



SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Shepherd's Staff

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SMLCEstes.org

JANUARY 2017



SMLC Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 22, 10am.

The congregation will gather for the first of its two annual meetings on the fourth Sunday this month, January 22, immediately following the worship service. This meeting deals primarily with the financial business of the church along with electing a nominating committee and various agenda items yet to be determined by the church council. If you have questions about the agenda items that are planned, please speak with a council member.

January Worship Matters

Sunday, Jan. 1, 9AM

The Problem with Suffering

Sunday, Jan. 8, 9AM

The Water Can be Cold

Saturday, Jan. 14, 5PM

Second Saturday Worship

Sunday, Jan. 15, 9PM

Whose Your Rabbi?

Sunday, Jan. 22, 9AM

What is Our "Galilee"?
Annual Meeting following.

Sunday, Jan. 29, 9AM

Blessings That Don't Seem Like Blessings

Jan. Community Corner Café Menu

- Jan 6** **Lemon pepper chicken**
Noon Rotary
- Jan 13** **Tuna Casserole**
Restorative Justice
- Jan 20** **Shepherd's Pie**
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church
- Jan 27** **Grill Night**
Sunrise Rotary

Is Transformation on Your List for 2017?

by Pastor Ron

As we face 2017 what's on your mind? Has the recent election put you in a political mode that you can't shake? Is there something in your personal life dominating your attention? Perhaps this is the year to go through with that surgery you've been putting off. Or maybe in 2017 you will travel to that destination you've always wanted to visit. You might even be thinking about Shepherd of the Mountains and what shape the future will have on our ministry. That's great! I'm glad all these things have you thinking. It shows you value your life and care about how you spend your time. In affirmation of this new year let me now suggest how you see and relate to God will determine how you experience the new year.

My lofty suggestion is influenced by a book I'm now reading by Richard Rohr. The title is, *The Divine Dance—The Trinity and Your Transformation*. It will be the focus for both a book discussion and adult forum sessions in the weeks ahead. (Information on ordering a hard cover or digital copy are in this newsletter)

The premise of Rohr's book is to re-examine the ancient doctrine of the Trinity. You might recall hearing about the Trinity as far back as confirmation. It is usually introduced with The Apostle's Creed and its three-part structure: I believe God the Father almighty... I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son... I believe in the Holy Spirit. It's basic Christian doctrine. Countless confirmation lessons have been taught on the Creed and the solid biblical evidence of professing one God in three persons; or has it? Teachers of the faith have always done a great job at explaining God as Father, Son and Spirit. But when it comes to teaching how each is part of

One God, we are often at a loss for words. Rohr's book attempts to give us those words and practices.

He writes, "Whatever is going on in God is a flow, a radical relatedness, a perfect communion between Three—a circle dance of love." This is the metaphor from where the book gets its name. However, we are told such language is very traditional, especially with the ancient Greek Fathers. But to say "God is the dance" is not traditional for most Christians and is practiced by very few.

The book opens these ancient treasures of wisdom and encourages the reader to take them out on the dance floor for a spin. Another quote that hit me reads:

We always become what we behold; the presence that we practice matters. That's why we desperately need a worldwide paradigm shift in Christian consciousness regarding how we relate to God. (loc 502)

The primary question before us this year and beyond is not what we can do; but rather what we can become. People who are willing to put in time studying and practicing will experience God as always involved instead of the deity that leaves most of humanity "orphaned" much of the time. And isn't that what this faith is all about-- God who is present and flows through everything, without exception?

One need not be a biblical expert to join this discussion at many different levels. Your honest search for truth at this time in your life is the essential thing. Exploring *The Divine Dance* could very well be the jumping off spot you need to start 2017. Please consider the opportunity.

