

A close-up photograph of a pine tree branch. Two large, brown pine cones are the central focus, hanging from the branch. The branch is covered in long, green, needle-like leaves. In the background, more branches are visible, some with a light dusting of white snow. The lighting is soft, creating a peaceful winter atmosphere.

FIRST  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
COLORADO SPRINGS

ekklesia

01.07.26

## FROM THE PASTOR

**THANK YOU FIRST LUTHERAN** for all your work to further the gospel of Jesus through the ministry of this congregation. As I reflect on last year I'm just overwhelmed with gratitude. This Sunday we will say thank-you to our outgoing Council members who have helped lead us through some really great ministry years. Terry Hjelkrum, Larry Bagley and Jason Fox have guided the church since 2023. In their tenure we added contemporary worship and the staff that came with that ministry. We implemented a policy to provide health benefits to our full-time staff. We also renovated the Sanctuary chancel, revised the rostered leader sabbatical policy, navigated several staffing changes and regrew the church financial reserves after a shortfall in 2022. I am grateful for their leadership and counsel as we met monthly to steward the ministry of this congregation. Please join me in thanking them for giving of their time and gifts to lead our church!

We are working on the annual report and closing up the fiscal year and will share those details with you shortly. But it looks like we met our budget and offerings exceeded expenses. Thank you for your

generosity. The church is on healthy financial footing as we head into 2026. We also had record attendance for Christmas Eve, and it was so nice to worship with our whole church on that beautiful night. Thank you to everyone who made Christmas Eve such a gift.

Our attendance throughout 2026 was strong and we continue to grow each year. I always keep in mind that this is not the story of many churches, and so we should never take our growth for granted. But here are the service averages for 2026: 8 – 109; 9:30 – 169; 10:15 – 58; 11 – 102; Wednesday night – 36; Online – 325.

2026 is the year when we do our three-year review of our Benevolence. We aim to give 10% of our offerings away to the larger church and to local charities. Every three years we take a look at our partners and make sure those gifts are doing the good work we feel God calling us to do. If you are interested in helping evaluate this, please let me know.

It's a privilege to do this work with you, and I'm excited about this coming year. What will God do among us next???



PASTOR TRAVIS NORTON

# Sunday's Message

JANUARY 4, 2026

MATTHEW 2: 1 – 12

PASTOR MICHAELA ESKEW

I'D LIKE TO open my sermon today with a prayer. So would you pray with me? God of light and life, open our eyes as well as our ears so that we may not only hear your word preached today, but then see your word lived out in our lives and in our world through Christ our Lord, the light of the world. Amen.

Our story today is a well known one. If you have a nativity creche out still, you have a few days to put it away. Or if you've seen any kind of Christmas pageant, you know the wise men. They bring forth their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and they are this royal assembly next to the shepherds and the sheep and Mary and Joseph with the baby Jesus in a manger. But what's intriguing about this nativity creche and our Christmas pageants is usually it's a smooshing together of the gospel of Matthew and the gospel of Luke. Most of our story comes from the gospel of Luke. But today, we're reading from the gospel of Matthew. And for the rest of this church year, we will travel through the gospel of Matthew. But Luke tells us of the census that sends them out to go and find a place to stay where there's no room at the inn. And so they find themselves in a manger having a baby with a bunch of animals. And then the angels go out in Luke, and they tell the shepherds, "Come. Come worship this newborn king." The angels tell anyone they can find.

Matthew doesn't have any of that. None of it. Matthew instead has a dream that's given to Joseph, not Mary, and says, "Please do not shoo away Mary. She is not an ill kept woman. She is instead holding the son of God in her womb. You must marry her. You must name him Jesus." And so we don't even have the

grand birth narrative. We just have he was born in Bethlehem. They just get to enjoy newborn hood as new moms and new dads, Mary and Joseph with their little baby Jesus in Bethlehem. And then Matthew adds in the drama because Matthew's gospel is all about Jesus being the messiah that we have been waiting for, longing for, all the prophecies foretold. It's why we get all these little mini – prophecies throughout Matthew sprinkled in. Today is from Micah, the prophet Micah. And so Matthew wants to up the ante. This isn't just a baby born in a barn. This is a baby that deserves gifts and noticing a star that follows him and leads people from the faraway East.

So now we have these Magi from the gospel of Matthew. Magi were believed to be Persian astrologers, people that looked to the stars to tell what the heavens were telling them. They interpreted dreams and visions. Kind of imagine Daniel in the Babylonian court. This is who these Magi were. And so they travel from the East. We don't know how far, but we know it's a long enough time that Jesus could be anywhere from zero to two years old. And so these Magi travel long and far, and they come to Jerusalem first and they seek out the king of the Jews. Unfortunately, that tips off the actual king in the land, King Herod. He is not amused, and King Herod can be found in the history books just as often as he is in our scriptures. He is known to be an evil, evil king, a paranoid king. In fact, I think in one of my commentaries I was reading, it said that it was better to be a pig in his court than a son because he was so sure that people were going to kill him off to take his crown.

So you can guess how King Herod takes three Magi from the East coming to bring gifts for another

king. He doesn't take it well. But King Herod knows politics. He knows how to run things. And so he tries to use the Magi, and weaponize them as allies and spies. He tries to help them. So he goes to his own scribes, finds this piece from the prophet Micah, and says, "Oh, he'll be in Bethlehem, which just so happens to be a little bedroom city about five miles up the road. If you head there and you travel for about two to three hours by foot, you'll find Bethlehem, and you will probably find this king. And when you do, I want you to come and circle back and tell me about it so I can do it too." The Magi had no interest in Jerusalem politics, in kings. They came to worship the new king of the Jews, and they didn't really care for king Herod, but they knew that they were taking some risks. They knew that this was likely going to get them in trouble, and it's why our story ends with after a dream, they took another route home.

And so our Magi have traveled long and far. They have risked their lives. They have finally found the baby, and they bring their gifts. Now I'm sure you've probably heard this in a sermon before, so bear with me. I'm gonna tell you what these gifts are really about. So the first one's obvious, gold. You come before a king, you bring wealth. You bring jewels. You bring gold. You bring money. And so that makes sense. They bring gold. But what about this frankincense and myrrh? The two words that stumble up every little kid in a Christmas pageant. Frankincense is usually ground up and then burned as incense in worship services and rituals. It was believed to be a symbol of the divine. As you would give your sacrifice, as you would give your prayers, the incense would rise them up into the heavens. And so here you have frankincense given to a newborn baby, a little child, and told, "We recognize you as the son of God. We recognize your divinity." Now myrrh, like I said, had a different purpose. Myrrh was actually an ancient medicinal. It was an antiseptic of sorts, and so it had healing properties. It's also mentioned two other times in our gospels. In the gospel of Mark, it's mentioned as what is mixed with the wine when it is given to Jesus on the cross. And then it is also mentioned in the gospel of John as one of the embalming

oils that is used on Jesus before his burial. Myrrh hints at what Jesus will come to do. He will come to die. If these Magi, if these wise men know their scriptures, know the Jewish scriptures, they know that the Messiah will come to die for his people. Not in any way that we imagined, but these wise men are wise far beyond their neighbors and their years. And so they bring myrrh.

I'm sure a little toddler thought it was great. I have a toddler myself, so I'm only imagining what this toddler must have thought when these things were brought in front of them. Only probably the gold would be interesting. It's nice and shiny. But these Magi bring the perfect presents, the perfect presents for Jesus, and they have a great understanding of who Jesus is. And then they go off, and we never hear of them again.

And so I was thinking about this story, and I was thinking about how great the Magi are, how much of an example they can be to us, how it perfectly fits with Jesus' ministry to open wide the doors that the gospel is for everyone, that he dies for everyone, and that no one is left out. And yet I also couldn't help but feel that if I put the emphasis on the Magi, that I would be weaponizing them, too. For what does this story tell us is that it takes many miles and hard work and risk – taking and suffering and the perfect presents just to get near to Jesus? That's not true.

There were so many people, so many people that watched Jesus grow up, and they didn't even notice what they had in front of them. Magi from the East traveled thousands of miles to come and to see what people in Bethlehem could have just witnessed every single day. Mary and Joseph had both gotten dreams. They knew what this child was to become and who he was. And yet we look to the Magi, and it tells us that we need to move long distances, that Jesus is far away from us, and then we have to go through those journeys to get to him. Or that we have to risk take or suffer or go through hardships just to be near to our Jesus. And God forbid this, tells you that you have to bring your perfect selves to Jesus, the perfect presents, the perfect prayers, the perfect self. Jesus didn't want any of this.

So as I was looking into this story and thinking and praying on this scripture, I thought of what Jesus must have been feeling. This little toddler just living his life in Bethlehem, a little bedroom community of Jerusalem, the big city, and he is just a little toddler, and in come three strangers with gifts for him; would he have wanted that? The Jesus of adulthood would not have wanted the pomp and circumstance of big presents, of magi from the East, of kings recognizing him and picking him up and noticing him. Jesus just wanted to be the person for the everyman, the every woman. Jesus just wanted to be near to anyone who would come near to him.

And so we have these lost years of Jesus, his childhood. We won't hear his story again until we get all the way to his baptism at about 30 years old. What happened in those moments? What if what if the people that lived in Bethlehem, the local Bethlehem residents, had seen and witnessed and enjoyed Jesus at every moment of his life? We would probably have books and books of gospels filled with infancy tales, childhood tales, teenager tales of Jesus. Now don't get me wrong. I like that Jesus had mystery years. I actually think this is why he becomes the minister he does. He has this anonymity that allows him to just be a kid, to skin his knee and get picked up by his mom, to play games with friends. Maybe he wins, maybe he loses, to learn carpentry from his dad. Maybe even throw a tantrum or two. He just gets to be a kid, to be a teenager, to be a young adult, and witness what it means to be a human. And I think it's because he had those lost years, that anonymity, to just be able to witness the human experience that he was able to be the minister that we know him to be for those last few years of his life. But I hope and I wish that those local Bethlehem residents knew what they had in front of them, could enjoy every minute of it, to be in the presence of God at every moment because it was so fleeting to have Jesus right there in front of them. Jesus is not far away. Jesus is right next to you.

Just this last week, I was up in the mountains with my husband's family. They go up to the mountains every year around Christmas and New Year's Eve time just to ski, to snowboard, and to just be with one an-

other, and it's beautiful. But it takes about two and a half hours to get all the way up there and all the way back. And as I was thinking about the sermon on the way back yesterday, I was sitting in the passenger seat. And if you've ever been in the passenger seat and gotten a little bored, you've likely seen in the side mirror the little phrase, "objects in mirror appear closer than they appear." And I thought, that's it. Jesus is closer than he appears.

We think we have to travel miles, that we have to journey to church or we have to journey to holy places to witness Jesus, and we don't. We think that we have to go through suffering or face hardship or risk our lives just to feel Jesus closest to us. We feel like we have to bring our best selves, our best thoughts, our best prayers, our best everything to Jesus, just for Jesus to see us. But that's not the Jesus that we know in his ministry. So why do we expect that that's the Jesus that wanted that in his infancy? Objects in mirror appear closer than they appear. Jesus could be right next to you, sitting in the pew next to you, in the friendships and the relationships that you have built. It could be in the silent moments on a quiet night where you just see the stars blossom above you. It could be in the prayers that are answered and you didn't even know you prayed them, the fact that you got safely to and from work without an accident, or that head cold that you hate having didn't require hospitalization, didn't have further complications, and you just got over it.

Jesus is in the air that you breathe. Every breath you take, Jesus is near to you. Jesus is not far away, does not require anything of you, but your desire to be near to him. So where will you find Jesus? Where will you find the light in the darkness, the air in your lungs, the moment that Jesus is nearest to you is now? Jesus is closer than he appears. Just open your eyes.

## AGING TOGETHER

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9 | 10 – 11 A.M.

PEEL HOUSE | ROOM 201

We will share our thoughts on the New Year and some of our goals.

Beginning in February, our group will meet on the first Friday of each month. This is a casual gathering to share our thoughts and experiences during our journey through the years.

## PIKES PEAK HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

First Lutheran is scheduled to serve on the Interfaith Build site on Saturday, January 24, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. We have promised ten volunteers for the morning shift. No experience necessary, just a passion to serve. Contractors on site teach you everything you need to know! I've learned how to use a chop saw, install insulation, dry wall, and even hang doors! **We only need three more volunteers!** Please email [cheryl@flccs.net](mailto:cheryl@flccs.net) if you are available to help.

## UNDECORATE THE CHURCH.

Please help undecorate the church by putting away the lovely fence garland we've enjoyed during Advent and Christmas. We will also put trees and decorations away in the garage.

**Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Meet in the Gathering Place.**

If you are able to help, just show up, or email Chris at [chris@flccs.net](mailto:chris@flccs.net).

## JANUARY OUTREACH FOCUS

FAMILY PROMISE

During the month of January 2026, First Lutheran will support Family Promise three ways:

1. We will be collecting King Sooper and Safeway Gift Cards to give to the situationally unsheltered families to purchase food for breakfast and lunch items while living in the day house as well as gas for their car.

2. Under the mural Feeding of the 5000, we will have an In-Gathering of Household/Hygiene items including toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo and conditioner, face wash, body wash, bar soap, deodorant, baby wipes, body lotion, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand towels, razors, her shaving cream, tissues, hand sanitizer and lip balm. Please be sensitive to families with other than Caucasian skin and hair. This is not intended to be a racial issue, just a real one.

3. Our goal is to provide all 13 evening meals, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, for the month of January! We still have 11 open slots! Please sign up for your spot now! Delivery to the Day House at 324 North Nevada can be made anytime between 4 – 6 p.m. Meals should feed 12-15 people (3 – 5 adults and the remaining children). Please sign up to bring a meal in January here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoB4AA9A-C28A3FEC52-49949464-meals#/>

## WAYFARERS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15 | 11:30 A.M.

Meet at Black Bear Diner, 975 North Academy Blvd, located on the north side of Citadel Crossing. Please contact Annette Kester if you plan to attend: **719.641.1053** or [anjakester@comcast.net](mailto:anjakester@comcast.net)

## CHERYL'S CORNER

### THANK YOU TO OUR 3RD QUARTER VOLUNTEERS

**Coffee Reception Host** (26 shifts/quarter) – Bruce & Ann Carlson, Anne Rivers, Bill Busovsky, Brooke & Karolyn Smith, Carol Schlater, Chris Parkhill, Fran Freese, Jane Juris, JG & Kate McCall, Kathy Holmes, Mindy Mahler, Patti Bursell, and Suzanne DuBois **First Shift Communion Team** (26 shifts/quarter) – Bill & Karen Busovsky, Bill & Sherry Phipps, Brooke & Karolyn Smith, Charlie & Linda Helmstetler, Dave Aspenson, Ron & Julie Furstenau, Kathy Holmes, Lance & Lisa Nelson, Lynn & Rob Eggum, Margie Sisson, Paul Lindsey, Paula Nickodemus, and Pete Bredlau **Communion Assistant at 10:15** (39 shifts/quarter) – Mike & Anita Eckley, Corby & Teresa Meyer, Mark & Erin Henricks, Georgie Bever, Jim Moline, Lenora Simmons, Nick & Leslie Striegel, Scott & Teri Ellsworth, Scott Keilers, Stephanie deGuzman, Susan Hansen, and Tom Keilers **Welcome Team at 10:15** (26 shifts/quarter) – Adison Weis, Corby & Teresa Meyer, Delena Garrison-Wellmer, Farren Laptad, Lenora Simmons, Leslie Striegel, Margaret Louters, Martie Stott, Scott & Teri Ellsworth, and Tom Keilers

**Sacristy Team** – Shari Brian, Joan Kuehn, and Marcus Kochis **Worship Assistant** (78 shifts/quarter) – Anne Rivers, Bernie Herpin, Beth Lindquist, Bill & Karen Busovsky, Larry & Bonnie

Bagley, Charlotte Auten, Mike & Cindy Bauer, Gail Friedly, Gini Dugan, Hadley Schweiger, Jeff Gross, Kathryn Palski, Kathy Holmes, Linda Wilson Holt, Liz Koop, Lucy Waters, Marcus Kochis, Mary Hartwell, Mary Peet, Patsy Pedersen, Rick Miller, Ruth Hjelmstad, Ryan Kirby, Shari Brian, Sherri Foos, Susan Thorp, Verna Severson, and Vicki Lieber **Communion Assistant at 9:30** (13 shifts/quarter) – Beth Lindquist, Beth Zautke, Cheryl Mahon, Daniel Abraham, Gail Friedly, Marcus Kochis, Patsy Pedersen, Stacy Gatto, and Susan Thorp Crucifer – Bernie Herpin, Daniel Abraham, Jeff Gross, and Larry Bagley **Usher Coordinator** (39 shifts/quarter) – Bill Busovsky, Bill Lipscomb, Bill Zautke, Bob Tim, Butch Backlund, David Bondurant, Ed Koditek, Mike Bauer, Paul Steinke, Rusty Smith, Steve Steiner, Tad Goodenbour, Terry Hjelkrem, and Wayne Hjelmstad **Greeter** (156 shifts/quarter) – Andy & Eileen Ballas, Joe & Barbara Dixon, Bill & Gloria Layton, Larry & Bonnie Bagley, Butch & Gail Backlund, Candy Lesoing, Cathy Mosco, Charlie & Linda Helmstetler, Peter & Charlotte De Jong, Cheryl Pixley, Chuck Donachy, Mike & Cindy Bauer, Cindy Stanley, Colleen Bardy, Dana Olson, David Jarmuth, Dick Greetier (156 shifts/quarter) – Andy & Eileen Ballas, Joe & Barbara Dixon, Bill & Gloria Layton, Larry & Bonnie Bagley, Butch & Gail Backlund, Candy Lesoing, Cathy Mosco, Charlie & Linda Helmstetler, Peter & Charlotte De Jong, Cheryl Pixley, Chuck Donachy, Mike & Cindy Bauer, Cindy Stanley, Colleen Bardy, Dana Olson, David Jarmuth, Dick & Suzy Utzke, El & Eileen Carter. Continue to p. 13



CHERYL MAHON, DIRECTOR OF LAY MINISTRIES

## MOMCO

JANUARY 13 | 9:30 A.M.

MomCo usually meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays in the Peel House Lounge, next to the coffee bar. In December they will only meet one time. Thanks in advance for helping the Sand Creek team start the new year strong

## DANCE LESSONS – CHA CHA

January “Cha Cha” Lessons – Angela Harder is back to teach us the “Cha-Cha”! Enjoy four one-hour lessons for just \$80/couple or \$40/single. We set a maximum of twenty people to allow Angela to introduce new moves each week while helping dancers progress at their own pace, too.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/44OdIJg>

## ARE YOU AVAILABLE AND ABLE TO HELP AROUND THE FLC CHURCH CAMPUS?

During heavy times of events or winter weather, our sextons and administrative staff can use a little help. We are looking for energetic individuals to help with snow removal and/or set-up and tear-down of tables and chairs for events. Sometimes we need a little extra help with churchwide mailings. We are also looking for people willing to serve as a photographer for major church events (your camera or borrow ours). Indicate where you are willing and able to help here: <https://bit.ly/48pi2Fo>

## HELP US RE-SUPPLY OUR BUSY BAGS

FLC provides bags of books and small toys for small children that attend worship with their parents. Our “Busy Bag” team replenishes supplies each time a bag is used. They are in need of purchasing some additional items to stuff the bags. If you are a Thrivent member and haven’t used all of your Thrivent Action Teams for the year, please consider applying for a \$250 to help the “Busy Bag” team. Contact [cheryl@flccs.net](mailto:cheryl@flccs.net) if you need help applying.

## HANDBELLS FOR CHILDREN WITH KATE AND KATIE

Katie Ackerman and Kate McCall will teach beginning handbells for children in grades 2-5 beginning Sunday, January 25, in the bell room from 10:45-11:30 a.m. The class will continue every Sunday through the end of April. Contact Deacon Joan for more information at [jlynnkuehn@gmail.com](mailto:jlynnkuehn@gmail.com).

## HANDBELLS 101

Returns for another session beginning Thursday, January 15, at 7 p.m. in the bell room and will run for five weeks. This is for anyone interested in brushing up on handbell skills or just learning how to play. Open to youth sixth grade and up and adults. Contact Deacon Joan for more information or to sign-up: [jlynnkuehn@gmail.com](mailto:jlynnkuehn@gmail.com)

# SCIENCE AND RELIGION

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The Bridge Between Discovery and Faith

SUNDAYS, JANUARY 11, 18, & 25, 2026

9:15 - 10:15 A.M.

PEEL HOUSE PARLOR

*Exploring how science and Christian faith work  
together to understand God's creation*



JANUARY SPIRITUAL RETREAT  
**THE MEANING  
OF LIFE**

**JANUARY 31 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.  
THE WORSHIP CENTER**

You were made for more than just getting by.  
Join us as we explore what it means to move  
from drifting to deeply living, and to find joy in  
the journey again. Sign up to attend today!



## THE EMMAUS WAY

*“And now we welcome the new year, full of things that have never been.”*

– Rainer Maria Rilke

Happy New Year! I hope your Christmas season was joyous and meaningful as you received again the birth of our Savior into this world and into your own life and heart. For God so loved you that he gave his only Son!

For many of us, turning from Christmas to Epiphany and stepping into a new calendar year stirs a desire to have some kind of plan for personal growth and improvement. Culturally, it has become a good time to take stock of our lives and purpose to do things that will contribute to positive change in ourselves and in the world. Even if specific New Year's resolutions aren't our “thing,” we may still find ourselves open to moving toward greater health in one area or another.

Are you one of those people? If you are – and even if you aren't! – I invite you to please consider attending our spiritual retreat coming up on January 31st. We're tackling the very big topic of the meaning of life, hoping to create space for God to meet you in whatever season you



are in to lead you deeper into a life of rich fulfillment and joy, right where you are.

As you prayerfully consider attending the retreat, please take some time between now and then to think about the following questions: What brings meaning to your life? Has it changed over the different seasons of life? Do you struggle with finding meaning, or is it something that is easy for you to connect with as you move through life's seasons? Where do you see others struggling with finding meaning in their lives? How do you help and pray for them?

Sometimes all it takes to instigate new growth is to discover a new way of seeing and thinking about things. Please think and talk with God about attending the retreat. We believe it will be a special time of connecting with God to learn, again, about how much God longs to fill us with God's own life for our own sakes, and for the sake of the world. Let's walk together.

Type in this URL to register for the retreat: <https://bit.ly/44vZbGo>

LORI DUNCAN, MINISTER OF SPIRITUAL CARE



*It's time to start preparing!*

# **GALLERY OF LIVING ART 2026**

A unique and powerful presentation of Christ's life, passion, and resurrection, told through staged life-size works of art, with thoughtful music and Scripture

**Presentations: March 13, 14, and 15**

**Calling all men, women, youth, and children!**

CASTING WILL BE HELD THE AFTERNOON OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

*Hold the date ... and watch for more information  
about how to register for casting and costuming!*

**More Volunteers:** Greeters Eve Koger, Gary Bradley, Georgette Mathews, Georgia Waldhausen, Gudrun Vest, Jane Juris, Jeff Gross, Jon Parobek, Judy Bondurant, Ron & Julie Furstenau, Karen Busovsky, Kathy Schroeder, Paul & Kathy Wyant, Lance & Lisa Nelson, Lane & LaVon Pinnow, Lenora Simmons, Linda Wilson Holt, Lisa Podoll, Lynn Peterson, Marcus Kochis, Mark & Marta Holley, Mary Hartwell, Mary Peet, Mike Olsen, Nancy Craig, Pam Rokke, Patsy Pedersen, Peggy Hinrichs, Sarah MacLeod, Sherri Foos, Sherrie Denton, Starr Wise, Sylvia Harding, Tad Goodenbour, Velma Naber, Verna Severson, and Vicki Lieber **Usher** (156 shifts/quarter) – Addison Weis, Andy & Eileen Ballas, Rick & Anne Rivers, Ashley Simms, Bert Bedford, Beth Zautke, Bill Gast, Bill & Eileen Lipscomb, Bob Tim, Brian Freese, Butch & Gail Backlund, Carl Egan, Charlie Helmstetler, Cheryl Pixley, Chris & Vicki Lieber, Cindy Stanley, Darlene Edwards, Dave Johnson, David Jarmuth, Deborah Steinke, Diane Millburn, Georgia Waldhausen, Gudrun Vest, Jan Gregg, Jeff Gross, Joan Abrahamsen, Judy Hagge, Judy Hjelkrem, Ron & Julie Furstenau, Karen Busovsky, Kathleen Capron, Kathy Holmes, Kathy Schroeder, Katie Ackerman, Scott & Katie Kosley, Larry Bagley, Laura Allton, Margie Sisson, Mary Hartwell, Pete Bredlau, Randy Hollar, Rusty Smith, Ryan Kirby, Sherrie Denton, Sylvia Harding, Tad Goodenbour, Tina Sharp, and Tom Bogard **Second Shift Communion Team** (26 shifts/quarter) – Janice Pavell, Jolene Bedford, Lisa Podoll, Marcus Kochis, Margie Sisson, Marta Holley, Mary Peet, Paula Gillaspie, Pete Bredlau, Sherri Foos, and Tina Sharp **Count Team** (39 shifts/quarter) – Chris Hansen, Erna Haring, Terry & Judy Hjelkrem, Ron & Julie Furstenau, Karen Busovsky, Pat Friedell, Peggy Hinrichs, Ruth Hjelmstad, Sherrie Denton, Trudy Lans, and Vickie Voth **Welcome Center Host** (26 shifts/quarter) – Chris Parkhill, Diane Boldt, Gail Backlund, Georgia Waldhausen, Helen Peterson, Jane Linnenburger, Judy Hagge, Kathy Holmes, Lisa Podoll, Liz Koop, Lois Peel, Marlene Bigelow, Mindy Mahler, Patti Bursell, Paula Nickodemus, and Patti Olsen Christmas Gift Tag Recorder & Organizers – Georgia Waldhausen, Jane Juris, Janice Pavell, Linda Branesky, Lynn Peterson, and Patsy Pedersen – More volunteers next week...

## 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

<b>January 13</b>	Saltgrass Steakhouse 1405 Jamboree Drive
<b>January 27</b>	Carabbas Italian Grill 7120 Campus Drive
<b>February 10</b>	Hacienda Colorado 5246 North Nevada Avenue
<b>February 24</b>	Urban Tandoor 8125 North Academy Blvd

# In the Life of the Church ...

## Birthdays

**January 9** Savion VanBuskirk  
Hadley Schweiger  
Kate McCall  
Russell Flora

**January 10** Jon Anspach  
Roger Greene  
Mike Haase  
Lynda Kirby  
Deven Russo  
Everett Swiakowski

**January 11** Nick Parsons

**January 12** Paxton Friedell  
Ginger Hipszky  
Angela Kimble  
Rod Schlater

**January 13** Holly Hawkins  
Chuck Simmons

**January 16** Laurie Goode  
Lois Peel

**January 17** Bill Busovsky  
Carrie Kahl  
Preston Kahl  
Susan Thorp

**January 18** Julie Furstenuau  
Joe Goode

## Anniversaries

**January 9** Chuck and Lenora Simmons 38 years

**January 13** Angela and Rob Kimble 16 years

**January 16** Georgia and Ron Waldhausen 55 years

**January 18** Charlotte Ankeny-Morgan and Kris Morgan 12 years



# Prayer Requests

Lannette Abbey  
The Wanda Anderson Family  
Fred Bachmeier  
Janice Baldwin  
Elmer Bauman  
Tana Beall  
Joan Boehm  
Kirsten Boyd  
Brian  
Bill & Barbara Brown  
Karl & Pam Cartwright  
Tanya Charbonneau  
John & Debbie Chlebus  
Payton Clem  
Nell Clowder  
Tom Crick  
Kim Domke  
Rinda Dunson  
Alan Flinn  
Donna Flores  
Edna Fross  
Corinne Gibson  
Nola Gosch  
Hannah  
Private Steven Harris  
Ginger Hipszky  
Jake Hodnett  
Barry Holmes  
Bill & Doreen Hulka  
Irene  
Matthew James  
Josh Jones  
Shirley Jones  
Ann Junk  
Jonas Kagarise  
Kephart, Tami  
Kyong Kelley  
Gaye Lynn Kielcheski  
Cindy Koger  
Jesse Lawrence & Family  
The Jerry Lillich Family

Timothy Lillich  
Dayne Lindquist  
Patricia Lopez  
Scott Louis  
Susan Lundmark  
Jim Matthews  
Nick McKibben & Family  
Hugh McNeely  
Brandon Miller & Family  
Gwyn Miller  
Marilyn Miller  
Larry Moe and Family  
Paul Moe  
Wilma Nicolaisen  
Sam Norton  
Owen & Family  
Patsy Pedersen  
Jack & Judy Peterson  
Ralph Peterson  
Darlene Radke  
Jeff Rapp  
Rondi Scott  
Catherine Spencer  
Matthew Stark  
Gwen Stein  
Becky Sternal  
Barbara Swan  
Michael Taylor  
Aaron & Cindi Thorson  
Bob VanDuyn  
Karen Henderson-VanDuyn  
Sandy Weber  
Christine Welch  
Greg & Carolyn Young  
Fred and Wilma Zink

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](mailto:teri@flccs.net).

## *In Remembrance of Wanda Anderson*

Kim and Dede's mother; Wayne's mother-in-law; grandmother of three; whose memorial service will be at a later date in Crystal, Minnesota.

Date of death: January 2, 2026.

## *In Remembrance of Jerry Lillich*

whose memorial service will be January 15 at 11 a.m. here in our Sanctuary with a reception to follow in the Peel House.

Date of death: December 17, 2025.

# Worship and Study

## TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

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

## CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

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

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIGHT

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

## ONLINE WORSHIP

STREAMED LIVE AT 9:30 A.M.

Tune in on First Lutheran's YouTube channel, on the church website, or in the church app.

## PASTORAL TEAM

The Rev. Travis Norton, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Carrie Baylis, Associate Pastor

The Rev. Michaela Eskew, Associate Pastor

## QUARTERLY ADULT EDUCATION

Weekly Adult Seminar is now finished. We will continue with quarterly Adult Education classes. The Lunch and Learn Footsteps of Paul class is part of Adult Education. Check here in the Ekklesia in January and April for our winter and spring options, respectively.

## 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.

## NEXT SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURES

Matthew 3:1 – 17

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COLORADO 80907  
719.632.8836

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