First
Lutheran
Church
Colorado Springs
ekklesia
10.07.26

FROM THE PASTOR

I MENTIONED IN the Ministry Gathering presentation that I believe our staff is our biggest ministry asset. The church is not a business that is selling something, we are a people who's bottom line is about sharing the gospel. The gospel is shared person to person and the staff of the congregation exist to both share the gospel and equip us as a people, as a congregation to share the gospel.

October is Pastor Appreciation month, but I'd like to make it church staff appreciation month. We have 10 full time staff and 22 part-time staff who are dedicated to this ministry. They pay the bills, clean and maintain the property, create music, communicate opportunities and share the gospel through programs for all ages. I am grateful to serve with them, and to serve you with them!

As part of our budget for 2027 we are giving our staff a 3.5% cost of living increase. We also partner with our full time staff to provide health insurance for them and their families. The costs of health insurance skyrocket next year by 15% and we have included that in our 2027 budget as well. We support out staff through salaries, benefits, continuing education and our love and appreciation. Please take some time this month to express your appreciation for every member of our staff.

As we prepare to say goodbye to our long-time associate Pastor Carrie Baylis, I want to invite you to attend a farewell for her on October 18, at 3 p.m. We will begin in the Sanctuary with the assistant to the Bishop presiding over the rite and then head to the Peel House for a reception. I encourage you to write Pastor Carrie a card with specific ways her ministry has blessed you and your family. Thank you for your continued generosity. We often tell our children that everything they have is because people at the church freely gave a portion of their income to the ministry that is our livelihood. We don't take that for granted!

PASTOR TRAVIS NORTON, SENIOR PASTOR

Sunday's Message

OCTOBER 4, 2026

MATTHEW 21:33-46

PASTOR MICHAELA ESKEW

THIS IS NOT my favorite parable. I'm just going to tell you: it's not my favorite. I don't really like the ones that are violent and aggressive, and then to hear Jesus saying this to the Pharisees, essentially getting in a verbal battle with them: "This is you, by the way. You're the wicked tenants!"

I have a problem sometimes with the Gospel of Matthew, and yet, I need to read it. It's why the lectionary is placed upon us, to preach from it even when it's not our chosen scripture. If we could choose our scriptures all the time, oh man, we could craft just the perfect Jesus, couldn't we? Or at least the perfect one for me. I would just keep talking about the blessing of the little children. "Little children, come to me." We'd talk about healings and miracles, and Jesus would be put on a cross because he was just so nice and inclusive. But instead, this is why Jesus was put on a cross: because he was willing to stand up against the religious authorities of the time and say, "You are wrong. You've got it wrong, and you've been wicked tenants." And then at the end, the Pharisees are plotting how to arrest him, but they all think he's a prophet. But he's more than a prophet. He's the son. He's the heir.

So let's talk about this parable. Let's break it down. If Jesus is the son and the heir to this land, that makes God the landowner. God sets up this beautiful vineyard, makes a watchtower, makes a wine press, provides all of this, even sows the seeds, and then walks away and leaves it to some tenants. While he's in another country, God is doing God things, and he's given his tenants a piece of property to take care of. When the harvest comes, it is the landowner's to claim. Well, the tenants are a little upset. "I worked hard for this. I made this harvest happen. This is my produce to take. This should be my dividends, my revenue, whatever you want to call it in the modern age."

And so when the messenger comes from the landowner saying it's time to give over the produce, the tenants are violent. They don't just say, "No, this is ours." They beat them, stone them, kill them. A second group of messengers is sent. They stone them, kill them, and beat them. These messengers are supposed to stand in as the prophets of old. They are the people who came to Israel to tell them, "You have done wrong. You aren't following the commandments anymore. You aren't doing what God wants you to do." They bring bad messages. And what did they do to the prophets of old? They beat them. They stoned them. They killed them.

Now, in biblical times, if you're hearing this parable, you're thinking, "Okay, fine. They don't see the power or the privilege of these messengers, but surely the son of the landowner they will treat with respect." So the crowd would have been appalled to find that these tenants would kill the son of the landowner, because that son is essentially the landowner by proxy. All that is in this produce, in this land, is going to be the son's eventually. So to say directly to the landowner, or the landowner's proxy, "No, this isn't yours, I'm going to take it for my own," was bold.

