



January Newsletter

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

“Why Does it Matter Anyways?”

In November, after our fall congregational, we discussed whether the “calling of women as pastors” is biblical. Another topic mentioned in that meeting was Free Will vs. Bound Will. As these topics have been discussed, other beliefs at Faith Lutheran Church have been brought up, revealing a stark difference of beliefs within the church body.

No church body anywhere will agree on every doctrine issue within Christianity. However, there are fundamental, or what I like to think of as foundational items, that we must agree on to be united as a church body and move forward. Why, you may ask, does it matter? Why does it matter that the pastor and many church members disagree on free will and bound will, predestination, baptism, election, or even end-of-times theories? Because a significant difference in teaching and belief among the church leaders will only result in a constant battle over how to run the church.

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. – Philippians 2:1-2

instance, a pastor with seminary training from an “evangelical” or “non-denominational” seminary will have theological thoughts and training that matches the teachings they received from that seminary. (most non-denominational churches teachings mirror closely that of the Baptist church) A pastor who went

to Denver Seminary will be taught to read, study, teach, preach, and apply certain theological understandings that match the “evangelical” movement. The same thing applies to a pastor who attended Luther Seminary; they would follow the current “ELCA” methods and beliefs. A pastor from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary would adhere to the beliefs and practices of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message. Similarly, I graduated from Sioux Falls Seminary and their Luther House of Study pathway. This means my beliefs and practices adhere to the Lutheran Confessions, triune God, ecumenical creeds, etc., which are all part of the LCMC belief structure.

You might say to yourself at this point, wait a minute, my family member attends such and such church in town, and they never mention any of this stuff. Are we just making a bigger mess by talking about this? No, we are not. Most of the items I said and others aren’t often talked about in some churches because all the teachings within those churches come from the same theological background. (Theology is a fancy word for the phrase “study of and understanding of God.”)

An issue arises if the church members’ beliefs differ from what the church constitution states the church should believe and teach. This isn’t all that uncommon and usually happens when the primary teacher of the church, usually the pastor, does not necessarily continue in that faith tradition. For example, a pastor graduates from one seminary and begins to believe and teach differently over time. One of two things will happen: the church will push back against the pastor, or they will embrace the teaching, and the beliefs and practices within the church will change over time.

In theory, pastors should receive a theological background, or seminary training, that matches that specific church’s constitution and by-laws. For

continued pg. 2

Let me give you a real-world example of what happens when two ideas are mixed unintentionally. When I was about 10 or 11 years old, I wanted to make pancakes all by myself for the first time. My mom kept all the baking items in those tall, square, clear Rubbermaid containers. They were not marked to identify their contents, as mom always knows best. I grabbed the flour container instead of the Bisquick container, and my pancakes came out rubbery. They were HORRIBLE!!!

The same happens when church members aren't careful to understand and maintain their beliefs. It is easy for Christians to become students of various teachings today, as there are many ways to access bible studies from diverse teaching backgrounds. Media is available from any Christian teacher anytime and anywhere, online, on YouTube, podcasts, books, television, radio, etc. Inadvertently mix those different teachings over a long period, and you have a church trying to please everyone while neglecting to teach the truths of the Christian doctrine they claim to confess.

The wonderful thing about this issue is that it is easy to identify and repair. When repaired, the church family can move forward in solidarity with less confusion and disagreement. To do this, we need to discuss within the church body what we believe and want Faith Lutheran Church to believe and teach. As the congregation members, you can decide what your church does here. This will be important to talk about and decide so we can move forward with an accurate understanding of who we are in Christ and who God wants this church to be.

Please understand that this is in no way an attack on things within FLC or any of the current or previous leaders of the church. After being here for more than

six months, I have observed many things, had many conversations with many people, and discovered that FLC no longer has its identity. Some conversations revealed an internal desire that had grown up before I arrived that wanted to remove "Lutheran" from the church's name. Non-Lutheran theological teaching materials are used in every small group. Some observations from church members claim that only about a quarter of the church claims to be "Lutheran." For several years, Sunday school materials have been devoid of any Lutheran teaching and have instead been purchased from Baptist publishers. I have discovered a church that genuinely loves giving back to others. A group of Christian brothers and sisters with caring hearts and deep desires to serve God. Everyone in the church has been kind, loving, and respectful in almost everything. Yet the most painful thing to see is a church that is unsure who they are.

