



A Word From Our Pastor Marty Lettow

Hey All,

Blessed Lenten season to you wherever and however this season is engaging you. I hope you are experiencing the always present Spirit through this season of awakening. I have been excited to witness the development of some new and exciting ministry work during this season.

Recently, we had our first gathering of OSLC service and conversation. We are letting the Spirit guide our hearts as we celebrate the passion we have on a couple of big priorities.

The recent shootings in Florida have reconnected us with our calling to be a voice for change in our midst. You may notice some signage in the coming weeks and months where we utilize our congregational voice to let folks in our neighborhood know where we stand and how we might be organizing with our community for upcoming marches on legislation and community service.

Another deep passion at OSLC is in regards to the Immigration issue, and how we in the church see our call to serve. There is much interest in working

through the dynamics of the Immigration debate together and getting a real sense of how our congregation may be being called to connect with those who are in need of refuge. We aren't moving towards being a sanctuary congregation directly, but we are discerning together the ways we can serve and advocate together for these important issues.

Congregations develop visions for mission as they move through time. No congregational mission every stays the same forever, instead we grow and change with the times, our congregational makeup, and with our surrounding neighbors. We discern and follow the call to serve as Jesus served. Selfless, gifting, serving, loving.

May we continue to celebrate the season of Lent and as the Spirit continues to move and shape us in ministry together, may we remain faithful to willing service together in this time and place.

Peace,

Pastor Marty

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday Worship

March 25

9:30 a.m.



Maundy Thursday Worship

March 29

7 p.m.



Good Friday Worship

March 30

7 p.m.



Easter Sunday

April 1

9:30 a.m. Worship

Easter Brunch 10:45 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt 11:30 a.m.



From the Council President

I am feeling especially empty and wordless right now. Yet another massacre in one of our schools leaves me desolate, angry and pessimistic about mankind and where we're headed. And so I will turn to the words of Nadia Bolz-Weber (taken from *Pastrix: the Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint*, Jericho Books, New York, copyright 2013.)

This is our God. Not a distant judge nor a sadist, but a God who weeps. A God who suffers, not only for us, but with us. Nowhere is the presence of God amidst suffering more salient than on the cross. Therefore what can I do but confess that this is not a God who causes suffering. This is a God who bears suffering. I need to believe that God does not initiate suffering; God transforms it.

That passage in John reads like this: Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said, "I am thirsty."

"I am thirsty," he says. "I am not watching this from a distant heaven. I too am thirsty." (pp 128-129)

And, a story from shortly after the Aurora theatre shooting ----

What Mary [Magdalene] *would* do is show up and remind us that despite the violence and fear, it's still always worth it to love God and to love people. And always, always, it is worth it to sing alleluia in defiance of the devil, who surely hates the sound of it. ...

I preached about how two nights earlier, when we sang hymns to God at the bar, it had sounded like a people who simply would not believe that violence wins, a people who know that the sound of the risen Christ speaking our names drowns out all other voices. It drowns out the sound of the political posturing, the sound of cries for vengeance, the sound of our own fears and anxieties, *and* the deafening uncertainty—because all of it is no match for the shimmering sound of the resurrected Christ calling our name.

This is the resurrected God to whom we sing. A God who didn't say we would never be afraid but that we would never be alone. Because this is a God who shows up: in the violence of the cross, in the darkness of a garden before dawn, in the gardener, in a movie theater, in the basement of a bar. ...

Singing in the midst of evil is what it means to be disciples. Like Mary Magdalene, the reason we can stand and weep and listen for Jesus is because we, like Mary, are bearers of resurrection, we are made new. On the third day, Jesus rose again, and we do not need to be afraid. To sing to God amidst sorrow is to defiantly proclaim, like Mary Magdalene did to the apostles, and like my friend Don did at Dylan Klebold's funeral, that death is not the final word. To defiantly say, once again, that a light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot, will not, shall not overcome it. And so, evil be damned, because even as we go to the grave, still we make our song alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. (pp 200-201)

Alleluia

Alleluia

**What is the 2018 Offering of Letters About?
OSL will participate on March 4 during Adult
Forum.**

Every day, millions of people in the United States and around the world feed and support their families in part because of lifesaving programs funded by our government. We are making progress toward the end of hunger, but we live in challenging times. Our gains are increasingly vulnerable due to the actions and inactions of governing officials.

