First
Lutheran
Church
Colorado Springs
ekklesia
09.16.26

FROM THE PASTOR

FIRST LUTHERAN IS participating in City Serve this year! We support COSILOVEYOU and their mission to unite the churches in Colorado Springs to serve the city and God's mission. As their website says: "We are dedicated to bringing the Church together as a united force of love and action in Colorado Springs. By fostering collaboration among churches, ministries, and city leaders, we strive to create lasting change that reflects the heart of Jesus. Together, we seek to be a beacon of hope, meeting needs and advancing the flourishing of every individual in our city."

City Serve is a signature event inviting churches to sign up volunteers for two days of service in the city. There are 200 projects serving around 80 nonprofits and 60 schools. This is the kind of work that perfectly aligns with the mission of First Lutheran and our heart of service. The church staff will dedicate their day on Friday, October 1, to go and serve at Courageous Love serving children with experience in foster homes, safe houses and group homes. Then on Saturday, October 2, we will join others from the congregation to serve across the city. We chose two projects to get our congregation to work together on, cleaning up Cottonwood Creek and serving the Dream Center. I'd encourage you to join us at one of these or sign up to serve another of the many projects. You can sign up directly at COSILOVEYOU at **https://serve.cosiloveyou.com/** or if you want to sign up through First Lutheran use our form at **flccs1.elexiochms.com/external/form/93dd602c-d860-4d04-b09b-069d8b059379**

For Cottonwood Creek, volunteers will be joining the Fountain Creek Watershed District in their 13th year of Creek Week - Colorado's largest watershed cleanup event, which takes place annually over nine days each fall - cleaning up litter along a creek, trail, park or open space along the watershed. This site is along Cottonwood Creek/Cottonwood Creek Trail, starting at Cottonwood Creek Park.

For Dream Centers Mary's Home, a faith-based, non-profit organization helping families trapped in cycles of poverty find hope and build sustainable lives for their futures, volunteers will be cleaning up the grounds and landscaping, and possibly doing some other tasks inside or out.

This city needs Christians to show unity and Christ's love. We are proud to be part of this work and ready to show up for our faith and our city. I hope you will join us!

PASTOR TRAVIS NORTON, SENIOR PASTOR

Sunday's Message

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

MATTHEW 18:21 – 35

PASTOR TRAVIS NORTON

OUR FATHER WHO art in heaven.... forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Our Father in heaven, forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Our Father forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. I remember going to church with my grandma at her Presbyterian church and hearing that last one for the first time. She warned me it was different and I had to pay attention when we got to the part about forgiveness. Debt is the right translation of the word in the Lord's prayer in Matthew's gospel. Jesus uses debt as a metaphor for sin, and I think we all can relate. We all have some experience with debt and how it feels heavy in our souls. On the first day of the month most of my paycheck goes to debt when I pay that monthly mortgage bill, when I write that check. I often imagine what it will feel like when my house is paid off and I will have all that extra money. I imagine the freedom, the relief, the joy of being released from that monthly obligation.

I've had harder experiences with debt. When I was in college, I chose not to check the oil in my car or get it changed and eventually the engine seized up. I didn't have money to pay for a new engine, so I got a credit card from one of those vendors on campus and used that to pay for the new engine. And then I kept using that credit card for all sorts of things until the burden of debt caught up with me. It felt like moral failure, like a weight too heavy to carry. As the interest kept adding to the debt, I felt helpless, fearful, embarrassed and ashamed. Jesus says sin is like that; it's like owing a debt and being unable to pay it. In that situation you are at the mercy of the one who owns your debt. They get to decide what happens to you. They can garnish your wages, they can hand you over to the authorities, they can punish you. In the same way when you sin against someone when you ruin the relationship, when you break something between you and another person. You are in debt to them, you owe them, you are responsible for making things right.

Have you ever been in that situation? Have you ever messed up and broken a relationship that was important to you? Have you ever done something you regret and wished to God you could go back in time and change your behavior? Do you know what it feels like to be stuck with the consequences of your decision, your failure, your sin? I'm not talking about a misunderstanding or a simple mistake, I'm talking about doing something wrong that hurt someone you love, that broke a relationship you value. I'm talking about that feeling of regret when you realize with horror what you have done. And the only thing you can do is to ask for forgiveness. You are at the mercy of the person you hurt, they can hold you captive to your sin, or they can release you from it. This is exactly where we are in our relationship with God. We are in debt to God, we have sinned against God, we are at God's mercy.

Whenever I pray, when I do my morning prayers or start a prayer in my car or a moment of quiet, I come into the presence of God and immediately I am aware of that debt. Before I get to the reason I started praying, I have to reset and I pray, "God please forgive me my sins." As I pray, I find myself pursing my lips in shame at all the ways I've messed up. It's the same stuff every time, the way I judge other people, the way I serve myself instead of those in need, the impurities of my heart and mind. "Father, please forgive me for my sin."

We are at the mercy of God, we are in debt and we cannot free ourselves. And what will God do when we ask for mercy, when we ask him to forgive us? He releases us from the debt. And the question for today, "How many times will God forgive me when I sin against him?" Peter didn't ask that question, he asked, "How many times must I forgive someone who has sinned against me?" But the way Jesus answers through the parable of the servant who owes the king invites Peter to consider something else first. Before thinking about forgiving others Jesus reorients us to consider how often God has forgiven us. Every time I go into prayer and ask God to forgive my sins, He forgives me. Even when it's the same sin over and over again, month after month, year after year. I go against God's commands; I fail to live the way of love Jesus taught me. And yet God forgives me again and again and again. And as God forgives us over and over again, he asks one thing of us, that we would extend that same forgiveness we have received to those who have sinned against us. That when someone is at our mercy and they ask for patience, for grace, for forgiveness, God asks that we would respond to them the same way God has responded to us.

Jesus asks that we would give mercy, that we would release people from our wrath, that we would forgive the debt that is owed. Now let's not kid ourselves that this is easy or immediate. Forgiveness is not just saying magic words; forgiveness always costs something. There's a reason why Jesus uses an economic metaphor. In the parable the King is asked to forgo ten thousand talents. A talent was worth 6,000 day's wages or about $720,000 in today's dollars. So, 10,000 talents is around seven billion dollars. Jesus tells a parable where a servant owes seven billion dollars to a king and the king forgives the debt. The servant can't pay it; the king intends to sell him and his family into slavery to at least get something of the debt. The servant begs for patience saying he will repay it, and the King has pity on him and forgives the debt. That's costly forgiveness.

Jesus is making a simple point. We have been forgiven much, and we have been forgiven often, so we are invited to extend to others the forgiveness we have received. But it will cost us something. It is not a snap of the fingers kind of thing. There is a loss that comes with forgiveness. I think it is a cost that we can only pay in light of what forgiving us has cost our Father in heaven. We don't forgive people because they deserve it; we don't forgive people because the sin wasn't that bad or that it didn't hurt us. Forgiveness is mercy, giving to someone what they don't deserve and cannot earn. And we can only forgive from the heart if we rely on the forgiveness we have received from God. It is hard to forgive; it is hard to let go of anger and a desire for vengeance. It is hard to imagine someone getting away with what they have done to us.

And let's be clear about two things from this parable. The first is that it imagines a scenario where the person is asking for forgiveness. This is not a situation where someone has wronged us and they haven't acknowledged it, confessed it or expressed regret for it. And the second thing about this parable is that it imagines a community that calls for forgiveness. When the one forgiven by the king demands payment from a fellow servant of a mere $12,000, that servant asks for mercy and patience just as he had done before the king. When the forgiven servant refuses to forgive, it is the other servants who turn him into the king. The situation here is that the community recognizes that the right thing to do is forgive as he had been forgiven. They are appalled that he would withhold forgiveness for thousands when he was walking around after being forgiven billions. When someone asks us for forgiveness, when they ask for mercy or patience, we can go to the community and seek discernment. We don't do this alone. In the parable the community sees that the person who owes $12,000, is repentant and sincere and believes they should be forgiven.

If you are struggling to forgive someone, ask for help from your fellow Christians. Share the story and discern together how to do the hard work of forgiveness, if that is indeed the right thing to do. I know this command has been abused by those in power to re-victimize and enable abusers. We need to be clear that Jesus isn't asking us to be abused or empower

abusers. This parable isn't about that. This command to forgive isn't about remaining in abusive situations or enabling the abuse of power. This parable, rather, is a call to offer mercy when we are in a position to do so. When we have the power, when we have the authority and someone asks for mercy – we are called to give it. This command to forgive is about maintaining the church community; it's about teaching the church to be merciful to those who are asking for forgiveness. It's about teaching us as followers of Jesus to be like our Father in heaven who has forgiven us and others. It's about giving grace to those who have messed up and are asking for a path back to community.

