

Shepherd of the Mountains

May 2022



For behold, the winter is past;
the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth,
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
is heard in our land.

Song of Solomon 2:11-12

Worship with us!

Sundays at 9 am

sotmlcjackson@gmail.com

www.shepherdofthemountainsjh.org



**Shepherd
of the Mountains
Lutheran Church
ELCA**

750 Seneca Lane
PO Box 3257
Jackson, WY
83001

Office:
(307) 733-4382

Email:
sotmlcjackson@
gmail.org

**Office Hours
Tuesdays &
Thursdays
8:30 -3:30**

Interim Pastor
Rev. Ben Nardi
307-413-9224
nardib@yahoo.com

Church Administrator
Nancy Parisee
307-733-4382

When the Scars Come Out

By Frank G. Honeycutt

I was half-listening to the radio in our garage and don't even remember the name of the show, but I suddenly perked up when someone asked: "What advice would you give your high-school self?" Perhaps you're like me and there's not much of that era you care to revisit, but the question piqued my imagination.

I went on a bike ride. Upon returning, the question was still rummaging around and addressing my 17-year-old adolescence. After naming the obvious (*save more money and don't blow it on stupidity*), I was ready to consider more subversive suggestions. Advice like this: *Show more vulnerability. Let go of always trying to be in control of outcomes.*

And then this: *Dare to show your wounds to others you trust. Everybody's got scars; there's power in sharing them.*

The disciples are together on that first Easter evening (John 20:19) behind locked doors. I don't blame them—crucifixions were contagious. Suddenly, Jesus stands among them and says, "Peace be with you."

Then he raises his tunic and points to the recent wound on his side. He pulls back sleeves and invites a close gander at his palms. "Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord" (20:20). And not a second sooner. It's an important Easter detail.

Near the end of *The Odyssey*, Homer's ancient tale, Odysseus finally returns home. The family nurse, Eurycleia, begins to bathe a man whom she thinks is some stranger. Only when she sees Odysseus' old hunting wound does recognition occur. From "Book Nineteen" of the old epic: "This was the scar the old nurse recognized; she traced it under her spread hands, then let it go, and into the basin fell the lower leg. ... Her eyes filled up with tears; her throat closed, and she whispered, 'Oh yes! You are Odysseus! Ah, dear child! I could not see you until now.'"

Jesus showed them his wounds. The disciples rejoiced when they saw their old friend. They could not see him until then.

This old Easter evening reunion suggests a vital purpose for congregations. One test of a faithful community is to follow Jesus' lead here. How will church members safely reveal old wounds to one another? Present scars?

"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands ... I will not believe," Thomas said (20:25). Unconvinced of Easter's promises, perhaps this is what "Thomases" outside (and inside) Christ's church are searching for—*authenticity*.

Far more than assembling with relative strangers for an hour each week, church unites us in community with precisely what we have in common. Not our potential, social standing or even our shared Lutheran theology, but centrally our scars, and how Jesus forms and calls a congregation to discover and help bear the wounds of others.

He stands in the middle of the community with palms outstretched, wounds wide open for examination. "Peace be with you," Jesus says. And when we share this peace with each other before communion each week, it's far more than a way of saying, "Good morning, so good to see you. How about those Clemson Tigers?"

The liturgical practice of "Sharing the peace" resurfaced in most Lutheran congregations with the advent of the Lutheran Book of Worship (1978) but stretches back to the first decades of the early church. In this ancient worship gesture, we offer profound hope and reconciliation, daring to share life's agonies and joys. Afterward, the church passes around body and blood. Ponder the implications of such an earthy exchange.

Jesus exhibited scars even on Easter. And so we come to terms with our own—a large part of one's identity. As we share old and fresh wounds safely in community, perhaps Christ is saying to us: "Ah, dear children. I could not see you. I could not see you until now."

The body of Christ is most visible when the scars come out.

This article appears in the April 2018 edition of Living Lutheran

Every Week

SUNDAY In-person Worship at 9 am.

Hole Food Rescue - On Sunday mornings, volunteers pick up bread and baked goods from Persephone & Picnic to be distributed to those in need. Would you like to help? Talk to Robyn Lunsford (rlunsford@jorgeng.com). Please check our weekly email for new opportunities at Hole Food Rescue.

TUESDAY **Bible & Breakfast**, our coed group that looks at the lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday, meets via ZOOM from 8 - 9 am (Jackson time). Email Scott Daily at scott@hoback.org for the link.

