

February 2016 KEEPING IN TOUCH

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

TOGETHER AT THE TABLE: LENTEN CONVERSATIONS AT ST. PAUL LUTHERAN AND ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF FAITH

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St. Paul Evangelism and Education Committees invite you and your family to Wednesday Night Soup Suppers and Study Sessions this year for 4 weeks in Lent: Feb 17 and 24 and March 2 and 9.

We will enjoy a simple supper of soup and bread at 6 p.m. followed by a discussion of *Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist*, the latest joint document of the ELCA and US Conference of Catholic Bishops.

You can find the text on the ELCA website at www.elca.org/Declaration-on-the-way.

The evening is free of charge and will end with Compline at 7:45. We will be recording these discussions to be podcast on our website and can provide child care.

Call Kirsten at (303) 839-1432 if you have children and wish to attend these exciting evening discussions so we can arrange it.



**Exciting News
About Sunday
School See Page 3**

Our Mission

Saint Paul Church 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 we 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.

From the Pastor's Study

Lent is just around the corner!

One of our Lenten disciplines this year will be to study the latest joint document of the ELCA and the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. (See related article on the front page.) Entitled *Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry, and Eucharist* [Declaration], the document is the result of ecumenical dialogues between Lutherans and Roman Catholics that have been ongoing since the Second Vatican Council in the early 1960s.

The *Declaration* is a milestone on the way to our two bodies achieving unity. It identifies 32 statements where Lutherans and Catholics have consensus regarding church, the Eucharist, and ministry. While holding up our agreements regarding these three topics, the *Declaration* also explores areas where we do not yet completely agree. As often as not, the areas where we disagree regarding these doctrines are termed “not church dividing.” There is much good news in the *Declaration*!

One of the tasks that the *Declaration* sets forth is education – in seminaries and parishes. Both

Lutherans and Catholics carry misconceptions from the past, not only about each other but also about themselves. What this document does is help clarify what Lutherans and Catholics *actually* believe and teach regarding church, Eucharist, and ministry. You may be surprised!

Both Father Sutton and I look forward to the Wednesday Night Soup Suppers where we will take a look at those things about which we agree and those areas where we have yet to reach a consensus. Each of the four study sessions will be recorded for podcasting on the St. Paul web site, so if your schedule is such that you won't be able to join us in person, you can still participate in studying this groundbreaking *Declaration* as we make our way toward 2017 and the 500th anniversary of the reformation begun by Martin Luther in 1517. We look forward to your being a part of this marvelous journey either in person or through the web!

Kevin +

Adult Forum for February

February 7: *The Three D's of Aging*

Dr. Nancy McMahon, Geriatric Psychologist, returns for another visit in our on-going Mental Health series. Nancy will speak on Depression, Dementia, and Delirium with a focus on how we can find strength in what is preserved instead of mourning what is lost.

February 14: *Evolution Sunday*

On the Sunday closest to Charles Darwin's birthday, religious groups all over the country will discuss the compatibility of science and religion. One of the goals is to provide evidence that evolution is sound science and central to our theology of Creation by a loving God. Led by Jim Harrer.

February 21 to March 13: *In Sure and Certain Hope of the Resurrection*

Adult Forum presents a Lenten program on preparing for our own end of life journey into eternal life. We will cover such topics as pastoral care, wills and medical documents, legacy giving, and planning your own memorial service.

Children's Ministry Takes a Big Step

Dear St. Paul Families,

In response to our call to provide educational opportunities leading to spiritual growth and discipleship for our children at St. Paul, we are pleased and excited to share with you and your children a plan for Sunday Church School for every Sunday, February 14, to May 15, save Easter Sunday. We hope your family will participate as many Sundays as possible. We ask for your feedback, questions, and suggestions.

The following is the general schedule for each Sunday morning:

All children begin worship with their parents.

Following the Prayer of the Day and before the First Lesson, children are invited to come to the chancel steps for a Children's Sermon.

Following the Children's Sermon, children, age 3 and above, are led downstairs to the classroom by the teacher and helping parent

assigned to the Sunday. Parents are, of course, welcome to accompany their children, but are also welcome to remain in worship. Parents of younger children are also welcome to bring their little ones and remain in the classroom with them for learning activities.

Classroom activities include a Bible Story, music time, reinforcement learning activities that may include drama, crafts, games, and paper and pencil activities. Materials will be available at two learning levels, a set for children age 3 through 1st Grade and a set for children Grades 2 through 6.

