



SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Shepherd's Staff

2000 Ptarmigan Trail • Estes Park, CO 80517 • (970)-586-3900
Pastor Ron Bockhaus (970)-646-6657

estesparklutheranelca.org

DECEMBER 2016



Merry Christmas

Dec. Community Corner Café Menu

- Dec 2 Mac & cheese with ham**
Journeys Class Community Church
- Dec 9 Stroganoff**
Chapter HF PEO
- Dec 16 Spaghetti**
Methodist Church
- Dec 23 Enchiladas**
Mormon Church
- Dec 30 Grill Night**
Police Auxiliary

December Worship Matters

- Sunday, Dec. 4, 9AM**
4th Quarter Special Offering, New Members, Kitchen dedication
- Saturday, Dec. 10, 5PM**
Second Saturday Worship
- Sunday, Dec. 11, 9AM**
Advent 3, The Forerunner of Christ
- Sunday, Dec. 18, 9AM**
Advent 4, A God Near at Hand
- Saturday, Dec. 24, 6:30 PM**
Christmas Even Candlelight Worship
- Sunday, Dec. 25, 9AM**
Christmas Day Worship



Church Christmas Party

The church Christmas party is set for Monday evening, December 5th, at 5:00pm. Please set aside this evening for a potluck supper and special activity. There will be a signup sheet in the narthex by the office window so you can indicate what you would like to bring and how many will be attending. You may also bring items for Crossroads, such as gloves and hats or paper products. Plan on attending this fun evening for great food and fellowship—a wonderful way to celebrate the Advent Season.

Pastor's Corner

Pastor Ron Bockhaus - Contact me at ron.bockhaus@smlc.us 970-646-6657

It's Time for One Oyster

by Pastor Ron

This time of year is often when people do their once-a-year thing. Gifts are purchased for people we don't otherwise remember. Lights are hung outside on the house and bushes. A tree is cut down and brought into the home. And we sometimes get to eat an oyster!

My family made oyster stew on Christmas Eve. People prepare oysters in many different ways but as a child it didn't matter to me. I didn't like oysters and I still don't. Squishy matter from a shell has never appealed to me. Yet it was Christmas Eve, that once-a-year event when the benefits far outweigh the inconveniences even when that meant eating an oyster. So each year growing up I ate one oyster on Christmas Eve.

In talking to people about their faith the subject of Christmas comes up. "Did your family attend church?" "No, except on Christmas Eve." "Did you ever read the Bible?" "Not really besides my mom reading the Christmas story to us." "Was prayer part of your family?" "Yes, at our Christmas meal we prayed!" Now is the time for many, who don't normally do so, to express

faith in simple ways. How easy it would be to judge that if it were not for the witness of scripture. The apostle Paul said it was a small thing if he should be judged by others or by any human court (I Corinthians 4:3). He went on to say he did not even judge himself because it is the Lord who does the judging.

What amazes me about this once-a-year attitude toward faith is the innocence. Christmas is seen as an extraordinary event that calls forth the best in people, albeit once-a-year. Church, prayer and the baby Jesus are part of the Christmas package that people accept. Those who attend more regularly might struggle with such an attitude, thinking it is naive and childish. But then isn't on account of a child we have Christmas? Carlo Carretto wrote in I, Francis, "The Gospel taught me to place the emphasis on the mystery of the human being more than on the duty of the human being." If the mystery of God coming to us as a child brings that once-a-year person to hear the Gospel, let's be thankful. In fact, let's go further by inviting someone we know to attend SMLC on Christmas Eve.

May Christmas bring much Joy!

December Bible Readings

December 4

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

December 11

Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

December 18

Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

December 25

Isaiah 62:6-12
Isaiah 62:6-12
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

December Calendar at a Glance

Friday, December 2

4:30pm Community Corner Cafe

Saturday, December 3

10:30am Organ Rehearsal

Sunday, December 4

9:00am Sunday Worship
10:00am Coffee & Fellowship
10:30am Adult Forum

Monday, December 5

5:30pm Church Christmas Potluck

Tuesday, December 6

8:00am Bible Study
8:00am Cooking for La Puente

Wednesday, December 7

7:00am Sacred Space
11:30am Centering Prayer
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 8

8:00am Cooking for La Puente
9:30am Quilters
1:00pm Christmas Decorating
(see page 4)

Friday, December 9

4:30pm Community Corner Cafe

Saturday, December 10

8:30am Men's Breakfast
10:30am Organ Rehearsal
5:00pm Second Saturday Service

Sunday, December 11

9:00am Sunday Worship
10:00am Coffee & Fellowship
10:30am Adult Forum

Monday, December 12

3:00pm Small Group Setup
5:00pm Community Bible Study
6:00pm Carols & Cheers (see page 4)

Tuesday, December 13

8:00am Bible Study
8:00am Cooking for La Puente

Wednesday, December 14

7:00am Sacred Space
11:30am Centering Prayer
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 15

8:00am Cooking for La Puente

Friday, December 16

4:30pm Community Corner Cafe

Saturday, December 17

10:30am Organ Rehearsal

Sunday, December 18

9:00am Sunday Worship
10:00am Coffee & Fellowship
10:30am Adult Forum

Monday, December 19

8:00am Cooking for La Puente
5:00am Table Talker Christmas Party
(see page 4)

Tuesday, December 20

8:00am Bible Study
8:00am Cooking for La Puente

Wednesday, December 21

7:00am Sacred Space
11:30am Centering Prayer
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 22

8:00am Cooking for La Puente
9:00am Quilters

Friday, December 23

4:30pm Community Corner Cafe

Saturday, December 24

10:30am Organ Rehearsal
6:30pm Christmas Eve Worship
(see page 4)

Sunday, December 25

9:00am Sunday Worship (see page 4)

Monday, December 26

8:00am Cooking for La Puente

Tuesday, December 27

8:00am Bible Study
8:00am Cooking for La Puente

Wednesday, December 28

7:00am Sacred Space
11:30am Centering Prayer
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 29

8:00am Cooking for La Puente

Friday, December 30

4:30pm Community Corner Cafe

Saturday, December 31

10:30am Organ Rehearsal

Upcoming Activities

Decorating the church for Christmas

On Thursday, December 8th, at 1:00, we will be decorating the church for Christmas. Marion Dougherty has always supervised this event and we will miss her. However, Don Lickfett remembers the how and where, so please come and help Don. Our hands; God's work. We'll make a party of it. The cookies are already in the freezer.

Carols and Cheers!

Don't forget about the Christmas carol sing-a-long on December 12th, 6pm, at the Wheel Bar. We will join members of other Estes Park churches in singing the faith together. Of course, we invite everyone to join us in the singing and the fun. Plan to participate and bring a friend.

Don't miss the Annual Table Talkers Christmas Party

Please join us at the home of Jean Siddle on Monday December 19th from 5:00pm – 8:00pm. Please bring a heavy appetizer. Jean's address is 2031 High Drive and her phone number is 586-5721 if you have any questions.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at SMLC

Christmas Eve this year is on Saturday, Dec. 24th beginning at 6:30pm. Phyllis Eggers will be providing beautiful Christmas music prior to the candlelight service that begins at 7pm. Plan to bring the family to this annual celebration of the "reason for the season."

Christmas Day: Sunday, December 25th, 9am


Christmas Day falls on Sunday this year. SMLC will have a service at 9am as normal but with an emphasis on singing Christmas Carols.

Advent Calendars

ELCA World Hunger will have Advent Calendars available this year. Each day has a reminder of the reason for the season with hymns, prayers, Bible verses and stories about how the 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.

Sound System Operation Volunteers needed

Team members rotate on a monthly schedule. For further information please contact Gary Trunnell at gtrunnell@gmail.com.



from the
**Oratorio
Society of
Estes
Park**
Dr. Kathryn Bowers,
conductor

A gift for you:

The Childhood of Christ
by Hector Berlioz

The Mother Goose Suite
by Maurice Ravel, staged by

The Ballet Renaissance
Fri., 12/2/16 @ 7pm & Sat., 12/3/16 @ 2 pm
at the EPHS auditorium
Admission is free; donations appreciated
www.osep.info

News from Around the Church

From the Financial Secretary

Our congregation is to be commended for completing 95% or more of yearly pledges. This year Christmas falls on Sunday and it is the last Sunday of the year. Please remember to complete your 2016 pledges and any other special giving before the end of the year. We will be making an extra deposit on December 31 for things that come in the mail.

