**FRIDAY NIGHT OPPORTUNITIES**

**OFF-SITE EXCURSIONS**

**Campus Ministry**
Join college students and campus ministry staff at the Lutheran Campus Ministry Center at Colorado State University, Fort Collins for dinner and conversation. One of the most important parts of campus ministry is to create a safe space for people to be vulnerable. We'll explore the deep need students have for this space to share joys and concerns. Where can your congregation or ministry make space for vulnerability?

**Location:** 815 S. Shields, Fort Collins, CO 80521
**Hosts:** Pastor Deb Abbott & Pastor Zach Parris
**Max Size:** 50

**Eben Ezer Lutheran Care Center**

*COME, immerse, in the song of Rural and Service Ministry on the northeastern plains of Colorado!* Bring your voice to join with us in singing around CARE services, OUTREACH on our campus and into the community, MISSION for the future, and EMPLOYMENT opportunities. Experience the life as it happens while getting to play the score with technology and music, relax with dinner and listen to live entertainment, see what’s available and what’s to come, finishing with a grand finale of prayer and reflection in our old Danish chapel. *COME share a* *night with Eben Ezer Lutheran Care Center*.
**Location:** 122 Hospital Rd, Brush, CO 80723 **Host:** RoFesser, Diaconal Minister
**Max Size: 25**

**Song of the Plains: Connecting the voices of culture, community and church**

Journey about 60 miles east of the front range to experience the vast, wide open spaces of the Northeastern Colorado Plains. Learn the beauty of ministry that can exist when we engage the culture, community and church together in these rural congregations of the ELCA. Listen to the stories of how God draws us out from isolation to connection and transforms our mindsets from scarcity to abundance as small congregations with rich histories in these places.

**Location: Long Meadow Resorts & Event Center** 8604 Co Rd 6, Wiggins, CO 80654 **Host:** Pastor Wendy Kalan
**Max Size: 50**

**Sacred Space**

Sacred Space began as a result of the area flooding in the fall of 2013.  It was felt that residents needed a time and space to heal from the inner stress the flood created in many lives.  Sacred Space would be open to everyone regardless of their faith or absence of faith.  The underlying principle is to honor people in the present moment, acting on the premise that the here and now is a sacred moment.  The ancient practice of *Lectio Divina* (sacred reading) was adopted.  This involves interspersing silence and the reading of a meaningful text from different sources.  Honoring each person’s perspective and truth to speak or remain silent is an important dynamic of the gathering.  Two churches and several individuals support the cost of renting the meeting space. Join us in experiencing Lectio Divina and conversation over a meal. **Location**: Church Shops Mall, 157 Elkhorn Ave W.  Estes Park
**Host:** Pastor Ron Bockhaus
**Max Size:** 10

**Lutheran Family Services Refugee & Asylee Program**

Today more than 20 million refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons are living with a very uncertain future. The Lutheran Family Services (LFS) Refugee & Asylee Programs are dedicated to helping these vulnerable individuals and families rebuild their lives by equipping them to achieve self-sufficiency within their first year in the United States and fostering integration into their new communities.Participants in this excursion will begin on-site with the Global Mission session. You will spend the first portion learning about Accompaniment as a framework for mission. After dinner on-site, you will drive to LFS for a tour of the facility and a conversation with the staff. **Location:** Lutheran Family Services, Greeley, CO **Host:
Max Size:** 25

**Mosaic**
Mosaic in Northern Colorado partners with people with intellectual disabilities to provide a meaningful life in a caring community, giving a voice to their needs. Join the staff of Mosaic to learn more about how this mission is lived out in the Loveland area.

You will get to experience Mosaic's new direction in health care, meeting and sharing discussion and dinner with host families, clients, and the executive staff who serve in placement, resources, and employment. Mosaic is looking for Lutheran connections to partner with in their service to God's people.

**Location:** Mosaic in Northern Colorado
 6833 N. Franklin Ave. Loveland, CO 80538 **Host:
Max Size: 25**

 **Neighborhood Church: Zion Lutheran Church and Monroe Elementary**Zion Lutheran Church has been partnering with Monroe Elementary, the public Title 1 school across the street from their building, for the past three years.  This partnership has grown over the years and currently includes volunteering in classrooms, special events at the school such as Back-to-School night, or helping out with family needs such as Thanksgiving dinners or new coats, and much more.  Come and hear how this partnership started and about ways to make connections in the local community through the schools and other local agencies. We will also hear from Pastor Rob Moss from Lutheran Church of the Master in Lakewood who will share from his book, Neighborhood Church: God's Vision of Success.  As part of our time together we will be attending a Pazoles Dinner and Dance program put on by the local Spanish Speaking PTA which will be taking place at Zion.
\*Note: This excursion will end around 8pm.  **Location:** Zion Lutheran Church, 815 E 16th St, Loveland, CO 80538 **Host:** Pastors Joel & Sonja Pancoast **Max Size: 50**

 **ON-SITE IMMERSIONS**

**Singing God’s Song as a Rostered Leader (Discernment Retreat)**

Have you ever wondered what it might be like to be a pastor, deaconess, diaconal minister, or associate in ministry? Would you like to know more about ways in which you can serve God as a rostered leader in the church? This workshop will give you an opportunity to learn about how a person becomes a rostered leader. You will find out about the different forms of rostered leadership and have an opportunity to meet various kinds of rostered leaders and hear their stories. Whether you are already in the process of discerning God’s call or you’re just beginning, you’ll find that there are people like you who are thinking about these things, and even more people who want to accompany you on this exciting path.

**Host:** Pastor Ann Hultquist

**Maximum size:** 20

**The Church and Mental Health: Congregations as Communities Nurturing  Mental Wellness**

This immersion will explore ways in which our congregations can be communities that promote mental wellness. We will hear insights from a variety of mental wellness practitioners and share resources for you to use in your congregation.

**Host:** Pastor Nelson Bock

**Maximum size:** 40

**How to Help Our Returning Warriors**

Join Operation One Nation and the Cheyenne VA Chaplain Services in an evening centered around how to support our Vets. You will learn ways to support military members in their community and how to help veterans access timely comprehensive medical and mental health services from the VA.
**Host:** Pastor James West and Warren Miller
**Max Size:** 60

**Living a Life in Service!**

Engage with the Border Servant Corps and Urban Servant Corps tenets of simplicity, intentional community, service, and spirituality! The experiential learning opportunities will allow you to reflect on the ways you live out these values in your daily life (or encourage you to adopt new habits as you are inspired by these missions)!

**Host:** Krista Kilgus **Max Size:** 50

**Congregations Embracing Creation Stewardship: Practical opportunities to make a difference!
Host:** Pastor Nelson Bock
**Max Size:** 40

**The Ministry of LGBTQ People in the Church**

People who are LGBTQ offer unique gifts to the world and to the people of God. This workshop will explore the different ways and experiences which LGBTQ Christians encounter in the church. It will focus on all the ministries of the people of God—both rostered and non-rostered—the baptized, diaconal, associates in ministry and ordained. What gifts do we have to share with each other? How does sexual orientation and gender identity shape our experience as Christians? How are our gifts being used in the church for the sake of the world? What challenges are we encountering? You are invited into this conversation whether you're straight or identify as LGBTQ.. We will also introduce you to the work of Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries, which supports LGBTQ rostered leaders and candidates while working with allied congregations and ministries to proclaim God's love and seek justice for all. Come—“all are welcomed in this place.”

**Host:** Pastor Asher O’Callaghan, Diana Linden-Johnson, and Nicole Garcia
**Max Size:** 45

**Global Church—Walking in the World Together**

The song of God’s good news is sung *in* the world, *for* the world. Join us for an immersion experience to hear and explore ways in which you can join your voice to the global song. The golden thread for this immersion is the practice of *accompaniment*—walking together as companions in God’s good news. Bishop Jim Gonia will orient us to these guiding principles for global engagement in the ELCA. Then participants will have opportunities to explore ways in which we can put these principles into practice:

* Experiencing God’s global work with  sisters and brothers in Madagascar through Companion Synod
* Standing with Christians and Muslims in Palestine through Peace Not Walls
* Addressing issues of justice and food through the Hunger Network
* Exploring global reality next door to our synod through Border Immersion
* Using accompaniment to frame congregational global mission trips

You will have opportunity to explore two of these areas in our time together, and we’ll gather at the end to share what we are learning from each other about the power of accompaniment for global projects.

**Host:** Pastor Alena Lamirato

**Maximum size:** 60

**A Taste of Lutheran Higher Education (Cal Lutheran/PLTS)**

How do you discover your vocation—your calling and purpose in life? Join special guests from California Lutheran University and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary for an interactive experience that will help you get to know the rich theological resources offered by this university and seminary of the ELCA, and how Lutheran higher education helps students as well as members of the church to live with purpose. If you’ve got prospective college students in the family (or are one!) or if you have ever wondered what seminary is like, this is a great workshop option for you.

**Host:** Pastor Meghan Aelabouni
**Max Size:** 50