



First Light

Worship at First

Worship at First - Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday at 8:00 a.m. (through Sunday, August 31) and 9:30 a.m.

Staff

Pastor Garrett Struessel

Senior Pastor

garrett.struessel@firstluth.org

Deacon Korra Looschen

Faith Formation Coordinator

Korra.looschen@firstluth.org

Maria Sutton

Office Manager/Volunteer Coordinator

maria.sutton@firstluth.org

Denise McDougall

Accountant/Administrative Assistant

denise.mcdougall@firstluth.org

Events Happening in August

- ♦ Saturday Worship, 5:30 p.m.
- ♦ Sunday Worship in the Courtyard, 8:00 a.m.
- ♦ Sundays, Livestreamed Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.
- ♦ Nursery - Sundays, 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon
- ♦ Staff Meeting - Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m., Fireside Room
- ♦ Prayer Shawl Group – 9:30 a.m., August 1, Fireside Room
- ♦ Hydration Station Boulder County Fair Parade – Saturday, August 2, 10:00 a.m.
- ♦ Homebound Communion – Sunday, August 3

- ♦ Coffee with Council – Sunday August 3
- ♦ LWR Sewing Group - Wednesday, August 6 , 9:00 a.m., Room USW-C
- ♦ Touch of Craft – Wednesday, August 6, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 P.M., Room 6
- ♦ Stretching Over Scriptures – Wednesday, August 6, 6:00 p.m., Thompson Park
- ♦ FLW Meeting – Sunday, August 10, 10:30 a.m., Conference Room
- ♦ Faith Formation Meeting – Sunday, August 10, 11:45 a.m., Conference Room
- ♦ Council Meeting – Tuesday, August 12, 6:00 p.m. Conference Room
- ♦ Stretching Over Scriptures – Wednesday, August 13, 6:00 p.m., Thompson Park
- ♦ Seasoned Saints – Wednesday, August 13 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room
- ♦ Third Saturday Game Night, August 16, 6:30 p.m., Big Room
- ♦ Confirmation Class – August 17, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., FLY Room
- ♦ LWR Sewing Group - Wednesday, August 20 , 1:00 p.m., Room USW-C
- ♦ Stretching Over Scriptures – Wednesday, August 20, 6:00 p.m., Thompson Park
- ♦ Intro to Confirmation for Parents and Youth – Sunday, August 24, 11:00 a.m., Conference Room
- ♦ Touch of Craft - Wednesday, August 27, 5:00 p.m., Room 6

Pastor's Message

Dear Saints,

I hope you are familiar with the television series, "Ted Lasso", streaming on Apple TV+. (Sudeikis, J., Waddingham, H., & Swift, J. (2024). Ted Lasso: The Richmond Way. Warner Bros.)

"Belief doesn't just happen because you hang something on a wall. It comes from in here. [points to his heart] And up here. [points to his head] And down here. [points to his gut]"

*The only problem is, we've all got so much junk floatin' through us, a lot of times we end up gettin' in our own way. Crap like envy, or fear, shame. I don't wanna mess around with that s**t anymore, know what I mean... You know what I wanna mess around with? The belief that I matter, regardless of what I do or don't achieve. Or the belief that we all deserve to be loved, whether we've been hurt or hurt somebody else..."*

I don't know if the writers of Ted Lasso come from a Christian/church background. But this short pep-talk by Coach Lasso, points to the beauty of god's love incarnate in Christ Jesus.

Jesus said, *"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."* John 13:34-35

Jesus commands his disciples to love one another, which is great for them. But then he adds, the truth that "everyone" will know about God's love when they see this love.

Coach Lasso teaches about grace in the locker room for this team. But what gives me chills, is how this message is greater than a football/soccer league, team, or individuals.

Jesus declares this too. God's love is greater than the Church, or one church, or a gathering of followers of Jesus. "Belief (grace) doesn't just happen because you hang something on the wall."

Grace is like that too. It's not worth a spit (to channel coach Lasso) if its limited by our laws, our efforts, or our vision. God's grace is timeless, limitless, and given for all.

~In Christ, Pastor Garrett

Stewardship for all Seasons

OPPORTUNITIES

It is pretty clear in the Bible that Jesus says to feed the hungry, comfort the grieving and care for the widow and orphan. Some of us have a passion for passing on faith to children. Others have a passion for raising up leaders for the church. Still others want to see non-Christians experience the good news for the first time.

As we think about where we want to get involved, we cannot not do it all. However, as we financially support our congregation this year, we are involved in all of this. Not all of us are called to be teachers but offerings support teaching and passing on faith to kids. Not all of us have the gifts to comfort the grieving, but our financial gifts provide for great pastoral care. Not all of us have the time to go out and feed the hungry, but we can all give significantly according to our means so that the hungry can be fed.

Our congregation directly engages in many of these ministries on our own. Others, we are able to accomplish through the synod as they carry on work for the God's kingdom on our behalf. As the Spirit continues to grow our ministry, we have more and more opportunities to engage in different ministries right here and across the region, the nation and the globe.

When we financially support the ministry here, our gifts make possible the many ways we engage in ministry. Even if you are not personally serving in a particular ministry, your gifts make that ministry possible. As we give generously, we have the opportunity and the privilege to feed the hungry, care for the grieving, pass faith to children, raise up leaders and so much more.

Finally, we are generous because our God has been and, continues to be, generous to us.



Master Facilities Plan

July Council motion, "Move to form a Master Facilities Planning Committee by the September council meeting."

First Lutheran has long viewed the significant facilities at 3rd and Terry St, (and Ryssby Church) as a Mission partner. We have recognized that our mission partner is in need of some updates, repairs, remodeling and repurposing. With ordinary use, our facilities are showing its age and mission work.

The Fireside Room task force has put in many hours studying the use of our main office area including the Fireside Room. Other parts of our facilities are in need of attention too. The Council has been tracking and addressing these concerns, and it soon became clear that we need to organize and prioritize the projects.

Some examples of facilities projects include updating the Friendship Center/Big Room and kitchen, the "Parish House Return to Housing Project", better signage, and a few larger maintenance projects. Most of the needs would be considered "capital projects", that exceed budgeted items.

Our Mission, guided by the Holy Spirit, is to share the love of God in Jesus Christ. This includes being good stewards of the gifts of God, including the facilities.

If you have experience and/or interest in forming a Master Facilities Plan, please contact the Council, or Pastor Garrett.

Reconciling in Christ

At the regular June 2025 Congregation Council meeting, a motion was passed to: "Form a limited-term committee [task force] to guide the congregation through the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) process. The committee shall meet regularly, and host congregational RIC discussions at least once a month until the process has been completed, including a congregational-wide meeting to vote whether to become a RIC member."

This is an opportunity for First Lutheran to study what it means when an ELCA congregation holds the designation of a "Reconciling in Christ" congregation. The study process is the most important part, to avoid assumptions and misperceptions about what this means, and what this does not mean.

The task force on Reconciling in Christ is being formed now. Please watch for more information and opportunities to gather in faith, in the name of Christ, to learn, challenge, grow, and understand why this is an important process for our church.

For further information, please visit, <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/>. Or contact, Andrew Howell, howellandrew@gmail.com, who is organizing the task force.

July 2025 Council Corner

"Each of [us] should use whatever gift you have received to serve others." 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

Summer has arrived and we are in the "Time after Pentecost" season.

Here's the FELC Congregation Council activities for July.

- ♦ The big room stucco repair has been completed and looks great.
- ♦ The church and parish house gutter cleaning and a couple minor repairs should be completed by the end of July. A local handyman has been contracted.
- ♦ A new evaporative cooler was approved and will be installed in the parish house.
- ♦ The ELCA church wide assembly is in August and the church constitution will be updated after that.
- ♦ The 150th anniversary of First Evangelical Lutheran Church will be in 2028. Initial preparations for the anniversary have begun.

Enjoy the summer weather!!

~FELC Congregational Council

First Lutheran Women

The Women of First Lutheran are currently taking the Summer off from meetings. We will reconvene the second Sunday, August 10, 2025 in the Conference Room at 10:30 a.m.. All are welcome to come and join in planning the upcoming events.

