



# 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 • www.smlcestes.org

SMLCEstes.org

OCTOBER 2018



### October Worship Matters

**Sunday, Oct. 7, 9am**

Stewardship Emphasis: Gifted to Be a Gift

**Sunday, Oct. 14, 9am**

Gifts That Change Our Lives

**Sunday, Oct. 21, 9am**

Promise of a Gift

**Sunday, Oct. 28, 9am**

Asking for The Gift

### October Comm. Corner Café Menu

**October 5**

Spaghetti .....Mormon Church

**October 12**

Pulled Pork ..... Allenspark Church

**October 19**

Crispy Chicken ..... Salvation Army

**October 26**

Grill Night..... Police Auxiliary



### The Study of Acts in October

**D**id you know the books of Luke and Acts were written by the same person? Think about it. Luke tells the Jesus story. From his birth to his crucifixion and resurrection, Luke gives a description of the Lord Jesus Christ. Acts continues the story started in Luke. It gives a fascinating explanation of how the Christian Church spread throughout the Mediterranean on its way around the world. More significant was how the Christian Faith spread among non-Jews, thanks in large part to Paul, the faithful Jew who unexpectedly encountered the living Lord on a road one day. You're invited to explore what this means for your life on Tuesdays in October, 10-11:30am. We begin on Oct. 9th. See you there.

### Gifted To Be A Gift

**T**hroughout this month of October SMLC will explore the importance gifts play in the life of faith. When recalling what makes life meaningful, most people identify significant gifts they've received throughout the years. These are not things from a store but people and experiences which have enriched life in surprising ways. This certainly includes one's spouse, children, grandchildren, friends, church, coworkers, talents, opportunities and faith in God. We sometimes lose sight of the importance of gifts and need a friendly reminder. So together we will be that reminder for each other as we celebrate and lift up the greatest gift of all: God present in life! Each Sunday we'll explore a different aspect of the power of gifts to change the world.

## Pastor's Corner - Gifted To Be a Gift!

by Pastor Ron Bockhaus

One summer between my college studies I was on staff at our church Bible camp. It was my first exposure to the multi-faceted work of planning a ministry program. I still remember the theme for that summer: 'Blessed to be a Blessing'. It was based on Genesis 12:2 where God tells Abram, "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing." The stated goal for that summer's program was for all activities, learning events and worship to revolve around this theme and thereby communicate God's love and purpose for every camper. It was a Biblical theme I didn't forget.

There's a good chance you have heard the same theme somewhere along the way. My camp experience was not the first nor the last to base its program on this well-known passage. The word "blessing" is commonly used by many people nowadays, both in and outside the church. It is generally assumed that if circumstances are deemed positive, it is a "blessing" for somebody. Really? Was that the case for Abram and Sarai? If we read their entire story we discover their lives included positive circumstances as well as times of suffering and hardship. The blessing wasn't a guarantee of perpetual, smooth sailing but God's promise to never leave nor forsake them.

I still use the word "blessing" in my speech but try to use alternatives whenever possible. In a recent conference a presenter pointed out that in Hebrew the word "blessing" is broad

enough to also include the understanding of "gift." From that one insight I would like to build a case that our life together in the body of Christ, the church, is understood correctly as "gift."

As the above title implies, we are gifted to be a gift to each other and the world. This simple conviction has enormous consequences for how we see the life of faith together and individually.

The following is a quote by author Robin Wall Kimmerer.

*Strawberries first shaped my view of a world full of gifts simply scattered at your feet. A gift comes to you through no action of your own, free, having moved toward you without your beckoning. It is not a reward; you cannot earn it, or call it to you, or even deserve it. And yet it appears. Your only role is to be open-eyed and present. Gifts exist in a realm of humility and mystery -- as with random acts of kindness, we do not know their source.*

From the book, *Braiding Sweetgrass*

I don't know about you, but the description above sounds much like the meaning of grace we claim as followers of Christ. The words, *gift; free;* and *cannot earn* it are often used when trying to picture what grace means to the Christian. Pay attention this month. You'll be hearing more about being Gifted To Be a Gift.

