



January 2018

Keeping in Touch

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

Christmas at St. Paul

Pages 7 and 8



CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS • JAN. 14 & FEB. 11

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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

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Pastor's Updates

Happy Year to all! 2017 was a busy, exciting and fruitful year and I am expecting 2018 will bring many new and wondrous experiences for St Paul.

We installed the Call Committee December 16 and 17, they are:

From the Lutheran Community:

David Carlson Mark Filbert

Jim Harrer Rosemarie Kumpe

Maryann O'Brian Jeri Rodrick

Ron Thorn Michael Wallin

Steve West

From the Catholic Community and appointed as non-voting:

Liz Couture and Greg and Bobbie Hobbs

Ex-officio: Jeff Parrott, Council President and Fr Don Sutton

They will begin meeting in early January, choosing a chairperson and a secretary. I will work with the call committee during this process but will step out when the interview process begins. Their first task will be filling out the rest of the Ministry Site Profile. This is the main document that will go to all candidates and the ELCA churchwide. The Transition Team did the first two parts; the remaining three parts are the call committee's responsibility. This part of their job will likely take one to two months and will involve talking with members in small groups. When finished, it is approved by the Bishop and is the trigger for us to start receiving the names of candidates.

The call committee will then review and choose two to four candidates for live interviews, narrowing down to two. Those

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final two will be invited to in person interviews. A final choice will be presented to the Church Council, then voted on by the whole congregation. The candidate will make the final acceptance. This part of the process can take one to three months. This is not the time to rush to a choice — slow is better than wrong. I will stay until you have a confirmed pastor.

The call committee will communicate with the congregation regularly, but feel free to talk to any of the team. They will not be able to disclose any names until they finalize a candidate.

Please keep these people in your prayers during the upcoming months.



I will be gone from January 9 to February 5. Pr
Ron Roschke will be leading worship and Fr
Don will be available for pastoral care and for
overseeing the staff.

Blessings,
Pastor Penni Walsh



Adult Forum for January

An Eclectic Epiphany

Join us for an Epiphany series that we hope will be interesting. For example, did you know that Epiphany was celebrated long before Christmas was?

And did you know that there are three “epiphanies” coming the three Sundays after Christmas?

We'll also take a look at the

spread of Lutheranism in North America and the road to the ELCA. We need your input for these discussions since we have several long time Lutherans in our midst.

Evolution Day is coming soon, so watch for a program on this timely topic. You've asked for a discussion on Grace and its

place in Lutheran theology. Reformation 500 is now behind us, but what do we on October 32nd and thereafter? See what Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, has to say.

Everyone is welcome downstairs on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:15 beginning January 7.

Fleece Navidad!

Thanks to everyone who brought warm sweatshirts and sweatpants for the residents of St. Paul Health Center Nursing Home. There were a lot of packages under the tree that will make many people toasty this winter.



Knitting for Newborns

Remember back in November when we had a kick-off event to benefit the Newborns in Need Program at Denver Health? We delivered a huge carload of diapers, baby blankets, baby clothes, and so on that you so generously brought. That was Phase One. Now we're in Phase Two – an ongoing group of needle workers who knit and crochet and continue to donate to Denver Health. We meet on the second and fourth Thursdays from 1:00 to 2:30 at Emerson Gardens Senior Apartments on 9th and Emerson. It's great fun to chat and work on this wonderful project together. Needles, hooks, and yarn will be supplied if you join us. Talk to Nancy Hauck, Betty Woolsey, or Maryann O'Brien for more information. Everyone is welcome and there's plenty of parking!

Two Congregational Meetings to Help Set Direction of Church

Two important congregational meetings are coming up.

January 14, noon: Conversation on the Constitution and Bylaws, including a discussion on House for All Sinners and Saints (see below).

Feb 11, noon: Semi-annual meeting – Council elections and voting on the constitution and bylaws.

The church council is requesting nominations for two council positions. First, chair of the Property Team. This person would present the needs for the upkeep of our historic building at the monthly church council meetings and would also chair a team of members who would make recommendations regarding needs, budgets, potential vendors and contracts. Second, chair of the Worship and Music Team. This position would be working with a team of members to make decisions about all the elements that go into our worship.

Please speak to or email any of the following for further information: Father Don, Pastor Penni, Jeff Parrott, or Lori Eastman, chair of the nominating committee. The committee welcomes self-nominations, but is also interested in suggestions from members of both the Lutheran and Catholic communities regarding these leadership positions.

House for All Sinners and Saints

House for all Sinners and Saints has expressed an interest to move to St Paul. The Council is considering the idea and will keep the congregation informed as we move along. A final decision will not be made without input from the Congregation.

A part of the proposal is to replace some or all of the pews with wooden, style appropriate chairs, which House will pay for along with regular rent. The dollar figure on that is up for negotiations, but they are currently paying \$10,000 annually for their space.

It is a big opportunity so you are all asked to prayerfully consider what this could mean for St Paul.

Sanctuary Discussion

Summary of December 17 Meeting

By Ron Hoffman

This was a meeting to cover the status of the Transition Committee and its final report and to inform the congregation of upcoming activities to call a new pastor.

As part of the meeting, I gave an update on recent meetings regarding the possibility of setting up a Sanctuary location at a local church. Pastor Penni asked that I start the meeting to make sure as many people hear the information as possible.

I covered some of the interested parties that have started to become involved in this effort. St. Paul, Epiphany and House for All Sinners and Saints (HFASS) had met informally to assess interest in the Sanctuary process. At an early December meeting an individual from Mountain View Friends near DU joined our informal group. Mountain View Friends has offered Sanctuary in the past, but renovations make that difficult now.

Josh Stallings, a member of HFASS, who has been involved in the Metro Denver Sanctuary Coalition, was meeting today with Belong United Methodist at 16th and Ogden to generate interest with that group. Temple Micah and Park Hill United Methodist also have a sanctuary operation run jointly by the two congregations housed in the same facility.

I pointed out that there are five persons in sanctuary in Colorado – which is one out of every six people in known sanctuary in the U.S.

I covered some of the frequently asked questions from an ACLU guide on Sanctuary and passed out an abbreviated version of the questions. (Both documents are in the files section of the Central Denver Sanctuary group. Go to <https://groups.io/g/CentralDenverSanctuary> to see these documents and/or to join the group.

Or you join the group by emailing CentralDenverSanctuary+subscribe@groups.io.

I explained that we are in the early stages of discussion as to whether we can help support a Sanctuary location or provide a Sanctuary location with the help of area congregations.

There were many questions from the group:

Do we have the facilities? Yes, there is space in the Sunday school area and a shower can be made available in the family rest room.

What about furniture? Pastor Penni said Lutheran Refugee services has an excess of furniture because immigration has slowed.

Do we have to be with the person at all times? Yes, the office can cover during the day, but volunteers at other times?

Is there support for the person seeking sanctuary from other organizations? Yes, but we would help facilitate.

Is there synod support? Yes, there is a Rocky Mountain advocate aware of our work.

There were various other questions that I may have missed.

A member of the church council suggested that we vote on proceeding. My comment was that we are only in the early stages of investigating the possibilities. She suggested a straw vote to assess the interest and to insure that we should proceed. The vote was close to unanimous (one person may have raised their hand in opposition).

Individuals interested in helping with a St. Paul steering group were asked to contact me (ronhoffman@yahoo.com)

Carolyn Swenson and Judy Strasen expressed interest after the meeting.

It appears that St. Paul will proceed with discussions and will seek to work with other congregations on this possibility.



Christmas at St. Paul

Story and Photos by Lin Holly

Christmas Eve Worship was engaging, fun and welcoming for everyone attending. The late services started with a hammered dulcimer prelude, performed by Lucille Reilly, that brought back memories for some and introduced others to a new musical genre. The wonderful voices of the choir quartet carried us on a musical journey of different kinds of carols, accompanied by Reilly on autoharp and recorder, by Ruth Barnham on piano and Cantor Mark Filbert on piano and organ.

Pastor Penni and Father Don

shared a dialog of their views of what Christmas means from both liturgical and secular perspectives and created some light and entertaining moments in the process as they described what an imperfectly perfect time it was and still is in the real world. There were children's church sessions with Pastor Penni, who shared some wonderful gifts wrapped in imperfect paper delivered in a most unexpected and ordinary looking box. Father Don shared the story of one of his infamous Monday morning phone calls from the bishop after he learned that Father Don had pointed out during



a Christmas Eve service that Jesus had NOT been born on December 25.

During the 7 p.m. worship, Father Don took advantage of a very young child's presence to illustrate a point about God's choice of an infant to bring love to the Earth and



pointed out that even though he (Father Don) had just met this baby a few minutes prior, she was showing that she felt safe and secure in his arms and was quiet and looking around at everyone. He also pointed out that while babies are sometimes messy, noisy, and demanding, everyone loves babies and are drawn to them much as we are drawn to God through Jesus.

There was a feeling of anticipation and love present during the worship times and all were welcomed with joy.





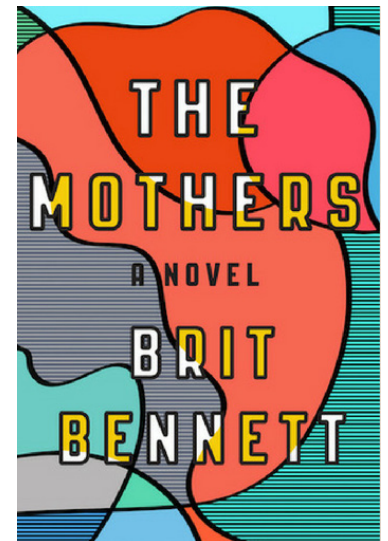
American Mariachi will be seen by the theatre group in the Space Theatre at 6 p.m. on February 13. Lucha and Maria are ready to start their own all-female mariachi band but they will need to fight a male-dominated music genre and pressure from their families to get it accomplished. This humorous heartwarming story about the power of music to heal and connect includes wonderful live mariachi music. The reservation deadline is January 23.

THEATRE & THEOLOGY

Tickets cost \$35. Make check payable to The Rocky Mountain Synod. Note on check: T&T – American Mariachi – St. Paul ELCA. Mail check to Dorothy Stenman; 818 Logan Street - #1203; Denver, CO 80203-3125.

Book Talk

The new selection for Book Talk is **The Mothers** by Brit Bennett. We will meet on January 16 at 7p.m. at Bonnie Carlson's home, 480 S. Marion Pkwy #1206A. For more information call Bonnie at 303-722-9892.



German Feast Awaits January Lunch Bunch

January Lunch Bunch meets at Helga's German Restaurant, an establishment Luther, Melanchthon, and Bugenhagen would be proud of! 14197 E. Exposition, Aurora, Thursday, January 4 at noon. Call Janice Ahrendt at 720-448 6045 for a reservation.

Schnitzel of every description, sauerkraut, red cabbage, kroketten, liverwurst, and so much more. And the beer! Good enough to make a reformer weep.



Luther was no doubt thinking of such a place when he wrote "Tomorrow I have to lecture on the drunkenness of Noah, so I should drink enough this evening to be able to talk about that wickedness as one who knows by experience."

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 7pm St Paul Choir rehearsal	5	6 5pm Catholic Mass
Epiphany 7 9:15am Adult Forum 10:30am Lutheran Worship 11:45am Coffee	8 1-5pm Street Reach 6pm Rocky Mountain Ringers	9 6:30pm Congregational Council	10	11 7pm St Paul Choir rehearsal	12	13 5pm Catholic Mass
Epiphany 2 14 9:15am Adult Forum 10:30am Lutheran Worship 11:45am Coffee 12noon Congregational Conversation	15 1-5pm Street Reach 6pm Rocky Mountain Ringers	16	17	18 7pm St Paul Choir rehearsal	19	20 10am SAA meeting 5pm Catholic Mass
Epiphany 3 21 9:15am Adult Forum 10:30am Lutheran Worship 11:45am Coffee	22 1-5pm Street Reach	23 5pm Transition Team	24 9am Minister of Social Justice and Mission	25 7pm St Paul Choir rehearsal	26	27 5pm Catholic Mass
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