



# THE SHEPHERD'S CROOK

## SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH

2000 Ptarmigan Trail ♦ Estes Park, CO 80517  
970-586-3900  
estesparklutheranelca.org

### July 2016 Newsletter

**Pastor Ron Bockhaus 970-646-6657**  
Worship Service 9:00 am Sunday

#### July Worship Matters

- Sunday, July 3, 9:00 am Bearing the Burden of Others
- Sunday, July 10, 9:00 am Intercessory Prayer
- Sunday, July 17 9:00 am Evolving Faith
- Sunday, July 24, 9:00 am The Christ Hole  
Neighborhood Picnic Sunday
- Sunday, July 31, 9:00 am Hidden in Christ, You Are Found

#### Dry Gulch Road Closure

The Dry Gulch Road construction detour is still in place, but day-to-day changes on the route to the church are possible as summer progresses. Please call the church office at 970-586-3900 for the most up-to-date information if you're visiting for summer or for the first time.



#### SMLC Program Summer Vacations

A reminder that the following SMLC programs will take a hiatus until fall:

- Community Corner Café
- Second Saturday Worship Service
- Men in Mission Monthly Breakfast

Centering Prayer, held every Wednesday at 11:30 am, will take a break through July and part of August, and will reconvene August 24th.



### Come Join Us for the Neighborhood Picnic!

The picnic will be Sunday, July 24th at 11:00 a.m., following worship service. The church is providing brats, hamburgers, hot dogs and buns, as well as drinks, ice cream and tableware. We'll have sign-up sheets out a few weeks in advance for side dishes and snacks. Our neighbors from Talon's Point, Falcon Ridge and Good Sam are being invited. We'll be outside, weather permitting, so bring a lawn chair, come and enjoy fun and fellowship!—*Marian Stencel*

## July 2016 Living and Coping with Uncertainty

It was the summer of 1981. I was enrolled in my first seminary class, remedial philosophy. On the weekends my fellow students and I tried to escape our un-air conditioned dorm rooms by going to city parks and free concerts. Sitting around one Saturday afternoon, someone in our sweat-soaked group suggested we take in The Prairie Home Companion show in St. Paul. "Oh," I said, "what's that?" The group proceeded to fill me in about the live radio show performed on stage and broadcast nationally. The names and stories were as unknown to me as the ancient philosophies we were studying. They included *Powdermilk Biscuits*, *Lives of the Cowboys* and monologues about the fictional *Lake Wobegon* by a guy named Garrison Keillor. I was interested in attending until someone reminded the group that it wasn't free. We went to the park instead.

Mr. Keillor, 73, will host his final official "Prairie Home Companion" on July 1st at, of all places, the Hollywood Bowl. Public radio always wondered what it was going to do when Garrison left. It's about to find out!

It is somewhat comforting to me that the feeling of uncertainty is not isolated to the church. There is a lot of uncertainty in our world today. Perhaps there has always been uncertainty in our lives, but that it seems more amplified now through the media. We know more about what is happening in our world, but that knowledge doesn't guarantee the comfort of certainty.

This is apparent in the results of a survey our Rocky Mountain Synod asked its clergy to complete. Bishop Jim Gonia wrote his interpretation of the survey results in part with the following:

*While there were several operational challenges, there was clearly one over-arching challenge. Uncertainty. There is a high degree of anxiety about what the future holds for the church and the viability of professional church vocations among church leaders. It will not be enough to simply continue to lift the issues, as issue fatigue is overwhelming. This is also not a call for a programmatic fix. There is however, a clear desire for a vision of the ways forward to be cast. One of the roots of this anxiety is the perception of reduced resources.*

I hope you are beginning to realize that Shepherd of the Mountains will address the challenges the Bishop mentions beginning with a **Comprehensive Ministry Review** on September 9th, 10th and 11th. A ministry review is a time to reflect together on how the mission is going and what kind of health is present for carrying that mission forward. It is a chance to be the church together and mutually assess what's next.

Please know that your church council is working hard at inviting members of the congregation, Estes Park community partners and synod staff and volunteers to join in this important conversation. If you are asked to participate specifically, it means we see you as important to the process. Be flattered and agree to participate! All members will be asked to take part in a congregational forum Sunday morning after worship. The more participation we have, the better our review will serve us in planning our future.

The biggest hurdle to uncertainty is avoidance. If we avoid talking about the challenge before us, we give it more power than it really has. Our strength comes through Him in whose name we gather, Christ Jesus the Lord. (Matthew 18:18-20)

In Christ,

*Pastor Ron*

# Getting to Know...Earl and Nancy Matson

Earl and Nancy Matson came from diverse backgrounds to meet in Estes Park at Shepherd of the Mountains in March 1995. Pastor Earl, knowing Nancy was single because of a letter from her St. Louis pastor, asked Nancy if he could drop by for a visit on a Sunday afternoon...and that he did. It was during the announcement of the March Madness team selection, and Nancy's daughter (a University of Illinois student) was home for spring break. Nancy had beef stew cooking in the crockpot, but didn't invite Earl to stay for dinner because she thought he might have a "Mrs." back at the parsonage. Thus started, hesitantly, their relationship.



Earl was born September 27, 1937 in Fargo, ND. His grandparents were Swedish immigrants. He actually lived in Moorhead, MN, going to school there and eventually graduating from Concordia College in 1959, majoring in sociology. Earl felt the call to be a pastor and attended Augustana Seminary, graduating in 1963 and moving to serve a parish in Lockport, IL with his wife and two sons. Another son and daughter were born later as Earl accepted a call to Bethany Lutheran in Colorado Springs. Through the succeeding years he was divorced and served two other churches in Colorado, gradually moving north. In 1994 a committee including Bill Westley and

Allen Settje visited with Earl, at that time in Louisville, inviting him to meet the fellowship of Lutherans in Estes Park. Fortunately for this congregation he accepted that invitation and became the Mission Developer of Shepherd of the Mountains, working at the church part-time and driving a limo to supplement his income.

Nancy was born in St. Louis on December 18, 1941, and lived in a rural suburb of Creve Coeur, ID, where her German-lineage grandparents lived. Although Nancy was always a cowgirl at heart, she earned a B.A. from Washington University, majoring in Spanish and French. After a brief marriage to a "cowboy" and the birth of daughter Robin, she divorced and remarried, this time to a farmer. The couple lived on her family's Missouri farm and kept horses. During that time Nancy was quite active in a very liberal Missouri Synod Lutheran Church that leaned toward the Seminex split (eventually leading to the ELCA formation). She returned to college at Maryville University, earning a degree in Music Therapy and a subsequent career in health care. In 1993, when second daughter Aimee was finishing high school, the Missouri River flooded the farm and house in St. Louis County. That was enough of Missouri! Nancy had the home restored, leased it out and moved to Estes Park in 1995 to live in the house she'd built here several years earlier as a rental.

Fast forward to fall of that year, when Earl and Nancy were married by the Rev. John Refsell in Moraine Park on October 22, 1995. The newlyweds began their productive partnership by participating in community groups and working with this mission congregation, which was formally organized in 1997. Both were on the board of Habitat for Humanity. In addition, Earl belonged to Rotary and Restorative Justice. He served as a volunteer chaplain with the Estes Park Police Department, hospice, the RMNP Crisis Team and Victim Advocates. He was active in men's golf and both he and Nancy hiked quite a bit. Nancy became the activities director at Prospect Park Living Center and later at the Estes Park Senior Center.

*(continued on page 4)*

*(Matsons; continued from page 3)*

When she wasn't substituting periodically for the church secretary, Nancy resumed horseback riding, kept up with the St. Louis Cardinals, and together they embarked on many trips, especially to their Puerto Vallarta timeshare and camping throughout Colorado.

Now they're enjoying retirement. Although Earl retired as pastor of SMLC in September 1999, he continued with many volunteer activities, most recently as a volunteer at Bear Lake in RMNP. He still enjoys hiking, swimming, reading novels, working out at Med-X and watching the Rockies. Similarly Nancy has focused her retirement interests on gardening, cooking, painting, reading, spiritual study, contemplative prayer, singing and playing the guitar. Nancy is also active with the Worship Committee, WELCA and the Second Saturday worship team. They live on Highway 66 in their "little house" with their brown tabby Buster "who *rules*," although Earl does get beef stew now and then in the winter. And as often as possible they enjoy sitting on their deck taking in the wildlife and beauty around them.

The other members of SMLC can feel very fortunate that this loving couple, so generous in serving others, has made their home among us and contributed to the growth of this congregation in so many important ways. Thank you, Earl and Nancy.—*Lynette Johnson*

## **See What the Electronic Church Is All About**

Visit the new church website at: [estesparklutheranelca.org](http://estesparklutheranelca.org)



## **Summer Ushers in Meditative Hikes**

We enjoyed the first church meditative hike at Lily Lake with a nice number of participants. At 4:45 pm, just before the hike began, there was a downpour of rain with darkened sky and visible lightening streaks. Ten minutes later the sky was a beautiful blue with a few fluffy clouds, so those who stayed till 5:00 pm were rewarded with the hour-long hike.

The meditative hikes allow participants to experience nature's sacred space. The walks are set at a leisurely pace with designated stops for a meditative reading. Some readings are beside benches to allow people to sit for a bit if they wish. Participants are encouraged to linger as long as they like, and catch up. The tone of the hike is low voices and little conversation.

We plan to have hikes every Monday evening at 5:00 pm with other locations around Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park to be announced. Dress for the weather, bring some water, perhaps binoculars (we spotted a moose at the west end of Lily Lake), sunscreen and a walking stick if you like. The trail is handicapped accessible and suitable for wheelchairs. There will be a variety of leaders for the hikes.—*Nancy Matson*



# Fair Trade Makes the World a Better Place

Your purchases of chocolate, coffee, tea, cocoa and cashew energy bars are making a big difference for small farmers. Just in the first five months of this year, nearly \$620 has gone to small farmers and their families, thanks to your patronage of our little Fair Trade cart in the church narthex. As a congregation our use of Eco Palms for Palm Sunday helped as well. Even our visitors and friends help as they enjoy sips of the delicious fair-traded coffee we offer each Sunday morning. Keep up the good work!

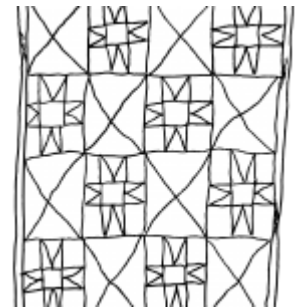
—Linda Schlitt, Fair Trade Coordinator



## How About a Pleasant Morning Activity?



Maybe you have friends or grandkids coming to town and you're looking for a fun, not-too-strenuous and cool morning activity. Or maybe you're in search of a service opportunity to make these warm summer days even more fun and meaningful. Maybe you feel relieved after the last batch of guests have departed, but also a bit lonely. Maybe you need some extra steps on your Fit Bit! If so, consider spending the



second and fourth Thursday mornings with us at church as we work on quilting. It's remarkably cool in the church in the mornings and beautiful views out the windows. We play with pretty material. We tie knots, visit, cut thread. Some of us do a bit of sewing. We chat and pause to have coffee and treats. Mostly we think about how those cold and discouraged people in disaster areas and refugee camps around the world will soon have something bright and warm of their very own that we've lovingly put together. Join us on Thursdays in July and August as we prepare quilts for LWR.—Linda Schlitt, Quilting Coordinator

## JULY BIBLE READINGS



### July 3

Isaiah 66:10-14  
Psalm 66:1-9  
Gal 6:[1-6]7-16  
Luke 10:1-11,16-20

### July 10

Deuteronomy 30:9-14  
Psalm 25:1-10  
Colossians 1:1-14  
Luke 10:25-37

### July 17

Genesis 18:1-10a  
Psalm 15  
Colossians 1:15-28  
Luke 10:38-42

### July 24

Genesis 18:20-32  
Psalm 138  
Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]  
Luke 11:1-13

### July 31

Eccles 1:2,12-14;2:18-23  
Psalm 49:1-12  
Colossians 3:1-11  
Luke 12:13-21

# Women of the ELCA

Women of the ELCA held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 14th. The Bible study was Session One of a three part series titled "The Heart of the Matter—Treasure in Clay Jars." The theme verse was from 2 Corinthians 4:7. This dealt with love, forgiveness and reconciliation in light of the fact that we are earthen vessels or clay jars, and the treasure within each of us is the Good News. Time was given to discussing conflict and forgiveness.

At the business meeting Bobbie Christenson reported on the kitchen utensils and placemats that she had recently purchased on behalf of WELCA. Once again, our WELCA unit was called upon to serve the Monday evening dinner at the Luther Academy at Meeker Park which is sponsored by Wartburg Seminary. We are grateful to Linda Schlitt for purchasing and serving the food to this group. John and Marian Stencel graciously assisted in the serving and Linda, Marian and Nancy Matson furnished the desserts.

At the conclusion of the WELCA meeting Linda Schlitt served a dessert during the fellowship time.

—*Marilyn Kienker*

## JUNE PRAYERS

- Allen Garner, upon the death of his brother
- Jean Siddle, upon the death of her friend Mary
- Ralph Knoll, hospitalized
- Betty Yohe, hospitalized
- Margaret Riedesel, surgery



## Buy Safeway Gift Cards

Safeway gift cards are an easy way to donate to SMLC, and it doesn't cost you an extra cent!



They operate just like cash when you buy groceries, work like cash when redeeming fuel credits, and the best part is, five percent of the proceeds automatically go back to the church. To purchase see Kelly Brown, either after church or by calling Kelly at 970-586-2021 during the week.—*Kelly Brown*

## JULY BIRTHDAYS



- Austin Condon, 7/5
- Gary Wallace, 7/6
- Marilyn Dutton, 7/8
- Penny Brisbin, 7/9
- Vanessa Paswaters, 7/10
- Steve Peter, 7/10
- Al Olson, 7/11
- Roger Fjeld, 7/13
- Amber Lorenz, 7/15
- Del Kienker, 7/23
- Lauren Molle, 7/26
- Alta Wachs, 7/26



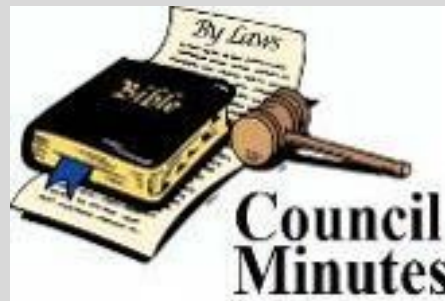
## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- Bruce Nickels and Marsha Yelick, 7/3
- Don and Gloria Lickfett, 7/5
- Larry and Jan Kilgore, 7/31

## ***Annual Congregational Meeting Summary 12 June 2016***

- January 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting minutes approved with a correction to a typo “In 2015, we paid \$350/month (\$4200 annual) in principal pay down reducing our loan term by **seven** [not seventeen] months.”
- Action: distribute February and April special congregational meeting minutes to the congregation.
- John Stencil presented the nominating committee report and comments on challenges in finding people who can serve. The following incoming council members were approved by acclamation: Mike Kellam for a three-year term. Deb Paddock and Gary Wallace sharing three-year term. Alternates: Rick Stolte and Bill Westley for one-year terms. The third three-year term is vacant. Thanked outgoing council members: Jean Siddle, Jim Stensvaag, Heidi Johnson.
- Committee Reports presented and approved: Witness, Learning, Service, Lutheran Men in Mission, WELCA, Stewardship, Property, and Worship.
- Bill Hayford, Assistant Treasurer, thanked Keith Riedesel, Gary Trunnell and Deb Paddock of the Audit Committee for completion of the 2015 audit which follows the ELCA’s audit program guidelines. Audit committee’s recommendation is to store financial and legal records in a fireproof locking cabinet and to look into digital record keeping. Kris Adams, Treasurer, and Ruth Turner, Financial Secretary recognized for their work.

—Submitted by Heidi Johnson



## ***Church Council Meeting Summary 8 June 2016***

- Key dates: Council-led worship service and mid-year congregational meeting 6/12. Meditative hikes begin 6/13. Pastor Ron preaching at Scandinavian Festival Worship service 6/26. Confirmation camp 6/26-7/1. Church picnic 7/24.
- Pastor Ron on vacation June 9-19.
- 2015 Financial Audit is complete with one item suggested—which has already been completed by the council.
- Discussed educational options for Planned Giving.
- New website launched: <http://www.estesparklutheranelca.org/>
- Possible topics for new council: Updating and revising bylaws—in particular possibly revising the number of people and length of terms for church council.
- Council transition meeting: Incoming and outgoing council members and spouses gathering at 5:00 pm on 6/25 at Jean Siddle’s home.
- SMLC Comprehensive Ministry Review set for September 9-11. Community and congregational participants invited. Erin Power of the ELCA Synod confirmed as lead facilitator.

*Next council meetings will be held Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm at Jean Siddle’s and Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm at SMLC.*

—Submitted by Heidi Johnson



# July 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Organ Rehearsal 10:30 am
3 <b>Sunday Worship 9:00 am</b> Coffee & Fellowship 10:00 am No Adult Forum	4 <b>Independence Day</b>	5	6 Sacred Space 7:00 am Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm	7 Quilters 9:15-11:30 am	8	9 Organ Rehearsal 10:30 am Our Savior Circle Pines Youth Group Overnight
10 <b>Sunday Worship 9:00 am</b> Coffee & Fellowship 10:00 am No Adult Forum	11 Meditative Hike 5:00 pm	12 WELCA 1:00-4:00 pm	13 Sacred Space 7:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm	14 Church Council 6:00 pm	15	16 10:30 am Organ Rehearsal
17 <b>Sunday Worship 9:00 am</b> No Adult Forum Picnic Planning Meeting 10:00 am	18 Meditative Hike 5:00 pm	19 PEO 8:45 am	20 Sacred Space 7:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm	21 Quilters 9:15-11:30 am	22	23 Organ Rehearsal 10:30 am
24 <b>Sunday Worship 9:00 am</b> No Adult Forum Neighborhood Picnic 11:00 am	25 Meditative Hike 5:00 pm	26	27 Sacred Space 7:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm	28 August Newsletter Up on Website and Link Emailed	29	30 Organ Rehearsal 10:30 am
31 <b>Sunday Worship 9:00 am</b> Coffee & Fellowship 10:00 am Adult Forum 10:30 am						



## **SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**President:** Allen Garner

**Vice President:** (To be determined)

**Secretary:** (To be determined)

**Members:**

Jill Johnson (Witness)

Bill Hayford (Resource)

Mark Lorenz (Service)

Mike Kellum

Deb Paddock

**Alternates:**

Rich Stolte (Learning)

Bill Westley (Learning)

**Treasurer:** Kris Adams (Stewardship)

**Financial Secretary:** Ruth Turner

**SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2000 Ptarmigan Trail  
Estes Park, CO 80517**