



First Things

November 2020

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



I'm sure not many of us feel that we are rich. That's not what the ads tell us at least. But as a child of God, God's chosen one's, holy and beloved, as Paul tells us in Colossians, we are indeed rich, rich beyond believing.

Even in the midst of this pandemic resulting in isolation, distancing, a lot of questions, and more. And also in the midst of another contentious election season, still I am constantly reminded that indeed I am rich beyond believing. I am truly blessed with many wonderful friends and my loving family.

Recently, I was also reminded of the fortunes of my life as I listened to a song written and recorded by a couple of college classmates of mine. Neal Hagberg and I were stretching partners at football practice our freshman year at Gustavus. He went on to get knocked around as the starting quarterback, whereas I just got knocked around at practice. Leandra Peak was part of an outreach team that I gave up football for, in order to be the leader of that group. She always loved having a microphone to sing into and to pretend she was in Nashville singing to a hall filled with adoring fans. Neal and Leandra have gone on to record many CD's and toured the country with their wonderful music. If you ever listen to MPR you may well have heard them and their big hit "Old Love".

I digress, but it was Neal's words and Leandra's voice that hit me as I listened to their song "Rich". Leandra's performance makes it so much better, but the words are powerful in and of themselves. I know it's more of a love song between lovers, but each time I listen to it, I hear God speaking or more, me reflecting on my state because of God.

Continued on page two

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Outdoor Worship
Sunday, November 1st
Time: TBD (watch for an email)
Steeple Dedication

For online worship,
please check out our website:
www.tflutheran.org
or our YouTube Channel:
First Evangelical Lutheran
Church of TF.

Continued from cover page

I am rich, I have no money
But that does not make me ashamed
For my mother and my father
Have given me their name

There are nights, the dark surrounds me
It knows my fears, it calls my name
But when your hand touches my shoulder
The dark somehow is tamed

I am rich.
Let the world go on believing
It can dry up all my dreams
Your love is the water
And I've waded into the holiest of streams

This is not, what I expected
I had always wanted more
But you believed love was all I would need
You taught me, I am not poor, I am rich

I am rich beyond believing
I have more than my wildest dreams
Your love is the water
And I've waded into the holiest of streams
I am rich, I am rich.

As the holiday season approaches, take time to see the many ways in which you are rich beyond believing. You have been given a name from God your Father and in your baptism you have waded with Jesus in to the holiest of streams. Through the Holy Spirit, God is with you, touching your shoulder, even in these darkest of times. With thanksgiving may your lives reflect the one that makes you rich!

Pastor Dwight Rudquist



New Members **Welcome!**

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

OFFICE HOURS@FELC

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

COUNCIL MEETING

Council will meet November 14th at 3pm via Zoom.

QUILTERS



Quilters will not meet until further notice.

SARAH CIRCLE

Sarah Circle will not meet until further notice.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Derek Nelson	11/03
David Johnson	11/06
Mariah Kaiser	11/06
Janna Loen	11/06
Alisa Lamb	11/07
Evan Olson	11/08
Mathew Vitalis	11/10
Emily Goranson	11/13
Diane Goetz	11/16
Richard Peterson	11/16
Joel Langer	11/22
Garritty Vitalis	11/26
Jeff Rogers	11/27
Annalise Parks	11/28
Cassidy Luschen	11/30

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

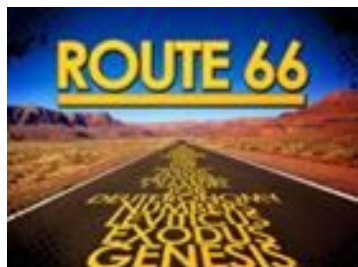
MONTHLY GIVING REPORT

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

10/04 Giving:	\$1,830.00
10/11 Giving:	\$3,030.00
10/18 Giving:	\$1,195.00
10/25 Giving:	\$0,140.00

Thank you for your faithful giving. Please contact FELC Treasurer, Becky Hultden with any questions or concerns at: 651-465-3631 or rhultden@gmail.com.



Intergenerational Faith Formation

November 1st

All Saints Day - Game Day

Letterboxing: decipher clues to find four special places on our church property!

November 8th

ELCA Craft Day

Make a Christmas dove ornament and Christmas invitation card to mail next week.

November 15th

Prayer Partner Day

Mail Christmas invitation cards

November 22nd

Library Days

Library archives display

November book recording: The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe

Check out our website or the next page for the November Books of the Month!!

November 29th

Advent & Lighting Festival

Advent Calendars & Devotions available at the church office.

DIY stained glass Advent wreath

Donate to ELCA World Hunger

- ⇒ A \$20 donation will send the gift of **bees**, providing honey to eat, and beeswax for handcrafted soaps and candles, allowing a farmer to start a small business selling their products. As an added bonus, these little bees boost crop growth on the farm by pollinating plants everywhere they go.
- ⇒ A \$50 donation will send the gift of a **goat**, providing fresh milk for children and their families. What's more, goats are quick to reproduce, providing an opportunity for families to pass the gift on to others.



Parents, we would love to add your child's photo to our Church Family Tree bulletin board.

