

Highlands Happenings

January 14, 2016

Happening at Highlands...

Adult Forum Start this Sunday!

Come to Adult Forum for Sexuality and the Bible: *Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Bible and Sexuality, but Were Afraid to Ask*. A subject that continues to stir hearts and minds in our country and even all over the world is defining sexuality, healthy vs. unhealthy, societal norms for it, its function in people's lives, gender roles, and other implications.

What does the Bible tell us about sexuality? Sexuality is part of being human and consequently people throughout ages tried to make norms within which people could express their sexual identity. We will study a few biblical texts and invite you to express your ideas and opinions. This should make for a lively conversation, so hopefully many of you will come on **Sundays, January 17 - February 7, 8:45 am - 9:45**

Guest Musician

January 24 we will have a guest musician, Pr. Paul Carlson, the Interim pastor at HLC who was here before pr. Stahlberg. He has written a new liturgy that will be used at the Synod's Assembly in 2016. The liturgy is expressing a theology of creation and the interconnectedness of all things in God. We get the chance to see it and sing it before it will be copyrighted! So, come and enjoy a liturgy using music from the jazz tradition, honoring God and Jesus!

Moms' Group Update

On **January 24th** the moms are giving a shower for Tara McConnell in the Fellowship Hall, right after worship. Please sign up to bring brunch items.

February 20th - Come play with us at the Walters' house at **10am** (9315 Yucca Way, Thornton). Forrest, Hunter, and Remington hope to see you there!

For more information, or to be added to the Moms' Group email list, contact Sara Milius (saramilius@gmail.com).

DATE CHANGE for The Bookies Book Club!

The HLC book club—the Bookies—will be meeting at Ken Wiig's home on Friday, **January 29th at 6:30**, and not the 22nd as previously advertised.

The book for this month is [Between the World and Me](#) by TaNehisi Coates.

Family Service

On **January 31st**, HLC is inviting the community to attend a service focused on children being called by God to be leading all of us. The call of the young boy Samuel, Isaiah's prophecy that a child shall be the leader, and Jesus injunction, "Let the children come to me and do not stop them" will be the framework of our service.

Our children and youth will participate in the service as leaders. They will collect a "noisy offering", so make sure you bring your spare change and give it to the kids. The monies will be used for kids' activities throughout the year! Make sure you bring even the little ones to this service and invite your friends and neighbors!

Year-End Reports

There are still a few copies of the Annual Report available for your review on the table in the narthex. Mark your calendars for the Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck, which will take place on **Sunday, January 31st**, immediately following worship.

Please be sure to sign up for your contribution to the potluck.

Elderberries Returns in February!

Calling all HLC wise ones: come enjoy the first Elderberries gathering of 2016!

Wanda and Martin Brotherton will be hosting **Tuesday February 9th** from 12:30-2:00, in the Fellowship Hall. The

schedule for the remainder of the year is:

March: Mary, Lynn, Elizabeth and Pam

April: Robert & Marsha Reynolds

May: Lorraine & Paul Rumpeltes, and Vivian Anderson

June: Pat & Loren, Paul & Marilyn Criley

No Elderberries in July

August: Sue & Rick Wittkopp

September:

October: Jerry & Wendy Haselgren

November: Ellen Lorts & Nicole Jobin

No Elderberries in December

Flowers

We are no longer posting a flower chart in the narthex. If you are interested in commemorating an anniversary or birthday by providing flowers for a worship service, please contact the church office at 303-477-2031 or

office@highlandslutheran.org

Nursery and Children's Corner

Our **Children's Corner** has been a great asset to our littlest worshippers. To continue its success, please remember to clean up after your child and remind them to use their indoor voices. Parents also take children to the **nursery** upstairs, where children will be welcomed by Tyler Starkweather.

Reaching Out in 2016

So many opportunities for discipleship...

