

July 2018

Keeping in Touch

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

As July 4 approaches we will hear much talk about freedom and what that theoretically means. It seems appropriate to re-visit what Martin Luther wrote in “The Freedom of a Christian.”

The following is from The Rev. Travis J. Loeslie, pastor of St. Peter Lutheran Church in Lester Prairie, Minnesota:

Luther’s tract on freedom has rightly been called “the most perfect expression of Luther’s Reformation understanding of the mystery of Christ.” As it goes with Christ, so it goes with the freedom of the Christian. The Freedom of the Christian is a confession of Christ in a nutshell. Christian freedom is a gift from Christ Himself, “For freedom Christ has set us free...” (Galatians 5:1). What Christ did to win salvation in His divine and human natures, He now gives to those who by baptism bear His name: Christian. God justifies the sinner by faith alone. The sinner is changed in inner and outer man after the likeness of Christ. The Christian is at once utterly free in faith and a servant to all in works of love. Christian life is lived between these twin poles of faith and love. This is the paradoxical Christian freedom as Luther taught the Church.

— Pastor Penni



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 Ecumenical Catholic Community.

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

The Rev. Don Sutton
Catholic Pastor

Deacon Mark Alan Filbert
Cantor

Mohamed Jamoum
Sexton

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Highlights from the Congregational Meeting

June 24, 2018

The agenda focused on the St. Paul Constitution and the Budget. The congregation was asked to

1. Adopt Constitutional Amendments to include ELCA Constitution amendments.

- These amendments were proposed in a special congregational meeting in January to bring us into compliance with the ELCA requirements.
- It was moved and seconded that we accept the amendments. Motion carried. Aaron Oberg, Treasurer, will file this document with the Synod Office and on the Secretary of State's website. This is the final vote on this proposal.

2. Adopt Constitutional Amendments as proposed by council.

- These changes are recommended to allow for more flexibility.
- A friendly amendment passed to allow these two edits: C10.01 should read "meetings" rather than "meeting," and "on a date" rather than "on a dates."
- Moved and seconded that these changes be adopted.
- Another motion was made to exclude, i.e. to eliminate C13.03. Discussion followed. The constitution that has already been adopted states "An Audit Committee of three voting members...." It is difficult to recruit even two voting members when our congregation is so small, which is why Council proposed changing

Continued on Page 4 ►►

ELCA Presiding Bishop Responds to Supreme Court Decision on Travel Ban

June 26, 2018

Thus says the Lord: Act with justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor anyone who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the alien, the orphan, and the widow ... (Jeremiah 22:3).

I am dismayed by the Supreme Court's recent decision concerning the president's authority to restrict travel into the United States. It applies to travelers from certain countries based on those countries' inability to provide information necessary for immigration vetting. Strong vetting procedures have already been authorized by Congress and reviews of applications for possible links to terrorism are also in place. Therefore, restricting all travelers from certain countries simply because they are citizens of those countries is deeply troubling. In the past, we have seen the sometimes horrific effects of excluding and marginalizing (or worse) whole classes of people based on their ethnicity, nationality, religion, gender identity or other characteristics.

Our social statement, "For Peace in God's World," provides theological guidance for the church to respond by offering wise words of caution:

Citizens need to give careful attention to how we in the United States perceive our national interest and interpret our national identity, since what states do depends in large measure on their views of their own interests and identity. Sin's power often makes itself felt in arrogant



Bishop Eaton

and self-righteous views of national identity, and in narrow, short-term, and absolute views of national interest.

We expect expressions of our nation's identity to build on the best of our traditions, to respect others' identity, and to open up paths for mutual understanding. For the sake of a greater good or for reasons of conscience, citizens may need to oppose a prevailing understanding or practice of national identity and interest.

With this court decision, we are again reaching a point where the assertion of "national security" by the executive branch of government results in the rejection of all other considerations in national policy discussions. Our social statement also reminds us: "In bondage to sin, we fall captive to fear." Jesus taught us to love one another. The social statement calls us to "a dynamic vision of difference in unity."

In a time ... when an idolatrous allegiance to one's own community endangers our oneness, we must voice with clarity the powerful vision of difference in unity. This vision calls us to engage differences, not to ignore or fear them. The hope for earthly peace challenges people to strengthen their own particular communities in ways that promote respect and appreciation for people in other communities, for all share a common humanity.

Let us recall that all people are created in God's image and, therefore, rather than have suspicion be our assumption, let us attribute to them honor and respect as God does.

God's peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Highlights from the Congregational Meeting:

►► *Continued from Page 2*

the number from “three” to “two to three.” Division was called on the voice vote and on a show of hands, the alternate motion was defeated 15 to 12.

- The main motion, to adopt the changes Council recommended, was carried. This will require a second vote at the next bi-annual meeting.

3. Adopt the July 1 2018 to June 30 2019 Annual Budget.

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the budget as submitted. Comments from the Treasurer followed.
- **Revenue:** The Treasurer, Executive Committee, and Council agreed on a reasonable figure of \$170,000 in pledges for the next fiscal year. The total revenue is expected to reach \$242,750. Facilities fees, garage parking rentals, etc. are contributing to the estimate.
- **Expenditures:** The new Lutheran pastor's salary is an unknown figure at this point, but we are estimating 15 years service and other factors based on the Synod Guidelines. The Priest's and Deacon's salaries remain the same, as do the salaries of the Secretary and the Sexton.

The Rocky Mountain Synod tithe will come down to a lower figure because of the reduction in income. The Catholic congregation is now expected to give a tithe to the ECC Synod. These tithes will be divided according to the number of contributing members in each congregation. Council will devise a formula for this purpose.

Another motion was introduced and seconded to amend the budget for MetroCaring to \$4500 from our usual \$6000 because of our drop in revenue. Much discussion followed. The motion failed 14 to 13.

The proposed budget will mean spending down our reserves by \$88,190, which leaves \$85,000 in our savings account.

Once the new Lutheran pastor is chosen, we will review the budget.

It was moved and seconded that the 2018-19 Budget be approved. The ayes have it and the motion was carried.

4. Foundation Report:

- Bonnie Carlson announced that there is \$200,809 in the budget of the St. Paul Foundation.
- These funds are not listed as Revenue because the church can only ask for monies to repair the building, etc. and not to increase the church's income.

5. Closing remarks:

Pastor Penni feels there is no reason why St. Paul should not thrive and get itself in order when compared to other churches. We should be happy for what we have achieved and continue to trust that God is with us in this remarkable thing we are doing at St. Paul. Closing Prayer was offered by Father Don Sutton.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Maryann O'Brien, Council Secretary

Lunch Bunch Heads to Evergreen on July 5

On Thursday, July 5, join us at The Lariat Lodge, 27618 Fireweed Dr., Evergreen 303-674-1842. Lariat Lodge features classic brewed beers, upscale comfort food, tons of outdoor seating options, and a friendly neighborhood vibe. RSVP to Janice Ahrendt, 720-448-6045.

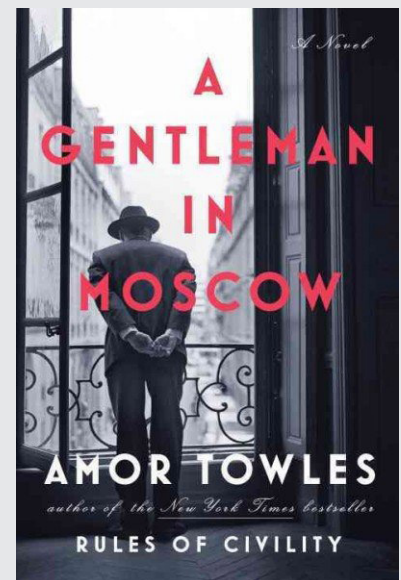
2018 Lunch Bunch Schedule

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

Book Talk

Book Talk is taking a break until September because some people will be on vacation, and we also give us time to catch up on other books we might like to read. When we return we will be discussing **A Gentleman in Moscow** by Amor Towles. When, in 1922, he is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, the count is sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. **All are welcome.**

Tuesday, September 18, 7pm
Bonnie Carlson's home, 480 S. Marion Pkwy #1206A.
303-722-9892



St. Paul T-Shirts: Get 'em While They're Hot!

Please order your T-Shirts today! We are 4 shirts short of the minimum number we need. You'll have an opportunity to wear them at our Summer Picnic! (More about this later.) See Maryann O'Brien and bring \$25 cash or check for your beautiful new St. Paul Lutheran and Catholic T-Shirts!

In the City for Good.

Celebration!

Saturday, June 2, was a time of wonderful celebration as we recognized the 15th anniversary of the beginning of the Lutheran and Roman Catholic Community of Faith at St. Paul. It was the beginning of a new and wonderful experience for all involved, and that Community of Faith has continued to grow, to discover how we, as faith partners, can work together to identify the numerous ways the two are closer to being one than they are to being separate and to support each other in the journey that they began that day.

Worship that evening also marked the beginning of a new affiliation for the Catholic members of our community as they were accepted into the Ecumenical Catholic Communion and Father Don Sutton was incardinated into the priesthood of that Communion. Leading the celebration were:



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

A reception followed the celebration and was time for good food, good fellowship and getting to know each other better. Many thanks to all who came together and contributed a variety of talents to make the evening memorable!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Ordinary Time 13 1 10:30am Lutheran Worship 11:45am Coffee 6:30pm SAA meeting	2 1-5pm Street Reach	3	4	5	6	7 5pm Catholic Mass
Ordinary Time 14 8 10:30am Lutheran Worship/ 11:45am Coffee 6:30pm SAA meeting	9 1-5pm Street Reach	10 6:30pm Congregational Council	11	12	13	14 5pm Catholic Mass
Ordinary Time 15 15 10:30am Lutheran Worship 11:45am Coffee 6:30pm SAA meeting	16 1-5pm Street Reach	17	18	19	20 <i>Newsletter deadline</i>	21 5pm Catholic Mass
St. Mary Magdalene 22 10:30am Lutheran Worship 11:45am Coffee 12 noon Congregational Meeting 6:30pm SAA meeting	23 1-5pm Street Reach	24	25 Pastor vacation through July 28	26	27	28 5pm Catholic Mass
Ordinary Time 17 29 10:30am Lutheran Worship 11:45am Coffee 2pm Wedding 6:30pm SAA meeting	30	31	<div>July2018</div>			