First Things

SEPTEMBER 2026

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

My kids just finished their fall shopping. New shoes. New clothes. New notebooks that haven't been scribbled in yet. A whole new school year. I was always excited about that as a kid. I'm not sure my kids share quite the same enthusiasm, and that's okay. But there's something in all that new that Scripture knows by heart. Lamentations says God's mercies are "new every morning." Not new once a year when the notebooks come out but new every single day. That's the God, I want your kids to know.

So, the last Sunday of August, we gather the backpacks up here on the hill and we bless them. We lay hands on the ordinary stuff of a kid's life — the zippers, the lunch boxes, the worry — and we ask God to go with them into the year, then we launch Rally Sunday in Mid October, to hear more about this God because they deserve a faith that can hold the weight of the real world, because the real world is exactly where their faith is going to get tested, but our kids will know God's mercies are "new every morning."

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

10am Fellowship Hour
11am Worship Service

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

COUNCIL MEETING

Council meeting will be held on Thursday, September 17th at 5:30pm.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

09/05 Becky Hulden
09/05 Ethan Landgreen
09/05 Torger Olson
09/06 Jonah Landgreen
09/07 P.J. Linnerooth
09/09 Caleb Moberg
09/13 Toni Brekke
09/15 Eleanor Belisle
09/16 Sheldon Magnuson
09/19 Ingrid Olson
09/30 Joe Landgreen

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

I will be starting to put together our new church directory in September. I've received 15 informational forms from church members so far. If you need a new form, please see me on Sunday morning! We'd love to have updated photo's of members. If you need a picture, I'm happy to take one on Sunday morning! The goal for our new directory is simplicity yet informational!! and of course, updated!! If you have any questions, I'm happy to answer any and all! Thank you! ~Angie

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

08/02 Giving:	$1,980.96
08/09 Giving:	$1,752.00
08/16 Giving:	$2,860.00
08/23 Giving:	$1,530.00

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

August Noisy Offering
to Luther Point Bible Camp
$66.14

Noisy offering is collected every third Sunday! Bring in your loose change on Sunday, September 20th!

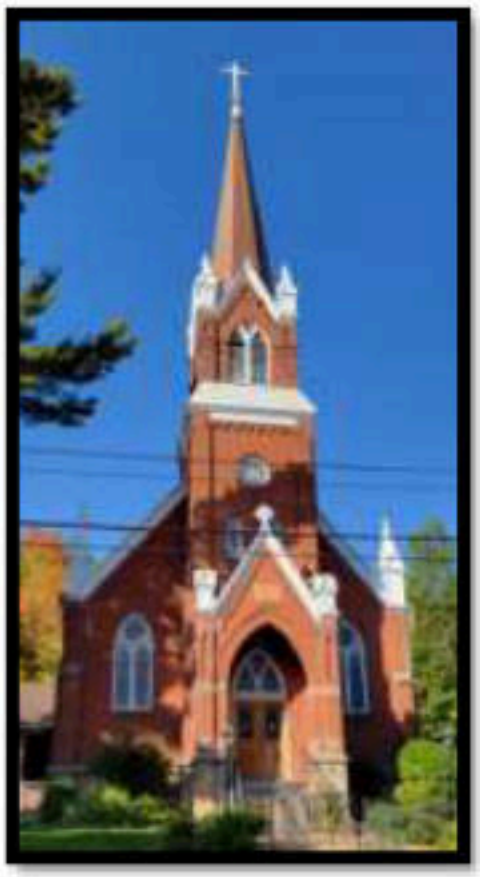
How do I give to First Evangelical Lutheran?

Give in Person
When you attend worship in person, you are welcome to place your offering in the offering plate as it is passed during the service. Offering envelopes are available in the pews. Annual giving envelope booklets are available in the church office.

Give by Mail
You can also mail your offering to the church using your giving envelopes or a plain envelope. Mail to: FELC, 561 Chestnut St, Taylors Falls, MN 55084

Simply Giving Program
Through Simply Giving, your offerings are made through a pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account. Forms are available in the office.

Whatever way you give your gifts, thank you for your support of FELC's ministry. We couldn't do it without you!



Shared Ministry

First Lutheran Evangelical Church

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

Quilting

Starting September 16th
First and Third Wednesdays of the month 9:30am-11:00am

JOINT CHOIR

Watch for details in the Sunday bulletins!!

Thursday, September 3rd
4:30pm - 6:30pm
Come enjoy supper, good music & have fun playing board games!!

