

May Newsletter



303 N Ridge Rd Castle Rock, CO 80104 • Church Phone: 303-688-3476 • Church Email: office@flccrco.org

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Someone once said that if you don't like the weather today in Colorado, wait five minutes and it will probably change. Of course, it seems that I have heard that phrase in several places that I have lived. Although, I don't think that I have ever seen Spring and Winter fight over the month of April as much as I have seen this year. One day it is beautiful and spring like, the next day we have four inches of snow on the ground! Apparently, weather whiplash might be a term that could be used to describe the weather changes! I have no complaints either way, as all things really do work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose (Rom 8:28).

Yet, one could say the same thing about the life of Faith Lutheran Church thus far in 2024. We have seen many changes, and you, the people of Faith have seen even more changes in the past couple of years. Even so, you are a resilient group, who has tackled the changes and challenges that God has set before us with faith and a strong resolve. I commend you all for that, as Paul writes in Ephesians anger, malice, and negative talk (Eph 4:26-27) are only good for one thing – to give Satan a foothold into our life. The future that God is calling FLC to isn't easy, but we haven't been promised easy. We know that Satan will attack the plans that God has for our church family, and I want to continue to encourage us all (including myself) to not let Satan move into our work through negativity and sour attitudes. Paul goes on to say that we should "Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear." (v.29) so that we do not grieve the Holy Spirit, who is leading us into the future. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we have been sealed for redemption, and by His grace we have the blood of Christ to bring us into eternity. Let us be sure that we are sharing that grace, love, and mercy with one another along the way.

I want to say a special thank you to the music staff and the A/V staff for all the work that they have put into

bringing two completely different services to life. In just four short weeks we have an entirely new service time along with two new orders of services. I also want to thank all the volunteers and all the church members who have taken the step of faith in this plan. The positivity, even when things still need work and tweaks, have reassured church leadership and me that we as a church can move forward into what God is calling us.

Along with the new services, the call committee has been hard at work interviewing candidates for our Associate Pastor position. I have heard nothing but great things about the candidates and am excited to meet the next member of our family that God is leading to our fold. The architect selection committee have also selected the architect, Cunningham, who we will be working with to understand this new vision for the preschool and expanded space here at FLC. I want to thank both groups for their relentless work in these areas.

Finally, there are two other items that will be new to our church. One is that Cornerstone Christian Church, a Hispanic speaking church in Castle Rock, will be utilizing some of our space during times that we are not currently using them. Please welcome them as you see them, as we celebrate what God is doing for both faith families and the potential for future joint ministries. Lastly, as you will read about shortly or may have heard about by now, Pastor Jennifer will be transitioning out from FLC this month. I will allow her to tell you all about it, but I want to say thank you to her for all that she has helped with over the past 7-8 months. I have no doubt that her presence here was under the direction of God, and that we wouldn't be in the position to move forward today with so many new and exciting things without her tireless dedication and work. She will certainly be missed here at Faith. Of course, I will still get to see her more than you will!

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Denton L. Bennet, Jr

Farewell from Pastor Jennifer

The month of May looks like it will be a busy one here at FLC, especially concerning our young families! The last day of preschool is May 10th, and the following week there are twelve end-of-year programs scheduled, one for each class. I'll be attending those programs to welcome families to our church and help send the kids off for a great summer. I'll also be here on May 19th as we celebrate the Rite of Confirmation with three of our young people. That day is also our last day of Sunday School, and we plan to honor our teachers during worship. With summer quickly approaching, many things in our kids' lives are ending at this time of year, and I'm excited to be here with you to see these things through!

But all good things must come to an end, as they say. As we wrap up all these endings, it seems like a natural transition point and an appropriate place for me to exit the scene and let the church move on without me. You may remember that I announced a few months ago my intent to wrap up my time here and move forward by serving another congregation. That time has now arrived, and my last day here at FLC will be May 31st.

I specialize in the field of Transitional Ministry, which includes intentional interim work, conflict management, and addressing other types of church transitions as well. Although I've contributed to numerous different areas and ministries at FLC, much of my work has focused on children and youth. Upon evaluating your programs, my goal quickly became how to integrate them into a cohesive system of Youth and Family Ministry. With nursery care, Sunday School, Confirmation, FLY, and our rapidly growing preschool, my recommendation to church leadership was to hire a single person to manage these multiple roles.

