

Our Saviour's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

SIGNAL

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.



December 24, 2013 - Christmas Eve

3:00 PM Family Celebration Service with Holy Communion

5:00 & 7:00 PM Festive Worship with Holy Communion

11:00 PM Candlelight Reflections with Holy Communion

December 25, 2013 - Christmas Day

Trinity Lutheran Church, 301 E. Stuart

10:00AM Carols & Communion

Kids are welcome to come in their pajamas and bring a favorite Christmas gift for a "Bless our Toys, Bless our Joy!" youth message.

December 29, 2013

8:30 & 11:00 AM Christmas Liturgy with Holy Communion



Sunday School
Christmas Program

Sunday, December 15, 4:00pm

Please join the HS Youth for the Annual Lasagna Dinner on Dec, 15, 2013 at 5 p.m. Come to the Fellowship Hall after the Sunday School Christmas program for a sit-down Italian dinner filled with fun and fellowship. Your free-will donation will go towards supporting the High School Youth Summer Service trip.



Epiphany Party

January 5th, 2014

All Generations, 9:45a.m.



Pastor's Page

Greetings and Peace to you from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church,

I am thankful for the mission we share. As we enter a time of budget preparation I hope you will help us to consider a fruitful ministry by looking at your offerings to the church and consider how you can further support us financially. Please fulfill your commitments, consider additional gifts and take some time to consider how you can help us invest in tomorrow. We finished the third quarter behind in our budget, by almost \$20,000. This is concerning, but I am confident that we can make this up. Typically December is a very fruitful month, but waiting till then to make up our shortfall means inhibits our ability to vision. We are starting our budget preparation, and we will have to adjust our ministries outlook if we have a decline in giving. Please remember the church in your finances. Your immediate response can have a lasting impact.

I am on a church high in many respects right now. I reflect upon the tremendous response we have had from many of you after our visit with Nadia Bolz-Weber. I hear passionate responses to her and excitement about the common mission we share. I'm on a high because I saw an outpouring of response to the floods and I know many are prepared to respond further. I'm on a high because I saw our 4 homeless families attended to by so many of you when they stayed with us. I was especially excited by those who worked with them for the first time.

But my highs don't end there... Besides this I walked around one Sunday and noticed our Sunday school in full swing in one room. In another room we had new member class going on. In an-

other room we had our "Splash" Ministry for families with 0-3 year olds; In still another room 75 of you were listening to Ken Thurow speak about Sexuality and the Church.

As we come upon All Saints Sunday I am reminded that we have so much to be thankful for. The beauty of All Saints Sunday is that we can look out at all of those who have sacrificed so much to help us to be who we are today. The danger of moments like this is that we fall in love with who we have been and give up on who we are now. Churches can get caught in this pattern, particularly when there is a sense of pride upon who we have been.

I don't believe the best years of Our Saviour's Lutheran is behind us. I believe there is much ahead of us, and that we are well prepared for the bumps and swift turns that await us. We know the world is changing fast. We know the culture of Christianity is no longer supported by the community at large. We don't really know what the church will look like 10 years from now. All that said we have Christ, and a church body that is well aware of our imperfections. I believe this will serve us well as we challenge ourselves to figure out this new day.

As a friend of mine said about the direction of the church, "I don't know where I'm going. But I'm glad to be going there with you."

Peace to you my brothers and sisters and Christ. I too am glad to be going there with you.

Pastor Michael

SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Divine Companionship

John Baillie concluded one of his insightful prayers in this way . . . “May I always rejoice in your mysterious companionship.”

It is this ‘mysterious companionship’ with God that is so striking. We typically employ many different images of God, all of which are helpful in our attempt to envision the Holy One - Creator, Heavenly Father, King, Ruler, Dispenser of Justice, Forgiver, plus many others, all of which suggest that someone is in charge of what goes on in our world and in our lives.

‘Mysterious Companion’ casts a totally different and intriguing image. Whereas many images convey a sense of separation and distance suggesting that God is Holy Other, which certainly has profound meaning for us, the image of a ‘Companion God’ gives us a completely different feeling. Granted, this image in no way captures all that God is, any more than any other image we may employ to help us better understand and appreciate the Holy Reality we call God. However, using the image of ‘mysterious companion’ gives us a deeply inspiring way of perceiving God, and leads us into a unique way of experiencing the Holy One.

