

First Things

NOVEMBER 2023

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

As I sit here this morning trying to figure out what to write about for this newsletter, I'm either suffering from writer's block or being overwhelmed by options.

There's part of me that wants to address the continuing strife and tragic events that are taking place in Israel and Gaza. However, I agree with our Presiding Bishop, The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, that we as Lutherans are accustomed to holding tension between two truths. I, along with Bishop Eaton, denounce the egregious acts of Hamas, acts that have led to unspeakable loss of life and hope. And at the same time, denounce the indiscriminate retaliation of Israel against the Palestinian people, both Christian and Muslim. To write much more would, I fear, only serve to either highlight my lack of clarity on the situation and/or polarize us, neither of which are all that beneficial. What I know is that I, like many others, are in anguish, grieving and praying for all people who are living in trauma, fear and uncertainty in the midst of this crisis.

In my announcements a few weeks ago, I indicated that I would try to share more about our meeting with Immanuel in Almelund and the possibility of shared ministry with them. After meeting with members from both our congregations, along with synod staff, it was clear from our perspective that the members of Immanuel were very happy with their relatively new pastor and to proceed with talks of shared ministry would not be fruitful. We are glad for Immanuel and the ministry they are enjoying together with Pastor Justin and some time down the road there may still be ways in which we can collaborate and share ministry together.

Where that leaves us is back to the question of "What's Next?" The task group will be continuing to address that question and looking for other options. Thoughts, ideas, and additional voices on the task group are always welcome. Look for more information about upcoming meetings.

Reformation Sunday is soon approaching and I also thought about writing

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more about that significant part of our history. But nothing great is coming to mind.

So let me leave you with a devotional from Martin B. Copenhaver's book The Gospel in Miniature. I liked this one as we move into November and Thanksgiving. He writes:

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

-from Psalm 107



On Halloween, when young trick-or-treaters come to the door and dip their hands into a big bowl of candy, the adult accompanying them will almost surely remind them, “Say ‘thank you.’” And the young voices will echo, “Thank you.” It is something of a Halloween litany.

Children need to be reminded to offer thanks because no one is born grateful. Thanksgiving does not come naturally to us and sometimes it does not come at all. Rather, thankfulness must be nurtured.

At almost every turn, the authors of the psalms not only invite but also demand that we offer our thanks to God. They understand the irony that it is by continually offering thanks that we can come to be thankful. And, obviously, children are not the only ones whose thanks need to be prompted.

So, day in and day out, in and out of season, offer thanks – perhaps at first to get the feel of it and then, only in time, because you feel it. Likewise, go to worship to offer thanks to God so that you might be nurtured in the ways of thankfulness. Sometimes words of thanks need to be on our lips before they can – by some slow and largely imperceptible process – take up residence in our hearts. As Habitat for Humanity founder Millard Fuller once observed, “More people act themselves into a new way of thinking than think themselves into a new way of acting.” And so it can be when we offer thanks.

Pastor Dwight Rudquist

New Members **Welcome!**

If you are interested in becoming a member, please talk with Pr. Dwight or contact the office at 651-465-5265.

SUNDAYWORSHIP

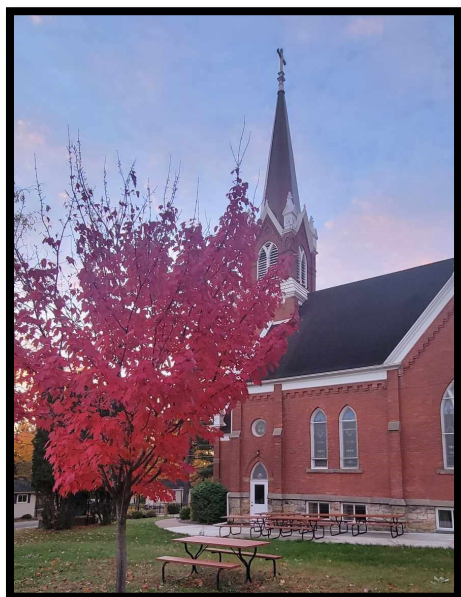
Worship every Sunday at 9:00am. Recorded services from Sunday morning worship are available Sunday afternoons on our website www.tflutheran.org and can also be found on our YouTube Channel: First Evangelical Lutheran Church of TF - 2nd.

