

# THE SIGNAL

February March

Volume 47, Issue 2

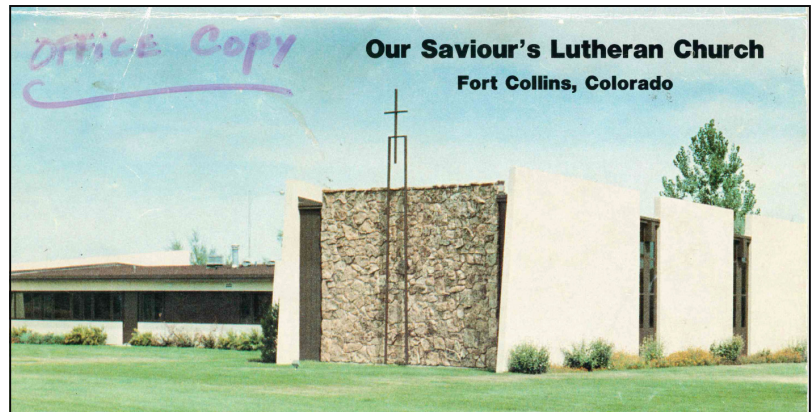
## THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR FOR OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - 1965-2015

### Mission Statement

"Our Saviour's Lutheran Church welcomes all to the love of Christ through Worshipping, Learning, and Serving."

### Welcome Statement

We are a Christian community committed to ministry in Fort Collins and the world. We rejoice in the manner in which diversity has enriched, nurtured and challenged our lives and the ministry we share in Christ, and we invite all to participate in Word and Sacrament without discrimination due to race, creed, sexual orientation, or financial status.



### 1983 Directory Cover

During this year we will be printing some historical facts in the Signal, sharing monthly memories from the past, and creating a variety of opportunities to celebrate the past. We will also look to the future and envision Our Saviour's Lutheran Church going forward. It will be an exciting year and the 50th Anniversary Committee welcomes anyone who wants to participate in the creation of events to join us. Please call the office 484-3133 or Colleen Waido 223-2065 if you are interested in joining the 50th Anniversary Committee.

Suzie Smith contributed our first article which gives us an idea of how this tiny little church called "Our Saviour's Lutheran Church" began. We urge you to share any special memories of OSLC with our committee. Suzie's article is on page 6.

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### Special points of interest:

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- FFH, page 10
- Movie night & small groups for Lent, page 12
- Women's Retreat, page 13

*Do you have a memory or facts about OSLC that you would like to share with us? Submit them to our 50th Celebration committee. Contact Colleen Waido at (970) 223-2065.*

## LETTERS FROM THE PASTORS

### THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR MICHAEL

Our Saviour's Lutheran is a church ready for whatever is ahead of us. The reality is we don't know what we will all be facing tomorrow, but this year has shown that the make-up of this church is of one that deals with the present with eyes wide open. We have a strong Grace-based approach and a strong sense of mission. The strength of this congregation has been a gift to many, and I can certainly put my name on the list.

The past year has been a difficult one for me personally. As I enter into 2015 I am wrapping up the sale of my home as I transition to different housing as Carrie and I go through a divorce. I have done my best not to make my personal issues affect my work, or the ministry of the church, but I am aware that the possibility of that is difficult and so I begin my annual report by acknowledging this reality. I want to thank the congregation for its support of our family in this difficult time, and especially thank Pastor Leta as a partner in minis-

try. This difficult personal struggle affected her more directly than anyone other than Carrie and I, and her professionalism and work ethic was a gift. Indeed without her and the amazing office staff we have I don't know if I would have made it through this year.

We underwent a broad visioning program for our building with many of you involved that led us to create an architectural design that would allow us to enhance our ministries. We welcomed Diana Linden-Johnson as our first pastoral intern. Pastor Jerry Hershops of After Hours Denver inspired our congregation. We began a joint-confirmation program that has brought our local churches together, and offered more choices (in activities and schedule) to our middle school youth.

Pastor Leta and I have rethought how we do ministry together and have determined that we work well as partners in ministry

and have been working to transition to a co-pastorate relationship as opposed to a senior-associate relationship. Council has blessed this transition and we continue to work through the implications for day-to-day ministry. We continue to try to determine how we can best complete our staffing in order to best fulfill the ministry needs for our community.

I have been reminded quite a bit this year that it is God's Spirit that flows through this place. It is God's Spirit that takes less-than-perfect people and brings hope for others. It is God's spirit that allows us to come together at all. It will be God's spirit that leads us in the coming year as well.

