



2025

Newsletter



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May Birthdays
In Our Prayers
May Worship Assistants

Save the Date

May 1
LWML Meeting
1:00 P.M.

May 5
CINCO de MAYO

May 6
Elders Meeting,
5:30 P.M.

May 8
Council Meeting
5:30 P.M.

May 11
MOTHERS' DAY

May 17
Ladies' Coffee Meeting
at The View 9:00 A.M.

May 18
Voters' Meeting
following Worship Service

May 26
MEMORIAL DAY

May 27
DEADLINE for JUNE
Newsletter

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Buena Vista, CO 81211
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faithlutheranbv.org

Pastor's Corner

In Service to Him

On January 20th, 1961, President John F. Kennedy gave his famous Inaugural Address. The line from that speech that we are all most familiar with goes like this, "Ask not what your country can do for you – Ask what you can do for your country."

It is an interesting sentiment, isn't it? A clarion call by the newly elected leader for selflessness from amongst the citizens of the country. It is the opposite of selfishness. Don't ask what you can get from the government... Don't look for handouts, freebies, and government programs. Rather, seek to create opportunities. Seek out ways to advance the nation and her goals. Stand boldly and work to build a brighter tomorrow.

In truth, this wasn't a radical new idea. Kennedy was only pointing out the truth, as he had remarked earlier in the speech, "The rights of man come not from the generosity of the state, but from God."

This truth remains today, but it seems that we have forgotten it. As such, the prevailing idea today is exactly the opposite of what Kennedy was encouraging. Now it is all about what I can get from

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Pastor's Corner, Cont.

the government. "The government will take care of me." "The government should provide healthcare, my phone, my internet, my job, my retirement." You may not like it, but if we are honest, this is exactly where we are today. And it goes far beyond our interactions with the state. It goes right to our personal lives, to our family relationships, to our interactions with our neighbors, and most importantly, the church and our faith.

By and large this mentality seems to break down into two different ideas. And just who holds these ideas tends to break down by age. On one hand there is the idea that, "The church will always be there, regardless of what I do." This attitude tends to prevail among those who are younger. "The church has always been there. And it will always be there whenever I need it. But I don't need to get up and go. I don't need to give regular offerings, serve as an officer, show up to meetings, or participate in activities."

Now, it is most certainly true that the Church will always be there, the Universal Church that is. Jesus says in Matthew 16:18 "On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." But this does not mean that your local congregation will always be there in that place. It doesn't mean that Faith or First will always be in Buena Vista or Salida, Colorado.

This is because, on this side of the resurrection, congregations have physical needs. Electricity, water, supplies, staff, etc. The local church cannot survive without these things. It may last for a while, but ultimately the local church cannot survive without people, and the faithful giving of time, talents, and treasure.

Now for the second prevailing attitude in the church. "I put my money in the offering plate, I paid my dues, I did my part. Now what am I going to get in return?" This idea is no less dangerous than the first. It leads to a selfish sense of entitlement. It leads to false expectations, to the idea that we can make demands of God and His Church. But who am I to demand anything from God? God doesn't owe me anything. Rather, I owe a debt that I could never repay, but one that has been paid by the blood of Christ.

No, my friends, we do not 'pay our dues' to have a place in the Kingdom of Heaven. I am not due any rights, nor can I make demands of the church because of anything that I have done, but purely by the grace of God I have my name written in the Book of Life.

Neither of the two views I discussed makes for a healthy church. Both leave the local congregation a prisoner to selfishness. But even this is an illusion, because we are fools to believe that we can hold God, or his Church captive to our whims or ways.

Jesus says, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you." (John 15:12-14)

Christ calls us to live lives of selfless love toward our neighbor. Yet we fail to love and serve our neighbor when we fail to make church a priority in our lives. Likewise, we fail to love and serve God when we make church out to be an entitlement, and place demands on God and on those around us.

President Kennedy's call-to-action encouraged a shift in attitude for the citizens of this country. "Ask not what your country can do for you! – Ask what you can do for your country." And I believe that this same change of attitude is desperately needed once again, not just within our nation, but within our lives of faith and the Church.

