



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

SMLCEstes.org

DECEMBER 2017



December Worship Matters.

Sunday, Dec. 3, 9am.

Advent 1-God's New Song
& Doodle Sunday

Sunday, Dec. 10, 9am.

Advent 2- Song of Light & Disaster Relief
Offering

Sunday, Dec. 17, 9am.

Advent 3-Mary's Song & last Sunday for
gift ornaments

Sunday, Dec. 24, 9am.

Little Christmas with lessons and carols
4:30pm. Christmas Eve Candlelight
Worship

Sunday, Dec. 31, 9am.

A New Song for a New Year

Church Christmas Party

The Church Christmas Party is set for Monday evening December 11th at 5:00 p.m. We will share a delicious potluck supper, fellowship and special activities, including decorating the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary with our Chrismons and the smaller tree in the Narthex (bring an ornament to use on this tree) and sing some carols! There will be sign-up sheets for the potluck in the Narthex by the office window so you can indicate what you would like to bring and how many will be attending, so watch for them! You may also bring items for Crossroads – such as gloves and hats, paper products or canned food items. Mark your calendar and enjoy this fun evening of great food and fellowship – a wonderful way to celebrate the Advent Season!

Dec. Comm. Corner Café Menu

Dec. 1 - Pulled Pork/Ribs

Journeys Class

Dec. 8 - Meatloaf

Chapter HF PEO

Dec. 15 - Chili Potatoes

Methodist Church

Dec. 22 - Crispy Chicken

Mormon Church

Dec. 29 - Grill Night

Community Volunteers



Pastor's Corner

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

Now The Calendar Can Even Wait!

My first experience of the church as a new pastor was in the season of Advent. I was supposed to be ordained on December 1st but an early Midwestern snow storm postponed it one week. Two days later I started and soon discovered some things I didn't know about Advent.

My partner in ministry, a veteran of many Advents, pointed out many people in the church simply ignore the season of Advent. With Christmas fast approaching, Advent was simply a blip on the screen, a delay holding up the real thing come December 24th. The pastoral challenge was to convince people that Advent was important, and necessary to experience a true Christmas. Waiting is necessary for faith. "Who wants to do that?" the kids would say to me, bring on Christmas, the sooner the better.

It is clear the church is fighting an uphill battle when it comes to Advent. The prophetic scripture passages and lyrical hymns of this season are no match for familiar jingles playing over store PA systems and commercials with Santa Claus driving a Lexus. Even so, we're not going to give up! The harder Madison Ave. pushes to sell us their version of Christmas, the harder we must remind everyone about Advent. I just wish the calendar wasn't against us this year.

If you look at your December calendar you'll see that Christmas Eve lands on a Sunday. Normally there are four Sundays of Advent prior to Christmas Eve. This year however the fourth Sunday of Advent is the same day as Christmas Eve. When I saw that I knew Advent 4 didn't have much of a chance. And so this year we continue our fight for Advent with one less Sunday. Now the calendar can't even wait.

We shall start Advent with the message of Psalm 96:1--O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. This song of faith bubbles up from all living things in praise of God's amazing work of creating, renewing, and saving.

Next we hear the prophet Isaiah say, 'You shall have a song'(30:29). Even when things look the most bleak and hopeless you shall have a song to sing. It was in such a time the prophet spoke of a servant who would bring justice and light to all the world. The lyrics of this song, recorded in Isaiah 42, are later echoed in the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

By singing a new song we hear the echoes of Mother Mary's song in the first chapter of Luke. She sings with joy because of all the great things God has done and will do through her son. All who are lowly and powerless will be lifted up. The song's theme of justice sounds familiar, yet continually challenges us.

With one less Sunday in our Advent we must also bring the Apostle Paul into the mix. In his letter to the Philippians he beautifully explains that Christ Jesus did not cling to, clutch, or exploit the place of glory, but chose to come down to us and share our lot as human beings. This we know included the cross.

As you can see we aren't ignoring the coming of Christmas. We are making room for it by honoring the season of Advent. May we be changed by this time of preparation.

Together in Advent and Christmas
Pastor Ron

December Calendar at a Glance

Friday, December 1

CCC Prep
4:30pm Cafe Corner

Saturday, December 2

10:30am Organ Rehearsal

Sunday, December 3

9:00am Worship
10:30am Adult Forum
10:30am Budget Meeting

Monday, December 4

10:00am LaPuente Cooking

Tuesday, December 5

10:00am LaPuente Cooking

Wednesday, December 6

7:00am Sacred Space
10:00am LaPuente Cooking
11:30am Centering Prayer
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 7

10:00am LaPuente Cooking
1:00pm CCC Prep

Friday, December 8

CCC Prep
4:30pm Cafe Corner

Saturday, December 9

8:30am Men's Breakfast
10:30am Organ Rehearsal

Sunday, December 10

9:00am 4th Quarter Special Offering
9:00am Worship
10:30am Adult Forum

Monday, December 11

5:00pm Christmas Potluck

Tue December 12

10:00am LaPuente Cooking
1:00pm WELCA

Wednesday, December 13

7:00am Sacred Space
8:00am LaPuente Cooking
9:15am Quilters
11:30am Centering Prayer
3:30pm Estes Valley Quilters Guild
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal
5:00pm Church Council

