



SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Shepherd's Staff

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DECEMBER 2018



December Worship Matters

December 2, 9am - Advent 1

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

December 9, 9am - Advent 2

All flesh shall see the salvation of God

December 16, 9am - Advent 3

Filled With Expectation - Potluck Following

December 23, 9am - Advent 4

Mary's Song of Praise

December 24, 5pm - Christmas Eve

Candle Light Worship

December 30, 9am

The Boy Jesus

Dec. Comm. Corner Café Menu

December 7

TriTip Beef - Methodist Church

December 14

Pork Chops - Mormon Church

December 21

Enchiladas - Shepherd of the Mountains

December 28

Grill Night - Community Volunteers



Prayers for Advent

Advent begins December 2, the familiar stories and hymns ...and as Christmas Eve approaches, the words..."Away in a Manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head....asleep in the hay." Please hold in your prayers the Homeless Jesus... as a baby, as an adult...and the many, many who are homeless in our country – our world, whether from misfortune, health issues, poverty, wild-fires, floods...bad luck. Think upon, and pray about, Homeless Jesus. Look for him in your life and the lives around you. Look for Him in our SMLC narthex; and may that be a gentle reminder to you to pray for the Homeless.

Fourth Quarter Special Offering

The fourth quarter special offering will be taken on Sunday, December 9th. This offering is always designated for ELCA World Hunger. This year the offering will go to support a disaster response in the United States, We will make the designation for wherever the need is greatest. Please prayerfully consider how you can assist those sisters & brothers in greatest need. As always, thank you for your support.

Pastor's Corner

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

Choose to Hope This Month

*Hope is born when we choose to believe
That love is stronger than hatred;
Love is born when our hearts learn to see
That every person is sacred.*

*In the times of darkness, in time of fear,
Choose to hope, choose to love and know
that God is near.*

Choose to love, Emmanuel is near.

*Song lyrics from Choose to Hope by Marty Haugen**

We are entering the time of year that speaks volumes to the importance of hope. The season of Advent warms us up with words of prophecy that might have been songs at one time.

And Mary, said, "my soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant."

Luke 1:45-46

God chooses the lowliness of a peasant girl to give birth to the Great Good News of hope for the world.

"When his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke his prophecy: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Luke 1: 67, 78-79

All this even before the birth of Jesus! How could Mary and Zechariah be so sure? Was it not because of hope? The Holy Spirit, the bringer of hope, has visited each with promises of God's mighty acts for them and their people, as well as the entire world.

"Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'"

Luke 2:29-32



What told Simeon the newborn child he held would be the salvation of the world and the light for all people? It could have only been the Holy Spirit we are told that "rested on him."

Luke 2:25

"Hope will shine when we choose to believe a little child will lead us" *

Pastor Ron

December Calendar at a Glance



Sunday, December 2

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

Monday, December 3

9:00am Stephen Ministry
10:00am Marison Cooking

Tuesday, December 4

10:00am Marison Cooking
6:30pm Neighborhood Meeting

Wednesday, December 5

7:00am Sacred Space
4:00pm Crossroads Dinner
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 6

9:00am Quilters
12:00pm Cafe Corner Preparation

Friday, December 7

4:30pm Cafe Corner

Saturday, December 8

8:30am Men's Breakfast
10:30am Organ Rehearsal
4:30pm Table Talkers Meeting
at Jean Siddles' house

Sunday, December 9

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

Monday, December 10

9:00am Stephen Ministry
10:00am Marison Cooking

Tuesday, December 11

10:00am Marison Cooking

Wednesday, December 12

7:00am Sacred Space
4:00pm Estes Valley Quilters Dinner
5:00pm Church Council

Thursday, December 13

12:00pm Cafe Corner Preparation

Friday, December 14

4:30pm Cafe Corner

Saturday, December 15

10:30am Organ Rehearsal

Sunday, December 16

9:00am Sunday Worship
10:30am Christmas Potluck

Monday, December 17

9:00am Stephen Ministry
10:00am Marison Cooking

Tuesday, December 18

10:00am Marison Cooking

Wednesday, December 19

7:00am Sacred Space
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 20

9:00am Quilters
12:00pm Cafe Corner Preparation

Friday, December 21

4:30pm Cafe Corner

Saturday, December 22

10:30am Organ Rehearsal

Sunday, December 23

9:00am Sunday Worship

Monday, December 24

10:00am Marison Cooking
5:00pm Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 25

