First Things

AUGUST 2025

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

Every time I return—whether from a mission across the world or just a few days of rest with my family—I find myself noticing things I didn't before: the warmth in a handshake, the familiar sound of laughter over coffee, the rhythm of your voices singing hymns together. Absence has a strange way of sharpening appreciation.

When I'm away, I genuinely miss you. I miss the subtle things—those hallway chats after worship, the quiet nods of understanding, the shared burdens we lift together without always needing words. That ache of missing is not just about distance. It's about connection. It's about the sacred makeup of the Body of Christ—that holy web of relationship we call community.

And here's what I've learned over and over again: *it's those moments of connection that enliven my soul.*

Sometimes, I think it's easy to believe that if we're not physically in the church building, we're somehow separated from the church itself. But that's not how the Body of Christ works. Even if I haven't seen you in the pews recently—because, let's be honest, summer is full of road work,

Continued on page two

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county fairs, cabin getaways, landscaping projects, and a dozen other things that all get crammed into these few precious months—I want you to hear this:

You are not forgotten.
You are not disconnected.
You are still part of this body.

In fact, when I do see you—whether it's at worship, the grocery store, or standing in line for a basket of cheese curds at the ballfield—something lights up in me. It's like a spark of joy flickers to life. I feel awakened to your presence, reminded once again of what a gift each of you are.

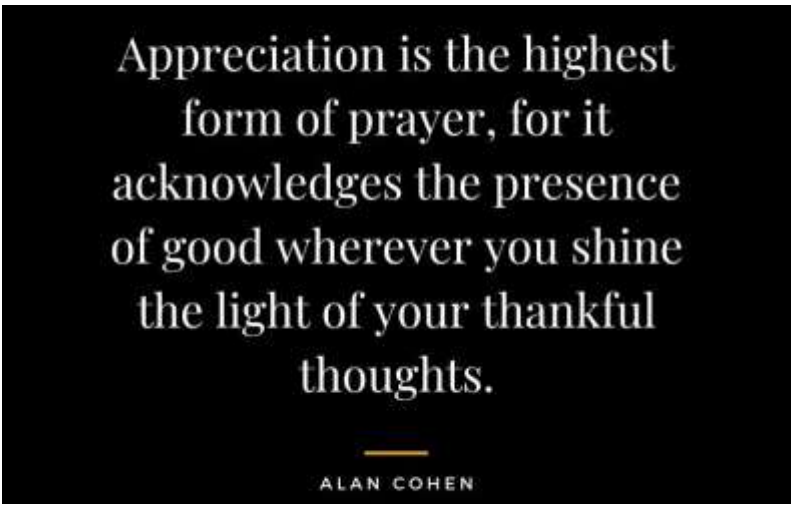
This summer, I invite us all to practice appreciation—not just for sunsets and vacations and cool breezes, but for one another. Take time to check in. Say hello. Linger a few extra minutes after church or reach out to someone you haven't seen in a while. You don't have to cross an ocean to feel reconnected. Sometimes, the greatest mission we're called to is simply showing up—for one another.

This is the work of Christ among us: seeing one another, appreciating one another, and remembering that whether present or apart, we belong to each other.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Justin

But don't let it go too long in between me seeing you at church ☺



New Members Welcome!

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship every Sunday at 11:00am. 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 meeting date and time to be announced at a later date.

Please send submissions to:
felctf@gmail.com
Articles due the 12th of each month.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

08/05 Dylan Lynch
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

06/29 Giving:	$1,791.01
07/06 Giving:	$1,763.00
07/13 Giving:	$ 207.00
07/20 Giving:	$3,914.00

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

Shared Ministry

First Lutheran Evangelical Church

Taylors Falls, MN
Fellowship at 10am
followed by Worship at 11am

Quilting

Quilting will be taking a break over the summer!

SundaySCHOOL

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

WISDOM SEEKERS

THURSDAYS AT 9:00AM
Starting Sept. 4th

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Youth Room, 1st floor

Join us in exploring how history has influenced religion and how religion has influenced history. Check out the flyer on the bulletin board for more details.

Do you have something special you'd like to share with the congregation? Email felctf@gmail.com or talk to Angie!