Thursday, December 14

9:30am Quilters
10:00am LaPuente Cooking
1:00pm CCC Prep
5:30pm Table Talkers - Lickfett Home

Friday, December 15

CCC Prep
4:30pm Cafe Corner

Saturday, December 16

10:00am LaPuente Cooking
10:30am Organ Rehearsal

Sunday, December 17

9:00am Worship
10:30am Adult Forum

Monday, December 18

10:00am LaPuente Cooking

Tuesday, December 19

10:00am LaPuente Cooking

Wednesday, December 20

7:00am Sacred Space
10:00am LaPuente Cooking
11:30am Centering Prayer
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 21

10:00am LaPuente Cooking
1:00pm CCC Prep

Friday, December 22

CCC Prep
4:30pm Cafe Corner

Saturday, December 23

10:00am LaPuente Cooking
10:30am Organ Rehearsal

Sunday, December 24

9:00am Worship
4:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 27

7:00am Sacred Space
10:00am LaPuente Cooking
11:30am Centering Prayer
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 28

10:00am LaPuente Cooking
1:00pm CCC Prep

Friday, December 29

CCC Prep
4:30pm Cafe Corner

Saturday, December 30

10:00am LaPuente Cooking
10:30am Organ Rehearsal

Sunday, December 31

9:00am Worship



Important Dates of Note

ELCA Good Gifts

Again this year we will have Good Gifts ornaments available. Some new ornaments have been added so please be sure to check them out. Ornaments range in price from \$10 to over \$100 with many wonderful opportunities to give a give of hope. There is also an ELCA Good Gifts Catalog with other other options. It will be on the counter near the office.

Advent Calenders

This year there is a new Advent Calendar with the theme "The world is about to turn..." They have been ordered and will be available for the first Sunday in Advent which is December 3rd, Be sure to look for the calendar to use in your family Advent devotions.

Anniversaries

- Glenn & Louanne Isernhagen - Dec. 18
- George & Carolyn Jarmin - Dec. 25
- Donald & Marilyn Shalibo - Dec. 25
- Larry & Karen Olson - Dec. 27
- Ralph & Nancy Knoll - Dec. 29
- Leif & Heidi Johnson - Dec. 31
- James & Candy Sulzbach - Dec. 31

Birthdays

- Ron Dutton - Dec. 4
- Daniel Mangler - Dec. 09
- Nancy Knoll - Dec. 10
- Jeanne Nelson - Dec. 13
- Louanne Isernhagen - Dec. 14
- Carolyn Jarmin - Dec. 15
- Nancy Matson - Dec. 18

December Bible Readings

December 3

Isaiah 64: 1-9
 Psalm 96:1-6
 Mark 13: 24-37

December 10

Isaiah 42:1-9
 Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13
 Mark 1:1-8

December 17

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11
 Luke 1: 46-55
 John 1: 1-5

December 24

Isaiah 9:2-7
 Psalm 96: 10-13
 Luke 2: 1-20

December 31

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
 Psalm 148
 Galatians 4:4-7
 Luke 2: 22-40

Women of the ELCA

Maybe you're not feeling very Advent-y this year. Maybe that sense of anticipation and expectation seems missing. Maybe you would love to have variety but not great quantity in your favorite Christmas cookies. Please plan to join us for a cookie exchange and relaxed time together, Tuesday afternoon, December 12 at 1 p.m. at the church. Bring one dozen of your favorite cookies. We'll have a brief devotion and enjoy some fellowship time over coffee and tea with a tasting of cookies. You'll get to take home a plate of cookies to share with others. It is the day after the church Christmas party. What better way to unwind together. All are invited. Come as you are and enjoy.

Linda Schlitt

Quilting

This month our quilting group is celebrating the shipping of 70 quilts to Lutheran World Relief and donating \$236 to LWR to cover costs of shipping quilts overseas! This is the most quilts we have ever sent at one time. Thank you for your help and generosity. We will be meeting on Thursday, December 14, at 9:30 at the church to go out for a celebration brunch together. This is sort of a reunion quilting sabbatical fellowship. It would be fun to include everyone who has ever helped in any way with quilting down through the years. Please put it on your calendar and let me know if you can join us for this Fellowship brunch celebrating a very successful year of service.

Linda Schlitt



*Thank Offering Quilt Drawing Winner
Kris Adams*

Table Talkers

Table Talkers will meet on Thursday, December 14 from 5-7pm at the home of Don & Gloria Lickfett. Their address is 410 Fall River Lane in Estes Park. Please bring snacks and whatever you would like to drink.

November Prayer Reminders

- Family of Goldie Erickson upon her death
- Sally Tessler, ongoing medical tests and procedures
- Cindy, friend of Nancy Matson, surgery
- Darby, granddaughter of Carole Rouse, safety while in Costa Rica
- Sue, daughter of Don & Gloria Lickfett, medical treatments
- Betty Yohe, surgery
- Tim McClemore, recovering from an accident
- Family of Lee, relative of Mike Kellam who passed away
- Don Bowen, regain lost strength