



# The Signal

A Publication from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church •

## Worship with Us

**Saturday**

**5:30pm**

**Sunday**

**Worship 8:30am**

**Education Hour**

**9:45am**

**Worship 11:00am**

### Lenten Wednesday Night

#### Services

**March 1st—April 5th**

**7:00pm**

### *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.*



**Our Saviour's**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## LENT 2017 (See Full Schedule on Page 2)



### Living in a Paradox - Pastor Michael

Anybody else struggling with politics and the world lately? I realized much of my struggle is in how we treat one another. It is so easy to take the humanity out of the ones we struggle with. I've always been one to believe strongly that we can disagree on the "how are we going to get it done," but that God calls us to love "the other" and that finding our common humanity is a key step in our journey. But there is a certain weight in that task of loving "the other" that regardless of where you stand on the political spectrum has made me struggle more than usual to put away the alleluias for a season, because by God I need them now! It seems our world is once again calling us each to a black and white view of one another that paints you as righteous or unrighteous based on your viewpoints. It is in the midst of this climate that I say I love this text. It has a simple beauty to it, but a weight of sorts as well. It exposes a struggle of being a Christian. Eva Sue Littleton poked a little at Jesus [example here, by putting it this way in our bible study a few months ago, "those birds of the air that neither sow nor reap? They still spend an awful lot of times building nests for their nest eggs," And we too find ourselves serving both God and wealth as we seek protection and safety even as we long to faithfully serve God. This struggle is best spoken of by looking at the paradoxes in our Christian faith.

A paradox is two seemingly contradictory statements that nonetheless are both true....believing in a God that is fully human and fully divine in Christ Jesus is where our paradox journey begins. Examples of Christian Paradox include that you are fully a sinner and fully a saint. We believe you are broken and messed up and yet still a gift for the world. How can they both be true? It becomes a focal point for faith as we wrestle to understand its implications.

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On the INSIDE



# Holy Week

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

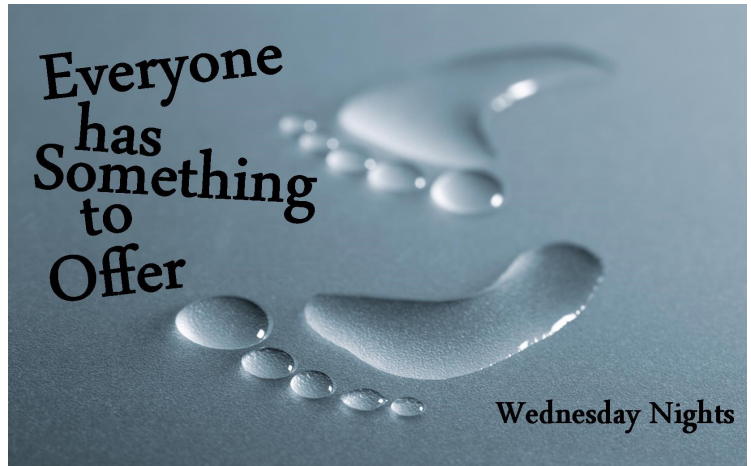
## LENT 2017 Reforming—Renewing

### Wednesday Nights

March 1st—April 5th

5:15 pm Soup Supper

7 pm Worship



Wednesday Nights

### PALM SUNDAY

April 9th

8:30 am & 11 am

### Maundy Thursday

April 13th

7 pm

### Good Friday

April 14th

7 pm

### EASTER SERVICES:

### Unexpected Grace



Sermon Series

### Sermon Series

*Unexpected Grace*

March 5th— 40 Days

(Campus Ministry Sunday)

March 12th—Wonderment of an Insider

March 19th—Wonderment of an Outsider

March 26th—The Struggle of the Faithful Part 1

April 2nd—The Struggle of the Faithful Part 2



### Small Groups Reclaiming the "L" Word

Saturday, April 15th 5:30 pm

Sunday, April 16th

7:00 am

9:00 am

10:30 am



## Middle School Youth Gathering Hunger Meal



A hunger meal is not only meant as middle school youth gathering workshop, its purpose is to impact the lives of the participants and to give a different perspective to all those involved. But first, what is a hunger meal?

It is almost exactly as it sounds, with a bit more complexity to it. When arriving at the middle school hunger meal, every participant was asked to take a colored sticker that determined where they would be sitting during the meal. After that, questions were asked regarding hunger and what their current perspective was on world hunger, how it concerned us as Lutherans, etc. Finally, the meal started.

