



Monthly Connection February 2019

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Centennial, Colorado 80121
303-779-1332 www.oflc.net

An Update From Our Vicar (“What’s a Vicar?”)

Micah Steiner, Director of Missional Living

In the fall of 2017, I was admitted into Concordia Seminary St. Louis as a vicar, pursuing ordination to become a pastor in the LCMS. Many have asked about my studies, so in this article, I wanted to provide a brief overview and update.

Currently, there are two ways a pastor can receive ordination: the traditional route as a residential student, or through the program I'm enrolled in, called the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) program, which was designed to meet the growing ministry needs of churches. This program allows students to enroll in the Seminary without having to leave their ministry role at a local congregation. In the SMP program, vicarage lasts two years as opposed to the traditional one year, and ordination takes place after year two of the four-year program. My ordination will likely take place sometime in late 2019 or early 2020, after which I will have another two years until completing the program. This is all supported by the mentoring relationship the vicar has with their pastor, who provides theological oversight for the developing pastors, alongside their continued education at the seminary.



My first year as a Seminary student (and vicar) was challenging, but very fulfilling. I am very impressed with how the program has been designed to provide a solid theological education while allowing the student to continue their full-time job and support their families. Online classes run for the Fall and Spring Semesters. Once a week, the class “meets” online with a professor from the seminary and the nine other students in the cohort. Our homework consists of reading, recorded lectures, writing, Bible study, and practicum/fieldwork, such as making hospital calls, teaching Bible studies, preaching, etc. I also meet with Pastor Abel each week for a check-in, feedback, and theological conversation. I spend time at the Seminary in January and June (“what better time to make a visit to St. Louis!” said no one ever!). These are “intensive” classes, and we are in class from 9-5, and then completing assignments and reading in the evenings. It is a draining week, but in the end, I appreciate the intensive classes because it is great to be on site at the Seminary to engage with the students and professors. There is a final series of projects due three weeks after the intensive work at Seminary is over, so if it takes me a while to return an email or phone call during those weeks, please forgive me!

Our Father is an amazing congregation and God has truly blessed us with a ministry team and support staff that is passionate about our mission to **Help Ordinary People Know and Share Extraordinary Life in Christ**. I am grateful to be a part of this team in a new way as vicar, and soon, pastor. Many blessings to you this new year as God continues to lead and nurture this faith community.



Join us for our current Sermon Series

We Grow in Faith

Sunday Mornings 9:30 - 10:30 am

There are opportunities for all ages, and you can join classes at any time. Nursery care is available for children too young for Sunday School.

Adult Education

Classes running through February 24

Jesus is for Quitters - Led by Tim Schermbeck in the Conference Room. In this discussion-driven class, we will explore what God's Word has to say to us about giving up, giving in, quitting, and starting over.

Joining Jesus on His Mission - Led by Leah Abel and Cassie Schermbeck in Room 300/301. See how easy living and sharing faith can be when you stop thinking of your mission for Jesus and start joining Jesus on His mission, where He's already at work in your neighborhoods.

The Gospel and Story - Led by Nate Peregoy the Fellowship Hall. Join us to uncover the Gospel narrative in the movies, songs and stories we love, and connect us to tools that point people to Jesus in everyday life.

The Book of John - Led by Tom Hacker (January 6-August 11) in the Chapel. In no other Gospel does Jesus, in His "I AM" declarations, so emphatically proclaim His divinity. John reveals the deeper meaning of Christ's message and His miracles.

A new set of classes will begin March 3, including "A Journey Through Lent," "Being Good AND Angry, A Biblical View of Anger," and "Missional Community Connect Group Training," as well as a continuation of "The Book of John."



Sunday School

Children aged 3 through 5th grade meet in the classrooms downstairs for Sunday School. Visit the welcome center or check the southeast stairwell for class locations.

Additionally, children aged 3 through 3rd grade can join us for **Sprouts** at the 10:45 service during the sermon.



Middle and High School

Middle and High School students gather in their meeting rooms in the lower level each week to study God's word and connect.



