

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

February 2018

be mine: *beginning a Lenten journey*



reflecting on Christ and culture

Worship Schedule

8:00am Spoken Service
with Holy Communion

9:00am Adult Study/
Sunday School

10:00am Worship with
Holy Communion

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church

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Christ & Culture

Christ & Culture: Niebuhr, Neighbor & Now
– an overview as we enter Lent

Dear Shepherd of the Mountains,

“A many-sided debate about the relations of Christianity and civilization is being carried on in our time. Historians and theologians, statesmen and churchmen, Catholics and Protestants, Christians and anti-Christians participate in it. It is carried on publicly by opposing parties and privately in the conflicts of conscience. Sometimes it is concentrated on special issues ... sometimes it deals with broad questions.”¹

H. Richard Niebuhr’s opening paragraph of his seminal text *Christ and Culture* still resonates (67 years after publication!). What is the relationship between Jesus Christ and culture? What is the relationship between the person we know from scripture (with definite teachings, a definite character, and a definite fate) – and the social milieu which we live in (our language, habits, ideas, beliefs, customs, social organization, inherited artifacts, technical processes, and values)? That question lies behind our decision making as we navigate the complexities of our lives – as friends, family members, coworkers, and citizens.

This Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday on Valentine’s Day and ends with Easter Sunday on April Fool’s, seemed a particularly apropos time to delve more deeply into this perennial question and the typical answers. How should we as followers of Christ relate to our culture?

In the weeks ahead, using Niebuhr as a rough guide, we will explore five “typical” Christian answers to the question of Christ’s relationship to culture. Our exploration will nudge each of us to examine and evaluate how we as Christians could regard and engage our culture. We will ponder different strategies or models of engagement, as well as the scriptures that undergird them.

Each Sunday, I will introduce one of Niebuhr’s models as sparked by the lectionary text. On Wednesdays over soup, we will have a chance to engage Niebuhr and our neighbor before we worship.

In Christ,

Pastor Inger

¹ Quote from H. Richard Niebuhr

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 Pastor Inger Hanson

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Office Hours:
 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
 9:00am to Noon
 1:30pm to 4:00pm



From outreach discussions to pastoral care and fellowship, Wednesday mornings have been a great way to connect! If you're not a skier, find Pastor Inger at coffee hours at Picnic from 3 - 5, or call to schedule an appointment.



Be mine: Psalms, Passage and Prayers

Prayer

(inspired from a hymn in the 1852 sailors' prayer book)

Dear God,

In this busy life, there are so many claims on our time and our thoughts.

Help me hear your "Be Mine" anew. Let me be yours.

Let me trust that you are mine - not "mine" that I can direct or control divine mystery - but mine as a gift to treasure, trust, ponder, and honor.

For if God be mine, I ask no more in you all things are mine better than every earthly store my portion is divine.

If God be mine, I will not fear whatever trials may come. Your love can soothe all trials here and bless me to the end.

If God be mine, neither life nor death can part me from God's love Grace shall guard my every breath and guide to realms above.

Valentine Silliness

wine is red
 water is blue
 through Christ we know
 there's nothing God won't do...
 for you

Passage

"While I know myself as a creation of God, I am also obligated to realize and remember that everyone else and everything else are also God's creation."

-Maya Angelou

PSALM 24:1-2

¹The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;

²for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.



Tuesdays: Men's text study 7:00am at the Virginian Restaurant.
Book of Esther Bible Study at 5:15pm at the church. All are welcome!

Wednesdays: Roaming Coffee Hour will be each Wednesday from 3:00pm to 5:00pm at Picnic during the month of February. No Coffee hour on February 7th.

EVENTS IN FEBRUARY AT THE CHURCH

Sunday,
February
4th ▶



Sunday, February 4th brings Shepherd of the Mountains several exciting events. First, please welcome Father Frank Johnson to the pulpit. Father Frank will also be our supply pastor on February 11th. Secondly, we will once again "Help to Tackle Hunger" through your donations to Souper Bowl of Caring. Finally, during the 9:00am hour, GIFT (Generations in Faith Together), will be "Praying in Color." More information on "Praying in Color" is located on page 5 of this newsletter.

Thursday,
February 1st
-13th ▶



Pastor Inger will be at continuing education/vacation from Thursday, February 1st through Tuesday, February 13th. Following continuing education, Pastor Inger will have a mini-vacation to go see her new niece.

Tuesday,
February 6th
& 20th ▶



Shepherds of the Cloth Quilting Club: Everyone is invited to join the Shepherds of the Cloth Quilting Club on Tuesday, February 6th and Tuesday, February 20th from 1:00pm to 3:30pm.

Sunday,
February
11th ▶



Fellowship Bowling Party on Sunday, February 11th at 4:00pm at Hole Bowl (located in the Powderhorn Mall next to Lucky's Market). A sign-up sheet is located on the table in the narthex. The plan is to bowl from 4-6pm and then eat dinner together. The restaurant is separated from the bowling lanes so we can have a nice, quiet dinner afterwards and members who don't want to bowl can join the rest of us for dinner. Cost is \$25/hour/lane for bowling + \$4 shoe rental and dinner is in the \$12-\$23 range and a bar is available. The menu and photos of the restaurant can be viewed at: <http://holebowljh.com/restaurant-bar/> This should be a fun, new event for SOTM.

February
14th &
February
15th ▶



The first blood drive of 2018 will be Wednesday, 14th from 11:00am to 5:00pm and Thursday, February 15th from 7:30am to 11:30am.

Wednesday,
February
14th ▶



Join us for **Ash Wednesday** Worship Service on February 14th at 6:30pm.



The date and time for the February Church Council meeting will be announced.
Council: Holly Luense-President, Colleen Thompson-Secretary, Carolyn Daily, Terry Dimattio, Sherry Kinsella, Chris Moulder, Heidi Schmillen, William Shedd, David Svendsen and Jim Wells.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS, EVENING SERVICES AND CHOIR PRACTICE

Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers and Evening Services:

February 21	5:30pm Soup Supper	6:30pm Lenten Worship Service	7:15pm Choir Practice
February 28	5:30pm Soup Supper	6:30pm Lenten Worship Service	7:15pm Choir Practice
March 7	5:30pm Soup Supper	6:30pm Lenten Worship Service	7:15pm Choir Practice
March 14	5:30pm Soup Supper	6:30pm Lenten Worship Service	7:15pm Choir Practice
March 21	5:30pm Soup Supper	6:30pm Lenten Worship Service	7:15pm Choir Practice

Our 25th Anniversary continues to bless us! This special greeting arrived from Alaska too late to be included in our closing celebrations. So we are incorporating the unique drawings that accompanied this letter as part of our "Praying in Color" GIFT event on Sunday, February 4th at 9:00am.

4 December 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Shepherd of the Mountains Church,

Our small congregation here in Alaska is also celebrating its 25th Year Anniversary. This has given me a sense of kindred spirit with you all. The bonding goes beyond our shared faith and ELCA Lutheran identifications. We share some challenges. Like you --

- o We are a small congregation.
- o Transience is notable
- o In the larger state, individualism is valorized; community is difficult to build.
- o We're remote. Often this is pleasant, sometimes it is lonely, and always it is expensive.
- o Our locale is somewhat exotic. The beautiful environment stirs spiritualityand simultaneously, lures people away from the church gathering.
- o Expectations and norms from the East Coast or the Midwest don't fit us.

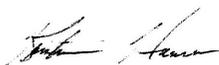
Though we are definitely not identical congregations, I felt the tug of 'journeying together as your 25th celebration unfolded. Congratulations on the Marty Haugen commission! What a beautiful way to commemorate your milestone and simultaneously bless the larger church for years to come!

And thank you for your quilt raffle! Due to the spectacular talents of the creator and the remarkable generosity of the actual winner, I am the fortunate person who is cheered daily by the amazing quilt.

