

Shepherd of the Mountains

June 2020

*Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more
Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all*

**One bread,
one body,
one Spirit**



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!

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www.shepherdofthemountainsjh.org



Strengthened by Measureless Love

Contact Information

Pastor Inger Hanson

Email:

pastor.inger@
sotmlc.org

*(preferred for non-critical
communication)*

Office:

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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

Dear Shepherd of the Mountains,

The body of Christ has surprised and delighted me in that, even when we can't assemble in person, we have continued to connect and even thrive using online opportunities. I am enjoying hearing different voices leading the prayers or reading, the increased participation in education groups, and frequently more substantive exchanges after a service than just a smiles and handshakes (though I miss those too). I miss, however, the swell of voices added together, and communion.

I used to imagine a huge celebration when we were all gathered again, with song and feast. However, even as state and county regulations ease, public health officials consistently predict a long trajectory for this pandemic, and religious gatherings are considered highly contagious events. The acts of singing, sharing communion, and the familiarity of people across households – things we treasure and celebrate at SMLC – also create more risk for spreading the virus. For now, Tiny Desk Worship allows a more robust worship than we would be able to offer in person, and continues to protect and include our most vulnerable.

However, Tiny Desk Worship, as a pre-recorded service that we access at different times, does not include communion. Consecrated bread and wine, means of God's grace, are ways that we are tangibly comforted and strengthened by God's presence and might be one of things you are missing and need the most. This one bread also reminds us of our connectedness to each other—we are one body, activated by the same Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:3b-13). When one member suffers, all suffer. As we discern how our faith calls us to act in these times, I find myself repeating a line from our post-communion prayer: *unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food.*

There have always been provisions for communion to be offered in special circumstances. Some of you have shared communion in unusual settings, from hospital rooms and nursing homes to the banks of Phelps Lake as part of a "Walk and Worship." Leaning on these foundations, even as we extend Tiny Desk Worship into the foreseeable future, I am going to begin offering socially distanced household and/or neighborhood communions. Each household will be their own altar guild, providing their own bread and wine. Check out the easy scaled-down recipe for the bread the church normally uses on page 4! I will visit and consecrate your elements from a distance. While I am still working the logistics out, I hope to be able to schedule each household or group to commune at least twice a month if they would like.

Beloved people, though we are many throughout the town and county (and actually in counties over!), we remain one body in the one Lord of all.

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.

Since Tiny Desk Worship began, we have enjoyed unprecedented leadership. We’ve had a different assisting minister and reader every week! Thank you to the more than 22 different assisting ministers, readers, and other assistants. This month, we return to our “Sign Up Genius” volunteer system. Please continue to serve—the many voices of Christ’s body make each service special.



We are resuming our Picnic & Persephone Pick Up shift for **Hole Food Rescue!** However, many of the core volunteers we have relied on in the past are high-risk for COVID19 and can’t serve right now. Can you help? Talk to Robyn Lunsford (rlunsford@jorgeng.com)



Holy Horizons, our women’s contemporary theology group, meets via ZOOM from **7:00-8:30 pm**. We are reading Emmy Kegler’s *One Coin Found*. If you would like to join us, please email Pastor Inger (pastor.inger@ sotmlc.org)

TUESDAY



Bible & Breakfast, our weekly coed group that looks at the lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday, meets via ZOOM. Taking advantage of connecting even when we are in different states, we have adjusted our start time slightly. 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 and lighting candles for parishioners and the wider community. Prayer requests may be public or messaged to her privately.

EVENTS IN JUNE

JUNE
7

Holy Trinity Sunday with a very special guest, the presiding Bishop of the ELCA! The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton will be preaching.

JUNE
14



The Blessing of Our Graduates Noah Luense & Jasper Welch is tentatively scheduled to be part of Tiny Desk Worship this Sunday.

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

JUNE
24 & 25



Blood Drive Volunteer with Jolene to welcome and check in donors, or sign up to give blood at www.vitalant.org, or call 1-877-827-4376

LOOKING AHEAD

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.

There's a beauty in the differences in the breads we use for communion. I think of the joy of my celiac friends when they are included with a gluten-free option. I think of how different tastes trigger different associations and thoughts about the body of Christ. (*Holy Horizons* participants might remember Rev. Lauren Winner's exploration of Jesus as the "bread of life" – the metaphor contains both necessity and abundance, sustenance and pleasure.)