Christ's church is a group of people who have realized the great love of God and the abundance of mercy we have received. We are the church who seeks to live our lives in response to the forgiveness we have received. We give mercy because we have received mercy. We love because we have been loved. We choose to forgive because we have been forgiven. And we don't claim to have arrived or to have done it all perfectly, but we are on a path in this world that is energized by the love God has shown us in Christ. Our great debt has been erased and so we erase the debts owed to us. Those of you who are joining the church today are joining a movement here at First Lutheran to live in response to God's grace. That's our mission in the world, to offer an alternative in a world that demands people pay what they owe. We pursue mercy in a world that calls us to an eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth, to hit back hard when someone hits us. We follow the way of Jesus, to turn the other cheek, to love our enemies, to forgive sinners. We give to others, not what they have given to us, but rather what God has given to us. It's a change of perspective that allows us to forgive when forgiveness is hard. We don't rely on our own strength or even our own merciful hearts. We look to God and remember the cross, the cost of his forgiveness. We cry out in gratitude for his grace and remember that we asked for mercy and mercy was given. We live together as recipients of God's amazing love and together do our best to offer that same love to each other and the world. That is who we are and that is our mission. Amen.

MUSIC MINISTRY: A NEW SEASON BEGINS!

First Lutheran Choir is open to everyone – no audition is required, you don't have to sing for all three services, and childcare is available during rehearsals. On Thursday, September 17, we'll begin at 6 p.m. with a potluck dinner in the Peel House, then rehearse in the choir room from 7 to 8:30 p.m. After the first week, rehearsals continue, 7 – 8:30 p.m., each Thursday. Join us! For more information, contact Carrie Strand at **carries@flccs.net.**

Handbell Opportunities

Carillon Ringers is our handbell ensemble for advanced ringers. The first rehearsal of the season will be from 6 to 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, September 16, in the handbell room.

Joy Ringers is our handbell ensemble for intermediate ringers. The first rehearsal of the season will be from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. Thursday, September 17, in the handbell room.

New ringers, please contact Deacon Joan Kuehn for more information at **jlynnkuehn@gmail.com.**

ANGEL TREE FOR YOU

There are traditions in our family where this is the time of year to begin making Christmas presents. It is a time-honored tradition of making that special gift for someone you love. The time invested in the gift is part of the gift and the receiver loves the gift all the more. We don't do enough of that as we get caught up in the festivities and travel that makes us who we are. I would like to encourage you to give a gift where your time and Christian love are the gift. Where can you do that? You can do that with Angel Tree Ministry. **We have four main needs**:

Talkers – people who love to make a phone call and talk about the children. How are you doing? What are the children doing? What would they like for Christmas?

Gift Givers – People who take the time to pick a child and find a gift for them that is fun and meaningful.

The Party Boys and Girls – The people who help someone have a good time with song and food.

The Delivery Drivers – The folks who love to drive around town and drop off the gifts to the families that could not attend our Christmas party.

The key to our success are the Talkers. They are the ones who call the caregiver, whether it is an aunt, uncle, grandparent, mom, or dad. They are the ones who reach out and invite them to participate. They are the ones who talk and find the special gift. We need four or five more people to complete our team. If you love to talk, the rest is history. Come join us. You will make five – six calls and have the opportunity to share Jesus.

You can talk to **Ken or Debra Boehm 719.352.2377** or use the church app find the Talker job under Angel Tree Ministry. Merry Christmas to you!

Sign up here (by September 30):
https://bit.ly/3Um9v1z

FALL CITY SERVE

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 3 | 9 A.M. TO NOON.

