



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

SMLCEstes.org

DECEMBER 2019



December CCC Menu

6 December

Chicken Enchiladas & Posole
United Methodist Church

13 December

Stuffed Peppers
PEO HF

20 December

Ham & Cheese Pinwheels
SMLC

27 December

Grill Night
Community Volunteers



December Worship Matters

Sunday, 12-1, 9am,

Advent Begins with Isaiah

Sunday, 12-8, 9am,

Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, 12-15, 9am,

Quarterly Offering for Hunger

Saturday, 12-21, 5pm,

Blue Christmas at Presbyterian Church

Sunday, 12-22, 9am,

look for the sign of One named
Immanuel—God with Us

Tuesday, 12-24, 5pm,

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Sunday, 12-29, 9am,

God's presence saves



Ava Faye Reimer, the daughter of Michael & Melissa Reimer, was baptized on Sunday, November 24th. She received a beautiful quilt produced by the SMLC Quilters.

We Observe Advent--So That You May Hope Again-- The Message of Christmas

This is the second in a series of articles based on the book, *A Door Set Open*, by Peter Steinke. The Church Council is reading the book and using it for devotions at the beginning of each meeting. The following subject material was chosen because of the reference to the book of Isaiah which we are now exploring in this season of Advent.

GOOD NEWS:

*but if you ask me what it is, I know not;
It is a track in the snow,
It is a lantern showing a path,
It is a door set open.
--G.K. Chesterton, "Xmas Day"*

The prophets in the Old Testament appeared on the scene when times were tough. God's people were tired and worried about an uncertain future. Their message for the people was often difficult to hear. They spoke critically to everyone including kings and leaders. Yet they also described visions which pictured good news for those desiring God. Just when the way forward seemed to be closed, the prophet's words showed a "door set open."

Beginning with the first chapter Isaiah points to the injustice and unrighteousness he sees around him. He becomes the mouthpiece of God who declares: "I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats"(1:11). But just when you think Isaiah is all doom and gloom he surprises you saying: "...they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up

sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more"(2:4). The complaint of the prophet gives way to hope for those who stay with him. This is dialectical thinking and characteristic of Jewish thought throughout the Old Testament.

This bad news/good news scenario is certainly what we've come to expect in the season of Advent. John the Baptist announces One is coming after him who will baptize with both the Holy Spirit and fire. One sounds hopeful and the other ominous. Which is it? The answer is both! Hope emerges out of our difficulty more often than not.

Steinke points out that the word "hope, derives from the German *hop*, which means 'leaping expectations.' Hope is an exuberant response, particularly when things are in reverse, in decline, and in disrepair. In the movie *Zorba the Greek*, a wealthy entrepreneur loses his profitable business and turns to his friend Zorba, and says, 'Zorba, teach me to dance.' In other words, 'Zorba, teach me to leap, to see beyond ground zero—essentially, to hope again.'"

As I read the prophets I sense they want to instill hope in people's lives, but in a true and lasting manner. For it to happen the temptation to deny, despair and grab the quick fix must be avoided. Only complete reliance upon God can transform us and our situation.

In Christ, Pastor Ron

December Bible Readings

December 8

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

December 15

Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

December 22

Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

December 29

Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23

DECEMBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9am Sunday Worship 10:30am Isaiah Bible Study	2 10am Isaiah Bible Study	3	4 7am Sacred Space 4pm Choir Rehearsal	5 12pm Cafe Corner Prep	6 4:30pm Cafe Corner	7
8 9am Sunday Worship 10:30am Isaiah Bible Study	9 10am Isaiah Bible Study 2pm HC at Good Sams	10 9am Church Council 1pm WELCA	11 7am Sacred Space 2pm EVQG Holiday Dinner 4pm Choir Rehearsal 5pm Church Council	12 9am Worship Committee 9am Quilters 12pm Cafe Corner Prep	13 4:30pm Cafe Corner	14 8:30am Men's Breakfast 3pm Peak to Peak Concert
15 9am Sunday Worship Quarterly Hunger Offering 10:30am Isaiah Bible Study	16 10am Isaiah Bible Study	17	18 7am Sacred Space 4pm Choir Rehearsal	19 12pm Cafe Corner Prep 9am Quilters	20 4:30pm Cafe Corner	21 5pm Blue Christmas at the Presbyterian Church
22 9am Sunday Worship 10:30am Isaiah Bible Study	23 10am Isaiah Bible Study	24 5pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day	26 12pm Cafe Corner Prep	27 4:30pm Cafe Corner	28
29 9am Sunday Worship 10:30am Adult Forum	30	31 New Year's Eve				

Quilting In December



Advent is a time of reflection and new beginnings. We remember with thanks the November in-gathering when we dedicated & packed up another 50 quilts to send to Lutheran World Relief. One of those quilts was from the quilt drawing, generously donated back by the Wold's grand daughter and her friend. Thanks to your generosity, \$154 was sent to the Lutheran World Relief shipping fund to cover the cost of shipping these quilts overseas.

