



“Walk
in the way
of the good
and keep
to the paths
of the righteous.”
Proverbs 2:20

A Note from the Pastors

Your faith is not a product you get when you come to church. That is probably obvious when stated, but every once and awhile it needs to be stated as a reminder of who we are and whose we are. In a product driven society we need reminders that faith is first a gift of and from God. Faith is nurtured and enriched in community, prayer, conversation and in the gift of the Holy Spirit being in our lives. We participate and cultivate this gift by surrounding ourselves with opportunities for worshipping, serving and learning. Just like an athlete has a gift, or a musician, or a writer, or a computer programmer, (the list goes on!), each one also develops and continues with this gift through practice.

Practice is a good word for faith too. We practice our faith, we lift one another up in times of need and sometimes we simply keep each from falling on the floor! Practice means
(Continued on Page 8)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Building Program Update Page 2
Spirituality & Scripture Page 3
Bible Studies Page 4
Get Involved in Music Page 5 & 6
OSLC Welcome Series Page 7
Synod Updates Page 8
Octoberfest Page 9
Our Newest Staff Page 10—11
Women & Justice Page 11
ELCA Youth Gathering Page 12
Adult Education Series Page 13
Upcoming Events Page 14—15
Pastor's Letter Page 1 & 16

BUILDING PROGRAM UPDATE

By: Bob Bury

Building Construction Progress and Excitement Continues!

Our building expansion and remodeling is continuing on schedule and making great progress toward completion before the end of the year. Every week brings new visible signs of progress as Hillside Construction and their construction teams continue their good work.

After the completion of Phase 1 of construction and the open house in May for the new administrative offices, remodeled and expanded kitchen, and rebuilt bathrooms, those new areas have been occupied and are now fully in use. Even with the disruption caused by the continued construction in Phase 2, the completion of Phase 1 has brought many needed and welcomed improvements.

Excellent progress on Phase 2 of construction is evident all around. The expanded narthex, new music room and storage, expanded nursery, and new main bathrooms have all been framed and dry walled. All the sincere and heartfelt messages signed onto the studs in a joyous celebration have now been covered. The back of the sanctuary has been prepared for the installation of new doors which allow for more opening of the sanctuary into the narthex when needed. Externally, the new walls facing Lemay are being covered with stone and brick, and the new expanded playground is being built and installed. New sidewalks and curbs have been built. All this and much more is happening around us, even as the operations of the church carries on.

All of this building expansion and remodeling is being done to enable and support the ongoing and expected ministries of our church, as envisioned in our Long Range Ministry Plan. While the construction is proceeding rapidly and will be contained in the 2018 calendar year, the new and expanded facilities will enhance our ministries for years and decades to come.



SPIRITUALITY & SCRIPTURE

By: Fred Castor

Scripture is a recording of the history of God's loving relationship with humankind. It begins with the metaphorical story of Adam and Eve in the Garden when the original relationship between God and Adam was *good*. *Spirituality at its best!*

From the start God gave humanity (Adam) *freedom of will*—freedom to make one's own choice—rather than being like a puppet on a string controlled by God. What an opportunistic gift that turned out to be. Exercising that freedom of the will, humanity has persistently attempted to usurp God's power and exercise its own will rather than following God's desire and design (will).

In essence, the choice has been to function on one's own will rather than acknowledging God's message: *I will be your God and you will be my people*. That tragic misstep continues to create a disruption in the God-human relationship. After that brief scriptural record of humankind's failure to accept God's friendship, the entire rest of scripture is dedicated to recording God's amazing activity to restore that initial relationship. Thus, we have a record of God's reaching out through the nations of Israel and Judah, the Kings, the prophets, John the Baptist, then meekly entering the scene in person as Jesus, and finally coming again more bombastically in the person of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. The ultimate goal has always been to set right that God-human relationship-*faith*.

The primary purpose of scripture is to relate that exciting unfolding drama to us. Any other use of scripture is necessarily secondary, tertiary or even abusive.

According to scripture the purpose of the creation of humankind in the first place was for God to have a *parental* relationship with someone. When the original plan went askew because of human arrogance, God has used many innovations to restore that initial parent-child relationship.

