

Shepherd of the Mountains

Growing Season



rejoice **RENEW** reach out

July Sunday Worship Schedule

8:00am Spoken Service with Holy Communion

9:00am Adult Study/Sunday School

10:00am Worship with Holy Communion



Growing Season

Dear Shepherd of the Mountains,

My neighbors have witnessed that I'm a bit of a black thumb. I had to be taught to mow, for goodness' sake! That said, I get the basics: growth needs water and food. And that's true for growth in faith too. Perhaps the most important part of every Sunday worship is gathering to renew ourselves in the sacraments – through water, wine and bread – rooting ourselves in our baptisms and being nourished through communion. Faith food is also found in God's word; in reading and hearing scripture. This summer (beginning July 9th), we will pilot an intergenerational Bible study during the Sunday 9:00am education hour, looking at 8 stories from the Old Testament.

To echo and expand on the book of Revelation's invitation to worship (22:17):

All who are thirsty, come.

All who are hungry, come.

While I struggle with plants, I do a bit better with mammals. Middle-age dogs learn new tricks (and continue to train their owners). My nephew, once indifferent, now interacts with me on facetime: mimicking actions and playing peek-a-boo. Growth in faith needs space to practice, to rest, and to explore. Growth in faith thrives with the discipline of study, with mentors and teachers and peers. Growth in faith flourishes with fellowship. Growth in faith needs challenges to reach for.

Hopefully last month's newsletter planted some seeds for you, thinking about what board you might want to serve on and grow with. Will it be helping us steward our space with the Management Board? Will it be shaping curriculum with Youth & Education? Will it be on Fellowship, supporting and strengthening our connections with each other? Will it be becoming more involved with Blood Drive, Circle of Care, photo hosting or challenging the congregation even more in our outreach? Our official Annual Ministry Board Renewal will be incorporated into the July 16th worship services. While this month may seem relatively quiet when you look at the church calendar, don't let that fool you. Starting on Sundays and in all these ministry opportunities, there are so many ways to grow together!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Pastor Inger Hanson

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PSALM, PASSAGE, PRAYER

Passage

*On The Sacrament of the Altar [Holy Communion] from
Luther's Large Catechism
(with emphasis added by Pastor Inger)*

Christ does not say, "If you believe or if you are worthy, you have my body and blood," but rather "Take, eat and drink, this is my body and blood." Likewise, when he says "Do this" (namely, what I now do, what I institute, what I give you and bid you take), this is as much as to say, "No matter whether you are worthy or unworthy, you have here His body and blood by the power of these words that are connected to the bread and wine."

...we go to the sacrament because there we receive a great treasure, through and in which we obtain the forgiveness of sins. Why? Because the words are there, and they impart it to us! For this reason he bids me eat and drink, that it may be mine and do me good as a sure pledge and sign - indeed, as the very gift he has provided for me against my sins, death, and all evils.

Therefore, it is appropriately called food of the soul, for it **nourishes and strengthens the new creature**. For in the first instance, we are born anew through baptism. However, our human flesh and blood, as I have said, have not lost their old skin. There are so many hindrances and attacks of the devil and the world that we often grow weary and faint and at times even stumble. Therefore the Lord's Supper is given as a daily food and sustenance so that our faith may be **refreshed and strengthened** and that it may not succumb in the struggle but become stronger and stronger. For the **new life** should be one that continually develops and progresses.

But it has to suffer a great deal of opposition. The devil is a furious enemy; when he sees that we resist him and attack the old creature, and when he cannot rout us by force, he sneaks and skulks about at every turn, trying all kinds of tricks, and does not stop until he has finally worn us out so that we either renounce our faith or lose heart and become indifferent or impatient. For times like these, when our heart feels too sorely pressed, this comfort of the Lord's Supper is given to bring us **new strength and refreshment**.



Psalm 92

It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

²to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,

³to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

⁴For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

⁵How great are your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!

⁶The dullard cannot know, the stupid cannot understand this:

⁷though the wicked sprout like grass and all evildoers flourish, they are doomed to destruction forever,

⁸but you, O LORD, are on high forever.

⁹For your enemies, O LORD, for your enemies shall perish; all evildoers shall be scattered.

¹⁰But you have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox; you have poured over me fresh oil.

¹¹My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies; my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.

¹²The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

¹³They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God.

