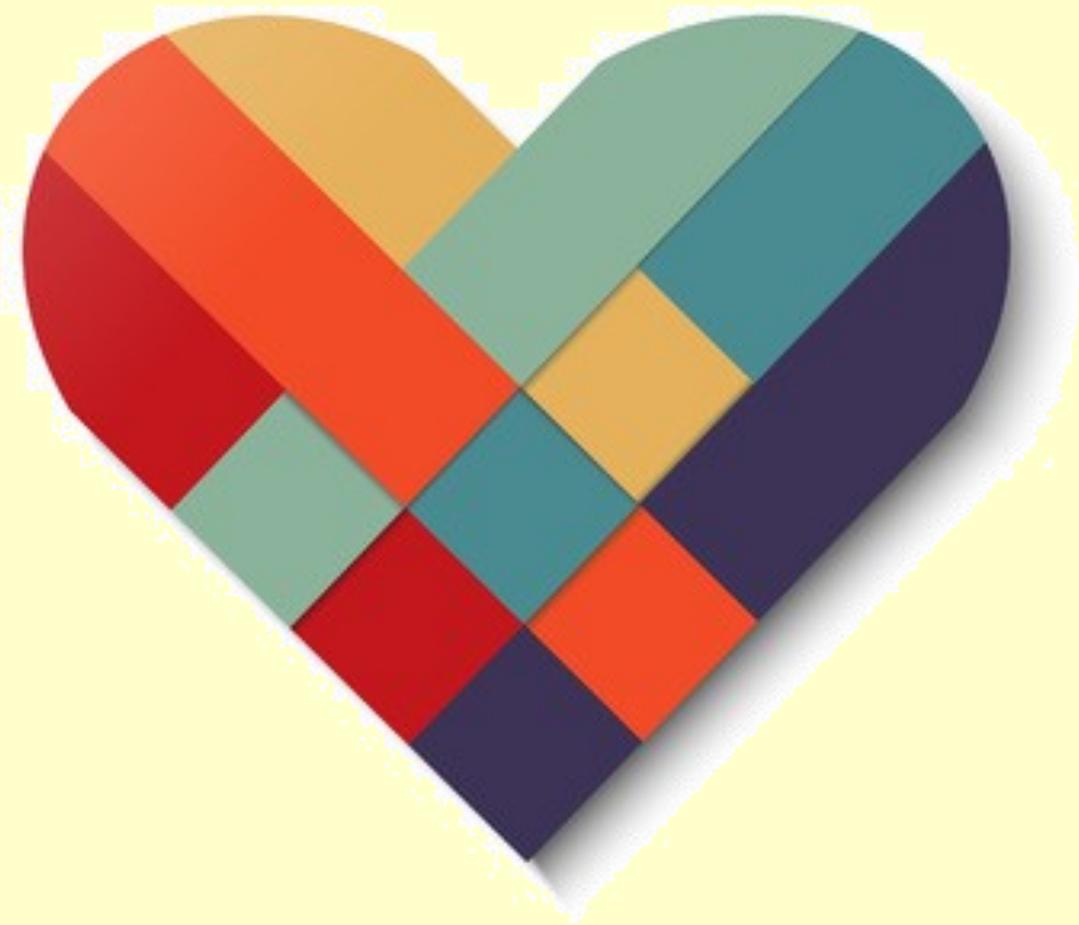


Shepherd of the Mountains

April 2021

*"A new heart I will give you,
and a new spirit I will put within you"*



In-person options (with Covid precautions)

Sundays at 8 am and 10 am

ways to worship

tiny desk worship will be available Sunday evening

Send us an email if you'd like to receive a link to our Tiny Desk Worship on Sundays,
or to learn more about what to expect at in-person options.

sotmlcjackson@gmail.com



New Hearts

Dear Shepherd of the Mountains,

This Lent, we began each midweek service with a well-known verse: "Create in me a clean heart, O God." When one approached the contemplative station for giving, one encountered another verse from Psalm 51: "Restore to me the joy of your salvation." We reflected on how giving is woven into God's healing – and on the wall was a Scandinavian heart, white and red woven together.

