



First Light

Worship at First

Worship at First - Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and 9:30 a.m.
Weekend Worship is livestreamed each Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Staff

Pastor Garrett Struessel

Senior Pastor

garrett.struessel@firstluth.org

Deacon Korra Looschen

Faith Formation Coordinator

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Maria Sutton

Office Manager/Volunteer Coordinator

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Denise McDougall

Accountant/Administrative Assistant

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Events Happening in October

- ♦ Saturday Worship, 5:30 p.m.
- ♦ Sundays, Livestreamed Worship Service, 9:30 a.m.
- ♦ Sunday School Hour - 10:45 a.m.
- ♦ Nursery - Sundays, 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon
- ♦ Staff Meeting - Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m., Fireside Room
- ♦ Brass Angels Bell Choir - Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m., Choir Room
- ♦ Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Thursdays, 7:00 p.m., Choir Loft
- ♦ LWR Sewing Group - Wednesday, October 1, 9:00 a.m., Room USW-C
- ♦ Touch of Craft - Wednesday, October 1, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 P.M., Room 6

- ♦ Prayer Shawl Group - 9:30 a.m., October 3, Fireside Room
- ♦ Interfaith Quilters Holiday Quilt Boutique, Saturday, October 4, 9:00 a.m., Big Room
- ♦ Homebound Communion - Sunday, October 5
- ♦ Coffee with Council - Sunday, October 5
- ♦ FLW Meeting - Sunday, October 12, 8:30 a.m., Conference Room
- ♦ Mission and Visionary Conversation, Sunday, October 12, 10:45 a.m., Big Room
- ♦ Confirmation Class - Sunday, October 12, 11:45 a.m., Bethlehem Lutheran Church
- ♦ Council Meeting - Tuesday, October 14, 6:00 p.m. Conference Room
- ♦ Seasoned Saints - Wednesday, October 15 10:00 a.m., Away - Estes Park
- ♦ LWR Sewing Group - Wednesday, October 15, 1:00 p.m., Room USW-C
- ♦ Oktoberfest - Saturday, October 18, 6:30 p.m., Big Room
- ♦ Jerusalem Road Service, October 19, 9:30 a.m.
- ♦ New Member Class - Part 1, Sunday, October 19, 8:30 a.m., Conference Room
- ♦ Touch of Craft - Wednesday, October 22, 5:00 p.m., Room 6
- ♦ Halloween Carnival Game Night, October 25, 6:30 p.m., Big Room
- ♦ New Member Class - Part 2, Sunday, October 26, 8:30 a.m.
- ♦ Receive New Members, Sunday, October 26, 9:30 a.m.
- ♦ Reformation Potluck Breakfast Celebration, Sunday, October 26, 10:45 a.m., Big Room

Pastor's Message

John 20:19-21 *"When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the [Jewish authorities], Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'"*

Dear Saints,

Grace to you and peace, in a world that seems to have lost a sense of grace and has mostly responded to anxiety and fear by directing venom to the other side.

Thanks be to God, Jesus spoke into a season of chaos, a world for his disciples that was turned upside-down. Jesus said, "Peace be with you."

I wonder if there have been times when you too have felt a little displaced or unmoored. In many places around the world, people are feeling acute shifts, if not chaos.

After the resurrection, still grieving Jesus's crucifixion, Jesus's disciples locked the doors out of fear. They were afraid that guilt by association might lead them to be crucified next. The words of Jesus, in this time of terror, speak loudly.

Somehow Jesus knew exactly what was needed. Jesus did not bring food or water. Jesus did not bring bandages or clothing. Jesus brought God's enduring love, and words of peace.

I wonder if we can serve as "apostles of peace". When the chaos stirs us up, the peace of Christ can hold us fast. When darkness turns us against each other, the words of Jesus serve as a "crisis absorbent" gift. When fear splits us apart, the words of Jesus can hold us together.

Perhaps, Jesus has also given us a new direction, to remind us who we are. Jesus speaks peace to the whirlwind, but more often he speaks of grace for poor people.

