



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

SEPTEMBER 2019



Important Dates in September

Anniversaries

- Bruce & Kris Adams September 6
- Daniel & Carolyn Mangler ... September 14
- Loren & Lynette Johnson..... September 30

Birthdays

- Gloria Lickfett September 12
- Peter Nelson September 12
- Isaac Paswaters September 16
- Isabelle Paswaters September 16
- Sheldon Wahlstrom September 17
- Claire Molle..... September 20
- Bobbie Christenson..... September 21
- Earl Matson September 27

September Worship Matters

- Sunday, 9/8, 9am. Pastor Jose' Gonzales
- Sunday, 9/15, 9am. Finding the Lost Cafe' Corner Quarterly Offering
- Sunday, 9/29, 9am
 "Not Even Someone From the Dead"
 Boundless Generosity Begins

Dear SMLC Family

October 13 will be my last Sunday to lead you in worship. I will be moving to North Carolina to be near family. It has been my privilege to serve you and hopefully make worship a meaningful experience each week. Eccl. 3 says, "To everything there is a season" and in this "season" of my life God has led me to move on. I appreciate all the love and support you have given me these past years. I know God will guide me, as He always has, to be able to continue blessing others with my music.

Your Servant in Christ, Phyllis Eggers

Save The Date: October 13!

We will have a celebration party for Phyllis after church on October 13th! As you may have heard, Phyllis Eggers, our worship coordinator and organist is moving to Pittsboro, North Carolina in October. She will be sorely missed! Join us for a celebration and thanks of her time with us and blessings as we have to say goodbye. Kris Adams is planning the party. Please contact her if you would like to help.



2000 Ptarmigan Trail Estes Park, Colorado 80517 970-586-3900 www.smlcestes.org
Pastor Ron Bockhaus (970) 586-5922

Dear Members and Friends of Shepherd of the Mountains,

In response to recent events in our larger church, the ELCA, your church council wants you to be kept informed of our attitude and actions as we continue to lead the ministry of Shepherd of the Mountains.

Every three years the ELCA gathers in assembly to conduct the business of the church. This is different than a “synod assembly.” Our “Rocky Mountain Synod” meets annually to conduct its business. Each year our congregation sends three voting members to the synod assembly.

There were no voting members from SMLC at the churchwide assembly in Milwaukee the first week in August but there were members, both laity and clergy, from our synod. The vote at the church-wide assembly was a “memorial.” Memorials address broad policy issues or programs in the churchwide organization. Memorials start with individuals in congregations, then are passed up to synod assemblies. If passed by a synod, they go to committee in the ELCA that recommends or doesn't recommend it to the churchwide assembly for a vote.

The recent assembly adopted 26 memorials, one of which designates the ELCA as a “sanctuary church body.” It is our understanding this memorial reaffirms our denomination will continue to support refugees and immigrants through our partnership with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, which originated after World War II. Also our church is committed to advocate for humane treatment of detained immigrants through a program called AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities). In addition, congregations that have the resources to do so, will continue to provide assistance in their communities to those in need in legally appropriate ways. This final point is relevant to our congregation. We understand it as encouragement for the work we already do through: Cafe' Corner, Crossroads, La Puente and ELCA World Hunger. We do not see it as a mandate.

We believe the ELCA didn't help its cause by using language that included ‘sanctuary’. It is unfortunate this word originating from faith has nowadays taken on a political overtone. We are committed to ongoing exploration and learning on what this means for our congregation. With this commitment we will hold to our values which include respect, acceptance and Christ-centered hospitality for all people, even when viewpoints are different.

We invite you into this important conversation, especially if you are upset with the vote of the assembly. By the guidance of God's Word and the Holy Spirit, we as a congregation will determine the shape of our ministry looking forward. You are an important part of shaping that future.

Sincerely, SMLC Church Council

SEPTEMBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9am Sunday Worship 10:30am Adult Forum	2 5pm Meditation Hike		3 7am Sacred Space 4pm Choir Rehearsal	4 9am Quilters		7 10:30am Organ Rehearsal
8 9am Sunday Worship 10:30am Adult Forum	9 5pm Meditation Hike	10 1pm WELCA	11 7am Sacred Space 4pm Choir Rehearsal 5pm Church Council	12 8:30am EVQG Workshop		14 10:30am Organ Rehearsal
15 9am Sunday Worship Tina Kvitik-Temple Talk CCC Quarterly Offering 10:30am Adult Forum	16 5pm Meditation Hike	17	18 7am Sacred Space 4pm Choir Rehearsal	19 9am Quilters		21 10:30am Organ Rehearsal
22 9am Sunday Worship 10:30am Adult Forum	23 5pm Meditation Hike	24	25 7am Sacred Space 4pm Choir Rehearsal 12pm Hunger Task Force meeting	26 9am Quilters		28 10:30am Organ Rehearsal
29 9am Sunday Worship 10:30am Adult Forum	30 5pm Meditation Hike					

Learning Committee

Learning Committee is looking ahead to the fall and perhaps sponsoring a Book Study and /or some gatherings on current events, particularly the immigration system. Another idea was "Caring for Creation Ideas", a video the Rocky Mountain Synod has available. We are open to any suggestions for discussion topics or ideas for books to read and share.

