

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church



Worship With Us
Sundays at 10 am

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 - 3:30

Pastor Tim Stådem

November 2023

Our Purpose: Receiving God's grace. Sharing Christ's love with all people

Letting God reshape our questions. Letting God reshape our hearts.

*Love the Lord your God with all your hearts and with all your soul
and with all your mind. This is the first commandment.
And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' —Matthew 22:37-39*



We are a vibrant community of faith with renewed language for our purpose (which responds to: *why are we here? why do we exist?*). The purpose statement we chose is:

Receiving God's grace. Sharing Christ's love with all people.

Great! What an incredible description of our relationship with God—the inward and outward movement of faith in everywhere, everyday life. As our council leaders pointed out, "*It's like breathing—breathing in the goodness of God, and then breathing out this same goodness as God's servants.*"

Herein is the grounding and the roots of our faith – to be listening to God's voice, open and receptive to much more than our own thoughts, our own mind, our desires and agendas and schedules. Then outwardly, in response to the vast, loving generosity of God, we 'put on' the mission of Christ to "love your neighbor as yourself." In the same manner our baptismal language balances these two dimensions: 'putting on Christ' like a robe of gracious mercy and love for you; and simultaneously wearing the servant's robe as Christ actively loving our hurting, hungering, and thirsting neighbor.

*We do not need to go out and find love; rather,
we need to be still and let love discover us. —John O'Donohue*

SOME OF OUR QUESTIONS

Sometimes our questions may sound like, "How do we get more people into our doors?" Obviously, this is a part of our mission—enlarge our community. And alongside I overhear a hopeless sentiment that says, "*But I have no agency*" – in other words, "*I don't know anyone to invite.*" Or "*I am not so useful for getting out there and reaching out to people in our town who hunger and thirst for God and a community of love.*"

SHALL WE CONSIDER BETTER, MORE FAITHFUL, QUESTIONS

These questions and concerns may hit home as our sense of 'usefulness' feels small (even diminishing). Perhaps some responds with, "*It's just too hard...because everybody in society seems to just keep to themselves*"—which sounds like fear, defense, or defeat. Yet I wonder if we might consider better, more faithful questions, closer to home than we imagined: *How do I love? In this world of struggling people for community and connection and healing and restoration...what shape might love become in me? Where/how might I be open to God changing my sense of love for my neighbor? for the stranger?*

In December, and January 2024, our congregation will begin exploring new places together. The fresh questions include: *How do I love where I live, where the 'close to home question' for each of us is "How will God change my heart to grow in love for all who I meet?"*

Stay tuned for this effort (led by the Outreach Board)—***Love where you live.***

Pastor Tim



Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church, ELCA

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Pastor Tim Stådem

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November 2023 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Finance Board Mtg. 2 pm	3	4 Daylight Savings Turn clocks back tonight 
5 All Saints' Sunday Coffee Table Bible Study 9 am Worship at 10 am with Rev. Ben Nardi 	6	7 Election Day Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt Group 10:30 am AA 6:30pm	8	9	10	11 Birthday Party for Sherry Kinsella 1 pm - 3 pm Progressive Dinner 5:30 pm 
12 Pentecost 24 Coffee Table Bible Study 9 am Worship at 10 am with Pastor Tim Council Meets	13	14 Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt Group 10:30 am AA 6:30 pm	15	16	17	18
19 Pentecost 25 Coffee Table Bible Study 9 am Worship at 10 am with Pastor Tim Special Meeting	20	21 Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt Group 10:30 am AA 6:30pm	22	23 Thanksgiving Office Closed 	24	25
26 Christ the King Coffee Table Bible Study 9 am Worship at 10 am with Pastor Tim Greening of the Church	27	28 Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt Group 10:30 am AA 6:30pm	29	30		

All Saints' Day



This Sunday is All Saints' Day. You are invited to Light a Candle of Remembrance; Gather around the Lord's Table; Celebrate God's Promises for 'ALL the generations of saints' who have gone before us.

