First
Lutheran
Church
ekklesia
09.30.26

FROM THE PASTOR

PASTOR CARRIE SHARED with me the following last week; "After sixteen years of faithful ministry among you, I write with a heart full of gratitude, love and no small amount of emotion to announce my resignation as pastor of First Lutheran, effective October 30, 2026, with my last Sunday being October 18."

Her full letter to the congregation is included in this edition of the Ekklesia and was sent via email to the congregation. We are so grateful for her 16 years of service to First Lutheran. This was her first call and we watched her serve in many different ways in many different seasons. She served our youth and family ministries; she served with gifts of hospitality and with gifts of pastoral care. Many of you will remember the time she walked you through difficult seasons of life as you grieved the loss of loved ones. I'm grateful for the work she did to help me when I came to serve, and I know she was steadfast during the interim.

There will be time to figure out what we do next and we will be prayerful and deliberate to choose what is best for the long term ministry of First Lutheran. I'll work with the Bishop and Council to figure out how to cover the ministry during that interim. But those are tasks for later. Today's task is to celebrate the ministry of Pastor Carrie, to thank her for all the ways she blessed us and to say goodbye well. To that end please take the time to share with Pastor Carrie what her ministry has meant to you. Send her a letter, take her out to coffee, write an email. Saying goodbye is difficult but it is so, so important. Please do not miss this moment.

Pastor Carrie will preach her final sermon on October 18, and we will hold a special celebration for her that afternoon. Please plan to attend. I will give you more details as that time approaches.

Transitions are difficult and bumpy. We will get through this together and trust that God will see us to the next season. The next season will be different and good in it's own right and the God who has seen First Lutheran through many pastors and years will continue to guide this ministry forward. While we are making that transition, we will grieve and remember and give thanks to God for all he has provided through Pastor Carrie for the past 16 years.

Join me in praying for Pastor Carrie as she moves into a new season of life. We pray that she will rest and be filled with peace and wisdom. We pray she knows our love for her and continues to use her gifts to be part of God's great work in this world. Please pray for the staff, too, as we shift around and make sure this ministry is covered. Thank you for your grace and support in the days ahead. God is with us.

PASTOR TRAVIS NORTON, SENIOR PASTOR

Sunday's Message

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

MATTHEW 21:23-32

PASTOR TRAVIS NORTON

September 30, 2026
To: The Congregation of First Lutheran Church

To my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

"I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the tender affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God."

– Philippians 1: 3–11

I write to you today to express my deep love and gratitude for all the ways that you have supported me and my family through 16 years and now into this next stage of life that I'm entering. These last several months have provided me, along with my family, and accompanied by the Holy Spirit, time to explore what the next stage of our lives together will look like. You were generous in providing me with a three-month sabbatical, and in that time I experienced far more life than I expected and what that would mean for the future.

Upon my return to First Lutheran I was excited to begin part-time ministry, providing pastoral care and deep, caring conversations and counseling with many of our members. It has been incredibly life-giving in the past two months and I have enjoyed this new part-time position. But there have also been pieces of my call to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament that I have missed that had been determined not feasible given a part-time schedule. What I have learned in this is that the fullness of my call in ministry is still becoming and changing and transitioning, just as is the life of First Lutheran

This decision is not a rejection of the ministry we have shared. Quite the opposite. I leave with deep appreciation for these sixteen years and for the many people who have helped shape me as a pastor and as a person. I want to leave being honest, authentic, and truthful, that we share in mutual love of the church even while we are led in different directions.

To that end, I will be taking time to explore what this next phase of life will bring to me and my family and the God who I serve faithfully. I will be resigning my call at First Lutheran effective October 30. My last Sunday with you will be October 18. I look forward to spending the next few weeks with you continuing my ministry in pastoral care, worship leadership, and in saying goodbye.

I have not accepted another call to another congregation. I will be taking time to rest, to discern what ministry will look like for me in the future, to build relationships, to spend fully dedicated time with my family, and to enjoy the stage of life that I am in. I have had many caring conversations with our Bishop, Meghan, regarding this next step for me and taking time away to fully renew, and reset in the midst of a life that is bringing me great joy. I know that you will be well taken care of by our Office of the Bishop, by the staff at First Lutheran and by each other in the caring community that you have developed over years

and years of ministry together.