Christ died and rose again to redeem all of us from our sins. He paid the price that I owe; a price I could never repay. So, what am I to do with this new life that I have been given? Do I sit back, selfishly expecting only to receive? Or do I live boldly, selflessly building toward a brighter tomorrow? Dear friends, because of what Christ has done, our salvation and our place in the Kingdom are secure. So, ask not what *more* can he do for me, but what can I do to serve, to gain others for His Kingdom. Amen.



SUNDAY

Sunday Morning's Adult Bible Study. . . We're studying various topics. Come find out what we're studying this Sunday at 9:00 A.M.

TUESDAY

LifeLight Bible Study . . .

LifeLight Bible Study. Tuesdays at 9:30 A.M. at the Kegler home and via Zoom.

May 6, 2025, will be our last meeting of studying Isaiah, Part 2. LifeLight will then break over the summer months and resume in the Fall with a LifeLight study of selected Psalms.

Here is a prayer for the summer months . . .

When you wake up say:
Jesus, I love you.

When you leave the house say:
Jesus, come with me.

When you feel like crying say:
Jesus, hug me.

When you feel happy, say:
Jesus, I adore you.

When you do something, say:
Jesus, help me.

When you make a mistake, say:
Jesus, forgive me.

When you go to sleep, say:
Thank you, Jesus, and cover me with your holy mantle.

GOD LOVES YOU...

-- Barb K.

Tuesday Evening Adult Bible Study. Pastor Sorensen is leading a Bible Study Tuesdays, weekly at 6:30 P.M., studying 1 Samuel. No meeting May 6, 2025.

THURSDAY

Men's Morning Bible Study: Thursday mornings, 9:00 A.M., studying The Armor of God. No meeting May 29, 2025.



Please submit your articles and other input for the
JUNE Newsletter

to FLC's administrative assistant ON OR BEFORE

Tuesday, MAY 27TH, 2025

If you need to get in touch with one of the Elders, they have generously made their telephone numbers available . . .

Mark Brinkmann 661.444.7865

Joel Tarcha 970.819.8459

Bob Hickey 719.649.0403

Greetings in Jesus' Name,

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH WORSHIP SERVICE STREAMING . . .

Please go to our Faith Lutheran Church YOUTUBE channel

- All services are on our new YOUTUBE channel.
- You can find it on our website at faithlutheranbv.org under streaming and archived services, or search for Faith Lutheran Buena Vista on YOUTUBE.
- Upcoming and archived worship services will be there.
- Please SUBSCRIBE to this channel when you get there.
- Unfortunately, no phone dialup is available with the new system.

Please check in 5 to 10 minutes early.

God bless and keep you.

Last Half of March 2025 and First half of April 2025 Attendance and Offering Report

Date	Church	Communion	Dinner	Offering
March 23	29	26	N/A	N/A
March 30	43	30	N/A	\$2,067.55
April 6	31	23	N/A	\$1,749.55
April 13	Service cancelled	...due to illnesses.	N/A	N/A

May Anniversaries

3 - Jean Moltz-Weber and Al Weber
26 - Rev. Dan and Betty Muecke



Subject: Newsletter suggestions (5 W's)

When submitting articles for the monthly Newsletter please include the following:

Who (who is doing the event and who to ask questions or give suggestions to)

What

When - date and times.
(Start and ending times)

Where

Why

Volunteer needed?

May Birthdays

5 - Robert Hickey 13 - Dar Godat
12 - Nancy Bjornstad 24 - Theodore Mertes



Those Serving Us This Month

Communion Setup

Month of May - Jana Schumann

Altar Flowers

May 4 - OPEN

May 11 - OPEN

May 18 - Sherry and Vaughn Bishop

May 25 - OPEN

Greeters

May 4 - Jerry Gallob

May 11 - Jerry Gallob

May 18- Sherry Bishop

May 25 - Sherry Bishop

Ushers

May 4 - Joel and Clare Tarcha

May 11 - Joel and Clare Tarcha

May 18 - Jerry Gallob and Jean Brinkmann

May 25 - Jerry Gallob and Jean Brinkmann

Elders

Mark Brinkmann, Head Elder

Joel Tarcha

Bob Hickey

Readers

May 4 - Clare Tarcha

May 11 - Clare Tarcha

May 18 - Sherry Bishop

May 25- Colleen Miller

Cleaning the Sanctuary and Basement

May 4 - 10 - Kim and Natalie Roesler

May 18 - 24 - Clare and Joel Tarcha



From the Stewardship Chair:

