

FIRST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
COLORADO SPRINGS

ekklesia

05.13.26

FROM THE PASTOR

EVERY YEAR THE larger ELCA churches hold a conference for lead pastors to encourage and support us in our leadership. First Lutheran sends me and my wife to this conference, and I want to express my gratitude for this gift. It is a gift of learning and encouragement for my professional work among you and it is a gift of time with my wife, Victoria, as we get to enjoy the afternoons in recreation. Thank you!

This year the conference was in Sanibel, Florida. Our new Presiding Bishop, Yehiel Curry was with us. He spoke of an emphasis this year on being “A Connected Church.” That connection was embodied in the number of church organizations who sent their senior leader to share updates with us. I heard about the work of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran Services in America and Global Refuge to care for the most vulnerable in our country and around the world. The leaders of

Thrivent, GSB, The ELCA foundation, Mission Investment Fund and Portico shared updates on how they partner with congregations to fulfill their mission and how those partnerships serve a wider mission as well. Even Elias from Elias Tours was there inviting us to go to Italy, Egypt or Greece, as some of you did last year. It was just a great reminder that we are not an island, but are part

of a church that is connected for good in the world.

The best part of the conference was the networking and sharing of ideas. I got up early for breakfast one morning and the president of Luther Seminary, Dr. Robin Steinke, was up early, too. She asked me if I wanted to join her for breakfast – her treat – which I readily accepted. We talked for an hour about seminary education and how best to raise up the next generation of pastors and some of the struggles of candidacy around our church. I had lunch with pastors from churches our size and bigger who shared ideas about preaching and ministry and staffing that energized me and helped me remember that we are not alone. One pastor asked if I’d be interested in a pilot program with Wartburg Seminary to give students opportunities to learn in larger ELCA churches, and I’m excited to see where that leads. These connections give me such hope and excitement for the future of our ministry.

Our main speaker was Dr. Karoline Lewis who shared with us from the Gospel of John how Jesus embodied his teachings and what that looks like in our own leadership. I’m excited to preach on John this week and share some of those insights.

My wife and I also got to kayak in the mangroves, go on a boat ride at sunset to see dolphins and enjoy some really good one – on – one time together.

Thank you, First Lutheran, for all the ways you support me and my family and invest in my work and ministry.

PASTOR TRAVIS NORTON



Sunday's Message

MAY 3, 2026

ACTS 17

PASTOR MICHAELA ESKEW

I HAD THE great honor of taking a group of first Lutheran folks to Greece and Turkey last fall in November. And we got to be at the place where Paul gives his sermon this morning. And I will call it a sermon, even though it seems a little light, I'll be honest, but it's a little light because he knew his mission field. He was walking into Athens, and he knew that he was bringing a new word, a new gospel, the story of Jesus Christ. And he said, "How can I relate this message to these people?"

And as he walks through Athens, he sees little idols, little statues, little trinkets of gold and silver, of man made things. And he hears the stories of these Greek gods, Zeus, who if you get just a little bit angry, might throw a thunderbolt at you. Or the gods who are lusting after one another or even lusting after humans. It seems like all this play is happening on Mount Olympus and we humans just have to live with it. And hopefully with a few extra sacrifices, with some food, with some good wine given at the temple, maybe we'll have appeased their whims and the gods will bless us.

He walks into Athens and he sees these big huge temples. And I stood there at the same place that Paul did. And in fact, your bulletin picture is a picture that I took on my trip there. So help that set the stage, because Paul comes in and he starts speaking about Jesus, and he's invited into the council or the Areopagus to come and speak. Because in Athens there was this place called Mars Hill that was essentially the ancient version of a TED Talk stage. And they said, "Come speak, tell us this new thing. This is where our other philosophers, our Epicureans, our Stoics, all give us new philosophies, new ideologies, maybe even a new religion. So come speak. We want to hear you." And so Paul gets up there and he says, "I have been looking around and I have

seen your temples, and I have even seen a temple to an unknown God."

They have all these gods, but just in case we've missed one, let's make sure we make a temple to them to make sure that we appease them, because they might punish us too. And so Paul uses that and says, "You have a temple to an unknown God, but I'm actually going to tell you who the unknown God is. It's my God. It's your God. It's the God who made you. It's the God with whom you live and move and have your being. He appointed your time, he appointed lands. He is the only God that you have to worry about. And he's a very different God than you've ever expected."