Children are led upstairs by the teacher and helping parent during the Peace, reunited with parents, as the Liturgy of the Table begins.

We hope you will volunteer to be a part of the teacher rotation (one Sunday every 4 to 6 weeks) or the helping parent rotation (one Sunday every 8 to 10 weeks). All materials and supplies will be prepared and ready in the classroom each Sunday.

We look forward to helping our children to learn and grow. This is a new plan for Sunday Church School at St. Paul so we will fine tune and evaluate as we go along with special consideration to input from our families.

God's blessings on us all as we make disciples!

Sunday Church School Organizers



Great Work and Great Need at Metro Caring

Thanks to the dedicated support of the entire community, this Hunger Relief and Prevention Center, an essential facility for the economic and physical health of Metro Denver, had an incredible 2015. To say that it has been a very productive year would be an understatement.

In the past six months of operation, the market increased the pounds of healthy food offered by 12 percent. The Colorado State Legislature named Metro Caring the lead state agency for ID assistance. Our Seeds for Success job training program was launched to ensure that participants earn livable wages. All of this was made possible because of the commitment of everyone in the community to end hunger.



METRO CARING

HUNGER STOPS HERE

EST.  1974

Now that the number of “shoppers” has increased, we desperately need volunteers to serve their needs. Please consider becoming a volunteer for three hours a week (morning or afternoon). Talk with Dorothy Stenman, David Stubbs or Betty Woolsey about this important volunteer commitment.

**United
in
Orange**

Join the #UnitedInOrange #FoodDrive and Beat Charlotte

In the spirit of healthy competition, St. Paul has agreed to be a drop-off location for the United In Orange Food Drive, which is a competition with Charlotte, NC, to see who can gather the most food for local charities. We are inviting all of Broncos Country to help us beat Charlotte on and off the field. We will be joining an ecumenical community in collecting non-perishable food items and money to donate to Metro Caring during the time leading up to the big game on Feb. 7. For more information, please contact Kirsten at (303) 839-1432 or office.support@stpauldenver.org.

Supper Club

Join us Friday (Vendredi for the francophones out there), February 5 at 6:30 pm for our last pre-Lenten Supper Club (where we can eat and drink all of the things we are giving up for Lent). In keeping with the Mardi Gras theme, we'll have Cajun cuisine at Gumbo's at 1033 E 17th Ave. Prices run from a \$6 Kale Salad to a plate of Seared Scallops for \$25, so there's something for every price range. Contact Kirsten Boyd to RSVP or for more information at (303) 839-1432 or office.support@stpauldenver.org or if you have children and wish to attend so we can arrange communal child care.

The Love

a podcast

February 2016



“The Love” podcast, produced by Joseph Carman, features interviews with guests of Street Reach. Planned for release in February of 2016, “The Love” is created with the intent of humanizing those who experience poverty and homelessness. Carman, a former associate psychologist and court investiga-

tor, allows space for his guests to reflect and retell their past, while exploring their present state of being. The result is an empathic and provocative search for love amidst pain. Visit www.555c.org to find what will prove to be a revealing look at the lives of the people we serve each Monday.



Lenten Fish Fry Returns

Good Shepherd Catholic School Lenten Friday Fish Fry meals start on Feb 12 at 5:30 pm (except for Good Friday when it starts at 5:00 because of a service at 7). It's an all you can eat meal including deep fried pollock, baked salmon, mac and cheese, baked potato, french fries, coleslaw, green salad, coffee, punch and dessert (ice cream, cookies, cake). Last year the cost was \$9, so we can anticipate a similar cost this year. Beer and wine can be purchased for \$3.

Where: Good Shepherd Catholic School
620 Elizabeth Street, Denver

When: Fridays in Lent, 5:30 p.m.

Colorado Faith Advocacy Day 2016

Come to Faith Advocacy Day to hear from experts in policy and human services talk about what income inequality looks like in Colorado, and how citizens and people of faith are called to respond!

Income Inequality: Who Gets Left Behind?

Featuring keynote speaker Rep. Faith Winter

When: Saturday, February 20, 2016, 8:30am-2:30pm

Where: Bethany Lutheran Church, 4500 E Hampden Ave

Cost: \$30 regular, \$15 student/low-income rate
Registration opens at 8 a.m. Participants can register online at www.rmselfca.org. Breakfast and lunch included, and childcare is available.