Think of your best friend, the one with whom you spend pleasant time, chat with, and with whom you share your deepest secrets and darkest moments - the one person whom you frequently think about even when you are not together - the one whose company you so appreciate and thoroughly enjoy.

This quality companionship is but a mere shadow of the quality companionship we have available to us with God. There might be some hesitancy in allowing ourselves this degree of familiarity with God that we enjoy with our friends for fear that it might reduce God to something less than we desire God to be. That, however, is but a trick of our minds. Our perception of God does

not to any degree define or limit God in any way. God always remains who God is.

There is no risk in perceiving God as our ‘Mysterious Companion’: Mysterious because we cannot begin to comprehend all that God is. Yet, we can experience this unique companionship and all the comfort, excitement and joy it brings.

In order to bring this image into useful focus and maintain it, practice conversing with God as you would talk with your closest friend. First relax, then chat, share, open up your feelings and concerns. Forget the ‘amens’ for there is no closure other than the usual ‘talk to you later’. Give it a try. Let God be your closest companion. It can be most rewarding, and it will add one more dimension to your experience with the Holy One.

Pastor Fred Castor
Spiritual Guide

COMING UP!
A special retreat focusing on **SPIRITUALITY** will be held at OSLC on Saturday, January 18, 9-11:30 am.



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Welcoming all through worship...

Worship & Music Corner, December 2013

Advent Worship

Watching and Waiting

Anticipating Advent! This year's Advent theme will lift up images and feelings of anticipation as we await the arrival of the Christ Child. Our worship services and sermons will be built around different images – sometimes bringing tangible objects into worship, sometimes incorporating artwork and music.

As we look to the anticipated arrival of the Christ Child at Christmas, we ask ourselves, "Who can see it?" – "it" being hope. So many times in life, it is much easier to see and focus on despair, rather than hope. We will be following the Lectionary and listening to the words of Isaiah as an exercise in making hope as tangible and as visible as despair. Please look to our worship schedule for the weekly themes and object lessons.

Watching and Waiting – December Memory Verse

Our memory verse for the month of December is [Isaiah 11:2](#)

"The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord."

Worship Schedule – December

December 1: ELW 4 – SURPRISE!

Bells & Chancel Choir (8:30)

Bells, Alleluia & Jubilate Choirs (11:00)

December 8: He Is Our Peace & ELW 10 – PREPARE!

Celebration Band (8:30)

Consensus Brass (11:00)

December 15: With One Voice - EXPECTATIONS

Windstrings (8:30 & 11:00)

December 22: Christmas Cantata – SCANDAL!

Chancel Choir (8:30 & 11:00)** The Cantata will also be in worship on Saturday,
December 21st at 5:30 PM

December 24: HALLELUJAH! HE IS HERE!

3:00 Family Service – Youth Choirs

5:00 Festive Celebration – Chancel Choir

7:00 Festive Celebration – Bell Choir

11:00 Reflective – Acoustic Musicians

December 29: Christmas Liturgy

8:30 & 11:00



The Lutheran Chorale invites you to "Welcome Joyous Season" on Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 7:30 pm. We will be performing at the Lakewood Cultural Center, 470 S. Allison Parkway, Lakewood, CO.

Tickets are available at the Lakewood Cultural Center Box office, or calling the box office at [303-986-7845](tel:303-986-7845) or online. For general information please call [303-986-7876](tel:303-986-7876). Ticket prices are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors/students. Discounts available for large groups of 15 or more.

For more information about the Chorale please contact, Linda Blandin at [303-973-1161](tel:303-973-1161) or our director, David Hodel, [303-557-2822](tel:303-557-2822), or email us at thelutheranchorale@comcast.net

"HAPPY 30th BIRTHDAY, HANDBELL CHOIR!"