Better Together

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Almelund, MN
Worship at 9am
followed by Fellowship at 10am

FAITH CONVERSATIONS

LIVING IN THIS MOMENT

FOURTH THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

6:30 PM

WILD MOUNTAIN WINERY

August – Evolution, Theology & Cancer: God's Tools for Creation Is God at work in natural selection? What do illness and survival reveal about divine purpose? We'll wrestle with how science, suffering, and spirituality intersect.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

RELAY FOR LIFE

The organizing committee is continuing to make plans for the event which will take place on Fri Aug 22 at Chisago Lake Lutheran Church from 6-9:30 with entertainment prior to the 6 pm program. The Illuminated Immanuel Team will be selling luminaries at Immanuel Church on: July 27th, August 3rd and 17th. The Team will also be serving coffee on August 17th when dedicating them. Everyone is welcome to join our Team or come to the Relay. Cancer touches all of us unfortunately. Help us raise money for research to beat it. You can contact Jeske with any questions @ 651-775-1233 or jnoordergraaf@yahoo.com. Thank you!

Save the date

Sunday, August 17th

Mark your calendars and prepare your hearts as we will welcome Bishop Patricia Lull to First Evangelical Lutheran Church for a powerful morning of preaching and teaching. This is a special **opportunity for our congregation to gather with one of our synod's** most faithful leaders as she shares her wisdom, encouragement, and vision for the Church today.

Bishop Lull will also help us explore the ongoing mission of the Planting [More] Hope Campaign, a bold synod-wide effort to renew congregations, raise up future leaders, invest in transformative partnerships, and invite others into life in Christ.

This campaign has already made a remarkable impact:

- A $1 million partnership with Lutheran Social Service of MN to open a new Early Learning Center
- Funding five years of paid internships for young adults

Support for vibrant ministry innovation in congregations like ours

Now, as the campaign enters its next phase, we are being invited to:

- Help reduce the seminary debt of pastors and deacons

Continue growing healthy, vital congregations across our synod

We'll be sharing ways that you can be part of this joyful mission as we get closer to Bishop Lull's visit. Whether through prayer, giving, or simply showing up in worship, your participation helps plant hope for generations to come.

Let's come together on August 17th with open hearts and grateful spirits, ready to be inspired—and to respond. Hope is planted right here at home.

Tithing Outside Our Walls, will be matching the loose offering and coffee for the Planting [More] Hope Campaign.

PLANTING MORE HOPE

The Planting Hope Campaign expresses our confidence that God is at work in the 106 congregations and mission starts in the Saint Paul Area Synod. This campaign offers an opportunity to contribute to the collective involvement of 100,000+ Lutherans of this synod in four activity areas:

INVITE neighbors into life in Christ

RENEW the congregations of the synod

RAISE UP the next generations of leaders

INVEST in a transformative project on the East Side of St. Paul with Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota

The Saint Paul Area Synod unites the work of congregations, provides support to rostered ministers, builds mutually transformative partnerships and emboldens witness for justice. The synod:

- assists congregations with call processes and guides seminary students
- provides education and support to ministers and lay leaders
- encourages public witness in the areas of racial equity, caring for creation, and prevention of sexual exploitation and gun violence
- nurtures congregational vitality
- accompanies companion synods in Tanzania and Guatemala

For more details, scan the code or visit www.spas-elca.org/planting-hope

@saintpaulareasynod @spaselca

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

St. Croix Falls Public
Library Plaza
Saturdays, May-October
10am to 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!

Lindstrom

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.

Almelund Farmers Market
Friday afternoons from 3 -6pm
Check out the local items...annuals, perennials and garden plants, asparagus, rhubarb, eggs, maple syrup, honey, breads, jams/jellies, craft items and other goodies!
Products change with the season.

FRANCONIA
sculpture park

Franconia Art & Farmers Market
Sunday, Aug. 3rd | 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.

If you are interested in applying to be a vendor, please contact Khrissy Linnerooth via call or text at 763-447-7540.

St Croix Fall,s, 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!

Wednesday Nights at 6:30pm
Lions Park Band Shell, Lindstrom
Events start at 6:30pm
ALL Concerts FREE to the Public!

CHISAGO LAKES
COMMUNITY MEAL

Monday Evenings
4pm - 6pm
Zion Lutheran Church
in Chisago City

August
14th - 17th

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 16th | 10am-4pm
Gammelgarden's, Scandia MN

Come to Gammelgården Museum for a free family-friendly event featuring Swedish/Nordic and Mexican folk music, dance, and visual arts. There also will be arts and crafts for children and adults; historic building tours; an arts, crafts, and vendors fair; and artist demonstrations. Both Swedish and Mexican food and beverages will be available for purchase.

St. Bridget of Sweden Catholic Church

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

St. Bridget is hosting our 4th annual summer concert series! All are welcome to come enjoy some great musical talent this summer!