I thank you for your partnership in ministry at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

*Pastor Michael Stadtmueller*  
michael@our-saviours.org

### OUR NEW CHURCH COUNCIL

**President:** Colleen Waido,

**Vice President:** Tom Hromatka,

**Secretary:** Renee Perschau

**Treasurer:** Bonnie Bowne

**Other members:** Sara Halac, Marjorie Halvorson, Jim Gjerde, Dave Wisbon, Ken Roper, Jerry Freier, Conrad Selig, Brad Runyon, Pastor Leta, Pastor Michael

## LETTERS FROM THE PASTORS

### THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR LETA

I wrote an article last January about picking a word for the year as a word that would help frame and guide one's focus for daily living in the spirit. The word I chose was "wholehearted" and while I have lived that word personally this year, I believe that our community has also shown strength of character, commitment, and dedication to not only living with our whole hearts but also extending that grace and love to others.

Our children and youth have shown depth of commitment and understanding of God's love in through teaching us stories of faith at the Easter vigil, making 2000 lunches for Homeless Gear over the course of year, raising funds (totaling more than \$1000 from their offering) for the eradication of Ebola, camp scholarships, the food bank, offering clean up services on our property, and leading us in many ways in worship, service, and learning with their whole hearts.

Our congregation has connected without fear and with joy and grace with the other ELCA congregations in Fort Collins to form FoCoLu—a joint confirma-

tion and youth ministry so that our youth have more opportunities to learn, serve, and connect with our community. Faith Family Hospitality, Outside Our Walls, the council, and many others have opened their doors, wallets, calendars, and hearts to serving those most in need in our community and our world. We have deepened connections and created new ones that have shown us a call and commitment to live faithfully together making a difference in the lives of those around us.

Additionally, as we engage a vision for facilities planning this team and the congregation were very focused on mission and outreach. It is clear that this is a place that will only build, add on, and spend dollars that have a purpose for communicating Christ's love as we share what we have a continue to be a place that is central to serving outside of ourselves.

And in a year where staff changes and transitions occurred and we have embraced a new venture in welcoming an intern and her family, this congregation has opened their hearts to walking

together through the changes that life brings and being able to see one another with eyes of mercy and grace. This is truly wholehearted living.

I am grateful and blessed to be a part of this congregation as your pastor. I have seen God's light shine in you this year and I know that Our Saviour's is a place not only of wholeheartedness but one that will be shining this light into the next year and beyond. The words of Paul ring true, *"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6."* As we come together in our uniqueness, sharing our individual gifts, we become a stronger community that can be a blessing in this world.

May you know the grace, love, and mercy of our God as we walk this journey together.

+Pastor Leta Behrens  
leta@our-saviours.org

# LETTERS FROM THE PASTORS

## THOUGHTS FROM INTERN PASTOR DIANA

One of the things I love about life in the Lutheran church is the way the liturgical calendar grounds us in the seasons of the church. In a life that seems to be constantly moving forward, I am ever grateful for liturgical reminders that our life is also cyclical. Each and every year Ordinary Time turns to Advent turns to Christmas turns to Epiphany turns to Lent turns to Easter turns, once again, to Ordinary Time. Each of these seasons offers a special gift. Advent is our time of waiting in darkness for the light to return. Christmas is a celebration of the incarnate God, come in the form of an innocent and fragile newborn. Epiphany celebrates Jesus as gift for the whole world. And in Lent we mark Jesus' journey toward the cross. In years such as this one, when Easter comes early in the year, the transition between the

seasons of Christmas and Lent seems jarring. We've just celebrated the birth a beautiful child and already he is grown and on a journey we can barely imagine.

Even with this quick transition, I look forward to celebrating the seasons of Lent and Easter here at Our Saviour's. I look forward to helping plan and lead Ash Wednesday services, Wednesday evening services during Lent, and finally, the celebration of Easter. I look forward to helping lead a Lenten Adult Forum series (see below) with Don Imsland on Diana Butler Bass' book Christianity After Religion. Don and I both hope this series will be an opportunity to look as some of the changes happening in the church and world today and think about how we as a church community

might respond. I also look forward to Chocolate for Lent, a small group discussion series based on the wonderful movie *Chocolat* starring Juliette Binoche, Judi Dench and Johnny Depp. (see p. 10) I believe this will be a creative and fun opportunity for us to grow deeper in our relationships with one another while enjoying good conversation, a wonderful movie, and (hopefully) chocolate! I hope many of you will choose to participate in these exciting opportunities for worship and conversation, as they will made significantly richer by your presence!

