

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS; SUMMER, 2015

¹⁷Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands— O prosper the work of our hands! Psalm 90:17

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.

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and throughout the world. We believe that through your hands, God's work can be done.

This Summer's Theme at OSLC is "God's Work. Our Hands". Join us in creatively imagining how our hands can share God's Work in the world. We especially encourage photographs, artwork, and poetry. We will display it in the hallway connecting the worship area and the fellowship hall. You can drop photos, and other creations off by the office. Email them digitally, or even post them to our face book site. Help us celebrate our hands as a gift from God!

Here is an expert from one of our favorites. It isn't inherently a song of faith, but we think as you hear the words you will understand how God could be at work in these hands.

Your hands are beautiful. Lyrics from "The Handsong" by Nickel Creek
Your hands are a gift from God. Your hands have the ability to connect to others here
*The boy only wanting to give mother something
And all of her roses had bloomed
Looking at him as he came rushing in
With him knowing her roses were doomed
All she could see was some thorns buried deep
And tears that he cried as she tended his wounds
And she knew it was love
It was what she could understand
He was showing his love
And that's how he hurt his hands*

We know the Summer months often mean travel, and pulling away from the routine. We hope that your hands will continue to bless Our Saviour's Lutheran Church all summer long. Whether they are here or out in the world.

Remember that you are a gift from God. Perhaps your hands will help someone else see that as well.

Peace in Christ,

*Pastor Leta Behrens
Pastor Michael Stadtmueller*

Special points of interest:

- ◆ Class of 2015, page 4
- ◆ Summer activities, page 12
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LETTERS FROM THE PASTORS

THOUGHTS FROM INTERN PASTOR DIANA

On May 1-3, I had the opportunity to attend the Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly in Salt Lake City, Utah, along with OSLC voting delegates Tom and Leah Hromatka. The Synod Assembly is an opportunity to gather each year with synod staff, rostered leaders and congregational representatives from ministries in the five states of Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Gathered under the theme "Our Life Together," we spent time celebrating the many ministries of the Rocky Mountain Synod, collectively making decisions for how we will move into the future, and spending intentional time in relationship with our full-communion and ecumenical partners in ministry.

During this year's gathering we were blessed by the presence of Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA. Elected to her position in 2013, it was a great privilege for me to see and hear her speak in person. I found her to be smart, funny, and both a visionary and grounded leader for our church. Our Synod Bishop Jim Gonia also led us in worship and conversation. The presentations and presence of both these leaders left me with the sense that the leadership of both the national and local church are in faithful and capable hands.

Another highlight of the weekend was seeing the thousand assembly participants gathered together in the conference room of our hotel wearing bright green t-shirts proclaim-

ing, "We are Church: Better Together!" On Saturday afternoon these green t-shirt-wearing participants went out into the city of Salt Lake, visiting and learning about various aspects of Mormon culture and religion.

Overall, it was a weekend full of opportunity to connect with other leaders, be renewed through worship and learn about what is happening in other ELCA congregations and ministries throughout our synod and national church. I left feeling proud of our church and hopeful for our future!

Yours in Christ,
Diana Linden-Johnson
Pastoral Intern



Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly

May 2015, Salt Lake City, UT
L to R: Intern Pastor Diana, Leah & Tom Hromatka

LETTERS FROM THE PASTORS

THOUGHTS FROM THE INTERNSHIP COMMITTEE

Just nine months ago, we said hello. And in August, it will be time to express our gratitude to Intern Pastor Diana Linden-Johnson as she completes her year-long internship with Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church.

This is an adventure marked by open hearts and new experiences. On the weekend of Aug. 8 and 9, Diana will complete her internship. She will preach at both services. Together we’ll gather for a reception after worship, celebrating this milestone in Diana’s journey toward ordination as an ELCA

pastor. Be sure to mark your calendar.

In May, Diana was recommended for approval by the faculty of Lutheran Seminary in St. Paul, MN. She has been hard at work writing final paperwork for her approval by the Candidacy Committee of the Rocky Mountain Synod of the ELCA. She will meet with the committee at the end of August with the hope of being approved for ordination.

Diana’s internship has given her deep experience in preaching,

teaching, worship leadership, and church administration – and she has cared for and loved the people of Our Saviour’s along the way. She will carry with her a heartfelt and enthusiastic recommendation from the OSLC Internship Committee.