¹⁴In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap,

¹⁵showing that the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

Prayer

Drawn from Paul's Prayer for Spiritual Growth (Ephesians 3:14-21)

Source of all life, root us in your love. Give us the strength of your Spirit. Make our hearts homes for Christ. Open new doors of faith for us. Help us to comprehend your width-widening and length-outlasting, height-surpassing and depth-defying love; that, filled to the brim, we may live our faith more fully, and share our faith more freely with others. Amen.

WEEKLY EVENTS IN JULY

- Tuesdays:** Men's text study each Tuesday at 7:00am at the Virginian Restaurant starting on July 11th.
Wednesdays: Roaming Coffee Hour will be each Wednesday from 8:00am to 10:00am at Picnic during the month of July starting on July 12th.

EVENTS IN JULY AT THE CHURCH

Sunday, July 9th ►  **Church Council** meeting is Sunday, July 9th following the 10:00am service. Church Council members: Scott Daily-President, Holly Luense-Vice President, Colleen Thompson-Secretary, John Daily, Nancy Ninnemann, Chris Moulder, David Svendsen, Jim Wells, Sherry Kinsella and William Shedd.

Sunday, July 16th ►  **Love. Grow. Serve.** **Annual Ministry Board Renewal** will follow the 10:00am worship service on Sunday, July 16th. Please refer to page 5 of this newsletter for additional information on the five boards: Fellowship, Management, Outreach, Worship, and Youth & Education.

Tuesday, July 18th ►  **Shepherds of the Cloth Quilting Club:** Everyone is invited to join the Shepherds of the Cloth Quilting Club on Tuesday, July 18th from 1:00pm to 3:30pm. The group will not be meeting the first Tuesday of the month, since it falls on the 4th of July.

Sunday, July 23rd ►  **Liturgical Ministers** **Assistant Minister, Usher and Acolyte Training** will follow the 10:00am worship service on Sunday, July 23rd. If you are interested in applying your time and talents in one or more of these important worship positions, please see the sign-up sheet located on the table in the narthex.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS/THANK YOU'S

 **NEW WEBSITE:** Please take a moment to visit our new website at: Shepherdofthemountainsjh.org

 **A Room with a Reason Meeting:** The new date and time for the planning meeting to discuss "A Room with a Reason," providing rooms/housing for the upcoming solar eclipse will be announced this month.

 Thank You to the Fellowship Ministry Board on another wonderful and creative event for Father's Day Sunday. The Teton Raptor Fest and concert was a fun-filled event. Thank you to all who attended.

 **ALTAR FLOWERS:** The flower chart is located on the bulletin board in the narthex if you would like to sign up for an upcoming Sunday or special occasion. A gentle reminder to please place your \$28.00 check in the offering.

Briar Rose will be closing in September. The proprietor, Jean, will not be able to accommodate our flower orders after the end of August. Shepherd of the Mountains is looking for someone from within our congregation who would be willing to fill our altar flower requests. The church would provide the funds for the purchase of the flowers, you would purchase the flowers and create the arrangements. If interested, please see Rose Jeske, Mitzi Cook or Pastor Inger.

UPCOMING IN AUGUST

 The Jackson Community Blood Drive will be Wednesday, August 9th from 12:30pm to 6:00pm and Thursday, August 10th from 8:00am to 12:00pm.

 **Solar Eclipse Evening Service Cancellation Notice:** After conversations with fellow pastors, as well as the Church Council, a decision was made to cancel the Solar Eclipse Special Evening Service that was scheduled for Sunday, August 20th. This consensus was reached by taking into account the high volume of travelers/visitors expected in our area, Teton County's stretched and stressed resources, as well as the safety of our members. Shepherd of the Mountains has elected to err on the side of caution. We hope that you and your families enjoy the solar eclipse and would love to have your photos submitted for our September newsletter.



Members on the Move: Greg Fontaine

Greg Fontaine has accepted a position as a Senior Counselor to a company of 50 high school age midshipmen at Culver Summer Schools located in Culver, Indiana. Culver Naval School is a honor naval school with a Department of the Navy designation.

Culver Military Academy dates back to 1894 and Culver Naval School dates back to 1902. Culver Woodcraft Camp dates back to 1912 and was founded by Dan Beard, an American scouting pioneer. The camp is located on Lake Maxinkwokee, Indiana's second largest natural lake. Over 1,500 students attend the summer programs from all 50 states and over 20 countries.

Greg keeps involving himself in fascinating opportunities, from his recent stint in Washington D.C. as part of the Presidential Inauguration Committee, to this new adventure in Indiana. Please keep Greg in your prayers this summer!



