

# Shepherd of the Mountains

July 2020



## Kyrie eleison

on our world and on our way

### Tiny Desk Worship

No in-person indoor worship at SMLC  
as we take COVID-19 precautions.

Email us to receive weekly worship resources at home and  
instructions for our “Tiny Desk Worship” series!

750 Seneca Lane  
P.O. Box 3257  
Jackson, WY 83001-3257  
307-733-4382

[sotmlcjackson@gmail.com](mailto:sotmlcjackson@gmail.com)  
[www.shepherdofthemountainsjh.org](http://www.shepherdofthemountainsjh.org)



## Contact Information

Pastor Inger Hanson

### Email:

pastor.inger@  
sotmlc.org

(preferred for non-critical  
communication)

### Office:

(307) 733-4382

### Cell Phone:

(307) 248-0438

### Office Hours

by appointment  
Tuesdays,  
Wednesdays  
or Thursdays

Call or Message  
during

### Open Heart

### Online Office Hours

Wednesday  
8—10 am

### Days Off

Mondays &  
Saturdays

## Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day

Dear Shepherd of the Mountains,

July! Summer in Jackson Hole is so verdant, so full (even with and in spite of COVID-19). I love that in the midst of uncertainty, bear 399 showed up with not just with twins or triplets, but with quadruplets. In the cathedral of the Tetons in their summer glory we see abundant life. Residents know, however, that the green meadows were buried under winter snows; that the wildflowers contended with hard spring frosts; and that bears expend tremendous reserves to raise multiple cubs, sometimes impacting their own survival. There is a lesson here: a reminder that easy isn't always healthy, that great beauty lies on the other side of work and wait, that resurrection and ascension are on the other side of the cross.

Even as we soak in this taste of abundant life, this gift that is *already*, we know that there are still things that are *not yet*, that we work and wait for. The synod has asked congregations to wait until there are a minimum of two weeks of declining active COVID-19 cases before considering offering in-person worship. Just as the numbers were looking promising, new cases emerged. While there is a potential that we will offer a no-communion, no-singing morning prayer service at some point, these are the some of the considerations your council and I are weighing.

But it is not all wait. June also brought racial justice sharply into focus. I am trying to keep abreast of, and pass along, ways the wider ELCA is engaged and inviting us to this work. As we try to make sense of the new ways loaded words like "racism" or "white supremacy" are being understood, to listen better to neighbors near and far, we have taken on some reading homework. We have joined forces with our local Episcopal and Presbyterian to collectively read Austin Channing Brown's "I'm Still Here," so that we can reference the same pages as we discern next steps. Look for some discussion opportunities in the July calendar!

COVID-19. Racial justice. *Lord, have mercy.*

As we wait, as we work,

that prayer, that song, isn't of despair.

We sing it with the confidence of those who trust in God's abundant mercy,

that are surrounded not just with life,

but with abundance,

with the wonder and awe of deep greens and quadruplet cubs.

We lean and live into the hope of the inbreaking of

God's kingdom:

*Kyrie eleison*, on our world and on our way.

In Christ,  
Pastor Inger



## EVERY WEEK staying connected even as we physically stay apart

### SUNDAY



On Sunday mornings, check for an email from Pastor Inger with an At-Home Worship Service, including the readings for the day, a sermon, songs for reflection, and prayers. A "Tiny Desk Worship" will also be available on the church's Facebook page.

Sign up to assist or read via our "Sign Up Genius" volunteer system (email Tanya Shedd (thobbs6@hotmail.com) for more details). The many voices of Christ's body make each service special.



We have resumed our Picnic & Persephone Pick Up shift for **Hole Food Rescue!** Would you like to help? Talk to Robyn Lunsford (rlunsford@jorgeng.com)

### TUESDAY



**Holy Horizons**, our women's contemporary theology group, is finishing up Emmy Kegler's *One Coin Found*. We will resume meeting **Sunday, July 19th**, when Pastor Inger has returned from vacation. Join by ZOOM at 7 pm for social time; 7:30 pm for discussion. Please email Pastor Inger (pastor.inger@sotmlc.org) for a ZOOM invite.



