

THE SIGNAL

March April May

A Publication of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

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FOOLISH LOVE

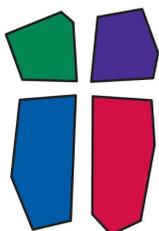
Our journey through Lent began with a big story of love on Ash Wednesday--the Lost son from Luke 15. Pastor Michael shared with us the grace of the connection of God's love to our daily lives through the marking of the ashes and the promise of baptismal waters. Each week on Wednesday and on Sunday we are met with a story of this same kind of big, foolish, love that God has for each and every one. The parables show us who God is and the readings of covenant promise remind us who God promises to be. This foolish love of God, the kind of love that has no boundaries and has no end is the kind of love we are held in each day and the kind of love we are called to bring to the world.

In this season and in the time and place we live now, foolish love is ever more important. We may be constantly searching for ways to simply move through the issues, the concerns, and the fears we face each day. We may know how we want to take action and make a difference. We may be at a loss for words or knowing what to do or how to respond in this time. All of these points and places where we find ourselves are still held in this love and find ourselves still called to live and be with one another in love.

Love is foolish! It means vulnerability. It takes our time and energy. It means giving up some of our self for the sake of the other. But love also transforms brokenness. Brings hope where there was none, light where there was darkness. The love of Christ Jesus is worth sharing.

The hymn - We are Called says, "Come live in the light" It sounds so beautiful, but it isn't always easy. The darkness is very real. The easy answer is not to live in the light, but to run from the darkness. But light has a relationship to darkness. It transforms it.

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Our Saviour's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

LENT &

HOLY WEEK

Lent Wednesdays

March 7th 7:00 pm

March 14th 7:00 pm

March 21st 7:00 pm

Palm Sunday:

March 25th 8:30 am,

10:30 am

Palm Sunday Event

9:30 am

Maundy Thursday

March 29th 7:00 pm

Good Friday

March 30th 12:00 pm

7:00 pm

Easter Vigil

March 31st 5:30 pm

Lent Soup Suppers:

Dinner will be from 5:15 pm - 6:30 pm

The recipients of the Soup Supper donations will be shared between *International Health Partners* and the *FFH Transitional Housing*.

Children's

Easter Egg Hunt:

