



AUGUST 27, 2025

EKKLESIA

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



Bounce House
Pancake Breakfast

FUN!
Inflatable Slide

Join us for Rally Day as we kick off another year of Sunday School.

Children will have breakfast with their Sunday school classes during the 9:30 a.m. service and with their Children's Church leaders at the 10:15 a.m. service, then we will have an extra fun coffee hour with bounce houses and slides on the front lawn until noon!

FROM THE PASTOR



This weekend we celebrate the end of summer milestone “Labor Day Weekend.” In my mind this always marks the beginning of fall, the start of the program year at church and a return to the busyness of the school year.

Labor Day is a holiday in our country to help us remember and give thanks for those whose labor among and from whose labor we benefit. It got me thinking about the Lutheran concept of Vocation.

The word Vocation comes from the word for ‘calling.’ We all have a calling from God, our work to do in the world. As Christians we believe that we all have a common vocation to contend against evil, work for good in the world and proclaim the gospel of Jesus. We do this in our situations, whatever they may be. We live out our calling in our parenting, in our neighboring, in our marriages and communities. We also do this in our occupations. How we live out our vocation changes as our situations change. But knowing we have a vocation helps us frame our day-to-day lives.

So, this Labor Day weekend, I encourage you to reflect on your current situation and how you are living out your call to serve God. Take some time to get clear on what that means for you right now. Your work to raise children by loving them, setting appropriate boundaries, caring for their needs and equipping them to live out their own lives with clear vocation might be an example. What does this look like if you’re grandparenting? What does it look like in your community service?

One thing I do for my community is that I mow the lawn on both sides of the sidewalk for a block in my neighborhood. When I do this, I feel it as a calling from God to serve my neighbor, to improve the aesthetic of my community and to help those who use that sidewalk for walking their dog or going for a jog to have a better experience. It’s a small thing, but it gives me great satisfaction and pride. There are many other ways I could frame it that wouldn’t be about serving God, but when I think about it as a service to God, it keeps my heart pure and motivated.

What are your labors these days? What work do you do? How can you think about that work in terms of serving God?

–Pastor Travis

BREAKING TRADITION

LUKE 13: 10-17

HEALING ON THE SABBATH

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

If I could heal people from their ailments, if I could turn their life around, if I could bring them joy in a new and life-giving way, I would do that every time I could and all day long. Even on the Sabbath, on what we have come to understand as a day of rest. Yep, for sure. Even on the Sabbath. When I look out at each of you, I know that you all carry or have carried something heavy upon you, something that calls for healing. I know that I have prayed for you on the Sabbath, visited you, brought communion to you, shared in God's word with you. And you know what, not because it is work. Not because it was something else that I needed to check off a to do list. But because it is the healing and redemptive work of Jesus happening in this earthly world where laws surely exist side by side with God's loving work to bring wholeness to the world.

Jesus freely heals this woman—the text makes no mention of her pleading, begging, or even thinking of asking for healing from Jesus. She was just there, as she herself, presumably to worship. She, the suffering person that had been crippled for eighteen years, was there to be with God and God's people. And the God who sees, sees his beloveds in need in the midst of the crowd, the God who made the Sabbath for restoration decides to put the law into action. Jesus calls her forward, pronounces her healed, puts his hands on her so that she was made to stand up straight. Sit with that scene for a moment in your imagination. Wonder what that woman might have felt as Jesus called to her. Had she been someone who had come looking for help before? Had she already faced the wrath of men like the synagogue leader, who saw her need as a nuisance rather than a calling? What sort of faith and hope did she have as she kept coming to synagogue, bent over, eyes literally looking at people's feet, unable to see a smile or kindness in someone else's eyes? Without even considering the physical pain she was in, it's not difficult to start to imagine the social isolation and suffering she was subjected to by this crooked bondage. So, when she is healed, she celebrates and won't stop rejoicing.

