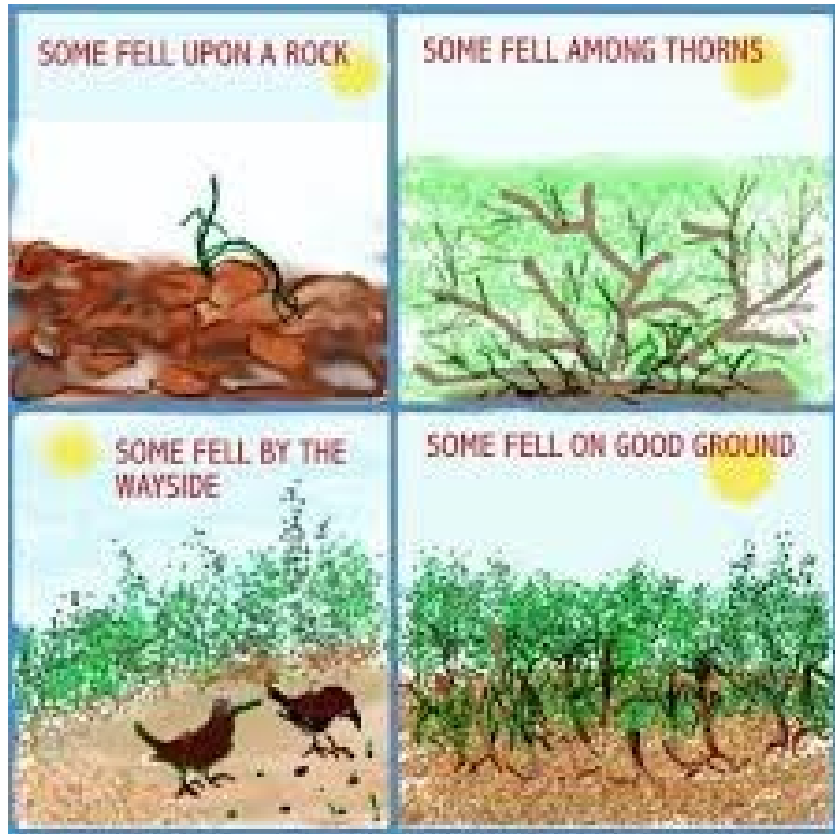


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# Faith Lutheran Church

*We are given this awesome calling by Christ to:  
“Love God, Love Others, Share Christ”.*

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**July 16, 2023**

**9:00 a.m.**

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*315 Security Blvd.*

*Colorado Springs, CO 80911*

*(719) 392-5076*

*[www.faithlutheransecurityco.org](http://www.faithlutheransecurityco.org)*

*Pastor: Rick Mensing (402) 875-1569 cell, [ramblerrcm@gmail.com](mailto:ramblerrcm@gmail.com)*

*Office Hours: Wednesday-Friday 9 a.m.- 12 p.m.*

*Office Assistant: Clark Pickart (719) 339-1837 cell, [c2pickart@comcast.net](mailto:c2pickart@comcast.net)*

## ***Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church!***

Thank you for choosing to worship with us this morning! We pray that the grace of God, given to us through Jesus Christ, will fill you to overflowing with peace and joy. We pray that each of you will sense the Holy Spirit as we worship together and celebrate God's gift of grace to us.

To help today's worship service run smoothly while being safe, we ask you to use hand sanitizer and wear a mask at your discretion. If you still feel uncomfortable being inside the building, you will be able to hear the service on radio station 95.9 FM in your car. This radio signal can only reach the immediate vicinity of our church.

We have resumed communing at the altar; however, you may continue to bring your own communion elements or they will be provided in individual packaging so that you can remain in your pew and self-distribute communion. We will have an after-service fellowship time in the Narthex.

Christian education is held after service until 11:30 a.m., Adult Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall, Grades Preschool and older in the Sunday School Room.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office at 719-392-5076 as messages are checked daily. Pastor Rick can be contacted at 402-875-1569. Thank you for continuing to support our church.