We must reach out so that our target is not to simply meet the needs of the families in our congregation, but also in our community. Additionally, we must find ways to minister to our 150+ preschool students and their

families. And finally, we must build structure into this program so that future growth has a place to go. Much like a tomato plant that grows just enough to fall over when it has no support to hold it up, providing that supportive structure will enable taller and more robust growth in your youth and family programs. We have broadened our horizons from simply hiring a youth pastor to something much more expansive. Your call committee is now searching for the right person to fill such a role, and I'm very excited about the future of Youth and Family Ministry at this church!

I've also worked a great deal with your homebound members, and it has been my honor and pleasure to get to know these wonderful people! I pray that you will continue ministering to them with visitation, an occasional helping hand, fellowship, and including them in your family at FLC. With my departure now pending, Kathy Duncan has agreed to head up this effort and keep the ministry to your homebound members going. Please reach out to her if you have even an hour or so of time to share each month. The need is great, and this kind of service to others is so rewarding!

My departure from FLC is bittersweet. As we've gotten to know one another, we've done some amazing things together! We've overcome many obstacles and we've built something new and worthwhile here, something I'm very grateful to have been a part of.

While my role in your story is now ending, I pray that your continued ministry with Pastor Denton will be long and productive. Please know that God is leading me to new and exciting things as well, and I will carry with me a little bit of each of you from Faith Lutheran Church!

All glory be to God!

Pastor Jennifer Bennet



“Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations”

Author Robert Schnase wrote this book a few years ago, leaning on his years as a pastor and bishop, to help congregations identify and understand how we as the church can live out the purpose that Christ has put before us – to go out and make disciples of all nations. He lists five characteristics, that are biblically sound, of churches that are successfully carrying out this mission. In each month's newsletter I will talk about one of these identifiers and I encourage you to reflect on our current position as a church and evaluate our own selves in this manner.

“Radical Hospitality. Passionate Worship. Intentional Faith Development. Risk-Taking Mission and Service. Extravagant Generosity. People are searching for a church shaped and sustained by these qualities. The presence and strength of these five practices demonstrate congregational health, vitality, and fruitfulness. By repeating and improving these practices, church fulfill their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”
– Bishop Robert Schnase

Pastor Denton L. Bennet, Jr



Radical Hospitality - *Romans 12:9-21*

⁹ Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Out of a genuine love for Christ and for others, the Christian follower can take these words from Paul to heart. This Christian follower will take the initiative to invite, welcome, and include newcomers into the church and to help them to grow in faith as a part of the body of Christ. They work diligently to focus on those that are beyond their own congregations with as much passion as they work to nurture and care for those who are within the congregation already. To the Christian practicing "Radical Hospitality" there is no difference between those who are outside the congregation and those who are members of the church. All people deserve to feel welcomed and invited into the space, even when it means that we who have been there already must be a little uncomfortable.

Ironically the word hospitality has a unique definition. It derives from the Latin hospes, which comes from the word host is, which means stranger or enemy. In Latin it comes to mean engaging strangers in goodwill. To be a follower of Christ is to practice the same kind of genuine care, concern, and joyous love for others that Jesus shows to us when we first believe in His name. A genuine love for others, an outward focus, reaching out to those unknown with a willingness to adjust what we are already doing so that the Kingdom of Christ can gain new members. So more people come to know the new and fullness of life in Christ.

Take some time to think back to a time when church was the "normal" thing for you to do. How did you find your way into God's grace? Did someone invite you? What was your first church experience like? Were you nervous about, well everything? Imagine the young mother of a small child walking in the door of our church

this next Sunday. How would you feel if you were her? How can we work to practice a radical hospitality in our own lives that reflects Paul's words on other days of the week? How can we "open the doors" of our church to people who have never thought about attending? Does that mean we need to move something, change something? If so, what is that and how should we go about doing it?