When Diana’s internship is complete, she hopes to be called to a congregation as a pastor of the ELCA. Her ordination will come after she has been duly called to serve a church.

CHOCOLATE FOR LENT

Chocolate for Lent, A Small Group Journey was an internship project organized by Intern Pastor Diana. The journey started with a pizza party at church on Friday, February 20th. Pizza was followed by watching the film “Chocolat”. Participants signed up for small groups that met once a week at various times and places. During group meetings participants got to know each other, watched

film clips of the movie, and did a brief bible study followed by discussion. About 80 people participated in small groups.

Our journey ended on April 10th with a Chocolate Feast prepared by Ann Hennen. Guests were treated to wine and a feast that would rival one prepared by Emeril Legasse! Guests were also treated to a box of homemade choco-

lates which Ann, who is a chocolatier, made for the occasion.

Ann & Intern Pastor Diana, we all say thanks for this wonderful project! We learned, we shared we grew...and enjoyed chocolate!

(Ann and her husband, Stuart joined OSLC on May 31st. Welcome! Their bio is on page 14)

**Intern Pastor Diana at the
Chocolate Feast
April 10, 2015**



CLASS OF 2015



Rebecca Abbott will be attending Colorado State University, English major.



Kira Gregory- Kira is graduating from Fort Collins High School. She has always loved animals, and has been volunteering since late 2014 at Raintree Animal Hospital. In the fall, she is attending Front Range Community College, Larimer Campus, for the Veterinary Technician Certification program, and is already registered for her first semester of prerequisite classes. She hopes for a career as a Veterinary Technician at a zoo after earning her certificate in three years.



Jenni Golbuff- 2015 graduate from Windsor High School. She is accepted at Riverland Community College, MN after which she will attend the University of Minnesota, majoring in Education.



Hannah Haberecht - graduating from Rocky Mountain High School and will be attending Colorado State University, in Biomedical Science.



Sara Hutchinson is graduating from Poudre High School. She is enrolled for this fall at the University of Colorado in Boulder, where she plans to study Environmental Design. The program can lead to future work in fields such as landscape design, city planning, architecture, or sustainability. This summer she is working as a barista at Starbucks (in the Harmony Safeway).



Jacob Hinzman will attend Colorado State University in the fall.



Chris Lamb will attend CSU to study Engineering.



Patrick Lyell is graduating from Rocky Mountain High School and has accepted an appointment to attend the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY, beginning June 30. He plans to study Marine Engineering Systems. He'll graduate with a U.S. Coast Guard license to operate ships in U.S. and international waters and an officer's commission in the U.S. Naval Reserve, with the option to become an active-duty commissioned officer in any branch of the military, includ-

ing the U.S. Coast Guard, or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).



Ana Miller- She plans to attend the University of Colorado in Boulder. She will be a pre-nursing major.



Carlisle Olsen is graduating from Poudre High School and plans to attend University of Arizona to study journalism and business.



Alison Osborn-- She will be attend Montana State University in Bozeman Montana where she was accepted into the Honors program. Alison will be studying Biology and Science with an eye toward the Medical profession.



Abbey Runyan will be attending NAU in Flagstaff, AZ, studying nursing and/or child psychology.



Kurt Seitzinger In late June will depart for a year as an exchange student in Germany. Upon his return from Germany, Kurt will be attending Southern Illinois University, Carbondale where he plans to major in automotive technology.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

AWARENESS

One of the greatest gifts we can ever receive is the gift of *awareness* - particularly the (1) awareness of our own spiritual nature and (2) the awareness of God's involvement in our lives. Stop for a moment and think about each of these.

The vast majority of people live without this special gift, not because it is unavailable to them, but because they choose otherwise. There are many times in most of our lives when we too are not mindful of these two unique realities. Alas, we run on only half of our cylinders so much of the time because we let the awareness of our spiritual nature plus God's involvement in our lives slip away, or at least get out of focus.

Daily concerns replace the awareness of our true selves and the significance of who we really are. Looking into the mirror gives us only a partial image of our true personhood. We are so much more than what we see in that reflection.

There is a depth to our being - a cache of treasures stored in us that remains invisible, but is as real as the nose on our face.

Then, there is that mystery of the life itself. What a gift that is. There is nothing anywhere that compares to the uniqueness of

life. Within that life resides our personhood - who we are.

