



A Word From Our Pastor Marty Lettow

Happy New Year! 2018 look to be another big year in life of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. This winter season will give us a chance to continue to develop our budget and upcoming activities. The season of Epiphany will be a great time for us to explore some new elements of our worship as well.

One piece of worship I look forward to exploring during this upcoming epiphany will be trying to help us all get to know each other better. Our Liturgies, Sermons, Prayers, and Sacraments are all important, but we look towards regenerating community, it is going to be essential that we work on getting to know each other better. It is also crucial that we take time to meet the visitors that have been coming to worship lately. The Holy Spirit is bringing people to our congregational worship, so we should be actively meeting and greeting new folks.

For some of us, this might be a change in our worship life. Sometimes it is nice to sinking in to our own theological or worship patterns that fit us in and our internal needs. To come to worship with the idea of finding new friends can be different. I hope this will be a fun exchange too, helping to deepen our connections within our community.

One other piece of the new year will be new ways to serve in the church. As the council has been discussing lately, there are several ways to serve in short term and longer term ways. Please prayerfully consider contacting our council members if you are open to helping out with some of the various tasks they are putting forward. The more everyone can help with, the easier the load to carry.

May your 2018 be hopeful and new. May our lives continue to be blessed by the Lord Christ and the ever important message of God's love of the world. With a sense of optimism we look forward to proclaiming the Good News in new and exciting ways.

Peace! Pastor Marty

**Our Savior's Annual Meeting
January 28th
After Worship**

**Jan 14 @ Adult Forum
A through discussion of the
budget to get ready for our
Jan. 28 annual meeting**

**Annual Report Due
from Committees
January 14**



From the Council President

So this is how you call us to journey, Lord –
through thick darkness
hazardous terrain,
strange circumstance.
No one, it seems,
comes to you
in Summer light and certain.
And so we venture into the darkness,
trusting the tiny star of hope,
setting our course,
to be led by Light
into endless Light.

We've just walked through the darkest time of the year, and celebrated the birth of Jesus—the brightest Light of all and our reason to hope. 2017 has contained many dark moments from mass shootings to nuclear threats to floods and fires to re-energized racism to revelations of sexual assault over decades—these all part of our broad experience. Each of us has also had our particular and private dark moments. Illness, death, broken relationships, financial struggles, and so forth. I'm sure you'll easily come up with multiple difficulties you've encountered this past year, and that is precisely why we do Christmas every year. To be redeemed and renewed through God's grace. In our pain and despair, God loves us and Jesus restores us, giving us hope.

Now we move on to Epiphany, truly transitioning from darkness into light. Epiphany is about light—seeking, finding, and rising up in preparation for Lent and guiding those who hunger and thirst for meaning and a right relationship with God. At Our Savior's, we are people of the Light and our hope for the future is strong. I pray that 2018 is a confident year at OSLC, banishing our fears and bringing us joy and fulfillment.

*From Homily Service: An Ecumenical Resource for Sharing the Word, Silver Spring, MD: The Liturgical Conference, Vol 31. No 10.
Discovered and shared by Pr Tina Yankee.*

KUDOs Go To ...

Our effective Stewardship Committee!!! Dorothy Ostermeier, Ernie Stumpf, and Becky Tanglen, guided by Pr Marty, performed an overwhelming feat by managing the Stewardship Drive. As of December 19th, total dollars pledged for 2018 is \$208,047.60. This comes from 60 households associated with OSLC, so the numbers could increase if more people pledge (still a distinct possibility). Be sure to extend your gratitude to this group, since they invested much time and effort in the success of the drive.



Happy New Year from the Redevelopment Group!

Melody Connett

2017 was a busy year for us all...collectively, in this church, we held several adult forums with give and take on how the church should proceed, took in six new members, began a confirmation class, informally met with a potential candidate, updated the church directory, began meeting with two other area Lutheran churches, implemented a weekly email blast, hosted a community pot luck, made a healthy beginning to revising our constitution, hired a new pianist, joined in an app for online giving (Give+), tried out a mid-week service, conducted an actual pledge drive, with amazing results....thanks to you all!...attended two ELCA workshops, and began increasing our electronic presence...all things we had not done in the recent past. PHEW! We had hoped to be suggesting someone for a call by now. That did not happen, but with each redeveloper encounter we learn more about how to strengthen our church.

And strengthen our church is exactly what we did. People have stepped up...we have more ushers, counters, and pledgers than we have had in a long time and there seems to be a new

energy around our place...not all redevelopment related, but certainly people answering the call for broader involvement. Now we turn to 2018, with a few of our hopes and goals.

- Recommend a pastor that fits OSLC...in ethos, commitment, goals, and salary
- Implement a team to support the new pastor
- Get a "Donate" button on the website to allow online giving
- Follow through with directory changes/membership status/calls to absent members
- Improve communications/marketing
- Be more involved in our community
- Liquidate unused assets (expensive van, cemetery plots, etc.)
- Finalize constitution (after ELCA approval)
- WHATEVER IT TAKES!

