



THE SIGNAL

DECEMBER JANUARY FEBRUARY

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HOW you can
HELP

SIGN UP TO HELP WITH CHRISTMAS WORSHIP!

There is a sign up form in the church office!

Volunteers are needed in the Office for December 27—December 29th. Please sign up in the church office.

A Publication of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church



ADVENT AT OSLC

Dec 10– Children's Christmas Message during the 10:30am Worship Service

Luau Lunch High School Summer Trip Fundraiser

Dec 15– Kid's Night In Christmas Time

Dec 16/17 - Cantata in Worships

December 17 – FoColu Christmas Party A Night in the Lights

Dec 20– Family Friendly Beer & Hymns at the Island Grill
6:30pm

Dec 23- Carols before Worship OSLC 4:30

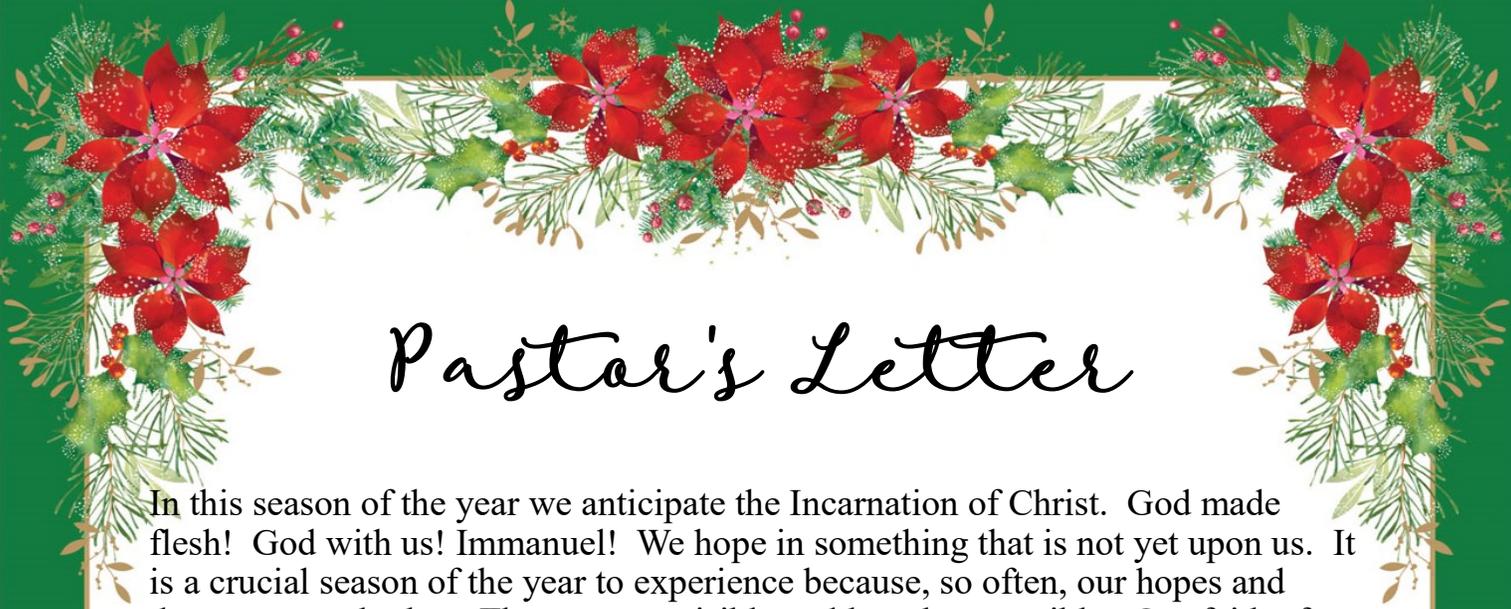
Dec 23 - Advent Celebration following Worship

Dec 24– Sunday Morning Worship – Advent Lessons & Carols @ 10:00am

Dec 24– Christmas Eve Worship Services
3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Dec 25– Christmas Day Worship @ 10:00am

Dec 31 - Worship @ 10:00am



Pastor's Letter

In this season of the year we anticipate the Incarnation of Christ. God made flesh! God with us! Immanuel! We hope in something that is not yet upon us. It is a crucial season of the year to experience because, so often, our hopes and dreams are only that. They are not visible and less than tangible. Our faith often lives in a place similar to Advent. We don't always see God as clearly as we like, and so as the beautiful Advent song says, "We wonder as we wander."

