

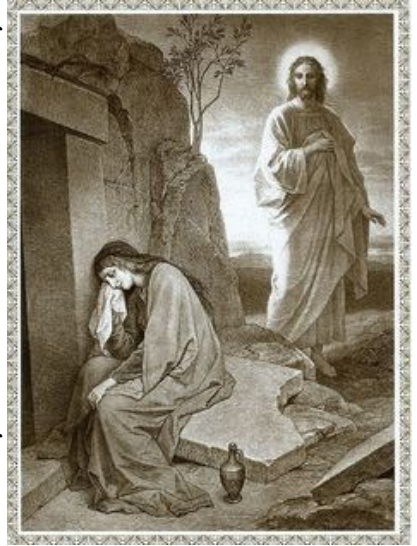


# First Things

MAY 2023

The Newsletter of First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
561 Chestnut Street | Taylors Falls, MN 55084-1110  
651-465-5265 [www.tflutheran.org](http://www.tflutheran.org)

In the Gospel of John, we hear that Mary Magdalene weeps at the empty tomb of Jesus. The lens she still sees through is one of tragedy. Jesus has died, and now it appears that someone has gone so far as to steal his body. I can imagine she might have thought enemies of Jesus had done this, the same ones who had wanted to squelch his voice and end his rabble rousing amongst the people. Even as she comes face to face with two mysterious figures (aka angels) it still isn't making sense to her. As she turns there is a man standing there, it's Jesus, but in her grief and preconceived expectations, she doesn't recognize him. Jesus then says to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?"



"Whom are you looking for?" Or as an Aramaic translation says, "Who do you want?" Both are great and interesting questions for us aren't they? Of all the images or versions of Jesus that are out there, which one do you believe? For Mary it could have been the Jesus who turned water into wine or healed lepers and raised Lazarus from the dead. It could have been the Jesus she saw only a week before riding into Jerusalem to a crowd shouting "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord – the King of Israel!" Or she could be thinking of Jesus who stooped before his disciples and washed their feet. Which of these Jesus' was she crying for? Who did she want?

Who do you want? Who do you want Jesus to be for you? What are you looking for from Jesus? Those are again interesting questions. I hope you can recognize that different people see and want Jesus to be various things for them. Some want Jesus to be their friend or a healer or teacher. Yet

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some want that for them, but they want Jesus to be a judge or sifter of the wheat. They want Jesus to separate the sheep from the goats, even though I don't think that is a clear message from that story. Can you see how complicated at times that question can be?

What I am grateful for is that I believe Jesus to be more than all of what we can imagine. Jesus is beyond just a teacher, healer, or friend. Jesus is both fully human and fully God! Jesus is the one who has come not to condemn the world, but to save it.

My hope is that we can be honest about the Jesus we are looking for and also recognize that too often we limit who Jesus is for those around us. Take some time to contemplate who you are looking for and what you want from Jesus. And think also about how you perceive others might answer those questions. In the end it might help to step back and just be thankful that Jesus is so much more, that God's love for us in Jesus brings us all, wholeness and healing and eternal life! For all that I say, "Thanks be to God! AMEN!"

Pastor Dwight Rudquist



**Thursday, April 20th**

**Thank you to the wonderful group that helped pack food at the Feed My Starving Children event! FELC Lent offerings were donated to this cause.**



## *New Members* **Welcome!**

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

### **SUNDAY**WORSHIP

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

### **LIBRARY**HOURS

Sunday 8:00am-10:30am

### **COUNCIL**MEETING

Council will meet May 21, 2023 at 10:30am.

### **MAY** BIRTHDAYS

05/01 Lisa Clasen  
05/04 Don Hansen  
05/06 Eleanore Collins  
05/06 Don Grover  
05/06 Gail Johnson  
05/06 Julie Magnuson  
05/07 Chieko Rogers  
05/10 Spencer Langer  
05/18 Lisa Rudquist  
05/22 Pete Lindgren  
05/25 Rita Johnson  
05/26 Tom Enebak  
05/27 Jacob Loen  
05/31 Tim Nelson



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

### **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

LENT OFFERING:	\$1,147.00
04/02 Giving:	\$2,227.00
04/09 Giving:	\$3,526.77
04/16 Giving:	\$2,836.00

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](mailto:rhulden@gmail.com).