We do take our lives for granted much of the time, and perhaps that is inevitable. But with a degree of regularity and intent we need to pause and focus on the true nature of our being as living persons - spiritual as well as physical - created in God's own image with profound purpose and incredible destiny.

Furthermore, we need to remind ourselves of God's uncanny and unwavering involvement in our lives especially when we have let that awareness slip from our consciousness.

Thankfully, there is something deep inside us that somehow grasps and hangs on to threads of that awareness of God's presence within us even when we are otherwise occupied. We are conscious of a tug that we can only attribute to God's reach. We are aware that something mysterious inside us is alive and moving - something that we cannot always identify, but suggests itself to us as being Sacred - something basic to our existence - something that nudges us and awakens within us an *awareness* that we are in the constant presence of the Holy One, even when we are deeply enmeshed in our work of the day.

Something breaks through to us and perhaps for only a moment we are unaccountably aware that we are far more than we ever though we were, and there is more meaning in life than we have imagined.

Given the opportunity, that awareness can expand as we open ourselves to God's infinite gifts and begin a new level of intimate, prayerful conversation with the Holy One.

Pastor Fred Castor,
Spiritual Guide



Suggestion: Reread the above, this time more slowly, pausing along the way to become more aware.

WELCOMING ALL THROUGH WORSHIP

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JUNE & JULY, 2015

Theme: "God's Work-Our Hands"

Sunday Worship June/July, 9:00 AM

June 7th-Now the Feast
 June 14th-Celebration Band
 June 21st-Now the Feast
 June 28th-Now the Feast

July 5th-Now the Feast
 July 12th-Celebration
 July 19th-Now the Feast
 July 26th-Now the Feast

Saturday Worship June/July, 5:30 PM

June 6th-Holden
 June 13th-Holden
 June 20th-Joyous Light
 June 27th-Holden

July 4th-Holden
 July 11th- Holden
 July 18th-Joyous Light
 July 25th-Holden

Summer Memory Verse:

2 Corinthians 4:7

⁷But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.

REMEMBERING



Remembering Avis Giffey (Melanie Otteman's mother)

Submitted by Robin Castor

I LOVE this picture of Avis Giffey (mother of Nancy Otteman) who passed away recently. Avis would come to visit Nancy and family during the holidays. She would sit behind my Mom, Marge Bjorlo, and always get excited that she'd be 90 in October of 2015, hinting that she'd be "catching up with Marge".

She was a gem, had a million dollar smile, and was kind beyond measure. I will miss her.

WELCOMING ALL THROUGH LEARNING

Theology Pub: Beer. God. Conversation.

“In a nutshell...it’s a safe space, where people can be honest and open about topics of faith, ask any questions, and at the end of the night, know that it’s perfectly fine if we disagree with one another.” Bryan Berghoef, Theology Pub 101



Every fourth Thursday from 6-7:30 p.m.

June 25th & July 23rd

Location: TBA

Co-Led by : Intern Pastor Diana Linden-Johnson & CSU Campus Pastor Chad Adamik



www.facebook.com/FtCollinsTheologyPub

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
Jun 1	The Kitchen House - Kathleen Grissom	Chris Marston
Jul 6	Pope Joan – Donna Woolfolk Cross	Diana Hutchinson
Aug 3	Close Your Eyes, Hold Hands by Chris Bohjalian (Fort Collins Reads)	Christine Butler Discussion:
Sep 7	Tallgrass – Sandra Dallas	Karen Wulff Discussion: Wanda Knauer
Oct 5	The Aviator’s Wife - Melanie Benjamin	

WELCOMING ALL THROUGH LEARNING

NEW IN THE LIBRARY

Heart of a Samurai: based on the true story of Nakahama Manjiro

by Margi Preus

Reviewed by Daniel Kraus for *Booklist* (starred review)

Grades 7-11

Manjiro is 14 when a freak storm washes him and his four fishing companions onto a tiny island far from their Japanese homeland. Shortly before starving, they are rescued by an American whaling ship. But it's 1841 and distrust is rampant: the Japanese consider the whalers barbarians, while the

whalers think of the Japanese as godless cannibals. Captain William Whitfield is different—childless, he forges a bond with the boy, and when it comes time for Manjiro to choose between staying with his countrymen or going to America as Whitfield's son, he picks the path of adventure. It's a classic fish-out-of-water story (although this fish goes into the water repeatedly), and it's precisely this classic structure that gives the novel the sturdy bones of a timeless tale. Bracketed by gritty seafaring episodes—salty and bloody enough to assure us

that Preus has done her research—the book's heart is its middle section, in which Manjiro, allegedly the first Japanese to set foot in America, deals with the prejudice and promise of a new world. By Japanese tradition, Manjiro was destined to be no more than a humble fisherman, but when his 10-year saga ends, he has become so much more. Wonderful back matter helps flesh out this fictionalized version of the same story told in Rhoda Blumberg's *Shipwrecked! The True Adventures of a Japanese Boy*.