SundaySCHOOL

Third Sunday of the month for children ages 3-8.
First Date: October 18th

Starting September 10th
WISDOM SEEKERS
THURSDAYS AT 9:00AM
First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Youth Room, 1st floor Join

Crafting

Crafting on Saturdays
NO CRAFTING DAY IN SEPT

Library Open House

Sunday, September 20th
Before and After Worship
Come check out what books we have in our library!!

Better Together

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

Friday, Sept. 11th

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 on our Facebook Page:
Immanuel Lutheran Church of Almelund.

YOUTH GROUP

Do you have a 6th-12th grade student interested in joining youth group? If you have questions or need contact into, please talk to Pr. Justin.

Faith Conversations
Widening Circles

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

All are welcome

Good conversation • good community

September

Sun	Mon	Tue
FELC - First Evangelical Lutheran Church ILC - Immanuel Lutheran Church For a full list of events, visit our website: www.tflutheran.org		1 9am Joint Worship Team Meeting at ILC
6 9am ILC Worship 10am ILC Fellowship 10am FELC Fellowship 11am FELC Worship	7 	8 8:30am FELC Counters 9am Joint Worship Team Meeting at ILC
13 God's Work, Our Hands 9am ILC Worship 10am ILC Fellowship 10am FELC Fellowship 11am FELC Worship	14 8:30am Counters Meet	15 9am Joint Worship Team Meeting at ILC Newsletter Submissions Due
20 9am ILC Worship 10am ILC Fellowship 10am FELC Fellowship 11am FELC Worship w/ Noisy Offering FELC Library Open House 10am-1pm	21 8:30am Counters Meet	22 9am Joint Worship Team Meeting at ILC
27 9am ILC Worship w/ WOW & Rally Day 10am ILC Fellowship 10am FELC Fellowship 11am FELC Worship 12:15pm Congregational Meeting	28 8:30am Counters Meet	29 9am Joint Worship Team Meeting at ILC

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 11am Mission & Outreach Meeting 2:30pm Comm. Coffee at The Lodge 4:30pm Game Night	4	5
9 10am Book Study at The Lodge	10 9am Wisdom Seekers 2:30pm Comm. Coffee at The Lodge	11 4:30pm Community Meal at ILC	12
16 9:30am Quilters 1:30pm Worship at The Lodge	17 9am Wisdom Seekers 2:30pm Comm. Coffee at The Lodge 5:30pm Council Meeting 6pm Building & Ground Comm. Meeting	18	19
23 10am Book Study at The Lodge	24 9am Wisdom Seekers 2:30pm Comm. Coffee at The Lodge 6:30pm Holy Smokes at Wild Mtn Winery	25	26
30			

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Our congregation, along with over 8,300 congregations participating in "God's work. Our hands" will work to make a positive change in our communities, build and deepen relationships and share God's love.

Join us as we do God's work with our hands!

We will be working on two projects this year!

Project One	Project Two
Put together layettes for local hospitals	**Travel to Luther Point Bible Camp and work on projects (Lunch Provided)**

Please sign up near the usher stand if you are planning to go to Luther Point!

WHAT'S HAPPENING
IN OUR COMMUNITY

CHISAGO LAKES

COMMUNITY MEAL

Monday Evenings
4pm - 6pm
Zion Lutheran Church
Chisago City, MN
Everyone is welcome!

THE LODGE OF TAYLORS FALLS

Join the residents at The Lodge in Taylors Falls!