The difference between the "season" of Advent and how we experience God in our lives is that we can clearly anticipate Christmas on December 25th. We know when all of our services are scheduled. On Christmas Eve we will sing Silent Night. Our own faith journey is most often much less linear. We can't anticipate when hope becomes more incarnate in our own lives. We believe in a God that is here, but we live in a broken world where it is not always visible.

And yet the reason we celebrate Christmas this time of year is not because we are certain that this is the date of Our Savior's birth. No, we celebrate Christ's birth now because we are certain that on the darkest of days God is with us.

As we enter into 2018 there is much to be excited about. This year we had many new members join us. We gave more in mission and outreach than any previous year. In a matter of weeks we will break ground on an expansion to our facility that we have been anticipating for several years. We celebrate the mission of this church that is being fulfilled through our stewardship of resources. Come and join us this Advent and Christmas and into the coming year to continue to walk together in our life in Christ Jesus.

Blessings to you as we turn towards the promise, Immanuel, God with us!

Pastor Leta and Pastor Michael



Stewardship: Kiss Ministry

It started at Brookdale Senior Living in Fort Collins where Kendra Hanson embarked on a ministry that now seems to know no bounds...KISS – Kendra Inspiring Seniors to Sing. That first music program at one senior center was an interaction between the residents and their familiar songs from the 30’s, 40’s, and 50’s, as well as hymns and Rogers and Hammerstein. It was the creation of something that has become more than Kendra ever imagined. KISS now has seven care centers that Kendra visits monthly in Fort Collins, Windsor, Longmont, and Greeley, where she feeds the souls and helps improve the quality of the residents’ lives through her music program. Poor eye sight, immobility, and even memory loss is no match for those old familiar tunes Kendra brings to those who live with such ailments. During that first music program at Brookdale Senior Living, it was obvious the 100+ year old piano could no longer be tuned and desperately needed to be replaced. So, Kendra jumped to action again and started asking her neighbors for one piano donation. Soon, Kendra had four pianos from these wonderful neighbors. To date, Kendra has orchestrated the donations of six pianos to senior centers in Fort Collins, Greeley and Longmont. Today, KISS has themed music each month used to guide the songs that are sung. For example, March was Irish and spring songs. The interaction with the residents include not only singing, but playing kazoos for respiratory therapy and percussion instruments for motor skills therapy. The programs usually run an hour or an hour and a half, depending on their “singing stamina.” Kendra has found helpers

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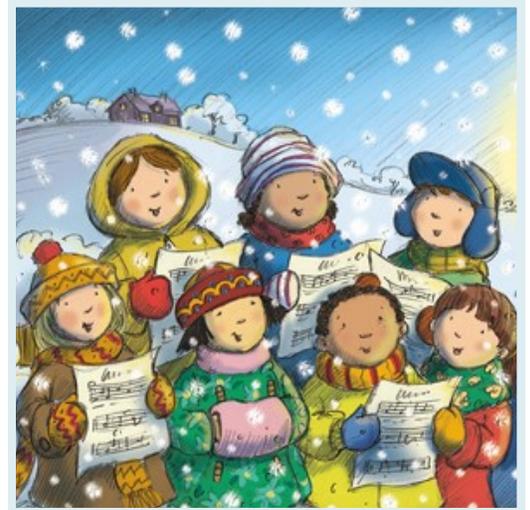
**Beer & Carols
Wednesday, Dec.**

20th 6:00 pm

Meet at OSLC at 6:00 pm. Join us as we go carol and then end at Island Grill! Fun for the whole family!

**Neighborhood
Carols**

Join us to go caroling on Saturday, December 23rd at 4:30 prior to the Saturday Night Worship. Then join us for Worship and an Advent Celebration following the service.



THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED:
 Dec. 25th—Christmas Day
 Dec. 26th—Day after Christmas
 January 1st—New Years Day

SAVE THE DATE!!

Lent begins early!

Ash Wednesday is

Feb. 14th

A Note from the FOCOLU Director:

FOCOLU has had an amazing fall and we have went places that I am so proud of as a youth and young adult leader.

This fall has been a time of great tension and anxiety in our society and as a youth group we have tackled some of the topics including the acts of mass violence and the courage of women who have shared their stories of sexual harassment and abuse. These are not topics that come with curriculums or pre-written questions, so we address them head-on with a vulnerable and raw approach.