Grace and Peace,

Diana

Diana@our-saviours.org

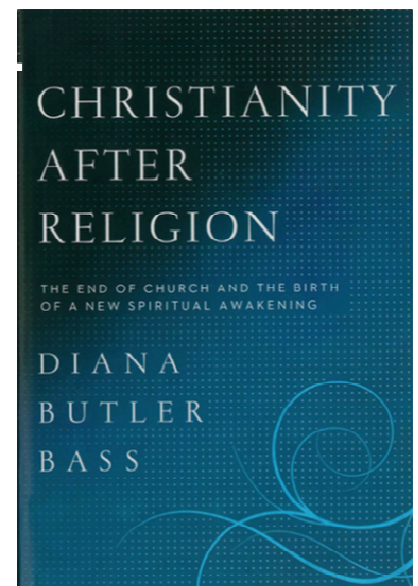
### Lenten Adult Forum Series

#### **Christianity After Religion:**

**The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening**  
Sundays 9:45-10:45 a.m. in 12E

- *Copies of Christianity After Religion by Diana Butler Bass are available for sale between services in the Fellowship Hall.*
- *Coffee and rolls will be available in 12E during the series.*

February 15	<i>The End of the Beginning (Chapter 1)</i>
February 22	<i>Questioning the Old Gods (Chapter 2)</i>
March 1	<i>When Religion Fails (Chapter 3)</i>
March 8	<i>Believing, Behaving, Belonging (Chapters 4-6)</i>
March 15	<i>The Great Reversal (Chapter 7)</i>
March 22	<i>The Fourth Great Awakening (Chapters 8-9)</i>



## SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

### PRESSURE → STRESS → A SPIRITUAL RESOLUTION

Much is currently being written about the potentially damaging power of *stress* in our lives and ways to deal with it. It has become a highly touted issue in the arenas of medicine, psychology, business, fitness, addiction and spirituality. *Stress* has established significant beachheads in most dimensions of our society. We are all familiar with its pervasive power, having experienced its effects first hand. Damage control has moved to front and center.

Because *stress* can be such an insidious threat to our overall well being it is helpful to come to grips with it in a firm positive move. An enlightened spiritual response can be most therapeutic.

As a way of getting a handle on the issue let us begin by ascribing specific meanings to two terms. First is the term *pressure*. *Pressure*, as we use it here is what we feel pushing against us from the outside world. It may come from our work, our family, our relationships, our financial situation, our health or countless other life situations. It may be that our car broke down; we lost our job; our credit cards are maxed out; we have too much to do and not enough time to do it. All of these examples are pressures from the outside world.

The second word to which we will ascribe meaning is *stress*. *Stress* as we will use the term here is our personal response to this outside *pressure*. *Stress* is the way we gear up to deal with the *pressure* we are feeling.

At the outset we need to be clear that a certain amount of *stress* is essential for our survival. It protects us from danger. Similar to many other human conditions it is basically positive. It becomes a problem only when it becomes excessive and disproportionate to the existing *pressure*. It becomes destructive when it overcompensates. Unfortunately, that is too often the case.

Now the crux of the problem. The intensity of our response to *pressure* is our responsibility. While we may not be able to control the outside *pressure*, the stimulus, we can control our response to it. Damage control is our personal responsibility. Exercise, deep breathing, yoga, meditation and diet have all been used to control our *stress*. All are helpful.

However, most often overlooked as an available control mechanism for *stress* is God-Power. A spiritual response to *pressures* that we feel coming from many directions is without question the most powerful resource we have. It is no less than miraculous.

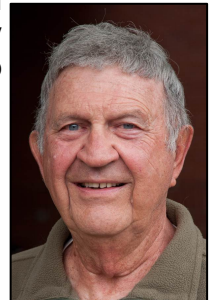
While it is important for us to do all we can to change the things that create *pressure*, we must realize there are situations we cannot change, but must confront. Many of the conditions create *pressure* that exceeds our ability to cope. It is therefore critical for our well being that we engage the God-Power at our disposal. We have ready access to unlimited power that can be utilized in dealing with taxing life situations. The slogan: "Let Go and

Let God" is a masterpiece. Make it your mantra.

Our daily practice should include being in close touch with God. When that is in place, then accessing God's endless power for our daily living becomes a natural resource for *stress* management. Amazingly, it lifts and shifts the load which God picks up. An absolute miracle.

Daily prayer for morning and throughout the day: (Memorize and use.) "Empower me, Holy One, to resolve the *pressures* that are already present or will come my way today by giving them to you."

*Pastor Fred Castor,*  
Spiritual Guide



*Our Saviour's is currently being called by the Holy Spirit to become a Spiritual Oasis for its members, the Church at Large, the community and the world. Listen in liturgy, hymns and sermons for empowering and transforming messages. Encourage our leaders on this unique mission. Watch transformation to occur in unexpected places and people.*

## WELCOMING ALL THROUGH WORSHIP

### REMEMBERING THE PAST, LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

#### OUR SAVIOUR'S IS ESTABLISHED:

(Facts contributed by  
Suzie Smith)

An Advisory Committee was selected the last week of December 1964.

The first meeting of the committee was held on January 3, 1965 for preliminary consideration of a name. Pastor L.H. Steinhoff pointed out the importance of a "significant" name.

On January 9, 1965 the committee and Pastor Steinhoff submitted some fifty names. These fifty names were then reduced to nine. The names reflected differing elements of the church..

