



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

January 2024



A House Blessing for Epiphany

The season of Epiphany begins on January 6th – as the journey of the magi is a beloved symbol of our own searching and our own process of seeing God in this world. The invitation is to become followers of the stars, listeners to the dreams, and adventurers into the unknown.

I am also inviting you to begin this year 2024 with *'your house blessing'*...for all who enter this place. The house blessing is a sign you place at the entrance of your home, meant to last for this whole year long.

Epiphany means *shining through* (in Greek) – the coming of the Magi to worship the Christ Child was one of the first instances of God's glory 'shining through Jesus'. Around Epiphany you are invited to gather in your home, to pray, and to bless your house in such a way that asks God's light to shine through and guide our journeys.

Please consider applying this rite in your home at Epiphany. I will put it on the entrance of Shepherd of the Mountains' parsonage.

*This blessing is taken from Augsburg Fortress' Sundays and Seasons for use in your own homes.

Matthew writes that when the magi saw the shining star stop overhead, they were filled with joy. *"On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother"* (Matt. 2:10-11). In the home, Christ is met in family and friends, in visitors and strangers. In the home, faith is shared, nurtured, and put into action. In the home, Christ is welcome.

Twelfth Night (January 5) or another day during the season of Epiphany offers an occasion for gathering with friends and family members for a blessing of the home, using the following as a model. Someone may lead the greeting and blessing, while another person may read the scripture passage. Following an eastern European tradition, a visual blessing may be inscribed with white chalk above the main door; for example, 20 + CMB + 24. The numbers change with each new year. The three letters stand for either the ancient Latin blessing *Christe mansionem benedica*, which means, **"Christ, bless this house,"** or the legendary names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar).

GREETING - *May peace be to this house and to all who enter here. By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.*

READING - *As we prepare to ask God's blessing on this household, let us listen to the words of scripture, from the first chapter of the Gospel of John:*

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace."

INSCRIPTION

This inscription may be made with chalk above the entrance:

20 + C M B + 24

The magi of old, known as C: Caspar, M: Melchior, and B: Balthasar followed the star of God's Son who came to dwell among us

20: two thousand; 24: and twenty-four years ago;

±: Christ, bless this house,

±: and remain with us throughout the new year.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

*O God, you revealed your Son to all people by the shining light of a star. We pray that you bless this home and all who live here with your gracious presence. May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light and your peace our benediction; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*



Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church, ELCA

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office@sotmlc.org

www.shepherdofthemountainsjh.org

Pastor Tim Stadem

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

pastor.tim@sotmlc.org

January 2024 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Years' Day 	2 AA 6:30pm	3	4	5	6
7 Epiphany 1 Around Coffee Table 9 am Worship at 10 am with Pastor Tim The Art of Gathering on Zoom @ 6 pm	8	9 Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom AA 6:30pm	10	11	12	13
14 Epiphany 2 Around Coffee Table 9 am Worship at 10 am with Pastor Tim Council Meets The Art of Gathering on Zoom @ 6 pm	15	16 Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt Group 10:30 am AA 6:30pm	17	18	19 International Potluck Dinner at 5:30 pm 	20
21 Epiphany 3 Around Coffee Table 9 am Worship at 10 am with Pastor Tim The Art of Gathering on Zoom @ 6 pm	22	23 Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt Group 10:30 am AA 6:30pm	24	25	26	27
28 Epiphany 4 Around Coffee Table 9 am Worship at 10 am with Pastor Tim Annual & Special Mtg after church  Special Meeting! The Art of Gathering on Zoom @ 6 pm	29	30 Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt Group 10:30 am AA 6:30pm	31			

Annual Meeting



Don't miss our Annual Church Meeting
taking place on Sunday, January 28th,
after the church service.
Your vote matters!

Board Chairs, Please get your end of the year committee reports into the office by **January 14th**.

Special Meeting



Special Meeting!

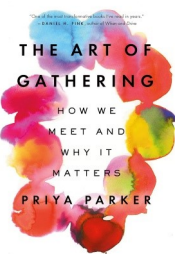
There will be a Special Meeting of the congregation on Sunday, January 28, 2024 immediately following the Annual Meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on accepting the recommendation of the Congregation Council to call Pastor Tim Stadem to be the pastor of Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church. The Congregation Council, acting as the Call Committee, voted unanimously to call Pastor Tim at its regular meeting on December 10, 2023. All voting members of Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church are urged to attend this Special Meeting.

At the Annual Meeting, January 28th, our congregation will also vote on final updates to our constitution. Because this final document is 'a compilation of both constitution and bylaws into 1 document', the process of editing these together is in the final stages. Please look for your copy in a future email or at the church on Sunday. "Thank you for your patience".

The Art of Gathering

You are invited a zoom class named *"The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters"* (zoom class, 4 Sundays in January, 6 to 7pm) Each individual is invited to attend on their own; today (Jan 2nd) is the registration deadline. Pastor Tim will be attending these zoom class and invites others. Here is your registration info – <https://nebraskasynod.org/emmaus-spring-courses/>

Today is the deadline to register.



International Potluck Dinner



Potluck Dinner

Friday, January 19th at 5:30 pm

Bring your favorite food from around the world

Friends and neighbors are welcome,

invite someone to share a meal!

Sunday's Cool for Kids

Sunday's Cool, a brief class for children during worship.

Our Education team needs 4 teachers to lead a class once a month. This exciting opportunity is a goal for ministry with families. The class is 15 minutes long, during the sermon time. Can you help? Training provided. Contact Pastor Tim if you want to try it out. We hope you can join us!



Our Church Committees Need You!

Are you looking for a way to strengthen your relationship with God and contribute positively to your church and your community? Now is the perfect time to volunteer for one of our dedicated church boards!

