

# January 2017 KEEPING IN TOUCH

NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. PAUL LUTHERAN AND ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF FAITH

## Church Staff

**The Rev. Penni Walsh**  
Interim Lutheran Pastor

**The Rev. Don Sutton**  
Roman Catholic Pastor

**Mark Alan Filbert**  
Cantor

**Mohamed Jamoum**  
Sexton

**Joe Hanel**  
Council President

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## Scenes from a St. Paul Christmas

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## Our Mission

Saint Paul Community of Faith is an open, affirming and diverse community of faith representing two Christian traditions, that of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and that of the Roman Catholic Church.

Each tradition maintains and honors its own heritage, and each worships according to

its own liturgical practices. As one community of faith, the members of the respective traditions work together in social outreach and shared hospitality. Together, we rejoice in the manner in which diversity has enriched, nurtured and challenged the life and ministry we share in Christ and regret actions and attitudes

throughout the Church that may have inhibited or prevented access to Word and Sacrament because of age, race, socio-economic or marital status, physical or mental capacities, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

We are a Reconciling in Christ Community.

# Pastor's Thoughts



**N**ow we begin a new year, so what star calls you into a new journey?

On January 6, the twelve days of Christmas end and season of Epiphany begins. It is traditionally considered a season of light and the season when we read texts that reveal the nature of Jesus.

The magi follow the light of a star to the home of Jesus and there present him with three specific gifts: gold for the king, frankincense for the divine, myrrh for the death to come. These gifts and the visitors themselves reveal for the world that this child is the Messiah of God and they leave a subtle warning that this will not be an easy journey.

All of our days are journeys, but usually without any real intention. I challenge you this season to begin an intentional journey. A journey into what Jesus means to you. What St Paul's means to you. To what are you called?

This journey will not have a clear path and it might take longer and get messier than we expect. But there will be wonder and holiness and treasures to keep and to give away along the way.

Please join me for adult forum beginning January 22 and let's start our journey together.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Penni*

## Church Council News

# Congregational Meeting: Jan. 29

By **Joe Hanel**, *council president*

Please come to a congregational meeting and potluck lunch on Sunday, January 29 at noon. We have several things to discuss and vote on as a group.

### **Budget Updates**

We typically have a church-wide meeting in January to vote on the budget for the next year. This year, however, the council is proposing to change our budget year from the calendar year to a July to June cycle. Pastor Penni gave us this idea, and we think it make sense for a couple of reasons:

- First, most churches receive lots of donations at the end of the year and go through lean months in the summer. It's hard to manage finances when so much money comes in during the last month of the budget year. Switching to a July to June year would give the council a better idea halfway through the year about the church's finances.
- Second, we are only at the beginning of Pastor Penni's interim, and it's too soon to make major adjustments to our budget. As such, the council will be asking for approval a six-month extension of the current budget.

I know many people are worried about the state of our dwindling savings. I am too. But you should know we have made substantial spending cuts already that will accommodate this six-month extension of our budget. We eliminated the position of parish administrator. As a result, we had to part ways with Kirsten Boyd, who brought a lot of energy and good ideas to the job. We do plan to hire a temporary office assistant for a few months to help organize the office, but we will see a lot of savings from not employing a full-time administrator.

Also, Pastor Penni has generously agreed to accept less in salary than we had budgeted for our pastor at the beginning of the year.

We will need to make difficult decisions about

finances in the next few months. The small group meetings that many of you attended were the first step. But the first two months of an interim ministry are the wrong time to make long-term, consequential decisions.

### **A Single Lutheran Service Time?**

My family and I are regular participants in the 8 a.m. Lutheran liturgy. It's a time that works for us, but we know it is sparsely attended. Typically, there are eight to twelve people in the pews. The council has been considering whether to consolidate to a single Sunday morning service, and if so, when that service should be. We are not as large a church as we used to be, and maybe we should make the most of our opportunities to get all of us together on a weekly basis. A change might also afford choir members the opportunity to attend Adult Forum.

We'll be talking a lot more about this in the coming weeks.

### **Volunteers Needed (and a Council President!)**

One of the biggest contributions St. Paul needs is your time. We need volunteers for all manner of tasks, from providing coffee and refreshments after services to serving on council committees.