10:00am Marison Cooking

Wednesday, December 26

7:00am Sacred Space
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 27

12:00pm Cafe Corner Preparation

Friday, December 28

4:30pm Cafe Corner

Saturday, December 29

10:30am Organ Rehearsal

Sunday, December 30

9:00am Sunday Worship



Quilting News

December Quilting

December is the time of new beginnings for the church and for quilting as we reflect back on the past year and anticipate God breaking into our lives in new ways. First some amazing 2018 stats:

- 63 quilts to LWR (Lutheran World Relief)
- 20 quilts to La Puente
- 3 gift quilts given to individuals and an additional drawing quilt
- 9 full size, 5 children's & 8 baby quilts & 4 cuddle blankets given to Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley via Darby Rand
- 31 filled school bags to LWR

WOW! God is so good and what a blessing that He has chosen to show His love through the hands of our little group and this congregation. Thanks be to God!

We start this ministry of love and service anew on Thursday, December 6 from 9 a.m. to 11 :30 at church as we put together our first quilts of the new year. We will meet again on Thursday, December 20 at 9:30 a.m. at church to go out for a fellowship brunch to celebrate our past year and make plans for 2019. Won't you plan to join us for on one or both of these Thursdays?

Important Dates of Note

Anniversaries

Donald & Marilyn Shalibo	December 25
Larry & Karen Olson	December 27
Leif & Heidi Johnson	December 31
James & Candy Sulzbach	December 31

Birthdays

Ron Dutton	December 4
Daniel Mangler	December 9
Jeanne Nelson	December 13
Carolyn Jarmin	December 15
Nancy Matson	December 18

Womens Thankoffering Service,

Thank You....to all the women (and men and children) who participated in the Service on November 18. A special thanks to our guest, Louise Olson, for her beautiful message on God's Love.

December Bible Readings

December 2

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

December 9

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 16

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

December 23

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

December 30

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52



**SHEPHERD
OF THE MOUNTAINS
LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWS**

Women of the ELCA will not meet in December. You may read the wonderful articles in the Gather magazine... the focus for December is “Fear not. God’s message to the shepherds is also for us, lighting our way to Christ.” If you do not receive the Gather magazine published monthly by the WELCA, please let me know and we will see that get on the subscription list.

Nancy Matson

Book Club

Learning Book Club will meet at the church on December 13 at 1:00 p.m for an informal discussion of the Book Club choice “Two Steps Forward”...There is a copy in our church library if you want to read it....

Learning Committee Book Recommendations.... For your own reading or a gift to a friend...

On the Brink of Everything by Parker J. Palmer
From bestselling author Parker J. Palmer comes a brave and beautiful book for all who want to age reflectively, seeking new insights and life-giving ways to engage in the world. “Age itself,” he says, “is no excuse to wade in the shallows. It’s a reason to dive deep and take creative risks.” Looking back on eight decades of life—and on his work as a writer, teacher, and activist—Palmer explores what he’s learning about self and world, inviting readers to explore their own experience. In prose and poetry—and three downloadable songs written for the book by the gifted Carrie Newcomer—he meditates on the meanings of life, past, present, and future.... Available in various formats from Amazon or a local bookseller.

Almost Everything. Notes on Hope by **Anne Lamott**

From Anne Lamott, the New York Times-bestselling author of Help, Thanks, Wow, comes the book we need from her now: How to bring hope back into our lives. A perfect gift to give this holiday season. Available also from Amazon or bookstores

November Prayer Reminders

- Noah; friend of Earl Matson’s granddaughter, diagnosed with cancer
- Randy; brother-in-law of Jill Johnson having surgery
- Heidi Johnson; upon her mother’s death on 11/10
- Peter Nelson; upon his father’s death on 11/22
- Family member of Carole Rouse; multiple health concerns
- Dean; neighbor of Vanessa Paswaters undergoing medical treatment
- Nancy Matson; thanks for the Women’s Thank-Offering service on 11/18
- Nancy; a friend and former member waiting for medical treatment
- Sally Tessler; thanks for all who are praying for her
- Mark, son of Carole Rouse; thanks for no losses in California fire
- Meagan, granddaughter of Phyllis Eggers; having surgery
- Lovejoy, sister-in-law of Nancy Knoll; experiencing multiple medical issues
- Shirley Olson; ongoing medical care and a change of residence