

SEPTEMBER 2022

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship 9:00am
Fellowship
following worship

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

Hours will vary.
Please check the
website for
updates.



I'm sorry for those who were in worship a couple of weeks ago for sort of repeating my sermon, but I really think that what follows is valuable for our future.

Many years ago in Russia there was a priest who was walking along minding his own business when all of a sudden a royal guard stopped him at gunpoint. The guard barked at the priest, "Who are you?" "Why are you here?" And, "Where are you going?" The priest was, needless to say, a bit shocked and frightened by the gruff tone and posture of this soldier. But he quickly regained his composure and carefully considered his response. However, instead of answering the guard's questions, the priest asked the soldier, "How much do they pay you to do this work?" The soldier was somewhat surprised by the question, but replied, "They pay me three kopeks a month." The priest then leaned closer to the guard and spoke softly and clearly, "I'll pay you thirty kopeks a month if you stop me every week and ask me those same three questions."

- Who are you?
- Why are you here?
- Where are you going?

Don't you think those are three wonderful questions as we look to our future both as individuals and as a congregation? And as this priest realized, these are questions to ask on an ongoing basis.

So, who are you? Paul in Roman's tells you very clearly who you are. You are a child of God, and if a child of God than heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus. Or, as I've been proclaiming to you a lot lately, mostly because Jesus has been high on this theme in Luke, you are members of God's Kingdom – here and now – and in fact forever. That's who you are? But our challenge is that we don't typically realize that on a moment by moment basis, do we? That's not the message that on a daily basis gets drummed in our dear little ears. Is it? That's why it's

important to be asked “Who we are” on a regular basis and to be reminded of the promises the answer reveals.

“Why are you here,” is a little more challenging question. A simple answer might be, to live as the children of God we are in this time and place. How in our work, in our play, in our daily interactions with family, friends, neighbors, and in the world around us, how do we reflect the light of Christ that shines on us? Isn’t that why we’re here – to be Christ’s disciples, to love and serve as was his example to us (see Philippians 2:1-11)?

I’m mostly intrigued by the third question, “Where are you going?” On the Sunday I shared these questions we read the story of the woman who Jesus healed after 18 years of being bent over from Luke 13. I love the image of what happened after Jesus laid his hands on her. What does she do? It says that immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. Certainly it’s important for us to praise God for all that God has done for us. But as it connects with the question of where we are going, think about what standing up straight allowed this woman to do. No longer was she bent over as if she were carrying the weight of the world on her shoulders. No longer was her posture that of someone who was feeling shame or being put down, pressed down, by everyone around her, even maybe by the church. No longer was her vision limited to the few feet she could see in her bent over state. No, now this woman could stand up straight and see forward. She could see where she was going.

The question I asked that Sunday was, “How might we, knowing who we are and a little of why we are here, how might we more clearly see where it is that we’re going?” I suggested that it would be wise for us to center our attention on the source of our lives, that is, to live from a place of mercy, grace, and love. Or maybe think of all this in this way. I think the basic thrust of where I understand God to be leading us is to our knees. To our knees in repentance for not trusting who we are as God’s children and for not doing all we can. But also taking the position on our knees, just as Jesus took that posture, as he washed the disciples’ feet. Jesus was the servant of all and calls us to do the same.

My hope this coming year is that we can be more confident in asking and answering these three questions:

- Who are you?
- Why are you here?
- Where are you going?

Indeed, may we have ears to hear and the hearts to accept God’s leading as we seek to be Christ’s church, to each other and to the world around us.

Pastor Dwight Rudquist

First Day of Autumn

September 23rd



New Members **Welcome!**

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

SUNDAYWORSHIP

Worship every Sunday at 9:00am. Recorded services from Sunday morning worship are available on our website Sunday afternoons.

COUNCILMEETING

Council will meet September 11, 2022 at 10:15am.

QUILTINGGROUP

First and third Thursday mornings at 9:30am.

