



# SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Shepherd's Staff

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 Pastor Ron Bockhaus (970)-646-6657

SMLCEstes.org

FEBRUARY 2019



### Feb. Comm. Corner Café Menu

**February 1 -**

Clam Chowder or Chicken Noodle Soup  
 Noon Rotary

**February 8**

Pulled Pork Sliders  
 Summit Church

**February 15**

Valentine Dinner  
 Quota Club

**February 22**

Grill Night  
 Mormon Church



### Communion Minister Ministry

**A**t the last worship committee meeting the topic of communion ministry was discussed. This ministry is about the distribution of Holy Communion(HC) to those in special circumstances. In other words, taking HC to people in their homes or places of care. Many churches have adopted this ministry utilizing lay members to supplement the visitation ministry of their pastor. The elements of bread and wine from HC on a Sunday morning worship would be entrusted to the communion minister who would then share them with their designated person during a visit. A one-time training session would be necessary before the minister would be assigned a particular person. If you would be interested in being a communion minister please contact Pastor Ron. Your care will make the difference!

### February Worship Matters

**Sunday, Feb. 3, 9am**

How Quickly Things Change

**Sunday, Feb. 10, 9am**

Try Again Because I said So

**Sunday, Feb. 17, 9am**

Healing and Wholeness

**Sunday, Feb. 24, 9am**

The Love Which Stands Out

## Pastor's Corner

Pastor Ron Bockhaus - Contact me at [ron.bockhaus@smlc.us](mailto:ron.bockhaus@smlc.us) 970-646-6657

# Why Care?



**F**or the Christian, caring is essential to faith in Christ Jesus. We know this and come to expect it in ourselves and hope for it from others. Like many things however we can become complacent about caring. If this happens there's a good chance we'll soon be shown what uncaring looks like.

Years ago I was having a conversation with a confirmation student. Confirmation Sunday was approaching and we were having a "faith talk" in preparation. The kids had been together in small groups for three years with an adult leader who led them in discussions covering important issues of faith and life. I assumed a caring bond had formed between them but I was wrong. Time does not automatically draw people together. It became clear the person before me cared little or nothing for others in her group. I remember feeling shocked and saddened.

As the Church we need to ask ourselves from time-to-time, "why do we care?" And in addition we need to ask, "Why do we do what we do?" These are direct questions that probe the inner motivation for living by faith. It's normal that our motivation and intent ebbs and flows over time. A clear motivation last week might

not feel as strong this week but that doesn't mean we stop caring. It means we revisit the source of our motivation repeatedly so as to not lose our focus. It is one reason we worship, read scripture and pray.

In his book, *Christian Caregiving--a Way of Life*, Kenneth Hauck writes: "Through his church Jesus continues to extend his ministry of love and care for people. The love of Christ is powerful and dynamic. It is not just a good feeling; it is the basic motivation for all Christian caring. This is summarized in 1 John 4:19: 'We love because he first loved us.'

This may sound very simple to you and you're wondering why I am stating such an obvious truth for Christians. I do because love is not static. It doesn't stay the same for our lives don't stay the same. In the course of a life time our love for a spouse or child goes through many changes. We grow in our love as our relationships grow and change with the years. The same can be said of our relationship with God.

Living in the community of church means experiencing God through relationships with others. Yes, we can have a vital sense of the unseen God in our individual lives, but it is the visible God who is incarnate through others that is most apparent. This is life together, and our calling to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Kenneth Hauck calls this "distinctively Christian caregiving" for the following reasons. We will realize we are an extension of Christ's ministry, and empowered by his love. We'll be provided an attitude of humility and servanthood. We will gain the assurance of Christ's strength and power to care in his name. We will receive new perspectives on caring by caring and loving as Christ empowers us to do so.

Let us trust that others will encounter God through our caring for them in the name of Christ.

**Pastor Ron**

## February Calendar at a Glance



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### Friday, February 1

4:30 Cafe Corner

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### Saturday, February 2

10:30 Organ Rehearsal

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### Sunday, February 3

9 Sunday Worship

10:30 Adult Forum

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### Monday, February 4

10am Marison Cooking

5pm Oratorio Rehearsal

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### Tuesday, February 5

10am Marison Cooking

10am Learning Committee

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### Wednesday, February 6

7am Sacred Space

10am Marison Cooking

4pm Choir Rehearsal

5pm Church Council

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### Thursday, February 7

12pm Cafe Corner Preparation

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### Friday, February 8

4:30pm Cafe Corner

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### Saturday, February 9

8:30am Men's Breakfast

10:30am Organ Rehearsal

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### Sunday, February 10

9am Sunday Worship

10:30am Adult Forum

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### Monday, February 11

10am Marison Cooking

5pm Oratorio Rehearsal

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### Tuesday, February 12

10am Marison Cooking

1pm WELCA

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### Wednesday, February 13

7am Sacred Space

10am Marison Cooking

4pm Choir Rehearsal

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### Thursday, February 14

9 am Quilters

12pm Cafe Corner Preparation

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### Friday, February 15

4:30pm Cafe Corner

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### Saturday, February 16

10:30am Organ Rehearsal

3pm Peak to Peak Concert

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### Sunday, February 17

9am Sunday Worship

10:30am Adult Forum

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### Monday, February 18

10am Marison Cooking

5pm Oratorio Rehearsal

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### Tuesday, February 19

10am Marison Cooking

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### Wednesday, February 20

7am Sacred Space

10am Marison Cooking

4pm Choir Rehearsal

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### Thursday, February 21

12pm Cafe Corner Preparation

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### Friday, February 22

4:30pm Cafe Corner

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### Saturday, February 23

10:30 Organ Rehearsal

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### Sunday, February 24

9 am Sunday Worship

10:30am Adult Forum

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### Monday, February 25

10am Marison Cooking

5pm Oratorio Rehearsal

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### Tuesday, February 26

10am Marison Cooking

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### Wednesday, February 27

7am Sacred Space

10am Marison Cooking

4pm Choir Rehearsal

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### Thursday, February 28

9am Quilters

12pm Cafe Corner Preparation

# News from the Learning Committee

**T**he Learning Committee met in January and considered broadening the venues for learning and enrichment in the coming months. Day-long retreats, spiritual practice activities, centering prayer were discussed as well as outreach to young people in the congregation. We are researching some early childhood and middle school materials for home use by parents, and stand ready when feasible to offer more formal instruction, including preparation for 5th grade Holy Communion.

