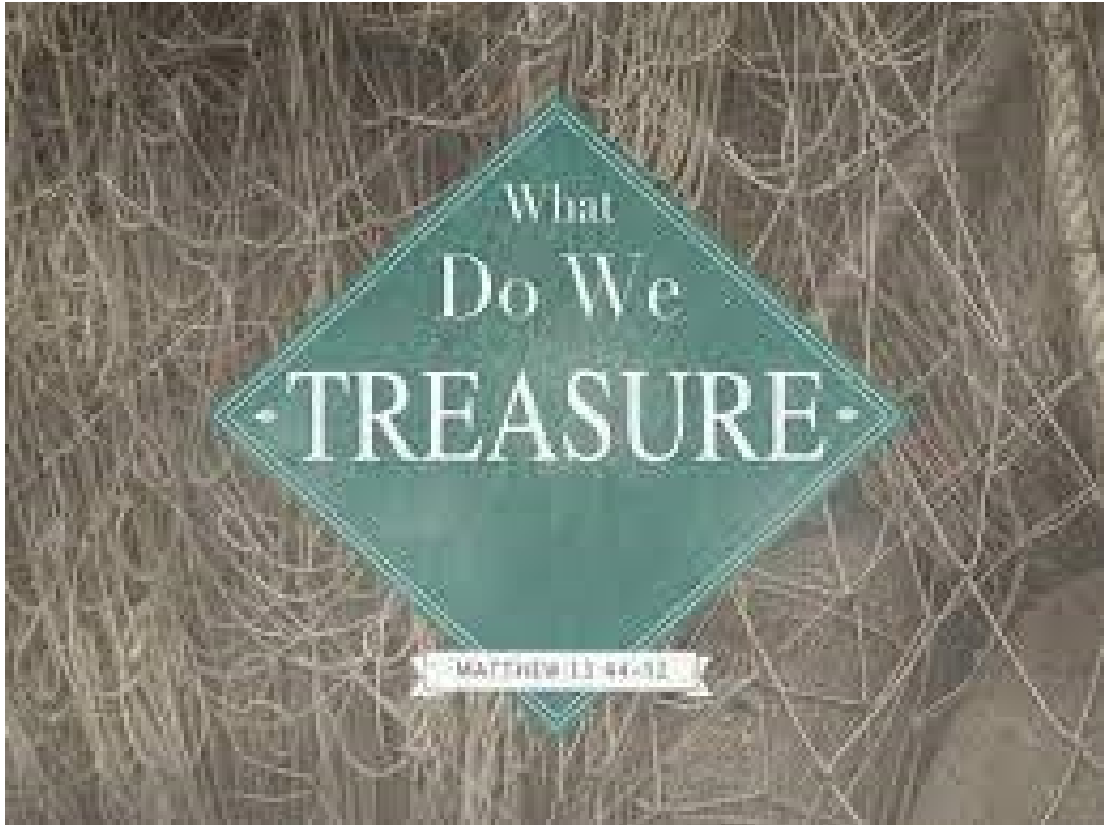

Faith Lutheran Church

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



July 30, 2023
9:00 a.m.

*315 Security Blvd.
Colorado Springs, CO 80911
(719) 392-5076
www.faithlutheransecurityco.org*

*Pastor: Rick Mensing (402) 875-1569 cell, ramblerrcm@gmail.com
Office Hours: Wednesday-Friday 9 a.m.- 12 p.m.*

Office Assistant: Clark Pickart (719) 339-1837 cell, 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: FLC Women

Altar Guild: Margit Jamison and Michelle Searcy

Assistant Minister: Larry Hilkemeier

Evangelists and Stewards of God's love: Every Member

Greeters: Phyllis Marvin

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, 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.

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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: If God is for us,

C: who can ever be against us? *(Romans 8:31b NLT)*

ENTRANCE HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory

LBW 415

**God of grace and God of glory, On Your people pour Your pow'r;
Crown Your ancient Church's story; Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the facing of this hour, For the facing of this hour.**

**Lo! The hosts of evil round us Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!
From the fears that long have bound us Free our hearts to faith and praise.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the living of these days, For the living of these days.**

**Cure Your children's warring madness; Bend our pride to Your control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, Rich in things and poor in soul.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal, Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal.**

**Save us from weak resignation To the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of Your salvation Be our glory evermore.**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving You Whom we adore, Serving You Whom we adore.**

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 that we may find peace in knowing God. (*brief silence*) Almighty and merciful God,

C: You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in You. Teach us to seek You and to rely on You in all our needs, so that our deepest desires may be satisfied, and we may finally see You face to face. 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:

Deuteronomy 7:6-9

A: For you are a holy people, who belong to the LORD your God. Of all the people on earth, the LORD your God has chosen you to be His own special treasure. The LORD did not set His heart on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other nations, for you were the smallest of all nations! Rather, it was simply that the LORD loves you, and He was keeping the oath He had sworn to your ancestors. That is why the LORD rescued you with such a strong hand from your slavery and from the oppressive hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. Understand, therefore, that the LORD your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps His covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes His unfailing love on those who love Him and obey His commands.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM:

Psalms 125

A: Those who trust in the LORD are as secure as Mount Zion;

C: they will not be defeated but will endure forever.

A: Just as the mountains surround Jerusalem,

C: so the LORD surrounds His people, both now and forever.

A: The wicked will not rule the land of the godly,

C: for then the godly might be tempted to do wrong.

A: O LORD, do good to those who are good,

C: whose hearts are in tune with You.

A: But banish those who turn to crooked ways, O LORD.

C: Take them away with those who do evil. May Israel have peace!

SECOND LESSON:

Romans 8:28-39

A: And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them. For God knew His people in advance, and He chose them to become like His Son, so that His Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And having chosen them, He called them to come to Him. And having called them, He gave them right standing with Himself. And having given them right standing, He gave them His glory. What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can

ever be against us? Since He did not spare even His own Son but gave Him up for us all, won't He also give us everything else? Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for His own? No one—for God Himself has given us right standing with Himself. Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and He is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us. Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean He no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? (As the Scriptures say, "For Your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 13:44-52

P: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field. Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it! Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a fishing net that was thrown into the water and caught fish of every kind. When the net was full, they dragged it up onto the shore, sat down, and sorted the good fish into crates, but threw the bad ones away. That is the way it will be at the end of the world. The angels will come and separate the wicked people from the righteous, throwing the wicked into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Do you understand all these things?" "Yes," they said, "we do." Then He added, "Every teacher of religious law who becomes a disciple in the Kingdom of Heaven is like a homeowner who brings from his storeroom new gems of truth as well as old."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated.

A WORD for and with the CHILDREN

SERMON The Inestimable Value of a Truly Terrific Treasure

Is there a treasure worth investing the entire fabric of your being? Is there a treasure worth setting aside all else for? Today's Gospel text shouts a resounding "Yes!" That treasure is the Kingdom of Heaven; freely given, never ending, abundant with the jewels of peace, hope, joy and love!

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

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

LSB 711

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

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us; Much we need Your tender care.
In Your pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.**

**We are Yours; in love befriend us, Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us, Seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.**

**You have promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to You.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to You.**

**Early let us seek Your favor, Early let us do Your will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, With Your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.**

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: The Spirit of God intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. Knowing that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for all people.

A: Heavenly Father, we pray for the church, the body of Christ. Use us to bring the gospel of Your love and grace to the lost and broken. We pray to the Lord:

C: O God, hear our prayer.

A: Today, we pray for all who seek the kingdom of God. Work within them and lead them to the light of Your salvation. We pray to the Lord:

C: O God, hear our prayer.

A: Lord, we ask Your blessing and guidance upon our political leaders. We pray for our governor and the president of our country. Have mercy on them, and help them lead our people with justice, compassion and wisdom. We pray to the Lord:

C: O God, hear our prayer.

A: Jesus, Savior of the world, comfort and protect those who experience hardship, distress, persecution, famine, lack of clothing, danger, or warfare. In the midst of our personal concerns, remind us of the huge needs of others less fortunate than ourselves. We pray to the Lord:

C: O God, hear our prayer.

A: God of justice, we are all slaves to sin until we have been set free by Your grace. We thank You for Your great mercy to us. We pray for criminals, prisoners, and all those who look after them. We pray to the Lord:

C: O God, hear our prayer.

A: God, Your people cry out in their need. You have the power to help them. 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. We pray to the Lord:

C: O God, hear our prayer.

A: Heavenly Father, because of Your great love, You work for our good in all things. In mercy, listen to our prayers, 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 giving us so many wonderful gifts, especially for calling us into Your kingdom. Make us faithful and wise servants, giving of what You have given us to help others.

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

Be Thou My Vision

WOV 776

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that Thou art:
Thou my best thought... by day and by night, waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.**

**Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word; I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shel-ter, Thou my high tower, Raise Thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise, Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou, and Thou on-ly, first in my he-art, great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

**Light of my soul, after victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

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 made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in You. Teach us to seek You where You may be found, especially in Your Word and Sacraments. May we rely on You in all our needs, so that our deepest desires may be satisfied, and we may finally see You face to face. 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

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

LBW 551

**Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.**

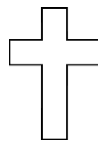
**All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee.**

**Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine!**

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace to live as faithful and wise members of God's kingdom.

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: August 2—Gabriel Martin and August 3—Marja Maddox. If your special dates (month/day) are not in the directory, contact Clark at 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.

Ladies' Bible Study—We meet next on Thursday, August 3rd at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Rick leads our discussions. For more info see Phyllis Marvin 719-392-2160.

Quilting, Needlepoint, & Crafters Group—Join us Monday, August 7th at 9 a.m. in the Council Room. For more info: Linette 719-266-3573.

Bookies—The book for August is “Lion” by Saroo Brierley. We will meet to discuss the book on Thursday, August 10th at 1 p.m. in the kitchen. If you have any questions, see Kathie Hendricks.

Church Prayer Time—Join us in prayer Thursday, August 10th at 6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Church Council Meeting—Our next meeting is Thursday, August 10th at 7 p.m. in the Council Room. Just a reminder, any congregation member is always welcomed to our meetings.

Game Night—Join us for some fun fellowship on Friday, August 11th at 7 p.m. Newcomers are always welcome. Hope to see you there! POC: Charlene Pickart 719-237-8106.

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.