As the woman rejoices continuously, the synagogue leader begins to shout at others, "Don't do what this woman has done! Not the time or the place!" He can't even direct his anger at the person who actually caused it—that is, he chooses instead to be angry at who he thinks is still the weaker party. Instead of telling Jesus he is in the wrong, he tells the woman who has simply received this amazing gift that *she*, and anyone who thinks that they'd like the same done to them, are the ones doing wrong.

But that's not the end of the story. There is another person in this story, who is important to look at, and who has much to teach us. And that is the leader of the synagogue. He, too, is in need of healing, in need of a Savior. But, sadly, he doesn't know it. He is blinded to his own sin, to his own need of a Savior. And as a result, he acts in a way that is truly shameful. A woman is miraculously healed by God's Son, and all he can think is that it's the Sabbath. And we're not supposed to work on the Sabbath. And Jesus is working. The synagogue leader is outraged by this. But he's also, apparently, reluctant to confront Jesus directly. So instead, he tells the crowd to come back another day if they wanted to be cured, but not on the Sabbath day.

If only he knew. If only he could see that he, too, was doubled over, burdened, by his own sin, living in bondage to sin, death, and the devil, without even being aware of it. If only he knew how great the burden was that he carried. He would have gladly been healed by Jesus, even on the Sabbath day. And then, I suspect that he, too, would have stood up straight, and rejoiced. And joined that woman and all the crowd in praising God and giving thanks to God for setting him free. If only he knew.

You see, this story is not just about the healing of the crippled woman. It is about the healing that we all need. In the case of the synagogue leader, he is in need of healing, but not physical healing. He needs to be able to see the world in a new way. He needs a softer, kinder heart. He needs to be made to see that love is sometimes more important than rules.

And if the woman represents, in a symbolic way, the whole human race, then so does this synagogue leader. We all have our times when we are like him. When we stand tall and proud. We all have times when we think we've got it all figured out. Or at least we want to think we have it all figured out. We think we can manage it on our own. We profess faith in Jesus. But we live as though we have to be our own saviors, or at least we want to be our own saviors.

And along with that, we find ourselves standing in quiet judgment of someone who is suffering. It serves them right, we think, at least on our worst days. Or, if they just worked harder, tried harder, they wouldn't be in that mess. What's their problem? We see the splinter in their eye, but don't notice the log in ours. Just like the leader of the synagogue, who saw this woman bent over, but didn't see the burden he was carrying. For he, too, carried the heavy burden of sin. He just didn't realize it.

She didn't even ask to be healed! But here we are, listening to the leader in the synagogue insist that she is in the wrong for having received a gift such as this. I happen to have some thoughts on this; what a fool. I wonder if this was his sister or his mother, would have he felt the same? Was his piety something that was going to hold him back from seeing the gift of restoration for others? I would also like to give him the benefit of the doubt, too, that he wanted to uphold the law, that he was trying to do what he believed was right, what had been set before him by God. But God is bigger than that. God makes a path forward for us when there doesn't seem to be anything but dead ends and

empty hope. God in Jesus saw a woman in need, a woman who wasn't even asking for help, a woman who probably figured that her fate had been sealed and so he healed her. He offered her restoration on the Sabbath, restoration on the day of rest when we are all called to be restored and refreshed, to find joy in creation and redemption, to lean into the ways that we can all find restoration in a world that is filled with brokenness in body, spirit, and hearts. If you could heal anything right now, what would it be? Where are the places in our lives that we can offer healing? I believe that we have the ability to offer healing and to receive healing every single day. We were created in God's image, we were given the gift of love not by anything that we do, but just by being God's, we have been given the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ who died for us. What a waste it would be to not use those gifts for healing in this world. Why would we ever dare to think (as the leader in the synagogue) that we should set earthly limits to God's limitless love and grace.

We should be healing those who need healing (including ourselves). Feeding those who are hungry and need feeding Forgiving as we have been forgiven and knowing that the healing happens on both ends. Welcoming for those who need a place to land that is safe and filled with grace. Loving those who feel they are unlovable, healing wounds that we can't see but run so deep.

