First Things

OCTOBER 2025

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

On the drive up to The Lodge in Taylors Falls, I caught myself remembering the last time I turned into that parking lot—right after the Annunciation school tragedy in Minneapolis. A community—and a nation—overwhelmed by grief again. Now, I make the same turn into The Lodge a month later, our nation grieves the killing of Charlie Kirk, still trying to piece together what cannot be made whole, and as Minnesota continues to mourn the deaths of Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark. There are days when it feels like the air itself is heavy with sorrow.

In the days, weeks, and months ahead, I want you to hear one word from Jesus washing over you again and again: "Beloved." Not because we've earned it, not because the 10 o'clock news is good, but because God is good—even when the news is not.

When fear shouts and grief lingers, we don't have to manufacture courage or certainty. We can live from a truer center: *I am beloved; so are you.* That identity doesn't remove sorrow, but it gives us footing and direction for what to do next.

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Act like “beloved” people because you are, that’s your identity

- Humility with dignity. No groveling, no swagger. We refuse comparison (“not like them”) and choose confession (“Lord, have mercy”).
- Persistent prayer. Like the widow—steady, hopeful, and public when needed. Prayer fuels action; action returns us to prayer.
- Protective love. We use power to shield the vulnerable, not to insulate ourselves. We move resources toward “the least.”
- Truthful speech with grace. Bless more than boast. Tell the truth without contempt. Repent quickly when wrong.
- Open tables. Hospitality that makes room for children, newcomers, and the overlooked—names learned, chairs added.
- Justice with patience. Small courageous steps (letters, meetings, budget shifts) kept up when the arc feels long.
- Repair over revenge. Seek reconciliation, make amends, forgive as we’re able, and keep wise boundaries.
- Gratitude and rest. Receive like children—thankful, curious—and guard Sabbath
- Shared burdens. Show up—meals, rides, presence at hard meetings, prayers for enemies as well as friends.
- Discernment filter. *Does this protect the least? Does this exalt me—or God?* If it only pads my comfort, rethink it.

Blessings
Pastor Justin

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 will be held on Sunday, Oct. 12th at 12:15pm

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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/14 Kent Johnson
10/16 Dwight Rudquist
10/16 Lucy Tverberg
10/20 Kullan Parks
10/23 Kelly Luschen
10/23 Karen Olson
10/24 Dennis Buchholtz
10/29 Bruce Carlsted
10/31 Abraham Belisle

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

08/31 Giving:	$2,224.01
09/07 Giving:	$2,163.00
09/14 Giving:	$1,727.00
09/21 Giving:	$2,383.66

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

9:30am - 11:00am
First and Third Wednesdays
of the month

SundaySCHOOL

Monthly Sunday school class
for children ages 3-8.
October Date: 10-19-25

CHOIR

Watch for details in the
Sunday bulletins!!

WISDOM SEEKERS

THURSDAYS AT 9:00AM

First Evangelical Lutheran
Church, Youth Room, 1st floor
Join us in exploring how history
has influenced religion and how
religion has influenced history.

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

Crafting

Crafting on Saturdays
October 12th | 9am - 2pm
Bring your craft to work
on, a dish to share & come
for the great company!

Better Together

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

FAITH CONVERSATIONS

FOURTH THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

6:30 PM

WILD MOUNTAIN WINERY

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

Tune in our Daily Texts with Pastor Justin

Monday - Saturday on our Facebook Page: Immanuel Luthera Church of Almelund. A daily devotional time based on an Old & New Testament Bible verse based on a Moravian Church tradition and Ground Up Grace Publications Daily Texts 2025 books.

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, Oct. 5th | 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, October 4th
10am - 3pm

A fun fall day on the scenic Saint Croix River in downtown Saint Croix Falls at Overlook Park - vendors, food, live music, pie, coffee and more!

Singers Wanted

Singers invited to sing during Lighting Festival at the Choral Vesper Service on Sat, November 29th at 4:30pm. There are five Sunday rehearsals from 6-8pm at the Taylors Falls United Methodist Church in Taylors Falls starting on October 26th and the four Saturdays in November. Please register at wwymd@aol.com with your name, cell number and voice range.

11am-3pm
Abrahamson Nurseries

Join us for a day of autumn fun, featuring food trucks, an indoor market, live music, farm animals, pumpkin-themed kids activities, and more! Bring your family and friends for an unforgettable fall day at our greenhouse

CHISAGO LAKES
COMMUNITY MEAL

Monday Evenings
4pm - 6pm

Zion Lutheran Church
in Chisago City
All are welcome!

October 12, 2025

Time: 2:30pm

Free will offering

Desserts and refreshments served after program. Everyone is welcome to a hilarious comedy at Immanuel Lutheran in Almelund.

FRANCONIA
sculpture park

AUTUMN FEST

OCTOBER 25-26

12-4PM

Wrap up the season with a weekend of costumes, candy, and community fun at Franconia!