We have chosen two City Serve projects to work on together as a congregation. Our goal is to have at least 10 First Lutheran members at each service site. We will meet at First Lutheran at 8 a.m. for a continental breakfast, pick up our "Gods Work Our Hands" t-shirts and car-pool to the volunteer sites. Spots fill up fast so we will be submitting our volunteer list by September 13. Sign up on your Church app or at **https://bit.ly/4wWDpae.**

MEET YOUR BROTHER OR SISTER IN CHRIST

We've heard Pastor Travis preach about our church family and how we are to love each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. Cheryl Mahon, our Minister of Congregational Service, would like to introduce YOU to the entire congregation in her Cheryl's Corner article within the Ekklesia. She invites you to sit down with her over coffee, tea, etc. for an hour to just chat. She'll ask you a little about your memories from your youth, your insights, your beliefs, and what keeps you coming back to First Lutheran. Then when you read one of her "Meet..." articles, seek out this person and introduce yourself!

ALTAR FLOWERS

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

Order flowers here: **https://bit.ly/4nKyPYq**

CHERYL'S CORNER

MEET EMILY SHIELDS WITH MOSAIC

Emily is the Community Relations Manager at Mosaic Colorado Springs. "My sister-in-law, Janet, is intellectually disabled. She has thrived at work and learned how to cook and care for herself because of the services she receives from the SARAH Foundation in Connecticut. I have supported Mosaic ever since I learned of the services they provide members of the Colorado Springs community." "Embracing God's call, Mosaic relentlessly pursues opportunities that empower people" is the mission of Mosaic.

Both avid bike riders, Emily and I hit it off right away! Prior to coming to work at Mosaic, Emily worked with another local non-profit, "Kids on Bikes." We started our conversation sharing various bike stories even sharing our numerous scars from different adventures.

Back in 2024, Mosaic started a new Occupational Therapy program for their people in service. Working with students from Regis University, people in service are learning how to cook, clean and care for their living space, hygiene skills, etc. This enables some to live independently with supervision through Mosaic.

Emily shared the story of Mandy with me. Mandy's mother was her caregiver for her whole life but recently died quite suddenly after a cancer diagnosis. Mandy wants to live independently and has worked very hard to prove she can care for herself. Mosaic recently found her a one bedroom apartment where she can live her dream of independence with daily supervision.

Mosaic has started adding some new events to the calendar for their people in service. Emily shared photos from their "Springs Through the Decades" dance last April. What fun! Held in a hotel ballroom with food donated from Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers, the dance was a big hit. They have an event this fall with the Cheyenne Mountain Zoomobile bringing three zoo ambassadors.

While Mosaic – Colorado Springs does receive financial assistance with office expenses and payroll, ALL funds raised locally stay here to support the people in service here in Colorado Springs. **Their "Partners in Possibilities" fundraising event will be on Tuesday, October 6, from 9 – 10 a.m. at the Pinery at the Hill, 775 W Bijou St, Colorado Springs.** This breakfast event is always inspirational as we get to hear from one or two of the people in service. I invite you to attend this special event with me. Email me, **cheryl@flccs.net** if you'd like me to save a seat for you at my table!

August 31st Monthly Status Report – Inspire Faith Initiative – 1st Phase

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 9.10.26 Project Status – Yellow

- Key project deliverable dates and budget remain unchanged, subject to the following:
  - No significant changes to finalized Design Development Drawings.
  - No increases in the estimated CRP Architect Budget.
  - Currently identified interior and exterior security system locations remain as planned.

OVERALL ITIATIVE STATUS IS YELLOW	Risks	Scope	Resources	Budget	Schedule
	Y	G	G	G	Y

Funding	
Budget	$6,883,569
Funded	$6,884,389
YTD Spend	$209,899
Lifetime Spend	$223,215
Est. Spend at Completion	6,883,569

Accomplishments This Period:

- CRP and Nunn schedules unchanged; will baseline 10/29/26. Key dates are:
  - Foundation permit 12/26.
  - Construction starts 1/27.
  - Final completion 2/2028.
- All anticipated contractor bids received and being reviewed against RFP requirements. Scheduling interviews with contractors for final selection.
- Design Development drawings are substantially complete and being reviewed.
- Decorative lighting selections continue to be developed with Mark Bankson.
- Kitchen, sacristy, coffee bar, and elevations drawings largely complete, with only minor refinements anticipated.

Activities Upcoming Next Period:

- Continue review and approval of Design Documents (electrical outlets, monitor locations, kitchen equipment requirements).
- Nunn publishes next updated schedule 9/26; Baseline by 10/29/26.
- Prepare updated renderings for congregational October ministry meeting.