For those who are religious or who like being religious about their religiosity, remember, when you do not see others, Jesus confronts you. The church is not meant to be a country club, a

health spa, or a gated community, but rather a place where those who are seen and freed by God are empowered to see others with eyes of faith. For those who know what it is like to feel invisible or unnoticed in a world that struggles to pay attention, remember, when others do not see you, Jesus sees you. Those whom Jesus sees, Jesus frees and like the woman in our text today, you, too, can stand up straight and be freed from whatever has a hold on you.

That is who we are called to be, God's people doing God's work, on the Sabbath and every day, thereafter. For this isn't work that we do, but it is restoration through the love and grace of God who loves us first. Amen

-Pastor Carrie





There will be no Sunday School on August 31. Children's Church will not meet on August 31. Children are invited to attend church with their families. Sunday School will resume on September 7.



2026 HIGH SCHOOL
Missions
TRIP

SAVE THE DATE!
JULY 12 - 17, 2026

ADVENTURE. PURPOSE. IMPACT.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE. GROW YOUR FAITH. STEP INTO SOMETHING
BIGGER THAN YOURSELF.

- Fundraising and application required
- Cost: \$150

Questions? Talk to Pastor Michaela or Colton to learn more.



INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BOOK GROUP

Meets the first Wednesday of the month in the Library, 7 p.m. New faces are always welcome, including men!

September 3 – *Who Is Government?*
by Michael Lewis

MOMCO

School is back in session, so MomCo goes back to meeting twice each month! We will be meeting on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. Their next meeting will be on **Tuesday, September 9, at 9:30 a.m. in the Peel House Lounge.**

IN-GATHERING OF FOOD/HYGIENE ITEMS FOR ONE NATION WALKING TOGETHER

**One more week! | Drop Off in Vestibule by
The Gathering Place**

AGING TOGETHER

A group for seniors will begin in September to discuss issues of aging: health concerns, living arrangements, maintaining social contacts, community resources, challenges and joys. Join Maureen Tuttle and Anne Rivers in **the Peel House, Room 202 on Friday, September 5, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** This group will continue on the first and third Fridays every month. Light refreshments will be provided. No sign up needed.

Call Maureen (719.640.1985 or Anne (719.351.4268) with any questions or ideas.

FALL “SWING” DANCE LESSONS

Angela Harder is back this fall to teach us “Swing” dancing! That’s right you’ll be swing dancing in just four weeks! Keeping a maximum of ten couples will allow Angela to introduce new moves each week while helping each couple progress at their own pace, too. Wear shoes that can slide on the wood floor of the Peel House parlor!

Sundays – September 7-28, 2025

2-3 p.m.

Peel House Parlor

\$80 couple

Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/4oSuZn2>

BECOME INVOLVED

HOLIDAY “CRAFTING AROUND” RETURNS

This group will meet on **select Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in Joseph’s Workshop (basement of main church building)**. We have three additional crafters this season who have prepared several different craft projects for people of any skill level for the upcoming holiday season. You can sign up for one, a few, or all projects offered! We are keeping the cost of these fabulous crafts at \$5 each again this year. You must pay in full at the time of registration in order for the needed supplies to be purchased. Check out samples of these crafts displayed in the Gathering Place during the month of August!

Here is our craft schedule:

September 16: Snowman

September 23: Southwest Rock Painting

September 30: **Rock Painting I** (One \$5 fee covers both dates for this craft)

October 7: **Rock Painting II**

October 28: Holiday Tree Wreath Ornament

November 4: Gift Card Holders

November 11: Yarn Christmas Tree

November 15 (SATURDAY): Crafter’s Choice

Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/4l8eTwT>

DINING OUT WITH FLC

This group, where all are welcome, meets at 5:30 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!