It is important that we are as fully aware as possible of the evolution of God's activity, and thereby remain open and learn from every stage of this historical progression while not stalling on any one stage—conceivably Jesus.

Currently we are living in the age of the Spirit—God's latest outreach to us. Jesus passed the baton to the Holy Spirit when he told the disciples that he was leaving the scene, but he would send the Holy Spirit to comfort and lead them. Jesus' role was completed. His efforts to restore the original parent-child relationship between God and humanity were done.

Jesus met with considerable success in his life's mission culminating in his resurrection. However, there was more to be done, so Jesus turned things over to the Holy Spirit, whose work and wonders are still underway.

It is the Holy Spirit who now calls us back to the Heavenly Father, and inspires us to be awakened to a new day—a new life. Jesus said he had come to bring us a more abundant life. The Holy Spirit continues, in Jesus' footsteps, and in the overall scriptural progression, to invite and lead us into that abundant life, which was God's original plan before it was disrupted.

The nature of this abundant life is one filled with joy, tranquility and purpose, even in the midst of trial and tragedy. It is a life motivated by love, not law—by invitation not requirement. All that is required of us is that *we love justice and our neighbor and walk humbly with God*. That is what spirituality and scripture are about.

BIBLE STUDIES



Join us on Wednesdays at 5:45PM or Thursdays at 9:30
to dig into scripture.

Join any or all of the sections.

You can pick up a book in the office or in the worship space.

Sunday's Schedule Sept 9- 30 - A Faith that Works (James)

Believing James overemphasized human works above God's free gift of grace, Martin Luther called the book an "epistle of straw." Today, as we understand our works not as a requirement for grace but a natural and spontaneous response to God's grace, we can find precious pearls hidden in that straw. The book of James shows us how to respond to God's grace with faith in action.

Sunday's Schedule October 7 - 28 - The Upside-Down Kingdom (Mark 10)

Shocking reversals lead to true discipleship, the Gospel according to Mark tells us.

Sunday's Schedule October 31 – November 15 The Beatitudes

Jesus' "I have a dream speech" is inspiration for the Christian Community to live the challenging way of Jesus that he sets forth in this first part of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7.

Sunday's Schedule November 27 - January 10 Living "In Between" (Luke)

We wait in the liminal state between Christ's first and second comings

LETS GET MUSICAL!

SHARE YOUR TALENTS

Adult Chancel Choir:

Meets on Wednesday nights from 7:00-8:30 in the sanctuary from September through May. Anyone with a passion for singing is welcome!

Contact Sheri McKelfresh at sher@our-saviours.org for details.

Adult Bell Choir:

Please consider lending your hand and musical talents to our Handbell Choir, open to interested musicians High School - Adult. The Handbell Choir meets every Wednesday from 5:00-6:00 in the Sanctuary.

Contact Marlys Oetken at marlys@our-saviours.org

Windstrings:

If you play an instrument - string, woodwind, or brass, there is a spot waiting for you in our Windstrings Ensemble. This group is open to beginning and accomplished musicians. They accompany all liturgy and service music when they lead worship. Rehearsals are from 6:00-7:00, every Wednesday evening, in the Sanctuary.

Contact Crystal Kerr crystal@our-saviours.org

Brass:

The Our Saviour's Brass regularly plays in worship services once a month and rehearses every other Thursday evening at 7:15 pm.

Contact Charlie Spillman charlie@our-saviours.org

Celebration Band:

The Our Saviour's Celebration Band is a talented mix of instrumental and vocal musicians who currently lead our contemporary worship service on the second Sunday of each month. There is always room for extra drummers, bassists, guitarists, and other instrumentalists, as well as vocals. Our contemporary liturgical service routinely uses portions of local musician, Steve Eulberg's "Christ Is Our Peace" service of Holy

LETS GET MUSICAL!

SHARE YOUR TALENTS

Communion.

Contact Carrie Stadtmueller carrie@our-saviours.org

Cherub Choir:

Preschool - Kindergarten meet from 6-6:20 on Wednesday Nights
September-May.

Contact Carrie Stadtmueller carrie@our-saviours.org

Alleluia Choir:

1st - 5th graders meet on Wednesday nights in the music room from
6:30-7:00, September through May.

