

June 2018

Keeping in Touch

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

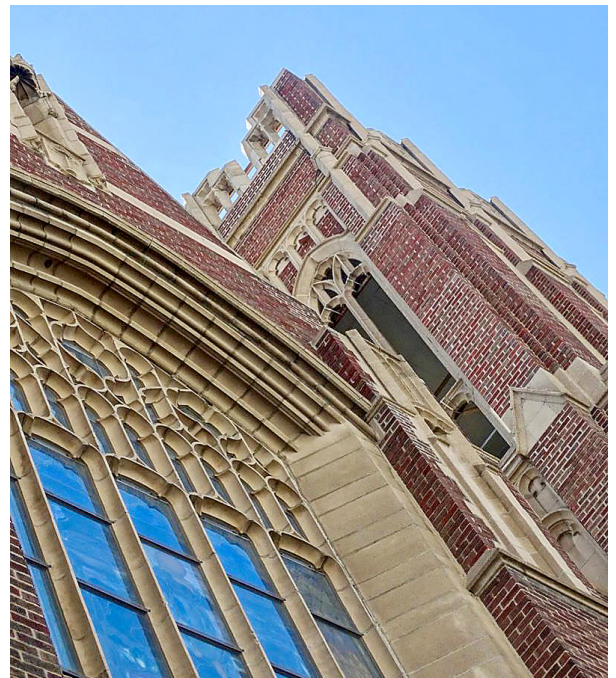
15 Years Together in Christ

June 2, 5 p.m. • Worship and Reception

On Saturday, June 2, the entire St. Paul Lutheran and Catholic Community of Faith and their pastors, The Rev. Penni Walsh and Fr. Don Sutton, will be joined by honored guests:

- **The Right Rev. Denise Donato**, Auxiliary Bishop of the Rocky Mountain, Southwest and East Coast Regions of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion
- **The Rev. Jim Gonia**, Bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran in America
- **Fr. Michael J. Nicosia**, Vicar to the Rocky Mountain Region of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion
- Regional members of the Body of Christ.

Coinciding with the 15th Anniversary of the beginning of the Lutheran and Catholic community in this sacred place, the Catholic community will be officially received into the ECC as a member church of its Rocky Mountain Region, and Fr. Don will be incardinated as a priest of the Communion with all of the ministerial faculties pertaining thereto. Honoring the ECC's empowerment of the laity, the community will officially call its pastor. A reception will follow the liturgy.



Please note: There will be no Worship on Sunday, June 3.

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
Office Manager

Contact Us

Address: 1600 Grant Street
Denver, CO 80203

Phone: (303) 839-1432

Website: saintpauldenver.com

Email: office.support@stpauldenver.org

Pastor Penni's Updates

I've been hearing comments from members that we don't know who we are and we have lost the sense of mission that used to be here. So I want to share what I see and experience in the context of our Mission Statement.

St Paul Lutheran and Catholic Community of Faith nurtures a diverse people

We do know who we are: We are an ecumenical community of two faith traditions functioning as one body. And that is unique. There are other Lutheran congregations sharing buildings with other denominations, but we aren't just sharing, we are functioning as one community. And we are living into how that works, just as the community has developed over the past 15 years by living into the future God is leading toward. We don't have the details all worked out. The documents that we need to govern ourselves "in good order" are not finished partly because we are not finished. It is likely that we will need to try several options before we find what works. We are a work in progress. The next Lutheran pastor needs to be someone excited about the possibilities and the groundbreaking work that this represents. The Lutheran pastor is currently responsible for all of the administrative functions but programing and fellowship are shared equally.

We are eclectic. On any given Saturday or Sunday we have judges and attorneys sitting next to someone who is homeless and has just wandered in. We have people with developmental challenges serving as ushers with our elder members. We celebrate our transgender members and our many same-gendered married couples.

Seeking understanding together in a welcoming and sacred space

We are committed to excellent music and liturgy as well as excellent preaching. We are learners who want to study and grow deeper.

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Actively engaged in service to others

We are committed to social justice. The community holds a strong commitment to this, but recent years have seen several programs cease. We have in recent months made commitments to help immigrants in our community through the Guardian Angles and through Sanctuary. And we are exploring what changes we need to make in our outreach to the hungry and homeless.

We are fragile. Our membership decline has left us with fewer people and resources to do the work of the church. BUT we are strong and willing to work toward the future God is calling us into. **We are “In the City for Good.”**

Exploring Membership Coffee

It's time to offer a time to talk about what it is to be a member of St. Paul. I'm particularly interested in inviting our regular visitors to consider taking the time to talk with me about membership, but also wanting to reach out to the Pax Christi members so that they also have the opportunity.

Thank You!

To everyone who worked on the rummage sale. We raised \$1,104 to replace carpet in the office!

