



Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church



Worship With Us
Sundays at 10 am

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 - 3:30

Pastor Tim Stadem

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

February 2024

First of all, *"thanks be to God for your calling!"* – on January 28th a special meeting of our congregation was conducted to approve your traditional call to me. And I say, *"Yes, I accept your call to be your pastor."* As you know my original call with you was as Transitional Pastor—a 2 year commitment in your time of transition, to be with you until your next pastor. Instead, many things are now beginning for us.



One thing this means, somewhat comically, is I can unpack more fully and move into our relationship more completely – yes, that IS a part of this New Beginning. Yet another dimension, more seriously, is together we are entering much more deeply into the Long View – our mission into the unknown future, led and accompanied by the living Christ.

In light of this New Beginning, I am so grateful for the groundwork we have accomplished together – many chapters of 'Renewal Work' about our sense of purpose, identifying core values and principles, etc. We've arrived at biblical and spiritual language to describe *'Why we are here?'* and *'What is our identity in Christ?'* and *'Where do trust that God is leading us?'* We've been diligent at generating a sense of *'finding our voice'* and *'coming to terms with our collective calling'*. This is the groundwork for our next steps (see page 4: OUR NEW GUIDING PRINCIPLES).

In light of our challenges ahead for us, please briefly look with me at some recent research by Ipsos – this was a national study of Americans, where the majority of people believe Jesus is an important spiritual figure and that they want equality in society. The study revealed that Christians are not necessarily practicing what Jesus taught, and Americans feel judged when talking about their beliefs. Here are some specifics about the data:

- The majority of Americans (84%) believe Jesus is an important spiritual figure and want their children to grow up in a world where everyone is treated equally (86%).
- Christians describe themselves as being giving (57%), compassionate (56%), loving (55%), respectful (50%) and friendly (49%), while non-Christians associate Christians with characteristics like hypocrisy (50%), being judgmental (49%), self-righteousness (46%), and arrogance (32%).
- Younger Americans are more likely to say they are not religious (Gen Z 24% and Millennials 28%) than their older counterparts (Gen X 18% and Baby Boomers 12%).

Doesn't this sound like a wake up call for us? Doesn't this, and many other sources of honest information, summon us to refocus our efforts for being a church that looks and acts more like Jesus, modeling our behavior and action on Jesus' teachings.

In our Lenten season we are invited into intentional reflection and action for cultivating a meaningful and welcoming community of faith that loves and serves our neighbor without judgement and celebrates differences—*where all people are of great value.*

This Lent we will be exploring how the themes of our mission and the Lenten themes of God in our wilderness experiences come together to guide and empower our spirit and our actions. You and your friends are invited into this new adventure.

Partners in Christ, Pastor Tim



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Pastor Tim Stadem

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February 2024 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Epiphany 5 Around Coffee Table 9 am Worship at 10 am with Pastor Tim	5	6 Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom AA 6:30pm	7	8	9	10
11 Transfiguration of Our Lord Around Coffee Table 9 am Worship at 10 am with Pastor Tim Council Meets	12	13 Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt Group 10:30 am Shrove Tuesday Pancake Potluck Luncheon 12:00 pm  AA 6:30pm	14 Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day Blood Drive 11:30 am  Ash Wednesday service at 6 pm 	15 Blood Drive 7:30 am 	16 Potluck Dinner at 5:30 pm 	17
18 Lent 1 Around Coffee Table 9 am Worship at 10 am with Pastor Tim	19	20 Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt Group 10:30 am AA 6:30pm	21 Lenten Service & Soup Supper at 5:30 pm 	22	23	24
25 Lent 2 Around Coffee Table 9 am Worship at 10 am with Pastor Tim	26	27 Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt Group 10:30 am AA 6:30pm	28 Lenten Service & Soup Supper at 5:30 pm 	29		

Shrove Tuesday



In February, we will be hosting a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Potluck Lunch for all. Your donations of fruit, syrup, milk, orange juice, bacon and sausage will be needed. Cooks in the kitchen will be needed too!

Come at 12:00 noon and let Pastor Tim entertain you on Shrove Tuesday while he flips Norwegian flapjacks in the kitchen!

A sign-up sheet for the lunch is posted by the front door. Bring a neighbor or friend.

Ash Wednesday Service

Our Ash Wednesday service will be held on February 14th at 6:00pm.