Events in May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter 3 Worship at 9am with Rev. Ben Nardi	2	3 Bible & Breakfast 8am on Zoom AA 6:30pm	4	5 JHJC rental 4-6pm AA 6:30pm	6	7
8 Easter 4 Mother's Day Worship at 9am with Rev. Ben Nardi 	9	10 Bible & Breakfast 8am on Zoom AA 6:30pm	11	12 JHJC rental 4-6pm AA 6:30pm	13	14 Synod Gathering in Burley 
15 Easter 5 Worship at 9am with Rev. Ben Nardi	16 Council meets on Zoom	17 Bible & Breakfast 8am on Zoom AA 6:30pm	18	19 JHJC rental 4-6pm AA 6:30pm	20	21
22 Easter 6 Worship at 9am with Rev. Eric Moehring	23	24 Bible & Breakfast 8am on Zoom AA 6:30pm	25	26 JHJC rental 4-6pm AA 6:30pm	27	28
29 Easter 7 Worship at 9am with Rev. Ben Nardi	30	31 Bible & Breakfast 8am on Zoom AA 6:30pm				

Synod Gathering

Every year our Synod gets together and meets to discuss Synod business and common worship. Last year the meeting was virtual, and this year there will be 3 regional meetings' Ours will be in Burley Idaho on Saturday, May 14th.

The regional gatherings will be centered on Acts 16:6-15. This passage from Acts depicts a portion of Paul's second missionary journey, which is outlined in this map. In this passage, we join Paul and his companions as they strive to listen to where the Holy Spirit might be leading them, act with courage to follow, and share the gospel of Jesus Christ with others.

Along the way, they encountered obstacles and barriers, *and* they experienced new vision and opportunities for ministry – all through the leading and guiding and work of the Holy Spirit.

People of all ages are encouraged to attend and even more, children and youth will be an important aspect of our time together. Faith formation across the generations is a specialty of our facilitator for the day, Linda Staats. We are encouraged to send as many of our congregation that wish to attend! Please contact Nancy by **May 3rd** if you're interested in going. More information can be found at <https://nwimsynod.org/regional-gatherings>.



Linda Staats



Northwest Intermountain Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Pastor Eric Helping Out



Beginning in May, Pastor Eric Moehring will be leading our worship services on the 4th Sunday of each month. Pastor Eric retired in 2018 from Faith Lutheran, an ELCA church in Whitehall, Ohio. Shortly after retiring Pastor Eric moved himself, his wife Elaine, and stepson Alec to Driggs, Idaho, where he now resides full-time.

Currently, Pastor Eric is a Supply Pastor for St. Francis Episcopal Church in Alta, Wyoming, where he also serves as a supply musician, a choir member, and the chair of the Worship Committee.

Pinecone Raking Needed

Dale Jeski is looking for some help raking up pinecones around the church yard.

Please let Dale know if you can help.



Thank You Corner

There are so many unsung heroes here at Shepherd of the Mountains, many of which go unrecognized but continue to step up to the plate when needed.

This month we will recognize a few of our



heroes for their steadfast fellowship and love to our church family.

Jo Schmillen for making crosses for confirmands in Texas.

Jolene Moulder for her time as our treasurer and for organizing our Easter brunch and Ukraine basket fundraiser.

Jim Wells for coming to the rescue when the toilet in the women's restroom broke.

Rose & Dale Jeske for their help with Circle of Care, grass cutting, & everything else that they do.

Carolyn Daily for keeping our Quilt Ladies busy and for her Circle of Care commitment.

Terry Di Mattio for his work as VP of Council and for all the behind the scenes work that he does.

Margie Aeckerle for donating the paint for the pastor's office.

Helping Ukraine Through Lutheran Disaster Response

Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine on Feb. 24, nearly 3 million people have fled the country and are seeking refuge in neighboring countries including Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Moldova. There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees. Many of these Ukrainians fleeing their homes need shelter and such basic necessities as food, water and toiletries. Care for people also includes pastoral and psychological support to address the trauma they've endured.

Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. **Your gifts will support people impacted by this crisis. Gifts designated to "Eastern Europe Crisis" will be used in full (100%) for direct response to assist those affected.**

Give Now

You can also send a check in the mail

Make checks payable to
Lutheran Disaster Response.
Write "Eastern Europe Crisis Response"
on your check's memo line
and send to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009



Embracing Diversity Gathering



June 17 - 19, 2022 Region 1 WELCA Gathering
Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp Lakeside, Montana

"Embracing Diversity" is the theme for the Region 1 Gathering, which will be held June 17 through 19 at Flathead Lutheran Bible on the shore of Flathead Lake. They are excited to welcome Prairie Rose Seminole as the presenter and workshop leader. You may be familiar with Prairie Rose as she most recently served as the American Indian Alaska Native Program Director

for the ELCA serving American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Julie Long, a retired ELCA Pastor, will serve as the worship and music leader. You will find additional information about both Prairie Rose and Pastor Julie on the flyer in the church narthex.

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp is located 15 miles south of Kalispell, Montana, on the west side of Flathead Lake. They can arrange rides for those who travel via train to Whitefish or by plane to Kalispell. You may want to drive or rent a car so you can enjoy the beauty of the Flathead area and nearby Glacier National Park.

