



AUGUST 6, 2025

EKKLESIA

YEHIEL CURRY ELECTED PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE ELCA



When Yehiel Curry considers his vision for the future of the church, he sees an important distinction. “Part of the work is naming it,” he said, “but that next phase is embodying it.

“When we’re talking about casting a vision, I think people want to be part of a vision because they want to share in the process. But they typically will also share in the burdens as well. So part of my vision is [about] those things we’ve lifted up as a church that we said we need to do, we’re going to do, and find a way to bring more people to the table so that we might embody that work instead of it just being a written document.”

Curry, who was elected July 30 to serve a six-year term as ELCA presiding bishop, knows something about embodying a vision and discerning a call.

Before he became a pastor, then a bishop, then the chair of the Conference of Bishops, and now presiding bishop-elect, he was a social worker, then a teacher, then in sales. “I went from being a social worker to a teacher in the same community where I was helping those families, and in both cases, what I learned is passion is very important. And if you can align a person’s passion with a need, then it doesn’t feel like work sometimes.

“It wasn’t until I was in the church that I said, ‘I could do this for the rest of my life.’”

An immediate answer comes to mind for Curry when asked about what he believes should be among the ELCA’s top priorities. “I think there’s this unique opportunity around lay equipping and lay education,” he said. “The ethos and the structures of many of our congregations are changing. In some cases, they’ve gone from full-time pastors to part-time pastors; we have leaders who are serving two- and three-point congregations.

“Our lay leaders are being asked to do more. And in many cases, they’re saying, ‘Yes, I want the education—as long as you’re not trying to steer me and tell me I need to be a pastor or a deacon. Tell me how to be a better leader in my community, in my context.’”

FROM THE PASTOR



Our church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, held its churchwide assembly this past week. Pastor Carrie was there along with voting member, Emmy Baylis. During the assembly we elected a new presiding Bishop, Yehiel Curry and a new Secretary, Lucille “CeeCee” Mills. Social statements and resolutions from across the church were also considered and acted upon. If you’re interested in these things a full report can be found at elca.org. I tuned in for some of the assembly and found myself especially moved by the words of our current Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton. Her sermon on Monday and her report on Thursday were centered on the hope we have in Jesus and the charge to minister in His name. It was encouraging and inspiring.

Jesus is the center of our ministry, and his message of grace is what the world needs most from us as a church. That is my conviction. We at First Lutheran should in all things ground ourselves in the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus. It’s why we preach and celebrate Holy Communion each week. It is what our youth ministry and small group ministries are all about. We proclaim the gospel when we bury loved ones and when we marry lovers and when we baptize new believers. Jesus is why we feed the hungry and help the homeless, because he loves all people and calls us to serve each other.

The world uses power and fear and threat to exert its will over people. The church uses self-sacrifice, generosity, servanthood and prayer to usher in God’s kingdom. The world measures and judges, the church forgives and offers grace. Our proclamation as Lutheran Christians is to offer relief from the burdens this world has placed on people and share the good news that Jesus has saved us through his work on the cross.

There are a lot of things the church can be, but there is only one thing we are called to be. We are called to be a people who proclaim Christ. I’m grateful for that reminder from our presiding Bishop and the wider church. I’m excited to continue that work of gospel proclamation with you the people of First Lutheran.

