



First Light

Worship at First

Worship at First - Saturday at 5:30 p.m., Sunday at 8:00 a.m. in the Courtyard
and 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Weekend Worship is livestreamed each Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

STAFF

Deacon Korra Looschen

Faith Formation Coordinator
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Eric Doering

Interim Part-Time Administrator
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Maria Sutton

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Denise McDougall

Accountant/Administrative Assistant
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EVENTS HAPPENING IN JULY

- ◆ Saturday Worship, 5:30 p.m.
- ◆ Sundays –Worship Service, 8:00 a.m. in the Courtyard and in person and livestreamed at 9:30 a.m.
- ◆ Nursery Sundays, 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon
- ◆ Staff Meeting – Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m., Fireside Room
- ◆ FELC Golf League – Mondays, 4:30 pm.
- ◆ LWR Sewing Group – Wednesday, July 1, 9:00 a.m., Room USW-B
- ◆ Touch of Craft – Wednesday, July 1, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 P.M., Room 6
- ◆ **Church Closed – July 3 – Fourth of July Observed**

- ◆ 4th of July Gathering at Thompson Park, July 4, 11:00 a.m.
- ◆ Homebound Communion – Sunday, July 5
- ◆ Coffee with Council – Sunday, July 5, Fireside Room
- ◆ Prayer Shawl Group – 9:30 a.m., – Friday, July 10, Fireside Room
- ◆ Council Meeting – Tuesday, July 14, 6:00 p.m. Conference Room
- ◆ Seasoned Saints – Wednesday, July 15, 10:00 a.m., Fireside Room
- ◆ LWR Sewing Group – Wednesday, July 15, 1:00 p.m., Room USW-B
- ◆ Reconciling in Christ Meeting, – Thursday, July 16, 5:00 p.m., Conference Room
- ◆ Mission and Mahjong – Every 3rd Friday, 9:30 a.m., July 17, Room 5
- ◆ Third Saturday Game Night – Saturday, July 18, 6:30 p.m., Fireside Room
- ◆ S'mores and Scriptures, Sunday, July 19, 6:00 p.m., Offsite
- ◆ Touch of Craft – Wednesday, July 22, 5:00 p.m., Room 6
- ◆ Puppet Ministry – Wednesday, July 29, 5:00 p.m., Room 4
- ◆ Boulder County Fair Parade – Saturday, August 1, 10:00 a.m., Hydration Station

DEACON KORRA REFLECTIONS

Dear First Lutheran,

As I reflect on this past month, a lot has happened in the life of our congregation. Many emotions and thoughts have been expressed. During this time of transition and uncertainty I continue to see God's hand at work in this place and among His people. The following are a few of my, "God Sightings" at First Lutheran.

Our presence at the Hydration Stations for the Longmont Pride Festival and the Juneteenth Celebration was great reflection of First Lutheran's call to serve and love all in our community. Not only did we provide cold water on hot days, but we shared the message of God's love and grace to all. Thank you for your faithful witness.

Youth had an amazing time at, "Scriptures and S'mores" at the Howell residence. Eight youth gathered for fun games, meaningful conversation, devotion, prayer, and lots of s'mores!

Our "Reconciling in Christ" committee continues to meet monthly to work through a toolkit on Building an Inclusive Church. This is a journey of becoming welcoming and affirming thoughtfully envisioned and carried out. For more information, see the bulletin board in the hallway between the Conference Room and Fireside Room. To learn more about this process, check out the Reconciling Works website at www.ReconcilingWorks.org.

"Mission and Mahjong" has assembled countless numbers of hygiene kits and collected food supplies for our little free food pantry. It brings me great joy to hear the laughter and conversation as they play Mahjong and serve others in need.

We have a dedicated, caring team who provides Homebound Communion to folks who can no longer attend worship services in person. Last month this group gathered for a re-orientation and training for two new volunteers. I heard a few of our volunteers share about the quiet holiness at a kitchen table or bedside. In those moments of listening, blessing, and breaking; they said they experienced Christ's presence as both in the ones receiving and in their own hearts.

The Ryssby Midsummer Worship Service and picnic was a blessing to many in our community and congregation. The Body of Christ works together through all who make this event take place.