BIBLESTUDY

Bible Study will begin again on Sunday, September 25th following worship. Grab a cup of coffee, a treat and join Pr. Dwight for Bible Study.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

09/01 Joan Johnson
09/02 Ryan Bjorklund
09/05 Ethan Landgreen
09/05 Torger Olson
09/06 Jonah Landgreen
09/07 Donna Lindgren
09/08 Taylor Miller
09/09 Caleb Moberg
09/16 Sheldon Magnuson
09/19 Ingrid Olson
09/22 Mark Clasen
09/24 Cleo Stomberg
09/27 Ethan Bjorklund
09/30 Joe Landgreen



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

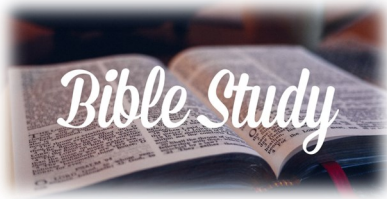
MONTHLYGIVING REPORT

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

07/24 Giving:	\$1,746.00
07/31 Giving:	\$ 836.00
08/07 Giving:	\$3,627.00
08/14 Giving:	\$1,648.00
08/21 Giving:	\$3,470.00

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.



Bible Study: We will meet Sunday mornings starting on September 25th. Bring your Bible and we'll dive into next week's readings. Printed materials will be available.



First and Third Thursday mornings at 9:30am

No experience needed! Please join the quilting group for great conversation and work on putting together beautiful quilts!

Time and Talent Sheets

Thank you to all who have completed a Time and Talent sheet at the church. If you haven't done so, please fill out the yellow Time and Talent sheet located by the usher stand and place completed forms in the offering plate. This helps us confirm your member status, update addresses, phone numbers, email or mail preference, and of course, if there is anything YOU would like to be part of in our church. Thank you!



CLARIFICATION: We are not creating an entire new directory! We are simply adding any new members or updating information, printing out a sheet and offering this to anyone who is interested in adding it into their existing directory.



We've had new members join and would love to update our directory. If you would like to add your picture and information to the directory, please contact Angie in the church office. If your information has changed since our last directory and would like to update your information, contact Angie. Email: parishc@tflutheran.org OR Phone: 651-465-5265



The Confirmation Class will meet begin to meet on Wednesday, September 21st from 6:30 - 7:30pm

We plan to meet at the church.

Further dates will be announced soon.



The confirmation class was invited to join Pr. Dwight for a brainstorming session followed by lunch at The Drive Inn on Sunday, August 21.

A BACK-TO-SCHOOL PRAYER

Loving God, thank you for the rest and relaxation we enjoyed over the summer.

Today, we pray for our children as they begin their new school year.

Bless them with joy at seeing friends, excitement at new experiences, and a love of learning. Watch over all who learn, replacing fear with joy, anxiety with peace, and tiredness with energy. Grant teachers wisdom, patience, and joy in serving their students. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Backpack Blessings

We have backpack blessing tags available for you at the church! Get one on Sunday before or after worship!!!

Apple Crisp for One

Verna Grover



- 1 Tbsp butter or margarine
- 2 Tbsp dark brown sugar
- 2 Tbsp quick cooking oatmeal
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 medium apple

Microwave butter or margarine, uncovered, on high 10 seconds or until softened. Stir in sugar, oats, flour, & cinnamon - set aside. Peel & slice apple, place in small microwave dish. Sprinkle oat mixture over the apples, microwave, uncovered, on high for 2 1/2 minutes or until apple is tender. Serve warm or chill. Garnish with whipped cream.

**Recipe found in our FELC Feeding the Flock cookbook - available at the church for purchase!

Fall Bucket List

- Make Apple Cider
- Go to a Fall Festival
- Carve Pumpkins
- Make Fall Recipes
- Go Outside and enjoy the Crisp Air
- Open the Windows
- Read a Book Cozied Up on the Couch
- Go Apple Picking
- Eat Pumpkin Spiced Foods
- Go to a Football Game
- Wear a Cozy Sweater
- Go on a Hayride
- Decorate for Fall
- DIY Fall Crafts
- Burn Fall Candles
- Have a Campfire
- Go on a Walk and see the Colorful Leaves
- Make a Pie
- Wear Scarves
- Eat a Caramel Apple

God's Work Our Hands

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH

Join us at 9am for worship and an intergenerational fellowship hour to follow.

In previous years, we have made cards, wrote cards, made blessing bags, worked on a quilt, & made cookies.

