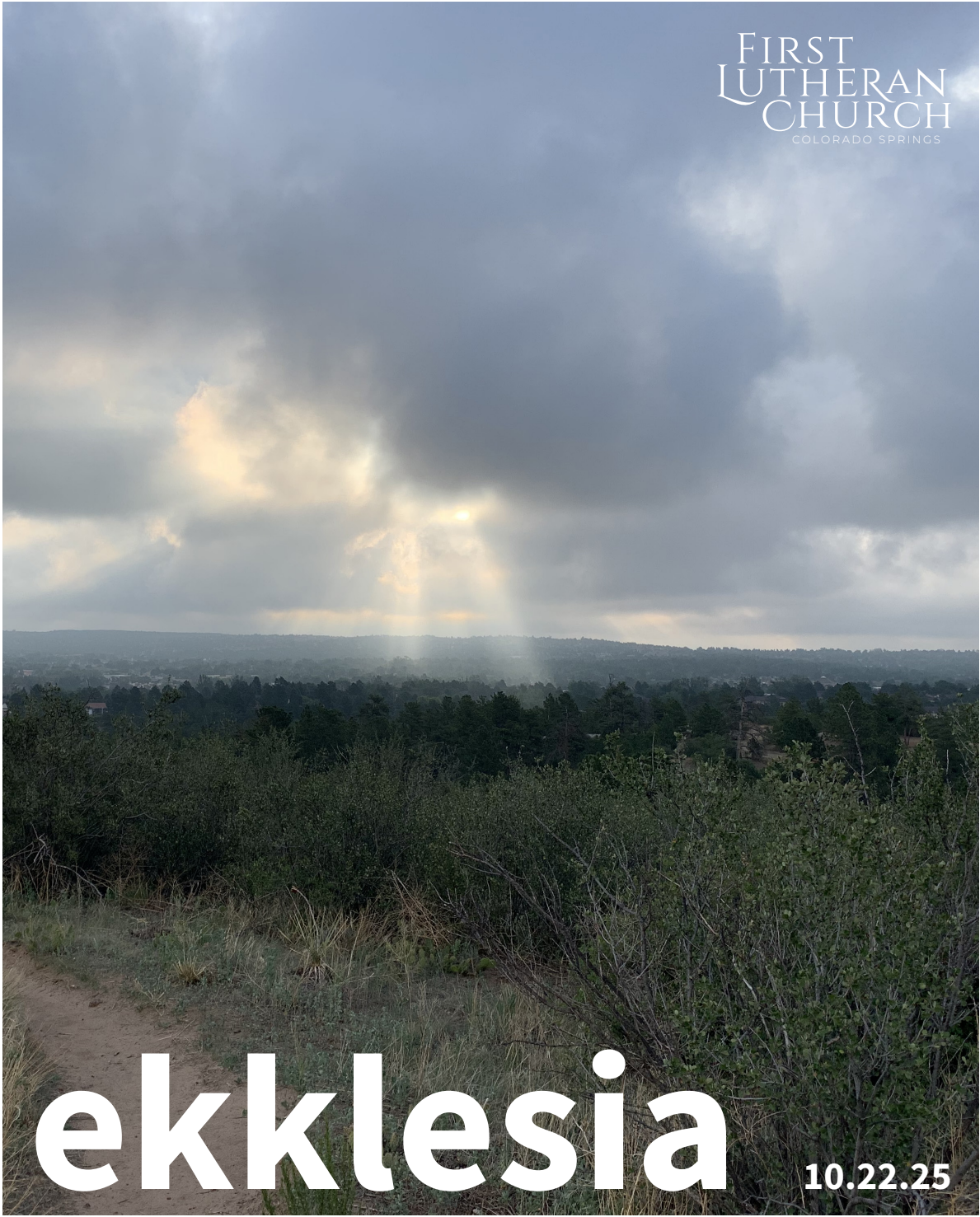




FIRST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
COLORADO SPRINGS

ekklesia

10.22.25

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our Annual Meeting. We elected the following individuals to a three-year term on Church Council:

Chris Lieber

Stacy Gatto

Betsy Pimentel

The 2026 budget passed overwhelmingly with a vote of 267 in favor to 2 opposed.

The congregation also gave permission to the Council to move forward with Phase One of the master plan and a capital campaign to raise funds for the renovation project. The vote was 247 to 34.

I'm excited to move forward on so many fronts for 2026. We have an exciting discipleship plan and evangelism plan to welcome new people to faith in Christ and help us all grow in following Jesus. We

will also be working to fill the open staff positions of part-time executive assistant to the Minister of Worship and Music as well as a part-time handbell director.

We will engage CRP architects to develop more detailed schematic drawings for Phase One and incorporate feedback from the Ministry Gatherings into those drawings. We will begin work on the capital campaign, develop a theme, recruit volunteers, and identify lead givers.