In Christ, Pastor Ron

January Calendar at a Glance

Sunday, January 1

9:00am Sunday Worship
10:30am Adult Forum

Monday, January 2

8:00am Cooking for La Puente

Tuesday, January 3

8:00am Bible Study
9:00am PEO

Wednesday, January 4

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

Thursday, January 5

8:00am Cooking for La Puente
6:00pm Church Council

Friday, January 6

4:30pm Community Corner Cafe

Saturday, January 7

10:30am Organ Rehearsal

Sunday, January 8

9:00am Sunday Worship
10:30am Adult Forum

Monday, January 9

8:00am Cooking for La Puente

Tuesday, January 10

8:00am Bible Study

Wednesday, January 11

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

Thursday, January 12

8:00am Cooking for La Puente
9:30am Quilters

Friday, January 13

4:30pm Community Corner Cafe

Saturday, January 14

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

Sunday, January 15

9:00am Sunday Worship
10:30am Adult Forum

Monday, January 16

8:00am Cooking for La Puente

Tuesday, January 17

9:00am PEO

Wednesday, January 18

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

Thursday, January 19

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

Friday, January 20

4:30pm Community Corner Cafe

Saturday, January 21

10:30am Organ Rehearsal
1:00pm Peak to Peak Concert

Sunday, January 22

9:00am Sunday Worship
10:00am Annual Meeting

Monday, January 23

8:00am Cooking for La Puente

Tuesday, January 24

8:00am Bible Study

Wednesday, January 25

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

Thursday, January 26

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

Friday, January 27

4:30pm Community Corner Cafe

Saturday, January 28

10:30am Organ Rehearsal

Sunday, January 29

9:00am Sunday Worship
10:30am Adult Forum

Monday, January 30

8:00am Cooking for La Puente

News from Around the Church



Colorado Faith Advocacy Day 2017

Join advocates and people of faith from across Colorado for this annual event! This year, we focus on the future of the church's public witness and reclaiming Martin Luther's legacy of activism and protest on the cusp of the Reformation's 500th anniversary. What does it mean for us to be a "Protest"-ant church today? Join us for a great day of learning and action! We welcome keynote speaker Rev. Amy Reumann, Director of ELCA Washington D.C. office

What: Colorado Faith Advocacy Day

When: Saturday, February 11, 2017

Where: Bethany Lutheran Church, 4500 E. Hampden Ave., Denver, CO

Time: 8:30AM - 2:00PM
(Registration opens 8AM)

Fee: \$25 regular, \$10 student/low-income -

Thanks to generous congregational support, we are able to offer a lower registration fee this year! Breakfast, lunch, and all materials included! See P. Ron, Nancy Matson or Carolyn Jarmin.



WELCA will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 10th at 1PM at SMLC. We begin a new Bible Study series titled "Galatians Christian Faith and Christian Freedom." The first session for January is "No Other Gospel" and delves into Paul's relationship with the Galatians and his ministry there. With the 500th anniversary of the reformation, the study includes some of Martin Luther's insights into Paul's letter to the Galatians. This study will be led by Marilyn Kienker. After the business meeting, Linda Schlitt will serve refreshments during the fellowship period. Everyone is welcome to attend.

December Prayer Reminders

Carole Rouse—health concerns for relative: Alyssa. positive test results herself.

Susan Anderson—death of her sister-in-law, Marion.

Gary Trunnell—friend going through chemo treatment

Don Bowen—recent move to assisted living.

Vanessa Paswaters—successful surgery and continued healing.

Lin Smith—for Fr. Seth and complications from surgery & friend whose son died.

Evelyn Kehl—recovery from surgery

News from Around the Church



January Wedding Anniversaries

Bill & Evelyn Kehl 01/10

Bill Leppert 01/29

January Birthdays

Jane Rising 01/04

Wulfgar Pfauss-Novak 01/08

Bruce Adams 01/15

Bill Kehl 01/17

Shirley Olson 01/17

Lin Smith 01/21

Bob Rising 01/23

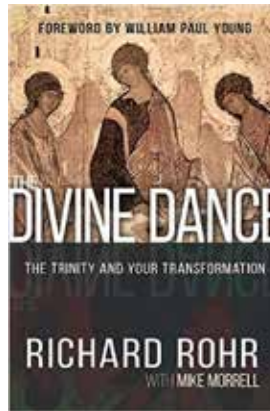
Carole Rouse 01/23

Marilyn Fjeld 01/24

Marilyn Anderson 01/30

We will be studying this book in January

It is available on Amazon for \$16.59 hardcover or \$12.53 Kindle edition. It may also be available at your favorite bookstore or library.



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

December Bible Readings

Sunday, Jan. 1

1st Sunday of Christmas

First Reading

Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalm 148

Second Reading

Hebrews 2:10-18

Gospel

Matthew 2:13-23

Friday, Jan. 6

The Epiphany of our Lord

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:1-12

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, Jan. 8

Baptism of Our Lord

First Reading

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29

Second Reading

Acts 10:34-43

Gospel

Matthew 3:13-17

Sunday, Jan. 15

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-11

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Gospel

John 1:29-42

Sunday, Jan. 22

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Gospel

Matthew 4:12-23

Sunday, Jan. 29,

4th Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

A Message and a Poem from Nathan Wicks (a seminarian that our Men in Mission support)

Dear Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church,

Advent and Christmas greetings to you from the Wicks family at Wartburg Seminary! We are so grateful for your support and continue to remember you in the midst of this place. Your prayerful connection and relationship nurtures our seminary journey. My confidence in the church as the Body of Christ is strengthened by thinking of you and the Advent and Christmas worship happening at Shepherd of the Mountains, waiting and watching for Emmanuel!