Handbell
Choir

Thirty years ago the congregation received a two octave set of Schulmerich handbells from Gilbert Olson as a memorial to his wife. Sheri McKelfresh agreed to be the first director for this group which began practicing in the fall of 1983. Amazingly two members of that original group are still participating in our choir – Marlys Oetken and Karen Wulff. When Sheri became busy with her own family, Judy Coe became the director. She was followed by our former organist, Shirley Christensen. Under her leadership a third octave of Schulmerich bells was added and we still ring as a three octave handbell choir. When Shirley retired, Marlys Oetken took over and

continues as the present director. In 2001 we received a two octave set of Schulmerich handchimes in memory of Mary Jane Cooley's mother, Mary Miller. The congregation later purchased a third octave of handchimes so they could be used along with the bells. These have also been used with our children's groups because they are much sturdier.

Many of our present ringers have been with us a very long time and some are quite new. We've lost track of how many people have participated over the years, but they all contributed to making our choir a successful group. You have to have a complete set of ringers to play a composition. So as we like to say: ringing bells is a team sport! We hope our music will continue to enhance worship for the congregation for many years to come.

Bells to bring Christmas spirit to the Avery House!

Come and hear six members of the OSLC handbell choir ring Christmas carols during the annual Avery House Christmas open house on Tues. Dec. 10 from 5 – 7 p.m. The house is located at 328 W. Mountain Ave. and there is no admission charge.



Welcoming all through learning...

Join the
Conversation!



Bible Studies for December and the New Year

In December for three weeks we will look at a couple of fun and interesting books from the Old Testament featuring some women as heroines – Esther and Ruth. Beginning in January, a 5-week study on the Book of Hebrews will be offered.

You are encouraged to join the Bible Study conversation on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. or Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Journey with other brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ as we are guided by the Holy Spirit and each other in our study of God's word. Please come – all are invited even if your attendance is infrequent or sporadic.

David Barber

Preschool Flea Market **December 7th, 9am—3PM**

Donations for the Preschool flea market began November 18th. Bring in your items **BY DECEMBER 6TH** and neatly place them in 6W. (No clothing or TVs please.)

The Craft Fair supports our preschool. We did great last year because of all your wonderful donations. (We do not take clothing.) If you can help in setting up or working a shift during the craft fair, please call Karen Wulff @ 407-1247.



December 7, 2013

Don't miss out on the famous kraut burgers! Many craft items including purses & scarves, glass & jewelry items, Christmas ornaments & greeting cards.

WELCA News

The ladies of Leah Circle will be sending an offering to the Synod and National WELCA offices at the end of the year. Much of this money is used on programs for women and children. To join us in this worthy cause, make your check payable to OSLC and include WELCA on the memo line.



December 2013 - Library Pages:

- We have completed our inventory and only a few titles are missing – excellent.
- We are aim to bring in at least 60 new titles from purchases made using our 2013 budget and will display them in January or February.
- Did you know Christmas books have a green strip above the label? Look for those as we prepare for the season. This is true for both Adult and Children's books.
- Did you know you have access to nearly 1,800 titles in our own collection and over 18,000 through the Faith Libraries Network?
- Please remember to write the date you checked it out with the year and leave us a phone number too. Thank you!!

"After 17 years of serving at Lutheran Campus Ministry at Colorado State University, I have accepted a Call to St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in San Mateo, CA. I leave at the end of December to move to California. I have a son in San Francisco and a daughter in Berkeley at our Lutheran Seminary there. It will be great to be close to my kids.

I am extremely grateful for my 17 years in campus ministry. Thank you for all of your support for campus ministry and I certainly hope that you continue to assist LCM/CSU as they continue to provide spiritual guidance to staff, faculty and students. Nine students from my ministry have gone on to Seminary and others are finding leadership positions in exciting ministries all across our nation. Hurrah for campus ministry!!"

Blessings,

Pastor Connie Winter-Eulberg

Welcoming all through serving... Outside Our Walls

Looking for a special Christmas gift?

If you would like to make a contribution for gas money to help send the coats to Pine Ridge, or if you would like

more information about sending gifts to needy Pine Ridge children, contact Carol or John Bisbee at 229-1520, or cjtraveler@msn.com

Pine Ridge Indian Reservation

Dell Big Crow Memorial Holiday Gift Project

At her forum on Oct 27, Julie Ann Sullivan, from CSU, told us about her gift project for children and elders on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. If you would like to participate, here is a summary of the project. Please contact John Bisbee (cjtraveler@msn.com) with questions or to get more details.