**Bible & Breakfast**, our weekly coed group that looks at the lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday, meets via ZOOM. We meet from 8 - 9 am (Jackson time). Grab a cup of coffee and your most Virginian-worthy breakfast, and join us! If you would like to attend, please email Scott Daily (scott@hoback.org).

### WEDNESDAY



**Open Heart Online Office Hours** from 8:00am to 10:00am. In lieu of "Open Office Hours" at Picnic, Pastor Inger is setting aside this time to be present online, taking prayer requests for parishioners and the wider community. Prayer requests may be public or messaged to her privately. No online office hours July 1st and 8th while Pastor Inger is on vacation.

## EVENTS IN JULY

JULY  
1-14



Pastor Inger will be on vacation. The Rev. Ben Nardi is available for pastoral care. His number is 307-413-9224.

JULY  
5



The Rev. Ben Nardi leads Tiny Desk Worship for the 5th Sunday after Pentecost! Special thanks to Brent Schaffer for taking on the burden of tech support.

JULY  
12

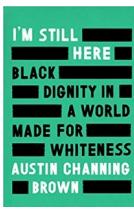


The Rev. Ben Nardi leads Tiny Desk Worship for the 6th Sunday after Pentecost! Special thanks to Brent Schaffer for providing tech support behind the scenes.

JULY  
19

Church Council will meet at 11 am. If you have something you would like on the agenda, please email a council member.

JULY  
22



**Racial Harmony as a Curtain: Zoom Discussion** focusing on Chapters 1-4 of Austin Channing Brown's "I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness" 7 pm. St. John's, PCJH siblings, and others welcome! Please email Pastor Inger for a zoom invite (pastor.inger@sotmlc.org).

JULY  
29



**Questioning Niceness: Zoom Discussion** focusing on Chapters 5-7 of Austin Channing Brown's "I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness" 7 pm. St. John's, PCJH siblings, and others welcome! Please email Pastor Inger for a zoom invite (pastor.inger@sotmlc.org).

TBA



Even as town and county measures loosen, the church has to weigh the risks of singing and communion practices and we don't have a clear timeline for when in-person indoor worship or other activities might resume.

## your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor



### CONNECTION IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

Dear Friends at Shepherd of the Mountains  
Lutheran Church,

Many are living in unprecedented times of hardship and strife. But, you all have been a beacon of light for us during these crazy times. Recently my mother and I were the recipients of one of your generous gift cards from the Old Bill's Fun Run. We really have been struggling financially and on top of it I have been care taking for my elderly mother for a while now.

The gift card truly helped take some of the burden off my shoulders. I just wanted to let you all know that your kindness and generosity has been a Godsend. Words cannot say how grateful I am that you thought of us during our time of need.

God bless you all.



Our little church continues to make a significant impact on hunger in Jackson Hole. We have recently restarted our shift with Hole Food Rescue, volunteering on Sundays to rescue bread and baked goods from Persephone and Picnic.

We used the remainder of our Old Bill's and Outreach funds on Smith's and Albertson's grocery cards (special thanks to **Sherry Kinsella** and **Carolyn Daily** for your work). Over these past few months, we have spent \$3,880 and helped 39 households. As our resources have been exhausted, Pastor Inger reached out to First Baptist. They hope to continue to meet this need.



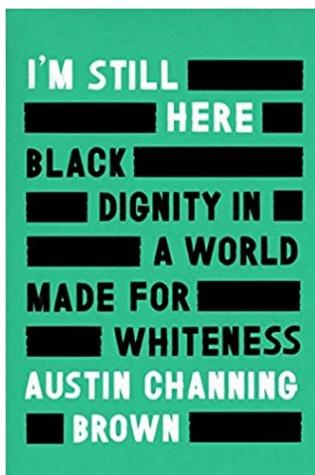
A lovely "thank you" email we received.  
Another family even brought us flowers!

## assistance and presence

The ministry of presence is real. Our church administrator, **Nancy Parisee**, strives to connect with each gift card recipient. She uncovered some general miscommunications about food resources and other assistance programs in the valley, and has quickly summarized and translated updated policies so that these resources are available to all.