Again, I have deep gratitude and love for First Lutheran. I am excited to see the ways that you will grow in the years to come, that you will impact the community as we always have, and that you will continue to serve God in ways that provide blessings to those who didn't even see them coming. Thank you for your love, your grace, your understanding.

With a deep love,
Pastor Carrie

SUNDAY MESSAGE

WHAT DO YOU THINK? Would Jesus be on TikTok? Or Snap, or Instagram, or Facebook? Can you imagine Jesus posting on YouTube or commenting on your social media? Would Jesus be in that space? I am confident that the answer is yes, and I'll tell you why in a minute. But as a church, we've been asking ourselves what our role should be on TikTok and the other social media spaces. We received a grant to reach out to Millennials and Gen Z, those generations who are now aged 14-44. And the grant is paying for coaching to use social media because that's where many of these people are. As part of the coaching, we've been asking ourselves what we hope to accomplish on the platforms. And I've had to get on the TikTok bandwagon to look around that space and learn who is on there and what they are doing.

I've been a Facebook guy since my Millennial wife introduced me to it while dating 20 years ago. She's moved on not from me! but to other platforms. I've been way behind and I'm trying to catch up so we can figure out how to use these tools appropriately for the sake of our mission to share the good news of Jesus. I'll tell you though, nothing makes me feel older than trying to learn a new social media platform. What I've noticed though is nothing is new, not really. Each platform has influencers or people who are trying to be influencers. If you have children, you know that most of them dream of being a social media influencer one day which can make you a lot of money if you're successful. You may have heard of Mr. Beast, the third most followed person on Tik Tok, whose real name is Jimmy Donaldson. He's 28 years old and worth two billion dollars all because of his social media influence. Social media is a competition for influence, people vying for your attention and trust. It is a place where people go to share their ideas, where they argue with each other over perspectives about everything. My algorithm shows me religious figures mostly, Episcopalian priests for some reason making their case on these platforms for their view of God and God's take on all that's going on in the world. It's hard to know who to trust and there's a lot of garbage to sort through, a lot of fluff and advertisement.

But everyone is vying to have authority in your life, to convince you of their perspective, to get you to follow them. That's why I think Jesus would have been on TikTok. It's why he went to temple and taught in that public space. It's why he competed with the Pharisees over perspectives on God and truth. Think of the question the Pharisees come to Jesus within our gospel lesson from Matthew. They, too, are at the temple vying for attention and influence. The temple steps were the TikTok of the first century in Jerusalem. It's where competing groups came to teach the crowds, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the scribes, and rabbis like Jesus. Jesus is new to the scene; he comes in the wake of John the Baptist and the movement of those preparing for the Messiah. Jesus comes with some popularity; his influence has grown because of the miracles he performed. When he shows up in the temple, people are talking about his healings and exorcisms and how his teaching is so different from all the rest. The Pharisees had been on the rise with their emphasis on strict obedience to the Bible's commandments and focus on moral and ritual purity. So, they see Jesus as a threat to their influence and use the temple steps as the place to take him on and hopefully, take him down.

Their question is one we all have when we enter these social spaces of competing influencers. They ask Jesus "By what authority do you do these things?" They want him to demonstrate why he should be trusted. Where does his expertise come from, why

should anyone listen to him? Here's what you have to keep in mind when you're reading these encounters between Jesus and the Pharisees; there is a third character involved. Always on the sidelines is the true audience. The crowds are there listening in, making decisions about who to trust. Just like social media there are the people talking and posting, and there are a lot more people just watching and listening. The Pharisees aren't just talking to Jesus; they are talking to the crowds. And Jesus isn't talking just to the Pharisees, he's also talking to the crowds. When they ask about authority they are hoping to discredit Jesus in front of the onlookers. But Jesus is just as clever as they are, and he turns the question against them. He appeals to John the Baptist, a favorite of the crowds. He asks the Pharisees to declare publicly what they think of John the Baptist. Was his baptism from heaven or of human origin? Jesus puts the Pharisees in a tough spot because many in the crowd had gone out to John and been baptized by him. They had repented of their sins and were now on the lookout for the Messiah. The Pharisees know this and so rather than answer Jesus truthfully with their opinion on John, they equivocate saying, "We don't know."

