

# THE SIGNAL

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS-”MAKE ALL THINGS NEW”

### DECEMBER SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

#### 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.

#### YOUTH & FAMILY ACTIVITIES

**December 5<sup>th</sup>** –Preschool Craft Fair & Flea Market, 9am-3pm

**December 5<sup>th</sup>**-Ice Skating & cookies, 1:30pm, Middle School

**December 6<sup>th</sup>**-Beer And Hymns (Wine and Wassail edition)-  
5pm

**December 11<sup>th</sup>**-Kids Night In-Parents Night Out, 5-9 pm

**December 13<sup>th</sup>** –Sr. High Christmas Party, 12pm @ Trinity

**December 13<sup>th</sup>**-Christmas Program 5pm& Italian Dinner,  
5:30pm

**December 20<sup>th</sup>**-Happy Birthday Jesus Party @ 9:45am ;

**Cookies & Cocoa**-Caroling meets at OLC at 3pm and ends about 5pm at John & Anita Bleem’s home.

*(See pages 9-11 for full details on activities)*

#### WORSHIP

**December 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Cantata, 5:30pm, 8:30 & 11:00am

**Christmas Eve Worship**– 3pm, 5pm, 7pm & 10pm

Nursery available at 3pm, 5pm, & 7pm

**Christmas Day Worship**- 10am@ Trinity Lutheran,  
301 E. Stuart, Fort Collins, 10am

**December 26<sup>th</sup>**, 5:30pm Worship

**December 27<sup>th</sup>**, 10am, Worship (One Service)



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## LETTERS FROM THE PASTORS

*We began this fall on a Journey of Renewal -- Renewing Our Sense of Direction and we have engaged in worship, Bible studies, small groups, and family events as a way to walk together and see God in our lives and in our days. As we enter Advent, we continue with this journey, focusing in on how God is Making All Things New--in our hearts, lives, world and connections. Making All Things New is about spirituality and it is about daily living. It is about renewing our stories, our days, our spirits, and our ways in our walk as Christians living in a world that does not always make sense and does not always look like the promise from God that we know.*

Personally, I have spent much time this year getting clear on renewing my practices of spirituality and of walking daily with God. I participated in a "Journey of Renewal" program along with other pastors and leaders across our synod. We call conferenced monthly, checked in regularly, and each month focused on a different way to renew our whole selves--mind, body, spirit; thinking, feeling, and doing. This experience, among the other books, journals, experiments, was a calm, quieting, and slow paced renewing of those areas of my life. There were a few 'ah-ha' or lightening bolt moments, but largely I learned to tap into what is spiritual practice for me and how to listen and help engage others in spiritual practice for themselves. I discovered new things--like I LOVE to dig up potatoes and find it very grounding and meditative! And I reinforced long held patterns like prayer journaling and daily time in scripture.

I share this with you to invite you on this journey as well. It does not need to look like mine (you do not have to dig potatoes to find your spiritual connection!) and it does not need to be overwhelming. To engage in life with your whole spirit and body and mind is an effort, but it is one that will ground you, center you, and lead you forward in all aspects of your life. There are many ways to engage--some have continued or started in small group that is meaningful, some are digging deep into the Gifts of Imperfection, some are reading new things, some are carrying bulletins and notes from the sermons into their daily lives and decision making, some are trying out or renewing their spirits through art and creating.. the list goes on and on. Here are some invitations, ways for you to try, play with, and find ways to be in continued renewal practices...

...In Advent--try out one of the prayer calendars and/or the *Making All Things New devotions*. *You can do this on your own, as a family, and in our community discussions Sunday mornings in Advent (9:45am)*

...Read the Bible in a Year--starting in January 2016 we will have a Bible in a year plan rolled out, a facebook group to join, and a monthly discussion group. There will be a plan for adults and a reading the Bible with children and youth plan as well.

...Join the second half of the Gifts of Imperfection group and dig deeper into guideposts for spirituality and whole-hearted living staring Wednesdays at 7pm and Sundays at 9:45 in January

... Engage in the Sunday morning adult forums on *All the Poor and Powerless to talk about our faith and the issues facing our world today*.

