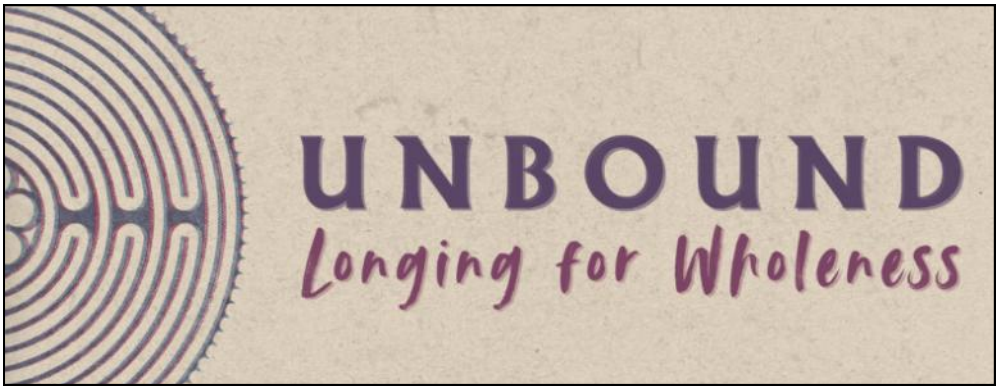
First Things

MARCH 2026

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



Lenten Theme for Worship: "Longing"

This Lent we'll name something we all carry—**longing**.
Longing for healing. Longing for connection.
Longing for courage when life feels heavy.

Each week we'll listen for how God meets us right where we are—not with shame or pressure, but with mercy, truth, and the steady love of Christ.

Sundays in Lent & Holy Week

- **Lent 1 (February 22)** — *Longing for Wholeness* — Matthew 4:1–11
- **Lent 2 (March 1)** — *Longing for Mystery* — John 3:1–17
- **Lent 3 (March 8)** — *Longing for Relationship* — John 4:5–42
- **Lent 4 (March 15)** — *Longing for Community* — John 9:1–41
- **Lent 5 (March 22)** — *Longing for Authenticity* — John 11:1–45
- **Palm Sunday (March 29)** — *Longing for Courage* — Matthew 21:1–11
- **Maundy Thursday (April 2)** — *Longing for Intimacy* — John 13:1–17, 31b–35
- **Good Friday (April 3)** — *Longing for Solidarity* — John 18:1–19:42
- **Easter Sunday (April 5)** — *Longing for New Life* — John 20:1–18

Continued on page two

Continued from cover page

Midweek Lenten Theme: Joseph — "Bound… and Set Free"

Our midweek services will begin on Ash Wednesday, then follow the story of **Joseph** from Genesis—an honest, human journey through what binds us: jealousy, violence, broken systems, family pain, and guilt. Week by week we'll see how God works even in the mess, loosening what holds us and opening a path toward grace.

Midweek Services

- **Ash Wednesday (February 18)** — Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

After Ash Wednesday: Joseph in Genesis

- **Week 1 (February 25)** — *Bound by Jealousy* — Genesis 37:3–11
- **Week 2 (March 4)** — *Bound by Violence* — Genesis 37:12–36
- **Week 3 (March 11)** — *Bound by Dishonest Systems* — Genesis 39:1–20
- **Week 4 (March 18)** — *Bound by Family* — Genesis 41–42
- **Week 5 (March 25)** — *Bound by Guilt* — Genesis 50:15–21

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

03/01 Wendy Szczepanski
03/06 Benjamin Landgreen
03/07 Craig Loen
03/16 Verna Grover
03/17 Abby Loen
03/21 Genevieve Belisle
03/23 Brenna French
03/30 Levi Linngren
03/31 Natalie Landgreen

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. Justin or contact the office at 651-465-5265.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship every Sunday at 11am. 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 in March 8th at 12:15pm.

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

01/25 Giving:	$1,521.00
02/01 Giving:	$2,062.96
02/08 Giving:	$1,780.00
02/15 Giving:	$2,256.00
02/22 Giving:	$3,840.00

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

SundaySCHOOL

Monthly Sunday school class for children elementary age right after children's message.
Next Date: March 15th

Quilting

9:30am - 11:00am
First and Third Wednesdays of the month. No experience needed! New quilters welcome!