Jesus keeps going, telling a parable about two sons. Remember he's talking not to the Pharisees but to the crowds who are overhearing all of this. The father commanded the oldest son to go work in the vineyard, and he refused but later changed his mind and went. The father commanded the second son to do the same and the son said he would go but never actually did. Jesus asks the Pharisees which one of them had done the will of the Father. They all agree as that it's the first one, who even though he said he wouldn't do it changed his mind and did it. Do you see what Jesus has done by telling this story? This whole question that started things asking Jesus to declare by what authority he is doing things is just a smokescreen. Talk is cheap; people can say all sorts of things on the temple steps or online. People can make all sorts of claims to be experts. People can claim to be from God and have the right interpretation but none of that matters. What matters is what is behind the words; what matters is changed minds; what matters is actually doing the thing that God wants.

If you want to know what people really believe don't listen to what they say, watch what they do. Look behind the scenes at their bank accounts, at their calendars, and find out what they really believe. That goes for us, too. Are we like the Pharisees who make all sorts of claims about what we believe but fail to actually live out those beliefs? Jesus confronts the Pharisees with their failure to do the will of the Father. He says they are like the second son who said all the right things but when it actually came down to it didn't do what the Father wanted. God sent John the Baptist with the authority of heaven to tell them to get ready for the Messiah but they liked their positions of influence more than they liked the truth. They weren't willing to change their minds, to be challenged and humbled. They weren't ready to repent and believe in Jesus. But there were some in that crowd in the temple who were ready. There were those listening in who would never have been allowed beyond the temple steps by the guardians and gatekeepers of religion. But when God's word showed up they repented of their sins and believed in Jesus. They were willing to be changed, to change their minds, to change their behavior.

That's who this word is for today, the people who want to change. The people who hear it as good news, the people that can change, that God is ready to receive those who turn around, tax collectors and prostitutes who were a favorite target of the Pharisees and the religious. They were in the crowds that day hanging on Jesus' every word. How do you imagine they felt when Jesus said that they were entering the Kingdom of God ahead of the Pharisees? That this man of God going toe to toe with the religious elite named them as welcomed, as righteous, as faithful. Not because they said the right things or had any influence over anyone. Not because people listened to them or tried to imitate their righteousness. But because when God showed up and called them to repent and believe they listened, they changed, they believed. That is the will of the Father. *go to p. 8*

Our Council Nominees ...

Andres Bocek: My wife Brenda and I joined First Lutheran in February 2023. I am grateful for the opportunity to grow in faith and serve our congregation through the Inspire Faith project team, the Men's Fellowship and Study Group, and the Nature Photography Group. As Chair of the Southern Colorado SCORE chapter, I support local entrepreneurs in developing and realizing their ambitions. I hold a Bachelor's and MBA degree, and bring 35 years of leadership and management experience. If elected to Church Council, I will seek to serve with thoughtful stewardship, open communications, and a commitment to keeping the mission of First Lutheran at the center of our decisions.

Bruce Carlson: I grew up in Peoria, Illinois, received a Bachelor of Science degree from Colorado State, and completed dental school at the University of Illinois in Chicago. I graduated in 1971, entered the Navy, and served numerous duty assignments. After retiring from military service, our family moved to Colorado Springs where I worked at Fort Carson as a civilian dentist for 17 years. My wife Ann and I joined First Lutheran in 1997. I look forward to seeing the implementation of exciting and orderly changes ahead. I would greatly appreciate your consideration for the opportunity to serve as a Council member.