And so again, if the son is the heir, that means it's Jesus in this parable. When the tenants kill the son, Jesus is making a proclamation and a prophecy about his own death. "I come like a prophet. You think I'm just a prophet? Guess what? I'm even more. I'm the Son of God, and you're still going to kill me. You're still going to do the worst of the worst, because you are not just tenants. You are wicked tenants." And the

crowd knows this. "What would you do if you were the landowner?" "I'd toss them out. Toss out those wicked tenants. Get in tenants who would give me back my produce."

So you can see why, when the Pharisees feel themselves called out as wicked tenants, they would immediately cry out for his arrest. But they have to do it quietly, because the crowds seem to be with Jesus here. But Jesus is also prophesying. Jesus knows exactly where this will lead. And so we have this strong parable, a parable that will get you crucified. And like I said, they're hard parables, because I would really prefer a different Jesus, a Jesus who doesn't go toe-to-toe with the Pharisees and get angry and use violent language like this to prove his point. I would much rather have the parable of the sower. And ultimately, I really don't like this parable because, as often as we want to say, "Oh, the Pharisees, the Israelites, they're bad tenants," we are often the bad and wicked tenants.

When I read this parable, I couldn't help but think that I have been given a vineyard. God has put me in this time, in this place, with these people around me. And am I being a good steward of that? Am I being a good tenant? Because we get one little piece of an eternal timeline. This is God's creation. Nothing I have, not the clothes on my back, not the food in my belly, none of it did I create myself. I once heard that even our bodies are on loan from God. So if we are tenants, just a little bit of time is given to us, and these gifts are given to us because we have not created them. Are we prideful when we take glory for what is not ours? When we make millions for ourselves but don't recognize that the first few dollars came from God? Or what if we made a great career of ourselves, but we don't realize that we had to start somewhere, and that starting place was always a blessing from God?

Now, I'm not going to demean the hard work that we do. There are plenty of other parables that say, "You are given little, and you must make much of it. You aren't supposed to hide it. You're not supposed to bury it. You're supposed to exponentially grow it." That's a different sermon. This sermon is about how we look at what we have made. Is it ours, or is it God's?

Now, I'm going to make it even more sensitive, because the Pharisees aren't just called out for being regular people walking around being prideful. They are filled with religious pride. And I think we as Christians need to turn the mirror on ourselves, because we do this, too. We are not good tenants of the faith that we have been given. And I'll say that it starts with that glory piece again. A lot of people will come to worship, or participate in worship, to glorify themselves. "Was this a good worship experience for me? Did I have a good time?" Well, you don't come to church for yourself. You come to church to give glory to God for what God has offered you.

Or, myself, I'm a preacher. I have to do this every single time I walk from this pulpit, because the second I walk out of this pulpit without a manuscript, I have to check, "Am I doing this for my own glory? And the compliments that I get – because I do get compliments for not having a manuscript – am I doing it for my own glory? So that I stand out as the pastor who preaches without a manuscript? Or instead, am I doing this because my gifting is not to read from a script?" In fact, I fumble over my words more often than not if I just stand here (at the pulpit). I feel more comfortable talking to you out in front. And I've found that there are people who are different learners. Some people need someone to be here (at the pulpit). They can focus better. They know the line of sight. It doesn't move. The sound doesn't move. I complicate this by doing this (walking around the altar). And vice versa: there are some people who can't follow along if I'm just right there (at the pulpit), but they can hear me if I'm here (out in front). And so if I walk away from this pulpit, am I providing a way to glorify Jesus and not myself? Because I'll tell you that every Sunday I do question whether I tell the people working the lights, if I'm going to stand there or I'm going to stand here. I want to make sure that every Sunday that I do it, it's

not about me. It's not about me. So I'm not going to ask you to do something that I'm not willing to do. I think also we Christians like glory. We like compliments. So I'm not going to say that this is an easy thing to get rid of. Sometimes being a wicked tenant is just out of age-old pride and arrogance. I would always go to church with my dad, and my dad would embarrass me quite a lot in church. But there was one time that he embarrassed me, and it was a life lesson. There had been a beautiful musician playing a beautiful piece in our worship service on Sunday, and everyone started clapping, and my dad didn't. Now, I was a super self-conscious middle schooler, so I was like, "Everyone's staring at us, Dad. Clap." No one was staring at us. Everyone was looking at the musician, for sure, but I was a self-conscious middle schooler. But I noticed that he wasn't clapping. And he said, "I'm not going to clap." And I said, "Why aren't you clapping? Just clap." And he said, "No. Their music is a gift to give glory to God. They don't need my applause." And that was incredibly intriguing, because I have lived in this modern age where, if you get to come up front and do the thing that you're great at, you should get glory. But my dad said, "When you're in church, the glory is God's and God's alone."