The volunteer task chart for the Second Quarter of 2025 (April, May and June) is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Please check your service date. If not able to serve, please find your own substitute.

Most of May is open for altar flowers for the Sunday Worship Services **as well as most of June**. Please check your schedule to see if you'd be free to bring flowers for any of those openings, and jot down your name on the charts for that Sunday on the bulletin board.

As always, **THANK YOU** for your faithful service.

Stewardship Chair, Sharon Carter

My contact info: 303-881-9840

sharoncarter00@gmail.com



May 1, 2024, at 1:00 PM, Jean Brinkmann will be hostess for this meeting.

May 17th - Ladies Coffee at the View, Saturday, 9:00 A.M.

“Serve the Lord with Gladness”

FLC Office Hours: Pastor Sorensen’s office hours at Faith are:
9:30 A.M. to 12 Noon Thursdays. Other times by
appointment only.

Deadlines: Please make sure any information needing
to be included in Sunday’s **bulletins** is given to FLC Ad-
ministrative Assistant by the **Thursday BEFORE that Sun-
day service**. If it is received after Wednesday, the infor-
mation will then be included in the following Sunday’s
bulletin. Our bulletins can then be published in a timely
manner.

WWW: Check out our presence on the world wide web!

Faith’s webpage is at faithlutheranbv.org.

If you look in the links section, you will find that our Face-
book page is linked there as well.

— Stop in and **KEEP IN TOUCH** —

First Fruits for this month:
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE we will again respond to the items the
MISSION currently needs –

***SPAGHETTI SAUCE, CANNED ONE-DISH MEALS, PEANUT BUTTER,
JELLY, TUNA PACKETS, RAMEN NOODLES,
CANNED FRUIT and/or PRE-PACKAGED FRUIT CUPS***

-- reflecting the need to feed those without cooking facilities --

These items can be taken directly to the Mission on **Tuesdays,
Wednesdays and Fridays between 11 A.M. and 1 P.M.** - at
their back door.

Food items can also be put in the collection basket in the church
narthex.

Remember to grab a couple jars/cans every time you go to the grocery
store.

... and a big *thank you* to all for donations from
all of us at the mission!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

... Is right around the corner!

VBS will be held at Faith July 21-24, 2025,
9:00A.M.—Noon, for ages 4-10.

The theme is Epic Australia Adventure.

I'm looking for volunteers.

Registration forms will be out in May.

Contact for volunteers: Clare Tarcha: 970-819-8390.



Stephen Ministry

Look What God is Doing!

Hear about the surprising things that God is doing in Stephen Ministries.

By Connie Wright

Recently, I asked Joel Tarcha about his experience as a Stephen Minister, which he has been a part of for the past four years. I'd like to share his comments.

"I see Stephen Ministry as an extension of God's ministry," Joel told me, "and a form of giving back the love and understanding that Christ gives us. It is in this way that God provides another avenue of healing, particularly in the community, for those who many not know where to turn."

Joel told me that he became interested in being a Stephen Minister because he realized that God sends us not to solve other's problems, but to just be there for them and to listen. He was wanting to learn what to say, if anything, to a person who is going through a difficult time in their life. "The best part," he said, "is that you are not alone. There is always a team of others who are willing to support you and let you draw on their experiences and resources."

"You've had a care receiver. How did that go?" I asked. "It's going well, and still going," he replied. "We meet and I provide emotional support by providing a listening and compassionate ear. I'm not there to lecture or solve the person's problem, rather to provide a connection back to God. I provide the hearing. God provides the healing. ...at His own pace!"

