



SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Shepherd's Staff

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SMLCEstes.org

MAY 2018



This photo in no way sanctions the feeding of wild animals. It is not good for them.

Meditation Hikes on Mondays at 5

June 4 will be the first of the summer Meditation Hikes at Lily Lake. Anyone is welcome; especially visitors may enjoy this outdoor meditation. It is less than a mile around Lily Lake, a flat and handicap accessible trail. The leader will choose 5 or 6 readings, scripture, poetry and stop to read at regular spots; some areas have a bench to sit on for those who may wish. The entire slow-paced walk is intended to be silent (minimal talking) and takes 45 minutes to an hour.

Lily Lake is south of Estes Park on Highway 7, with parking on both sides of the road. It is about a 15 minute drive from town. No sign-up....just arrive about 10 minutes before 5:00. Steady rain or dangerous lightning will result in cancellation.

May Worship Matters

Sunday, May 6

Christ the friend and lover

May 13

Christ's prayer for his disciples

May 20

Christ sends the Spirit of truth

May 27

Entering the reign of God through water and the Spirit

Calling All Cooks & Helpers!

On Monday, May 21st WELCA will be serving the Retired Pastors'

Luncheon and is preparing for around 48 guests. In the past various folks have provided pies for this luncheon, as well as help serving and cleaning up. A signup sheet will be available on the counter outside the office beginning in May. Your pies may be brought to church on Sunday, May 20th and refrigerated if this is more convenient for you. Your assistance is much appreciated, and we are so grateful for the many kinds of support WELCA receives throughout the year.



Pastor's Corner - Greetings People of SMLC

by Pastor Ron Bockhaus

The sabbatical so far has kept me close to home. It has been a daily mixture of contemplation, chores and some new discoveries. Richard Rohr's daily meditations have lately focused on the human body as understood in incarnation theology. This was certainly on my mind as I also spent one full day learning more about wilderness first aid and CPR. The miracles of this life are everywhere around us.

It was a joy to sit in the pew on Sunday and simply receive worship. The pastor, who is my friend, will be retiring this summer and shared a very meaningful and personal message about the ministry of the congregation.

One ongoing discovery I'm experiencing are the prayers and poems of Celtic Christian spirituality. "Celtic" is a linguistic term; identifying where Celtic languages were and are spoken. They seem to have a rich tradition of the Christian faith as experienced in daily life. Here is one example by John Philip Newell.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

Iwould like to thank everyone who participated in the Bible Study on "Revelation -- The Seven Churches." All of you added to the study by sharing your insights, comments and questions.

I believe our exploration of the Word of God has expanded our understanding of the book of Revelation. New and challenging insights were gained. Our faith has been enriched through our study and our interaction with each other.

Thank you all for your commitment and willingness to share, to learn and to grow. Thank you Pastor Ron for helping lead and for sharing valuable insights.

Grace and Peace Bruce Brackman

Opening Prayer

*In the morning light, O God,
may I glimpse again your image deep within me
the threads of eternal glory
woven into the fabric of every man and woman.
Again may I catch sight of the mystery of the
human soul fashioned in your likeness
deeper than knowing
more enduring than time.*

*And in glimpsing these threads of light
amidst the weakness and distortions of my life
let me be recalled to the strength and beauty deep
in my soul.*

*Let me be recalled
to the strength and beauty of your image in every
living soul.*

**John Philip Newell, twenty-first
century poet & writer**

What is Stephen Ministry?

We are excited to announce that SMLC is beginning a Stephen Ministry program. Stephen Ministry is a system through which church members are equipped to provide Christian caregiving to the congregation and community. Communities have many needs for care: people experiencing grief, divorce, terminal illness, job loss, loneliness, and other stresses and challenges. Stephen Ministers meet one-on-one with individuals: listening, caring, praying, and helping the care receivers find their path to healing and wholeness. For more in depth information, contact Jenna Wahlstrom or Bruce Brackman.

