First Things

SEPTEMBER 2025

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

Recently a handful of us pulled chairs around a table to talk about the coming year at First. Before long there was more laughter than agenda than bullet points. Those memories—from church suppers and hymn-sings to mission projects and Lighting Festivals—do more than make us smile; they remind us that if we've done beautiful things before, we can do them again… maybe just a little differently this time.

We Lutherans aren't always eager for change (understatement of the century!). But change is the water we all swim in. As the philosopher Heraclitus put it,

"The only constant in life is change."

Things have changed at First over the years: faces in the pews, the way we communicate, even the ways we gather and serve. Yet one thing has *not* changed—our heartbeat for ministry and fellowship. That life together is still strong, still warm, still contagious. Around

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that table, I heard ideas for trying a few new, fun things—game nights, simple service projects, intergenerational learning moments—*and* a desire to keep the best of our traditions alive—favorite hymns, trusted rhythms of worship, the kinds of gatherings that knit us together. A blend of memory gives us courage, and imagination gives us direction. When we remember God's faithfulness in our past, we find the confidence to take faithful steps into our future. And we don't have to reinvent everything. Often it's a gentle tweak: the same potluck, but with a neighbor invited; the same Bible study, but with a new voice leading; the same outreach, but with a fresh partner in the community.

I'm excited for this new program year. I'm still learning the stories that made First the church it is—and the more I learn, the more hopeful I become about where God is leading us next. Let's keep talking, keep laughing, keep praying, and keep showing up for one another. If you've got a cherished "old way" we should bring back, tell me. If you've got a "what if we tried…?" idea, tell me that too. Around here, good ideas don't need to be perfect—they just need to be offered.

Thank you for being a congregation that remembers well and dreams faithfully. I can't wait to see what God does among us this year.

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, Sept 14th at 12:15pm

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

09/02 Ryan Bjorklund
09/05 Ethan Landgreen
09/05 Torger Olson
09/05 Becky Hulden
09/06 Jonah Landgreen
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

07/27 Giving:	$2,398.01
08/03 Giving:	$1,638.00
08/10 Giving:	$1,132.00
08/17 Giving:	$4,524.00
08/24 Giving:	$2,035.47

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

Starting September 17th
First and Third Wednesdays
of the month 9:30am-11:00am

SundaySCHOOL

Monthly Sunday school class for children ages 3-8.
September Date: 9-21-25

School-Age Kids
Bring your backpacks for a blessing for a good year!!

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.

YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE
CAROL NELSON'S 90TH BIRTHDAY!
JOIN CAROL AT THE HULDEN/NELSON FARM ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH FROM 2-5PM
19962 FURUBY RD, TAYLORS FALLS

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

September

END OF TIMES: APOCALYPSE, RENEWAL, AND THE BIG PICTURE

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 grade student interested in joining youth group? They are invited an information meeting and registration on Wed Sept. 3rd at 6pm. Parents need to be present. Schedules will be handed out. If you have questions or need contact into, please talk to Pr. Justin.

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 FARMERS MARKET

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, Sept. 7th | 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.

If you are interested in applying to be a vendor, please contact Khrissy Linnerooth via call or text at 763-447-7540.

PLEASANT VALLEY
Orchard
EST. 1990

2025 Anniversary
Vendor Fair

September 13th 10am-5pm
September 14th 10am-5pm
Pleasant Valley Orchard
Shafer MN

Allemansrätt Park

6th Annual Nature Party!

Sunday, September 28, 2025
1-5pm
Free Event

SAVE THE DATE!

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

North Cluster Gathering
Saturday, Sept. 27th at 9:00am

Gather together for coffee and treats, then enjoy a speaker from the Options for Women organization. A material offering of infant clothing and diapers will be given to Options for Women.
First Lutheran in Harris, MN

ALMELUND'S 29TH APPLE FESTIVAL

Oodles of Family Fun for Everyone!

Sunday, September 21, 2025

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 28th

Please join us !!! We will need people helping to clean up outside, put together layettes, assemble purses for the local women's shelter, a library project and children creating cards.

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

Monday Evenings
4pm - 6pm

Zion Lutheran Church in Chisago City

All are welcome!

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 August 10, 2025, 12:15PM
Next meeting: Sept 14, 2025, 12:15 PM

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

In attendance: Rose Anderson, Angie Dahlstrom, Becky Hulden, Riley Linngren, Craig Loen, Julie Valez, Pastor Justin Fenger. Verified there was a quorum. Don Hansen, Secretary, not in attendance, need minutes taken, Angela Dahlstrom volunteered to take minutes.

Amendment to the Agenda: Election of Officers was not on the agenda, and Craig requested to put Audit under the Treasurer's Report - Julie made a motion to amend the agenda to add Election of Officers and Audit. Riley 2nd the motion. All in favor. Agenda amended.

A . Opening Devotions – Becky read scripture

B. Sharing Stories of God's Love in our Lives- Becky shared that she heard Angie tell Riley how he sang one of her favorite songs in service today and brought Jesus to her. Singing is one of the few ways to bring joy and God's love to our lives.