Paul tells the tale of a God who upsets our expectations again and again. And it's the same message that we can hear today, that God upsets our expectations. One of those most common expectations is that we should fear God. It happened in Athens with all of the Greek gods, and it still happens in Christianity today. We think that God doesn't like us, that we are so sinful, that we are so burdened, so stained, that how could God possibly love us? Just this week I was talking to a group on Wednesday nights that we just started called Alpha, where we invite people to come and bring their questions, their beginning questions. And this first week, our theme was Who Is Jesus? But it eventually grew into a beautiful discussion and we had a new member who said, "My entire childhood I have been told that I need to fear God, that God is too big and God is too scary to come to. And so when I'm told by you to go and read the scriptures or stay in prayer with God, I'm afraid to go to that God. Why would that God want to spend time with me? That God, sitting like this with a scowl on his face, saying, have you done the right things? Have you

confessed correctly? Are you clean enough?” How much sin are you bringing into this conversation? And instead we tried to tell this woman that that’s not what we in the Lutheran church believe. God does not have closed arms or a scowl on his face. God has open arms, like the open arms on a cross. God looks at you and says, “You are beloved and I want to spend time with you.” So Paul is telling these Athenians the same thing, “You’ve made all of these idols. You’ve done all these things to appease your God. But God doesn’t need any of those things. God doesn’t need your presence, the little trinkets. God needs your presence, meaning life together, relationship together, being with in a loving relationship.”

When we love God so much, we push away sin because we want to be with the person that we love. And that’s what God wants, is a true and loving relationship with us. And so we move from a God that we expected to be scary and angry, and we move to a God with open arms that says, “I love you, period.”

Another expectation that Paul moves across and says God is changing things is that God is not far away. I hear a lot at Colorado College when I go over there once a block to talk to our young adult students. And I hear it here, too, with our young adult students and our teenagers. Why can you believe in a God that hates his people so much? And if the world is so messed up, then God can’t possibly be involved. Sure, maybe God created it all. It’s called the Watchmaker God. God set up the systems. God set the times, God set the lands. But then God walked away. And Paul says, no, “God is not far away. And God does not hate his people. God loves his people and sent Jesus for that reason and that reason alone. And so we have this expectation that God is not present in our worst moments or that God’s not present in a good day. I’m going to bring two examples. One is I have plenty of people who come to me and they’re suffering for pastoral care. And they say, “God just doesn’t feel near. I don’t know God anymore because God is just not here. He’s not feeling my pain. He doesn’t hear my prayers. He’s not answering my prayers. God can’t possibly be here.” And I say, “God is there. You might not feel, it might be too dark where you’re sitting to feel that the light is there. But I promise you, God is there.”

That cross tells us that God is there. God didn’t just

choose to sit in his golden throne up in heaven. God chose to come to earth, suffer what we suffer and die the way that we die. Our God is different than the gods of Mount Olympus. And so even in our darkest moments, there is a little flicker of light. And that flicker of light is God. And you might see it in the community that comes around you. I was talking to someone on Wednesday that said, “The wagons are circling.” That’s how I know that God’s present is when I’m having a really hard time. Those wagons are circling. My family comes around me, my friends come around me. God comes around me in the body of Christ. Another time is I hear people who have had decades of faith and they do their morning devotionals and they say, “It’s getting a little stale. I read the Scriptures, and there’s just no spirit in it. There’s no life in it. Is God still there? It feels like my prayers are just talking to myself. And there’s not a real big suffering that’s happening. It just. Just doesn’t feel like the spirit is moving anymore. I have been a faithful believer for so long, but it feels stale.” And I say, “God’s still there. God’s still moving.”

And it feels hard to believe. But when Paul speaks in this sermon that God is not far away, that God is who we live and move and have our being, we can’t possibly question if God is far away, because God is literally in us. In our everyday movements, in every movement that we make. God is with us. God can never escape us. We can never escape God. And that is a beautiful thing to remember in the stale times and in the dark times. Because what’s beautiful about these dark nights of the soul, that’s what the spiritual mother and fathers of many ages of history, many people of great faith have gone through these dark nights of the soul. They have always come out of them and been able to look back in hindsight and say, “God was with me, even if I didn’t feel it, even if my greatest doubts and my greatest questions weren’t being answered. I came out of that darkness into the light of Christ again.” And so God upsets our expectations that God is not there by being there, being present always.