-Pastor Travis

August 3, 2025

Luke 12:13-21

When was the first time you started to think about retirement? Did you meet with a financial planner, talk about it with your spouse? If you are retired, does it look like what you imagined? I was 26 years old when someone first suggested I start thinking about retirement. I was a brand-new associate pastor, all my earthly belongings fit into my white Honda Civic hatchback. I was renting the upstairs of a church member's home for \$400 per month. I had student loan debt and credit card debt, but I was ecstatic that I'd be making \$50,000 per year, a real salary and paycheck. That's when Rick, a member of my new church, pulled me aside in my first year and said, "It's time to start thinking about retirement." Rick was a financial advisor with Thrivent, and he asked me to meet with him and convinced me to set up a 403b account and invest \$200 per month in it for retirement. I did it for four years, and then I got married and had kids and stopped contributing. But I've watched that account grow for 20 years and felt like Warren Buffet learning the power of compound interest. I'll tell you I wish I had kept contributing! Retirement still seems far away for me, I'm barely at the halfway mark of my working years, but it goes fast, as many of you know. 401ks, 403bs, IRAs, Roth IRAs and probably a hundred other accounts I don't know about all aimed at saving for retirement. We get advised on it early on. There are hundreds of online calculators to help you determine if you have enough to retire.

Our money, building wealth, providing for ourselves and our family is embedded in our culture. It is a huge part of our conversations and thinking and life. So, it makes sense that it is something Jesus talked a lot about. It's actually the number one thing that Jesus talked about. Eleven of his parables are about money and there are 29 different teachings in the gospels related to our wealth. This parable about the rich fool is one of them. It was told in response to a question from the crowd about the inheritance they had received from their parents. Many of you know firsthand what conflict looks like in a family over who gets the property of deceased parents. Usually, it's spelled out in a will but not always and not everything and that can lead to some tense moments between siblings.

Someone shouted a question at Jesus urging him to get involved in a family spat about the inheritance being shared. Jesus doesn't take the bait, but he does use it as an opportunity to teach us about money or more specifically about greed. But the parable is surprising, it's about a man who is making decisions about his life that seems to me fairly typical and reasonable. He's a saver, he's had a surplus of wealth because his land is doing well so he decides to build bigger barns to save it up so he can retire and enjoy his life. What's wrong with that? Isn't that what we are all aiming for to save up enough to enjoy our non-working years? But Jesus uses the story to warn us about being greedy and storing treasure up for yourself. That's the issue right there and where we may need to shift our focus. In the parable the man is focused on himself, his needs, his pleasure, his plan to eat, drink and be merry. But Jesus warns us not to focus on ourselves but to seek first the Kingdom of God, to focus on being rich toward God. Because all that wealth the rich man was planning to save would not be able to provide for him after his life was over. Jesus says our life does not consist of our worldly possessions.

I think most of us know this, hopefully, at least in theory if not in practice. As Christians we know that we don't measure our success in life by what we own. The size of our homes or value of our vehicles do not make us who we are although we are likely to value our ability to buy at will on Amazon more it

Sermon, cont. p. 4

than we care to admit. But not everyone knows this. Many of our friends and neighbors seek after treasure in this world because they measure their worth by what they can buy. Jesus is warning all of us that that is a futile effort that will end with severe disappointment. Because we will all come to the end of our life one day and all of our money and possessions will be handed over to someone else. Our kids and grandkids might want our money, but they will likely sell or give away all of the stuff we've accumulated. My family is still trying to figure out what to do with some of my grandparent's possessions and they died a decade ago.

Our possessions just don't matter, they aren't what make our life, they aren't even as valuable as we sometimes assume they are. Jesus poses the question, and when you die who will own all that you've built your life accumulating? There's a bigger question embedded in that. What is the focus of your life? Because if the focus is on building wealth you will be sorely disappointed. I've spent time with a number of wealthy people who confess to me that while they are glad they have wealth, it doesn't give them what they assumed it would when they were young. The number one golfer in the world, Scottie Shefler, shocked people recently when he confessed that winning in golf was not fulfilling. His focus on family and faith are what give meaning to his life and he's not alone. Many of the wealthy I've spent time with find fulfillment when they turn their focus from being rich towards God, which often looks like generosity and supporting causes and organizations that do the work of God in the world. That's where Jesus would shift our focus. Refocus from being rich to focusing on God.