Free Community Coffee Hour
Every Thurs at 2:30pm

Book Study
September 9th & 23rd at 10am

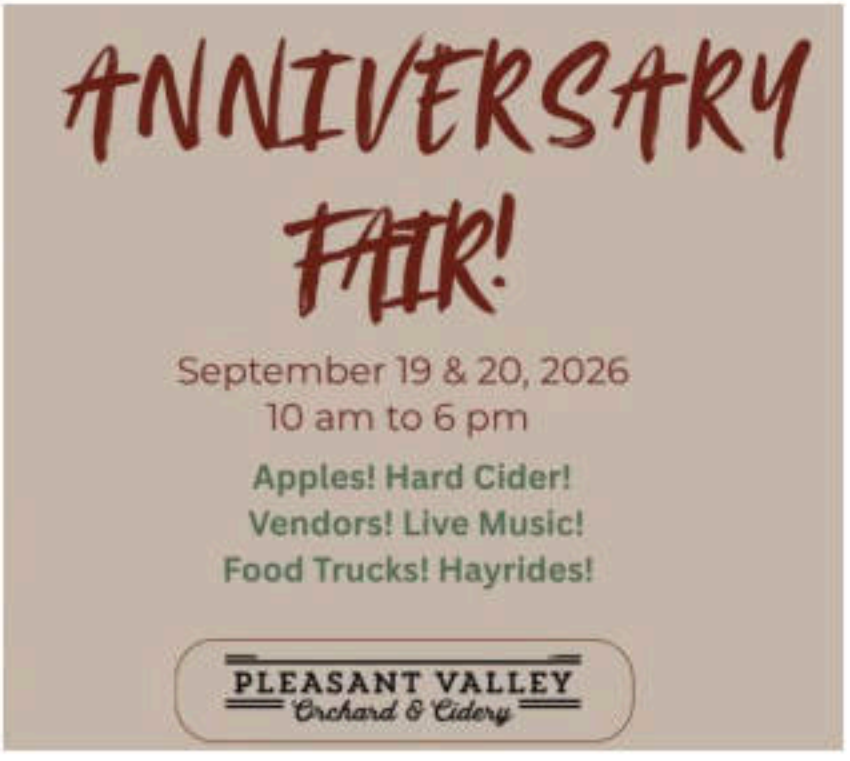
Worship at The Lodge
September 16th at 1:30pm

FRANCONIA
sculpture park

Franconia Art &
Farmers Market
Sunday, Sept. 6th
10am - 2pm
The first Sunday of each month, May-October from 10am-2pm, local farmers & artists come together to provide a variety of fresh produce & handmade crafts.

Allemansrätt Nature Party
September 27th
1pm-5pm

FREE - FUN FOR ALL AGES
Come enjoy "Nature" with us!
31316 N. Olinda Trail
Lindstrom, MN



North Cluster Gathering
Saturday, Sept. 26th at 9:00am

Gather together for coffee and treats, then enjoy speaker, Jenny Henthrorn from New Pathways. A material offering of toilet paper, laundry soap, dish soap and cleaning wipes will be collected.

Trinity Lutheran
38460 Lincoln Trail, North Branch, MN

Oodles of Family Fun for Everyone!

ALMELUND'S APPLE FESTIVAL

Sunday, September 20, 2026

AMADOR HERITAGE CENTER

& Swedish Immigrant Log Farm

ALMELUND, MN

Located between North Branch and Taylors Falls on State Highway 95 at the intersection of Co. Rd. 12 & Hwy. 95 Follow the bright green signs!

MAKING HISTORY FUN FOR EVERYONE!

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

Flavored Oatmeal Packets | Individual Snack Packs

Chicken Noodle and Tomato Soup | Ramen Noodles | Peanut Butter Cereal | 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
Thursday, August 20, 2026, 6:00pm
Next meeting: September 17, 2026, 5:30pm

Council Members: Angela Dahlstrom, Don Hansen, Rita Johnson, Craig Loen, Joe Szczepanski, Julie Valez, Pastor Justin Fenger

Julie Magnuson also present

GATHERING

A. Opening Devotions – Joe Szczepanski
September-Julie Valez

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

BUSINESS

C. Pastor Justin's Report –
1. Developing communication plan for the 2 churches, developing a shared joint calendar, google calendar.
2. Wedding coming up at First
3. Vacation bible school was a success- 38 children attended- Thanks to Wendy for the help
4. Getting ready for the September activities and youth group at Immanuel and Sunday school beginning on October 18th.
5. Mark Weslander is the parish coordinator at Immanuel and he has similar duties as Angie Linngren at First Lutheran.
6. Dadu Reeves-Is the new Organist for Immanuel Lutheran as well as the Joint Choir Accompanist.

D. Council Matters
1. Correction to Counters from June minutes showed a misprint. The counters are Kathy Carlsted, Rose Anderson, Eleanor Collins and Ruth Steinwell.
2. Miriam Flysjo – Sunday School reports proposed to be presented biannually. Once for the annual meeting and one in November
3. Do we want to appoint a Council on Duty? Council felt that we no longer need a COD because Angie Linngren is here at 8am on Sunday mornings.
4. Emergency preparedness plan- List of people has names. Potential to set up a meeting. Angela D. will coordinate first meeting
5. Personnel committed will review all employee position descriptions and update.

Council Minutes continued next page

Council Minutes Continued....

