

January Newsletter



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

Wilderness Wandering and Waiting

Blessings to you as we begin a new year! 2026 is going to be filled with worship, study, and conversation. All of this leading toward a time of discernment as we figure out what God has planned next for the people of Faith.

Before we jump ahead, we'll take some time to look back at a season of wilderness wandering and waiting. We have many examples of God leading his people into the wilderness, walking with them as they wander, and intentionally building in times of patient waiting.

Right now, I think we're in a season of waiting. I must admit, when I'm the one waiting, I'm seldom patient. I often wait while tapping my foot, making contingency plans, and reading emails on my phone. This is not a picture of patience.

At the same time, seasons of waiting don't always involve a lack of activity! During our mid-week Advent worship, we gathered some ideas on what we might do while we're waiting: we can wait in prayer, we can build skills, we can invest in fellowship, and we can prepare for the journey ahead.

In the months ahead, we'll spend time in prayer and preparation. We'll have Town Hall Conversations

about staffing, office hours, finances, and bylaws. We'll invest time in building leadership and communication skills. And we'll start dreaming about the future God has for us.

God has something planned, Church! Let's be ready to walk together, following as he leads.

There is joy in the journey!

Pastor Dawn Spies
Intentional Interim Pastor



Also....

Many thanks to our outgoing council members, Bette Warn and Cori Schroeder, for their service, dedication, leadership, and grace. Thank you for serving on the Church Council during a time of transition and discernment. You have been a blessing to Faith and we are grateful.

Staff Directory

INTENTIONAL INTERIM PASTOR

Pr. Dawn Spies pastordawn@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

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 Church Council approved the new team members in the Benevolence ministry. Welcome Wes Bean (replacing Laura Stevens) and Cori Schroeder (replacing Ralph Lawson)!!!! We want to express our sincere thanks to Ralph, who has been serving in the ministry for over 4 years. He provided valuable insight and we will miss him! We still have one opening on the Benevolence team, replacing Willis Buehrle. Please prayerfully consider joining this ministry. It is such a rewarding opportunity to serve Our Lord, Our Church, and Our community.

In January the "new" team will review the Benevolence guidelines and determine roles. They will begin reviewing the financial status of the ministry and continue to allocate funds to the three main organizations: Help&Hope Center, Catholic Charities, and Sox Place. Zimbabwe will continue to receive an estimated \$1,500 in May 2026.

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, Peggy Schwartzkopf, Bev Williams, Wes Bean, Cori Schroeder, Tom DeHeer (interim member), & Laura Stevens



We have a wonderful opportunity to bring hope and joy to the street-connected youth served by Sox Place. This year, they've created a special Amazon Wish List with items each young person has personally chosen. If you'd like to help, visit <https://soxplace.com/sox-place-needs/>, pick a gift, and it will be shipped directly to Sox Place. Or scan the QR Code to go directly to the wish list. For questions, please contact Leanne Becker.



Faith Lutheran Church & Preschool Space Planning Team

Faith Lutheran Church & Preschool Space Planning Team

The team did not meet in December. In January we will resume our analysis of space needs. The bible studies groups have provided input on their immediate and potential future needs. Team members will be reaching out to all the other groups, function, and ministry leads/contact to gather more information.

We want to hear from you; your input is appreciated and valuable. We know there are many people who store church-related items in their own homes because there isn't adequate space in the church. We want to hear from you. Please reach out to Laura Stevens by email (rljstevens@msn.com) to share what you are storing and to discuss possible alternatives. The team wants to make sure your storage needs are included in our analysis. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please contact one of our team members to share your thoughts. We look forward to hearing from you.

With Gratitude,

Pastor Dawn, Pastor Casey, Bette Warn (lead), Mark Scott, Carl Kopp, James Lutter, Jean Whisman, Terry Korsvold and Laura Stevens

Food Pantry

"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever"
Psalms 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.

Wow, 2026 is here. Remember Y2K—already 26 years ago. Incredible!

What a year the Food Pantry Ministry had—the many blessings, the financial donations, the food donations, and the time and talents you all shared in this ministry. We are currently on pace to achieve or surpass our 2024 objectives, serving nearly 1,500 families and more than 6,000 individuals.

Financial donations throughout 2025 have been generous and steady, with \$53,500 given through November. Our expenses are slightly down from 2024; through November we have spent approximately \$52,800. We continually review the food we offer in our weekly groceries, shop for the best deals, and realign our lists based on what is available. The food donations from congregation members, our

community, and other organizations have been far more generous than in previous years, thus reducing our costs. Praise God for all His blessings!

And the volunteers—those who help serve in this ministry throughout the year. Week in and week out, we have anywhere from 20–30 helping perform one duty or another. The Food Pantry team is humbled by all the generosity received from all. Praise Jesus!

