



The Journey Shared

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION OF THE ECUMENICAL CATHOLIC COMMUNION



the dream of “come to the quiet”

FR. LEN AND NANCY’S RELOCATION

This month, Fr. Len Schreiner and his wife Nancy, who have been active in the region since 2002, begin a new spiritual adventure in neighboring New Mexico. “We’re going to the land of spiritual enchantment... For the third time in our lives, the Spirit is telling us, “Come away, to the land that I will show you” (Gen. 12:1). “We left Seattle in 2001, without knowing exactly how we would make a living in Crestone, a center for many world religions...and we have always been guided, and taken care of” Nancy explains.

Both Len and Nancy spent 18 years as members of Franciscan Orders, in what they consider humorously, “a previous lifetime”. In 2006 they moved for work and ministry, from southern Colorado to Longmont. They recall: “We moved from one of the poorest counties in the state.” Living here has afforded them the chance to make many ECC friends and for Len to minister as a homilist and presider in three parishes, COB, CHF (since last Oct 1, as an interim pastor) and with MoM on one weekend a month since 2011/2012. “We will miss many good friends from here...But after a long search for a

rural, contemplative place in Northern Colorado, they were led to a perfect setting in Northern New Mexico, “an area where we have camped and vacationed over the years.”

“The full dream for me” Fr. Len explains, “began much earlier. “When I heard John Michael Talbot’s Come to the Quiet album in 1980, I was on the edges of choosing a more contemplative lifestyle. By 1985, I identified a “call within a call”, and snatched many days of quiet or solitude in hermitages, first in Colorado, and later in Washington state where he says, “I explored silence and “centering prayer” at its depths, as my patron saint Francis of Assisi did, with his Rule for Hermitages (1222/1223) and his lifestyle of a part-time preacher, and part-time hermit in the mountains.” When Nancy and Len married in 1992, they agreed to honor each other’s “journey of the soul” no matter where it might take them. Fortunately they have been led, but always together and follow the divine invitation to “go deeper” as Nancy puts it, in the contemplative space and mystical Christianity – a form of faith which actively seeks direct experience with Christ, in the world, and apart from it.

The recent form of their long held “dream” (of 25-30 years) took another twist when another couple (a classmate of Len’s) reconnected with them in 2016 and together they found property and two houses where they can “come to the quiet,” share a form of community life, pray together, and continue their individual paths in medical care and spiritual direction – and eventually enter full retirement. They intend to share their property, and maintain a guest room for individuals to make retreat, will probably lead group retreats, provide spiritual direction, and devote more time to writing (Len), art (Nancy) and the inner life, while drawing from the

inspiration of St. Claire and St. Francis, whom they included in their wedding liturgy in 1992. “The life of the soul is deep, expansive, actually unlimited by God’s grace,” Len believes, “so we are traveling deeper and farther into the known and unknown... toward inter-spiritual space, and the Christic-centered life.”

As Talbot sang when interpreting Psalm 131 in 1980: “Just come to the quiet, come and still your soul, like a child at rest... Come and still your soul completely.” The Psalm as Talbot expressed it sets the course, Len explains: “My eyes are not on things far beyond me.’ We are just following what Francis of Assisi once said, and it never grows old, ‘Let us begin, for up to now we have done nothing.’ We are grateful for all we’ve received, and given.” And now Nancy and Len say they joyfully await “the land God promised to show us.” They fully expect it will be enchanting, new, real, and quiet as desert places tend to be. ✧