Shepherds of the Cloth Quilting Group

On Sunday, June 11th during the 10:00am worship service, 8 quilts were blessed and are ready for shipment to Lutheran World Relief for distribution around the globe to those in need.

Lutheran World relief reported that the quilts Shepherd of the Mountains provided last year were shipped to India. In February 2015, LWR shipped quilts to our partner in India (Church's Auxiliary or Social Action). The distribution of the LWR quilts will benefit hospitals, homes for the elderly, orphanages, and other institutions serving some of India's poorest and most underprivileged people. These institutions do not have sufficient resources to serve their patients fully and will often look to humanitarian organizations for supplementary support, in terms of clothing, blankets, school supplies, etc. This distribution of quilts is expected to reach 45,000 people over the course of a year.

We also learned that the school kits we made last year were shipped to Honduras.

In November of 2016, LWR shipped quilts and kits to our partner in Honduras (Children's Gift Ministry). Without school supplies and closed-toe shoes, children in Honduras are not permitted to attend school. Tens of thousands of children in Honduras are a part of families who cannot afford even the most basic necessities, so parents have to choose between feeding their children or sending them to school. The school kits will be used to take away the need to choose between food and education. The distribution reached 14,175 children.

MINISTRY BOARD INFORMATION

Worship Ministry Board — Liturgy comes from the Greek for "people" and "work" – worship is the work of the people! The Worship Board helps shape our experience of each liturgical season. There are many opportunities to serve as an assisting minister, reader, usher or acolyte, or behind-the-scenes with the altar guild.

Fellowship Ministry Board — Fellowship doesn't always happen formally. You will catch parishioners biking out to Dornan's or grabbing coffee together. Jolene Moulder and Sherry Kinsella coordinate our more official events. We've had potlucks and picnics in the park, progressive dinners, and even a Mardi Gras party!

Outreach Ministry Board — We are a little church with a big heart. Whether you have an hour or would like to commit to long-term service, Shepherd of the Mountains has a variety of ways to connect with the needs of our community: Circle of Care, Shepherds of the Cloth Quilting Group, Jackson Cupboard Food Bank, Lutheran Photo Hosts, and Fast Friends.

Youth & Education Ministry Board — We have a team of dedicated volunteers who coordinate the education opportunities for our children. During the school year, Sunday School is offered during the education hour between services. Our confirmation units are offered once a month. We also offer special events geared towards young people. Pastor Inger led an "Advent After School" program, reviewing Bible stories with an interactive Advent calendar. In the summer, we have a long tradition of holding Vacation Bible School. Adults have multiple education opportunities on Sundays between services. Tuesday mornings a men's breakfast group gathers at The Virginian to look at the lectionary readings for the following Sunday. Once a month a women's group meets to discuss a book by a contemporary theologian.

Management Ministry Board — Management provides for the comprehensive and sustained maintenance of corporate functions, including attention to church and parsonage maintenance, capital improvements, legal issues, annual budgets, administration and insurance.



Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg is a big name in American Lutheran history (Pastor Inger discovered when she arrived at the Philadelphia seminary). A German trained clergyman, legitimately ordained, and in good standing with the European church, Muhlenberg arrived in 1742, and played a critical role as both a pastor and an organizer of the church.

Muhlenberg faced challenges in how we do church logistically. There was "a pragmatic difference between the European Lutheran situation and that developing in North America. The old way, in established churches, was that taxes or a patron paid the expenses; the new way, in a voluntary church, was that everyone needed to contribute something willingly. For good or for ill, the American church depended upon the lay members to pay the pastor's salary and other expenses."

Initially called to serve three congregations, his field soon expanded. (49) He preached in both German and English. He worked with other congregations to form the Ministerium of Pennsylvania - the first effort at a "synod" linking American Lutherans to one another beyond local settings. (52) He is also credited with helping create a worship book (with liturgies, hymns and catechism material) to standardize teachings - a precursor to the LBW and the now the ELW that still function to bind us together with congregations across the United States.

- Drawn from L. DeAne Lagerquist's *The Lutherans*



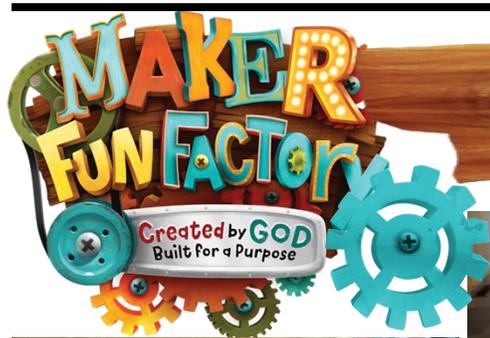
25th Anniversary: Pastor Al Schoonover

Thank you to Pastor Al Schoonover for leading worship once again on June 25th. What a pleasure to have both he and De back among us in honor of our 25th Anniversary. Pastor Al served as the senior pastor of Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church from 2010 to 2015. His creative energy, meaningful sermons and love of the Lord were infectious!



Pastor Al continues to make the Gospel come to life in his colorful and personal messages, and on Sunday, June 25th he did not disappoint. He delivered a wonderful sermon filled with thoughts on his time at Shepherd of the Mountains and the celebration of our 25 years in the ELCA. His was a message of growth and hope, not only for the mature members of our flock, but for the youth of our congregation—the future of the church.

Following the worship service the Fellowship Ministry Board provided an opportunity for coffee and conversation. It was wonderful to get the opportunity to spend time with both Pastor Al and De. We thank them for their willingness to participate in our 25th Anniversary celebration.



Built by God
Created for a Purpose



It was an awesome week at Maker Fun Factory VBS! Thank you to all who helped in any way and/or provided supplies. More details will be included in the August newsletter.



ATTENDANCE AND WEEKLY TOTAL INCOME 2017 — Combined 8am and 10am Services					
May 2017			June 2017		
7th	39	\$4,008.00*	4th	58	\$4,615.00*
14th	40	\$1,518.00*	11th	43	\$2,264.00
21st	36	\$1,025.00	18th	34	\$2,635.00*
28th	<u>33</u>	<u>\$ 848.70</u>	25th	<u>48</u>	<u>\$ 696.00</u>
Total	148	\$7,399.70	Total	183	\$10,210.00

*Includes Simply Giving (1st & 15th)

FINANCIAL REPORT YEAR TO DATE THROUGH MAY 2017	
Receipts/income through 5-31-17	\$55,216.67
Disbursements/ expenses through 5-31-17	\$(60,539.61)
Net income through 5-31-17	\$ (5,322.94)
2017 Budgeted Expenses	\$ 145,300

SPECIAL OFFERING AND DESIGNATED GIFTS (MAY 31, 2017):

Parsonage Roof Replacement Fund	\$6,750.00
25th Anniversary: Marty Haugen Music Fund	\$5,801.99*

*Includes deduction of expenses.



Shepherd of the Mountains is a vital contributor to the Jackson Cupboard food bank each year. The donation basket is located next to the piano in the sanctuary. Please make a note to add an item or two to your shopping list to help those who struggle with food needs in our community.

Cereal † Flour † Sugar † Canned Meats † Soups
† Canned Vegetables & Fruit † Dry Goods

Worship Ministers for July 2017

	July 2 4th Pentecost	July 9 5th Pentecost	July 16 6th Pentecost	July 23 7th Pentecost	July 30 8th Pentecost
	<i>Pastor Inger Hanson</i>	<i>Pastor Inger Hanson</i>	<i>Pastor Inger Hanson</i>	<i>Pastor Inger Hanson</i>	<i>Pastor Inger Hanson</i>
Liturgical Assistant	<i>William Shedd</i>	<i>John Daily</i>	<i>Tanya Shedd</i>	<i>Holly Luense</i>	<i>Mike Eden</i>
Altar Minister	<i>Diana Eden</i>	<i>Robyn Lunsford</i>	<i>Rose Jeske</i>	<i>Sherry Kinsella</i>	<i>Jo Schmillen</i>
Lector	<i>Tanya Shedd</i>	<i>Terry Dimattio</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>
Greeter	<i>Colleen Thompson</i>	<i>Holly Luense</i>	<i>David Svendsen</i>	<i>Chris Moulder</i>	<i>Nancy Ninnemann</i>
Ushers	<i>Thompson Family</i>	<i>Holly Luense</i> <i>Robyn Lunsford</i>	<i>Steffan Freeman</i> <i>Mike Eden</i>	<i>Moulder Family</i>	<i>Shedd Family</i>
Counters	<i>Pam Zernis</i> <i>Steffan Freeman</i>	<i>Nancy Barge</i> <i>Sherry Kinsella</i>	<i>William Shedd</i> <i>Steffan Freeman</i>	<i>Nikki Thompson</i> <i>Pam Zernis</i>	<i>Steffan Freeman</i> <i>Nancy Barge</i>
Piano	<i>TBA</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>TBA</i>