First Things

JUNE 2026

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

The other day I was driving past the ballfields and noticed a string of cars parked along the road. My first thought was: *Patty-Melt Night.*

Then I remembered. It's only May.

Still, I felt something. That little lift in the chest you get when you're looking forward to something. And I sat with that for a minute, because I think it's worth paying attention to.

It's not really about the sandwich, is it. It's about the ease of it. You pull in when you can. You grab a plate. You run into someone you haven't seen since Easter or since the harvest or since the last time schedules lined up just right and you get ten good minutes. No agenda. No commitment. No guilt if you have to leave early. Just a familiar face and a warm meal and a conversation that actually goes somewhere. There's something almost holy in that. Low threshold. High warmth.

I want to say something plainly, and I want to say it as a fellow parent before I say it as your pastor: Sunday mornings are hard.

I'm usually out the door before my family is fully awake. My wife carries most of the weight of getting three kids up and out on a Sunday morning, and I know I am not the only one in this congregation whose household runs like that. There are parents of little ones who spent Saturday night up with a sick kid. There are families who look at the clock and the chaos and the distance and make the only rational choice available: stay home, breathe, survive.

I'm not going to pretend that isn't happening. I'm not going to guilt anyone about it. What I will say is that I miss you when you're not here — not with a clipboard in my hand, but with that same feeling I had at the ballfield. That lift. That genuine glad-to-see-you.

And I've been sitting with a question this spring: what if we made it a little easier to show up?

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Jesus rose on a Sunday morning. The Church has gathered on Sunday since the very beginning, and Immanuel will keep gathering on Sunday. That's not in question.

But I've been asking a different question lately: what else could we offer? What might fit into the rhythm of a busy family's week the way a Wednesday evening at the ballfields does — easy to show up for, genuinely good, and worth coming back to?

We are in the process of welcoming a new church musician to our ministry this summer. One of the conversations we're having together is about what additional worship experiences might look like, something on a weeknight, something simpler and more intimate, a different kind of gathering that meets people where they actually are. Nothing is finalized yet. But the conversation has started, and I'm genuinely hopeful about where it goes.

Worship is how we connect to God and to each other. Not just on Sunday mornings in our good clothes, but in the middle of the week, in a folding chair, with nowhere pressing to be for an hour. I think there's something there worth trying.

> *"And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching." — Hebrews 10:24–25, NRSV*

The writer of Hebrews doesn't say: show up perfectly. Doesn't say: have it together. What it says is don't stop encouraging one another. Don't let the habit of absence become the new normal. Keep finding ways to be together and when you're together, actually be there for each other.

That's the church I want us to be this summer. Low threshold. High warmth. The kind of place you pull into when you can, find a familiar face, feel something real, and leave a little lighter than you came.

We're going to keep dreaming about what that looks like over the next few months. I hope you'll dream with us. And if you have an idea, a time that might work for your family, a format that might actually draw you in, something you've always wished the church would try , I want to hear it. Catch me after worship. Send me a note. Flag me down at the ballfields.

I'll probably be the one looking a little too excited about a sandwich.

Blessings

Pastor Justin

Sunday, June 21st

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

10am Fellowship Hour
11am Worship Service

Services are recorded and can be found on our website: www.tflutheran.org

COUNCIL MEETING

Council will meet on June 14th at 12:15pm.

ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING
Sunday, June 21st following worship.
Annual reports will be available June 7th

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

06/01 Grason Linnerooth
06/01 Don Mueller
06/06 Lucas Rogers
06/10 Sylvia Belisle
06/10 Joe Szczepanski
06/11 Allen French
06/12 Dan Petersen
06/15 Helen Swanson
06/21 Roger Boleman
06/23 Miriam Lagus
06/29 Roger Gustafson

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

04/26 Giving:	$ 534.00
05/03 Giving:	$2,064.96
05/10 Giving:	$1,989.00
05/17 Giving:	$4,409.05

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

SundaySCHOOL

Thank you to our wonderful Sunday School teacher, Miriam Flysjo for a great year! Thank you to the parent helpers - you are very appreciated! We will see you in September!!

CHOIR MEMBERS

That's a Wrap

You are invited to a special practice & party to follow!!!
Tuesday, June 23rd
at Immanuel Lutheran
5pm Rehearsal ~ 6pm Pizza Party
Please bring a salad
or dessert to share!!

Quilting

No quilting for the summer.

WISDOM SEEKERS

Will take a break June - August. Watch for the September newsletter for start up date!