Our great democracy gives all Americans access to powerful decision makers. Just as Esther in the Old Testament was called to be an advocate with the king of Persia for her threatened people, we are called to speak up with leaders in Congress to protect vital programs for people who struggle with hunger and poverty. We must call on our leaders to ensure that all people, regardless of where they live, have the opportunity to reach their God-given potential. The actions that Congress takes have far-reaching impact on the lives of millions of people in the United States and around the world living in hunger. The federal budget is the investment of our tax dollars. This investment must reflect our nation's priorities and values.

You serve God when you put your faith into practice. And just as Esther fasted and prayed as she prepared for advocacy with the king, the people and churches who participate in Bread for the World's annual Offering of Letters also pray for God's saving presence and direction in our nation's life.

*Saying Good-bye to Anne-Marie Doolos
Anne-Marie memorial service was at Our
Savior's on Monday, February 12th. Daughter,
Suzanne and son, Ed and his family were
present. We thank Pastor Marty for leading
the service.*

*Special thanks to Gretchen Fortner, Dorothy
Ostermeier, Karleen Schofield, Irene Ludwig,
and Melody Connett for helping with the
reception, ushering, loaning table cloths, and
preparing the bulletin.*

Senior Center News

On February 1st 19 seniors were present. The 11:00 a.m. program was on the history and work of the American Red Cross presented by Tom Hobbs. Lunch included meatloaf, roasted potatoes and other side dishes. Dorothy Ostermeier made a cherry angel food dessert. Thank you to all the volunteers for your faithful service.



January 2018 INCOME	\$44,339.31
Transfer to or <from> reserve funds	<\$0>
Net Operating Income	\$44,339.31
Jan - January Operating EXPENSES	\$29,714.07
2018 Net gain or <loss>	\$14,625.24

Detail of ELCA Mission / Capital Fund	
Building	\$6,826.31
As of January Organ	\$20,706.33
Interest	\$3,445.06
Total ELCA Mission Fund	\$30,977.70

OSLC Book Club

The March OSLC Book Club meeting will be on Sunday March 25, 2018. The March book selection will be *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance. Here is a summary of the book:

Hillbilly Elegy is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans. The decline of this group, a demographic of our country that has been slowly disintegrating over forty years, has been reported on with growing frequency and alarm, but has never before been written about as searingly from the inside. J. D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck.

The Vance family story begins hopefully in postwar America. J. D.'s grandparents were "dirt poor and in love," and moved north from Kentucky's Appalachia region to Ohio in the hopes of escaping the dreadful poverty around them. They raised a middle-class family, and eventually their grandchild (the author) would graduate from Yale Law School, a conventional marker of their success in achieving generational upward mobility.

But as the family saga of *Hillbilly Elegy* plays out, we learn that this is only the short, superficial version. Vance's grandparents, aunt, uncle, sister, and, most of all, his mother, struggled profoundly with the demands of their new middle-class life, and were never able to fully escape the legacy of abuse, alcoholism, poverty, and trauma so characteristic of their part of America. Vance piercingly shows how he himself still carries around the demons of their chaotic family history.

A deeply moving memoir with its share of humor and vividly colorful figures, *Hillbilly Elegy* is the story of how upward mobility really feels. And it is an urgent and troubling meditation on the loss of the American dream for a large segment of this country."

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 April 2018, the Book Club will discuss *The High Mountains of Portugal* by Yan Martel.