In one case, Nancy gently followed up on an application to One22 that had somehow fallen through the cracks. It was quickly fast-tracked for approval. Nancy's listening ear and phone call meant that not only did a family receive grocery assistance, but was connected with significant relief from another non-profit.

color  
amazed  
preaching



## truth and justice and grace

tiny desk worship has allowed us to hear from the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, the Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, our Synod Bishop, the Rev. Kristen Kuempel, and our Assistant to the Bishop, the Rev. Phil Misner. To take advantage of the growing diversity of the wider church, the synod approved a grant to periodically bring the preaching of people of color to our virtual pulpits. Pastor Inger wrote the grant, and is excited for us to learn from these voices!



### Multi-congregational Reading Austin Channing Brown's "I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness"

At the end of 2018, Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran, St. John's Episcopal, the Presbyterian Church of Jackson Hole and the Teton County Library partnered to engage Austin Channing Brown's powerful memoir "I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness" with community leaders.

Now we are renewing and expanding our ecumenical partnership to invite our parishioners to a multi-congregational reading. Our hope is that it facilitates our Jackson faith community getting "on the same page" as we discern the work we need to do.

This is a short, accessible book from a leading Christian voice on racial justice. You can order it from a local bookshop, or find it on amazon: <https://amzn.to/3dHEHNY>



**Wednesday, July 22**

**7 pm**

**Racial Harmony as a Curtain  
Zoom Discussion focusing on  
Chapters 1-4**

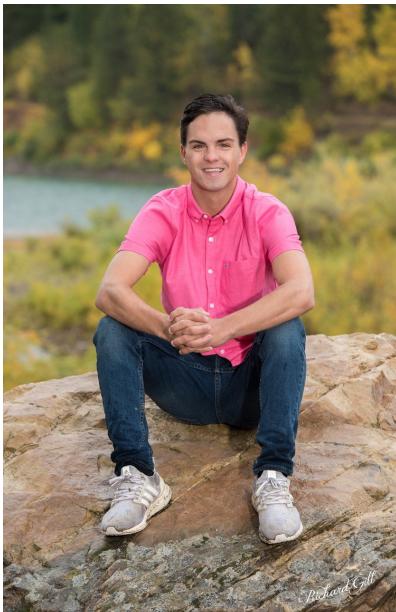
**Wednesday, July 29**

**7 pm**

**Questioning Niceness  
Zoom Discussion focusing on  
Chapters 5-7**

St. John's, PCJH siblings, and others welcome!

Please email Pastor Inger for a zoom invite ([pastor.inger@sotmlc.org](mailto:pastor.inger@sotmlc.org)).



## For peace in our hearts For peace in our homes For friends and family

On June 14th, as part of our tiny desk worship, we had a special blessing of our 2020 graduates, **Noah Luese** and **Jasper Welch**. Noah is here for the summer and then heads to Arizona with his dad to explore a new area and new opportunities. Jasper also takes off in the fall, attending the University of Wyoming as one of the Trustees' Scholars. Congratulations!



## CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES



◀ **Tracie and Bill Welch** are preparing for an empty nest!



▲ **Pastor Inger and Meghan McCready** (and Hobey) went on a hike to discuss the candidacy process and ELCA seminaries.

▲ Nothing can keep **Scott Daily** from Bible & Breakfast now that we have Zoom!

**Jolene Moulder, Ethan Moulder, and Nancy Parisee** numbered among the 102 people who donated through our June blood drive.  
What a gift! ▼



## JUNE BLOOD DRIVE



Karen Schroeder and Pastor Inger were part of the beam signing for the new Sage Living Center on June 16th. ►



## That you center our lives in the water and the Word

<sup>5</sup>You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. <sup>6</sup>Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. <sup>7</sup>Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. <sup>8</sup>Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, <sup>9</sup>and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:5-9

### A meditation from the Puerto Rican Jewish poet Aurora Levins Morales:

Say these words when you lie down  
and when you rise up,  
when you go out and when you return.  
In times of mourning  
and in times of joy.  
Inscribe them on your doorposts,  
embroider them on your garments,  
tattoo them on your shoulders,  
teach them to your children,  
your neighbors, your enemies,  
recite them in your sleep,  
here in the cruel shadow of empire:  
Another world is possible.