CRAFTING

CRAFTING ON SATURDAYS

WE WILL NOT MEET IN JUNE AND JULY

Tuesday, June 23rd
4:30pm - 6:30pm
First Evang. Lutheran

Come enjoy supper, good music & have fun playing board games!!

Better Together

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

June 12th

Community Dinner

Free!
Everyone Welcome!
Great Fellowship!
Meet your friends & neighbors!

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Almelund

Come & Bring a Friend!

2nd Friday Each Month 4:30—6:30 pm

Tune in our Daily Texts with Pastor Justin

Monday - Saturday: Immanuel Lutheran Church of Almelund Facebook Page.
A daily devotional time.

Faith Conversations
Widening Circles

Starting with I/Me, and widening outward, — relationships, church and community

EVENT DETAILS

Wild Mountain Winery
4th Thursday of the Month
6:30 PM
April–October 2026

4th Thursday • 6:30 PM

April — iNDiViDUALiSM: Me, Myself, & I Alone
May — Law & Gospel: Captured & Free
June — The Myth(?) of Christian Self-Help
July — My Story. Your Story. God's Story
August — Mental Health (It's NOT just you...)
September — Listening 101: Listening as the First Act of Love
October — Figuring Out Forgiveness

June 25th

All are welcome

Good conversation • good community

In Honor of Momoh Freeman

Please join us for a special worship service at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Almelund

10am Worship Service

11:15am Potluck in Fellowship Hall

Bring a dish to share!

Sunday, June 28th

Please note: There will be NO Fellowship Hour or Worship Service at First Evangelical Lutheran in Taylors Falls on this date

TOGETHER WITH FRIENDS

Bible Day Camp
June 16th - June 25th

Who can be a TwF Day Camper?

Any child entering grades 2-6 in the fall of 2026. Finished 6th grade or beyond? Request a Jr. Staff application form by calling Pastor Kevin 651-465-6792

What happens at TwF Day Camp?

Games, Crafts, singing, Bible stories, snacks, outdoor activities, mini golf, water carnival, meeting friends, having fun, & more!

Cost

$5 per child per session
$20 per child for all 6 sessions
$50 max per family for all 6 sessions
Financial scholarships available!

Tuesday, Wednesdays & Thursdays
9am - 12pm

Location rotates between the Baptist Church, the Methodist Church & First Lutheran.

Information & registration located on the bulletin board near the syrup cart!

Summer 2026

Luther Point BIBLE CAMP

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 2025. $55 Member Discount

More information about programs offered is located on the bulletin board near the syrup cart!!

JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tue
FELC First Evangelical Lutheran Church ILC Immanuel Lutheran Church	1 8:30am Counters Meet-FELC	2
7 9am Worship at ILC 10am Fellowship at FELC 11am Worship at FELC	8 8:30am Counters Meet-FELC	9
14 9am Worship at ILC 10am Fellowship at FELC 11am Worship at FELC 12:15pm Council Meeting	15 8:30am Counters Meet-FELC	16 9a-12p TWF at Baptist Ch.
21 Happy Father's Day 9am Worship at ILC 10am Fellowship at FELC 11am Worship at FELC 12:15pm Annual Congregational Mtg	22 8:30am Counters Meet-FELC	23 9a-12p TWF at Methodist 4:30pm Supper & Game Night at FELC 5pm Choir Practice at ILC 6pm Choir Supper Party at ILC
28 In Honor of Momoh Freeman at Immanuel Lutheran 10am Worship Potluck to follow service NO SERVICE OR FELLOWSHIP AT FELC	29 8:30am Counters Meet-FELC	30

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4 2:30pm Community Coffee at The Lodge	5	6
10 10am Book Study at The Lodge	11 2:30pm Community Coffee at The Lodge	12 4:30pm Community Meal at ILC	13
17 9a-12p TWF at FELC 1:30pm Worship at The Lodge	18 9a-12p TWF at FELC 2:30pm Community Coffee at The Lodge	19	20
24 9a-12p TWF at Methodist 10am Book Study at The Lodge	25 9a-12p TWF at Baptist Ch. 2:30pm Community Coffee at The Lodge	26	27

some of the
BEST MEMORIES
are made in
FLIP-FLOPS

WHAT'S HAPPENING

IN OUR COMMUNITY

FARMER'S MARKET

St. Croix Falls Public Library Plaza
Saturdays, May-October
10am to 1pm
Local vendors offering fresh produce, sustainably raised meats and cheese, preserves, honey, flowers, & more!

