



# CROSSingPATHS

## April, 2017

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3595 W Belleview Ave  
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***“Through Christ, Centennial Lutheran Church fosters growth in faith by being a home to all, a source of strength to those in need, a retreat for the weary and a beacon of hope for all.”***

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*Members and leaders of the Roman Catholic Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gathered in a service of prayer and reconciliation. March 19, 2017 at Bethany Lutheran Church, Cherry Hills Village, CO.*

I stood at the edge of a sea. Waves of people—men and women, young and old, all ages and colors and sizes. On this shore stood their pastors, priests, and deacons. Each wearing robes and stoles. We confessed the sins of the Church—especially those of us who are Lutheran and Catholic—and we sang. As we stood for the gospel reading, we sang an old hymn to the tune of Ebenezer:

*God has spoken by the prophets, spoken the unchanging Word;  
each from age to age proclaiming God the One, the righteous Lord.  
'Mid the world's despair and turmoil One firm anchor holding fast;  
God eternal reigns forever, God the first and God the last.*

All the prophets from all the ages spoke the same Word. Whether the message came from Jonah to the Ninevites, from Ezekiel to the Israelites, or from Martin Luther to the leaders of the church, the message is the same: God is here, God is faithful, *you can trust God*. That is the same word our Lutheran and our Catholic churches have been proclaiming for some time. Except we've done it in different places, saying we're two very different branches. With different pastors. For different people. Because, we were taught, our differences mattered. (For a good number of years we were also taught to hate, to tease, to despise each other.)

But, there I stood. In my robe, with the stole bestowed on me when I was called to preach at Centennial, next to a man who is a Franciscan priest from France, hearing a pastor from Romania speak the gospel in her second language, English. Here's the funny thing: In this worship service [except for the ½ of the Lutheran pastors who were women] you couldn't differentiate between the Catholic and Lutheran church people. Even across languages and nationalities, we spoke the same gospel and prayed the same prayers. As we lit candles, children from our area congregations read and we never knew who was Lutheran or Catholic. There was nothing divisive enough—not theology, not tradition—to keep us from sharing grace and peace.

When our church split 500 years ago, I doubt anyone could have imagined such a reconciliation. Today the Roman Catholic Church and the ELCA share two statements of faith (aside from our traditional Creeds): a 1999 publication called *The Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification* and the new *Declaration on the Way*. We agree that God's children are saved by grace through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ (justification) and that we are called to work together in our earthly journeys.

Though we were dressed in the Lenten color of purple. Though we turned to God in remorse and confession, we saw God in each other. And, instead of crucifying each other, we recognized the death we had shared for some time. Instead simply burying the past and letting it lay, we stepped out of the tomb. This past Sunday was a sign of the resurrected Christ; a promise of resurrection, unity in the One unchanging Word.

I'll be honest: I probably won't remember much of the sermons (yes, there were two) from this worship service. I will remember that we set aside traditions of hate and mistrust in order to love and worship the one who calls us. I will remember that we took steps out of the tomb—if even just small ones.

In a few weeks, our Lenten season comes to a close and we will approach the cross, tomb, and resurrection. Hear God's unchanging Word, be in the presence of the righteous One. With whom can you leave the tomb of death and step into new life this Easter?

*Pastor Katie*

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### **FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

Easter Greetings!! As we prepare for Easter and the days beyond, we will read stories and lessons that Jesus taught His disciples. Jesus wanted them – and us (we are disciples too) – to learn about God's love and to actively share that love with all the world. Guidance from the Holy Spirit would help show the way.

I'm reminded of a western (cowboy) song from childhood called "Vaya Con Dios". It was a farewell song, a blessing even, when translated from Spanish as "God be with you."

However, the literal meaning is "Go with God". That is a command, and a totally different perspective. When Jesus sent his disciples out to carry on his work, He may have used the Jewish equivalent of "Vaya Con Dios". Certainly, He would have wanted both meanings to apply.

So, today I wish you Happy Easter ... and Vaya Con Dios.