The key to radical hospitality in the early church and one of the reasons that they saw so much growth early on (of course, through the Holy Spirit) was that they had no ways of the past that they had to honor. God reminded Peter in Acts 10 that all people are to be treated with hospitality that exceeds all things, clean and unclean. To share the message of Christ is to treat all people with the same joy, hospitality, and excitement that Jesus used. Imagine a place of worship, where we said to all people, come worship and hear about the Jesus that loves all people. Now imagine that when those people arrived, they experienced that same interaction with people that reinforced the teachings of Christ.

One final thought. It is sometimes easier to consider our neighbor someone who we don't interact with a lot. For instance, it is often easier to support international missions, as opposed to doing the hard work of interacting with those right next door. We have to be careful with this way thinking, lest we fall into the same trap as the rich man whose gate Lazarus laid in front. Daily the rich man ignored the man nearest to him, while he enjoyed his life every day (*Luke 16:19-31*). May we beware not to worry about ourselves more than others.

LCMC Seminar: "Making the Church a Safe Place"

Saturday, May 11, 2024 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

at Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church

7060 Ponderosa Drive, Parker, CO 80138

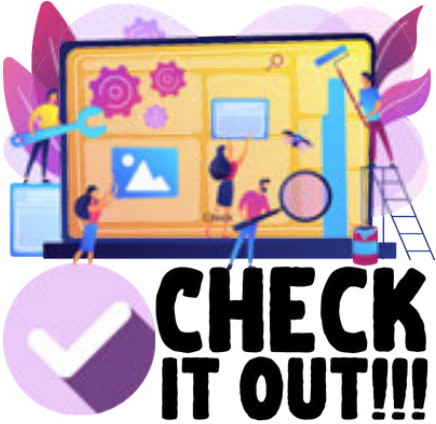
Growing in what it means to be a safe person, small group, or congregation is essential for developing healthy leaders and disciples in the church and living the lives of effective witnesses in today's culture. This seminar is designed to help us learn from the life of Jesus how we can relate to people so they have the opportunity to be impacted by God's love and God's power and how we can develop an atmosphere in which we can build authentic relationships, struggle without judgment, ask real questions, and get to know Jesus.

This seminar is designed:

- ✚ To introduce the Safe Place vision
- ✚ To present its importance in developing healthy leaders and disciples and in equipping God's people for living lives of effective witness in the world

- ✚ To reflect on some working definitions of what it means to be a Safe Place
- ✚ To begin identifying safe-place characteristics
- ✚ To help participants identify at least one way God wants to transform them further so that they might live more fully as a Safe Place person for others

Lunch will be provided with a free-will offering to help cover costs. If someone in your group has any special dietary needs, please let us know when you RSVP. Please RSVP to Pastor Denton Bennet at pastordenton@faithcrco.org or by calling 303-688-3476 before May 5th so that Spirit of Hope may plan accordingly. Thank you.



CHECK IT OUT!!!

Check out our new website and share it with everyone you know!

faithcrco.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

'May the Lord bless you and protect you. May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord show you his favor and give you His peace.' Numbers 6:24-26

May 5

Alison Harrison

May 8

Ava Palladino

May 9

John Dunbar
Ron Stevens

May 10

Ollie Acell

May 12

Larry Banister

May 13

Myra Smith

May 14

Bruce Hills

May 14

Pat McEntee

May 16

Lukas Rudebusch

May 17

Becky Heacock

May 19

Amy Kopp

May 22

Holden Miller

May 24

Jean Whisman

May 26

Nancy Eakins
Brent Puckett

May 27

Mark Scott

May 30

Samantha Petersen

May 31

William Smith

Leadership Directory

PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

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TREASURER

Helen Buehrle..... helenb@faithcrco.org

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WORSHIP & MUSIC

Mark Scott..... mScott@faithcrco.org

OUTREACH

Sherri Dow sdow@faithcrco.org

COMMUNITY

Open

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Open

Can You Help Heal A Heart?

Thanks be to God that our church membership is so active in helping others! Thank you all for all that you are doing to bring Christ's love to each other and to our neighborhoods.

Needs and requests have been coming in to the church office for a while that make some pause to pray and question. There seem to be a few categories that call us to look to our mission statement: To love God, to love each other and to serve the community. Much discussion has been had about this and the need for an expanded direction seems to be apparent. Might you feel/hear a calling to help visit those in our community who have requested some support?