So, let me ask you that, are you rich towards God? What does that even mean? I have two stories that I think illustrate what it means to be rich towards God. The first one is about you, the congregation of First Lutheran. On Tuesday I had dinner with a group of people Jeremy had pulled together to write some worship songs. At the end of the dinner Britt, his wife, invited us to offer toasts. My wife Victoria was there and when she prepared to give a toast she looked around the room and realized that everyone there had become part of First Lutheran after she and I accepted the call to serve here. All but one were younger than I am; most of the group were in their 20s and 30s. So, she lifted her glass and said, "I'd like to raise a toast to the people of First Lutheran, the people who took at a chance and called a pastor 40 years younger than their previous pastor. The people who have supported us in every change we've made, the people who recognized that if they wanted their church to serve the next generation they couldn't hold tightly to the things of the past, but would have to take risks, and trust and have open hands and hearts. So, here's to the people of First Lutheran who maybe aren't around this table but made this possible." And as I reflected on her words, and we talked about them later I thought, "That's what it means to be rich towards God." I think you are rich towards God when you take actions to support this congregation and give our ministry to the next generation. Sometimes that action is simply saying yes to something new and unproven, some idea that some 30-year-old has.

The second story is about what happened at our churchwide assembly that took place in Phoenix last week. In our church the highest authoritative body is the assembly of people sent every three years to the church wide assembly. They went to Phoenix in July because it's pretty cheap that time of year, the church being good stewards of our money. And this year they were charged with electing a new Presiding Bishop as Bishop Eaton is retiring. The man elected to be our new Bishop is Yehiel Curry, current Bishop of the Metro Chicago Synod and the first black man elected as Presiding Bishop of the ELCA. But what I want to share is what he said when he addressed the assembly after his election. He said to us, "This is what your investment

looks like.” He was a man who stumbled into what’s called a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community or SAWC. Which is a fancy way of saying a church start, a mission church the ELCA was starting that hadn’t yet become self-sustaining enough to be a congregation. SAWCS rely on funding from the synod which is funded by the monthly giving congregations like ours send. Their pastors are paid not by the congregation but by the synod, by us. Bishop Curry stumbled into one of these communities and then he felt a call to ministry and ended up leading the mission church. He went a unique route to seminary through what’s called the TEEM program where you serve while being trained for ordained ministry. He recognized that his entire path to ministry was possible because of those generously supporting the church. So, upon his election to the highest office in our church he said, “This is what your investment looks like.” That is what it is to be rich toward God, to point your resources toward the building up of the church, the equipping of leaders so the gospel can be preached.

My grandma sent me to seminary, and she always referred to me as her investment, and I try to minister in a way that gives her a good return. What does it mean to be rich towards God? It means to focus your life on the things of God, on caring about what He cares about, making the good news of God’s love known to the world through the ministry and proclamation of the church. Offering compassionate service to those in need through our volunteer efforts and donations. Working for peace and justice in every aspect of the world. This is where our focus makes us rich toward God. Every one of us will face that moment that the rich man in Jesus’ parable faced. One day our life will be over, we will die, and it will be at that moment that the worth of our treasures will be revealed. If our focus has been building bigger barns so that we can eat, drink and be merry, our treasure will be revealed to be worthless, its value over at that moment. But if our focus has been building the kingdom of God so that others can know God’s love and have their needs met then our treasure will be revealed to be priceless, continuing to grow in value throughout eternity.

I think back to Rick pulling me aside at 26 years old to encourage me to invest in my retirement. It wasn’t the money that mattered the most, but his mentoring and caring for a young man just getting started. I was investing some money, but he was investing in me, caring for me, teaching me, sharing his wisdom. He was being rich toward God, and I will be grateful to him and tell his story long after he is gone. Jesus didn’t answer the young man’s question about the inheritance the way the young man hoped. But what Jesus did was encourage the young man to shift his focus away from greed and getting more for himself because Jesus wanted something better for that young man. Jesus wants us each to come to the end of our life and be filled with joy at how our investments have done. He wants us not to be looking at the size of our bank accounts but to be looking at the people whom we have blessed: our children and grandchildren, the youth of our church, younger coworkers we have mentored. He wants us to look at the institutions we have made healthier and more capable of fulfilling their mission, to look at our city and how we’ve made it better for all who live there, to look at our congregation and seeing it set up to serve many generations to come, to look at the community of people we have invested in and know that we have been a blessing in their life. Because if we come to the end of our life and find ourselves rich toward God, we will enjoy those riches even after we die and are raised to eternal life.