Contents

Len & Nancy, 1-2

Continued Prayers, 3

CHF, 3

Vicar’s Musings, 4-5

St. Paul Invitation, 6

COB, 7

LOC, 8

MoM, 9

The Celtic Way, 10

Lutheran/Catholic Relations, 11

CCC initiatives, 12

Suicide and Guns, 13

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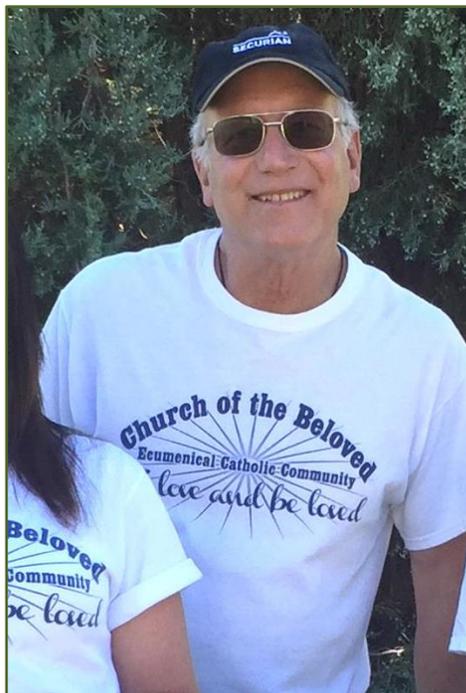
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✠ CONTINUED PRAYERS

lifting them up and holding them close



✠ Prayers for deacon candidate Jim Burnik and his wife Anne of COB. Jim has developed some debilitating neurological symptoms and is undergoing testing.



✠ Continue to lift in prayer our founding Bishop Peter Elder Hickman, his family and community. Recovering from a stroke and major surgery to relieve pressure on his brain from the resulting blood clot, he has regained consciousness but remains in Intensive Care. Cards and donations to help defray medical bills can be sent to his wife Mirella c/o St. Matthew's Church, 1111 West Town and Country Drive, Orange CA 92868.

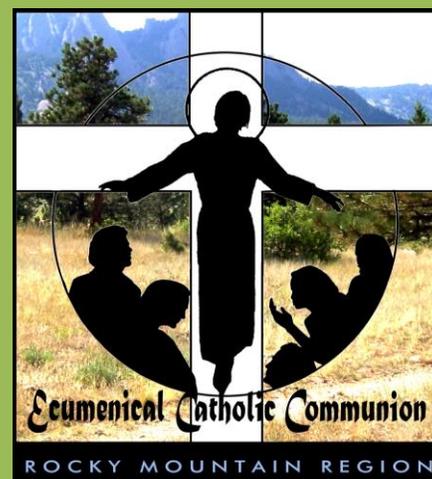


✠ Prayers for Charlie Allen and his wife Sally of LOC. After back surgery to relieve months of debilitating pain, Charlie has moved to a rehab facility. Cards can be sent to 5115 Mt. St. Vrain Ave, Frederick CO 80504.

Church of the Holy Family

DISCERNMENT CONTINUES

✠ Church of the Holy Family continues our search for our new pastor. Our integrated process with the Call Committee and the Parish Leadership Team as well as letter campaign has brought forth a few opportunities that we have vetted; leading to two interviews that are in process today. There is much more road to travel and we appreciate your support and prayers as we continue to walk this path.



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www.coloradoecc.org

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Fr. Michael Nicosia, 720-218-1081
nicosia410@yahoo.com
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The Very Rev. Francis Krebs
bishop.francis@ecumenical-catholic-communion.org



For more about the
ECUMENICAL CATHOLIC
COMMUNION, visit
<http://ecumenical-catholic-communion.org>

VICAR'S MUSINGS

accountable loving

"When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and, falling at his feet, paid him homage."

As Catholics we've had a long history of paying homage to Popes and prelates and bishops and priests — but within the inspirations of Vatican II, and subsequently within our Ecumenical Catholic Communion, we have seen the Spirit poured out on the people, and have had to acknowledge that the clergy are mere human beings (vicars included).

And yet, be we clergy or laity, there's nothing *merely* human about us — for God chose to incarnate love through humanity and sent his Son into the world that we might do a better job of loving as God loves.

The first letter of John says that Jesus was sent as an expiation or reparation or atonement for our sins. A better translation might read: Jesus was sent as a corrective for our shortcomings, a recalibration for our missing the mark where love is concerned.