April 1st
between services

Easter Sunday

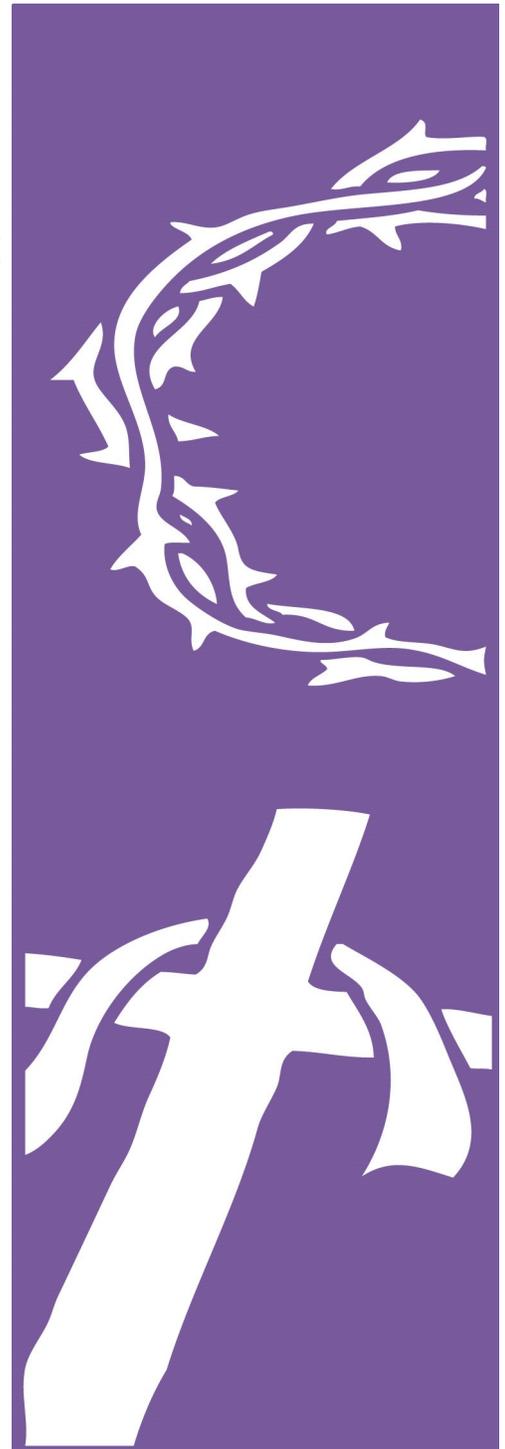
April 1st 7:00 am,
9:00 am, 10:30 am

Easter Breakfast

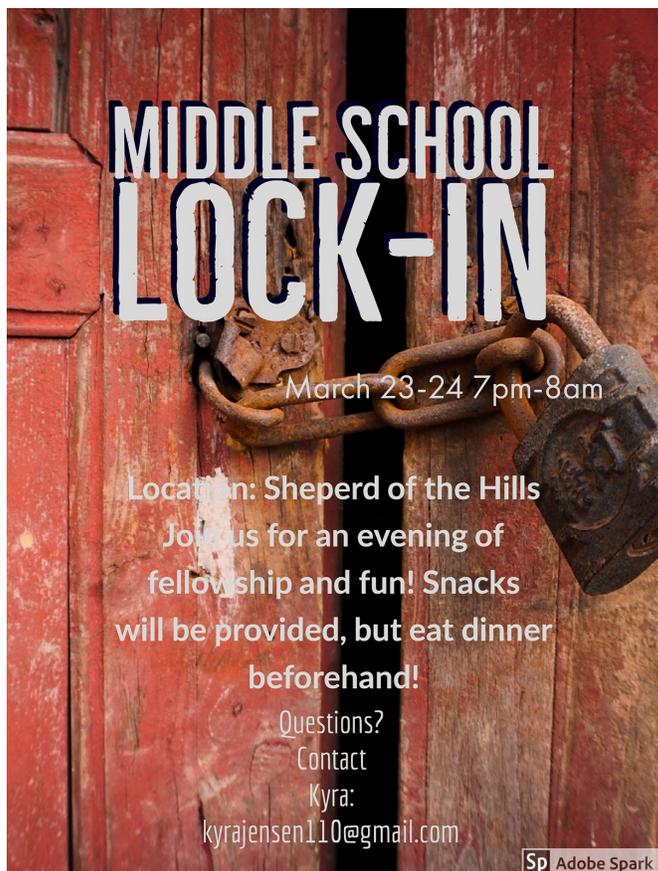
Cinnamon Rolls from
Johnson's Corner!

Support Youth Trip
to Houston

Free Will Offering



FOCOLU



MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCK-IN

March 23-24 7pm-8am

Location: Sheperd of the Hills

Join us for an evening of fellowship and fun! Snacks will be provided, but eat dinner beforehand!

Questions?
Contact
Kyra:
kyrajensen110@gmail.com

Sp Adobe Spark



Middle School Service: April 28th 12-2pm
Location: Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church

COOKIE TIME WITH KYRA!

Contact Kyra kyrajensen110@gmail.com with questions

Join us for some cookie making fun. Afterwards, the cookies will be delivered to fire stations in our community to say thank you to the hard working men and women living to keep us safe!

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EVENTS



Wisdom of the Story

Women's Retreat 2018
Estes Park
April 6-8th



Register Online at our-saviours.org

OTHER FOCOLU EVENTS

March

March 4th – 12pm Mission Trip Meeting in OSLC Youth Room

March 18th Confirmation at Trinity -11:30am – Holy Spirit

LENT – February 14th – March 21st. Wednesday nights – Confirmation Mentoring – Sr. High Rotating services between all congregations if youth desire to join.

March 25th – Sr High Service Project **Lead Worship at Campus Ministry – 3:30. Meet and pickup at CSU Campus Ministry**

April

APRIL – SR HIGH YOUTH GROUP (7-815) AT SOTH

April 4th (Mentoring Wrap-up) 11th , 18, 25, CONFIRMATION (645-8) at SOTH

April 4 – Lenten Mentoring Wrap-Up at SOTH from 6:45-8pm.