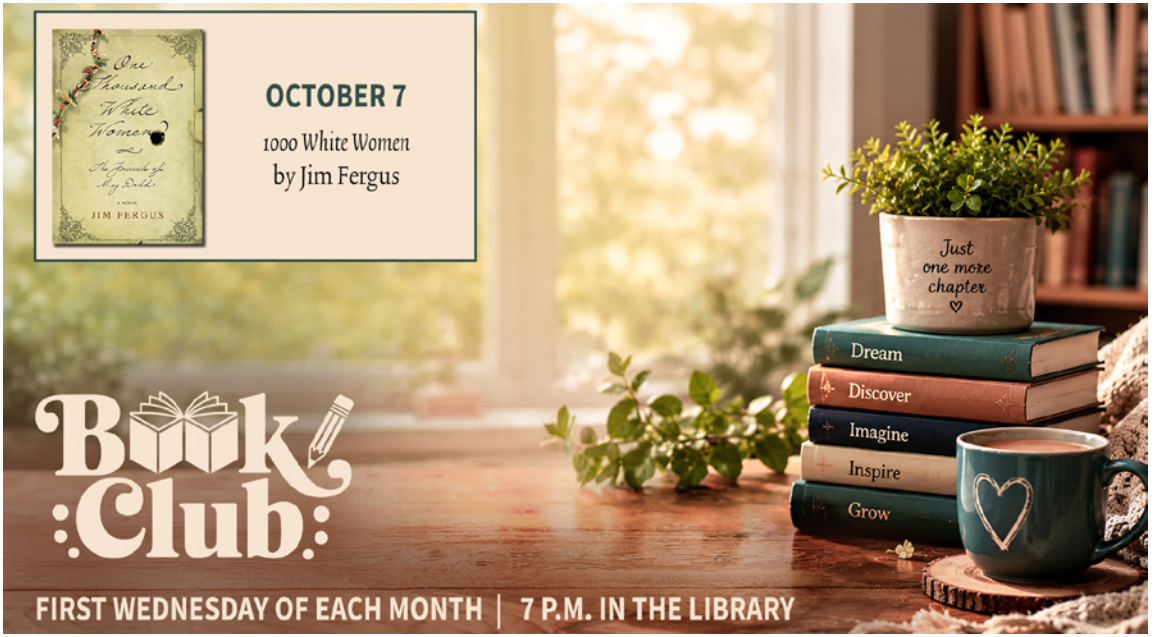
Gail Friedly: I am an Oregonian, moving from Pendleton to the Springs in 2019 to be near family. God has been remodeling and blessing me beyond measure since then. I live with my cat Maverick in Stratmoor Hills. I loved learning, primarily about children and families, and that took me through a PhD in Human Services. Living in small town America, I did an array of other things as well.
I am a believer whose greatest joy at First Lutheran comes from involvement with the Piecemakers and as a communion assistant. My biggest concern for First Lutheran is communication - between staff, between staff and lay, between age groups, between contemporary and traditional worshippers. Communication.

Joey Goode: I was baptized and grew up here at First Lutheran, and I'm excited to now be considered for the Church Council. My wife, Maggie, and our two children, Kellen (5) and Eloise (3), have made First Lutheran our church home since we moved back to Colorado Springs three years ago, after ten years in the Denver area (with a two-year stint living in Guadalajara, Mexico). I work as a civil engineer at my family's engineering consulting firm, and I hope to bring that practical, business-minded perspective to Council, along with the voice of a younger generation in our congregation. I'm eager for the opportunity to be more involved and to give back to a church that has meant so much to my family..

… for the Upcoming Election

Kathryn Palski: I have been a member of First Lutheran since 2022, however I have always had a strong faith life, growing up Catholic and joining the Episcopal church in 1988. My husband Mike and I raised four children in the Episcopal church and they were both very active members. I was elected to the Vestry (voluntary leadership team) of Christ Church Philadelphia for several years. At First Lutheran, Kathryn currently enjoys volunteering as an Acolyte. Kathyrn has been working as the CEO of Palski & Associates, Inc, a small engineering firm in Colorado Springs since 2014 and is looking forward to retirement from that position. She is looking forward to serving, if selected.

Julie Wick: I am a chef by profession, and I have always enjoyed serving others – both through my work and in my community. Within our church, I teach Sunday School and help with the high school youth. One of my greatest joys is being "Aunt Julie" to so many of the kids and watching them learn and grow. I also volunteer as a coach for Girls on the Run, where I have the opportunity to encourage, support, and empower young people. I value faith, service, and building meaningful relationships within our church family. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and look forward to helping our church continue to grow, thrive, and be a welcoming place for everyone.



Talk is cheap, faith is what faith does. God welcomes those who are ready to change.

Who are we in this story listening to Jesus on the temple steps? Are we the Pharisees or the prostitutes? The teachers of religion or the tax collectors? Pharisaism is alive and well today. It is religion focused on purity and obedience as a way to measure yourself against others. It is religion of certainty that claims to know the truth but never is open to being changed or influenced or redirected. Pharisaism is the noisy gong of religion without love, without mercy. It is the judgmentalism that is a cancer always threatening to destroy the heart of religion and if we can't see ourselves in the prostitutes and tax collectors then we are likely the Pharisees in this story.