Now, I'm not going to tell you not to applaud our beautiful musicians, because here at First, we have wonderful musicians and a wonderful choir. But I want you to recognize that, if you talk to any of them, I think they would say that what they do is to give glory to God, not to put it on themselves, but to give it back to God, to give their gifting to God. Now, here's another example where we as Christians can tend to be wicked tenants of our faith. Like I said, I'm not a fan of all the parables. I'm not a fan of all the books in the Bible. I have my favorites. I'm going to confess I have my favorites. And in fact, it's quite funny that one of my least favorites is the prophets, the many, many books of prophets that take up our Old Testament. I don't want to read them. And yet they're so important. The wicked tenant parable tells me this is important. "You need to read these prophets. They had good messages for you. You need to read about Jesus. They have good messages for you." But I like to read what makes me feel good. We have to watch that, because that can easily become a temptation that keeps us from seeing the whole picture of God, of all that God has to say to us and all that God is.

I think it's well known by this point that Thomas Jefferson actually took a razor blade to his Bible and cut out all the miracles in it. Can you imagine a Bible without the resurrection in it? That's the Thomas Jefferson Bible. And yet I have been to churches that have done just that through their choice of scriptures, their choice of worship songs, their choice of prayers and scriptures that they'll read. They have created just a moral teacher, a Jesus to follow who was utterly human, just like us. And they leave out the other part of Jesus, who is the divine Son of God, who didn't just die but rose from the dead and forgave us of our sins through that miraculous act.

I have also been at churches that have done the opposite. They have said, "I don't want to hear about a Jesus who weeps. I don't want to hear about a Jesus who's anxious. I want a strong Jesus. I want a resilient Jesus. I want a Jesus who fights tooth and nail with the Pharisees, who's angry." Usually in this kind of church, you would see six-pack abs on Jesus on the cross. A pretty strong Jesus, a masculine, mature Jesus. But then you have only divine. And you don't have a God who could be there when you're crying, when you're suffering, when you're hurting, because this God doesn't do that. That's weak. This God is strong. He didn't have those human frailties. And so we have to sit in the uncomfortable middle, that we have a God who is both fully human and fully divine. And we have to read all the sections of scripture to allow Jesus to be who Jesus was. Because I'll just say, boldly, that to murder the gospel is to murder Christ again. To take only what we want out of Jesus is to kill him again, because Jesus was so much more than our brains can compute, and so much more than what we want Jesus to be. Jesus is also a challenge to us. So we have to own ourselves as

possibly the wicked tenants in this parable.

Now, some of you like a fire-and-brimstone sermon. That's as close as I get. I have to end with grace, because I'm Lutheran. So, for as often as we are wicked tenants, we are also gracious and generous tenants.

Just over the last two days, First Lutheran participated in COS I Love You service days. On Friday, a little chunk of our staff went to a storage unit and just sorted through bags and bags and bags of baby clothes and children's clothes, and we packed them up so that they could go to a closet for foster parents. Because I'll tell you, as a foster parent, you're usually given a call, and they drop a child on you, and you don't realize, "Oh, that child is clothed" until they've spit up or bled on, or whatever else kids do, on that one outfit, and you realize, "Oh, I don't have another outfit." And they rarely come with other outfits, unfortunately, due to circumstances. So to be able to take that child, whether they can choose their own clothes or you need to choose for them, and to take that little baby and just go to a free closet or a heavily discounted closet to get them clothes: what an amazing gift. That's the service work that we as a staff did on Friday.

And then yesterday, we had two groups of you, church members, who went out into our community and served. One group worked with Dream Centers, which has housing and child care for single mothers and their children who are trying to escape generational cycles of abuse and addiction. They went to a site that is going to become a new child care center that is trauma – informed, because these kids are coming from rough cycles, and they're going to need intentional child care. So they worked around this building to get it neat and ready for these children to come. The other group went to Cottonwood Creek and did a very different service project: river cleanup. They got mucky and dirty and did what real tenants have to do, work the ground, bring it back to life. These people took what has been humanly placed along this riverbed, trash and other things, and brought it back to a full ecosystem that can thrive. Talk about being good tenants.