If you wish to provide a gift, please email Julie and she'll send you the information you need to spread a little holi-

day cheer to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Julie.sullivan@colostate.edu

In response to your email, Julie will email you the name, age, wish list, and mailing address for a child or elder. You purchase a gift, gift-wrap it, and mail it directly to the child or elder's home.

We would like to gently stress the importance of our recipients receiving gifts of approximately the same value. Most wishes cost \$20.00 - \$35.00.

Let us know if you need a tax receipt and we will email it at the end of the project.

Thank You!

After more than 25 years of service to the Outside Our Walls committee, Anita Hildebrand and Ellen Wheeling are "retiring". They have been the driving force of this committee and because of their energy and commitment, our congregation has helped numerous non-profit organizations, including: Poudre School District schools with children in need, Larimer County Food Bank, OSLC preschool, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Church World Service, Homelessness Prevention Initiative, Lutheran Family Service, World Hunger & Disaster Relief Appeal, Catholic

Charities-Northern, United Way of Larimer County, Day Shelter for the Homeless, Murphy Center for Hope, ELCA World Hunger Appeal, Homeless Gear, Poudre School District Teachers' Closet, Salvation Army children's Christmas giving Tree, Mosaic, Crossroads Safehouse, International Health Partners, Matthews House, and many more that have not been mentioned.

We have been blessed to have Anita and Ellen as major leaders on this committee for so many years and they will be greatly missed. Please thank them for their generous giving of their time and talent!

PLEASE HELP MAKE A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS MERRY! SUPPORT MOSAIC YOUNG ADULTS

Outside Our Walls (OOW) has partnered with the Salvation Army to provide Christmas gifts to children in Larimer County. "Christmas Angel" gift cards will be available beginning Saturday, November 23, at the Christmas tree either in the narthex or Fellowship Hall. We have to start early this year as all gifts must be returned to the church by December 10. Gifts are to be unwrapped. If you are unable to find the item requested, a gift card from Walmart is suggested. More suggestions about amounts and alternatives will be available at the table.

If you prefer, OOW is providing the opportunity to support the young adult residents in the local Mosaic program with gift cards from Target, Walmart or Bed, Bath and Beyond.

These cards allow individuals living independently or residents in group homes to purchase items like toiletries, bedding, cleaning supplies and kitchen equipment, etc.

Thank you, Our Saviour's, for the care you take of others. As the ELCA says, "We do more together than any one of us could ever do alone."

A recent thank you letter: Dear OSLC, thank you for your recent gift of \$1,060 to ELCA World Hunger. Your faithful generosity makes a life-changing difference for people in need around the corner and around the world. Your gift is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generous gift to support those who are hungry and in need with help and hope! In Christ's service,
The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director, ELCA World Hunger



On November 17th, we are please we presented a video composed of testimonials from members of our congregation who have had personal experiences with this mission. Their statements were powerful and insightful. Everyone is touched by experiencing the act of giving generously. During Christmas Week we will be sharing our church home with four families who are trying with good faith to make their lives better.

We are pleased to announce that Pastor Michael has accepted a position on the Board of Directors for Faith Family Hospitality. The program is growing and his guidance will be welcomed and valuable as we develop and grow more effective in our mission.

WELCOME NEW CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS!



Bonnie Bowne—I was born in Ames Iowa, but an early age my family moved to Lakewood, CO. I attended CSU graduating with a BS in Accounting and Finance, with minors in Art History, History, Biology, and Anthropology. I worked as the CFO for Yancey's Food Service for 38 years, before semi-retiring in 2012 to pursue my life-long passion to become an artist and photographer.



Tom Hromatka—My family and I moved to Fort Collins in June 2012 from Iowa. I am a software engineer at HP, and my wife, Leah, is a teacher. Our oldest son, Will, is a kindergarten at Shepardson Elementary. Our youngest son, Simon, is a preschooler at OSLC Preschool. I like to run, hike, bike, read, and take things apart.



Jim Gjerde—I have been a member of Our Saviours since 1990. I was the Dean of Students at Rocky Mountain High School 1987- 2011. A classroom teacher in Iowa for 14 years prior to coming to Rocky. Two years of Military duty, and 1 year as a classroom teacher in South Dakota prior to teaching in Iowa. I have been retired for three years. I have a daughter and son in law, grandson (3) and granddaughter (10mo.) that live in Castle Rock.