E. Treasurer's Report – Craig

1. Motion to remove Becky Hulden from general checking account and add Angela D. as a signer. Craig will remain on as a signer. Motion by Craig, seconded by Angela. Motion carried.
2. Annual report: Do we need to set another special congregational meeting to approve the 25-26 report? Yes, September 27 after worship.
3. Helen Sellman family – legal paperwork received. Two copies are available for viewing. Pastor will investigate endowment options for large donations
4. Determine date of 2027 annual meeting? Deferred until after next joint council meeting.
5. Budget: Budget Income and Expenses for 2026/27 is within 1 %
6. Detailed Treasurer report is available in the office for inspection by any member.
7. Shared ministry concerns from Janell -FELC accountant, regarding workman's compensation. Will check with AI for workman's compensation issues.
8. Motion to approve treasurers report by Angela and seconded by Julie. Motion carried

F. Building and Grounds Committee Projects – Don & Julie

1. Re-striping the parking lot-Julie M. taking the lead at no cost. Don made a motion to approve striping contingent on striping plan. Julie seconded. Motion carried
2. Review what the role of the Building and Grounds committee is. Are the members the eyes and list creators, or is it intended the members carry out projects as well? A clear expectation of what is the role of the members is requested so everyone is on the same page. Each member needs to feel heard, and rather than take on projects, the group will create a FELC wish list with the most pressing needs at the top of the list.
3. Clarification on what the two rooms are called/used for on the first floor. Southwest room is now the Family/Fireside Room, and the northwest room is Community Room.
4. Joy B./Julie V- Requesting removal of couches and chair from the Sunday School room. Couches to hauled away at $40 each and chair at $20. Potentially move leather couch from Sunday School room to upstairs and remove two couches from upstairs room. Old chairs from the dining room are also still in the Sunday School Room to be removed. Potentially Bruce may have more info on those. Motion by Angela to spend $150 to remove couches and old dehumidifiers, Joe seconded. Motion carried
5. Pest control-mice box placement by September 1.
6. Julie will make a list of all potential projects and bring it to the council

Council Minutes Continued on Page 12

Council Minutes Continued....

PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

G. Music and worship

1. Toni is available to attend Tuesday morning worship meetings at Immanuel.
2. Both Angie from FELC and Mark from ILC create bulletins weeks ahead of each Sunday. Angie finalizes the bulletin for the upcoming Sunday by Tuesday at noon to get the information to Carli to create Proclaim for both churches. Mark is efficient and sends Immanuel's bulletin by Tuesday early afternoon. Changes made to the bulletin need to be given to Angie no later than noon on Tuesday for things to run smoothly.

SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS

H. Library Report – Julie

1. Open House – September 20th, one hour before church and until 1pm after church.
2. Ten new books purchased. Goal is to obtain newer books that relate to our world today.
3. Bookmarks will be offered at the open house.

I. Caring Ministry

1. Verna Grover is back home. Son is seeking home care while he is at work.
2. Mary Anne Mattson is back home after surgery. She is doing well.

J. Motion to Adjourn Motion by Don and seconded by Angela, Motion carried

Building and Grounds Committee
July 2026

The Building and Grounds Committee met twice in July. After walking through the building and grounds, we decided to focus on the kitchen first.

- A cleaning day was set and 3 people showed up to clean the refrigerator and cupboards. Some of the old dishes that aren't being used anymore were removed and replaced with the specialized serving dishes used for large events. The old dishes are in the entry area and free to anyone.
- We looked at the room across from the church office. This room could be used as a place to prepare hot beverages for small groups, meetings, etc. Because it was previously divided, there are two different color schemes. The plan is to unify the colors, bring in some comfortable chairs, a buffet/cupboard for beverages and maybe a rug. We would keep the donation center in the room.
- Half of the Sunday School room is filled with unwanted furniture. The blue leather couch will be saved for use upstairs in the previous youth room but the other couches and chairs will be removed before Sunday School starts up again.

The Building and Grounds Committee met once in August.

- Decision was made to remove the couches and chair from Sunday School room. The navy leather couch will be placed in the education/youth room upstairs.
- Couches and chair from Sunday School room have been moved upstairs for removal. (Thank you to Riley Linngren and friends for hauling furniture upstairs) The plaid couches in the education/youth room will also be removed as they are falling apart.
- Julie Magnuson will attend August Council Meeting for approval of re-striping the parking lot.
- Goal for September: Create a FELC Wish List of things that need to be completed.

Next Meeting: September 17th at 6pm

Mission and Outreach Committee
August 4, 2026

Present: Becky Hulden, Miriam Flyjso, Rita Johnson, Khrissy Linnerooth, Angie Linnegren, Pastor Justin Fenger.
Absent: Roger Boleman and Joan Boleman.

