

The Lyons Community Church

Mid-Week Message

Thursday, July 3, 2014

Dear friends and neighbors,

So much has happened since our last weekly newsletter at the end of May - I hope your summer is going well and that you are enjoying colorful flowers, ripe tomatoes and watermelon, and breath-taking sunsets.

Regis, Lillian and I had a wonderful sabbatical during the month of June - thank you for supporting us and praying for our journey. We spent a week in my hometown (Anderson, SC), where my mother taught Lillian to walk just in time for her first big trip to Europe. Then we spent some time in Munich (pic: Lillian and Regis at the Glockenspiel clock on Marienplatz in Munich, a tourist must-see) and some time with friends in northern England.



One highlight was a 7-hour hike in the Alps (left - at the top of Heimgarten), with Regis carrying the heavy load of Lillian, but as you can see (below), all she wanted to do was play in the grass when we reached the summit. It was a restful, wonderful trip, and we are

grateful to you and the Rocky Mountain Conference Ministerial Education Fund for making our dream a reality.

So why Europe? We were celebrating Lillian's first birthday (May 18th) and my successful graduation from the Masters of Divinity program at the Iliff School of Theology. It's been a grueling 3-year journey, but my education is now complete.



And to top off the summer, I was commissioned for pastoral ministry by the United Methodist Church (see picture on following page). I'll be what the Methodists call a provisional Elder for the next 2-3 years while a group of clergy and laity evaluate my effectiveness in ministry. If they deem me effective, I'll be ordained as an Elder in full connection in 2016-2017. The commissioning service includ-

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Sunday, July 6

Sermon: Repeat it til you believe it
- Pastor Emily Flemming

Scripture: Psalm 23

Refreshments: Jani Little

Special Music: Diane Dandeneau

Flowers: Kim Hughes

Prayers...

Annie's return from Ireland, Jeanne, Lauren Munson in Peru, Steve's friends Joe and Tracy with her emergency appendectomy (and father's sudden death of heart attack), Ruth's friend Pat's brain surgery after falling down the stairs, Vance's mom's health and his little sister Charlotte who will relocate from CO to TX to care for her, Boulder's Trinda Weymouth who took her own life this week, and her family and friends as they make arrangements, everyone traveling this summer, the men and women who have fought for our freedoms and the way we choose to honor them this holiday weekend, safe (sober) drivers everywhere

Pastor's Message (continued)

ed a laying on of hands from Bishop Elaine Stanovsky, which was a sacred and special moment.

But what's all this got to do with you? Well, you've been busy, too. While I was away, you hired contractor Scott Connor to do the renovation work to Wesley Hall. You also found a temporary location for the Food Pantry during the renovations (at the local Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, near the Middle/High School). You continued to feed 20-40 families per week, and you welcomed 2 local and 3 guest preachers. It's been quite a summer already!

And we are just getting warmed up. This Sunday we'll celebrate Communion and kick off a sermon series on the book of Psalms. Since July is festival month in Lyons, I thought highlighting the importance of music and poetry in our Christian tradition would be a special treat. First up is 23, the most well-known of all the Psalms, but it's not just for funerals! We'll also have special music by Lyons local (and my former neighbor) Diane Dandenau.

(aside: did I mention that we moved into a new home last week? Oh yes, so please don't look for us at Rivercliff Townhomes anymore, we're now living near the Middle/High School in a beautiful rental home on Welch Court.)

So if you've been busy camping, hiking, traveling or vacationing, and you'll be back in Lyons this weekend, come celebrate the long holiday weekend with us at your Community Church. Service starts at 10am, and we'd all be glad to see you.

With fireworks and joy to be home,

Pastor Emily



Announcements

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast **Friday, July 4th at 9:00am**. It's free. All are welcome. There will be a flag ceremony put on by our scouts and a reading by Mark Burton dressed up in costume about our constitution. It should be fun low key and we would love having you or any of your congregation there.

Kurt Knechtel
Bishop of Longs Peak ward

Camp Noah Planning Committee will meet at **6:30pm on Monday, July 7th**.

The Building Hope and Promise Committee will meet at **6:30pm on Tues, July 8th**.

The All-Church Conference to discuss renovation plans for the parsonage and its transformation into the Montessori preschool will be at **7pm on Wed, July 9th**. District Superintendent Rev. Walter "Skip" Strickland will preside over the meeting.

The Lyons Summer Concert series in Sandstone Park begins next week on **Thurs, July 10th at 6:30pm** with local musicians Ash and Andria Ganley (also my former neighbors from Rivercliff - and Lillian's favorite!)

Every year the Rural Urban Network of the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Methodist Church (which includes Colorado and Wyoming) awards one congregation "engaging in outstanding rural church ministry." We won this award the year before last, which helped me get excited about the spirit in this church before I ever accepted the pastoral job here. This year, this is what the Network had to say about our little white church (reprinted from the Annual Conference Session handbook):

"Lyons Community Church was founded in 1906. The fall floods of 2013 devastated many areas of the town, but the people of the Lyons Community Church are at the forefront of long-term recovery in the community. Worship attendance is up 40% and membership is up 24%. Pledges have increased 27%. A project to upgrade the building, provide more space for a food pantry and better accessibility has begun. In 2008, the church began the Lyons Emergency Assis-

Lyons received the 2014 Small Church of the Year Award

tance Fund (LEAF). This fund helps to move Lyons-area residents towards self-sufficiency, especially in the aftermath of natural disaster, by providing basic needs and homeless-prevention services. After the flood, LEAF teamed up with the Lyons Community Foundation to create a campaign: "Rebuild Lyons, One Life at a Time," which raised nearly \$1 million dollars from over 800 donors. With this money, 290 grants of up to \$5,000.00 per household were distributed to help greater Lyons residents with their immediate and short-term needs. Lyons Community Church and LEAF will continue to play a major role in the long term recovery of the town. Pastor Emily Flemming has been at the forefront of these activities. The people of the Lyons Community Church - 46 in membership and over 63 in worship attendance - can be proud of the impact a small church can make on the life of their community. Congratulations to the congregation of Lyons Community (United Methodist) Church!"

What began as BNEF is now a LEAF

Many of you have heard about our church's ministry to the Lyons community; what began as the BNEF (Basic Needs and Emergency Fund) in 2008, sprouted the weekly Food Pantry, and assists with utility payments and other financial needs, has now grown into LEAF, the Lyons Emergency Assistance Fund.



We just got word this week that we will be a fiscally sponsored program (and thus a non-profit separate from the church) of the Colorado Non-Profit Development Center (CNDC). What that means, is that we are now eligible for secular grants and large, private foundation funds. With the new money we hope to bring in, we're kicking off new partnerships - with the Lyons Community Foundation (LCF, ongoing partnership), Oskar Blues CAN'D Aid, and the OUR Center in Longmont (both new partners).

Together with our church's own Emily Dusel, current part-time Executive Director of the LCF, I'll be serving as Co-Executive Director of this new organization. We kicked off LEAF this week with new flyers at the Food Pantry. An OUR Center caseworker (Elizabeth) will be at the church every Wednesday from 10am to 3pm to provide assistance to anyone in need. If you'd like to make an appointment, give me a call at 720-864-4309 or send an email to info@lyonsleaf.org.

We also have a new website (still under construction): www.lyonsleaf.org. And a Facebook page: www.facebook.com/LyonsCOLeaf. Please "like" us and share that page and site with your friends, contacts, and neighbors. We'll be looking for people to assist, as well as financial supporters. We need more local pictures, so please share yours with us.

This is an exciting time of growth! What began as a ministry of this church, with your vision and passion and support, has grown into a greater opportunity to help so many more people in our community. Please help us spread the word, and continue to pray for the growing Board of Directors, volunteers, and financial supporters during this time of transition and new possibilities!

Emily