Love, after all, is THE commandment we are to keep, for friendship with Jesus (he calls us friends) entails the responsibilities of love. And friends are accountable.

On May 5th, I had the honor of presiding at St. Paul Lutheran and Catholic Community of Faith and used the opportunity to educate and encourage the Catholic community in our ECC way of being church together. The [readings](#) were the perfect focus, concluding weeks of stewardship discernment leading up to this Consecration Weekend when they would present their pledges to sustain

their love incarnated in this city neighborhood.

Certainly our monetary pledges made that weekend (the Lutherans were making their pledges the following morning at their Sunday Service) are an essential part of that — but our accountability goes beyond the money. This Catholic community in particular, as it prepares to join the ECC, is called to participate in ways we couldn't when we were Roman Catholic.

In that tradition, we fell at Father's feet, paid homage, and expected him to run the show, make all the decisions. He was the professional "friend of Jesus" who did the work of the church. The clergy, however, are called to enable the people of God (the *laos*, from which we get Laity) to do God's work in the world.

FULL PARTICIPATION

I told the people of St. Paul that they have a part to play. While their Catholic corporate identity has a Board of Directors, to carry out ECC business they'll have to form their own Parish Council as a subset of St. Paul's united Church Council. They'll be asked to select clergy and lay representatives of the community to serve on our Regional Council. They'll be electing delegates to serve in the House of Pastors and House of Laity at our national Synod in September. And all of these representatives will be their voice in our decision-making, which means they'll have to engage with every member of St. Paul. (This, of course, is the same challenge before all the members of our region and our Communion.)

As I told the members of St. Paul, "YOU'RE the lovers, you're the movers and shakers, you're the friends of Jesus. So, we're grateful for your financial support, but the Spirit has been poured out on you and the →



CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

www.churchofhollyfamily.org

Vanessa Henk, PLT President/Chair

Diane Morgan, Administrator

Fr. Scott Jenkins, Pastor Emeritus

Mass: 10:00 am Sundays

16738 E. Iliff Avenue

Aurora CO 80013

(303) 369-9000

admin@hollyfamilyco.org



CHURCH OF THE BELOVED

www.churchofthebeloved-ecc.org

Mother Kae Madden, Pastor

Mass: 5:00 pm Saturdays

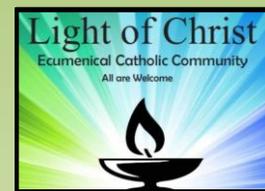
10500 Grant Drive

Northglenn CO 80233

Mother Kae, 303-426-5464;

pastor@churchofthebeloved-ecc.org

Fr. Paul Burson, 720-254-2083



LIGHT OF CHRIST ECUMENICAL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

www.lightofchristecc.org

Fr. Teri Harroun, Pastor

Masses: 5:00 pm Saturdays.

9:00 am Wednesdays

1000 W. 15th Avenue

Longmont CO 80501

303-772-3785

churchoffice@lightofchristecc.org

blessings, received and meant to be shared, include your time and talent as well.”

Accountable loving entails our full participation, for we are blessed to be the blessing.

A JUSTICE ISSUE

Not that the money isn't needed. That was the whole focus behind St. Paul's Consecration Weekend. Our Rocky Mountain Regional Council also has money concerns... We acknowledge that laborers in the vineyard deserve their pay, and realize that the ECC's practice to date of only electing bishops who can afford to serve without compensation runs the risk of establishing an elitist and exclusionary episcopal leg of our "three-legged stool." In response, we're looking at the challenge of offering at least some symbolic compensation for our new Auxiliary Bishop Denise Donato. We're not asking for money (yet), but believe that it should be on our radar and would appropriately be a topic for discussion within the regions she serves and, more broadly, in the House of Laity as they prepare our national budgets. We stress that bishops need to be accountable to the people — accountable loving goes the other way, too.