There will be a RMS Leadership Conference October 7-10 at the YMCA ...Learning Committee is sponsoring a snack table in the breakout room with baked goods, fruit, snacks during the morning hours. Please contact me if you are interested in helping serve or bringing snacks. This is a good opportunity to meet and talk with the clergy and representatives from our area and also to view some of the displays.

Nancy Matson ...970-215-3951

Crossroads Needs

The members of Shepherd of the Mountains have always been very willing to help those in need in our community. Crossroads, our local food pantry is in immediate need of the following:

- Jelly - strawberry or grape are best
- Canned tomatoes - dices or stewed
- Pasta sauces - Prego, Ragu or Hunt
- Boxed cereal or oatmeal
- Soups - Chunky is best
- Ramen noodles
- Cake or cookie mixes
- Feminine products
- Toilet paper

They are also accepting donations for their annual coat drive which is Friday, October 4. In addition to new or used-still-in-good-condition winter coats, they are seeking sweaters, hats,

scarves, gloves and mittens for all ages. Any of these clothing items need to be brought to Crossroads by Friday, September 27 at 1:00pm. For more information, call Crossroads at 970-577-0610.

Remember Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40)

Coffee, Chocolate and Tea. Oh My!

Fall is approaching and with the cooler temperatures, warm beverages and yummy chocolate can be great comfort food for us. They are also empower small-scale farmers worldwide. Please revisit the Equal Exchange cart in the narthex to see what products you can purchase. If you are a coffee drinker, please consider the red bag organic coffee. This coffee has a creamy mouth-feel and hints of brownie, roasted nut and caramel." The hot cocoas are made using organic cacao from the Dominican Republic and Peru and the sugarcane is from small-scale farmers in Paraguay. You will also find boxes of tea bags, 20 in a box. This tea is grown by small-scale farmers and is revolutionary in an industry dominated by large plantations. Equal Exchange partners with growers in India, South Africa and Sri Lanka to build this alternative supply chain.

WELCA did not undertake this relationship with Equal Exchange as a fund raiser. There is no profit built into the listed prices. They understood that supporting this coop is better for our planet, better for the small-scale farmers and better for our family and friends. Please consider turning to the Equal Exchange cart first when you need any of the products displayed. The actions you take locally make a difference globally.

Looking Ahead - Mission Support In 2020

Some of us have been asked to assist our congregation in identifying and under-girding our mission as we look ahead to 2020. We want to approach this under the theme “**BOUND-LESS GENEROSITY!**” A number of our members are helping by completing and sharing the Generosity Survey that you received recently. Thank you! If you have not yet completed that time of reflection and sharing, there is still time. Some shared reflections stand out:

- Happy memories - “It is better to give than to receive.” “Any unexpected kindness.” “The first time I truly experienced forgiveness and the unconditional love of God!” “Watching Mom giving so freely and quietly of herself, especially with elderly friends.”
- How is our church generous? - “Sharing the building...Community Cafe...Help in La Puente and Crossroads.” “Making quilts for Lutheran World Relief.”
- How could our church be generous in new ways? - “Reach out to the unchurched and invite them in.” “Temple talks by members who have been blessed to be a blessing, always encourages thinking about new ways to be generous.” “We could be more intentional and focused...get more involved in the projects we support.”
- Something important about generosity that we haven’t asked (in this survey)? - “What does it mean to have a generous spirit?” “That love is given!” “Generosity is unconditional!” “We need to be kind...and be accepting of different and all ways people can give.” “Generosity is rooted in a heart that has been touched and changed by the experience of God and His love.”

Finally, and on a related note, let us distinguish between thinking about giving in order to meet a budget...and thinking about UNDERGIRDING OUR MISSION!

Roger Fjeld

September Bible Readings

September 1

Proverbs 25:6-7

Psalms 112

Hebrews 13:1-8,15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

September 8

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalms 1

Philemon 1-21

Luke 14:25-33

September 15

Exodus 32:7-14

Psalms 51:1-10

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10

September 22

Amos 8:4-7

Psalms 113

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13

September 29

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Psalms 146

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-31