Another Country: Navigating the Emotional Terrain of Our Elders

by Mary Bray Pipher

Reviewed for *Publishers Weekly* by Susan Lee Cohen

Older men and women, as well as their children and grandchildren, will find this well-written and sensitive investigation of aging both enlightening and engrossing. Because the death of her mother was so traumatic, Pipher, a psychologist and the author of *Reviving Ophelia*, was motivated to study the aging process in order to promote meaningful connections between the generations and more

cultural support for pursuing them. She provides a wealth of anecdotal information about the problems of growing older, drawing on interviews and her own therapeutic work with predominately middle-class white and black Midwestern Americans in their 70s, 80s and 90s, as well as their children. Pipher contends that a variety of cultural trends are responsible for there being so many isolated old people today: a movement away from communal to individualistic ideals; the generation gap between baby boomers and their aging parents; the lack of organized support for the care of the elderly. As she relates the stories of those

she has met and counseled, Pipher describes strategies for dealing with illness, physical decline, the death of a husband or wife and the emotional problems that arise for both the elderly and their families. She emphasizes the importance of intergenerational contacts, the benefit of giving older people freedom to make their own choices and her resolute belief that families can fortify the honesty and love they share through involvement in a dying parent's final months. One of the strengths of this excellent study is that Pipher includes examples of troubled as well as rewarding marital and parent/child relationships.

WELCOMING ALL THROUGH SERVING

OOW NEWS

SAVE THOSE SCHOOL CLOTHES, PLEASE!

When you clean out your kids' closets, please consider the needy children who would love to receive your items. Outside Our Walls will be sponsoring a back-to-school clothing drive in August to benefit Homeless Gear's children's distribution on September 19. New or gently used items, size 5 and up, will be super-appreciated.

- Especially needed:
- kids' sleeping bags
 - slacks and jeans
 - hoodies and sweatshirts
 - tennis shoes
 - rain jackets, wind-breakers
 - socks/underwear (new only, please)

Look for our bins in the fellowship hall in August. Thanks for whatever you can bring!

RECENT THANK YOU LETTERS

From ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal:

"Thank you for your recent gift of \$719.93 to ELCA World Hunger. Your faithful support makes a difference for families and communities in need all around the world. Your generous gifts make it possible for ELCA World Hunger to: educate members about root causes; promote advocacy and social justice for those who cannot speak for themselves; provide food for families in times of greatest need; and implement sustainable development for secure futures."

From Christ Clinic:

"It was a wonderful surprise to see your generous gift of \$719.73 from your Lenten Soup Suppers arrive at our mailbox. We so appreciate your hearts for helping serve those with medical needs in our community. Without generous donations like yours, this ministry could not exist. Christ Clinic is an all volunteer (some 100+ volunteers) general health provider for the uninsured and under insured."

From the Food Bank of Larimer County:

Thank you to the congregation for its continued generosity for the Food Bank of Larimer County. There were 221 pounds of food donated through the grocery cart for the 1st 4 months of the year.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

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WELCOMING ALL THROUGH SERVING

OSLC FAITH FAMILY HOSPITALITY NEWS

Faith Family Hospitality

written and compiled by Rosie Goetz, co-coordinator

Our Saviours has just finished hosting 4 homeless families for the week of May 3rd to the 10th. The families included 5 adults and 11 children ranging from newborn to age 15. Thanks to the volunteers who gave their time and talents to help make the week go smoothly. We had 63 unduplicated volunteers from OSLC and our support congregation, Temple Or Hadash and logged in 365.75 volunteer hours. That is so awesome! Our next hosting rotation is August 9th to the 16th. Please look for volunteer sign up information in the bulletin and e-announcements closer to that week.

