



FAITH
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

A Letter From The Pastor

Happy New Year!

Our Christian Calendar begins four Sundays before Christmas Eve with Advent. This season of preparation is filled with so many things: joy and sorrow, celebration and solitude. As we walk through these days, we can be assured that God is with us! We stand in hope that Christ has come to save us! And we wait in eager anticipation that Christ will come again.

We hope you'll join us in this season for worship and fellowship!

Each Sunday, we will continue to worship at 9am followed by coffee and treats, then Sunday School for all ages.

On Wednesday—December 3, 10, and 17—we will gather at 6pm for Soup Suppers!! Then we will shift to the sanctuary for a brief worship service from 7 – 7:30pm.

Our journey will include:

- * Wednesday, December 3: "The Wilderness"
- * Sunday, December 7: "A Voice Calling"
- * Wednesday, December 10: "The Wandering"

* Sunday, December 14: "Expectation"

* Wednesday, December 17: "The Waiting"

* Sunday, December 21: "The Savior"

Then we gather to celebrate the Messiah on Christmas Eve, Wednesday – December 24, for communion, music, and candlelight.

* 4 pm Family Worship

* 6 pm Traditional Worship

December brings us such wonderful opportunities to worship God together as we love and serve our neighbor. Read on to see what we've been doing and what's coming up!

Blessings Church, as we journey through Advent together!

Pastor Dawn Spies
Intentional Interim Pastor



Benevolence

"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!

We are Serving Our Community, here and around the world.

The Benevolence team held a Town Hall meeting on September 14, 2025, to present our recommendations on the organizations to support during the fiscal year July 2025 – June 2026. First, we provided an overview of the Benevolence guidelines and the process in identifying and allocating the gifts to these organizations. Then we gave our recommendations to which organizations to support for the year. They are Help & Hope Center, Catholic Charities and Sox Place. We also had a presentation on the Guatemala – Los Costillos Village and Tarkanfi, Ethiopia missions. It was a very interactive and insightful meeting for all with lots of questions and input. In the end, it was agreed to support the three local organizations using 100% of the Benevolence funds totaling \$25,000. The congregation will be receiving more information and direction on the two global organizations, Los Costillos Village and Tarkanfi, knowing that if the congregation agrees to continue to support them, it would be through "designated funds" and not through the Benevolence funds. Toward the end of the fiscal year, the Benevolence team will reassess where we are with funds and who and how we can support our organization going into the new fiscal year.

In last month's article we let you know about the opportunity with Sox Place. Sox Place was offering "triple your donation" matching grant ending September 30th. The Benevolence team agreed to send \$5,000, tripling the amount.



We are so happy to let you know that Sox Place reached their goal of \$28,000, maximizing the donations to \$84,000. Our \$5,000 totaled \$15,000. God is so Good!

Help & Hope Center also had a matching campaign, ending October 31st. The Benevolence team gave Help & Hope \$4,000, totaling \$8,000 in matching funds. God Is so, so Good!!!!

We still have one opening on the Benevolence team. Please prayerfully consider joining this ministry. It is such a rewarding opportunity to serve Our Lord, Our Church, and Our community. Continue to Praise God for His guidance and provisions. Continue to Praise God for all His Goodness. Continue to Praise Him for His blessings He showers on Faith Lutheran Church.

Following His Guiding Presence, Willis Buehrle, Ralph Lawson, Peggy Schwartzkopf, Bev Williams & Laura Stevens along with West Bean and Tom DeHeer



Sox Place

Doyle and his wife Karen have moved back to Arkansas to be closer to family. Jordan is now in charge of the daily operations at Sox Place with the assistance of Kaili/Blue, and Bobby.

They are still in urgent need of men's boxer briefs - all sizes. Please put your donations in the bin near the entrance to church. Thank you!



The annual SP Christmas party is only a few weeks away. I will be getting a list from Jordan of needed/requested items from the street youth. You can donate a gift to a specific kid from the list based on the amount of the gift you are able to spend. We can schedule time to wrap the gifts prior to the party. The date/time of the party are still TBD.