The Our Savior's Book Club has also started a book exchange for members and friends of the congregation. The books are in the narthex in the same area as the name tags and church mailboxes. We have too many books and are running out of shelf space. You are welcome to take books even if you have nothing to swap!



Hey All,

The Messenger is one of the main ways we communicate our mission together as a congregation. Please note that Kathy is diligently trying to get this publication out on time every month. If you have articles due, please make sure they are handed in written form/ or email by the 20th of the month so she has enough time to properly lay out and print on time. Thank you for your participation and cooperation in this work together. If we all help each other communicate better, we will be more informed and streamlined in our service and life together as a congregation.

Thanks!

Pastor Marty

**Benevolence March
Bread for the World**

Bread members send letters and emails, make phone calls, and visit their members of Congress about legislation that addresses hunger in the U.S. and around the world. Bread equips its members to communicate with Congress and to work with others on advocacy. It educates members on hunger-related issues and inspires members to be legislative activists as a way of putting their Christian faith into action.

In Need Of

**Pastor Marty's friend just move into Capitol Hill and is looking for a few item for his place. If you have a table, chair, lamp or even a couch that is looking for a new home please let Pastor Marty know.
Thanks.**



Centering Prayer

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



Women's Evening Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March. 20
At the home of Karen May
4317 E 17th Ave



Metro CareRing

March Item

Pasta



Senior Center – March. 1

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – Activities, Fellowship, and Snacks

Program – Bingo with prizes

Lunch - Baked penne pasta with tomato & mild sausage, green salad, bread & butter, coconut custard pie and coffee.



Church Council

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March. 13
in Madsen Hall



Lydia Circle

10:00 a.m. Tuesday March. 27
in the Senior Center



Our Savior's Community Organizing Committee (OSCOM)

On Saturday, February 10th, Karen May joined Jan and Frank Tapy at an advanced training session presented by Together Colorado. (TC). The program explored strategic planning for issues and campaigns to advance our long-term agenda of human dignity and liberation for all people.

These two paragraphs from the Together Colorado Narrative of Liberation help to define our campaigns:

Our faith compels us to create a moral and communal economy. We have a moral obligation to provide for everyone and to share all resources justly. Our life together is based on the sacred and infinite value of human beings, not on the value of material objects. Decisions about material goods are always made based upon the inherent value of human beings.

In God's community, we ensure that all people live a life of dignity. All people develop to their full and powerful potential, contribute to the community through meaningful work, and have full voice and participation in the structures that govern them. In this way, all people have the freedom, the ability, and the right to thrive physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Obviously, these principles derive from envisioning the world as we would like it to be, rather than where it is now, and we have far to go to attain a society that respects the dignity of all people. In fact it could be argued that we are trending in the opposite direction, since the current dominant narrative advocates a highly competitive free-market economy, a zero-sum game where money, power, and possessions are the ultimate goals of the individual; people are valued by their ability to produce and consume; the Earth is to be exploited for short term profit; and that, in the words of the nation's 40th president, "Government is the problem."

But on to the practical issues at hand: In the

current Colorado legislative session TC is part of a coalition with other immigrant rights groups that will focus on improvements and expansion of SB150, the legislation that established the program to provide drivers' licenses for undocumented immigrants.

We hope there will be another attempt by the legislature to refer a measure to state voters that would remove from the state constitution the antiquated phrase that allows "slavery" as punishment for those convicted of a crime. Designated as Amendment T in 2016, it was referred to voters by unanimous consent of both houses of the legislature, which is most unusual. Unfortunately, the referendum failed by a narrow margin.

TC is also part of another coalition advocating for RTD to allow the Denver Public Schools to purchase "eco" passes to allow DPS students improved access to public transportation.

There was also discussion of legislation to conduct a study of the cost and feasibility of establishing a universal health care system in Colorado.

On the national level, the subject of immigration and the fate of hundreds of thousands of young undocumented "Dreamers" who were brought here as children, currently hangs in the balance as congress considers a way to protect them from deportation. OSCOM is planning to have speakers at an Adult Forum in March to offer further information on this controversial subject and explain how some churches are harboring individuals facing deportation by the long-standing process know as "sanctuary." TC believes that it is a pressing moral issue to protect these young people and allow them to remain in the only country they have ever known.

Submitted by Frank Tapy.

Lutheran Family Services

Each year in Colorado, thousands of kids are unable to live with their biological parents because of abuse or neglect. We need families who can provide temporary care until children reunify with their parent as well as families willing to adopt children and teens in foster care if they can't return to their families. An informal Q & A session for foster care will be held on Wednesday, March 14th from 12:30-1:30pm and from 5:30-6:30pm at the LFS Denver Metro office (363 S. Harlan St., Suite 105, Denver, 80226). Please register with Anne at anne.hamilton@lfsrm.org or 303-217-5869. One-on-one meetings can also be arranged to work around your busy schedule.

Refugee Services will be hosting a fundraiser with Patxi's Pizzeria on Wednesday, March 28! 10% of all proceeds all day from their Patxi's Uptown location (1598 E. 17th Ave., Denver, 80218) will go to our programming. Join us to support refugee services in Denver and experience Patxi's tasty pizza through dine-in, take-out, or delivery!

Join us for the LFS 70th Anniversary Benefit Gala at the Cable Center on April 21st! We are delighted to announce that we will be presenting a video immersion event, which will allow guests to embark on a journey that leads them through the lives of LFS clients. The Gala will feature a night of dinner, entertainment, an auction, and companionship, along with celebrating 70 years of serving individuals and families in need in our community. Please register at www.LFSRM.org/events.

Come and See

The Lutheran Chorale would like to invite you to the March 18th concert "Come and See". This concert will focus on three important composers of some of our most beloved hymns and their life stories. Come meet Phillip Nicolai, Johann Hermann and Paul Gerhardt and through their words and stories come to know these composers and the poems they left us in a new way.

We will be performing on Sunday, March 18 2018, 3 pm, at King of Glory Lutheran Church, 10001 W. 58th Avenue, Arvada, CO. Our second concert on Sunday, March 18, 2018 at 7:30 pm will be held at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 2300 S. Patton Court, Denver.

We will gladly accept a free will donation instead of selling tickets at the door. For more information or to make a donation online, please check out our website at www.thelutheranchoral.org or email us at thelutheranchoral@comcast.net

March 2018

Upcoming Workshops with the Colorado Mental Wellness Network:

Mindfulness 101 - March 13th, 9:30 - 11:30 at the Aurora Strong Resilience Center

Wellness Planning - March 14th 9 AM - Noon at the Aurora Strong Resilience Center

WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) - two day workshop, March 9 and March 16, 915 East 9th Ave

Call or email Joann Calabrese for more information:

Joann@coloradomentalwellnessnetwork.org – 720-742-9222

Augustana Arts' Heart for the Arts Gala

Please join us for a night to remember on Friday, March 16, at Augustana Lutheran Church. The evening includes dinner, silent/live auctions, and performances of Stratus String Quartet, Stratus Chamber Orchestra, and Colorado Women's/Men's Chorale. Tickets are \$65 per guest or \$450 a table of eight. We are also seeking donations for the auction. Visit www.AugustananArts.org for reservations or more details.

March Birthdays

- 9 Karleen Schofield
- 10 Debbie Scott A
- 10 Brad Wood
- 13 Joyce Miller *
- 13 Jon Tisdell
- 14 Henry Ramires *
- 19 Voanne Bertelsen A
- 19 Twyla Boe
- 19 Robbie Johnson *
- 23 Elaine Nassen
- 24 Kana Kjeseth
- 25 Husako Kjeseth
- 26 Jane Swanson
- 27 Mark Boyd
- 28 Erica Hoaglund
- 30 Carolyn Hale *
- 30 Antone Luce *



- * - Emerson Gardens' resident
- A - Associate Member

The following are our current prayer concerns:

Mau; Dave; Elijah; Eric Jorgensen; William Crabbs; Ruth Johnson; Twyla Boe; Tony; Mary Beckman; Heidi; Darleen; Jamie Carpenter; David Huntsaker; Ray; Our Savior's congregation, its leaders and ministries; and to the families and friends of Gregory Rohr; Wendy; Lynda; Kobe; and the family and friends of Anne-Marie Doolos.

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; Stan Paige; Doug Hein; Marlene Eggerling; Suzanne Doolos; Pat Bjerke; Rich Selayi, Jr.; Sister Regina Green; Pastors Bev & Rocky Piro; 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.

News from CHARG

By David Burgess

In the wake of the tragic shooting in Parkland, Florida, I want to share a few words about the renewed calls for more effective mental health interventions to try to prevent similar occurrences in the future. For starters, any initiative which favors increased funding and political support for mental health services is welcome – the mental health system in our country is chronically underfunded and deserves as much attention as we pay to infrastructure needs. Patching up human beings should be at least as important as patching up our roads and bridges.

However, we need to be careful with arguments such as “the problem is not guns, it is mental illness.” Mental illness is a broad term which encompasses a tremendous variety of challenges. Blaming mental illness for random acts of violence is like blaming the Islamic religion as a whole for the terrorist actions of a small minority (and of course, this also happens). It has frequently been observed that people with mental illness are far more likely to be victims of violence than perpetrators. In fact, studies estimate that even if it were possible to somehow detain everyone with a mental health diagnosis, this would only reduce the level of gun violence by a tiny percentage.

What can we do, then, about this problem? The answer is clearly not to use the “mentally ill” label as an excuse to take away liberties which are enjoyed by the rest of the population. It makes more sense to focus on *behavior*, and to try to identify those people who have made credible threats or have a history of violence. I would like to see this lead not to immediate punitive measures, which often only aggravate the problem, but rather to outreach and offers of counseling, anger management techniques, etc. And none of this should be taken as a substitute for effective gun control measures, which are long overdue and supported by a majority of our citizens. But finally, we also need to realistically admit that there is no 100% cure, and that reducing violence in our society is a long-term problem which must be addressed with patience.



March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10:30 Sr. Center 1:15 Centering Prayer 7:00 Choir	2	3
4 9:30 Worship 10:45 Adult Ed & Sunday School 12:30 NicAnon	5	6 5:30 USC Board Meeting 8:00 NA	7 1:00 Bible Study 2:30 Mission Wed 7:00 Lenten Worship Service 8:00 NA	8 7:00 Choir	9 9:30 - 5 Network Workshop	10
11 9:30 Worship 10:45 Adult Ed & Sunday School 12:30 NicAnon	12	13 6:30 Church Council 8:00 NA	14 1:00 Bible Study 2:30 Mission Wed 5:00 TEN 7:00 Lenten Worship Service 8:00 NA	15 7:00 Choir Plunge Group	16 9:30 - 5 Network Workshop	17  -----
18 9:30 Worship 10:45 Adult Ed & Sunday School 12:30 NicAnon	19	20 7:00 Women's Evening Bible Study at Karen May 8:00 NA	21 1:00 Bible Study 2:30 Mission Wed 7:00 Lenten Worship Service 8:00 NA	22 7:00 Choir	23	24
25 Palm Sunday 9:30 Worship 10:45 Adult Ed & Sunday School  12:30 NicAnon	26	27 10:00 Lydia Circle in the Senior Center 8:00 NA	28 1:00 Bible Study 2:30 Mission Wed 7:00 Lenten Worship Service 8:00 NA	29 Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 p.m. 	30 12:00 CHARG Clothing Give Away  Good Friday Worship 7:00 p.m.	31