C1. Election of Officers- Becky inquired if anyone would be interested to be president in the following year, in preparation for that position to be filled. There was discussion on filling positions for this year for President (currently Becky Hulden), Vice President (currently Kathy Carlsted), Secretary (currently Don Hansen) and Treasurer (currently Craig Loen). Rose made a motion to keep the positions as they currently are. Craig 2nd the motion. All in favor.

C. Pastor Justin's Report-

August 17 - In May at the Fall Gathering for Pastor Biship Lowell, Pastor Justin had a chance to talk to Biship Lowell and she said she would like to come this way to preach in the area. They talked about special offering "Planting Hope" to pay down seminary debt and LSS (Lutheran Social Service) is also looking to develop a space the East side of Saint Paul to gather and provide campus ministry. Ministry is declining and causing the selling off of campuses, so there is a push for encouraging campus ministry. Biship Lowell will be here August 17, 2025. Pastor Justin inquired if there was thoughts or suggestions on a special offering that may be taken for the cause, such as a "loose change offering"? A loose change offering would be something like the kids of the congregation go through the congregation and ask if anyone would be

willing to donate "loose change" in their pockets for the special offering. Pastor Justin asked if anyone had suggestions for other ways to find extra funds to go towards "Planting Hope". Riley made a motion to go with the kids taking a "loose change" offering. Rose 2nd the motion. Craig suggested to include a loose offering 1x a month, where all loose money in the offering plate, that is not in envelopes, or check form, be donated to Planting Hope. The motion was amended by Craig to include loose change offering by kids and loose offering both 1x a month as long as Planting Hope was in effect. Riley 2nd the motion. All in favor.

Healing Service- Pastor Justin discussed thoughts on trying to maybe help transition smoother services between Immanuel Lutheran Church and First Evangelical Lutheran Church. Not to be necessarily the same, but similar to help the transition between two churches. There was mention on the 5th Sunday of the month to have a healing service for anyone that is in need of prayer. There was discussion on what that would look like if the congregant would come up front and have people pray for them, and when. Becky suggested to have a prayer station during communion at the back of the church, where there can be a station set up, and they can walk to the back after taking their communion and they can stop and have someone pray with them as they walk back to their seat.

Synod Dinner- August 18, 2025, to celebrate benevolence. There are 3 available spots, Pastor Justin is going, Craig Loen is going, and there is one ticket still open.

Pastor Justin did say he may set his office hours to more coincide with Angie's office hours. Angie is in need of a larger monitor. At some point she may need a second monitor, but for now to the monitor she is using can go to Pastor Justin's office, and she will receive a larger monitor for work. Rose made a motion to purchase a larger monitor for $150. Riley 2nd. All in favor.

D. Treasurer's Report- Craig did hand out the budget and went over all accounting. Riley made a motion to accept the budget. Rose 2nd. All in favor.

A letter was submitted to the Church Council from the Audit Committee (Carol Nelson, Natalie Landgreen and Mary Anne Mattson) that they found that there has not been an annual report completed since 2017=2018 and they recommend we have an outside firm complete an audit. Becky had experience with Clergy Financial, and sent an email to Mark Freeman with Clergy Financial to ask for a recommendation. He recommended Daniel Grady. Becky corresponded with Daniel who was booked out for some time. Becky asked Craig as he was the Treasurer, if he would want to correspond with Daniel? Craig did agree that Daniel could contact him. It was decided an invoice should be obtained. There was discussion of there were other places that we may be able to get quotes from. A suggestion to contact Janet to see if she knows of auditors or for references, or to maybe call Zion in Chisago or other local Lutheran Churches for references.

E. Building and Grounds Committee Projects –

-Building keys were given to Riley, Angela, and Rose. Rose received an office key as well.

- Technology quote from Matt Mitchell- he is on the calendar to come August 14th to install and update monitor equipment, TV, new desktop and soundboard.

-Bathroom remodel-Becky talked to Joy and Dennis Buccholtz, they did come up with a list of four different remodelers, however they had some questions such as; does the church need that as a second bathroom or do they want to convert it into storage or some other use? The church has quite a number of interior projects that need attention, which led to a discussion on which projects and what needs to be done, and by whom? Names mentioned to maybe ask were Rose, Joy, the Janitor, Don, Bruce, Julie Magnuson…which was sidetracked into a situation that was brought to Becky that needed to be delt with timely;

-Pete Lindgren has 2-12 foot pews and 4-6 foot pews in storage that he has had for 20 years. They have been used maybe a few times for hayrides but otherwise kept in outbuilding storage. He has an event coming up at his place and is requesting them be taken care of in the next couple of weeks. They were the pews from when the church redid the balcony. There was discussion on if there was room in the church shed to store them or store them at another location. It was asked if we could have them sold? Becky did say Pete may be able to sell them. Angie made a motion to sell the pews and donate the money to the Planting Hope fund. Rose 2nd. All in favor.