Contact Carrie Stadtmueller carrie@our-saviours.org

Jubilate Choir:

All students in grades 6-12 are invited to join in the fun! We will meet
once/twice a month from 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm on the following Sundays -
September 9, October 14, November 11, December 9, December 19,
February 10, March 31, and April 17.

Contact Carrie Stadtmueller carrie@our-saviours.org

Youth Chime Choir:

The Youth Chime Choir is open to youth starting fourth grade. Prior
musical experience is helpful, but not necessary. Children in this choir will
learn to ring hand chimes. Rehearsals will focus on learning to read music,
developing ringing techniques and preparing for participation in the
liturgy throughout the year. Our rehearsals will be Sundays from 11:55am
- 12:40pm.

Contact Natalie Grapes at natalie@our-saviours.org

WELCOME SERIES



Wednesday October 3rd 5:00pm:
What is Christianity?

Wednesday October 10th 5:00pm:
What is being Lutheran?

Wednesday October 17th, 5:00pm:
What is Faith in Daily Life?

Sunday, Nov 4th, 11:30am:
What is OSLC? & Meal together

Sunday November 11th, 10:30am:
Welcome and Blessing in worship and reception

Contact the office at office@our-saviours.org to
RSVP!

FROM THE SYNOD:

Ministry Focus: *Educate, Equip, Enact (3E)*

Thoughts from Bishop Jim:

Educate, Equip, Enact (3E) is a unique collaborative ministry with the potential to transform our relationship with money as people of faith! Thanks to the grace and vision of Lilly Endowment, our synod is able to offer our congregations stewardship training while assisting our pastors and deacons with economic challenges and opportunities that enhance generosity. The overall goal is nothing less than building a new culture around finances that unleashes our full potential as Christ's Church for the life of the world.



Mission Moment

Educate, Equip, Enact (3E), the Rocky Mountain Synod's three-year, \$500,000 Lilly Endowment grant continues to gain momentum! So far in 2018, 61 rostered ministers have entered the process to receive grants through 3E's **Ministerial Excellence Fund (MEF)**, helping alleviate education, credit card, or medical debt and insufficient retirement savings or supplement continuing education – thus increasing their capacity for healthy ministry. In 2017 we awarded \$25,000 in grants and through July of 2018, we have awarded **\$151,510 – over a 500% increase** in grant awards! Pastors and deacons tell us that through MEF grants they are experiencing grace and have renewed capacity to face financial challenges.

The **Ministerial Excellence Fund** is designed to create partnership and *cannot operate without your generosity*. The Lilly grant is structured so that in order to release \$1 of Lilly grant money, \$1 of a matching gift is needed. That means that of the \$150,000 shared this year, \$75,000 came from contributions from members of the Rocky Mountain Synod! So, we thank you for this tremendous generosity

We thank you for helping keep the 3E momentum going! Our goal is nothing less than the complete transformation of the Rocky Mountain Synod's culture around money. We are recipients of God's abundance *for the sake of the world*. And, we are on this road together, on the way in God's freeing grace toward greater generosity and financial health in Christ.



OCTOBERFEST

OCTOBER 28TH 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

**OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION &
BLESSING OF THE COMPLETION
OF THE CONSTRUCTION**

**SPONSORED BY THRIVENT
BEER PROVIDED BY NEW BELGIUM**

MEET OUR NEWEST STAFF:



Meet Shawn & Kirsten Seeboth!

You may or may not have seen these two custodians keeping our church facilities squeaky clean!



Meet Leslie Olsen!

A familiar face to OSLC, Leslie is our new Ministry Coordinator—helping with volunteers, children, and youth programming.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Congrats to our 2018 Confirmands!

*John Behrens, Rhianna Bertram, Katie Brown, Benjamin Duran,
Aspen Haboush, Quinn Halvorson, Andrew Hennen,
Georgia LaPlante, Luke McDonald, Leif Tufte, & Ella Wolf*

WOMEN & JUSTICE

FALL CLASSES

We will offer a second round of looking at the statement together and having discussion around the topics and scriptures presented.