Now, this final expectation is a confession on my own part. I told you that I was able to go to this place – to Mars Hill. And it was an amazing moment. I sat where Paul sat, and I had my little Bible with me. I read this

sermon and I felt God's presence with me. And I saw the temple behind me and I heard Paul say, "All of that is going to fall away, but my God, your God is going to outlive it all." And that was a beautiful spark of the trip, but that was my spark of the trip. I was having a very hard time that trip. We went to Athens on our very last day of a ten – day trip. And all the other nine were rubble and rubble and rubble and archaeological site and digs and everything looked dead, everything looked in the past. And it wasn't just Christian churches. We were walking where Paul walked. So we saw these places. This is where Paul preached, this is where Paul went to a synagogue. This is where this happened. And they were all just stones on a ground. And then because we were in Greece, of course they're going to show us the big temples of their Greek gods that they used to have. And they're going to tell us the beautiful stories and the mythical battles and things like this. And they're going to say, but that's all rubble too.

And I couldn't help putting both of those right next to each other and thinking, in 2,000 years, is my religion going to be the religion of the past? Are we just going to be myths? And tourists are going to come by and say, "This was a Christian church. You might have heard of it in your history books. It's a religion that spoke of Jesus Christ from Nazareth as the son of God and did these miracles and said, and supposedly rose from the grave." What if that's my religion in 2000 years? Just like the religion of the Greek mythology and gods and goddesses, the Pantheon. And so I struggled for most of the trip. No one knew this. Nobody on my trip knew this. Because when I came back, they said, how was your trip? I said, "Mars Hill was great." I just held onto that.

And what was also hard is that after Mars Hill, after that last day in Athens, we sent off the first Lutheran folks back to America. And my husband and I decided to stay in Istanbul a couple more. We were like, "We have been married for 10 years. Let's make this our anniversary trip. And so we stayed in Istanbul for two more days. And Istanbul used to be the height of the early Christian church. It was the seat of the Holy Roman Empire. There was this massive church called the Hagia Sophia Holy wisdom. That was where emperors and kings would come to be ordained, to hear the wisdom of the

priests, to know what to do, what God was telling them to do with their rulings and with their kingdoms. And there was this church, and we got to see the church, but Hagia Sophia is now a mosque. And so I wasn't allowed to go onto the floor of it because I am not a Muslim. And I only got to see the gallery, and see the damage done to this church, whether it was through iconoclasm, which was the big debate between the Catholics and the Orthodox of whether you can have an image in your sanctuary, sanctuary or not. And also Muslims coming in, because a Muslim mosque should not have any images of God or any figures of anybody. And so some were left, some of these beautiful mosaics were left, but some of them were heavily damaged.

And so I'm watching rubble at the first half of my trip, and on this back end of my trip, I'm seeing churches turn into something else. And so again, I question, is this going to be my church? Is my church going to be obsolete in a hundred years, 200 years, 2000 years? And is God going to go with it? I turned to my husband on our very last night of the trip, and I just confessed what I had been feeling the whole trip. Even my husband didn't know I was having these thoughts. And I said, "What if you and I, we're pastors of this church? What if this church doesn't exist in 2000 years? What if it's just a chapter in a history book?" And he said, "The church may die, but God never will. Is that not the message of Easter? That God is always victorious over death and is making things new? And I said, "Good job, pastor, husband, thank you, I needed that sermon," and so I get to give it to you.

God never dies. For every end of a chapter, God writes a new chapter. And so even now, I am being upset in my expectations of what God could possibly do. I tried to put God into a box and say, God has to work through this church, through this model, through this way of thinking that I have been trained in. But God can do new things that I can't even possibly imagine. God is upsetting my expectations. And so I place myself back on Mars Hill, and I try to place myself as a listener to Paul's new words. And I think about how God upsets our expectations and how I need to be spiritually curious again. I need to be a willing listener to how God might be moving in new ways that I hadn't even imag-

Sermon cont next page

ined before, be willing to ask questions and be willing to hear new answers.

And so there were people that were converted from Paul's message that day, people that repented, changed their minds and thought of God in new and unexpected ways. And they followed Paul and this gospel of Jesus Christ, who loves them and should not be feared, who is close rather than far away, and who is making things new out of death each and every day. A resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. That's really what got those converted people on that day, from Paul's sermon, when he started to talk about the resurrection.