Jesus said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." I wonder, once we have come to a peaceful place, we can faithfully turn outwards to share God's peace within our community.

In Christ, Pastor Garrett Struessel

Mission and Visioning Conversation, Sunday, October 12 at 10:45 a.m.

Join us with joy and a spirit of hope as First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Longmont, CO embarks on a season of prayerful Mission and Visioning for the future. We gather at 10:45 a.m. in the Big Room to seek God's guidance and dream together about how our mission can flourish. Our journey begins on Sunday, October 12, with an introduction to the inspiring "Mission Trinity" and meaningful conversation about our Facilities as a partner in God's work. We continue on Sunday, November 9th, as we focus on the Congregation as a partner, exploring how we are called to live as Christ's body. Finally, on Sunday, December 14th, we will discern how our Community is a partner in mission, shaping how we serve and witness for the sake of the world. Come be part of this sacred and hopeful process as we listen for the Spirit's leading and embrace the future God is preparing for us.

Jerusalem Road Service

Come tap your toes and lift your hearts as Jerusalem Road, a favorite bluegrass worship band, leads us on Sunday, October 19 at 9:30 a.m..

Get ready for fiddles, banjos, and harmonies that will make the pews sway and the rafters ring. This is a change from our regular Sunday morning worship leadership—it's a lively mix of gospel roots, heartfelt hymns, and a whole lot of joy. Bring a friend, bring your neighbor, and don't forget your singing voice—because bluegrass sounds best when everyone joins in.

Whether you're a lifelong churchgoer or just curious about a fresh, toe-tapping worship experience, you'll find a warm welcome here and it's sure to keep the music humming in your



Deacon Korra's Reflections

Thank you for the many ways you have welcomed me to First Lutheran. Thank you for your faithful service and witnessing your faith. As we move into the vision of Faith Formation for the years ahead it is helpful to be aware of an "emerging church approach to children, youth, and families". See below for examples of what this looks like:

Past Approach

Home supports the church
Age grade ministry
Professional leadership
Jesus is taught
Doing what's familiar
People viewed as recipients
Activity/program driven

Emerging Approach

Church Supports the home
Age-grade & Cross-generational
Shared Leadership
Jesus is caught
Bold, experimental ministry
People viewed as partners
Relationship driven

As we lean into this emerging approach, we will be providing opportunities to build relationships with each other and to model faith formation in the home for all ages.

I invite you to pray for participation in one of the following ways:

- ◆ Serve as a "Shepherd" for a Sunday school class.
- ◆ Serve on the "Faith Formation Committee" (Formerly Christian Education)
- ◆ Help with the Halloween Party on Saturday, October 25 and get to know some kids/families
- ◆ Attend the "Cross Generational Reformation Celebration" Sunday, October 26, 10:45 a.m.
- ◆ Introduce yourself to a child or youth you haven't met.

If you have questions about any of this or are interested in participating, please let me know. Remember, Jesus equips the called. If you are feeling a nudge, you don't have to "know everything" about the Bible or necessarily understand youth today. Kids value how much you care more than how much you know.

God's Peace,
Deacon Korra



Sunday mornings during the Sunday School Hour.

10:30-11:30 a.m.

Beginning October 5.

Support one another, Enjoy good conversation,
Grow in faith.

*Meet downstairs at the large tables around from the
Sunday School Classrooms.*

RUMMAGE SALE!

See the Sunday School Office for a variety of electronic equipment, Children's DVDs, and Christian art.

Take what you like and/or help us recycle these items



First Lutheran Women

The First Lutheran Women met Sunday September 14, at the new time of 8:30 a.m. in the Conference Room. Thank you to all who attended.

Gods Work our Hands was a great success. Both kitchens upstairs and downstairs have been re-organized and are squeaky clean. Thank you to all who donated Playtex rubber gloves and soap to make this a success.