I have been blown away by the responses and thoughts of our youth, including themes of compassion, grace, abuse of power, peace, and how we obtain peace, or what happens when people feel they could not obtain peace. These are deep topics and our youth brought them up to the front of our conversations. What an honor to be in the midst of this time and these talks with our youth.

I also want to share that our youth and young adults have been busy preparing for the next stages in life and I am proud of the steps that many of them are taking. I have written many references this year for Lutheran colleges and Lutheran seminaries. The idea of vocation and calling seem to be very strong among our youth right now.

I wanted to share these stories as signs of hope and light in this advent season of waiting and wondering.

May the coming days and weeks be filled with Holy – days,

Kevin Dragseth

FOCOLU events:

DECEMBER SR HIGH YOUTH GROUP AT TLC ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 7-815PM

CONFIRMATION AT OSLC ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 645-8

December 17—FOCOLU Christmas Party

JANUARY SR HIGH YOUTH GROUP AT SOJ ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 7-815PM
CONFIRMATION AT SOJ ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 645-8 – JAN 18 AND 25

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD YOUTH GATHERING

January 13-15, 2018 in Colorado Springs!
 All 6th – 12th graders!

January 21st Confirmation at Trinity -11:30am – Miracles & Jesus

January 28th – 12pm Mission Trip Meeting at SOTH

January 28th – Sr High Service Project



LUAU PARTY

Mele Kalikimaka!
 Hawaiian Luau Luncheon and Silent Auction
 December 10th
 after 10:30 am Worship

A free-will donation will support the 2018 Summer Youth Trip



Join the FOCOLU Youth for a Lunch & Silent Auction to support the 2018 Summer Youth Trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas!

Parables as Theater?!

I want to tell you about an exciting – and *ambitious* – venture that is being planned for the Wednesday night program during the period of January through early February for our confirmation students of FOCOLU churches.

The project is called, “Jesus’ Parables as Theater!”

There are two major outcomes we are looking for in this intriguing study of several of Jesus’ best-known parables. First, students come to a much deeper understanding of the stories of Jesus, and the impact they have on our lives and faith. Second, to undertake the project of turning these parables into Theater presentations that will be offered at a special gathering at Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church on Transfiguration Sunday February 11th (time TBD)

By crafting theatrical presentations, our kids of FOCOLU will experience the reality of Scripture in a unique way, one that we hope will bring the power of Jesus’ teaching to life and at the same time forge a deeper sense of community and relationships.

Some of you know that I have been involved in a good deal of theater in our town in the past dozen years – acting and directing in productions at Bas Bleu Theatre, at OpenStage Theatre, and others. I know it really takes a lot of work, and a lot of commitment and dedication, to put on a good piece of stage-craft.

It will take that kind of commitment here, too, for all of us to do what we are dreaming of doing, working together with your kids to present Jesus’ Parables as Theater. At that time, we want to present our efforts from our FOCOLU confirmation program to all of you who support this endeavor. Come and see what creative things our kids have done to delve into the project – and into the Bible!

I see this as a great chance to get immersed in these powerful parables of Jesus! And what a fun, exciting way to do that, and at the same time, to share it with others in our FOCOLU connection. I would like to invite you to join in – Talk to Pastor Michael if this interests you and you can be a part of it on Wednesdays in January. And I look forward to meeting and working with your kids on this adventure!

Bruce Bergquist

Retired Pastor, Shepherd of the Hills



More FOCOLU events:

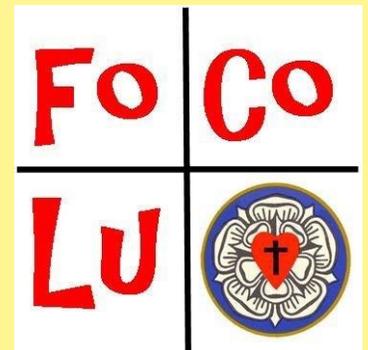
FEBRUARY SR HIGH YOUTH GROUP AT TLC ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 7-815PM CONFIRMATION AT OSLC ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 645-8

February 23-24 – Sr. High Fellowship Event – **Overnight Winter Retreat**

February 24th – Middle School Fellowship – **FLY HIGH**

For more information:
Visit focolu.org

Or Find us on Facebook!
[@focolu](https://www.facebook.com/focolu)



A NIGHT IN THE LIGHTS CHRISTMAS PARTY Middle & High School Christmas Party December 17th 5:00 – 7:00pm

Join us for a night under the Old Town lights. We will meet at Trinity Lutheran Church and depart for an evening full of hot chocolate, sleigh rides, and good company. Wear your ugliest Christmas Sweater!