Today we are invited to see ourselves as sinners who have been invited to repentance by a God who extends mercy that we don't deserve. We don't come to God with a list of all the reasons we deserve heaven. We don't come with resumes naming our obedience to commands or religious zeal. We come as those who recognize our failure and our need for forgiveness. We come as those who believe God when he says we can be changed, that the son who first said no but then changed his mind was accepted. We come and find to our surprise that our names are written in the book of life, and the doors are open to us. When we come like prostitutes and tax collectors then we are unimpressed with the Pharisees of this world. Our attention isn't on those who garner influence and authority. We stop chasing that and start seeing the invisible ones who are in the crowds listening in, wondering if anyone would ever see them, wondering if anyone would let them in. We are the sinners whom God has seen, whom God has welcomed in. And we are the church looking for the next sinner who wants to come home. The Pharisees believed they had it all figured out and didn't need to change. We come to Jesus believing that he loves us and asking him to change us again until we love others the way he loves us.

– Pastor Travis

BECOME A PEEL HOUSE CANDY JAR SPONSOR!

The Peel House's six candy jars have been a beloved tradition since we opened, bringing smiles to visitors, children, and members.
Help us keep this sweet tradition alive by sponsoring a jar! Sponsorships can be short-term or long-term, and jars may be labeled with your name or in remembrance of someone special.
Interested in becoming a sponsor?
Contact Pamela Haines at pamela@flccs.net.

OCTOBER OWLS
NEW LEONARDO DA VINCI MUSEUM

310 CENTRA MAIN STREET, PUEBLO
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21
LEAVE FLC: 8:30 A.M. TOUR TIME: 10 A.M.
COST: $17.00 (DUE AT SIGNUP) TICKET AND PRIVATE TOUR
LUNCH: BRUES ALEHOUSE BREWING COMPANY – PAY ON YOUR OWN

Join the OWLS for a trip to Pueblo to the new Leonardo da Vinci Museum. Engage directly with working models inspired by Leonardo's original designs and discover how imagination, observation and engineering shaped his world-changing ideas. Explore the only complete physical Lenardo da Vinci library in North America, featuring thousands of pages from his surviving notebooks, codices, and manuscripts. **Sign Up Deadline: Tuesday, October 13. Sign up here: https://bit.ly/4xIyfin**

DECEMBER OWLS
FLYING W RANCH – CHRISTMAS AT THE RANCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13
MEET AT THE CHURCH AT 1:45 P.M., DEPART 2 P.M. (3 P.M. SHOW)
COST: $75 (DUE AT SIGNUP)

The OWLs will celebrate a Cowboy Christmas Jubilee at the Flying W Ranch! A western Chuckwagon spread of smoked meats with all the trimmings is followed by a western stage show performed by the world-renowned Flying W Wranglers, the second longest-running western performance band in the world (**flyingw.com**) We will enjoy a festival of twinkling white lights and well-lit rock formations to celebrate the Christmas season. Happy Trails, Y'all!! **Deadline for Sign Ups: Monday, October 26. Sign up here: https://bit.ly/4j2fOSf**

DO YOU HAVE INTEREST IN A WOMEN'S WEEKDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY?

Several women have indicated interest in an evening Bible study group. We would be happy to arrange materials for such a group but would need a volunteer to facilitate. If you are interested in participating in a Women's Bible Study Group, please email **cheryl@flccs.net** and indicate which weekday evenings you would be available and whether you would be needing childcare.

PIANISTS NEEDED FOR WORSHIP AT THE GARDENS

On the First and Third Sunday each month, volunteers bring a little bit of First Lutheran Church to The Gardens Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation at 10:10 a.m. Three traditional hymns are sung during this short service for residents of The Gardens. If enjoy playing the piano and would be interested in volunteering 1-3 times a quarter, please contact **cheryl@flccs.net**

MOSAIC "PARTNERS IN POSSIBILITIES" EVENT

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 | 9 - 10 A.M.

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 West Bijou Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80905. 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 **cheryl@flccs.net** if you'd like me to save a seat for you at my table!

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 4375 Sinton Road

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.

FOR THE LOVE OF MUSIC

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 3 | 7 P.M.
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

First Lutheran has enjoyed a long partnership with Kevin McChesney through his leadership of the Pikes Peak Ringers, a professional handbell ensemble. But did you know that he is a classical guitarist? He has partnered with flutist Dawn Grapes and percussionist Rebecca Gilmore and will be presenting a beautiful evening of chamber music in our Sanctuary. The concert is free, and a freewill offering will be received.