Pastor Ron

### October Bible Readings

#### October 7

Genesis 2:18-24  
Psalm 8  
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12  
Mark 10:2-16

#### October 14

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15  
Psalm 90:12-17  
Hebrews 4:12-16  
Mark 10:17-31

#### October 21

Isaiah 53:4-12  
Psalm 91:9-16  
Hebrews 5:1-10  
Mark 10:35-45

#### October 28

Jeremiah 31:7-9  
Psalm 126  
Hebrews 7:23-28  
Mark 10:46-52

## October Calendar at a Glance



---

**Monday, October 1**

9:00am Stephen Ministry

---

**Tuesday, October 2**

9:00am PEO

---

**Wednesday, October 3**

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

---

**Thursday, October 4**

12:00pm Cafe Corner Preparation

---

**Friday, October 5**

9:00am Worship Committee  
4:30pm Cafe Corner

---

**Saturday, October 6**

10:30am Organ Rehearsal

---

**Sunday, October 7**

9:00am Sunday Worship

---

**Monday, October 8**

9:00am Stephen Ministry

---

**Tuesday, October 9**

9:00am Quilters  
10:00am Acts Bible Study  
1:00pm WELCA

---

**Wednesday, October 10**

7:00am Sacred Space  
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal  
5:00pm Church Council

---

**Thursday, October 11**

12:00pm Cafe Corner Preparation

---

**Friday, October 12**

4:30pm Cafe Corner

---

**Saturday, October 13**

10:30am Organ Rehearsal

---

**Sunday, October 14**

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

---

**Monday, October 15**

9:00am Stephen Ministry

---

**Tuesday, October 16**

9:00am PEO  
10:00am Acts Bible Study

---

**Wednesday, October 17**

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

---

**Thursday, October 18**

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

---

**Friday, October 19**

4:30pm Cafe Corner

---

**Saturday, October 20**

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

---

**Sunday, October 21**

9:00am Sunday Worship  
10:30am Adult Forum  
2:00pm Synod Conference Summit

---

**Monday, October 22**

9:00am Stephen Ministry

---

**Tuesday, October 23**

10:00am Acts Bible Study  
1:00pm Book Club

---

**Wednesday, October 24**

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

---

**Thursday, October 25**

12:00pm Cafe Corner Preparation

---

**Friday, October 26**

4:30pm Cafe Corner

---

**Saturday, October 27**

10:30am Organ Rehearsal

---

**Sunday, October 28**

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

---

**Monday, October 29**

9:00am Stephen Ministry

---

**Tuesday, October 16**

10:00am Acts Bible Study

---

**Wednesday, October 31**

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

## Women of the ELCA

**W**omen of the ELCA will meet on Tuesday, October 9 at 1:00 p.m. at the church for the Bible Study/Discussion. The fall series is on the theme of Repentance and October's session is on how repentance shapes our relationships with others...with peace, love and mercy for our family, neighbors and community. All are welcome; copies of the study (found in the "Gather" magazine) will be available outside the church office.

### Learning Committee Book Club

**S**everal people have already purchased their books for the Book Club Sharing and Discussion. There is still time to get a book – either an e-book or paperback (\$12.50). Let Nancy Matson know and she will order a copy for you. The title is "Sensible Shoes" by Sharon Garlough Brown about 4 women in various stages of life getting together on a path of spiritual sharing and growth. We have scheduled the Book Club meeting date for Tuesday, October 23 at 1:00pm at the church. Nancy (970-215-3951)

### Meditation Hikes Done for the Season



**I**t was a beautiful summer of Monday afternoon Meditation Walks at Lily Lake; September 24th we had a closing "snack-nic." Thank you to all who participated - I'm hope you found it relaxing and enriching. We will resume the Walks late next May 2019.

### OCTOBER QUILTING

**T**hanks to Rich and Sandy Stolte, new filled school kits that were blessed in September (I believe we ended up with 31, but check with those who packed them for the exact number) are headed to our regional collection center in Denver to be sent on to Lutheran World Relief for distribution somewhere in our needy world to help children so they can go to school! Along with these kits we are sending a box of 8 quilts for LWR - a sort of first fruits of our efforts this year.

Our quilters have been so busy that 10 quilts have also been sent with our work crew to La Puente! Thanks to their hard work should still have plenty of quilts to cover our pews for the Thank Offering planned for November. God is so good and we are blessed to continue to have workers and materials.

We're temporarily changing our work days this month so please note the changes on your calendar. We will be meeting to work on quilts at the church on Tuesday, October 9 and Thursday, October 18 from 9am to 11:30am. All are welcome to join in for this fun time of service work and fellowship. Won't you include these two October mornings and plan to join us! Contact Linda Schlitt for more information at 970-586-5071 or email her at [llsjoy@aol.com](mailto:llsjoy@aol.com).

