



SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH Shepherd's Staff

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APRIL 2018



Prayer Reminders from March

- Linda Schlitt's relative, Patrick, home from the hospital
- Nancy Matson's friend experiencing possible loss of vision
- Fjeld Family. For safe travel and preparation for Marilyn's Memorial Service
- Lin Smith. Ongoing therapy and guidance for her doctors
- Sally Tessler. For new treatment and care at the Mayo Clinic
- Bobbie Christensen's relative, Steve, with injuries from an auto accident
- Friend of congregation, June Gamet. Positive test results from recent treatments
- Mary Settje's sister-in-law. Surgery
- Letha Ginther's granddaughter, Cassie. Recently Hospitalized.

April Worship Matters

Sunday, 4/1, 9am

Alleluia! He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!
Alleluia!

April 8, 9am.

The marks of suffering show the Risen Christ.

April 15, 9am.

The first meal of the resurrection is fish!

April 22, 9am.

"I am the Good Shepherd"

April 29, 9am.

"I am the True Vine"

April Comm. Corner Café Menu

April 6

Beef Medley
EP Board of Realtors

April 13

Chicken
Salvation Army

April 20

Chef's Choice
Journey's Class

April 27

Grill Night
St Bart's Episcopal Church



Pastor's Corner

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

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Here at the start of my sabbatical I want you to know how thankful I am to be granted this amazing opportunity. I am well aware of the fact that not everyone has the chance to step back from their work and take time to rest, study and reflect. When others hear about the sabbatical I'm often asked: "where are you going?" I tell them I'll be at home as much, if not more, than I will be away. Granted, there are plans to travel. Yet throughout the sabbatical I plan to attend to spiritual needs I sense within myself no matter where I am, home or away. My hope is that you also take advantage of this unique time to do the same in the spirit of mutual prayer.

Somebody once said, "the best thing you can give to your people (i.e. the church) is your energy." I interpret my energy in a number of ways. I include my spiritual energy, emotional energy, creative energy and the energy of being present to others. After seven years among you I am feeling a bit of a drain on that energy. This is not to say, "I'm burned out", but I am realizing the longer I serve the church and community, the more complex the network of people both inside and outside the church becomes. Such is the nature of ministry. And by giving my energy to this larger network, I feel both the strain and the need to step back and evaluate my resources. I fully intend to return to my pastoral duties refreshed and explosive with energy.

One way I experience renewal is through nature. Spending time outdoors appreciating the gift of creation is tremendously satisfying for me, and I know for most of you as well. This common experience is the reason we live in Estes Park and why our community is the way it is. People are flocking to natural places such Rocky Mountain National Park. It is this hunger for connec-

tion with creation that I want to delve into more deeply in this sabbatical. By visiting attractive natural areas, including Rocky, I hope to gain a little more insight into society's interest in experiencing natural beauty. What is it that is satisfying and fulfilling by such an experience? How can we as the church enhance people's experience with the divine origin of all creation?

These are some of the big questions of meaning which, I believe, are working in people's lives today. By just being open to such questions I hope you will join me in this sabbatical adventure.

It is clear that I couldn't do this without the congregation supporting me. Thank you. Neither could I without the help of people filling specific tasks. Chairman Allen Garner and the church council will be the "go to" people for congregational decision-making, including the annual meeting on June 10th. Thank you. Congregational information channels and publications will be handled by Jim Ecklund in the church office. Thank you. Worship leadership includes Pastor Bruce Brackman, Phyllis Eggers, Lynette and Loren Johnson. Thank you.

Pastoral needs during the week will be covered by Pastor Bruce Brackman and Chaplain Pat Washburn from Good Samaritan. Thank you. Everyday ministry and encouragement will be handled by those who always do it: You! Thank you. Stay in touch with each other. Talk and listen to each other in new ways. Encourage each other today and always.