Thanks to all who expressed gratitude to Pastor Garrett for his faithful service the past nine years. May we trust in God's abundance and provision to guide us forward. Do you have a God Sighting or prayer of praise? Share it with me or Maria in the office. Keep your eyes and ears open to how God's presence is revealed.

Deacon Korra

ORDER YOUR GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS T-SHIRT

Order your "God's Work. Our Hands" t-shirt before August 16. To receive our shirts before "God's Work Our Hands Day" on September 13 we need to have everyone's orders in early August. To get a t-shirt, sign up on the flower bulletin board located in the narthex. Cost is \$15. Please pay Maria in the front office upon placing your order.

OUR CENTER VOLUNTEERING

Are you interested in preparing lunch once a month at the Our Center? The center is seeking a team of 6-12 folks to prepare and serve lunch on the weekends. If you feel called to serve, see Deacon Korra for more information.

ANN NOBLE ART GALLERY NEWS

We have been enjoying pictures of 'Where we see God at work' since March and it is time to change our display. A big 'thank you' to all who shared those pictures!!

As of July 1, we are looking to the sky and to the water. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" and he separated the sky from the earth. (Day 2) We want to pay tribute to the beautiful sky and the water on the earth. We know you have wonderful pictures of sunsets, sunrises, cloud formations, oceans, lakes or rivers. Take a look and see if you have a favorite one you would be willing to share with us starting July 1 until September 30.

Bring your 'ready to hang' pictures to the church office the last week of June labeled with your name. We will be hanging them in the gallery the first week in July. We so appreciate your participation and hope to see some fantastic photos for the congregation to view!!

Viki Samson and Joyce Crozier

2026 JUNE COUNCIL CORNER

The regular June meeting of the Congregational Council was held on Tuesday, June 9, 2026. Because of the mutually agreed conclusion of Pr. Garrett Struessel's call as Senior Pastor, effective June 30, the meeting began at 6:00 p.m. rather than the customary 6:30 p.m. so that members of the congregation would have an opportunity to speak with the Council.

Twenty people signed up to offer comments. Many spoke with deep appreciation for Pr. Garrett's ministry, shared reflections on personal relationships formed during his time at First Lutheran, and expressed sadness about this season of transition. Pr. Garrett shared that his decision came after prayerful reflection and discernment about his ministry, his well-being, his family, and the needs of the congregation. The Council is grateful to all who attended and to each person who spoke with care, honesty, and love for the congregation.

At the conclusion of the comments, Pr. Garrett offered reflections on his years of ministry at First Lutheran, the friendships and connections that have been meaningful to him, and his gratitude for the congregation. His final worship services with First Lutheran are scheduled for Sunday, June 28, including the Ryssby service and a congregational picnic. There will be a farewell tribute on Saturday June 27, at 3:30 PM at First Lutheran. Please come.

After a brief intermission, the Council reconvened for the business portion of the meeting. Several significant decisions were made. Brad Hall was appointed Chair of the Constitutional Revision Committee. Elaine Hertz and Mark Moore were appointed to the Budget Committee. Eric Doering was appointed temporary Church Volunteer Administrator, with duties to begin July 1. Consideration of the Mutual Ministry Committee's recommendations was tabled until July, as was consideration of the Temporary Volunteer Administrator's job responsibilities.

The Council recognizes that this is a tender time in the life of the congregation. We give thanks for Pr. Garrett's ministry among us, for the many people who are helping First Lutheran move through this transition faithfully, and for the care and commitment of this congregation.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in habit of doing, but encouraging one another."

– Hebrews 10:24-25

The Council offers our sincere appreciation to Pastor Garrett for his nine years of ministry with us at First Lutheran Church.

Pastor Garrett's last day is June 30; transition activities begin July 1 under Synod guidance.

Pastor Ann Hultquist will be sharing the Word and assisting us throughout the month of July.

Eric Doering will join the staff as Interim Administrator, in a volunteer position beginning July 1.

We will have a Gratitude Celebration for Pastor Garrett on Saturday, June 27 at 3:30 pm to be followed by worship at 5:30 pm.