Ash Wednesday is about beginning anew. We begin the 40 days of Lent – from the Latin word for “spring” – a leaning into *life thru winter, hope in the midst of the dark*. Our hearts are turned toward Christ who raises us above the powers of destruction.

On this night, we mark our forehead in a cross shape; we remember both our *Mortality & Forgiveness* with songs, readings, prayer, and ‘*the Lord’s Supper*’.

Please Come! Bring a friend! Spring into this new season where light changes the dark, and where people become instruments of God’s goodness & justice.



Meet & Eat February Potluck

It's a Potluck Meal!

Friday, February 16th at 5:30 pm

Many more details are forthcoming. Don't forget to mark your calendars!

Watch the weekly emails and bulletins for more information.



Lenten Services with Soup Supper



“Friends around the Table”

During Lent we gather around tables for friendship, faith, and a meal

February 21st - March 20th

Taking place each Wednesday during Lent beginning at 5:30 pm

- 5:30 pm begins with a meal together of fantastic soups and the extras.
- 6:15 pm is an informal time of brief conversation, prayer, song, and faith.

Our Lenten Theme: *God Meeting Us in Our Wilderness*

We will be back on the road by 7:00 pm.

Please see the ‘sign up’ sheet to help with the meal and hosting.



Annual Meeting News



Thank you to all who came out to participate in our Annual and the Special Meetings. At this time, we would like to congratulate Pastor Tim in becoming a permanent member of our church family, Pastor Tim was voted in as the pastor of Shepherd of the Mountains at the Special Meeting (his previous call was as Transitional Pastor for a term of two years). At the Annual Meeting we shared our gratefulness to Terry Di Mattio for his many years of dedication as the Council President as well as the time he has spent as a member of Council. Terry, Robyn Lunsford, and Lorrie Lee were instrumental in preparing the revised Constitution of our congregation; the vote to approve the Constitution was passed. We also welcomed Sascha Mizelle who will stay on for another year and Steffan Freeman for volunteering to become a member of Council for a one-year term. Our 2024 Nominating Committee volunteers are Karen Schroeder, Brook Redwine & Terry Di Mattio. Jolene Moulder was voted in as our parish Treasurer for 2024. Thank you all for your service to Shepherd of the Mountains!

Our New Guiding Principals - To Guide Our Ministries

In our work together for 'Renewing Our Congregation'...we lifted this process in our prayers, we listened to the scriptures, and we engaged in conversation – all of this together to search out 'WHY?' we are a church here and now.

At our annual meeting on January 28th, our language for our Guiding Principles was shared:

Our Guiding Principles

The core values that we seek to live into:

We are rooted in Christ

We know all people are of great value

We serve our neighbors in all their needs

We nurture faith among all generations

This means we grow out of the foundational message that God's love in Christ is our source and seed, where Christ helps us to see that each person is "created in the image of God." Our calling is to live into this promise that God's grace has no boundaries

- *so we strive to nurture life and faith among each generation*
- *and we strive to form a community of care for one another and for our neighbors.*

Our Strategy is Community

Following the example of Jesus, our strategy is to practice authentic community that cultivates an inviting and welcoming people of faith.

NEXT STEPS: Putting more details to our strategy and actions. Our goal is to name specific actions that inform our whole congregation about primary directions we are called go.



February Blood Drive



This month our Blood Drive will take place on

February 14th & 16th

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.

Your donation can make a difference. Donating blood saves lives!

Blood Drive Dates for 2024

February 14 & 15 at SMLC
 April 17 & 18 at SMLC
 June 19 & 20 at SMLC
 August 14 & 15 at SMLC
 October 16 & 17 at SMLC
 December 18 & 19 location TBD
Your donation matters!

Thank You

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



- To our outgoing Council members for their service to our church.
- To Terry Di Mattio for giving so much of his time to serve as our Council President.
- To our Council members who volunteered to stay on Council and continue being the hands and hearts of Jesus.
- To Margie Aeckerle for her dedication in keeping our church clean.

Prayers & Thanksgivings

- Carl Iwasaki (friend of Chris & Jolene Moulder), in need of a heart transplant after suffering cardiogenic shock.
- The family of Ken Sands. (former member of SMLC).
- Our brothers and sisters who struggle in the Middle East and the Ukraine.