The nine names were as follows:

- ◆ **Our Lord, Our Saviour's and Redeemer.** related to Jesus.
- **Epiphany** reflected the church year.
- **Saint James and Saint Michael.** Reflected saints' names.
- **Bethany and Mount Carmel** reflected biblical locations.
- **Faith and Nativity** were also considered

On January 10 an "interest group" meeting selected three of out of the nine names.

On February 7, 1965 after two previous announcements the tiny congregational voted on a name. The following was a tally of votes:

- Our Saviour's -13 votes

- Faith 11 votes
- Redeemer- 6 votes
- (A few write in votes were also tabulated.)

After the choice was made Pastor Steinhoff said, "Our Saviour's has rich significance in that it identifies the congregation intimately with the center of its life, namely Jesus Christ who is the Saviour of all men who believe in Christianity".

#### INTERESTING FACT:

When the Parkwood neighborhood was just being developed Pastor Steinhoff was given the opportunity to name the street off of Lemay, but it had to end with "wood". Pastor Steinhoff selected Kirkwood as Kirk is the meaning for church in Scotland.

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY & MARCH, 2015

#### February 1, 2015

Sunday, ELW 4  
*Bells & Choirs*

#### February 7-8

Saturday, Holden  
Sunday, Celebration  
*Praise Band*

#### February 14-15

Saturday, Holden  
Sunday, Now the Feast-Brass  
*Youth & Chancel Choirs*

#### February 21-22

Saturday, Joyous Light  
Sunday-With One Voice  
*Windstrings*

#### February 28-March 1

Saturday, Holden  
Sunday, ELW 4  
*Bells & Choirs*

#### March 7-8

Saturday, Holden  
Sunday, Celebration  
*Praise Band*

#### March 14-15

Holden  
Now the Feast with Brass  
*Choirs*

#### March 21-22

Saturday, Joyous Light  
Sunday, With One Voice  
*Windstrings*

#### March 28-29

Saturday, Holden  
**Sunday, Palm Sunday**  
*Celebration Band*

#### Ash Wednesday, February 18th

*Services at noon & 7pm*

*Wednesday services  
at 7pm through March 25*

**Palm Sunday, March 29th**  
**Easter, April 5th**

**Palm Sunday Event,  
March 29th, 9:45-10:45am**

## WELCOMING ALL THROUGH LEARNING

### PRESCHOOL NEWS

December was a busy month for the Preschool. We decked our halls, went on a Field Trip to Ft. Collins Nursery, made gifts for our families, found out Germany's celebration of shoes filled with candy was a pretty exciting way to start the season and mostly we celebrated the wonderment of the birth of Christ. Of course we had our amazing Bake sale and Craft Fair. We raised around \$5000.00. As always your support of our ministry is amazing to us. The money we earn goes into a scholarship fund and helps us replace broken equipment. Thank you to everyone who supported us in any way. January we eased back into

school. We had game day and the best day ever Jammie Day and a movie. I just prayed a lot that I wouldn't get pulled over for anything in the morning...I don't think the Police Officer would share in my excitement of Jammie Day.

The second week we actually had a winter weather week. We made button snowmen, painted a snowflake, and of course painted with the next best thing to paint.. cool whip, ok so lots of kids ate it instead of painted with it.

Our third week we learned all about pets. We went on a field trip to Petco, made a fish tank and a kitty puppet. Collin and Caden's mommy brought in their Mastiff

puppy for all to see. Thanks Ellie. The last week of the month we worked on our counting skills. We found mystery numbers, filled our age in with Cheerios and best of all we counted how many different colors of M&M's there are in a bag, logged that on a sheet and then we ate them. What a great Math project!

Registration for the 2015/2016 school year begins Feb. 1st for current students and Feb. 8th for the community. If you are interested in Preschool please contact us at 484-7412 or talk to Nancy or me.

### NEW IN THE LIBRARY

#### **Lovingkindness: The Revolutionary Art of Happiness**

by Sharon Salzberg

Reviewed for [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) by Ben Kallen

Sharon Salzberg, a meditation teacher and the founder of the Insight Meditation Society in Massachusetts, focuses on a kind of Buddhist practice that emphasizes feelings of love, happiness, and compassion. Metta, or "loving-kindness," meditation involves four phrases: "May I be free from danger"; "May I have mental happiness"; "May I have physical happiness"; "May I have ease of well-being." (Some readers will find this surprising, since the most commonly known meditation techniques have little "content"—you simply repeat a single word or phrase, observe your breath, or observe your thoughts as they

pass through your mind.) Other exercises in this book are intended to increase your connection to and intimacy with others, by directing these positive sentiments outward toward specific people or the world in general. This book will probably be best appreciated by those who have some experience with meditation already, but anyone can appreciate the way it takes a practice often considered mystical and turns it into a means of creating joy.

#### **Stitches: A Handbook on Meaning, Hope and Repair**

By Anne Lamott

Reviewed by *The Denver Post*

The wickedly witty and very funny Lamott...makes you laugh at the same time she makes you think. This collection of moments, memories and spiritual insights is one of her best.