...Participate in a small group during Lent--we will be reading *Accidental Saints* by Nadia Bolz-Weber

... Come to the weekly Bible Study on Luke Wednesdays at 7:00pm and Thursdays 9:30am

.....Join a Middle Schooler in a confirmation class and/or mentor a middle schooler in Lent

.....engage in a monthly Journey of Renewal program with Pastor Leta and other leaders starting in the spring where we will try out a different spiritual practice each month

*Continued next page*

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... go on a retreat!

- Winterfest Retreat (February 19-21)
- Women's Retreat (April 15-17)
- Family Camp at Sky Ranch (July 3-7)
- Summerfest at Sky Ranch (August 5-6)

... Check out some of these Books and Blogs that I recommend for renewal on your own or with a small group!

Books--

- Carry on Warrior: The Power of Embracing your Beautiful, Messy Life by Glennon Doyle Melton
- Help, Thanks, Wow by Anne Lamott
- We Make the Road by Walking by Brian McLeran
- The Gifts of Imperfection by Brene Brown
- Rising Strong by Brene Brown
- Falling Upward by Richard Rohr
- Accidental Saints by Nadia Bolz-Weber
- 12 Steps to a Compassionate Life by Karen Armstrong
- Love Wins by Rob Bell
- Embracing the World: Praying for Justice and Peace by Jane Vennard
- Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up by Marie Kondo
- Yes Your Teenager is Crazy: Loving your Kid without Losing your Mind by Michael Bradley
- Homegrown Faith by David Lynn and Kathy Lynn

Blogs--

- On Being: [onbeing.org](http://onbeing.org) (blog and podcast)
- Momastery: [momastery.com](http://momastery.com) (especially for Moms)
- Praying in Color: [prayingincolor.com](http://prayingincolor.com)
- Sojourners: Faith and Action for Social Justice: [sojo.net](http://sojo.net)
- Faith Formation Journeys: [faithformationjourneys.org](http://faithformationjourneys.org)
- Building Faith: [buildingfaith.org](http://buildingfaith.org)

Making All Things New is about spirituality and it is about daily living. It is about renewing our stories, our days, our spirits, and our ways in our walk as Christians living in a world that does not always make sense and does not always look like the promise from God that we know.

... Read Pastor Fred Castor's signal article and use his book on spiritual practices

... Be on the LOOK OUT for more ways to engage and if you have an idea share it with us and others!

While you are on this journey, remember you are held, loved, and forgiven by God all year long, in every season, and you are a part of God's work and joy in this world. + Amen.

*Pastor Leta Behrens*

## ADULT EDUCATION

### SUNDAY ADULT FORUMS THIS WINTER

**9:45AM-10:45AM Room 12E**

**December - Making All Things New Small Group Discussions.** Join us in weekly discussions of the advent devotional. Books are available, but you can also join in the discussions without purchasing the book.

#### January - All the Poor and Powerless

Each Week Guest Speakers will speak about their identity and faith. Speakers include:

**January 3rd & 10th —Jeff Wright**-On the Israeli Occupation of Palestine

Week 1 - Occupation and Mental Health

Week 2- Kairos Palestine: “Christian Palestinians word to the World.”

**January 17th Randy Thompson**-On bringing clean water to developing nations

**January 24th AJ Johnson**-On Childhood Trauma

**January 31st & February 7th-Nicole Garcia and Angela Anderson**

On being Transgender

Later Guests include Guests from Lutheran Family Services-On being a Refugee

**Gifts of Imperfection Part 2!** Even if you did not make Part 1, you can jump in on part 2! Join us for this deeper look at spirituality, our connections to our selves and God and how we embrace living a full life. Wednesdays at 7:00 pm and Sundays at 9:45 am. Led by Pastor Leta and Elisa Sherman. To learn more contact Pastor Leta at [leta@our-saviours.org](mailto:leta@our-saviours.org) or 484-3133.