### ***Today ministering to us...***

Altar Flowers: Sylvia Bothe for Christine Bannister's 90th birthday  
Ricky Lowrey in memory of Grandma and Grandpa Lampi

Altar Guild: Margit Jamison and Michelle Searcy

Assistant Minister: Dee Dee Kwiatkowski

Evangelists and Stewards of God's love: Every Member

Greeters: Mike & Karola Kaufmann

Preaching: Pastor Rick Mensing

Song Leader: Kathie Hendricks or Erwin A. Spruth

Ushers: Del & Gabriele Suhr or Maria Kappelmann & Karola Kaufmann

### ***Those we are asked to remember in prayer:***

Members: Christine Banister, Rita Bucholtz, Anna Culver, Frank & Dody DeBell, The Deutsch Family, Gloriann Finck & Family, Sharon Hand, Tom & Kathie Hendricks, The Kappelmann Family, Karola Kaufmann, Dee Dee Kwiatkowski, Amanda Lopez, Phyllis Marvin, Pat Meacham, Chris Norden, Lois Pearson (in-home hospice), Charlene Pickart (knee replacement surgery), Amy Reid and Family, The Riley Family, Ob Spruth & Family, Shirley Taylor, Jim & Lori Tyree, and Pat Wohlfeil.

Friends/Family: Bob Hurly

*Individuals will be listed in the prayers for 2 weeks, unless the office is notified otherwise.*

## SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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*When you enter God's house for worship, PLEASE silence or turn off all cell phones. Thank you.*

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand if you are able.*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things,

**C: but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit.**

*(Romans 8:5 NLT)*

### ENTRANCE HYMN

*Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

LBW 250

**Open now Thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there,  
Where my soul in joyful duty Waits for God who answers prayer.  
Oh, how blessed is this place, Filled with solace, light, and grace!**

**Gracious God, I come before Thee; Come Thou also unto me;  
Where we find Thee and adore Thee, There a heav'n on earth must be.  
To my heart, oh, enter Thou, Let it be Thy temple now!**

**Here Thy praise is gladly chanted, Here Thy seed is duly sown;  
Let my soul, where it is planted, Bring forth precious sheaves alone,  
So that all I hear may be Fruitful unto life in me.**

**Thou my faith increase and quicken, Let me keep Thy gift divine;  
How-so-e'er temptations thicken, May Thy Word still o'er me shine  
As my guiding star through life, As my comfort in all strife.**

**Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee, Let Thy will be done indeed;  
May I undisturbed draw near Thee While Thou dost Thy people feed.  
Here of life the fountain flows; Here is balm for all our woes.**

### GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the constant presence of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

### KYRIE

A: In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

A: For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all. Let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.**

A: For Your people here, who have come to give You praise, for the strength to live Your Word. Let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.**

A: Help, save, and defend us, O God.

**C: Amen.**

## NOW THE FEAST

*Refrain Only:* **Now the feast and celebration, all of creation sings for joy,  
to the God of life and love and freedom: Praise and glory forever more.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

A: Let us pray for the gift of spiritual growth. (*brief silence*) Almighty and merciful God,

**C: You have planted in us the seed of Your word. Help us by Your Holy Spirit to receive it with joy and live according to it, so that we may grow in faith, hope, and love. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## FIRST LESSON:

Isaiah 55:10-13

A: "The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with My word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it. You will live in joy and peace. The mountains and hills will burst into song, and the trees of the field will clap their hands! Where once there were thorns, cypress trees will grow. Where nettles grew, myrtles will sprout up. These events will bring great honor to the LORD's name; they will be an everlasting sign of His power and love."

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALM:

Psalms 65:9-13

A: You take care of the earth and water it, making it rich and fertile.

**C: The river of God has plenty of water;**

A: it provides a bountiful harvest of grain,

**C: for You have ordered it so.**

A: You drench the plowed ground with rain, melting the clods and leveling the ridges.

**C: You soften the earth with showers and bless its abundant crops.**

A: You crown the year with a bountiful harvest;

**C: even the hard pathways overflow with abundance.**

A: The grasslands of the wilderness become a lush pasture,

**C: and the hillsides blossom with joy.**

A: The meadows are clothed with flocks of sheep, and the valleys are carpeted with grain.

**C: They all shout and sing for joy!**

## SECOND LESSON:

Romans 8:12-17

A: Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when He adopted you as His own children. Now we call Him, "Abba, Father." For His Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. And since we are His children, we are His heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share His glory, we must also share His suffering.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand if you are able.*

ALLELUIA

**Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. Al-le-lu-ia!**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew in the 13th chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

## THE GOSPEL:

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

P: Later that same day Jesus left the house and sat beside the lake. A large crowd soon gathered around Him, so He got into a boat. Then He sat there and taught as the people stood on the shore. He told many stories in the form of parables, such as this one: "Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died. Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

"Now listen to the explanation of the parable about the farmer planting seeds: The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts. The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's Word. The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's Word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced. The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's Word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

A WORD for and with the CHILDREN

## SERMON

### Assaying the Soil

*What kind of soil are you? Hard-packed? Rocky? Choked with weeds? Rich and fertile? What are the results of being that way? Jesus invites us to do an intensive self-examination and trust Him to work within us to bless us and enable us to be a blessing.*

*Please stand if you are able.*

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Having now heard the Word of God, let us come before Him to confess our sins.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P: Now let us join in confessing to the Lord:

**C: Gracious and merciful God, You sent Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, into the world to become one of us and to take on Himself all of our sin and guilt. Now we pray that You will again forgive us and pardon us for our failure to live up to Your Word and serve all people with love, and for our failure to study Your Word and to remember all Jesus has done for us. Continue to have mercy on us for His sake. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, have mercy on us; forgive us all our sins, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us in eternal life. You are forgiven through Christ, from Whom goodness comes. Go in peace.