Moving Forward with Realm!

INTRODUCING A NEW CONNECTION TOOL BEGINNING IN JANUARY!

Our church is moving to a new kind of church record solution called Realm. It primarily serves the administrative needs of our staff, but it also offers some exciting opportunities to support the way you are involved in our church. We are adding more ways to communicate and connect as a church, all while leaving current methods in place. You determine how much you want to make this part of your experience with our church, but we encourage you to participate. You will receive more information as we approach the launch in January. **We can't wait to share this with you!**

Let's get connected. ✨

Download our Connect app today.

- 👤 Update your personal information
- 🗣️ Communicate with groups & teams
- 📅 Follow church announcements
- 🔍 Look up members
- 💰 Manage giving
- 📅 Create and join events

Let's be the church... together.



Why use Realm? *Realm strengthens church connections.*

Being the church doesn't just happen at the church. Realm helps us serve you better and leads this church well between Sundays. Everyone can be connected from anywhere at any time, right from our mobile devices. It engages everyone in the life of our church by supporting the healthy relationships essential to our church's mission. We'll stay organized, and you'll stay informed about all of the opportunities for fellowship. When we share life together, we will grow together.

What about my privacy? *Realm is safe, private, and secure.*

Your privacy is one of our greatest concerns. Realm is only made up of the people in your church, it's not like a social network that's open to everyone. Realm keeps your data safe and gives you control over what information you share and who can see it.

What about giving? *Realm gives you control over your giving.*

Giving should be easy, and Realm places giving right in the palm of your hands. You may set up recurring gifts, view your giving history, and make changes at any time. Realm automatically records all electronic gifts and adds them to your giving record making it easy for you to give, and easy for our bookkeeper to track.

Congregational Meeting is January 28th!

The Potency of Liturgical Worship

Fred Castor

The various liturgies we use in our worship are highly efficient tools. They are designed to lift us from the mundane, where we are most of the time, and usher us into God's sacred presence. Liturgies are filled with spiritual thoughts and words formulated specifically to adjust our moods and ready our minds for meaningful engagement with the Holy One.

The prayer suggested on the cover of our weekly worship bulletin is a particularly useful tool for worship preparation.

Thank you, Holy One, for this special moment. Quiet my ever busy mind. Awaken my resting spirit. Make me acutely aware of your mysterious presence in this place, in this hour. May this worship experience become spiritual nourishment for me, and energize this entire community of faith.

It is important for us to ready ourselves for this holy experience, in which we honor and praise God, and in turn become open to receive the special spiritual gifts God has awaiting us.

It is the one time in our week we have set aside to redirect our focus on spiritual things, rearranged our priorities, rejuvenate our hope and experience the relief and comfort of God's Holy Spirit. In this hour we also feel the mutual support and strength of the worshipping community. It is a stellar moment.

However, it is quite possible to miss totally these benefits, if we fail to commit ourselves to the business at hand. We have to do more than just show up. We need to get serious about what we have come to do. If we carry our outside thoughts and conversations into this special hour, we will likely miss many of the benefits meaningful worship has to offer. We also disturb people around us who are attempting to establish a worshipful mood.

Quiet time leading up to and during worship is invaluable. Relaxation and deep breathing are useful measures, because our bodies, minds and spirits are closely related. Our entire beings should be set in preparation- mode and made ready to engage in this potentially potent experience with God.

Furthermore, we should be expectant and open for God to do extraordinary things to us as we *enter into His presence with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise*. Worship is a unique spiritual privilege, unlike any other. When entered into prayerfully, it inevitably leaves an indelible mark on us.



A word from Dick Yahnke on our Capital Campaign

Just over a year ago you helped us launch a capital campaign based on the theme “Generations Building and Serving Community in God’s Love”. After less than a year we are thankful and pleased to report that \$1,635,322 has been committed to the campaign and cash actually received is \$656,000. This result exceeds our base goal and our first year expectations and speaks volumes about the generosity, enthusiasm, and engagement of our members.

You may recall that the challenge goal to complete the entire building project was estimated to be quite higher than was raised. Plans are now complete and work will begin soon. Consistent with the parameters proposed and approved by the congregation, attractive mortgage financing has been secured which will make it possible to complete this project. Thanks to the time and treasures that many have invested we find ourselves in a great position to move forward and find additional ways to truly live our mission of Welcoming all in the love of Christ through worshipping, learning and serving.

