“I Still Have Many Things to Say to You”

Attention! Attention! I have the most wonderful news! The moment you have been waiting for has finally arrived! On Saturday June 4, the living Jesus Christ will be making a special visit to Our Father!!! He will be here from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm and will be speaking personally with everyone who comes!

Okay… I might be stretching the truth just a bit. But what if this were to actually happen? What if Jesus were to come and speak with us? What if you were able to speak personally with Him one on one? What if He were to assure you that it was really all true and that He loved you with all His heart? Would you go? Would there be anything that would keep you from being in His presence and listening to His voice? Though we might think seeing Jesus face to face would make all the difference in our lives, consider these words spoken by Christ Himself the night before He died: “I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you… I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak.” (John 16:7, 12-13)

Do you understand what Jesus is talking about? I know it goes against our normal way of thinking, but essentially Jesus is saying is it is much better for us and our faith for Him to “go away.” Because when He does He will then send to us the Holy Spirit. Remarkably, Jesus is saying it is to our “advantage” that He not be with us in a physical way. Rather, we receive an even greater blessing when the Holy Spirit speaks to us through the means of God’s Word. Martin Luther said it this way:

“People think: If I could hear God speaking in His own Person, I would run so fast to hear Him that my feet would bleed… But now you have the Word of God in church, in books, in your home; and this is as certainly God’s Word as if God Himself were speaking… The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me.”

On Saturday June 4, Our Father will be hosting the second of our new “Learning Communities.” Modeled after our own experiences in learning how to hear from God, the goal of this event will be to grow you in your ability to draw near to the living Christ. Jesus is alive! He is always on the move! And though He is not with us in a physical way, we will be learning and experiencing together the power of His Holy Spirit.

Please note: If you did not attend the first Learning Community in the fall, that’s okay! You are still able to attend this second one with no problem. I hope you are able to attend as we grow together as His people listening to His voice. As Jesus Himself tells us, “I still have many things to say to you.”

To God alone be the glory!
Pastor Abel
Student Ministries

Confirmation and Senior High Information
The last Confirmation and CHAOS classes will be on Wednesday, May 4, 6:30 - 8:00 pm.

CHAOS End-of-the-Year Bash
Wednesday, May 11 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm
We'll wrap up the school year with a Wednesday to remember! Ice cream sundaes, celebration of the year and time to welcome a new crop of soon-to-be-9th-graders! Food as usual at 6:00 pm, followed by sundaes and festivities in true CHAOS fashion from 6:30-8:00 pm. See you there!

8th Graders...or should we say "Soon-To-Be-9th-Graders"?
Join us on Wednesday, May 11 at 6:00 pm for CHAOS. We can't wait to welcome you to the CHAOS Family, give you a taste of what we're all about! ALSO! Mark your calendars for Wednesday, June 1, kick-off date for our Summer Nights series! More details coming soon.

Ride the River
Volunteers are needed to help make this Youth Fundraiser a big success! Sign up now to help. See the sign-up link in the weekly youth e-blast.

7th Graders or Newly Crowned 8th Graders!
Wednesday, May 11 from 6:15 - 8:00 pm
Come celebrate YOUR end of the year with dinner out at Mellow Mushroom! Parents drop kids off at the Streets of Southglenn Mellow Mushroom (2154 East Commons Avenue, Suite #300) to enjoy a meal with Pastor Nate and your mentors. RSVP by Wednesday, May 11 at noon to Teri at tevans@oflc.net.

Middle Schoolers - Save the Date
The end of season Breakout BBQ for Middle School students and parents is at Micah's house on Sunday, May 15, 12:00 - 3:00 pm. Bring the whole family! Food, fellowship, and parents vs. kids jousting matches! Watch your weekly youth e-blast for details.

Join us for Ride the River on June 11. Registration is now open at GoRTR.org.
MAY IS HERE!

May has arrived with beautiful flowers and wonderful weather! We will have two water days filled with splashing, “painting,” slipping and sliding. We will make giant bubbles and draw great pictures on the sidewalks. The water tables will be filled with boats and fun stuff to measure and pour with! We made beautiful gifts for our moms and early Father’s Day gifts for our dads.