We are here to see things through and get our house in order, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Do justly NOW. Love mercy NOW. Walk humbly NOW. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it." -Talmud"

Birding in Belmar

Tom Close, Irene Ludwig, and Gerry Forney joined Karleen Schofield at Belmar Park, Lakewood, on Saturday, Dec. 9, a sunny, mild morning. Kountz Lake is an important feature of the park's habitats, attracting hundreds to thousands of geese and waterfowl (ducks mostly, in late fall and winter). Water along the shoreline of the lake was frozen, but about 800 geese and 10 species of ducks were actively swimming keeping the water from freezing in the center of the lake. Many of the waterfowl were sleeping, with bills tucked into their back feathers (not under the wing, as non-birder might assume).

Several dozen ring-billed gulls were resting on the lake's island; a red-shafted northern flicker flew by, followed by black-bill magpies broadcasting their names, "Mag, mag, mag!" A red-tailed hawk soared overhead, being harassed by an American crow. Other crows were on the ground in front of us walking near two cottontails that were busily feeding on vegetation. A male American kestrel, the smallest falcon in the U.S., flew from an overhead branch to a taller tree nearby. We watched as the kestrel searched the grass below, flew down to the ground, grabbed a sandwich for lunch, returned to his perch and used his hooked beak to tear apart lunch (looked like a grasshopper) held in his talons.

Birding isn't always about seeing the most birds. Much bird behavior can't be learned from a bird guide. When I gave up competitive birding, I found joy in patiently sitting on a log or in my car (used as a blind). My next scheduled bird walk will probably be in April, 2018. I hope you can join me
Good birding! Karleen



Church Council

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9
in Madsen Hall

Women's Evening Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16
in Madsen Hall



Lydia Circle

10:00 a.m. Tuesday Jan. 23
in the Senior Center

Centering Prayer

1:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 4
in the Senior Center
Walk-ins Welcome
(phone Karleen for more
information, 303-936-8661



Senior Center – Jan 4

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – Activities,
Fellowship, and Snacks
Program – Darlene Cypser, Atty., -
Discuss wills and other end of life
documents
Lunch - TBA



**Save the date, February 11, after worship for a Mardi Gras Event!
Exciting details to be revealed!**



Benevolence January New Beginnings

We are a worshipping community, based inside the walls of a prison. We have our own leaders and our own pastor. Together we are able to transform shattered lives to wholeness with the love of Jesus Christ. ELCA Criminal Justice Statement calls upon Christians to strengthen or take up ministries of compassion and justice.

Metro CareRing

January Item
One Dish Meals
(i.e. Mac & cheese, chili)





Senior Center News



Our Savior's Senior center activities started early on Thursday, Dec. 7, with Karleen Schofield making coffee and Nelda Zimmerman setting tables with Dorothy Ostermeier's help. Dorothy bought and donated table cloths to make our December gathering more festive, and Karleen arranged fresh flowers in vases for holiday centerpieces. The salad/sign-in table looked pretty with its colorful cover and poinsettias.

Jeanette Hartman provided Christmas cards for all the seniors who had attended the Center in 2017. Kathy Harris printed copies of a 2018 calendar, with Senior Center dates circled, to include with the cards before mailing. Jeanette also prays with the group as lunch starts.

Volunteer, Linda Young, reported for duty (usually 2 hours before lunch is served), washed her hands and started her routine preparations, focusing on the many details that go along with serving a 20-25 person meal at noon. Gretchen Fortner arrived to help, bearing Christmas gifts for the seniors. Our newest volunteer, Deb Scott, has helped the past three months, and we are grateful for her assistance and also for that of Magdalena Lesniak and Dean Zessin. Gerry Forney was assigned to serving lunch and clean up duty. We thank him for his offer to help. Cornelia Hall was available for clearing the tables and hand-washing dishes. We thank Allen

Pacheco for setting up tables and chairs in the Fellowship Hall and Senior Center room.

Natalie Deville from Lutheran Family Services presented the Dec. 7 program, explaining which services are available for seniors. Lunch: A ham entrée was combined with roasted potatoes, broccoli/cheese casserole, green & fruit salads (Jeanette), Karleen's cranberry/apple/walnut salad, and Dorothy's brownie ala mode with peppermint ice cream for dessert.

The occasion was made even more special by the donation of three \$25 King Soopers gift cards used as prizes in a drawing of senior names.

Lunch left-overs were boxed and sent home with our lunch guests. Thanks to all who made the day a joy-filled event.

Karleen led Centering Prayer following lunch. Three seniors were present.

The next Senior Center meets on January 4, 2018. The guest speaker will be Darlene Cypser, Atty., who will discuss the need for wills and other end of life documents. Lunch menu will be a surprise. Irene Ludwig is helping with the food preparations which are much appreciated.

We encourage members of the congregation to volunteer 2-3 hours a month for the Senior Center ministry by helping us serve lunch, eat lunch, clear tables and/or wash dishes. We hope to see you there.

Wishing you a blessed New Year! Karleen & Jeanette.

OSLC Book Club

The January OSLC Book Club meeting will be on Sunday January 22, 2018. The January book selection will be *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, by Matthew Desmond. Here is a summary of the book:

"In *Evicted*, Harvard sociologist and MacArthur "Genius" Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Hailed as "wrenching and revelatory" (*The Nation*), "vivid and unsettling" (*New York Review of Books*), *Evicted* transforms our understanding of

poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of 21st-century America's most devastating problems. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible."

You are welcome to attend the meeting even if you have not read the book. If you would like to receive notices about the Book Club, please send an email to gerald.forney@gmail.com. In February, 2018, the Book Club will discuss *Runaway Midwife: A Novel*, by Patricia Harman.



News from CHARG

By David Burgess

Season's Greetings from CHARG! We look ahead to 2018 with some things to celebrate and some challenges to face. We are thankful for all our supporters who remembered us on Colorado Gives Day, not only for the much-needed financial assistance, but also as our circle of friends in the community continues to grow. This to us is a sign of increasing awareness of the fact that some people may live with mental illnesses, but this does not mean that they are not ready and able to take their place at the table and participate in important decisions that affect their lives.

Having a diverse group of friends and supporters is all the more important as we face the likelihood of continued efforts at the national level to balance the budget on the backs of those who can least afford it. For many, this means challenges to the Medicare and Medicaid insurance protection that they rely on as they strive to meet their basic needs.

The summer of 2018 is also when I plan to retire, and the CHARG community has already established a search committee and contracted with our friend Donna Deteau to shepherd us through the process of defining the skills and traits we are looking for in our new leader, and then evaluating the candidates who put themselves forward. Donna also volunteers for CHARG by coming in on holidays to get together and cook a delicious meal with CHARG consumers. As I write this, CHARG members are looking forward to this food and fellowship on Christmas Day.



Happy New Year!

January Birthdays

- 2 Irene Ludwig
- 3 Nora Hegarty
- 5 Rowan Rawlinson
- 9 Liam Blair
- 10 Raquel Setaro *
- 12 Jordan Hoaglund
- 13 Lilo Pacheco
- 15 John Hutchinson *
- 16 Randi Lornell
- 20 Arvid Rawlinson
- 21 Inger Fedde
- 26 Andy Baack
- 29 Amber Affourtit
- 30 Jason Baack
- 31 Terri Asivido *



* Emerson Gardens resident
A Associate Member

The following are our current prayer concerns:

Duane Daugherty; James Konzels; Sister Regina Green; Pastors Bev & Rocky Piro; David Orthman; Our Savior's congregation, its leaders and ministries; and the families and friends of Mary Ruden; Georgia; and Joann Carpenter.



Please continually pray for: All Saints Lutheran (our sister church); Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Bishop Jim Gonia; James Bertelsen; Burton Solseth; Jean Hill; Elaine Nassen; Nancy Bair; Tina Yankee; Liz Masterson; Stan Paige; Doug Hein; Marlene Eggerling; August & Marge Beckmann; Anne-Marie Doolos; Suzanne Doolos; Pat Bjerke; Rich Selayi, Jr.; Terry Wittern; Nancie Ziemke; Katherine Fedde; Sue Coleman; Craig & Dixie Simonson; and Dick & Wanda Mlinarik.



Please submit your prayer requests for healing, sympathy, comfort, on-going concerns, and celebrations by calling Twyla Boe at 303-344-5430, or the church office at 303-831-7023. The prayer chain is updated as names are received. Unless otherwise requested, names will be deleted after (4) weeks.

JANUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office Closed For New Year Day	2 8:00 NA	3 8:00 NA	4 10:30 Sr. Center 1:15 Centering Prayer 7:00 Choir	5	6 7:00 NA
7 9:30 Worship 10:45 Adult Ed & Sunday School 12:30 NicAnon	8	9 6:30 Church Council 8:00 NA	10 5:00 TEN 8:00 NA	11 7:00 Choir	12	13 7:00 NA
14 9:30 Worship 10:45 Adult Ed & Sunday School 12:30 NicAnon	15	16 7:00 Women's Evening Bible Study at OSLC in Madsen Hall 8:00 NA	17 8:00 NA	18 7:00 Choir	19	20 7:00 NA
21 9:30 Worship 10:45 Adult Ed & Sunday School 12:30 NicAnon	22	23 10:00 Lydia Circle in the Senior Center 8:00 NA	24 8:00 NA	25 7:00 Choir	26	27 7:00 NA
28 9:30 Worship 10:45 OSLC Annual Meeting 12:30 NicAnon	29	30 8:00 NA	31 8:00 NA			