And we will need someone to serve as council president. When Pastor Kevin asked me to take the job, I promised myself I would do it to the best of my ability unless it got in the way of my family responsibilities. With a second baby in the house, that time has come, and I will step down after the January church meeting. Anna and I plan to stay involved as volunteers by handling the website and newsletter — tasks we can do at home during the fleeting moments when both kids are asleep.

The council has formed a nominating committee to find a new president to help lead us through this interim time. I'd ask everyone to prayerfully consider who this person might be.

Might it be you?



# St. Paul Adult Forum

## for Epiphany 2017

**Sunday, January 8:** We're beginning the season with a presentation by Krista Kilgus, the Executive Director of Urban Servant Corps.

What is Urban Servant Corps?  
[www.urbanservantcorps.org](http://www.urbanservantcorps.org)

### *Mission Statement*

Urban Servant Corps is a faith-based, intentional community of full-time volunteers who seek to live simply while serving and accompanying those most in need at non-profit partner agencies in the heart of Denver.

### *Vision Statement*

Acting for peace with justice, advocating for and with the oppressed, and sharing our abundance as we respond to Christ's call to love.

**Sunday, January 15:** The Rev. Dr. David M. Carlson, Pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Duluth, MN (See announcement in the box on this page).

**Sunday, January 22:** Pastor Penni Walsh will lead a discussion on the book *Our Iceberg is Melting: Changing and Succeeding Under Any Conditions* by John Kotter. It's a humorous and thoughtful little book that will start us on our journey of transition together. Please plan to attend this series, which will run through February. The book is available online or wherever you prefer to order it.

### **January 15th Adult Forum on Luther and Earth Stewardship**

Martin Luther's writings provide strong support for framing and practicing a faithful response to the current ecological crisis. In the spirit of the Reformer's public posting on the church door in Wittenberg in 1517, Rev. Dr. David M. Carlson, Pastor of **Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Duluth, MN**, will present: "9.5 Theses on Earth Stewardship: Lutheran Roots for A New Reformation." Pastor Carlson, who grew up at St. Paul Church, will also provide an update on the rebuilding of Gloria Dei after a fire destroyed the sanctuary in February of 2016.

Copies of Pastor Carlson's presentation and his doctoral thesis, "Earth Stewardship and the Missio Dei: Participating in the Care and Redemption of All God Has Made," will be available after the Forum. He will be speaking on his thesis topic on Tuesday afternoon, January 17th, at the Iliff School of Theology. Contact David L. Carlson at [davidcarlson824@gmail.com](mailto:davidcarlson824@gmail.com) for more information about the Tuesday event if you are interested.

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## January Lunch Bunch at Helga's

In the spirit of the Reformation year, join us on Thursday, January 5, for a lunch of German Wurst und Bier that would make Martin Luther proud. Come to Helga's German Restaurant and Deli at 14197 E. Exposition, Aurora.

Tuck into a plate of Schnitzel, Kroketten, and

Sauerkraut, washing it all down with a tankard of Hofbrau. Theological discussions optional (though Luther would have lunched like that with his cronies.) Call Janice Ahrendt at 303 797-7288 to save your place.

[www.helgasedeli.com](http://www.helgasedeli.com)



# MUSIC AT SAINT PAUL

## Cornell University Glee Club on 12 January

On Thursday, 12 January 2017, at 7:00 pm, the 43-voice Cornell University Glee Club, Cornell's oldest student organization (founded in 1868) and one of the nation's finest collegiate ensembles, will present one of nine concerts comprising a Southwest Mid-winter Tour of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah. Visit <http://www.gleeclub.com/events/2017/1/12/southwest-tour-saint-paul-community-of-faith> for more information.

## Saint Martin's Chamber Choir on 19 February

On Sunday, 19 February 2017, at 3:00 pm, Denver's own Saint Martin's Chamber Choir, led by Artistic Director Timothy Krueger, will perform a program entitled, Winter Winds, featuring music from Scandinavia and the Baltics inspired by the experience of winter and composed by those who know it best. Visit [www.stmartinchamberchoir.org](http://www.stmartinchamberchoir.org) for more information.

## Ars Nova Singers on 26 February

On Sunday, 26 February 2017, at 4:00 pm, the Boulder-based Ars Nova Singers, in collaboration with String, a consort of viols, will present Music of the Renaissance: Voices and Viols, a program of Renaissance masterworks from the 15th through the 18th centuries under the leadership of Artistic Director Thomas Edward Morgan. Visit [www.arsnovasingers.com](http://www.arsnovasingers.com) for more information.

## THEATRE & THEOLOGY



**The Christians** will be seen at the Stage Theatre (Performing Arts Center) on 02/14/17 at 6:00 PM. Pastor Paul inspires faith in the members of his growing congregation through his preaching, but when he brings up unexpected questions during a sermon, his changing perspective may ask too much of his followers.

This New York Times critics' pick is "a terrific new play from one of the freshest playwrighting voices to emerge in the past five years."

Purchase deadline is 01/24/17. Ticket cost is \$35.00 made payable to The Rocky Mountain Synod. Note on check T&T: The Christians - St. Paul. Mail to Dorothy Stenman, 818 Logan Street - #1203; Denver, CO 80203-3125.



## Book Talk

This month, the book group is reading "A Man Called Ove" by Fredrik Backman. We will meet at the home of Bonnie and David Carlson, 480 S Marion Pkwy #1206A on Monday, January 9 at 7 pm.

## Support St. Paul with King Soopers Cards

Contact Father Don at [donaldsutton@gmail.com](mailto:donaldsutton@gmail.com) to get a card.



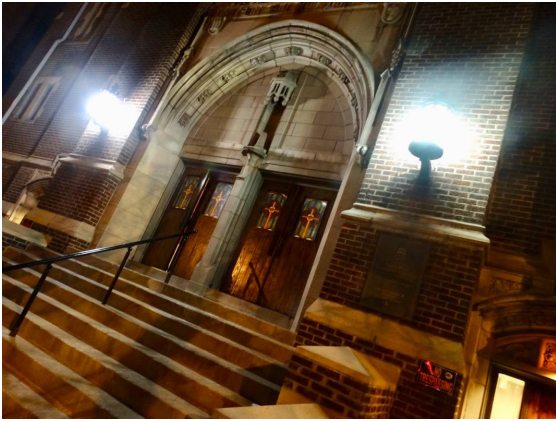


# Scenes from a St. Paul Christmas

Photos by Ron Hoffman







# JANUARY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> New Year's Day NO 8am LITURGY 10:30am New Year's Day mass 11:45am Coffee	<b>2</b> 1-5pm Street Reach 6:30-8:30pm Rocky Mountain Ringers Rehearsal	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 12 -1 Lunch Bunch 6pm St. Paul Bell Choir rehearsal 7pm St Paul Choir rehearsal	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 5-6pm Catholic Mass
<b>8</b> Epiphany Sunday 8am Liturgy 9:15a Adult Forum, Coffee 9:30am Choir 10:30am Liturgy 11:45am Coffee	<b>9</b> 1-5pm Street Reach 6:30-8:30pm Rocky Mountain Ringers Rehearsal 7pm Book Talk	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Congregational Council meeting	<b>11</b> 7pm St Paul Choir rehearsal	<b>12</b> 6pm St. Paul Bell Choir rehearsal 7pm Cornell U. Glee Club convert	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 1-4pm Seicento Board meeting 5-6pm Catholic Mass
<b>15</b> Baptism of Our Lord 8am Liturgy 9:15a Adult Forum, Coffee 9:30am Choir 10:30am Liturgy 11:45am Coffee 2-5 Colorado NO-CIRC meeting	<b>16</b> Martin Luther King Day 1-5pm Street Reach 6:30-8:30pm Rocky Mountain Ringers Rehearsal	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 6pm St. Paul Bell Choir rehearsal 7pm St Paul Choir rehearsal	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 5-6pm Catholic Mass
<b>22</b> Epiphany 3 8am Liturgy 9:15a Adult Forum, Coffee 9:30am Choir 10:30am Liturgy 11:45am Coffee	<b>23</b> 1-5pm Street Reach 6:30-8:30pm Rocky Mountain Ringers Rehearsal	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6pm St. Paul Bell Choir rehearsal 7pm St Paul Choir rehearsal	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 5-6pm Catholic Mass
<b>29</b> Epiphany 4 8am Liturgy 9:15a Adult Forum, Coffee 9:30am Choir 10:30am Liturgy Noon Congregational meeting and potluck	<b>30</b> 1-5pm Street Reach 6:30-8:30pm Rocky Mountain Ringers Rehearsal	<b>31</b>				