With the 54 already sent this summer that totals 104 quilts - the largest number we have ever sent in one year. This was in addition to prayer quilts, baptismal quilts, going away quilts, quilts given to speakers and the more than 30 quilts given to La Puente. Thank you all for your support of this wonderful concrete ministry of love and care to our neighbors around the world.



We posed among those quilts in our **Thrivent** shirts to give thanks to **Thrivent** for generous community action grants requested and kindly obtained for us by Kay & Curt Olthoff, summer members of SMLC. These grants have allowed us to purchase a good supply of quilt batting - maybe even enough for our next 50 quilts. Kay faithfully helps us assemble quilts in the summer. She suggested the possibility of **Thrivent Community Action Grants** to help us purchase quilt batting and other needed quilt supplies. Kay and Curt obtained grants for us this fall shortly after their return to Iowa! We are so thankful for their help and **Thrivent's** generous grants for our quilting ministry.

We ended our quilting year sorting through some of the boxes of material God has generously provided by you and others in the community who have seen and heard of our quilting ministry. These wonderfully laid the foundation for a busy new year of quilt work.

Advent is a time for new beginnings, as we gather at the church to assemble, tie and sew quilts for the new year on Thursday, December 12 from 9 to 11:30. On December 19 our annual fellowship outing is planned as we celebrate the past and plan for 2020. We will meet at 9:30 on Thursday, December 19 at the church and head to a local restaurant for brunch together. Won't you plan to join us on the 2nd & 3rd Thursday in December? All are welcome. For more information please contact, Linda Schlitt or Lori McDonald.



Stocking Stuffer Ideas

Looking for stocking stuffer ideas? Look no further than the Equal Exchange cart in the narthex. You will find several kinds of full-sized chocolate bars as well as bite-sized minis. There is also comforting tea and hot chocolate as well as the ever popular red bag coffee, in regular and decaf. Giving gifts from Equal Exchange not only shows someone you care but also benefits small farmers from around the world.

Shepherd of the Mountains has supported this ministry for several years. Here are some numbers to show how we have accomplished this in 2019. So far this year, WELCA has financed the purchase of \$541.60 of fair trade coffee, tea, cocoa and chocolate inventory so people could more easily help small farmers. During that time, people have contributed \$421.05 to acquire the products for the cart. Additionally, the church has purchased \$383.00 worth of Equal Exchange coffee for use on Sundays and other hospitality events. This adds up to over \$900.00 from Shepherd of the Mountains in support of small farmers through Equal Exchange.

Please consider turning to Equal Exchange ANY time you are in the market for coffee, tea or chocolate. You will probably never meet these small farmers but you can rest assured that they can feel your love.

Important Dates in December

Anniversaries

- Glenn & Louanne IsernhagenDec. 18
- Donald & Marilyn ShaliboDec. 25
- Larry & Karen OlsonDec. 27
- Leif & Heidi JohnsonDec. 31

Birthdays

- Daniel Mangler.....Dec. 9
- Jeanne NelsonDec. 13
- Louanne IsernhagenDec. 14
- Carolyn JarminDec. 15
- Nancy Matson.....Dec. 18



A visit by a Wise Woman to herald the Good Gifts campaign.

Go tail it on the mountain.

Shop ELCA Good Gifts this Christmas for 50 gifts that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives.


 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.
 ELCA.org/goodgifts

November Prayer Reminders

- Nancy Knoll, former member, hospitalized.
- Janet, sister of Jeanne Nelson, making medical decisions
- Eric, son-in-law of Carole Rouse, upon the death of his brother
- Eliana, grandniece of Linda Schlitt, for courage & healing
- All those grieving throughout Christmas

Blue Christmas

A quiet, reflective service for those of us who are grieving, lonely, sad,
not feeling particularly festive or just in need of
a time of quiet in the busy-ness of the season.

hosted by the Estes Park Interfaith Alliance &
Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies
1700 Brodie Ave.

Saturday, Dec. 21 (the longest night)
5:00 pm