1. We have widows and widowers in our community, as well as within our membership, who sometimes could use some help.
2. Senior citizens have moved into our communities to be closer to loved ones. They leave their forever church home and are housebound so that they cannot participate in person at church as they would prefer. Besides visits from a pastor, they would benefit from some Christian camaraderie, an occasional helping hand, and the feeling of connection.
3. There are some church members who are homebound. They get visited by each of our pastors, but sometimes having other Christian friends to talk and pray with, in addition to pastoral visits, would be appreciated.

Attempts have been made in the past to coordinate a few volunteers to help with this sort of service. Please prayerfully consider volunteering to help with a project like this. Please pray for those in our community who are in need. Please pray that Faith Lutheran Church will always fulfill our mission statement in a way that is pleasing to our good Father in Heaven. Assisting with this effort would probably only take an hour or so every few weeks. If you would like more information, or have any questions, please contact Kathy Duncan at 303-905-4792 or karzt2@comcast.net.

From Our Music Director

Hello, Faith Lutheran Friends,

Time seems to fly by and we now find ourselves in the month of May. We are in a period of adjustment in many ways with two services each Sunday at 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM. This brings new challenges. This is very true for the music ministry of our church. A huge thank you to all our musicians and AV "dudes" who gladly offer their talents to make our services meaningful. Choir will be taking a break for the summer, but we will continue to provide music to enhance our worship. We are always looking for new members to add to our numbers. So think about how you might contribute your talents.

Our music text is from Psalm 150:1-6, *"Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty expanse. Praise Him for His mighty deeds; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness. Praise Him with trumpet sound; Praise Him with harp and lyre. Praise Him with timbrel and dancing; Praise Him with stringed instruments and pipe. Praise Him with loud symbols; Praise Him with resounding symbols. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!"*

Have a blessed month praising the Lord!!

Char Reid
FLC Music Director



MAY CALENDAR

May 1, Wednesday

7:00 AM Zoom Prayer Meeting
9:30 AM Sarah Circle
1:00 PM InTouch

May 2, Thursday

7:00 AM Zoom Prayer Meeting
8:30 AM Piece Makers
6:30 PM Thu. Night Bible Study

May 3, Friday

7:00 AM Zoom Prayer Meeting
9:30 AM REAL Bible Study

May 4, Saturday

7:00 AM Zoom Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM Food Pantry

May 5, Sunday

8:00 AM Traditional Worship
9:15 AM ARK
9:15 AM Confirmation
9:15 AM Adult Forum
10:15 AM Coffee & Fellowship
10:30 AM Contemporary Service
6:00 PM FLY

May 6, Monday

7:00 AM Zoom Prayer Meeting
6:00 PM WOTR
6:00 PM Men's Bible Study
7:30 PM Castle Rock Band

May 7, Tuesday

7:00 AM Zoom Prayer Meeting
8:30 AM Piece Makers
6:30 PM Thu. Night Bible Study

May 8, Wednesday

7:00 AM Zoom Prayer Meeting
6:00 PM Faith Discovery Class

May 9, Thursday

7:00 AM Zoom Prayer Meeting
8:30 AM Piece Makers
6:30 PM Thu. Night Bible Study

May 10, Friday

7:00 AM Zoom Prayer Meeting
9:30 AM REAL Bible Study

May 11, Saturday

7:00 AM Zoom Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM Food Pantry

May 12, Sunday

8:00 AM Traditional Worship
9:15 AM ARK
9:15 AM Confirmation
9:15 AM Adult Forum
10:15 AM Coffee & Fellowship
10:30 AM Contemporary Service
6:00 PM FLY

May 13, Monday

7:00 AM Zoom Prayer Meeting
6:00 PM WOTR
6:00 PM Men's Bible Study
7:30 PM Castle Rock Band