Jodi Loecke—My husband is Steve and we have 4 boys: Will (11), Matthew (9), Joe (6) and Ben (3). I am a physical therapist/athletic trainer. In my free time I love to run, do anything outdoors, read, spend time with friends/family and travel. We have belonged to OSLC since 2004, when we moved here from MN. I am currently the co-coordinator for Faith Family Hospitality.

Worship, learning & serving in groups...



Caroling Party December 22, 2013

Meet at OSLC at 3:00 p.m.

We will carol to several homes and end at the Peters-Reimer residence

(1833 Golden Willow Court, Fort Collins) where we will enjoy cookies, hot chocolate and fellowship.

All ages welcome!

Questions contact Pastor Letz.

Food Baskets



December 11th the Middle School youth will make Christmas Baskets for those in our community who are homebound. Please donate the following items:

medium baskets

small snacks

small books/magazines/activities

small lotions

Christmas candy or other treats

anything you think might be nice for someone homebound to receive



Happy Birthday Jesus Party on Dec 22 we will be making Baby Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief for refugees in Myanmar in Thailand so that mothers can care for their newborns.

These Supplies are needed:

lightweight cotton t-shirts in packs of two
long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers (with no feet)

receiving blankets

cloth diapers

jacket or sweater with hood

hats

gentle bar soap

hand towel

socks

diaper pins

For more information:

<http://lwr.org/getinvolved/babycarekits>



Winterfest

February 21-23, 2014

YMCA, Estes Park

\$240/family.

Join us for family fun in the beautiful Rocky Mountains.

If you are interested, please contact
Christie Reimer

at chirstiereimer@gmail.com or (970)225-0532. \$100 deposit due to reserve room.



OSLC Book Club:

All are welcome to join us to discuss a book each month. We meet on Monday evenings from 7-8:30 pm. Contact Diana Hutchinson for more information.

Dec. 2nd	Flight behavior by Barbara Kingsolver
Jan 20th	Brain on Fire by Susanah Cahalan

FAITH GROUPS -

A small group is a great way to build friendships, grow in faith and support one another and the community. The Welcome Ministry would like to encourage members to consider developing a Faith Group with others at Our Saviour's. Stop by the Welcome Table in the Narthex to visit with the hosts and find resources to help you develop and sustain a meaningful group.

Small Groups

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

LEAH CIRCLE— Leah Circle will meet on Thursday, December 12 at 6 p.m. for a Christmas Potluck at the home of Barb Slattenow.

QUILTING GROUP - 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 1:00 pm

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP Thursdays, 6:45am @ Village Inn.

FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT- welcomes all to bring their scrapbooking or other craft projects for the evening. Fruits of the Spirit will be meeting to work on your individual scrapbooking, stamping, or other craft projects.

JOY LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 5, 2013.

Join us at Trinity Lutheran Church for a special JOY Holiday Luncheon with music by our very own Tyler Borkowski. The menu for December is Spiral Sliced Ham, Yam Casserole, Steamed Broccoli, Dinner Rolls, Beverages and Christmas Cake. Invite your friends for this special start of the Christmas Holidays; remember that you get a \$1 discount for bringing a friend. RSVP by Mary Wolpert at 420-3591 by Monday, December 2 and be sure to advise of any diet restrictions.

Thank you!

Jennifer Meyer-Salazar

Director of Communications and Publications

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Stewardship of our resources...



Shredded Paper

ENVIRONMENTAL TIP

Keep Shredded Paper out of Curbside Recycling Bins

You probably think paper is paper, right? Not if it's shredded paper. Unlike office paper, shredded paper can't go in your curbside bin. However, shredded paper can be taken to the City's Recycling Drop-off site at 1702 Riverside Avenue, and placed in the mixed paper bin (#4).

Before shredding paper, decide if there are just a few lines of information you want to keep protected. Tear off the information you consider confidential and shred it.

Potential Tax Saving Opportunity

The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 extends the Charitable IRA Rollover break through the end of this year (December 31, 2013). With this extension, taxpayers who are over 70½ years of age may contribute up to \$100,000 annually to a charitable organization (such as OSLC) and the contribution will not count as a taxable IRA distribution.