OUR DEACONS' SERVICE

I am very grateful to Bishop Rafe Adams and some of our ECC deacons and deacon candidates for letting me

sit in on their Diakonate 101 video conference seminar this past year. (It will be offered again after a brief hiatus.) In it we learned how the deacon's ministry is one of discerning the needs of the community and the world around us, not so that they can address them directly — they're not the professional friends of Jesus, either — but so that they can inform, train and empower the service of the people. I'm encouraged that plans are underway to establish an ECC Deacons Association, to strengthen their relationships with each other and focus the accountability challenges of which they will make us aware.

YOUR PART IN OUR DISCERNMENT

One of the deliberations before us as the local church is to prayerfully discern if it's time to call our own regional bishop. Some of us have resisted the idea, having experienced some in church leadership who repeatedly devalued the laity's role. "Just kiss my ring and bow before my will supreme."

Fortunately, that image has been shattered by encounters with bishops who lead with love and encourage our full participation: our founding Bishop Peter (prayers for his recovery and for his family's well-being), our Presiding Bishop Francis, and our other ECC bishops. There's also ELCA Bishop Jim Gonia (so thankful for his re-election!) who, with +Francis, has opened the door to our evolving ecumenical partnerships in our region. They all understand that our faith is a communal journey on which our love is incarnate at the altar, in the pews, and in the world THROUGH YOU.

Each and every one, together, be the blessing.

~ Fr. Michael



MARY OF MAGDALA COMMUNITY

www.marymagdalafc.org

Fr. Jim DeMuth, Pastoral Director
Mass: 5:00 pm Sundays

NEW LOCATION 301 E Stuart Street
Fort Collins, CO 80525
970-493-9536

Fr. Jim 970-420-6230

Dcn. Rosean Amaral 970-692-4238

marymagdalafc@gmail.com



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN AND CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Rev. Penni Walsh, Interim Co-pastor
Fr. Don Sutton, Co-pastor

donaldsutton@gmail.com

Catholic Mass: 5:00 pm Saturdays
Lutheran Service: 10:30 am Sundays
1600 Grant St, Denver, CO 80203
303-839-1432

<http://saintpauldenver.com>

Also check out our friends of BOULDER COMMUNITY IN DISCERNMENT

Mass: 1:30 pm
every first and third Sunday
Community United Church of Christ
2650 Table Mesa Drive
Boulder CO 80305

Mthr. Sheila Dierks 303-449-4302

sheiladierks1@gmail.com



The St. Paul Lutheran and Catholic Community of Faith and its pastors
hope you will join with us
in the celebration of the 15th anniversary of our Catholic Community,
its reception into the Ecumenical Catholic Communion,
and the incardination of Father Don Sutton into its clergy.

5pm Mass on Saturday, June 2, 2018

1600 Grant Street, Denver CO

Honored guests

ELCA Bishop of the Rocky Mountain Synod, +Jim Gonia,
ECC Auxiliary Bishop of the Rocky Mountain Region, +Denise Donato,
the St. Paul Lutheran community and our ECC sisters and brothers of the region
will join our Catholic community on this Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

"All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it."

~ 1 Corinthians 12:27

Please join us following the service for a celebration in the fellowship hall.

Church of the Beloved

#MARCHINGFOROURLIVES

On March 24th area youth gathered downtown for Marching For Our Lives with one of our seniors actively participating in the planning process and events. In preparation, on March 18th, our children, youth and parents created paper flowers inscribed with virtues and values that we strive to live. The flowers were planted in the yard of the church as a witness to our faith. During the march on the 24th, adults held vigil by praying the labyrinth and planting virtues in the labyrinth. In a diverse community, we stood together in hope, faith and love.



FROM AGE-ING TO SAGE-ING “A REVOLUTIONARY APPROACH TO GROWING OLDER” GRACEFULLY.

