



SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH Shepherd's Staff

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SMLCEstes.org

AUGUST 2018



Important Dates of Note

Anniversaries

Rich & Sandy Stolte - August-12
Stan & Jill Johnson - August-25

Birthdays

Connie Westley - August-07
Lee Schlitt - August-09
Geoffrey Adams - August-12
Rich Stolte - August-17
Romaine & Jane Gardner - August-19
Larry Kilgore - August-20
Nick Molle - August-20
Keith Riedesel - August-22
Betty Yohe - August-23
Heidi Johnson - August-24
Jill Johnson - August-29
Ron Bockhaus - August-30

Estes Park CROP Hunger Walk

The annual Estes Park CROP Hunger Walk will take place on Sunday, September 16 at 1 PM. The Walk goes around Lake Estes starting and ending at the Estes Park Visitor Center. This year our church along with several other area churches will walk to raise funds to end hunger here in Estes Park and around the world.

Twenty-five percent of all money raised will be given to our local food bank ministry, Crossroads. The remaining 75% will be given to Church World Service, a world relief organization that has been assisting people throughout the globe since 1946.

CROP Hunger Walks help to provide food and water, as well as resources that empower people to meet their own needs. From seeds and tools, to wells and water systems, to technical training and micro-enterprise loans, the key is people working together to identify their own development priorities, their strengths and their needs.

As we walk, we not only raise funds to eliminate hunger but we identify with millions of people throughout our world who walk to meet their daily needs of food, water, fuel and shelter.

Please consider walking or sponsoring someone in our church who is. Dennis (303-263-0213) and Lory (970-381-4119) McDonald are serving as contact persons for this event. You can also contact them via email at themcdonalds4@yahoo.com

Pastor's Corner - Back in the Saddle

by Pastor Ron Bockhaus

Now two and a half weeks since returning from sabbatical I must say the 'saddle' feels quite familiar. There's a rhythm to all work including parish ministry. I enjoy the weekly discipline of opening the scriptures to encounter the divine imagination of the Word. Preachers are expected to be ready for Sunday, yet no matter how imaginative or unimaginative I AM on any given Sunday, God's creative grace is refreshingly new. Truly, if all a person hears on Sunday morning is "...given for you," it is good news, the Gospel. How is that good news heard on days other than Sunday and places other than church?

While on sabbatical I had the opportunity to participate in two paddling adventures. Each was made even more enjoyable by my son Peter's willingness to be my partner. In the past I have normally paddled solo, but not this time. We paddled together over a long weekend in New Mexico and then for a week together in Wyoming. Other participants included a mixture of people I knew from previous trips and first-time people. It is on such trips that one becomes better acquainted with rivers, people and yourself.

Throughout ministry it has been my conviction that participation in an interest group where my role is not that of pastor is a healthy thing. When the majority of my time with others is in the role of pastor, it feels like a good balance to be simply a participant occasionally. My canoe groups allow me the opportunity. Now rest assured I don't wear a disguise or keep my calling a secret from the group. If someone asks me what "I do for a living" I tell them. But it isn't something I initially divulge for I want to start the friendship without titles or preconceived ideas.

So far I've made a number friends in the

groups. And even after they learn I'm a pastor the friendship continues to be genuine and affable. Sure, the conversation often doesn't go beyond canoe talk and river conditions, but there have also been some exceptions. Once while running the Cache la Poudre near Ft. Collins we came upon a raft guide sitting on the bank of the river. We knew an accident had happened earlier in the day where someone had died. As we learned, the guide was guiding the raft in which the death occurred and he was visibly upset. My paddling friend and I started talking to him to offer him support. I ended the brief conversation we had by saying a prayer before we paddled on. On our recent trip to Wyoming one of our group asked if I would offer a prayer before we ate together and so I did. It didn't become a "must-do" thing before every meal we shared, but a simple request followed by a simple response that blessed that moment in time. God uses each of us at such times if we know it or not.

A key leader in the Iona Community in Scotland we visited on sabbatical was a man named George MacLeod. He once wrote: I simply argue that the cross be raised again at the centre of the market place as well as on the steeple of the church. I AM recovering the claim that Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles, but on a cross between two thieves; on the town garbage heap; at a crossroads so cosmopolitan that they had to write his title in Hebrew and in Latin and in Greek...."

MacLeod's message is timeless. It remind us that faith is real and has real consequences for our lives. May your journey through the crossroads of your life bring you to the living Christ.