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

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

January 8
January 9

Colleen Hopwood
Mark Baird
Sue Frohardt

January 12

Karen Johnson

January 13
January 23

Kimberly Smith
Sherri Dow

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

Leadership Directory

PRESIDENT

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

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Open

SECRETARY

Becky Heacock.....bheacock@faithcrco.org

TREASURER

Sherri Dowsdow@faithcrco.org

STEWARDSHIP

Steve Williamsstwilliams@faithcrco.org

WORSHIP & MUSIC

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

OUTREACH

Open

COMMUNITY

Karen Johnsonkarenj@faithcrco.org

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Marilyn Bean.....marilynb@faithcrco.org

A Stewardship Request

Some Thoughts about Stewardship and Spiritual Gifts

by Steve Williams

How do our spiritual gifts relate to stewardship? Then I remembered to look at the Faith Lutheran Church Stewardship statement which is:

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)*

Spiritual gifts seem to be scattered throughout the above statement. “we are to be responsible stewards of the spiritual gifts, are to share these gifts”, and manage our gifted talents “as we demonstrate our love of God, of others, and as we serve our community.” That pretty much sums up what we, the church family of Faith Lutheran Church believes.

So, what are Spiritual gifts?

You can find a brief introduction here (<https://spiritualgiftstest.com/introduction-spiritual-gifts/>). The bigger question is, what are your Spiritual gifts? Have you taken a Spiritual Gift Inventory to find out? Here is an inventory that we have used in the past and which also defines each gift: <https://spiritualgiftstest.com/adults-spiritual-gifts-test/>. You can also pick up a paper-copy of the inventory in front of the congregational mailboxes. Please take this inventory to learn what gifts you possess and obtain an explanation for them.

The spiritual gifts identified in Romans 12 are prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leadership, and mercy. Typically, we have more than one spiritual gift and focus on the top three. The inventory above includes a few more than those seven in order to be more prescriptive.

I retook the test and was surprised that my top three gifts had changed and then remembered that my life has changed a bit since last taking the inventory, as has the more refined inventory itself.

Be a good steward of your gifts. 1 Peter 4:10 says, “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” Use your spiritual gifts at every opportunity to show the love, grace and power of God to others. This will produce fruit that remains and will glorify Him.

A Request and an Announcement

All members of Faith Lutheran and frequent visitors are requested to take the Spiritual Gift Inventory in the month of January. Your results will then be used to inform yourself of how you might use your gifts for the benefit of God, our church family, the Castle Rock community, and beyond. Discussion concerning insights, usefulness, and paths forward led by Pastor Dawn will follow in February. Details to follow.

To take the test, identify your gifts, and to learn of their significance for you, use the links provided above or pick up a paper copies in front of the congregational mailboxes.

Thank you!

Please see Pastor Dawn or Steve Williams with questions.



Calendar



January 1, Thursday

Offices Closed
No Preschool/Christmas Break
~~9:30 AM~~ No "Piece Makers" Quilters
~~6:30 PM~~ No Thu. Night Bible Study

January 2, Friday

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

January 3, Saturday

10:00 AM Food Pantry
6:00 PM Private Event

January 4, Sunday

9:00 AM Worship
10:15 AM Children's Sunday School
11:15 AM FLY Youth Group
4:00 PM Cornerstone Church

January 5, Monday

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

January 6, Tuesday

Preschool Resumes
6:00 PM Cornerstone Church

January 7, Wednesday

9:30 AM Sarah Circle

January 8, Thursday

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

January 9, Friday

9:30 AM REAL Bible Study
2:30 PM Food Pantry Assembly
7:00 PM Cornerstone Church

January 10, Saturday

10:00 AM Food Pantry

January 11, Sunday

9:00 AM Worship
10:15 AM Children's Sunday School
10:30 AM Adult Forum
11:15 AM FLY Youth Group
4:00 PM Cornerstone Church

January 12, Monday

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

January 13, Tuesday

6:00 PM Cornerstone Church

January 14, Wednesday

No Planned Events

January 15, Thursday

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

January 16, Friday

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

January 17, Saturday

10:00 AM Food Pantry

January 18, Sunday

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

January 19, Monday

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

January 20, Tuesday

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

January 21, Wednesday

9:30 AM Sarah Circle
1:30 PM InTouch

January 22, Thursday

8:30 AM Quilters
6:30 PM Bible Study

January 23, Friday

9:30 AM REAL Bible Study
2:30 PM Food Pantry Assembly
7:00 PM Cornerstone Church

January 24, Saturday

10:00 AM Food Pantry

January 25, Sunday

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

January 26, Monday

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

January 27, Tuesday

6:00 PM Cornerstone Church

January 28, Wednesday

No Planned Events

January 29, Thursday

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

January 30, Friday

9:30 AM REAL Bible Study
7:00 PM Cornerstone Church

January 31, Saturday

10:00 AM Food Pantry



Ushers & Readers & Greeters, Oh My!

You're assistance is needed to help in worship. We are looking for additional servants to help in worship. If you would be willing to Usher, Greet, Read, or Assist with Communion, please contact Daria at DariaM@Faithcrco.org! Training is provided!



January 20, 2026

We will be meeting at Trifecta a new restaurant in Castle Rock 810 New Memphis Court