Guatemala

I will give a full update at the congregational meeting as there is a lot of new information to share.

Respectfully submitted by Leanne



"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever"
Psalm 106:1

Blessings to Our Church Family!

Praise God for all His Blessings! The Food Pantry ministry continues to thrive thanks to Our Lord and our Church Community.

!!! NEWS FLASH!!!

Back in August we applied for the 2026 Philp S Miller Resource Grant program through the Town Of Castle Rock. On October 2nd we attended a Public Safety Commission meeting and answered questions the members had. On October 9th, we received notice that we had been recommended to receive grant funds and asked to attend the Town Council meeting on November 18th to answer any additional questions and hear the vote to approve the recommendation. Several of us attended the meeting. **We were awarded \$5,000 to be received sometime in January. God is so good!!!**

Since January 2025 we have served 1,199 families, totaling 4,682 family members, average family size slightly down to 3.91 members.

As the government shutdown continues, food pantries across the country have been challenged with the increasing numbers of families in need due to government employees being laid off or losing their jobs and SNAPs (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) no longer being funded by the government. We have experienced this here, serving 35+ families for the last three weeks. We are asking for God's guidance and provisions while we experience this increase. Please pray for our government, our Church, and this Ministry. 🙏🙏🙏

The Pantry is planning on the annual Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner baskets. Thanksgiving baskets were handed out on Nov 22nd and Christmas baskets on December 20th. Once again, the congregation has stepped up and helped with both financial and food donations. Walmart was gracious enough to offer a significant discount on the price of turkeys to .50/lb. We had an anonymous donation of \$1,000 to cover the cost of the Thanksgiving turkeys. GOD, thank you for your unending provisions and thank you for your act of kindness to our anonymous donor!!!!

The congregation members, Preschool families, and Castle Rock community members have reached out to the Pantry asking how they can help. Financial and food donations are being received almost daily. We have had new people joining us on Friday assembly and Saturday handout from the congregation and Castle Rock community. The Food Pantry team is humbled by all the generosity from all.

We could always use any of the following items: baby food and formula, dish soap, laundry soap, paper towels, toilet paper, hand and bath soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shaving cream for women/unisex, razors, etc. Please drop any items at church before 10:00 am on Saturday. We also welcome donations of food, however, please check expiration dates as we must discard any items that are expired.

This ministry allows us to fulfill the Faith Lutheran Church mission statement, "Loving God, Loving Each Other and Serving our Community". If the Spirit calls you to donate, respond. If 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 our Church and in our Community, where He is working. It will truly fill, and at the same time shape, your heart. There's lots of love, joy, laughter, tears, fellowship, etc., and we'd love to have you.

With overwhelming gratitude,
Terry Korsvold, Ruth Harvey, Willis Buehrle, Marilyn Bean & Laura Stevens

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."
~ John 3:16



FLC Preschool

How To Teach Children About Jesus

As you have heard me say many times, children at this age have to see, touch, taste, hear, and even smell things in order to learn, incorporating all of their senses. So how do you teach young children about Jesus when you can't 'see' Jesus?

Young children are concrete thinkers. They picture things in their head and think symbolically until around the age of 7. So, how do they transition into abstract thinking?

The foundation for abstract thinking is pretend play!! Most kids at this age are functioning primarily out of their right side of their brain, which is their more imaginative side. Allowing kids to use their natural curiosity and sense of curiosity and exploration helps develop their imagination, but also helps develop their abstract thinking.

So, how do we teach something that can't hear, see, touch, taste or smell?

-  Keep it simple
-  Keep it short
-  Use pictures
-  Bring to life

Focus on Love and Relationships

Knowing and loving Jesus is based on our relationship with Jesus.

Babies are born knowing right from wrong /good from bad. They show preference of 'good' by looking, gazing, or crawling toward 'good'. They show an understanding of 'bad' by looking away or crawling away from 'bad'.