Hunger, Faith & Food Conference 2016

February 1, 12 noon - 3:30 pm at University Park United Methodist Church (registration starts at 11 am). Please join Saint John's Cathedral, Grow Local Colorado, Metro Caring, Wartburg West, Ekar Farm, Denver Urban Gardens, Produce for Pantries, Slow Food Denver, 25 in Change, and others who gather to highlight efforts communities of faith can take to provide healthy food to families in need, build resilient communities, and end hunger locally. The fifth annual Hunger, Faith & Food conference, in 2016 is part of the Iliff School of Theology's alumni reunion: [Renewal Conference Info](#).

Bring food for the Food Bank any time

Our church has partnered with Bienvenidos Food Bank and we are collecting food from our congregation, but also from our neighborhood! **In January, we are collecting canned stew, canned chili, and pasta sauce.**

Your donations are delivered to Binevenidos Food Bank Pam McClune.

REMEMBER TO USE YOUR GROCERY GIFT CARDS

It is so easy to help our church get some extra funds for ministry!

Start using your **King Soopers and Safeway card** again! King Soopers sends HLC a check for 5% of the money spent using the cards. It's a win/win/win situation. 100% of the amount on the card goes toward the cardholder's purchases/King Soopers gets our business/ Highlands Lutheran gets 5% of the amount from Kings. If you need to re-load your card, or get a new card, talk with Lorraine or Paul Rumpeltes.

Fair Trade Coffee

Our efforts for Fair Trade continue throughout the year as HLC has committed to serve and sell fairly traded coffee exclusively. Check out the coffee packages on the black shelves in our Narthex. (next to the sunflowers) Every one costs \$ 10. Please, put a check or cash in the box provided. Coffee always makes a good gift!

A TICKET TO RIDE Proposal by Mary Williams

I would like to propose that Highlands Lutheran begins a year-long program where the congregation provides a flow of funds to purchase bus tickets for the community at St. Francis Center. The goal would be to provide **50** bus

tickets per month. This would begin during this Christmas season and continue through 2016. Tickets, at full price, for a one way ticket is \$2.25. Those who are 65 and over ride at 50% reduced fare. Anyone with a disability also rides at a reduced rate. Contact Mary Williams at: 720 480 3816 or mwilliams@iliff.edu if you want to help!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY- Coming soon at HLC!

There will be a Habitat presentation on **February 7th**. The presentation will be on Neighborhood Revitalization Program in Globeville. Presentation will be after worship service and during the Birthday Coffee and Cake! Our fellow partner Highland Christian Church will also attend this event!

And last but not least...this Summer...

Nicaragua Mission Trip June 11-25

Remember we raised money to build a home in Somoto? Pastor Susan Kent sent out an e-mail out inviting us to participate in the next mission trip. In **June of 2016**, pastor Liliana will go to see for herself and help with this mission trip. Members of HLC are invited to restart the tradition of mission trips! There is an Interest Meeting for all potential travelers scheduled for **Friday, January 29th at 6:30pm** at Bethlehem Lutheran in Longmont.

Coffee and dessert will be provided by the Board. Additional information can be found at this website:

TheNicaraguaProject.org

Spirituality News

The **CENTER FOR CONTEMPLATIVE LIVING** is organizing their twenty-third Annual Conference on **April 9, 2016** at the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada, CO, 80003

TOPIC - COSMOLOGY, THE COSMIC CHRIST, AND CONSCIOUSNESS- Nurturing the Contemplative Self

Featuring sister Ilia Delio, OSF

For more information: www.contemplativeoutreach-co.org

Also, on **January 16th** there will be an **Introductory Workshop to the Centering Prayer Practice** at the Center for Contemplative Living, in our neighborhood

3650 Yates St. Denver, CO, 80212

Registration: 8:30 am

Workshop: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

RSVP by **TODAY**, Thursday, January 14; cost: \$ 30

MAY CHRIST'S LOVE, GRACE and COMPASSION BE WITH YOU ALWAYS!