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. - Romans 15.5

Pastor Ron

April Calendar at a Glance

Sunday, April 1

9am Easter Sunday Worship
10:30am Adult Forum
4pm Oratorio Chorus

Monday, April 2

10am LaPuente Cooking

Tuesday, April 3

9am PEO

Wednesday, April 4

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

Thursday, April 5

11am CCC Prep

Friday, April 6

8am CCC Prep
4:30pm Cafe Corner

Saturday, April 7

10:30am Marilyn Fjeld Memorial Servie

Sunday, April 8

9am Sunday Worship
10:30am Adult Forum
4pm Oratorio Chorus

Monday, April 9

10am LaPuente Cooking

Tuesday, April 10

1pm WELCA

Wednesday, April 11

7am Sacred Space
10am LaPuente Cooking
11:30am Centering Prayer
5pm Church Council

Thursday, April 12

9am Quilters
11am CCC Prep

Friday, April 13

8am CCC Prep
4:30 Cafe Corner

Saturday, April 14

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

Sunday, April 15

9am Sunday Worship

Monday, April 16

10am LaPuente Cooking

Tuesday, April 17

7pm PEO Meeting

Wednesday, April 18

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

Thursday, April 19

9am Quilters Tie-in
11am CCC Prep

Friday, April 20

8:am CCC Prep
4:30pm Cafe Corner

Saturday, April 21

10:30am Organ Rehearsal
3pm Peak to Peak

Sunday, April 22

9am Sunday Worship

Monday, April 23

10am LaPuente Cooking

Tuesday, April 24

10am LaPuente Cooking

Wednesday, April 25

7am Sacred Space
10am LaPuente Cooking
11:30am Centering Prayer

Thursday, April 26

9am Quilters
11am CCC Prep

Friday, April 27

8am CCC Prep
4:30pm Cafe Corner

Saturday, April 28

10:30am Organ Rehearsal

Sunday, April 29

9am Sunday Worship

Monday, April 30

10am LaPuente Cooking

SMLC Prayer Chain...

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church is a prayerful body of people... we pray during worship, at church meals and at meetings. We pray not only as the body of Christ, but as individuals; we pray aloud, with our inner voice, and in our hearts.

To facilitate prayer life, SMLC maintains a Prayer Chain on e-mail by which prayer requests, prayers of thanks, and prayer updates can be communicated. If you would like to be part of this prayer ministry, receive requests, and pray for those needs, please give the office your name and e-mail, or e-mail me, Nancy Matson, to be added to distribution list.

You do not need to sign up as a "praying member" of the Prayer Chain to ask for prayers. If at any time you wish to ask for prayers or share a prayer of thanks, please e-mail me or Pastor Ron (ron.bockhaus@smlcestes.org) or the office administrator, Jim, at secretary@smlc.org. Prayer requests can be anonymous if you wish confidentiality. We at SMLC strongly believe in and affirm the power of prayer.

Nancy Matson epmoosemom@aol.com



Stephen Ministry Trainers April 8-15 St. Louis

Starting on April 8th our Stephen Ministry Trainers, Bruce Brackman and Jenna Wahlstrom begin one week of intense training in St. Louis, MO. Note that their title is "trainer." That means they will return to us as people qualified to lead a 50-hour training session for those who would become Stephen ministers. Once a person completes the training session, they are assigned one person for whom they are a Stephen Minister. Often, a Stephen Minister will meet with a person once a week. Please keep Bruce and Jenna in prayer as they receive their important training.



Two charter members of Shepherd of the Mountains now live "off-campus" in Colorado Springs at View Pointe Assisted Living. Recently Bill Westley and I went down for a visit to Marion Dougherty and Earl Matson. We had lunch together and chatted about the early days of the church before it was chartered as an ELCA congregation...originally meeting as a small group of Lutherans -- in Bill and Connie Westley's home. Both would enjoy visits from friends in Estes Park...and a short note and/or photo would be a blessing to them...the address is View Pointe Assisted Living, 555 S. Rockrimmon Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80919. Marion's apartment is #251, Earl's is #150.

Nancy Matson

Learning Committee . . . What is That?

The Learning Committee oversees and plans various types of educational and enrichment activities throughout the year. Adult Forum and Bible Studies are the most apparent venues for learning in the congregation and are generally formulated and led by the pastoral staff. When there are children and youth, Sunday School and Confirmation instruction is offered.