God wants good things for us, he has given us good advice for investing our lives, let’s take it!

-Pastor Travis



YOUTH MINISTRY

AT FIRST LUTHERAN

BIG NEWS FOR FAMILIES!

*CONFIRMATION
IS GROWING
& EVOLVING!*



WE'RE EXCITED to announce that our Confirmation Program is now open to students in Grades 6 through 9!

AND we're re-imagining what it means to grow in faith, purpose, and community. Join us for a **PARENT INFO MEETING** to hear about our new vision, expanded age range, and how your child can take part in this meaningful journey.

AUGUST 10, 2025

9 A.M. FIRESIDE ROOM

(Upstairs Room across from the Worship Center)

**COME DISCOVER
WHAT'S NEW —
AND WHAT'S NEXT!**

YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT AT THE ZOO

**September 25, 2025
6–9 p.m.**

**Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
Ages 21+ only**

Join us for a wild night of live music, local bites, craft drinks, and up-close animal encounters—all under the stars at one of the most unique venues in town. Meet up with other young adults for a casual night out with a little roar.

Buy your ticket through the zoo, then use the QR code to connect with our group for meetup details and carpool options.



TAILS
tunes & tastes

The best
things
come in
threes.

INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES



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

BEAUTIFUL CONFERENCE 2025

“Hello Beautiful! Have you ever wondered if God could really use you? Do you ever question if your life has meaning in this big, crazy world? One thing I know for sure – God has intentionally placed you on this planet, for such a time as this! So yes, YOU have a place in history. Join us for Beautiful Conference 2025 as we dive into our new theme: “Placed in History.”

Our heart for Beautiful Conference is for women to encounter Jesus in a very real and authentic way. It’s a gathering where women are seen and empowered, given a space to encounter Jesus, and encouraged to move forward. Year after year we have seen the transformation of women in the presence of God who leave Beautiful Conference changed for life! Hope I get to see you there!” – Donna Lasit, Conference Host

Brit Ashida was sharing with some of us women about the Beautiful Conference she attended last fall in Denver. She thought it would be great if we could get a group of women together from FLC to attend this year. The conference will be October 10-11, 2025 at the Pearl Church Cherry Creek Campus 200 S University Blvd. Denver, CO 80209. Please reach out to Brit if you would like to know more: brittanyashida@gmail.com

You can also register here: <https://thepearlchurch.regfox.com/beautiful-conference-2025>

BECOME INVOLVED



IN-GATHERING FOR ONE NATION WALKING TOGETHER August 1–31, 2025 | Drop Off in Vestibule by The Gathering Place

Join us this August as we collect essential food and hygiene items in support of One Nation Walking Together. Please place donations in the designated area just outside The Gathering Place.

Food Items Needed (non-perishable):

Canned meats (SPAM, tuna, chicken, chili, etc.), broth, soups and stews, shelf-stable milk, pasta and sauce, rice, beans, cereal, mac & cheese, prepared meals, peanut butter, jelly, pancake mix and syrup, snacks, baby food/formula, cake mixes, coffee, tea, juice, sugar, flour, protein bars.

Hygiene Items Needed:

Toilet paper, diapers (all sizes), baby wipes, baby care items, feminine products, new or gently used socks/underwear/bras, washcloths, towels, soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, razors, combs, lotion, hand sanitizer, first-aid items, hotel/sample-size toiletries.