As we approach the end of calendar 2017 and the onset of the second and third year of the campaign you may wish to consider a special gift to the campaign before December 31. Although cash gifts are welcome, because of the tax benefits of contributing appreciated securities or minimum required distributions from IRA’s for those eligible are options worthy of considering. Special and additional gifts beyond those funds already committed by members over the three year period will provide the added benefit of allowing our congregation to reduce our debt exposure earlier than required and ensure our ability to continue strong support for ministries in all the communities we serve.

Questions regarding the campaign and details related to year end gifts may be directed to the office. natalie@our-saviours.org or [970-484-3133](tel:970-484-3133).

Thanks for all you do to help Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church be a positive force in our community.

Building Program Nears Construction Phase

The seeds of our OSLC Building Program can be traced back to the visionary work done by forward thinking church leaders and active members now over six years ago in developing our Long Range Ministry Plan, and in the commissioning of the Facility Needs Task Force in 2012. Inspired by the drive to better support and enable the various ministries of our church, we've been on this multi-year journey of visioning, designing, and planning, and are now about to move on to the actual construction phase.

The Conceptual Master Plan that was created in 2014 has now been refined and developed into a detailed design. Significant improvements have resulted from many iterations, as we've steered the project to align with our budget and current construction realities. Through this design refinement process, the goals of the building program have remained unchanged: to support the ministries of the church, in the near term and for generations to come.

The Building Program will include the following major improvements:

- Larger, welcoming narthex
- Larger, updated kitchen
- Expanded music room
- Upgraded sound system
- Expanded, updated restrooms, including showers and mini-laundry
- Optionally opened sanctuary
- Consolidated, expanded offices
- Expanded Nursery
- Relocated, new playground
- Expanded storage
- Increased meeting rooms
- Parking lot repaving
- Fire protection system
- Site upgrades required by the City of Fort Collins



Through your generous support, the three-year Capital Campaign is well on track. As of December 6, \$663,717 has been received out of the \$1,635,322 pledged by the congregation over three years. Over 40% of the total pledged amount has been received after less than one year of the three year campaign! 10% of these donations will be given to Habitat for Humanity.

Construction is expected to begin soon, after final approval by the City of our final revised design plans. 2018 promises to be the year of construction, and the year of much excitement.

More information including design drawings can be found in the Narthex and on the Building Program web page <https://our-saviours.org/buildingprogram/>. The Building Team and the newly formed Interior Design Team are also available to provide additional information.

Building Team: Pastor Leta Behrens, Bill Brown, Bob Bury, Shelly Carroll, Jim Gjerde, Fred Haberecht, Shelly Kalkowski Ling, Christine Marston, Larry Roesner (chair and owner's rep), Ken Roper, Roger Sherman, Pastor Michael Stadtmueller

Interior Design Team: Rob Behrens, Kara Brown, Tad McDonald, Elisa Sherman

On December 2, We Walked With and For the Homeless

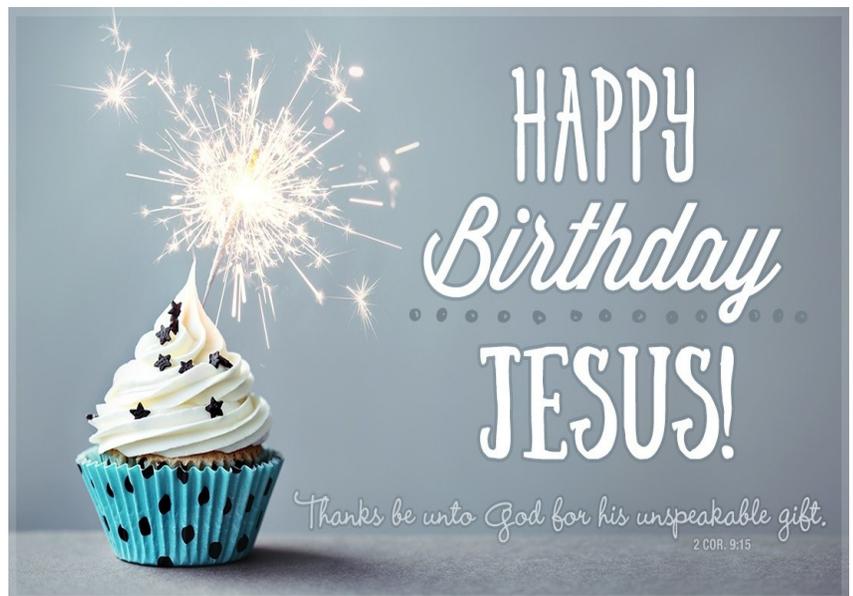
2017 was the 4th year for the "Mission to Hope Walk" to benefit Homeless Gear and the Murphy Center in Fort Collins. It was also the first year that Our Saviour's was a "bronze level" (\$500+) sponsor for the walk and also gathered a team of 20 walkers to participate. We joined about 300 other supporters and guests in our community (those with housing and those without) on a brisk and beautiful Colorado morning to walk from Catholic Charities Mission to the Murphy Center of Hope---a 1-mile walk that many of the guests they serve walk every day. We all carried backpacks provided by Thrivent Financial that were stuffed with cold-weather gear donations from folks in our congregation. A few of us even walked and talked with homeless women...and helped to pull their heavy wheeled suitcases when the women became winded from the effort. Back at the Murphy Center, we had an opportunity to tour the facility and talk with representatives of each of the helping hand agencies that have a home at the Center and provide resources for guests. We also handed out our extra "Live Generously" t-shirts (all small sizes!) to youth and small adults...like our Colorado State Senator John Kafalas, who was kind enough to pose for a photo with us!