Also, on October 30th, a pledge was put in the offering plate, folded once, without a name. It was for \$50 per week. If it is yours, please let us know. If you have questions contact Ruth Turner, 970-988-1709, ruthturner@live.com.

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 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.



Advocacy in Action

Have you ever wondered how the ELCA functions as public church? Take a few minutes to read the article in the October issue of Living Lutheran entitled “Advocacy as Witness: A Voice for Common Good” Together we are the body of Christ in the world.

Bishop Gonia, in his statement following the election, wrote “Our national elections have just concluded. Now is the time for the church to be the church. Now is the time to commit ourselves without hesitation to our calling to proclaim and embody the unconditional love of God for the sake of the world. We must now fully embrace our role: to speak and act on behalf of those who are most marginalized, to stand with the most vulnerable in our society. Now is the time for the church be the church. I call upon you to join me in living as Christ’s Church, Better Together.”



News from Around the Church



December Wedding Anniversaries

Glenn and Louanne Isernhagen 12/18
George and Carolyn Jarmin 12/25
Donald and Marilyn Shalibo 12/25
Larry and Karen Olson 12/27
Ralph and Nancy Knoll 12/29
Leif and Heidi Johnson 12/31
James and Candy Sulzbach 12/31

December Birthdays

Ron Dutton 12/4
Daniel Mangler 12/9
Nancy Knoll 12/10
Jeanne Nelson 12/13
Louanne Isernhagen 12/14
Peggy Lorenz 12/14
Carolyn Jarmin 12/15
Nancy Matson 12/18

FAIR TRADE

A new order of chocolate bars and cashew chew bars is on its way to your little Fair Trade cart to help make your Advent and Christmas season just a little sweeter this year. Soon we will have Dark Chocolate with almonds as well as plenty of your favorite dark chocolate caramel crunch and dark chocolate orange bars. Both Pineapple and Apricot cashew bars will be in stock. They are perfect for sticking in stockings or tucking in packages or as a special little remembrance for friends and neighbors. (Or for sticking in your glove compartment or pocket for “emergencies”).



As December gets chillier, a great cup of coffee, tea or chocolate is just the thing to warm up as we visit with friends and family during this special time of year. Remember that we have whole bean, regular and decaf coffee in various bags and cans as well as cartons of single serve and a few pillow packs for quick pots of coffee. Fair trade items are the gifts that keep on giving - not only with great products for you and your loved ones - but providing fair prices and help for small farmers and their families around the world. Thank you for your continuing support.

by Linda Schlitt, Fair Trade Coordinator

November Prayer Reminders

Family of Irv Ringdahl upon his death
Don Bowen, in rehabilitation
Stephen & Karla, friends of Steve Peter, and health concerns
Day of Prayer for the nation: 12/3/16, 9am—1pm. St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
Linda Schlitt, prayer of thanks concerning health
Marion Dougherty, rehabilitation and relocation.

News from Around the Church

Altar Committee Update

by Lynette Johnson

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 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 for these many years, and pray she will soon return to us in good health.

Women ^{of the} ELCA

The last regular meeting of this year was Tuesday, November 8th SMLC. Gloria Lickfett led our study from the Gather magazine which expressed Paul's failures and we discussed our own failings. Gloria served refreshments during the social time. We responded to a prayer request of a missionary for children in his mission in Belize. Information regarding this request may be found on the bulletin board by the office.

We finished planning for the Thankoffering Service on Sunday, November 13th and want to express our thanks to the congregation for giving so generously that morning. Terry Bowes has thanked us for being invited to share her message and so enjoyed being a part of the SMLC congregation. She and her husband, Steve, hope to attend SMLC again in the future.

WELCA held their annual Advent Brunch on Tuesday, November 29th at 10:30 a.m. with everyone in the church and beyond being invited to attend. Having it early in the Advent season encourages us to take time to slow down, to be quiet and to appreciate the celebration of Christ's birth. We open our hearts to being called to the discipleship in Jesus Christ and being empowered by the Holy Spirit.

News from Around the Church

Getting to Know Pamm Haglund

Pamm has been an active member of SMLC since 2013, but she has often gone unnoticed because she works as a technician in the back of the sanctuary, behind the sound system console. She may be more noticeable when she is ushering, but she is seldom idle.