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT FORMS

Our old Time and Talent Survey covered many areas. We thought it would be wise to break the survey into three distinct areas of interest, so now we have three new forms. You will find these forms at the very top of the list under “Events” on your “Church” app or at the Welcome Center Desk iPad. I have also included the link here in the event you’d like to check them out on your computer .

- I’d Like to Help on Sundays! - <https://bit.ly/4iLtxsA>
- I’m Looking for Fellowship and Community - <https://bit.ly/3F16MDb>
- I’d Like to Get Involved in Community Outreach - <https://bit.ly/3Z4Jp2m>

Cheryl's Corner

I spent the week of July 20 at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp with 110 Senior High Campers. This was my eighth year serving as a Camp Grandparent. While each year is a unique experience, I always find that my time at camp with our youth is challenging, rejuvenating, enlightening, and exhausting.

Three of our First Lutheran campers attended this week with me.

What a joy to see them put themselves out there. Each day we have quiet time with God and our own thoughts, attend worship in both the morning and the evening, and dig deep in Bible study. This year there were a lot of new campers and not as many familiar faces since we attended a different Senior High week. That was a bit intimidating to our FLC campers, but they were vulnerable and built strong, new relationships.



Of course there is plenty of time to play too! Tuesday is hike day and there are 4-5 different hikes they can choose from. Thursday is white water rafting day. Each village works on team building by first completing a series of obstacles/challenges on ropes low to the ground in the first part of the week. Then later in the week they are harnessed to cables so that they can complete additional team building tasks on ropes and platforms suspended high in the air. In-between they can choose to participate in various activities such as pottery, archery, volleyball, woodcarving, and “Knitting with Grandma Cher.”

Each evening during Worship, an adult leader shares 5-7 minutes of thoughts on how to take today’s lesson back down the mountain to real life when you leave camp. The campers of Monday’s Village of the Day asked me if I would speak on Monday evening. Monday’s theme was “Transformation.” The scripture was Romans 12:1-2 *And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living sacrifice – the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.* That day during Bible study, the counselor challenged the campers and me to think of one thing in ourselves that could use some transformation for good. Funny how sometimes God gives us breadcrumbs to follow. Pastor Travis had just talked about Martha and Mary the day before during his Sunday sermon. I had been thinking about how I’d like to put my relationship with Jesus first and to focus on time with him. On the two-hour drive to camp, I listened to a podcast where the psychiatrist was talking about what happens when people do-do-do without taking time to rest and rejuvenate. They become *human doers*. They don’t take the time to sit in the joy of a meal with friends or reflect on experience. As soon as an event is finished, they are thinking about the next thing they need to do. God created us to be *human beings*. Sometimes we just need to “be.” I vowed that I wanted to reflect on this during my week at camp (before I even got there!) So, when the campers asked me to speak I had quite a few things I wanted to share between Pastor Travis’ sermon, the podcast, and my Bible study that day! God is good...so good!

INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FRIENDS BY THE FIREPIT

Please join us on Monday from 6-7 p.m. around the FLC Firepit on the north side of the Peel House. We will be gathering there for fellowship through August 18. Bring a beverage of your choice (margarita, beer, soda, etc.) while we discuss questions based on the previous day's sermon. Summer is busy! 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.

THANK YOU FROM PRISON FELLOWSHIP SUMMER CAMP

A special thank you from all the boys and girls that you sent to camp. It was fantastic to have over 15 volunteers who gave their time to drive and chaperone the children to camp.

The children loved camp and wished that they could have stayed longer. Your generosity and support made the camps a big success. Each year adds another story, and this year was no different – both camps were at capacity (30). A nice achievement by the staff and you. The transportation that you provide is a big part of the success. It will be exciting to see what Darryl Swantz, the camp director, has in mind for next summer.

Thank you Again, First Lutheran!

DINING OUT WITH FLC

Do you love to dine out? 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 9 – BJ's Brewhouse
5150 N Nevada Ave
- 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

Keep this link to check as more restaurants are added! Register here: <https://bit.ly/41Rh4ff> or on the "Church" app.