God be with you. Go with God. Follow Jesus. Listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In the name of Christ,

Louise Witt,  
Council President

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# TREASURER'S REPORT

Centennial  
Lutheran  
Church



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

	<u>Jan - Feb 16</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
<b>Income</b>			
Givers of Record/Loose Plate	17503	20357	(2854)
Other Income-(Rental, King Sooper Cards, Etc)	677	965	(288)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>18180</b>	<b>21322</b>	<b>(3142)</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
Church Office - Personnel	17405	17525	(120)
Church Office - Non-Personnel (Tele, Util, Etc)	646	1255	(609)
Property & Grounds	3482	4892	(1410)
Other Expense-(Music, Evangelism, Etc)	670	824	(154)
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>22202</b>	<b>24496</b>	<b>(2294)</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(4022)</b>	<b>(3174)</b>	<b>(848)</b>
Designated Income	511		
Designated Expense	(412)		

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## NEWS OF IMPORTANCE

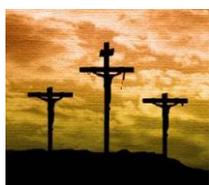
**Mid-week Lenten Service**—the final soup supper and worship service will be Wednesday, April 5, beginning at 6pm. If you haven't come to these, you're missing out on a delicious (and I might add - free) supper and a very meaningful worship service. Hope to see you!!

**Adult Sunday School-Claiming Your Gifts** continues on April 2 and April 9. Plan to meet in the north Sunday School room following worship.



**Palm and Passion Sunday** will be Sunday, April 9, 9am. Come a few minutes early to pick up your palm branches. The Centennial Choir will be providing special music for the procession before we hear the story of the Passion from the gospel of Matthew.

**Passover Dinner** will be celebrated this year on Maundy Thursday, April 13, beginning at 6pm. We did this in 2015 and had an amazing meal and service. Sign-up sheets for volunteers to help with the preparation, cooking, serving and clean-up are posted on the hallway bulletin board as is the sign-up sheet for those who plan to attend. We have room for 90 guests and ask that you sign-up no later than April 9. There is no charge to attend, but we request that you make a donation as you are able to help alleviate costs. Contact Ruth Ellen White, 720-981-2566, for more information.



**Good Friday Litany** at 7pm Friday, April 14. We will offer prayers, read the story of the crucifixion from the gospel of John, and end the evening with silent contemplation.

**Easter Sunday** worship at 9am on Sunday, April 16. Come and celebrate the risen Christ.

**Noisy Offering Sunday** will resume in May. So save up those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters (and that green stuff too!!) and we'll **rattle** the buckets big time come May. Watch the announcements for more information.

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### **Something New**

We moved the monthly recipe to the inside of the newsletter this month. The featured recipe was prepared by Valorie Mendez for our Wednesday soup supper on March 8. It's called Fideo Soup, and let me tell you, it was delicious!! So give it a try at home, sounds easy to prepare and it's well worth the effort.

#### **Fideo Soup**

1 lb. cubed beef, browned	1 14 oz can diced tomatoes
1 onion, diced	1 large bottle V8 juice
1 cup celery, diced (about 4 stalks)	2 cups beef broth or water
Salt, pepper, & oregano to taste	2 tablespoons of olive oil
1 package fideo noodles (these can be purchased in the International foods section of the grocery store)	

Cook onion, celery, & seasonings until tender, pour into crock pot, add browned beef. Add the tomatoes, juice, and broth. Cook on low 4-6 hours.

One hour before serving fry the noodles in olive oil until golden brown, add to crock pot, stir well and cook until noodles are tender. Serve.

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## HAPPY NEWS

Thanks to member and community support urgent repairs have been made to our boiler. Your generosity has provided sufficient funds for these repairs. There are funds remaining which will be used towards the cost of future replacement or repairs.

Wow! April is a busy month for birthdays and anniversaries. Starting off with birthdays are: Chuck Prue, 4/2; Phyllis Walker, 4/4; Leona Bachman, 4/9; Shirley Busch and Bill Hall, 4/10; Diana Spezman, 4/14; Maria Johnsen and Karen Bushman, 4/16; and Greg Bagshaw, 4/25. Happy birthday to one and all!!

Anniversaries are celebrated by Jackie and Chuck Prue, 4/4; Mary and Claude Perea, 4/21; and Shirley and Arlo Busch, 4/22. Congratulations!!

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