We are making a huge difference in these families' lives even being with them for a short time.offering fellowship, relief from stress and anxiety, security, love and caring. During the week, I witnessed many acts of kindness from our volunteers. I saw so many smiles, a touch on the shoulder, listening, sitting with our families,,,,,being one with them. Someone put fresh flowers in the sleeping rooms. An anonymous donor gave King Soopers gift cards to each family. Stuffed bears were waiting for each child upon arriving. When one little boy received his soft cuddly bear, he said, "Mom, now I won't be so afraid tonight. I'll have my bear with me."

There is much to learn from

the experiences of our guest families. It is humbling to hear their stories. One of our families had been on foot during the rainy week. The father was toting all their belongings plus two toddlers while moving around during the day. Getting on and off the bus and trying to get to appointments to line up daycare and job hunting was overwhelming. He said it was such a great relief to have his belongings in a safe room so he was more free to work on getting his life in order. This comment reflects on just how our program makes a huge difference.

Transportation has been a huge concern for families. Since January of 2012, 40% of the hosted families have been on foot. Families with cars many times have car trouble and don't always have the money for gas, towing or repair. Buying a bus ticket can be a challenge. In July, FFH is hosting a brainstorming session about transportation concerns and how to relieve costs. Please contact Sue Peterson, Program Director, at 970-631-4317 or orsuecares4317@gmail.com to get involved and find out more. Gift cards for gas are always welcome. These can be dropped off at the FFH Day Center, the Mennonite Fellowship, 300 East Oak Street or given to one of the FFH OSLC coordinators. The FFH website is: faithfamilyhospitality.org

The Faith Family Hospitality organization continues to grow and has had impressive accomplishments since it's inception

January of 2012. Of the 67 families hosted since 2012, 23 (37%) have moved into permanent housing! This fiscal year of the 14 families hosted, 7 have moved into permanent housing. The FFH Day Center at the Mennonite Fellowship continues to be invaluable to the families for day use. The center is open on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9-5. Here families can shower, wash clothes, and rest. Volunteers are needed to help staff the day center. Items needed at the Day Center for the families are: sun screen, bottles of water, chap stick, laundry detergent for high efficiency washer, coffee and 5 x7 day planners.

The May 7th FFH Volunteer Celebration Dinner & Silent Auction was a huge success. FFH cleared \$10,000 from donations and auction purchases.

Thanks again to everyone for supporting this program. Please consider getting involved with our next rotation. If you have any questions, please contact one of the coordinators: Rosie Goetz at atkeroja@comcast.net or cell 970-556-1923, Jodi Loecke at atjlsloecke@comcast.net or cell 970-371-5345 or Lindsay VonBernuth at lindsayvonb@gmail.com or cell: 720-231-6439.

STEWARDSHIP

OSLC FACILITY PLANNING COMMITTEE PROGRESS

Following adoption of the Conceptual Facility Master Plan by the congregation at its January annual meeting, we set up a subcommittee to refine the cost estimate to construct the Master Plan and to look at possibilities of phasing the construction. This study involves working with the City of Fort Collins and with Poudre Fire Authority to see what things will be required such as required parking spaces, proximity to the street, ADA ac-

commodations that might be required to be retrofit on the property, what kind of building permit is needed, and what kind of fire protection might be required to be retrofit to the existing facility. Also, the committee is taking a more detailed look at constructability with respect to integrating new construction into the existing building complex. Following these analyses, the committee will look at possible phasing of the Master

Plan and the pluses and minuses of constructing entire facility at once versus in stages.

Another committee is currently being formed to determine alternatives for financing the construction. If you have expertise in this area and are interested in contributing, please contact Larry Roesner at :

larry.roesner@colostate.edu

SKY RANCH FUNDRAISER

BBQ & BLUEGRASS

Live Music By:
JERUSALEM ROAD
www.jerusalemroadmusic.com
facebook.com/jerusalemroadmusic

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church
 4501 S. Lemay Ave., Ft. Collins
Sat. June 6, 2015
@5:30 pm

Food: BBQ, coleslaw, chips, dessert
 (vegetarian and gluten-free available)
 Tickets: \$12 (5 and over) | \$30 (family) | (under 5 free)

PROCEEDS BENEFIT SKY RANCH

Supplemental Funds from Thrivent

YOUTH & FAMILY

FUN FOR ALL GENERATIONS

Vacation Bible School 3 Years-5th Grade

June 15-19, 2015
9:00am-12:00pm

To register or volunteer go to:

<http://www.our-saviours.org/events/vacation-bible-school/>

BBQ, Blues, & Burgers – June 6th
5th Annual Sky Ranch Fundraiser hosted by Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church

Picnics in the Park – June 10 & 17
Hot Dogs & Hamburgers at Edora Park

Bike to Church Weekend – June 13 & 14
Ride your bike to church to raise money for the new OSLC playground.

Gaga Ball Games

Stop by on Wednesday's from 3PM-4PM to play GaGa ball all summer long. We got the pit and the ball, do you have the time? We hope you can join us.

Water World Trip – July 6
A great way to remember your baptism! Come enjoy the summer days together at Water World! With a group rate and a generous donation we are able to offer you the rate of \$10 per person to join us for a day at Water World. You must sign up to get the discount and pay prior to departure. Contact Pastor Leta with any questions. Youth 15 and over can attend without an adult. Contact Pastor Leta or www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094aaea72ea3fe3-water1

Light the Fire-
S'mores, field games and songs for all ages !
7:00PM on the fourth Tuesday's of the summer months we are calling "Light the Fire" because that is what we are doing. That's right on June 23rd, July 28th, August 25th come to our patio on the west side of the building to play a few games, have a few s'mores and sing a few songs. And if you don't know how to play GaGa ball we will teach you!

Summerfest – July 31 – August 2
A weekend of camping with families of OSLC

Sky Ranch Camp week: 1st grade-High School , Camp: August 2-7th Register: www.skyranchcolorado.org or at OSLC with Pastor Leta

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Middle School Confirmation Camp at Rainbow Trail—Join Pastor Michael for a week in the southern mountains July 12-18th! Sign up on Sunday or contact Pastor Michael!

High School Summer Mission Trip – June 2 – 9

High School Youth's Service Trip to Chicago

A WORD FROM OUR FOCOLU YOUTH DIRECTOR

John 15:1-5 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 2 He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. 3 You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

On a recent Sunday this text was the basis for the sermon, and while I have heard those verses many times before, today it inspired me in a new way and in a new direction for FOCOLU.

What all needs pruning in our lives? Do we have unhealthy, one sided, draining or seemingly dead relationships that are keeping us from life-giving, energizing and trusted relationships? What does pruning a relationship look like?

How about our work or school lives? What needs pruning in order to have more life in these settings? It seems ironic that many times the parts of our job or school that we dislike the most seem to consume the majority of our time. Now, I'm not advocating for you to skip parts of your job or to not study or test in a certain subject, but I do wonder what the balance of pruning looks like in these settings.

Time. What consumes our time? Does this bring joy and reason for Thanksgiving to our lives? What needs pruning in how we spend our time?

What can this scripture tell us about money or our resources? Do we use our resources the way we would want to use them? Where might we prune our budg-

ets and resources and be better stewards of the gifts we've been given?

So could this verse actually be a lesson for us in stewardship? I think it is. We need to care for the gifts that have been trusted to us and take good care of and guard those gifts. We need to keep distractions and sins away from allowing us to use and share those gifts as well as finding new uses to glorify God through the expression of those gifts.

This tension that we often find ourselves in reminds me of Romans 7:19, "For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do."

I have also learned in recent years that death always leads to new life and in order for there to be a new life there has to be death just as the scripture says regarding pruning.

So how does this apply to FOCOLU? Collectively FOCOLU has all of the gifts that it needs. Those gifts are present in each of you. FOCOLU will only happen through God's spirit living out in each of you.

I would like to propose a few JOHN 15 sessions. Let's get together and dream together. Let's talk about ministries that will bear

fruit, ministries that could bring new life. Let's also discuss ministries and models that might need some pruning. Let's all contribute to this ministry with our hearts, voices, visions, gifts and time.