90% of what young children learn about relationships is from watching parental relationships. Modeling your relationship with Jesus will help your young child develop their relationship with Jesus!

Spiral Teaching Approach

Introduce basic knowledge of faith and Jesus in age and developmentally appropriate ways. As they get older, you then gradually build on knowledge and learn more complex ideas.

Be Unoffendable, Show Up and Expect Good Things! Help build stronger love and relationships with God, family and friends!

Our children are the future.

Help build homes and communities based on faith and forming connections.

Jean Whisman
Preschool Director

Leadership Directory

PRESIDENT

Bette Warn bwarn@faithcrco.org

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Brad Becker.....bbecker@faithcrco.org

SECRETARY

Cori Schroeder.....cschroeder@faithcrco.org

TREASURER

Open

STEWARDSHIP

Steve Williamsstwilliams@faithcrco.org

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Mark Scott..... mscott@faithcrco.org

OUTREACH

Sherri Dow sdow@faithcrco.org

COMMUNITY

Karen Johnson karenj@faithcrco.org

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Marilyn Bean.....marilyn@faithcrco.org

Staff Directory

INTENTIONAL INTERIM PASTOR

Pr. Dawn Spiespastordawn@faithcrco.org

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Pr. Casey Hodges.....pastorcasey@faithcrco.org

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Jean Whisman preschool@faithcrco.org

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Lucy Donavan..... lucyd@faithcrco.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Daria Martin dariam@faithcrco.org

NURSERY ATTENDANT

Sarah Rau

Stewardship Report

Stewardship Statement: We believe that everything we have is a gift from God including our very breath. Therefore, we are to be responsible stewards of the spiritual, physical, and material gifts given to us. We are also to share these gifts as we demonstrate our caring and welfare for others, the orphan, the widow, and the stranger. In other words, each of us is the personal manager of the time, treasure, and talent with which God has individually gifted us as we demonstrate our love of God, of others, and as we serve our community. (Ex 22:21-22, Acts 2:44-45, Acts 4:32-35)

Why Do You Serve At Church? By Steven Williams

Pastor Dawn asked this of me the other day and with difficulty, this is what I came up with.

- * **Gratitude.** For Jesus's sin sacrificial gift of Grace for all who believe in him and have faith in his promise of receiving eternal life with him at the end of time. The be all-end all-of all gifts, IMHO, for which I am so very grateful.
- * **Payback.** Thanking God for all that I have including the air I breathe, water I drink, food I eat, and for the beauty and bounty of the earth. Also for financial assistance received early in my life and for the financial security I am now privileged to have. Which allows me to care for myself, my family, and for others who depend upon me.

Thus I keep attempting to serve others just as Jesus requests.

THREE MORE THANKS:

I'm thankful for the extended family I grew up with, which instilled the value of service in me, and whose love we still share. For providing and guiding me in taking the many positive forks in the road which initially, I sometimes reluctantly followed. One specific road taken led to my wife Bev for which I am eternally grateful. Thank you God for your guidance and many blessings. Especially so, as I become aware and compare the conditions under which so many others must live, and sadly, for the opportunities which they will never have.

I'm thankful for the spiritual gifts God has given me. Using the spiritual gifts God has given me as I attempt to share them for the benefit of others. Here at Faith Lutheran that includes time spent on council, being a member of two Bible studies, providing some financial assistance to help keep the AC/heat and lights on, and doing some other things too.

I'm thankful for my church family. I Love my Faith Lutheran Family and pray that we, who are the church, will thrive.

A BRIEF STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Extra Mile Giving – \$5,065.61 in the fund to date will help address the General Fund's projected shortfall. Thanks' to all who occasionally still contribute extra above your normal giving amount. For clarification, all extra mile giving monies go into FLC's general fund.

Benevolence –

- ◇ September - \$5,000 to *Sox Place* which at a 3X match equals \$15,000.
- ◇ October - \$4,000 to *Help and Hope Center* which at a 2X match equals \$8,000
- ◇ November – \$2,000 to *Catholic Charities*

Endowment - \$1,029.80 received from the golf tournament for educational assistance.