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.



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 7 – Rainbow Gulch – Rampart Reservoir

Meet in the Safeway parking lot, 3275 W. Colo. Ave., southeast corner

The trail follows a stream through woodland and meadow leading down to Rampart Reservoir, one of the most scenic lakes in the foothills of Colorado Springs. The hike will also take us along the southern edge of the reservoir through the Waldo Canyon burn area. Wildflowers and mushrooms may be profuse. We'll have lunch on the trail.

5½ miles; moderately easy.

August 14 – Catamount Open Space (south of Woodland Park)

Meet at the Safeway parking lot, 3275 W. Colorado Ave. (southeast corner)

This trail is a five-mile loop, much like a roller coaster with dips and rises, reaching an elevation of 10,000 feet. Bring a lunch. 5-6 miles; rated moderate with elevation.

FLC GEARS UP TO PARTNER WITH SAND CREEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

School is Back at Sand Creek International School!

Summer is winding down and the team at Sand Creek is gearing up for the school year. That means we will be hosting a Welcome Back breakfast for the teachers and staff on Wednesday, August 20, and are looking for volunteers to provide food and to help in hosting. The sign-up details are found here:

<https://bit.ly/45kuW4P>

Food can be dropped off at the church Gathering Place kitchen by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, August 19, or brought to the school, Sand Creek International School, 550 Sand Creek Dr., Colorado Springs 80916, by 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 20.

Additionally, we will be continuing our Secret Angels – First Lutheran members teamed up to support new teachers and staff with small gifts and notes of encouragement through the year. You can sign up as a Secret Angel at the following link, <https://bit.ly/4l4efAk> and you will receive an email with the name of your person and some information about their interests and classroom needs. We ask you to remain secret through the year and can reveal who you are at the end of the school year. The links above are also found on the “Church” App or the Welcome Center iPad.

Thanks in advance for being part of this wonderful ministry and helping impact the Sand Creek students and staff.

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

Online Worship is live streamed at
9:30 a.m.

Wednesday Night Light is on hiatus
until August 20

SUNDAY ADULT SEMINAR

Meets 9:15 a.m., Sundays, in the Peel
House Parlor.

August 10 begins the series, *Loving and
Serving Our Neighbors—Community Partners
in Ministry*



SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS COMING SUNDAY

Genesis 15:1-6; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16;
Luke 12:32-40

THE EMMAUS WAY

BY LORI DUNCAN



Christian spiritual formation is “the process of being conformed to the image of Christ for the sake of others.”

—M. Robert Mulholland

While it’s always good to learn more about Jesus, it also helps to remember that we’re “transformed by experience, not information” (Dallas Willard). So, we spent the last four weeks in the gospels, experiencing Jesus. We encountered his love through his presence in our homes (Luke 19:1-10), his profound grace when our mistakes were exposed (John 8:2-11), his longing for us as his children (Luke 15:11-32), and his power to transform our whole self by calling us from death to life (John 11:1-44; 12:1-3). I hope you were touched by God’s presence, and that you will continue to engage the gospel stories in ways that create space for you to more deeply encounter Jesus in them.

Let’s move now to thinking about *why* experiencing the transformational love of Jesus matters. We’ll explore Mr. Mulholland’s quote above in a minute, but I’d like to say that, first, I think it’s for us—to heal us. Yes, God loves and cares for the world, but that does not supersede the truth that God loves and cares for me: God longs for me to be healed and to flourish for my own sake. The beauty of God’s love, though, means that a healed person gets swept up into the desire of God’s heart to heal all people, and that’s where the above quote comes into play: we cooperate with the Spirit in the process of being transformed more deeply into the image of Christ for the sake of others. So, with the help of the Spirit, how might we put feet to *for the sake of others*?

I suggest we start with thinking about how Jesus began his journey as a human being:

“...who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
but [emptied himself](#),
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.”

