



# 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

SEPTEMBER 2017



### September Worship Matters

- September 3, 9am**  
Saving and Losing Life
- September 9, 5pm.**  
Second Saturday Worship
- September 10, 9am.**  
The Difficulty in Listening
- September 17, 9am.**  
Receiving and Giving Mercy
- September 24, 9am.**  
That's not fair!

**E**ach Sunday in September SMLC will lead a simple worship for the Prospect Park Living Center residents at 4pm. Consider attending and sitting with a resident during the service. Your presence could make someone's day!

### Advocacy in Action

**A**s people of faith we cannot and should not tolerate any form of bigotry, racism or hatred. Jesus is clear. We are commanded to love our neighbors and our enemies. We never think an incident like that in Charlottesville can happen here. However, violent acts of vandalism against synagogues and mosques have taken place in Colorado. Could violence erupt in Estes Park? We'd like to think it could never happen in our neighborhood.

What are we willing to do to ensure it never happens here or anywhere else? There is no place for silence in a society that has allowed violence to become the "new normal". Are we willing to tell our elected officials through letters, calls and visits that the violence is not acceptable? Will we speak up? It's easy to profess nonviolence, but much harder to do something about it. Ask yourself, "How can I allow this to happen.?"

Jesus said the peacemakers will be blessed and be called them children of God. This kind of peace comes from consenting to God's presence and action in our lives. Knowing that God is present makes all the difference – there can be no hatred when Love controls. Peace, Salaam, Shalom!

**SMLC Advocacy Team**

## Pastor's Corner

Pastor Ron Bockhaus - Contact me at [ron.bockhaus@smlc.us](mailto:ron.bockhaus@smlc.us) 970-646-6657

### Congregational Sabbatical

This is the third consecutive article covering potential ministry goals which the church council has discussed. Go to the SMLC website at [www.smlcestes.org](http://www.smlcestes.org); then open the church newsletter archive links for July and August. In my articles from those months you will find information on the first two goals that are being considered.

In mentioning the term, “congregational sabbatical”, I’ve seen some funny looks on people’s faces. I must admit I hadn’t heard of it until the review committee last September recommended it to SMLC. Below is the actual recommendation that followed our comprehensive ministry review.

*Consider a congregational sabbatical. What would happen if committees and teams didn't meet? Take a break from the work and enjoy what originally brought you to Estes Park and what originally brought you together as a community: Enjoying God's creation and being a Lutheran fellowship. Following a sabbatical, spend time reflecting on current structures and ministries. Are they life-giving to the community? Can some be combined? Are they all needed? Have some reached the end of their life? Doing things your own way is part of who you are. Create your ministry around what works for you today. Be creative and utilize the gifts you currently have.*

You have to admit this is different! The review team listened to us and sensed something in our past that might be missing in our life together now. This recommendation is an attempt to touch the heart of God which first helped to form the church. This doesn't mean we can turn back the hands of time but instead rediscover the Spirit's movement to further God's Kingdom. This important discovery can occur when time is

dedicated to prayer, worship and reflection, the heart of a sabbatical.

What's difficult about a congregational sabbatical is the logistics. How would it work and what would we do differently and for how long? The questions are numerous but instead of getting hung up on the questions we can brainstorm ideas on how we might experience our church(i.e. people) differently than normal. It doesn't mean we would be on sabbatical indefinitely but for an agreed upon time period. Then what might be the benefit of such a time?

If we were to cease having a normal activity during a sabbatical it could provide us with an effective way to evaluate what we do. It would allow us to face questions about our identity and purpose no doubt. Breaking the regular cycle of congregational activities will undoubtedly create some discomfort, but ultimately help us learn to question and listen to one another. In addition, it would help to prevent burnout for those who have taken on too much responsibility and need the assistance of others. Sharing the work is vital to a sustainable model of ministry.

Finally, a sabbatical would reaffirm the sacredness of time. The very first thing God created was not matter but time—the “evening” and “morning” on the first day. The third commandment leads us to recognize the importance of “Sabbath”, learning to make it, and all of life, Holy.

This third ministry initiative is both energizing and perplexing. I'm thankful that I have the Learning Committee working with me on how this might “grow legs” and be a vital option for SMLC. Together we will face the future.