*For prayers or prayer updates please email
or call the church office.*

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:

Lorrie Lee
alliswellnow@bresnan.net

Vice President:

Pam Zernis
zcircus3@yahoo.com

Secretary

Rusty Mizelle
wyomingmizelles@gmail.com

Council Members

Chris Moulder
chris@dubbe-moulder.com

Nikki Thompson
nltpurple1984@gmail.com

Sascha Mizelle
wyomingmizelles@gmail.com

Steffan Freeman
steffenfreeman@gmail.com

Birthdays & Anniversaries



February Birthdays

Nikki Thompson on February 3rd

Scott Daily on February 8th

Jim Wells on February 9th

Dale Jeske on February 14th

Carolyn Daily on February 27th

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

Quilting Into 2024



In January, our quilting ladies picked up where they left off before the Christmas season.

To date, the ladies have eleven quilts that are finished and ready to be shipped to Lutheran World Relief; they are currently working on more!

The women's group meets most Tuesdays and can range in size from 4 to 10 at a time. They sometimes add a luncheon as a way to end their fun filled meetings.

This group is open to anyone who longs for some fun fellowship and time out of the house, no sewing experience is necessary.

Help Us Spread the Word

Commercial Space For Rent

at Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church
750 Seneca Lane, Jackson, WY

Two large rooms, one small conference room, & beautiful grounds with a view are available

Perfect for meetings, clubs, worship services, community events, choir/musical practices, or whatever your needs are

Please email office@sotmlc.org for more information

Affordable pricing & special pricing for non-profits



Shepherd of the Mountains is currently looking to help those in the community who are in need of a meeting space, while also helping our current budget.

Do you know of a group that is looking for a weekly or monthly meeting place at a great price? If so, please share our desire to share our space with them.

Space-sharing is not always about the money. Some non-financial benefits of space-sharing for both parties can be:

- Benefits to the congregation that owns the space: fulfilling its mission, helping to develop its identity, sound stewardship of facilities, neighborliness, contributing to the good of the larger community.
- Benefits to the group that uses the space: fulfilling its mission, networking, enhanced status through affiliating with an established congregation. Such benefits can be especially important for new immigrant groups in American communities.

Please help us get the word out to our community.

January Church Council Meeting

Highlight of discussions and planning - keeping our congregation informed.

Congregational Council Meeting Highlights – from January 14

- 1) Final Dialogue on Guiding Principles – to be presented to our congregation at the Annual Meeting.
- 2) 2024 Budget – reviewing and approving budget prepared by the Finance Committee.
- 3) Final Steps to Annual Meeting – agenda, reports, revised constitution, special meeting to call Pastor Tim, etc.
- 4) Mutual Ministry – description is being finalized.
- 5) Conversation with Jewish Community – Update.



Meet Our Church Council & Treasurer

At our January Annual Meeting, the congregation said “well done” to our dedicated and hard working council member and President, Terry Di Mattio. At the same time, we welcomed and added one wonderful addition to our band of leaders, Steffan Freeman. We also welcomed Sascha Mizelle back for another year on Council.

Lorrie Lee was voted in as Council President and Pam Zernis was voted in as our Council Vice President. Jolene Moulder will dedicate another year of her life to Shepherd as our Treasurer. Thank you to Chris Moulder, Rusty Mizelle and Nikki Thompson for serving another year!



Lorrie Lee
President



Pam Zernis
Vice President



Rusty Mizelle
Secretary



Jolene Moulder
Treasurer



Steffan Freeman



Chris Moulder



Nikki Thompson



Sascha Mizelle

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

January 2024

attendance & offering

January 7	19	\$5,210.00
January 14	20	\$920.00
International Potluck Dinner	19	N/A
January 21	17	\$1,250.00
January 28	33	\$ 1,127.00

\$3,120.00 is needed weekly
your donations matter!

	February 4 Epiphany 5	February 11 Transfiguration of Our Lord	February 14 Ash Wednesday	February 18 Lent 1	February 25 Lent 2
Preacher	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem
Assistant Minister	HELP NEEDED	Mizelle	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Reader	HELP NEEDED	Mizelle	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Greeter/Ushers	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Counters	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Altar Minister	Pam Zernis	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Coffee Hour	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	N/A	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Pianist					