

December 2017

Keeping in Touch

Newsletter of the St. Paul Lutheran and Catholic Community of Faith

Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule at St. Paul

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

6:30pm Advent Vespers (House for All Sinners and Saints)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

6:30pm St. Lucia Advent

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

6:30pm Advent Vespers (House for All Sinners and Saints)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

5pm Catholic Mass for Fourth Week of Advent, followed
by decorating of the church for Christmas

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

No morning worship

4pm Family worship

7pm Christmas Eve worship

10:30pm Prelude • 11pm Christmas Eve worship

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:30am Christmas Day Mass

Our Mission

St. Paul Lutheran and Catholic Community of Faith nurtures a diverse people – seeking understanding together – in a welcome and sacred space – actively engaged in service to others.

Who We Are

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 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.

Church Staff

The Rev. Penni Walsh
Interim Lutheran Pastor

Mohamed Jamoum
Sexton

The Rev. Don Sutton
Catholic Pastor

Jeff Parrott
Council President

Deacon Mark Alan Filbert
Cantor

Lori Arias
Administrator

Contact Us

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Pastor's Updates

December 1 marked my one year anniversary with you. It has been a wonderful year for me and I'm hoping a meaningful year for all of St. Paul. I think it's a good time to look at what has been done as we prepare for what needs to be done.

An interim time has several developmental tasks:

1. Coming to terms with history: We did this in the early spring highlighting some of St. Paul's very successful history and acknowledging some painful past which was reexamined, opening the door for some healing to begin. We also come to terms with the real situation of the church's finances, making some very difficult decisions for the sake of a healthy future.

2. Discovering a new identity: We are still moving into this, but we know a lot more about who we are today. We have deepened our commitment to our ecumenical life together, and the Catholic community has also reexamined its identity and it moving toward a new future. We've also reached out to several other faith communities and continue exploring ways we can be church together. The whole community is very clear about its commitment to social justice and in that context being a deeply sacramental community grounded in strong liturgical worship.

3. Managing shifts in leadership: We are seeking to put into place systems that empower the lay leadership of the church and provide sensible processes for the life of the church. St. Paul has had a habit of allowing members to operate as "lone rangers" — for one or two people to take an idea and just do it without processing it through the decision making process, leaving some hurt or angry. When we

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do this the relationships with the congregation are damaged, harming the whole community. It's going to take time and a real commitment on everyone's part to change this pattern.

4. Strengthening our sense of being church

together: This St. Paul has not had much of a problem with. There has been some distrust of the Office of the Bishop, but we've worked through this. And there has always been a commitment to ecumenical relationships. This is one of St. Paul's deep strengths.

5. Committing to a new future and a new leadership:

This will be the work of the Call Committee and of course the whole congregation. We are ready to move into this time, and I hope you are as excited about what is to come as I am.



Can we serve our immigrant neighbor by serving as a Sanctuary Church?

We will have three opportunities to hear from the Denver Sanctuary Coalition about what it takes

in space, people resources and finances to make this happen at St. Paul.

December 3: At House for All Sinners and Saints, 1595 Pearl St, 7 pm

December 5: At St Paul at 6:30 pm

December 17: At our Congregational Conversation, noon

Please try and be at one of these events to learn about the history of sanctuary, why we do it and the theology behind civil disobedience.



We will install the Call Committee at worship December 16 and 17, with a Congregational Conversation following Sunday worship.



Thanks for your care, your deep faith and commitment to St. Paul. May the new year we are moving into be blessed.

Pastor Penni Walsh

Adult Forum for Advent looks at St. Mark

In the Liturgical calendar, we are about to begin Year B, which means instead of hearing Matthew's Gospel stories, we will be studying Mark, the shortest of the four Gospels and probably the earliest. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:15 for a study of the Advent Lessons. Note that the 4th Sunday of Advent is also Christmas Eve. Since we won't have a worship service that morning, Jim and Maryann will present four Hebrew Scriptures, four Epistles, and four Gospel readings in three weeks! Quite a challenge. You will be given a Year B Lectionary Sheet if you wish to read the lessons ahead. Everyone is welcome.



Write for Keeping in Touch: Do you have news to share with others in the St. Paul community? Send your article to Joe Hanel, joehanel@gmail.com. Submissions by the 20th of the month for the following month's newsletter are greatly appreciated.



The Knitting Continues!

Newborns in Need group kicks off

By Lin Holly

The Knitting for Newborns in Need group kicked off with a "get started" session on Thursday, November 16, at the Emerson Gardens senior housing community, 940 N. Emerson Street in Denver. Nancy Hauck, Karlene Burrell, Betty Woolsey, and Bruce (sorry, Bruce, we missed your last name!) were patiently led by Maryann O'Brien as they worked enthusiastically knitting and crocheting and shared fun and laughs in the process.