***In Christ, Pastor Ron***

## September Calendar at a Glance




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### Saturday, September 2

8:00am La Puente Cooking  
10:30am Organ Rehearsal

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### Sunday, September 3

9:00am Sunday Worship  
10:00am Coffee  
4:00pm PPLC Worship

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### Tuesday, September 5

1:00pm WELCA

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### Wednesday, September 6

7:00am Sacred Space  
10:45am Centering Prayer  
2:00pm Marge Gallagher Funeral  
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal  
5:00pm SAS

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### Saturday, September 9

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

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### Sunday, September 10

9:00am Sunday Worship  
10:00am Coffee  
10:30 Adult Forum  
4:00pm PPLC Worship

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### Monday, September 11

8:30am Estes Valley Quilters Guild

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### Tuesday, September 12

1:00pm WELCA

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### Wednesday, September 13

7:00am Sacred Space  
10:45am Centering Prayer  
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal  
5:00pm Church Council

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### Thursday, September 14

9:15am Quilters

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### Saturday, September 16

8:00am La Puente Cooking  
10:30am Organ Rehearsal

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### Sunday, September 17

9:00am Sunday Worship  
10:00am Coffee  
10:30 Adult Forum  
4:00pm PPLC Worship

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### Monday, September 18

9:00am OWLS

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### Wednesday, September 20

7:00am Sacred Space  
10:45am Centering Prayer  
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal

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### Saturday, September 23

8:00am La Puente Cooking  
10:30am Organ Rehearsal

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### Sunday, September 24

9:00am Sunday Worship  
10:00am Coffee  
4:00pm PPLC Worship

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### Wednesday, September 27

7:00am Sacred Space  
10:45am Centering Prayer  
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal

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### Thursday, September 28

9:00am Worship Committee  
9:15am Quilters

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### Saturday, September 30

8:00am La Puente Cooking  
9:00am Book Discussion  
10:30am Organ Rehearsal

## Individual Giving In Response to Hurricane Harvey

If you are a Thrivent Member and would like to give in response to the destruction resulting from Hurricane Harvey, here's a unique opportunity. Thrivent is matching contributions up to \$500,000 from all Thrivent members. Call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" at the prompt. Otherwise, you can email at [mail@thrivent.com](mailto:mail@thrivent.com); or you can go to [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) and visit the Disaster Response page. This is for individual contributions and is not connected to our congregation's special offering on Sept. 10th.



## Important Dates of Note

### Anniversaries

**Bruce & Kris Adams** Sept. 6  
**Dan & Carolyn Mangler** Sept. 14  
**Loren & Lynette Johnson** Sept. 30

### Birthdays

**Peter Nelson** Sept. 12  
**Isaac Paswaters** Sept. 16  
**Isabelle Paswaters** Sept. 16  
**Lois Bailey** Sept. 19  
**Claire Molle** Sept. 20  
**Bobbie Christenson** Sept. 21  
**Shayna Gallagher** Sept. 24  
**Earl Matson** Sept. 27

## August Prayer Reminders

- Darby. Granddaughter of Carole Rouse. Delayed in Houston while traveling to Costa Rica
- Sally Tessler. Ongoing medical testing.
- Nancy Stevens. Friend of the congregation. Recently hospitalized.
- Ron Dutton. Hospitalized after a fall.
- Howard. Friend of congregation. Recent surgery.
- Marilyn Fjeld. Hospitalized and relocating.
- Leif & Heidi Johnson. Upon the death of Leif's father, Dick.
- Don Bowen. Frequent changes in health status.

## September Bible Readings

### September 3

#### **Jeremiah 15:15-21**

God fortifies the prophet against opposition

#### **Psalms 26:1-8**

Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. (Ps. 26:3)

#### **Romans 12:9-21**

Live in harmony

#### **Matthew 16:21-28**

The passion prediction and rebuke to Peter

### September 17

#### **Genesis 50:15-21**

Joseph reconciles with his brothers

#### **Psalms 103:[1-7] 8-13**

Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy. (Ps. 103:8)

#### **Romans 14:1-12**

Accepting diversity in the community of faith

#### **Matthew 18:21-35**

A parable of forgiveness in the community of faith

### September 10

#### **Ezekiel 33:7-11**

The prophet's responsibility to warn the people

#### **Psalms 119:33-40**

I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)