We will be holding graduation for our four and five-year olds on May 18 and 19. We will have family picnics for everyone! These will be our final days of school.

A special thanks to Ms. Linda for coming to each class (all 19!) and sharing R2D2 with us. We learned a lot about accepting everyone even if they are different from us. We loved it!

We feel so blessed to have been a part of all these little lives this year. We wish you all a wonderful summer and will be anxious to return in September for another fun year!

Blessings,
Alison Cejka, Preschool Director

Education Opportunities

Taking the Mystery Out of Retirement
Final class is Wednesday, May 4 at 6:30 pm.

Saturday Morning 45+ Singles Bible Study
You are invited to attend on Saturdays, 8:30 - 10:00 am. They are studying the Book of John.

Children’s Education

Bible Discovery! These classes are for children 3 years and older - Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am.

Sprouts During the 10:45 am service, children 3 years old through fifth grade leave worship for an educational experience prior to the sermon and return after the sermon.

Congratulations!
We would like to celebrate with all those who received training and their first Sacrament of Holy Communion on Sunday, April 17: Emerson Coyle, Brendan Dietz, Rachel Ness, Lucus Peavler, Broden Lujan, Teryn Orton, Madilyn Rome, Seth Rushmore, Anna Huebschmann, Gabe Macklem, Drew and Bryce Hemmert.

New Members

Pictures are being taken of new members during April and the first part of May in the Library before or after the Sunday gatherings.
Stewardship 2016

With You …

God is up to big things here at Our Father. In a growing church with as many ministries as we have, it is easy to think that your individual contributions do not make much of a difference. However, 90% of our operating budget comes from the weekly giving of our members and regular attenders. Your giving counts and is greatly appreciated.

In January, you were encouraged to prayerfully consider and then complete a Giving Goal for 2016 indicating your financial support for the work God is doing at Our Father. We are so thankful to report that we received 221 Giving Goals for 2016. The total dollars pledged was $1,053,170. This amount represents 74% of the annual budget need of $1,431,800. Last year, we received 216 giving commitments totaling $965,250 or 69% of the annual general offerings needed.

With You … we are glad to serve together, sharing God’s love and grace.

“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.”

Philippians 1:3-5

Learning Community #2

Join us for our rescheduled Learning Community #2 (LC), Saturday, June 4 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at OFLC. An LC is a way for you to grow in your understanding and ability to live your life as a disciple of Christ, through your UP-IN-OUT relationships. As a reminder, each LC will contain new content, so if you missed the first LC, you can still attend this one and jump right in. Cost is $10 for lunch, and child care is available for $5/child. Please RSVP to Micah at msteiner@oflc.net.

Benevolence Meeting

The next meeting is Thursday, May 5 at 3:00 pm. Applications for an organization to get funds are in the Benevolence mailbox in the church office. Please return your request by Sunday, May 1.

OFLC Mission Statement

“Our Father Lutheran Church is to be a vibrant community united in Christ, impacting our world by living out the transforming message of God’s love and salvation.”
Vision Matters

What Vision and Mission Can Do

Most major corporations, small businesses, and non-profits operate under the umbrella of a Vision, which is realized through a Mission Statement and a set of core values. In the last several decades, many churches have adopted a similar corporate model to help motivate and inspire church members toward a common vision. However, mission and values are really something God has put on the hearts of His people from the very beginning.

In the book of Genesis, Adam and Eve had a mission to "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it..." (Genesis 1:28). In Genesis 2:18, we get a glimpse of God's heart and the value he places on community, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." Another value the Lord has for us is rest; early on God sets this value for mankind, "So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation." (Genesis 2:3)

Later in the history of the Israelites, God gave Joshua a mission to enter and subdue the Promised Land, "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all these people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel" (Joshua 1:1). Joshua and his assistant, Caleb, took with them the Law (a set of value statements) and fulfilled God's mission as they trusted God despite overwhelming odds against them. Living by the values God had for them, the mission became clear and obtainable.

