

September October November 2017

The Signal

A Publication from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

FALL WORSHIP TIME CHANGES

You will notice that this Fall the times did not revert back to previous fall worship times. Instead we have switched to Sunday services to 8:30AM and 10:30AM.

We are doing this for several reasons.

Studies (and experience) tell us that the worship times that overlap with the 9-11 hours are the highest attended. With the time changes both services will overlap this time period.

Currently our first service is at or near capacity and our second service has room to grow, and we hope this slightly shifts the attendance levels to make more room for guests at our first service and by increasing attendance at our late service.

We also hope this overlaps the two worship service groups more for coffee and education.

This will obviously make our education hour more tight, but we also believe it will mean a higher energy point of contact.

We have experienced a high rate of guests coming to our 10:30 service in the summer time and feel this shows support for this time from the broader community.



Worship With Us

Saturday
5:30 pm

Sunday
8:30 am
10:30 am

Mission Statement

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

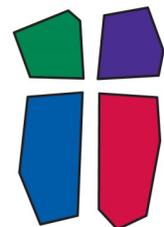
Welcome Statement

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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Our Saviour's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

sacred spaces

In knitting, the way the thread holds together and the tension one uses to knit the yarn matters because the space that is in between the stitches also matters. Space matters in knitting because the amount of space or the 'holes' that show through create a certain look depending on whether it is very little space, tightly knit, or flowing and loosely knit. In the overall big picture neither method is better than the other, it just depends on what it is you are knitting and is the purpose to create warmth or a solid pattern or to create space in the stitches for a more lacy, intricate look or a cooler feeling garment.



Space matters in all kinds of ways in our life together and as individuals too. How much space one needs may depend on personality, or task or culture or spirit. It may depend on what the hoped for outcome of an experience is or where one has found themselves on the path of life or encounter with God. We used the word space to mean so many different things—space for our stuff, space for our bodies, personal comfort level of being touched, and space to think or feel or contemplate or be in the presence of God.

Over the past 5 weeks we have experienced all kinds of space issues and situations—some sacred and some not so much. Our suitcases for example are ones that we can carry on our back and can get into the overhead compartment of an airplane if needed. So all we brought will fit into that one bag. At first we thought no way, we are gone 5 weeks in climates that changed from a high of 50 degrees to a high of 98! But

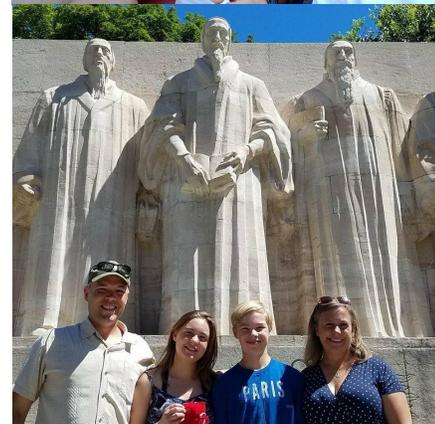
we soon discovered we had actually brought too much and began to ditch things! Also, our space together as a

family shrunk to about a quarter of its normal size. Going from a house where everyone has their own room and a yard and a porch and a bathroom to places where are much closer together, including one stay where we were all in one room together, has its 'knit together' blessings and challenges!

We also discovered that culturally different places and people see space differently. In Iceland there is space everywhere—parks, streets are wide, people sit near one another but not too close in restaurants and cafes and

buses. In Paris and Rome, space is limited—in a café it is one person right next to the other whether you know each other nor, on the metro you must push to claim your space and only take as much as your body fills!

It is interesting to me how the physical space I have can have such an effect on the mental and emotional space I have as well. Tight spaces made it difficult for me to be present and as soon as I had even just a little more space I could experience the moment more fully. We went to many places that are deemed 'sacred'. From little country churches in Iceland to Norte Dame and Vatican City. From the mountain top of a sacred hill in the north of Iceland to the community of Taine, to a little meditative field in Assisi. All these spaces sacred in some way—either in the past or also in the present. I would not say that each of these spaces 'felt' sacred to me although all were appreciated for one element or another. Yet all were spaces where we took a



moment to be in that space, to be present to the history or spirituality or community that it was reaching from the past into the present future. Being in these kinds of sacred spaces was a new way of honoring who we were and are from the depths of history and creating new meaning for our life together going forward. These spaces brought new understanding to what I consider sacred and also how I honor the sacred space and spirituality of others. They are spaces that opened our eyes not just to a different time or place but to a new understanding of self and the connection of communal spaces and experiences.