WISDOM SEEKERS

THURSDAYS AT 9:00AM

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Youth Room, 1st floor

CHOIR

Choir will meet for practice every Tuesday at 5pm, rotating locations. No experience is needed to join us!

CRAFTING

CRAFTING ON SATURDAYS

SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH | 9AM - 2PM
BRING YOUR CRAFTS, A SNACK TO SHARE & BE READY FOR SOME GREAT CONVERSATIONS !!

Maple Syrup Commitment Meeting

Sunday, March 1st | 10:15am
Peace Lutheran Church
Dresser, MN

Better Together

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

FAITH CONVERSATIONS

HOLY SMOKES!
March 26th at 6:30pm
Jakes on the Lakes
Center City, MN

Are we living in the last days—or just beginning again? Join us to explore biblical prophecy, popular myths, and hopeful visions of renewal.

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

Do you have a 6th-12th grader who is interested in youth group? Talk with Pr. Justin or Angie for more information!!

Tune in our Daily Texts with Pastor Justin

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

March 13th

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

FELC - First Evang. Lutheran Church in Taylors Falls
ILC - Immanuel Lutheran Church in Almelund

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE
Feb. 25th - March 25th

11am Service at FELC
12pm Lunch at FELC

5:30pm Supper at ILC
6:30pm Service at ILC

EASTER FLOWERS

If you are interested in purchasing a lily or mum in memory or honor of someone for Easter, please fill out an order form on a Sunday. Orders must be in by Sunday, March 15th.

Lily $20.00
Mum $24.00

Holy Week

Palm Sunday Worship - March 29th
9am Worship at ILC
10am Breakfast at FELC
11am Worship at FELC

Maundy Thursday - April 2nd
6pm Service at ILC

Good Friday - April 3rd
6pm Service at FELC

Saturday Night Vigil - April 4th
6pm-7pm Nelson/Hulden Farm

Easter Sunday - April 5th
6:30am Sunrise Service at ILC
9am Worship at ILC
11am Worship at FELC

EASTER FOOD DRIVE

Family Pathways is prepping to assemble Easter Meal Boxes! The goal is putting together 150 boxes. Each church in our Chisago Lakes area have been asked to contribute an item for the meal kits. Our church has been asked to collect 150 quick bread mixes. Please bring in food items now through March 8th and place them in the Easter Food Drive bin in the room across from the office!!

Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast!

Sunday, March 29th

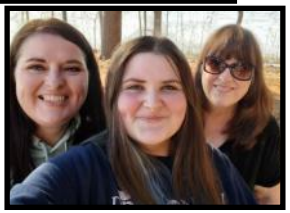
10:00am

Worship to follow at 11:00am

If you are able to volunteer your time to set up, cook, serve and clean, there is a sign up sheet at the church! Thank you!

Women's Retreat

Friends, Crafts, Beautiful Weather and love for Jesus...what else do you need?



Game Night

Apples to Apples

MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue
1 9am Worship at Immanuel 10am Fellowship at FELC 11am Worship at FELC	2 8:30am Counters Meet	3 5:30pm Choir Practice -TF
8 9am Worship at Immanuel 10am Fellowship at FELC 11am Worship at FELC FELC Choir Sings SPRING FORWARD Set your clock an hour ahead	9 8:30am Counters Meet	10 5:30pm Choir Practice-ILC
15 9am Worship at Immanuel 10am Fellowship at FELC 11am Worship at FELC w/ Sunday School	16 8:30am Counters Meet	17 5:30pm Choir Practice -TF
22 9am Worship at Immanuel 10am Fellowship at FELC 11am Worship at FELC	23 8:30am Counters Meet	24 5:30pm Choir Practice -ILC
29 9am Worship at Immanuel 10am Pancake Breakfast 11am Worship at FELC Palm SUNDAY	30 8:30am Counters Meet	31 5:30pm Choir Practice -TF