That is what we need to rediscover. Who are we? What do we believe and teach? What do we want in the new building expansion? How will we "do church" in 2024 and beyond? To work on this issue, the church council and Pastor Jennifer will put together focus groups to help us gain that understanding. The council and pastors will then meet to digest that information and form a plan to move us forward together. We must



have everyone involved and give open and honest thoughts on the topics that will be brought up. I look forward to sharing this journey with you as the next step in continuing the work of Faith Lutheran Church.

In Christ's Service
Pastor Denton L. Bennet, Jr.

January Greetings from Pastor Jennifer

It's the beginning of a new year, full of fresh starts and new habits. We tend to think about renewing ourselves this time of year, or perhaps "new-and-improving" ourselves is a better way to word it! But beyond the weight loss and promises to do better at whatever we each struggle with, what's new with this New Year?

We still have the same difficulties in our lives that we did on December 31st. We still feel the burden of paychecks that run out before the month does, the stress of family dysfunction, health problems that leave us worried, and the overall weight of the world upon our over-scheduled lives. Besides the renewed determination we may have to lose a few pounds this January, there may not seem to be much new going on.

But there is newness of life, new beginnings, and forgiveness that wipes the slate clean, all granted through Jesus Christ. Through his death and

resurrection, we are made new! We become children of God and heirs to his kingdom. Christ lifts the burdens in our lives that we cannot, and he hears our cries for help that we can't find the words to speak. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are transformed from sinners to saints, forgiven and loved by the Father.

Let this message be your good start to the New Year! Even without "new-and-improving" yourself, Christ forgives your sin, sets you free from the overwhelming brokenness of this world, and promises you eternal life. Even with so much else being the same as last year, 2024 sounds like it's off to a wonderful start!



Thanks be to God!
Pastor Jennifer

Faith Lutheran Preschool

A place for joyful education entwined with the love and grace of God.

Our Mission


Faith Lutheran Preschool was established in 1995 as an outreach ministry of Faith Lutheran Church. The teachers partner with the parents to build a foundation based on curiosity, hope and love that will carry them throughout their lives.

Faith Lutheran Preschool provides an exciting learning environment filled with a collection of open-ended toys, books, puzzles, sensory items which builds on their natural sense of curiosity and exploration. The day is filled with a balance of both child-directed activities and teacher-directed activities that help develop the whole child: social, emotional, physical, cognitive, language and spiritual.

School Readiness

Success in school is not predicted by a child's ability to recite their ABC's or their ability to read by age 4. A child's readiness for school is dependent on their social competence, the ability to recognize, interpret and respond appropriately in social situations. School success requires understanding of other people's feelings and viewpoints, cooperation with adults, emotional self-control and ability to resolve conflicts constructively. This can be achieved by allowing children to play with one another.

We know how important these early years are, and we are here to provide each child with the best early childhood education possible in a safe Christian environment!



No Preschool

Through
January 8, 2024.
**Preschool will resume
regular scheduling on
January 9, 2024.**

**There is no preschool
January 15, 2024.**

UPDATE: WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS

"And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

– Philippians 4:19

Our God is an awesome God! We would like to introduce and welcome to Faith Lutheran Church two new staff members.

Linda Turner will officially join our church office staff January 3rd as our new financial secretary. Linda has recently moved to the Castle Rock area after living for many years in Vermont. She has experience in this capacity in both churches and the secular world. Be sure to stop by the office during the week to welcome her to our family!

Charlene Reid will officially join our church February 1st as our new music director. Char, as she prefers, is relocating to our area from Nebraska as her daughters live near Denver. She has nearly 30 years of experience as a music director in churches leading many different styles of music. Be sure to visit with her on Sundays once she arrives and welcome her to our family!

Please be patient with our new church staff members as they get up to speed on everything FLC. Look for more bio information on both Linda and Char in next month's newsletter!



