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TAYLORS FALLS, MN  
PERMIT NO. 5

# First Things

September 2020

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



*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. Be still, and know that I am God! (Psalm 46:1-3,10a)*

It's the middle of August! I just can't quite wrap my head around that reality. Things just aren't quite what I'm used to: the Twins have just started their season, NBA basketball is still being played, the Masters Golf tournament which normally is held in April is now slated for November, and what typically is a time of excitement and anticipation as we rally for a new beginning to the church schedule, well it's just not the same. Instead, everything is cloaked in so much unknown. There is a hint of fear and trepidation on so many fronts. I can't say that I recognize it for myself, but the reality of "decision fatigue" is I know weighing heavily on some. The questions of what to do, when or if to do, and so much more is becoming overwhelming.

I was in yet another Zoom meeting last week and our bishop, Bishop Patricia Lull, had us wrestle with a piece she had written that reflected on the prophet Elijah in 1 Kings 19. Elijah was being hunted by King Ahab and Queen Jezebel for doing what he believed was right. He was tired of not being heard and that nothing was changing. I think he was suffering from "decision fatigue" as well. It says that Elijah leaves Beersheba and goes into the wilderness alone. He traveled a day's journey, which is far enough to have time to reflect on one's life and future; long enough to make a deliberate plan. And here's the great prophet's plan – "(he) sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: 'It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.'" Elijah had had enough. His frustration and weariness was overwhelming so he was ready to call it quits.

Continued on page two

Again, I'm thankfully nowhere near that point, but I can imagine there are plenty out there that are – maybe even some of you. I can't imagine it will get any better anytime soon. In fact, anticipating the upcoming months – with school starting (or not), elections, flu season, and on and on – with all that is ahead of us these feelings of trouble brewing, as the psalmist recognizes, will only get more challenging. We, like Elijah, may just want to escape, give up, and sleep it off.

The wonder in both the story of Elijah and what the writer of Psalm 46 recognizes is that God does not and will not abandon us. To Elijah God sends an angel to feed him cakes of hot bread and provides a jar of cool water. The psalmist believes even in the midst of things crumbling around him that God is his refuge and strength.

We also hear God wanting to reassure us of God's presence, of God's peace. God invites us to be still, to let the whirlwind of the days worries and fears pass us by, and to know that God is standing with us. There is not only comfort in knowing God is for us, but there is strength as well. Renewed in spirit through our stillness, fed by the words of scripture, we are able to get up and continue the journey life is taking us on. Be still, and know that God is yours, now and forever!

Pastor Dwight Rudquist

*New Members* **Welcome!**

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

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

For online worship, please check out our website: [www.tflutheran.org](http://www.tflutheran.org) or our YouTube Channel: First Evangelical Lutheran Church of TF.

**SARAH CIRCLE**

Sarah Circle will not meet until further notice.

**OFFICE HOURS@FELC**

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

**COUNCIL MEETING**

Council will meet in September via Zoom.

**QUILTERS**



Quilters will not meet until further notice.

HELLO  
*September*

**Take some time this month to.....**

**Decorate for Fall**

**Go Apple Picking**

**Bake Apple Crisp**

**Cook a Pot of Chili**

**Go for a Leaf Walk**

**Shop a Farmer's Market**

**Attend an Outdoor Worship Service**

**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

08/02 Giving: \$1,560.00  
08/09 Giving: \$2,615.00  
08/16 Giving: \$2,875.00  
08/23 Giving: \$ 560.00

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).

**Prayer Concerns**

If you have a prayer concern and would like us to know, please email the office: [parishc@tflutheran.org](mailto:parishc@tflutheran.org) or call the office: 651-465-5265. Please specify if you'd like it to be only for Pastor Dwight, if you'd like your name added to the weekly bulletin's prayer list and/or sent out to the prayer chain.



**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Joan Johnson	09/01
Ryan Bjorklund	09/02
Ethan Landgreen	09/05
Torger Olson	09/05
Jonah Landgreen	09/06
Donna Lindgren	09/07
David Donahue	09/08
Taylor Miller	09/08
Caleb Moberg	09/09
Sheldon Magnuson	09/16
Bailey Hansen	09/19
Ingrid Olson	09/19
Mark Clasen	09/22
Cleo Stomberg	09/24
Ethan Bjorklund	09/27
Timothy McDonald	09/28
Caitlyn Vitalis	09/29
Joe Landgreen	09/30

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

## **LIBRARY HOURS**

Monday 8:30am-1:30pm

Tuesday 8:30am-12:30pm

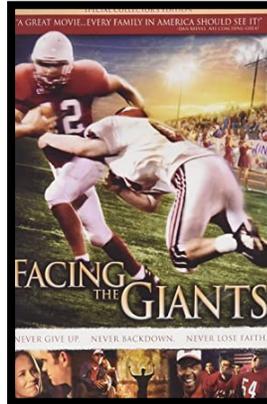
Thursday 8:30am-11:30am

Need a good book to read? Or maybe a good movie to watch? We've got you covered! Come in during the library hours and see what we have to offer! You won't be disappointed!



We are starting to put our worship services on DVD for those who do not have access to internet. If you know of someone or you would find this helpful, please call the church office 651-465-5265. We also will be putting the book readings on DVD!!!

Available in our church library, *Facing the Giants* is the heartwarming story of a downtrodden Christian high school football coach who turns to God when everything seems to be going against him. Trusting God to do the impossible, Coach Grant Taylor and his Shiloh Christian Eagles soon discover how faith plays out on and off the field.



**First Swedish  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Congregation**

**Första Svenska  
Evangeliskt Lutherska  
Församlingen**

Swedish Word  
of the Month



## **Outdoor Fall Activities**



### **Baker Orchard**

Location: Hwy 35, Centuria, WI

Apple Cider for sale along with a wide variety of apples. Also offered: farm fresh products from local Johnson Family Pastures.