Oktoberfest fundraiser will be October 18, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Big Room. Come join us for Brats, and all the fixins, alcohol free beer, and dance to live polka music. All proceeds go to the purchase of a new refrigerator for the downstairs Kitchen. Tickets may be purchased in advance, on October 4th and 5th church service, and October 11th and 12th church services, or October 18th at the door. \$15.00 per adult, \$10.00 for children 12 and under.

Thank you to all who signed up for the 2026 Family Service Calendar. There is still time to add your name to the list. Please contact Sally Campbell, sallycampbell.music@gmail.com

~Amy Ley, President

Council Corner—August

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future". —Jeremiah 29:11

Celebrations

- ♦ Thanks to the congregation for their contributions of time and talents by spreading Christ's love through their participation in our God's Work our Hands projects!
- ♦ Sunday School for all ages has launched, and everyone is invited to join a group for learning and fellowship. Ask Pastor Garrett, Deacon Korra, Maria or any Council member about how to get involved.
- ♦ Welcome and Congratulations to our recent Confirmants and families for completion of their baptismal promise!

Council Actions

- ♦ A Master Facility Committee has been formed that will focus on strategic mission planning. The planning will focus on three areas: community, congregation, and facilities.
- ♦ The Council will hold a special session later in September or early October to plan for our future at First. We will focus on ideas for spreading Christ's presence in the

community and the congregation along with how best to use and maintain our facility to serve our mission. See any staff or council member to share the ideas that you have!

- ♦ The Council is exploring our present structure of two worship services to determine if we are meeting the needs of our congregation. Please share your thoughts or ideas about your current worship experience with any Council or staff member. We need your feedback to inform our discussion and to share with the Worship Committee.

Join us for "Coffee with Council" on Sunday, October 5 to share your ideas and a cup of coffee or contact any council member with your ideas or concerns at any time. Remember, our goal is to represent and serve our congregation.

Ann Noble Art Gallery

Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!

Our next showing will be featuring SNOW!

A big thanks to those of you that shared mountain pictures. They will be coming down the last week of October unless you have snow on your mountains, then we will leave it up for the next display that will run from November through February.

Since snow is the theme, we are asking for photos, needlework, paintings or anything depicting snow. Snow on trees, snowflakes, snowmen that you have built or snowstorms are some ideas for you. These pictures should be brought to Maria's office the last week of October so we can get them hung by the first of November.

Thanks again to the participants for our present display and we can't wait to see what we get for the next!!

~Viki Samson and Joyce Crozier



Photo by [Aaron Burden](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Parish House Return to Housing Project Update

October, 2025

Your Parish House Return to Housing Project working group has continued to meet and work toward the shared mission of serving our community, being good stewards of our property, and increasing the stock of affordable, transitional housing in Longmont.

We have been in the 'hurry up and wait' stage as the State of Colorado law, which allows for

Accessory Dwelling Unit development, has been implemented by Longmont Planning and

Zoning. We now have an understandable path forward to add an additional apartment to our

Parish House. We will be able to double the number of families we serve each year!

Before we can submit a building permit application, our working group:

- ♦ Has created preliminary drawings to be shared with our congregation and the OUR Center. These preliminary drawings will be the basis for a building permit application.
- ♦ Has offered options for funding facilities projects to our Congregational Council.
- ♦ Has requested an opportunity to share plans with our congregation in advance of a congregational vote to approve the project
- ♦ Will choose a general contractor to manage remodeling the Parish House and creation of two 3-bedroom apartments.

We promise to stay in touch with our congregation and Congregational Council!

Your Parish House Return to Housing Project Team.

Dave Bishton, Herb Hergott, Vicki Hergott, Pr. Garrett Struessel, Nathan Trick: Eco-Design forLife, and Milenda Powers

Middle School Halloween Retreat at Sky Ranch Nov 1 & 2

All 6-8 graders are invited to the mountain for the Best Halloween Party of your life! Costume parade and trick or treating around our cabin village finishing with a PAV PARTY! Once we're done celebrat-

ing, we'll spend the weekend with worship, great meals, all the camp activities and digging in on our theme: "Who am I and How Can I be a Reformer/Transformer?". Contact Deacon Korra to register before October 15. Cost is \$120 which includes all meals, housing, and transportation. Financial assistance is available if needed.