LIBRARYHOURS

Sunday 8:00am-10:30am

COUNCILMEETING

Council will meet November 19, 2023.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/06 Mariah Kaiser
11/06 Janna Loen
11/16 Diane Goetz
11/27 Jeff Rogers
11/28 Annalise Parks
11/30 Cassidy Luschen



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



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

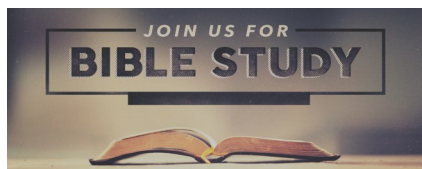
10/01 Giving:	\$2,732.00
10/08 Giving:	\$2,587.00
10/15 Giving:	\$1,600.00
10/22 Giving:	\$3,264.00

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.

What's Happening in Our Church!



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



Bible Study: Sunday mornings
following fellowship.
Grab a cup of coffee & join us for
Bible Study. Print outs available.

Church Choir



**Tuesday evenings at 6 - 7pm
in the sanctuary! No
experience needed! We'd
love for you to join us!!!**



A prayer shawl enables the
recipient to be surrounded by
prayer, and is a tangible
reminder of God's care and
love, encouragement and
inspiration.

If you'd like to be part of this
new ministry or have any
questions, please talk with
Becky Hulden.



First and Third
Wednesday mornings at
9:30am

No experience needed!

We welcome new
quilters!!!



CRAFTING ON SATURDAYS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH

9:00AM - 2:00PM

BRING YOUR CRAFTS, A SNACK
TO SHARE AND BE READY FOR
SOME GREAT CONVERSATION!
INVITE A FRIEND!



Upcoming Events At Our Church

Lumberjack Pancake Breakfast &
Advent Wreath Making
November 25th | 9am-11am

Snack & Paint Event
Sat. Dec. 2nd | 1pm-3:30pm

Church Christmas Decorating
Sun, Dec. 3rd after worship

Lefse Making Event
Sat. Dec. 9th | Time: TBD

Christmas Eve Worship
Sunday, December 24th
9:00am Worship
4:00pm Christmas Eve Service
10:00pm Christmas Eve Service



Thanksgiving Worship

Wednesday, Nov. 22nd
at 5:00pm

Hosted by the
Methodist Church
of Taylors Falls

*"Don't wait until
the fourth Thursday in
November, to sit
with family and friends
to give thanks.
Make every day a day
of Thanksgiving!"*

—CHARMAINE J FORDE

Snack & Paint



Saturday, Dec. 2nd
1:00pm to 3:30pm

\$30 per person

All supplies and
refreshments included!
RSVP to Angie by Nov. 25th
parishc@tfluthcran.org OR
leave a message 651-465-5265

Proceeds from this event will be
donated to the foundation:
"Halos of the St Croix Valley"

Learn more: [https://
www.halosofthestcroixvalley.org/](https://www.halosofthestcroixvalley.org/)

TAYLORS FALLS LIGHTING FESTIVAL WEEKEND

Free Pancake Breakfast

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2023

9:00AM TO 11:00AM

STAY AND MAKE AN
ADVENT WREATH

ALL
SUPPLIES
ARE
PROVIDED!



THERE IS A SIGN UP
SHEET ON OUR
BULLETIN BOARD AT
CHURCH IF YOU ARE
INTERESTED IN
HELPING!

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
561 Chestnut Street
Taylors Falls, MN 55084



Are you looking for a great cause to donate to this holiday season? Here are a few that we hold close to our hearts!



