First Things

SEPTEMBER 2024

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

I think I say this every time I sit down to write a September newsletter article, but how is it already August, much less September as you read this???? I feel a little like "Chicken Little" as my brain teases me, "Winter is Coming! Winter is Coming!" Thankfully I'm hearing God's voice gently reminding me to enjoy the present, to live in the now.

There's probably a lot I could or maybe even should write about. The "What's Next Task Group" has been having some great conversations and we'll try to communicate that with you in the near future. That's not to say we have the future all figured out. What we've discovered, or maybe rediscovered, is how challenging it is to be Christ's church. Jesus was edgy. He loved and cared for all people, but mostly those on the margins. Living out the gospel invites us to take some risks and to be honest, that's not where we often like to live. It's also hard to pin down exactly what that looks like in our context. So, we'll keep on working together and keep you posted.

The problem for me right at this very moment as I'm typing here, is my brain is on vacation already. I'm also dealing with having just totaled my car after hitting a deer, trying to figure out what to replace it with, and to top it off there's mice that have invaded our furnace room. Nothing too overwhelming in the grand scope of all that's going on it the world, but it's just hard to concentrate and be inspirational.

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So I'm going to let Rev. Martin Copenhaver take that role for me again and share one of his "Meditations for When You Have a Minute" in his devotional book *The Gospel in Miniature*. This one seems appropriate as we just spent a couple of weeks with the book of Job. This devotional is entitled, **Keep the Paradox**.

Can you find out the deep things of God?
Can you find out the limit of the Almighty?
--Job 11:7

When Howard Dean ran for president in 2004, he was asked to name his favorite book of the New Testament. He replied, "The book of Job." I winced a bit at his reply. You see, for nine years I was Howard's pastor. His mistake almost seemed like grounds for a clergy malpractice suit (he says, while invoking the statute of limitations).

But I have to stand with Howard. I love the book of Job, particularly for the ways it consistently affirms the utter incomprehensibility of God, as when Job's friend Zophar challenges him with a series of unanswerable questions:

Can you find out the deep things of God?
Can you find out the limit of the Almighty?
It is higher than heaven – what can you do?
Deeper than Sheol – what can you know?

In the New Testament, we meet the same God, but in a close and intimate way. In Jesus, the distant and majestic creator of the heavens and the earth becomes Emmanuel, that is, "God with us." Jesus is as close as our own lives, as familiar as the way home and yet also, at the same time, the fullest expression of God's power and glory.

There may be two testaments, but there is only one God – the God of majesty and intimacy, the God who, in the words of a Communion liturgy, is as "close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star."

No matter how much of the Bible you remember or forget, keep that paradox intact and you will know much of what is important to know about God.

Prayer: O God, ever close and ever distant, give me the patience – and the faith – to hold tight to paradoxes. Amen.

Pastor Dwight Rudquist

First day of Autumn
September 22, 2024

New Members **Welcome!**

If you are interested in becoming a member, please talk with Pr. Dwight or contact the office at 651-465-5265.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

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.

COUNCIL MEETING

Council will meet September 8, 2024 at 10:30am.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

09/02 Ryan Bjorklund
09/05 Ethan Landgreen
09/05 Torger Olson
09/06 Jonah Landgreen
09/07 Donna Lindgren
09/07 Paul Linnerooth, Jr
09/09 Caleb Moberg
09/13 Toni Brekke
09/15 Eleanore Belisle
09/16 Sheldon Magnuson
09/19 Ingrid Olson
09/27 Ethan Bjorklund
09/30 Joe Landgreen

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

07/28 Giving:	$3,958.00
08/04 Giving:	$2,804.85
08/11 Giving:	$ 450.00
08/18 Giving:	$3,580.00

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.

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!!!

Crafting on Saturdays

Saturday, September 14th

9:00AM - 2:00PM

Bring your craft to work on, a dish to share & come for the great company!

Coffee Time

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

Church Choir

Choir will take a break over the summer.

SundaySCHOOL

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: September 22nd

The Sunday School class learned the story about Baby Moses. They had baby Moses relay races and created a baby Moses snack.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

ST CROIX FALLS FARMERS MARKET

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, Sept. 1st | 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.

Chisago Lakes Book Club

Thurs, Sept. 19th
5:00 - 6:15pm

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.

You are invited....

North Cluster Gathering

Saturday, Sept. 28th
9:00am

Gather together for coffee and treats, then enjoy speaker Erin Hawkinson.

First Evang. Lutheran
Rush City, MN

More info on the bulletin board at church!

Allemansrätt Park

6th Annual Nature Party!

Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024
1-5pm

Free Event

SAVE THE DATE!

Games, prizes, a story walk with Project Wild Rooted, and more!
FREE - FUN FOR ALL AGES
Come enjoy "Nature" with us!
31316 N. Olinda Trail, Lindstrom

PLEASANT VALLEY
Orchard
EST. 1990

2024 Anniversary Vendor Fair

September 14th 10am-5pm
September 15th 10am-5pm
Pleasant Valley Orchard
Shafer MN

ALMELUND'S 29TH APPLE FESTIVAL

Oodles of Family Fun for Everyone!

Sunday, September 15, 2024

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!

GREAT THINGS TO EAT!

- Scrumptious APPLE Desserts, ala mode with homemade apple butter!
- Rod's Swedish Sausage on a Stick!
- Almelund Lion's Burgers, Brats & Dogs
- Kettle Korn
- Taco in a Bag & More!

Buy a bag of apples to bring home!

SPECIAL EVENTS!

- Visit Local History Museum
- Three Restored Log Cabins & Log Farm Buildings on Site
- Arts, Crafts & Produce Vendors
- Displays in 1869, 1850 & 1880 log cabins
- Model T Rides / vintage cars on display
- Log Barn Cinema
- Old Time Craft Demonstrations
- Farm petting zoo & more
- Silent Auction
- Kids "Hands On" Activities!

September 22nd

Watch for more details!

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

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>

Thank you for all the school supplies and backpacks donated to Family Pathways!!!!

Get to know our Sunday School Class

Over the next few months, we will highlight the kids that enjoy Sunday School with their favorite teacher, Miriam Flysjo!

Eleanor Belisle

Eleanor is 5 years old. She loves Sunday school and the hands on God focused fun! She enjoys playing on the playground with her sisters and brother!

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

2024-2025 Council/Officers:

Becky Hulden—President
Kathy Carlsted—Vice President
Craig Loen—Treasurer
Don Hansen—Secretary
Julie Valez
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 September 8, 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

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