May 14, Tuesday

7:00 AM Zoom Prayer Meeting
8:30 AM Piece Makers
6:30 PM Thursday Night Bible

May 15, Wednesday

7:00 AM Zoom Prayer Meeting
9:30 AM Sarah Circle
1:00 PM InTouch

May 16, Thursday

7:00 AM Zoom Prayer Meeting
8:30 AM Piece Makers
6:30 PM Thu. Night Bible Study

May 17, Friday

7:00 AM Zoom Prayer Meeting
9:30 AM REAL Bible Study

May 18, Saturday

7:00 AM Zoom Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM Food Pantry

May 19, Sunday

8:00 AM Traditional Worship
9:15 AM ARK
9:15 AM Confirmation
9:15 AM Adult Forum
10:15 AM Coffee & Fellowship
10:30 AM Contemporary Service
6:00 PM FLY

May 20, Monday

7:00 AM Zoom Prayer Meeting
6:00 PM WOTR
6:00 PM Men's Bible Study
7:30 PM Castle Rock Band

May 21, Tuesday

7:00 AM Zoom Prayer Meeting
8:30 AM Piece Makers
6:30 PM Thu. Night Bible Study

May 22, Wednesday

7:00 AM Zoom Prayer Meeting

May 23, Thursday

7:00 AM Zoom Prayer Meeting
8:30 AM Piece Makers
6:30 PM Thursday Night Bible

May 24, Friday

7:00 AM Zoom Prayer Meeting
9:30 AM REAL Bible Study

May 25, Saturday

7:00 AM Zoom Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM Food Pantry
2:00 PM Castle Rock Band
Concert (Festival Park)

May 26, Sunday

8:00 AM Traditional Worship
9:15 AM ARK
9:15 AM Confirmation
9:15 AM Adult Forum
10:15 AM Coffee & Fellowship
10:30 AM Contemporary Service
6:00 PM FLY

May 27, Monday

7:00 AM Zoom Prayer Meeting
6:00 PM WOTR
6:00 PM Men's Bible Study
7:30 PM Castle Rock Band

May 28, Tuesday

7:00 AM Zoom Prayer Meeting
8:30 AM Piece Makers
6:30 PM Thursday Night Bible

May 29, Wednesday

7:00 AM Zoom Prayer Meeting

May 30, Thursday

7:00 AM Zoom Prayer Meeting
8:30 AM Piece Makers
6:30 PM Thu. Night Bible Study

May 31, Friday

7:00 AM Zoom Prayer Meeting
9:30 AM REAL Bible Study



See the latest event details at <https://faithcrao.org/events/>



Church Staff Directory



PASTORS

Pr. Denton Bennet, Jr.....pastordenton@faithcrco.org
Pr. Jennifer Bennet.....pastorjennifer@faithcrco.org

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MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Charlene Reid musicdirector@faithcrco.org

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Lucy Donovan..... lucyd@faithcrco.org

FACILITY MAINTENANCE

Open Position



"For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another." - Romans 12:4-5



Are You Called To Serve?

We're in need of some ministry assistance and we would absolutely love your help if you're able to lend a hand. Thank you so much in advance for prayerfully considering it!

Nursery Volunteers: sign up sheet is located in the Narthex. If interested, you may also contact Ashley Corbino by emailing missashley@faithcrco.org. Thank you!

A/V Volunteers Needed: We are seeking volunteers to assist with the A/V system during services. Training will be provided. If interested, please contact Mark Scott or Pastor Denton.

Please Keep In Prayer

+ For the comfort & healing of:

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ❖ Dakota Fittje | ❖ Eilleen Stange | ❖ John Corliss (Chile Missionary) |
| ❖ Jan Burkhardt | ❖ Barb Leatherby & Family | ❖ Brennan White |
| ❖ Pastor Don Owsley | ❖ Susan & Mark Clark | ❖ Lana Auten |
| ❖ Benjamin | ❖ Richard Weide | ❖ Chrissy Lutter |
| ❖ Monica | ❖ Joyce Deering | ❖ Joe Buehrle |
| ❖ Rick Lane | ❖ Andrea Miller (cancer) | |

+ For those in the armed forces:

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| ❖ Jeremy Caldwell | ❖ Matt Penn | ❖ Blayze & Dakota Fittje |
| ❖ Weston Iannone | ❖ Colin Scott | |
| ❖ Dan Millington | ❖ Noah Leeman | |

+ For those in mourning:

- ❖ The VanSicklin Family
- ❖ The Herdahl Family
- ❖ The Siemek Family

+ Continual prayers for:

- ❖ Our church, leaders & ministries, the LCMC, and all government leaders at every level.