Offering Counting – No change

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

Dec. 8	Michael Schwartzkopf	Dec. 17	Michelle Arguello
Dec. 12	Chris Dunbar	Dec. 19	Karen Herdahl
Dec. 12	Rachel Dunbar	Dec. 20	Eldon Von Ohlen
Dec. 16	Thomas Rau	Dec. 30	Ruth Fittje
Dec. 16	Christine Rau	Dec. 30	Brian Burke

If you or a family member is not on the birthday list, and you would like to be added please contact Daria at dariam@faithcrco.org

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!)

December 1	Hebrews 1-2	Psalm 25	December 19	Revelation 10-11	Psalm 43
December 2	Hebrews 3-4	Psalm 26	December 20	Revelation 12-13	Psalm 44
December 3	Hebrews 5-6	Psalm 27	December 21	Revelation 14-16	Psalm 45
December 4	Hebrews 7-8	Psalm 28	December 22	Revelation 17-18	Psalm 46
December 5	Hebrews 9-10	Psalm 29	December 23	Revelation 19-20	Psalm 47
December 6	Hebrews 11-13	Psalm 30	December 24	Revelation 21-22	Psalm 48
December 7	James 1-3	Psalm 31			
December 8	James 4-5	Psalm 32			
December 9	1 Peter 1-2	Psalm 33			
December 10	1 Peter 3-5	Psalm 34			
December 11	2 Peter 1-3	Psalm 35			
December 12	1 John 1-2	Psalm 36			
December 13	1 John 3-5	Psalm 37			
December 14	2 John 1 - 3 John 1	Psalm 38			
December 15	Jude 1	Psalm 39			
December 16	Revelation 1-3	Psalm 40			
December 17	Revelation 4-6	Psalm 41			
December 18	Revelation 7-9	Psalm 42			



Read the Bible



Calendar



December 1, Monday

6:00 PM Women on the Rise
6:00 PM Men's Bible Study
7:30 PM Castle Rock Band

December 2, Tuesday

6:00 PM Cornerstone Church

December 3, Wednesday

9:30 AM Sarah Circle
6:00 PM Soup Supper
7:00 PM Advent Worship

December 4, Thursday

8:30 AM "Piece Makers" Quilters
6:00 PM Cornerstone Church
6:30 PM Thu. Night Bible Study

December 5, Friday

~~9:30 AM~~ No REAL Bible Study
2:30 PM Food Pantry Assembly
7:00 PM Cornerstone Church

December 6, Saturday

10:00 AM Food Pantry

December 7, Sunday

9:00 AM Worship
10:15 AM Children's Sunday School
10:30 AM Congregational Mtg.
1:00 PM Private Piano Recital
4:00 PM Cornerstone Church

December 8, Monday

6:00 PM Women on the Rise
6:00 PM Men's Bible Study
7:30 PM Castle Rock Band

December 9, Tuesday

6:00 PM Cornerstone Church

December 10, Wednesday

6:00 PM Soup Supper
7:00 PM Advent Worship

December 11, Thursday

8:30 AM "Piece Makers" Quilters
6:00 PM Cornerstone Church
6:30 PM Thu. Night Bible Study

December 12, Friday

9:30 AM REAL Bible Study
2:30 PM Food Pantry Assembly

December 13, Saturday

10:00 AM Food Pantry
1:00 PM Private Recital

December 14, Sunday

9:00 AM Worship
10:15 AM Children's Sunday School
10:30 AM Adult Forum
2:00 PM FLC Castle Rock Band
Christmas Concert
4:00 PM Cornerstone Church

December 15, Monday

6:00 PM Women on the Rise
6:00 PM Men's Bible Study

December 16, Tuesday

11:30 AM Senior Luncheon
6:00 PM Cornerstone Church

December 17, Wednesday

9:30 AM Sarah Circle
1:30 PM InTouch
6:00 PM Soup Supper
7:00 PM Advent Worship

December 18, Thursday

8:30 AM "Piece Makers" Quilters
6:00 PM Cornerstone Church
6:30 PM Thu. Night Bible Study