The theological term for Jesus’s self-emptying is *kenosis*. We’ve mentioned God’s self-emptying many times here on the Emmaus Way, but I don’t think we’ve talked about what imitating it might look like for us. It will look different for each of us, to be sure, but, as with everything, we are invited to follow Jesus in doing it.

While there is debate as to its finer points, I think the concept’s essential meaning for us is that we choose to lay before God *anything* that elevates us in our own hearts over others. Retired Orthodox priest Father Ted Bobosh puts it this way: “For each of us to imitate Christ, we have to empty ourselves by setting aside our own egos. If we are full of ourselves, there is no room for God in us.”

Next week we’ll start looking at ways to help us self-empty, to make more room for God in us. In the meantime, let’s walk together in imitating Christ.

BIRTHDAYS & WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

August 11

Kathy Holmes
Jane Juris

August 12

El Carter
Dave Johnson
Julie Nehme
Teri Swanner

August 13

Riley Cole
Nathan Spaziani

August 14

Matthew Beichner
Riche Kennedy
Dave Peterson
Linda Samuelson

August 15

Ron Furstenuau
Noah Goff
Elaine McKibben

August 16

Scott Hophan
Bernie Herpin
Judy Mau
Cindy Stanley

August 17

David Artley
Mike Bell
Leto Cannon
Dan Friedell
Gerrie Grant
Carole Mutzebaugh
Jason Scism

August 12

Kay & John Vucasovich - 25 years

August 13

Eric & Karen Kreps - 37 years

August 14

Tim & Sherry Coutts - 49 years
Steve & Jeanne Steiner - 49 years

August 15

Jim & Corine Daubert - 63 years
Kay & Lance Landon - 54 years
Gene & Sally Warrington - 66 years

August 16

Wayne & Ruth Hjelmstad - 56 years

August 17

Luke & Melissa Travins - 29 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.

Lannette Abbey	Irene
Cheri Anderson	Matthew James
Wanda Anderson	Josh Jones
Fred Bachmeier	Shirley Jones
Desirae Backlund	Ann Junk
Dan Baker	Jonas Kagarise
Janice Baldwin	Kyong Kelley
Elmer Bauman	Gaye Lynn Kielcheski
Tana Beall	Cindy Koger
Joan Boehm	Jesse Lawrence & Family
Bill & Barbara Brown	Susan Lundmark
Justin Buck	Elly Mahler
Karl & Pam Cartwright	Jim Matthews
Tanya Charbonneau	Nick McKibben & Family
John & Debbie Chlebus	Hugh McNeely
Nell Clowder	Brandon Miller & Family
Linda Collier	Marilyn Miller & Family
Debi Deimling	Larry & Lucille Moe
Rinda Dunson	Paul Moe
Mike Eckley	Sam Norton
Alan Flinn	Owen & Family
Edna Fross	Jack & Judy Peterson
Corinne Gibson	Nathanael Price
Nola Gosch	Darlene Radke
Doran Gotschall & Family	Jeff Rapp
Julian Green	Steve & Laurie Ross
Private Steven Harris	Sarah
Lily Hendricks	Rev Dr Stanley Satre
Peggy Hinrichs	Randy Schacht
Ginger Hipszky	
Jake Hodnett	
Bill & Dorene Hulka	

The Steve Schmidt Family	Matthew Stark
Gwen Stein	Christine Welch
Becky Sternal	Anna Wiese
Michael Taylor	Jody Wilbur
Aaron & Cindi Thorson	Sherry Wilson
Bob VanDuyn & Karen Henderson- VanDuyn	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
COLORADO SPRINGS

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.



NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Fireside Room at Noon (Lunch Included)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

Introduction to First Lutheran - Meet other prospective members, learn more about the FLC staff and take a tour of our campus.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

Lutheranism 101 - Learn what Lutherans believe and ask Pastor Travis any questions you might have.

**Register for New Member Orientation
here: <https://bit.ly/3s2W5qN>**



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>