So I look around and I say, how are we being spiritually curious? And I want to lift up this congregation because you are being spiritually curious. I saw it this Wednesday at Alpha. I'm so excited to see where it might go, what new people might be brought to this and what new questions might come up. And I've been seeing it through Basic, through the questions people are coming to me with as they watch the new Basic series. I'm seeing it in our podcast. So many people coming up to me and saying, well, have you thought about this? And I'm like, I'll do that on next season of the podcast. Great question. And I'm seeing it in our new visitors. We have new visitors each and every day, each and every Sunday, that are willing to ask the question, is God up to something? And be spiritually curious.

That is all God is asking of us, is to be spiritually curious again. To let God upset our expectations and make new life come out of death. To push away the God of fear and to bring in a God who calls you beloved. To push away the fear that God is far, far away and doesn't care. And instead remember that God is so very near.

It is in God we live and move and have our being. Let us be spiritually curious about what that might look like tomorrow.

IMAGINE: GARDENS

You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

—Isaiah 58:11b, NIV

Gardens in the Bible are frequently used to represent intimacy with God, divine provision, and flourishing life, and serve as places for prayer and communion. Join us this summer for weekly 30–45-minute guided meditations, where we will enter into restful encounters with God through biblical garden imagery.

Two opportunities in the Worship Center on these Wednesdays in July: 8, 15, 22, & 29; 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.

July 8: Garden of Eden (Gen 1:1-2:2)

July 15: "You are a garden fountain" (selections from Song of Solomon)

July 22: "Are you the gardener?" (John 20:11-18)

July 29: The Garden City: Return to Eden (Revelation 21 & 22)

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers designated in memory or in honor of a loved one are now \$100.

Order flowers here: <https://bit.ly/4nKyPYq>

WAYFARERS

THURSDAY, MAY 21 | 11:30 A.M.

RIB & CHOP HOUSE

5935 DUBLIN BLVD. STE. 190

Please contact Judy Compton via text or email at **719.659.3082** or comptonhome@comcast.net if you plan to attend.

CHERYL'S CORNER

JUST CHECKIN' IN

One of my duties each week is to reach out to our members that we believe haven't been to worship in the past three months. I explain that Pastor doesn't want anyone to fall through the cracks and we want to make sure you and your family are doing well. Most of the time, I need to leave a voicemail message. When that is the case, if everyone is doing well and you've just been traveling or simply busy with life, I tell you there is no need to return my call. But if you are ill, in need of prayer or a pastoral visit, or we can help you in anyway, please call me back.

From most of the folks I'm able to reach or get a return call from, we are pleased to learn that everyone is doing fine. On the rare occasion, we learn that someone has been ill, in a car accident, had a recent surgery, etc. I am quite relieved that no one is ever angry when I call. People are usually glad that we cared to make sure they were okay.

Sometimes, I find out that they were just here for worship on Sunday. While I greet many people on a Sunday morning, I am not always aware of who is here and who isn't. I would say that I probably know 70% of you by name, but that leaves

30% that I don't know. If I know I saw you on Sunday, I will go back into the attendance and mark you present. This restarts your three-month clock.

While we'd like everyone to check-in at a kiosk or fill out a connection card each time they attend Sunday worship, we know that is unrealistic. Over the past four weeks, the 8 a.m. service still holds the record of 81% of the usher's headcount checking in. Seventy-one percent of the 9:30 headcount check-in. Tying for 62% are the 10:15 and 11 a.m. services. We are striving for 80% or better.

If you haven't learned how to check-in at a kiosk, find me on Sunday morning. I would be happy to show you how. Filling out a connection card is an option, too. If you are a member, simply filling out your name is sufficient. I will enter your attendance manually. You need not do this every week, but if you check-in one way or another at least once a month, our staff will know you've been present.

APRIL IN-GATHERING OF FOOD FOR CARE AND SHARE

Well done good and faithful servants. We delivered 901 pounds of food to Care and Share at the end of April. Our next In-Gathering will be throughout the month of July for One Nation Walking Together. Be on the lookout for the items on their wish list as we get closer.



CHERYL MAHON, MINISTER OF CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE



BASIC

WEDNESDAYS, APRIL 22 - AUGUST 12
6 - 7:30 P.M. | PEEL HOUSE, ROOM 201
LED BY DEACON JANICE ZIMBELMAN

APRIL 22 BIBLE, PART ONE
APRIL 29 BIBLE, PART TWO
MAY 20 ABIDE, PART ONE
MAY 27 ABIDE, PART TWO
JUNE 10 SALVATION, PART ONE
JUNE 24 SALVATION, PART TWO
JULY 15 IMITATION, PART ONE
JULY 22 IMITATION, PART TWO
AUGUST 5 CHURCH, PART ONE
AUGUST 12 CHURCH, PART TWO

Don't miss this opportunity to build a
stronger foundation - together!