All youth are welcome (age birth to 18 years). If you would like to join in, send photos to the church office (mail, email, or drop off during office hours). Please indicate if you would like photos returned.

LIBRARYHOURS

Monday 8:30am-1:30pm

Tuesday 8:30am-12:30pm

Thursday 8:30am-11:30am

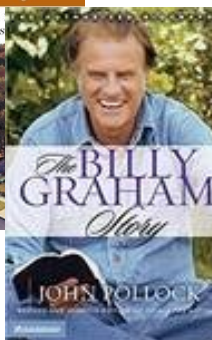
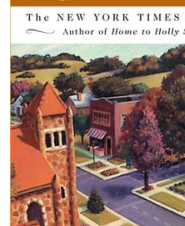


English: Swedish Table (banquet)

Swedish: Smörgåsbord

November Books of the Month

Visit our website for more information on each of



Outdoor Children's Christmas Pageant



Sunday, December 13th
11:00-11:15 AM

First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Taylors Falls at the southwest parking lot, between the education wing and the west woods. (Please note that this is subject to change locations - still at our church)

PAGEANT DETAILS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- 1) Please RSVP to the church office (via phone or email) before November 22nd.
- 2) Parts will be assigned when RSVP is received. Youth will read the Bible story. PreK-K children will be angels. 1st-5th graders will be Mary, Joseph, shepherd(s), and king(s).
- 3) Children's costumes will be handed out at the church parking lot at 10 AM on Sun, Dec 6th (for laundering). Scripts will also be available.
- 4) On the day of the pageant, please dress warmly, with your costume on top. Bring a chair and a mask to church.
- 5) Upon arrival at church, sign in at the registration table. Children, please sit with your family pod, facing the stage (the west woods), until it is time for your part. Youth, please take a place at the microphones near the west exterior of the education wing.

Autumn Gratitude Tree

The craft of the month for September was a gratitude tree. Here are some of our church members trees in their homes!



Confirmation Class

Grades 6 - 8

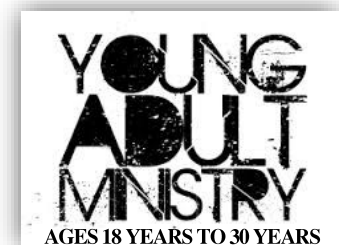
November Schedule

Wednesday, November 11th at 7pm

Sunday, November 29th at 10:30am

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

It's early to think about, but getting ahead of the game, we will begin to collect for the Giving Tree that supports families in need from the Taylors Falls community. Each year, our generous congregation purchases gifts cards for families who struggle at Christmas. These families are blessed with gifts cards towards gas, food and presents. If you'd like to donate toward this wonderful cause, you can mail your donation to the church, marking "Giving Tree" on the envelope or simply place a note inside or drop the donation off at the church during open office hours.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Attn: Giving Tree
561 Chestnut Street
Taylors Falls, MN 55084

Thank you for opening your heart this upcoming Christmas season and blessings others!



Julie Valez is looking to help others while providing an income for her family. Give Julie a call if you need help with:

- Shopping
- Cleaning
- Running Errands
- Companionship

Phone: 651-465-3159.

Hi FELC Family,



My friend and I are putting together backpacks for foster kids. We are looking for donations and hoping to get some of the following:

- Gifts cards to Walmart
- Blankets & Stuffed Animals
- Personal Hygiene Items (toothbrush/paste), deodorant, hair & body care, etc
- Socks, Underwear, Outfits
- Books

Thank you so much!

Carli Linngren

You can text/call my Mom, Angie, at 763-222-3033 with questions!



We need you!!

Our outdoor manger is starting to show it's age. Would you be interested in helping re-build the outdoor manger.

We are looking for live animals for our outdoor pageant on Sunday, Dec. 13th. Please contact Julie Magnuson for more information!

Did you know that we have LightShine CD's available at the church for purchase?



These would make a great Christmas present for that special someone! Visit the church during open office hours to purchase one for \$5.00!

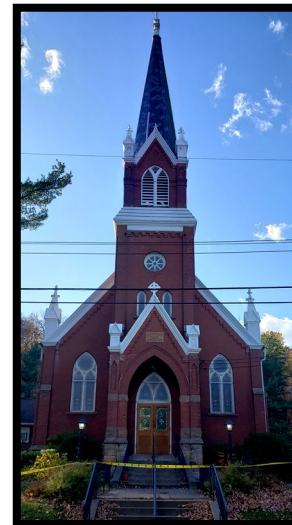
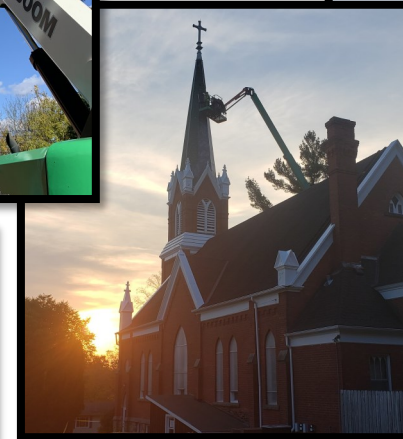
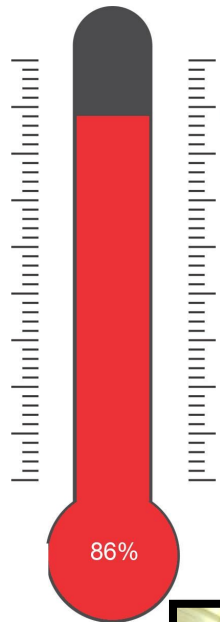


