First Things

AUGUST 2024

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

I came across this piece that was written by the Rev. Dr. Yolanda Pierce when she was an Associate Professor at Princeton Theological Seminary. Dr. Pierce currently serves as Professor and Dean of the Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, TN. The title of this litany is "A Litany for Those who Aren't Ready for Healing." I experienced it during a Prayer Vigil I attended at Luther Seminary soon after and a short distance from the place Philando Castile was shot back in 2016.

These words strike me once again as I contemplate the world around me. They also seem to fit some of what the book of Job speaks to. I hope they speak to you and maybe challenge you as well.

A Litany for Those who Aren't Ready for Healing

Let us not rush to the language of healing, before understanding the fullness of the injury and the depth of the wound.
Let us not rush to offer a band-aid, when the gaping wound requires surgery and complete reconstruction.
Let us not offer false equivalencies, thereby diminishing the particular pain being felt in a particular circumstance in a particular historical moment.
Let us not speak of reconciliation without speaking of reparations and restoration, or how we can repair the breach and how we can restore the loss.

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Let us not rush past the loss of this mother's child, this father's child… someone's beloved son.
Let us not value property over people; let us not protect material objects while human lives hang in the balance.
Let us not value a false peace over a righteous justice.
Let us not be afraid to sit with the ugliness, the messiness, and the pain that is life in community together.
Let us not offer clichés to the grieving, those whose hearts are being torn asunder.

Instead…
Let us mourn black and brown men and women, those killed extra-judicially every 28 hours.
Let us lament the loss of a teenager, dead at the hands of a police officer who described him as a demon.
Let us weep at a criminal justice system, which is neither blind nor just.
Let us call for the mourning men and the wailing women, those willing to rend their garments of privilege and ease, and sit in the ashes of this nation's original sin.
Let us be silent when we don't know what to say.
Let us be humble and listen to the pain, rage, and grief pouring from the lips of our neighbors and friends.
Let us decrease, so that our brothers and sisters who live on the underside of history may increase.
Let us pray with our eyes open and our feet firmly planted on the ground
Let us listen to the shattering glass and let us smell the purifying fires, for it is the language of the unheard.
God, in your mercy…
Show me my own complicity in injustice.
Convict me for my indifference.
Forgive me when I have remained silent.
Equip me with a zeal for righteousness.
Never let me grow accustomed or acclimated to unrighteousness.

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.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

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.

COUNCIL MEETING

Council will meet August 4, 2024 at 10:30am.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

08/05	Dylan Lynch
08/09	Darlene Mueller
08/10	JonTae Hackmann
08/11	Riley Linngren
08/13	David Hackmann
08/16	Arne Lagus
08/19	Kathy Carlsted
08/19	Sue Nelson
08/24	Patty Davids
08/25	Jon Luschen
08/26	Mike Moberg
08/26	Julie Valez
08/30	Marcielle Rogers

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

06/23 Giving:	$3,958.00
06/30 Giving:	$2,804.85
07/07 Giving:	$2,170.00
07/14 Giving:	$2,512.00
07/21 Giving:	$2,462.00

Thank you for your faithful giving. Please contact FELC Treasurer, Craig Loen with any questions or concerns at: 715-553-0519 or cloen@federatedcoops.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.

Church Choir

Choir will take a break over the summer.

Quilting

First & Third Wednesday mornings at 9:30am. No experience needed! We welcome new quilters!!!

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

Crafting on Saturdays

Will take a break for the summer and return in the fall

SundaySCHOOL

Monthly Sunday school class for children ages 3-6. Meets the second Sunday of the month right after the children's message.

Next SS Date:
August 11th

I know what you are thinking….a Christmas tree? It's August! Each holiday season, we raise money for the Taylors Falls Elementary school families, hoping to bless those in need of a little help. I am trying to plan ahead (way ahead) and start this early! I have a jar on my desk if you'd like to donate or you can simply drop your donation in the offering plate on Sunday designating to the Giving Tree.
Thank you!!!!! ~Angie

BACKPACK PROGRAM

Chisago County Food Shelf is asking for our help. They are collecting backpacks and school supplies for school children in the Chisago School District for the 2023-2024school year. If you are interested in bringing backpacks and/or school supplies, we will collect through August 4th! Items needed are listed below.