A big Thank You to the Captains, Co-Captains, and the volunteers who assisted with the memorial receptions held in May and June. Your hard work and delicious food are so greatly appreciated.

We now have a newly painted blue cabinet in the Fellowship Hall to house the tablecloths. Thank you, Sandy Moore,

If you are interested in participating in FLW or have an idea you would like to share, please contact any of the officers.

Amy Ley, President, aley01@msn.com phone: 303-776-1685; Connie Manley, Vice President, manleysews@gmail.com phone: 303-827-6866; Sally Campbell, Secretary, sallycampbell.music@gmail.com phone: 303-652-3064
Joyce Crozier, Treasure, joycekc73@gmail.com phone: 763-234-1819

Deacon Korra's Reflections

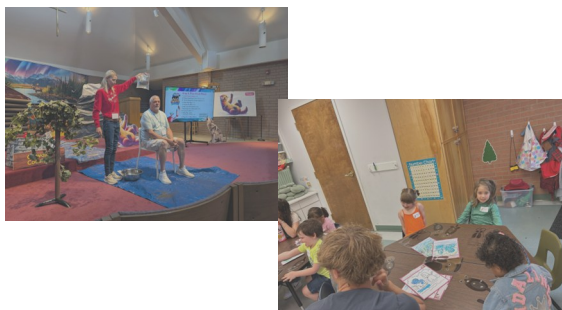
One of the ways I continue to learn about serving as a leader in Faith Formation is by listening to podcasts sponsored by Luther Seminary called, "Faith Lead". One of the most recent episodes focused on embracing "Fresh Expressions of Christian Community Flourishing Together." Rev. Dr. Dwight Zscheile spoke about how churches are experiencing a profound shift in American culture; moving away from volunteer associations toward individual self-expression. This means our traditional "one-size-fits-all" model of church simply cannot reach everyone in today's diverse world. Practical ways to nurture *both* inherited and new forms of ministry in our churches need to be examined. Two key questions are essential in discerning how to do this: Why are we here? and What is our purpose? Discerning this together and answering it together deepens our identity and helps us live it out to our neighbors. Can we create space for people who have different expectations and needs of the church? If so, how? Rev. Dwight shared his definition of church as, "Encountering Jesus and then committing ourselves to deepening those encounters in relationship with others." We can do this in four ways:

- ♦ Up-with God
- ♦ In-with each other
- ♦ Out-to our neighbors
- ♦ Together-Through the universal Church

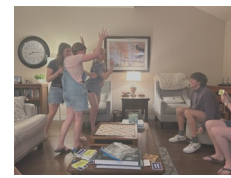
May we be in prayer to see and try new ways of sharing God's unconditional love with all generations.

Faith Formation News:

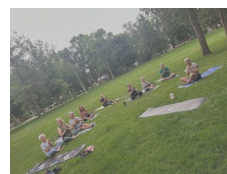
I was blessed to participate in Vacation Bible School by partnering with Bethlehem Lutheran Church last month. The theme was, "True North-Trusting Jesus in a Wild World". We had over 55 kids attend and six were from First Lutheran. Thanks to Sandy Moore for leading the snack station and to everyone who donated snacks.



Did you know...? Once a month our college students and high school youth meet for Scriptures and Smores? It has been a great way to nurture relationships with each other and with God. Thanks to the Warriner family and the Bassoff household for hosting the past two events. If you would like to host the next one on Monday, August 11, please contact Deacon Korra at korra.looschen@firstluth.org



Stretching Over Scriptures will continue Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in Thompson Park. Our last gathering will be August 20. Christian Yoga is a great way to get centered with Christ. Please bring a yoga mat and water.



Upcoming Faith Formation Events:

August 3-Campers Share about their week at Sky Ranch. If you are interested in hearing about the experiences at camp, meet in the conference room from 10:45-11:30 a.m.

August 10-Blessing of the Backpacks.

Students and teachers of all ages are encouraged to bring the backpack to worship for a special message and prayer. After worship, youth and families can enjoy ice cream sandwiches, games, and fellowship.



August 10, 11:45 a.m.-Faith Formation Committee Meeting

August 17-Confirmation Class. 11:00-12:30 p.m. in the youth room.