In the Middle Ages the Church celebrated both All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. All Saints' Day was the day when the Church remembered the Christian martyrs, i.e. those who had died because of their faith, whereas All Souls' Day was the day when the Church commemorated and prayed for the dead. The idea was to help the dead go through purification in purgatory and enter into heaven by praying for them. At the Reformation in the 16th century the existence of purgatory as a place of punishment or purification was rejected. Consequently, All Souls' Day was abolished. The Church kept All Saints' Day to commemorate those who died for the sake of their faith.

We hope you will bring a friend for this special day of remembrance.

Stewardship 2024

Receiving God's grace. Sharing Christ's love for all people.

So, where have you heard such language before? – It's the new Purpose Statement of our congregation. We want this year's stewardship emphasis to be centered on the source of our generosity. In everything, our giving and sharing of gifts is because of originally receiving from God's hand and heart and will to provide us abundant life—"signs of God's gracious love". *Thus we give out of an awareness of receiving; we reflect the generosity of the author and giver of life.*

In these 4 weeks we will be hearing stories from our own people, paying attention to their experiences of 'God with us' and receiving encouragement to enhance our participation in God's generosity for this world.

(You will have opportunities through November 12th to complete a Commitment Card of financial giving as we are planning the reach of our ministries in 2024)

Please feel free to cut out the commitment card below and mail it to the church at the address listed

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church

2024 Commitment of Giving

*In gratitude for all of God's Blessings in our lives we
respond by helping our church family by giving.*

**Our/my total commitment
for 2024 is**

\$ _____
(monthly or annually)

Please mail this pledge card to SMLC
PO Box 3257
Jackson, WY 83001



Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

*Thank you for your commitment to
Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church!*

Sherry Kinsella turns 80!



It's a Party and you are invited!

Come and celebrate Sherry Kinsella's 80th birthday

Saturday, November 11th from 1 - 3 pm

At Shepherd of the Mountains Church

Fun, games & finger food.

Progressive Dinner

Join us on Saturday, November 11th at 5:30 pm for another Shepherd of the Mountains Progressive Dinner, hosted by our Fellowship Board.

Your house is needed to host appetizers and desserts, Pastor Tim will be hosting the main meal at his house.

Please see the sign up sheet at church for help with hosting a portion of the dinner and food to bring.

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

Matthew 18:20

Progressive Dinner



Special Meeting



There will be a Special Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, November 19 after the 10 am service. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the proposed amendments to the bylaws. The Congregation Council approved the proposed amendments at its meeting on Sunday, October 8, 2023.

The bylaws have not been reviewed and amended since they were approved by the Congregation Council and adopted at the Annual Meeting in January, 2011. The council desires to bring the bylaws up-to-date and into conformance with the congregation constitution as recommended by the ELCA.

A copy of the proposed amended bylaws is attached to this newsletter. Printed copies are also available in the Narthex.

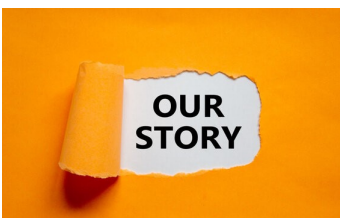
Are You a Veteran?

Are you or someone in your family a veteran?

Please email the office if you are, we would love to hear about the veterans in our church families.



Our Congregational Story



On Reformation Sunday, Oct 29th we began to explore our history at Shepherd. Picture albums are on tables and stories are written on long newsprint in the Narthex. It shows our beginnings in 1985 and highlights along the way to 2024. Please write your arrival on the storyline and other memories. In our reception we are sharing stories. We are remembering our past stories of faith as we also envision our future in Christ.

Thank You

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



- Thank you to the Finance Committee for their hard work.
- Thank you to Terry Di Mattio for all his hard work as President of Council.
- Thank you to all who showed up to help make our first "Trunk or Treat" such a huge success.
- Thank you to those who have financially committed to SMLC for the 2024 year.

Prayers & Thanksgivings

Prayers for our congregation while they amend our Bylaws

Prayers for Vivian Moulder, hospitalized for Pneumonia

Prayers for those living in the midst of war in the Middle East

Lifting others in our prayers.

Individuals will remain on our Prayer List for a period of 3 weeks.

Please continue to hold them in your prayers after that.

