



JANUARY 24, 2024

# EKKLESIA

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

### ADULT OPPORTUNITIES



#### DINING OUT WITH FLC

Do you love to dine out? Do you love to catch up with friends over a meal? Well, now you can do both at the same time! This bi-monthly small group provides the opportunity to meet “new” friends or catch up with “old” ones. This group will meet at 6 p.m. on two Tuesdays of each month to enjoy various cuisines and fellowship. Reservations will be made two weeks in advance, so sign up early!

Keep this link to check as more restaurants are added!

Register here: <https://bit.ly/41Rh4ff> or on the “Church” app.

#### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP STUDY

THURSDAYS, 7:30 A.M.

LUTHER HALL

A new topic began on Thursday, January 11. We will look at FROM JESUS TO CONSTANTINE: A STUDY OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY, a DVD presentation by Professor Bart D. Ehrman, author and professor at the University of North Carolina. With 30-minute sessions running for several weeks, we will follow the growth of Christianity from its very humble beginnings of mostly lower-class followers of a crucified preacher to a powerful religious, cultural, political, and intellectual institution. Come to any or all presentations.

A welcome to attend is extended to all men. The coffee is on; ears and hearts are open.

#### SUNDAY ADULT SEMINAR

##### FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Led by Lori Duncan

January 14 - February 11

9:30 a.m., Peel House

## FROM THE PASTOR



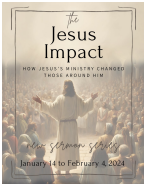
A few weeks ago First Lutheran received a gift from the estate of Drexel Biddle who died last year. It was so heartwarming to know that he had made a decision years prior to make sure his church was remembered at the time of his passing. His last gift to his beloved congregation will ensure that ministry thrives this year and beyond. In fact, everything we do has Mr. Biddle as part of it. We are grateful for gifts like his and the generosity that fuels our mission.

Drexel's gift reminds me that our entire ministry stands on the shoulders of those who have gone before us. First Lutheran was established in 1892, and everything we are comes to us as a gift from those who supported this congregation with their time, talent, treasure and prayers long before we did. I am by nature a future-focused person, so it's really important for me to take time regularly to reflect on the people that brought us what we have. Think of your parents or grandparents who may have supported this congregation or others like it. I think they would be proud of their legacy.

I'm grateful to be part of this congregation and to lend my support to her 132 years of mission and ministry. I like the idea that my effort matters and is part of something so much bigger than myself. I wonder what First Lutheran will be like 132 years from now. What will we have added to this congregation? How will we have expanded her reach and impact?

Each one of you is part of this journey of First Lutheran in Colorado Springs. You will each leave an imprint on this church. Thank you for all the ways you move us along the path of Jesus in this world. Thank you for sharing yourself in your gifts, time, ideas, service and encouragement. May God bless each of you this year as you work together to propel this congregation towards the vision God has for us. I'm excited to continue the journey with you.

*-Pastor Travis*



JANUARY 21, 2024

MARK 1: 21-28

EXORCIZING THE DEMONS

THE JESUS IMPACT

Brothers and sisters in Christ grace, peace, and mercy to you from Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

It was just a regular Sabbath morning in Capernaum and the people were gathered for worship. They might have been sleepy, just pulling themselves out of bed, going because it was the right thing to do when really they wanted to stay in bed after a long week. Some were likely irritable for any number of reasons and as they approached the synagogue. A few might have argued with kids or a spouse on the way over, telling them to knock it off, we're on our way to church for pete's sake.

But it was the Sabbath, so they continued on the way. The people gathered together from all different backgrounds, different stations of life, different struggles from the week that they still carried, emotions running high or maybe not running at all. But they showed up because it was the Sabbath and that's what they did, moving through the liturgy and the songs, reading the Word, and then heading back home to spend the day as you would starting with a noontime meal.

But on this day, there would be a guest in the synagogue. The usual preacher was not there, it was Jesus of Nazareth, and the morning would not be one they would forget. Most did not know who this Jesus of Nazareth was, and likely were not super excited or expecting much; he was from Nazareth after all. He started to teach, and it was fine; it was likely better than fine, but maybe they just couldn't put their finger on why it was different or why it perked them up to listen. He wasn't a dazzling speaker; his speech not complicated, but he spoke in a way that made you want to listen, even the teenagers looked less bored.

You could describe him as having authority. This man had authority.

As he spoke about God's Kingdom one could sense that he was intimately familiar with that kingdom, that he was indeed a part of it. The impact he had on the people gathered was not because of any degree he had, or a slick delivery of sermon, this man was the flesh of the message he would proclaim. The people gathered likely didn't know what to do with this man. They listened intently, maybe nudged one another to see if those around them had the same feeling. Who was this man that brought the Word of God and was the Word of God, they were amazed on this otherwise normal Sabbath morning.

And just as the people were turning to one another from the back row, the yelling started. It was shrill and the people were likely startled and brought back to the reality of the day as the words of the preacher were overcome by the outburst in the back. "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth?"

Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, you are the Holy One of God!" I imagine it in a sinister voice, what one might imagine a serpent to sound like.

Well, this certainly wasn't the average Sabbath in synagogue now was it?

And Jesus didn't back down or shrink into his space, he commanded back, "Be quiet!" The people were glad that Jesus said it because then they didn't have to. I mean really, an outburst like that in church? Have people no manners?

But no sooner than Jesus had said "be quiet" he followed up with "come out of him!" The man sputtered and shook, likely collapsed in an exhausted mess and then was better. The craze in his eyes gone, and a calm overtook him. Well, you can bet he was the only one that was calm, the rest must have been picking their jaws up off the floor and trying not to stare.

This certainly was a different week at church. Usually by now in the service people have begun to think about the next part of their day, what they were going to have for lunch, and when were we going to be finished so we could get up to use the bathroom without people staring. But not today, today everyone wondered what was going to happen next because they had just encountered Jesus and he was all they were likely going to talk about for quite some time.

On this day, the Sabbath, the people went to church, and they encountered God. What they didn't know then was they had also encountered the very Son of God.

Each week, we gather here and bring all our things from the week with us. When we gather and we in-

voke the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit we know that they are present with us. But when was the last time that we were fired up by the presence of God among us? What is so bold as to make us exclaim that God is here, with us now, for us always? The people in Capernaum came to know Jesus in this first act of ministry, in this act of authority, in the exorcism of an unclean spirit. We shouldn't need that act of authority to know that Jesus is with us in worship. Worship is the center of our life together, then and now. Jesus is truly here with us and for us. Anything can happen and something lifegiving will always happen, every time.

Mark's Gospel is proclamation that Jesus is the Messiah and Son of God, whose death and resurrection paid the penalty for our sins and achieved victory over Satan, sin, and death. In this episode the authority of Jesus' teaching is paired with his dramatic and effective exorcism of the unclean spirit. Those who witness it are amazed both by the authority of his teaching and his authority over unclean spirits. The impact of his actions causes his reputation to grow throughout Galilee.

Jesus' first act in Mark might very well be one of the most important texts of our time. I don't know that we hear often enough that God's first feat after the wilderness is to confront evil. That it is Jesus exerting authority in both his teaching and his power over evil. God shows us that He will take on the demons that possess us, that he can cast out and silence the forces who attempt to sway us toward idolatry and blasphemy.

Today, right now, is the time to remember, to recognize and to believe that God has indeed reclaimed our existence. That when we hear the words of Jesus that cast out evil, we too might be empow-

ered to confront evil and demand its silence. We must trust that God always goes where we think God won't or can't — that God is in the places where evil lurks and beckoning us to find our way out, to reclaim who we are in Jesus Christ.

When the demon-possessed man disrupted the meeting, Jesus simply ordered the demon to leave, and it left. The people in the synagogue had never seen anything like it. Who could have such authority that even evil spirits have to obey his straightforward word?

Jesus, the Son of God, had all the authority in the world—in the universe. God created all things through him and put all things under him. So even these spirits that turned evil, were completely subject to him.

Yet Jesus did not use his incomparable authority the way we tend to use our ideas of authority. We tend to use authority to our advantage, a way of furthering or promoting oneself, of getting our own way, of suppressing the truth, and of getting and holding the power to keep doing those things. We have been witness to how many dictatorial regimes, corporate, government and church scandals, tyrannical parents, bosses, teachers, government officials and more.

But not Jesus, he has all the authority there is, and uses it entirely differently. Jesus acts when necessary. We live regular lives, and Jesus walks alongside of us. He doesn't act to keep out those who might look different from us, who might look unsteady and possessed. He welcomes all, and if a problem arises, he deals with it then. He doesn't expect the worst. But when the worst happens, when evil overcomes, he also doesn't overreact. There is no big show or berating, no screaming and no killing. He just firmly makes the demon go away. He also seeks no gain

from shutting down the impure spirit. He moves on with His teaching, serving with patience and mercy, letting us grow to see that we need him in our life and in our world.

Jesus uses his authority to help us, not to destroy us. He drives out the demons, not us.

Sin itself is an enemy that does us damage and holds it over us. Because we, too, are sometimes possessed by an “unclean spirit.” And I suspect that sometimes we wonder and wait for things to happen, for the evil to go away, for the sin to stop being a temptation. And when Jesus acts, when we are open to letting Jesus in and releasing the evil or sin out; is it as dramatic as the story here? Actually, sometimes it is. Ask around and you'll find stories of people who have had dramatic and sudden encounters with grace and mercy, with release and relief. But sometimes it's not that intense moment we might be waiting for. Sometimes the road to healing and restoration takes time and company. Sometimes it's not about a single pastoral visit but the steady care of a grief support network, or an AA group in the church, or a prayer chain, or parenting group, or whatever it is you might need. God is at work in all these ways and so many more to free us from the unclean spirits, the evil, the sin that still possesses us. Turning towards Jesus, recognizing and relying on his authority and his ability to cast out evil results in healing and restoration for us and for the world. Where can you be open to the Jesus Impact in your life, what can you turn over to Him and let him cast out for you?

Please pray with me...

*-Pastor Carrie*



# YOUTH MINISTRY

AT FIRST LUTHERAN

## HIGH SCHOOL *Progressive Dinner*



January 26, 2024

5 to 9 p.m.

Grades 9 - 12

Meet at the church. RSVP needed

ASAP for all attending!



Join us as we travel around to different houses for different meal courses! We will meet at the church and take the bus to our three destinations! RSVPs needed, please sign up online.

<https://bit.ly/48oeqRu>



## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GATHERING PRE-TRIP MEETING

February 11

12-1 p.m., Grades 8 – 12

This meeting is for the youth who are going on the summer trip to New Orleans. It is a time of fellowship, teaching, and planning our next fundraisers. Make sure to mark your calendars.

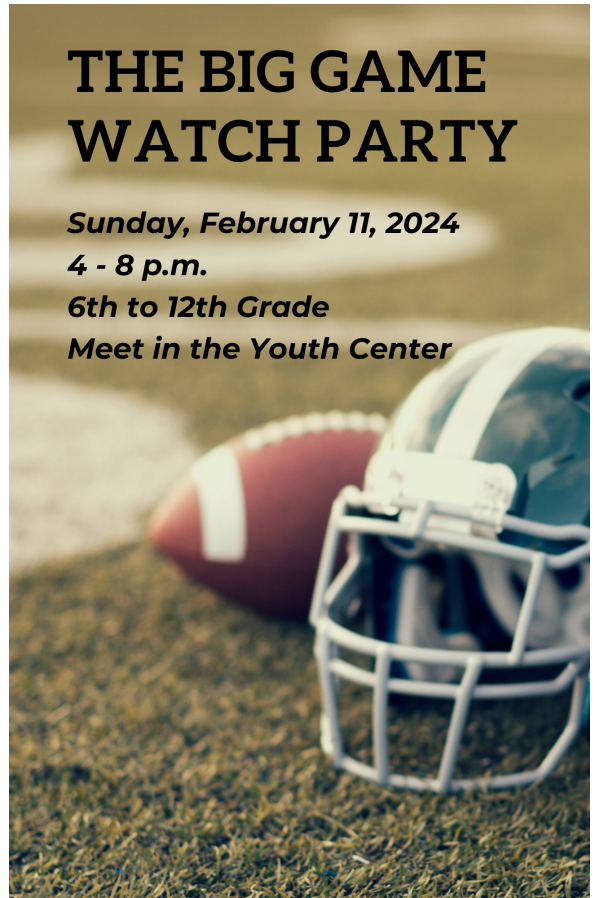
## THE BIG GAME WATCH PARTY

***Sunday, February 11, 2024***

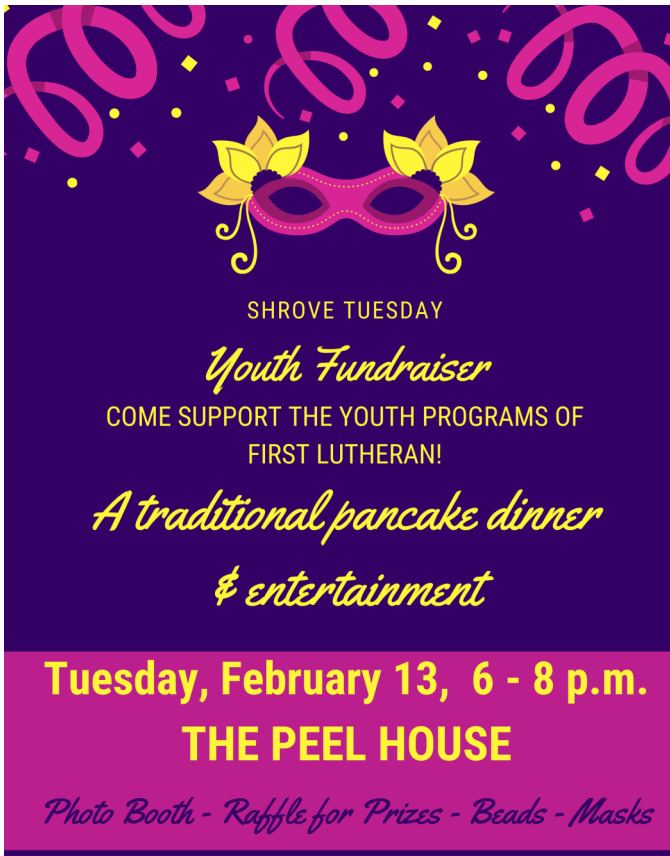
***4 - 8 p.m.***

***6th to 12th Grade***

***Meet in the Youth Center***







## BELONG YOUTH COLLECTIVE (BeYOU)

February 18, 6 – 8 p.m., Grades 6 – 12

BeYou is an ecumenical youth group that is affirming and inclusive. We meet once a month in the Peel House to play games, talk about important issues, and fellowship with other youth groups in the Colorado Springs area.

## HIGH SCHOOL LOCK-IN

February 18, 8 p.m - February 19, 9 a.m.

Right after BeYou wraps up, we will have a High School lock-in down in the Youth Center. Bring a blanket and pillow!

# BECOME INVOLVED



## INGATHERING OF FOOD FOR CARE AND SHARE

During the month of January, we will be collecting food to feed those in need. Care and Share is currently in need of peanut butter, canned fruit, canned meat, and canned vegetables.

**Please bring your food to the north wall between the west-facing glass doors in the Gathering Place where the new mural is.**



## TWICE UPON A TIME

Bring your gently used children's books to the red wagon in the Gathering Place, and they will be refurbished and given to those in need.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS BEFORE WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIGHT

February 21 & 28, March 6 & 20, 6 p.m. in the Gathering Place.

In the season of Lent, we'll be gathering together at 6 p.m. in the Gathering Place for fellowship and a simple supper of soup and bread. We'll clean up at 6:45 and go to the Peel House to worship at Wednesday Night Light. We hope you are able to take a little time during your week to come and reset during this holy season with food, fellowship, and God's Word. If you are willing to bring a crockpot of soup, please sign up here:

<https://bit.ly/47EosN3>

## ARE WE WASTING GIVING ENVELOPES?

We want to be conscious of the environment, our members' needs, and be good stewards of our money. 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 [chaeli@flccs.net](mailto:chaeli@flccs.net) and ask her to shut off your subscription.



## Cheryl's Corner

### 2024 AED/CPR TRAINING

Colorado Springs Firefighter and Paramedic, Clark Gaddie, is not only extremely knowledgeable, but has the ability to make one feel comfortable using the AED equipment and performing basic CPR. We all need to know what to do in the case of an emergency while we are waiting 5-10 minutes for help to arrive after dialing 911. All are welcome! Dessert will be provided.



Monday, February 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., Gathering Place

<https://bit.ly/3owHjGj>



### NEW LOCATIONS FOR AED DEVICES

If you have taken an AED class at First Lutheran, you were taken on a tour of locations throughout the building of where all the AED devices are located. There has been a CHANGE!! We now have one AED in the main church building located at the WELCOME CENTER. We have one AED located in

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP SET UP!

Our ministries are growing! There are various meetings that take place each week on our First Lutheran campus. Some are for our small groups, Bible studies, adult seminar, etc. Some are for non-profits that use the Peel House. This means that our sextons are setting up tables and chairs, tearing them down to set them up in a different location over and over again, all week long. If you are available during the week to help with some of these set ups/tear downs, we'd like to have you join our Property Committee. Please email [cheryl@flccs.net](mailto:cheryl@flccs.net) if you are interested in helping.

# INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

MEETS THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH  
7 P.M., FIRESIDE ROOM

February 7 - *The Short Nights of the Shadow  
Catcher* by Timothy Egan

March 6 - *The Elephant Whisperer* by Lawrence  
Anthony

## FIRST COMMUNION MILESTONE FOR THIRD GRADERS AND FAMILY

March 17, March 20, and March 24  
Locations vary, see details below

We moved our First Communion milestone down to third grade! If your child or grandchild is in the third grade you are invited with your parents/guardians to a First Communion class with Michaela Eskew on March 17 from 11 - 12:30 p.m. in the Peel House. Food will be provided. We will have First Communion practice on March 20 from 5 - 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Dinner will be provided and the nursery will be open for younger siblings. And then these students will receive their First Communion at the 11 a.m. service on March 24, Palm Sunday! If you are interested in getting your third grader included in this milestone, reach out to Michaela Eskew ([michaela@flccs.net](mailto:michaela@flccs.net)).

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY?

2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH, FEBRUARY 6  
ROOM 201, PEEL HOUSE, 7 P.M.

Last year John McClusky started a small group teaching techniques for taking photos of nature. This group will be getting back together on the second Tuesday of each month in room 201 of the Peel House. Each person is asked to bring one or two images to share and discuss, either finished images and/or images they are having challenges editing. For each photograph shown, group members will be asked to share what they like most about the image and how they think it could be improved. As appropriate, photo editing techniques will also be shared as they are applied to the images shown. Discussion will occasionally venture into field techniques and planning tools. If you enjoy taking photos of nature and would like to join this group, please email John - [john.mcclusky@gmail.com](mailto:john.mcclusky@gmail.com)

## THANK YOU!

A big Thank You to all the amazing volunteers in the congregation who made the wonderful, warm and soft scarves, hats and gloves for Westside Cares! The two huge bags donated were so appreciated, especially with freezing temperatures lately. Blessings to each of you for all of your time.



## 2023 KNIT-CROCHET MINISTRY REPORT

We are a small but “mighty “ group. During 2023 we completed the following items: 21 shawls, 13 lap robes, 13 afghans, 18 hats, 74 scarves, and 66 baby blankets. These items have been or will be distributed to congregational members, the Tree of Warmth, Family Connections (Catholic Charities), and Operation Homefront.

We especially want to thank members who have donated yarn for our use, Thrivent grants used for yarn purchases, and boxes of yarn which continue to arrive from our friend Nancy Pawlowski in Casper, Wyoming.

## IT IS EASTER BASKET TIME

Easter is early this year – March 31



FLC is going to prepare Easter Baskets for El Paso County Department of Human Services. We are now collecting items for the baskets. We need the following items:

- Easter Baskets or Pails
- Small Books (grade 5 or younger)
- Medium or small stuffed animals
- Toys (nothing that can be swallowed)
- Small cars, girl specific toys, Slinkys, sidewalk chalk, games, etc.
- Coloring/Activity books
- Crayons
- Easter grass
- Candy/Snacks

Individually wrapped Easter Candy  
Medium Candy – Chocolate Bunnies, Crosses, etc.

Small candies to put in plastic eggs  
Small packages of snacks (Goldfish, Pretzels, Fruit Treats)

- Cash Donations to purchase above items or Amazon or Walmart Gift Cards may be left at the Welcome Center

### **PLEASE BE MINDFUL OF CHOKING HAZARDS.**

Please bring your donations to The Gathering Place on Sunday mornings.

Times and dates for assembly of the baskets will be announced in March.

Easter Basket Assembly is being coordinated by Tom Keilers and Georgie Bever.

# WORSHIP & STUDY

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Sanctuary Worship:

8, 9:30, and 11 a.m.

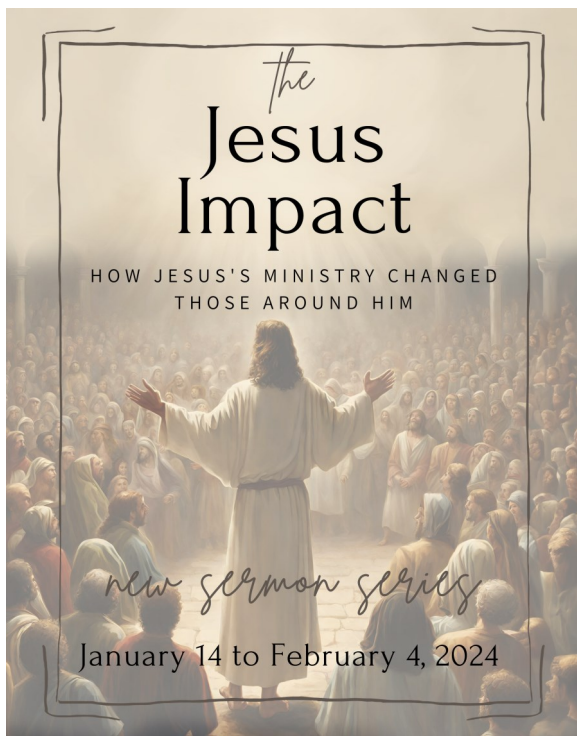
ONLINE WORSHIP IS LIVE STREAMED

AT 9:30 A.M.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIGHT WORSHIP

7 P.M., PEEL HOUSE

## CURRENT SERMON SERIES



## SUNDAY ADULT SEMINAR

FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Led by Lori Duncan

January 14 - February 11

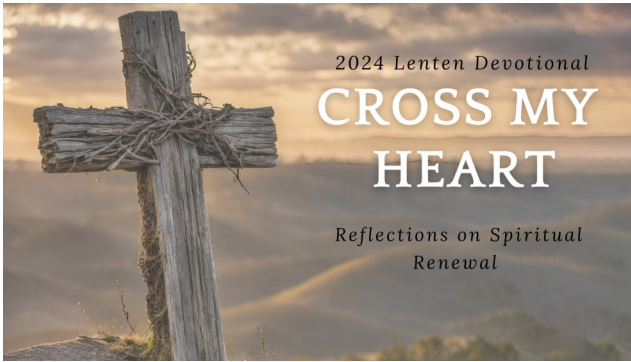
9:30 a.m., Peel House

A story about St. Francis of Assisi says he was once overheard praying, "Who are you, Lord my God, and who am I?" How these questions are answered profoundly affects how we live our Christian lives. As we begin the new year, join us as we explore what it looks like to be transformed "From the Inside Out," following a course with that title from The Renovaré Institute. Six short videos will address questions such as: "What is My Picture of God? What is My Picture of Myself? What is My Picture of the Gospel? How Do People Change?" Participant handouts are included. Come and dig deep into what it looks like to be changed from the inside out!

## CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP DIRECTOR

The job description for the Contemporary Worship Director has been posted on the First Lutheran website under **News** and then **Employment**. Here is the link to access that job description:

<https://flccs.net/news/employment>



Sign up here to receive a daily devotional during Lent:

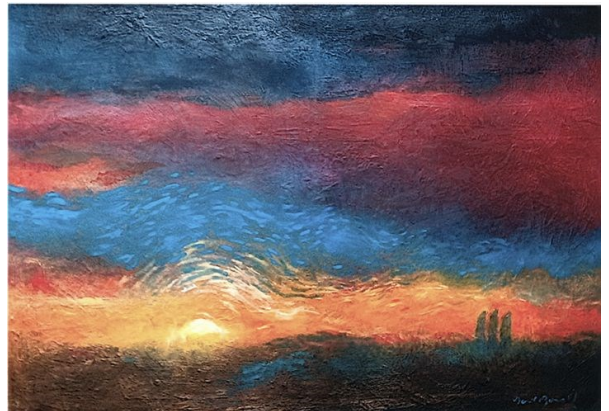
<https://mailchi.mp/flccs/lenten-devotional>

## THE EMMAUS WAY

Lori Duncan, Minister of  
Spiritual Care



Welcome to *The Emmaus Way*! The Road to Emmaus story in Luke 24 is one of my favorites in the gospels. Along with other things, it reveals the transformation that can happen when Jesus shows up alongside people walking together, exploring questions of faith. As we move through 2024, join me each week as we consider thoughts, issues, and questions regarding the things we experience as we journey through this life. Let's walk together.



*The Road to Emmaus* by Daniel Bonnell



# BIRTHDAYS & WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

## January 28

Terry Flores  
James Ilse  
Mark Mahler

## January 29

Don Heinemann  
Cheryl Mahon  
Bethany Ziemer

## January 30

Bob Biemesderfer  
Beth Zautke

## January 31

Georgie Bever

## February 1

Tanya Charbonneau  
Pamela Haines  
Andrea Mooney

## February 2

Kymberly Ballas  
Joe Ramaglia

## February 3

Susan Bolduc  
Joey Heiny  
Lena Hophan

## January 28

Mark & Susan Weeks - 40 years

## February 1

Jim & Barb Hauck - 60 years

## February 2

Debbie & Hal Long - 44 years  
Betsy & John Tuma - 22 years

## February 3

Brian & Annette Smith - 23 years  
Don & Suzanne Wilkinson - 56 years





# PRAYER REQUESTS

*Please keep these members of First Lutheran, their family and friends, in your prayers this week. If you are requesting to have a member's name added to the prayer list, please consult with the member prior to making your request.*

Cheri Anderson	Cindy Koger
Jan Anderson	Bob LaBant
Wanda Anderson	Bruce Lans
Andrea Artley	Dar Larsen
Janice Baldwin	Jesse Lawrence &
Elmer Bauman	Family
Joan Boehm	Bob & Suzanne
Bill & Barbara Brown	Louden
John & Debbie Chlebus	Lucinda
Alexis Denny	Susan Lundmark
Anthony Denny	Elly Mahler
Glenn Frank	Pete Mahler
Corrine Gibson	Jim Matthews
Lee Gross	Hugh McNeely
Private Steven Harris	Al Meryer
Heather and Family	Brandon Miller &
Jutta Heberer	Family
Karl Hering & Family	Gary Miller
Paul & Kathleen	Hannah Miller
Herrmann	Paul Moe
Steven Hill	Courtney James
Ginger Hipszky	Mourning
Beverly Hodges	Sam Norton
Ursula Hosford	Owen & Family
Ron Huston	Perry & Lisa
Ishani	Jecelya Petersen
Jahir	Jack & Judy Peterson
Josh Jones	Linda Peterson
Jonas Kagarise	The Norm Peterson
Carlin Kielcheski	Family
Gaye Lynn Kielcheski	Jeff Rapp
Josie Koch	

Paul & Sharon	Russ Stott
Reinsma	Pastor Peter & Barbara
Rev Dr Stanley Satre	Swan
Ernest Schauland &	Jennifer Alida Tarr
Family	Teagan Temmert
Sharon	Christine Welch
Wayne Smith	Anna Wiese
Tara Soppe	Jody Wilbur
Bob Spencer	Greg & Carolyn Young
Sarah Squire	Zoe Zambo

## LUTHERAN FAMILY REFUGEE SERVICES CONTACT INFORMATION

General Inquiries 719.227.8899 - Brittney

Volunteer Opportunities 719.257.3706 - Shannon

For Donation Inquiries Brad - 719.428.6128

[bradley.martens@lfsrm.org](mailto:bradley.martens@lfsrm.org)

*LFS does not accept clothing donations.*

*LFS accepts household items – limits apply.*

*\*Donations by appointment only – no onsite drop-off at Peel House or at FLC office, please. LFS storage unit is offsite. Neither the LFS office nor FLC have storage for donations.*



FIRST  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

1515 N. CASCADE AVE.,  
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80907  
719.632.8836 [flcs.net](http://flcs.net)

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE FROM 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.,  
MONDAY - FRIDAY.

# Snapshots



Outgoing Council Members: Pat Friedell, Betsy Tuma, & Marcus Kochis



Incoming Council Members: Yoshiko Anspach, Kiersten Lehmkuhl, & Julie Furstenau

