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THE SIGNAL

MAR. APR. MAY
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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WORSHIP WITH US:

SATURDAYS 5:30 PM

SUNDAYS 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY 9 AM – 2 PM

**TUESDAY – THURSDAY
9 AM – 4 PM**

FRIDAY 9 AM – 12 PM

CONTACT:

**OFFICE@OUR-SAVIOURS.ORG
970-484-3133**

OSLC CHURCH COUNCIL



ROGER SHERMAN – PRESIDENT

I have been at Our Saviour’s for 23 years. Some of my hobbies include hiking, singing, skiing, drawing and painting. What I like about OSLC first and foremost...The people! We have made so many good friends through the church. Second, is the impact that OSLC has made on the community outside our walls. I’ve always enjoyed getting to know the people I’ve worked with on committees. Through those experiences, I’ve felt more connected to the church and to the community.



TINA STEGALL – VICE PRESIDENT

I have been at OSLC for 3 years. I like to travel, read, work on church projects and spend time with family. I love that Our Saviour’s accepted Donna and I as a couple. We are able to be involved as much or as little as we wish. We love that we are loving and accepting of all, no matter the factor. I wanted to serve on church council because I wanted to be a voice for those who feel as though they never get an opportunity to share their voice or opinion.



JOHN BLEEM – TREASURER

We have been members for about 5 years. Hobbies include: Soccer (coaching and following EPL), hiking, skiing, biking, building at Habitat, gardening and local breweries. Our Saviour’s is a welcoming environment (open to all), friendly people, community outreach activities and engagement of women in liturgy and church leadership. Serving on council will allow me to meet new people, build relationships and invest some of my new-found volunteer time to help the church meet its mission.



CARA BUTLER – SECRETARY

My family has been going to OSLC for 6 years. I was confirmed in 2017. I enjoy being outside. I like to kayak, ski and run. In the summer, I work as a lifeguard. During the school year I was on student council at my school and I did sports. I also do cross country and track. The best parts of OSLC are the welcoming community and how active we are. As a youth representative I want to give back to the community that has done so much for me. I want to strengthen the connection between the different generations in our church and help improve the youth programs in our church.



BRADY BERG

I have been at OSLC for 12 years. We like to spend time in the mountains, hiking and camping, though at this point in our lives we tend to spend a lot of our free time at our kids’ sporting events! I guess what I like about OSLC is that: We are all welcome. We are all part of a greater family and community. Since our kids were born though, we really haven’t had a lot of time to give back to the church. Now that our kids are getting a little older, I feel like we’re having a lot of fun as a family rather than being in a perpetual “survival mode” and we’re now able to give back to our church and our community.



ZACH BRUICK

My wife and I began attending OSLC in October 2017. When I’m not coding, I’m probably looking at the clouds either from the summit of a mountain after a long hike or from the eastern plains on a storm chase. Rooting for the Chicago Cubs and Nebraska Huskers is a spiritual practice in pray, faith, and long-term belief. I appreciated the welcome we received when we began visiting OSLC by current members. It made us want to keep coming back. We enjoy the outgoing nature of the congregation and the social justice-focused ministries of the church.

To aid in assessing congregational vitality over time, the ELCA has developed a survey to help provide information about the strengths and challenges of church-wide organizations. In October 2019, the Visioning Team facilitated a “Vitality Survey” by soliciting participation from all OSLC confirmed members. The data collected from this survey will be used by the Visioning Team in the coming months to determine our congregational strengths, as well as to determine where we might shift gears and refocus current resources to new areas of focus in the future.

Fast forward to today, where, in January 2020, a congregational coach, Jim Ladoux, was selected and hired through Vibrant Faith to assist the Visioning Team and the OSLC congregation as a whole with the remainder of our current visioning process. Vibrant Faith is an organization created to help congregations assess their current strengths and list their opportunities for growth through the work of their coaches. Overall, Jim was selected to help OSLC call forth new possibilities and chart new pathways forward, as well as to equip the Visioning Team and others within the OSLC Council with the training and tools we need to best serve all members of our congregation. From Jim’s perspective, “coaching is about asking the right questions, at the right time, with the right people in order to best align ourselves with God’s dreams for the world.”

The Visioning Team will continue to meet on a monthly basis for the remainder of 2020, utilizing Mr. Ladoux as a sounding board and guide for the various exploration activities OSLC is looking to engage in. It is the hope of this committee to share out themes found within the “Vitality Survey” results in the near future as a way of continuing to involve congregation members in creating a shared vision for our future OSLC community.