+ Prayers of thanks & praise:

- ❖ Chrissy Lutter is cancer free!



FLC gives 15% of our general fund, the money that you tithe, to various ministries through the work of the benevolence team? We do!! Please

consider tithing today! Scan this QRCode or text keyword FLCCR to (833) 245-4508 to have the giving link delivered to your mobile phone so you can begin giving or tithing.





A Moving Child is a Learning Child!

from the Director of Preschool, Jean Whisman

How many times have you told a child, "sit still and pay attention!" Or maybe you were told that throughout your life.

All learning begins with the body. It's our point of reference – our own personal, portable true north. For children, it's even more so because the body is the brain's first teacher. And the lesson plan is movement.

From grasping your finger to grasping a rattle to grasping the mechanics of crawling, standing, walking, jumping, and those hurtling headlong hugs, every move a young child makes – intentional or accidental – leads to learning.

Every move develops our physical capabilities, but movement also builds sensory perceptions and critical pathways in the brain necessary to reach a child's full potential.

The more a child moves, the more a child knows. The more a child wants to know, the more a child needs to move.

The more a child knows, the more a child wants to know.

A Moving Child is a Learning Child
Gill Connell and Cheryl McCarthy



MONTHLY BIBLE CHALLENGE

Would you like to take on the challenge of reading the entire Bible in the next year? We have a daily reading schedule for you to follow that should only take about 30 minutes of your time each day. Here are the readings for this month. Once you've decided to take the challenge, be sure to tell someone about it and ask them to hold you accountable or even better, read it together! (Print & clip the list, placing it in your bible for easy reference!)

May 1	Isaiah 49-51	Psalms 119 65-96	May 17	Nahum 1-3	Psalms 132
May 2	Isaiah 52-54	Psalms 119 97-128	May 18	Habakkuk 1-3	Psalms 133
May 3	Isaiah 55-57	Psalms 119 129-152	May 19	Zephaniah 1-3	Psalms 134
May 4	Isaiah 58-60	Psalms 119 153-176	May 20	Job 1-3	Psalms 135
May 5	Isaiah 61-64	Psalms 120	May 21	Job 4-7	Psalms 136
May 6	Isaiah 65-66	Psalms 121	May 22	Job 8-11	Psalms 137
May 7	Hosea 1-5	Psalms 122	May 23	Job 12-15	Psalms 138
May 8	Hosea 6-10	Psalms 123	May 24	Job 16-19	Psalms 139
May 9	Hosea 11-14	Psalms 124	May 25	Job 20-23	Psalms 140
May 10	Joel 1-3	Psalms 125	May 26	Job 24-28	Psalms 141
May 11	Amos 1-5	Psalms 127	May 27	Job 29-31	Psalms 142
May 12	Amos 6-9	Psalms 127	May 28	Job 32-34	Psalms 143
May 13	Obadiah 1	Psalms 128	May 29	Job 35-37	Psalms 144
May 14	Jonah 1-4	Psalms 129	May 30	Job 38-39	Psalms 145
May 15	Micah 1-4	Psalms 130	May 31	Job 40-42	Psalms 146
May 16	Micah 5-7	Psalms 131			



"¹⁹ And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." - Phil 4:19 ESV

Greetings from the Food Pantry Ministry!!

Who would have imagined.... April 25th marked the completion of the fourth year of the Food Pantry. FOUR YEARS!! When this ministry started, at the beginning of the COVID shutdown, there was no conversation as to how long we would operate the food pantry, no conversation on how it would be funded, no conversation about who would support it by volunteering, etc. Four years later, it is still in operation, going strong, it has been self-funded for the most part, and there are no issues with volunteers supporting it.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

Many lives have been touched through this ministry, the individuals and families receiving the groceries and all of the volunteers who serve in one capacity or another. A couple of families with teenagers have joined the FLY group. A couple of the families have joined us in church a time or two. Last weekend several of the ministry group attended a wedding and watched Stuart Bailey walk the bride down the aisle. There are so many sad, but beautiful stories. Glory to you Lord!