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 9:30am Quilting Lent Services 11am Service at FELC 12pm Lunch at FELC 5:30pm Supper at ILC 6:30pm Service at ILC	5 9am Wisdom Seekers 2:30pm Community Coffee at The Lodge	6	7
11 9:30am Book Study at The Lodge Lent Services 11am Service at FELC 12pm Lunch at FELC 5:30pm Supper at ILC 6:30pm Service at ILC	12 9am Wisdom Seekers 2:30pm Community Coffee at The Lodge	13 4:30pm Community Meal at Immanuel Luth.	14 9am Crafting Saturday
18 9:30am Quilting Lent Services 11am Service at FELC 12pm Lunch at FELC 1:30pm Worship - The Lodge 5:30pm Supper at ILC 6:30pm Service at ILC	19 9am Wisdom Seekers 2:30pm Community Coffee at The Lodge 4:30pm Supper & Game Night at FELC	20 	21
25 9:30am Book Study at The Lodge Lent Services 11am Service at FELC 12pm Lunch at FELC 5:30pm Supper at ILC 6:30pm Service at ILC	26	27	28

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Friday, March 6th
at 1:00pm

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE 2026

Nigeria

'I will give you rest: Come'

Ecumen North Branch
5379 383rd St, North Branch, MN

Join in worship, music, prayers and refreshments!

Winter Storytime
Every Wednesday
Jan. 7th - Mar. 11th
10:15am - 11:15am
St Croix Falls Library

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
March 11th at 9:30am
March 25th at 9:30am

Worship at The Lodge
March 18th at 1:30pm

Taylors Falls

Farmers & Crafters Indoor Market

Saturday, March 21st
11am - 3pm

Taylors Falls Community Center

Variety of vendors, food and music from your local vendors!

Thurs, March 19th

4:30pm - 6:30pm

First Evang. Lutheran

Come enjoy a delicious supper and have some fun playing games out of the cold winter!! Bring your favorite or play what is available at the church!

CHISAGO LAKES
COMMUNITY MEAL

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

THE ST. CROIX VALLEY FOOD ALLIANCE
WINTER FARMERS MARKET

JAN	FEB	MAR
18	22	22

Sundays at The Acreage | 12-3pm
2585 WI-35, Osceola, WI 54020

Knit & Crochet Group
Mon Mar 9th 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Come and stitch with us! Bring your project or start a new one. Don't know how to knit or crochet? We would be happy to teach new crafters! Bring some yarn and needles (size 6, 7 or 8, preferably wood) or a hook (size G, H or I) and a sense of adventure!

St Croix Falls Library

March 28 & 29 | Big Rock Creek, St. Croix Falls, WI

Shopping in the Barn | Kids Easter Egg Hunt | Adult Easter Egg Hunt
Family-Friendly Activities: Enjoy crafts, games, and entertainment for kids and families | Wagon Rides | Pony Rides | Live Music
Professional Photo Sessions with Real Bunnies and Ducks

Whether you're shopping, exploring, or enjoying family time, there's something for everyone at this event.
Visit their website to purchase tickets.

We have been blessed to help numerous members of our community in their time of need over the past two months. Our Samaritan fun is member funded and designed to help in the time of an emergency. If you are interested in donating towards this fund, please place donation in the offering plate on Sunday labeled Samaritan Fund or give to Don Hansen or Angie. Thank you!!

Summer 2026

Each day we will be focusing on a different way we can "wear love" through: Kindness, Humbleness, Calmness, Steadfastness and Forgiveness! Join us for another great summer at Luther Point Bible Camp!

So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Lord forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it." —Colossians 3:12–14

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

Luther Point BIBLE CAMP

Applications are OPEN for Summer 2026 Staff

Looking for:

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

Minutes of the Church Council of
First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Sunday, February 8, 2026, 12:15pm
Next meeting: March 8, 2026, 12:15pm

Council Members Present: Rose Anderson, Angie Dahlstrom, Don Hansen, Becky Hulden, Craig Loen, Julie Valez, Pastor Justin Fenger