THANKOFFERINGS

FLW wants to remind the congregation to pick up one of the "Thank-Offering Boxes" which will be collected at the Thanksgiving Eve service on November 26, 2025. The ladies at First have historically given our "Thank-Offering boxes" as a visual token that we acknowledge God's blessing on us throughout the year. All the money we collect from these boxes will be sent to the Women of the ELCA, for their programs that enrich women. Please pick up one of the boxes from the table near the center aisle of the sanctuary, fill it with extra loose change, paper bills or a check made out to First Lutheran and bring it to the Thanksgiving Eve service.

Church Mouse

Hi, its me, the mouse! The Job/Volunteer fair on Sept 21st was also a surprise 25th Anniversary of Pastor Garrett's ordination celebration. It was a special event all around, with interest shown in a variety of opportunities to serve for all. I'm looking forward to the Oktoberfest fundraiser and the Halloween Carnival and Game Night coming up. And don't forget the Interfaith Holiday Boutique Sale on October 4th.



Belated Birthday Wish

We would like to apologize to Brooke Campbell for missing her birthday last month.

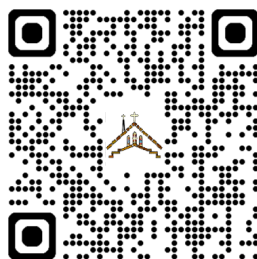


Financial Update for July 2025

	July Month-To-Date			July Year-To-Date		
	Actual	Budget	Variance Fav/(Unfav)	Actual	Budget	Variance Fav/(Unfav)
Income	50,321.88	47,439.00	2,882.88	437,682.45	449,996.32	(12,313.87)
Expenses	68,923.30	57,861.14	(11,062.16)	443,515.02	458,405.63	14,890.61
Net Income/(Loss):	(18,601.42)	(10,422.14)	(8,179.28)	(5,832.57)	(8,409.31)	2,576.74

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!

Cross + Generational Reformation Celebration Pot-Luck Breakfast

Sunday, October 26

10:45-11:45 a.m.

Bring a dish to share.
Enjoy fellowship.
Engage in Reformation Trivia.
Get to know children, youth,
and families!



HALLOWEEN GAME NIGHT

Saturday, October 25

Ghostly Greetings!

Stop in for a spell at our game night in the Big Room,, 6:30-8:00pm

Halloween-Carnival themed Games for Kids and Adults!

Join us in

Feel free to come dressed in costumes! (even in worship!)

Lots of fantastic fun, guests and neighbors are also welcome!!

Have a BOOtiful Halloween, Hope to see you there!



OKTOBERFEST

Will be celebrated on **Saturday, October 18 at 6:30pm** in the Big Room. Come enjoy food and drink and live entertainment! Tickets will be sold before and after the services on October 4/5, October 11/12 and at the door. They are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. FLW is raising funds for a new refrigerator in the kitchen downstairs. A Day Place uses the one that is working. Another refrigerator would make that kitchen available for ALL groups to use. Come join in the festivities!



"I like it when everyone in church sings about that Ollie Louya guy."