Top Issue / Risk Summary:

- Elevator finalization and ordering remains a top priority due to long lead time.
- Formally transferring responsibility to remove elevator from TKE to Morningstar.
- Unresolved gap of $25,000 for stained glass for steeple.

Key Milestones (from NUNN Construction Schedule 7.23.26)

	Start	End	Original Baseline	Current Baseline	Forecast/ Actual
Authorization					
Owner Contractor Agreement Executed	3/16/26	4/17/26	4/17/26	4/17/26	4/10/26
Proof of Owner Financing	4/13/26	4/24/26	4/24/26	4/24/26	4/24/26
Amendment1 - BP1	9/30/26	10/6/26	9/22/26	10/6/26	4/24/26
Amendment 2 - fGMP	11/30/26	12/4/26	11/18/26	12/4/26	10/6/26
Building Addition					
Foundation BP in Hand	10/8/26	10/8/26	10/10/26	10/8/26	10/8/26
Notice to Proceed	10/8/26	10/8/26	10/22/26	10/8/26	10/8/26
Mobilization complete	1/5/27	1/5/27	10/25/26	1/5/27	1/5/27
Notice to proceed - fGMP	10/14/26	10/14/26	11/10/26	10/14/26	10/14/26
Full Building permit in Hand	12/7/26	12/7/26	11/19/26	12/7/26	12/7/26
Substructure Complete	3/3/27	3/3/27	12/9/26	3/3/27	3/3/27
Superstructure Complete	3/3/27	3/3/27	2/11/27	3/3/27	3/3/27
Building Dry-In Complete	6/18/27	6/18/27	3/4/27	6/18/27	6/18/27
Interior Finishes Complete	10/12/27	10/12/27	5/11/27	10/12/27	10/12/27
Site work complete	10/7/27	10/7/27	5/17/27	10/7/27	10/7/27
Substantial completeion	10/15/27	10/15/27	5/17/27	10/15/27	10/15/27
Final completion	11/10/27	11/10/27	6/9/27	11/10/27	11/10/27
Building Renovation					
Start	10/15/27	10/15/27	6/15/27	10/15/27	10/15/27
Substantial completion	2/3/28	2/3/28	9/27/27	2/3/28	2/3/28
Final completion	2/23/28	2/23/28	10/18/27	2/23/28	2/23/28

HIGHLIGHT YOUR SMALL GROUP AT THIS YEAR'S MINISTRY GATHERINGS

We will have tables set up around the perimeter of the Gathering Place at our 2026 Ministry Gatherings to highlight our various small, social, study, and support groups. We have purchased foam board for you to create a display board for your group. You can pick up this foam board at the Welcome Center. Please also create a sign-up sheet for people interested in joining your group. You are welcome to have a member or two present to answer questions, but this is not required. **Ministry Gatherings will be held at the following times:**

Sunday, October 4 at 1 p.m.
Tuesday, October 6 at 10 a.m.
Tuesday, October 6 at 7 p.m. (**Zoom Only**)
Sunday, October 11 at 1 p.m.
Please contact Cheryl for more information.

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/41Rh4ff**

UPCOMING SCHEDULE	
October 12 (Monday)	Streetcar 520 520 South Tejon Street
October 27	Outback 2825 Geyser Drive
November 10	Marigold's Cafe and Bakery 4605 Centennial Blvd
November 24	Mexico Real 1899 S Nevada Avenue

SINGLES – DINING OUT WITH FIRST LUTHERAN

This is a new small group just for singles! Carrie Lyne Mathiesen has graciously agreed to lead the group on a trial basis. We are starting with one dinner a month to see what kind of interest we get. We will make reservations for 7 p.m. on a given Thursday each month. No partner? Come and join us for food, fellowship and a chance to meet new friends! **October 15 - White Pie Pizzeria, 330 South Nevada Avenue**
Sign up here: **https://bit.ly/4vgSaEP** no later than October 7!
RESERVATIONS ARE MADE ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE.
CANCELLATIONS AFTER THAT DATE ARE DISCOURAGED.

INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOLS AND THE LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 27
PEEL HOUSE PARLOR | 9:15 A.M.