You are welcome to let us know if you would like people to return to the list for another 3 weeks.



For prayers or prayer updates please email

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

Brent Schaffer
schafferbg@gmail.com

Pam Zernis
zcircus3@yahoo.com

Chris Moulder
chris@dubbe-moulder.com

Nikki Thompson
nltpurple1984@gmail.com

Sascha Mizelle
wyomingmizelles@gmail.com

Birthdays & Anniversaries

November Birthdays

Sherry Kinsella on November 12th

Vivian Moulder on November 29th

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





Trunk or Treat

So much fun was had by all at our first annual "Trunk or Treat" at Shepherd of the Mountains.

50 showed up for trick or treating at the parking lot of the church. Candy was handed out by members of the congregation.

Right: Lorrie Lee gets caught kissing a ghoul!

Below: Pastor Tim and the "gang" take a moment in between trick or treaters to warm up by the fire.

Can you guess who is behind the costumes?



Blessing of the Animals

Pastor Tim braved the weather on October 4th to bless the animals that showed up for our Blessing of the Animals event.

Far left: The Pet Blessing booth, complete with treats for those being blessed.

Left: Thank you to Robyn Lunsford for ordering a new Pet Blessing sign that we can use every year.



Thank You
So Much

"Thank You", we had 8 trunks for our 'Trunk or Treat' event. Thank you for your generosity of time and great energy to visit around 50 neighbors of adults and children who stopped by our church.

October Church Council Meeting

Highlight of discussions and planning - keeping our congregation informed.

- 1) Discussion of our congregation's Guiding Principles -- specific actions for our mission; ongoing into Nov.
- 2) Requests from worship communities to purchase part of our land - very informal conversations at this point; few specifics for our congregation
- 3) Discussion to invest endowment monies into CD's -- higher interest bearing; decisions to be made at Nov meeting
- 4) Discussing ideas for stabilizing our financial position - to continue in Nov.
- 5) By-Law change - vote on Nov 19; communications prepared; study group on Sundays, 9:00am



Means of Grace

Receiving God's grace. Sharing Christ's love with all people.

You are invited to gather around the coffee table on Sundays, 9:00 to 9:45am, Nov 12 and 19 for conversations about our new purpose statement, *The Use of the Means of Grace* resource, and how to enlarge and deepen our sense of welcome and invitation—how we express this in our congregation and into the communities in which we live. Please join the conversation.



Greening of the Church



Join the congregation on

Sunday, November 26th

to help us decorate our building for Christmas. We will be gathering after the 10 am service to put up decorations and finish the Christmas tree. Your help is needed!

Supporting Our Neighbor Drive

Our Outreach Ministry is asking for everyone to help serve our neighbor through these specific needs - a list of items from One22 Resource Center. Please bring an item or more to the baskets at the church entry when you arrive at worship. We will deliver these items to the resource center.

"Thanks be to God for these ways of making a difference."



Unopened, full-size items
are needed

Laundry Detergent
Dish Soap
Hand & Body Soap

Body Lotion
Deodorant
Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Tissues

Shampoo
Conditioner
Razors
Q-Tips
Pads & Tampons

Chapstick
Diapers (size 4, 5, 6)
All purpose cleaner
Toothbrushes (individual or
small quantities)
Toothpaste



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

October 2023
attendance & offering

October 1	25	\$ 1,917.00
October 8	25	\$ 2,294.00
October 13 Meet & Eat	32	N/A
October 15	19	\$ 2,030.00
October 22	25	\$ 1,445.00
October 29	25	\$ 2,270.00

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

	November 5 All Saints' Sunday	November 12 Pentecost 24	November 19 Pentecost 25	November 26 Christ the King
Preacher	Rev. Ben Nardi	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem
Assistant Minister	Jolene Moulder	Rusty Mizelle	Jolene Moulder	Scott Daily
Reader	Steffan Freeman	Mizelle	Terry Di Mattio	HELP NEEDED
Greeter/Ushers	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Counters	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Altar Minister	Rose Jeske	Robyn Lunsford	Pam Zernis	Sherry Kinsella
Coffee Hour	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED