



# SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH Shepherd's Staff

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## Rocky Mountain Synod Leadership

**A**s Lutheran Christians, we have always held a deep commitment to life-long learning and leadership formation. For pastors, deacons, and lay church professionals, this learning is fostered partly through our Theological Conference and Leadership Retreat that takes place each fall. Leaders from across the synod for a week of community, worship, renewal, and learning. Our prayer is that leaders return to their faith communities better equipped to engage in ministry for the life of the world.” (from RMS newsletter).

The Theological Conference this fall will be held at the YMCA of the Rockies the week of September 17. Shepherd of the Mountains will be providing some refreshments for the break periods during this conference; dates, times and what you can provide and/or help serve will be forthcoming.

Nancy Matson

## September Worship Matters

### Sunday, 9-2, 9am

The tradition of the elders\*

### Sunday, 9-9, 9am

Healing strangers\*

### Sunday, 9-16, 9am

Peter finally gets it (Quarterly offering for Café' Corner)\*

### Sunday, 9-23, 9am

Who is the greatest?\*

### Sunday, 9-30, 9am

“Whoever is not against us is for us”

\*Each Sunday in September SMLC will lead a simple service at Prospect Park Living Center. PPLC is a senior and special-needs care facility connected to the Estes Park Hospital. The service begins at 4pm in the craft center of the facility. Enter through the west door on the same side as the emergency room entrance. Residents love to have visitors join them in singing and worship at these 40-minute gatherings. Make someone's day by showing up!

## Third Quarter Special Offering

**T**he third quarter special offering to benefit Community Corner Cafe will be taken Sunday, September 16th. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this important outreach of our church.

Hunger Task Force

## Pastor's Corner - The Third Force

by Pastor Ron Bockhaus

Recently I was called on to provide mediation for two parties in our greater Estes Park community experiencing conflict. My involvement with Estes Park's Restorative Justice Program provided the opportunity to be trained in the art of mediation. And while I don't often work with mediation cases, I do find the process interesting and humbling. Luckily I have the help of a partner similarly trained to help conduct the process.

It would appear that we are experiencing conflict in many areas including the political, social, environmental and religious circles of society. The list of things we are not to discuss in polite company is growing longer all the time. How can this be happening when we are technologically more "connected" to one another than ever before? As we develop and find more cures for cancer and signs of life on Mars the norms of everyday life seem to be more uncertain. When we are in conflict, or even see it in others, our reaction is often to fall back on the primal instincts to either "fight" or take "flight." We may feel that most issues are just too complicated for us to become meaningfully engaged and so we don't. Now I'm not saying we need to take up every issue which comes our way but rather understand there is a third force available through faith in Christ.

As we abide in scripture and observe how Jesus operated we begin to see the unique ways he weaved in and out of human drama. Following his baptism he entered the wilderness, in effect detaching himself from all except his Father. Re-emerging he heads straight into the surrounding towns and villages to call his disciples, heal the sick and engage in religious debate. When sought by others he was found alone and in prayer. Jesus kept a healthy balance between detachment and attachment; isolation and en-

gagement; love and righteousness. He danced between polar opposites with holy grace which defined his life and purposes.

It was this third force of God's love in grace which Jesus so masterfully practiced that we have available to us. Take for example the story of the woman caught in adultery from John's Gospel, chapter 8. When the woman was brought before him the scribes and Pharisees presented him with two options: stone her or let her off. Jesus did neither. With the words, "*Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her,*" he showed a powerful insight for us to aim for. Sin was not ignored even as mercy was shown. The injustice which put the adulterous woman on trial and not the adulterous man was exposed. And lastly, the truth that "*all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*" (Romans 3:23) was plain to everyone that day. In the end it was Jesus and the woman. He said to her, "*Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again*"(v.11).

As we find ourselves drawn to a current-day conflict, called to be a positive influence, let us proceed free of anxiety and condemnation for those who don't see things as we do. We honor the indwelling of God in ourselves when we can honor the divine in the other person. This takes practicing the presence of God in our life and growth in faith. So if we think we have the better idea and deserve the last word, we have failed in our attempt to make the world a better place. None of us have the complete answer. But with God's help and humility we might discover the truth somewhere between us and our beloved neighbor. It is the third way.

