



NOVEMBER 2021

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

SUNDAYWORSHIP

Indoor 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 other day I watched the neighbor's German Shorthaired Pointer running up and down the other neighbor's chain link fence line where their two other dogs ran parallel... until the fence ended. The shorthair reminds me of the one and only dog we enjoyed while our girls were growing up. She was a shorthair as well and we named her Nika, which is Russian for "Belonging to God." I used to have to remind myself of what her name meant once in awhile when her pent up energies would drive us a little crazy.

Two readings struck me as I remember back on Nika that I think are useful for our lives. The first comes from a Fall Edition of The Lutheran Digest magazine.

Tips From A Dog On Living Your Life

- When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
- Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joy ride.
- Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
- Take naps. Stretch before rising.
- Run, romp, and play daily.
- Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
- On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.
- On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.
- When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
- No matter how often you're scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout...run right back and make friends.
- Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.
- Be loyal.
- Eat with gusto and enthusiasm. Stop when you've had enough.
- If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
- Never pretend to be something you're not.

When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.

How true, don't you think?

The second reading comes from Max Lucado's devotional book Grace for the Moment. Lucado writes:

When it comes to healing our spiritual condition, we don't have a chance. We might as well be told to pole-vault the moon. We don't have what it takes to be healed. Our only hope is that God will do for us what he did for the man at Bethesda – that he will step out of the temple and step into our ward of hurt and helplessness.

Which is exactly what he has done

When he says we're forgiven,
let's unload the guilt.

When he says we're valuable,
let's believe him.

When he says we're provided for,
let's stop worrying.

God's efforts are strongest when our efforts are useless.

I wish I could accept God's love as much as Nika accepted mine – to roll over and be submissive to my master in the very midst of my unworthiness. I guess it comes down to taking God at God's word – trusting God to be God and hearing that I too, like you, belong to God!!

Pastor Dwight Rudquist



**We celebrated Pastor Dwight's
installation on Sunday, October 24th.
Deacon Krista Lind joined us for worship
that morning!**



New Members **Welcome!**

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

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday 8:30am-1:30pm

Tuesday 8:30am-12:30pm

Thursday 8:30am-11:30am

COUNCIL MEETING

Council will meet November 14,
2021 at 10:15am.



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

10/03 Giving:	\$3,385.00
10/10 Giving:	\$1,666.00
10/17 Giving:	\$ 430.00
10/24 Giving:	\$8,525.00

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.



Indoor Worship every Sunday at 9:00am. We ask that you please wear a mask! If you forget your mask, we do have extras!

Fellowship hour will no longer take place. We will start up in the Spring when the weather is warm!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



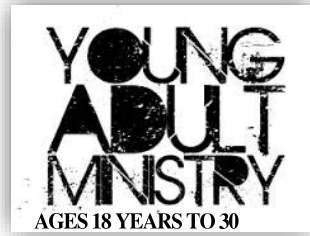
Derek Nelson	11/03
Mariah Kaiser	11/06
Janna Loen	11/06
Alisa Lamb	11/07
Yvonne Lamb	11/09
Mathew Vitalis	11/10
Emily Goranson	11/13
Diane Goetz	11/16
Richard Peterson	11/16
Joel Langer	11/22
Diane Nelson	11/23
Jon Nelson	11/23
Garrity Vitalis	11/26
Jeff Rogers	11/27
Annalise Parks	11/28
Cassidy Luschen	11/30

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



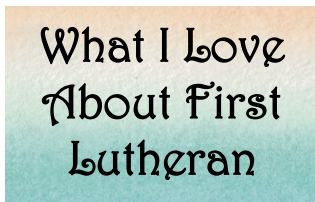
Bible Study will take place downstairs after worship on Sunday mornings, social distanced. Bring your Bible and we'll dive into next week's readings. Printed materials will be available.

Dates: Nov. 7, Nov. 21, Nov. 28



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!



Spotlighting: Leo Nelson

I became a member of First Lutheran during my high school years. I was baptized and confirmed at Trinity Lutheran in Lindstrom as my family lived in and near Lindstrom during my early

years. Still have good memories of Sunday School and confirmation classes there. But after moving to the Taylors Falls area, I joined Luther league at FELC, as there a classmate there who interested me. After a long courtship we were married there in 1957 and have been members ever since. As part of our journey with FELC we even lived next to the church for a few years. The congregation and the many pastors with whom we shared our journey have been a great blessing and I am thankful for each of them. I look to the future with some optimism that God's guidance can help us to learn our role for FELC in the community. Not just a large beautiful and expensive building to maintain but as an outpost to share our blessings and reach out to others in our community.