**C: Amen.**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast*

LBW 234

*If you would like prayer for you or someone else, we invite you to now come forward to the altar for prayer.*

**Almighty God, Your Word is cast Like seed into the ground;  
Now let the dew of heav'n descend And righteous fruits abound.**

**Let not the sly satanic foe This holy seed remove,  
But give it root in ev'ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.**

**Let not the world's deceitful cares The rising plant destroy,  
But let it yield a hundredfold The fruits of peace and joy.**

**So when the precious seed is sown, Your quick-'ning grace bestow,  
That all whose souls the truth receive Its saving pow'r may know.**

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

A: Let us confess our faith in the Triune God together through the words of the APOSTLES' CREED.

**C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## PRAYERS

A: God sows the seed of His word in our hearts so that we may bear fruit, the fruit of faith in Him and love for other people. Let us pray for His church and for all people in need.

A: Almighty God, heavenly Father, we praise and thank You for all Your goodness and grace, through Christ our Lord. Today we thank You for sowing Your word in our hearts, and that by Your Holy Spirit You cultivate the soil of our hearts to receive this word. In Your mercy, help this word to grow and produce fruit that will nourish our neighbor and glorify You. Lord, in Your mercy:

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Assist Your holy church throughout the world to sow the good news lavishly to all people. Bless pastors, teachers, and all Christians to speak the word in their respective vocations. We pray that their work of proclaiming your Son via modern technology will be met with open ears and hearts. Lord, in Your mercy:

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Bless and prosper our land with all that is good and true. We give You thanks for giving us our daily bread by means of all who work the land. Bless farmers and all who till the soil, that they may see their work as service to their neighbor. In Your mercy provide them with favorable weather conditions so that they may have a plentiful harvest. Lord, in Your mercy:

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Give to all our leaders wisdom and honesty. Move the wealthy and powerful to contribute generously to the betterment of our society. Help all citizens to work for the common good and provide help for all who are needy. Bring refugees to a place they can call home. Lord, in Your mercy:

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Graciously help and heal all whom we know are sick in mind, body and spirit. Assure them of Your love for them in Christ, and help them to glorify Your name in sickness and in health. Meet the needs of all those we know to be in want and whom we now name aloud or silently in our hearts ... *(brief silence)* ... We also lift up: Christine Banister, Rita Bucholtz, Anna Culver, Frank & Dody DeBell, The Deutsch Family, Gloriann Finck & Family, Sharon Hand, Tom & Kathie Hendricks, The Kappelmann Family, Karola Kaufmann, Dee Dee Kwiatkowski, Amanda Lopez, Phyllis Marvin, Pat Meacham, Chris Norden, Lois Pearson, Charlene Pickart, Amy Reid and Family, The Riley Family, Ob Spruth & Family, Shirley Taylor, Jim & Lori Tyree, and Pat Wohlfeil. Lord, in Your mercy:

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for the gift of Your word. Let Your word take root in our hearts. We ask You to listen in mercy to the prayers of Your people; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Please stand, if you are able.*

## SHARING THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

*Greet each other: "Peace be with you." Response: "Peace be with you."*

*All return to their places. The service continues with the Offertory.*

## OFFERING

*Before or after the service, please place your offerings into the container at the doors of the sanctuary.*

## OFFERTORY

### *As The Grains of Wheat*

*Refrain:* **As the grains of wheat, once scattered on the hill,  
were gathered into one to become our bread;  
so may all Your people, from all the ends of earth, be gathered into one in You.**

**As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,  
may we share the presence of Your love. (Refrain)**

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Thank You, Lord, for all Your gifts, especially for Your word, which comforts us and sets us free. May we take Your message of love and forgiveness to heart, and live fruitful and productive lives, serving others for You.

