First Things

JUNE 2024

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

The following was an article from the St. Paul Areas Synod's newsletter way back in July of 2003. I ran across it recently and realized what Bishop Rogness shared is still relevant for us today and so I pass it on to you.

From the Heart

The real hot button issues in the ELCA

By the Rev. Peter Rogness, Bishop

I was invited recently to lead a Sunday morning adult forum where the announced title was "Hot Button Issues in the ELCA." I began by asking them to name what they presumed would be the topics I would address. No surprises there. Sex was clearly first out of the box. Abortion and merger were mentioned next.

I told them I wouldn't necessarily duck those issues – we could talk about them – but I thought we were operating with the wrong definition of hot button issues. I said that I thought those issues they named came to mind because those are the issues a few folks feel really strongly about, enough to get uncivil and for the press to notice something juicy seems to be going on.

But, I said, I want to pay attention to those issues that I think churn more deeply inside a large cross section of our members and are more determinative of how the life of our church will unfold in the coming years. These are the issues that appear in some form with great regularity as we work with congregations calling new leadership, doing council planning retreats, developing congregational profiles and mission strategies. The media-defined hot buttons hardly ever come up in those settings. I named four that I thought were far more hot button when it comes to concerns that a wide array of church folks think about. Here are the ones I named. Compare with your list, had you had the assignment.

Continued on page two

Continued from cover page

Will our kids have faith?

There is a huge concern over the future of the church as the generations roll over, great concern that the youth culture is leaving the church in droves. Congregations that are able to connect with young people – teens and young adults – are showing great vitality. But there are many that are worried to death about holding onto young folks. It goes far deeper than simply keeping them on the roles as members. The fundamental question is whether the coming generations will have a living faith and knowledge of God as a Spirit moving in the world and touching their lives in the person of Jesus Christ.

Does our church have any impact?

I think people want desperately to belong to a church that matters, a church that makes an impact not only on their own personal lives, but on the shape of life in our communities and in our world. People want something more significant than a cozy, self-enclosed club. (There are some who want that, but I'm talking about the more healthy, outward looking folks!) Our church needs to be seen as one that makes a public impact.

Will we have leaders?

Congregations and other church leaders are concerned that we have energetic and visionary leaders for mission. Will our pastor care deeply about life in our congregation? Will we have good lay leaders that take hold of the work of our church? Will we have people who both care for the life of our own congregation, but also stretch us beyond what we are to be what we can be?

Can we be a church?

Are we able to stay focused on the central message and mission of the church – the presence of God in our midst, whom we know in Jesus Christ and whose spirit is at work within us and in the world? Will we avoid the media and culture's preoccupation that wants to drive our energies to the hot buttons? I think there is broad support for "keeping the main thing the main thing." We do have to engage issues that face us, but we can choose how much weight to give those deliberations in the life of our church. They need not define us, hot button or not. Jesus Christ defines us, and our mission gives shape to our lives.

It seems to me these are the questions that burn hottest around most church council tables, and how we answer them will shape our life 50 and 100 years from now, far more than whatever is currently hot button.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

06/01 Miriana Hackmann
06/01 Grason Linnerooth
06/01 Don Mueller
06/06 Lucas Rogers
06/10 Joe Szczepanski
06/12 Dan Petersen
06/15 Taesia Hackmann
06/15 Helen Swanson
06/21 Roger Boleman
06/23 Miriam Lagus
06/27 Les Smith
06/29 Roger Gustafson

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

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.

COUNCILMEETING

Council will meet June 9, 2024 at 10:30am.

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

04/28 Giving:	$1,612.00
05/05 Giving:	$3,348.85
05/12 Giving:	$2,417.00
05/19 Giving:	$2,757.00

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.

YARD WORK HELP NEEDED

Help is needed for members who are unable to do yardwork for many reasons like recovering from surgery or mobility issues. If you are able to give some time to do some light yardwork (raking, weeding, picking up sticks), please let Angie now at church!

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

Quilting

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

Church Choir

Choir will take a break over the summer.

CRAFTING ON SATURDAYS

WILL TAKE A BREAK FOR THE SUMMER AND RETURN IN THE FALL

Sunday SCHOOL

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: June 9th

Sunday, June 30th | 10:00am Outdoor Worship

Lunch to follow! Bring a lawn chair and a dish to share!

We'll provide the hot dogs and water!