**Join us on
Sundays—October 21, 28,
November 4, 11 at 9:40 am
in the East Meeting
Room.**

HEARING FOR DRAFT SOCIAL STATEMENT

Join us on September 20th at 7:00 pm

A hearing on the “Women and Justice: One in Christ” Draft Social Statement will be held September 20th at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Brigitte Weier, the Women and Justice Representative for the Rocky Mountain Synod will be leading the event.

You will need a copy of the social statement in front of you as we will be addressing the language, intent, and interpretation of specific sections and lines of the social statement. You can find the draft at elca.org

REFLECTING ON THE 2018 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

By: Sophia Behrens (From the September Issue of Living Lutheran)

The [ELCA Youth Gathering](#) occurs every three years and brings youth from across the ELCA to one city for faith formation, education about the church and serving the community. This year, the Gathering's theme was "This Changes Everything," and over 31,000 Lutherans came together June 27-July 1 in Houston.

The focus verse for the 2018 Gathering was Ephesians 2:8: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." The powerful, God-given grace was integrated into the week in Houston.

I traveled to the Gathering with people from four ELCA congregations in Fort Collins, Colo. We called ourselves the Fort Collins Lutherans (FoCoLu).

At the Gathering, we participated in a day of [service](#), a day of [interactive learning](#) and a day devoted to worshipping with our [synod](#). The mass gatherings brought forward musicians and speakers with various backgrounds and call stories to show us how they reflected upon that grace in their lives.



The reason why this event is so important, especially for youth, is that, for even just a few days, I could look around and feel like I belonged to something bigger than myself.

My highlight was being able to draw parallels from what the speakers were saying to events and feelings that my friends and I have experienced. I especially liked the talk from Jamie Bruesenhoff and her daughter Rebekah, 11. Jamie shared her experience parenting a transgender child, and Rebekah shared what it meant to be transgender. Through this, they have both grown in faith and been able to advocate for transgender kids. It was an inspiring and jaw-dropping faith story.

My anticipation for the Gathering had been building up for months before the actual event. The excitement came from the idea of being in one place with over 31,000 Lutheran youth, which was so surreal that trying to comprehend being in a place with that many people all with a similar core connection of faith was close to impossible.

The reason why this event is so important, especially for youth, is that, for even just a few days, I could look around and feel like I belonged to something bigger than myself. I could see the bigger picture: In Houston, I saw I belonged to a church that reached from coast to coast and included those of various backgrounds and call stories. Yet we are all loved by God and celebrated and worshiped in that regard.

The impact of belonging to this community was astronomical to me. The Gathering helped me see the various ways faith can be explored and who it affects. This changed everything for me.

This Changes Everything!



Adult Education Series

Come and learn about the ELCA National Youth Gathering from our YOUTH! Each week some of the youth who went on the trip will share about a speaker and topic that was meaningful to them, show video of the gathering and lead a discussion around the topic.

Sundays in the East Meeting Room

September 23-October 14th 9:40-10:20 am

September 23rd: Maria & How we respond to Food distribution issues

September 30th: Savannah & Young Adults in Global Mission

October 7th: Rebecca & Jamie--Love in Transgender Family

October 14th: Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber & Grace

Thank you to all the youth: Sophia Behrens, Torie Wolf, Katie Eiswerth, Olivia Tufte, Mark Lenzycki, Espen Marston, Andrew Hennen, Lina Arndt, Mira Kozakawich, Katelynn Miller, Matthias England, Macee Dugger, Cara Butler

NORTH COLORADO CONFERENCE

SKY RANCH ADVENT RETREAT

Sunday, October 21

Our Savior's, Greeley, 2 to 5 p.m.

A message from Bishop Gonia...

To the faithful in the Rocky Mountain Synod:

I believe with all my heart that we are Better Together as Christ's Church.

While it goes against everything in our current age of individualism to suggest that we need each other, it is part and parcel of our gospel life to engage deeply with one another. Five years ago we began inviting leaders in each of our conferences to meet together for fall "Missional Gatherings" to build relationships, to learn, to network, and to strengthen our ministry—together.

This year we will gather face to face to talk about money and the church. This isn't a presentation about stewardship campaigns or financial policy. It's foundational conversation about our beliefs and habits with respect to money: how and why we keep it, spend it, share it. I ask that you not only participate in these important conversations, but that you take the time in your congregational/ministry groups to prepare to engage together using the materials provided.