C: **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right and good, Lord God, holy Father, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, through Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day of the week, He overcame death by His resurrection and opened up for us the way to eternal life with You. And so, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we adore and praise Your glorious name:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

**Holy, holy, holy are You, God of power and might:**

**Heaven and earth are filled with Your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in Your name.**

**Hosanna in the highest; Hosanna in the highest!**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION and CONSECRATION OF ELEMENTS

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Join hands)*

P: Now we are bold enough to call God our Abba, our Papa as we pray the prayer our Lord has taught us:

C: **Our Father Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**



## THE MEAL

*All those who are baptized and believe that Jesus is truly present in this Holy Meal are invited to come to the altar and receive Communion. Those assisting with the Lord's Supper will commune first.*

**P:** Here are the gifts of God, for the people of God.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

## LAMB OF GOD

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You are the Bread of Life for us all:  
have mercy on us, mercy on us, mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world:  
grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.**

## COME TO THE TABLE OF THE LORD

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

*For the Fruit of All Creation*

LBW 563

**For the fruit of all creation, Thanks be to God.  
For His gifts to ev'ry nation, Thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, Silent growth while we are sleeping,  
Future needs in earth's safekeeping, Thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.  
In our worldwide task of caring For the hungry and despairing,  
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit, Thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit, Thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us, For the truths that still confound us,  
Most of all, that love has found us, Thanks be to God.**

*Jesus, Remember Me*

WOV 740

**Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.**

*Please stand, after all have communed, if you are able.*

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

**P:** Now may the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you strong in your faith, renew you in hope, strengthen you for service, and lead you to everlasting life.

**C:** **Amen.**

## THANKS BE TO YOU

**Praise to You, O God of mercy: thanks be to You forever!  
Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to You forever!  
From of old You loved and sought us: thanks be to You forever!  
Truth and justice You have taught us: thanks be to You forever!**

**Strong is Your faithfulness, strong is Your love,  
rememb'ring Your covenant of life with us.**

**Praise to You, O God of mercy: thanks be to You forever!  
Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to You forever! Thanks be to You forever!**

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Almighty and merciful God, You have planted in us the seed of Your word, and nurtured us with the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us by Your Holy Spirit to grow in faith, hope, and love. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*Sent Forth by God's Blessings*

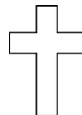
LBW 221

**Sent forth by God's blessing, Our true faith confessing,  
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended  
The fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of His teaching, Receptive souls reaching,  
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us  
To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.  
With praise and thanksgiving To God ever-living,  
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face  
Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring,  
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.  
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;  
Unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living With praise and thanksgiving  
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.**

## DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace and bear much fruit in your lives.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



*Please be sure to record your attendance today, in the red or black Friendship Booklet at the end of each pew.*

# *Church Announcements*

**Celebration!**—This week we celebrate the following birthday: July 17—Sean O’Donnell. If your special dates (month/day) are not in the directory, contact Clark at [c2pickart@comcast.net](mailto:c2pickart@comcast.net) or 719-339-1837. May God bless you all with a great year!

**Christian Education**—Adult Bible Study will continue studying the New Testament book of Hebrews. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service.

**Sunday School**—We will have different activities set up each Sunday to learn more about Jesus and His love for us. Please join us for Sunday School.

**We Celebrate**—with Loren and Linette Jacobson the birth of their first great-grandchild. Ross Justin Hinkle was born Thursday evening 7/6/2023 to Chris and Gabby Hinkle, Loren and Linette's grandson and his wife.

**Quilting, Needlepoint, & Crafters Group**—Join us tomorrow, July 17th at 9 a.m. in the Council Room. For more info: Linette 719-266-3573.

**Monthly Newsletter**—Clark is working on our monthly newsletter. If you have a submission for the August newsletter, please e-mail it to him at [c2pickart@comcast.net](mailto:c2pickart@comcast.net) no later than tomorrow, July 17th.

**Ladies’ Bible Study**—We meet next on Thursday, July 20th at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Rick leads our discussions. For more info see Phyllis Marvin 719-392-2160.

**Men’s Breakfast/Bible Study**—Plan ahead for Saturday, July 22nd at 8 a.m. for breakfast followed by our Bible study at 8:45 a.m. We are currently studying Proverbs. Breakfast POC: Larry Hilkemeier 719-493-3686. Bible Study POC: Pastor Rick 402-875-1569.

**Recycle Milk or Juice Cartons**—The Altar Guild requests donations of the 1/2 gallon cardboard milk or juice cartons. Please cut them down to 5 or 6 inches high. They are used for sharing the altar flowers after Sunday Service. Thank you for your support. Shirley Taylor

**Pennies**—Thank you for your Pennies for Bridges Child Placement Agency in Pueblo. Our current total is \$212.20. Please keep bringing them. Individual pennies cannot buy anything these days but a lot of them can help our chosen charity.