- 24 pkg. crayons
- Red, Blue and Black Pens
- 10 pkg. wide tip washable markers
- Notebooks (wide & college)
- Scissors
- Bottles of white glue
- Rulers
- Glue sticks
- Yellow Highlighters
- Pencils
- Erasers
- Boxes of Kleenex
- Colored Pencils
- File Folders
- Sanitizing wipes
- Back Packs (New)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

ST CROIX FALLS FARMERS MARKET

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
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, Aug. 4th | 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.

Chisago Lakes Book Club

Thurs, Aug. 15th
5:00 - 6:15pm

We meet monthly in the Community Room at the Chisago Lakes Library. Books for our upcoming book club are distributed at our meetings or are available for pickup at the circulation desk at the library.

Chisago City Ki-Chi-Saga Days

August 15th - 18th

Join our community to celebrate Ki-Chi-Saga Days! Enjoy one of the biggest craft/food/display shows and many activities including a grand parade on Sunday. Don't miss this wonderful community celebration in Chisago City!

Spelmansstämma
Sat, August 17th | 10am-4pm
Gammelgarden's, Scandia MN

Join us for Spelmansstämma as we celebrate the long-held Swedish folk music tradition of the immigrant fiddle. The festival opens at 1 pm with the traditional parade of folk musicians, followed by performances from each group. Come early (10am – 12pm) for a free tour of Gammelgården's historic buildings, and pack a picnic lunch to enjoy on the museum grounds.

Coffee TIme

Join the residents at The Lodge in Taylors Falls every Thursday at 2:30pm for their free Community Coffee Hour!

St Croix Falls Fridays Vendor Fair & Shop Crawl

VINTAGE ~ ARTS & CRAFTS ~ ANTIQUES
FASHION ~ WELLNESS ~ TREATS

JUNE | JULY | AUGUST
5:00 - 8:00PM
DURING MUSIC ON THE OVERLOOK

Join us for all or some of the weekend!
Please RSVP by visiting the website:
www.LutherPoint.org
or
call 715-689-2347

National NIGHT OUT

August 6, 2024

Watch for more details.

RELAY FOR LIFE®

RELAY FOR LIFE OF
CHISAGO COUNTY
FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2024 AT 5PM
HOSTED BY
CHISAGO LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

American Cancer Society

CHISAGO LAKES
COMMUNITY MEAL

Chisago Lakes Community Meal
Monday Evenings 4pm - 6pm
Zion Lutheran Church in Chisago City
All are welcome!

LOCAL

Music in the Park

St Croix Falls, WI - Serverson Memorial Overlook Park

June - August

Friday evenings at 6:30pm

FREE Friday Summer Concerts at the overlook. Bring a lawn chair.

FREE ADMISSION!

Council Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

July 14, 2024, 11:30am

Next meeting August 4, 2024

"Proclaim the Gospel and Serve our neighbors."

Members Present: Rose Anderson, Miriam Flysjo, Becky Hulden, Kathy Carlsted, Pastor Dwight Rudquist, Don Hansen, Julie Valez
Members Absent: None

Miriam led devotions this morning. Kathy volunteered to lead devotions in August.

Miriam Flysjo/Rose Anderson motioned to elect the following council officers: Becky Hulden, President; Kathy Carlsted Vice President; Craig Loen, Treasurer; Don Hansen, Secretary. Motion passed.

Don and Julie shared stories of God's love in our lives.

Pastor Dwight said the picnic was fun. He will be gone for two weeks in August. Becky will hire a supply pastor. The next service at the Lodge is July 24 at 3:00.

Our income for June of $10,566.85 is above budget by $56.02 so we are above budget by 1.25%, with offerings above budget of $6310.08 at the fiscal year end.

Second, the custodian wages are over budget by $2,018.49. Don will talk to the custodian.

Third, our Primary Checking is $2368.32 higher than May's report. Our special Savings is $1668 lower than May's report.

Fourth, Craig brought up that we are currently earning .05% interest on our Special Savings account and no interest on our Primary Checking account. If we put our money in a money market account we can earn 3.5% interest.

Kathy/Rose made a motion to transfer all the money in the Special Savings account and the $100,000 from the Primary Checking account to a Compass Gold Money market account. Motion passed.