#### Part 1 (Still to finish)

Guidepost 4: Sunday Nov 29

Guidepost 5: Wednesday Dec 2 and Sunday December 6

#### Part 2

Guidepost 6: Wednesday Jan 6 and Sunday TBA

Guidepost 7: Wednesday Jan 13 and Sunday TBA

Guidepost 8: Wednesday Jan 20 and Sunday TBA

Guidepost 9: Wednesday Jan 27 and Sunday TBA

Guidepost 10: Wednesday Feb 3 and Sunday TBA

### Adult Weekly Bible Studies

**Wed @ 6:45pm & Thur @ 9:30**

Dec 2nd & 3rd– Psalms of Ascent-Psalms 121, 125 & 126

Come to the weekly Bible Study on Luke starting on January 6th, 2016. Everyone is welcome, even if you cannot attend regularly.

# SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

## WORSHIP IS A SPIRITUAL PHENOMENON

*Worship* is a fascinating spiritual phenomenon. It is imperative for our total well being. Without it we are incomplete beings. When worship is carried out properly, we become fully engaged, body, mind and spirit.

Our bodies stand, sit, speak, listen and sing. Our minds process the words and thoughts that we hear, speak and sing. Our spirits become engaged with *God's Holy Spirit*, which is what worship is all about.

Our bodies and minds are strictly utilitarian in the experience, ushering our spirits into the presence of the Holy One.

It is important that the scenario be complete and that the goal of becoming engaged with God is reached. For this to occur, some disciplining of our bodies and minds is necessary.

If you intend to worship and not just show up, it is vital that you discipline your body and particularly your mind. Disciplining your mind for worship

includes quieting your thoughts that race around in your head doing the Indy 500. These persistent thoughts need to be reined in and controlled in order for you to focus on being in God's presence.

The Worship Committee has placed colorful cards in the pews racks to assist you in worship preparation. They can be helpful tools. Use them.

When the prelude music begins, our preparation for worship should immediately get underway. Our conversations with other people should cease. Our minds should quietly be redirected toward praise and thanksgiving. Our spirits should begin to stretch forth to greet the Holy One.

This will very likely require breaking some old habits and creating new ones. Be assured the benefits will be profound.

Worshipping God is not confined to a church building. Appropriate discipline can be exercised anywhere at any time. The key is learning to use your

body and mind to usher your spirit into God's presence.



*Pastor Fred Castor*  
*Spiritual Guide*  
*fredcastor4@gmail.com*

If you intend to worship and not just show up, it is vital that you discipline your body and particularly your mind.



**TIME TO CUT YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE!**

Once again you are invited to join the fun and go to the Bjarlo-Castor property and cut your family tree. Donations will be accepted and the money will be donated through OSLC to a local homeless program. Meet at the church Saturday, Dec 5<sup>th</sup> @9am.

Questions:

*fredcastor4@gmail.com*

## WELCOMING ALL THROUGH WORSHIP

### December , 2015

December 5th- Holden  
December 6th-He is Our Peace  
*Celebration Band*

December 12th-Holden  
December 13th-With One Voice  
*Windstrings*

December 19th & 20th  
*Christmas Cantata*



**Christmas Eve**-  
3pm, 5pm, 7pm & 10pm  
(Nursery available @ 3, 5,  
& 7pm)

**Christmas Day**  
10am @ Trinity Lutheran

Dec 26th- Joyous Light  
Dec 27th- 10am

### January, 2016

January 2nd Holden  
January 3rd

January 9th-Holden  
January 10th-He is Our Peace  
*Celebration Band*

January 16th-Joyous Light  
January 17th-Now the Feast  
*Chancel Choir, Youth Choirs, Brass*

January 23rd-Holden  
January 24th-With One Voice  
*Windstrings*

January 30th- Joyous Light  
January 31st- ELW 4  
*Bells*

## THE LUTHERAN CHORALE

Come join the **Lutheran Chorale** at the Lakewood Cultural Center as we celebrate "Welcome Joyous Season" at 7:30 pm on Thursday, December 3, 2015. Hear selections from J.S. Bach's **Christmas Oratorio** along with beloved carols and songs that are sure to help you prepare for the season of joy and hope! Finally, join us at the close of the concert for our traditional audience sing along of the famous "**Hallelujah Chorus**" from Handel's "**Messiah**"!