Are you in the 2nd half of life? Do you know someone who is? Give yourself a personal gift to deepen your understanding of your aging and elderhood. Receive this gift by attending (one, two, or all three) two 2 ½ hour interactive seminars on **Thursday, May 17th, 21st and 31st at 9:30 a.m.** Each session is different, looking at eldering through a different lens, and explore your life journey eldering consciousness in growing older gracefully. Through group discussions we will explore concepts from Zalman Schachter-Shalomi book, *From Age-ing To Sage-ing* (purchase of the book is not necessary). Participants will gain a deeper understanding of eldering and your spiritual and psychological processes, accompanied by prayer, as you continue the December years. These transformational sessions will be facilitated by Ken Crosby MSW, and Mother Kae, at COB. Contact Ken at 303-238-5175 if you are interested in participating. **BLOOM BEFORE YOU ARE PLANTED!**

Our Holy Week and Easter liturgies were wonderful. Look at these smiling faces at Easter Vigil, and the children poised on the threshold to go outside for their egg hunt following Mass on Easter morning.

BLESSED ARE YOU: BODY & SOUL —A WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN

This workshop has been re-scheduled for **Sun, June 10th, 1:30-4:30 p.m.** Women are amazing in body and soul. We're a unique composite of energy, creative imagination, strength, compassion, intellectual curiosity and joy. Women have stories of elation, pain, and challenge when they consider how they have come to terms with their bodies. It's wonderful to celebrate the feminine psyche and body whether a woman has experienced childbirth or not.

“Blessed is the fruit of your womb,” is a phrase spoken to Mary when she was carrying Jesus. Our bodies are one of the ways to spiritual depth, wisdom, and reverence. You are invited to a unique workshop led by our own Rev. Sheila Dierks that will explore the spiritual dimensions and challenges of this part of our womanhood. It will include stories, art, poetry, prayer, and lots of laughing and fun. Enrollment is limited to 12 women (over 18 years). To register, contact Kae at 720-232-1562. ✧



Light of Christ

At the beginning of the year, Light of Christ decided it was time for our community to spread our wings and fly by finding ways to reach out into the community to serve others and let the community know that at Light of Christ, all are welcome. For the last few months, we've been busy doing just that!

Our neighbors felt our love in February. Together with members from our host community, Bethlehem Lutheran, we got crafty and made 425 Valentines using donated craft supplies and crocheted/knitted hearts provided by our **Prayer Shawl Ministry**. Then on Valentine's Day/Ash Wednesday, we delivered the Valentines to 4 different nursing homes and 3 different apartment buildings in our neighborhood! It was a joyous event for all involved.



Light of Christ member Annie Hayes, and her dad, Brad, ready to deliver Valentine's to our neighbors!



Walking the labyrinth on Good Friday

During Lent, our Outreach Committee organized a clothing drive for **HOPE** (Homeless Outreach Providing Encouragement). Many pieces of underwear for all ages were donated by members of Light of Christ. Our Outreach Committee's plan is to continue organizing quarterly drives that will benefit other organizations in our community such as the Round Pantry, the Atwood Emergency Shelter and Habitat for Humanity.

On Good Friday, we hosted a **labyrinth walk** through the labyrinth on the grounds of our church. The local newspaper, the *Longmont Times Call*, found out about the event from our new and improved website and they surprised us by sending over a photo journalist to take some pictures during the walk. The photos were printed in the newspaper and posted by the Times Call on their Facebook page. Very exciting to get free advertising for our community!

Our community made the decision to send Trinity and Addysen, two of our high school youth, along with Fr. Teri, on a **mission trip** to the Wind River

Reservation in Wyoming this summer. Trinity and Addysen have been actively involved in our youth group since they were in middle school and have been eager to have the opportunity to go on a mission trip so that they can serve others. On the last Saturday of April, Trinity, Addysen and their families organized a popcorn party after Mass and then asked for monetary donations and prayers from the community in support of their mission trip. The community came through with their full support for Trinity, Addysen and Fr. Teri to go out and shine the Light of Christ this summer! ✧



Preparing for the popcorn party!