OPEN INVITATION TO
OPEN CONVERSATIONS

ALPHA

WEDNESDAYS, 6 - 8 P.M.
GATHERING PLACE
MAY 6 - JUNE 24

8 WEEK COURSE
DINNER | VIDEO | DISCUSSION

Explore life's big questions
no matter who you are or
what you believe. There's a
seat for you at the Alpha
table. Dinner is free. Sign
up through QR code.



TEACHER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST FOR THE TEACHERS AND STAFF OF SAND CREEK INTERNATIONAL (K-8) SCHOOL

THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for all who cooked, baked, shopped, and helped to unload, set-up and serve the Sand Creek breakfast on Monday May 4. It was a wonderful event and added to a day of celebration as the school was just selected as a Center of Excellence for K-8 programs. I hope our efforts in feeding and blessing the new teachers and staff with gifts played at least a small part. Many thanks were expressed by the team and the coordinator shared that the days we bring meals are the “favorite days all year” for the staff. You all make a difference with your contributions. Thank you to Betsy Pimentel for coordinating FLC’s partnership with Sand Creek, arranging gifts to encourage student attendance, and planning this teacher appreciation breakfast. Thank you to the following people for providing food and/or assisting Betsy with set up, hosting, and clean up: Bert Bedford, Ken Boehm, Karen Busovsky, Julie Furstenau, Paula Gillaspie, Linda Helmstetler, Joanne Larson, Linda Lorain, Mindy Mahler, Anne Rivers, Linda Wilson Holt, and Suzy Utzke.

LUGGAGE FOR PRISON FELLOWSHIP CAMPERS

FLC volunteers drive the children of offenders within the state prison system to summer camp. Last year we noticed that many of the campers did not have proper luggage. If you have small to medium suitcases or large duffle bags that you no longer use, please bring them to the Welcome Center Desk.

DINING OUT WITH FIRST LUTHERAN

SELECT TUESDAYS | 5:30 P.M.

VARIOUS RESTAURANTS

All are welcome to join this group, which meets at local restaurants on two Tuesdays of each month to enjoy various cuisines and fellowship. Reservations will be made two weeks in advance, so be sure to sign up early. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/4iRh4ff>

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

June 9	Lumen 8 402 South Tejon
June 23	Old Spaghetti Factory 3101 N New Center Point
July 14	My Neighbor Felix 1645 Briargate Pkwy Suite 203
July 28	Rusty Crab Daddy 1430 Harrison Road

SPRINGS RESCUE MISSION

Springs Rescue Mission is in need of gently used bath towels and washcloths. Please bring your donations to the boxes underneath the Youth board in the Gathering Place. Contact Patricia Rodriguez with any questions: 719.271.9182 Thank you!

REFUGEES IN NEED OF A FEW ITEMS IN COLORADO SPRINGS

Our Colorado Springs Refugee and Asylee Office is looking for floor lamps, deodorant and all-purpose cleaner to support clients in need. **If you can support this request, please reach out to Adalie Duncan at Adalie.duncan@lfsrm.org, 719.922.4580.**

GRADUATING SENIORS

Dylan McConnell

Addison Weis

Leilani Eilert

Riley Cole

Conner Holiday

McKinzie MacDonald

Bridger Nelson

Caden Mathiesen

Riley Huebner

Preston Kahl

Trond Ostrem

Blake Chafetz

Isabella Loper

Emmy Baylis



Well Done Class of 2026!

SOUTHEAST CO WOMEN OF ELCA SPRING RETREAT

SATURDAY, MAY 30 | 9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
1128 E BOULDER STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS

Soaring with Grace will be this spring's theme. Pastor Gabrielle Brown, pastor at Grace Lutheran Church, Lori Duncan, Minister of Spiritual Care at First Lutheran Church, and Penny Carr from Kairos Prison ministry will be presenting.

A continental breakfast and lunch are included in registration fee.

Come enjoy a day of Bible study, good conversation, yummy food, making a lovely craft, and ending with a worship service.