This Fall semester of my second year has continued the deeply engaged learning and surprising growth in faith which are staples of life together at Wartburg. Classes, community, and worship are a Christ-centered, fertile soil in which to plant this vocation. I am seeing real fruit, and am growing in trust for what will come in a life of pastoral ministry. It is a continually enlivening and transformative engagement in theological reflection, baptismal repentance, and the gospel freedom of Christ " ... through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we stand" (Romans 5 :2). I have been Endorsed by the Northeast Iowa Candidacy Committee which marks the next step to ordained ministry, affirming the formation that has happened so far and leading the way to the next steps which are beginning to take shape now. We are looking forward to internship next year when I will serve in a congregation. Also, as we anticipate that change, our family will be growing as we expect the birth of our second child in June 2017. An exciting year to come!

We send blessings and prayers to you daily and give thanks for your gracious support. May the grace and peace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

In Christ, Nathan, Sarah and Karl Wicks

Star Trails of Advent *a poem by Nathan Wicks*

My hands are star-dipped,
Cross sections of the wheeling heavens
In eternity's distension in time.
The derivation of these points of light
skating across the night sky
Is the calculus of God's
Thumbprint pressed into flesh.
Lift your hands to the heavens!
Measure your grand mystery!
What distance could describe
The closeness felt in this worship
Of light stooping to meet us,
The darkness adorned in whorling bright?
The billion light years when you began
Traversing the days of creation
Awoke in us here a longing,
A word of your Sabbath rest wakefully
Watching for your eternal turning dawn.
Could it be that you felt the longing in light?
Could it be that you longed for us from the beginning?
The long-suffering way of light,
The quanta of creation arrayed
in flesh is coming, coming to us
creatures who try to tear heaven down
and build towers with their tops in the stars.
O Savior, your promised coming is so
Sure it is in the palm of our hands.
Maranatha!
As light shows itself in image,
Image knows itself in light,
As Word seeks flesh,
Imagination lightens *imago Dei* .
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel!

Who's Who in the Pew



Getting to know Stan & Jill Johnson and Jill's Mom Marilyn Anderson

When visitors come to SMLC for the first time, they usually remark about what a beautiful little church it is.

Similarly, when they use the kitchen, they usually remark on its convenience for cooking and serving meals, especially at the Friday night Community Corner Cafe' (C3) dinners. None of this "just happened." Stan Johnson is what happened.

Stan and Jill joined SMLC over ten years ago, at about the time when the building was almost ready to be dedicated. Stan immediately began making the beautiful altar pieces, including the hanging cross. He has also made all of the lovely cabinetry throughout the church. Even though these are masterpieces of very well-made carpentry, his careful workmanship does not stop there. He is also a builder. Working through his own company, Aspen Rock, Stan was the contractor and did a great deal of the construction, himself, for the new metal roof, the add-on room for the new freezers, and, most recently, the kitchen expansion. Now C3 can more easily and efficiently serve the usual Friday night crowd of 170 or more people who come flocking in to satisfy their hunger and social needs.

C3 is close to both of the Johnson's hearts. While Stan does many of the chores that crop up when preparing all of those dinners, Jill usually pitches in with the cooking. After serving as a cook at the small parochial school where they once lived in Ponca City, OK, Jill honed her quantity cooking skills. Fortunately, she generously shares those skills here at SMLC.

Like most couples, they did not settle down in one location right away. Both of them were born in Iowa, but they met while attending Dana College in Blair, NE. While Jill earned her degree in psychology and sociology, Stan earned his PhD in analytical chemistry, which led to a career with Conoco. Oil. When they decided to move to Colorado and to build their first home on Storm Mountain, above Drake, they decided to bring Jill's mother, Marilyn Anderson, from Iowa with them. Jill enjoys being able to spend time with her, and she says, "As any member would tell you, she is the sweetest member of our group!"

Close friends, Mike and Daylene Van Brunt, should also be counted among their group. Although Mike enjoys working alongside Stan, their mutual respect and affection goes deeper. As soon as Stan and Jill had sold their first home on storm Mountain and began to build another home there, the Van Brunts invited the Johnsons to move into their home. Friendship doesn't usually go much deeper than that.

By the way, building a church kitchen and a new home, where Jill says, "We have a fantastic view of the Mummy Range and all up and down Highway 34," underlines a couple of their hobbies. They both enjoy nature and reading; but Stan elaborates, saying that he enjoys "reading while sleeping in a chair." No wonder!

SMLC, truly a church home for all of its members, can thank Stan and Jill, among others, for making it not only a beautiful, warm, safe, sheltering, and comfortable place to gather for worship and fellowship, but also a home where everyone, especially the guests who come for Friday-night C3 dinners, can enjoy the gracious hospitality for which it is well known throughout the community.

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