And then this week and next week, you're going to hear at Ministry Gatherings, and you're going to see out in the Gathering Place, all the amazing small groups that we have here at First Lutheran. Whether we make fleece blankets, or repurpose books to be read again, or do prison fellowship, we're doing all of these amazing things that show that First Lutheran is trying to be open – handed with the gifts that God has given us, to be generous and gracious, so that when God says, "It's time to give me back my produce," you say, "Here it is," willingly. And it might even be a small group that is just a community, which honestly is a beautiful part of addressing the epidemic of loneliness that we're suffering from. God doesn't just give us things; God gives us people. And how will we love those people who are in our little part of the vineyard?

So it's up to us to question every single day, possibly multiple times a day, will we be wicked tenants, or will we be gracious and generous tenants? Because the vineyard is here and now, and the Son has arrived.

CHERYL'S CORNER

MEET LORETTA REA

Using my deck of cards from the podcast *Wild Card with Rachel Martin,* I got to learn a little more about First Lutheran member, Loretta Rea. Here's what Loretta told me...

Memories – What's a place that shaped you as well as any person did?
"I guess where I grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, my childhood home. We moved to the suburbs when I was seven. These were better times. People looked out for each other and helped each other."

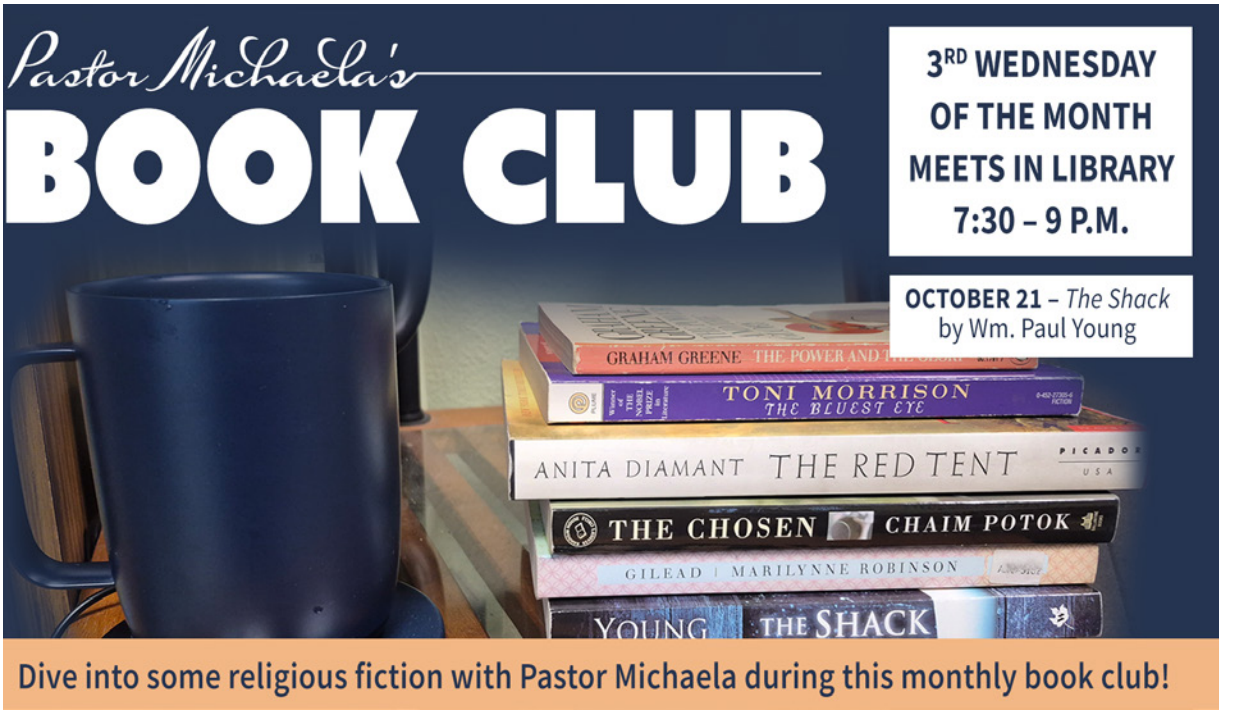
Insights – What makes you irrationally defensive?
"Insulting my integrity. Defending my dogs."

Beliefs – Have your feelings about God changed over time?
"Yes. I was not raised in a practicing Christian home. My father wasn't a Christian. My mom was. Her faith was so strong. My father cursed God because of the war. He suffered from PTSD. When we moved to the suburbs, I bought an artificial Christmas tree, and we put it in the basement and decorated the basement. My dad wouldn't go down to the basement the whole month of December. I tried to read my King James Bible, but it was hard to read. Over time I developed a relationship with God. I am leaning more into God as time goes on."