Mission and Outreach: At the July 15, 2026 Church Council meeting, the Council moved to establish a Mission and Outreach Committee.

At the initial meeting of the Mission and Outreach Committee, the group reviewed proposed responsibilities for a Mission and Outreach Committee. Including:

- Assuring that First Ev. Lutheran has a presence in our community, social media, and the county by setting priorities for mission and outreach activities, planning and carrying out events for the congregation and the community.

The Committee had open discussion of current and of potential activities, such as:

- During Wannigan Days – Ice Cream Social on Sunday of the festival weekend.
- At the Lodge
- Holy Smokes
- Game Night – explore putting on City of Taylors Falls' web page.
- Free Saturday Breakfast during Lighting Festival.
- Continue to promote and assist at the Community Meal held at Immanuel Lutheran
- Explore after school program i.e., one afternoon a week offering a snack, help with homework and activities – Becky and Khrissy will visit with school on needs. Khrissy will check with Chisago Lakes School on bus transportation.
- Outreach to the apartments (townhouses) next to the church.

Minutes Continue Next Page

Calendar of Events:

The Committee reviewed the 2025-2026 church events calendar and walked through expanding current and adding events for the 2026-2027 year starting with August 2026 through December 2026:

1) Sunday School will be the 3rd Sunday
   Game Night will be the first Thursday 4:30-6:30 w/meal (consider a puzzle table)
   Wisdom Seekers Thursdays at 9:00am
   Quilting 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 9:30am
   Crafting on 2nd Saturday 9:00am-2:00pm
2) August 30th- Blessing of student backpacks
3) September 13th- God's Work, Our Hands with projects:
   a) Layette at FELC
   b) Work at Luther Point w/lunch & Immanuel Folks
4) October 31st – Trunk & Treat 5:00-7:00 pm in church parking lot
5) November 28th– TF Lighting Festival with FELC Events:
   a) Free Pancake Breakfast 9am-11am
   b) Make & Take Craft 9am-11am
6) December Events
   12th Lefse and cardamon bun Making – Khrissy and Becky will coordinate the cardamon baking.
   13th Santa Lucia
   13th Christmas Cantata
   20th Christmas Program

Calendar 2027: The Committee discussed events for the first months of the following year including a Story Program similar to past presentation of the "Aprons". Miriam shared website the Committee will review and discuss at their next meeting.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 3, 2026 at 11:00 am. Angie will update the current calendar will outcomes from today's meeting, which will be a topic of review for the September meeting.

Recording Secretary – Rita Johnson

It's Apple Season!

Recipe from: www.itdoesnttastelikechicken.com

Mini Apple Pies

Ingredients

8 Cortland Apples,
(2 for the filling & 6 for the pies)
1/3 Cup Brown Sugar
1/4 Cup Butter
3/4 Teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 Teaspoon Nutmeg
1 Store-bought pie crust

Instructions

1. Preheat your oven to 375F (190C).
2. To make the filling: Peel and chop 2 of the apples, then add to a saucepan along with the brown sugar, vegan butter, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Stir over medium heat until the apples are tender, 3 to 5 minutes.
3. To make the pies: Cut a thin slice off the top of 6 apples. Then use a melon baller, or spoon to carefully scoop out all of the core and seeds. Make sure to leave a thick enough wall of apple, so that once baked, the apple is still strong and doesn't collapse.
4. Pack the prepared filling into the apples. You might have some leftover apple filling, and if you do it goes wonderfully on top of oatmeal!
5. Roll out pie crust, and use a large circle cookie cutter, a knife, or any shape cookie cutter you like to cut rounds of pie crust. I used a small tart pan to cut my crust, which gave me this perfect scalloped edge. Use a knife to cut small vent holes in the top of each pie. At this point, if you don't want to enjoy them right away, you can store them covered in the fridge for up to a day until you are ready to bake.
6. Bake 18 to 22 minutes until apples have softened and are just starting to sag. There might be some juices that escaped and that's a-ok! Serve hot from the oven with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

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

Jenica Beck
Financial Secretary

2026-2027
Council/Officers:

Angela Dahlstrom
Council President

Joe Szczepanski
Council Vice-Present

Don Hansen
Council Secretary

Craig Loen
Council Treasurer

Rita Johnson

Khrissy Linnerooth

Riley Linngren

Julie Valez

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.

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 are due by September 15th.

First Evangelical
LUTHERAN CHURCH

561 Chestnut Street, Taylors Falls, MN 55084-1110

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