#### **Plainsong**

by Kent Haruf

Ambitious, but never seeming so, Kent Haruf reveals a whole community as he interweaves the stories of a pregnant high school girl, a lonely teacher, a pair of boys abandoned by their mother, and a couple of crusty bachelor farmers. From simple elements, Haruf achieves a novel of wisdom and grace—a narrative that builds in strength and feeling until, as in a choral chant, the voices in the book surround, transport, and lift the reader off the ground. —From the citation for the National Book Award: Readers who enjoy *Plainsong* will be glad to know that two other novels by Haruf, *Eventide: A Novel* and *Benediction* have also been added to our library.

## WELCOMING ALL THROUGH LEARNING

### ADULT BIBLE STUDIES FEBRUARY-MARCH

#### JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

At the present time, we are studying the Book of Jeremiah and the prophet by the same name. We will conclude with Jeremiah just as Lent begins on February 18. At the present time, the teacher is waiting for inspiration from the Holy Spirit or pressure

from the class in regard to the next book to be studied. Please watch the Saturday evening/Sunday morning announcement folder for exciting future plans as they unfold.

You are strongly invited to come and join with your brothers and sisters for Bible Study on Tues-

day evenings at 7:00 p.m. or Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Please come; all are invited even if your attendance is infrequent.

### DENVER URBAN PLUNGE—MARCH 14-17, 2015

Confirmation students are invited to spend part of their Spring Break learning about issues of homelessness, hunger and poverty in an urban setting. This will be an opportunity to volunteer at numerous non-profit agencies, working with people who are homeless, low-income families, children, people with disabilities and the elderly. In addition, participants will engage in an

out-of-the-box worship experience, stay in a Denver church, hear engaging speakers and go on an urban tour. Cost including program, food, housing and transportation is \$200/person. Adult sponsors attend at a reduced cost. Contact Intern Diana at [Diana@our-saviours.com](mailto:Diana@our-saviours.com) for more information or go to

[FoCoLu.com](http://FoCoLu.com) to register!



### BORDER IMMERSION EXPERIENCE IN EL PASO, TX



Intern Pastor Diana will be leading a Border Immersion trip to El Paso, Texas June 20-27, 2015. This is an opportunity to step out of your everyday life - out of your comfort zone - and into in-depth, experiential learning and cultural immer-

sion. The Border Immersion Experience is an opportunity to learn about the issues that affect lives of people living on the border and reflect on them as people of faith.

The program includes:

- Personal accounts of border life
- Exposure to Mexican & Mexican-American culture
- Bilingual worship at *Cristo Rey Iglesia Luterana* (Christ the King Lutheran Church)
- Daily Bible study and reflection
- Presentations at various social justice ministries

- Assisting with Cristo Rey's Summer Enrichment Program
- Fellowship at the El Paso-Ciudad Juárez fence
- Tours of detention center and *colonias* (rural communities) in El Paso
- Visit to ministries in Ciudad Juárez (optional)

Cost per person for the week is \$700. Come to an information session on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 a.m. in 11E or contact Diana at [Diana@our-saviours.org](mailto:Diana@our-saviours.org) to learn more!



## WOMEN'S RETREAT-SAVE THE DATE AND REGISTER

**Who?** All women are invited and welcome! Feel free to invite other OSLC members, friends, neighbors or family. It's a great girlfriend get-away with a spiritual emphasis—you won't want to miss it!

**Where:** We will return to the YMCA of the Rockies in one of their central lodge accommodations—[www.ymcarockies.org](http://www.ymcarockies.org). This is a great location where we have a meeting room, outdoor space, and many free time options (everything from hiking to reading to a labyrinth to a nap! The choice is yours!)

**Cost:** The cost is dependent on your room choice (single, double, or triple—see prices below) The room price includes all of your retreat expenses, beginning with your Saturday morning breakfast, lunch & supper meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday.

**Topic:** **Moments in the Mountains with God** (Pastor Leta Behrens retreat leader)

**Questions?** If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Leta ([leta@our-saviours.org](mailto:leta@our-saviours.org) or 484-3133) or any of the planning team: Judy Lantry, Elisa Sherman, Robin Castor, Wanda Knauer, Mardell Otto, Becky Shelley, Kenna Hart. *Confidential scholarship assistance is available by contacting Pastor Leta. We don't want anyone to miss because of the cost!*

**How to Sign up!** Please fill out the form below and return it by **March 29th**, 2015 along with a \$100 deposit check made payable to OSLC Women's Retreat. Turn your registration into the church office.

