



First Things

MAY 2024

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

You'd think that after almost 34 years of writing newsletter articles that it would be easy to come up with something to say. Not today! So I'm going to share a short devotional I found timely and meaningful from Martin Copenhaver's book The Gospel in Miniature.



Breathing Spaces

Jesus said to them again,
“Peace be with you. As the
Father has sent me,
so I send you.”

When he had said this, he
breathed on them and said to
them, “Receive the Holy
Spirit.”

~John 20:21-22

In our already overcrowded lives, another space is being taken away.

When I was learning to write, I was taught that you should have two spaces after a period before starting a new sentence. Now we are told, by no less an arbiter than *The Chicago Manual of Style*, that one space is the norm.

The primary reason the *Chicago* authors cite for preferring a single space is efficiency. Of course, it all comes down to efficiency, as so much seems to these days. They conclude that typing two

spaces “is inefficient, requiring an extra keystroke for every sentence.” An extra keystroke? Well, that is simply too much to ask, don’t you think?

But I think we need to be fighting for more space, not less. Space gives us breathing room, which is another way of saying that space allows for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

J.R.R. Tolkien told the story of correcting student essays, when he came upon a blank page among the papers. He stared at it for a moment and then wrote upon in it, “In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit.” It just came to him like a revelation. And that’s how he started his book *The Hobbit*, the novel that leads into *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. But for that inspiration, he needed that blank page, just a little space between all those words.

Just a little space. The Holy Spirit can work with that.

All I can say is AMEN to that!

Pastor Dwight Rudquist



Mother's Day Sunday, May 12th

PROVERBS 31:25-26

"SHE IS CLOTHED
WITH STRENGTH
AND DIGNITY; SHE
CAN LAUGH AT
THE DAYS TO
COME. SHE SPEAKS
WITH WISDOM,
AND FAITHFUL
INSTRUCTION IS ON
HER TONGUE."

MAY BIRTHDAYS

05/04 Don Hansen
05/06 Eleanore Collins
05/06 Don Grover
05/06 Gail Johnson
05/06 Julie Magnuson
05/07 Chieko Rogers
05/10 Spencer Langer
05/18 Lisa Rudquist
05/22 Pete Lindgren
05/25 Rita Johnson
05/26 Tom Enebak
05/27 Jacob Loen
05/31 Tim Nelson



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

SUNDAYWORSHIP

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.

COUNCILMEETING

Council will meet May 12, 2024 at
10:30am.

MONTHLYGIVING 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

03/24 Giving:	\$1,612.00
03/31 Giving:	\$4,027.85
04/07 Giving:	\$2,524.95
04/14 Giving:	\$1,542.00
04/21 Giving:	\$3,042.00

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.

Church Choir



Practice Dates: May 1st & 15th
No experience needed!
We'd love for you to join us!!!



First & Third Wednesday mornings at 9:30am. No experience needed! We welcome new quilters!!!



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



CRAFTING ON SATURDAYS
SAT, MAY 11TH | 9:00AM - 2:00PM
BRING YOUR CRAFTS, A SNACK TO SHARE
& BE READY FOR SOME GREAT CONVERSATIONS!! INVITE A FRIEND!



Sunday SCHOOL

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: May 12th

David and Goliath

Miriam read the story to the children. Lessons learned from the story:

1. Be bigger than your fears
2. Size doesn't matter
3. With God, it's possible
4. Don't underestimate your capabilities

The children used a slingshot try to "take down" Goliath!



Painting rocks!



Summer 2024

Welcome to Summer 2024 "Overcoming Storms"



It's time to get excited for Summer 2024! Our theme this summer is "Overcoming Storms." There are many storms in the Bible, in our lives and all around us! We will dive into these stories and see how our faith in Jesus can help us to overcome all of the storms in our lives! Join us as we learn what it means to overcome storms through Bible study, crafts, games, and summer fun!

"Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed."
-Psalm 107: 28-29

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 2023.

\$55 Member Discount | \$15 Early Bird, Register by April 1, 2024

Luther Point BIBLE CAMP

Applications are OPEN for
Summer 2024 Staff!!!
Looking for:

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





Together With Friends Bible Day Camp

Dates: June 18th - 20th
and June 25th - 27th

Watch for more information coming out soon! If you are interested in helping with the camp, please talk with Wendy Szczepanski! We will need volunteers for a snack host on the days our church hosts the camp!



THE LODGE OF TAYLORS FALLS

Assisted Living Room for Rent

There are a few
open apartments

NO WAIT LIST!

Would you like to
schedule a tour?

Call 651-240-0140
and 651-395-3997
to visit the facility!




Building Facilities

- 24 Hour Care
- 1 Bedroom
- 1 Bathroom
- Tea Kitchen
- Wellness Room
- Community Dining

About The Property

Beautiful Assisted Living in Taylor Falls MN. Managed by Good Samaritan Society, offers a country setting with 24 hour awake care, Apartment services include: utilities, internet, basic cable, weekly housekeeping, 3 meals daily and snack, emergency response system, outdoor patio, wellness room and daily activities.

