



SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH Shepherd's Staff

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Pastor Ron Bockhaus (970)-646-6657

SMLCEstes.org

MARCH 2019



March Comm. Corner Café Menu

March 1

Yummy Chicken
Methodist Church

March 8

Pork Tenderloin
Womans Club

March 15

St Patricks Day Surprise
Good Samaritan

March 22

Chef's Choice
Realtors

March 29

Grill Night
Police Auxiliary



First Quarter Special Offering

The first quarter special offering to benefit Crossroads will be taken on Sunday, March 17th. Please prayerfully consider your response to this annual appeal. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

March Worship Matters

Sunday. March 3

Crossroads in Discovery

Wednesday March 6

Ash Wednesday

Sunday March 10

Crossroads in Motivation

Wednesday March 13

Centering Prayer

Sunday March 17

Crossroads in Direction Quarterly Offering for Crossroads

Wednesday March 20

Lectio Divina

Sunday March 24

Crossroads in Decision

Wednesday March 27

Labyrinth

Sunday March 31

Crossroads Lost

Pastor's Corner

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



Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. Romans 8:26

Most people I know are quite shy when it comes to prayer. Mention the word “prayer” and the image of a pastor standing in front of a congregation comes to mind. Prayer is understood to be a sincere and eloquent means of asking God for something. And while there is nothing wrong with asking God for what we need-- Jesus models this in the Lord's Prayer—the experience of prayer can be much, much, bigger. Jesus reminds his disciples that God knows what you need before you even ask him. “So why pray?” you ask.

For Christians, the motivation to pray is first revealed through the life of Jesus Christ. The gospels tell of him spending entire evenings in prayer. But why? Didn't he have a fulltime “hotline” to his heavenly father that provided him with everything he needed to say and do? If the above verse from Romans was true for the disciples, as I think it is for us now, we see in the gospels a genuine curiosity with the prayer life of Jesus. At some point Jesus helped people understand prayer as a life style and not simply requests aimed at God.

In Luke's Gospel the disciples ask Jesus to teach them how to pray after they observe him praying. I wonder what Jesus said about prayer before that. Could he have been silent on the subject, choosing to model prayer rather than explain it? Was John the Baptist's way of praying easier to understand for them? When he did share the words of the Lord's Prayer, why did he say what he did? We don't know. What we do know is that prayer was his vital connection to his heavenly father and he spent a lot time at it.

These are the kind of questions which can keep us curious about prayer. Jesus didn't write a manual on the subject and so we must look elsewhere. That search takes us from the early followers of Christ to contemporary pray-ers today. Many of them have written and taught about meaningful prayer practices. Not all types will appeal to us. But for prayer to become meaningful we must discover and embrace our own way of practicing, while at the same time being open to new approaches.

It is for this reason we focus on prayer in this season of Lent. Another article in this newsletter gives a brief description of what to expect at our mid-week Lenten prayer times. Each Wednesday following Ash Wednesday a unique prayer practice will be explored. Not all of them will appeal to everyone and that's okay. But even if one strikes a chord with you, don't you think it's worth your attention?

We'll gather at 5:30pm on each Wednesday for 45 minutes to learn and pray together. Our being available to God in prayer is where the Holy Spirit starts. I hope you're present.

Pastor Ron

March Calendar at a Glance

Friday, March 1

4:30 Cafe Corner

Saturday, March 2

10:30 Organ Rehearsal

Sunday, March 3

9 Sunday Worship
10:30 Adult Forum

Monday, March 4

10am Marison Cooking
5pm Oratorio Rehearsal

Tuesday, March 5

10am Marison Cooking

Wednesday, March 6

7am Sacred Space
10am Marison Cooking
4pm Choir Rehearsal
5:30pm Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, March 7

9am Quilters
12pm Cafe Corner Preparation

Friday, March 8

4:30pm Cafe Corner

Saturday, March 9

8:30am Men's Breakfast
10:30am Organ Rehearsal
1:00pm Oglesby Birthday Party

Sunday, March 10

9am Sunday Worship
10:30am Adult Forum

Monday, March 11

10am Marison Cooking
5pm Oratorio Rehearsal

Tuesday, March 12

10am Marison Cooking
1pm WELCA

Wednesday, March 13

7am Sacred Space
10am Marison Cooking
4pm Choir Rehearsal
5:30pm Lenten Service
6:15pm Church Council

Thursday, March 14

9 am Quilters
12pm Cafe Corner Preparation

Friday, March 15

4:30pm Cafe Corner

Saturday, March 16

10:30am Organ Rehearsal
3pm Peak to Peak Concert

Sunday, March 17

9am Sunday Worship
10:30am Adult Forum

Monday, March 18

10am Marison Cooking
5pm Oratorio Rehearsal

Tuesday, March 19

9am PEO
10am Marison Cooking

Wednesday, March 20

7am Sacred Space
10am Marison Cooking
4pm Choir Rehearsal
5:30pm Lenten Service

Thursday, March 21

9am Quilters
12pm Cafe Corner Preparation

Friday, March 22

4:30pm Cafe Corner

Saturday, March 23

10:30 Organ Rehearsal

Sunday, March 24

9 am Sunday Worship
10:30am Adult Forum

Monday, March 25

10am Marison Cooking
5pm Oratorio Rehearsal

Tuesday, March 26

10am Marison Cooking

Wednesday, March 27

7am Sacred Space
10am Marison Cooking
4pm Choir Rehearsal
5:30pm Lenten Service

Thursday, March 28

9am Quilters
12pm Cafe Corner Preparation

Friday, March 29

4:30pm Cafe Corner

Saturday, March 30

10:30 Organ Rehearsal

Sunday, March 31

9 am Sunday Worship
10:30am Adult Forum

Your Lenten Evening Prayer & Worship Services

The SMLC's 5:30 Wednesday evening Lenten Services begin March 6th with Ash Wednesday and then continues for the next five Wednesdays. Each will provide an opportunity for us to explore several different traditions in contemplative prayer. Contemplative practices guided Christians early in Christian history but lost importance during the Protestant Reformation and Enlightenment eras. People are now rediscovering many different ways to pray. We will explore the Centering Prayer tradition, the Lectio Divina tradition, the Taizé tradition, the Labyrinth tradition and the Examen Prayer. Whether you discover more meaning by praying in a group or by practicing them in private prayer, the journey just may allow Christ to deepen His relationship with you.