We would love to spotlight YOU! If you'd like to submit something for this new section, please contact Angie in the office!



What things do you want to see on our wish list?

Short Term:

1. Fall Clean up: Raking Leaves
2. Fall Clean up: Log Cutting
3. New Flag - In Front of Church
4. New Vacuum with Attachments
5. New Nativity Structure (see example)
6. New Kitchen Towels Replacing Old Ones
7. If someone has a dumpster, these could be added to it: old basketball hoop behind outdoor shed, two broken tables downstairs, & possible toilet located in the kitchen storage area.

Long Term:

1. Foundation Maintenance
2. Parking Lot Repair
3. Fellowship Hall Replacement Chairs - \$60 each
4. Paint the Outdoor Shed
5. New Faucets for Four Lower Level Restrooms
6. New Fan/Light Fixtures for Two Sunday School Restrooms



This is an example of nativity structure that is much lighter. This one weighs approximately 35 lbs and is 46" x 24"

Available at Menards for \$90

Thank you for all the ways you join together to care for our beloved church home!

Psalms 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

New for Advent! Available from our library!

Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol

WITH A 4-WEEK BIBLE STUDY FOR ADVENT

The classic tale of Ebenezer Scrooge is a cherished symbol of Christmas and a wonderful story of redemption and hope - perfect for a study in Advent.

Contained in one spiral-bound volume are both the full original text of Dickens' A Christmas Carol as well as a four-part discussion guide that coincides with

the four weeks of Advent. Perfect for small groups (with or without leaders), individual study, Sunday morning Bible study, or youth groups, the discussion

guide incorporates the story itself with study of Scripture, engaging activities, and thought-provoking discussion starters.

Did you know? Our library has many Christian biographies/autobiographies for your reading inspiration.

INTERGENERATIONAL FAITH FORMATION

The children's Christmas program will be our next quarterly fellowship event. Contact the church office at 651-465-5265 or Julie Magnuson at 612-437-5383 if you would like to take part in the program or provide Christmas cookies for the bake sale.

Did you know? The Memorial Committee supports our Christian education programs in a number of ways. Pick up a Memorial brochure in the church office to learn more.

Hi Church Family!

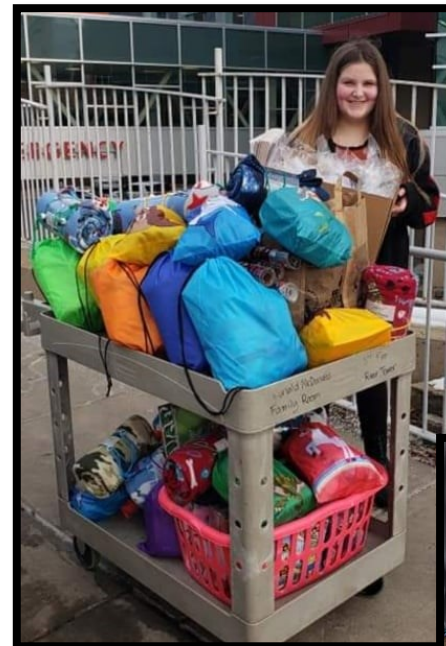
I am busy getting ready for my annual Christmas donations. This year, I plan to focus on the Children's Hospital, the women's shelter in Miltown, WI, and Mental Health of Polk County, WI.

Last year, I was so blessed to be able to give \$1,000 worth of toys to children that were in the hospital over Christmas. I was also excited to prepare 25 backpacks to the Polk County Foster Care System and 15 purses donated to the women's shelter.

I am hoping to collect lots of toys, books and crafts for the children's hospital, personal hygiene items for both women and children who are staying at the women's shelter in Miltown, WI and money donations for mental health affecting youth in Polk County, WI.

If you are interested in helping me, please call the church office at 651-465-5265! If you could please keep me in your prayers as I work toward my goals, it would mean a lot to me! Thank you!

Love, Carli Linngren



Movie Under the Stars

We gathered for a bonfire, a meal together, truck or treating, warm apple cider and enjoyed the movie, Brave!



Pre-Movie entertainment!
Add two footballs, two basketballs and tree and three boys eager to not only get the balls stuck in the tree, but then get them back down!



Trunk-or-Treat



“There are those who say fate is something beyond our command. That destiny is not our own. But I know better. Our fate lives within us. You only have to be brave enough to see it.”
With its vivid coloring, *Brave* illustrates that true bravery lies in transformation, forgiveness and reconciliation that comes from the heart.