Summer 2024

Welcome to Summer 2024
"Overcoming Storms"

It's time to get excited for Summer 2024! Our theme this summer is "Overcoming Storms." There are many storms in the Bible, in our lives and all around us! We will dive into these stories and see how our faith in Jesus can help us to overcome all of the storms in our lives! Join us as we learn what it means to overcome storms through Bible study, crafts, games, and summer fun!

"Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed."
-Psalm 107: 28-29

Member Church Discounts

This discount applies if you are a member of one of Luther Point's 75 member congregations and your congregation contributed their full per-baptized member assessment in 2023.

$55 Member Discount | $15 Early Bird, Register by April 1, 2024

Luther Point
BIBLE CAMP

Applications are OPEN for Summer 2024 Staff!!!

Looking for:

- Junior Counselors
- Senior Counselors
- Camp Connect Counselors
- Team Leaders
- Support Staff
- Medic & Waterfront Team Leader

Luther Point
BIBLE CAMP

28th Annual Together With Friends Bible Day Camp

Dates: June 18th – 20th and June 25th – 27th

Who can be a TwF Day Camper?

Any child entering grades 2-6 in the fall of 2024

What happens at TwF Day Camp?

Games, crafts, singing, Bible stories, snacks, outdoor activities, miniature golf, water carnival, meeting friends, having fun …….. and more!

Cost

$5 per child per session | $20 per child for all 10 sessions
$50 maximum per family for all 6 sessions
(Financial scholarships easily available at your request. No one will be turned away because they cannot pay.)

Wonderful News!

*You can register at the church the first day you attend, but it helps us in planning if you are able to pre-register! Thanks!

Brochures available at the church!

*** NEW SCHEDULE ***

TWO weeks in JUNE!

Meeting Tuesday, WEDNESDAY, and Thursday
At the Taylors Falls Churches listed below
**Please pick up children promptly at noon!

Tuesday, June 18th	Baptist Church
Wednesday, June 19th	Lutheran Church
Thursday, June 20th	Lutheran Church
Tuesday, June 25th	Methodist Church
Wednesday, June 26th	Methodist Church
Thursday, June 27th	Baptist Church

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
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, June 2nd | 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.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2023
9 AM – 5 PM

Town- wide celebration of Rhubarb! Craft Fair, Huge pie and bake sale, Lions Club rubber duck race over the falls, many rhubarb treats all over town...more to come!
Millpond Park, Osceola WI

10 AM – 3 PM

Osceola Library Book Sale & Garage Sale
Visit the lower level of the library for some great bargains!

Chisago Lakes Book Club

Thurs, June 20th | 5:00 - 6:15pm

Join us for the Chisago Lakes book club, held on the third Thursday of each month at 5pm. 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.

Need some ideas for Father's Day?

- Host a Breakfast Gathering with all the special men in your life!
- Learn & make Dad's Signature Recipe
- Go to a baseball game
- Plan a family hike and picnic
- Host a Game Night and make Dad's favorite appetizers
- Help Dad around the yard
- Ask for stories about his favorite memories from when he was a child (bonus - write them down for your own memories!)

Sunday, June 23rd
at 5:00pm

TWF Fundraiser
Salad Supper

Hosted by the Baptist Church
EVERYONE IS INVITED!
Watch for more info!

SHAKESPEARE IN THE STATE PARKS: A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Saturday, June 29th
1:00 - 4:30pm

Interstate Park - St Croix Falls
Amphitheater

Bring a blanket or chair. Performance is free! Vehicle admission is required.

One of Shakespeare's most popular comedies takes us on a beguiling odyssey full of mistake identifies , misguided passions, love potions and magic spells.

Worship at 1pm
Performance at 2:30pm

CHISAGO LAKES
COMMUNITY MEAL

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

HOWLIN' WOLF CREEK
BAR & GRILL PRESENTS

WOLF CREEK FESTIVAL 2024

A FULL DAY OF FUN FOR ALL!

JUNE 29

11 AM- 5 PM

11 AM - 4 PM: CLASSIC CAR SHOW WITH GREAT PRIZES
$10 Entry fee w/cash payback prizes for 1st and 2nd place. Additional prizes for 3-5th places
11 AM - 5 PM: A LITTLE MIA MANGIA FOOD TRUCK
11 AM - 5 PM: CRAFT VENDOR MARKET
1 PM - 5 PM: LIVE MUSIC FEATURING LAWLESS
FUN FOR EVERYONE!