Each year, our generous congregation purchases gift cards for families who struggle at Christmas. These families are blessed with gift cards towards gas, food and presents. If you'd like to donate toward this wonderful cause, you can put your donation in the offering plate on Sunday morning or mail your donation to the church, marking "Giving Tree" on the envelope.

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
blessing others!

Family Pathways is prepping to assemble Christmas Meal boxes in early December! Each church in our Chisago Lakes area have been asked to contribute an item for the meal kits. Our church has been asked to collect 125 cans of corn (regular or creamed) and also collect money to purchase items needed for the kits. Please bring in cans of corn now through November 26th and place them in the Christmas Food Drive bin near the usher stand!!!



 **FAMILY
PATHWAYS**



What is Andrew's Bravery Box? Andrew's Bravery Box is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization that currently serves Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota by providing toys and rewards for some of the bravest people in the world. Each and every day, patients at Children's show courage as they push through tough situations in their battle against illnesses, congenital heart defects, cancer, and many other conditions that require hospitalization. By providing small rewards in the form of toys, activities, and other fun items for families and nurses to give to patients, Andrew's Bravery Box seeks to make the hardest parts about a hospital stay a little easier to endure.

Who is Andrew? Andrew Dorsing was the first patient to benefit from what used to be called the Bravery Bag. After losing his battle against a Congenital Heart defect, Beth and Jeromy Dorsing started Andrew's Bravery Box to help families who may be facing similar struggles and also as a way to help Andrew's memory live on.



We will have a collection bin at the church if you'd like to donate to this amazing cause! Suggested items include but are not limited to:

- | | |
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| Matchbox/Hotwheels Cars | Mad Lib Books |
| Small craft packs | Small Lego Kits |
| Short books | Fun hats |
| Card games (Uno or Skipbo) | Small costume pieces/clothing |
| Small Stuffed Animals | Self-inking Stampers |
| Play jewelry/Costume jewelry | Coloring Books/markers |
| Sticker Books | Small plastic animals or dinosaurs |
| Pokemon Cards (small single packs) | Action Figures |
| Travel Size games (Battle Ship, Connect Four, etc.) | Small Dolls or Figurines |
| Temporary Tattoos | My Little Pony Figurines |
| Sticker Books | Fun Cups or Water Bottles |
| Coloring Books for Older kids (more complex designs) | Items from the Target Dollar area or Holiday |
| Nail Polish | Stocking Stuffers or Easter Basket items |
| Make up | (no candy please) |

What's happening

IN OUR COMMUNITY



EVERYONE IS
WELCOME!

Monday
Evenings

4:00pm - 6:00pm

Zion Lutheran Church
in Chisago City



**St Croix Falls School
POES Craft Fair
Saturday, November 4th
10:00am - 3:00pm**

**St Croix Falls
Elementary School**

**CHISAGO
LAKES
PTO**

**Saturday,
November 4th**

ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR

**9AM
to
4PM**

**CHISAGO LAKES WILDCAT
COMMUNITY CENTER**
29330 OLINDA TRAIL
LINDSTROM, MN

North Branch Arts Fest

Saturday, November 18, 2023
9am-3pm

North Branch Arts Fest 2023
NB Area High School

**OSCEOLA PTA
DOE-ON-THE-GO
Vendor & Craft
Fair**

SATURDAY ONLY!!!
NOVEMBER 18TH, 2023
10AM-3PM

OSCEOLA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Lighting Festival

Taylors Falls, MN

Thanksgiving Weekend

Friday Saturday Sunday

VISIT US ONLINE FOR FULL DETAILS @ WWW.LIGHTINGFESTIVAL.COM

The Lighting Festival
theme this year:
175 Years of Commerce

Visit the website:
www.lightingfestival.com
for full details!