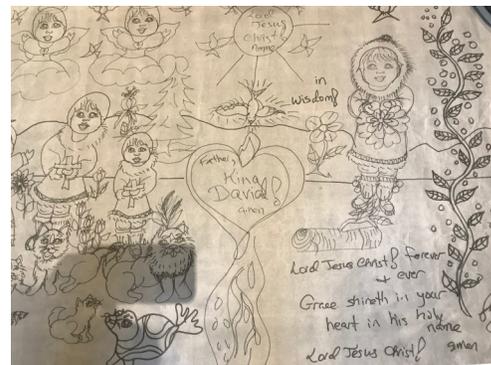
For our 25th anniversary, Alaska Native Lutheran Church (ANLC) has not had done anything quite so memorable as the Haugen commission or the quilt. However, I would like to share something we have done. These pictures were drawn by one of our congregants. (Pastor Inger can provide particulars on the artist.) At ANLC, we duplicated these pictures for our children to color and post during our Fall conference. I'm sending a set to you in hopes these might be a fun coloring activity for children during your closing festivities. I'm sorry we couldn't send along a seal to play with your moose! But - Happy 25th! from siblings even further north.

Though your 25th year is closing, may there be many rich years ahead. May the Lord's leading and blessing infuse each one of them.

Joy and peace to you in this wondrous season ... and as you start your 26th year ~



with the sisters and brothers of Alaska Native Lutheran Church



Distribution of 25th Anniversary Funds

In January 2018, Shepherd of the Mountains was able to gift the following proceeds from the 25th Anniversary Fund as follows:

Teton Habitat for Humanity	\$1,000.00
Synod Mission Campaign	\$3,000.00



The Lutheran-Catholic Evening Prayer for Christian Unity, held on January 25, was very moving, witnessing to our common faith and providing a strong foundation for future partnering. The people of Our Lady of the Mountains were incredibly gracious hosts, and there was such joy and healing in worshipping together. Over 125 attended, and the lively fellowship that followed was a delight. Thank you to all who attended, especially to our readers and intercessors Ed and Carole Liebzeit, Christina Mizelle, Connie Swan, Sherry Kinsella, Mike Eden, Dale Jeske, Mary Lou Klene, acolyte Lola Mizelle, and common choir volunteers Mike Eden, Dale Jeske, Rose Jeske, Mary Lou Klene, Robyn Lunsford, Jolene Moulder, Bert Mount, and Connie Swan.



December 2017			January 2018		
3rd	41	\$ 3,297.81*	7th	34	\$4,766.00*
10th	54	\$ 3,153.31	14th	42	\$2,236.00*
17th	42	\$ 3,153.20*	21st	32	\$ 692.00
24th	53	\$10,482.70	28th	41	\$2,262.00
Christmas Eve at 6pm	82				
Christmas Eve at 9pm	34				
25th	6				
30th		\$10,000.00			
31st	38	\$ 1,262.00			
Total	344	\$31,349.02	Total	149	\$9,956.00
Note: Weekly budget needs: \$2,794.00.			*Includes Simply Giving (1st & 15th)		

Worship Ministers for February 2018

	February 4 5th Epiphany	February 11 Transfiguration of Our Lord	February 14 Ash Wednesday	February 18 1st Lent	February 25 2nd Lent
	<i>Father Frank Johnson</i>	<i>Father Frank Johnson</i>	<i>Pastor Inger Hanson</i>	<i>Ps. Inger Hanson</i>	<i>Ps. Inger Hanson</i>
Liturgical Assistant	<i>Holly Luense</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>Mike Eden</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>
Altar Minister	<i>Robyn Lunsford</i>	<i>Sherry Kinsella</i>	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>	<i>Rose Jeske</i>	<i>Jo Schmillen</i>
Lector	<i>Kimberly Brandt</i>	<i>Carolyn Daily</i>		<i>Keaghan Shedd</i>	<i>Connie Swan</i>
Greeter	<i>Alex Shedd</i>	<i>Carolyn Daily</i>		<i>Heidi Schmillen</i>	<i>Terry Dimattio</i>
Ushers	<i>Robyn Lunsford Shedd Family</i>	<i>Scott Daily John Daily</i>		<i>Schmillen Family</i>	<i>Jeske Family</i>
Counters	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>		<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>
Piano	<i>Laura Huckin</i>	<i>Laura Huckin</i>		<i>Connie Swan</i>	<i>Laura Huckin</i>



Annual Meeting

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church held its Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, January 28th following the worship service. Twenty-nine members signed the attendance register. Thank you to all who attended this very important event.