This ministry allows us to fulfill the Faith Lutheran Church mission statement, "Loving God, Loving Each Other and Serving our Community". When the Spirit calls you to serve and you're not sure where to go, come join us. You'll see firsthand what Jesus is doing in Castle Rock and in our world. It will truly fill, and at the same time shape, your heart. We have a great time. There's lots of love, joy, laughter, tears, fellowship, etc... And we'd love to have you.

As a reminder, the Pantry can always use any of the following items: baby food and formula, baby diapers, dish soap, laundry soap, paper towels, toilet paper, hand and bath soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shaving cream for women/unisex, razors, etc. We also welcome donations of food, however, please check expiration dates as we must discard any items that are expired. Please drop donated items in the Food Pantry donation bin at the entrance of the church before 10:00 AM on Saturday.

The FP ministry team would like to express their deepest appreciation for all the support you give either by serving in the ministry, donating items, or donating financially. Thanks for all of the prayers for God's continued presence.

With overwhelming gratitude,
Terry Korsvold, Ruth Harvey, Bette Warn, Willis Buehrle & Laura Stevens

Benevolence

Taking Care of God's Family

⁹ Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine. - PROVERBS 3:9-10

Blessings to YOU!

Thank you for your acts of kindness and your generous gifts. Because of you, the church is able to assist so many people through a variety of organizations with the Benevolence funds.

In April, we sent financial gifts to Help & Hope Center and Catholic Charities, Castle Rock office. Here's a little overview on these organizations:



Faith Lutheran Church has been a long-standing partner with Help & Hope Center and we value this relationship. Help & Hope Center is a non-profit human service organization dedicated to providing assistance to people in Douglas and Elbert counties who are in serious economic need, at risk of homelessness, or in a similar crisis. We address immediate needs by consistently providing food and other necessities for the homeless, low income, and financially fragile in our community. For more than 38 years (1984) they have assisted financially fragile local residents with food, clothing, household items and emergency financial assistance for rent and utilities. Approximately, five years ago, Faith Lutheran Benevolence came to the conclusion that, we as a church, are not equipped to offer direct assistance to those who came to our door. Security was an issue with the Preschool and the church staff was not in the position to determine the requests. We decided that we would support Help & Hope financially and send all our requests to them. We have built a strong relationship with them.

There's a huge opportunity to get involved and volunteer. Several of our church members are very involved with them. If you want to know more about this organization, you can visit www.helpandhopecenter.org or stop by and visit. It is quite impressive.



Catholic Charities Provides Help and Creates Hope for people who are poor and vulnerable in our area through the efforts of a wide range of programs and services. While most services are provided in Colorado Springs, Castle Rock, El Paso and Douglas Counties, Catholic Charities serves a 10-county area in the center of Colorado. Similarly to Help & Hope, Catholic Charities offers assistance to individuals and families in need.

This organization has a wide range of volunteer opportunities. Please visit www.ccharitiescc.org for more information.

Both Help & Hope and Catholic Charities receive quarterly gifts through the benevolence funds, approximately \$10,000 each annually. We are honored to be able to support them.

The Faith Lutheran Congregation is faithful with their tithing. Because of **YOU**, Benevolence can partner with these organizations and others to help with their missions and their ministries. Please reach out to the committee if you have any questions or suggestions for new gifting opportunities to serve our community.

We are Serving Our Community, here and around the world. God is present, God is Working, God is Providing. Let us Praise Him!!

Following His Guiding Presence,
Willis Buehrle, Ralph Lawson, Peggy Schwartzkopf,
Bev Williams & Laura Stevens



Guatemala Update

The Mission team met with David Varner via skype two weeks ago and we have decided that we will partner with him at this time to continue providing food for our village on a monthly basis.

The actual "sponsorships" of individual kids is no longer available at this time as that was done through World Help and Hope of Life. David's organization, HIS HANDS INTERNATIONAL has the ability to reach our village via trucks and can deliver food, medical care and school supplies as needed.

Here's how we can continue to help.