We will also be holding our annual "**Silent Auction**" prior to the concert and during intermission. Please come early to shop for those special Christmas gifts and to help support the Chorale.

The Lakewood Cultural Center is located at 470 S. Allison Parkway, Lakewood. Tickets can be purchased at the LCC box office from 8am-5 pm, Monday through Friday and Saturday, 10 am-2 pm, by phone, 303-987-7845, or online at [Tickets@lakewood.org](mailto:Tickets@lakewood.org).

Ticket prices are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors 65+, \$12 for students 13+ with ID and \$5 for children 3-12 .

For more information please check our website at [thelutheranchorale.org](http://thelutheranchorale.org). e-mail us at [thelutheranchorale@comcast.net](mailto:thelutheranchorale@comcast.net), or call Linda Thompson, at 303-666-6642.

## WELCOMING ALL THROUGH SERVING

### ONE VILLAGE ONE FAMILY GIFTING

Our focus is still to gift formerly homeless families as they move into their first apartment/house. We're finding that partnering with OVOF is win/win for everyone.

We currently need the following new or gently used & laundered items:

- Towel sets (bath, hand, and washcloth) (*Big Lots is one good source*)
- Solid color pillowcases
- New pillows
- Pillow protectors
- Ziploc bags (*snack, sandwich, pint, quart, & gallon*) (*The Dollar Store is one source*)
- Kitchen Trash Cans & liner bags
- Laundry Baskets (*Big Lots has these for \$3.20*)
- Liquid Laundry detergent

Fabric Softener Sheets

Please place donations in the **OVOF Collection Tub** in the Fellowship Hall or contact Robin ([970-581-0884](tel:970-581-0884)) or Wanda ([970-581-0678](tel:970-581-0678)).

### NEWS FROM LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

Blessings to you this Advent and Christmas season! Please pray for students, faculty and staff as this semester comes to a close. Consider giving a Christmas or year-end gift to Lutheran Campus Ministry in honor of someone you love. Your gifts provide opportunities for students to experience a faith community, worship, Bible studies, service, retreats and

more. For more information about Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry at University of Northern Colorado contact Pastor Deb Abbott at [lcm.unco@gmail.com](mailto:lcm.unco@gmail.com). For Lutheran Campus Ministry at Colorado State University contact Megan Sawyer at [megancsawyer@gmail.com](mailto:megancsawyer@gmail.com). Thank you for your support!

*Pastor Deb Abbott*

Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry

1844 11th Ave  
Greeley, CO 80631

[970-817-4407](tel:970-817-4407)

[www.lecmunc.org](http://www.lecmunc.org)

[www.facebook.com/unclutherans](https://www.facebook.com/unclutherans)

### OSLC BELL CHOIR

Six members of Our Saviours Handbell Choir will again be ringing Christmas carols as part of the Holiday Open House at the

Avery House, a Fort Collins house museum. Come hear them on Sunday Dec. 6 at 2 p.m. at 328 W. Mountain Ave. and tour the

house. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated.

## FROM KEVIN DRAGSETH, FOCOLU

The last month has been full of leadership blessings. FOCOLU has been blessed by the addition of Logan Headrick as one of our ministry assistants, based out of Shepherd of the Hills. Logan has added a wonderful presence to our leadership team and to the momentum with Shepherd of the Hills.

In late October, we were blessed to host the Peer Ministry Leadership Training for seven of our youth. These 7 youth are Emily Winn, from Spirit Of Joy, Shae Nance, from Trinity, Matthew Khorl, Sophia Behrens, and Conrad Selig from Our Saviour's, and Katelyn and Averi Luze, from Shepherd of the Hills.

I am confident that these youth will take FOCOLU to a deeper and richer sense of ministry through focus on relationship, listening, encouragement and presence.

We are also blessed to have one of the ELCA's participants from the ELCA Youth Ministry Leadership Summit as a member of one of our congregation. Katelyn Luze was one of two youth chosen to represent the Rocky Mountain Synod for the ELCA Youth Ministry Leadership Summit held at Carol Joy Holling Lutheran Center in Nebraska. A total of 130 youth from across the ELCA (two from each of the 65 synods) were invited to lead their synod as leaders of youth discipleship teams. ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, along with other ELCA dignitaries were also present and encouraging of the work that our youth are a part of.