### **Pleasant Valley Orchard**

Location: 17325 Pleasant Valley Rd, Shafer, MN

Opens: Labor Day Weekend

Food trailer onsite every weekend with apple cider & brats and Appleshed shop has been expanded offering fresh baked goodies!



### **St. Croix Farmers Market**

Saturdays 10am to 1pm

Downtown St. Croix Falls

Located at the SCF Library

Masks are required while shopping

Fresh produce, beef, pork, cheese, wool, sheepskins, eggs, herbs, teas, fresh cut flowers, & more!

### **September 16th**

While shopping the farmers market, enjoy live music from Spokey Dokey. Old timey sounds from a guitar & fiddle duo!



**Outdoor Worship**  
 was enjoyed by many on  
 Sunday, August 16th.

We plan to hold outdoor  
 worship every Sunday in  
 September, weather  
 permitting.

Please check your emails  
 regularly and our website  
 for future scheduled dates  
 and the outdoor guidelines.

## God's Work Our Hands



**God's Work, Our Hands is  
 scheduled for Sunday,  
 September 13th. Since we are  
 not meeting in person, we will  
 plan to reschedule for the  
 Spring.**

### A BIG UNDERTAKING...

It was discovered that the  
 chairs in the Fellowship Hall  
 had mold on them due to the  
 decreased air movement and  
 lack of air conditioning  
 through the summer heat.



Wendy Szczepanski, Rose  
 Anderson, Miriam Flysjo and  
 Kathy Carlsted worked on  
 bringing all the chairs outside,  
 washing each of them, allowing  
 them to dry and then stacking  
 them inside.

Thank you ladies for ALL your  
 hard work!



## Steeple Fund



**Project is scheduled to  
 start in September.**





**2020 Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**First Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Sunday, August 16, 2020**

- I. Declaration of Quorum and Call to Order- Council President, Wendy Szczepanski declared a quorum (greater than 19) and called the 2020 meeting to order.
- II. Appointment of Tellers- Don Hansen volunteered to be a teller.
- III. Acceptance of 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes- Don Hansen motioned to accept the meeting minutes. Rose Anderson seconded. Motion carried.
- IV. Elections:
  - a. Council Members- Wendy Szczepanski announced she was willing to serve a second 3 year term. Carol Nelson motioned for a consensus ballot. Verna Grover seconded. Motion passed.
  - b. Nominating committee- There were no nominations from the floor. There are still on the committee until 2022. Jerry Rhodes proposed a consensus ballot. Bruce Carlsted seconded. Motion carried.
  - c. Memorial committee Darlene Mueller and Judy Peterson are still on the committee. Wendy will take Becky's place as the council representative. There were no nominations from the floor. Bruce Carlsted made a motion for a consensus ballot. Seconded by Rose Anderson. Motion carried.
- VI. Reports:
  - a. President- no additional comments were made to the written report.
  - b. Pastor- Pastor Dwight Rudquist thanked the council and Angie Linngren for handling all changes due to Covid19 pandemic. He is also thankful for the congregation's continued financial support and questions about how the future will be handled. In midst of the Covid 19 pandemic the council has decided to

postpone our process for searching for a pastor and sharing ministry with another congregation since it is too difficult to have in person meetings at this time. Pastor Rudquist has agreed to continue to shepherd us during the pandemic and guide us through the call process as soon as it is safe to have in person meetings. He will keep us informed of developments. The title of Be Thou My Vision on the annual report sums up our quest. What is our vision for FELC?

- c. Youth Minister- After careful consideration the council decided to eliminate the Youth ministry position due to financial constraints.
- d. Treasurer- Written report is at the end of the annual report.
- e. The Auditing Committee Report was not in the packet. Bruce Carlsted reported that the audit had been completed and the committee is satisfied that the council is satisfactorily handling financial matters.

VII. Acceptance of Reports- Don Hansen motioned to accept reports as written and stated. Jason Linngren seconded. Motion passed

VIII. Spending Plan for 2020/2021

Discussion- Pastor Rudquist explained that the budget was difficult to write because of the pandemic. We aren't sure of our income and had to estimate expenses. Angie is now online worship coordinator because she is recording and editing the online service. There was a pay increase for staff. The youth minister position was terminated.

IX. Acceptance of Spending Plan- Jerry Rhodes motioned to accept the spending plan.. Dennis Buchholtz seconded. Motion passed.

X. Additional business

- a. Steeple Repair- Don Hansen reported that Central Roofing is supposed to repair the steeple in September. He will contact them next week to confirm the plan. They have been hired to replace the shingles on the steeple with copper ones, which will weather over time. The copper shingles interlock. There is an example of the copper shingle in the fellowship hall. Central Roofing checked the underlying sheathing when they did their estimate. There may be some deterioration near the holes, but most of the sheathing is in good shape.

Annual meeting minutes continued.

- b. As of the August treasurer's report we raised almost \$44,947. The congregation approved borrowing from ourselves to pay the bill when the repair is completed but we still need to replace the funds we borrowed. We need to continue with the fund raisers.
- c. We are looking into lighting the steeple and have a donor who is willing to pay for the cost of lighting. The property committee will decide what to do once the steeple has been repaired.
- d. Thanks to Wendy and Joe Szczepanski for continuing to take care of the church lawn.

XI. Election Results were already announced since there was no need for a paper ballot.

XII. Adjournment Bruce Carlsted motioned to adjourn. Jerry Rhodes seconded. Motion carried.

XII. The Lord's Prayer

Faithfully submitted  
Miriam Flysjo  
Council Secretary



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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 September 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.