Parking Lot of St. Bridget's in Lindstrom, MN
Wednesday 3 pm to 6 pm
Saturday 8 am to 12 pm
Local vendors offering vegetables, flowers, home canned goods, soap, eggs, baked goods & more.

Almelund Farmer's Market at Rod's Country Corner
Friday Afternoons | 3pm to 6pm
Flowers & plants, fresh produce, eggs, maple syrup, honey, baked goods, canned foods & more!

Taylors Falls Farmers Market Located in vacant parking lot across from The Drive-In
Sunday, June 14th & 28th
11am to 3pm
Local vendors offering fresh produce, flowers, baked goods, handmade crafts & more!

OUTDOOR MUSIC

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

St Croix Falls, WI
Severson Memorial Overlook Park
June - August
Friday evenings at 6:30pm

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 6th

9 AM – 3 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!

Sunday, June 7th | 10am-2pm
Local farmers and artists come together at Franconia Sculpture Park to provide a variety of fresh produce and handmade crafts. Farmers market is rain or shine!

CHISAGO LAKES
COMMUNITY MEAL

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

THE LODGE
OF TAYLORS FALLS

Join the residents at The Lodge in Taylors Falls!

Every Thurs at 2:30pm for their free Community Coffee Hour!

Book Study
June 10th & June 24th at 10am

Worship at The Lodge
June 17th at 1:30pm

Minutes of the Church Council of
First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tuesday, May 12, 2026 6:00pm
Next meeting: Sunday, June 12, 2026 12:15pm

Council Members Present: Rose Anderson, Kathy Carlsted, Angie Dahlstrom, Don Hansen, Becky Hulden, Julie Valez

GATHERING

A. Opening Devotions – Becky
June - Rose

B. Sharing Stories of God's Love in our Lives –

BUSINESS

C. Pastor Justin's Report –

1. Sign in front yard - Table for next meeting

D. Personnel

1. New staff positions are proposed in the Draft of the Shared Ministry agreement. These positions will serve both congregations, streamline our worship planning and preparation process, and save both congregations money.

E. Treasurer's Report - Craig

F. Building and Grounds Committee Projects - Don

1. Security and cameras system completed
2. Remodeling completed
3. Painting started
4. Spring cleanup duties signup in hallway

PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

G. Music and Worship

1. **Pastor Justin report**
2. **Music and Worship Coordination** – Becky is attending weekly meetings with Immanuel staff. Becky and Mark W supply Angie with bulletin info. Toni will be providing hymn input before the Tuesday morning meetings.
3. **Sunday School** – no report
4. **Personnel** – see Shared Ministry Covenant
5. **Sunday Morning - Council Person on Duty (CPOD)**
   1. Security and emergency Plan - Angie D
   2. AED (heart resuscitation) purchase was suggested using memorial funds.
   3. Training for AED will be provided for ushers, staff and council.

SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS

H. Library Report – Julie

1. Plaque mounted on Free Library - pictures and article for newspaper.

I. Vision Group->Mission and Outreach Committee

1. Leadership will be Rita and Wendy.

J. Shared Ministry - Better Together with Immanuel

1. Joint Council for Shared Ministry has met twice in March. Copies of the Shared Ministry Agreement were available at both churches this past Sunday and will be vote on at both congregations on Sun, May 17th.

K. Caring Ministry

1. Dan Petersen has been re-admitted to the Wyoming hospital and Becky will serve communion and a pastoral visit.
2. Verrna Grover has fallen and broke 5 ribs. Becky has met with her family to discuss her care needs going forward.
3. Rogers family was grateful for the care they received through the funeral here last week.

L. Report on Events

1. Feed my Starving Children - 4/17 went wonderfully well, Kathy Carlsted, Julie Valez and Wendy Szczepanski

M. Upcoming Events: - leadership?

1. St Paul Are Synod Assembly is this weekend, 5/15-5/16 at St. Andrews in Mahtomdei. Joan and Roger Boleman are signed up as our delegates. We will be electing a new bishop. Bishop Candidates include: Justin Grim, Brad Frosley, Jill Roady, Patrick Sheebeck

N. Motion to Adjourn

Rose moved and Kathy seconded to adjourn

Four young ladies took a First Communion class and made communion bread with Pr. Justin.

We celebrated First Communion with Eleanor, Attley, Lilah & Whitney and their families on May 10th.

We were honored to have the Men's Chorus sing along with the Joint Choir on May 10th.

First Evangelical
LUTHERAN CHURCH of TAYLORS FALLS

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

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 held on Sunday, June 14th at 12:15pm.

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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ORGANIZATION
US
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