Loretta and her husband Steve joined First Lutheran in 2023. Loretta recently started serving as an usher at the 11 a.m. service. She enjoys greeting people. She's gotten to know more people that attend their service and appreciates it when people wear their name badges. "I'm getting to know people and people are getting to know me. I was my mother's caregiver for a long time and was mostly referred to as 'Dorothy's Daughter.' Now, people know me as Loretta." Loretta and her sister were known as the "swoop sisters". They would swoop in to help others in need. As an usher she enjoys helping others. A mom was so grateful when Loretta helped her child choose a busy bag and a seat in the Sanctuary where she felt comfortable that her child could play. One Sunday someone needed a hearing device.

A while back, Loretta asked Cheryl what is involved to serve as an Usher. The next thing she knew, Cheryl had her scheduled to serve! While she jokes about learning on the job, she says it was so worth it. If you are thinking about volunteering on Sunday, she would encourage you to just give it a try and see what you think.

Contact **cheryl@flccs.net** if you'd like to have coffee with Cheryl and share your First Lutheran experience!



Dive into some religious fiction with Pastor Michaela during this monthly book club!

https://bit.ly/3Um9v1z

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**

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.

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 27	Outback 2825 Geyser Drive
November 10	Marigold's Cafe and Bakery 4605 Centennial Blvd
November 24	Mexico Real 4375 Sinton Road
December 8	Thai Mint 1725 Briargate Blvd

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.

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.

WAYFARER'S

OCTOBER 15 | 11:30 A.M.

Wayfarer's, a group for women who have lost a spouse, will meet at Marigold Cafe and Bakery, 4605 Centennial Blvd.
Contact Brenda McFillen, ***719.495.7133,*** OR **brendamcfillen@gmail.com** if you plan to attend.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers designated in memory or in honor of a loved one are now $100. Flowers needed for 10/11, 10/18, 10/25, 11/1, 11/8, 11/15, and 11/22. Order flowers here: **https://bit.ly/4nKyPYq**

THE EMMAUS WAY

"The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom."

–Mark 15:38

Are you familiar with the Tabernacle and Temple in the Old Testament? While differing in construction and permanence, their layout and purpose were the same: they provided space where God's presence could dwell in the midst of God's people and where the people could gather for worship. Much can be said about the symbolism of everything in their construction and accoutrements (it makes for fascinating study), but today I want to focus on the fact that, in these places for the worship of Yahweh, the space where God's presence rested was kept in an inner sanctum, placed behind a curtain of separation. You know it as the Holy of Holies, and in the Temple of Jesus' day, the curtain that kept the place of the Presence sequestered was roughly sixty feet high, thirty feet wide, and four inches thick. (Please take a moment to imagine a piece of cloth that is four inches thick!)

Why did God need to be "separated" from humans? It is because of the belief – then and now – that sin cannot exist in the presence of a holy God. The temple layout and sacrificial system of the Old Testament reinforced the belief that humans could never, on their own, enter into God's presence, never enter the Holy of Holies, never truly be with God. That wasn't good enough for God.

Since we would never be able to go behind the curtain to be with God, God came out from behind the curtain to be with us. In becoming incarnate, the Son left the sanctum of the Holy of Holies to fully enter into the human experience and save us from the inside out. He took the totality of the human condition – sin – upon himself on the cross. Whatever theological system we use to explain what happened there, nothing changes this, "The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom."

That means that, in Christ, any separation between God and humans has been completely removed. The Holy of Holies is open to all! In Christ, we can freely approach God and find all the grace, love, and mercy we need (Hebrews 4:16). In fact, God longs for us to come to him.

Friends, is there any place in your life you feel separated from God? See Jesus on the cross. Hear him say, "It is finished." Watch the curtain be torn from top to bottom. See God beckoning you with open arms. There is no separation. God invites you to come to him, right here, right now.

Let's joyfully and freely approach God, 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.*

MINISTRY GATHERING

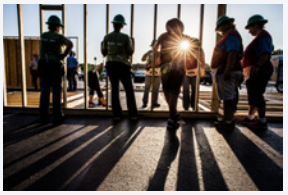
Sunday, October 11, 1 p.m., Gathering Place

VOLUNTEER AT THE NEW BUILD SITE WITH PIKES PEAK HABITAT FOR HUMANITY!