There's also a beauty when an assembly is fed from one loaf, visually and viscerally reminding us of the unity with Christ and with each other that is found at God's table. When we are apart, I find myself craving that symbolism. One way we can still share "one bread" while being physically distant is to share one recipe! Below is a scaled down version of the communion bread recipe our altar guild often uses. There is also a "kitchen devotional" video on the church's facebook page (you can laugh at your pastor channeling her inner Julia Child!)

ONE RECIPE!

Emmaus Road Communion Bread
for a household

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Whisk together:

- ¼ cup whole wheat flour
- ¼ tsp baking powder
- 1/8 tsp salt

Mix together:

- 1 ½ T honey (or 1 ½ + T maple syrup)
- 1 T warm water
- 1 T extra virgin olive oil



One of the rounds Rose prepared for an outdoor communion with the Jeskes, the Klens, Steffan Freeman and Pastor Inger.

The Moulder family receives communion on the back deck of Vivian Moulder's house.



+ibh



Combine the dry and liquid mixtures to form a soft dough. Knead it gently. Form 2-4 balls of dough; then pat or roll out each ball to form a ¼ inch thick round.

Cut a cross into the surface of the dough.

If you'd like, smooth the outer edge of each round by patting it with the side of a knife.

Place the bread onto a lightly greased baking sheet and bake 7-8 minutes.

Cool the bread. One round can easily serve four people! Place any rounds you do not intend to use in your household or neighborhood communion in an airtight freezer bag.

The Lord be with you
and also with you

How to prepare:

Schedule a time with Pastor Inger.

If you are hosting, pick an outdoor location that feels appropriate for communion. Consider a front porch, a patio area, or a peaceful stretch of lawn. A small table is helpful. The space should accommodate your household and, six feet or more away, Pastor Inger. If other neighbors are joining, there should be room for them to have their own station (and table) spaced apart from your household and Pastor Inger.

You are your altar guild! Prepare the bread and wine or grape juice. Keep in mind that whatever is consecrated should be consumed or returned to the earth after the service.

Pastor Inger will arrive and set up her own small table with her own bread and wine.

Lift up your hearts!
We lift them to the Lord

What to expect:

When we are ready to begin, Pastor Inger will give a formal introduction to this communion in special circumstances. After the introduction, she will lead a prayer of preparation before continuing with the Great Thanksgiving and a spoken Holy Holy Holy.

The service will continue with a eucharistic prayer and the Words of Institution. We trust God's Word to get where it needs to go – these words consecrate the bread and wine in Pastor Inger's hands and on your table in front of you. The mystery of faith will be proclaimed: *Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again*. The eucharistic prayer will continue, and then all will join in praying the Lord's Prayer.

Pastor Inger will declare "the gifts of God for the people of God!"; household members are then invited to serve each other, reiterating the promises of God:

This is the body of Christ, broken for you.

This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

If you live alone or other household members are unable to be present, let Pastor Inger's voice be the external word of grace and invitation as you serve yourself.

She will ask someone to be that voice for her.

We will close with a prayer after communion.



Contact Pastor Inger to schedule an outdoor, socially distanced communion or to discuss other options like ZOOM.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

COMMUNION CONNECTIONS

would you like communion here or there?



◀ Pastor Inger ready to share communion with the Elaine Skatrud and AJ Walter (on the other side of the window!) at Legacy Lodge



▲ Mary Lou (photographer) and Dick Klene, Rose and Dale Jeske, and Steffan Freeman assembled for a socially distanced communion.



▼ Robyn Lunsford and Colleen Thompson passing the peace before an outdoor communion.

we're learning to celebrate

Communion with the Coruns in another county! Etna, Wyoming



being Christ's body everywhere!

on a deck
on a lawn
at a window
with a headset on!

God's Word gets where it needs to go.

Lutherans and Racial Justice

On top of a pandemic, the events of this past May have heightened our national awareness of the forces of racism and white supremacy in our society.

