



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

MAY 2019



A beautiful Easter Morning was the backdrop for the Sunrise Service at the Estes Park Marina.

Meditation Walks This Summer

Once again the Learning Committee invites you to the Summer Meditation Walks on Mondays at 5:00pm. This contemplative practice takes place at Lily Lake beginning June 3 (weather permitting)... Lily Lake is about 5 miles south of Estes Park on Highway 7 and is part of Rocky Mountain National Park. It is a slow and silent walk around Lily Lake (about a mile total) with 4 or 5 stations to stop, sit and meditate on readings from scripture, poetry, song which will be read by the leader. All are welcome...Just show up a bit before 5:00 and note there may be some construction on Hwy 7.

Worship Matters

Sunday, 5/5, 9am

Be Transformed! Guest Preacher:
Susan Porr

Sunday, 5/12, 9am

Mother's Day

Sunday, 5/19, 9am

Commanding Love

Sunday, 5/26, 9am

"Do you want to be made well?"

April Prayer Reminders

- **Bill Hayford**, ongoing medical treatments.
- **Lory McDonald**, upon the death of her mother.
- **Mary Beth Molle**, upon the death of her father.
- **Ron Dutton**, continued rehabilitation and therapy treatment.

You Are Invited

You are invited to join Kelly & Gary Brown in celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Please join them on Sunday, May 19th, 2019 from 2-4pm at Shepherd of the Mountains.

Pastor's Corner

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

“Saved For A Reason”

With the recent snows adding to our spring melt, May should be a very “fluid” month for us here in the mountains. Each Spring I look forward to watching small streams transform into raging torrents on their way down to the front range.

My fascination with rivers was stirred by a visit to Niagara Falls when I was youngster. Never had I seen such a large and powerful river as the Niagara. Twenty percent of the world's freshwater lies in the Great Lakes and most flows over Niagara Falls. After hearing about people who actually went over the falls I became fascinated by stories like the following.

Kirk Jones is the only person known to have survived a plunge over Niagara Falls without a safety device. Those who know Jones attribute his near-death stunt to his state of depression and feeling despondent. “He fully expected to die,” Jones’ 80-year-old father said, “He was near death. He knew it. He believes he was saved for a reason.”



Stories like this can inspire us. We would like to think Jones discovered the reason he was saved, and he may have very well have done that. The story goes on to say however that in 2017 Jones went over the falls a second time and did not survive. This sad ending brings up numerous questions about Mr. Jones that won't be answered, the biggest of which may be “why did he do it again?” What motivates us in life? As we go about our daily tasks and discoveries are we aware of the intentions of the heart? What reason would we give for being saved by the atoning act of Jesus on the cross? I find such questions both intriguing and humbling.

One reason for being saved by Christ Jesus which might not have occurred to us is our goodness. “Our goodness?” you ask. Isn't the Christian Faith about recognizing and confessing our sinfulness and not our goodness? Yes it is that, but not entirely. Our goodness as children of God is revealed from the beginning of creation in Genesis. All that God creates is declared “good” with each new day until the day mankind is created. On that day God saw everything as “**very good.**” As we wrestle with understanding ourselves and others we must keep this foremost in our outlook!

In his latest book, *The Universal Christ*, Richard Rohr emphasizes this point saying, “From the very beginning, faith, hope, and love are planted deep within our nature—indeed they are our very nature (Romans 5:5, 8: 14-17). The Christian life is simply a matter of becoming who we already are (1 John 3: 1-2, 2 Peter 1: 3-4).”

This doesn't mean we are perfect. What it means is an active, vibrant, ever-changing relationship with our creator God. Jesus Christ showed us the love God brings to this relationship. It is the true motivation and reason for life.

In Christ, Pastor Ron

May Calendar at a Glance



Wednesday, May 1

7:00am Sacred Space
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, May 3

Rocky Mnt. Synod Assembly

Saturday, May 4

Rocky Mnt. Synod Assembly
10:30am Organ Rehearsal

Sunday, May 5

Rocky Mnt. Synod Assembly
9:00am Sunday Worship

Monday, May 6

9:00am Worship Committee
10:00am Marison Cooking

Tuesday, May 7

9:00am PEO

Wednesday, May 8

7:00am Sacred Space
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal
5:00pm Church Council

Thursday, May 9

9:00am Quilters

Saturday, May 11

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

Sunday, May 12

9:00am Sunday Worship
10:30am Adult Forum

Monday, May 13

10:00am Marison Cooking
2:00pm Good Sam's Communion

Tuesday, May 14

Campus Ministry Overnight
10:00am Marison Cooking
1:00pm WELCA

Wednesday, May 15

Campus Ministry Departs
7:00am Sacred Space
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 16

9:00am Quilters

Saturday, May 18

10:30am Organ Rehearsal

Sunday, May 19

9:00am Sunday Worship
10:30am Stephen Ministry
2:00pm Brown's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Monday, May 20

10:00am Marison Cooking

Tuesday, May 21

9:00am PEO

Wednesday, May 22

7:00am Sacred Space
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 23

9:00am Quilters

Saturday, May 25

10:30am Organ Rehearsal
11:00am Maxine Peebles Memorial

Sunday, May 26

9:00am Sunday Worship

Monday, May 27

Office Closed
10:00am Marison Cooking

Tuesday, May 28

10:00am Marison Cooking

Wednesday, May 29

7:00am Sacred Space
4:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 30

LaPuente Mission
9:00am Quilters

Friday, May 31

LaPuente Mission

The Easter Sunrise Service was a bit warmer thanks to the Quilters of SMLC.

Making A Difference

Those attending our joint sunrise service on Easter morning got to see first hand the difference colorful and warm quilts make in sterile and chilly circumstances. Thanks to all who helped put out and return to storage the 40+ quilts used for this special worship service.