-Discussion returned to interior projects for the church and a need for a committee. Becky said she would write up some information on needing a interior project committee and Riley did say he would present the information during the church service.

F. Library Report – Julie had nothing new to report at this time

G. Sunday School – Miriam reported Sunday School was changed from the 2nd Sunday to the 3rd Sunday of the month. Angie and Krissy assist. For Mother's Day the Sunday School class made Flowerpot pictures with their picture in the center, for Father's Day the Sunday School class wrote what they appreciated about their Fathers and drew pictures for them. In July they heard the story of Noah's Ark and then drew pictures in chalk on the sidewalk of Noah's Ark.

H. Vision Group- Meeting with Becky, Joan, Roger, Miriam, Wendy, and Rita on Monday. The Hoping Season of Renewal Group will discuss evolving to a missions and outreach committee to work on welcoming and reaching out to the community welcoming and serving our neighbors.

I. Shared Ministry – Better Together with Immanuel

1. Pastor Justin will convene with a combined council made up of a few members from each congregation that 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 reported that she has been meeting with Immanuel Worship Team to choose hymns, and then brings them to Angie, who shares them with Toni. They will work to streamline the process and meet together if possible

J. Personnel-

a. Angie's PTO – Craig made a motion to continue Angie's PTO up to 34 hours PPP, Julie 2nd. All in favor.

b. Hire a choir director for this fall- A need for a choir director was addressed. A

job description is needed. Pastor Justin said he could get something together and send it to the council and then get it published. The allotted amount is $9000 for 9 months. It will also be put in the bulletin.

c. Extra hours for Carli to create screen presentations weekly (up to 3 hrs/wk)- Pastor Justin said at Immanuel they put the prayers and worship on the screen, and if the services are similar we can use the same info at First Lutheran which will save money if it is the same information for two churches. It would just be minimal adjusting. It is estimated about 4 hours for Carli at $16.00 an hour. Julie made a motion to approve the extra hours for Carli. Riley 2nd. All in favor.

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

a. Duties and Schedule are handed out. Please switch with another council member if you cannot do it on your assigned Sunday.

b. Tour after meeting – a duties and schedule sheet was handed out and verbal instructions were given.

L. Calendar Planning Retreat for Fall 2025 – Spring 2026

a. Angie L, Pastor Justin, Miriam, Wendy, Council Exec

M. Report on Events-

a. Sunday July 13 at Winery- Was a good turnout. Lots of food. There was a band with the service.

b. Thursday, Holy Smokes- Good platform; Evolution, Theology, Science, Cancer, and God's Tools for Creation. Held the 4th Thursday of the month.

c. Together with Friends-Pastor Justin missed the initial event but made it to the end, he said it was reported that there were more families that showed up. The event took a hit since covid, but this year it started to pick up. There were about 13 -14 kids reported to be there this year.

N. Upcoming Events –

a. Mi-Chi-Lu picnic in Lindstrom Park August 24th, 2025.

O. Motion to Adjourn – approximately 1:45PM, Riley motioned to adjourn. Julie 2nd. All in favor.

Quick Apple Bread

It's Apple Season

Recipe from The Salty Marshmallow

Ingredients

1 1/2 Cups All Purpose Flour
1 1/2 Teaspoons Baking Powder
1/2 Cup Butter softened
1/2 Cup Packed Brown Sugar
1/2 Cup Granulated Sugar
1 teaspoon Ground Cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon Ground Nutmeg
2 Large Eggs
1 1/2 teaspoons Vanilla extract
1/2 Cup Milk
1 Large Apple peeled and finely chopped

For the Glaze

1 Cup Powdered Sugar
2-3 Tablespoons Milk
1/2 teaspoon Vanilla Extract
1/2 teaspoon Cinnamon

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Grease and flour a 9x5 inch pan and set aside.
3. Mix the brown sugar and cinnamon together in a bowl and set aside.
4. In a bowl of stand mixer, or large bowl using hand mixer, beat the butter for one minute until smooth and creamy.
5. Add the sugar and beat for one to two minutes until fluffy.
6. Add the eggs and vanilla, and continue to beat until combined.
7. In a sperate medium bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, cinnamon, and nutmeg with a whisk until combined.
8. Add the dry ingredients to wet ingredients, along with the milk, and mix to combine.
9. Pour half of the batter into the prepared pan, cover with half of the chopped apples, slightly pressing them into the batter, and then sprinkle with half of the cinnamon brown sugar mixture.
10. Pour the remaining batter over the apple/cinnamon sugar layer, top with the remaining apples and remaining cinnamon sugar mixture.
11. Pat the topping down slightly into the batter.
12. Bake for 45-50 minutes, until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.
13. Cool in pan for 10 minutes before transferring bread to a cooling rack.

GLAZE

1. In a small bowl using a hand mixer or whisk, combine the powdered sugar, vanilla, cinnamon, and milk until combine and smooth. Add more milk as necessary to reach desired consistency.
2. Drizzle glaze over bread as desired.

Church Office
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Angie Linngren
Ministry Coordinator
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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, Sept 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

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