### September Prayer Reminders

- Sally Tessler, new challenges and treatments; yet, "all is well with my soul"
- Ron Dutton, hospitalized
- Kathy, friend of Nancy Matson, undergoing a serious surgery
- Father of Peggy Savelsberg, various medical tests and unknown diagnosis
- Earl Matson, recent fall and revised diagnosis
- Laura, daughter of Bobbie Christenson, undergoing surgery

## An Evening to Benefit Crossroads of Estes Park

The Dunraven Inn, the Rome of the Rockies, invites you to a unique evening to benefit Crossroads of Estes Park Sunday, October 28, 4-7:00 pm.

Enjoy an evening of food, wine tasting, music and a lively auction of fabulous items, plus, a chance to win a trip anywhere you choose through Columbine Travel Agency, a \$6000 value !!! You can enjoy all of this and help Crossroads of Estes Park! Only 250 tickets will be sold, so get yours soon! Ticket cost is \$100 for entry into the party and opportunity to win the trip. Tickets may be purchased at the Dunraven Inn - 2470 Colorado 66, Estes Park, CO 80517. Or by calling Brian at Crossroads Ministry at 577-0610 or Jim Paddock, our church's representative to the Crossroads Board of Directors at 708-288-5850. You need not be present to win. Raffle ticket purchases are not tax deductible. All proceeds will benefit Crossroads Ministry of Estes Park, Inc. Crossroads Ministry of Estes Park, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit agency which has been providing basic human services to residents in need who live in the Estes Valley for over 30 years. It offers assistance to clients on low or fixed incomes, partners with other agencies to maximize benefits to clients and encourages self-sufficiency of clients through educational opportunities. Crossroads, through its staff and volunteers, offers a food pantry, assistance with housing, utilities, budgeting and other basic needs. <http://crossroadsministryofep.org>.

### Looking Ahead...

Good Gifts ornaments will be available beginning Sunday, November 25th., We have a wide range of ornaments - from chicks to pigs to goats and school supplies ranging in price from \$10 to \$150. These make excellent gifts for family members and those hard to buy for people on your Christmas list. Also, new Advent calendars will be available by mid-November.

## Spiritual Note from Sr. Joan Chittister from her book "The Gift of Aging."

Allow yourself to dream "In a dream you are never eighty," Anne Sexton wrote. Whatever happens to the body, what toll age takes on the physical, the spirit does not grow old. In our dreams, in the way we ourselves see ourselves, we are forever becoming. Our dreams are always the vision of a younger self, a self-contained, energetic, self-determining person with a will of steel.

Our dreams reveal to us the basic truth of life: years are biological; the spirit is eternal. The number of our years does not define us. There is in the human being a life force that never dies. It is the life force that proves to us that age does not fossilize us. Down deep, where our souls live, we stay forever young. It is this surging, driving force that brings us to the bar of life every day of our lives, whatever our age, however much we have been through, prepared to live life to the hilt again.

## Important Dates of Note

### Anniversaries

Ron Bockhaus & Susan Anderson  
October 08  
Ron & Marilyn Dutton - October 19  
Earl & Nancy Matson - October 21

### Birthdays

Evelyn Kehl - October 02  
Alix Oglesby - October 04  
Roxy Hause - October 09  
Jean Siddle - October 10  
Larry Olson - October 15  
Michael Kellam - October 19  
Caroline O'Neil - October 20  
Dorothy Refsell - October 21  
Marilyn Kienker - October 23  
Maxine Peebles - October 27  
Mary Settje - October 30

# HAVE A COAT | NEED A COAT

*Now Accepting Donations for Annual Coat Distribution at Crossroads Ministry*



The Fall season is almost here, and with it comes the annual Crossroads Ministry Coat Distribution Day. **This year's coat distribution will be Friday, October 5, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.**

If you would like to help persons in need of warm winter clothing, please bring gently used or new items to Crossroads Ministry – the-sooner-the-better, and by Friday, September 28, if possible.

In addition to new or used-but-still-in-good-condition winter coats, we are seeking sweaters, hats, scarves, gloves and mittens.



Persons who desire to receive coats need not be clients of Crossroads Ministry. For more information, contact Crossroads Ministry, 970.577.0610, [tim.crossroadsep@gmail.com](mailto:tim.crossroadsep@gmail.com)