Please join me in congratulating our youth and young adult leaders on their calls to youth ministry leadership. FOCOLU is blessed with your gifts and eager to see how you will use them.

Blessed beyond measure,

Kevin Dragseth

Faith Formation Minister for FOCOLU (Fort Collins Lutherans)



FOCOLU's newest Peer Ministers – Front Row L-R, Averi, Emily, Conrad, Walter (LCM) Back Row, Sophia, Shae, Katelyn, Matthew, Megan Sawyer (FOCOLU Ministry Assistant) Kevin Dragseth



ELCA Region 2 Participants of the ELCA Youth Ministry Leadership Summit with FOCOLU's very own Katelyn Luze (back center) Representing the Rocky Mountain Synod.

# YOUTH AND FAMILY ACTIVITIES

## FOCOLU Activities :

**December 5<sup>th</sup>**-Ice Skating & cookies, Meet at OSLC to carpool to Centerra @ 1:30pm; return about 4:30pm

**December 13<sup>th</sup>** -Sr. High Christmas Party, White Elephant exchange, 12pm @ Trinity.

**December 20<sup>th</sup>**- Happy birthday Jesus party @ 9:45am; -All Together Service for our Community; baking cookies & making baskets for the homebound. Caroling, meets at 3pm; Cookies & Cocoa starts about 5pm at John & Anita Bleem's home, 1219 Springwood Drive

**January 15-17<sup>th</sup>, 2016**-Middle School Youth Gathering



## COOKIES & COCOA

December 20, 3:00pm Meet at OSLC for a quick practice and split up to carol to various homes and neighborhoods. Cookies and Cocoa will be served around 5:00pm at the home of Anita and John Bleem, 1219 Springwood Drive

## KIDS NIGHT IN-PARENTS NIGHT OUT!

**Friday, December 11, 2015 5:00-9:00pm**  
Kids 0-12 join OSLC Nursery staff for a night of Christmas fun and games!  
Parents enjoy a night off!

Pizza dinner will be served.  
RSVP to [leslie@our-saviours.org](mailto:leslie@our-saviours.org)



## YOUTH & FAMILY ACTIVITIES

### HYMNS & BEER-WINE & WASSAIL

Join us for a very special evening of holiday merriment!! There will be hymn singing, food and drink, and awesome people. This event is presented by; heart of the Rockies, Mustard Seed House churches, Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, Our Saviour's Lu-

theran Church, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church & Trinity Lutheran Church. We will meet Sunday, **December 6** from **5-7 pm** at Washington's Sports Bar & Grill 132 LaPorte Avenue.

#### **Preschool Craft Fair & Flea Market December 5, 2015; 9am-3pm**

Don't miss out on the famous kraut burgers, craft items and delicious baked goods!

#### **TOGETHER IN FAITH**



**January 24, 31:** 1st Graders-Ten Commandments (Kendra Hanson),

Worship, February 21



#### **December**

December 6th Malachi the Messenger (Advent 2) [Malachi 3:1-4](#)

December 13th Christmas Program Rehearsal

**Christmas Program 500pm—arrive at 4:00pm**

**Pray and Play Pastor Leta**

December 20th Happy Birthday Jesus Party and Service Project: Cookies and baskets

December 27th No Class

#### **January**

January 3rd All Together Sunday School Epiphany Party—

January 10th John Baptizes Jesus [Luke 3:15-17, 21-22](#)

January 17th Water to Wine ([Epiphany 2](#)) [John 2:1-11](#)

January 24th One Body Many Parts (Epiphany 3) [1 Corinthians 12:12close](#)

January 31st All Together Sunday School Service Project

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & DINNER



# Candlelight Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 13th

Dinner at 5:30

(Children's Christmas Program at 5:00)



- ❖ Sit-down dinner - Senior High Youth will be your wait staff ❖
- ❖ Italian food— lasagna or spaghetti ❖
  - ❖ Dessert ❖
  - ❖ Coffee ❖
- ❖ Fun and Fellowship! ❖



**No need to sign up; just show up!**

Your free-will donation will support the Sr. High mission trip to the Crow Indian Reservation in Montana in 2016.

