



SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Shepherd's Staff

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 Pastor Ron Bockhaus (970)-646-6657

SMLCEstes.org

AUGUST 2019



Important Dates in August

Anniversaries

- Rich & Sandy Stolte.....August 12
- Stan & Jill JohnsonAugust 25

Birthdays

- Connie WestleyAugust 07
- Lee Schlitt.....August 09
- Geoffrey AdamsAugust 12
- Rich StolteAugust 17
- Romaine & Jane GardnerAugust 19
- Larry KilgoreAugust 20
- Nick MolleAugust 20
- Keith RiedeselAugust 22
- Betty Yohe.....August 23
- Heidi JohnsonAugust 24
- Jill Johnson.....August 29
- Ron Bockhaus.....August 30

August 18 - Short Congregational Meeting Followed by BBQ & Potluck

The Church Council has called for a congregational meeting to vote on persons serving on the council. This is necessary because of a change in status for one who was voted in at the June congregational meeting. In addition, some reports which were not presented in June will be presented on August 18th.

Following this short meeting we will eat! Yeah! This is a potluck with regard to side dishes (salads, vegetables, potato dishes, fruit, desserts, etc). Bring your own meat dish (hamburgers, hotdogs, brats, steaks, tofu) to grill on our great, big grill. If you don't want to grill your meat item, there will be a friendly assistant to do it for you if you ask nicely.

Iced drinks and coffee will be made available, or you can bring your own. We plan to eat inside and grill outside.

As always, help is needed to make it happen. We need to clean the grill! Two people are needed to give our grill a good cleaning before this event. Please let a church council member know if you can do this. A sign-up sheet for side dishes, set-up, and clean-up will appear soon! Let's each lend a hand and gather together for this summer event!

Pastor's Corner

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

Boundless Generosity

The title above, *Boundless Generosity*, is the theme our stewardship team chose for the stewardship emphasis beginning this month. It needs some explanation as we begin this journey together.

First it needs to be said that God is our model for boundless generosity. When everything in this life is a result of God and God's generosity, we readily see God truly has no boundaries. No individual or group of people have been left out of God's generosity. Certainly there are ways people are gifted differently, but in the big picture of creation and life all receive the generosity of God.



Paul Tournier writes this: "There comes a day when we understand that all is of grace, that the whole world is a gift of God, a completely generous gift. We see each flower, each drop of water, each minute of our life as a gift of God. He gives them to all, both to those who know him and to those who are ignorant of him" (*The Meaning of Gifts*, p. 59).

Those who live with this awareness are shaped by it in profound ways. God's boundless generosity becomes the lens by which we see generosity flow through us as well. We participate in it when we receive it with open hearts. This open-

ness then prepares us to pass it on to others, thus completing the circle of care and compassion.

In his Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6, Jesus speaks to the "treasures" of this life, another way of identifying God's generosity I would argue. He says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Mt. 6:21). Author, Mark Allen Powell provides a wonderful insight into this verse. He writes: "The point isn't that how we spend our money reveals what sort of people we are, but that how we spend our money determines what sort of people we become. Let's remember that "treasure" is not necessarily "money." Our treasure is whatever we value—our money in many cases, but also our time and our possessions and our families and our physical bodies. Whatever we value—that is our treasure. And Jesus says that what we do with our treasures affects our hearts—it determines who we are inside. It determines what sort of people we become" (*Giving To God*, p. 53).

This insight came to mind when I read an article entitled, "The Last Frontier", in Harper's Magazine*. The article is written by Ted Conover who accompanies La Puente employee, Matt Little, on his rounds to the homesteaders who live off the grid in the San Luis Valley in southern Colorado. Matt delivers firewood and checks up on people who are often in need of the services which La Puente provides.

While reading this article I realized I was witnessing the treasure of our church! It's true! SMLC has put its treasure into La Puente. The article explains what that means for needy people. So now let us ask: "what does it mean to us and our hearts?" Obviously not every treasure our congregation gives is written about in a nationally-known magazine. Most of our treasure is given without much fanfare or notice. However, I pray we never lose sight of how giving our treasure affects our hearts! That's what stewardship is about—our hearts!

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Beginning this month the stewardship team will be surveying the congregation. We are interested in how generosity has shaped and formed you. We want to know what influences of grace have impacted your life and the treasure you possess. Where is your treasure? Where is your heart?

The survey will be anonymous yet will leave room for specific responses that will help us plan our stewardship emphasis this year. You can help us by taking the time to thoughtfully complete a generosity survey when they come out on August 18th, the day of the congregational meeting. Thank you Treasured People!

Sincerely, Pastor Ron

* One hard copy of this article is on the bulletin board above the guest book. You can also read it on the web at: <https://harpers.org/archive/2019/08/the-last-frontier/> This is a "guest subscription" by Harper's and can be taken down at any time.

August Worship Matters

Sunday, August 4 9am.

Pastor Bruce Brackman

Sunday, August 11 9am.

No "summer slump" here!

Sunday, August 18 9am.

I don't get it!