In **Centering Prayer**, the participant seeks the presence of God directly (aided by the Jesus Prayer) and explicitly rejects discursive thoughts and imagined scenes. The participant's aim is to be present to the Lord, to consent to God's presence and action during the time of prayer. Centering Prayer advocates linking this practice to other traditional forms of Christian meditation.

Lectio Divina (Divine reading) is a traditional Benedictine practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's word. It does not treat scripture as texts to be studied, but as the living word.

The singing of distinctive and much-repeated prayer chants during candlelit prayer services is one of the **Taizé** service trademarks. Taizé music highlights simple phrases, usually lines from the Psalms or other pieces of scrip-

ture, repeated or sung in canon. The repetition is designed to help meditation and prayer.

The Taizé tradition has more recent roots and emanates from the Taizé Community in France. It was founded in 1940 by Brother Roger Schütz, a Reformed Protestant. Examples of music from the Taizé community can be found in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (#175, #236, #262, #348, #388, #406, #472, #528, #616, #642 and #751).

The practice of walking a **Labyrinth** is a bit like walking in a maze. The path you follow is not straight or direct on purpose. Instead of the destination being the goal, walking a labyrinth is about being intentional with every step of the journey. Prayer is done with both the body and the spirit. Did you know that our neighbor, Good Samaritan, has a labyrinth on its property? We will be setting up our own labyrinth within our building for a very brief introduction to labyrinth prayer.

The **Examen Prayer** comes out of the tradition of Ignatian Spirituality. Saint Ignatius of Loyola was a Spanish Basque Catholic priest and theologian, who founded the religious order called the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). The Jesuit order served the Pope as missionaries, and they were bound by a vow of special obedience to the sovereign pontiff in regard to the missions. The Examen is a prayerful reflection from Loyola's Spiritual Exercises which has become a key part of Jesuit life and discipline.



Women of the ELCA Meeting

The Women of the ELCA (WELCA) will meet on Tuesday, March 12 at 1:00 p.m. for fellowship and a Bible Study called “Friends for Life in Christ.” This is the third of four studies from the Gospel of John called Meetings with Jesus. All women are invited to attend; copies of the Lesson are available in the rack in front of the office; if you receive the “Gather” magazine published by the WELCA nationwide, you will have the lesson in the March issue. If you wish to subscribe to the “Gather”, please see Linda Schlitt. This month’s study focuses on Jesus walking beside people in friendship and community.

Men’s Breakfast

Next Men in Mission breakfast will be on Saturday, March 9th at 8:30 at the church. All are welcome. Pastor Ron is in charge of the devotions and program. We are still looking for a couple of men to do the cooking. Please let me know if you are available.

February Prayer Reminders

- **Lynette Johnson, short hospitalization**
- **Gary Trunnell, returning home, continuing therapy, gaining strength & balance**
- **Nancy Knoll, ongoing treatments, discomfort**
- **Sally Tessler, short hospitalization, medical decisions**
- **Betty Yohe, beginning new treatments**
- **Bob & Marshall, friends of Bill Westley, in nursing care**

Quilting News

Join Us For Quilting In March

May those chilly March winds remind us that we can help warm the hearts and bodies of others in need as we assemble, tie and prepare quilts. March 16 is **National Quilt Day** but instead of just one day, we are celebrating it all month. We are not only meeting on the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings - March 8 and March 22 but we will have some people gathering to work on quilts every Thursday this month from 9 until 11:30! You don't even have to know how to tie or sew because this month we will also do some work on organizing, sorting and cleaning our cabinets and finished quilt shelves. This month won't you put some "**Spring**" in your steps and allow returning mountain bluebirds to fill your heart with grateful songs by joining us at church on quilting Thursday mornings? We are indeed, Better Together, In Christ! (Please see Linda Schlitt or Lory McDonald for more information about quilting in March).



Important Dates of Note

Birthdays

Kathy George	March 4
Morgan Oglesby	March 6
Marilyn Shalibo	March 18
Don Smith	March 23

March Bible Readings

March 3

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12--4:2
Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

March 10

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

March 17

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17--4:1
Luke 13:31-35

March 24

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

March 31

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

COME JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF
SPECTACULAR MUSIC FEATURING
A JOHN DENVER TRIBUTE CONCERT WITH
COWBOY BRAD

**SUNDAY APRIL 7
6:00PM**

**HYDE CHAPEL
AT YMCA OF
THE ROCKIES**

SPONSORED BY



THIS IS A BENEFIT CONCERT TO KICK-OFF OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED CHALLENGE TO RAISE \$50,000 THAT WILL BE MATCHED DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR BY ONE OF OUR GENEROUS DONORS. THE CONCERT IS FREE, BUT THERE WILL BE DONATION CONTAINERS AT THE DOORS FOR WHATEVER YOU'D LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARD OUR CAUSE.