-----  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please register me for a: \*\*\*rooms have two double beds per room\*\*\*

\_\_\_\_\_ Single Room @ \$235.00

I will be rooming with:

\_\_\_\_\_ Double Room @ \$165.00

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Triple Room @ \$135.00

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Quad Room @ \$110.00

\_\_\_\_\_

I would like assistance finding a roommate: \_\_\_\_\_ check here

## SERVING OTHERS

### FAITH FAMILY HOSPITALITY NEWS

#### FFH NEWS

written and compiled by Rosie Goetz, co-coordinator for OSLC FFH

I think the article "Present is Enough!" by Sue Peterson, FFH Program Director, reflects the true essence of what we provide for homeless families at Our Saviours. This interfaith project unites diverse faith communities through a shared mission of service. We currently have 26 faith

communities, 13 of whom act as host sites and 14 who provide support. Host churches like OSLC provide housing and meals each week on a rotating basis. The rotation weeks for OSLC for 2015 are the weeks of February 1st, May 3rd, August 9th and November 1st. Volunteers spend time with the families in the evening, getting to know them and providing a safe environment to relax and relational support. The

families have a warm, safe place to sleep and a hot evening meal. This is such a rewarding program. The simplest thing like our caring presence can mean everything to a struggling family. Please consider getting involved.

Present is Enough!  
Posted December 17, 2014 by  
Faith Family Hospitality

### PRESENT IS ENOUGH! POSTED 12/17, 2014 BY FAITH FAMILY HOSPITALITY

Written by Sue Peterson,  
Program Director

Recently a father shared with me that as hard and strong as he tried to be, things kept falling apart. There was a glimmer hope for the day and by the end typically it fell into brokenness. He tried and tried to be a good husband, father and provider. It was when he gave it all up to God that he saw God's presence in his family's life. A promise in every day and hope was restored. So grateful for the welcome and service of the FFH fellowship, he absolutely knew things were turn-

ing around.

"When people are bent over with the weight of suffering, what they need for us is only our presence." "If we give them that, we become for them the very presence of God in a most tangible way. That is hospitality." Benedictine Monks – "Radical Hospitality.

What does that mean – "be present." Be aware of needs and the need to know. Show them a wonderful place they can lay their head and find peace. Keep things gleaming, special and personal for them. Do they need a ride? A diaper? A coat? Be aware,

be present. Is there room where you are? Is there a room sacramental for a family? Is there a prayer to be said, a chant to be sung, a sacrifice to be offered? Keep them safe they are fragile and yet they are strong.

Strong enough to ask for help. Strong enough to accept the present in order to embrace an unknown future. Strong enough to ask, strong enough to love, strong enough to hope. For their children, they are strong enough. How about us- will we continue to be strong and present? Recommit this year to help our weighted down families, come beside them with a holy presence.

### A THANK YOU

To the Kitchen Committee at OSLC":

Thank you for the wonderful job you did in preparing & presenting refreshments after the memorial service of our husband and father, Harry Fletcher. The dining area was attractive and a lovely place to greet people sharing our loss. You helped us through a difficult time, Sincerely, Carole, Brien & Lori

## LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS BEGIN ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Each week a different group is asked to host, bring soup, bread and crackers, \*set up and clean up the supper (Host). In addition, members of the congregation are asked to bring soup, crackers and bread to supplement each supper, especially for the Ash Wednesday supper. **Each supper starts at 5:15 p.m. and ends at 6:30 p.m.** Lenten Services begin at **7:00 p.m.** Soup in crock pots may be brought during the day (ask office to help plug in) and prior to 5:45 p.m. **Please sign up at the table in the narthex beginning on Saturday, February 21.** We are expecting lots of people, and so we need your help.

- Feb. 18: Outside Our Walls Committee
- Feb. 25: Choirs, Bells, Bands
- Mar. 4: Middle and High School Youth and families
- Mar. 11: Leah Circle and Stephen Ministry
- Mar. 18: Council and Staff
- Mar. 25: Current New Members, New members from past 2 years and Welcome committee

**The recipients of the Soup Supper donations will be shared between ELCA World Hunger and the Hand Up program through Homeless Gear.**

\*Set up begins at 4:00 p.m. to set up tables, chairs, and serving tables. Coffee and water are prepared and breads, crackers, spoons, napkins, soup dishes are prepared for serving table. Clean up consists of putting dishes in dishwasher, preparing soup pots to take home, cleaning counters, etc., and taking down tables and chairs.

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

***The HS Servant Trip to Chicago is June 2-9.  
Please get your \$100 deposits in now.***

**High School**  
***February 21st 3:00pm to Feb 22nd 8:00am Amazing Race and Lock In Location: OSLC and around town! Bring: student ID, sleeping bag, overnight stuff, and money for dinner. Contact: Prescott Delaware or any of the Youth Team***

**Middle School:**  
***February 8, 3-5pm; Trinity Lutheran Activity night***

**Together in Faith Class Schedule:**

***3rd Grade; Feb 22 & March 1, Worship March 8; Pick up your Bibles before! See letter for details.***

***Communion Class= 2nd Grade and anyone who want to come!  
March 22 & 29; 1:30pm***

***4th Grade: April 26, May 3, and Worship May 10***

## SERVING OTHERS

### EXPANDING OSLC'S MINISTRY WITHIN OUR OWN FLOCK

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church is becoming even more of an advocate on behalf of marriages-in-difficulty. One of the barriers to seeking the needed help for many couples has been fear of the cost, and the hope that this cost can be avoided by just 'working it out'. And before they know it, the couple may be past the point where even professional counseling might have been able to help save their marriage.