Financial.. Instead of the \$35 payments to WH that we were making monthly or yearly, consider continuing to make those donations to Faith Lutheran Church either by check or online to continue supporting what we are doing. On your checks, please write GUATEMALA on the memo line. If donating on-line, there is a DONATE tab on the web-page, and then click on the drop-down menu and click on GUATEMALA to make your donation.

PRAYER! Please continue to pray for the kids and families in our village.

- * Pray for HIS HANDS ministry
- * Pray for continued wisdom and guidance for our ministry to Los Castillos.

When we find a date, we will send a small team to Guatemala with David Varner, to visit our village and also to see what HIS HANDS is doing in Guatemala.

Hopefully at that time we will be able to take small packages and letters to your kids that you built relationships with. We will keep you informed.

SOX Place

I received a letter from Doyle Robinson last week stating that after 22 years, Sox Place will be closing it's doors and converting to a mobile service for providing food and clothing to the homeless youth in Denver.



The decision was definitely not easy to make. The lease is up at the end of May. The rent and utilities were right around \$8000 a month. With the influx of undocumented migrants being added to Denver, it was becoming increasingly harder to provide the services that Sox Place had been doing for all these years.

Jordan is ready to move on to new job opportunities as well. He has devoted his whole adult life so far and is ready to do something else as well.

Doyle and his wife Karen will run the Mobile Sox ministry focusing on building relationships, providing food and mentoring people out of homelessness.

What can we do to help?

Continue to financially support this endeavor. You can donate directly to Sox Place at

Sox Place
PO Box 544
Denver CO 80201-0544

PRAY:

- * For Jordan to find the perfect new career
- * For Doyle and Karen for guidance and provision as they start this new chapter.

Leanne



From The Council President

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There are so many exciting things going on at FLC this spring! I keep asking when will REAL spring arrive? I'm reminded that this IS springtime in the Rockies (snow, then sun, then snow, then sun). I'm encouraged seeing the trees budding and hearing the morning birdsong. Tulips and crocuses are blooming now too. It's thrilling to see new birth this time of year! I think about where we are as a church family and where we are amid transition. In my quiet time of prayer, I seek God's guidance for myself, for you all, for Pastor Denton and Pastor Jennifer. I pray for our congregation and our church to be the light up on the hill.

We are now nine months through our fiscal year. The end of the fiscal year is 6/30/24. Our financials and budget run from 7/1 to 6/30. We are currently in the budgeting process for the next year. The budget will be presented and voted on at the June Congregation Meeting. The Executive Committee and Council have discussed our financial position at length. Year-to-date income is behind budget by \$91K. Giving is down more than we anticipated. The expenses are being monitored. We will be publishing a brief financial snapshot in the weekly bulletin so that members are aware of what our financial position is. We also will be sending out quarterly giving statements so that you may evaluate where you are in your giving.

The Spring Congregation Meeting is set for Sunday, June 2nd. The agenda will be published by May 2nd. Please submit all committee reports to Daria's attention by end of day Wednesday, May 15th for inclusion in the meeting packet.

As Pastor Denton and I presented a few weeks ago, Cornerstone Church is moving forward with completing a Facilities Use agreement with us that will allow them the use of Sanctuary and The Gathering Place on Sunday afternoons/evenings and three nights a week in a designated space. Thank you for your conversations and concerns. Thank you for support and enthusiasm for a new way to serve our community through our mission statement! We truly believe God is guiding us in this opportunity to do church together.

We recognize that moving to two services is a big change from the one 9am service. We thank you for all the feedback and patience while the wrinkles get ironed out. Please keep the feedback coming as we all manage this change together. I've been asked if we're going back to one service for the summer, and the answer is no. We'll keep the two services going through the summer months.

An update on the Associate Pastor Call Process

The call committee has narrowed down the pool of applicants to four candidates. Zoom interviews are taking place 4/22 and 4/24. We are excited about the candidates and will have more information for you soon!

Pastor Jennifer has submitted her notice of resignation to the Executive Committee and her last day will be May 31st. Thank you, Pastor Jennifer for your service and support of FLC and our church family. God's blessings to you in your next church!

May the peace of the Lord be with you always!

Colleen Hopwood

FLC Council President