Where does our faith take us in this moment? I'm not sure. Many the gifts, many the people... and yet, the Spirit makes us one body. When one member suffers, all suffer. Right now for me, faith calls me to listen more deeply to parts of the body that are most affected. I am fairly insulted from that suffering, and I'm trying to be more in touch. I'm following the work of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis closely, and deepening my reading of and attention to people of color. Several parishioners have already found or asked about the ELCA's wider work on racial justice. Here is a quick overview:

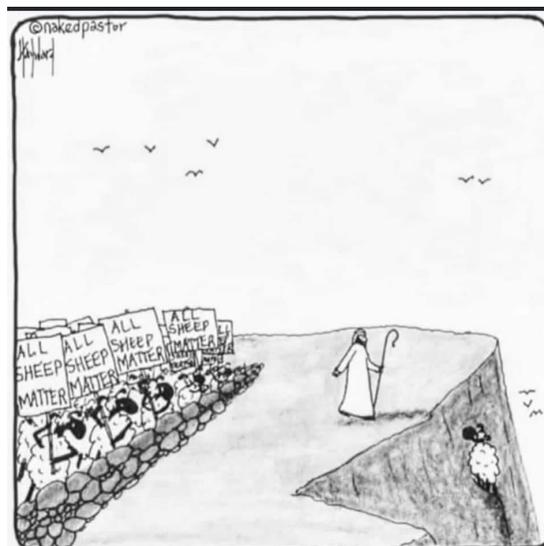
- 1993 “Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture” Social Statement <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Race-Ethnicity-and-Culture>
- 2013 “The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries” Social Statement https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Criminal-Justice?_ga=2.251444805.231878094.1591205185-1182702311.1564514849
- In June 2019, the ELCA Church Council adopted a “Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent” in which the church apologizes “for its historical complicity in slavery and its enduring legacy of racism in the United States and globally. We lament the white church’s failure to work for the abolition of slavery and the perpetuation of racism in this church. We confess, repent and repudiate the times when this church has been silent in the face of racial injustice.”
https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Slavery_Apology_Explanation.pdf?_ga=2.7699441.231878094.1591205185-1182702311.1564514849
- The 2019 Church Wide Assembly also adopted two resolutions: “Condemnation of White Supremacy and Racist Rhetoric” and to establish June 17 as “Emmanuel 9 Day of Repentance.”
https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Condemnation_of_White_Supremacy_and_Racist_Rhetoric.pdf?_ga=2.37770464.231878094.1591205185-1182702311.1564514849
https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Establishing_June_17th_as_Emanuel_9_Commemoration_and_Day_of_Repentance.pdf?_ga=2.41964390.231878094.1591205185-1182702311.1564514849
- May 29, 2020 the ELCA conference of Bishops reaffirmed it’s commitment to combat racism and white supremacy. <https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/8039?fbclid=IwAR2xRRDOPvGN-JjQwWCodOqwdZdwoHoc1MTvZKReiq6Bf5RNj2Al1xwHp3A>

I pray that as we work on ourselves and discern how we might individually and collectively best serve our neighbors in this time, our faith in the One whose power is made perfect in weakness will be made visible and active in love.

In Christ,

Pastor Inger

Jesus in Luke 15.
100 sheep, but one goes missing.
Jesus leaves the 99, and goes after the one.
The 99: “But...what about us? Don't we matter?
Of course the 99 still matter, but they're not the ones in danger.
The one is.



May 2020		
1st Simply Giving		\$ 1,675.00
Week of 4th	NA	\$ 510.00
Week of 11th	NA	\$ 1,024.81
15th Simply Giving		\$ 1,330.00
Week of 18th	NA	\$ 205.00
Week of 25th	NA	\$ 160.00
Total	NA	\$ 4,905.81

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!
 Over 22 different voices helped lead us in worship
 these past months.**

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 (thobbs6@hotmail.com) about using Sign Up Genius!

Thank you!

Dale and Rose Jeske got a start on our annual clean-up but there are still plenty of projects—if you have time to pitch in, just ask!



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

**Shepherd of the Mountains
 Supporting our community
 & helping Christians around the country**

Our little church has continued to make an impact, not only in our community but also around the country.

We have spent \$3,280 and helped 33 households through our Smith's and Albertson's grocery card program. The program was funded through Old Bill's and Outreach resources. Thank you to **Sherry Kinsella** for spearheading.



Meanwhile, **Scott and Jo Schmillen** have produced 150 wooden crosses for our "church built from crosses" program. They have been mailed to a Lutheran church in Georgia and some Baptist



friends in Colorado. As Jo puts it, surely this is "no better time to 'stay near the cross,'" and these little pieces of Shepherd of the Mountains help fellow Christians do that.