- September 23 – Jack Quinn’s Irish Pub and Restaurant – 21 S Tejon St,
- October 7 – Chaang Thai – 7525 N Academy Blvd
- October 21 – Old Spaghetti Factory – 3101 New Center Point
- November 4 – Mi Mexio – 3956 Academy Blvd

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

FRIENDS BY THE FIREPIT

A new ten-week session of *Friends by the Firepit* for the fall will begin on Monday, September 8. We will meet for 60-90 minutes around the firepit just north of the Peel House starting at 6 p.m. Bring a beverage of your choice (margarita, beer, soda, etc.) while we discuss questions based on the previous day’s sermon. You can pick up a sheet of the sermon-based questions on your way into worship Sunday morning from an usher or at the Welcome Center Desk. If there is precipitation, we’ll meet on the porch. If it gets too cold, we’ll meet inside the Peel House parlor.

2025 ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

Rose Show

*This year's show
will be dedicated to*
SCOTT KLEINE



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

The Peel House at 2 p.m.



TRAIL TREKKERS

Thursdays - open to anyone
capable of hiking 3-6 miles

Meet at 8:00 a.m.

Email outdoorjudy@comcast.net if you would
like to participate.

August 28 - Blodgett Open Space

Meet in the parking lot at 3786 W. Woodmen Rd.
or on the street

This park is in the northwest corner of Colorado
Springs where new trails are being developed. It
will be a 3-5 mile hike with changing elevations
on natural terrain. Much of the trail is in the
shade. Lunch after the hike is optional.

PLEIN AIRE CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2025, 7 P.M.

The Plein Aire Chamber Ensemble returns to
First Lutheran for a free concert in the Sanctuary
featuring music for six instruments. Two vio-
lins, two violas, and two cellos will bring to life
Dohnanyi's String Sextet in B-Flat Major and Tchai-
kovsky's Souvenir de Florence. Don't miss this
beautiful evening of chamber music!

BECOME INVOLVED

REBEKAH CIRCLE

Rebekah Circle will meet on Tuesday, September 9 at 9:30 a.m. in Luther Hall. The Bible study will discuss *Grace Filled Living*. Call Andrea James, 719.632.5330 or Anne Rivers, 719.351.4268 for more information.

LYDIA CIRCLE

After a two-month summer break Lydia Circle will resume monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. The first meeting will be September 2. We meet at 11 a.m. in the Gathering Place and will continue Max Lucado's *Life Lessons from Philippians*. All women are welcome.

For more information contact Trudy Hill, 719.439.5323 or Helen Peterson, 719.332.7949.



Dinner for Eight STARTING IN SEPTEMBER!

Dinner for Eight is a great way to meet members of FLC that you don't know and build deeper relationships with those you do! Each year people sign up in late summer, and our dinners start in September.

You can sign up as a single person or as a couple. Singles will be coupled with another person (you can specify that person if you'd like). Then four couples are randomly assigned together for the month of September.

One couple is the host couple. You can either host at your home or reserve the main level of the Peel House (parlor, kitchen, and dining rooms). The host couple provides the main dish. The three guest couples are assigned to provide one of the following bread/salad, vegetable, or dessert. Then you are assigned with new couples for each of the months of October, January, and February. You will host one of the four months, bring bread and salad one month, bring a vegetable one month, and bring dessert one month.

We do not hold Dinner for Eight during November or December because of the holidays. If you don't wish to participate all four months, you can sign up as a substitute. As hosts are choosing the date of their dinner, if they have a couple unable to make the date selected, they reach out to substitutes. Deadline to register is August 31, 2025. Register here: <https://bit.ly/46KoO8n>

Cheryl's Corner

MINISTRY BRANDS FOLLOWED THROUGH ON ONE OF MY SUGGESTIONS FOR THE "CHURCH" APP!



If you open the church directory under the square marked "People," scroll down to a profile with a photo and click on it. Now, when you touch on the photo in the circle, it will open to a screen-size photo (just like it does on the website version of our Church Management System (ChMS). Cool, huh? If you didn't find any people listed on your app, that means you haven't logged in since the last release. Click on the "Profile" square, type in the email and cell phone that matches your information in our database. This will verify that you are an FLC member and let you see the people! If you are still having trouble, come see me at the Welcome Center Desk on Sunday, September 7 for "Tech Support with Cheryl" in-between church services.