The minutes from last year's meeting were approved. The 2017 Treasurer's Report and the 2018 Budget were unanimously approved.

A brief summary was presented by a representative from each ministry board (Management, Hospitality & Welcoming, Youth & Education, Worship, and Outreach/Circle of Care) highlighting important events, service work and the continued mission of each board during 2017.

President Scott Daily expressed his appreciation for the congregation, nominating committee, and all those who participate and chair the ministry boards.

Scott Daily informed the congregation that a favorable parsonage roof replacement proposal had been obtained by Mike Eden, Chairperson of the Management Ministry Board. Roof Rescue's bid in the amount of \$13,906.00 was signed by Scott Daily.

Sincere appreciation was extended to outgoing council members Scott Daily, John Daily and Nancy Ninnemann. We are so grateful for their dedication to SOTMLC and for all the many ways they contribute to the mission and vision of the church.

Elected to three year terms on council:

- **Carolyn Daily**
- **Terry Dimattio**
- **Heidi Schmillen (1 year term)**

The following members were elected to serve on the 2018 Nominating Committee:

- **Connie Swan**
- **Scott Daily**
- **John Daily**
- **Nikki Thompson**
- **Mike Eden-Alternate**

In a unanimous vote, Christina Mizelle was re-elected to serve as our 2018 Treasurer. We are truly grateful for her willingness to serve in this very important position.

Carolyn Daily and Kari McCreedy volunteered to attend the Synod Assembly this year from April 27th—28th in Yakima, Washington. The 2018 budget was increased to \$2,000.00 to cover the cost of sending two representatives and Pastor Inger Hanson to the 2018 Synod Assembly.

Scott Daily notified the congregation that several minor changes had been made to the Church Constitution by Robyn Lunsford and approved by Church Council. The congregation may request a copy of the proposed high-lighted changes from either Scott Daily or Mitzi Cook. Another meeting will be scheduled at a later date to formally approve these changes.

Thanks to everyone who graciously offered their time and talents in 2017. May God continue to bless this church, its leaders and all its wonderful members and friends in 2017.

Thank You Outgoing Council Members

This month marks the end of Scott Daily, John Daily and Nancy Ninnemann's Church Council terms. Scott, John and Nancy have done an outstanding job adding their strategic thinking, innovative ideas, and prayerful vision for the past three years. Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church thanks them for their dedication, hard work, leadership skills, and tireless efforts to increase the mission and visibility of SOTMLC within the community. We look forward to their ongoing involvement in the church for years to come.



INCOMING COUNCIL MEMBERS



Carolyn Daily has been a member of SotMLC for many years. She has served as the Coordinator for Circle of Care since its initiation. Carolyn Daily has also agreed to become the 2018 Chairperson for the Outreach Ministry Board.



Heidi Schmillen served on Church Council for one year from 2012 to 2013. In addition, after Heidi's Confirmation, she was an Assisting Minister for many years. We welcome Heidi back for another one year term.



Terry Dimattio and his wife, Joanne, in transferred to SOTMLC in December 2013 from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in San Diego where they had been members since 1990. Terry grew up in the Lutheran Church and Joanne was confirmed shortly after they were married in 1973. They have a daughter Jennifer and son-in-law Dave in San Diego. Terry retired from the National Park Service in 2007 after a 33-year career as a ranger. Joanne retired in 2011 from her position as executive secretary to the senior vice president for Prescription Solutions, a mail order pharmacy owned by United Health Care.

Terry and Joanne moved to Driggs in 2012 after having visited Teton Valley each summer since 1995.