In the Peace of Christ, Pastor Ron

August Calendar at a Glance



Wednesday, August 1

7 AM Sacred Space

Thursday, August 2

9 AM Quilters

Saturday, August 4

10:30 AM Organ Rehearsal

Sunday, August 5

7 AM Hiker/Volunteer Service
9 AM Sunday Worship - I AM the Bread of Life
10:30 AM Adult Forum

Monday, August 6

5:00 PM Meditation Hike at Lily Lake

Wednesday, August 8

7 AM Sacred Space
5 PM Church Council

Thursday, August 9

9 AM - 4 PM Estes Valley Quilters Guild

Saturday, August 11

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

Sunday, August 12

7 AM Hiker/Volunteer Service
9 AM Sunday Worship - Bread From Heaven
10:30 AM Adult Forum

Monday, August 13

9 AM Stephen Ministry Mtg.
5 PM Meditation Hike at Lily Lake

Tuesday, August 14

1 PM WELCA

Wednesday, August 15

7 AM Sacred Space

Thursday, August 16

9 AM Quilters

Saturday, August 18

10:30 AM Organ Rehearsal

Sunday, August 19

7 AM Hiker/Volunteer Service
9 AM Sunday Worship - Flesh and Blood
10:30 AM Adult Forum

Monday, August 20

5 PM Meditation Hike at Lily Lake

Wednesday, August 22

7 AM Sacred Space

Saturday, August 25

10:30 AM Organ Rehearsal

Sunday, August 26

7 AM Hiker/Volunteer Service
9 AM Sunday Worship - This Teaching is Difficult
10:30 AM Adult Forum

Monday, August 27

Pastor's Conference Retreat - All Day
5 PM Meditation Hike at Lily Lake

Tuesday, August 28

Pastor's Conference Retreat - All Day

Wednesday, August 29

7:00 AM Sacred Space

Accompanists Needed

As you all know, SMLC provides the leadership for the Prospect Park Living Center worship services in September. This year we plan to cover all five Sundays at 4 PM. What the residents enjoy the most is the opportunity to sing some of the old familiar hymns, such as "This Is my Father's World," "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," and "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms," so we provide each one with a folder of large-print copies of the words and an accompanist. Actually it is more difficult to find accompanists than it is to provide worship leaders. The accompanist's folder has both full-scale notations and chord symbols. Please let Lynette Johnson, 586-2192, know if you can help make the hymn-singing come alive for the PPLC residents.

Women ^{of the} ELCA

The Shepherd of the Mountains women invite all women to a Bible Study on Tuesday August 14 at 1:00 PM. The study will be Lesson 3 of the "Let Us Pray" summer series. This month's lesson focuses on various traditions of prayer. All women are invited to attend; copies of the study will be available on the information table outside the church office. There will be no business meeting, just fellowship and the study discussion.

Learning Committee

Learning Committee will meet at 9:30 on Tuesday, September 4 to plan some educational and enriching events. New members are always welcome. Bring your ideas. If you have a topic you would like to present at an Adult Forum, or request someone else to be a leader, we would like to know and schedule that.

Meditation Hikes

The Meditation Hikes will continue into September, weather permitting. Thanks to all who have participated.

Four Winds American Indian Council

One of my interests is taking a trip to the Four Winds American Indian Council in Denver and I'm hoping this can be arranged. After my studies of Native American histories, I find their spirituality really compelling and also would like to learn of some ways to walk beside them in our modern world.

Nancy Matson

Quilting In August

Take advantage of cool mornings to help us make quilts for others around the world. Join us on the first and third Thursday mornings, August 2 and August 16, at church from 9 AM to 11:30 AM to help tie and assemble quilts and sort donated materials. This month we will have both raised tables for those who wish to stand and work and low tables for those who are more comfortable sitting while they work. Extra summer helpers make such a difference in how many quilts can be completed each work morning. Won't you join us for this time of fellowship and service? For more information, please contact Linda Schlitt at 970-586-5071.

Native American Prairie Rose Seminole

Our Rocky Mountain Synod is holding the annual Theological Conference on September 17-19 at the YMCA of the Rockies. One of the speakers at this year's conference is Prairie Rose Seminole, a Native American of the Sahnish/Arikara tribe.

In her bio she states "My people are nearly gone. We were once many in our great nation.... Our creation story is different from what is in the Bible. Is it our place to say that is wrong? No. It is our place to acknowledge that our creation, our migration, our history, is different from yours. No more, no less. Different. We view the world through a perspective that is not taught in mainstream history books." Prairie Rose is the Director of the American Indian Alaska Native Program for the ELCA.

August Bible Readings

August 5
Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15
Psalm 78:23-29
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:24-35

August 12
1 Kings 19:4-8
Psalm 34:1-8
Ephesians 4:25--5:2
John 6:35, 41-51

August 19
Proverbs 9:1-6
Psalm 34:9-14
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58

August 26
Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18
Psalm 34:15-22
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69