We are the
HANDS AND FEET
of Christ!

FLC Contemporary Worship Service

Servant hearts needed to serve
on the **WELCOME TEAM** and
ASSIST WITH COMMUNION.



Welcome
Team
Sign Up



Assist with
Communion
Sign Up

WORSHIP & STUDY

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Sanctuary Worship:
8, 9:30, and 11 a.m.

Contemporary Worship Service:
10:15 a.m. in the Worship
Center, 2nd floor

Wednesday Night Light 6:30 p.m.
in the Worship Center

ONLINE WORSHIP IS LIVE STREAMED AT
9:30 A.M.

SUNDAY ADULT SEMINAR

Meets at 9:15 in the Peel House Parlor

Aug 31 – Housing and Support for the Homeless, led by Tina Z. from Springs Rescue Mission.

Sept 7 – Friends of Club 21 — helping families and individuals with Down’s Syndrome to flourish, led by Joe Mason.

Sept 14 – Lutheran Social Services – Refugee and crisis programs, led by Britton Varn.

Sept 21 – Senior Living and Care Innovation Programs, led by Patrick Bultema.

NEW FIRST LUTHERAN PODCAST

Generation to Revelation is new podcast from First Lutheran Church that launched August 14. The first topic is on “Religious Scandal” and how we can still remain loyal and committed to Christ’s Church when there are so many bad headlines out there. You can find the podcast on our church YouTube page and anywhere that you get your podcasts.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS COMING SUNDAY

Proverbs 25:6-7a; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16;
Luke 14:1, 7-14

THE EMMAUS WAY

BY LORI DUNCAN



“Listening well is a way of loving well. It is sacrificial. And when offered with skill and intention, it transforms our conversations. When we do this, we build intimacy and trust with one another.”

—Jean Hoover, Spiritual Director

We talked last week about holy listening. I thought this week we would discuss a different way of practicing humble self-emptying, but I ran into the above quote and found it too good to not share.

How are your conversations? Would you say that any of them inspire a sacrificial quality in you? I usually feel like my conversations have a pretty natural ebb and flow, but that can lull me into complacency regarding my listening skills: I catch myself forming a response in my head before the other person has finished speaking; I want to fix a problem or offer advice if I believe it will help alleviate any pain the person is going through; I find myself pontificating about things I learned in seminary. Oops. The good news is that I can choose again to practice holy listening by entering conversations with intention and choosing to be fully present to the person speaking. James’ encouragement to [be quick to listen and slow to speak](#) is always a helpful thing to remember.

Nathan Foster, podcast host with the Renovaré Institute, mentions how he experiences “little deaths to self” every time he holds back his own words or ideas in a discussion to give precedence to the voice of the other. Have you ever thought of listening in that way? That one way to practice humility—a “little death to self”—is to refrain from speaking so the other person’s words can shine? How does that way of practicing self-denial sound to you? Is that something you might feel invited by God to practice so that others might encounter the love of God through you? I think most of us want to love well. Odds are good that, at some point along our journey, we’ve received comfort in Christ and [consolation from his love](#), and now we want to pass that love along. Holy listening is one way to do that.

We’ll close this week with more thoughts from Jean Hoover about how listening well creates meaningful connection with others:

“Listening is much more than the sum of its parts. Although it is not a cure for everything, it is a cure for much more than we could ever have imagined. When we listen with a desire to know where God is hidden in the story, something shifts within us. We get a glimpse of how things were meant to be, and we begin to hear the exquisite sound of love and deep connection that God always intended.”

Let’s walk together, extending love to each other by listening well.