December 19, Friday

No Preschool/Christmas Break
9:30 AM REAL Bible Study
2:30 PM Food Pantry Assembly

December 20, Saturday

10:00 AM Food Pantry

December 21, Sunday

9:00 AM Worship
10:15 AM Children's Sunday School
10:30 AM Adult Forum
4:00 PM Cornerstone Church

December 22, Monday

No Preschool/Christmas Break
11:00 AM Bible Study Brunch
6:00 PM Women on the Rise
6:00 PM Mon. Men's Bible Study

December 23, Tuesday

No Preschool/Christmas Break
6:00 PM Cornerstone Church

December 24, Wednesday

No Preschool/Christmas Break
4:00 PM Family Candlelight Svc.
6:00 PM Candlelight Service

December 25, Thursday

Christmas Blessings!!
No Preschool/Christmas Break
Offices Closed
~~8:30 AM~~ No Quilters
~~6:30 PM~~ No Bible Study

December 26, Friday

No Preschool/Christmas Break
Offices Closed
~~9:30 AM~~ No REAL Bible Study
~~2:30 PM~~ No Food Pantry Assembly
7:00 PM Cornerstone Church

December 27, Saturday

~~10:00 AM~~ No Food Pantry

December 28, Sunday

9:00 AM Worship
~~10:15 AM~~ No Sunday School
10:30 AM Adult Forum
4:00 PM Cornerstone Church

December 29, Monday

No Preschool/Christmas Break
6:00 PM Women on the Rise
6:00 PM Men's Bible Study

December 30, Tuesday

No Preschool/Christmas Break
6:00 PM Cornerstone Church

December 31, Wednesday

No Preschool/Christmas Break



COMBINED BIBLE STUDY

December 22 at
11:00 AM REAL &
Sarah Circle will
come together
for a Bible
Study Brunch.



December 16th

at the Tossed Asian
909 Park St.
Castle Rock



POINSETTIA ORDER

The order form for poinsettias will be available in the Sunday Bulletins, each priced at \$15.00. We invite you to submit your forms by Sunday, December 14th. These vibrant flowers will fill our sanctuary with joy and beauty throughout the Christmas season. On December 28th, you may take your poinsettia home.



FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our Fall Congregational Meeting will be held on December 7, 2025 at 10:30am.

We will:

1. Get a snapshot of the work of the congregation
2. Get a financial update
3. Elect our 2026 Congregational Council Representatives

All are welcome.

Our Bylaws define a voting member as a "confirmed member who has attended a worship service of Holy Communion and made a financial contribution of record during the 12 months prior to an official congregational meeting"

(Bylaws for Faith Lutheran Church 2022, IV.2c).
If you have any question's or want to verify your membership status, please contact Pastor Dawn (pastordawn@faithcrco.org).



A Christmas Star

In Bethlehem, a star shone bright,
Guiding shepherds through the night.
Angels sang a heavenly song,
Proclaiming where the Christ was born.

In a humble manger lay,
The Savior child on Christmas Day.
Mary cradled Him with care,
Joseph stood in reverent prayer.

Wise men traveled from afar,
Led by that celestial star.
Bearing gifts for the newborn King,
Gold, frankincense, and myrrh they bring.

A world in darkness saw the light,
In that manger, oh so bright.
God's great love in human form,
On that blessed Christmas morn.

Rejoice, rejoice, the angels sing,
For peace on earth the Christ will bring.
In our hearts, let His love reign,
Celebrating Jesus' name.

So let us spread this joyful cheer,
For our Savior's birth draws near.
In His love, may we find grace,
As we seek His holy face.

With hearts aglow and spirits high,
We praise the Lord, who reigns on high.
For unto us a child is given,
A precious gift from God in heaven.