Please join us as we invite the Holy Spirit to guide us in courageous truth-seeking and truth-telling regarding the difficult truths of how our government and Christian Churches harmed Tribal Nations through policies and practices that included Indian boarding schools. The ELCA is committed to investigating our past involvement and walking a path of healing for all involved. Come and learn more about what the ELCA has already done as part of the Truth and Healing Movement and what opportunities and challenges await as this initiative continues to move towards healing and reconciliation.

THE GREAT BOOK GIVEAWAY

First Lutheran is giving away its library, well most of it, anyway. All books will be put on tables in the Gathering Place beginning this Sunday, and are free to whomever wants them. We will keep them out for three weeks and then on September 21st will either donate or recycle any that have not been taken. Times have changed. The library just isn't used often enough to justify its maintenance, but we want to give the books a shot at a being useful to someone. Many of the books are from former pastors throughout the years and were important to their education.
-Pastor Travis

THE EMMAUS WAY

"If God's life is communion and Christ has brought us into that communion, then I can begin somewhere other than fear. I can learn to live from a love that was there before I knew how to receive it."

–Barton Breen

We talked last time about what God existing in Trinity means for salvation, and that an excellent way to define salvation is as "participation in the life of God." I'd like to look this week at how that participation – that being embraced into and living from God's ever-flowing love, and our belief about it – can affect our emotional well-being.

We've already looked a bit at how believing the Trinity is divided (i.e., angry Father; compassionate Son; pressuring Spirit) can negatively affect our relationship with God. It's true that Scripture tells us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge (Psalms and Proverbs), but if Jesus is the fullest revelation of who the Father is (John 14:9), then cowering in fear before a punishing deity cannot be what that means. That kind of fear does not lead to a free, healthy and joyful relationship; rather, it leads to striving and performance, which stand opposed to grace. Have you investigated what the theological idea of "the fear of God" has communicated to you? Might there be some unhealthy fear that contributes to performance or that undermines God's love? It's important to know because our theology shapes our prayer and how we see ourselves in God.

Please consider trying this imaginative exercise this week, even if you don't carry an unhealthy fear of God:

Do your best to creatively "picture" the Trinity: perhaps an enlivened Rublev icon, or a swirling Celtic Trinity knot, or even a glowing triangle – something that indicates a living entity with three identifiable points. However you picture the flow happening between the Persons, identify it as love: love is who God always is, and Father, Son, and Spirit live eternally in one communion of love. Now, imagine yourself being carried by Jesus right into the middle of that flow of love, and let it flow into you completely. Rest there for a moment in communion with God.

Friends, the truth is that, in Christ and by the Spirit, that very place is where we already exist: we already are fully drawn into the life of God, no striving or performance required. By the incarnation of the Son and the indwelling of the Spirit, God gives us himself. Whether you know it or not, you are already participating in the life of God. But it's so healing to know it. Let's walk in the life of God together.

LORI DUNCAN, MINISTER OF SPIRITUAL CARE

SEPTEMBER OWLS
NEW CSFD FIRE STATION #24 TOUR

TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 22

Leave First Lutheran: 9:15 a.m. Tour time: 10 a.m.
Cost: FREE
Lunch: Selection of restaurants in that area – pay on your own

Colorado Springs has 25 fire stations, and we have the opportunity to visit the newest station, Station #24. Come see how fire fighters live (a third of their lives) when they are at work and what type of equipment they use. You might even have the chance to try on a set of turnouts! They will also give us tips on how we can stay safe at home. After the tour, we will fellowship and eat at surrounding area restaurants. **Sign up deadline: Thursday, September 17 – LIMIT 30 GUESTS** . Please sign up by using the following link: **https://bit.ly/4x58LeW** or by calling the church at ***719.632.8836.***

WAYFARERS

THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 17| 11:30 A.M.

Edelweiss Restaurant, 34 E. Ramona Avenue

Please contact Erna Haring if you plan to attend. ***719.210.4467, wayneerna@msn.com***

THRIVENT ACTION TEAM GRANTS

THRIVENT SUPPORTS HALLOWEEN

Thrivent members are eligible for two $250 grants per year. Contact Cheryl at ***719.447.6064*** or **cheryl@flccs.net** to select a unique focus for your grant application, then visit **https://www.thrivent.com.** Under the *Generosity* tab select *Thrivent Action Teams.*

Join us as we open our doors!

Saturday, October 31
5:30 – 8 p.m.