Mary of Magdala

Mary of Magdala's **Lenten Soup Suppers and Presentations** were well attended and gave the opportunity for donations to three worthy causes. *A Tale of Two Kenyas*, was presented by John Nystrom, for the Malia Children's Home. *The World of Homelessness Through More Than Just Statistics* was presented by The Paper Bag Crew, CSU Students who prepare and distribute sack lunches to the homeless and transient people in Fort Collins. *Faith, Family Hospitality* was presented by Tom Christensen and the Coordinators for the program from Trinity Lutheran, St. Paul's Episcopal and Mary of Magdala. *Wisdom from the Desert Monastics: Sayings and Stories of Early Christian Monks and Nuns* was a joint Lenten presentation by Trinity Lutheran and Mary of Magdala. This 6-week study gave attendees a heart-opening experience to look back at our contemplative roots.



Our Lenten **Baskets of Hope Project** gathered needed items for three local charities. The Food Bank of Larimer County, Homeless Gear at Mary Alice Murphy House, and Faith, Family and Hospitality. Coordinators received lists of the most needed items and collected them during Lent and delivered to the appropriate charity.

Mary of Magdala introduced **Supper Clubs** during March, April and May so that members could meet and get to know each other in a casual, supper setting. There were 3 supper clubs with 6-10 members attending. A good, food time was had by all.

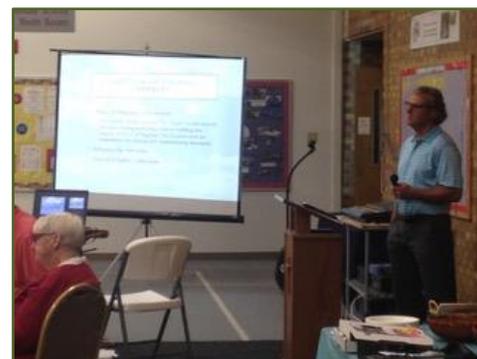
A **Visioning Workshop** was held on April 29th to gather input from MoM members on what is God calling us to become. Art Bavaso facilitated this first session to get us started on the process. A 4-member panel will now take the statements formulated and re-work them to 1-3 statements that the community can vote on at a later date.



Farewell blessing for Fr. Len, the Vicar who welcomed us into the ECC!



MoM's Annual Meeting was held May 6th where a State of the Community and our various ministries was reviewed as well as the Financial/Budget. Voting was held for the open Leadership Council member's positions. Members of this year's Leadership Council are: Bill Smith, Jean Christen, David Devlin, Joanne Gallagher, Rain Orsi, Len Russ, and Michael Six. Fr. Jim Demuth and Deacon Rosean Amaral are the clergy members. Welcome to the Council New members! Yvonne Wootten has accepted the position of MoM Treasurer. ✧



Co-chair, Bill Smith, explaining the State of the Community at the Annual Meeting

Deadline for the Summer Issue of *The Journey Shared* is August 3rd!



MINISTRY UPDATES FROM FR. SCOTT JENKINS

Thank you for the invitation to share briefly about what we have been up to these last many months. It has been a time of trying new things, evaluating, and looking toward the future.



Several months ago, we began a contemplative monthly eucharist at the Heart Light Center in Aurora. Jennifer McBride is the director there and she thought this would be a good venue for some of her clients. We are blessed to have two Taize musicians, Rev. Jennifer Titus and Gary Davidson who have played this music together for over 15 years.

We have held seminars at The Purple Door (coffee shop, *pictured below*),

Capital Tea, and Celtic Conversations in the lower level of the Irish Snug.

I was invited to speak for the summer gathering at the Downing House where I got to meet several students and faculty from Denver Seminary ☺. I lived through it, learned a lot, and have been invited back next year.



I presented 4 ninety- minute classes at St. Andrew United Methodist Church in Highlands Ranch. These went very well and we have been invited back.