We celebrated Pr. Dwight's birthday with song & cake!





FELC's Farmer's Market

Maple Syrup

Don's Sugar Shack

Farm Fresh Eggs

Becky Hulden

FELC RESOURCE ROOM

Maple Syrup - Prices Vary
Maple Syrup Pitchers \$10
(This would make an adorable
combo Christmas Gift!!!)



Honey (Only 4 bottles left) \$4

First Lutheran Cookbook \$5

Giveaways!!

Green & Blue Hymnals

Loaner Mobility Equipment

New Member Gift!

Food Shelf Collection

First Lutheran Plates,
Ornaments, Cookbooks

Food 4 Kids Program

Promotional Gifts!

Thrivent T-Shirts

First Lutheran Music CD's

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteer openings for Bingo callers (Monday afternoon), read and discuss devotions (Wednesday mornings), and painting nails (Thursday afternoons).

Please let us know if you have other volunteer ideas, or would like to provide music, crafts, or fitness opportunities, as well. The Lodge of Taylors Falls, 651-240-0140.




2021 Schedule

The Lighting Festival theme this year is
Swedish Immigrant Trail.

Friday, November 26

All Day FREE ENTRANCE at Interstate Park
3-6 pm Hot Chocolate and cookies at Juneberry Cafe
3-8 pm 3rd Grade Exhibit Town House School.
4-8 pm Folsom House
5pm Chili, Hot Dogs and Bonfire, St. Joseph's Church
5pm Booya at Romaynes
5:30 pm Pleasant Valley Cloggers
6pm Grand Lighting of the Village and Santa Parade
6:30 SantaLand at Schoony's Face painting, balloon animals
7 -9 pm Judging of the outdoor lights displays

Saturday, November 27

9am-3 pm Wassail Craft Sale
10 am Medallion Hunt Clues every 1/2 hour via facebook
10am-7 pm Folsom House
1pm-3pm Event at First Evang. Lutheran Church 
6 pm Bingo for CASH
4:30 pm Ecumenical Choral Vespers

Sunday, November 28

1- 4 pm Green Fire Irish Dancers at the Memorial Community Center.
1-4 pm Folsom House
2-4pm Royal Lady's Tea at the First Baptist Church
7:30 pm Festival Theatre: "Gift of Magi"
3 pm St Croix Valley Orchestra



Council Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday, October 10, 2021 10:15am-11:00am

Next meeting November 14, 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, Kathy Carlsted, Pastor Dwight Rudquist **Members Absent:** Craig Loen, Becky Hulden

A. Opening Devotions - Dwight

November - Wendy

B. Sharing Story- Miriam

C. Pastor’s Report- Pastor Dwight

This month Pastor Dwight led worship and visited some parishioners. He also attended several meetings: Intergenerational Sunday school, Reopening task force, basement repair and church council.

Pastor Dwight will set up a memorial committee meeting to discuss the designated memorials and what the money can be used for. He will invite committee members: Darlene M, Wendy S, Becky H and Rose A. Jerry R will also be invited.

No one responded to the invitation to join the stewardship task force. Maybe we need to have the Stewardship program in the spring.

Bible Study will start next week. Some people signed up for Book study. The day for the Book Study has yet to be determined.

The Reopening Task Force recommends worship outside on Oct 17 and wearing masks when inside. Fellowship time will continue to be outside. Given the rise in Covid cases in the area, the committee recommends no fellowship inside.

Oct 24 installation service will be inside with fellowship time outside. We will serve a selection of bars and coffee.

D. Treasurer’s Report – Becky

1. Our offering income for September was about \$3000 below our budget, however our accounts are stable for the time being.
2. We are below 25% in both income and expenses after the first quarter.

E. Child Protection Policy

Pastor will meet with Wendy to finish up the child protection policy.

F. Basement Water

Don H contacted and met with different companies about repairing the leak in the basement.

Innovative Basements’ bid included \$10,000 for demolition work. The final bid is \$50,000.

Rite-Way basement’s bid of \$20,500 does not include the concrete work.

Don knows of someone who estimated he could do the concrete work for about \$12,500.

Don contacted a third company but has had no response. It does not appear they are interested in submitting a bid.

There was discussion about how to fund this project and if we can do it in smaller steps. It was decided to table the decision until November to allow time to ask the property committee for a recommendation and check on available finances.

G. Motion to adjourn, second

Kathy motioned to adjourn, Miriam second.

Faithfully 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 Flysjö —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 November 14, 2021 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.