Last weekend was "Bible Sunday," when each 3-year-old and 3rd grade student receives their very own Bible during services. Did you miss it? Contact Joey Schilling - jschilling@oflc.net.

Student Ministry

Middle School Breakout

On Sunday, February 17, middle school students will meet at church at 12:00pm. Look for an email from Mikaela Schmidt with details!

Winter Retreat

Upcoming Winter Retreat for Middle and High School students at Lutheran Valley Retreat, March 1-3, 2019. Sign up online!

Women's Ministry

Tuesday Morning Bible Study: Psalms

There are many Psalms, wonderful prayers and praises, some more well known than others. This is a great time to join us if you haven't before, as each Psalm is like it's own lesson. We meet on Tuesday mornings in the conference room from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. Childcare will be offered beginning February 12. If you have questions, please contact Michele Schulteis at mschulteis@verizon.net.

Prayer Sister Luncheon

The annual Prayer Sister Ministry luncheon is **Sunday, February 10 at 12:00 pm** in the Community Room. Sign up at the Reception Desk. Bring a salad to share. If you have questions, please contact Diane Miller at 303-359-5505.

Women's Retreat

Our 27th annual Women's Retreat will be held over Mother's Day weekend, **Friday, May 10 - Saturday, May 11**. This year's speaker is Sarah Salzberg (Twitter: [@un_sarah](https://twitter.com/un_sarah)), and will be hosted at a hotel in the Denver metro area! Registration and sign-up coming next month.

Men's Ministry



Saturday Morning Bible Study

Join us for an informal time of prayer, fellowship and study in Room 302, 7:00-8:00am. Newcomers welcome!

Happy Hour

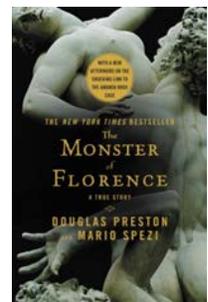
Join us for fellowship February 21, from 5:30-7:00pm at Halfpenny Brewery (5150 E Arapahoe Road [map](#)). We meet the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Next Men's Breakfast - Saturday, April 13th 7:30 - 9:30am

Fellowship

Book Club

The OFLC book club meets on the 3rd Monday of each month (February 18) from 6:00- 8:00pm, in the Community Room. This month's selection will be **The Monster of Florence** by Douglas Preston & Mario Spezi, as suggested by book club member Sara. Contact Elaine Hamburger (elainekham@yahoo.com) for more information.



Elderberries

Seniors, come to the Community Room on Wednesday, February 20, at 1:00 pm for Christian fellowship. Snacks are provided. All are welcome!

Young Adult Fellowship & Bible Study

We meet the first and third Tuesday evenings of each month from 6:00-7:30pm, for study, food, and fellowship. The group is open to anyone in (or around) their twenties. Contact Matthew Siegle 303-945-9843 or matthew.siegle@outlook.com for information.

We Live God's Mission

Short Term Mission Trip Opportunities

For more information, or to express interest in these opportunities, please contact Heidi Herrmann at hherrmann@oflc.net, or 303-779-1332.

INDIA July 2019

12-day mission trip to India, with an estimated cost of \$1500-\$2000/person. In support of the ministries of Bethania Kids, which operates two orphanages in Tamil Nadu, located in the southern part of India (www.bethaniakids.org), we will teach English-as-a-second-language (ESL) material, present a Vacation Bible School (VBS) program, and assist local staff. Then, a few days will be spent visiting tourist sites.



THANKSGIVING IN JUAREZ

November 20-25, 2019: 5 day mission trip to El Paso, TX and Juarez, Mexico. Cost is \$150/person. Volunteers will prepare and serve 1,000 Thanksgiving meals to low-income border communities in El Paso, TX, and Juarez, Mexico. This supports the local staff at the Ysleta Lutheran Mission, by giving them much-needed time off during the Thanksgiving holiday.

Volunteer Opportunities

Night to Shine, Friday February 8th

Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs, ages 14 and older. This year, Night to Shine will celebrate its fifth anniversary!