VISIONING FOR OSLC

Your OSLC Vision Team Members: Rob Petterson, Intern Pastor Jon, Pastor Leta Arndt Behrens, Sara Halac, Pastor Michael Stadtmueller, Shannon Wagner, Natalie Grapes, Madelyn Mihm, Rosie Goetz, Fred Castor, Kris Eisele
Not Pictured: Tina Stegall, Brian Dunbar

In early 2019, the OSL church council began discussions about forming a visioning task force. The last time OSLC engaged in focused work on a long-range ministry plan was August 2011.

Since August 2019, a visioning committee made up of council members and lay persons was gradually formed and began to meet monthly. Several team members from the Visioning Team attended a Visioning and Realm Vitality Workshop through the ELCA. The information brought back was used to formulate our strategy going forward. Initially brainstorming, talking and getting ideas was our agenda. Our decided goal was to engage the congregation in a time of discussion regarding the exploration of vision in two key areas---spirituality/growth of our own community and connections with the wider Fort Collins community. Overall, the Visioning Team believes that a vital congregation lives out God’s mission by strengthening their relationship with God, nurturing relationships within the church and having a strong presence in their community.



PAT CESSNUN

I have been around OSLC for 8 years. My hobbies include: Reading, Cooking, Travel and meeting new people. OSLC has a very strong sense of family and ALL are welcome. The Pastors’ wonderful sense of humor create a very accepting atmosphere. The music is very inspiring and allows a non-singer like me to boldly praise the Lord! I look forward to using my gifts to help achieve Our Saviour’s goals. I am invested in Our Saviour’s and would love the opportunity to be part of the team that helps her expand and grow both in people and in faith.



LARRY DUNN

Larry is originally from Idaho and graduated from the University of Oregon. He has been a member of OSLC for 12 years where he has been a member of the Welcome Ministry, led adult forums, been active in the men’s breakfast and FFH. In retirement, Larry has been active in Overland Sertoma Service Club, the Larimer County Fair Board, Affordable Housing and Restorative Justice for Youth. He is married to Debra and they have four married sons and two grandsons.



KRIS EISELE

I have been a member of Our Saviour’s for 23 years. When I’m not working on homework for my theological studies, I enjoy fiction writing and paper crafts especially decorative planning. I am excited to serve my second year on council as secretary and helping with the vitality task force looking at what the congregation hopes for the future of OSLC.



ROSIE GOETZ

I love activities in the outdoors especially hiking in the mountains. Kent and I have traveled extensively and continue to enjoy exploring the world. For the past 6 years, I have volunteered in a number of roles with Homeward Alliance (Homeless Gear). Currently, I act as a support coach at the Murphy Center. I love the warm, welcoming church community. The congregation is alive and vibrant. I like the fact that OSLC is socially conscious and supports causes in and outside of our community.



JANA KRAICH

We have been members of Our Saviour’s for 6 years. My amazing husband, Bill, and I have been married for 9 years. We met at UNC in Greeley in 2004 and moved to Fort Collins in 2012. We have 2 beautiful daughters, Anya (6) and Corinne (2). Our favorite family activity is taking a picnic to the mountains to follow a good hike. My favorite things to do are sewing and fishing. I love the feeling of accomplishment and pride after creating something new. However, my heart is most at peace when fishing, especially the Poudre. OSLC is such a strong and welcoming community!



JEREMY MARBURGER

My wife Sharon and I have been members for about 6 years. When I’m not studying, at school, or spending time with family I enjoy photography, woodworking, and quilting. I also enjoy geocaching with my dad and brother when we can. And garden tractor pulling with my father-in-law and brother-in-law when time allows. The thing that I like most about OSLC is the range of generations that are represented in the congregation and the way that those generations interact. We are blessed to have these generations come together for worship, service, and learning.