They even got me in on the act for a few minutes when we were all trying to help the southpaw in the group learn to knit (no, I'm not a lefty and even better, I don't knit, but have learned to be ambidextrous and to pick up some skills easily during my working years). It was more entertaining than productive, but I enjoy helping people and when laughs are an added benefit it's even better.



The group will be meeting the second and fourth Thursdays of each month from 1-2:30 p.m. in the Community Room at Emerson Gardens to get to know each other better, have a lot of fun and oh yes, create blankets, hats, booties and other items needed by the many newborns in need at Denver Health.

Everyone (yes, guys that includes you, too) who is interested in bringing their knitting and crocheting skills is welcome, and some supplies are available. If you're bringing your own needles, I did overhear the numbers 5 & 6 mentioned, and if you're bringing yarn, make sure that it's got "baby" in the name. I told you, I'm not a knitter!





Music at St. Paul

Saint Paul Choir Welcomes “Christmas Singers”

Do you like to sing but feel you cannot commit regularly to the Saint Paul Choir? Then why not become a “seasonal singer,” and sing with the choir on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2017, at the 10:30 pm prelude and the 11:00 pm liturgy. This year’s Prelude will include a cantata entitled Star in the East, and based on early American Christmas carols as arranged by Malcolm Dalglish for choir and hammered dulcimer. “Seasonal” singers would need to commit to three Thursday evening rehearsals from 7:00-9:00 pm on the 7th, 14th, and 21st of December, as well as a Saturday dress rehearsal on the 23rd, from 9:00-11:00 am. Contact Mark at mark@stpauldenver.org or 720.274.4708 for more information about seasonal choir participation.

Ars Nova Singers Offer Half-Price Tickets To Saint Paul

On Sunday, 10 December 2017, at 4:00 pm, the Boulder-based Ars Nova Singers, one of Colorado’s finest vocal ensembles, will present a program entitled, Fire and Ice: Christmas with Ars Nova, under the direction of Thomas Edward Morgan and featuring the world renowned classical guitarist, Nicolò Spera. The program will include a performance of Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco’s dramatic Romancero Gitano, essentially a guitar concerto with choral accompaniments, as well as traditional and contemporary carols. As a way of saying “thank you” for the many years we have hosted concerts by Ars Nova, members of the Saint Paul Community of Faith are being offered half-price tickets (Adults \$10, instead of \$20, and Students \$5, instead of \$10). Tickets will be available at the door, and you may receive the discounted rate by indicating that you are a member of Saint Paul. Visit www.arsnovasingers.org for more information about the program.

Columbine Chorale on 3 December

On Sunday, 3 December 2017, at 4:00 pm, the Columbine Chorale, led by Music Director Brian Eichenberger, will present Midwinter Songs, a holiday concert of festival choral music from the sixteenth through the twenty-first centuries.

Visit www.columbinechorale.org for more information.

Rocky Mountain Ringers on 15 December

On Friday, 15 December 2017, at 7:30 pm, the Rocky Mountain Ringers, Denver’s leading semi-professional handbell ensemble, presents joyous holiday music in a concert entitled Winter Wonders, under the direction of Jeffrey Harms. Visit www.rmringers.com for more information.

Saint Martin’s Chamber Choir on 17 December

On Sunday, 17 December 2017, at 3:00 pm, Denver’s own Saint Martin’s Chamber Choir, led by Artistic Director Timothy Krueger, will perform a program entitled A Winter’s Night: Christmas with Saint Martin’s, featuring Benjamin Britten’s a cappella cantata, A Boy was Born, and Cecilia McDowall’s cantata, A Winter’s Night, a work for choir and organ rich with familiar carol tunes, including opportunities for audience participation. Visit www.stmartinchamberchoir.org for more information.

Grant Street Reach Toy Drive Seeks Donations, Volunteers

You can help Grant Street Reach, the Monday soup kitchen program at St. Paul's, with their holiday Toy Drive.

It will be held Saturday, December 16, at St. Paul's. Some donations are already in, but organizers say they are still in need of items for older children (11-14), especially boys. Toys, basketballs, footballs, make-up kits, purses, jewelry, gift cards, Broncos items — anything helps.

You can volunteer to help in person on:

Thursday, December 14: Helping deliver donated toys to the church.

Friday, December 15 around noon at church: Volunteers will be sorting toys and bagging the gift bags for the families that are have registered.

Saturday, December 16: Volunteers help set up starting around 7 a.m. At 9 a.m. the families start coming to pick up their bags. People will be coming to register, and additional toy bags will need to be filled.



Prior to the 15th, gift items can be dropped off or sent to:

Street Reach
C/O Kathleen Gomendi
2560 Urban Street
Lakewood, Co 80215

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Kim Eggleston at sbmom33@msn.com or 303-909-9702.

Learn More: http://grantstreetreach.org/donation_drives.aspx

Fleece Navidad!

Again this December, we are collecting warm sweatshirts and sweatpants for the residents of St. Paul Health Center Nursing Home. The Catholic part of our community has been doing this for years, and now we can all participate. The residents especially need large men's sweatshirts, sizes 3X and 4X, and women's sizes L and XL. There is a basket in the back of the nave for your donations. Help make this a warm Christmas.

A concert poster for Rocky Mountain Ringers. The title 'RMR' is written in large, gold, stylized letters with a red ribbon tied around it. Below it, 'ROCKY MOUNTAIN RINGERS' is written in gold. The main title 'Winter Wonders' is in a cursive gold font, followed by 'with guests & SAFONIA' in a similar font. The date and time 'Friday, December 15 | 7:30 pm' are on the left, and the location 'St. Paul Lutheran Church | 1600 Grant Street, Denver 80203' is on the right. At the bottom, it says 'Go to our website for tickets: www.RMRingers.org'. The background is dark with falling snow.

Volunteers Needed for LFS Refugee Gift Event

By Anna Hanel

Each December, Lutheran Family Services provides presents for newly arrived refugees thanks to donated gifts and volunteer wrappers and deliverers. In the past, volunteers delivered presents directly to families' doors, but this year, volunteer coordinator Andrea Martires Abelenda would like volunteers to help organize and help families "shop" for their gifts.

The Gift Shopping event will be held at Crawford Elementary School, (16th & Florence Street in Aurora). Volunteers will be needed for shifts on Saturday, December 16 between 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., and on Sunday December 17th between 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. It would be ideal if folks could volunteer for at least a two-hour period.

Andrea says, "Our primary role for volunteers

will be as a sort of 'personal shopper' for our clients. Each client will receive a slip of paper when they arrive with the ages/genders of their family members and the volunteer will help them navigate the tables with gifts for those ages/genders. We may also have a couple volunteers moving about the space to reorganize the gifts, and a couple volunteers at a front check-in table that will be finding the client's information on a spreadsheet and filling out cards with the age/gender of the clients' family members."

That Saturday, Street Reach is hosting its present giveaway event at our church, so I understand some of you are already committed to helping there. But I wanted to share information about this event just in case anyone was interested in joining me on Saturday for a 2-4 hour shift. Feel free to contact me at annabhanel@gmail.com, or 303-332-8761. Thank you!

Newborns in Need Project a Success

By Maryann O'Brien

On November 11, St. Paul volunteers held a "Baby Shower" at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Denver to benefit the 3,200 new babies born at Denver Health Hospital. Thanks to everyone who donated baby clothes, diapers, blankets, quilts, etc. We also received two large bags from Knitting4Peace, which also gave us a giant bag of hats and scarves for Street Reach. Thanks to Lin Holly for the photographs available on Facebook and our Communication Wall downstairs. Our project is continuing at Emerson Gardens on the second and fourth Thursday of the month (more info below). Please contact me at maryannobrien88@comcast.net if you have any questions.





Nationwide showing of *The Sultan and the Saint*

By Carolyn Swenson

The *Sultan and Saint* tells one of the great, lost stories from history set in a period of East-West conflict. It is the story of two men of faith searching for common understanding and peace during the time known as the Crusades: Francis of Assisi and the Sultan of Egypt. The meeting of these two men changed history and their story could not be more timely.

The film not only reenacts the story of Francis of Assisi and the Sultan, it also includes interviews with Muslim and Franciscan scholars, historians and even a neuroscientist who speaks to the positive effects of reconciliation and peace-making on the human brain! The film is narrated by Jeremy Irons.

Unity Productions Foundation (UPF) released *The Sultan and the Saint* in 2016. UPF is a nonprofit organization dedicated to countering bigotry and creating peace through the media. They produce films aimed at increasing

understanding among people of different faiths and cultures, especially among Muslims and other faiths. Over the past year, *The Sultan and the Saint* has premiered around the country and now it will be broadcast on PBS on Tuesday evening December 26. The Franciscan Action Network — a U.S. organization of religious and lay Franciscans — and UPF have joined together to promote film viewing parties around the country.

Hosts can register their viewing party and receive materials to help facilitate discussion after the film. I am working with a Muslim friend to organize a viewing party in the Denver area and you are invited to attend! Perhaps others from the St. Paul community would also like to host a viewing party.

Please help spread the word about this important film. Check PBS.org for exact times around the country. Contact Carolyn Swenson at 303-748-0759 or cjswenson57@gmail.com if you are interested in hosting or attending.

THEATRE & THEOLOGY



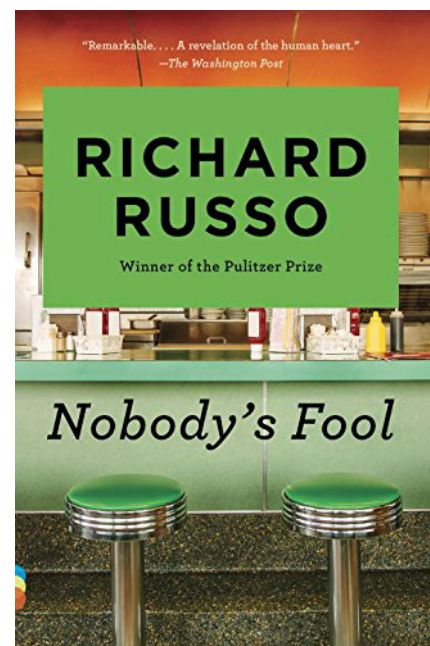
Our next play is a comedy entitled **Zoey's Perfect Wedding**. The blushing bride. The touching toast. The celebration of true love. These are dreams of Zoey's big day ... and the opposite of what it is turning out to be. Disaster after disaster follow her down the aisle, from brutally honest boozy speeches to a totally incompetent wedding planner. Even worse, her friends are too preoccupied with their own relationship woes to help with the wreckage around them. Like a car crash you can't look away from, watch in awe as this wildly funny fiasco destroys her expectations with the realities of commitment, fidelity and growing up.

This play will be seen in the Space Theatre at 6 p.m. on January 30, 2018. Please stay after the performance for Pastor Bollman's theological discussion of the play with the cast. The reservation deadline is January 9. A ticket costs \$35 made payable to The Rocky Mountain Synod. Note on check: T&T – Zoey's Perfect Wedding – St. Paul ELCA. Mail check to Dorothy Stenman; 818 Logan Street #1203; Denver, CO 80203-3125.

Holiday Lunch Bunch Meets at Flatirons Crossing

On Thursday, December 5th at noon, the St. Paul Lunch Bunch is celebrating the season at The Village Tavern, 1 West Flatirons Crossing Drive, Suite 1001 in Broomfield. Whether your appetite runs to baked brie or sautéed collard greens, the Village Tavern has it all, not to mention half-price martinis! What's not to like? Call Janice Ahrendt at 303 448-6045 to reserve a spot.

Book Talk



Book Talk's next selection is **Nobody's Fool** by Richard Russo. We will meet at Bonnie Carlson's home, 480 S Marion Pkwy #1206A on Tuesday, December 5 at 7 pm. Questions, call Bonnie at 303-722-9892.

All are welcome.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				7pm St Paul Choir rehearsal	1	2 5pm Catholic Mass
Advent 1 3 9:15am Adult Forum 10:30am Lutheran Worship 11:45am Coffee 4pm Columbine Chorale concert	4 1-5pm Street Reach 6pm Rocky Mountain Ringers	5 5pm Transition Team	6 6:30pm Advent Vespers (House for All Sinners and Saints)	7 7pm St Paul Choir rehearsal	8	9 5pm Catholic Mass
Advent 2 10 9:15am Adult Forum 10:30am Lutheran Worship 11:45am Coffee 4pm Ars Nova Singers concert	11 1-5pm Street Reach 6pm Rocky Mountain Ringers	12 5pm Transition Team 6:30pm Congregational Council	13 6:30pm St. Lucia Advent	14 7pm St Paul Choir rehearsal	15 7:30pm Rocky Mountain Ringers concert	16 9am Street Reach toy drive 5pm Catholic Mass
Advent 3 17 9:15am Adult Forum 10:30am Lutheran Worship 11:45am Coffee 3pm St. Martin's Chamber Choir concert	18 1-5pm Street Reach	19 5pm Transition Team	20 6:30pm Advent Vespers (House for All Sinners and Saints)	21 7pm St Paul Choir rehearsal	22	Advent 4 23 9am 7pm St Paul Choir dress rehearsal 5pm Catholic Mass
Christmas Eve 24 No morning worship 4pm Family worship 7pm Christmas Eve worship 10:30pm Prelude 11pm Christmas Eve worship	25 10:30am Christmas Day mass 1-5pm Street Reach	26 5pm Transition Team	27	28	29	30 5pm Catholic Mass
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