I love the Ministry Gatherings and the Annual Meeting for the clarity it gives us for God's work. Thank you all for thinking and praying and working with your church to discern our future. Now let's get to work and together accomplish the goals God has set before us!



PASTOR TRAVIS NORTON

Sunday's Message

OCTOBER 19, 2025

PASTOR MICHAELA ESKEW

2 TIMOTHY 3: 14 – 4:5

WHAT IS YOUR algorithm like? Have you ever thought about your algorithm? The things that roll onto your social media feeds, the Facebook ads, the things that pop up again and again. If you see dog videos over and over again, it probably means that at some point in your history of scrolling, you decided to watch that dog video and find it adorable, and so the algorithm gave you more. If you ever searched for a new Bible, you probably found that for the next six months you got ads for Bibles, despite having bought one right after your Google search. If you watch recipes, or fitness plans, or whatever it might be, a political speaker, those things are going to pop up more for you. That's the algorithm. They give you what they think you want to see. But how do we maintain a balanced view of things? How do we figure out what the true truth is when our algorithm is set to just give us what we want, and what we know, and what we love?

I am a Millennial, and so I tend to scroll quite often. And I find myself using ChatGPT every once in a while. I'll just confess that for my current *Lunch and Learn: In the Footsteps of Paul*, I have used ChatGPT. Now, before you start to judge me, I have read the books that I assigned you, so if you're coming to my *Lunch and Learn*, I still have the knowledge, I promise. But I went to ChatGPT a few weeks ago, and I said, "I have 60 minutes to fill. And I have these two places that I want to look at. How much time should I spend on the historical stuff, like the cultural context? How much should I spend on reading of Acts? How much should I spend time on discussion questions?" I asked ChatGPT this. And if you know ChatGPT, you know it's overly complimentary. "Oh, what a wonderful adult group you have. It'll be so faithfully for-

mational for your adult members. What a great, great class. Here's your lesson plan." And I said, "Okay."

And so I challenged ChatGPT a little bit. I said, "Okay, we're reading these two texts. Does that matter? Should I spend some time looking at the actual texts themselves and have, you know, quotes from the chapters?" "Oh, yes, quotes from the chapters would be great. Here are some quotes." So it gives me quotes. I know not to trust AI. So thankfully, I fact checked. They said, "Oh, this quote's from Chapter 3." So I went to Chapter 3. And I found, "That's not in Chapter 3. There is nothing in there that says that quote." And so I went to ChatGPT and I said, "This quote is not in Chapter 3. Could it be in a different part of the book? Is it a real quote?" And it says in its complimentary tone, "Oh, you are very astute. You have absolutely found that this is not a direct quote from the book. However, here are some other quotes that might be helpful." I did not use any of those quotes. Right?

ChatGPT wanted to serve me, wanted to give me what they thought I wanted, but in the end was lying, was not giving me truth. And so I have to be discerning. In this modern age, when you have an algorithm that wants to serve you, wants to put ads in front of you, wants to get you to click and buy and view longer, how do we discern what is true? How do we discern what is true? I will just be honest. I have intentionally tried to break my algorithm. How do I do this? I am a Christian pastor. They know this about me, whoever "they" is. They know this about me. And so they give me sermons. They give me little messages from other pastors. And they tell me this person is on this podcast talking about the Bible.

This person is on this radio station talking about this. Do you want to see it?

And I am pretty well versed in who is in my denominational range, who is in my theology, who sees the Bible and the scriptures the way that I do? And so I know who is not, too. Who has a different opinion than I do, different thought and perspective. And I have tried to break my algorithm by still listening to them. Still watching for those extra few milliseconds to tell my algorithm that I want to hear everything that is out there. I don't want you to just keep telling me a Lutheran theology. Although that is nice, too. I like seeing that. But I want to see what other people are hearing in their pews in other churches. Whether they say the same thing that I would say right here, right now. I am trying to break my algorithm.

Columbus Day was just a few days ago. Otherwise known as Indigenous Peoples Day. And so I wanted to see videos from both. People that were celebrating Columbus. People that were celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day. I wanted to, I tried to intentionally, not just in social media, but also in real life, for those Millennials out there. And Gen Z. To actually intentionally place myself in front of people that are not in the same season of life as I am, that didn't have the same upbringing as I did. I want to get to know other people. I want to get other perspectives on this thing called life. Because if I have a balanced perspective, if I have lots of different ideas and thoughts, then maybe I will be able to discern the truth a little bit better. Maybe the truth might not even be something that I immediately connected to. It could be something that someone else is telling me. And I say, oh wow, that is truth to them. And so maybe that should change my perspective on something. Truth is not something that always sticks clear. Except for the scriptures.

Second Timothy today speaks directly to our context. It talks about the scriptures being this inspired work. In fact, it might be even a memory verse that you learned in school or in church: "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness." A few of you might even have that just bored

in here. Because this particular passage tells us about what our scriptures are. They are not just words on a page. They are not just someone's interpretation of God. They are inspired. And that is beautiful. It is even more beautiful when I dive into the Greek. That I am going to do. But I want to take a sideline and say the reason I went into the Greek is because I am for sure a reformed theologian. Martin Luther was very specific to go back to the original text so that he could put it into the vernacular. All the reformers wanted to put the scripture into the hands of the people in the language that they understood.

And so this is really important to kind of go back and say, "Okay, this is a translation." But what does it actually mean? What did it really mean to the first person that wrote it down? Because if we are going to say that the scriptures are inspired, or even better in the Greek, "God-breathed," then we have to take them seriously. And we have to be willing to do a little extra homework into the Greek. Now, you don't need to know Greek. There is actually a whole website that will put the Greek there and then put like what it really means in a Greek translation. So don't get intimidated by my knowledge right now. I do know Greek. But I use this website.

So I looked at this particular verse because I know it was well known. I know it was well loved. And it's been used in other ways, right? To use the scriptures and say this is biblically inerrant. And the Lutheran church believes we take the Bible very, very, very seriously. But we do not take it literally. And so when we come to the scriptures, we take it as this holy divine wisdom that can be changed. Our ideas on it can be changed. And I think this scripture actually helps us with our Lutheran theology around scripture. So it says, all scripture is inspired. Or as I told you, "God-breathed." So, it's not the image of the gospel writer sitting down with his pen and quill and his little angel in his ear being like, "This is what –" No. It is "God-breathed." Meaning the Holy Spirit moved in the whole moment and is in the scriptures. God's Holy Spirit is in the scriptures. Living, moving, breathing.

And then it says that it's, what is it used for? What

is scripture used for? What are we supposed to do with these God-breathed scriptures? They're supposed to teach. They're supposed to reprove. They're supposed to correct. And they're supposed to educate us in righteousness.

I went to the Greek, and I found some beautiful nuance to it. So teaching is teaching. It's instruction. But what I found interesting is that it's an ongoing process. Never once should you open the Bible, open the scriptures and think, "I know exactly what that means." No. Teaching and learning from the scriptures is an ongoing process. You should be able to come to the scriptures every single time with something new with which you come out. And that's a beautiful thing. That's why we have the lectionary that we use every three years, and we read the same scriptures. All the pastors could tell you that we write a completely different sermon every three years on that passage.

And then, so we have teaching. Then we have reproof. A word that we don't use in English very often. I've heard other translations say, "rebuke." And this kind of idea that you're calling people out with scripture. You're going to call them out. They need to fix what they're doing. They need to be reprovved. They need to be rebuked. In the Greek, it's conviction. For teaching and conviction. That is a completely different term. At least to me. Because this scripture means that when I come to it, I come with conviction. I can hold tight to these scriptures and say this is teaching me something that will not bend to the culture around me. It will be steadfast and secure, and I can be convicted in knowing its truth. Convicted.

Then we have correction. Correction is very similar to conviction, but if you actually take the Greek word, it means to literally straighten oneself again. Straighten up again. You've probably heard this from the pulpit before. But when we talk about sin, we talk about this curving inward. I'm going to care about only myself. I'm going to care about what I care about. I'm going to look at myself and what my needs are and what my desires are and what my wants are. And I don't need to care about anybody else. That's sin. To correct yourself is to straighten up and

look to God and look at your neighbor in the eye. So, when our scriptures are inspired and God-breathed, they are there to tell us to straighten up again. We've gotten curved into ourselves. We've gotten into sinful paths and sinful patterns, and we need to straighten up again. And the scriptures will call us out on that. Not just other people. Call us out on that.

And then finally, education and righteousness. Righteousness is this word that we tend to throw out often. But what does it really mean? And so when I went to the Greek, it says it means righteousness. And I said, okay, where else is it used? What other times is this word used? And it's to say an approval of God. Someone who is in righteousness or exhibiting righteousness is approved by God. So, if we are going to be educated through our scriptures in righteousness, it means that we are going to be educated on what God approves of. So what does God approve of? I should take a moment to share that Paul's writing to Timothy was in a letter before the New Testament has ever been put down on paper. Ever. So Jesus is not even in the scriptures yet. Now Paul is going out and proclaiming and telling everyone. And I'm sure he would love to see his letters live on. But I would doubt that Paul is imagining that a scroll of his letter is going to show up in a synagogue one day.

And so he's telling Timothy to look to the Hebrew scriptures. The Hebrew Bible. The story of creation. The story of Moses delivering them from Egypt. The stories of the prophets and why they were led out to exile. These are tough stories, but they tell us about who God is and what God approves of.

They tell us the things that make God the most mad. They tell us, especially when it comes to exile, two things. One is you have got to stop worshiping other idols. Worshiping other things. Stop it. I am real. I am your God. No one else. And then the other one, especially in Jeremiah, you'll see in other social justice prophets, you have not been taking care of the least of these. The widows and the orphans are going hungry. Why should I bless you if you're not going to bless those that need it the most? You are not seeing your neighbor anymore. And so that is what God approves of. God approves of those two things.

And so when Jesus does come and tells of his gospel, how does he distill the law? Into two commandments: Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. And love your neighbor as yourself. And so the defining scriptures of what God approves of goes through the whole story. It's very clear what God approves of. And so if we're going to take our scriptures seriously as God breathed, then it is education and how to live our lives in a way that gives approval to God.

Later in Timothy, in this section that we have, it talks about the context Timothy is in. And it feels like reading of the modern day, right? People don't want to hear the gospel. They're not going to want to hear your news, Timothy. But they have itching ears and they're going to go to teachers who tell them what they want to hear. They're going to turn to myths.

In the modern age, we don't even have to do that for ourselves. The algorithm does it for us. You want to hear it? Here you go. We have to intentionally keep our eyes on our scriptures and keep our heart and mind and soul on our God to keep us on the right path, to discern truth. That is our standard, our plumb line, our way to measure. Is this truth or are you just telling me what you want me to hear? Am I willing to hear other perspectives, other truths that people have that align better with my scriptures than what you're telling me?

It's really hard to walk into this world. There are messages of salvation and messages of hope and healing, but they're all false. If you just do this fitness plan, if you just do this nutritional plan, if you just raise your kids to go to great colleges, if you just make that last career move and you rise in the ranks and you become that highest thing you want to do, if you reach your success, then you're saved. Then you've made it. Then your life has meaning. False prophets. False teachings.

Our scriptures, our God-breathed scriptures, are going to challenge us. They're going to teach us. They're going to call us to straighten up. They're going to convict us to hold true to them. And they're going to teach us about what will make God's approval. Because we're not seeking the approval of this

world, we're seeking the approval of God.

And so, if you're wondering how I go into this murk and mire of the modern world, just be encouraged by the same words that Paul is sending to Timothy. Stand in the scriptures. Stand in your Bible. Now I know, the Bible is complicated; I've read it many times. There are lots of books that make no sense whatsoever or just are incredibly boring. I get it. Totally get it. But I take the Bible very, very seriously. And so I'm telling you to go find a translation that works for you. The reformers would be so pleased for you to find a translation that works for you, that allows you to read the scriptures and feel that heart of scripture again, where it can teach you and instruct you and call you out, call you to straighten up. The scriptures are so incredibly important to our faith life. And so we have to take them seriously, and we have to dive into them as often as we can.

So I encourage you to go to Google and be bombarded with six months of ads to get yourself a new Bible or to pull out an old Bible, and to be strengthened and lifted up for the hard work of ministry, because each and every one of you is doing ministry out in this world. So use the scriptures to encourage you, inspire you, and support you in this path. Amen.



OCTOBER FOOD INGATHERING

Bring non-perishable food to the Gathering Place vestibule. Benefits Care and Share

THANK YOU, THIRD QUARTER VOLUNTEERS!

We needed 60 – 70 volunteers each Sunday – a minimum of 780 positions per quarter. Please thank each person who served!

Al Hassebrock & Jan Gregg, Anita & Mike Eckley, Ann & Bruce Carlson, Ann & Noah Mellott, Anne Rivers, Barbara & Joe Dixon, Bert Bedford, Beth Lindquist, Beth & Bill Zautke, Betsy Pimentel, Betsy & John Tuma, Bill & Karen Busovsky, Bill & Gloria Layton, Bill & Eileen Lipscomb, Bill & Sherry Phipps, Bob Tim, Bonnie & Larry Bagley, Brenda McFillen, Brooke & Karolyn Smith, Butch & Gail Backlund, Candi Mountain Gad-die, Candy Lesoing, Carl & Lily

Egan, Carol Olson, Carol Schlatter, Cathie John Fenell & David Fenell, Cathy & Harry Mosco, Charlie & Linda Helmstetler, Charlotte & Peter De Jong, Cheryl Mahon, Cheryl & Pix Pixley, Chom & Jeff Zust, Chris Gerbig, Chris Parkhill, Chris White, Chuck Donachy, Chuck & Lenora Simmons, Cindy & Mike Bauer, Colleen McCarty, Corby & Teresa Meyer, Corinne Gibson, Dan & Pat Friedell, Dana Olson, Darlene Edwards, Darrel Dolen, Darrell & Rondi Shafer, Dave & Pat Hardin, Dave Johnson, David Aspenson, David & Judy Bondurant, David & Holli Jarmuth, Debbie Erickson, Deborah & Paul Steinke, Debra & Ken Boehm, Delena Garrison-Wellmer, Diane Boldt, Diane Heinemann, Diane Millburn, Dick & Suzy Utzke, Don Kusulas, Ed Koditek, Ed Strecker, Elaine Myers, Erna Haring, Eve Koger, Flo Bechtold, Fran Freese, Gail Friedly, Gary & Patricia Atkins, Gary Bradley, Gary Olson, George & Paula Gillaspie, Georgette Mathews, Georgia Waldthausen, Georgie Bever & Tom Keilers, Gini Dugan, Gini & Jim Simonson, Gloria Lindsey, Gudrun Vest, Gwen Pool, Helen Peterson, Jan & Jennings Larson, Jane Juris, Jane Linnenburger, Janice Pavell, Jeff

Gross, Jerry & Linda Branesky, Jerry & Sandy Harkins, Jill O'Brien, Joan Abrahamsen, Joann Horner-Poirier, Joanne Larson, John Marvin, Jolene Bedford, Jon Heinecke, Jon & Linda Parobek, Judy Compton, Judy Hagge, Judy Morgan, Julie & Ron Furstenau, Julie Wick, Karen Hertsgaard, Kathleen Capron, Kathy Holmes, Kathy Mutz, Kathy Schroeder, Kathy Wyant, Katie Ackerman, Lance & Lisa Nelson, Laura Allton, Leighton Sybrant, Linda Cohrs, Linda Wilson Holt, Liz Koop, Lois Peel, Lynn & Rob Eggum, Lynn Peterson, Marcus Kochis, Margie Sisson & Pete Bredlau, Marion Behr, Marlene Bigelow, Marlyn & Mary Peet, Mary Hartwell, Mike & Patti Olsen, Mindy Mahler, Nathan Richard, Nick Striegel, Pam Rokke, Patsy Pedersen, Paul Lindsey & Paula Nickodemus, Peggy Hinrichs, Peter Hauer, Riche Kennedy, Rosemary Anderson, Rusty Smith, Ruth & Wayne Hjelmstad, Ryan Kirby, Sarah MacLeod, Scott & Teri Ellsworth, Scott Keilers, Scott Tonder, Shari Brian, Sherri Foos, Sherrie Denton, Stacy Gatto, Starr Wise, Stephanie Smith, Steve Steiner, Suzanne DuBois, Tad Goodenbour, Terry Hjelkrem, Tina Sharp, Tom Bogard, Trudy Lans, Velma Naber, Verna Severson, Vicki Lieber, and Vickie Voth.



CHERYL MAHON, DIRECTOR OF LAY MINISTRIES

ARE WE WASTING ENVELOPES?

Do you give to First Lutheran annually or semi-annually? Do you give online? If you are receiving giving envelopes in the mail each month but don't use them, please email cheryl@flccs.net and ask her to shut off your subscription.

FOURTH QUARTER VOLUNTEERS

The forms to sign up to volunteer for Sunday worship services, October – December, have been emailed. Volunteers are needed for Communion preparation, worship assistants, etc. If you need a link, contact Cheryl at cheryl@flccs.net.

FLC TECH BUDDIES

SUPPORTING OUR SENIORS

We'd like to build a team to work with older or homebound members in setting up technology. This is a great opportunity for younger members to build relationships with our older, wiser members! Please email Cheryl at cheryl@flccs.net if you would be interested in serving on the FLC Tech Buddies team!

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

SATURDAY NIGHT | NOVEMBER 1 TO 2

"Fall back" – don't forget to change your clocks!

MOMCO

NOVEMBER 4 | 9:30 A.M.

MomCo meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays in the Peel House Lounge, next to the coffee bar.

11 A.M. WORSHIP

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

This is the smaller of our traditional services but still very well received. It is more difficult to find volunteers to Greet, Usher, and/or host Coffee Reception for this service with fewer people in attendance. If you prefer the 11 a.m. service, please consider sharing of your time just once in 2025 to see how you like it. Greeting and Coffee Reception are a great way to meet other members of the congregation. **See Cheryl Mahon** if you are willing to give it a whirl!

AGING TOGETHER

FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 7 | 10 – 11:30 A.M. PEEL HOUSE 201

The topic for discussion is Sleep Problems: Suggestions and Solutions. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Maureen Tuttle at **719.640.1985** or Anne Rivers at **719.351.4268**.

ANGEL TREE MINISTRY

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31 9 A.M. – NOON OR 1 - 3 P.M. FELLOWSHIP HALL

To support the children and families of the incarcerated, we will make 150 hand-tied fleece blankets, which will be distributed December 7. **Volunteers are needed to help cut fringe.** For more information, contact Ken Boehm at **719.352.2377** or by email at kenrboehm@gmail.com. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/49bMWSf>.

LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES REFUGEE AND ASYLEE PROGRAM

General Inquiries: Contact Jessica at **719.227.8899**

Volunteer Opportunities: Contact Britton at **719.257.3706**

Donation Inquiries: Email britton.varn@lfsrm.org

PLEASE NOTE:

LFS **does not** accept donations of clothing

LFS **does** accept household items, but limits apply

Donations are by appointment only – no onsite drop-off at the Peel House or First Lutheran, please! Storage for LFS is offsite; neither the LFS or FLC office has space for storage of donations.



PUMPKIN PATCH

MIDDLE SCHOOL OCT 20 | 2 p.m. Meet at Church
GRADES 6 - 8 25 | 25 | 5 p.m. Pick-Up at Church

Bring \$20 | Friends are always welcome!



HIGH SCHOOL

Boo

AT THE ZOO

October 25, 2025
6 - 9 P.M.
GRADES 9 to 12



Dress up and bring a friend! All attendees must register as soon as possible through the QR code.

Reformation Sunday

THIS COMING SUNDAY we commemorate the Reformation of the church led by Martin Luther and inspired by the Holy Spirit. Luther never intended to split Christ's church but was compelled to return the church to the truth of Holy Scripture. The resulting split, and the many divisions, in the one, holy, catholic church remains a scar of the Reformation that we hope will one day be healed. But the reasons for the Reformation are worth returning to and remembering.

Why are we Lutheran? What does it mean to be a Lutheran? There are many ways to answer this, chiefly the five *solas* (Latin for 'alone' or 'only') of the Reformation. These five *solas* kept front and center the truth of the Christian faith that Luther was fighting for.

CHRIST ALONE – Salvation is through Jesus' work on the cross. Salvation is 100 percent God's work. We don't add anything to what Jesus did for us on the cross to forgive our sin and assure us eternal life.

GRACE ALONE – Salvation is a gift freely given. It is not earned. It cannot be bought. God gives it freely out of love for us.

FAITH ALONE – Salvation is received by our believing, not by any works. Faith is simply trusting that what God says is true, that Jesus death and resurrection save us.

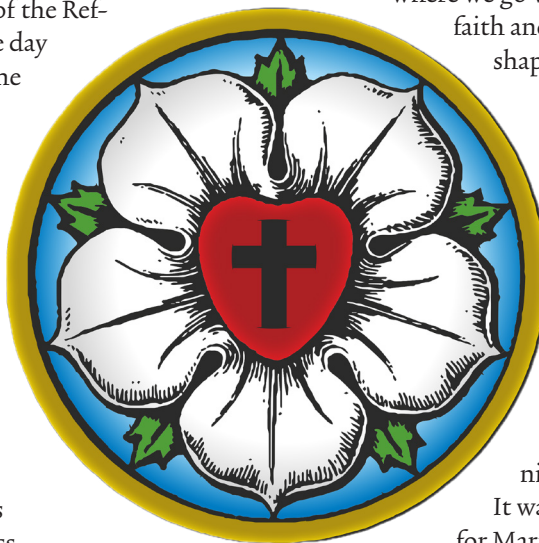
WORD ALONE – The Bible is true. The Bible is where we go with our questions about our faith and life and what God uses to shape our belief.

TO THE GLORY OF GOD ALONE – Our entire lives, the life of our church and everything we are about is aimed at giving God glory. Our job is to tell the truth about God and worship him with everything that we are.

The Luther Rose or Luther Seal, left, is a widely recognized symbol for Lutheranism.

It was the seal that was designed for Martin Luther at the behest of

John Frederick of Saxony in 1530, while Luther was staying at the Coburg Fortress during the Diet of Augsburg. Source: Wikipedia



PIPESCREAMS!

A HALLOWEEN ORGAN CONCERT
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31 | SHOVE CHAPEL

Our own **Eric Wicks**, Minister of Worship and Music, will join forces with local organist Simon Jacobs to present the best scary organ music in a recital on the campus of Colorado College. Don't miss Bach's epic *Tocatta and Fugue*, Boëllmann's fiery *Tocatta*, Vierne's epic *Finale*, and so much more. Admission is free – come in costume after the trick-or-treating at First Lutheran ends! The concert begins at **8 p.m.**

THE EMMAUS WAY

“... the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being.”
– Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

IF YOU’LL ALLOW, I’d like to spend a couple of more weeks reflecting with you about some things from my recent trip to Scotland. Last week’s post was a bit challenging, and I think today’s is, too, but I promise to finish next week with something lighter. Thanks for sticking with me. Last week we looked at walls of division in the Church (see again **Ephesians 2:14 – 16**); this week we take a hard look at the dividing line of good and evil in ourselves.

I mentioned last week the strange reaction I had to some of the historic church buildings in Scotland, starting in Glasgow Cathedral. A good part of the reason for that was coming face to face with the violence done in God’s name that those

buildings had witnessed, which brought me face to face with the potential violence in my own heart. The day I’m writing this is apparently Charlie Kirk’s birthday. I’ve seen posts today that either extol him as a great man of God or vilify him as a bigot and confidently judge him to not be a Christian, each writer themselves

claiming Christ as their savior, each thinking the other misguided at best, evil at worst.

I’m not here to judge Charlie Kirk or either of these social media warriors. I’m here to invite us to think about, not those other “evil” people over there, but the unwelcome “evil” that lurks within our hearts, frequently hiding underneath strongly held Christian beliefs. I’m here to remind us that, whether we like it or not, the dividing line between good and evil goes through each of our own hearts (we are all saint and sinner), and the only real way we can counter violence in the world is to first do business with it in our own selves.

History reminds us that Christian history is complex and complicated. And if we look at it humbly and honestly, it confronts us with the messiness in our own hearts. But history, and the incredible buildings constructed through millennia as houses of worship, also show us the beauty of God’s redemption in Christ, taking upon himself the violence we do—even in his name—and graciously giving us his own life. This week, let’s ask God to show us if there is any **wicked way** in our own hearts and to then graciously lead us in the way everlasting, which is Christ. Let’s walk in doing the hard work together.



LORI DUNCAN, MINISTER OF SPIRITUAL CARE



TRAIL TREKKERS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30 | 9 A.M.
STRAWBERRY FIELDS

We'll meet at the second lower parking lot at the Starsmore Nature Center, Cheyenne Road and Evans Avenue. These trails range from easy to moderate and provide great views of the Colorado Springs skyline, meadows, forested areas, and awesome rock outcroppings. We'll hike 3 – 4 miles. Lunch after the hike is optional. Anyone capable of hiking three to six miles at altitude is welcome! For more information or to register for the hike, contact Judy Hagge by email at: outdoorjudy@comcast.net.

REMEMBER ...

Prepare a daypack to include essentials: rain poncho, wind breaker, sack lunch, snacks, sunscreen, personal identification, at least one quart of water, bandana, hiking poles, other personal items.

Dress in layers; wear a hat, sunglasses, sturdy walking shoes or boots.

Moderate hikes have elevation changes, somewhat rugged terrain.

THRIVENT SUPPORTS HALLOWEEN

ACTION GRANTS

Thrivent members are eligible for two \$250 grants per year, which may be used for a variety of ministry-related expenses. 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.

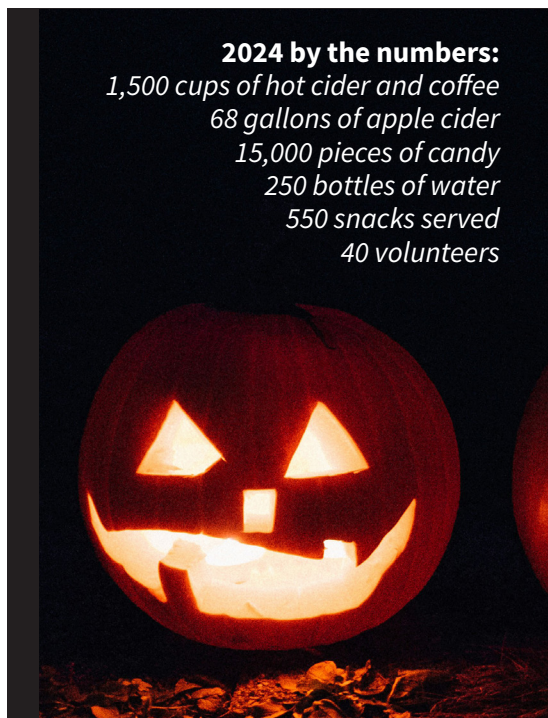
ALL SAINTS DAY REMEMBRANCE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

You are invited to remember a loved one who has entered eternal life between November 1, 2024, and the present. To add your loved one's name to the list, click here: <https://bit.ly/4eeNFll>. Please submit names by October 29. Loved ones will be remembered on a special list to be published in the bulletin on November 2; those who were members of First Lutheran will be verbally recognized during the service.

2024 by the numbers:

1,500 cups of hot cider and coffee
68 gallons of apple cider
15,000 pieces of candy
250 bottles of water
550 snacks served
40 volunteers



DINING OUT WITH FIRST LUTHERAN

SELECT TUESDAYS | 5:30 P.M.
VARIOUS RESTAURANTS

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

HOLIDAY “CRAFTING AROUND”

SELECT TUESDAYS | 9:30 A.M.
JOSEPH’S WORKSHOP

This group meets in the basement of the main building. The cost for these fabulous crafts is a bargain at just \$5 each. Please pay in full when registering. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/4l8eTwT>.

October 28	Tree Wreath Ornament
November 4	Gift Card Holders
November 11	Yarn Christmas Tree
November 15	Crafter’s Choice

BOOK GROUP

NOVEMBER 5 | 7 P.M. | LIBRARY

This group reads a wide range of books, thoughtfully selected by the group itself. Shared perceptions, ideas, and experiences provide lively discussion. For November, we’ll be reading *Eyes That Do Not See* by Kent Kearney.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

November 18	Lazy Dog 7605 Academy Boulevard
December 2	Ai Sushi 3215 Cinema Point
December 16	La Bella Vita Italiano 4475 Northpark Drive
January 13	Saltgrass Steakhouse 1405 Jamboree Drive

Join us as we
open our doors!

Friday, October 31
5:30 – 8 p.m.

The Old North End is a favorite destination for trick-or-treating. Our outreach to the community relies on your generous donations and willingness to help!

- Decorate: Thursday, October 30, 4 – 7 p.m.
- Donate: Candy – or cash or gift cards (we’ll do the shopping!)
- Create: A themed car for “Trunk or Treat”
- Serve: Welcome guests with candy and drinks on Halloween

Donations of candy may be placed in the orange and black bins in the Gathering Place. Gift cards for King Soopers and Sam’s Club – helpful for cider, candy, and snacks – may be turned in at the Welcome Center. To register for decorating, trunk or treat, or helping on Halloween, visit <https://bit.ly/3VQmSUR>.

See above for information on Thrivent Action Team Grants.



Halloween at First Lutheran

In the Life of the Church ...

Birthdays

- October 27** Joan Abrahamson
Linda Collier
Ritchie Loflin
- October 28** Nancy Craig
Georgia Haberacker
Krista Shafer
- October 29** Flo Bechtold
Harper Duncan
Chelsea Schroeder
- October 30** Cathy John-Fenell
Geir Ostrem
Mike Palski
- October 31** Ben Evans
Kerry Lesoing
- November 1** Carl Egan
Neil Mahon
Hudson McConnell
Chris Mourning
Kathryn Palski
Char Stecklein
Sally Warrington
- November 2** Daniel Abraham
Charlotte De Jong
Carolyn Kurtz
Kathy Mutz
Christina Stanley
Karen Weesner
Lillie Weis

Anniversaries

- October 27**
Pix and Cheryl Pixley 41 years
- October 28**
Jordan M. Martin and Jordan S. Martin 2 years
Guido and Ingrid Rohde 64 years
- October 29**
Julie and Ghassan Nehme 30 years
- October 31**
Steve and Maureen Anderson 44 years
- November 2**
Russell Flora and Donna Lovelace-Flora 18 years



Prayer Requests

Lannette Abbey
Wanda Anderson
The Larry Arnold Family
Fred Bachmeier
Janice Baldwin
Elmer Bauman
Tana Beall
Joan Boehm
Bill & Barbara Brown
Calista
Clare Campbell
Karl & Pam Cartwright
Tanya Charbonneau
John & Debbie Chlebus
Nell Clowder
David & Reidun Aardal
Debi Deimling
Carol Donachy
Russell Downs
Duane & Gaylene
Rinda Dunson
Alan Flinn
Donna Flores
Edna Fross
Corinne Gibson
Nick Gomes
Nola Gosch
George Hanson
Private Steven Harris
Ginger Hipszky
Jake Hodnett
Bill & Doreen Hulka
Irene
Matthew James
Josh Jones
Shirley Jones
Ann Junk
Jonas Kagarise
Tami Kephart
Kyong Kelley
Gaye Lynn Kielcheski

Cindy Koger
Jesse Lawrence & Family
Timothy Lillich
Dayne Lindquist
Patricia Lopez
Susan Lundmark
The Elly Mahler Family
Malia
Jim Matthews
Nick McKibben & Family
Hugh McNeely
Brandon Miller & Family
Gwyn Miller
Marilyn Miller & Family
Larry & Lucille Moe
Paul Moe
Wilma Nicolaisen
Sam Norton
Marlis Olson
Owen & Family
Patsy Pedersen
Jack & Judy Peterson
Ralph Peterson
Darlene Radke
Jeff Rapp
Mark Roth
Matthew Stark
Gwen Stein
Becky Sternal
Barbara Swan
Michael Taylor
Aaron & Cindi Thorson
Bob VanDuyn & Karen
Henderson-VanDuyn
Christine Welch
The Jody Wilbur Family
Greg & Carolyn Young

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 **Elly Mahler**

Mark, Peter, and Heidi's mother; Mindy, Mary, and Frank's mother-in-law; grandmother of seven; great-grandmother of thirteen; whose memorial service will be held at a later date in Rochester, New York.

Worship and Study

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

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

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

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

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIGHT

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

ONLINE WORSHIP

STREAMED LIVE AT 9:30 A.M.

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

QUARTERLY ADULT EDUCATION

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.

PASTORAL TEAM

The Rev. Travis Norton, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Carrie Baylis, Associate Pastor

The Rev. Michaela Eskew, Associate Pastor

NEXT SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURES

John 8: 31 – 36

Jeremiah 31: 31

Psalms 46

Romans 3: 19 – 28

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

FLCCS.NET