Adult Forums will continue and be announced in advance; Laraine Nelson, RN is presenting a discussion of caregiving for an aging population, with a focus on Alzheimer, Dementia and other health issues affection seniors. This will be on February 24, after worship at 10:30 a.m. Also, we would like to explore another Adult Bible Study as in the format of "Acts" which we did in the fall and was well-attended. Centering Prayer, which has been on sabbatical the past several months, would likely be resumed with a different format...beginning with an introduction to Centering Prayer and then perhaps weekly gatherings for the 20 minute Centering Prayer followed by Meditation, Lectio Divina reading, walking, journaling --- a 30 minute period to reflect and pray in silence, perhaps chant a Taize song as a sending. It would be hoped that those interested would also do a home Centering Prayer time daily.

A Spiritual Practice afternoon workshop would be prayer with a Labyrinth – some general background, types of Labyrinth and then making your own "tabletop" labyrinth with a clay saucer (as goes under a potted plant) and stones and sand ....more coming up.

The Stephen Ministry caring outreach would like to have books and materials available in the narthex with the addition of a small bookcase and browsing space, borrowing or purchasing materials if so desired. We would like to have a volunteer who would coordinate this Resource area or "Little Library" of sorts. See Pastor Ron for more information if you are interested.



## Wise Women Came Also. . . Retreat

**A**n afternoon Epiphany Retreat was celebrated by a mini-retreat on Sunday, January 6. The format was sharing a few readings on hope, and some very moving poetry...a time to talk about periods of hope and despair in our lives and moving on. Then there was a period of quiet time to journal, pray, walk ...and use some expressive art to visually see the path of hope and loss and light and enrichment in your life...and looking ahead. Women used colors, drawings, paints for their "Road of Life in Hope." A similar mini-retreat will be planned in the spring.



**WELCA News**

**W**omen of the ELCA will meet on Tuesday, February 12 at 1:00 in the library for a study on "Meetings with Jesus", Session Two. Copies of the study will be available on the table by the office door. The study is based on several "conversations" between Jesus and various people in the Gospel of John. If you wish to receive the monthly Gather magazine which has the Studies along with many excellent articles, please contact Linda Schlitt (llsjoy@aol.com) to place your subscription. All women are invited to come.

**February Quilting**

**W**e're changing back to the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at church. This month that will be February 14 and February 28 from 9AM to 11:20 AM. What better way to celebrate Valentine's Day and month than to share your love with the world by tying and assembling quilts with us. You, too, can help make the world a better and warmer place. Please plan to join us this month and find out what colors of the rainbow our quilts are and share a special treat and cup of coffee or tea. Wouldn't you like to get to know our regular quilters a little better while you help people in need around the world? Talk with Linda Schlitt if you would like more information.

**Caregiving for an Aging Population**

**Adult Forum:**

**P**lease join us after the service on Sunday, February 24 at 10:30 a.m. for an Adult Forum on Alzheimers, Dementia and Caregiving for elderly persons. Laraine Nelson, who served as Director of Prospect Park Living Center from 2008 to 2010 will lead us in a discussion of problems facing an aging population. Other topics addressed may be macular degeneration, cataracts, hearing diminishment, balance, stroke and self-care. She will answer questions also on distinctions between normal aging and dementia and other brain disorders. Everyone is welcome...bring your concerns!

**Important Dates of Note**

**Anniversaries**

- Bill & Connie Westley February 12
- Nick & Mary Beth Molle February 14
- Mike & Linda Wold February 27

**Birthdays**

- Glenn Isernhagen February 3
- Tom O'Neil February 6
- Mike Wold February 6
- Charles O'Neil February 16
- Donald Shalibo February 18
- Jan Kilgore February 20
- Bruce Nickels February 24
- Allen Garner February 29

**February Bible Readings**

**February 3**

Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Psalm 71:1-6  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
Luke 4:21-30

**February 10**

Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]  
Psalm 138  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Luke 5:1-11

**February 17**

Jeremiah 17:5-10  
Psalm 1  
1 Corinthians 15:12-20  
Luke 6:17-26

**February 24**

Genesis 45:3-11, 15  
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40  
Corinthians 15:35-38 42-50  
Luke 6:27-38

## Prayer Reminders from January

- Christie, daughter of Mike and Christine Kellam. Ongoing medical issues.
- Nancy Knoll, friend and former member, Undergoing cancer treatment
- Peachie, friend of Nancy Matson, undergoing surgery
- Sally Tessler, thanks for positive medical lab results
- Mark Lorenz, call for care givers in his home
- Earl Matson, healing after a fall
- Gary Trunnell, thanks for progress now in rehabilitation
- Steve & Karla, friends of Steve Peter, requesting prayers for wisdom for various medical issues
- Clara, sister of friend Erv Hesterbert, having medical treatments for cancer
- Jane, friend of Bobby Christenson, having treatments for cancer
- Marna, friend of Don & Lin Smith, undergoing surgery
- Ryker!! Vanessa Paswater's new grandson!!