The participants went to the tables that they were assigned to by the sticker they chose at the beginning of the event. One person represented the upper class and sat at a table with a nice place setting, facing a window away from others, and had her own personal waitress. About five participants sat at the upper middle class table, that was still set nicely but was in the back with the rest of the group. Another small group of kids were seated at the lower middle class group with no place settings and in what was clearly set at a lower standard. The rest of the group was seated on the floor, without any place settings, comfortable places to sit, or even enough cups for everyone. This represented the lowest class or impoverished group and was by far the largest.

During the meal, everyone was asked to remain silent except for the upper class person. Over the course of the meal, the waitress was busy asking about her, wondering if the food was hot or cold enough, did she have enough water, was everything suited to her liking, while the rest of the group was ignored. There were also stories about people living in deep poverty, bible verses, and statistics read out loud during this time.

Afterwards, there were devotions and reflections on what everyone had just witnessed. There was an activity where the participants were asked to write on boxes about what they had learned from this experience and how they would take it with them in their daily lives. The importance of advocacy and fulfilling our duty as Lutherans was prominent and an important part of the hunger meal. Through leading the meal, I learned the importance of group effort and how in order for advocacy to work it takes a team. I would like to thank all of the wonderful peer ministers in FoCoLu as well as my friend Anand Vissa who cooked all the food for helping me make this possible.

- Sophia Behrens

### FOCOLU Events:

**March 24 & 25—  
Middle School Lock-  
in @ OSLC 8 pm—7  
am**

**March 25—High  
School Service Event  
11 am—1 pm @  
OSLC**

**April 21 & 22 — High  
School Lock-out @  
OSLC 8 pm– 7 pm**

**April 29th—Middle  
School Service  
Project TBD**

**May 17th—Last  
Wednesday of  
Programming**

**May 21st—FOCOLU  
End of the Year  
Celebration**

## Ecuador

**Have you been by the  
FOCOLU Mission Trip  
Fundraising for Ecuador  
Table in the narthex yet?  
Help support us in the  
following ways:**

- \* T-shirt sales,
- \* A supply drive that supports our work this summer
- \* Postcard Exchange (you take/purchase one of our postcards and we will send you a postcard from Ecuador this summer.

**Please stop by for more  
information! Thank you  
for supporting the youth!**

## LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL SERVICE PROJECT

Lincoln Middle school is once again headed out of doors on a 5 day adventures this summer. Due to your help in the past the program continues to grow and reach even more kids. The first year we were able to take out 38 kids, last year we took 65 and this year we have 87 signed up. This has only been possible with generous people and their gifts to allow this diverse groups of students to be able to go. Last year, you sponsored 4 kids. All of these monetary donations are stretched as far as possible to help as many as possible, so thank you in advance. For any questions, please talk to Rob Behrens by email at:

[lrbehrens@psdschools.org](mailto:lrbehrens@psdschools.org).

In the memo line of your check if you could just put Lincoln, that would great! Thank you so much for your support!

As we end our series on Living in the Gray I would argue that this becomes a great final lesson for this series. Jesus says, "No one can serve two masters;" That you cannot serve God and Wealth. These two masters call us to decidedly different places, offering us different things, and the two masters are both alive and well in our lives. They relate directly to the saint and sinner paradox. For as these two masters are calling us, we often find ourselves struggling between worldly wealth and power, and our desire to serve God. We are sinners that struggle to let go of wealth. A wealth that for some is of money, but for others it might be more so some other power that they wield or long to wield. But God says we are all children of God that are blessed with gifts of power and wealth that can be used as a blessing to others. Living in this paradox of saint and sinner is not meant to be a free pass for poor behavior. It isn't a built in Christian excuse to mess up. The old "the devil made me do it," is not a valid Christian excuse. Instead an understanding of saint and sinner is better seen as a tool for compassion and forgiveness for those who are experiencing being on the outside, and for understanding those we struggle with. Ok that brings up another point, it is also not meant to paint you as the saint and the other as the sinner, that would be exactly what the Pharisees were doing.