Please join us in the Fireside Room after worship for Coffee with Council on July 5, or contact any council member with your questions.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



at Bethlehem Lutheran Church is just about here. The children will be lining up on MONDAY, JULY 13 for the first of five fun filled days. Please have your snack food items to Maria's office by Sunday, July 12. (The grapes and mandarin oranges can be placed in the Friendship Center kitchen with a note that they are for VBS. Thank you for your generosity.

Rainforest Falls



BOULDER COUNTY FAIR PARADE

Join us at the Hydration Station on a hot day at the Boulder County Fair Parade on Saturday, August 1 at 10:00 a.m.



Sign up for a brief shift with this link.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F49ADA628A2F58-64587939-boulder>

If you have a, "God's Work Our Hands" t-shirt, please wear it representing First Lutheran Church.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS FOR FIRST LUTHERAN'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

In honor of First Lutheran's upcoming 150th anniversary, we are creating a special daily devotional booklet written by members of our congregation—past and present.

We invite you to be part of this meaningful project! Sample devotional entries are available on the table in the narthex to help guide and inspire you as you write your own.



To get started, please use the Google Doc template created by Kristie Venrick:

<https://forms.gle/XtsGQVrcde9rrwx29>

We kindly ask that the personal reflection section be limited to **300 words maximum**. Once completed, you July submit your entry online or place a handwritten copy in the drop box on the narthex table. Printed templates are also available there, and we would be happy to type your handwritten submission for you.

Submission deadline: October 31, 2026

This date has been changed from January 2027, to allow ample time for proofreading, publication, and distribution 150 days ahead of our January 2028 anniversary celebration.

Our hope is that this devotional booklet will be a lasting source of comfort, encouragement, and blessings for our congregation. What a meaningful gift it would be to receive a daily devotion from each of you!

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact:

Susan Osberg – sosberg@hotmail.com

Holly Keenan – hekeenan77@comcast.net

FIRST LUTHERAN WOMEN

First Lutheran Women are taking a summer break from meetings. No meetings were scheduled for June or July. We will be returning for our regular meeting Sunday August 9 to start preparing for God's Work Our Hands. During the Summer break we will be available for memorial receptions.

Extending, to all, a Peaceful, Safe, Summer break filled with much joy!

REFLECTIONS BY PASTOR SALLY (RETIRED)

My friend and I were chatting on our phones when I said, "Well, I'm not so afraid of conflict as I used to be."

Friend: "How do you manage that? I'm afraid of conflict."

Me: "I was reminded of an author named Speed Leas. He wrote 'Discover Your Management Style.' The book is longer than this list of levels of conflict that I memorized. It's on Kindle for \$15.99."

- 1) I have a problem. You can help me. Everyone wins. Nonviolence.
- 2) I just don't want to lose. We can compromise.
- 3) I want to win. Now it's competition. You lose.
- 4) Which one of us is going to leave?
- 5) I need to destroy you. This is war. Full on violence.

Friend: "That's a good list. But how can we move from one level of conflict to a lesser one?"

Me: "We might remember to start our troubled conversations by saying, 'I have a problem.' Instead of calling them names more suitable for enemies than friends."

Friend: "That's a good list. Can you send me a copy? [Me: I just did!]. I can see that as a possibility for dealing with family problems!"

Me: "Yes! Or even church problems! For instance, I told Pr. Garrett he'd have to teach our Thursday Adult Bible Study, because when I said it, I really wasn't feeling well. But now I'm healing some, and besides that, Pr. Garrett is no longer with us, (sigh) and that's a problem for my bossy self to do planning alone."

Pastor Sally Ponfick (retired)

