27 KIDS & FAMILY NITE
25 PAT DONOHUE & THE PRAIRIE HOME ALLSTARS	28 FALLS MUSIC FEST AT THE POLK COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS WITH CHRIS KROEZE BAND
JULY	BEER, BBQ RIBS + MORE
2 KIDS & FAMILY NITE	BE SMART + SAFE
9 BIG BAND & HORNS	HAVE FUN
16 WANNIGANS WEEKEND!	COV-19 SAFETY
17 VAN HALEN TRIBUTE SCHOOL OF ROCK SHOW	MUSICONTHEOVERLOOK.COM
23 THE UNDERGROOVE + REX CACTUS + COMEDY	
30 JIMMY BUFFET NIGHT	
30 @ POLK COUNTY FAIR	

Announcing the 2021 St Croix Falls Music On The Overlook Summer Concert Series

~ Spread out ~

~ Be Safe ~

~ Bring your own lawn chair ~

~ Enjoy The Music ~



Council Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

April 10, 3:00pm - 4:30 pm

Via Zoom

Next meeting May 8, 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, Craig Loen, Becky Hulden, Pastor Dwight Rudquist **Members Absent:**

A. Opening Devotions - Becky

April - Wendy

B. Sharing Story- Craig

C. Pastor’s Report - Pastor Dwight

It is good to be back together worshipping outside. The fundraising breakfast was fun. Pastor Dwight appreciates all the work Angie did to put together all the extra services for Lent and Holy Week.

Pastor Dwight has met with the reopening task force via Zoom. The ReOpening Task Force will start meeting twice a month to determine what it will look like for services to be held indoors. Currently small groups could meet indoors but there would be no singing or congregation responses. Right now outside worship with congregation responses and singing seems like a better way to worship.

During the last month Pastor Dwight had Zoom meetings with the confirmation class, MiChiLu Pastors, Synod Interim pastors and the congregation coffee hour. He also had phone visits with some members.

Pastor Dwight will coordinate with Angie, Tim and Julie to determine a list of projects that need to be done around church in May. Angie will coordinate the jobs so people can call to see what projects need to be done.

D. Treasurer’s Report - Becky

Two undesignated savings accounts \$10,320 and miscellaneous savings at \$9,000.

Motion: Rose made a motion to move \$1000 from account 3235 (Klinke fund) to Samaritan fund checking account. Wendy seconded. Motion passed.

The check from Jeanne Fick for the steeple lighting and the check from Alton Berg and Edith Johnson’s estate will be deposited into the Klinke fund.

In March our income was adequate for our budget.

We got a second PPP loan designed to cover our loss of income for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

After discussion the council decided to ask the Buildings and Grounds Committee to submit a prioritized list of projects that need to be done for the structure of the building. We know there is a problem with water getting into the basement.

Becky reported that expenses for software and IT was twice what was budgeted. First pays a monthly fee for Zoom calls which weren’t necessary when we could meet together. Editing software needed for production of the services was purchased.

Garbage removal expense was dropped from \$80 to \$45 per month.

The church signed a new lease for copier/printer which will reduce the expenses by half.

Building and maintenance/ supplies shows spent \$3000 from account 6610. Janelle will print the report from church so Becky can examine it.

E. Production equipment for church service -

Production equipment (account 3040) has \$4460.62 We still need about \$3700 to pay for the equipment needed to record our services.

After discussion the council decided to wait until next month to determine if we need additional fundraisers or if we should use some of the money in our account to pay for the balance needed for the production equipment.

F. Parish Nurse Update -

Becky will propose a job description for the parish nurse soon.

She is taking a class about living well with chronic conditions. After completing the class Becky will be able to teach the class online or over the phone. She hopes to have a class available in August or September.

Becky has contacted most of the people eligible to get the Covid-19 vaccine and discovered most people have been vaccinated.

G. Annual Meeting -

The annual meeting will be August 8, right after the church service.

H. Child Protection Policy - Wendy

Wendy has read through different policies from our insurance company and ones she found online. She suggested our policy also include vulnerable adults.

Pastor Dwight, Wendy, Rose and Becky will be part of the small group to look over policies and put together a Child/Vulnerable adult Protection Policy for First. Wendy will check with some other members of the congregation to see if they would like to be on the task force. The group will meet via Zoom in the next few weeks.

I. Motion to adjourn made by Miriam, second - Rose

J. Craig made the Motion to adjourn, seconded by Becky

Coming up: Synod Assembly - May 14, 2-5 and May 15, 9-12:40, register by April 16



During the month of May, Spring Clean-Up will be in full swing at our church! We have compiled a list of outdoor tasks that anyone can help with! The list will be located at the church and on Sunday mornings. If you are able to, claim and complete one of these tasks at your convenience!

- 1) Pick up sticks throughout the yard & haul out.
- 2) Pick up sticks & branches in outdoor worship area.
- 3) Rake/Sweep front steps and sidewalks.
- 4) Clean out front flower beds including deadheading the hydrangeas.
- 5) Cut down the leaning tree(s) near shed.
- 6) Cut down the tree at south end of education wing (marked with pink tape).
- 7) Cut up downed trees on west hill.
- 8) Paint the backboards of the basketball hoops.
- 9) Purchase and hang new basket ball hoops.
- 10) Check over the playground equipment.
- 11) Weed the playground area.
- 12) Wash reachable windows (outside only).
- 13) Clean and organize trash/recycling area.
- 14) Clean out and organize shed. We'd love to make room for the picnic folding chairs.
- 15) Sweep the parking lot.
- 16) Paint yellow stripes in the larger part of the parking lot.
- 17) BIG PROJECT: Rebuild the nativity stable.

FELC Outdoor Wish List:

- Dark Brown Mulch
- Small Bushes
- Gift Cards to Menards or Abrahamson's Nursery
- Basketball



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 May 8 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.