November 27-29, 2020

"Back to Simpler Times"

This year, due to Covid-19, the Lighting Festival is reducing the activities but holding fast to some of the favorite Lighting Festival traditions that will help keep us safe: Parade at 6pm on Friday, Royal Lady of the Village, Lighting Contest, Medallion Hunt on Saturday, Annual Ornament & more outdoor activities.

Steeple Repair Project



Steeple repairs
in progress



Breakfast Sandwich
Steeple Fundraiser



Council Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2020, 3:00-4:15pm via Zoom

Next meeting: November 14, 3:00 via Zoom

“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 - Pastor Dwight. Next Month Becky

B. Sharing Story - Everyone shared highlights from their week.

C. Pastor’s Report- Pastor Dwight

Pastor Dwight has contacted several people in the last month and continues to record the online service and lead the inperson worship on Sunday. He also attended several Zoom meetings with MiChiLu pastors and the online Synod Assembly.

Pastor Dwight is looking forward to the online meeting with the confirmation students

Steeple repair progress- The company has started to remove the shingles and installed a water/ice barrier that is made by a company called Grace. Pastor thought that was an appropriate name for a protective material on our Lutheran church. The steeple fundraising breakfast to go event went well, raising almost \$1600 for the steeple repair fund.

Pastor Dwight will be gone Oct. 18 so the service will be online. We plan on an outdoor service October 25 and will return to online worship in November.

The possibility of some sort of outdoor Christmas hymn service was discussed. Perhaps we could demonstrate the Nativity story with different vignettes telling the story from Old Testament predictions, shepherds, and a nativity scene. We might have outdoor Christmas caroling.

D. Treasurer’s Report – Becky

September Monthly total \$9,325, which is very close to meeting our budget. We are at

25% of our fiscal year. Some of the categories are right at 25%. The budget for staff is a little higher probably because of July when the Youth Director position was still on the payroll. Becky is going to look into it.

Steeple fund- In addition to the \$1600 taken in at the fundraiser, we received \$3000 in the mail last week. There is currently \$55,708.98 in the steeple fund. We need about \$7000 more to pay for steeple repair.

There are Chisago county economic development grants available for non profit organizations. Becky will look to see if we are eligible. The grant must be applied for by Oct 21.

It appears the \$9000 donation we received last fall is in books twice. It should have gone into the Klinke fund and seems also to be in a miscellaneous fund. Becky checking into it.

Perhaps we should look into upgrading our technology equipment since online may be around for a while. We need a better video camera. It would be nice to do a live broadcast so people who can’t worship in person can watch online.

E. Celebration

It would be nice to have the celebration on Nov 1, which is All Saints Sunday. We would have a regular service starting at 10:30 which would include the dedication. We will invite Pastor Mary Kaye since she was instrumental in starting the fundraising for the steeple repair. We could hand out old shingles as part of the festivities. Becky will check into ordering cupcakes from the Lindstrom bakery. We need to order boxes to put 1-2 cupcakes in for people to take home and to deliver to homebound members.

Bruce C is working on the lighting of the steeple. He has talked to electricians about where to put the lights. The lighting project will take some time to complete.

F. Transition - Shared Ministry with Trinity Lutheran, Lindstrom

The council is excited about the conversation with Trinity Lutheran about Shared Ministry. Trinity has some wonderful outreach and mission work programs which are a wonderful opportunity for First to participate in. Pastor Dwight will work to put together a Mission Exploration Team to assess both what we might bring to this partnership as well as the particular needs of our congregation. The task force will probably be composed of 8 people, including council members. The next meeting will probably be October 22 and will be a combination of in person and online.

G. Motion to adjourn made by Craig, second by Rose.

Many of our church members enjoy the annual lefse making event, but this year, this beloved event will not be taking place. But, don't worry, we have a great recipe for you! We'd love to see your pictures of you making your own batch of yummy lefse!!!!



Recipe: Lefse

Ingredients

- 10 pounds potatoes, peeled
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/3 cup heavy cream
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 tablespoon white sugar
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

Directions

1. Cover potatoes with water and cook until tender. Run hot potatoes through a potato ricer. Place into a large bowl. Beat butter, cream, salt, and sugar into the hot riced potatoes. Let cool to room temperature.
2. Stir flour into the potato mixture. Pull off pieces of the dough and form into walnut size balls. Lightly flour a pastry cloth and roll out lefse balls to 1/8 inch thickness.
3. Cook on a hot (400 degree F/200 C) griddle until bubbles form and each side has browned. Place on a damp towel to cool slightly and then cover with damp towel until ready to serve.



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 November 14, 2020 at 3pm 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.