***In the Name of the Triune God, - Pastor Ron***

## September Calendar at a Glance



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### Saturday, September 1

11am George Jarmin Memorial Service

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### Sunday, September 2

9am Sunday Worship  
10:30am Adult Forum  
4pm PPLC Worship

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### Tuesday, September 4

7am Sacred Space  
9:30am Learning Committee Meeting

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### Wednesday, September 5

7am Sacred Space  
4pm Choir Rehearsal

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### Thursday, September 6

9am Quilters

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### Saturday, September 8

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

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### Sunday, September 9

9am Sunday Worship  
10:30am Adult Forum  
4pm PPLC Worship

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### Tuesday, September 11

1pm Women of the ELCA

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### Wednesday, September 12

7am Sacred Space  
9am Stephen Ministry Meeting  
4pm Choir Rehearsal  
5pm Church Council

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### Thursday, September 13

9-4 Estes Valley Quilter's Guild

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### Saturday, September 15

10:30am Organ Rehearsal

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### Sunday, September 16

CCC Offering  
9am Sunday Worship  
10:30am Adult Forum  
4pm PPLC Worship

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### Monday, September 17

Pastor's Theological Conference

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### Tuesday, September 18

Pastor's Theological Conference

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### Wednesday, September 19

Pastor's Theological Conference  
7am Sacred Space  
4pm Choir Rehearsal

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### Thursday, September 20

9am Quilters

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### Saturday, September 22

10:30am Organ Rehearsal

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### Sunday, September 23

9am Sunday Worship  
10:30am Adult Forum  
4pm PPLC Worship

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### Wednesday, September 26

7am Sacred Space  
9am Stephen Ministry Meeting  
4pm Choir Rehearsal

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### Saturday, September 29

10:30am Organ Rehearsal

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### Sunday, September 30

9am Sunday Worship  
10:30am Adult Forum  
4pm PPLC Worship



## WELCA Bible Study for September

All women are invited to Bible Study on Tuesday, September 11 at 1:00 p.m. This is the first of a three-part study by Meghan Johnston Aelabouni titled Turn, turn, turn: A time for Faithful Repentance. The September session is Turning to God, Time after Time—when we turn to God, we find grace. Meghan has presented studies over the past few years and her style and approach have been very enriching and relevant.

## Table Talkers Groups Forming

Table talkers is an opportunity for individuals and couples to meet while enjoying a meal together. Meals can be served at a restaurant or at someone's home. Each group will decide where and when to meet but generally the group meets once a month in September, October, November and again in January. Traditionally the combined groups of table talkers meet together in December. A regrouping will occur for the months of February, March, April and May.

Please contact Lory McDonald if you are interested in being part of table talkers by Sunday, September 16th. You can email her at themcdonalds4@yahoo.com or call her cell phone: 970-381-4119. She will be asking where you prefer to meet and who you have already been partnered with if you have participated before. Pastor Ron has kindly offered to assist Lory in coming up with the groups.

## Integrated Service & Intentionality: Urban Servant Corps in Denver

Serving Christ through action for better community. This is the tagline for Urban Servant Corps, the organization that lives out faith-based service in every corner of Denver.

I had the opportunity to meet with Sarah Adam, Community Life Coordinator, at the Urban Servant Corps office this week. We talked about USC's mission in the community and how that extends to the volunteers' personal lives. What struck me is how many opportunities there are for volunteers to better their communities and simultaneously take time to better themselves. With opportunities for faith, reflection, discussion about social issues, food education, etc. at the USC houses, the volunteers are truly living comprehensively in their faith and ministries.

Volunteers come to USC at all ages. Typically, USC sees recent college graduates and others in their 20s apply. However, this last year a retired nun found USC after her convent closed. Mary Kay is a volunteer at Family Promise, an organization that works with individuals and families who are at risk of being homeless.

The Rocky Mountain Synod Theological Conference will be held September 16-18 at the YMCA of the Rockies. Leaders and clergy from throughout the RMS will be participating and Shepherd of the Mountains has been asked to have a Hospitality Table during the break sessions serving cookies, baked goods, fruit, and yogurt. The YMCA will be furnishing coffee. Times of serving would be on Tuesday the 17 and Wednesday the 18 at 10:45 a.m. Please consider helping with this - more details later as well as anticipated number of participants. Thank you...I'll put out a sign-up sheet.

Nancy Matson

## September Bible Readings

### September 2

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9  
Psalm 15  
James 1:17-27  
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

### September 9

Isaiah 35:4-7a  
Psalm 146  
James 2:1-10[11-13]14-1  
Mark 7:24-37

### September 16

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 116:1-9  
James 3:1-12  
Mark 8:27-38

### September 23

Jeremiah 11:18-20  
Psalm 54  
James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a  
Mark 9:30-37

### September 30

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29  
Psalm 19:7-14  
James 5:13-20  
Mark 9:38-50

**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**

**E**njoy 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>.



## Estes Park CROP Hunger Walk

**S**unday, September 16th is rapidly approaching. If you are interested in walking please contact Dennis or Lory McDonald. Eleven attendees of our church are participating so far. They include: Past Ron Bockhaus, Dennis McDonald, Lory McDonald, Carolyn Jarmin, Glenda Collins, Nancy Matson, Mike VanBrunt, Tara McConnell, Darby Rand, Gary Trunnell and Bill Hayford.

If you can't walk, please consider giving one of them a donation. Checks should be made out to CWS/Crop. If you go to <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/estesparkco/> you can choose which walker you wish to sponsor and pay with a credit card. Of course, cash works well too!

