



# SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Shepherd's Staff

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 Pastor Ron Bockhaus (970)-646-6657

SMLCEstes.org

FEBRUARY 2020



### January Prayer Reminders

- Vanessa Paswaters, upon the death of her father Richard.
- Bruce Adams, upon the death of his mother Joan.
- Marilyn, Loren, Mark, Vanessa, all coping with medical testing, treatments and results.

### February Worship Matters

- Sunday, 2-2, 9 AM, What Does the Lord Require?
- Sunday, 2-9, 9 AM, Action and Contemplation
- Sunday, 2-16, 9 AM, Choose Life
- Sunday, 2-23, 9 AM, Transfiguration
- Wednesday, 2-26, TBD PM, Ash Wednesday.

### February Anniversaries & Birthdays

#### 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

### February CCC Menu

#### 7 February

- Tacos
- Noon Rotary

#### 14 February

- Valentine's Day Special
- Summit Church

#### 21 February

- Chef's Choice
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

#### 28 February

- Grill Night
- Methodist Church



## Changing the Conversation



**T**wo recent experiences have highlighted for me the importance of the quality of conversation we have as people living in both the private and public worlds. One comes as a general observation and the other from an educational event.

How do we make important decisions in the second half of life? Very few of us are experienced or very confident in making such decisions. Even if we have some experience we discover that the past does not predict the future. Medical decisions and end-of-life plans can be as varied as the individuals making them.

Atul Gawande is a medical doctor who has written a thought-provoking book titled *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*. He claims that by not proactively thinking about aging and illness, we do ourselves and those we love a disservice. Without this kind of conversation and preparation, doctors don't know when to curtail treatments that are unlikely to be effective. When is enough enough? Dr. Gawande writes:

*We've been wrong about what our job is in medicine. We think our job is to ensure health and survival. But really it is larger than that. It is to enable wellbeing. And wellbeing is about the reasons one wishes to be alive. Those reasons matter not just at the end of life, or when debility comes, but all along the way. Whenever serious sickness or injury strikes and your body or mind breaks down, the*

*vital questions are the same: What is your understanding of the situation and its potential outcomes? What are your fears and what are your hopes? What are the trade-offs you are willing to make and not willing to make? And what is the course of action that best serves this understanding?*

All of us face these important questions and rely on family and close friends to help us answer them as honestly as we can. We know this, but don't always talk about them.

My second strong impression came through a training workshop for public deliberation and facilitation—a fancy way to learn how to lead important public conversations. How do we speak with other citizens in a way that leads to greater trust and problem solving?

It is no surprise that our public discourse nowadays is rather poor. We can easily complain and criticize those who don't think and act as we do. Yet how often do we consider problems to be a result of competing, underlying values, paradoxes, and tradeoffs that cannot be resolved quickly and easily? Public problems call for ongoing, high quality communication, creativity and broad collaborative action to manage well. To put it simply: together we need to listen and speak to each other with open minds. This takes our commitment to happen.

Jesus spoke to this when he said, "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near*" (MT 4:17). In other words, "think differently, for God is with you!" (my paraphrase).

I end with a statement that was made during the workshop that speaks to us as Church.

*"The quality of our conversation will determine the quality of our community."*

**May you be well,  
Pastor Ron**

## Sharing Our Love In February, Quilt By Quilt



**W**hat better way to celebrate this Valentine's month than by helping show love in concrete ways by assembling, tying and sewing warm quilts together. Won't you join our loving group of quilters at church every Thursday morning from 9 a.m. until 11:30 - February 6, 13, 20, & 27? We could use your help and would enjoy your company as we make quilts together. Who knows, you might even get to enjoy some elk watching to go with beautiful vistas of the mountains as you work. For more information about this rewarding ministry please contact Linda Schlitt or Lori McDonald.

**W**E ARE CALLED! - Last month we looked at the call stories of several Old Testament prophets. This month, Marilyn Kienker will help us reflect on Jesus' invitation to all of us to take up the cross and follow him as we consider how Jesus called disciples in the New Testament. We'll be using a study by Kathryn A. Kleinhans found in the January/February issue of GATHER magazine. Pick up a copy in the Narthex if you didn't get the magazine. Please join our local Women of the ELCA group on Tuesday, February 4, at 1 p.m. as we explore and encourage each other in our callings in 2020.

**S**CHOOL KITS - Valentine's love can also be shown to children around the world by providing school kits. Lutheran World Relief distributes these to children all over the world. Without this gift of a school kit, many children don't have the opportunity to go to school, especially little girls. We are starting early on our school kit ministry project this year so that everyone has a chance to be involved in 2020. You can adopt one or more school bags and help in other ways.

**How you can help** - Sew school bags; pick up a list of items that go in the bags; purchase the exact items; provide a contribution toward bulk purchase of the exact things that go in bags; help stuff bags; help check bags.

In February you can pick up kits for sewing school bags and lists of exact items for filling bags... and bags for adoption as school bags are completed, and completed bags for checking as they are filled. For additional information please contact Linda Schlitt.



### February Bible Readings

**February 2**

Micah 6:1-8  
Psalm 15  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
Matthew 5:1-12

**February 9**

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]  
Psalm 112:1-9 [10]  
1 Corinthians 2:1-16  
Matthew 5:13-20

**February 16**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
Psalm 119:1-8  
1 Corinthians 3:1-9  
Matthew 5:21-37

**February 23**

Exodus 24:12-18  
Psalm 2  
2 Peter 1:16-21  
Matthew 17:1-9

# FEBRUARY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b>
9am Sunday Worship	5:30-8:30pm Restorative Justice Group	9am PEO HF Chapter 9:30am Council Meeting with Gregg	7am Sacred Space 4pm Choir Rehearsal	9am Quilters 12pm Cafe Corner Prep	4:30pm Cafe Corner	8am-4pm Community Bible Study 8:30am Men's Breakfast
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
9am Sunday Worship 10:30am Adult Forum		1pm WELCA	7am Sacred Space 4pm Choir Rehearsal 5pm Church Council	9am Quilters 9:30am Worship Committee 12pm Cafe Corner Prep	4:30pm Cafe Corner	3pm Peak to Peak Concert
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
9am Sunday Worship 10:30am Adult Forum		9am PEO HF Chapter	7am Sacred Space 4pm Choir Rehearsal	9am Quilters 12pm Cafe Corner Prep	4:30pm Cafe Corner	
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
9am Sunday Worship 10:30am Adult Forum			7am Sacred Space 4pm Choir Rehearsal	9am Quilters 12pm Cafe Corner Prep		
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
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