REGISTRATION FORMS AT WELCOME CENTER

JUNE "FOX TROT" LESSONS

SUNDAYS | JUNE 7 - 28

2 - 3 P.M. | PEEL HOUSE PARLOR

Angela Harder is back to teach us the "Fox Trot"! This is a four-week class. Keeping a maximum of twenty people allows Angela to introduce new moves each week while helping dancers progress at their own pace. Wear shoes that can slide on the wood floor of the Peel House parlor!

Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/3PoBzVA>

\$80 couple / \$40 Single

THE EMMAUS WAY

“We should, to begin with, think that God leads a very interesting life, and that he is full of joy. Undoubtedly he is the most joyous being in the universe. The abundance of his love and generosity is inseparable from his infinite joy.”

—Dallas Willard

He is risen! Alleluia!

How does the idea strike you, here in the midst of this joyful Easter season, that God is the most joyous being in the universe? Is it possible that one of the reasons we might find it difficult to sustain a celebration for fifty full days is that, perhaps without knowing, we think of God as emotionless, or worse, as grumpy? Might we carry an unrecognized belief that God is somewhere “up there” (or otherwise separate from us), watching, evaluating, and judging us, ultimately annoyed with our failures? Let’s think about that for a moment.

I have a new grandbaby, my first granddaughter after four grandsons. And I am full of joy! Does she fill her diaper with ick? Yes. Does she cry a lot? Yes. Is she demanding with all

of her many needs? Also yes. And I am full of joy! My joy has absolutely nothing to do with what she produces, or how she behaves, or anything like that. No. I am full of joy simply because she exists.

My joy is but a pale echo of God’s, because I believe joy is truly part of God’s nature. But the truth is that God, too, rejoices over us (Zephaniah 3:17b) simply because we exist – God is the one who chose to create us, after all. And in his resurrection, Christ pulled us up from the grave with him and joyfully filled us with newness of life. New life! My granddaughter is but a tiny, squidy, beautiful reflection of this astonishing truth.

If you question God’s joy over you, just meditate a bit on this verse, “For the joy set before him he endured the cross ...” (Hebrews 12:2b). What was that joy set before him? It was you. It was me. It was a redeemed humanity fully embraced within the infinitude of God’s love. Friends, that is a truth that will always be worth celebrating! Let’s continue walking, filled with joy, in newness of life, together!



LORI DUNCAN, MINISTER OF SPIRITUAL CARE

RAINFOREST FALLS

Exploring The Nature of God

Mark Your Calendars!
June 8 - 12, 2026

Join us in a fun-filled adventure on the open road, taking all the kids (Travelers) on thrilling journeys to exciting destinations. Led by the Navigator and adventurous pup, Scout, kids will learn that God is always with them. Through engaging stories from the Navigators' Guide (the Bible), Travelers will delve into timeless tales of faith from the Old and New Testaments. Get ready for twists, turns, and excitement as they face new challenges and find strength in God's presence on this unforgettable trip!

Register for VBS



Beating the Bounds

Thursday, May 14, 2026



Your pastors are coming to your side of the city. Find the stop nearest you and join us for good food and real conversation with your church family. Come for one stop or stay all day. All are welcome!

8:30–10:00 A.M. – Coffee Cup Café, Monument (breakfast)

11:00 AM–12:00 P.M. – Third Space Coffee, N Academy (coffee & pastry)

1:00–2:30 P.M. – Amanda’s Fonda, Manitou Springs (lunch)

3:00–4:00 P.M. – Black Bear Coffee, Cheyenne Mountain (coffee stop)

6:00–8:00 P.M. – Peel House at First Lutheran Church



SPAGHETTI DINNER

FUNDRAISER
FOR SUMMER SERVICE TRIPS

FRIDAY, MAY 29

6 – 8 P.M.

PEEL HOUSE

In the Life of the Church ...