On one night, 655 churches from around the world come together to host Night to Shine for approximately 100,000 honored guests through the support of 200,000 volunteers. This year, OFLC is partnering with Peace with Christ in Aurora to host a local Night to Shine event. **We are in need of "dates" or a buddy for each one of our stars.** If you are interested, please contact Micah Steiner at msteiner@oflc.net for a volunteer application form.

Blood Drive

Please consider giving blood on **Sunday, February 10th, 8:00am -12:00pm**. The Vitalant Bloodmobile will be in the Conference Room on the main floor. Sign up at the church reception desk, or register online at donors.bonfils.org. Search for our church by zip code 80121, and enter the "Site Code" **0199**.



Support Our Youth by EATING BURRITOS!

As a way to help raise funds for the 2019 National Youth Gathering, the Student Ministries will be selling Casa Caliente burritos on the second Sunday of each month, beginning at 9:00 am, while supplies last. Burritos are \$5 and packaged fresh. They are kept warm to be eaten day-of, or can be frozen or refrigerated as well. Next burrito sale is Sunday, February 10.



Information from the Church Office

Operating Fund

2018 Year End Financial Highlights

General offerings were \$2,549 lower than budget however \$83,793, or 5% higher than 2017. By the grace of God, this increase reflects growth in membership and worship attendance along with the generosity of our members and guests.

Program Income and Designated Gifts were higher than budgeted due to several factors. Undesignated missions and benevolence gifts, increases in building use and its associated income and registration income from two workshops during the fall and spring, contributed to this overage.

Personnel, Property & Administration costs were below budget due primarily to not filling the position of Director of Student Life along with other minor staffing fluctuations in support staff positions during the year. Additionally, there was less maintenance and repair needs for the campus.

Another area of expenditures below budget were in various ministry categories of education, worship, student ministries, congregation care and member integration. Fluctuations of staffing to attain fulfillment of OFLC's organizational chart continued throughout 2018, even carrying over into our new year, and were a factor in this decrease, along with general outcomes of ministry planning.

Our Outreach expenditures were below budget overall, however within this category the net effect of two particular items caused this. Benevolence

gifts were higher than budgeted, however this increase was negated by lower than expected contributions through the Alternative Gift Market event.

Planning among the Finance Committee, Parish Council and Ministry Staff has commenced to determine areas of opportunity for use of the 2018 excess funds, which would include further seeding our Building/Property and Contingency Funds, along with areas of opportunity for ministry expansion into 2019 and beyond.

	Actual	Budget
General Offerings	\$ 1,555,451	\$ 1,558,000
Program Income & Designated Gifts	575,221	568,820
Total Income	2,130,672	2,126,820
Personnel	(856,620)	(933,378)
Property & Administration	(407,960)	(419,832)
Education/Preschool	(419,962)	(418,300)
Outreach	(201,103)	(205,400)
Other Ministries	(123,969)	(149,910)
Total Expenditures	(2,009,614)	(2,126,820)
Excess Income	\$ 121,058	\$ -

Please direct questions or comments to Doug Ullmann, Director of Administration and Finance at (303) 779-1332 or dullmann@oflc.net.

Arise! Campaign To Date Review



A strong start to our final year of the Arise! Campaign is underway, getting us closer to eliminating our property debt. By the grace of God, from the inception of the campaign which began in October 2016, significant strides have been accomplished in the first two years alone. Total contributions to Arise! have exceeded total pledged offerings. This means we have had numerous contributions not pledged when the campaign began. Official campaign kick-off began with our mortgage balance at \$2,816,253. As of January 31, 2019

our mortgage has been reduced to \$1,457,305, a 48% reduction!

From the beginning, you have been personally vested with your prayers, and spiritual and financial support of this campaign. Our sights for the future have grown beyond the campaign's vision cast in 2016, creating unforeseen possibilities and a renewed excitement. In 2016, we envisioned:

- 2 Worship Locations
- 20 Missional Communities
- 200 Individual Families on Mission
- 2,000 Members Experiencing Growth in Faith
- 20,000 Moments Where the Love of Christ Makes a Difference

This vision is woven in the life of our church, but we believe God is calling us to more. As we continue down our 2016 vision path, gaining financial stability through reduction of our mortgage is allowing us to explore new opportunities. For example, a second worship site remains a possibility, but maximizing our existing location for additional worship services is also possible. Mortgage reduction also allows Our Father to create flexible budget planning to take advantage of new opportunities to share God's Word in a growing community. Simply said, it is by God's grace are we able to have such opportunities. We are thankful for your support. Join us and your brothers and sisters in Christ to make a renewed commitment to make this final year a success.



Calendar Notes

The church office will be closed **February 18**, for **Presidents' Day**.

Ash Wednesday: Join us for worship on **Wednesday, March 6, at 12:15 or 7:15pm**. We'll begin the season of Lent with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

Voters' Assembly Meeting: Join us on **Sunday, June 23 at 9:30am** in the Fellowship Hall. The primary agenda item will be the adoption of the first fiscal year budget - July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.



Please go online to www.oflc.net to view the full church calendar

Preschool Sunday

This year, Preschool Sunday will be held on **February 24, at the 10:45am service**. Each Spring we invite the over 200 families that bring their children to our preschool to a special service to celebrate their kids, and thank our Preschool Staff. The children will sing for the congregation and have a fun Sunday School experience during the sermon. There is a reception after the service for the preschool families and teachers.

Benevolence Committee

The Benevolence Committee will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, February 21, at 6:30pm in the Conference Room on the main level. Any benevolence requests and/or anyone wishing to attend the meeting should contact Denny Harthun at dkharthun@iescolorado.com at least 14 days prior to the meeting, by February 7th.

Publications

Periodically throughout the year, Our Father photographs events reflecting the extraordinary life in Christ we share. If you do not wish your image to be used in official publications, OFLC website, etc., please notify the office in writing at info@oflc.net.

Altar Flowers

Do you have a special event or remembrance to celebrate? We have many openings for flower sign-up; please visit the reception desk. Cost is \$40 per bouquet. After all the services for that weekend are completed, the bouquet can be taken home to enjoy, but please pick it up before the following Tuesday morning, or they will be donated

We Gather In Worship



Community News

The Lutheran Chorale presents "St. John Passion"

by Bob Chilcot, a moving piece using modern hymns to present the story of the Passion. A Free-Will donation will be collected, and bring a non-perishable donation for the Metro Caring Food Bank. More information is available at www.thelutheranchorale.org.



Saturday, March 30, 2019 at 7:30 pm.

Bethany Lutheran Church, [4500 E. Hampden Ave, Cherry Hills Village, CO](#) .

Sunday, March 31, 2019 at 3:00 pm.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, [2100 Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood](#).

Members In Our Prayers

Praying for:

Tom Mroch, Tim Ortmeier, Marian Hooker, Joanne Wille, Paul Grunt, Laura Fougner, Larry Welsh, Jody Hinrichs, Candace Daberko, Marleen Wise.

Those mourning:

- Rich Carnahan and family, as they mourn the death of Rich’s mother-in-law.
- Seth and Heather Richey and family, as they grieve the sudden death of Seth’s father, Tom Richey.
- David and Diane Oppenheim, as they mourn the death of David’s mother, Ruth Oppenheim.

Other Prayers:

Prayers for the candidates for the Director of Student Life position, and for the Lord’s direction as the Call Committee and staff make a decision regarding a potential call.

Remember Our Homebound:

Jim Fitzjarrell, Carol Torscher-Hardeman, Laura Fougner, Atlanta Dye, Stephanie Murray, John Nelson, Elaine Selander, Donna Miller, Alvin Baumbach.

<p>Birthdays</p> <p>Abel, Leah Aina, Linda Allen, Patrick Arbuckle, Steven Arnold, James Backstrom, Tamara Bagdasarian, Jill Barnhart, Robin Barnhart, Teresa Barringer, Kent Becker, Brandon Berlinski, Donald Boettcher, Verna A Bovasso, Sophia Ryan Broekemeier, Cindy Brown, Nathan Burch, Sally Burkinshaw, Clark, Stephen Cohrs, Eli Conklin, Natalie Coyle, Britney Coyle, Emerson Jo Crabbe, Melanie Dalby, Terry David, Elsa Davis, Christopher Dite, Jacqueline Ann Doetsch, Kyle Dolezal, Robert Dolton, Derek</p>	<p>Ellis, Caleb Ellis, Joshua Ellis, Karen Evert, Jayne Forbes, Michael Francis, Katie Franklin, Elsa Gambardella, Caroline Gehrke, Elisabeth Getty, Elisabeth Gibson, Pamela Gilman, Bernice Goetzke, Sara Guillen, Abbie Gullickson, Nile Hacker, Lauren Harrah, Patricia Hea, William Heldt, Sharon Hendricks, Cynthia Herren, Mitchell Hess, Hans Hoffarth, James Huebner, Greta Huebner, Samuel Johannes, Emmah Johnson, Alexander Jolin, Charles Kerber, Katherine Kerkhove, George Kirk, Samuel Knoll, William</p>	<p>Koch, Ruth N. Kochenberger, Kelly Koontz, Carl Seward Krause, Lauren Lambertus, Kenneth Lasher, Jeff Lee, Justin Logan, James Karl Loomis, Mireya Lujan, Patti Lyman, JohnJoseph Madsen, Lauren Mapp, Kecia McClearn, Ian McDonnell, Alice McKinster, Caroline McKinster, Chloe McRae, Brian Meissner, Joshua Mendoza, Jillian Merkel, Kyle Meske, Randal Scott Michael, Rena Morris, Sean Muggenthaler, Kelly Ann Niemitalo, Kristen Olson, Blaine Osler, Harrison Scott Ott, Lorna Jane Ottinger, Christine Ottinger, Lauren</p>	<p>Palmquist, Nathan Peavler, John Pluchek, Ally Reed, Haley Jin Remon, Jodean Renninger, Brock Rhode, David Rieman, Isabel Riggert, Meghan Riggert, Nicholas Romcevich, Kathrin Rome, Malorie Alex Rudzinski, Lydia Schaack, Alexander Schierkolk, Linda Schlapkohl, Thomas Schmidt, Phyllis Schulteis, Julia Anne Sheridan, James Shorey, Daniel Scott Smith, Kelly Dalton Spahr, Emily Jolene Spencer, Eileen Spurlin, Richard L Stein, Patrick Steiner, Joshua Stevens, David Stotler, Jeanne Strom, Phillip Stuebe, Brian</p>	<p>Tiffenbach, Matthew Tracy, Brent Trail, Austin Uhlig, Elizabeth Valdez, Jeffrey Walker, Edward Wallace, Karri Wesley, Ruth Winkler, Evan Winn, Katelyn Wulliman, Jeffrey Wyatt, Josh Youngren, Tamara</p> <p>Anniversaries</p> <p>Mike & Susie Brauer Tom & Karen Callahan Mike & Karen Griffin Duane & Jennifer Habeck Carl & Diane Koontz Don & Barb Loomis James & Patient Morgan Jim & Ellen Rairdon David & Carolyn Reiners Harold & Jody Remon John & Trish Turner Herb & Patty Weissenfels</p>
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Our Father Lutheran Church

Church Office: 303-779-1332 Fax: 303-779-1668
Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Website: <https://www.oflc.net>
Email: info@oflc.net
Rev. Scott F. Abel, Lead Pastor, ext. 215
Rev. Nathan F. Peregoy, Executive Pastor, ext. 218
Rev. Dr. Werner K. Boos, Pastoral Counselor,
303-741-5588, ext. 112
Prayer Chain: prayerchainoflc@gmail.com

6335 S. Holly St., Centennial, CO 80121

Worship Services

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

Our Father Children's Learning Center

Alison Cejka, Director, 303-779-4910