#### **Romans 13:8-14**

Live honorably as in the day

#### **Matthew 18:15-20**

Reconciliation in the community of faith

### September 24

#### **Jonah 3:10--4:11**

God's concern for the city of Nineveh

#### **Psalms 145:1-8**

The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Ps. 145:8)

#### **Philippians 1:21-30**

Standing firm in the gospel

#### **Matthew 20:1-16**

The parable of the vineyard workers



**SHEPHERD  
OF THE MOUNTAINS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
NEWS**

### **The SMLC Choir**

**A**nyone who loves to sing is welcome to join the SMLC Choir, under the direction of Loren Johnson. This is a year-round choir, but each member takes time out for a trip out of town from time to time. The primary purpose of our choir is to lead the congregational singing, both the hymns and the liturgy. However, we also provide a musical offering for every worship service. We rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday mornings from 8:00 to 8:30 before the nine-o'clock service. At the mid-week rehearsals we work on the anthems for the next four Sundays so that we always have a core of well-rehearsed singers on Sunday mornings even if some of them have to miss a mid-week rehearsal now and then. Many of the anthems require instrumental accompaniments and we always welcome special music; so please let Loren know if you would like to add your musical gifts to our worship services. His telephone number is 586-2192.

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### **Equal Exchange / Fair Trade News**

**A**s we begin the fall season, I want to share some Equal Exchange / Fair Trade news with you. First, thanks to all of you, over \$500.00 was sent to small farmers all over the world in communities who rely on fair trade for their livelihood. I am very proud that Shepherd of the Mountains is continuing to be part of this economic justice movement as they continue to work to reform an unjust food system around the world.

Look for the return of cans of hot chocolate for purchase. Regular coffee in cans is only available in the Proud Mama blend which, I found is very tasty. Remember, this blend directly

### **Worship Services at Prospect Park Living Center**

**S**eptember is the month for SMLC to lead the worship services at Prospect Park Living Center (PPLC) each Sunday at 4:00 pm. Our fellow Christians at PPLC, who often feel isolated, really appreciate knowing that we who are still mobile and independent enjoy sharing our faith with them, and we, in turn, are also blessed by that sharing. If you can spare an hour on a Sunday afternoon to connect with less physically and/or mentally able members of the body of Christ and to support our worship leaders, please come to PPLC at 3:45 to help get the residents settled in place in the activities room just across from the entrance and to join them in participating, especially in singing some of the old familiar hymns.

*Lynette Johnson*

supports women-owned farms. Those looking for ground decaf coffee will find it in the red bags as cans are no longer available. And don't forget there are several kinds of comforting, hot available as well.

Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns or wishes for the future of our continuing relationship with Equal Exchange / Fair Trade. And thanks again for your continued support.

*In Christ's love, Sallie Brackman, Equal Exchange / Fair Trade Coordinator*



## NEWS from Lutheran Campus

### Ministry

**W**ith a new semester underway there is a lot happening in our campus ministries! Worship, Bible studies, faith conversations, and service opportunities are all going strong. LECM-UNC gathers every Sunday at 6pm for dinner and worship at the LECM Center, 1844 11th Ave, Greeley. At LCM-CSU, there is worship with Holy Communion every Sunday at 5:15 pm with a meal following worship. Worship is located at LCM's St. Thomas Chapel, 805 S. Shields St., just across from CSU's Moby Arena in Fort Collins. You can help support campus ministry by bringing a meal to one of our weekly gatherings. If you are interested in donating a meal or grocery cards to purchase food please contact us! For Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry at University of Northern Colorado contact Pastor Deb Abbott - [lcm.unco@gmail.com](mailto:lcm.unco@gmail.com). For Lutheran Campus Ministry at Colorado State University contact Pastor Paul Judson at [pastor@lcmcsu.org](mailto:pastor@lcmcsu.org). Thanks for your prayers and support!

### Pastor Deb Abbott

**Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry at UNC**  
1844 11th Ave  
Greeley, CO 80631  
970-817-4407  
[www.lecmunc.org](http://www.lecmunc.org)  
[www.facebook.com/unclutherans](https://www.facebook.com/unclutherans)

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### Table Talkers

**W**e have talkative table talker's here (Dinner groups) who sometimes decide instead to have breakfast, meet for coffee or just hang out together. We always have fun and rotate groups twice a year so people get to know one another. We rotate hosts too.