April 20th –**Sr. High Lock OUT April 20-21 from 8pm-7am Meet and Pick up at OSLC Cost is \$20**

April 22nd – 12pm – Mission Trip Meeting at SOJ

April 28th – Peer Ministry Leadership Training 8:30-6:30

BUILDING UPDATE



BUILDING UPDATE

Our building construction and improvement project is off and running! Our contractor, Hillside Construction, has completed all the design work, and demolition and construction began in January, starting with the kitchen and storage area remodel, and the build-out of the new administrative offices wing. Concrete pouring of the expanded foundation is imminent, pending cooperative weather. From the Fellowship Hall, you can see the structural work being done to expand the doorway to the kitchen and educational wing.

On the west side of the building, trees have been cut down to make way for the expanded narthex and the addition of the new music room and storage. Tree cutting was done early in advance of any nesting birds. The large trunks are being saved in the hopes that they can be made into furniture or fixtures in the new playground. The playground design has been done.

Check out the display of interior material samples that have been selected by the Interior Design Team for bathroom and kitchen floors, countertops, carpeting, ceiling tiles, and other materials. These chosen samples are on display in the narthex. Significant progress has been made in selecting finish colors and appliances.

We continue to work with the City of Fort Collins in their ongoing review of our construction project through the building permit process. We have complied with all the City's requests to date.

The loan package has been submitted and reviewed by the Mission Investment Fund, a representative of which will soon be visiting our construction site and reviewing our plans.

As the construction momentum picks up, we ask for your flexibility during the building renovation and expansion, which will continue for most of this year.

Please park on the South or East side of the parking lot during the weekdays especially, when Preschool Pick-up and Drop-off are happening on the North side. If you are trying to access the Sanctuary, Narthex, Fellowship Hall, Music Room, or 12/13E, please use the Southeast Entrance by the current Church Office. If you are trying to access Preschool, 3W, 4W, 5W or 7N: please use the North Entrance (across from the playground). Please abide by all signs and instructions posted for your safety.

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 Interior Design Team are also available to provide additional information.

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

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

Thank you for your support of the building expansion and remodeling, which is aimed to better serve our growing ministries, in support of the OSLC Long Range Ministry Plan, next year and for decades to come.

CAMPS 2018

OSLC CAMPS 2018

Rainbow Trail Confirmation Camp

July 15-21

Register online at www.rainbowtrail.org

Cost: \$445.00 OSLC pays \$100 per camper so subtract \$100 when paying Rainbow Trail

Summerfest Family Camp at Sky Ranch

August 3-5

Register online at www.our-saviours.org

Cost dependent on lodging choice

Sky Ranch Week for 1st grade-8th grade

August 5-10

Register online at www.skyranchcolorado.org with code 180SLCFC

Cost: \$200 for half week Round-Up, \$400 for full week OSLC pays \$50 for half week and \$100 for full week which will show up when you register.

Sky Ranch offers further discount when you register by April 15th!

Partial and full Scholarships are available by contacting Pastor Leta or Pastor Michael



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS GOD'S GRACE AT WORK

FRED CASTOR

Working out at the fitness club is an important routine. Not only does it help maintain physical health, but it also can teach many life-lessons, if one is open to this possibility.

One such lesson can be learned from weight lifting. The idea of lifting weights is to build strength by repetitiously lifting weights until one's strength begins to fade and the weight feels too heavy to lift even one more time. When the routine is completed and the weight is finally released, there is a huge sense of relief.

Now transfer that sense of relief to the moment when the weight of our guilt is released and we are set free—forgiven.

Worship has many valuable components and one of them is the *declaration* given by the pastor that all our sins are forgiven. The weight of the guilt we have been carrying—consciously or unconsciously—is released and we are free. It is a courtroom scene. The judge slams the gavel and declares *not guilty*.

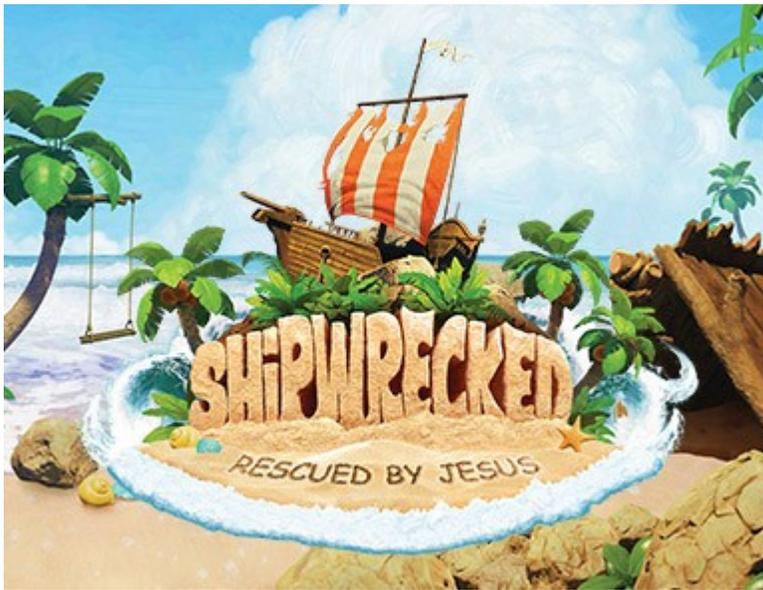
That is the reality. God no longer considers our guilt. We also must let go of the weight. In that moment we are *not guilty*.