The Pharisees who heard God's word were chastising those who were not living up to the law. They were drawing a line in the sand of basic expectations, but they were missing the many ways they were falling short themselves. This black and white world view created a red line of living that you couldn't fall below to be in God's Grace. And in that respect it wasn't Grace at all. It created a sort of major league and minor league of faith. This hierarchical viewpoint doesn't sit well with Jesus, but is alive and well in our world today. But it stands against the very beginning of the word of God in scripture, that God looked at everything God created and said, it is good. So what is it that we can do to understand better our relationship with God. What is it that we can do to help our world that we all know is in desperate need of help? What do we do with this broken messed up gift for the world that we are? Martin Luther reminded us of a paradox in the law itself. Law is a gift from God that helps create community but law also binds us and exposes our imperfections. The Pharisees saw law as the way to live their life correctly, but did not see how they were in need of Grace. As I struggle with our world today it is here where I find a need for prayer. I want God to help me to see my own faults and expose the Pharisee in myself and for God to help those i struggle with to see their faults too. I want God to help each of us to see what a gift we are even as we also realize that other person is a gift. I want God to help me see that this world and my neighbor are a beautiful part of creation, and I want my neighbor indeed my enemy to see that same thing about me.

As we put away the alleluias for Lent the paradox is that the Alleluias won't leave us. God's Grace won't leave us, but we will spend this time examining what small steps we can take to live out the grand picture of the Kingdom of God that has been shared with us. It is here that I find comfort for I know my job is not to solve the world's problems, my job is to love my neighbor. And when I love my neighbor, my neighbor begins to love me, and when God's love grows like this it can't help but bring more Alleluias, and this Alleluia is contagious. And I believe wholeheartedly that in spite of a broken and dark sinful world that God comes to us with Grace and mercy offering us an opportunity to share the greatest paradox of all. That one that was dead lives forever, and we that are blind now see! Amen.

### Sabbatical

#### **Do you know how important you are to the life of this congregation?**

Starting in March, we will be exploring the answer to this question together, as well as what gifts we bring to each other, while Pastor Leta does the same during her sabbatical.

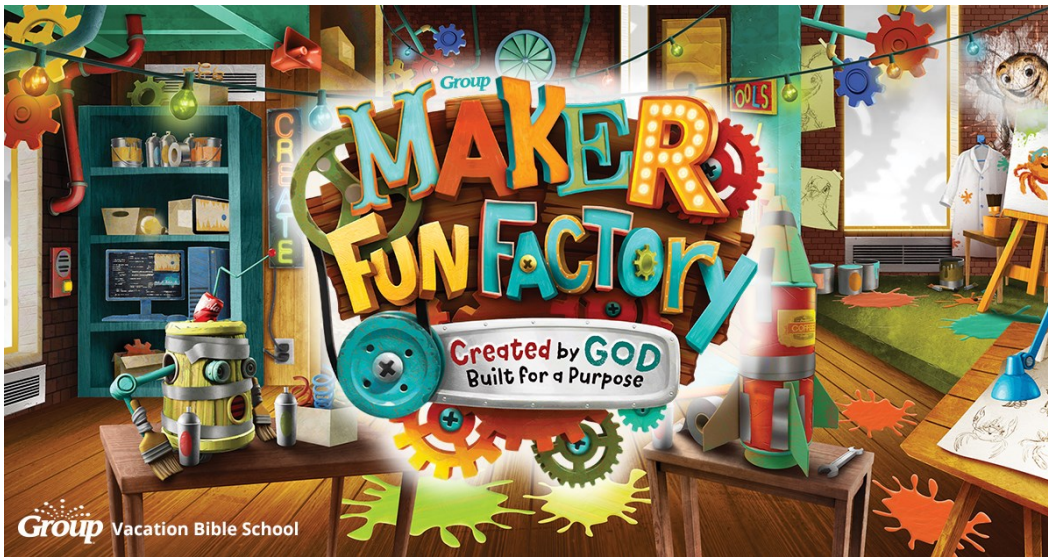
Our Sabbatical Planning committee is in the process of planning who does what while Pastor Leta is away at her sabbatical from June 19 to September 16.

During this time, as a congregation we'll be doing our own exploration of gifts to be ready to reunite with Pastor Leta in September and share our learnings with each other. This process won't be difficult, and it will take conscious involvement by you to be fully successful. More details will be forthcoming as we get closer.

If you would like to be involved during the sabbatical timeframe in organizing and supporting this effort, or if you see a need normally filled by Pastor Leta that you would like to fulfill, please contact Pastor Michael or me.