BIRTHDAYS & WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

September 1

Sarah Anderson
Rose Eggum
Dayna Frei
Rob Heavner
Camila Sides

September 2

Erin Hendricks
Laura Weilert

September 3

Luke Norton

September 5

Patti Olsen

September 6

Susanne Baker
Dot Selleck
Sofia Spaziani
Anna Wiese

September 7

Sue Badgett
Carol Kochis

September 1

Rich & Jody Wilbur - 68 years

September 3

Lane & LaVon Pinnow - 58 years
Drew & Kerstin Warwick - 14 years

September 5

Kyle & Chelsea Schroeder - 10 years

September 7

Denise & Ray Gandy - 51 years
Dave & Pat Hardin - 57 years
Paul & Deborah Steinke - 51years

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.

Lannette Abbey	Josh Jones
Cheri Anderson	Shirley Jones
Wanda Anderson	Ann Junk
Fred Bachmeier	Jonas Kagarise
Desirae Backlund	Kyong Kelley
Dan Baker	Gaye Lynn Kielcheski
Janice Baldwin	Cindy Koger
Elmer Bauman	Jesse Lawrence & Family
Tana Beall	Sharon Lakey
Joan Boehm	The Spencer Lehmkuhl Family
Bill & Barbara Brown	Dayne Lindquist
Justin Buck	Scott Louis
Karl & Pam Cartwright	Susan Lundmark
Tanya Charbonneau	Elly Mahler
John & Debbie Chlebus	Jim Matthews
Nell Clowder	Glendill McBroom
Linda Collier	Nick McKibben & Family
Debi Deimling	Hugh McNeely
Rinda Dunson	Brandon Miller & Family
Alan Flinn	Marilyn Miller & Family
Edna Fross	Larry & Lucille Moe
Corinne Gibson	Paul Moe
Nola Gosch	Sam Norton
Doran Gotschall & Family	Owen & Family
Julian Green	Jack & Judy Peterson
Private Steven Harris	Nathanael Price
Paul & Kathy Herrmann	Darlene Radke
Ginger Hipszky	Jeff Rapp
Jake Hodnett	
Bill & Dorene Hulka	
Irene	
Matthew James	

Steve & Laurie Ross
Rev Dr Stanley Satre
The Josh Saunders Family
Randy Schacht
The Steve Schmidt Family
Dorothy Selleck
Matthew Stark
Jackie Steensma
Gwen Stein
Becky Sternal
Michael Taylor

Aaron & Cindi Thorson
Tristan & Esther
Hailey Ullrich
Bob VanDuyn & Karen
Henderson-VanDuyn
Matthew Stark
Christine Welch
Anna Wiese
Jody Wilbur
Sherry Wilson
Greg & Carolyn Young
Zoe Zambo

LUTHERAN FAMILY REFUGEE SERVICES CONTACT INFORMATION

General Inquiries 719.227.8899 - Jessica

Volunteer Opportunities 719.257.3706 - Britton

For Donation Inquiries Britton britton.varn@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 flccs.net

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



Rolling Dinner

Gathering Place 5:30 – 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday Night LIGHT Worship

Worship starts at 6:30 p.m.

Followed by Small Groups

(Students through Adults)

Pre-Confirmation for grades 6–7

Confirmation Small Group for grades 8–9

High School Small Group for grades 10–12

Adults Small Group led by Pastor Carrie Baylis

Wednesday Night LIGHT

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT FIRST LUTHERAN ARE GROWING!

There's a fresh energy on Wednesday nights at First Lutheran—and we can't wait for you to be part of it! This fall, our midweek gatherings are expanding to offer more opportunities for connection, worship, and growth for all ages. We'll kick off each week with a **Rolling Dinner** in the Gathering Place from **5:15–6:15 p.m.**—a warm, come-when-you-can meal for everyone. (\$5 donation). Then, join us for **Wednesday Night LIGHT Worship** at its new earlier time of **6:30 p.m.** After worship, small groups will gather for meaningful conversation and learning:

- **Pre-Confirmation** for grades 6–7
- **Confirmation Small Group** for grades 8–9
- **High School Small Group** for grades 10–12
- **Parent Small Group** led by Pastor Carrie Baylis

Whether you're a student, a parent, or simply looking to connect midweek, Wednesday nights at First Lutheran are the perfect time to pause, be refreshed, and grow together in faith.