Thus spoke the prophet Roque Dalton:  
All together they have more death than we,  
but all together, we have more life than they.  
There is more bloody death in their hands  
than we could ever wield, unless  
we lay down our souls to become them,  
and then we will lose everything.

So instead,  
imagine winning.  
This is your sacred task.  
This is your power.  
Imagine every detail of winning,  
the exact smell of the summer streets  
in which no one has been shot, the muscles  
you have never unclenched from worry, gone soft as  
newborn skin, the sparkling taste of food  
when we know that no one on earth is hungry,  
that the beggars are fed,  
that the old man under the bridge and the woman  
wrapping herself in thin sheets in the back seat of a car,  
and the children who suck on stones,  
nest under a flock of roofs  
that keep multiplying their shelter.

Lean with all your being towards that day

when the poor of the world  
shake down a rain of good fortune  
out of the heavy clouds,  
and justice rolls down like waters.

Defend the world in which we win  
as if it were your child.  
It is your child.  
Defend it as if it were your lover.  
It is your lover.

When you inhale and when you exhale  
breathe the possibility of another world  
into the 37.2 trillion cells of your body  
until it shines with hope.  
Then imagine more.

Imagine rape is unimaginable.  
Imagine war is a scarcely credible rumor  
That the crimes of our age, the grotesque  
inhumanities of greed,  
the sheer and astounding shamelessness of it,  
the vast fortunes  
made by stealing lives,  
the horrible normalcy it came to have,  
is unimaginable to our heirs,  
the generations of the free.

Don't waver.  
Don't let despair sink its sharp teeth  
into the throat with which you sing.  
Escalate your dreams.  
Make them burn so fiercely  
that you can follow them down  
any dark alleyway of history  
and not lose your way.  
Make them burn clear as a starry drinking gourd  
over the grim fog of exhaustion,  
and keep walking.

Hold hands. Share water.  
Keep imagining.  
So that we,  
and the children of our children's children  
may live.

June 2020		
1st Simply Giving		\$ 1,675.00
Week of 1st	NA	\$ 3,360.00
Week of 8th	NA	\$ 1,040.00
15th Simply Giving		\$ 1,330.00
Week of 15th	NA	\$ 1,490.00
Week of 22nd	NA	\$ 96.80
Week of 29th	NA	\$ 960.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>\$ 9,951..80</b>

Note: Weekly budget needs: \$2,375.00



### We need your help.

As many churches are experiencing, when we don't gather in person, people tend to forget to send in their planned offerings.

Each year, you probably have a rough idea of how you will support our congregation. Please take a moment to see where you are.

Thank you for your generosity!

*You can mail your offering directly to the church*

Shepherd of the Mountains  
PO Box 3257  
Jackson, WY 83001

**Many the gifts, many the works!  
Your voices make tiny desk worship special.**

With Tiny Desk Worship, volunteering for our services is easier than ever! Have you always wanted to read or lead the prayers, but suffer from stage fright? Now is your chance! No video, just voice—send recordings to Pastor Inger and she edits the service together.

If you would like to help, please ask Tanya Shedd

*Thank you!*

**Church Office Hours**  
**Tuesdays & Thursdays**  
**8:30 am - 3 :30 pm**

**breeze**

**Online Giving**  
*is simple and easy*

Have you ever thought about giving your offering through online but don't know how?

We now are offering through our Breeze program online giving to everyone in our parish.

You may sign up to give one time, weekly, monthly, or yearly at no additional cost to the church.

Shepherd of the Mountains now offers two additional ways to give Online Giving - Simply click the link below and you are on your way to helping to support your church.

<https://sotmlcjackson.breezechms.com/give/online>

Or you can simply text your offering to our special text number  
307-207-3866

Breeze does charge the church 2.9% for credit cards and 1% for Arch payments; please consider putting those amounts into your donations.

Mailing your check to the church is just another way to give.

***Thank you to those of you who have already donated;  
your gifts to the church are a blessing!***