The Learning Committee is also exploring various means of raising awareness on abuse and crisis intervention through the Safe Haven program.

Year-round opportunities for learning and spiritual growth are Centering Prayer followed by a book or DVD study, on Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. and also Sacred Space, an ecumenical meditation group, which meets at 7:00 a.m. at the loft in the Church Shops in downtown Estes. All are welcome...please ask Pastor or a member of the learning committee (Nancy Matson, Lin Smith, Carolyn Jarmin) for more information. Periodically there are short-term Bible study or book study groups, such as the Churches of the Book of Revelations held during Lent.

The Learning Committee is exploring some summer enrichment activities for children living in Alamosa and associated with the La

Puente mission. Perhaps a group of children from that PALS program will come to Estes Park for 2 or 3 nights (camping out at the church) and having daytime activities in Rocky Mountain National Park, nature experiences, games, meals at SMLC. Also, we would like to utilize in some way our connection to Sky Ranch for a parent-child camp experience at that venue, perhaps with some younger children in the PALS program.

Other enrichment and spiritual growth "one-time" programs are being planned. Perhaps a group going to the DAO Retreat (near Allenspark) for a visit and/or a daylong Retreat at one of the diverse centers nearby. A day or half-day of painting/journaling group is being planned for an experience in RMNP learning to discern the "Holy" in nature. More on that in another article...

And for our 3rd Summer we will resume Meditation Hikes on Mondays at 5:00 with a quiet leisurely walk around Lily Lake interspersed with various brief readings... These will begin on June 4 and continue into early September. Meet at Lily Lake by 4:50 p.m. Anyone is welcome who would like to join on this committee in planning adventures.

April Bible Readings

April 1

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Mark 16:1-8

April 8

Romans 12:3-8
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1--2:2
John 20:19-31

April 15

Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

April 22

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

April 29

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

Women ^{of the} ELCA

WELCA News: The Women of the ELCA, Shepherd of the Mountains group, will meet on Tuesday, April 10 at 1:00 in the church library room for Bible study; all women are invited to participate. Copies of the April study will be available on the counter by the office door. This is the final study in the Multiple Meanings: Learning from other interpretations series and will be on Luke 15:11-32, known as "The Prodigal Son" story. The familiar Biblical parable can be understood in different ways...depending on the experience of the reader, their culture, and the intent of the story in historical context. A very brief meeting will follow in order to plan for the Retired Pastors Luncheon at SMLC on May 21.

Important Dates of Note

Birthdays

Christine Kellam April 02
Juditha Murashige April 05
Sandy Stolte April 09
Jan Trunnell April 09
Darrell Paswaters April 14
Michael Kulick April 21
Linda Schlitt April 21
Mary Ann Johnson April 24

Quilting In April

Spring is finally here and days are longer so there is lots going on with the quilting group. We have new material to be sorted and arranged into quilt kit tops and lots of tops and backs to assemble and tie in amazing colors! This month we'll be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings at church - April 12 and 26 from 9 to 11:30 AM but also sponsor a Great Tie-in on April 19.

Join The Great Tie-In On April 19 -

Quilting is offering something new for you to try this church sabbatical year. Assemble a tying team. (A sign-up sheet will be provided.) Put the Great Tie-in on your calendar for Thursday, April 19 from 9 a.m. to 11. Can guys assemble and tie faster than gals? Let's find out. Join the GREAT Tie-In. Your taxes for last year are filed. Now its time to celebrate and use your hands to do something for others. Let's see just how many quilts we can assemble and tie in a morning. Wear your God's work our Hands tee shirts or a favorite work shirt and join a team. Coffee, treats and all materials will be provided.

Coming In May

Starting in May, your quilting group has graciously agreed to meet on different Thursdays - the first and 3d Thursdays of the month. In May that will be May 3 and May 17. This accommodates space for special quilting workshops to be offered by the Estes Valley Quilt Guild at our church in May, July and September. Watch for more information on those workshops from the Guild.