**Church Offers Forum to Address Gun Violence**

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Event: Saturday, October 21, 2017, 6:30 p.m., 7000 S. Windemere St., Littleton.

With so much concern following the tragedy in Las Vegas, Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren of Littleton is sponsoring a moderated forum designed to identify where there might be common ground among the “two sides” of the gun debate.

According to the church’s pastor, Rev. Gail Erismann Valeta, the timing is coincidental—the event was planned well before the Las Vegas tragedy. She acknowledges that some churches are reluctant to take on controversial issues or ones considered “political,” but Valeta insists that churches have a role to play in bringing members of the community together in a “safe” setting to discuss matters that impact the community.

The forum will feature two moderators who will take suggestions from the audience on actions that could be done to reduce gun violence. The suggestions will be presented to two panelists to determine whether any common ground can be found. One panelist will be Tom Mauser, a gun violence prevention advocate whose son was killed in the tragedy at Columbine High School in 1999. The other panel member will be Michael Lang, a certified gun safety instructor.

Rev. Valeta emphasizes that the forum is intended to find common ground, not hash out old arguments that have been contentious. The forum will start with the showing of a short documentary featuring Mauser and Lang, in which they state their perspectives on the gun issue.

The forum will be held on Saturday, October 21st at 6:30 p.m. at the church, 7000 S. Windemere St., in Littleton. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. There is no charge.