In service, Chris Hutchinson

# Summer Camps



## Vacation Bible School

June 12—16

9 am—12:30 pm

Register Online:

<https://our-saviours.org/2017/02/21/vacation-bible-school-registration-open-2/>

## Summerfest

August 4-6

@ Sky Ranch

Register Online:

<https://our-saviours.org/2017/02/16/summerfest-august-4-6/>



## Rainbow Trail Confirmation Camp

July 16-22

Sign up with

Pastor Michael!:

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

## Sky Ranch (All Ages)

August 6-11

Register Online:

<http://skyranchcolorado.org/>

## OSLC's Middle School Cookie Merchants!

The dozen 6th through 8th Grade Sunday School kids had just wrapped up their February 12th session about handling the influences in life that might lead them astray (peer-pressure, greed, and the like - Our simple answer was to always try to work from a foundation of love, and love one another as Christ has loved us!). Teacher Bill Withers had passed out Valentine Cards for the students to show love to special people in their lives on February 14th (two days away). We then turned our attention to "What might we do as our OSLC Service Project?"

Several ideas were discussed, and the students decided that a "Cookie Sale with Lemonade" would be fun and would raise money for a worthy cause. So Teacher Anita Bleem laid out a plan for getting together to bake cookies on Saturday, and putting them out for sale during the between-service education hour the next day, Sunday.

By 9:30 Sunday morning, February 19th, we were ready. The kids took turns parading posters to encourage the congregation to "check-out" our table in the Fellowship Hall; you might have seen them. We had serving plates stacked high with cookies, and a wide variety from which to choose! Our kids wearing plastic gloves filled baggies with the customers' cookie selections. Our sales staff was polite, and eager ... and smiled at each potential buyer. We were well pleased about our great Bake-Sale (w/lemonade) Project, and the congregation seemed to agree. They voted with their purchases and donations! Over \$400 was raised to give to the OSLC Playground Fund.

We owe our thanks to all of the middle schoolers, their supportive parents, and to the purchasers and donors who made this Service Project a success. We teachers are honored to be entrusted with such an exciting, imaginative, and cooperative group of Middle Schoolers! They inspire us!

Teachers Anita & John, and Bill

Our Middle School Service Project in the Fall of 2016 also raised money to help improve the OSLC Playground (shown below, with our students standing in front of it, in this October 9th, 2016, Class Photo):



# SPIRITUAL MUSINGS

## DISCERNING GOD'S WILL

Life presents us with a constant stream of decisions we are compelled to make. It is appropriate and wise to seek God's guidance in our decision-making. Prayer should be a constant for us in this process.

Even so, how can we know that what we determine is God's will for us is indeed his will and not our own egotistical will asserting itself, or some intrusive demonic will?

First, what do we mean by the term "know"? How can we know . . .? Without becoming philosophical, what we are seeking is a higher degree of probability God will direct us in our decision making, and further, will make his will known to us in such a way that we can discern it and act upon it in confidence.

However, if what we are seeking is absolute certainty the message we are receiving is of God, we are off base. There is no certainty—only faith, which is based upon our relationship with God. Within this relationship we learn to live on God's promises which are abundant.

We are called to live, trusting God's promises that we are being led and directed throughout life. When it comes to specific and difficult decisions, when much is at stake, greater trust is required. Spiritual growth comes into play at this juncture. As we grow spiritually, we grow in our trust of these promises, but even more, trust in the one behind the promises.

Pastor Fred Castor

Spiritual Guide

### OSLC Council Winter Retreat

The OSLC Council gathered this year at Lisa Olsen's home to plan the new year and enjoy fellowship. Our goal was to explore church needs, assign positions and liaisons, and to get to know the new members. After team building exercises and reflection, the group identified "bucket list" items for our church. From this we created two task forces: **Building/Facilities** and **New Member/Visitor Follow up** to efficiently address these areas. Elections determined the executive members, and then council members paired up to act as co-liaisons for categorized groupings of Church committees and other Church groups to contact and support. Finally, this year the OSLC council members will read and study the book, [Beyond Church Walls: Cultivating a Culture of Care](#) by Rick Rouse. The retreat was a positive and fulfilling event, leaving council members energized and ready to serve God, the church and our community.

## WINTERFEST 2017





## Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

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# THIS EASTER

*there is a place  
for you here*

If you are seeking a place to call home on  
Easter Sunday, we are right in your neighborhood.  
Join us as we sing, worship and celebrate.

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Easter Vigil Saturday 5:30 pm

Easter Sunday 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am

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**WELCOME**  
*Guests!*