First Lutheran has agreed to provide ten volunteers on each of our volunteer dates with Apostles and Interfaith Build on Saturday, October 24, and Saturday, January 9, 2027. All volunteers must follow the link below to get signed up and update or complete their liability waiver. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! LEAD CONSTRUCTION STAFF ON SITE TO TEACH YOU!

Shift: 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Location: Rising Moon, The intersection of Peaceful Meadow Street and Harvest Moon Terrace, Colorado Springs 80925

40 YEARS Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity®



VOLUNTEER

PUT FAITH INTO ACTION

Saturday, October 24, 2026

Saturday, January 9, 2027

Morning Shift: 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

No experience necessary

Join Pikes Peak Habitat for a day of service, fellowship, and fun on our construction site at our Rising Moon Neighborhood as you help build a home for a local family!

10 volunteer spots available each shift

Register Here

Please use the QR Code to register:

Online registration link and liability waiver:
https://bit.ly/4yeJ3py

QUESTIONS?

Sarah Jiminez (formerly Buchen)
sarah.jiminez@pikespeakhabitat.org

In the Life of the Church …

Birthdays

October 12
Lily Bigelow
Jack Collier
Deb Grove
Angie Hesselberg
Peggy Hinrichs
Amilu Stewart

October 13
Ann Carlson
Sarah Knox
Linda Winter

October 14
David Massey
Dana Olson

October 15
Trudy Lans

October 16
Larry Bagley
Reagan Duncan
Gracie Eilert
Jill O'Brien
Cheryl Pixley

October 17
Leslie Giordano
Elizabeth Haver
Dave Uddenberg

October 18
Dick Kennedy

Anniversaries

October 14
Clark and Candi Mountain Gaddie *31 years*

October 16
Tanya and Keith Charbonneau *22 years*

October 17
Douglas and Naoko Kohlhepp *34 years*
Randy and Kristin Kosley *34 years*

Prayer Requests

Lannette Abbey
Joan Abrahamsen
Beth Allen
Fred Bachmeier
Elmer Bauman
Tana Beall
Joan Boehm
Carrara Boone
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
Doug Hering
Ginger Hipszky
Jake Hodnett
Randy Hollar
Bill & Doreen Hulka
Jeff Ipson
Sarah Iskra
Alan Jacobsen
Josh Jones
Shirley Jones
Ann Junk
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
Garry MacCormack
Jim Matthews
Nick McKibben & Family
Hugh McNeely
Megan
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
The Bonnye Sielken Family
The Frank Sotomayor Family
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

In Remembrance of

Frank Sotomayor

whose private memorial service was last month here in Colorado Springs.

Date of death: August 15, 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.

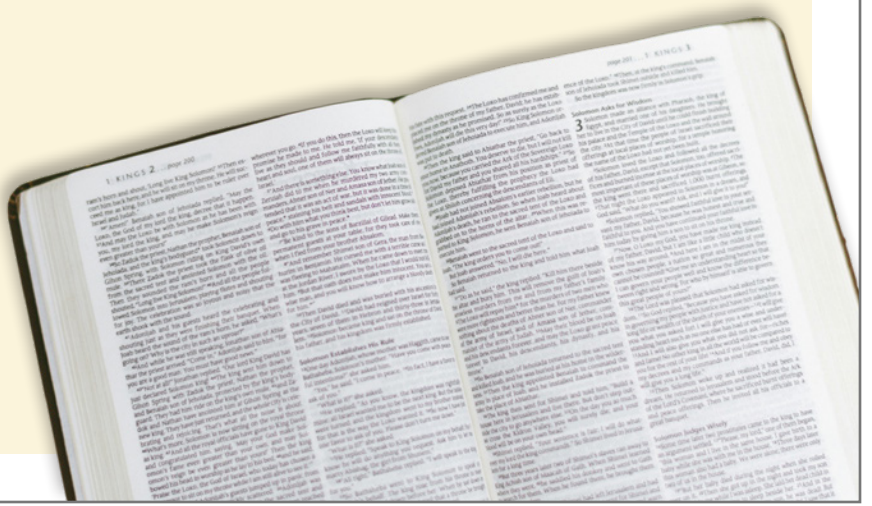
ONLINE WORSHIP
STREAMED LIVE AT 9:30 A.M AND 10:15 A.M.(CONTEMPORARY)
Tune in on First Lutheran's YouTube channel, on the church website, or in the church app.

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 25: 1 – 9
Philippians 4: 1 – 9
Matthew 22: 1 – 14

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