Her youthful energy should be a clue that, like many of the members of SMLC, she is not really old enough to be retired. Due to her work for Lockheed Martin, she sampled life in a wide variety of loca-

tions before choosing Estes Park: Littleton, CO; Fountain Hills, AZ; Lombard, IL; Red wing, MN; Plum City, WI; Anchorage, AK; and Bend, OR. One of the advantages of the current age of technology is that she can continue as a Lockheed Consultant from here. One of the advantages of this lovely location is that it attracts such highly skilled and industrious people as Pamm. Besides being a consultant with Lockheed, she is currently employed by an IT contracting firm. Furthermore, she considers “renovating and flipping houses” a mere pastime.

Her response to “How did you discover SMLC” demonstrates the importance of keeping SMLC’s information in the yellow pages up to date. Having been raised in the Lutheran Church, she wanted to return to a church family when she first settled here; so she looked in the phonebook. She says, “As soon as I saw Shepherd of the Mountains, I knew that was where I was to be.”

So, this congregation is her church home and she has become a very dear member of this

church family. In case other members of this family would like to join her in her more leisurely activities, she enjoys walking, hiking, and fishing (fly, bait, and deep sea), in the great outdoors. Life seems to be a continual adventure for Pamm.



Paswater family with their winning quilt choice

QUILTING

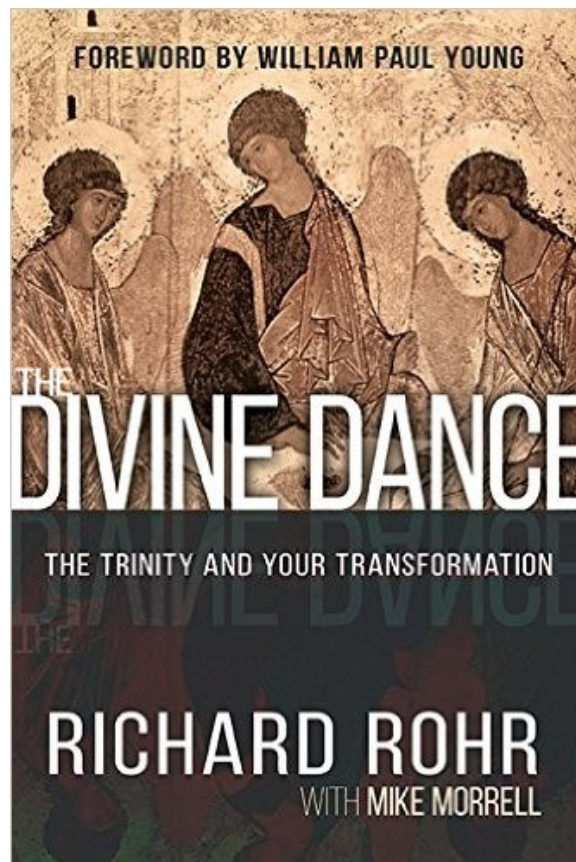
Thanks to your support and all the loving work of your quilting group, we were able to bless 39 quilts for Lutheran World Relief and one quilts for La Puente. A big “Thank You” to those who helped get them boxed up for shipment and to Rich & Sandy Stolte for making the arrangements and taking them down to the Denver collection center so that they can go overseas to those in greatest need in the year ahead. We collected \$120 which was collected to cover all the shipping for our quilts to go overseas but also enough to help Lutheran World ship quilts from other groups. Thank you for your generosity.

Special thanks also go to Betty Yohe, a former quilter now living in Loveland. She was not only present for our quilt blessing but brought us 3 freshly sewn quilt tops to help us have a jump start to our new year of quilt making! If you’d like to help with this fun work, please plan to join us on Thursday morning, December 8 from 9:15 to 11:30. What better way to prepare for Christ’s coming than help make warm gifts of love for other.

Looking for Christmas gift ideas?

We will be studying this book in January—
great idea for loved ones or yourself!

Available on Amazon for \$16.59 hardcover
or \$12.53 Kindle edition. Also available at
your favorite bookstores and libraries.



The Trinity is supposed to be the central, foundational doctrine of our entire Christian belief system, yet we're often told that we shouldn't attempt to understand it because it is a 'mystery'. Should we presume to try to breach this mystery? If we could, how would it transform our relationship with God and renew our lives?

-Amazon summary

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