This is a great opportunity for you to potentially lessen your tax bill and benefit your church community at the same time. One way in particular that you can take advantage of this legislation is if you are in the situation where you have to take a required minimum distribution that will add to your annual income and thus your tax bill. This is a legal way to avoid those extra taxes.

You can use this vehicle to contribute funds tax free to

OSLC. If desired, such a contribution could be made to the General Fund, the Endowment Fund (where only the interest is used and the principal is not touched), the Capital Improvement Designated Fund (for improvements to the church) or any other of the many areas supported by the church.

At this time, the opportunity expires at the end of the calendar year. If you are eligible and interested in taking advantage of this tax savings please contact the OSLC treasurer, Cal Selig, at calselig@gmail.com or 970-204-1910 and I will be happy to send you the appropriate forms.

This information is accurate to the best of our knowledge. As always, you should seek advice from your tax consultant or legal counsel in deciding if this opportunity is appropriate for you.

Lutheran Family Services is collecting new pillows and pajamas (any sizes) for the refugee and foster care programs during the holidays. If you would like to donate any of these items, please contact Molly Ford at [970-232-1170](tel:970-232-1170).

The New Beginnings Benefit Breakfast is coming up in April and we are looking for committee members to help organize this event. The breakfast is Larimer County's main fundraiser to support local Lutheran Family Services programs. The committee meets once a month in Fort Collins, plus a few extra hours closer to the event. Please contact Molly Ford at [970-232-1170](tel:970-232-1170) for more information.

Thank so much!!!

Molly Ford

Community Relations & Special Events Coordinator, Larimer County

Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains

[970.232.1170](tel:970.232.1170), www.lfsrm.org



"Services that heal, strengthen and provide hope."

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Get a financial check-up and breathe a sigh of relief

We schedule time for annual checkups for our health and cars, but what about finances? When was the last time you met with your financial professional? If you haven't reviewed your financial strategy recently, it's time for a check-up.

Even minor changes can affect your financial health

Changes in your life, the economy and markets can affect your goals and the path you take to reach them. That's why it's important to review your financial strategy at least once a year so you can stay on track with your goals.

A financial check-up gives you and your financial professional the opportunity to look at where you are now, where you want to go and how you can get there. If you find some adjustments are needed, you can discuss options to help you stay financially healthy.

Get a free financial checkup

Schedule a free financial checkup today with a knowledgeable Thrivent Financial representative.

Contact:

Jeff Losh, Financial Consultant
970 744-4629
jeff.losh@thrivent.com

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FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP

December 1-Drew & Catherine Fox in honor of their 1st Anniversary

December 8-

December 15-Steph & Chris Shellenberger In honor of their 1st Anniversary

December 22-

December 29-Poinsettias

Flower procedure—You may use flowers from your garden or a florist. Please place the flowers in the Sanctuary prior to Saturday evening service (5:30 pm). They can be picked up after the Sunday service. The Flower Chart is posted on the wall in the Narthex.



Dorothy Pederson (Matt's mother); **Johanna Carpine** (friend of Ann & Steve Story); all service men & women

God bless our praying.

CELEBRATING JESUS' BIRTH WITH POINSETTIAS

The Altar Guild is ordering poinsettias again this year to decorate the church on Christmas Eve. If you would like to order a plant in memory or in honor of a loved one, please sign below and return to the church office with a check for \$14.00 payable to OSLC with "Poinsettias" in the memo line. Please fill out a separate form for each poinsettia ordered.

Orders are due by Sunday, December 15.

Your Name: _____

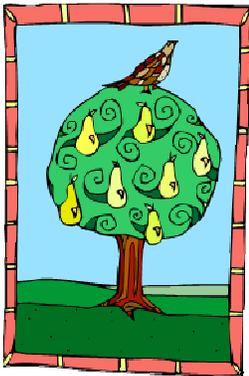
In Memory

Of: _____

In Honor

Of: _____

Please check one: Check _____ Cash _____



The Meaning of '12 Days of Christmas'

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

1. The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
2. Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
3. Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
4. The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
5. The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
6. The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
7. Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
8. The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
9. Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
10. The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.
11. The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
12. The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

So there is your history for today.

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December