Congregational meeting and potluck BBQ follows.

Sunday, August 25 9am.

The danger of perfectionism.

August Bible Readings

August 4

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23
Psalm 49:1-12
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

August 11

Genesis 15:1-6
Psalm 33:12-22
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

August 18

Jeremiah 23:23-29
Psalm 82
Hebrews 11:29--12:2
Luke 12:49-56

August 25

Isaiah 58:9b-14
Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

July Prayer Reminders

- **Gloria Lickfett, upon the death of her grandson, Noel.**
- **Sally Tessler, thanksgiving for positive test results.**
- **Ron Dutton, thanks for continued improvement with physical therapy.**
- **Vanessa Paswaters, continued prayer for her father and further medical treatment.**



- "Grace is given to save our nature, not to save us from our nature.
- Grace is given to free us from the unnaturalness of what we have become and done to one another and to the earth.
- Grace is given, she says, 'to bring nature back to that blessed point from which it came, namely God.'
- Grace is given that we may hear again the deepest sounds within us."

—Julian of Norwich

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August					1 9am Quilters Pastor on Vacation through August 9	2	3 10:30am Organ Rehearse
	4 9am Sunday Worship 10:30am Adult Forum	5 5pm Meditation Hike	6	7 7am Sacred Space	8 8:30am EVOG Workshop 9:00am Worship Committee	9	10 10:30am Organ Rehearse
	11 9:00am Sunday Worship 10:30am Stephen Ministry	12 5:00pm Meditation Hike 2:00pm Holy Communion at Good Sam's	13	14 7:00am Sacred Space	15 8:30am EVOG Workshop 9:00am Worship Committee	16	17 10:30am Organ Rehearse 8:30am Elderhaus
	18 9:00am Sunday Worship 10:30am Special Congregational Meeting Congregational BBQ/ Potluck Habitat Worker Visit	19 5:00pm Meditation Hike 5:30pm Bible Study Habitat Worker Visit	20 10am Learning Committee Habitat Worker Visit	21 7:00am Sacred Space 5pm Church Council Habitat Worker Visit	22 9:00am Quilters Habitat Worker Visit	23 Habitat Worker Visit	24 10:30am Organ Rehearse Habitat Worker Visit
	25 8:00am Council Donuts 9:00am Sunday Worship Habitat Worker Visit	26 5:00pm Meditation Hike Pastor's Retreat Habitat Worker Visit	27 Pastor's Retreat	28 7:00am Sacred Space 4:00pm Choir Rehearsal	29 9:00am Quilters 3:00pm Endowment Meeting	30	31 9:30am Stewardship Team Meeting 10:30am Organ Rehearse

Calling all photographers casual or otherwise!

We are looking for any pictures you may have taken of church members engaged in activities that are an outreach to our community. Examples are Community Corner Cafe, La Puente (including PALS talent show), quilters, July 4th fireworks party and the local Habitat build. Please send these to Jim Eckland at secretary@smlcestes.org by August 25. Be sure they are labeled as to what activity is depicted. Don't be shy! Let's see how many creative and diverse photos we can accumulate.



Habitat For Humanity Building in Our Neighborhood!

Did you know there is a Habitat for Humanity home being built behind the Salud Clinic? As you exit church you'll see it's just across the way from us. We've been contacted by Habitat to house a crew of Ameri-Corps volunteers coming to work on the project. The Church Council has discussed, and voted to welcome the volunteers to stay with us. They'll need to find a shower elsewhere of course! Plus, we do have other events happening in the building that will need to be coordinated. Aside from all the logistics however this is a great opportunity for SMLC to be a helpful to our new neighbors. Let's embrace this and show our generosity. Thanks!

August Quilting

You're invited to share your gifts during August with the quilting group by joining us on three Thursdays: August 1, August 22, and August 29 from 9 to 11:30 AM at church. Just imagine the possibilities your gifts could add to the beauty and variety of quilts made this month for others. Just imagine the possible colors and textures and fabrics chosen out of our growing stash of materials for these precious loving products selected and fashioned with your hearts and hands as an offering to God and our brothers and sisters in the world. As Jesus' disciple said, "Come and see!" I can hardly wait to see what new possibilities for quilting August offers and what new friends may choose to join us! Feel free to share your questions with Linda Schlitt or Lori McDonald.

Flower Arrangers Needed

Everyone is encouraged to take a quick look at the flower chart for this year, posted outside the kitchen. There are few Sundays remaining this year for you to sign up to sponsor the flowers that beautify our sanctuary. Also please note if you sponsored flowers in the past but haven't remitted the \$25.00 that accompanies this commitment. This can be placed in the offering any Sunday with a note that this amount is to go towards flowers. At this time, this is one of the areas we are lagging behind in our contributions. Thanks to everyone who has helped fill the flower chart this year. Your commitment is appreciated by many.

Third Quarter Special Offering

The Third Quarter Special Offering benefiting Community Corner Cafe will be taken Sunday, September 15th. Please consider your gift to this important ministry of our church. Your generosity is appreciated.

Hunger Task Force