And the perfect opportunity for Coffee and Conversation will be Sunday, June 3 at 10:30. We will NOT have Lutheran worship on June 3 so that everyone can attend Mass at 5 p.m. on June 2 as the Catholic community joins the Ecumenical Catholic Communion.

Please let me know you will be there so I can plan food and handouts. Email me at 124penni@gmail.com or let the office know at 303-839-1432.

Anniversary Service on June 2

On Saturday, June 2, the entire St. Paul Lutheran and Catholic Community of Faith will worship

together to observe our 15th year together.

Coinciding with the 15th Anniversary of the Lutheran and Catholic community in this sacred place, the Catholic community will be officially received into the ECC as a member church of its Rocky Mountain Region, and Fr. Don will be incardinated as a priest of the Communion. Honoring the ECC's empowerment of the laity, the community will officially call its pastor. A reception will follow the liturgy.

Summer Sermon Series

After our Adult Forum conversations on the ELCA draft on Women and Justice, a chance conversation with Pr Judith, one of the Assistants to the Bishop, and comments from David Carlson son developing an alternative lectionary on the care of the earth, I decided to do a series on unnamed and little-known women in the Bible. Pr Judith calls it the “Visualization of Women,” the intentional telling of Biblical women's stories to raise up their contributions, both good and bad, to our faith story. So beginning June 17 and through July we will use an alternative second lesson and depart from the standard lectionary.

June 17: Wives – Ezekiel 24:15-27

June 24: Mary Magdalene and the women who supported Jesus – Luke 8: 1—3

July 1: Mothers – 1 Kings 3:16-28

July 8: Wise women and Prophetesses – Proverbs 1: 20-33

July 15: Daughters – Genesis 19: 12-17, 24-26, 30-38

July 22: Deborah and Jael – Judges 4: 4-7, 17-22

July 29: Abused Women – Judges 19: 1-10, 20-30

Constitution and Bylaws Updates

The proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws have been emailed to everyone we have an email address for. If you need to receive this information by mail, please call the office. Printed copies will be available at the back of the Nave. We will be voting on these at the Congregational Meeting June 24. We will have an opportunity to discuss them on June 10 after worship.

Benjamin Britten Choral Cantata on June 10!

On Sunday, June 10, 2018, during the 10:30 am liturgy, the Saint Paul Choir will present **Rejoice in the Lamb**, a choral cantata for soprano/alto/tenor/bass chorus, SATB soloists, and organ composed by the great twentieth-century British composer Benjamin Britten (1913-1976), in 1943. For a text, Britten chose excerpts from a longer poem entitled *Jubilate Agno* by the eighteenth-century poet Christopher Smart (1722-1771). Described as “deeply religious, but of a strange and unbalanced mind,” Smart was committed to a London insane asylum in 1757 and remained there until 1763. The extended poem was a product of that period of almost solitary confinement during which Smart’s only regular companion was his cat, Jeffry, but it was not published in a modern edition until 1939.

A Psalm-like paeon of praise focused on the worship of God by all created beings and things, “each in its own way,” the poem moves back

and forth from child-like simplicity to mystical profundity. Seemingly lighthearted one moment and tragic the next, it has been characterized by one author as “a terrain where profound religious fervor brushes up against madness and hints at an author trying desperately to discern the real from the imagined, to make sense of traumatic events.”

Given the distinctiveness of the text, it is reprinted here to provide a devotional and programmatic introduction to the piece so that, perhaps, when encountered in worship on June 10, its eccentricities will not distract from its universal theme and timeless meaning. Keep it handy between now and then, and ponder it often in the context of your own awareness of and empathy for the mentally ill in our contemporary society.



Rejoice in the Lamb

Chorus

Rejoice in God, O ye Tongues; give the glory to the Lord, and the Lamb.
Nations, and languages, and every Creature in which is the breath of Life.
Let man and beast appear before him, and magnify his name together.
Let Nimrod, the mighty hunter, bind a Leopard to the altar and consecrate his spear to the Lord.
Let Ishmail dedicate a Tyger, and give praise for the liberty in which the Lord has let him at large.
Let Balaam appear with an Ass, and bless the Lord his people and his creatures for a reward eternal.

Let Daniel come forth with a Lion, and praise God with all his might through faith in Christ Jesus.
Let Ithamar minister with a Chamois, and bless the name of Him that clotheth the naked.
Let Jakim with the Satyr bless God in the dance.
Let David bless with the Bear — The beginning of victory to the Lord — to the Lord the perfection of excellence.
Hallelujah from the heart of God, and from the hand of the artist inimitable,
and from the echo of the heavenly harp in sweetness magnificent and mighty.

Soprano solo

For I will consider my cat Jeffry.
For he is the servant of the Living God, duly and daily serving him.

For at the first glance of the glory of God in the East
he worships in his way.
For this is done by wreathing his body seven times
round with elegant quickness.
For he knows that God is his Saviour.
For God has bless'd him in the variety of his
movements.
For there is nothing sweeter than his peace when at
rest.
For I am possessed of a cat, surpassing in beauty,
from whom I take occasion to bless Almighty God.

Alto solo

For the Mouse is a creature of great personal valour.
For this is a true case:
Cat takes female mouse; male mouse will not depart,
but stands threat'ning and daring.
If you will let her go, I will engage you, as prodigious a
creature as you are.
For the Mouse is a creature of great personal valour.
For the Mouse is of an hospitable disposition.

Tenor solo

For the flowers are great blessings.
For the flowers have their angels even the words of
God's Creation.
For the flower glorifies God and the root parries the
adversary.
For there is a language of flowers.
For the flowers are peculiarly the poetry of Christ.

Chorus

For I am under the same accusation with my Saviour,
for they said, he is besides himself.
For the officers of the peace are at variance with me,
and the watchman smites me with his staff.
For Silly fellow! Silly fellow! is against me, and

belongeth neither to me nor to my family.
For I am in twelve Hardships, but he that was born of a
virgin shall deliver me out of all.

Bass solo and chorus

For H is a spirit and therefore he is God.
For K is king and therefore he is God.
For L is love and therefore he is God.
For M is musick and therefore he is God.
For the instruments are by their rhimes.
For the Shawm rhimes are lawn fawn moon boon and
the like.
For the harp rhimes are sing ring string and the like.
For the cymbal rhimes are bell well toll soul and the
like.
For the flute rhimes are tooth youth suit mute and the
like.
For the Bassoon rhimes are pass class and the like.
For the dulcimer rhimes are grace place beat heat
and the like.
For the Clarinet rhimes are clean seen and the like.
For the trumpet rhimes are sound bound soar more
and the like.
For the Trumpet of God is a blessed intelligence and
so are all the instruments in Heaven.
For God the Father Almighty plays upon the Harp of
stupendous magnitude and melody.
For at that time malignity ceases and the devils
themselves are at peace.
For this time is perceptible to man by a remarkable
stillness and serenity of soul.

Chorus

Hallelujah from the heart of God, and from the hand of
the artist inimitable,
and from the echo of the heavenly harp in sweetness
magnifical and mighty.

Episcopalians and Lutherans at Denver Pridefest

DENVER
PRIDE
FEST

Episcopalians and Lutherans are organizing a presence at Denver Pridefest 2018, the weekend of June 16 and 17, and invite you to come and help us spread the great news about our welcoming churches. We have a booth space and we will bring the canopy and supplies, so the only thing volunteers need to do is to sign up for a 2-hour shift on either

Saturday or Sunday and come and greet visitors to our booth.

St. John's Cathedral will be marching in the parade on Sunday morning and have extended an invitation to all area Lutherans and Episcopalians to join them. You can find contact info for the parade and volunteer info on the our website, colorado-integrity.webnode.com.

Report on the Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly

By **Maryann O'Brien**

Thank you to our congregation for sending me to be one of the lay voting members at this year's Synod Assembly. The highlight was the re-election of Bishop Jim Gonia, a true friend of St. Paul Lutheran and Catholic Community of Faith, to a second term.

You can read about the Assembly's business on the website rmselca.org. I want to share some of the thoughts of the keynote speaker, Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, professor at Church Divinity School of the Pacific.

Her theme, and the theme of the entire Synod Assembly, was [As God's People, we are] Called For the Life of the World. Quoting from sages like the Prophet Micah, Martin Luther, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Dr. Moe-Lobeda asks what it means to love our neighbors as ourselves. First, we believe that God's love is the source of all that is. After receiving and trusting God's love, we must live it out in the world. It means working for the well being of the neighbor by dismantling unjust systems. Seeking justice often involves seeing and hearing things that are too painful. Where is the hope in this? Martin Luther said the purpose of the church is to gather the people, feed them with Word and Sacrament, and send them forth.

We live in divided times. How can we take a stand on difficult social issues without offending someone? Christians differ on these issues because they truly care. Controversy need not divide us because we are united in a higher purpose. Being faithful to God's call to us in Baptism, we can admit we are broken by sin and can't claim to know with absolute certainty the will of God. Nevertheless we are called on to speak out, knowing there might be right on both sides. Luther wrote over a thousand letters to public officials as he sought justice for the neighbor in his time.

How do we begin? First, it is dangerous to be overcome with guilt and shame for the way our society has treated the outsiders, the poor, the homeless. We must dig down into our Lutheran roots and see what we can do. We can educate our congregations about the evils around us. We can acknowledge the structural sins that damage some groups in order to benefit others. We can listen to our neighbors whom we have often ignored. We can embrace God's gift of Repentance – turning our lives and our communities in another direction. Most of all, we can remember the Resurrection Promise that life in God is more powerful than all the evils in the world and that God will reign, and the Dew of the Holy Spirit will moisten God's Mud Creatures, as Irenaeus calls us.

Adult Forum on Break

Our close study of the Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice has finished. There will be one more meeting this summer to articulate our comments before we send them in to the national church. Watch the Sunday announcements for that date.

Jim Harrer and Maryann O'Brien wish you all a pleasant and peaceful summer. We'll see you in September!



Pass the Popcorn!

Movies after Mass are making a comeback: a little late for Cannes, but plenty of time for the first showing on Saturday, June 16 at 6:00 pm downstairs. We'll watch a timely film called Amazing Grace, enjoy popcorn and soda, and have a short discussion afterwards. Everyone is welcome!

Update from the Call Committee

St. Paul is finally in the third and final phase of the Call Process of our long preparation to call a new pastor. Following the Synod's Guidelines (rmselca.org/congregations-transition) we formed a Transition Team to lead the church through the self-study process and to start work on the Ministry Site Profile.

Second, we put together a Call Committee, which includes members from both the Lutherans (voting members) and the Catholics (non-voting members.) The Call committee then completed the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) When work was done it was presented to the

Council and the Congregation. Once all the required documents were submitted, the Bishop's office reviewed our work and began searching for possible candidates who might be a good fit for St. Paul.

A few weeks ago the Call Committee received the resumes of several applicants. From this point on, the committee is not permitted to discuss the candidates outside their meetings. The committee is now reviewing the work history, goals and aspirations, education and training, and references thoroughly and arranging for a Skype interview.

Even if some candidates could make it a face to face interview, others might not be able to, and it would not be a fair process.

We will continue to issue updates. We hope that we are in the final few months of this long but necessary journey.

The most important thing St. Paul can do at this time is to pray for the work of the committee that the Holy Spirit continue to guide us in this very important task.

— **Maryann O'Brien**,
Call Committee Member



Lunch Bunch Pays Visit to Dushanbe

On Thursday, June 7 join us at Dushanbe Tea House, 1770 13th St. Boulder 303-442-4993. The Boulder Dushanbe Teahouse is nestled against the Rocky Mountain Foothills in Boulder Colorado. Sitting alongside Boulder Creek in Central Park, the Teahouse is considered one of Boulder's most attractive and popular tourist attractions, as well as being a local favorite for great food, tea, and atmosphere.

RSVP to Janice Ahrendt, 720-448-6045.

2018 Lunch Bunch Schedule

June 7: Dushanbe Tea House, 1770 13th St., Boulder

July 5: The Lariat Lodge., 27618 Fireweed Dr., Evergreen

August 2: Creekside Cellars, 28036 Highway 74 , Evergreen

September 6: Monaco Inn, 962 S. Monaco Parkway, Denver

October 4: Black Eyed Pea, 94 Wadsworth, Lakewood

November 1: Brio's, 2500 First Avenue, Cherry Creek

December 6: 240 Union, Lakewood

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
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June 2018

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|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| Ordinary Time 9 3 10:30am Coffee and Conversation NOTE: NO Lutheran Worship 4pm Columbine Chorale Concert 6:30pm SAA meeting | 4 1-5pm Street Reach 6pm Rocky Mountain Ringers | 5 | 6 | 7 7pm St Paul Choir rehearsal | 1 7pm St Paul Choir rehearsal | 2 5pm Joint Catholic-Lutheran 15th anniversary service |
| Ordinary Time 10 10 10:30am Lutheran Worship/Cantata 11:45am Coffee 12 noon Bylaws meeting 6:30pm SAA meeting | 11 1-5pm Street Reach 6pm Rocky Mountain Ringers | 12 6:30pm Congregational Council | 13 | 14 7pm St Paul Choir rehearsal | 15 9am-1pm Rummage Sale | 16 9am-1pm Rummage Sale 5pm Catholic Mass |
| Ordinary Time 11 17 10:30am Lutheran Worship 11:45am Coffee 6:30pm SAA meeting | 18 1-5pm Street Reach 6pm Rocky Mountain Ringers | 19 | 20 <i>Newsletter deadline</i> | 21 7pm St Paul Choir rehearsal | 22 9am-1pm Rummage Sale | 23 5pm Catholic Mass |
| Ordinary Time 12 24 10:30am Lutheran Worship 11:45am Coffee 12 noon Congregational Meeting 6:30pm SAA meeting | 25 1-5pm Street Reach 6pm Rocky Mountain Ringers | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 5pm Catholic Mass |