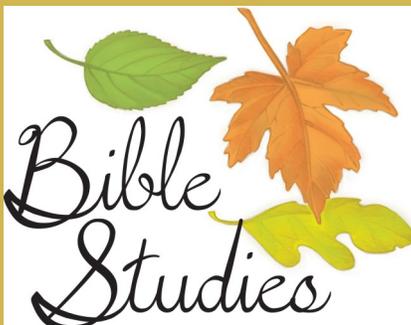
Psalm 139 speaks of the spaces, the promises, and the presence of God in our innermost being, our creation, our thoughts and all our spaces in between: O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you. For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you. O that you would kill the wicked, O God, and that the bloodthirsty would depart from me—those who speak of you maliciously, and lift themselves up against you for evil! Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you? I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies. Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Parts of this psalm I can read and feel wow—there is no space between me and God and that can feel crowded and it can feel freeing at the same time. I can hear the writer asking for God's promise to continue, to be in all the spaces whether they are large or small, grand monuments or a quiet breeze. All these spaces and times are sacred from the moment of our creation. And so I discovered again a truth that has been revealed before and will be over and over—sacred space is sometimes a church or a history or a tradition and sometimes it is the shade of a tree or a conversation or the gift of your teenager falling asleep with their head on your shoulder on a train. God is revealed in many, many ways. God is in the tightly knit spaces and in the big flowing holes of life too. God is in our past, a part of the spaces that were before us and in between us and God is reaching into the present future creating new spaces knit together with the old.

What are the physical spaces that have been or remain sacred spaces for you? What are moments that you have experienced as sacred? How do you create mental and emotional and spiritual spaces throughout your day? Where would you like to feel more closely knit and where do you want to have more open space?

Pastor Leta

Fall Bible Study



September 6th The Catholic Reformation

October 4th Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith

September 13th The Radical Reformation

October 11th Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith

September 20th The English Reformation

October 18th Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith

September 27th The Swiss Reformation

October 25th Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith

MUSIC AT OSLC

"Making Music Today Can Lead to a Better World Tomorrow". by Jerry Freier

Musicians at OSLC who sing, play bells, or participate in one or more of our instrumental ensembles contribute so much more than just providing music. A frequently heard slogan of Thrivent Builds, which is the partnership between Thrivent Financial and Habitat for Humanity, is "Live Generously". These words are expressed well in the way OSLC musicians devote their time not only to making music, but also in volunteering to help others. In the area with which I am most familiar, that is recruiting OSLC volunteers to help build homes with Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity, approximately seventy percent of the nearly forty church members who are on my list of regular volunteers, are also involved with choirs, bands, or instrumental ensembles. Some volunteers sing in the Chancel Choir, play bells, and are members of one or more of our musical groups. In a few cases, parents and their adult children both sing and/or play in a musical group, in addition to volunteering to help build homes for families in need. While it is important that as parents we set examples for our children, it should be noted that OSLC musicians set examples for all of us to live out our passions, which include making music and making the community around us a better place to live. In the future, when we recruit new volunteers for Habitat builds and if a volunteer is not already a member of a musical group, perhaps we should add a brief audition to see if a new recruit has potential as an OSLC musician.

Calling All Singers

The Chancel Choir will resume rehearsals, sharing in the joy of music fellowship, on Wednesday, September 6, 7:00 - 8:30 P.M. We welcome back our current, previous, and new members. If music speaks to you, please join us. Questions: Contact director, Sheri McKelfresh, sheri@our-saviours.org *"Music touches feelings that words cannot express. It is the melody of the heart and the voice of the spirit."* Susan J. Polis

Thank you Summer Musicians!

There was an enthusiastic turnout of musicians over the summer.

Thanks for sharing your gifts during summer worship at OSLC!