In the New Testament, Jesus’ parting words to us were in the form of a massively challenging mission statement, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” (Matthew 28:19). And yet throughout his ministry with the disciples that were recorded for us in the Gospels, we have countless value statements from Christ, that inspire us today, to imitate His life as we love and care for the people God puts in our lives. Simply put, a set of shared values can give our mission a greater sense of clarity and purpose.

This month, the Vision Team has spent time discussing and praying about the values God has for Our Father Lutheran Church. As author and consultant Will Mancini points out, a set of shared values is critical for a church for the following reasons:

Values enable your church to do more of what it does best because they:

- **Attract** people (staff, leaders, members) who share our values.
- **Connect** people emotionally to the stuff that never changes.
- **Nurture** God-honoring unity and corporate identity.
- **Generate** enthusiasm by highlighting collective strengths of members.
- **Define** clearly the basis of good decision making.
- **Empower** decision-making for decentralized leadership, which will help members lead out of their spiritual giftedness.
- **Reproduce** new ideas, attitudes and actions to create movement.

As the Vision Team continues to study, to learn and to discern God’s Will for Our Father, a Voters’ Assembly will be scheduled to share the new contagious vision, as well as formally adopt the Vision, Mission and Values of Our Father. This will provide the firm foundation for decisions regarding our ministry with you and the community. In the meantime, should you have any questions about this process, please contact Micah Steiner, Director of Discipleship, at msteiner@oflc.net.
Our Father Lutheran Church

**Church Work Day**

**Our Annual Spring Cleaning is Coming**

This year's church work day is planned for **Saturday, May 14** beginning with a lite breakfast at 8:30 am. Men, women and older youth are needed for interior cleaning projects and exterior landscape projects. We will work in teams.

Breakfast, lunch and childcare will be provided. Contact Mary Ann Shirk at 303-779-1332 or mashirk@oflc.net with any questions. Sign up at the Reception Desk. Plan to participate in this servant event at Our Father.

**OFLC Blood Drive**

The Bonfils Blood Donation Bus will be at OFLC on **Sunday, May 22 from 8:00 am to noon**. Sign-up at the Reception Desk.

**Fellowship**

**Book Club** – The Book Club meets **Monday, May 16, 7:00 pm**, discussing *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown. Any and all readers are invited to join our group!

**Church Picnic - Sunday, July 10**

This year's event is moved to Arapahoe Park, south of Dry Creek off Adams Drive from **noon to 4:00 pm**. We will provide the meat; you bring all the side dishes to share. We will all have fun, games and time to visit. Watch for more details in the upcoming newsletters.

**Elderberries**

Please join us for our monthly fellowship meeting on **Wednesday, May 18 at 1:00 pm** in the Community Room.

**Always Ready**

During May, the Library is featuring books relating to apologetics to go along with Pastor Abel's current adult education class "Always Ready -- How to Defend Your Faith". One particularly notable title is *Christian Apologetics* by Douglas Groothuis. In this comprehensive text, Groothuis (Professor of Philosophy at Denver Seminary) makes a systematic case for the Christian world view, presenting key arguments for God and natural theology, as well as a case for the credibility of Jesus and his resurrection. You will find several books by investigative journalist Lee Strobel, including *The Case for Faith*, all available in your church library.

**Campbell’s Box Tops**

Campbell’s is discontinuing their involvement in the Labels for Education program as of the end of **May 2016**. You can still bring in your labels until the end of May. We will continue to collect box tops, so check out boxtops4education.com for other participating products. We are also now collecting pop can tabs for the Ronald McDonald Fund. Place these items in the collection units on the main level by the elevator.

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**ATTENTION GRADUATES - YOUR IMMEDIATE RESPONSE IS REQUIRED**

In the June large newsletter, we will be recognizing both high school and college graduates. We would greatly appreciate you completing the following information and returning it to the office by **Sunday, May 15**:

Name: 

School you are graduating from: 

Degree you will be receiving: 

School you will be attending in the fall: 

Plans for the future: 
Our Father Lutheran Church

**Community News**

**F.A.C.E.S.**

Faith Activities Conversations Experiences Service

You are invited to

**FACES**

A ministry for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and caregivers.