August 24-Intro to Confirmation for Parents and Youth, 11:00. a.m. Conference Room

September 7-God's Work. Our Hands.-Choose from several opportunities to serve and learn about neighbors in the community.

September 14-Sunday School Classes for all ages. 10:45 a.m.

A Delightfully Christian Word: Precarity

By Kate Bowler

There is an absolutely spot on word to describe this way of being in the world, its fragility, its dependence. And I would be delighted if you began to use it in your daily life and especially at work events. That word is *precarity*.

The English word *precarity* means a state of dangerous uncertainty, but its Latin root tells us a good deal more about its Christian character. The term comes from precarious or “obtained by entreaty or prayer”—a state where we cannot achieve things by ourselves. We must rely on someone else, God or neighbor.

So instead of saying that we are self-mastering winners, beautiful cyborgs who can somehow rule our worlds by our own determination, we can admit truths that are much more realistic. How are you? Dependent. How are we doing? Fine until we need help (which will be in roughly 2 or 3 minutes).

This understanding offers us a more comfortable relationship between our faith and our fear. Our fear is an awareness of the world and our place in it. And what are we? Fragile.

There is a wonderful, saintly Catholic woman you should get to know if you haven't already; her name is Dorothy Day. She lived in New York City, in the slums with people who couldn't afford adequate food and shelter. One day she received a letter from a priest from the Caribbean island of Martinique describing his own work with the poor, and the letter was quite pointed about what it would mean for all those of us wanting stable roofs.

He wrote: “Here we want precarity in everything except the church”. In other words, we talk a good game about wanting to be people who love what God loves until it requires that we begin to accept anxiety and fear as part of the life of faith. The priest went on to say that recently the place where they were handing out food was nearly collapsing, and they had tried to prop it up with several supplemental poles. But it would last maybe only two or three more years. “Someday it will fall on our heads, and that will be funny”, he said dryly. But he couldn't bring himself to stop feeding people in the bread lines in order to be another kind of church, the kind that was, “always building, enlarging, and embellishing.” We have no right to, he concluded. No right, I suppose he meant, to demand security afforded to no one else.

As Christians, we must nod our heads and shrug our shoulders when we're told, in no uncertain terms, that there are no lifetime warranties. (Bowler, K. (2024). *Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day! Daily Meditations for the Ups, Downs & In-Betweens*. Convergent Books.)

Church Mouse

Hi, it's me, the mouse! How's your summer been treating you? I've been having a good time here at church keeping an eye on the comings and goings of the community of First Lutheran. There's been worship in the courtyard for the early birds, continuing maintenance during the week, neighbors taking advantage of the little pantry, committees and church council meeting, and summer camp!

It's almost time for our fall schedule to begin with Sunday school and choir, and God's Work, Our Hands.



Ann Nobel Art Gallery

You may have noticed that there has been a new art show going up this week. We are happy to have new pictures on the art wall featuring mountains. Our thanks to those who have been willing to share.

Majestic mountains have been the subject of many forms of artwork and you will see that we have several displayed. Not only do we have our beautiful Rocky Mountains, but mountains from other parts of the world, as well. We hope that you will be able to amble down that hallway to view the new art and if you really love mountain art, you will also find some other paintings in the Fireside Room.

We still have some room for a few more works of art, so if you have something you would like to share, please leave it in Maria's office and we will see that it is put up with the others.

Thank you for your interest and support.

The Ann Noble Art Committee,

~Viki Samson and Joyce Crozier

Ryssby Midsummer 2025

Midsummer 2025 was a beautiful day, and was well attended. We enjoyed a worship service at 11:00 in the church, followed by a BBQ picnic on the grounds.

Pastor Garrett and Deacon Korra ministered the worship service, and the Chancel choir provided music and helped lead songs of the congregation lead by Sally Campbell, and organist Gary Elmquist. Bierte Peterson sang a beautiful solo during the offering.

A BBQ picnic lunch followed worship service, and for a reasonable fee was provided to those attending who signed up online. Lunch featured grilled hamburgers, bratwurst, and hotdogs grilled by volunteers Dan & Stephanie Nieuwlandt. The sides were prepared by Marilyn Treharne, and the lunch was served by volunteers of the congregation.