Fifth, we are currently paying $5 a month for a paper statement for the Samaritan Fund. Don will go to the bank and set up electronic statements to go to Janelle and Craig.

Treasurer's Report Faithfully submitted by Craig Loen 7/14/2024.

Kathy/Rose made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed

We still need to raise $19,200 to repair the roof. Some people have approached Pastor Dwight with pledges of support to pay for the roof. Don offered to approach individuals about pledges. People who helped collect syrup have offered to put their Maple Bucks towards paying for the roof. We also could sponsor fundraisers like a spaghetti dinner or pie social.

Don contacted Craftsman Construction Service to get on the fall schedule once he knew the council made a motion to accept their bid.

Becky will contact the Johnsons about using the Olson Memorial fund to repair the roof.

The Season of Renewal group met June 12 with coach Mary Francis via Zoom. Our next meeting with the cohort congregations is September 14. The First Evangelical group will meet prior to the September 14 meeting. Pastor Dwight will send out a reminder email.

Wendy talked about Together with Friends for the Mission Moment in June. Becky requested that Rose share about her mission of sending cards to people who are sick.

The shorter season of Together with Friends went well. The sessions had a range of 9 -12 campers. There was discussion about if there are enough campers to continue with the project in the future.

Sunday school went well today. We learned about Joseph and the colorful coat and what jealousy can do. The kids had fun acting out the story. Miriam Flysjo will be out of town on September 8 so council decided to move Sunday School to September 15.

Don/Kathy made a motion to adjourn at 12:18. Motion passed.

Faithfully submitted,

Miriam Flysjo, council secretary

2023-2024- Annual Meeting Minutes July 14, 2024

I. Council President Becky Hulden called the meeting to order at 10:03. 26 members were present which met the 19 needed for a quorum.

II. Gathering Prayer- President Becky Hulden

III. Appointment of Tellers - Jerry Rhodes, Bruce Carlsted and Rita Johnson volunteered to be tellers, if needed.

IV. Acceptance of 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

Dennis Buchholtz made a motion to accept the 2022-23 annual minutes, seconded by Rose Anderson. Motion passed

Don Hansen made a motion to accept special meeting minutes from January 14, 2024, seconded by Jerry Rhodes.

In the discussion Becky Hulden brought up that since the annual meeting it was discovered that the roof needs to be replaced. She asked for a vote if it was okay to fix the roof first and then buy chairs for the fellowship hall. The request passed unanimously.

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The congregation voted to pass the motion made by Don Hansen/Jerry Rhodes to accept the minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting of January 2024.

V. Elections:

1. Council Member - Don Hansen and Julie Valez have agreed to serve on the council.

Arne Lagus/Verna Grover made a motion to accept Don Hansen and Julie Valez Arnie as council members. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Nominating committee:

Because council members cannot be on committees Rose Anderson and Don Hansen's positions on the Nominating committee need to be filled. Miriam Flysjo volunteered to serve on the committee. Craig Loen/Dennis Buchholtz made a motion to accept Miriam Flysjo as a member of the nominating committee. The motion passed.

3. Memorial committee does not need any additional members at this time.

VI. Reports:

a. President- Becky Hulden reviewed the year by stating we have begun the Season of Renewal process through the Synod. We recently discovered the roof needs to be replaced. While Pastor Dwight is still with us she hopes we can complete the Season of Renewal process, write a Ministry Site Profile, establish a Call Committee to find our next pastor. She hopes we can raise enough funds to replace the roof by this fall and have a Lay Leadership Structure in place before Pastor Dwight leaves in May 2025. We need a Lay Leadership structure in place since Pastor Dwight alone has been fulfilling the duties of a Worship and Music Committee and Mission and Outreach Committee.

b. Pastor- Pastor Dwight highlighted from his written report the importance of listening to each other and what is it we want to shout from the mountain top?

c. Treasurer- Craig just added that we ended the fiscal year strong.

d. The Auditing Committee met and everything checked out but they were unable to get the report done prior to the annual meeting due to technical difficulties.

VII. Acceptance of Reports

Jerry Rhodes/Rose Anderson made a motion to accept the reports as stated or written. Motion passed.

