



Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church



Worship With Us
Sundays at 10 am

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 - 3:30
Pastor Tim Stådem

Receiving God's grace. Sharing Christ's love with all people

December 2023

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS – How to be...in all this waiting

Waiting is central to the meaning of Advent – where our spirit is 'longing for'. In waiting we experience all sorts of feelings and expectations, including struggle. And overall, doesn't it seem like the season of Advent is always with us; it's one of those experiences that we never really get beyond.

Which is why Advent is a favorite for me – **It's always here:** our life of anticipation, with yearning and the various ways we are looking ahead, and with hope there is something new – life that is becoming more whole in God's graces. "Yes, we are Advent people."

And as students of Advent faith, and followers of the living Christ, a large part of this journey is described as waiting upon the promises and mysteries (and even present realities) of God's Incarnation in this world. Ultimately, our faith is dancing with the invitation and experiences of noticing and participating in the nature of God to be Immanuel—God with us.

So as you are waiting, and this world waits—gradually becoming incredibly busy in this cultural season named 'the holidays', shall we take to heart the center of the story? Perhaps you have heard sentiment like this:

***Jesus is not 'part of the story of Christmas'.
Christmas is 'part of the story of Jesus'***

So I'm wondering if a deciding factor in our Advent Faith isn't about: *'HOW we practice our waiting'—the life-giving possibilities we might open ourselves to. How might we fill our moments of waiting with deeper meaning?*

Here's one great idea I encourage you with: when I was a child, ever since I can remember, my family would observe candle lighting and prayer with an Advent wreath. And ever since those days, I have favored the gift of lighting candles in Advent.

At our church we have prepared all you need to get your own Advent wreath started in your home and enlightening you into the Christmas season. Please consider this or any other ways of opening yourself to the promise of God with us.

And remember that *Christmas is 'part of the story of Jesus'* – a profound story that makes all the difference in a life of waiting and wondering...because of the promise and mystery that God is here.

God's peace be with you, Pastor Tim





Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church, ELCA

750 Seneca Lane, PO Box 3257, Jackson, WY 83001

307-733-4382

office@sotmlc.org

www.shepherdofthemountainsjh.org

Pastor Tim Stadem

970-219-2277 (please feel free to call & text)

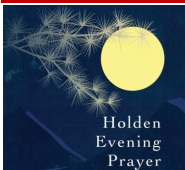
pastor.tim@sotmlc.org



December 2023 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Advent 1 Gospel of Mark 9 am Worship at 10 am with Pastor Tim	4	5 Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom AA 6:30pm	6 Holden Evening Prayer 6 pm 	7	8	9
10 Advent 2 Gospel of Mark 9 am Worship at 10 am with Pastor Tim Council Meets	11	12 Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt Group Luncheon 10:30 am  AA 6:30pm	13	14	15	16
17 Advent 3 Gospel of Mark 9 am Worship at 10 am with Pastor Tim	18	19 Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom AA 6:30pm	20	21	22	23
24 Advent 4 Gospel of Mark 9 am Worship at 10 am with Pastor Tim Christmas Eve Christmas Eve Service at 6 pm with Pastor Tim 	25 Christmas Day Christmas Day Service at 10 am with Pastor Tim 	26 Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom AA 6:30pm	27	28	29	30
31 Christmas 1 New Years' Eve Gospel of Mark 9 am Worship at 10 am with Pastor Tim 						

Advent



We will be hosting Holden Evening Prayer service on Wednesday, December 6th at 6 pm, this service will take place just one evening in December. Please bring your friends and neighbors to this beautiful, musical message of the promise of the Christ child so they too can prepare for the birth of Jesus this season. Please join us for cookies & cider (grandma's recipe) after the service.

Christmas Services



Come and Celebrate Christmas With Us

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve Service

with Pastor Tim Stadem

Sunday, December 24th @ 6:00 pm

Christmas Day Service

with Pastor Tim Stadem

Monday, December 25th @ 10:00 am

* the Sunday morning service on December 24th will be celebrated as the 4th Sunday in Advent

It's Almost Time to Decide

In 2021-22 Assistant to the Bishop Rev. Phil Misner, guided the church council through the call process after Pastor Inger departed. He and then Bishop Kristen Kuempel suggested calling a Transitional Minister. This different approach would allow the council to search for a pastor with an eye on a long-term commitment. The transitional pastor would commit to serve Shepherd of the Mountains for a two-year period.

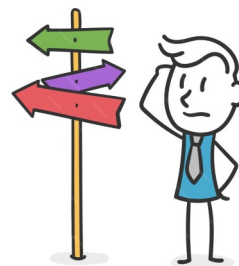
At the 18-month mark of this two-year commitment the pastor and the congregation would each decide if a regular call to the pastor is desired. If either party decides not to continue together, the transitional minister would help Shepherd of the Mountains begin a new call process. In mid-August 2022, Pastor Tim became our Transitional Minister.