As a final thought, Joel added that Stephen Ministry can be a very useful tool for Christians and non-Christians, if they are willing to engage.

Joel, thank you for sharing God's love with your care receiver. You have provided a lot of listening and caring. I'm sure he has felt God's love through your caring more than you will ever know.



Your King Soopers or City Market Account

Community Rewards Home Page



Dear Faith Lutheran Church (CU397),

The Kroger Co. Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to the local neighborhoods we call home. Our stores are on a mission to not just part of, but to help create a stronger community. We recognize that every community has unique causes that need support. Thank you for being such an important organization in our community.

We encourage you to ask your supporters to link their loyalty card to your organization. Community Rewards is easy to use, The more your supporters shop with us, the more money your organization will earn!

We are committed to carefully protecting our customer's personal information. In order to meet their expectation of privacy, we have adopted a simple policy to never share a customer's personal information. Our privacy policy applies to Community Rewards participation as well. If you have any questions, please contact us via email or visit our website.

King Soopers email: KingSoopersCommunityRewards@kingsoopers.com or <http://www.kingsoopers.com>

For City Market email: CityMarketCommunityRewards@citymarket.com or <http://www.citymarket.com>

Thank you for being such an important organization in our community,

Community Rewards Staff

**01-Jan-2025 to
31-Mar-2025**

7

Households

\$ 49.63

**Total
Donations**

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May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Men's Bible Study, 9 a.m. LWML Meeting 1:00 p.m.	2	3
4 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Service 10:30a.m.	5 	6 LifeLight Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. Last meeting until Fall. NO Elders Meeting 5:30 p.m. NO Pastor's Bible Study	7	8 Men's Bible Study, 9 a.m. Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.	9	10
11 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Service 10:30a.m. Happy Feet Sunday HAPPY <i>Mother's Day</i>	12	13 Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	14	15 Men's Bible Study, 9 a.m.	16	17 Ladies' Coffee 9:00 a.m. at The View.
18 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Service 10:30a.m. Voters' Meeting after Worship Service	19	20 Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. DEADLINE for JUNE Newsletter	21	22 Men's Bible Study, 9 a.m.	23	24
25 Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Service 10:30a.m.	26 	27 Pastor's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	28	29 NO Men's morning Bible Study	30	31

In Our Prayers

Please keep Lisa's mom, **NANCY BJORNSTAD**, in your prayers. She was recently put on hospice. She is currently doing very well. She would love a visit or a card or a phone call from any of you.

VAUGHN BISHOP is working on his recovery at home. Thank you for the well wishes and prayers! Blessings, Sherry.

Update on Lisa's daughter **MANDI**. Her second surgery went well and she is on a heavy-duty antibiotic to get rid of the infection. She had a PET scan which came back clear. We are very thankful for that. Her spirits are good, and she just wants to start her treatment. Please keep Mandi and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Please continue prayers for **LARRY HESPEL**, Marianne Kendall's brother. It's been determined that he has cancer. Further testing is being done.

Please continue to pray for **JIM** and **NANCY BORNEMANN**. Nancy is now in hospice care. Please include Jim both for his own health and for strength in his care for Nancy.

Thank you for your prayers for Lisa's sister-in-law **SUE**. She is now home where she will be recovering for the next couple of months.

Thank you for your prayers for **MARY JOHNSON**. She is now home where she will be recovering for the next couple of months.

GARY LONGWELL needs your prayer. He is in the hospital in Cheyenne Wells. He is having problems with his heart. Also, pray for Dar, Becky and Marcia as well, as this is hard for the whole family.

JOHN BOLTON, Robbie Bolton's husband, passed away Saturday night (April 12th). Please pray for **ROBBIE and HER FAMILY** as they mourn.

PASTOR GORDON GROSS also passed away Saturday night (April 12th). Please pray for **THE FAMILY** as they mourn their loss.

If you are sick or injured, please contact Pastor or one of the Elders so that we can visit and/or pray for you.

***Please e-mail prayer requests to:
timjo@centurylink.net***