May Calendar at a Glance



Wednesday, May 2

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

Thursday, May 3

9am Set up for the Ginther Service
2:00pm Letha Ginther Memorial Service

Saturday, May 5

10:30am Organ Rehearsal

Sunday, May 6

9:00am Sunday Worship

Tuesday, May 8

1:00pm WELCA

Wednesday, May 9

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

Thursday, May 10

9:00am Estes Valley Quilter's Guild
9:00am Worship Committee

Saturday, May 12

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

Sunday, May 13

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

Wednesday, May 16

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

Thursday, May 17

9:00am Quilters

Saturday, May 19

11:00am Bill Peebles Memorial Service

Sunday, May 20

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

Monday, May 21

8:30am OWLS Lunch

Wednesday, May 23

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

Saturday, May 26

10:30am Organ Rehearsal

Sunday, May 27

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

Wednesday, May 30

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

Thursday, May 31

9:00am Quilters

Quilting 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.

May Bible Readings

May 6

Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

May 13

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

May 20

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 27

Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

Singing With The Lutherans

by Garrison Keillor

I have made fun of Lutherans for years--who wouldn't if you lived in Minnesota? But I have also sung with Lutherans and that is one of the main joys of life, along with hot baths and fresh sweet corn. We make fun of Lutherans for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed and also for their secret fondness of macaroni and cheese. But nobody sings like them.

If you ask an audience in New York City, a relatively "Lutheranless" place, to sing along on the chorus of "Michael Row the Boat Ashore" they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their underwear. But if you do this among Lutherans they'll smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach! And down the road!

Lutherans are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony. It's a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person's rib cage. It's natural for Lutherans to sing in harmony.

We're too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. When you're singing in the key of C and you slide into the A7th and D7th chords, all two hundred of you, it's an emotionally fulfilling moment. I once sang the bass line of "Children of the Heavenly Father" in a room with about three thousand Lutherans in it; and when we finished, we all had tears in our eyes, partly from the promise that God will not forsake us, partly from the proximity of all those lovely voices. By our joining in harmony, we somehow promise that we will not forsake each other.

I do believe this: people, these Lutherans, who love to sing in four-part harmony, are the sort of people you could call up when you're in

deep distress. If you're dying, they'll comfort you. If you're lonely, they'll talk to you. And if you're hungry, they'll give you tuna salad! If you laughed while reading this you must be a Lutheran.



The following list was compiled by a 20th century Lutheran who, observing other Lutherans, wrote down exactly what he saw or heard:

1. Lutherans believe in prayer but would practically die if asked to pray out loud.
2. Lutherans like to sing except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.
3. Lutherans believe that pastors will visit them in the hospital even if they don't notify them that they are there.
4. Lutherans usually follow the official liturgy and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins.
5. Lutherans believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially during their stewardship visitation programs or when passing the plate.
6. Lutherans feel that applauding for their children's choirs would make them too proud and conceited.
7. Lutherans think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while "passing the peace."
8. Lutherans drink coffee as if it were the third Sacrament.
9. Some Lutherans still believe that an ELCA bride and an LCMS groom make for a mixed marriage.
10. Lutherans feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the Fellowship Hall.
11. Lutherans are willing to pay up to a dollar for a meal at church.

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12. Lutherans think that Garrison Keillor stories are totally factual.
13. Lutherans still serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color of the season and think the peas in a tuna noodle casserole adds too much color.
14. Lutherans believe that it is OK to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves too seriously.

And finally, you know when you're a Lutheran when:

- You hear something really funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can!
- It's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service.
- Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee.
- The communion cabinet is open to all, but the coffee cabinet is locked up tight.
- All your relatives graduated from a school named Concordia, Augustana, or Luther.
- When you watch a "Star Wars" movie and they say, "May the Force be with you," you respond, "and also with you."
- You actually understand those folks from Lake Wobegone, MN.
- And lastly, it takes ten minutes to say "good-bye."