Mark your calendars for December 1, 2018. Let's grow our OSLC team of walkers for the 5th annual Mission to Hope Walk!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY!
Sunday Dec 17th**

Happy Birthday Jesus Party! Join us in the fellowship hall at 9:30 for a fun event celebrating Jesus' birthday! High school youth will lead some games and we will have a fun time together across the generations! Coffee, donuts and treats!



FROM THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD:

Called Forth to Serve

In his final address to the disciples prior to his arrest and crucifixion, Jesus asserts, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:40) This “last will and testament” of Jesus reveals his heart and calls us to be as passionate for “the least” as he is. Jesus understood that when we build relationships with and serve “the least”, not only are they blessed, but we also are blessed. Nothing fills us more than when we love and serve others. Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains takes Jesus’ words seriously as we seek to “walk with the vulnerable through services that heal, strengthen, and provide hope.” As members of the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod, we are each called to participate in the important and necessary work of LFSRM.

As a board member, I have had the privilege of participating personally in refugee resettlement, supporting foster families, walking alongside those going through the process of adoption, responding to people affected by disasters, and helping families to care for aging loved ones. Each time that my family and I have taken the time to get involved, we always say afterward, “We need to do more.” There’s something about serving and giving generously that transforms us for the better, that helps us to recognize that love, service and generosity is to be our way of life.

I hope that you will take a look at the LFSRM website (lfsrm.org) and the many programs and services that are provided. Identify a program or service that aligns with your heart and passion, make a commitment to get connected, give generously of your time and resources, and experience firsthand what loving and serving “the least” will do in your life. When we come together in a spirit of love and generosity, countless lives are changed...including our own. The risen Jesus has entrusted the care of his brothers and sisters to us. Jesus is counting on us to respond to this call in a passionate and bold way so that we and all people may experience real life in Jesus’ name.

Rev. Doug Hill
Abiding Hope Church Littleton, CO



**LUTHERAN
FAMILY SERVICES**
Rocky Mountains



Rocky Mountain Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Church Name Here
1234 Address
City, State ZIP
www.ChurchName.org

First Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
City, ST
Permit # 000

WINTERFEST

February 23-25th
at the YMCA

Join us for a fun weekend in the mountains--
sometimes in snow and sometimes in snow! It's
all fun! All ages and family shapes and sizes are
welcome.

Cost is \$300 per family/room. (Confidential
Financial assistance is available by contacting
Pastor Leta)

For more information contact Deems and
Jennifer Hargleroad dhargler@hotmail.com or Pastor Leta
leta@our-saviours.org

Stewardship Continued:

to volunteer their time handing out instruments and helping residents find song pages. Sometimes, Kendra has had guest performers singing with Kendra and doing solos. When KISS began, all the finances and music came out of Kendra own pocket. Now KISS is an outreach ministry of OSLC and has a small budget to help supplement the expenses, but it doesn't cover everything.

Your Call to Action:

You may donate financially. Be sure to include the word "KISS" in the memo line of any checks donated. You may donate your time by joining Kendra and assist with whatever is needed during the music program. You may donate your talent by singing with Kendra or maybe singing a solo. You may donate your unwanted sheet music. You may donate your piano or percussion instruments. Let's keep the music playing and grow this ministry!