Partner Profiles

Getting to Know Our Fellow Church Members



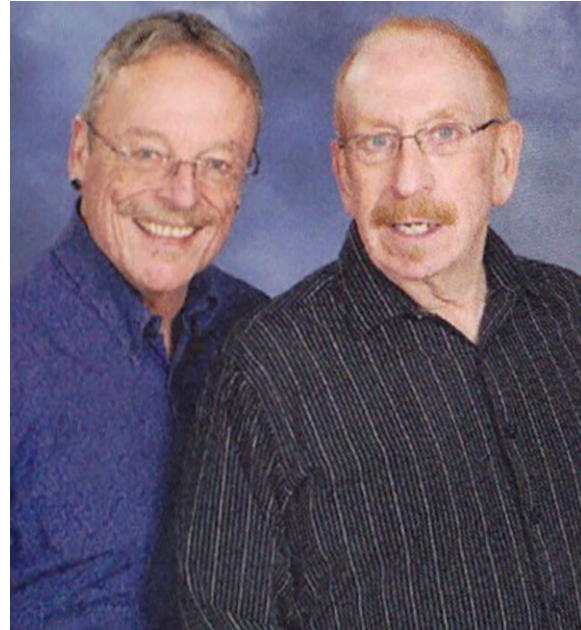
Erika Holtz

Erika Holtz, 32, lives in the RiNo district of Denver. She is a board certified behavior analyst (BCBA) focused on improving operational practices within Trumpet Behavioral Health, a company servicing individuals with autism countywide.

While she's lived all over the country, she's happy to have found a home here in Colorado and at St. Paul, since August 2012.

She hops between both the 8 a.m. and 10:30 Sunday services, serving as a Eucharistic Minister, Altar Server, or Deacon.

In her spare time she enjoys running, cooking and spending time with her girlfriend Lindsay, and Lindsay's daughter Mia, age 9.



Bruce Balliet and Michael Peck

Bruce was born and raised in Bridgewater, New Jersey and graduated from Wilkes University in Pennsylvania. After college he joined his family in Belleview, Florida, eventually moving to Tampa. Bruce has many years of experience in marketing and graphic design. He is currently the Database Marketing Specialist for Kärcher North America.

Michael was born and raised in Clearwater, Florida, graduated from Clearwater High School and attended the University of South Florida. He worked in the family plumbing business for many years before beginning a career selling design and business software, where he met Bruce at a vendor business.

Currently Michael is part of the leadership team of the Home Depot store in Littleton.

After meeting in May of 1986, living in Tampa's historic district, Bruce and Michael realized a dream of moving to Colorado, settling in Lakewood. They will be celebrating 30 years together in May. They raised a Blue Front Amazon parrot named Archie who will turn 25 of this year. They have been members of Saint Paul's for years and feel blessed to have found such a unique, wonderful, and loving community of faith.

Partner Profiles

Getting to Know Our Fellow Church Members

John Hansen

My name is John Hansen and I live in southeast Centennial with my partner of 35 years, Tom Phillips. Tom and I were members of St. Paul around 10 years ago. Tom was raised Episcopalian and wanted to attend an Episcopal church, so after a while we moved our membership down the road to St. Andrew's.

Around 18 months ago, Tom was diagnosed with Stage 4 prostate cancer. Although he's currently stable, he does experience pain and doesn't feel that his health allows him to commit to set schedules, so he rarely attends services.

Consequently, having enjoyed our previous time at St. Paul, I decided to return around a year ago and have re-established my church membership. I've met quite a few of the regular



parishioners and I look forward to meeting more of you as time goes by.

I tend to be a bit introverted, but please feel free to introduce yourself. I promise I don't bite! As the sole caretaker for Tom, and due to my commute, I'm not as active as I'd like to be, but my heart is with you in all of your ministries. Thanks for your continued prayers for Tom and for being so very welcoming to me.

February Birthdays

- 2 Liz Cooper
- 2 Sacha Voigt
- 5 Alisa Orr
- 9 Rosalyn Miller
- 10 Jill Coffman
- 11 Zachary Harrer
- 12 Jeffrey Jacob
- 15 Tristan Robinson
- 16 Helen Jackman
- 19 Michael Fyler
- 19 Sebastian Salazar
- 23 Bear Beckman
- 25 Susan Barden
- 25 Carol Wehling
- 26 Ronald Roschke
- 27 David Stubbs

Theatre & Theology

Next Month: "FADE"

In this sharp, true-to-life new comedy, Mexican-American Lucia is hired to write for a Latina TV character in a cutthroat Hollywood TV studio. She soon discovers that the Latino studio custodian, Abel, has a windfall of plot ideas. As their friendship grows, his stories start to blur with hers, resulting in unexpected consequences. "Fade" is a standout new play from

Tanya Sarcho, whose writing "lands in that sweet spot between comedy and drama." Arrive at the Ricketson Theatre, Performing Arts Center on March 8 at 6 p.m.. Purchasing deadline is February 16. Tickets cost \$35.00 made payable to **The Rocky Mountain Synod**. Note on check **T&T: FADE, ST. PAUL**.

Mail check to Dorothy Stenman; 818 Logan Street - #1203, Denver, CO 80203-3125.

Book Club

The Book Club chose *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown as for next selection. Book Club meets at the home of Bonnie Carlson (480 S. Marion Pkwy #1206A) on February 23 at 7:00 pm. Everyone welcome. Contact Bonnie Carlson for more information, 303-722-9892.

Pennsylvania Lutheran seminaries declare intent to form new school of theology

CHICAGO (ELCA) – In simultaneous meetings held on their respective campuses January 12-13, the boards of Gettysburg and Philadelphia Lutheran seminaries adopted identical resolutions calling for "the creation of a new school of theology and leadership formation."

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg and Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia are two of eight seminaries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Both boards' resolutions stated their actions were taken "in the conviction that God and the church are calling us into a new venture of theological education, with a mission of preparing faithful Christian leaders for the church and the world." The boards' unanimous actions authorized the two schools' presidents and other officers to take all necessary steps required prior to their April 2016 board meetings that would launch the process of creating a unified Lutheran seminary.

"Changes in both society and the church call for new experiments in theological education," said the Rev. Jonathan P. Strandjord, program director for seminaries. "The move by Gettysburg and Philadelphia towards forming a new school opens the door to a wide range of very promising experiments."

Founded in 1826, Gettysburg seminary is the oldest Lutheran seminary in the Americas. Widely renowned for its role in the great Civil War battle at Gettysburg, the school on Seminary Ridge opened an award-winning Seminary Ridge Museum in 2013. Since its founding in 1864, Philadelphia likewise has played a pivotal role in American and Lutheran his-

tory. Beginning more than 40 years ago, Philadelphia's outreach to ecumenical partners, particularly historic African American churches, has created one of the most diverse learning environments that exists in 21st century theological education.

"From the moment we both felt the Spirit leading in this bold new direction," said Presidents David Lose and Michael Cooper-White (of Philadelphia and Gettysburg respectively), "it became clear that our proposal would not envision simply blending together two fine traditions and excellent institutions. Rather, we believe God is calling us to do a new thing. Mergers are created out of past realities; our vision is to embrace what God is beckoning from the future."

"The heart of this plan," the two presidents continued, "is the opportunity to engage the larger church in a conversation about what the church needs from a seminary today and then build *that* kind of seminary, not simply try to adapt existing institutions to a world very different from the one in which they were initially launched. We believe a new seminary will be among the leading institutions of theological education and leadership formation."

The boards and administrative leaders also issued strong reassurances to current students at both schools that they will be able to complete their studies under current curricular requirements. Many students and recent graduates already have experienced enhanced offerings as the two schools have expanded faculty sharing and offered reciprocal registration and library privileges in recent years.

Financial Ministry Update

End-of-Year Finance Report for 2015, with 2014 Actual Figures

Revenue/Expense Categories	2014	2015 (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31)			
	Actual	Actual (A)	Budget (B)	Over/ (Under) Budget (A - B)	% Budget (A ÷ B)
Partners in Ministry/Pledged	\$165,906	\$191,729	\$ 208,000	\$ (16,271)	92%
Partners in Ministry/Unpledged	92,078	35,883	66,000	(30,117)	54%
All other unrestricted contributions	41,353	56,189	57,300	(1,111)	98%
Subtotal Unrestricted Contributions	\$299,337	\$283,801	\$331,300	\$ (47,499)	86%
All Other Direct Income ¹	44,282	\$11,802	\$4,100	\$7,702	288%
Transfers from Reserves	27,996	\$82,150	\$71,464	\$10,686	115%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$375,736	\$377,753	\$ 406,864	\$ (29,111)	93%
Word and Sacrament	\$104,359	\$110,127	\$110,615	\$ (488)	100%
Worship and Music	95,184	105,012	104,846	166	100%
Education	7,031	1,426	4,442	(3,016)	32%
Evangelism/Outreach	3,215	5,258	5,990	(732)	88%
Stewardship	1,333	924	1,661	(737)	56%
<i>Subtotal Ministries</i>	<i>\$211,122</i>	<i>\$222,747</i>	<i>\$227,554</i>	<i>\$ (4,807)</i>	<i>98%</i>
Church in Society	60,032	\$58,350	\$58,350	\$0	100%
Building and Grounds	46,114	60,562	61,107	(545)	99%
Administrative	57,851	58,088	60,066	(1,978)	97%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$375,119	\$399,747	\$407,077	\$ (7,330)	98%
NET REVENUES		\$ (21,994)	\$ (213)	\$ (21,781)	
Total Unrestricted Contributions as a Percent of Total Expenses	80%	71%	81%		

¹For 2014, includes \$30,023 from earnings of St. Paul Foundation, \$13,100 in Investment Income from Reserves, and \$1,159 from Thrivent Choice. In 2015, Actual figures include Facilities Use (\$8,157) Thrivent Choice (\$722), St. Paul Foundation (\$1,054), and Net Inflows minus Outflows from temporarily restricted funds (\$1,869).

Balances	January 1, 2015	December 31, 2015	Difference ²
Church Reserves	\$ 429,284	\$ 348,236	\$ (81,048)
Foundation Assets	\$ 181,349	\$ 178,357	\$ (2,992)

²Differences are due to a combination of disbursements and changes in investment values.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact:

David Carlson, Finance Ministry chair, at davidcarlson824@gmail.com or call (303) 722-9892.

FEBRUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 1pm: Grant Avenue Street Reach 6:30pm: Rocky Mountain Ringers	2	3	4 11am: Staff meeting 5:45pm: Bell choir rehearsal 7pm: Choir rehearsal	5 6:30 p.m.: Supper Club	6 5pm: Catholic Mass
Transfiguration of Our Lord 7 8am: Lutheran Mass 9:15am: Hospitality, Adult Forum, Kinderkirche 9:30 Choir warm-up 10:30am: Lutheran Mass 11:45am: Hospitality	8 1pm: Grant Avenue Street Reach 6:30pm: Rocky Mountain Ringers	9 6:30pm: Congregational Council meeting	10 Ash Wednesday 12pm: Ash Wednesday Liturgy 7pm: Ash Wednesday Liturgy	11 11am: Staff meeting 5:45pm: Bell choir rehearsal 7pm: Choir rehearsal	12	13 5pm: Catholic Mass
Lent 1 14 8am: Lutheran Mass 9:15am: Hospitality, Adult Forum 9:30 Choir warm-up 10:30am: Lutheran Mass 11:45am: Hospitality 3pm: Saint Martin's Chamber Choir Concert	15 1pm: Grant Avenue Street Reach 6:30pm: Rocky Mountain Ringers	16 6pm: Theatre & Theology	17 6pm: Lenten Soup Supper & Study	18 11am: Staff meeting 5:45pm: Bell choir rehearsal 7pm: Choir rehearsal	19 7:30pm: Ars Nova Concert	20 Newsletter deadline 5pm: Catholic Mass
Lent 2 21 8am: Lutheran Mass 9:15am: Hospitality, Adult Forum 9:30 Choir warm-up 10:30am: Lutheran Mass	22 1pm: Grant Avenue Street Reach 6:30pm: Rocky Mountain Ringers	23 7:30pm: Book Talk	24 6pm: Lenten Soup Supper & Study	25 11am: Staff meeting 5:45pm: Bell choir rehearsal 7pm: Choir rehearsal	26	27 5pm: Catholic Mass
Lent 3 28 8am: Lutheran Mass 9:15am: Hospitality, Adult Forum 9:30 Choir warm-up 10:30am: Lutheran Mass 11:45am: Hospitality 12pm: Annual Congregational Meeting	29 1pm: Grant Avenue Street Reach 6:30pm: Rocky Mountain Ringers					

Future Newsletters from St. Paul...

Please contact the St. Paul office at office.support@StPaulDenver.org if you'd rather receive our newsletter by email!

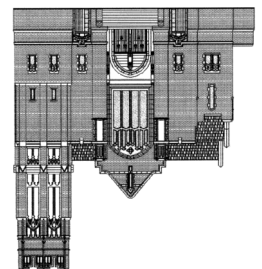
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

Denver, CO 80203

1600 Grant Street

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