Please consider bringing items to fill the personal care kits and fabric kits we plan to assemble as a service project – the flyer contains links to the Lutheran World Relief website with instructions for the kits. You are also encouraged to provide items for a silent auction – particularly items that represent your region. If your item is too large or heavy to bring on the plane, you can mail it the same address used for mailing your registration fee. Money raised from the silent auction will be donated to Katie's Fund.

Please see the bulletin board in the narthex for more information and registration forms.



Shepherd of the Mountains is holding a silent auction in the church narthex to benefit Ukrainian Refugees.

All proceeds will be given to Lutheran Disaster Response's "Easter Europe Crisis" and will be used in full for the care of refugees and internally displaced people, most of whom are women and children in Ukraine and neighboring countries.

All baskets are made by
Gwen Mann

Hurry! The Silent Auction will close on

Sunday, May 1st.

Prayers

- Elaine Skatrud, healing from a broken elbow.
- David Svendsen, strength as he heals from back surgery.
- Lars Schou, who continues to heal after an accident.
- Patrick Corun (son of Dan & Kay Corun) healing prayers while his body adjusts to his new heart.
- Robyn Lunsford, who is still navigating health issues.
- The family of Yvonne Henze, (friend of Mary Lou Klene)
- Ann, (friend of Margie Aeckerle), diagnosed with cancer.



For prayers or prayer updates please email or call the church office.

Church Council

While we are in transition please know that your Church Council is always here to serve you and listen to your questions and concerns.

Please feel free to contact a member of the Church Council or chat with them after church on Sundays.



President

William Shedd
wshedd00@hotmail.com

Vice President

Terry DiMattio
tnjintv@gmail.com

Secretary

Rusty Mizelle
wyomingmizelles@gmail.com

Council Members

Scott Daily
scott@hoback.org

Sherry Kinsella
kinsellas8@msn.com

Brent Schaffer
schafferbg@gmail.com

Lorrie Lee Wells
alliswellnow@bresnan.net

Pam Zernis
zcircus3@yahoo.com

Birthdays & Anniversaries

May Birthdays

- Steve Nelson – May 14th
- David Svendsen – May 19th
- Chris Moulder – May 21st
- Rose Jeske – May 25th

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

Your church family would like to wish you birthday or anniversary greetings.



Easter



Pastor Ben led a beautiful service on Easter Sunday. The service was followed by a delicious Easter brunch put together by our Fellowship Committee and volunteers.



Above: Pastor Ben blesses the beautiful handmade baskets made by Gwen Mann (standing above).

Left & Far Left: Everyone enjoyed spending some time together at the Easter fellowship brunch

Fellowship



Right: A table of Ukrainian Easter eggs, along with beautiful handmade baskets donated by Gwen Mann, were on display after the service. The baskets will be auctioned off on May 1st, the benefits will go to Lutheran Disaster Response to aid the crisis in Eastern Europe.



Blood Drive

Right: Vivian Moulder shows us how to volunteer with a smile at the April blood drive. The next blood drive at SMLC will take place on June 22nd & 23rd, go to <https://www.vitalant.org> to make an appointment.



Giving



You may sign up to give one time, weekly, monthly, or yearly .

You can give by text (307-207-3866), by credit or debit, or by online checking. Go to this link and you're on your way!

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

You may mail your donations to
 Shepherd of the Mountains
 P.O. Box 3257
 Jackson, WY 83001
Your financial support is important to us!

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



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

April 2022		
April 3rd	11	\$ 2,760.00
April 10th - Palm Sunday	27	\$ 783.00
April 14th - Maundy Thursday	18	\$13.00
April 17th - Easter Sunday	38	\$1,520.04
April 24th	18	\$ 905.00

Volunteering Each Week

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Sign up to assist or read via our "Sign Up Genius" volunteer system (email Tanya Shedd (thobbs6@hotmail.com) for more details).

Signing up is easy - visit **Sign Up Genius** at [Sign Up Genius](#) to volunteer.

	May 1 Easter 3	May 8 Easter 4	May 15 Easter 5	May 22 Easter 6	May 29 Easter 7
Preacher	Pastor Ben Nardi	Pastor Ben Nardi	Pastor Ben Nardi	Pastor Eric Moehring	Pastor Ben Nardi
Assistant Minister	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Reader	Jolene Moulder	Sherry Kinsella	Terry Di Mattio	HELP NEEDED	Sherry Kinsella
Ushers	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	Sherry Kinsella	HELP NEEDED
Counters	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Altar Minister	Sherry Kinsella	Pam Zernis	HELP NEEDED	Sherry Kinsella	HELP NEEDED
Council Greeter	HELP NEEDED	Sherry Kinsella	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Piano	Andrew Clark	Andrew Clark	Andrew Clark	Andrew Clark	Andrew Clark