Contact Information

Pastor Inger Hanson

Email:

pastor.inger@sotmlc.org
(preferred for non-critical communication)

Office:

(307) 733-4382

Cell Phone:

(307) 248-0438

Office Hours

by appointment
Tuesdays,
Wednesdays
or Thursdays

Call or Message
during

Online Office Hours

Wednesday
8–10 am

Days Off

Mondays &
Saturdays

For me, the strips of each half of the heart also evoked the invitation we often hear on Ash Wednesday from Joel 2:12-13, where God invites us to:

"return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing."

On Easter Vigil, a promise from Ezekiel 36:26 is read: "A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." I still remember a prayer where God was addressed as "O Great Heart Surgeon."

God doesn't leave us broken-hearted. God takes the strips of our hearts and creates something new... textured, nuanced, beautiful. There's something of resurrection in that – not resuscitation, where what was before simply comes back as it was – but something new even as it is familiar.

Now, sometimes life doesn't line up with the liturgical seasons – we sometimes lag behind, or leap ahead. But this Easter season, as we seem to be turning a corner in the pandemic, may we look for how God is giving us new hearts – weaving them from familiar pieces, but nonetheless making them different from before. I've already glimpsed Shepherd of the Mountains' heart somehow bigger in how readily you've taken on safety modifications as we resume in-person worship. I wonder about other ways we are being given a new heart and a new spirit – as individuals, as a congregation, or as a community.

Each Sunday, listen for how the risen Christ – not always recognized; sometimes a stranger – leads us into new life. Look for God in the unexpected.

This season, may the strangeness of Easter bless you.

- Pastor Inger

EVERY WEEK

SUNDAY



In-person Worship at SMLC has resumed! As our Health Department has lowered the covid19 risk assessment in Teton County to yellow, we plan to offer in-person worship options each week. Join us on Sunday mornings at 8 am (spoken service) or 10 am (some music)! *Remember things will feel a little different - we'll be wearing masks and sitting a bit farther apart. We won't sing or pass the peace the way we have in the past.* For communion, please be your own altar guild and bring your own bread and wine or juice, or simply receive a blessing.



9am Education Hour We are also resuming our in-person education hour between services. Currently, we are exploring the promises of God in scripture.



Going forward, we will continue to offer "**Tiny Desk Worship**" - look for an email with the bulletin and YouTube and Facebook links on and on Sunday evenings.

Sign up to assist or read via our "Sign Up Genius" volunteer system (email Tanya Shedd (thobbs6@hotmail.com) for more details). The many voices of Christ's body make each service special.



Hole Food Rescue - On Sunday mornings, volunteers pick up bread and baked goods from Persephone & Picnic to be distributed to those in need. Would you like to help? Talk to Robyn Lunsford (rlunsford@jorgeng.com)

TUESDAY



Bible & Breakfast, our weekly coed group that looks at the lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday, is currently meeting via ZOOM from **8 - 9 am (Jackson time)**. Grab a cup of coffee and your most Virginian-worthy breakfast, and join us! If you would like to attend, please email Pastor Inger at pastor.inger@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY



Online "Office" Hours On Wednesday mornings, Pastor Inger will be more intentionally online and lifting up prayer requests. Give a phone call or check in through Facebook messenger, email, or text.

EVENTS IN APRIL

APRIL
1 & 2



Maundy Thursday & Good Friday We continue our tradition of Holy Week with our Presbyterian siblings. PCJH will have a service at 7pm on Maundy Thursday. SMLC will have a service at 7pm on Good Friday.

APRIL
4



Easter Sunday Join us at 8 and 10am on Easter Sunday. Don't forget to wear your masks!

APRIL
11



Church Council will meet at **11 am**. If you have something you would like to be on the agenda, please email a council member. **Tiny Desk Worship** will feature a sermon from **Rev. Priscilla Austin** as the synod continues the Color Amazed Preaching Project (see details on page 5). Join us at **6 pm** via Zoom **fellowship and discussion**.

APRIL
14 & 15



Blood Drive Volunteer with Jolene to welcome and check in donors, or sign up to give blood at www.vitalant.org, or call 1-877-827-4376

APRIL
24 & 25



Synod Remote Assembly & Worship Service Pastor Inger, Scott Daily, and Nikki Thompson (with Keaghan Shedd as our alternate) will represent SMLC at the first NWIM remote assembly! The Synod will provide the online worship service Sunday; in-person worship will feature guest preacher, retired ELCA pastor **Rev. Eric Moehring**.

LOOKING AHEAD

MAY
1-8



Church Clean Up - Come and help clean the church property any time the first week of May, beginning May 1st. Choose a spot and do what you can! Please contact Dale & Rose Jeske at 307-690-0494 with any questions.

Wants and Needs

Board Input Needed for Gift Policy Development

Gifts not intended for our operating budget, such as the Friess windfall, invite us to think about what would enhance the ministry of Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church. The Church Council has formed a taskforce to make recommendations for how to steward such gifts (comprised of Terry DiMattio, Lorrie Lee Wells, Jolene Moulder, and Pastor Inger). We are exploring investment options that might generate small dividends, as well as naming and prioritizing ministry wants and needs that aren't included in the annual budget.

To do that we need your help! Each board has been asked to identify up to three highest priority wants or needs (acquisitions, projects, or programs) it believes would strengthen and sustain the church's ability to spread the Gospel, attract new members, enrich worship and fellowship, and improve the safety and sustainability of our operations. Specifics are important – a description, including a title, why it is important, how it will enhance our ministry, when (month and year) it should be implemented, and how much you estimate it might cost – are requested. If you have an idea, please get in touch with a member of the appropriate board. Preliminary lists are due Friday, May 7th.

Worship – Rose Jeske (chair), Scott Daily, Pam Zernis, Robyn Lunsford, Tanya Shedd, Terry DiMattio

Youth & Education – Tanya Shedd (chair), William Shedd, Robyn Lunsford

Management – Dale Jeske, Jim Wells, Rusty Mizelle, Carole Liebzeit

Outreach – Jolene Moulder, Robyn Lunsford, Carolyn Daily, Sherry Kinsella

Fellowship – Jolene Moulder, Sherry Kinsella

A WORSHIP BOARD EXAMPLE

Purchase new ELCA supplemental hymnal “All Creation Sings”

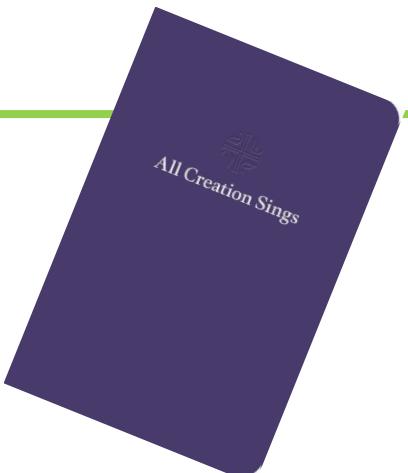
What: Purchase an accompaniment edition (\$60), a leader edition (\$30), and 50 pew copies (\$12.50 each – currently 14% discount; normally \$14.50) of the new ELCA supplemental hymnal “All Creation Sings.”

Why: As the blue hymnal “With One Voice” enriched worship and helped keep the congregation in tune with the musical life of the wider church, “All Creation Sings” offers:

- Two liturgies of Holy Communion with new musical settings
- A Service of Word and Prayer designed especially for contemplative worship
- More than seventy-five new prayers and liturgical forms for diverse occasions and circumstances
- Approximately 200 hymns and songs, many of them newly created over the last fifteen years, supporting the church year and a wide range of topics

This resource would help ensure that the words and music we use for worship are relevant to our times.

When & How: This resource should ideally be purchased when the congregation has a regular musician to help us engage it fully. The estimated cost is \$715 - \$815, plus shipping.

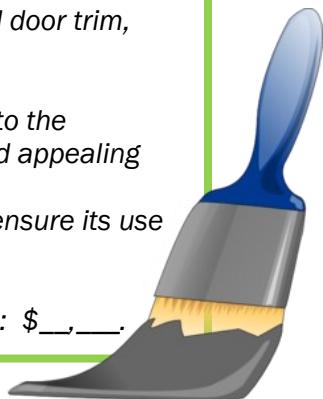


A MANAGEMENT EXAMPLE**Paint the Church**

What: Paint the exterior of the church, including all wood surfaces – siding, window and door trim, and fascia with high-quality, exterior, water-based paint.

Why: The church was last painted in 20__, and the paint is peeling, exposing the wood to the elements. Painting the church will improve its appearance making it more attractive and appealing to guests, protect the wood from deteriorating, preserve the congregation's investment, and help ensure its use as God's house.

When & How: The church should be painted not later than 2022. The estimated cost is: \$____.



color amazed preaching project

In the words of a recent guest to the Northwest Intermountain Synod's digital pulpit, Rev. Kara Skatrud Baylor, "the Color Amazed Preaching Project is about creating relationships virtually with leaders of color in the church body that we are all apart of. It is about learning more about the church as a whole, hearing how others interpret scripture, and what work God is putting in our hands..."

2nd Sunday of Easter, April 11, 2021 on tiny desk worship



Rev. Priscilla Austin

Rev. Priscilla Paris-Austin (she/her) is pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in the South Lake Union neighborhood of Seattle, a congregation that takes seriously their calling to be a Sanctuary that is Open and Affirming of all persons of every gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, ability, age and status, while aspiring to be AntiRacist, knowing it's a journey not a destination. As a mom of 3 amazing humans and in partnership with her spouse of 20+ years, she lives into her call to justice and love by serving on leadership teams for Diversity, Youth Ministry and the arts throughout the ELCA, as well as with regional ecumenical partners and within her children's school.

Join ZOOM Fellowship at 6 pm for discussion and to catch up!



Teton County's Low Risk Phase

What does **YELLOW** mean and what can you do?

Teton County Health Department has developed a color-coded public health guidance system to provide actions our community members can take to decrease the spread of COVID-19.



Gather safely.

During family dinners and small social gatherings, please continue to practice everyday preventive actions. Wear masks when less than 6 feet apart from people or indoors, host your gatherings outside when possible, and stay home if you are sick.

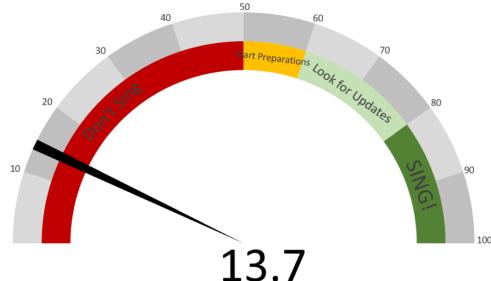


▲ When our health department gives a low (yellow) risk assessment, SMLC will offer weekly in-person worship.

When the risk is moderate (orange), we will offer in-person worship once a month. In the summer, if risk does not drop, we will look at outdoor worship options.

When can we sing?

Pastor Inger misses singing together, too, and is following recommendations closely. We will try having soloists on occasion. **Sing! The Center for Congregational Song** (congregationalsong.org) puts the national threshold for safe congregational singing at when 70-85% of the population is fully vaccinated. We may look at resuming singing when our community & surrounds reaches that threshold.



It's Time to Clean Up at Church!

Please join us the first week of May to come and clean up the grounds at the church.

Just show up anytime beginning May 1st



Choose a spot and do what you can!

Please call Rose or Dale Jeske with any questions at 307-690-0494

SMLC & Covid: A Quick Glance



Avoid large gatherings.