We are approaching the 18-month milestone in Pastor Tim's two-year contract. We would like to ask you to prayerfully consider if you would like him to continue as our pastor.

***As part of this decision process, the congregation is invited to a mutual conversation on this topic with Pastor Tim after the service on Sunday December 3rd.
Your Council leadership will function like before, as the Call Committee.***

And our final decision (if Pastor Tim is recommended by the Call Committee) will come to a vote following our annual meeting in January, 2024.

Council President Terry Di Mattio, and Vice President Lorrie Lee Wells are available for anyone who has questions or would like more information. Terry's phone number is 208-354-7422, and Lorrie's phone number is 307-690-3650.



Mini Revolutions - Sunday Curriculum for Children

Mini Revolutions - It's a new class for children! We have just invested in some new curriculum for youth during Sunday worship. Please help us to spread the word!

Teachers are needed for this new class. Can you lead a class 'once a month'? We want to be prepared every Sunday with this brief class with kids; parents will also love this! At the sermon time, the teacher leads a 15 minute class with any children that attend worship with their parents. Right after the gospel reading; go with the child(ren) to the classroom; great curriculum provided with activity, story, coloring, etc. Who is willing to accept the joy, the challenge, the gift to the whole family?

Contact Pastor Tim if you want to try it out.



The Gospel of Mark



You are invited to become a part of this new series: *Introducing the Gospel of Mark*. Gather with friends around the coffee table from 9 to 9:45 in an informal exploration of Mark's gospel – 'No experience necessary'. In our next liturgical year, which begins in Advent, the gospel readings will primarily be read from Mark's gospel. Come, explore together!

Special Meeting Update

On Nov 19th after worship our congregation officially met to discuss, amend, and approve By-Law changes. After a motion to give editorial permission, we approved the Bylaw as amended. The editorial privileges were given for the writers of the Bylaws and Constitution into ONE document – to reduce redundancies in the blending of these two documents. Our congregation will vote on the final product in January. Thanks to all who were able to attend and for our good diligence in this process.



Stewardship Wrap Up



**Thanks
for Your
Support!**

We are still accepting Commitment Cards for our 2024 Stewardship Campaign. You still have time to pop hand in your cards at church. Commitment cards are available in the narthex, please get yours filled out and you can leave it in the box located where you pick up your Commitment Card.

To date we have received **22** commitment cards for 2024 totaling **\$68,920.00**.

Please get your commitment in ASAP!

"Thanks be to God for all of your generous commitments".

Annual Meeting in January

Our 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 28th after the 10 am worship service.

At the Annual Meeting, we will be voting on approving the revised Constitution and 2024 budget. We will also hold a Special Meeting immediately after the Annual Meeting, to consider the recommendation of the council to call Pastor Tim.

Please watch the weekly emails and announcements for more information on these two meetings in January.



Thank You

This month we will recognize a few of our church heroes for their steadfast fellowship and love to our church family.



- Thank you to Chris & Jolene Moulder and Pam Zernis for stepping up at the last minute to host the progressive dinner.
- To all who helped to make our church look magical at the Greening of the Church.
- To our Altar ladies for keeping up with our ever changing liturgical seasons.

Prayers & Thanksgivings

- Mary Lou Klene, foot infection.
- Doris Dahlin, (previous member), healing from hip replacement.
- Dave Shields (Doris Dahlin's son in law) and wife Barbara. Dave is slowly dying with Lewy Bodies Dementia.
- The family of Barb Noecker (friend of Rick & Colleen Thompson).
- Bette Flater (mother of Colleen Thompson), celebrated her 100th birthday on November 19th.
- Devastating losses in the Middle East and Ukraine wars.



For prayers or prayer updates please email

Church Council

Please know that your Church Council is always here to serve you and listen to your questions and concerns.

Feel free to contact a member of the Church Council or chat with them after church on Sundays.

Shepherd of the Mountains

Church Council

God's Vision for Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church: A family of faith, living our beliefs by Welcoming, Worshipping, Teaching, and Serving (WWTS).

President:

Terry DiMattio
tnjintv@gmail.com

Vice President:

Lorrie Lee
alliswellnow@bresnan.net

Secretary

Rusty Mizelle
wyomingmizelles@gmail.com

Council Members

Pam Zernis
zcircus3@yahoo.com

Chris Moulder
chris@dubbe-moulder.com

Nikki Thompson
nltpurple1984@gmail.com

Sascha Mizelle
wyomingmizelles@gmail.com

Birthdays & Anniversaries

December Birthdays

Carolyn Svendsen on November 7th
Nancy Ninnemann on November 14th

Please call or email the church office and tell us when your special day is.



Progressive Dinner



Sometimes things just don't work out as planned!

Our November Progressive Dinner originally had planned to be at three different houses in Rafter J, but due to Pastor Tim getting sick and Vivian Moulder being admitted to the hospital, the backup team had to step in and run with the ball to keep the progressive dinner moving forward.