Important Dates of Note

Anniversaries

Jim & Annette Gaskill May 1
Tom & Kris O'Neil May 2
Michael & Christine Kellam May 4
Gary & Kelly Brown May 31

Birthdays

Marsha Yelick May 1
Bill Leppert May 14
Gary Trunnell May 14
Kris Adams May 15
Linda Wold May 21
Mike Novak May 23

Crossroads Neighbors in Need Challenge

When the "Feinstein Challenge" was cancelled on short notice in 2015, a compassionate local donor stepped up with a \$50,000 pledge to serve as a dollar-for-dollar match for contributions to help Crossroads Ministry provide services for our "neighbors in need". This donor is again providing a \$50,000 Challenge grant. Any gifts Crossroads receives through Memorial Day (May 28th) will help Crossroads secure the grant to help relieve hunger and poverty in the Estes Valley. If you missed our first quarter special offering for Crossroads, and are considering a gift to Crossroads in 2018, this is an excellent time to donate as your gift will be doubled! Donations can be made online at www.crossroadsep.org, mailed to Crossroads at P.O.Box 3616, Estes Park, CO 80517-3616, or dropped by the office at 851 Dry Gulch Road. Thank you so much for your support of this vital ministry!

Jim Paddock - SMLC Crossroads Board Representative

Worship Committee

If you ever wondered what the worship committee does, it is a place where the pastor and representatives of the congregation share the responsibility for the enhancement of our worship life. This includes the planning, staffing, and coordination of duties. The committee coordinates the work of the ushers, greeters, lectors, communion assistants, flower arrangers, cantors, musicians, and other participants in worship. Some basic principles are:

- a. The centering of worship in the Word and Sacrament tradition of our church.
- b. Using the talents and skills of as many of our worshippers as possible.

Please contact the committee chairman for any further questions or if you are interested in serving.

Committee chairman Lynette Johnson

Members Attend Stephen Ministry Training Event

Bruce Brackman and Jenna Wahstrom were among 289 pastors and church leaders at a Stephen Series Leader's Training Course (LTC) in Saint Louis in April.

The fast-paced, weeklong course began on Sunday evening, April 8th, and concluded the following Saturday at noon. "I likened it to trying to drink from a firehose," said Jenna Wahlstrom. "There was so much information, but everything is so well organized that it made it possible to keep up."

Bruce and Jenna were trained to become Stephen Leaders during the course, and they will be responsible for implementing Stephen Ministry in the congregation. They, along with the Pastor, will recruit, select, train, and supervise Stephen Ministers and then match people with needs for care to Stephen Ministers.

Stephen Ministry is a system designed to equip lay people in the church to provide Christian caregiving to the congregation and community. Stephen Ministers go through 50 hours of training. Through lecture, discussion, and experiential learning, they learn everything they need for this caring ministry—how to be an effective listener, specific techniques for ministering to grieving people, and more. After training, Stephen Ministers are commissioned and then assigned care receivers as the need arises.

Your Stephen Leader team is looking forward to sharing more about this life-giving ministry, and creating a thriving program that helps provide care to hurting people. In the coming months, they will be designing a training schedule that fits the congregations needs. If you'd like more information, please contact Jenna or Bruce.

Galatians 6 *"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."*



Jenna captured this on the last morning of the conference. "The colors of the sunrise were so pretty, so I snapped a photo. When I looked back at it, the way the light filtered through the curtains clearly showed a cross. It was such an encouraging way to end the week, knowing God would be there with us as we start this ministry."

kindest regards, Jenna Wahlstrom

Marison heads North to Alaska!

In our ongoing effort to keep the Marison Project wheels rolling, Becky and I will be heading to Alaska on May 1st. We've both secured good paying seasonal employment in Denali National Park that will help fund our efforts with Marison Project.

With seasonal jobs we will be able to return to Estes in early October to continue our work providing ready-made meals for La Puente Home and those in need in the Estes Valley. Since 2016 we've made 26,000 meals! For the next few months our volunteers will continue creating delicious, ready-made meals. We are grateful for your ongoing support through your enthusiasm, encouragement and use of your kitchen and we look forward to reconnecting with you when we return.

Becky & Marc (aka. Marison Project)