As a member of one of our church boards, you can get involved in fun activities while embodying the church's core values. Sign up sheets, with a brief description are available in the narthex.

Anyone is invited to join, no experience necessary!



Thank you From Pastor Tim & Nancy



Dear Congregation,
We share a profound gratitude and encouragement in relationship with the people and ministries of Shepherd of the Mountains.
"Thank You" for your generous gifts at the end of 2023.
We are excited to enter 2024 with your partnership and God's promises.
"Thanks be to God for you!"
Pastor Tim and Nancy Parisee

God's Global Barnyard



Come by the church and check out the little Christmas tree by the front door. During this Christmas and Epiphany season, the people of Shepherd of the Mountains are serving our global neighbors.

We have selected 3 critters (pig, bees, goat) that you can give through Good Gifts by choosing one from our tree; another option is to pick one from the catalogue.

You may write a check to Shepherd of the Mountains Church and insert into the envelope (we will send 1 check to ELCA Good Gifts) or take home the catalogue and make your own arrangements...then please tell us what you have decided to do. Thank you!



Thank You

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



- Chris Thompson for helping Pastor Tim bring food to the Food Pantry.
- Carolyn Daily & Margie Aeckerle for the delicious luncheon that they made for the Quilt Group.
- Jolene Moulder for singing at our Holden Evening Prayer service.
- To all who volunteered to help with our Christmas services.
- To Pastor Ben Nardi for filling in on December 31st.

Prayers & Thanksgivings

- Scott Daily, just released from hospital and recovering at home with Influenza A.
- Mary Lou Klene, foot infection.
- Margie Aeckerle, health
- Dave Shields (Doris Dahlin's son in law) and wife Barbara. Dave is slowly dying with Lewy Bodies Dementia.
- Devastating losses in the Middle East and Ukraine wars.



*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:

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

January Birthdays

Jo Schmillen on January 7th

Tracy Welch on January 15th

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



Holden Evening Prayer



Above: Pastor Tim and Jolene Moulder, along with Nancy Wilbrecht, lead the congregation at the Holden Evening Prayer service on December 6th.

Right: the Quilt Ladies, along with Pastor Tim finish up a book they were reading.



Left: The Quilt Group show off one of the many quilts that they made for Lutheran World Relief. The finished quilts get shipped around the world to help those in need.



December Services

Far Left: Pastor Tim gives a children's lesson at the December 17th service.

Left: Our Christmas Eve candlelight service was a delight for all who attended.

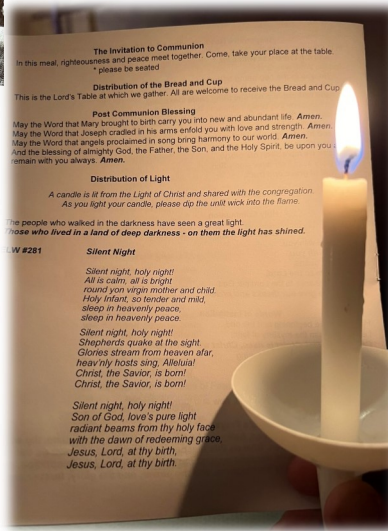
Ladies Quilt Luncheon

The Quilt Group ladies got together on December 12th to host a spectacular holiday luncheon & cookie swap.



Right: Margie Aeckerle, Karen Schroeder, & Carolyn Daily show off their holiday attire at the Quilt Luncheon.

Below: Carolyn Daily shows off the cross quilt that the women had worked on this fall. The quilt will be hanging in the narthex for the foreseeable future.



December Church Council Meeting

Highlight of discussions and planning - keeping our congregation informed.

- 1) Discussion to Call Pastor Tim – unanimous vote to recommend at Special Meeting immediately after Annual Meeting, Jan 28th
- 2) Discussion and approval of Pastor Compensation Package
- 3) Guiding Principles – prayer and discussion around our top 5 outcomes: Building Community; Serving Others; Teaching Discipleship; Worship Excellence; Ecumenism
- 4) Discussed completing Constitution & ByLaw document for vote at Annual Meeting



Quilt Group in January



The Ladies' Quilt Group will resume meeting in January on the 16th, 23rd & 30th at 10:30 am.

These ladies are a barrel of fun!

Any one can join this group at any time, no experience necessary.

For more information please contact the church office at 733-4382.

Become a Sunday Service Volunteer

Calling All Helpers!

We are looking for church volunteers to join us in serving our church family.

Volunteering is an amazing way to get involved and help others. As a church volunteer, your assistance will be greatly appreciated and valued.

Come join us on this journey of selfless service and making a difference for our Sunday worship time.

Sign up in the narthex each month to help with Assistant Minister, Reader, Greeter/Usher, Counter, Altar Minister, Coffee Hour, or Teacher.

All are welcome to help out!



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

December 2023

attendance & offering

December 3	23	\$ 2,160.00
December 6 Holden EP	13	N/A
December 10	23	\$1,825.00
December 17	30	\$ 3,695.00
December 24 - 10 am	11	\$ 3,875.00
December 24 - Christmas Eve	53	\$ 1,815.00
December 25—Christmas Day	11	\$ 123.00
December 31	16	\$ 447.00

\$3,087.00 is needed weekly
your donations matter!

	January 7 Epiphany 1	January 14 Epiphany 2	January 21 Epiphany 3	January 28 Epiphany 4
Preacher	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem
Assistant Minister	HELP NEEDED	Mizelle	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Reader	Lorrie Lee	Mizelle	Lorrie Lee	Sherry Kinsella
Greeter/Ushers	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Counters	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Altar Minister	Pam Zernis	Robyn Lunsford	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Coffee Hour	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Teacher	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED