



# THE SHEPHERD'S CROOK



## SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH

2000 Ptarmigan Trail • Estes Park, CO 80517 • (970)-586-3900

[estesparklutheranelca.org](http://estesparklutheranelca.org)

Pastor Ron Bockhaus (970)-646-6657

## November 2016 Newsletter

### November Worship Matters

Sunday, November 6, 9:00 am *All Saints Sunday and Pledge Sunday*

Saturday, November 12, 5:00 pm *Second Saturday Worship*

Sunday, November 13, 9:00 am *Women's Thankoffering*

Sunday, November 20, 9:00 am *Diaconal Minister, Ro Fesser, Guest Preacher*

Tuesday, November 22, 12:00 pm *Community Thanksgiving, United Methodist Church*

Sunday, November 27, 9:00 am *First Sunday in Advent*

### COMMUNITY CORNER CAFÉ NOVEMBER MENU



Nov. 4 Spaghetti *Community Volunteers*

Nov. 11 Chili-topped Baked Potato *Community Volunteers*

Nov. 18 Pork and Autumn Squash *Longs Peak Rotary/Partners*

Nov. 25 Grill Night *The Mormon Church*



### **Please note these changes for November**

- No Choir Rehearsal on Wednesday, November 23rd
- No Centering Prayer on November 23rd
- Sacred Space will meet as usual on November 23rd
- No Quilting on Thursday, November 24th (Thanksgiving)

## Thankoffering Service on November 13th

WELCA will hold its annual Thankoffering Service on Sunday, November 13th at the 9:00 am worship service. We're pleased to announce that Terry L. Bowes of Longmont will be our guest speaker. Bowes has been active in the church for more years than she cares to count (!). She served as the first president of the Rocky Mountain Synodical Unit of Women of the ELCA, and also served on the ELCA Church Council, then as interim executive director of Women of the ELCA. Terry has been active in the Church's ecumenical relations, especially with the Episcopal Church USA. She currently writes a regular column, "Earth Wise," in *Gather* magazine, and now sees being a grandmother as her true calling.

—Marilyn Kienker

## November 2016

### ***After the Election***

If you're like me you can't wait until the election this month is over and done with. My hope is the fighting and arguing of the last few months will give way to listening and unity. Yet even by stating my hope in writing I can't shake the feeling that I am naïve and setting myself up for disappointment. That's sad for me to admit.

As Christians we confess we are sinners and we know that will also be true for the winner of this election. We also will continue to live in a society which doesn't fully live up to its stated ideals. Too often self-interest is the motivation instead of the common good. That can be both discouraging and motivating for us as followers of Christ.

Perhaps the goal we need to keep in mind is closer to us than Washington D.C. It resides in our home, our neighborhood and our town. That goal includes being authentic with one another even when all is not well. I'm not suggesting we put on a happy face while we slowly burn inside, but rather practice honoring the God-given dignity of others by listening and speaking in love. The Apostle Paul suggested this to the Ephesians when he wrote, "*Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.*" (Ephesians 4:29). We have it wrong when our passions drive us to act and speak as if our way is the only right way. Let's honor the gift of relationship that we share as fortunate citizens of this country and ultimately as children of God. We can do this by reflecting divine grace in what we say and do.

### ***A Time to Give Thanks***

Is it a coincidence that general elections are held in the same month as the Thanksgiving holiday? I don't know. So why not take advantage of Thanksgiving by joining with others in giving thanks? Once again SMLC will partner with several other churches in Estes Park in a community Thanksgiving event. It will take place at the **United Methodist Church on Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 pm.** Your participation will signal a willing spirit to join others in giving thanks for the life we enjoy here in Estes Park. There will be three ways to give an offering. The monetary offering will be for Crossroads Ministry, as well as in-kind gifts of paper products and canned food. In addition, the annual Crossroads coat collection will be extended to help with the needs of refugees living in communities on the front range. You may donate coats by dropping them off at Crossroads or bringing them to the Thanksgiving Service.

### ***Go Deeper with Matthew***

The last Sunday this month is the first Sunday of ADVENT! Advent marks the beginning of the church year and a change in the Sunday scripture lessons. This coming Advent season will begin a year-long focus on the gospel of Matthew and its supporting scripture lessons. Have you ever wanted to understand the gospel better? Here's your chance. I am leading an eight-session, in-depth study of Matthew on Tuesday mornings at 8:00 am. The first session will be on—you guessed it—Election Day, **November 8<sup>th</sup>!** We'll be using a study from Augsburg to guide our individual and group learning that requires a booklet for \$12. If you've never gone deeper into scripture, here's your chance. We're all novices! Sign up with me!

In Christ,

*Pastor Ron*

# ***Fourth Quarter Special Offering***

*Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, until the destroying storms pass by.—Psalm 57:1*

In the past six months the United States has been struck by three catastrophic natural disasters: the West Virginia flooding, the Gulf coast flooding and Hurricane Matthew. Our fourth quarter offering has traditionally been to Lutheran World Relief for distribution to a non-U.S. disaster. This year, because of the issues in our own country, the offering will be sent to Lutheran Disaster Relief to be used where there is greatest need.

Together we must help our brothers and sisters suffering through these tragedies. We know well how long it takes to recover from flooding. Many of us have experienced it personally. Please prayerfully consider your response to this need for the offering collected Sunday, December 4th. Thank you for your generosity.

## ***Altar Committee Update***

Few SMLC members are aware of the faithful Altar Committee members working behind the scenes to prepare our altar for worship services. Their work is absolutely essential to the life of this congregation. So when Marion Dougherty was suddenly hospitalized, we might have been left with a conspicuously bare altar on Sunday mornings. Never fear; the Lord will provide.

Annette Gaskill has graciously stepped forward as Altar Committee coordinator in Marion's absence. We're grateful to Annette, but asking for more members to join her dwindling committee. The primary task only takes about an hour on Saturday afternoons, a quiet way to offer one's dedication to the Lord and the worship of His people. Annette and other committee members are offering on-the-job training. Please get in touch with her at [jagaskill@earthlink.net](mailto:jagaskill@earthlink.net) or call her at home, (303) 823-0299 or on her cell, (303) 503-2485.

Volunteers who serve as communion assistants are more obviously essential, even though they don't serve on the Altar Committee. If you'd like to help serve communion, sign up on the volunteer opportunities sheet posted beside the kitchen. Experienced communion assistants will offer on-the-job training for this service as well.

Meanwhile we thank Marion for her dedicated service to these many years, and pray she will soon return to us in good health.—*Lynette Johnson*

## ***Fair Trade Third Quarter Update***

In October I took time to look at the numbers for the first nine months of the year. Your purchases really add up! As of September 30th, \$975.35 has gone through Fair Trade to small farmers and their cooperatives. Through September 2016 your local WELCA has graciously paid up front so that it's easy for you to access Fair Trade products. *And* they've invested an additional \$146.03 in inventory so a good stock of items is available. Wow—thank you! Thanks to everyone at SOM for our continued choice to purchase and use Fair Trade coffee for coffee hours. Together we're making a difference in how these products are grown and manufactured, but especially in helping small farmers and their families and communities. Through Lutheran World Relief, the Fair Trade Exchanges and our world partners, we can continue to make a difference.

—*Linda Schlitt, Fair Trade Coordinator*

*(Check out [www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org) for the latest heart-warming story of how cacao growing and infrastructure help from LWR makes a difference for an indigenous tribe in the Americas that's working to care for their land and save their culture.)*

## Getting to Know...Bill and Connie Westley

Bill and Connie have been founders and supporters of this large church family as well as their own large family. Married for over 56 years, they have three living children: Tamra (58), Michael (55), and Marla (49). Two other sons, Matthew and Greg, were tragically killed in accidents in 2000 and 2013, respectively. The Westleys gave the beautiful large cross that hangs above the SMLC altar in Matthew and Greg's memory.



They also keep twenty-four grandchildren and twenty-three great-grandchildren in their prayers.

Before moving to Estes Park in 1989, the Westleys raised their five children in several locations where Bill worked. He was a college professor at Fort Hays State University in Kansas and at Northern Illinois University. Bill was head of the Accounting Data Processing Department at Illinois Central College in Peoria for twenty-five years, where he taught computer programming. He also worked for the National Cash Register Company in Dayton, Ohio.

After they "retired" to Estes Park, Bill worked part-time at Rains Motor Company as Fleet Manager, coordinating drivers for vehicle transportation until

Rains went out of business. Although he didn't require his drivers to be Lutheran, it just turned out that way because he was a very active member of the fledgling SMCL congregation. He still is an active member, having served whenever needed on the Church Council, serving three times as President, and participating as a very reliable member of the tenor section in the choir.

More importantly, Bill and Connie were instrumental in founding Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church. In case newer members don't know how SMLC came into being, it evolved from the efforts of a group calling themselves the Estes Park Lutheran Fellowship. This group adopted the official name Shepherd of the Mountains in 1994. They subsequently gained a charter from the Rocky Mountain Synod of the ELCA and became a recognized congregation. As they grew in numbers, the congregation eventually built the present facility. In fact, Bill—along with the now deceased Reverend Arthur Becker—collaborated in writing a brief history of SMLC's early years. Bill's current project is a revision of that document. With a little encouragement he'd be willing to publish that revision in installments of *The Shepherd's Crook* newsletter or in the Sunday worship service bulletins.

Meanwhile, Connie has her own projects. She was the owner and manager of the Mountain Lady Quilt Shop here in Estes for fifteen years and still is an avid quilter. When she isn't keeping track of their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, Connie creates the designs she forms into beautiful new quilts.

Quilt piecing seems symbolic of the way Bill and Connie have pieced together a warm and loving life, and of the essential ingredients needed to form a vital, loving and worshipping family of faith that we now know as Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church.—*Lynette Johnson*

*Our thanks go to Bob Rising for supplying this picture.*





# Men in Mission November Saturday Morning Breakfast

The Men in Mission monthly breakfast will be Saturday, November 12, at 8:30 am at the church. The kitchen remodeling should be complete, so we'll enjoy a hearty hot breakfast, devotions and an exciting program. I'd like to encourage all men of Shepherd of the Mountains to come. Bring a neighbor or friend, as we plan to invite our brothers from the United Methodist Church to join us for breakfast and the program. I hope to see all of you there! Peace.—*John Stencel*

## Advent Calendars

ELCA World Hunger will have Advent Calendars available this year. Each day has reminder of the reason for the season with hymns, prayers, Bible verses and stories about how ELCA Good Gifts animals make a difference in the world. They would be perfect for families. The calendars are free of charge, but will need to know how many to order. Please see Linda Wold, Deb Paddock, Earl Matson or Carolyn Jarmin to place your order.



**Visit Our Electronic Church**  
Check the church website for SMLC updates at:  
[estesparklutheranelca.org](http://estesparklutheranelca.org)

## NOVEMBER BIBLE READINGS



**November 6**  
Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18  
Psalm 149  
Ephesians 1:11-23  
Luke 6:20-31

**November 13**  
Malachi 4:1-2a  
Psalm 98  
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13  
Luke 21:5-19

**November 20**  
Jeremiah 23:1-6  
Psalm 46  
Colossians 1:11-20  
Luke 23:33-43

**November 27**  
Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
Psalm 100  
Philippians 4:4-9  
John 6:25-35

You are invited to hear



**Mary & Barry  
Hannigan**

(flute & piano)

newly retired to

Estes Park from

the music Dept. of

Bucknell University

playing selections by

**Bach,**

**Chopin,**

**Confrey,**

**Schumann,**

**Rutter, &**

**Pierce**

**Peak to Peak Concert #3**

**Sat., Nov. 19th at 2:00 pm at**

**Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church**

# Women of the ELCA

The monthly meeting of WELCA was at SMLC on Tuesday, October 11th. We continued our study of, "When God Forgives the Guilty." Dorothy Refsell led Session Two, "Jesus and the Evil Eye: When God Blesses the Underserving." The business meeting was conducted by Bobbie Christenson. Recognition and appreciation was given to Dorothy Refsell for her participation and support of WELCA activities through the years. Linda Schlitt served some yummy peach pie during the fellowship time.

Sunday, November 13th will be the annual Thankoffering service. The date of Tuesday, November 29th at 10:00 am was selected for the annual Advent Breakfast with all women of SMLC invited. —*Marilyn Kienker*

## 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*



This year share the message of Fair Trade by handing out delicious bite-size organic Chocolate Minis and kid-friendly info cards. Fair Trade comes from small-scale farmers so you can feel good about giving Halloween treats. Stop by our cart and buy a pack of minis and the little cards to give to special friends of all ages. Make ministry fun and delicious this Halloween! —*Linda Schlitt*

### OCTOBER PRAYERS



- Linda Schlitt, encouragement with continued treatments
- Carole Rouse, support for medical decisions
- Irv Ringdahl, friend of congregation entering hospice
- Pam, friend of Bobbie Christenson, entering hospice
- Marion Dougherty, recovery and rehabilitation
  - Margaret Riedesel, surgery
- Debbie Knoll, daughter-in-law to Nancy Knoll, surgery
- Family of Mark Lorenz upon the death of Mark's mother, Bobbie

### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Lynette Johnson, 11/1
- Don Lickfett, 11/2
- Kelly Brown, 11/9
- Mary Beth Mollé, 11/9
- Susan Anderson, 11/11
- Gary Brown, 11/11
- Jeanie Garner, 11/11
- Bill Westley, 11/17
- Terry Rizzuti, 11/20
- James Sulzbach/ 11/20
- Anna Bockhaus, 11/24
- Phyllis Eggers, 11/24
- Leif Johnson, 11/24
- Karen Olson, 11/28
- Annette Gaskill, 11/30
- Stan Johnson, 11/30
- Carolyn Mangler, 11/30



### NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- John and Marian Stencel, 11/24
- Allen and Mary Settje, 11/29





# October Council Highlights



Council members were brought up to date on many upcoming events involving our church: Quarterly Offering on December 4th for Domestic Disaster Relief; Stewardship 365: A Sense of Direction (kudos to Jean Siddle and Heidi Johnson for sharing experiences with Spiritual Gifts and Stewardship on October 16th). Stewardship letters will go out before the end of October with pledges to be received November 6th.

Coming in November: the Women's Thankoffering Service November 13th and the community-wide Thanksgiving Service November 22nd at the United Methodist Church, 1:00 pm.

The church is looking for an administrative assistant to work part-time. We will miss Lisa, whose last day is October 31st.

Members will be hearing more about the Spiritual Gifts Inventory. If you haven't filled one out, they are available in the church office.

Any questions? Ask any of your Church Council members.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Johnson, Council Secretary*

## Quilting Ministry November News

During October, five or six quilts were sent to La Puente for families graduating from their homeless shelter program.

November is full of quilting fun. November plans include a normal Thursday work morning with a twist: November 10th at the church from 9:15 am-11:30 am we'll be finishing up our last quilts before the 2016 Annual In-Gathering. We could really use some extra hands for that particular day. With the kitchen remodel done there'll be plenty of room. We'll also be decorating the sanctuary that morning with our completed quilts for their blessing at the November 12th Second Saturday services as well as the Sunday, November 13th Thankoffering service.

On Thankoffering Sunday, quilters will have a basket in the narthex for a free will offering to help defray the cost of shipping these quilts overseas. Maybe you'd like to "adopt" a quilt and donate the shipping cost (\$2.25) for it. We'll also have a quilt drawing that day. Be sure to put your name in the basket for the drawing before or after church. The winner gets to pick out any quilt they choose from those created this year and keep it or give away to a friend or family. This is a way for us to stay connected to this ministry in a concrete way, helping us remember neighbors both near and far.

After church we'll be folding and packing quilts for shipment to the regional collection center. Extra hands on Thursday the 10th and Sunday the 13th are especially welcome. Won't you put these dates on your calendar for November, and share a bit of time during the Thanksgiving season? And be sure to come a bit early on Sunday the 13th to admire all the lovely quilts. Thanks for your help and support for this loving ministry that reaches out warmly to the world.—Linda Schlitt and the Quilting Group





# November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 PEO 8:45 am Witness Committee 1:00 pm	2 Sacred Space 7:00 am Centering Prayer 11:30 am Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm	3	4 Community Corner Café 4:30-7:00 pm	5 Organ Rehearsal 10:30 am
6 Sunday Worship 9:00 am <b>ALL SAINTS SUNDAY</b> <b>PLEDGE SUNDAY</b> Coffee & Fellowship 10:00 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Oratorio Practice 4:00-6:00 pm	7	8 <b>ELECTION DAY</b> WELCA 1:00-4:00 pm Matthew Bible Study 8:00 am	9 Sacred Space 7:00 am Centering Prayer 11:30 am Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm	10 Worship Committee Meeting 9:00 am Quilters 9:15-11:30 am Church Council 6:00 pm	11 Community Corner Café 4:30-7:00 pm	12 Men's Breakfast 8:30 am Organ Rehearsal 10:30 am 5:00 pm 2nd Sat.
13 Sunday Worship 9:00 am <b>THANKOFFERING SERVICE</b> Coffee & Fellowship 10:00 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Oratorio Practice 4:00-6:00 pm	14	15 Matthew Bible Study 8:00 am PEO 8:45 am Learning Committee 4:00 pm	16 Sacred Space 7:00 am Centering Prayer 11:30 am Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm	17	18 Community Corner Café 4:30-7:00 pm	19 Organ Rehearsal 10:30 am Peak-to-Peak Concert 1:00-4:30 pm
20 Sunday Worship 9:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00 am Adult Forum 10:30 Oratorio Practice 4:00-6:00 pm	21	22 Matthew Bible Study 8:00 am Community Thanksgiving Service UMC—1:00 pm	23 Sacred Space 7:00 am No Centering Prayer No Choir Rehearsal	24 <b>THANKSGIVING</b>	25 Community Corner Café 4:30-7:00 pm	26 Organ Rehearsal 10:30 am
27 <b>FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT</b> Sunday Worship 9:00 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00 am Adult Forum 10:30 Oratorio Practice 4:00-6:00 pm	28	29 Matthew Bible Study 8:00 am Advent Breakfast 10:00 am	30 Sacred Space 7:00 am Centering Prayer 11:30 am Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm			

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LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2000 Ptarmigan Trail  
Estes Park, CO 80517**

**SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL**

**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 Stoitte (Learning)

Bill Westley (Learning)

**Treasurer:** Kris Adams (Stewardship)

**Financial Secretary:** Ruth Turner