A. Opening Devotions – Rose
March-Julie

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

C. Pastor Justin's Report –

1. Technology upgrades and changes-ongoing, Matt will be addressing access files from home for Angie
2. Discussed security cameras, 6 cameras, 4 outside and 2 inside, one in office and one in hallway-Don will check on pricing to include doorbell
3. Joint Council – report from January 15th meeting. Next meeting is March and will do a one-year extension for shared ministry and then in 2027 perhaps do a longer extension.
4. Staff meetings at FELC the 3rd Thursday of the month of March and Spring-cleaning day in May
5. Becky contacted Justin Grimm at the SPAS on how we can help with the demonstrations and protests in Mpls. Justin suggested cash donations to Synod, diapers, wipes and formula, driving to deliver groceries. The consensus was to focus on diapers, wipes and formulas

D. Treasurer's Report – Craig

Highlights-$9380 giving for the month of January. Giving is 5% ahead of giving for the current fiscal year. Primary checking balance after all bills paid is $6364.11. Detailed financials are available for inspection in the office.

Angie moved to approved budget, Rose seconded, motion carried

E. Building and Grounds Committee Projects – Don

1. Bathroom painting in March
2. 2. Salting the parking lot and driveways – Don will check with city on cost and an additional salting for $180 x 2
3. Gift card for card for Bruce for $300 from account 6615, in appreciation for his work on the Bathrooms

F. Library Report – Julie

1. Plaque for the library arrived.

G. Sunday School – no report

H. Vision Group -> Mission and Outreach Committee

1. Leadership will be Rita and Wendy. The hope is to evolve into the Mission and Outreach committee. Declined to lead Community Meals

I. Shared Ministry – Better Together with Immanuel

1. A combined council made up of a few members from each congregation will meet quarterly to monitor the ongoing relationship – Craig, Don, Kathy, and Becky have volunteered to serve on this group
2. Music and Worship Coordination – Becky and Toni are attending weekly meetings with Immanuel staff.

J. Personnel

a. Toni is now completing her own timecards. There was a question about her hourly wage for meetings. Motion by Don to pay Toni $30.00 per hour for consultation and preparation time. Motion seconded by Julie. Motion carried.
b. Justin indicated that he would update job descriptions for organist, janitor, and parish coordinator.
c. Jerry Rhoads would like to retire from his Financial Secretary position. He is willing to wait until we have a replacement and will train that person in. Immanuel is also looking for a financial secretary in June. Possibility of one position for both churches was discussed

K. Sunday Morning - Council Person on Duty (CPOD)

a. Security and emergency Plan – Angie D.- gave an update with her meetings with local law enforcement regarding security in the church. Angie suggested a planning team to move forward with the development of an Emergency Operations Plan

L. Caring Ministry

a. ELW Pastoral Care booklets are here and available for communion visits.

M. Report on Events

a. Game Night and Dinner-Angie and Jason are the leads on the next one - February 19th

N. Upcoming Events: - leadership?

a. Women's Retreat
b. Ash Wednesday-February 18
c. Lenten services-February 25
d. Holy Week-Maundy Thursday at Immanuel, Good Friday at FELC
e. Mi-Chi-Lu Pancake Feed-February 17
f. Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast-March 29

O. Motion to Adjourn-Rose and Julie move to adjourn and seconded

celebrate the

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HAPPINESS

March 20

Additional resources available at church!!!

Thank

Thank someone and be appreciative toward your colleagues, every single day.

Give

Give something to another person or make it possible for others to offer gifts.

Help

Help someone who is in need of assistance, or enable colleagues to help each other.

Eat Well

Eat well, and make good, healthy foods easily available for everyone.

Exercise

Exercise and work out regularly and make it easy for people to take care of their bodies.

Rest

Rest well, sleep sufficiently, and enable colleagues to refresh their minds.

Experience

Experience new things, try stuff out, and let people run all kinds of experiments.

Hike

Hike outdoors, enjoy nature, and allow people an escape from the office and the city.

Meditate

Meditate and get people to learn and adopt mindfulness practices.

Socialize

Socialize, relate to other people, and make it easy for colleagues to develop connections.

Aim

Aim for a goal and get people to understand and realize their own purpose.

Smile

Smile whenever you can, appreciate humor, and get colleagues to engage in fun activities.

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, March 8, 2026 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

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