Do not attend large gatherings and keep group sizes small. Reduce exposure to others as much as possible.



Avoid crowded spaces.

Avoid crowded, indoor places. For high risk individuals, outdoor activities are strongly encouraged.

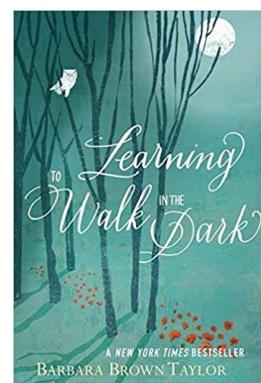


Keep a social bubble.

Keep group sizes and social pods small for in-person gatherings. Do not gather if you are experiencing even mild symptoms.



Holy Horizons



This is the book that we just began.

We will meet April 6th & 20th with fellowship at 6 pm and discussion 6:30- 7:30pm



Psalm 98

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
 whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²O LORD, you have made known your victory,
 you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
 all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
 lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp,
 with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn
 shout with joy before the king, the LORD.

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
 the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸Let the rivers clap their hands,
 and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
 and the peoples with equity.

A Passage

To avoid misunderstandings, it is essential to recall the precise meaning of the word "heart" in the Bible. Whereas today the heart stands primarily for the feelings, the emotions, in the Bible it refers to a more central and more inclusive reality. The heart is the core of a person, the point of convergence where all the human faculties come together. It is the seat of reflection as well as of decision. When we ask ourselves questions such as "Why am I here on earth? What is the meaning of my life? What does God want from me?" that is the biblical heart speaking.

- Brother John of Taizé in *The Adventure of Holiness: Biblical Foundations and Present-Day Perspectives* (New York: Alba House, 1997) page 68

A Prayer

O unfamiliar God,
 we seek you in the places
 you have already left,
 and fail to see you
 even when you stand before us.
 Grant us so to recognize your strangeness
 that we need not cling to our familiar grief,
 but may be freed to proclaim resurrection
 in the name of Christ, Amen.

- Janet Morley (John 20:1-18)

Online Giving is simple and easy



Have you ever thought about giving your offering online but don't know how?

You may sign up to give one time, weekly, monthly, or yearly .

You can give by text (307-207-3866), by credit or debit, or by online checking. Go to this link and you're on your way!

<https://sotmlcjackson.breezechms.com/give/online>

*Thank you to those of you who have already donated;
your gifts to the church are a blessing!*

Giving While You Shop at Smith's

Help the church while you buy your groceries

Please consider enrolling in Smith's Grocery's *Inspiring Donations Program.*

Link your Smith's card to Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church.

The church will receive a check for .5% of your purchases!

It's easy:

1. Sign in to your account and choose "My Account" in the top right corner.
2. This brings up a list on the left. Choose "Inspiring Donations."
3. Look for our organization number—YJ339
4. Finish the process.



You may also mail in your donations to

*Shepherd of the Mountains
P.O. Box 3257
Jackson, WY 83001*

Your financial support is important to us!



Church Office Hours
Tuesdays & Thursdays
8:30 am - 3 :30 pm

MARCH 2021		
Week of 7th	25	\$ 1,706.00
Week of 14th	27	\$ 1,656.00
Week of 21st	NA	\$ 655.00
Week of 28th	10	\$ 2,917.00
Total	62	\$6,934.00
Note: Weekly budget needs: \$2,976.00		
* Recently updated to reflect 2021 budget		

	April 4 Easter Sunday	Easter 11 Easter 2	April 18 Easter 3	April 25 Easter 4
Preacher	Rev. Inger Hanson	Rev. Inger Hanson	Rev. Inger Hanson	Rev. Inger Hanson
Online Assistant Minister	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Online Reader	Mizelle Family	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Assistant Minister	Mizelle Family	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Reader	Mizelle Family	Sherry Kinsella	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Ushers	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Counters	HELP NEEDED	Sherry Kinsella	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Piano	Andrew Clark	Andrew Clark	Andrew Clark	Andrew Clark