## YOUTH & FAMILY, CONTINUED

### WINTERFEST RETREAT!

**February 19-21, 2016**  
**Estes Park, CO**  
**YMCA of the Rockies**

This a great weekend getaway for families, couples, and singles.. Friends, families and neighbors! Come stay in one of the reunion cabins. Rooms have a queen bed and bunk beds plus a bathroom. Shared kitchen and mealtimes.

Basic schedule: Friday late afternoon/evening arrival. Dinner on own either at cabin or before arrival Evening Fireside devotions 7:30pm

Saturday morning: Breakfast family style

Activity options: sledding, art shed, basketball courts, board games, Bible study, family Bible study, and much more.

Saturday late afternoon/evening: Worship

Sunday morning breakfast, morning devotion, depart by noon

Cost: We are working out the cost with the YMCA. It will be somewhere in the range of \$200-\$300 per room depending on location. RSVP to Pastor Leta Behrens or Christie Reimer

### HE'S BACK WITH HIS FAMILY!



The return home from Afghanistan was a three day marathon. Glenn was sent to Frankfurt, to Washington DC, then home to Dayton, OH.

Kerrie and the children were able to meet Glenn as he deplaned into the waiting area. As the picture shows, they were all glad to have Daddy home again.

Glenn is stationed at Wright Patterson in Dayton, OH. He will be stationed there for about two years but hopes to remain there for the last five years of his Air Force career without another move.

(Children: (l to r) Ayden, 2; Brendan, 6; Madelyn, 4. Kerrie is on the right.)

*I'm glad to be home with my wife and children !! Kerrie and I want to thank you for all of your prayers, cards, and acts of kindness during my recent deployment to Afghanistan. They were a comfort and helped make a difficult time better. Although I am home, I left many behind . Please continue to remember them in your prayers. Glenn Cooley*

**Phillipians 4: 6-7** <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

# SMALL GROUPS

## 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
Dec 7th	<u>The Sex Lives of Cannibals</u> by J. Maarten Troost (Book exchange)	Judy Lantry host

## OSLC CRAFTING GROUP

Please join us for a special December edition of the crafting group! We'll meet Sunday, December 6th, 5:30pm @ Chris Marston's home (5914 Huntington Hills Drive) and order take-out dinner. Bring along whatever craft project you want to work on like scrapbooking, knitting, reading, stamping, etc. Many of us use the time to assemble and address Christmas cards. Please

RSVP to Chris Marston at [970-988-4303](tel:970-988-4303).

whichever time works best for you (or both!).

Additionally, the Spirit of Joy crafting group meets on the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 – 11:00 am. Mark your calendars for December 12th and January 9th. Following the lead of FoCoLu, both crafting groups invite members from either congregation and their friends to attend

If you have questions about the crafting group call/email Stephanie Selig ([csselig@comcast.net](mailto:csselig@comcast.net) or [970-988-3808](tel:970-988-3808)) or Kathy Schmidtke ([kathy.schmidtke1976@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.schmidtke1976@gmail.com) or [970-420-7195](tel:970-420-7195)).

## OSLC CONNECTIONS



### **THEOLOGY PUB: BEER. GOD. CONVERSATION**

*Theology Pub is an opportunity for people to 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.*



Theology Pub meets one Thursday per month, 6-7:30 p.m. The next meeting is December 17th at the Horse & Dragon, 124 Racquette Dr, Fort Collins, CO 80524

**LEAH CIRCLE**— Leah Circle will meet on December 10th @ 6pm & January 28th @ 6:45 p.m. at the home of Barb Slattenow.

## STEWARDSHIP

### PICTURING THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

Picturing the Present and the Future! This fall, we had about 75 people participate in a conversation with the council about the gifts of our congregation. We as a council and pastors are energized by the conversations, reflections and communications about the ministry, worship, and focus of OSLC. As we consider the future there are many questions that arise upon any actions that we take. Finding a way to come together with those questions helps us to boldly move forward while staying connected with our mission. We have compiled a descriptive list of outcomes that were lifted up by the council and congregation as important for our focus in our present and future planning:

- achieve engagement of all generations
- avoid close mindedness to new ideas
- avoid burnout of staff and key leaders and congregation
- preserve welcoming nature and feel of the community
- preserve fun, light hearted spirit of OSLC
- avoid stagnation or not moving forward
- preserve outreach to the care of the less fortunate
- avoid distractions that take away from mission
- avoid over extending our resources and our congregation
- achieve community leadership and service
- achieve simple posture where it's okay to stop doing select activities--doing less is better
- achieve community of spiritual growth and discernment
- preserve use of building by community
- preserve a culture of diversity, quality and quantity within the church's programs

This list is not of specific programs or ministries but a list of things that serve as guideposts for our overarching goals and trajectory together. It is not a list about change or forcing new mission, it is instead one that lifts up priorities that have been and will continue to be a part of our identity as a congregation and as a people serving the community and the world. When decisions are made by the council and staff, these guideposts will aid in clarity as we use these steps and values as a way to communicate with one another, take action, and remain focused in our vision and mission: To welcome all to the love of Christ through worshipping, serving, and learning.

In Christ,

#### **2015 OSLC Council**

Colleen Waido, President  
Tom Hromatka, Vice President  
Renee Perschua, Secretary  
Cal Selig, Treasurer

Jim Gjerde  
Debi Arone  
Jerry Freier  
Ken Roper  
Sara Halac  
Marge Halvorson  
Dave Wisbon  
Conrad Selig  
Brad Runyan  
Pastor Michael Stadtmueller  
Pastor Leta Behrens

# TOASTMASTERS

Do you have something you'd like to share with the congregation, but can't imagine yourself standing up in front of everyone and speaking? Are you intimidated by the idea of praying out loud in front of others? I was surprised to find out that someone who regularly gets up to make announcements in church has a fear of public speaking and only forces herself because the cause is so important.

I was also surprised to find out that this member had never heard of Toastmasters, an international public speaking organization.

Chris and I have been members of Toastmasters for over 20 years, and it has helped us with skills and confidence in public speaking. Clubs of 20-30 members gather regularly to practice speaking, listening, and helping each other improve. We

start with the basic manual of ten projects, each focusing on one aspect of speaking (organizing, gestures, vocal variety, etc). Each speech is evaluated by another member, with an emphasis on encouragement and specific suggestions for improvement. Members also participate in 1-2 minute impromptu speeches. We rotate through meeting roles such as acting as the emcee, and we develop leadership skills such as running meetings and good listening.

There are several clubs in the area, including one that meets in our church on Tuesday mornings at 6:30. If you are not a morning person, you can find other club locations and meeting schedules at [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org). Clubs always welcome guests, and I would be happy to go with you on a visit if

you would like a familiar face with you.

Public speaking is a valuable skill that will help you rally others for social ministry or other causes. Practice with impromptu speaking can help you feel more comfortable in a job interview or a discussion with a friend about your faith. Whether you have a deep fear of public speaking or would like to polish your skills, I encourage you to check out Toastmasters.



D i a n a  
Hutchinson

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS-PLEASE ORDER BY DEC 16TH

### 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 Wednesday, December 16th.**

Your Name:

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In Memory Of:

---

In Honor Of:

---

Please check one: Check \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_



**OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

**Pastors**

Michael Stadtmueller  
[michael@our-saviours.org](mailto:michael@our-saviours.org)

Leta Behrens  
[leta@our-saviours.org](mailto:leta@our-saviours.org)

**FOCOLU Youth Minister**

Kevin Dragseth  
[kevin@focolu.org](mailto:kevin@focolu.org)

**Parish Secretaries**

Michele Hendricks  
[michele@our-saviours.org](mailto:michele@our-saviours.org)

Mary Jane Cooley  
[maryjane@our-saviours.org](mailto:maryjane@our-saviours.org)

**Signal Editor**

Mary Jane Cooley

**Counselor, Spiritual Guide**

Rev. Fred Castor

**Music Staff**

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Crystal Kerr

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Marlys Oetken

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**2015-2016**

**New Year**