Alex Schindler

Thurs. Aug. 21st at 7pm

ALL CONCERTS ARE FREE-WILL OFFERING ADMISSION. CONCERTS HELD AT ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LINDSTROM

National NIGHT OUT

Tues, August 5th

Watch for more details.

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 2025-2026school year. If you are interested in bringing backpacks and/or school supplies, we will collect through August 3rd! 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)

Luther Point
BIBLE CAMP

Summer Celebration
August 3, 2025

Join us for
Worship at 11am
Followed by lunch
1pm Silent Auction
& Carnival Games
2pm Program
& Live Auction

AUCTION

To help make our Summer Celebration a success, we will be holding a live and silent auction.
The live auction will consist of only 8-10 items and we are hoping for many silent auction items and baskets.
Please consider donating items and baskets to our silent auction this year!

- Gift Baskets
  - Kids Books
  - Movie Night
  - Wine and Cheese
  - Fishing
  - Game night
- Sunset Cruise
- Weekend Getaway
- Tickets to Events
- Quilts
- Crafts
- ANYTHING YOU CAN IMAGINE!

Minutes for the 2025 First Evangelical Lutheran Church Annual Meeting
June 22, 2025

1. Becky Hulden called the meeting to order
2. Quorum- Becky counted 23 members present and declared a quorum which was 19 and greater
3. Prayer- Pastor Justin Fenger opened the meeting with prayer
4. Appointment of Tellers if needed. Wendy Szczepanski, Carol Nelson and Deb Rhoads volunteered
5. Acceptance of 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

Dennis Buchholtz made a motion to accept, Arnie Lagus seconded, motion carried

6.Acceptance of Special Congregational Meeting Minutes from 04/27/2025. Craig Loen moved to accept meeting minutes, Angela seconded, Motion carried

7.Elections

1. Council Member
    1. Craig Loen has agreed to serve another term
    2. Nominations from the floor-
    3. Angie Linngren nominated Riley Linngren to the council, Wendy Szczepanski seconded
    4. Miriam Flysjo nominated Angela Dahlstrom , Julie Valez seconded
    5. Nominations were closed and the vote was unanimous in favor.
2. Nominating Committee- Miriam Flysjo is on the committee, no nominations were made from the floor
3. Auditing Committee-Natalie Landgreen is currently on the committee, Nominations from the floor- Wendy nominated Carol Nelson and Mary Ann Mattson, Miriam Lagus seconded, motion carried
4. Memorial Committee-Joy Buchholtz is the only member on this committee and made a motion to disband the committee. Miriam Lagus Seconded. After much discussion, it was found that the Memorial Committee is not required by the Constitution and was created as part of the bylaws. The bylaws required 4 members to serve on the memorial committee. Given that there were no volunteers willing to be nominated for the committee. Joy Buchholtz with drew her motion to disband the memorial committee and resigned from the memorial committee effective immediately. According to the Constitution the duties of the memorial committee is the Council's

8. Reports. President, Pastor, Treasurer, Auditing, Becky Hulden, Pastor Justin and Craig Loen all gave oral reports as well as the written reports, to be included in the final Annual report. Dennis Buchholtz made a motion to accept the reports, both written and oral, Don Hansen seconded, motion carried.

9. Budget Proposal for 2025-2026 Fiscal year. Becky Hulden and Craig Loen summarized the 2025/26 proposed budget. It is less than the previous year due to Pastor Dwight's retirement. Dennis Buchholtz moved to adopt the budget as written and attached in the annual report. Wendy Szczepanski seconded, motion carried

10. Craig Loen made a motion to adjourn, Diane seconded. Meeting was adjourned, ending with the Lord's prayer

Wannigan Days

Some of our church members enjoying Wannigan Days!

Kathy & Bruce Carlsted

Grason & PJ Linnerooth and Krissy Linnerooth

Lucy Tverberg

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

Pastor Justin Fenger
c: 651-308-7717
pastor@immanuelalmelund.com

Angie Linngren
Ministry Coordinator
felctf@gmail.com

First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Taylors Falls

2025-2026 Council/Officers:

Becky Hulden—President
Kathy Carlsted—Vice President
Craig Loen—Treasurer
Don Hansen—Secretary
Julie Valez
Rose Anderson
Angela Dahlstrom
Riley Linngren

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 determined at a later date.

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: felctf@gmail.com
Articles due the 12th of each month.

First Evangelical
LUTHERAN CHURCH

561 Chestnut Street, Taylors Falls, MN 55084-1110

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US
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