## What's Happening in Our Church!



First and Third Thursday  
mornings at 9:30am

No experience needed!



### What's Next Committee??

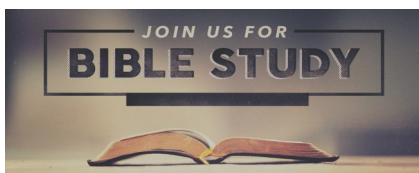
Check the bulletin board for  
information about the next  
meeting!

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

## Church Choir



Tuesday evenings at 7pm in the  
sanctuary! No experience needed!  
We'd love for you to join us!!!



Bible Study: Sunday mornings  
following fellowship. Dates: To be  
announced in upcoming bulletins.



## Sunday, May 21st

Please join us for a special  
congregational meeting following  
worship. Watch for more details!

# What's happening IN OUR COMMUNITY



Since 1906, tourists by the thousands have enjoyed the scenic beauty of the world-famous Dalles of the St. Croix River by excursion boat. Among the most outstanding formations is the huge stone cross for which the St. Croix River was named. "St. Croix" means Holy Cross. To view excursion dates & times, along with pricing, visit their website:

[www.taylorsfallsboat.com](http://www.taylorsfallsboat.com)



**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Monday Evenings

4:00pm - 6:00pm

Zion Lutheran in Chisago City



**St Croix Falls**

**Located  
on WI- 87**

## **Mother's Day Purse Bingo May 13, 2023**

Bingo, designer purses, raffles, food & drinks to purchase and FUN! PLUS it's for an amazing cause: Limitless Riders is a 501c3 Therapeutic riding program for all ages, located near Luck, Wi. Two time slots to choose from, 11am & 2pm. Limited tickets available! Visit website below for details!

## **The Boil at Big Rock May 27, 2023**

**2:00pm - 10:00pm**

Join us for Mud Bugs, Cajun Food, Live Music, Fireworks, Swimming, and Summer Fun. Camping, glamping, & lodging available. Hot food & drinks available for purchase on site. Tickets available on website.

[www.bigrockcreekwi.com](http://www.bigrockcreekwi.com)





## Volunteers Needed!!!!

Don Hansen and Sydney Paredes are looking for volunteers to help staff their new "Little Shop" in Taylors Falls. The shop is located at 395 Bench Street. It is two shops in one. Don's Sugar Shack is selling maple syrup

products and 50% of the syrup sales in the shop will be split between First Lutheran and Peace Lutheran. The other shop is "Backstage Bargains" resale and 100% of those proceeds go to support St. Croix Festival Theatre.

Volunteers will greet customers, tell them a bit about the maple syrup ministry and Festival Theatre, and handle sales transactions for both maple syrup products and Backstage Bargains resale.

Volunteer shifts will be Thursday through Sunday from 12 noon to 5:00 pm. Up to two people may sign up for each shift. If it isn't busy, it's a comfy place to hang out with good WIFI, an espresso machine, tea, and a microwave oven. When it's busy, time flies!

Sydney will provide training and work with you until you feel comfortable on your own. Most days Sydney or Don will open and close the shop which will make things easy. After you receive training, Sydney will provide you a link to sign up to work in the shop.

If you have items you would like to donate things to sell in the shop, please contact Sydney at 651 399-2986 or send an email to [sydneyparedes@gmail.com](mailto:sydneyparedes@gmail.com). She will connect with you and arrange for a time to drop off your items.

Contact Sydney at above phone number or email address for more information and the link to sign up for a one-hour training!

Thank you!