After the picnic lunch a variety of ice cream treats were served to those attending. We thank the Ryssby committee for funding the event and planning. The committee members handled parking, collection of lunch payments, and coordinated the setup and take down of tables and chairs in the shelters. We thank the First Lutheran staff for planning the worship service.

We thank all the volunteers who helped with the worship service, picnic lunch, and the setup and teardown of tables and chairs. Thanks to our Ryssby staff for preparations of the property and church for the event (Brian and Betsy Winn, and Linnea Ahlberg).



New Flower Calendar!

The altar flowers that grace our Sanctuary each weekend are donated by members and friends of First Lutheran. If you would like to provide the 2 flower arrangements on a given weekend, we invite you to sign up on the brand new Flower Calendar located on the Volunteer Bulletin Board in the hallway outside Maria's office. You may select open dates and make dedications in memory, honor, or celebration. Your name and dedication will be printed in the Weekend Reminder on the week you choose.

Flowers can be brought in person or delivered to the church by a florist of your choice before 4:30 pm on the Friday of the week that you are donating. Please contact Maria Sutton in the office at 303-776-2800 maria.sutton@firstluth.org or Stephanie Nieuwlandt at 303-774-9383 nieuwlandt33@msn.com for more information or assistance. Note: the calendar is starting with July 2025 and continues through June 2026.



Time and Talents

First Lutheran Church's Mission and ministries involve everyone, as a response to our identity as baptized children of God. We trust God has given everyone gifts to serve in the name of Christ Jesus. How might we together grow our church's mission—as a united body in Christ? Let's start by identifying your time, talents, and interests. **Please complete the form online at <https://forms.gle/uQcqxkEZykex1ZMr9> or pick up a survey from the church**

Check ALL boxes that describe you. You will receive a follow-up call from a Stewardship of Time and Talents Team (STTT) member to discuss options for you to support our church's mission. Together we will make a difference! Thank you in advance for your thoughtful and prayerful consideration

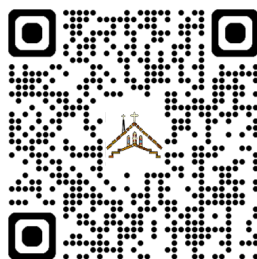


Financial Update for May 2025

	May Month-To-Date			May Year-To-Date		
	Actual	Budget	Variance Fav/(Unfav)	Actual	Budget	Variance Fav/(Unfav)
Income	58,789.00	56,794.25	1,994.75	324,800.31	322,695.32	2,104.99
Expenses	66,410.06	64,057.94	(2,352.12)	310,282.91	334,328.30	24,045.39
Net Income/(Loss):	(7,621.06)	(7,263.69)	(357.37)	14,517.40	(11,632.98)	26,150.38

Giving Options

Giving Online is available on our website! Giving online allows you to make one-time or recurring offering contributions with a Credit or Debit Card or ACH bank transfer through Breeze ChMS (our church management system) who partners with Stripe for secure financial services. As with any electronic transaction, our church pays a small transaction fee to process the online payments. If you choose, you may cover that fee for the church at the same time you give which increases your contribution.



<https://firstluth.breezechms.com/give/online>

Thrivent Choice Dollars – Eligible clients with Thrivent membership can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funds. These recommendations are shared by directing Choice Dollars to enrolled nonprofit organizations, including churches.

King Soopers Community Rewards – This program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. Once you link your King Soopers Rewards Card to an organization, all you have to do is shop at King Soopers and swipe your Shopper's Card.

Safeway Community Giving Card Program returns 5% of amounts loaded on reloadable grocery gift cards provided to First Lutheran after we meet minimum thresholds. Simply load your gift card at the grocery store, shop for groceries at Albertsons or Safeway using the gift card and reload the card when it gets low. Every time you reload the gift card, we get closer to earning 5% cashback. See Maria in the office to pick up a reloadable gift card that is linked to First Lutheran.

Please contact the office at (303) 776-2800 if you would like more information about any of these ways of sharing your generosity!

August Calendar 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9:30 a.m.– Prayer Shawl Group	2 10:00 a.m.– Hydration Station – Boulder County Fair Parade 5:30 p.m.– Worship Service
3 Homebound Communion Coffee with Council 8:00 a.m. – Worship in the Courtyard 9:30 a.m.– Worship Service	4	5 1:00 p.m.– Staff Meeting	6 9:00 a.m. – LWR Sewing Group 11:00 a.m.– Touch of Craft 6:00 p.m. – Stretching Over Scriptures – Thompson Park	7	8	9 5:30 p.m.– Worship Service
10 8:00 a.m. – Worship in the Courtyard 9:30 a.m.– Worship Service and the Blessing of the Backpacks 10:30 a.m. – FLW Meeting	11	12 1:00 p.m.– Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. – Council Meeting	13 10:00 a.m. Seasoned Saints 6:00 p.m. – Stretching Over Scriptures – Thompson Park	14	15	16 5:30 p.m.– Worship Service 6:30 p.m. – Third Saturday Game Night
17 8:00 a.m. – Worship in the Courtyard 9:30 a.m.– Worship Service 11:00 a.m.– Confirmation Class	18	19 1:00 p.m.– Staff Meeting	20 1:00 p.m. – LWR Sewing Group 6:00 p.m. – Stretching Over Scriptures – Thompson Park	21	22	23 5:30 p.m.– Worship Service
24 8:00 a.m. – Worship in the Courtyard 9:30 a.m.– Worship Service 11:00 a.m. – Intro to Confirmation for Parents and Youth	25	26 1:00 p.m.– Staff Meeting	27 5:00 p.m. – Touch of Craft	28	29	30 5:30 p.m.– Worship Service
31 8:00 a.m. – Worship in the Courtyard 9:30 a.m.– Worship Service						



Lewis Geyer II	August 01	Christie Denniston	August 16
Ryan Goforth	August 01	Chrissy Eismann	August 16
Amanda Menihan	August 01	Eric Burfeind	August 17
Cindy Green	August 02	Deborah Carlson	August 17
Derek Griffiths	August 02	Rachel Green	August 17
Ann Roadarmel	August 02	Viki Samson	August 17
Bill Thorvaldson	August 02	Peter Nieuwlandt	August 18
Luke Goforth	August 04	Roger Swanson	August 18
Marcia Grummert	August 05	Alyssa Wilson	August 18
Graham Lier	August 05	Karyl Bunzey	August 19
Anna Carter	August 06	Scott Criswell	August 19
Noelle Abarelli	August 07	Doris Haley	August 19
William Allison	August 07	Scott Jordison	August 20
Melanie Grijalva	August 07	Henry Maier	August 20
Mark Mills	August 07	Melissa Morgan	August 20
Sarah Mitchell	August 07	Melanie Sheehan	August 20
Ella Slupik	August 07	Jean Cross	August 21
Madison Jayne	August 08	Kaleb Howell	August 21
Evelyn Hess	August 09	Ardis Jacobson	August 23
Judy Krohn	August 09	Richard Burton	August 24
Jace Maronek	August 09	Gregg Majors	August 24
Connie Melvin	August 09	Hannah Vickland	August 24
Jackson Casmey	August 10	Lauren Lovik	August 25
Scott Hathcock	August 10	Madeleine Martin	August 25
Mark Koschade	August 11	Gary Elmquist	August 26
Bob Carter	August 12	Todd Gould	August 26
Leslie George	August 12	Dennis Johnson	August 26
Brittany Maley	August 12	Barb Mohr	August 26
Eleanor Riddle	August 12	Erik Nelson	August 26
Debra Judy	August 13	Donita Vogt	August 28
Mary Lou Moore	August 13	Joe Melvin	August 29
John Gaddis, Sr	August 14	Brie Musser	August 29
Anna Henry	August 14	Anastasia Roberts	August 29
Delores Mueller	August 14	Colton Stedman	August 29
Lindsay Imhoff	August 15	Rod Christian	August 30
Sherri Reed	August 15	Michele Hysell	August 30
Chris Treharne	August 15	Stephanie Nieuwlandt	August 30
		Bernis Rubright	August 30