Halloween at First Lutheran

We're getting ready for one of our traditions – welcoming hundreds of trick-or-treaters from our congregation, neighborhood and beyond. First Lutheran is known as a must-stop spot, and we always run out of candy… so this year, we're stocking up early.

We're collecting:
Lots of candy for trick-or-treaters of all ages
Shelf-stable cider (no refrigeration needed)
S'mores supplies for the fire pit - a huge hit last year!

You'll find donation tubs in the Gathering Place.

See above for information on Thrivent Action Team Grants.

Watch for info on signing up to help and decorate soon!

GRIEF GROUP

SUNDAY | OCTOBER 4 | 11 A.M. | BILLIARDS ROOM

" The beautiful souls of the world are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths." – Elizabeth Kubler-Ross

Grief is a reality we share with all our brothers and sisters in Christ. When our loved ones die, we wonder "Is this normal?", "Does anyone else feel this way?" "Am I going crazy?" These are all normal questions. It isn't always easy to endure the loss of a loved one. But it was never meant to be done in isolation. We are offering a regularly scheduled bereavement support group with Michaela's husband, Rev. Will Eskew, on the first and third Sundays of every month. Once a quarter we will offer grief education to understand more about what this grief is. Please feel free to stop by for refreshments of the body and of the soul as we talk about what matters to us in our losses. Our first meeting will begin on Sunday, October 4th as Will launches this program with a presentation about what is grief. The following weeks (10/18, 11/1, 11/15, etc.) will be focused purely on grief support group sharing. We offer this as we are all called to care for each other in Christ and share the burden of grief with each other. May our God of hope, peace, and love be with you.

Blessings,
Will

BIOGRAPHY: The Reverend William Eskew is a Colorado Springs native! He grew up in Rockrimmon loving and graduated from Colorado Springs Christian High School. He went off to Coe College in Iowa for a nursing degree. But God had other plans for Will, and He called him to seek Religious and Theological Studies in college. With this new passion, he traveled out to New JerseyJ and completed his Masters of Divinity at Princeton Theological Seminary. There he met the love of his life, they were married in Denver, and started their life together in the San Francisco Bay Area. Will started his career as a chaplain by participating in a two – year hospital chaplain residency program (for reference, think of it like a doctor residency only for spiritual care). Will was ordained in the PCUSA church as he began his call to work in hospice. Will has been working in hospice for the past 10 years as a board certified chaplain. In hospice he has had many different roles, and at the center of it all he is devoted to the spiritual care and grief care to all. He has counseled many on their deathbed and many after their loved one has died. He has organized educational grief seminars, grief support groups, and facilitated memorial and funeral events.

As a true Coloradoan, Will enjoys being active outdoors but recently finds himself actively chasing his kids around: Lincoln (8), Lilah (6), and Livie (2). And he adores spending time with his wife, The Reverend Michaela Eskew, as they raise a family and have deep conversations about theology and living the Christian life. He loves to spend time with family as much as he can, but is called away at times to work on his doctorate studies bridging spiritual care and bereavement as a Doctor of Ministry student at Iliff School of Theology. Will is honored and grateful to be allowed to serve First Lutheran Church of Colorado Springs in new ways.

In the Life of the Church …

Birthdays

September 22
Barbara Dixon
Erin VanBuskirk

September 23
Evie Curtner
Rick Miller
Cathy Mosco

September 25
Hannah Frei
Amanda Goff
Susan Harmon
Peter Hauer
Jeanne Hyder
Elisa Wicks

September 26
Jim Baker
Jolene Bedford
Les Nelson

September 27
Ian Armijo
Warren Bent
Marlene Bigelow
Esther Rose Fox
Arlene Niles
Madisyn VanBuskirk

Anniversaries

September 21
Brian and Fran Freese *3 years*

September 22
Carlos and Lisa Navarro *14 years*

September 23
Ken and Debra Boehm *54 years*

September 24
John and Connie Oakley *38 years*

September 26
Kristin and Adam Duncan *17 years*

Prayer Requests

Lannette Abbey
Joan Abrahamsen
Beth Allen
Fred Bachmeier
Elmer Bauman
Tana Beall
Joan Boehm
Phil Brace
Linda Branesky
Shari Brian
Brittany
Bill & Barbara Brown
Bryon
Karl & Pam Cartwright
Tanya Charbonneau
John & Debbie Chlebus
Nell Clowder
Linda Collier
Alan Flinn
Donna Flores
Corinne Gibson
Pam Goodhue
Nola Gosch
The Rob Haenze Family
Bob Haines
Hannah
Private Steven Harris
Ty Hecht
Doug Hering
Ginger Hipszky
Jake Hodnett
Melitta Hoffpauir
Randy Hollar
Bill & Doreen Hulka
Jeff Ipson
Sarah Iskra
Alan Jacobsen
Josh Jones
Shirley Jones
Ann Junk
Jonas Kagarise
Kyong Kelley
Tami Kephart
Rob Kester
Gaye Lynn Kielcheski
Cindy Koger
Marilyn Knutson
Sharon Lakey
Preston Lauscher
Jesse Lawrence & Family
The Leinweber-Cosico Family
Timothy Lillich
Dayne Lindquist
Bill Lipscomb
Irene Lopez
The Korrina Lopez Family
Jim Matthews
Nick McKibben & Family
Hugh McNeely
Megan
Michele
Brandon Miller & Family
Marilyn Miller
Mitch & Linda
Paul Moe
Michael Morarie
Wendy Moreland & Family
Tricia Muehlbauer
Wilma Nicolaisen
Robert Nielson
Sam Norton
Jim O'Hagan
Vic Olson
Owen & Family
Jack & Judy Peterson
Darlene Radke
Jeff Rapp
Randy Schacht
Carol Schlater
Bonnie Sielkens
Becky Stabler
Cindy Stanley
Matthew Stark
Becky Sternal
Barbara Swan
Michael Taylor
Aaron & Cindi Thorson
Bob VanDuyn
Karen Henderson-VanDuyn
Doni Vest
Gudrun Vest
Vickie Voth
Christine Welch
Greg & Carolyn Young
Beth Zautke
Julie Frank Zeeb
Charles Zerbe

Please keep these members – and family and friends – of First Lutheran in your prayers this week. If you are requesting to have a name added to the prayer list, please consult with that person prior to making your request. Prayer requests may be submitted by using a Connection Card (in church) or by emailing **teri@flccs.net.**

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
WEDNESDAY SMALL GROUPS
6:30 - 7:30 P.M.

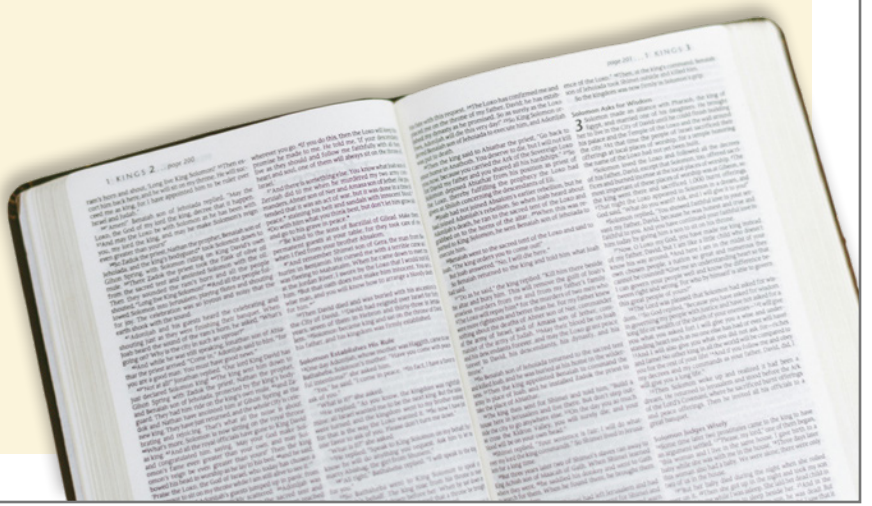
ONLINE WORSHIP
STREAMED LIVE AT 9:30 A.M AND 10:15 A.M.(CONTEMPORARY)
Tune in on First Lutheran's YouTube channel, on the church website, or in the church app.

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
Jonah 3: 10 – 4:11
Philippians 1: 21 – 30
Matthew 20: 1 – 16

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1515 N. CASCADE AVE.
COLORADO SPRINGS,
COLORADO 80907
719.632.8836
FLCCS.NET