Faith Lutheran Church is seeking a part-time Facility Maintenance manager. The Facility Maintenance position requires someone skilled in building and grounds maintenance. FLC offers competitive wages, some benefits, and a supportive work environment. If you are skilled in this area, please submit your resume to office@faithcrco.org and thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration.



January Calendar

Monday, Jan 1 - Office Closed

7:00 AM Online Prayer Meeting

Tuesday, Jan 2

7:00 AM Online Prayer Meeting
6:00 PM Tuesday Night Men's Group

Wednesday, Jan 3

7:00 AM Online Prayer Meeting
9:30 AM Sarah Circle Bible Study

Thursday, Jan 4

7:00 AM Online Prayer Meeting
8:30 AM "Piece Makers" Quilting Group
6:30 PM Thursday Night Bible Study

Friday, Jan 5

7:00 AM Online Prayer Meeting
9:30 AM R.E.A.L Women's Bible Study

Saturday, Jan 6

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

Sunday, Jan 7

9:00 AM Worship Service
10:30 AM A.R.K. Sunday School
10:30 AM Confirmation Class
10:30 AM Adult Forum
6:00 PM FLY (Faith Lutheran Youth)

Monday, Jan 8

7:00 AM Online Prayer Meeting
6:00 PM Women on the RISE
6:00 PM Monday Night Men's Bible Study

Tuesday, Jan 9

7:00 AM Online Prayer Meeting
6:00 PM Tuesday Night Men's Group

Wednesday, Jan 10

7:00 AM Online Prayer Meeting
1:00 PM InTouch

Thursday, Jan 11

7:00 AM Online Prayer Meeting
8:30 AM "Piece Makers" Quilting Group
6:30 PM Thursday Night Bible Study

Friday, Jan 12

7:00 AM Online Prayer Meeting
9:30 AM R.E.A.L Women's Bible Study

Saturday, Jan 13

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

Sunday, Jan 14

9:00 AM Worship Service
10:30 AM A.R.K. Sunday School
10:30 AM Confirmation Class
10:30 AM Adult Forum
6:00 PM FLY (Faith Lutheran Youth)

Monday, Jan 15

7:00 AM Online Prayer Meeting
6:00 PM Women on the RISE
6:00 PM Monday Night Men's Bible Study

Tuesday, Jan 16

7:00 AM Online Prayer Meeting
6:00 PM Tuesday Night Men's Group

Wednesday, Jan 17

7:00 AM Online Prayer Meeting
9:30 AM Sarah Circle Bible Study

Thursday, Jan 18

7:00 AM Online Prayer Meeting
8:30 AM "Piece Makers" Quilting Group
6:30 PM Thursday Night Bible Study

Friday, Jan 19

7:00 AM Online Prayer Meeting
9:30 AM R.E.A.L Women's Bible Study

Saturday, Jan 20

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

Sunday, Jan 21

9:00 AM Worship Service
10:30 AM A.R.K. Sunday School
10:30 AM Confirmation Class
10:30 AM Adult Forum
6:00 PM FLY (Faith Lutheran Youth)

Monday, Jan 22

7:00 AM Online Prayer Meeting
6:00 PM Women on the RISE
6:00 PM Monday Night Men's Bible Study

Tuesday, Jan 23

7:00 AM Online Prayer Meeting
6:00 PM Tuesday Night Men's Group

Wednesday, Jan 24

7:00 AM Online Prayer Meeting
1:00 PM InTouch

Thursday, Jan 25

7:00 AM Online Prayer Meeting
8:30 AM "Piece Makers" Quilting Group
6:30 PM Thursday Night Bible Study

Friday, Jan 26

7:00 AM Online Prayer Meeting
9:30 AM R.E.A.L Women's Bible Study

Saturday, Jan 27

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

Sunday, Jan 28

9:00 AM Worship Service
10:30 AM A.R.K. Sunday School
10:30 AM Confirmation Class
10:30 AM Adult Forum
6:00 PM FLY (Faith Lutheran Youth)