Just imagine what a difference quilts make for refugees at a camp or for people evacuated because of conflict or natural disasters! We recently received word from Lutheran World Relief that in December some of our quilts were shipped to Bosnia and Herzegovina for those in need.

You, too, can be part of making a loving difference for others. The quilting group will be working every Thursday morning in May except the first one to assemble, tie and sew quilts and sort donated materials. Won't you plan to join us on May 10, 17, 24, and 31st from 9am to 11:30am at church or take home a quilt top kit to sew? Who knew that making a difference could be so much fun! Come and see what this ministry for the world is all about and stay to help us create warm and colorful quilts for others.

God's work, Our Hands - Linda Schlitt

Before



After



May Bible Readings

May 5

Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

May 12

Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

May 19

Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

May 26

Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22--22:5
John 14:23-29

“You Have No Idea the Hearts You Touch Everyday.”

From the Marison Project

Becky and I received a beautiful note from a person named Diana who is in the La Puente Rural Outreach Services program, a part of LaPuente Emergency shelter's umbrella of services that aims to stabilize families on the brink of experiencing homelessness. Because Becky and I are the face of Marison Project she addressed the note to us. But this note is truly meant for the Marison team in which Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church plays a key role.

Dear Marc and Becky,

“I AM the Project and it IS a success! I was so hungry ... now, I am so very happy!” This month we had a very hard time being able to afford our food . We'd already used our monthly food supply and all we had left were some potatoes and canned foods...Today I looked out my window and saw Matt Little (case worker for the LaPuente Outreach program) drive up my road. I went out to see him because he's so kind and I adore his heart of Christ. He opened [a big ice chest] and he handed me [Marison Project] FOOD!! It was not only food .. it was like my daddy used to make. It was prepared with such love ... We were so hungry and now... we've also been able to feed our friends who are also hungry. For us to help our friends made us so happy. I felt a need to let you know that I am one of the people who's heart you directly touch. My only wish now... is to pay it forward and do the same for others that has been done for me. You see ... we are all just people and God doesn't care about our colors, loves, wealth...he cares about how we treat others. I'll never forget what you did for me! You don't even know me...You have no idea the hearts you touch every day.

Diana

We started Marison Project 2½ years ago as a way to help the dedicated Ameri-Corps volunteers provide better service to the guests of the La Puente Emergency Shelter in Alamosa, Colorado. And, with the use of your beautiful kitchen our team continues our mission to provide delicious, nutritious pre-made meals to those in need. In our two plus years we've been able to extend our reach to offer food and other resources to Estes Park, Allenspark, Lyons, Boulder, Loveland and the LaPuente Outreach program in Alamosa, Colorado. To date we've provided over 55,000 pounds of food to those in need! But... Becky and I do NOT do this all by ourselves. As they say, it takes a village... and the Marison village is mighty... We have been blessed with a small army of good-hearted, skilled volunteers of ALL ages and means. Our very generous Estes Park community partners (that's you wonderful people of Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church) continue to pour their love into this project. Our visionary board members are most certainly the dream team all non-profits pray for, and yes the rocket fuel to keep the Marison Project wheels plowing ahead...our faithful donors. So many of YOU have provided Marison Project with the resources that help us make sure no one is left out and everyone is fed, cared for and has a fighting chance in this life. I hope that each of you can find a sense of pride... and inspiration knowing that you've had a hand in providing hope and a sense of the miraculous to those that we serve. SMLC you ROCK! Look at what you've helped us do. We thank God for you everyday!

***Sincerely, Marc and Becky
(Marison Project Co-Founders
...and grateful volunteers)***

Marison Project, Inc is a 501 (c)(3) not for profit organization whose mission is to provide high quality meals, and clean drinking water to those in need.

Thank You from United Methodist Church of Estes Park

April 8, 2019

Dear Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church -
 A big thank you for your support of our Reconciling Ministry Church for including all people in our congregations.

Shalom -
 The United Methodist
 Ch. Church of Estes Park

Janis Angermayr
 Jay Vetter
 Maureen Vetter
 John Angermayr
 Shanae

Shanae

Important Dates

Anniversaries

- Tom & Kris O'Neil - May 2
- Michael & Christine Kellam - May 4
- Gary & Kelly Brown - May 19

Birthdays

- Marsha Yelick May 1
- Bill Leppert May 14
- Kristin Adams May 15
- Madison Anderson May 20
- Linda Wold May 21
- Mike Novak May 23

LaPuente Mission Trip

The annual mission trip to LaPuente is scheduled for May 30 through June 2. For information about the trip and how you can help, contact Roxy Hause, 970-481-3984, Gary Brown 970-229-5990 or Gary Wallace 970-481-9133.

Even if you don't plan to go, you can help throughout the month of May!

Sunday, May 5, we are happy to have Shanae Diaz, Director of Volunteer Coordination at La Puente, with us! Shanae will give an update on LaPuente and answer questions you might have over coffee. Welcome Shanae!

On the following Sundays this month we'll hear from others in our congregation who have supported LaPuente financially and by volunteering. Learning how our congregation's support goes to both encourage volunteerism and support of the programs at LaPuente is amazing. It often seems that one good turn creates several good turns! Let's keep it up!

All this will culminate with a special quarterly offering for LaPuente on Sunday, June 2nd. This is the same Sunday the volunteer group will be in LaPuente. Pastor Ron will be coming back on Saturday to lead worship June 2nd and give a report on the volunteer time. If you're unable to be in attendance on June 2nd, please know you can make an offering anytime this month. Please mark your offering "LaPuente" so the counters can direct it properly. Thank you!

Don't forget! "LaPuente" means "The Bridge". We are building bridges between people.