Remember, 25% of the funds raised are passed onto Crossroads Ministry our local food pantry to help those in need in our own community. Thank you for your support.

## Quilting In September

**Y**our dedicated and talented quilters were hard at work in August making quilts. Finished quilts continue to stack up as backs, tops and fillers are turned into warm and beautiful gifts for those in need in our world. Won't you plan to join this fun group in September on Thursday, September 6, and/or Thursday, September 20 from 9 AM to 11:30 as we assemble, tie and sew quilts and sort materials? No experience is necessary to help with this ministry just loving hearts and hands. Wouldn't it be great if in 2018 we could meet or exceed the number of quilts we sent to LWR and La Puente in 2017? Your help will make all the difference in helping us meet and exceed our goals for 2018!

## Important Dates of Note

### Anniversaries

Bruce & Kris Adams - September 06  
Daniel & Carolyn Mangler - September 14  
Loren & Lynette Johnson - September 30

### Birthdays

Gloria Lickfett - September 1  
Peter Nelson - September 12  
Isaac Paswaters - September 16  
Isabelle Paswaters - September 16  
Sheldon Wahlstrom - September 17  
Lois Bailey - September 19  
Claire Molle - September 20  
Bobbie Christenson - September 21  
Earl Matson - September 27

## August Prayer Reminders

- Roxy Hause and family, upon the death of her aunt, Mary
- Ron Dutton, following surgery and further complications
- Carolyn Jarmin following the death of her husband George
- Lin Smith, upcoming treatments and transportation needs
- Niece of Carole Rouse, cancer diagnosis
- Jane Rising and family, upon the death of her brother, Johnny
- Father of Peter Nelson, complications from a stroke; home care issues
- Marion Dougherty, out-patient surgical procedure

## Thank You!

**A**s I continue to recuperate from back surgery, just wanted to take a moment to give thanks for all the loving support Lee and I have received from all of you. Your prayers buoy us up and give us strength each moment and day and your offers of help and support are such a blessing. Can't tell you how much your cards, notes and visits cheered and encouraged us. Thank you! We are so blessed to be part of this loving Shepherd of the Mountains extended family. Blessings & love to each of you.

# 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)

## Stephen Ministry Update

# stephen MINISTRY®

**S**MLC plans to offer a Stephen Series course in the fall to begin our Stephen Ministry program and train our first Stephen Ministers. Stephen Ministers are lay people in the church who are equipped to provide high-quality, one-on-one Christian care to individuals who are experiencing a life challenge, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or a variety of other circumstances. The Stephen Series training will cover a variety of topics, including feelings, the art of listening, confidentiality, boundaries, and grief. The role of the Stephen Minister is to be there for a hurting person, to listen and walk with them throughout their challenge, without any judgment and with complete confidentiality.

Stephen Ministry began in 1975 in Saint Louis, Missouri. Today, Stephen Ministry is in more than 13,000 congregations, in all 50 states, 10 Canadian provinces, and more than 29 countries around the world. More than 70,000 lay people, church staff, and pastors have been trained to become Stephen Leaders (those who oversee and direct Stephen Ministry in the congregation). There have been more than 600,000 Stephen Ministers trained and these individuals have provided care to more than 1.5 million hurting people. The name Stephen comes from Acts 6, when St. Stephen was the first person to be commissioned by the apostles to provide caring ministry to hurting people.

The Stephen Leader team is making preparations to begin training our congregation's first class of Stephen Ministers. We invite anyone that is potentially interested in becoming a Stephen Minister to obtain an application from Bruce Brackman, Jenna Wahlstrom, or Pastor Ron. Interviews will be held during the month

of September and the training will begin the first week of October. An application process is important to ensure that our congregation is able to provide the highest quality care and that those involved are well suited and well prepared for the ministry.

An adult forum with more information will be held on Sunday, September 2nd, following worship. All are welcome and encouraged to attend and learn more.

*Kind Regards, Jenna Wahlstrom*

### Sacred Space- Wed. at 7am & Beyond

**O**ur church sponsors a gathering known as Sacred Space on Wednesdays at 7am. It is open to all who accept the unique individual journey every person is on in life. You could say that God is recognized and valued in each individual life. Holding that to be true, a different reading is shared within the group each week. Time is given to sit quietly with the reading, followed next by group reflection. That which is said is not so much a discussion or critique, but rather a gift for the entire group to absorb and ponder. The aim of the group is to create a space together which is both sacred and safe. Come and visit some time. You'll be enriched because of it.

Also, did you know? The sacred space—space, is open to individuals and groups who support the importance of sacredness and security by other means and need a location to make that happen. If you and others are planning times to study, meditate, pray, or create and need a space, consider using Sacred Space. It is located in the Church Shops building in downtown EP. See Pastor Ron about the details.