Monday, Jan 29

7:00 AM Online Prayer Meeting
6:00 PM Women on the RISE
6:00 PM Monday Night Men's Bible Study

Tuesday, Jan 30

7:00 AM Online Prayer Meeting
6:00 PM Tuesday Night Men's Group

Wednesday, Jan 31

7:00 AM Online Prayer Meeting

January Worship Helpers

Sunday, Jan 7

Greeters.....Brad & Deb Remus
 Ushers..... TBD
 Acolytes..... TBD
 Communion Asst. TBD
 Reader..... TBD
 Offering Counters Ruth Harvey, Sue Frohardt

Sunday, Jan 14

Greeters..... TBD
 Ushers.....Cori Schroeder
 Acolytes..... TBD
 Communion Asst. TBD
 Reader..... TBD
 Offering Counters Karl Krueger, Bob Frohardt

Sunday, Jan 21

Greeters..... TBD
 Ushers..... TBD
 Acolytes..... TBD
 Communion Asst. TBD
 Reader..... TBD
 Offering Counters Stu Bailey, Barb DeHeer

Sunday, Jan 28

Greeters..... Ron & Laura Stevens
 Ushers..... TBD
 Acolytes..... TBD
 Communion Asst. TBD
 Reader..... TBD
 Offering CountersChris Dunbar, Debra Hughes

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” ~1 Peter 4:10-11

Church Staff Directory

PASTORS

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Daria Martin.....dariam@faithcrco.org

NURSERY ATTENDANT

Ashley Wallweber.....awallweber@faithcrco.org

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Charlene Reid..... TBD

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Linda Turner TBD

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 Wallweber or the office at office@faithcrco.org

Accompanist Needed: Do you have experience playing the piano and would enjoy accompanying church services? FLC is in need of an accompanist to bring their musical talents to the congregation during the month of January. Please contact the church office if interested.

Why Don't All Christians Agree?

Wouldn't so many things be better if all Christians could at least agree on things to do with Christ? We all read the same bible, we seek salvation in Christ after He died on a tree and rose again, we believe God created the world, and we believe that Christ will return again. Yet there are so many other bible teachings that we often disagree on. There are so many other things that we have countless church denominations, all claiming to worship Christ yet often disagreeing so harshly with one another that they will not worship alongside one another. Why is that?

One major defining teaching is free will vs. bound will. To begin with, what is the difference? In short, free will is the understanding that we can accept or refuse God's grace and mercy. In free will, it is taught that a person can decide for or against salvation from God. This type of interaction at the time of salvation is taught in many different church denominations, including Methodist, Baptist (some), non-denominational, Pentecostal, Wesleyan, Church of God, Four Square, and various other charismatic churches, and often those who consider themselves "free" of a denomination.

The bound will is the understanding that when God reaches you with His Word through the power of the Holy Spirit, a person cannot refuse God's salvation. In other words, the work of the Holy Spirit allows you to do no other than say yes to God. This form of interaction at the time of salvation is taught in Lutheran, some Baptist, Presbyterian, Calvinist churches, and many other churches that focus on Grace over the will of man.

Churches are divided among denominational lines by this very teaching. This teaching and how we understand it as a church gives us the identity of who we are and how we live our Christian life. In short, this level of biblical teaching and understanding is what we refer to as a theological understanding. Regardless of what denomination name is on your sign, how this is taught from the pulpit to small groups, and what the church leadership believes matters and gives your church its identity. Of course, a major problem arises when the pastor and the congregation are on opposite sides of this defining teaching. As much as many people would like to believe, "Christians are all the same, we should just get along regardless," this divide is too deep for any church to be able to remain healthy when this is being taught differently within that same congregation.

Why are we so divided on this and other topics? It all stems from how we study the bible. All people see theology and study the bible in two main ways.

Ad modum Aristotelis – meaning in the manner of Aristotle. This viewpoint asks the question, "What?" Using this style of studying scripture, we always come to the text with a focus on categorizing and defining, looking for the meaning of the text. We are constantly analyzing the text by asking why, what, and how.