For More Information :

 651-395-3997

www.good-sam.com

1051 Mulberry St
Taylor Falls MN 55084



what's happening

IN OUR COMMUNITY



CHISAGO LAKE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

APPLIANCE & RECYCLING DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 4
8 AM - 2 PM



CLLC LOWER PARKING LOT
1 Summit Ave, Center City, MN 55012

Questions? Call: 651-257-6300 OR
Email: office@chisagolakelutheran.org

For Items & Prices, visit
www.chisagolakelutheran.org

Chisago Lakes Community Ed
Presents:

Shakespeare's
*A Midsummer
Night's Dream*

May 3rd @ 7pm
May 4th @ 7pm
May 5th @ 2pm

TICKETS SOLD AT DOOR
\$10/ adults
\$8/ Student&Seniors

Doors open 30min prior to show



Mother's Day

May 12th

Mother's Day Floral Arranging

Saturday, May 11th | 11am-2pm
The Looking Glass, Osceola WI

Join us to create a unique floral arrangement for a special mom in your life or treat yourself! Dads, bring the littles. Stroll through the store for inspiration, select your container and create a masterpiece with fresh flowers. Prices varies to accommodate all budgets!



Succulent Make & Take

Saturday, May 11th | 12pm - 3pm

Come enjoy a glass of something refreshing and choose from a variety of containers and plants!
No tickets necessary!

Chateau St Croix Winery
St. Croix Falls, WI



Mother's Day Excursion

Sunday, May 12, 2024

A trip on an authentic paddlewheel riverboat is a delightful way to spend the day with your mother. All mothers will receive a flower (while supplies last) and mimosa to enjoy while taking in the beauty of the river. Beverages & snacks available for purchase.

Purchase tickets by visiting:
www.taylorsfallsboat.com
or calling 651-465-6315

A few more ideas....

- ♥ Plan a picnic
- ♥ Plant a herb garden together
- ♥ Take a walk on a new trail
- ♥ Plan a day trip somewhere new & explore
- ♥ Host a backyard BBQ
- ♥ Create a fun new wreath for the door
- ♥ Treat Mom to an At-Home Manicure
- ♥ Craft the day away



Chisago Lakes Book Club

Thurs, May 16th | 5:00 - 6:15pm

Join us for the Chisago Lakes book club, held on the third Thursday of each month at 5pm. 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.

WEDNESDAYS @ 10:15 AM
MAR 20-MAY 15, 2024 AGES 0-4

Spring Storytime

ST. CROIX FALLS
public library

discover • connect • enjoy

CHISAGO LAKES



COMMUNITY MEAL

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

FUN THINGS HAPPENING

AT THE INTERSTATE PARK IN ST CROIX FALLS, WI

Relaxing Birding by the River

May 4th | 9am - 10am

Guided Glacial Potholes Tour

May 4th, 5th, 11th, 12th, 25th, 26th
and 27th | 12pm - 1pm

Learn the Names of Wildflowers

May 5th | 10am - 11M

Birds Sounds Scavenger Hunt

May 11th | 2pm - 3pm

Treat Your Mom

to a Wildflower Stroll

May 12th | 10am - 11am

Turtles of the St Croix

May 26th | 2pm - 3pm

Build Like a Beaver Challenge

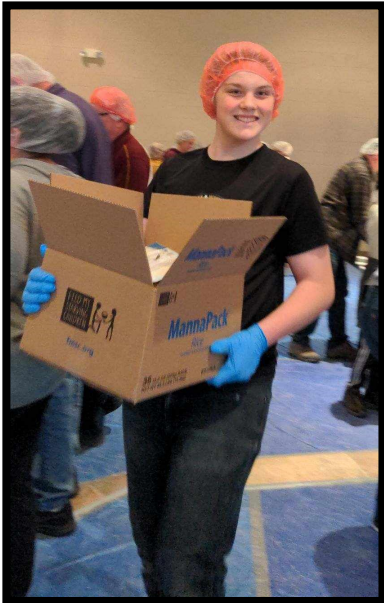
May 26th | 7pm - 8pm

Eyes to the Skies Nature Cart

May 27th | 10am - 11am



FEED MY
STARVING
CHILDREN



**“FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME
SOMETHING TO EAT...” -MATTHEW 25:35**



Council Meeting Minutes

Church Council of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

April 14, 2024, 10:25am

Next meeting May 12, 2024

“Proclaim the Gospel and Serve our neighbors.”

Members Present: Rose Anderson, Kathy Carlsted, Miriam Flysjo via Zoom, Becky Hulden, Craig Loen, Pastor Dwight Rudquist

Members Absent: none

Becky called the meeting to order at 10:25. Rose led devotions. Pastor Dwight volunteered to lead devotions in May.