October Calendar 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00 a.m. – LWR Sewing Group 11:00 a.m.– Touch of Craft	2 10:30 a.m. – Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir Rehearsal	3 9:30 a.m.– Prayer Shawl Group	4 9:00 a.m. – Inter- faith Quilter's Hol- iday Quilt and Boutique 5:30 p.m.– Worship Service
5 Homebound Communion Coffee with Council 9:30 a.m.– Worship Service 10:45 a.m. – Sunday School Hour	6	7 9:00 a.m. – Brass Angels Bell Choir 1:00 p.m.– Staff Meeting	8	9 10:30 a.m. – Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir Rehearsal	10	11 5:30 p.m.– Worship Service
12 8:30 a.m. – FLW Meeting 9:30 a.m.– Worship Service 10:45 a.m. – Sunday School Hour 10:45 a.m. – Mission and Visioning, Big Room 11:45 a.m. – Confirmation Class at BLC	13 Columbus Day	14 9:00 a.m. – Brass Angels Bell Choir 1:00 p.m.– Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. – Coun- cil Meeting	15 10:00 a.m. Seasoned Saints (Away) 1:00 p.m. – LWR Sewing Group	16 10:30 a.m. – Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir Rehearsal	17	18 5:30 p.m.– Worship Service 6:30 p.m. – Oktoberfest
19 8:30 a.m. – New Member Class, Part 1 9:30 a.m.– Worship Service 10:45 a.m. – Sunday School Hour	20	21 9:00 a.m. – Brass Angels Bell Choir 1:00 p.m.– Staff Meeting	22 5:00 p.m. – Touch of Craft	23 10:30 a.m. – Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir Rehearsal	24	25 5:30 p.m.– Worship Service 6:30 p.m. – Hal- loween Game Night
26 8:30 a.m. – New Member Class, Part 2 9:30 a.m.– Worship Service 10:45 a.m. – Refor- mation Celebration Potluck Breakfast	27	28 9:00 a.m. – Brass Angels Bell Choir 1:00 p.m.– Staff Meeting	29	30 10:30 a.m. – Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m. – Chancel Choir Rehearsal	31 Halloween	



Gerald Mueller	October 01	Nathan Hopper	October 15
Jenny Pickett	October 01	Sherre Boda	October 16
Craig Yurish	October 01	Ena Gayer	October 16
Joan Beydler	October 02	Brad Hall	October 16
Elaine Hertz	October 02	Garrett Struessel	October 16
Rich Hoffmann	October 02	Leona Stoecker	October 17
Anna MacBriar	October 02	Kenneth Struessel	October 17
Bella Musser	October 02	Elaine Hodge	October 18
Matt Nieberger	October 02	Nora Murphy	October 18
Tad Scheiblich	October 02	Linda Shaddock	October 18
Caroline Heinbuch	October 03	Matt Pickett	October 19
Sharon Thorvaldson	October 03	Danny Rositer, Jr	October 19
Becky Warriner	October 03	Wanda Sherwood	October 19
Will Currier	October 04	Khai Slaughter	October 19
Beatrice Morelli	October 04	Paul Verly	October 19
Melissa Anderson	October 05	Linda Green	October 20
Jody McCain	October 05	Carol Kepler	October 20
Nick Osterfelt	October 05	Christina Godwin	October 21
Ruth Schossow	October 05	Linda Jones	October 21
Maile Imada	October 06	Sarah Dahlgren	October 22
Charlie Jensen	October 06	Lea Gralewski	October 22
Ella Lyddan	October 07	Rocio Leos	October 22
Denise McDougall	October 07	Emily Green	October 23
John Pickett, III	October 07	Andrea Griffiths	October 23
Kristie Venrick	October 07	Berneice Greiner	October 24
Jacob Crist	October 08	Rhonda Hovendick	October 24
Bob Conner	October 09	Kara Schossow	October 24
Rob Myhre	October 09	Steve Rasmus	October 25
Julie Lyddan	October 10	Jonathan Hess	October 26
Jamie Wolff	October 10	Ann Pederson	October 26
Anna Dunnell	October 11	Susan Bennett	October 27
Sue Essig	October 11	Finn Johnson	October 27
Mark Hinman	October 11	Patrice Lier	October 27
Arlen MacKenzie	October 11	Shira Dobson	October 28
Becky Casmey	October 12	Sarah Vickland	October 28
Sandy Stevenson	October 12	Sandy Carlson	October 30
Eric Brown	October 13	Will Murphy	October 30
Gnny Appel	October 14	Jenna Steege	October 30
Chris Hutchings	October 14	Emmett Thomas	October 30
Lori Walker	October 14	Dennis Nicks	October 31
		Clara Pressey	October 31
		Ron Thomas	October 31

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Third Avenue and Terry Street
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