Ad modum Scripturae – meaning in the manner of scripture. This viewpoint asks the question, "Who?" Using this style of studying scripture, we always come to the text with a focus on the events of the text. The idea is scripture is not trying to ask or answer big questions, scripture is a communication event between you and God. This type of study understands scriptures as a confession of God speaking to and acting upon people.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord."
– Isaiah 55:8

A different way of looking at this is to say the manner of Aristotle is looking for a definition, while the manner of scripture is expecting an encounter.

The manner of Aristotle is familiar to most people because this is the method or manner of teaching and studying that has been used in the Western Hemisphere for the past several hundred years. It is the basis of study found in all levels of scholasticism, from elementary to graduate school and beyond. We use this modern approach to see, study, and describe the modern world. This format makes sense to us because it is based on human reason and thought.

We live in a post-enlightenment world, which uses this as the fundamental way of understanding the world around us. The issue with this is that Luther does not use this way to approach scripture. Luther's discovery of scripture came before the Enlightenment period when human beings dove into this philosophical world of learning. Luther saw that God's way of thinking, as laid out in scripture, is contrary to ours. There is a difference between asking questions, such as what, why, and how, and asking what did God say. When we approach scripture, we should always ask what God said.

In Christ's Service
Pastor Denton L. Bennet, Jr.

But Wait... I Thought Only Men Could Be Pastors!

by Pastor Jennifer Bennet

Since I was called to serve here at FLC in late August, there has been much discussion around the church regarding the role of women in ministry. This is a topic that weighed heavily on me as I first began discerning a call to pastoral ministry many years ago. I realized I needed to deeply study the matter to understand my calling to serve God by shepherding his flock. As Jesus said to Peter in John 21:15-17, "Feed my sheep," I wondered if I was hearing him correctly when the Lord called me to serve him in that same capacity. Can women be pastors?

There are a few troublesome passages of scripture that can be easily misunderstood to give the impression that women should not serve in ordained ministry. 1 Timothy 2:11-12, in particular, is some of the most controversial material in the New Testament:

¹¹ Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet.

At first glance, the Apostle Paul appears to be saying that the role of women in the church should be quite limited. Reading any version of the Bible in the English language with a literal word-for-word approach can lead to this misunderstanding. We must also be careful not to begin an exegesis of scripture by trying to make the meaning fit what we believe. For example, if you believe – for whatever reason – that women should not be pastors, you will naturally tend to see this passage as supporting your view, and you may be tempted to only read commentaries and other resources that support that, rather than examining the scripture itself.

But the Bible is most accurately understood in the original language in which it was written, in this case Greek. The meaning of scripture never changes over time, so what it meant when it was originally written must be the same thing it means today. For this reason, the historical and cultural context of the 1st century must be a factor in our understanding of this passage's meaning. And finally, this selection of scripture must be understood in the context of what else Paul is writing about here in 1 Timothy, namely the problem of false teachers.

In 1 Timothy 2:11-12, Paul is responding to a specific problem that has occurred in this specific time and place. Women were trying to teach and have authority in the Ephesian church, and Paul recognized the need to correct their problematic teaching. Remember – the context here is one of false teaching and Paul's emphasis is on the necessity of eliminating that from the church.

The word "quiet" in verse 12 is sometimes translated as "silent" but it doesn't refer to the kind of quiet that results from not speaking. In Greek, this word refers to living a quiet life, and the same Greek word is used in 1 Timothy 2:2 when Paul says, "that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way." It would be understandable for readers who are not familiar with Greek to read verse 12 as a command for women to not speak, but it actually refers to living a dignified and peaceful life instead. Living a quiet life is the goal, not abstaining from speaking in the church.

Note that verse 11 parallels 1 Corinthians 14:34-35, which reads:

³⁴ the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says. ³⁵ If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.

The bottom line with these verses in 1 Corinthians is that there were women in the Corinthian church who were still immature in their faith and had not been Christians long enough to understand expected behavior in the church. Their behavior had likely been influenced by the pagan practices of the well-known oracle at Delphi, whereby a prophetess only spoke in response to questions being asked of her. Of course, prophecy in the Christian church worked differently and was prompted by the Holy Spirit, without anyone first asking a question. These women were asking questions at inappropriate points during worship, which was disruptive, and Paul instructed them to save their questions for another time by asking their husbands at home.