MIRACLE AT BIG ROCK

ST CROIX FALLS, WI

NOVEMBER 24TH - JANUARY 1ST

FIREWORKS, SHOPPING VENDORS, FOOD
TRUCKS, COOKIES WITH SANTA, LIVE
ENTERTAINMENT & MORE!

DRIVE THRU:

MON & TUES 5-9PM

WALK THRU NIGHTS:

WED, THURS & SUN 4-9PM

FRI & SAT 4-10PM

MORE INFO CAN BE FOUND AT
WWW.MIRACLEATBIGROCK.COM



Council Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

October 8, 2023, 10:20 am

Next meeting November 19, 2023

“Proclaim the Gospel and Serve our neighbors.”

Members Present: Rose Anderson, Miriam Flysjo, Craig, Loen, Becky Hulden, Kathy Carlsted, Pastor Dwight Rudquist

Members Absent: None

Becky opened the meeting with devotions. Miriam volunteered to lead devotions next month.

Rose, Pastor Dwight and Becky all shared stories of how God is working in the Taylors Falls area.

Kathy motioned/seconded by Craig to name Becky Hulden president, Kathy Carlsted vice president, Craig Loen treasurer and Miriam Flysjo secretary. The motion passed.

Pastor Dwight reported that he likes the new lectionary. He continues to have in person visits with members, lead the choir and meet with the Shared Ministry committee in addition to leading the Sunday worship service. Several people who have been regularly attending services joined the church.

Becky reported that our income of \$7,730 for September is less than adequate to meet our budget. We need \$10,000 a month to meet the budget. Janell is still unable to provide the comparison reports to Becky. Our general checking account is \$5000 less than last month. We paid out \$8000 for liability and property insurance for the year. The audit committee will meet October 16.

The church was approached by a HomeSchool Group about renting space one day a week to provide art education for the students from noon-7:00. Pastor Dwight will contact the group to work out the details. As a non profit we can't charge rent but we could charge for janitorial services.

A state inspector looked at the elevator and determined we need an emergency light that comes on if the power goes out. We also need an alarm that works on electricity and back up power. Don is going to check to see if he and Bruce are qualified to make the fixes or if we need to hire someone.

Bathroom remodeling and the regrading of the south side of the church are ongoing projects.

Rose reported that she brought a chair from the fellowship hall to get a quote on reupholstering them. The back and seat would have to be removed from the metal frame. It would cost \$115 per chair for reupholstering. Pastor Dwight is going to contact the Property Committee to make a decision about fixing the chairs or buying new ones.

The Vision Group met last week and decided to delay additional shared ministry meetings with Immanuel for at least six months. We don't know what our next step will be.

We decided to have a mission minute twice a month. Rose will lead the next mission minute about Andrew's Bravery Box. The following mission minute will be about the quilting ministry. We will continue to discuss how we are living into our mission statement and how we can do it better.

Events for Fall

- a. Lighting Festival November 25- Free lumberjack breakfast Contact Wendy
- b. Advent wreath making event – November 25th Contact Wendy
- c. Snack & Paint – December 2nd Contact Angie
- d. Lefse making- December 9th- Contact Kathy

Miriam motioned to adjourn at 11:30. Seconded by Rose

Faithfully submitted,

Miriam Flysjo, council secretary

We welcomed new members on Sunday, October 8th!



Welcome new members:

Diane Howlett

Ruth Steinwall

Inez Heggerston

Angela Dahlstrom

Paul & Khrissy Linnerooth

Taryn Lappe & Megan Lappe



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

2023-2024

Council/Officers:

Becky Hulden—President

Kathy Carlsted—Vice President

Craig Loen—Treasurer

Miriam Flysjo —Secretary

Kathy Carlsted

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 on November 19, 2023 at 10:30am.

Mission Statement

Proclaim the Gospel and Serve our Neighbors.

(Mission Statement approved 2023)

"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.



561 Chestnut Street, Taylors Falls, MN 55084-1110



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ORGANIZATION
US

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TAYLORS FALLS, MN
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