If you are interested in having a lot of fun....join us. Call Lin Smith 577-1420



### Stephen Ministry: Christ Caring for People through People

**M**any have heard the name "Stephen Ministry" around church circles. It is a program that trains people to be better care givers to those who are in need. If you have ever struggled with how to help someone you care about, Stephen Ministry is a wonderful resource to boost your care-giving skills. A Stephen Ministry Introductory Workshop will be held on Saturday, September 9th, 9am-1pm, in Longmont. The cost is \$15 per person. Pastor Ron is would be happy to have a group attend and can drive. Speak to him if you are interested.

**Pastor Ron Bockhaus**

### The Gift of Rest

**T**he book group will resume a book study on Saturday, September 30th. We will be reading *The Gift of Rest* by Senator Joe Lieberman. This book is about rediscovering the beauty of the Sabbath written by an Orthodox Jew. This is a timely study as plans are in the works to consider a "congregational sabbatical". Just what does Sabbath mean from the Jewish Orthodox tradition? How can we as Christians find rest? This is a wonderfully written book that captures not only the traditions of Sabbath observance, but emphasizes a day of rest as a gift to humanity from the Eternal One. Each chapter concludes with "Simple Beginnings" explaining ideas for Sabbath observance. It is a beautiful book about a beautiful concept.

Please consider joining the group on Saturday, September 30th and Saturday, October 7th at 9am at the church.

**Learning Committee**

## Women <sup>of the</sup> ELCA

**D**espite unseasonably cool weather we had a fun picnic and tour of the Historic Hydroelectric Plant last month. A big "Thank You" to all who helped with this.

We start this month as we provide light refreshments for family and friends after **Marge Gallagher's Memorial Service on Wednesday, September 6 at 2pm.** I remember the many years Marge handled the Financial aspects of Shepherd of the Mountains as Treasurer so faithfully. I will miss her and it is a privilege to get to help organize refreshments. Please sign up or let me know if you would like to help with this.

As part of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation our women's group begins a new study of the Apostle's Creed in September. This a great time to look at this basic Lutheran faith document with adult eyes and experiences through a great study written by Pastor Julia Seymour who currently serves a congregation in Anchorage Alaska. **Please join us on Tuesday, September 12 at 1 p.m. in the church library as Bobbie Christenson leads us in this new study.** Extra copies of the study are available in the Narthex. Our study will be followed by a brief business meeting and fellowship time with treats provided by Linda Schlitt.

Later this month, on **Monday, September 18,** we have the privilege of hosting the Retired Pastors (OWL's) group for their monthly meeting and luncheon. This is great ministry and fund-raising opportunity for us as we hone our hospitality skills for the second time this year. **This fall we could especially use some extra hands for this twice a year event.** There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex, if you could provide a bit of help with food or serving on that day please let me know.

*Linda Schlitt, President,  
SMC Women of the ELCA.*

## QUILTING NEWS

**S**ome of our newest helpers, just here for the summer, remind me that our quilting group can be a fun way to get acquainted while you help others around the world even while you are vacationing in the Estes area. Actually, I started working on quilts many, many years ago when Lee and I started spending our summers here. Making quilts for Lutheran World Relief goes back many years - even before Shepherd of the Mountains chartered as an official congregation.

I had the pleasure of learning ins and outs from the wonderful founders of Shepherd of the Mountains quilting group back when we worked in the Seven Day Adventist church. I learned about roller cutting from Connie Westley who took time for a class for prospective quilters while she was still busy running a great Quilt shop here in town. Betty Becker - who made our lovely church quilt & set up the great way we cut and put together quilts - patiently checked the first squares I cut and instilled the importance of exact and precise cutting. Emily Rombach - who made the lovely quilt hanging in the narthex taught me how to do the corners on quilts. Dorothy Refsell taught me how to sew around the quilts after we have assembled them.

So our current work is a continuation of generations of loving hearts and hands. Thanks to them and you the work continues to share love around the world with quilts made by our hands. Wouldn't you like to be part of this special ministry?

Join us at the church on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 9:15 AM until 11:30 AM. In September this is the 14th and 28th of the month. I'm living proof that no prior experience is required. But I warn you, that like me, it may take only a few work sessions before you are hooked for life!

*Linda Schlitt, Quilting Coordinator*