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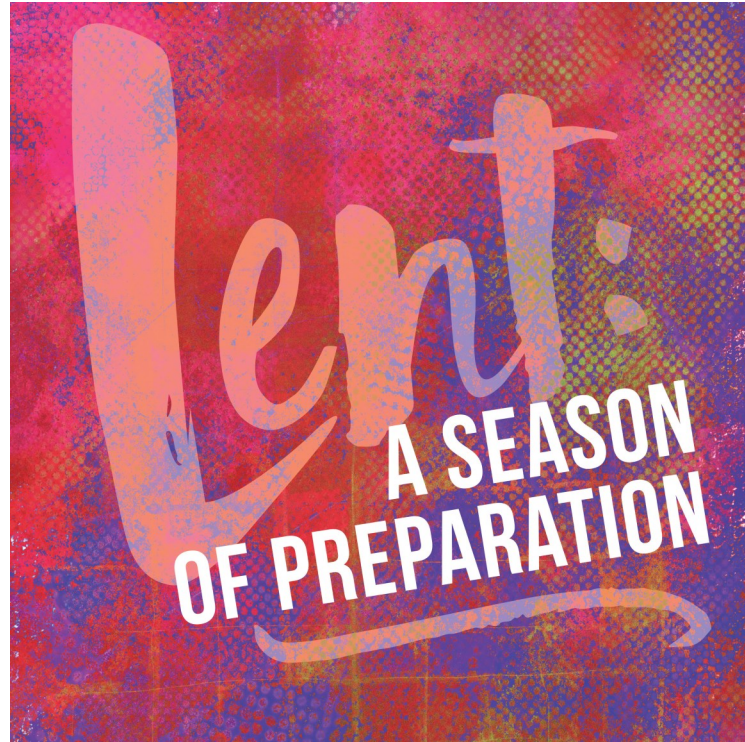
Risen!

EASTER SUNDAY

7:00 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church



Lent and Holy Week Schedule



**Wednesday Nights—
My Soul Magnifies the Lord
6:30 pm Worship**

**Soup Suppers
5:15 pm donations support
ISAAC (Interfaith Solidarity and
Accompaniment Coalition
ELCA Disaster Relief**

 **Palm Sunday** **April 5th—8:30 am & 10:30 am**

 **Maundy Thursday** **April 9th—7:00 pm**

 **Good Friday** **April 10th—12:00 pm & 7:00 pm**

 **Easter Vigil** **April 11th—5:30 pm**

A LOVELY WOMAN NAMED DOROTHY

A Story from Kiss Ministry

Dorothy grew up on a farm in eastern Colorado. She was born in 1921 and recently passed away at the age of 98. There were many things we knew about Dorothy. For example, she had a wonderful sense of humor, her smile could light up the room, she loved her country, and she loved to sing. Dorothy knew all the songs in our programs. She could sing them by heart. We usually end our programs with “God Bless America.” Dorothy would always stand with her hand over her heart singing this patriotic song with gusto. When we found out Dorothy had passed away, we got to read her obituary and talk with the community staff that knew her. One fact about Dorothy’s life stood out above all the rest. When Dorothy lived on the family farm in the 1940’s, Dorothy’s father took in German POW’s during World War II to work in his fields. Dorothy’s father was a kind man and treated the German soldiers with respect and kindness. In fact, Dorothy’s whole family had compassion for the soldiers and made sure they had good food and a warm place to sleep. The soldiers would put in an honest day’s work in the farm’s fields but this was coupled with downtime and even dances held in the family barn. When the war was over the soldiers could go back home to Germany. They didn’t want to leave! They loved Dorothy’s family and they loved the freedom America had to offer. We are not sure if they were made to go home or if they were allowed to stay and become citizens of the United States; however, the kindness Dorothy and her family extended to these POW’s left an impact on them and on us as we got to know what a special life Dorothy had led during her 98 trips around the sun. Dorothy, you were a lovely and amazing lady and we were all blessed to know you!



HEARING FROM OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS!



Sophia Behrens attends Valparaiso University in Indiana and is in her first year. She has been a part of OSLC for ten years. She served as a nursery coordinator, synod world hunger leader and was an active youth ministry participant.

My faith life in college is cool because going to a Lutheran university means that my faith life and my school life are integrated on campus. I feel like I can be involved with a lot more things concerning my faith and have opportunities such as a Sunday night service. Advocacy wise, I am able to continue my work with world hunger through the food access committee on student senate and my sorority's philanthropy. I have even expanded my passions to include sexual assault prevention through serving with a title IX group and the LGBTQ+ community through participating in a bible study that combats those issues in the church. Advocacy is an essential part of my faith life because it is what I'm called to do and college provides and encourages me with these different ways to help others.



Katie Eiswerth attends University of San Diego in California and is in her first year. She has been a part of OSLC since she was in elementary school! She served as a nursery coordinator, council member and active youth ministry participant.

I stay connected to my faith in college by going to the weekly service held at my university on Sunday nights. The sermons are directed toward college students, which I've come to really enjoy. Our preachers really show their understanding for our busy lives as college students, and they link scripture to the challenges a lot of us may be facing. I feel like the services really help me stay grounded and feel connected to God even with the busyness of school.



Matthew Khouri attends the University of Wyoming and is a junior pre-med student. He has been an active member of OSLC since childhood and used his gifts in youth ministry, service, and commitment to be present in the church community.

As a student in Laramie, Wyoming, the access to a diversity of faith practices is relatively limited. Finding similar beliefs in church in a small town is not a light task, especially growing up with a single church to base your faith with. For me, the understanding of where my faith stands doesn't reside with the physical presence of a church. My faith stands with me, with the church and practices I hold close to spread God's word through my actions of every day living. There is a student organization on campus that works with Doctors Without Borders and a majority of what we do isn't international help, but it's local impact. With a small town, understanding the community's needs is easier, and it becomes simpler to make an impact in these places. It also becomes one of the easiest ways to spread a loving message, as no one is watching the good things you're doing. You are the one to take the lead on the impact you are leaving and the loving message you are sending. My faith, originally being based at OSLC, has allowed me to find these places where care and God's love can be expressed, and the foundations built in Fort Collins has strengthened these expressions of love to be demonstrated to those I have come to know. I am happy that my college experience consists of the bustling schedule that it does, because it brings me joy that I have gotten to express my faith and love in God for those around me through sharing these acts of kindness and compassion through these opportunities. The love is given to the community, and at the end of the day, my life is what seems to be impacted and blessed.



Olivia Tuft attends Gonzaga in Washington and is in her first year. She has been an active part of OSLC from acolyte ministry to youth service trips where she led by example and with grace. My faith has always been important to me and part of my decision to attend Gonzaga University was partly based on the fact that it is a Christian school. Knowing it was a school created and based on the Christian faith was appealing to me even if it wasn't the same tradition that I grew up in. I have definitely been exposed to many people with different beliefs, and I have attended Catholic Mass with friends multiple times. Experiencing those different services and rituals has made me appreciate the Lutheran faith and traditions I was raised in with my family and at OSLC. Being far away from family in Fort Collins has been hard at times, but having a strong faith has helped me overcome some times of loneliness, challenging classes, and just the overall feeling of newness. I look forward to taking my friends here to a Lutheran church service, so I can share my tradition and experience with them.



Torie Wolf attends Grand Canyon University in Arizona and is in her first year. She has been a part of OSLC her whole life! Torie was an active youth leader, vibrant VBS leader and put her heart into service trips.

I believe my spiritual life and faith life have grown stronger in college! College isn't all rainbows and unicorns like it seems like in the movies. You actually have to work. It was hard for me being out of state, not knowing anyone and being in all honors class my first semester. However it was comforting to know that Jesus came to college with me! I have met some of my best friends in my bible study group and am applying to be a bible study leader for the following semester (so please pray for me!) I have always grown up going to public school where you had to call Christmas break winter break But at GCU my professors pray over us and have prayer boxes in our classes which is so amazing!!!! I feel so lucky that college is a part of my faith journey and the fact I can call myself a child of God!

In 2018, Temple University and the Wisconsin HOPE Lab Survey said students nationally reported as 36% being housing insecure in the last year and 9% being homeless. (Goldrick-Rab et al., 2019). Even though low-income students receive federal Pell Grants, they still face financial hardship to cover the cost of food, housing, and educational expenses like books and fees (Cochrane & Szabo-Kubitz, 2016).



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@LuMinCSU

Over the last two years LuMin has been raising funds to renovate the Lutheran Campus Ministry building at the edge of Colorado State University at 805 S Shields Street in Fort Collins. With the great help of so many in the community, phase one of renovations has been completed. These renovations allow us to walk alongside young adults who are experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness by providing basic needs like showers, laundry, and a warm meal. We now have set drop-in hours each week so that students can receive help.

With basic needs we can provide one more thing, intentional community. We are seeking volunteers from the CSU community and from local congregations to volunteer during Drop-In Center hours to host and care for students. The building is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. for the purposes of this ministry. Volunteers can visit lcmcsu.org to register to volunteer for weekly or monthly shifts.

In a three-part plan, the ministry looks to help those who are experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness on campus first with the Drop-In Center at the LuMin building. The greater need is dependable shelter. Second, we are looking to provide low-income subsidized house for 4 to 8 students by the fall of 2020. The third initiative would be establishing an intentional community for a number of students in one place that is affordable.