Our frequent failure is going to the extremes. Either we convince ourselves that what we have done, thought or said is not actually sinful, and thereby attempt to absolve ourselves or, on the other extreme, we hang on to our guilt and refuse to release it into God's domain. Either choice or attitude leaves us continually burdened. In our bewilderment we seemingly know not why.

The way to true freedom is an honest, open confession of all our guilt, of sins known and unknown, and a full reception of God's unconditional forgiveness.

The opening part of our liturgical worship contains Confession and Forgiveness. It is invaluable. Do not pass over it lightly. Pay close attention and engage fully for all its many benefits. When the pastor pronounces that all your sins are forgiven, you should have a smile on your face.

THIS SUMMER



**VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL**

June 11–15

@ Trinity Lutheran

Registration opens

March 7th



SUMMER PICNICS

WEDNESDAYS IN JUNE!

THE SIGNAL

FOOLISH LOVE CONTINUED

We can't fix every problem, but we can be present and connected. We don't always know what to do in the little picture, but we trust in the promise that God will take care of the big picture. As we journey to the Cross now in Lent we realize that for the disciples and so many generations after there are points on the journey where it is easier to walk away. It would be easier if we didn't care at all. Thankfully God did not walk away. How can we not turn away, but bring light? How can we use our own gifts to reflect the light of Christ Jesus? How can we speak to a world that thinks we are foolish for still engaging it with the promise of a transforming love?

Join us this Holy Week, Easter and the whole Easter Season- as we live into these questions, exploring them individually and as a community and remembering that we walk and live in the promise of the light of Christ. There are many ways to engage, be community, and live together in this light. We hope you will join us!

Blessings,

Pastor Leta and Pastor Michael

PAI N SUNDAY EVENT

Table hosts needed! This means that you pick a craft or other type of project to set up at a round or rectangular table for the event on March 25th from 9:30—10:30. You can set up your table project anytime from Friday afternoon through Sunday morning. Tables will be set up Friday after 12pm and labeled for each table host for their project. All you need to do is get the supplies (we have many supplies in room 4W and we also can reimburse for supplies you need), make a sample, set up your project, be at your table to help participants do the project from 9:45-10:45am on Sunday, and clean up your project at the end. Pretty fun and simple!

Please contact Mandy Fogo (mandyfogo@gmail.com) or Annie Marske (anniemarske@hotmail.com) to sign up for a table. You can let them know what project you will be doing or ask them for ideas or kits we already have!

February Retreat - Belgrade, Serbia



This month for our retreat, we gathered in the capital of Serbia, Belgrade. Most of us live in Hungary, so it was a wonderful opportunity to experience another part of Central Europe! Our fall retreat was all about reflecting on our first months in a quiet, intentional space. The

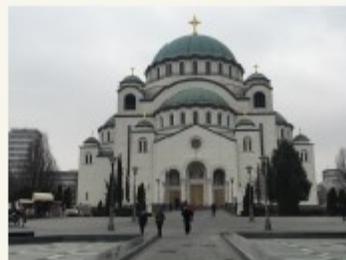
bustling city life of Belgrade gave a different mentality for this retreat- it was time to explore, and to learn! We went on two walking tours, one of which focused on the communist history of the region. I hadn't learned very much about Yugoslavia before, so it was really interesting to hear how all the complexity and tension between neighboring provinces, as well as some "help" from Western governments, led to the eventual collapse of a once-thriving system. We saw the mausoleum of the famed Yugoslavian leader, Tito, whose name translates to "You! That!" because of his skill as a delegator.