# 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!

**"And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and you will be my people."**

-Leviticus 26:12

### 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  
Overnight Camps: \$13.75 off

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## **LUTHER POINT BIBLE CAMP - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

**We need help with:**

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

**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](http://www.lutherpoint.org)**

**Call us at: 715-689-2347**

**Email: [info@LutherPoint.org](mailto:info@LutherPoint.org)**

**Looking forward to your help!**





## Council Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

April 16 (Sunday) 10:20am at church

Next meeting: May 21, 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, Craig Loen, Becky Hulden, Pastor Dwight Rudquist, Kathy Carlsted

### A. Opening Devotions - Dwight

May - Becky

### B. Sharing Story- Craig, Kathy, Becky, Wendy

### C. Pastor’s Report - Pastor Dwight

Pastor Dwight presided over many worship services due to Lent and Holy Week. We had some parishioners from the Methodist church join our Holy Week services.

There are 6 people signed up for Feed my Starving Children on April 20.

The \$1147 collected during the Lent services will be given to Feed My Starving Children.

### D. Treasurer’s Report - Becky

Our income in March (\$9277) is less than adequate for our budget for the fourth month in a row. Our income (76%) and expenses (73%) are right on according to our budget (which should be at 75%). We gained \$6500 since last month, mostly because of memorials for Leo Nelson.

### E. Property committee projects

Additional bids for a boiler for the Sunday school area were received. The property committee will review the bids and compare them in order to make a decision on higher efficiency boiler and water heater.

A Special Congregational meeting will be held May 21 to discuss the boiler purchase and revised mission statement.

The committee will also continue with the bathroom remodeling project.



## **F. Vision Group -**

The Vision Group is meeting tomorrow morning with Justin and Rolf from the Synod so we can determine our options for moving forward with the Shared Ministry. Peace in Dresser has declined the possibility of shared ministry.

## **G. Prayer shawl ministry**

Becky is starting a Prayer Shawl ministry at First Lutheran. Interested knitters and crocheters will knit or crochet shawls to be given to someone who needs to feel God's presence, like someone with a terminal illness or death in the family. Donated shawls will be blessed at the monthly craft day at church. Angie is making card stock tags to say who made them, who they are for and they are blessed. Becky will write an article for the newsletter.

## **H. Motion to adjourn, second**

Kathy motion, Miriam second

## **Coming up:**

Synod Assembly, St. Andrews Lutheran, Mahtomedi, May 12,13

FMSC Mobile Pack at Hosanna Lutheran, Forest Lake April 20, 6-8pm

Together with friends June 27, 29 and July 6 will be here... 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Last three weeks of July 12:00 pm -9:00pm Festival theater will be using our basement for rehearsal.

Faithfully submitted,  
Miriam Flysjo, council secretary

**UPDATED!**



***A special thank you for the following parishioners for  
their generous donation of Easter Lilies & Mums:***

*Rose Anderson in Memory of The Mallery's*

*The Collins Family in Memory of Larry Collins*

*Inez Heggerston in Memory of Ed Heggerston*

*John & Becky Hulden in Memory of Dr. Leo Nelson and  
In Honor of Greta Hulden-Albanese*

*Diane Howlett in Memory of Jim Howlett & Cheri Slattengren*

*Arne & Miriam Lagus in Honor of Family & Grandsons*

*The Linngren Family in Memory of Bob Linngren & Loved Ones*

*The Loen Family in Memory of Family and  
In Honor of Loved Ones*

*Carol Nelson in Memory of Leo Nelson and  
In Honor of Children & Grandchildren*

*Pr. Dwight & Lisa Rudquist in Honor of  
Laura, Ryan, Olivia, Becca, Sam, Emily & Alex*





**Church Office**  
**651-465-5265**

[www.tflutheran.org](http://www.tflutheran.org)

**Pastor Dwight Rudquist**  
c: 651-829-4884  
[pastorrudquist@gmail.com](mailto:pastorrudquist@gmail.com)

**Angie Linngren**  
*Ministry Coordinator,*  
[parishc@tflutheran.org](mailto: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 May 21, 2023 at 10:30am.**

## *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](mailto:parishc@tflutheran.org)

Articles due the 10th of each month.



561 Chestnut Street, Taylors Falls, MN 55084-1110



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