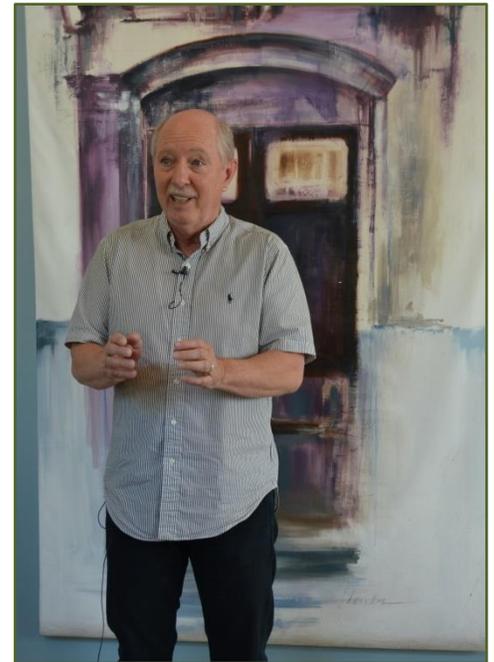
We did a retreat just outside of St. Louis, hosted by our friend, Rev. Jessica Gazzola. That was a lot of fun, went very well, and we have been invited back to give a three-day retreat next year.

Celtic Way hosted a closed invitation event with John Phillip Newell at Joshua Station. I have been a chaplain to the staff there for over thirteen years. The wind blew hard that night. We lost power in both buildings. Things logistically went smoothly. Personally, I didn't feel good about the dialog between presenters and the audience.

I have a familiar team of some of the best folks I have ever worked with: Lynda Francouer – Chair of our board; Teri Thompson – Executive Director; Lisa Nemmers – Administrator; Kris Jenkins – Awesome photographer and a host of Boomers and Millennials who write blogs, help create liturgies, co-present and pretty much keep me sane (it's all relative!).

I am a student at the Living School by way of a scholarship. I am grateful for this gift from the Center for Action and Contemplation. Darn, if it isn't changing my life ever so slowly.

In gratitude to God,
Father Scott





ECC/Lutheran relationships deepening



BP. JIM GONIA RE-ELECTED

ELCA Bishop Jim Gonia was re-elected to a second term on the first ballot at the Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly. He serves with our vicar, Fr. Michael Nicosia, on the Judicatory Board of the Colorado Council of Churches; their first major collaboration was when +Jim preached at the Red Rocks Easter Sunrise Service in 2017 (the year of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation) while Fr. Michael opened the service with a flute meditation.

This year he spearheaded regional faith leader support for #VoteForOurLives on April 19th which was organized by students of Columbine, Arapahoe, Parkland and Pittsburgh to register voters and hold legislators accountable for sensible gun regulations. The students were very appreciative of their presence. Afterwards +Jim wrote, “Sometimes I ask myself if just showing up really matters. Turns out it does, sometimes more than we can know. I still feel I took far more away from last night than I offered, but when we’re in this together, everyone’s part matters. Thank you for your part in being Church Together last night.”

It was the bishop’s urging the Catholic Community of St. Paul Lutheran and Catholic Community of Faith in Denver to clarify their place in the church that led to their seeking reception in the ECC, and our Presiding Bishop Francis Krebs and Fr. Michael have enjoyed conversations with him around ecumenism and future collaborations on the path toward communion. We are very fortunate that he will be able to build on the relationships and collaborations of his first term.

A TIME OF ECUMENICAL

CONVERSATION AND EXPLORATION

Bishop Jim and Bishop Francis have invited leaders of the regional congregations of the ELCA and the ECC who share a relationship in ministry to gather at the Rocky Mountain Synod Lutheran Center (7375 Samuel Drive, Denver CO 80221) on July 19th. They’ve also invited Kathryn Lohre, Director for ELCA Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations, to join us.

“As you know, our two church bodies are ecumenical partners who hold in common many values and perspectives on ministry. At the same time, we do not yet enjoy a full communion relationship, a fact that is unlikely to change in the near future.