We also visited the Belgrade Fortress, which witheld sieges from the Austro-Hungarian empire as well as the Ottoman. We walked past the wreckage of buildings bombed by NATO, which have been intentionally left unremodeled as reminders of the conflict.

In the mornings, we had worship and bible study, this time focusing on the season of Lent. We went through several important stories of Jesus, like when he healed the woman who grasped for the fringe of his cloak, and when he was crucified. We talked about how Jesus always chose the fringe - the outsiders, the lowly, the unwanted. He is not a leader of great wealth or loud speeches - his power comes in vulnerability, and love.

Other highlights of the trip include: visiting the Nikola Tesla museum (he was born in Serbia), exploring the coffee shops in the "bohemian" district, eating lots of delicious grilled meat, and reconnecting with my fellow volunteers.

Like Hungary, Serbia and the rest of the Balkans has seen a great deal of tragedy, war, and loss in the past centuries. In spite of their often dark history, however, the Serbians we met and talked to this week were incredibly positive, friendly people, working towards a better future. I am so grateful for this experience.



Top left: Gate of Belgrade Fortress

Top Center: Remains of buildings bombed by NATO

Top Right: Me in front of the Parliament building

Bottom left: Looking out over Belgrade and the Victory Statue

Bottom right: Saint Sava temple, the largest Orthodox temple in the Balkans

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD

Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA
connection

MARCH 2018

Claiming
our Gifts

Accompanying
one another into
God's Future

Equipping
All Leaders

Connecting
in Ministry
& Witness

Celebrating four years at the Lutheran Center

When rent at the previous location was increasing year after year, Synod Council directed a task force to consider other options for the Office of the Bishop. About that same time, Valley Lutheran Church discerned that Holy Closure would result in gifting their property and building to the Rocky Mountain Synod for whatever ministry purpose was on the horizon.

"When first touring the north building, which was the original unit of Valley Lutheran Church, it was impossible to imagine it as it is now," said the Rev. Kent Mueller, assistant to the bishop who shepherded the renovation and building project that began in 2013.



Office of the Bishop large conference room prior to renovation.

"We extend our gratitude to the people of Valley Lutheran Church, who made possible a transformational story of death and resurrection."

While the Office of the Bishop is located in the north building, the church basement and office annex are the site of the Growing Home emergency and transitional housing program for families. It is the Adam's County branch of Family Promise. Volunteers from area churches host families for 13 weeks throughout the year. So that the families are safe, egress windows were installed in the basement several years ago, and a fire alarm system is in the process of being installed now.

"The decision to relocate to the Valley site was wise, in that our renovation mortgage payment is much less than our rent would be downtown," said Pastor Mueller. "Good stewardship means we maximize our resources so that our capacity for ministry is multiplied."

But owning and operating a property also means there are always additional projects and repairs. A massive hail storm in 2016 resulted in a total reroofing, mostly covered by insurance. "We also have some unfinished landscaping matters on the north side, and on the horizon is the need to completely redo the parking lot," said Mueller.

The next time you are visiting the Lutheran Center, pause to give thanks for the legacy of the congregation of Valley Lutheran Church.

Welcome Tina Kvitek, new RMS gift planner!

The ELCA Foundation is pleased to introduce Tina Kvitek, Regional Gift Planner for the Rocky Mountain Synod.



Tina has lived in Colorado for 20 years and worships with her family at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Broomfield, CO. She brings 12 years of financial planning expertise to the position and is truly passionate about helping individuals, congregations and our ELCA Lutheran Partners fully engage their ministry by taking action through charitable giving.

"I'm really excited about three things... first, helping our ELCA members ensure that their estate plans take care of the people they love and the ministries they are passionate about; second, guiding our congregations in establishing gift policies and endowments that will support their ministries, their operating budgets and their long-range planning goals; and third, supporting the Rocky Mountain Synod and other ELCA Partners with endowments, major or current gifts and estate gifts," reported Tina in a recent meeting with the Rocky Mountain Synod Council meeting, "so if you fit into one of those 3 categories, a visit with me will be very helpful to you."

To schedule a meeting with Tina, you can email her at: Tina.Kvitek@ELCA.org or call her office at: 773-380-2795.

EASTER WORSHIP



Sunday, April 1st
7 am, 9 am, 10:30 am

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
2000 S. Lemay Avenue Fort Collins, CO
www.our-saviours.org