Let's return to our original conversation on 1 Timothy 2:11-12. Although there was a great bias against women as teachers in the larger society at the time, remember that God never contradicts himself, and neither does his Word. Restricting the place of women by telling them to be quiet detracts from some of Paul's more egalitarian statements elsewhere. (See 1 Cor. 11, where Paul affirms that both men and women can speak in church as long as they both reflect the glory of God, for example.) Therefore, this cannot be a blanket statement against women teaching. Here in this circumstance, Paul wanted women to submit to the men of the church in order to correct the problem of false teaching. It's specific to this situation and does not apply to all women everywhere. The Greek verb for "to have authority" has a negative connotation here, referring to domineering authority.

(Continued pg 8)

It makes sense for Paul to look down on this kind of authority in the church. The sense of submission in the Greco-Roman world was not necessarily to another person, but knowing your place and keeping to it, not stepping out of bounds, which would be preferable to this negative, domineering authority.

The most popular cult in Ephesus at the time was the cult of Diana. The priests were female in this cult and they would assume authority over the men. It's likely that some of this thinking reached the church in Ephesus and Paul is reacting by saying that women from this cult should not have this form of domineering authority in the church. This isn't because they're female, but because their false teachings have no place in the church.

The point Paul makes is not that all women, in all times and places, are more easily deceived than men, or more prone to false teaching, but these particular Ephesian women were. Remember that Paul's epistles in the Bible were letters written to various churches to offer advice and correct false teaching. Paul's writing here was specific to the circumstances which he addressed.

We learn from the Apostle Paul that teachers are identified as those with the spiritual gift of teaching, and who steadfastly teach right doctrine. These qualifications are not broken down by gender, and of course, men and women have equal access to the spiritual gifts. Paul was neither a patriarchist nor a

feminist. Men and women serve equally in God's eyes, and there is not a single example anywhere in scripture of Jesus, our Lord himself, treating women as inferior to men. Men and women are to submit equally to one another under the lordship of Christ.

Unfortunately, I only have the space here for a cursory examination of a few of the scripture passages that some find concerning about women in ministry. I want to also emphasize that it does not matter that our culture approves of women in the workplace, or the common saying that "women can do anything men can do," or even the widespread belief that in our modern day in age, we really should be beyond this misogynist viewpoint that women cannot serve in the church. Absolutely none of those things matter in the debate about women in ministry. Please understand that I am not qualified to serve as your pastor for any of those reasons. The only thing that matters is scripture. The. Only. Thing.

Therefore, an accurate understanding of what the Bible teaches is essential. Consider that righteous indignation is perhaps the most misplaced and dangerous form of anger. When righteous indignation supersedes sound biblical teaching and practice, we may find ourselves looking much like the churches who received the Apostle Paul's rebuke back in the first century, determined that our understanding is correct, even when God's Word clearly teaches us otherwise.

From The Council President

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." ~ 2 Cor 5:17

Happy New Year fellow brothers and sisters in Christ!

The 2024 Council Members are:

- * Colleen Hopwood – President
- * Bette Warn – President-Elect
- * Helen Buehrle – Treasurer
- * Cori Schroeder – Secretary
- * Steve Williams – Stewardship
- * Sherri Dow – Outreach
- * Mark Scott – Worship & Music
- * Open – Community
- * Open—Spiritual

If you are feeling called to serve on council, please see me or one of the council members for more information. The council will be meeting in early January to strategize for 2024.

There are many opportunities for you to plug into the FLC community: teaching Sunday School, playing an instrument at worship, helping with the AV team, serving at the food pantry, joining the Hospitality team on Sunday mornings, or participating in a small group or adult forum. I pray you will find where your talents and time may fit in with the FLC mission statement: Loving God, Loving one another, and Serving our community.

Please note on the Sunday Connection card or contact the office if you'd like more information in how to join. May God bless you in 2024!

In Christ Alone,
Colleen Hopwood,
Council President