Craig, Kathy and Becky shared stories about God’s love in their lives.

Because of Lent and Holy Week, Pastor Dwight officiated many services this month. He also visited parishioners at home. In addition Pastor Dwight helped pack meals for Feed my Starving Children.

Craig presented the treasurer’s report. We are 75% through our fiscal year. Our income is 76.61% of our budget. Our expenses are at 76% of the budget.

The Lenten offering was split between Feed My Starving Children and the Backpack food program for Taylors Falls elementary school. FMSC received \$614 and the backpack food program will receive \$613.85.

Kathy made the motion and Rose seconded it to use money from line item 3035 (maple syrup fund) to pay \$4450 for tree removal by Wild River Tree Service, LLC. The Motion passed.

Miriam made motion and Becky seconded it to accept the treasurer's report. The motion passed.

The property committee is still planning to remodel the mens’ room downstairs and the rest room on main floor. Regrading the south side of the church will be done this spring. Pastor Dwight will look into new chairs for the fellowship hall. We will consider a change to the constitution to raise the amount the council can

approve without a special congregational meeting to \$5000. We will take advantage of the Taylors Falls clean up day to dispose of an air conditioner and dehumidifier.

The Season of Renewal task force met on Friday, April 12. The group set goals and generated a document of expectations for an accountability statement. The congregation will be informed of the groups' progress in an announcement during the service. May 4 is the first meeting with other congregations in our cohort at Como Park Lutheran Church.

Bill Davids has agreed to present the next Mission Moments on April 21 or 28.

Sunday School for young children has met twice. There have been 7 students both times. The sessions have focused on a Bible story: Jesus riding into Jerusalem and David and Goliath. The lessons consist of the reading and discussing the story, movement activities and often a craft. Parents and grandparents have been very willing to help make the lessons successful. The plan is to continue the lessons on the second Sunday through the summer.

The council reviewed the events during Lent. People liked the simple meal preceding the Wednesday service at 5:00. It was suggested that the supper could be a few minutes longer. Using the Hidden with Christ service was good.

Everyone really enjoyed the breakfast following Palm Sunday service.

People appreciated the music and the style of service at the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services.

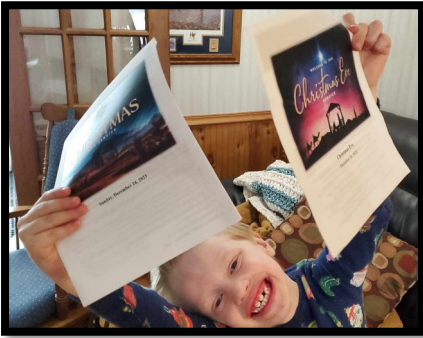
Easter service was good. The trumpet music helped set the tone.

Craig motioned and Rose seconded to adjourn at 11:30.

Faithfully submitted,

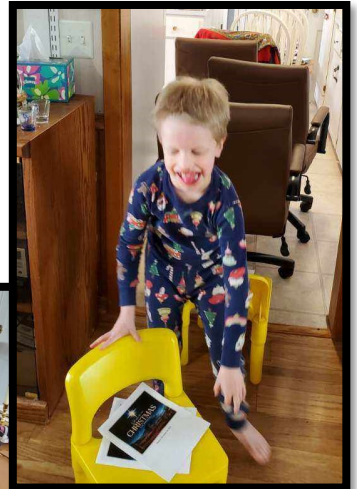
Miriam Flysjo, council secretary

MEET OUR BIGGEST FAN!



John & Becky Hulden's grandson, August, is 7 years old and is a "church mega-fan." He faithfully watches our services on YouTube almost daily. He loves to create his own worship space at home and at his grandparents farm! He has his own pretend altars, moves chairs into rows to create pews and fills them with his favorite church family...his stuffed animals! He even serves communion to everyone!

Grandma Becky reads and sings bulletins to August at night before bed and really seems to love to hear liturgy and scripture!



Church Office
651-465-5265
www.tflutheran.org



Pastor Dwight Rudquist
c: 651-829-4884
pastorrudquist@gmail.com

Angie Linngren
Ministry Coordinator,
parishc@tflutheran.org

2023-2024

Council/Officers:

Becky Hulden—President
Kathy Carlsted—Vice President
Craig Loen—Treasurer
Miriam Flysjo —Secretary
Kathy Carlsted
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 May 12, 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."

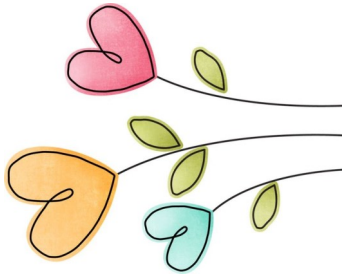
Psalm 90:1

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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ORGANIZATION
US
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TAYLORS FALLS, MN
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