VIII. Motion to approve roof repair

The Congregational Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church moves to accept the bid from Craftsman Construction Services for $64,200 to replace the shingles on the entire building, which includes replacing the decking on

the main church portion. The funds to pay for this project will come from the following accounts along with funds raised (if there is a deficit, we will approve payments to be made from additional memorial funds which would need to be reimbursed):

Fund		Amount in Fund	Amount to Designate for Roof
3040	Property Projects.	$9.029.47.	$8,000
3215	Olson Youth.	$16,579.22	$15,000
3235	Undesignated Mem.	$19,956.48.	$15,000
3036	Youth (Maple).	$6,357.58.	$5,000

Arne Lagus/Roger Boleman motioned to accept the Craftsman Construction Services bid of $64,200 to replace the shingles on the entire building.

Discussion- The Lifespan of shingles was questioned and it was guessed the lifespan was 20 years. (Later Don confirmed that the lifespan is 30 years) Now insurance companies require churches to have a deductible of 2% of the value of the church. It would cost $5 million to replace everything in the First Lutheran building so our deductible is $100,000.

A Steel roof would cost three times as much as a roof of shingles

There was discussion about funding the project. It was determined we are allowed to use designated memorials to repair the roof. People were concerned about using designated memorials without getting approval from the family to use the memorial money to fix the roof.

Don Hansen/Roger Boleman amended their motion to use the 3215 fund (Olson youth) contingent on approval from the Johnson family. A show of hands vote passed the amendment. The amended motion passed unanimously.

IX. Budget Proposal for 2024-2025

Dennis Buchholtz/Kathy Carlsted motioned to adopt the proposed budget.

It was discussed that staff wages will increase by 1.5% but Pastor Dwight did not have a raise in the budget. It was mentioned that he does not take a salary as choir director even though there is money in the budget. It was discussed to give Pastor Dwight a cost of living raise of 3%.

Don Hansen/ Kathy Carlsted made a motion to amend the budget to increase Pastor Dwight's salary to $45,500. The amendment passed unanimously.

The amended motion to adopt the proposed budget passed

X. Election Results were not needed

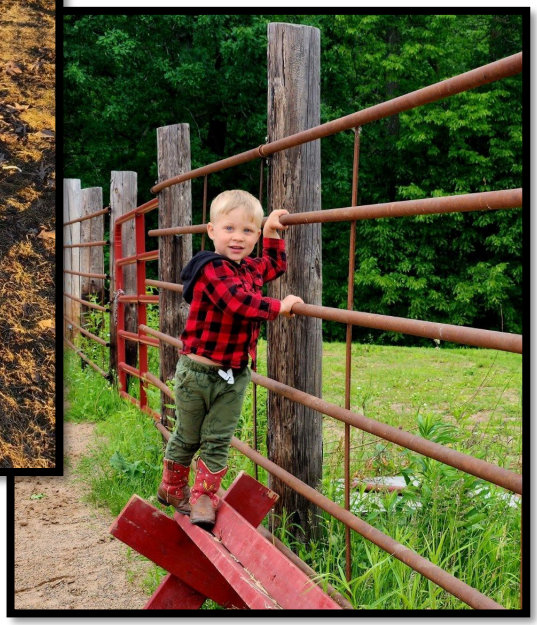
XI. Adjournment motion made by Dennis Buchholtz/ Arne Lagus.

XII. The Lord's Prayer

Get to know our Sunday School Class

Over the next few months, we will highlight the kids that enjoy Sunday School with their favorite teacher, Miriam Flysjo!

Abraham Belisle



One of the youngest in the Sunday School class at 2 years old, Abraham, nicknamed Bam enjoys church but his favorite part - snacks after service!!! He also loves playing outside on the playground!

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

First Evangelical
LUTHERAN CHURCH of TAYLORS FALLS

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

Angie Linngren
Ministry Coordinator,
parishc@tflutheran.org

2024-2025
Council/Officers:

Becky Hulden—President
Kathy Carlsted—Vice President
Craig Loen—Treasurer
Don Hansen—Secretary
Julie Valez
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 August 4, 2024 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.

First Evangelical
LUTHERAN CHURCH

561 Chestnut Street, Taylors Falls, MN 55084-1110

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