HOWLIN' WOLF CREEK BAR & GRILL
2387 River Road, St. Croix Falls, WI
715-438-9255

LOCAL Music in the Park

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!

Harmony in the Park

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

DATE	BAND (Starts at 7:00)
June 5	**The Whitesidewalls** *50s & 60s Doo-Wop / Rock & Roll*
June 12	**Lindley Creek** *Bluegrass*
June 19	**Jonah & The Whales** *Rock / Variety*
June 26	**Songs of the South** *Alabama Tribute Band*

Wild Mountain Winery

16906 Wild Mountain Rd
Taylors Falls

Music in the Vineyard

Starting Saturday, June 1st through the summer!
Friday evenings 5:30-8:30pm &
Saturdays 1pm - 8pm

Council Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

May 12, 2024, 10:15am

Next meeting June 9, 2024

"Proclaim the Gospel and Serve our neighbors."

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

Becky called the meeting to order at 10:20. Pastor Dwight shared devotions. Becky offered to share devotions next month. Becky, Rose and Kathy shared stories about God's love in our lives.

Pastor Dwight is planning three series for the summer sermons: The Lord's prayer, First testament wisdom and poetry and First John.

In Craig's absence, Becky shared the Treasurer's report.
The bill for the large, old pine tree removal is the main reason FRB Special Savings is lower.
We are nearing the finish line, Fiscal Year end, looking to be very close to our budget. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Our income for April, $8813.95 is BELOW budget by -$1696.88
We are BELOW budget income by .65%, years to date. Thanks to the congregation's generous giving in previous months!
We are BELOW budget for our expenses by 2.14%, years to date.

Our primary checking is -$903.58 lower than April's report.
Our Special Saving is -$4631 lower than April's report.
Samaritan Checking was -$5 lower than April's report.

Faithfully submitted by Craig Loen.

Rose/Kathy made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Motion passes.

Due to the large tree falling in the parking lot and shingles coming off the roof all other property committee projects have been put on hold. The clogged gutters have been cleaned out. Perhaps the clog was the reason for the water in the basement.

We have gotten two bids to reshingle the roof. The present roof is over 20 years old. Plywood sheeting should have been added the last time it was reroofed so this will be an additional cost. One estimate was $65,000 and the second estimate was $95,000. We are waiting for a third bid to be sent. The roofing needs to be done in cooler weather. The property committee will review the bids and make a suggestion on the contractor and how soon the roof needs to be fixed. We need to look at our current funds available and make a plan to raise money for the balance needed to fix the roof.

We may need someone to assess the stability of the trees. Part of the hill behind the church is starting to erode so other trees may be more likely to fall. The Season of Renewal group met with our cohort on May 4. The group met on May 8 to look more closely at the information we received at the cohort meeting. The next meeting is May 30 at church. The Season of Renewal cohort meets June 1 at Christus Victor church in Apple Valley.
Bill Davids presented a Mission moment about Meals on Wheels. Other suggestions are Rose sending cards and the service at the Lodge.

Sunday school did some Mother's Day activities. There weren't as many children as we have had but the ones that were there were happy to make a card for their mom. We talked about honoring our parents.

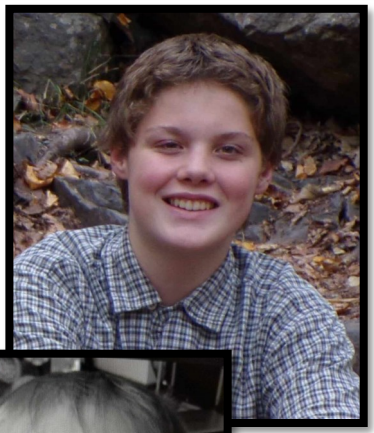
Together with Friends is scheduled for the last two weeks of June. They will meet at FELC June 19 and 20.

Upcoming events: Church picnic tentatively planned for June 30, with outdoor worship at 10:00 followed by picnic.

Motion to adjourn made by Rose, seconded by Kathy.

Faithfully submitted,
Miriam Flysjo, council secretary

Meet our Youngest Choir Member!



Meet 14 year old Grason Linnerooth, our youngest choir member!

Grason's a wonderful kid with so much potential. He's an amazing big brother as well. He spends a lot of his time playing with his younger brother, PJ. He likes riding his bike, camping, fishing, going up north, and sports.
He's a big MN sports teams fan.

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

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 June 9, 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

NOT FOR PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US
POSTAGE PAID
TAYLORS FALLS, MN
PERMIT NO. 5