Birthdays

- May 18** Teri Ellsworth
Doug Noel
Chris Schweiger
Eric Wicks
- May 19** Nola Gosch
Ann Mellott
Bennett Peel
- May 20** Vaiana Goff
Chance Podoll
Nancy Tim
- May 21** Jennie Annala
Gary Atkins
Jean Eller
Wayne Moore
Lynda O'Brien
- May 22** Callie Baylis
Ginny Hahn
Marlene Johnson
Scott Keilers
- May 23** Emma Mellott
Noah Mellott
Vivi Ransom
Georgia Waldthausen
Karen Waters
- May 24** Katie Ackerman
Carl Bauer
Tim Coutts
Judy Wach

Anniversaries

- May 19**
Butch Grove III and Deb Grove 53 years
Joe and Becky Stevens 36 years
- May 20**
Darby and Valerie Ransom 25 years
- May 23**
Mike and Yoshiko Anspach 30 years
Chris and Kiersten Lehmkuhl 34 years
- May 24**
John and Debbie Chlebus 52 years
Karin and Andrew Kovalovsky 40 years



Prayer Requests

Lannette Abbey
Amy, Carol and Kaye
Beth Allen
Yosh Anspach
Shay Ashley
Fred Bachmeier
Brad Bauer
Elmer Bauman
Tana Beall
Joan Boehm
Brittany
Bill & Barbara Brown
Jim Burnes
Bryson
Kathleen Capron
Karl & Pam Cartwright
Tanya Charbonneau
John & Debbie Chlebus
Nell Clowder
Linda Collier
Ashley Cook
Jan Doyle & Family
The Drew Darrigan Family
Rinda Dunson
Darlene Edwards
Alan Flinn
Edna Fross
Corinne Gibson
Sandie Gilliam & Family
Nola Gosch
Julian Green
Hannah
Private Steven Harris
Kamal Hayden Thomas
Doug Hering
Ginger Hipszky
Jake Hodnett
Bill & Doreen Hulka
Sarah Iskra
Alan Jacobsen
Josh Jones

Shirley Jones
Ann Junk
Jonas Kagarise
Tami Kephart
Kyong Kelley
Gaye Lynn Kielcheski
Cindy Koger
Haley Larkin
Jesse Lawrence & Family
Timothy Lillich
Dayne Lindquist
Irene Lopez
Margo Lopez
Tricia Muehlbauer
Susan Lundmark
Jim Matthews
Nick McKibben & Family
Hugh McNeely
Karen Mena
Brandon Miller & Family
Marilyn Miller
Larry Moe
Paul Moe
Levi Morarie
Michael Morarie
Wilma Nicolaisen
Sam Norton
Mike Olsen
Owen & Family
Patsy Pedersen
Jack & Judy Peterson
The Linda Peterson Family
Ralph Peterson
Darlene Radke
Jeff Rapp
Ray
Skip Robinson & Family
The Ron Scott Family
The Donna Rae Skovgaard Family
Torrie Smith
Matthew Stark

Gwen Stein
Becky Sternal
Theresa & Larry Struble
Barbara Swan
Michael Taylor
Aaron & Cindi Thorson
Bob VanDuyn
Karen Henderson-VanDuyn
Doni Vest
Christine Welch
Starr Wise
Greg & Carolyn Young

In Remembrance of **Steve Doyle**

Jan Doyle's husband, Laura's father, Ed's father-in-law, grandfather of two, whose burial will be at Memorial Gardens on Friday, May 29 at 10 a.m.

Date of death: May 6, 2026

In Remembrance of **Jack Krisak**

Jane's husband, Pastor Carrie's and Scott's father, grandfather of four, including Emmy and Callie Baylis. Burial will be at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in St. Paul at a later date.

Date of death: May 5, 2026

Worship and Study

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

SUNDAYS IN THE SANCTUARY
8, 9:30, AND 11 A.M.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

SUNDAYS IN THE WORSHIP CENTER
10:15 A.M.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIGHT

WEDNESDAYS IN THE WORSHIP CENTER
DINNER 5:15 P.M. | SERVICE 6:30 P.M.

ONLINE WORSHIP

STREAMED LIVE AT 9:30 A.M.
Tune in on First Lutheran's YouTube channel,
on the church website, or in the church app.

QUARTERLY ADULT EDUCATION

Four times a year, we offer Adult Education classes at a variety of times and on a wide range of interesting topics. Be sure to read the Ekklesia for announcements and information about upcoming programs.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

LUTHER HALL | 10 A.M.
Led by the preaching pastor for the week.

GENERATION TO REVELATION

FIRST LUTHERAN'S NEW PODCAST!
Find our podcast on YouTube, on the church website, or anywhere you get your podcasts.

PASTORAL TEAM

The Rev. Travis Norton, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Carrie Baylis, Associate Pastor
The Rev. Michaela Eskew, Associate Pastor

NEXT SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURES

Acts 1:6 – 14
1 Peter 4:12 – 14
John 17:1 – 11

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