JULY 2026 CALENDAR

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | 4:30 pm. – FELC Golf League | | 9:00 a.m. – LWR Sewing Group 11:00 a.m.– Touch of Craft | | Church Closed Independence Day – Observed | Independence Day 11:00 a.m. –4 th of July Gathering Thompson Park 5:30 p.m.– Worship Service |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Homebound Communion Coffee with Council 8:00 a.m. – Worship in the Courtyard 9:30 a.m.– Worship Service | 4:30 pm. – FELC Golf League | 1:00 p.m.– Staff Meeting | | | 9:30 a.m. – Prayer Shawl Group | 5:30 p.m.– Worship Service |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 8:00 a.m. – Worship in the Courtyard 9:30 a.m.– Worship Service | VBS at Bethlehem Lutheran Church | | | | | 5:30 p.m.– Worship Service 6:30 p.m. – Third Saturday Game Night |
| | 4:30 pm. – FELC Golf League | 1:00 p.m.– Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. – Council Meeting | 10:00 a.m.– Seasoned Saints 1:00 p.m. – LWR Sewing Group | 5:00 p.m.– Reconciling in Christ Meeting, Conference Room | 9:30 a.m. – Mission and Mahjong | |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 8:00 a.m. – Worship in the Courtyard 9:30 a.m.– Worship Service 6:00 p.m. – S’mores & Scriptures | 4:30 pm. – FELC Golf League | 1:00 p.m.– Staff Meeting | 5:00 p.m. – Touch of Craft | | | 5:30 p.m.– Worship Service |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | August 1 |
| 8:00 a.m. – Worship in the Courtyard 9:30 a.m.– Worship Service | 4:30 pm. – FELC Golf League | 1:00 p.m.– Staff Meeting | 5:00 p.m. – Puppet Ministry | | | 10:00 p.m. - Boulder County Fair Parade Hydration Station |

FINANCIAL UPDATE: MAY 2026

| | May 2026 Month-To-Date | | | May 2026 Year-To-Date | | | Full Year |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| | Actual | Budget | Variance Fav/(Unfav) | Actual | Budget | Variance Fav/(Unfav) | Budget |
| Income | 64,158.34 | 63,030.43 | 1,127.91 | 322,552.81 | 322,639.40 | (86.59) | 702,462 |
| Expenses | 62,619.79 | 66,366.76 | 3,746.97 | 329,859.47 | 349,081.75 | 19,222.28 | 833,142 |
| Net Income/(Loss): | 1,538.55 | (3,336.33) | 4,874.88 | (7,306.66) | (26,442.35) | 19,135.69 | (130,679.51) |

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 July cover that fee for the church at the same time you give which increases your contribution.



<https://firstluthn.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.

Thrivent Action Grants – Thrivent Action Grants are financial awards designed to empower individuals and groups to initiate small-scale projects that benefit their communities. Sponsored by Thrivent Financial, these grants provide **up to \$250** to help kickstart service projects addressing various social needs, such as feeding the hungry, supporting education, or enhancing community facilities

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!



| | | | |
|----------------------|---------|------------------|---------|
| Ginnie Holtzman-Bell | July 01 | Kristy Miller | July 15 |
| Severin Lier | July 01 | Matthew Jordison | July 18 |
| Gary Ellison | July 02 | Chris Woller | July 18 |
| Karen Hanson | July 02 | Bonnie Swanson | July 20 |
| Vicki Rademacher | July 02 | Dwight Tilford | July 21 |
| Chris Meier | July 03 | Matt Miller | July 22 |
| Joni Oldroyd | July 03 | Luke Osterfelt | July 22 |
| Isaac Howell | July 04 | Todd Pett | July 22 |
| Karlie Carter | July 05 | Ryan Gamber | July 23 |
| Ray Gralewski | July 05 | Conrad Hopp | July 23 |
| Kaylynn Wolff | July 05 | Dave Swenson | July 23 |
| Silvia Puky | July 06 | Dave Bishton | July 24 |
| Randy Hoffman | July 07 | Scott Green | July 24 |
| Drolma Geyer | July 08 | Stephanie Hutton | July 24 |
| Frederick Hess | July 10 | Mary Ramsey | July 24 |
| Ron Stedman | July 10 | Shelby Tveten | July 24 |
| Chet Henry | July 11 | Laura Koschade | July 26 |
| Jim Britton | July 12 | Sharon Wetzel | July 27 |
| Kiki Thomas | July 12 | Heather Meier | July 28 |
| Chelsea Danielson | July 13 | Kevin Winn | July 28 |
| Alexa Jayne | July 13 | Erin Alexander | July 29 |
| Kristine Appel | July 14 | Carlie Ekx | July 29 |
| Heidi Gamber | July 14 | Martha Neergaard | July 29 |
| Don Lamprecht | July 14 | Greg Wagner | July 29 |
| Karen Thompson | July 14 | Katie Haley | July 31 |
| | | Carmen Morelli | July 31 |

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