In the first century, the apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth about the people of Macedonia. He told of their gratitude, sacrifice, commitment, sharing, joy, and generosity. Paul recognized these principles as life-giving traits in the community of faith.

I give thanks for you, and for your own commitment to our life together. I look forward to gathering together this fall for our Conference Better Together Summits in eleven Rocky Mountain Synod locations.

Yours in Faith,
Bishop Jim Gonia

REGISTER

Talk with your congregation council president or pastor to be included in your congregation's team of attendees. Register at least five days in advance for the summit you plan to attend. Each attendee should register with his/her own email so that we can send advance reminders.

November 30 -
December 2

\$80 per Adult

\$50 per Children

\$250 max per
Family

We invite you to take advantage of the Advent season and grow closer to God with your family through reflection, fellowship, activities and music. Begin Advent this year at Sky Ranch in a time of reflection and preparation for the birth of our Savior. Register by calling Ally at 970-493-5258 or online!

FOCOLU HABITAT

Volunteering for FOCOLU-Habitat Build Days. Our Saviour's is working with our FOCOLU partners to provide 16-20 volunteers one day each month. Sharing in this commitment with other churches means that each church is responsible for only 4-5 volunteers at a time. Instead of sending pleas for volunteers to the entire congregation, we are now simply alerting those who have expressed an interest in helping, if they are available on a build day. Therefore, if you would like to know about build day opportunities as they arise, please let Jerry Freier know (freierreed@msn.com, 970-482-6163, or in person) and you will be added to the notifications list. As a reminder, you do not need special skills to help on a build day. All tools are provided by Habitat and every effort is made to make sure you have an enjoyable experience. Also, lunch will be provided so you will have time to socialize with other volunteers.

Volunteers needed to help with the FOCOLU-Habitat lunch on Saturday, October 27. Our Saviour's is the FOCOLU-Habitat partner responsible for preparing and serving lunch to build day volunteers on October 27. OSLC only provides lunch twice a year with each FOCOLU-Habitat partner being responsible for other months. While the cost of food and supplies is covered through special funding, we do need 3-4 volunteers to plan the menu, prepare luncheon items, and serve the food at the Harmony Cottages build site. Please let Jerry Freier know if you can help with this important activity.

Job Opportunity with Habitat. Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity is hiring a part-time Construction Crew Leader. This person will be someone with lots of home construction experience, is great leading/teaching volunteers, and can work part-time. If interested, visit <https://fortcollinshabitat.org/careers/>.

Yes, we will be having the flea market this year, so save your goodies.

We cannot take clothes, tvs, electronics, large furniture, or cleaning supplies.

Questions? Call:

Karen Wulff 215-5083

Sandy Flockhart 484-9075

A Note from the Pastors (Continued)

there is no perfection and there is always more to come and practice means we can stretch further, go deeper, and open ourselves more fully to the spirit of God moving in this world.

One means of practice, is being connected together through the scriptures and themes we focus in on during times of worship and Bible study. In the spirit of God being in and amongst our daily lives, and in partnership with Zion Lutheran in Loveland and Atonement Lutheran in Boulder, we have created a daily devotional book called "God on the Move!" This book will accompany us for the coming year beginning September 9th and taking us through the end of May. These devotions are simple. A way for you to connect to your daily walk, pray, think through some questions and relate to scripture in a tangible way. They can be done with others or alone. They are great for conversations at dinner, in the car, at bedtime and can be used for all ages.

Like a commitment to the gym or learning an instrument or trade, we are most successful when we are not only connected with the source of our growth, but with others who desire to join us on this journey. As we step out together in faith this fall with the gifts of new space and celebrations of our work together to enhance ministry in Fort Collins, let's also join our hearts and spirits together as we focus in on the gift of faith that comes from the one who promises to surround us in joy and peace.

Pastor Michael and Pastor Leta

NEW OFFICE HOURS

(Starting Sept. 17)

Monday—Thursday

9 am—4 pm

Friday

9 am—12 pm

OUR SAVIOURS LUTHERAN CHURCH

2000 S. Lemay Avenue
Fort Collins, CO 80525

970-484-3133

www.our-saviours.org