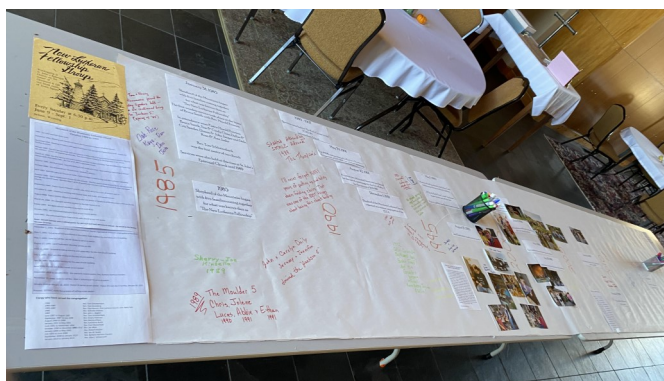
Above: Chris Moulder prepares the main course while Pam Zernis and Mary Lou Klene keep him company.

Above Right: Dale Jeske keeps the women entertained with his good humor.

Right: Meanwhile, Robyn Lunsford and the men enjoy catching up by the warmth of the fireplace.



Our Congregational Story



On Reformation Sunday, Oct 29th we began to remember and explore our history at Shepherd. Picture albums are on tables and stories are written on long newsprint in the Narthex. It shows our beginnings in 1985 and highlights along the way to 2024. Please write your arrival on the storyline and other memories. In our reception we are sharing stories. We are remembering our past stories of faith as we also envision our future in Christ.

Chris Thompson Makes the News



Left: Chris Thompson makes the newsletter of Jackson Hole Therapeutic Riding. Chris is one of our members who is always there to volunteer...stewardship in action!



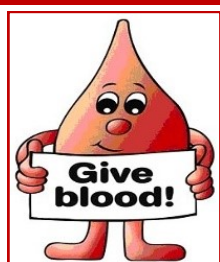
November Church Council Meeting

Highlight of discussions and planning - keeping our congregation informed.

- 1) Commitments to Giving for 2024 increased from 2023; actual giving among '23 commitments is close to 100%. Great news.
- 2) Deciding upon 4 to 6 Guiding Principles: we continue our discernment. Our congregation has provided great responses. We're not a hurry; gaining clarity about our future directions.
- 3) A new program for young families on Sunday mornings will soon be underway.
- 4) Possible new pianist, accompanying worship on Dec 17th.
- 5) Preparations: for ByLaw/Special congregation meeting on Nov 19th and Annual mtg on Jan 28th
- 6) Financial Stability – we are gaining talking points and new actions; also will be ongoing
- 7) Preliminary discussion of putting a portion of Endowment Funds into a CD. Final decision to take place in '24
- 8) Pastor & Congregation Conversation – Dec 3 after worship; Scott will serve as moderator
- 9) Council will serve as Call Committee again; a decision will be made at Dec 10 council mtg; congregation would vote at Annual mtg – Jan 28th



December Blood Drive



This month our Blood Drive will take place on **December 20th & 21st**

at the Community Bible Church - 1450 S. Park Loop Rd. Jackson, WY

Blood donors are always needed. If you don't have an appointment for the next blood drive and want to donate please go to the Vitalant website at <https://www.vitalant.org> to make an appointment.

Quilt Group Luncheon

The Ladies Quilt Group will be having a holiday luncheon on
Tuesday, December 12th
 at 10:30 am

If you wish to join the group please rsvp Caroline Daily at
carolyndaily27@gmail.com

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,
 for such sacrifices are pleasing to God”

Hebrews 13:16



Giving



Welcome to our new online Giving platform.

Through online giving you can pay by credit, debit, or by online checking. You can also give by texting

SMLCJH to the number 73256

To give or set up payments online, simply click on the link below and you're on your way!

<https://onrealm.org/ShepherdMountainJH/Give>

Giving While You Shop at Smith's

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



Volunteering Each Week

Sunday Servants

Sign up to assist or read

There is now a physical sign-up sheet in the church narthex.

You can also call the church office if you wish to sign up.

You may mail 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

November 2023

attendance & offering

November 5	22	\$ 2,569.32
November 11 Progressive Dinner	19	N/A
November 12	20	\$ 1,590.00
November 19	25	\$ 12,120.00
November 26	13	\$ 1,450.00

\$3,087.00 is needed weekly

your donations matter!

	December 3 Advent 1	December 10 Advent 2	December 17 Advent 3	December 24 - 10am Advent 4	December 24 - 6pm Christmas Eve	December 25 - 10am Christmas Day	December 31 Christmas 1
Preacher	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem
Assistant Minister	Jolene Moulder	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	Scott Daily	Mizelle	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Reader	Dale Jeske	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	Mizelle	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Greeter/ Ushers	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Counters	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Altar Minister	Rose Jeske	Pam Zernis	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	Pam Zernis	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Coffee Hour	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	N/A	N/A	HELP NEEDED