And we had fun!

Would you like to lead one of these projects? If you have a great idea for a new project, or want to do one of the previous ones again, talk with Pr. Dwight or Wendy.

We look forward to you joining us! Invite a friend, family members, or a neighbor!!! All the churches in the ELCA are invited to focus on service this fall, and we want to be part of this!

What's happening IN OUR COMMUNITY



St. Croix Falls Public
Library Plaza
Saturdays, May-October
10AM-1PM

We are looking forward to
another great season of
abundant fresh produce,
sustainably raised meats
and cheese, preserves,
honey, flowers, body care,
and more!



Parking Lot of St. Bridget's in
Lindstrom, MN
July 6th to October 22th
Wednesday 3 pm to 6 pm
Saturday 8 am to 12 pm

Local vendors offer seasonal
vegetables, flowers, home
canned goods, soap, eggs,
baked goods & more.

FRANCONIA
sculpture park

Franconia Art & Farmers Market
Sunday, Sept. 4 | 10am-2pm

The first Sunday of each month, May-October from 10am-2pm,
local farmers and artists come together to provide a variety of fresh
produce and handmade crafts.



ALMELUND'S 27TH APPLE FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2022
11 A.M.—4 P.M.

AMADOR HERITAGE CENTER
& Swedish Immigrant Log Farm



ALMELUND, MN

Located between North Branch and Taylors Falls on State Highway 95
at the intersection of Co. Rd. 12 & Hwy. 95 Follow the bright green signs!



MAKING HISTORY FUN FOR EVERYONE!

GREAT THINGS TO EAT!

- Scrumptious APPLE Desserts, ala mode with homemade apple butter!
- Rod's Swedish Sausage on a Stick!
- Almelund Lion's Burgers, Brats & Dogs
- Kettle Korn
- Taco in a Bag & More!

Buy a bag of apples to bring home!

SPECIAL EVENTS!

- Visit Local History Museum
- Three Restored Log Cabins & Log Farm Buildings on Site
- Arts, Crafts & Produce Vendors
- Displays in 1869, 1850 & 1880 log cabins
- Model T Rides / vintage cars on display
- Log Barn Cinema
- Old Time Craft Demonstrations
- Farm petting zoo & more
- Silent Auction
- Kids "Hands On" Activities!



Community Meal

*Did you know.....*Every
Monday, from 4:00 to 6:00pm,
Zion Lutheran Church in
Chisago City hosts a free
community meal!

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

The Chisago Lakes Area
Community is cordially invited
to participate in a time of Food
and Fellowship!!!!



School starts in a few days, we
continue our cooperation with
Family Pathways in helping supply
Taylors Falls elementary school kids
in need of weekend food: 2
breakfast, 2 lunches, a vegetable, a
fruit and 2 snacks. The cost is only
\$2.50 per week and is ongoing
throughout the school year. You
can donate money or time; if you
are interested in helping, please
Contact Deb Rhoads at
651-257-1658.



I cannot express the overwhelming emotions I feel towards you all. Thank you for the amazing brunch, the countless hugs, encouraging words, lovely gifts, and beautiful cards. Thank you for creating a wonderful morning!

I plan to stay at the church in my current role until I am able to start

a full time job and once that time comes, I will be here every Sunday, both in worship and in the office for a few hours afterwards. I'll continue to prepare bulletins and newsletters.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your Ministry Coordinator ~ I feel so incredibly blessed and appreciate you all so much.

Much love to you,
Angie

Thank you to Rose Anderson & Kathy Carlsted for organizing the brunch.

Thank you to Rose Anderson, Kathy Carlsted, Joy & Dennis Buchholtz, Craig & Jana Loen, and Wendy Szczepanski for bring the delicious food!



Church Office
651-465-5265
www.tflutheran.org

Pastor Dwight Rudquist
c: 651-829-4884
pastorrudquist@gmail.com

Angie Linnngren
Ministry Coordinator,
parishc@tflutheran.org

2021-2022

Council/Officers:

Wendy Szczepanski—President

Craig Loen—Vice President

Becky Hulden—Treasurer

Miriam Flysjo —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 September 11, 2022 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.