Saturday, Oct 25th
Dog & Human Costume Contest
Trick-or-Treating
Hayrides 12-4pm ($5 per person)

Sunday, Oct 26th
Trick-or-Treating
Hayrides 12-4pm ($5 per person)

Bring the whole family—furry friends included—and celebrate fall Franconia-style!

Coffee TIme

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

October 31st

4:30pm—6pm

First Evang. Lutheran Church Parking Lot

Creative Ideas!

We need volunteers to decorate their vehicle trunks & hand out treats, donate candy, and help with event!

Costumes welcome—invite friends and neighbors!!!!

If you have questions, talk with Becky or Angie!

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Family Pathways is putting together Thanksgiving Baskets for families in need. Our church as been asked to collect **150 cans of canned cranberries.** There is a donation bin near the usher stand.

FAMILY PATHWAYS

The backpack program is in full swing and Family Pathways continues to need our help stocking their shelves!!! The backpack program ensures kiddos have food on the weekends and days where there is not school. Here is a list of the items that kids receive in those bags, any support in restocking their shelves would be greatly appreciated

Canned Complete Meals like Ravioli, Spaghetti-O's,

Beef-a-Roni, and Chili Mac ~ Macaroni & Cheese

Ramen Noodles | Flavored Oatmeal Packets

Small Cereal boxes | Chicken Noodle and Tomato Soup

Individual Snack Packs | Peanut Butter

Pop Tarts | Canned Vegetables and Fruits

<u>There is a bin at the church to place donations in.</u>

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025, 12:15PM
Next meeting: Oct. 12, 2025, 12:15PM

Council Members Present: Rose Anderson, Kathy Carlsted, Angie Dahlstrom, Becky Hulden, Julie Valez
Absent: Craig Loen, Riley Linngren, Pastor Justin Fenger

A . Opening Devotions – Don
October - Angie

B. Sharing Stories of God's Love in our Lives- 90th birthday party of Carol Nelson was a wonderful time.

C. Pastor Justin's Report-
1. Annual planning meeting -
2. Highlights - Decorate church 11/23, pancake breakfast and carol singing, 12/21 Christmas program

D. Treasurer's Report-
1. Audit -
2. Kathy and Rose moved and seconded written financial report. Motion approved.

E. Building and Grounds Committee Projects –
1. Rekeying after 5/18 – report on progress-rekeying completed mid July
2. Technology installation by Matt Mitchell- completed
3. Need to recruit people for committee to oversee interior projects
4. Kitchen cleaning and fix-up
5. Bathroom remodeling
6. Put nursery back together or relocate?
7. Who are the stake holders? – Kitchen crew, Joy, Rose, janitor, Don, Bruce
8. Emptying out the shed scheduled for Monday 9/22–
   Invoice for Tree removal from the cars in May 2025 windstorm received from Wild River Tree Service. Kathy made a motion to pay the invoice ($1000.00). Rose seconded. Motion carried.

F. Library Report
1. Add Little Free Library to responsibilities - no report

G. Sunday School – Miriam received 500 dollars from 2 Thrivent grants

H. Vision Group-

1. Becky met with the Bolemans, Wendy, Rita, and Miriam F. on Monday, August 13 and discussed moving ahead with the Season of Renewal plans. Leadership will be Rita and Wendy. The hope is to evolve into the Mission and Outreach committee.

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 has been meeting with the Immanuel Worship Team to choose hymns and go through bulletins. Communication with Angie and Toni is a work in progress. -Momoh Freeman expressed in working a choir director.
3. Don made a motion to hire Momoh Freeman as choir director for First Lutheran as described in the choir director position description. Compensation for Momoh will be $9000 for nine months as listed in the approved 2025/2026 budget. Kathy seconded. Motion carried

J. Personnel-

1. Don made a motion to pay Angie's PTO – add as many as 34 hours per pay period, if necessary, through December 31, 2025. Angie seconded the motion. Motion carried

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

1. Any questions - no questions

L. Report on Events-

1. Mi-Chi-Lu Picnic- Rose attended at Zion, nine members from First Lutheran.
2. Thursday, Holy Smokes-No one in attendance yet., Fourth Thursday of the month

M. Upcoming Events –

1. Wisdom seekers on Thursdays at 9am at First Lutheran
2. God's Work, Our Hands on 9/28

N. Motion to Adjourn – Kathy and Rose

Fall Bucket List

- [ ] Drink Hot Apple Cider
- [ ] Go Trick-or-Treating
- [ ] Rake leaves & jump in the pile
- [ ] Go on a hayride
- [ ] Have a s'mores campfire
- [ ] Pick apples at the orchard
- [ ] Carve or paint pumpkins
- [ ] Decorate with mums
- [ ] Visit a Pumpkin Patch
- [ ] Buy all the fall candles
- [ ] Watch a football game
- [ ] Make a pumpkin recipe
- [ ] Eat Candy Corn
- [ ] Navigate a corn maze
- [ ] Go on a nature walk
- [ ] List what you're grateful for

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 held on Sunday, October 12th 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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