Monday, May 9th
6:00 to 7:30 pm

Our Father Lutheran Church
6335 South Holly Street
Centennial Colorado
80121

Bingo Snacks Music
Bible Stories Games Fellowship
FUN!

See you there!

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**Lutheran High School Golf Classic**

Join us for the 20th Annual Lutheran High School Golf Classic! Our annual four-player scramble will take place on **Monday, May 30** at The Pinery Country Club in Parker. Check in begins at 11:30 am, with a shotgun start at 1:00 pm. Golf will be followed by an awards dinner. We are expecting another full tournament this year. Please contact Mark at mark.duitsman@lhsparker.org for more information. Entries are due by **Friday, May 20**.

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**Family Concert**

The Lutheran Chorale will be singing their final concerts for the 2015-2016 season “Soli Deo Gloria” starting **Sunday afternoon, May 15**.

Performances are at **3:00 pm** at Hosanna Lutheran Church, 10304 W. Belleview Avenue, Littleton and at **7:30 pm** at St Philip Lutheran Church, 7531 S. Kendall Street, Littleton.

No tickets will be sold, but we appreciate your support in a free will offering. For more information contact, Linda Thompson, 303-666-6642, or email us at thelutheranchorale@comcast.net, or visit our website at thelutheranchorale.org.

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**MOPS - Mothers of Preschoolers**

MOPS gatherings continue this month on the first and third Fridays from 9:15 - 11:30 am in the Community Room. Our last session of spring is **Friday, May 6** with a theme of “A Fiercely Flourishing You. MOPS will start again in September.

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**The Pikes Peak Ringers**

directed by Kevin McChesney
and the Forté Handbell Quartet

present

**That's Got Style!**

Friday, May 13, 7:30 PM
St. Paul’s Methodist Church | 2111 Carlton Avenue, Colorado Springs

Saturday, May 14, 7:00 PM
with the Bells of the Rockies, directed by Michael Kasper
Faith United Church of Christ | 1620 Walnut Street | Windsor, CO

Sunday, May 15, 3:00 PM
First Christian Church | 16 East Platte Avenue | Colorado Springs

A free will offering will be collected at each concert.
Mother's Day

Sun, May 8
8:00A Service of the Word
9:30A SS/Adult Ed
10:45A tenfortyfive/Sprouts

Mon, May 9
9:30A Preschool
1:00P Bookworms
2:00P Loud for Life
6:00P FACES
7:00P Cherry Park HOA
7:00P AA/Comp. Eaters

Tues, May 10
9:30A Preschool/Bible Study
1:00P Ministry Team
6:30P Heritage Village HOA
7:00P Worship Committee
7:00P Alanon
7:30P Adult Choir

Wed, May 11
8:00A JobSeekers
9:30A Preschool
9:30A Personnel Comm.
6:30P Student Min. Bash
7:30P tenfortyfive Practice

Thurs, May 12
9:30A Preschool
6:00P Jubilate Ringers
6:30P Reasonable Faith

Fri, May 13
9:30A Compulsive Eaters

Sat, May 14
7:00A MOPS
9:30A Preschool/Comm Eaters

Sun, May 22
8:00A Holy Communion
9:30A SS/Adult Ed
10:45A tenfortyfive/Comm/ Sprouts

Mon, May 23
2:00P Loud for Life
7:00P AA/Comp. Eaters

Tues, May 24
1:00P Ministry Team
5:30P Boy Scouts
7:00P Alanon

Wed, May 25
8:00A JobSeekers
7:30P tenfortyfive Practice

Thurs, May 26
6:00P Jubilate Ringers

Fri, May 27
9:30A Compulsive Eaters

Sat, May 28
7:00A Men's Bible Study
8:30A 45+ Bible Study
12:00P AA
5:00P Holy Communion

OFLC Events

Sun, May 1
8:00A Holy Communion
9:30A SS/Adult Ed
10:45A tenfortyfive/Comm/ Sprouts

Mon, May 2
9:30A Preschool
11:30ADAR
2:00P Loud for Life
7:00P AA/Comp. Eaters

Tues, May 3
9:30A Preschool
9:30A Women's Bible Study
1:00P Ministry Team
5:30P Need Based Care
7:00P Care Ministry Mtg
7:00P Alanon
7:30P Adult Choir

Wed, May 4
8:00A JobSeekers
9:30A Preschool
6:30P Classes/Conf/ CHAOS
7:30P tenfortyfive Practice

Thurs, May 5
9:30A Preschool
3:00P Benevolence Meeting
6:00P Jubilate Ringers

Fri, May 6
9:15A MOPS
9:30A Preschool
9:30A Compulsive Eaters
2:30P Plant Sale Set-Up

Sat, May 7
7:00A Men’s Bible Study
7:00A PEO Plant Sale
8:30A 45+ Bible Study
12:00P AA
5:00P Holy Communion

Sun, May 15
8:00A Holy Communion
9:30A SS/Adult Ed
10:45A tenfortyfive/Comm/ Sprouts

Mon, May 16
9:30A Preschool
2:00P Loud for Life
7:00P Book Club
7:00P AA/Comp. Eaters

Tues, May 17
9:30A Preschool
9:30A Women’s Bible Study
1:00P Ministry Team
5:30P Need Based Care
7:00P Parish Council
7:00P Care Givers Support
7:00P Alanon

Wed, May 18
8:00A JobSeekers
9:30A Preschool
10:30APreschool Graduation
12:00P Preschool Graduation
1:00P Elderberries
7:30P tenfortyfive Practice

Thurs, May 19
9:30A Preschool
10:30APreschool Graduation
12:00P Preschool Graduation
6:00P Jubilate Ringers

Fri, May 20
9:30A Compulsive Eaters

Sat, May 21
7:00A Men’s Bible Study
8:30A 45+ Bible Study
12:00A AA
5:00P Holy Communion
Birthdays and Anniversaries

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<tr>
<th>Birthdays</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adams, Brian</td>
<td>Sara Stuebe</td>
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Flowers given in April and May by:

- **April 10** - Linda & Bob Olsen in celebration of Steven’s birth.
- **April 24** - Cindy Johnson in memory of Larry.
- **May 29** - Jim & Shirley Pamp in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Altar Flowers

Do you have a special event or remembrance to celebrate? We have many openings for flower sign-up. Cost is $40 and flowers need to be picked up before the following Tuesday morning or they will be donated.

Attendance

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<th>Worship Services</th>
<th>Sunday School</th>
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<tr>
<td>4/2 5:00P</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/3 8:00A</td>
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<td>4/9 5:00P</td>
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Remember Our Homebound

- **Eileen Spencer**
- **Jim Fitzjarrell**
- **Mary Wing**
- **Wilma Hawkins**
- **June Taschner**
- **Elisa Benson**
- **Jan Meyer**
- **Joyce Mosher**
- **Dorothy Schmid**
- **Jenero Kayser**

Other prayer requests not listed here are included in our email Prayer Chain.

- Carol Carnahan with good test results
- Those recovering from surgeries: Jody Hinrichs, Lauren Lujan, Terry Brown, Patty Weissenfels
- Those members struggling with cancer and other debilitating diseases
- Our homebound members
- Sympathy with the Hinrich’s at the death of DeeAnn
POSTMASTER:  Send address changes to:
OUR FATHER LUTHERAN CHURCH
6335 S. Holly St., Centennial, CO 80121

Our Father Lutheran Church
Church Office:  303-779-1332  Fax:  303-779-1668
Office Hours:  Monday - Friday,  8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Web Page:  http://www.oflc.net
Rev. Scott F. Abel,  Lead Pastor, ext. 215
Rev. Nathan F. Perego,  Associate Pastor, ext. 218
Rev. Dr. Werner K. Boos,  Pastoral Counselor,
303-741-5588, ext. 112
Prayer Chain:  prayerchainoflc@gmail.com

Our Father Children’s Learning Center
Alison Cejka, Director, 303-779-4910

Worship
Saturday Service:  5:00 pm
Sunday Services:  8:00 & 10:45 am
Education Hour & Sunday School:  9:30 am

Our Father Lutheran Church
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