INGATHERING OF FOOD FOR CARE AND SHARE DURING OCTOBER

Please bring all food donations to the mural of the Feeding of the Five Thousand in between the west glass doors to the Gathering Place. Most needed food items are: canned food, canned vegetables, soup, canned meat or tuna, cereal, peanut butter, oatmeal, prepackaged snacks, boxed dinners.

MEET YOUR BROTHER OR SISTER IN CHRIST

Schedule a conversation over coffee with Cheryl using this link: **https://bit.ly/4xGDUW8**

INTERESTED IN HELPING SAND CREEK TEACHERS?

There are several Sand Creek teachers who would like volunteers for their classroom.Please contact Betsy Pimentel at **bjpimentel@aol.com** for more information.

THE EMMAUS WAY

"The greatest question in all of human life is summed up when we ask, 'What would Jesus do?' if, as we ask it, we also try to answer it from a growth in knowledge of Jesus himself."

–Charles M. Sheldon (1896)

I'm sure you've heard the question, "What Would Jesus Do?" Perhaps you're aware that it originated in Charles M. Sheldon's 1896 book, *In His Steps*. You're likely familiar with it from the phenomenon in the 1990s that started after one youth group leader in Michigan came up with WWJD as a helpful reminder for her kids. Those four letters ended up on bracelets that swept the globe. Many good things come from asking that question. Keep asking it. I'd like to offer two thoughts to go along with it, too.

I've found that sometimes, when people ask WWJD, they inadvertently morph the question into, "What does my interpretation of the New Testament tell me to do?", which moves the focus of the question from Jesus as the center. It's good for us to remember that, as Lutherans, we use Jesus himself as the lens through which we interpret all Scripture. In other words, if our answer to WWJD sounds more like the answer to "What Would Paul in Ephesus Do?", it's probably a good idea to recenter the person of Jesus and ask again.

The other thing I'm inviting you to think about when asking WWJD is that Jesus is already fully present within you; you don't have to approach the question as a "test" of some kind that Jesus is watching from outside of you. I think this distinction is really important, because just asking WWJD can put us in the position of first, having to figure out what Jesus would do, and second, making ourselves do it. And sometimes we just can't.

We've talked a lot here along this Emmaus Way about the truth of God's presence already fully dwelling within us. So maybe, in addition to asking WWJD, we can ask, "Jesus, how are you already responding within me to this situation?", then practice saying Yes to that. I truly believe this nuance is important, because if transformation into Christlikeness means our lives begin looking more and more like they would if Jesus were living them, this shift could be one way to help us move in that direction.

So yes, keep asking WWJD. And also remember that we don't have to conjure the right response to any situation from ourselves. Jesus is already fully present within us, already doing what's right and good and loving. Let's practice saying Yes to him within us, and walk in transformation together.

LORI DUNCAN, MINISTER OF SPIRITUAL CARE

https://bit.ly/3UZhm5v

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.*

FALL CITY SERVE

The two projects we chose to serve as a church are full, but there are many more projects to sign up for. Everyone is welcome to come to the church at 7:30 a.m. for continental breakfast and pick up a "God's Work Our Hands" t-shirt before they head off to serve.

https://serve.cosiloveyou.com/

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.

Still holding foam board for Baking and Cooking Club, Bible and a Brew, Bridge to Friendship, Busy Bag Ministry, Dining Out with FLC, Hand and Foot Card Group, May Jongg, MomCo, Seeds of Joy, and Wednesday Morning Bible Study. Please pick up at the Welcome Center Desk.

GRIEF GROUP

First and Third Sunday of Every Month
11 a.m. Peel House Billiards Room 201
Led by the Rev. Will Eskew

Starting October 4

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

FALL GENEROSITY CAMPAIGN

ROOM TO GROW

BEARING FRUIT THAT LASTS

JOHN 15:16

MINISTRY GATHERING DATES

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4
1 P.M.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6
10 A.M.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6
7 P.M. | ZOOM ONLY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11
1 P.M.

Choose the gathering that works best for you.

THE GATHERING PLACE

SCAN FOR ZOOM

In the Life of the Church ...