A 'Counseling Designated Fund' was established last month to help couples that might find themselves facing such a need. And although the main purpose for this fund is for getting professional marriage counseling, it may also be used by our pastors to help individual OSLC member who might need psychiatric counseling to get him or her past a crisis, a loss, or fear which is beyond the ministry scope of our Pastors, our Stephen Ministers, or our Parish Nurses. (The Pastors' Discretionary Fund has done a lot of good in this area in the past, but having a more open source of funding might get additional

needful parishioners to come forward and seek help.)

The Health Ministry (was called "Parish Nurses") team under Peg Hoover, and our Stephen Ministers under Jack Wisbon, may recommend that individuals whom they are helping be offered professional counseling. In addition, couples or individuals may take their 'calls for help' directly to the Pastors. In all cases, our Pastors will oversee the Counseling Designated Fund, and decide when its use is appropriate. For instance, the Designated Fund's use may have to be limited to getting the couple (or individual) the first few sessions in a program, or at least past the deductible payment in an insurance program.

The availability of the counseling opportunity made possible by this December gift allows OSLC to draw widespread attention to its full-range-of-service in helping our members in need, be it through Steven Ministry, or our Health Ministry, or pastoral counseling. Now, an OSLC member may be recommended for professional counseling, and the church can both set-up that first counseling session, and can gener-

ously help with the cost of that counseling if the couple or individual can't afford that additional financial stress.

Finally, although we hope that this opportunity for counseling is well used, the 'startup donation' which created this new 'Counseling Designated Fund' can't last forever. Our long-term hope is that other parishioners may become sympathetic towards this charitable cause, and that it will become a more broadly supported designated fund, like many other designated funds are now. We can see where people who have benefited from marriage counseling or psychiatric counseling, or who have close friends who have suffered a divorce, or who have lost a friend to suicide, might be moved to support this new 'Counseling Designated Fund'. We pray that this oft-embarrassing mental ministry be made known, and openly supported.

*Pastor Michael*  
michael@our-saviours.org

### MARRIAGE BUILDING RETREAT-HOLD ME TIGHT



**Friday April 24th 6:30-9:00pm**  
**Saturday April 25th from 9am-5pm**

Couples are invited to this time together in building your marriage! Please contact Pastor Leta to register or go to the website under Events

Cost: \$150 per couple\*\* This retreat is being supported by the OSLC Counseling Fund. The actual cost is \$300 but we are able to cover half for reach couple.

(The OSLC Counseling Fund is designated funds for any who need counseling support not only for marriage but for any mental health or relationship support . You may contact the Pastors to find out more information about obtaining assistance.)

WELCOMING ALL THROUGH SMALL GROUPS

## CHOCOLATE FOR LENT

### A Small Group Journey

Based on the Oscar-nominated movie *Chocolat*

**Kick-off Event: Pizza, Chocolate & a Movie**

Friday Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> – 5:30–8:30 p.m.

Enjoy a community meal followed by a movie. Adults & youth will watch *Chocolat* while children enjoy a kid-friendly movie and activities led by nursery staff.

\$5/person suggestion donation

**Small Groups: Meet weekly from Feb. 21-March 28**

Small groups provide an opportunity to grow in community with others from OSLC through good conversation and engaging discussion.

Small groups will meet 5 times - once a week throughout Lent.

Participants will be placed into small groups based on their preferences.

**Closing Event: A Chocolate Feast!**

Friday April 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:30p.m.

Celebrate the conclusion of Lent by joining together with all small group participants for a meal seeped in chocolate!

Sign up for a small group by filling out the form below and turning it in to the church office by February 15<sup>th</sup> or by going to OSLC website under EVENTS and completing the online form!

**CHOCOLATE for LENT ~ Small Group Registration Form**

**Please turn into the church office by February 15!**

Your name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone number(s): \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) home ( ) cell

Email address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred meeting day and time (you may select several):

<p><b>Saturdays:</b>    ___ morning</p> <p>                     ___ afternoon</p> <p>                     ___ evening</p>	<p><b>Sundays:</b>     ___ morning (9:45am)</p> <p>                     ___ afternoon</p> <p>                     ___ evening</p>
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**Weekdays:**    \_\_\_ morning      What days? \_\_\_\_\_

                     \_\_\_ afternoon    What days? \_\_\_\_\_

                     \_\_\_ evening        What days? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need childcare during small group meetings? ( ) yes ( ) no

If yes, how many children and what ages? \_\_\_\_\_

## WELCOME MINISTRY NEWS

### Greeting and Welcoming People to OSLC –

We would love to have some new volunteers to help host the Welcome Table on a regular, rotating basis for our three services. Please stop by the table and learn more about this fun and easy way to serve and make new friends.

Newcomer Classes will be offered twice a year in room 11 E – four sessions will be followed by a Sunday brunch with sponsors and a new member reception. The proposed dates for the next class / brunch and reception are:

- April 26th - Lutheran Identity
  - April 29th - Church Identity
  - May 3rd - Spiritual Identity
  - May 6th - Individual Identity
  - May 17th - Brunch
  - May 31st - Welcome in Worship
- Visit the Welcome Table in early April for a final schedule!

*Thank you for helping to make OSLC a welcoming church home!*

### Coffee and Connect Coffee and Connect for Newcomers



An opportunity to visit, learn more about OSLC and ask questions. A great time for Visitors, Newcomers to OSLC and newer members to share their thoughts or get more information. Next meeting in room 11E on Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> between services.

### Faith Groups -

Lent is a great time to reflect on your spiritual life and share your faith journey with others. Invite a few friends to your home for a time of fellowship, snacks and discussing ideas for a regular time of study and sharing. Stop by the Welcome Table to get more information on a format and resources for your group. Sharing the hosting and leadership of your meetings can make this an enjoyable way to grow in faith and build friendships to walk with you through the joys and challenges of life.

## OSLC BOOK CLUB

All are welcome at the OSLC Book Club. Read some new books, make connections with interesting people, and enjoy lively discussions. We meet the first Monday of each month, 7-8:30 pm. If you have a good book to recommend, would like to host a meeting, or have any questions please contact Diana Hutchinson.

### Upcoming Schedule:

Date	Book - Author	Hostess
Feb 2	<b>Caleb's Crossing</b> - Geraldine Brooks	Shelley Carroll
Mar 2	<b>Forgotten Garden</b> – Kate Morton	Carol Bisbee



## MORE SMALL GROUPS

### SMALL GROUPS

**BIBLE STUDY SERIES**-Tuesdays, 7PM-8:30PM or Thursdays 9:30-11:00AM

**LEAH CIRCLE**— Leah Circle will meet on February 26th & March 26th at 6:45 p.m. at the home of Barb Slattenow.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP** The group will resume after Lent at a restaurant to be announced later. Watch for details.

### *J.O.Y. (JUST OLDER YOUTH) LUNCHEON THURSDAY, FEB. 12 AT 11:30 A.M.*

Join us for Valentine's J.O.Y.! Please RSVP to Mary Wolpert at 556-2015 by Mon., Feb. 9  
 . Cost : \$7 but get \$1 off if you bring a friend

## LUTHERAN CHORALE

**Singers and want to be singers.** Please join the Lutheran Chorale and **Saturday, February 7 from 9-4 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church** 4500 N. Wadsworth Blvd, Wheat Ridge, for a day of singing and learning. **"Hymns Triumphant"** by Lee Holdridge is the masterwork for a fun day of music education and singing, open to all communities and choirs. This masterwork is made up of familiar hymns joined in beautiful arrangements. A fee of \$5 will be charged for lunch.

Join the Chorale for a day and join us in concert on **February 8 at 3 pm at Holy Cross**. Invite your family and friends! A free

will offering will be collected to help with our performance of The "St. John Passion" in March. Please register by contacting David Peterson at [david.peterson8@Comcast.net](mailto: david.peterson8@Comcast.net) or by e-mailing the Chorale at [thelutheranchorale@Comcast.net](mailto: thelutheranchorale@Comcast.net).

**SAVE THE DATES:**

The Lutheran Chorale will be delighted to present the new arrangement of the **"St John Passion" by Bob Chilcott**, first performed by the Choir of Wells Cathedral, United Kingdom on Palm Sunday, March 23, 2013. We will be one of the first groups to premier this new and beautiful work in

the United States. Performances will be **Saturday, March 21, 2015 at 7:30 pm at Bethany Lutheran Church**, 4500 Hampden Ave., Cherry Hills Village, CO and **Sunday, March 29, 2015 at 3 pm at St. Paul Lutheran Church**, 1600 Grant Street, Denver, CO.

A free will offering will be collected at both concerts to benefit the local food banks supported by these congregations. For more information visit our website at [www.thelutheranchorale.org](http://www.thelutheranchorale.org), or email us at [thelutheranchorale@Comcast.net](mailto: thelutheranchorale@Comcast.net).

## GENERAL BUDGET UPDATE AS OF NOVEMBER, 2014

	2014			
	NOV		YEAR TO DATE	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
<b>TOTAL GIVING</b>	50,523	55,756	520,371	613,313
<b>LESS EXPENSES</b>	<u>47,591</u>	55,756	<u>573,971</u>	613,313
<b>CASH SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	2,933		-53,601	



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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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