I would like to invite you ALL to join me on June 17th, 7pm at Edo-ra Park. There will be a potluck meal at 6pm (you're free to contribute) that is hosted by Our Saviour's and we will meet for an hour following the meal. I would like to have all (youth, parents, youth leaders, volunteers, potential volunteers, young people, middle aged people, old people, however you might categorize yourself) of you with us. Sharpen up those pruners and join us for the next steps of this faith-filled Ministry

Blessings to you,
Kevin Dragseth
kevin@focolu.org



SMALL GROUPS

WELCOME MINISTRY NEWS

The welcome ministry group just hosted a brunch for our five new family units. They are Jane & Tom Davis, Chad Davis (adult son of Jane & Tom), Kathrin & Michael Harrington (Molly), Patricia Sortino, Stuart & Ann Hennen (Andrew, Josh, Eleanor and Aubrey), Brad & Diane Frye. They will be received at the May 31st service at 9AM. Great to welcome five new family units as we celebrate our 50th anniversary!!!

The welcome ministry group also purchased another outside bench which is located outside the door near Leta's office. Please enjoy these benches just outside our

church doors to relax and visit with our fellow Christian brothers and sisters.

The committee is also working on some guest information which we hope to place in the pews for our guests and visitors. Also keep looking forward to another coffee and connect meeting in the near future. This is a great opportunity for members, old and new, to meet and answer questions from visitors and newer members.

We appreciate all of our members who greet our visitors and make them feel welcome. Please introduce yourself if you are sitting next to someone you don't know

and offer to take them over to the welcome table where we can share information about the church and give them a little gift of our appreciation for visiting Our Saviour's church.

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

TOM & JANE DAVIS: Moved to Fort Collins in 1977 from Sturgis, SD; lived in Fort Collins for 32 years, currently live in Wellington. Retired: Tom is the field manager at PSD's French Field. Two sons: Chad in Fort Collins, Chris in Denver.

CHAD DAVIS: Work at Standard Process West. Enjoy playing golf and following CSU football and basketball. Have lived in Fort Collins the majority of my life.

KATHRIN & MICHAEL HARRINGTON: We moved to Fort Collins three years ago from Denver, where we had lived for three years; prior to that we lived

& grew up in Oklahoma. Kathrin is a physician and Michael, is a stay-at-home dad. We had a daughter, Mollie, who was born on Easter (April 5th). We enjoy every minute of parenthood and spending time with her. We enjoy hiking, skiing and OU football.

PATTI SORTINO: Work part-time at Santangelo Law Offices. Lived in Burnsville, Minnesota; Omaha, Nebraska; Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania; Los Angeles, California

BRAD & DIANE FRYE: Just married July 19, 2014. Diane is from Illinois east of St. Louis. Brad is from Fort Collins, but has lived in a variety of western

states and most recently, Lake City, Colorado. Diane is a licensed massage therapist and Brad works for Larimer County Natural Resources. We love to hike, watch movies & travel.

STUART & ANN HENNEN & CHILDREN (ANDREW, JOSH, ELLA, & AUBREY): Relocated here from Pennsylvania and currently work at JBS. After moving around to many different places, we came to the Fort Collins area for the quality of life. When we are not chasing the kids around we enjoy the outdoors (hunting, fishing, hiking, etc...), cooking, eating, and exploring the area.

OSLC SMALL GROUPS

BIBLE STUDY SERIES-Tuesdays, 7PM-8:30PM or Thursdays, 9:30-11:00AM will resume in the fall.

LEAH CIRCLE— Leah Circle summer meeting schedule TBA

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP is now meeting at The Egg & I, 1112 Oakridge Drive, Fort Collins at 6:45am on the first Wednesday morning of each month.

GENERAL FUND BUDGET UPDATE

	2015			
	APR		YEAR TO DATE	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
TOTAL GIVING	55,507	56,379	182,389	225,517
LESS EXPENSES	<u>56,815</u>	56,379	<u>205,271</u>	225,517
CASH SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-1,308		-22,883	

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

June 21, 2015

*Please join Victor Pearn in celebrating
the launch of his new book*

American Western Love Song

Poems written by Victor Pearn

Reading and Book Signing

Open House

June 4, 2015 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Reading at 6 p.m.

Book Signing following Open House

Fossil Lake Ranch Clubhouse

6033 Brookwater Lane

(corner of Lady Moon and Brookwater)

Fort Collins, Colorado 80528

Appetizers and beverages provided

*Victor's books will be available for purchase
during the open house*

RSVP by June 1, 2015 to Kendra Hanson

fortfunone@comcast.net



OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

2000 South Lemay
Fort Collins, CO 80525

Office: (970) 484-3133

Preschool: 484-7412

Fax: 866-611-6550

www.our-saviours.org

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2015