Breann Barry –vocals, Carol Bisbee – vocals, John and Anita Bleem – vocals and guitar, Eric Edmundson – piano, John Eislele – guitar, Jerry Freier – clarinet and saxophone, Kendra Hanson – vocals, Aspen Harboush – vocals, Alex Hargleroad – cello, Becky Hunget – oboe, Hutchinson Family – vocals, Pete Jordan – guitar, Georgia LaPlante – vocals, Jim Ling – bagpipes, Espen Marston – vocals, Kathy McMillen – vocals, Wes Peterson – vocals, Mary Lou Sorensen – vocals, Patti Sortino – vocals, Stadtmueller Family – vocals and piano, Sidney Thompson – vocals, Marcy Valenta – piano, Carolyn Walter – piano, Bill Withers – vocals.

SUMMER CAMPS REFLECTION

This summer I had the privilege of attending Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp in July and also dropped off my children at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp after attending Summerfest as well. Our camps are an amazing resource that we fully utilize at Our Saviour's. We had 15 attendees at Rainbow Trail. We also had 63 for our family camp weekend retreat at Sky Ranch with 36 youth attending camp the following week. The value to our program is immeasurable, but I am also reminded that this is the largest young adult ministry in the ELCA. There are other great ones, but with 130 camps nationwide fully staffed with young adults we empower a large segment of young adults to connect with our youth every summer as leaders. I always say that it looks like camp is for the kids, and it certainly is, but our young adults receive an even greater gift working with all of those youth.

I know personally it is a part of my call story and Pastor Leta's call story as well. Many pastors would say the same thing, but I am also aware that many of our adult members who are active in this church have a similar experience. Our church supports this ministry directly with gifts to each of these fine organizations in our budget, but we also provide \$3,000 in scholarships every year to ensure youth have an opportunity to experience this great ministry.

Thank you for your support of our camps, and thank you for sending your kids and your families up to camp. If you would like to find a way to connect yourself to these ministries we would love to help you do so.

Peace, Pastor Michael



REFORMATION FEST

SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 23
10 AM—3 PM

Celebrate the 500th anniversary of
the Reformation by Martin Luther!

An All Ages Event Including:

GERMAN BEERS FROM
ZWEI BREWING



WORKSHOPS

A HYMN SING

MUSICAL GROUPS

TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH

301 E. STUART STREET
FORT COLLINS, CO

CHILDREN'S
EVENTS &
GAMES

Sponsored by:



WELCOME TO REFORMATION FEST.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER
23

10 AM—2 PM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
301 E. STUART STREET
FORT COLLINS, CO 80525
SPONSORED BY FOCOLU

10:00 AM SPECIAL GUEST
SPEAKER MARY JACKSON

CHURCH HISTORIAN & AUTHOR OF
DAUGHTER OF THE REFORMATION: A HIS-
TORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE LIFE AND
TIMES OF THE WIFE OF MARTIN LUTHER

11:00 AM HYMN SING

11:30 AM FOOD, BEER, FUN

1:00 PM WORKSHOPS

REFORMATION AND
POP CULTURE:

W/ MEGHAN AELABOUNI

What do Playmobil Luther, Kesha's "Praying", and online
Jesus memes have to do with faith? Come explore the
Reformation roots of Christianity in popular culture and
what it means as Lutherans to navigate pop culture today.

REFORMATION TODAY: FAITH
CONNECTIONS FOR FAMILIES

W/ LETA BEHRENS

So what does this mean to me? Pastor Leta will explore
the reformation in a manner that allows all ages to un-
derstand it together. Families are invited to wrestle
with the Reformation together.

THE LEGACY OF MARTIN LUTHER:
MORE THAN CHURCH FORMATION
W/ KAY GILLESPIE

This interactive workshop will offer an expansive view of the
impact of the Reformation, that is, as much more than just the
formation of the Lutheran church. In the spirit of scholastic de-
bate, eight (not 95) theses will be offered and discussed. The
themes of these eight theses are 1) the Reformation not as a sin-
gle event, 2) Luther's actions as "the tipping point, 3) the Refor-
mation as a "societal tsunami," 4) the impact on the printing in-
dustry, 5) the contribution to the development of democratic
ideals, 6) economic impact, 7) changing views on education, and
8) impact on language.

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF LUTHERAN
BELIEF

W/ DANA PETERSON

What does our church teach? Take this opportunity to brush
up on some
Lutheran Basics.



REFORMATION FEST

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 FROM 10 AM - 3 PM
AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
SPONSORED BY FOCoLU

As this year marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation by Martin Luther, the four ELCA churches of Ft. Collins are inviting everyone to commemorate this special occasion. There will be many amazing events happening, including:

ELCA Youth Gathering - Youth Trip 2018 Info meeting September 24th - 12pm at OSLC

Next year our youth will be attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston Texas. The theme for this 5 day gathering is "This Changes Everything", and we will be serving, worshipping and learning alongside 30,000+ other ELCA youth. This will be a trip for all 8th-12th graders. Please keep our youth in your prayers as they prepare for this week of fellowship and impact of what our Church looks like when we all join together. Our first meeting will be on September 24th, at noon, at OSLC.

Coyote Howl Confirmation Retreat -

At Sky Ranch - September 29 - Oct 1st - \$135

Coyote Howl creates sacred space for confirmation students to build upon a foundation, which will travel back with them to their home congregations. Coyote Howl offers community building, Bible study, worship and fellowship with youth from throughout the Rocky Mountain Synod. Alongside our dynamic, energetic and passionate staff, your youth will explore the way that God is at work in their individual communities along with how their connection to one another essentially shapes their journey of faith.

Adult Leader Training

October 8th - 12-3:30pm at OSLC

"God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called"

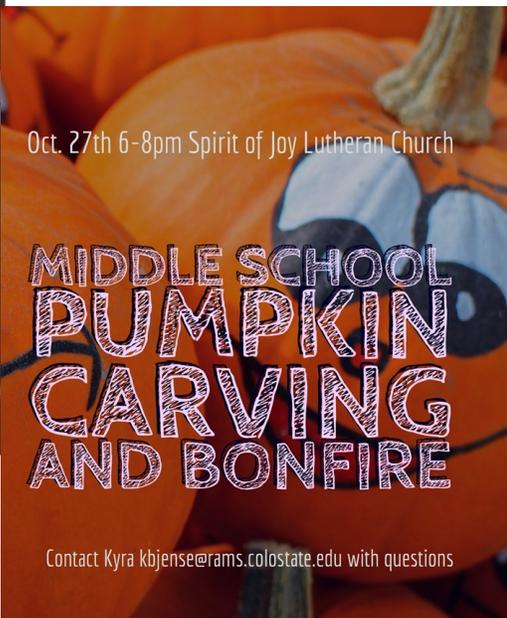
Ideally FoCoLu would spend the majority of it's staff time equipping the congregational members to fully implement the ministries. We work alongside all of our volunteers to ensure they are aware, comfortable and resourced to carry out the ministries they are involved with.

We offer group style adult leader trainings as well as individual times of support to ensure that all of our leaders are comfortable and ready to be a part of our ministries.

On Sunday, October 8th, we will have an Adult Leader Training that will give you an idea of what it will be like to work with children, youth and families. We will provide everything needed for the day, and for your time with our youth. Please RSVP to Kevin.



Oct. 28th (meet at Spirit of Joy at 5pm) Terror in the Corn High School Students- we're taking a trip to Anderson Farms! Cost: \$25 per student



Oct. 27th 6-8pm Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church

MIDDLE SCHOOL PUMPKIN CARVING AND BONFIRE

Contact Kyra kbjense@rams.colostate.edu with questions

MIDDLE SCHOOL SERVICE AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES

GET CONFIRMATION CREDIT!

WHEN: NOVEMBER 11, 9AM-12PM

WHERE: MEET AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES CENTER- 460 LINDEN CENTER DR, FORT COLLINS, CO 80524

PARENTS: PLEASE FEEL FREE TO JOIN! WE WILL NEED 3 ADULTS FOR EVERY YOUTH THERE.

THERE ARE PERMISSION FORMS WHICH EACH PARTICIPANT WILL NEED. PLEASE EMAIL KAARI AT VONBERNUTH.KAARI@GMAIL FOR THESE FORMS.

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

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www.our-saviours.org



SALVATION

*is nearer to
us now than
when we*

**FIRST
BELIEVED.**

ROMANS 13:11, ESV