Birthdays

October 5
Alexis Edwards
Denny Weber

October 6
Tasha Friedell
John Kopenhafer
Linda Parobek
Maureen Tuttle

October 7
Russell Downs

October 8
Jennifer Baldwin
Kathy Friess
David Jarmuth
Maari Olson

October 9
Bert Bedford
Chris England
Tristan Fox
Colleen McCarty
Todd Mitchell
Becky Stevens
Jaydon VanBuskirk

October 10
Vickie Voth

October 11
Dale Dunson
Lisa Nelson
Cathy Stanley
Tatum Temmert
Janice Zerbe

Anniversaries

October 6
Greg and Sarah Dirks *36 years*
Jason and Kristie Scism *19 years*

October 10
Brad and Cheryl Stokes *28 years*

October 11
Charlie and Stacey Huebner *23 years*

Prayer Requests

Lannette Abbey
Joan Abrahamsen
Beth Allen
Fred Bachmeier
Elmer Bauman
Tana Beall
Joan Boehm
Carrara Boone
Phil Brace
Linda Branesky
Shari Brian
Brittany
Bill & Barbara Brown
Bryon
Karl & Pam Cartwright
Tanya Charbonneau
John & Debbie Chlebus
Nell Clowder
Linda Collier
David Dickey
Alan Flinn
Corinne Gibson
Pam Goodhue
Nola Gosch
Bob Haines
Hannah
Private Steven Harris
Ty Hecht
Doug Hering
Ginger Hipszky
Jake Hodnett
Randy Hollar
Bill & Doreen Hulka
Jeff Ipson
Sarah Iskra
Alan Jacobsen
Josh Jones
Ann Junk
Shirley Jones
Jonas Kagarise
Kyong Kelley
Tami Kephart
Rus Kester
Gaye Lynn Kielcheski
Cindy Koger
Marilyn Knutson
Sydney Kruger
Sharon Kruse
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
Michele
Brandon Miller & Family
Marilyn Miller
Paul Moe
Michael Morarie
Wendy Moreland & Family
Tricia Muehlbauer
Wilma Nicolaisen
Robert Nielson
Sam Norton
Jim O'Hagan
Owen & Family
Jack & Judy Peterson
Darlene Radke
Jeff Rapp
Randy Schacht
Carol Schlater
Bonnye Sielken
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
Lily Juemei Wang
Christine Welch
Suzanne Wilkinson
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.**

In Remembrance of

Dianne Wilkerson

whose memorial service will be on October 16, 1 p.m., here at First Lutheran in the Sanctuary.

Date of death: September 20, 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
WEDNESDAY SMALL GROUPS
6:30 - 7:30 P.M.

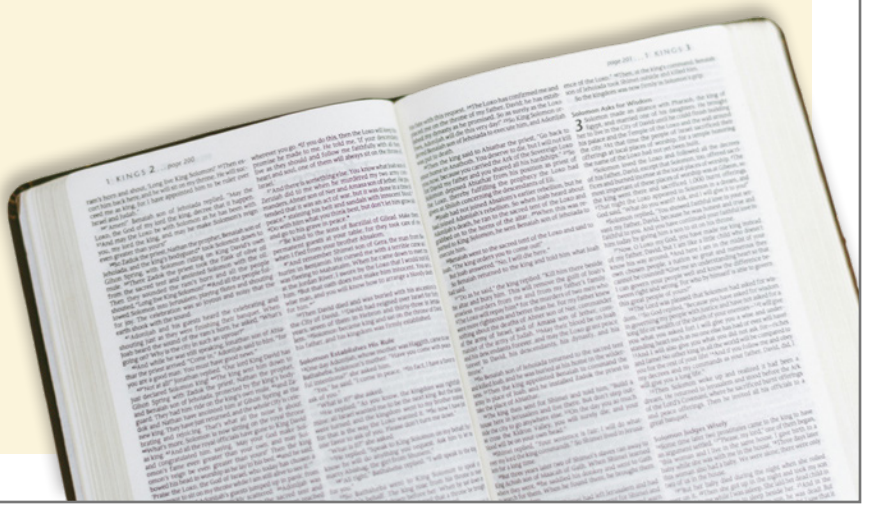
ONLINE WORSHIP
STREAMED LIVE AT 9:30 A.M AND 10:15 A.M.(CONTEMPORARY)
Tune in on First Lutheran's YouTube channel, on the church website, or in the church app.

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
Isaiah 5: 1 – 7
Philippians 3: 4b – 14
Matthew 21: 33 – 46D

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