“As leaders in our respective denominations, we believe it is a good time to invite you who are partnering congregations to join us in a conversation about how you have been living out your relationships and to explore together what might be possible in terms of future shared endeavors.” ✧



funding our collaborations

COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

It was a cold Sunrise. As a result the 71st Annual Red Rocks Sunrise Service didn't break even due to low attendance. As you may know, it can cost as much as \$30,000 to host this special worship service, and we rely on donations made on Easter Sunday to cover our costs. We want to host the Easter Sunrise Service next year, and continue doing so for years to come, so we'd be grateful for your support. Thank you in advance for blessing us by clicking on this [link](#) or sending a check to Colorado Council of Churches, 1140 W. 5th Avenue, Denver CO 80204.

Fortunately Executive Director Adrian Miller just got word from The Denver Foundation that, in acknowledgement for the work he's done on their homelessness grant funding *Close to Home Colorado* campaign, the CCC will receive a grant this year and next to help with a Storyteller's Network where people with lived experience with homelessness share their story with others. In a show of solidarity and appreciation, please take a moment to review the latest *Close to Home* [e-newsletter](#) and consider inviting a Storyteller to your church!

TO ADEQUATELY FUND OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS, SIGNATURES NEEDED

The CCC supports the "Great Schools, Thriving Communities" campaign, inspired by a diverse and inclusive coalition of education-connected organizations working to advance better and more equitable funding of public schools through a ballot initiative in 2018.

92% of tax files will **not see an increase** in their individual income taxes.

See information below and visit GreatSchoolsThrivingCommunities.org



OUR VISION

- Every student has the **opportunity** to reach his or her full potential and to participate meaningfully in the civic and economic life of the **community**
- The Colorado way of life provides every student the **chance to succeed** regardless of their zip code or their learning needs
- Quality public education develops a **competitive workforce** that will drive a **vibrant Colorado economy** for decades to come

THE CHALLENGE

- Colorado is experiencing a **teacher shortage crisis** — 95% of teachers in rural districts don't make enough salary to meet the cost of living
- Colorado ranks **#2** in return on educational investment, but we don't invest enough to eliminate our achievement gaps
- Colorado's investment in education is lagging behind other states. We **rank near the bottom in personal income invested in education**
- Education funding has not recovered from the recession: In the 2017-18 school year alone, Colorado schools were **underfunded by nearly \$830 million**

THE SOLUTION

Great Schools, Thriving Communities builds on the successes of Colorado's public schools by:

- **Expanding educational opportunities** for our students to prepare them for success in college, career and life
- **Preparing a qualified workforce** for decades to come
- **Ensuring that Colorado's economic prosperity** is shared with every community from corner-to-corner

We will achieve this by:

- **Creating a Quality Public Education Fund** financed through higher taxes on higher incomes above \$150,000 and on "C" Corporations
- **Providing sustainable support** for schools by stabilizing property taxes
- **Addressing the most pressing needs** of our local schools
- **Ensuring that decisions** about how to use new funds are made at the local level

general membership meeting

COLORADO FAITH COMMUNITIES UNITED TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

WITHIN OUR REACH:

Preventing and Reducing Firearm Suicides

Tuesday, May 22 from 7:00 PM – 9:00 (6:30 Social Time)

Montview Presbyterian, Fellowship Hall, 1980 Dahlia St, Denver, CO

Please RSVP to soakes1219@gmail.com

Did you know? 75% of gun fatalities in Colorado were suicides.

Did you know? Contrary to popular misconceptions, much can be done to prevent these tragic deaths.

Join us for a discussion with a panel of experts in the area of suicide prevention to learn more about

- the nature of this problem
- what's being done to reduce suicide deaths
- how to discuss suicide with sensitivity
- what your congregation can do to help save lives.

FEATURING PANELISTS:

- **Dr. Emmy Betz – MD, MPH and board-certified emergency physician; Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine**



- **Emily Fine - Office of Suicide Prevention Commission Coordinator, Violence and Injury Prevention - Mental Health Promotion Branch, CDPHE**

- **Carolyn Swenson, MSPH, MSN, RN**



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