

# Shepherd of the Mountains

October 2020



## Reformation Realities



### 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  
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Jackson, WY 83001-3257  
307-733-4382

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



## Realities of Reformation

Dear Shepherd of the Mountains,

Sometimes, our celebrations of reformation (both with the big “R” in the past and ongoing little “rs” in the present) are a bit sanitized. We wear red, we read a little Luther, we sing “A Mighty Fortress.” But 2020 didn’t wait for October for reformation. And it hasn’t been contained to a day. For me, 2020 has felt like a bulldozer, with a grittiness and even painfulness, even as we’ve found moments of inspiration and hope.

### Contact Information

Pastor Inger Hanson

#### Email:

[\(preferred for non-critical communication\)](mailto:pastor.inger@sotmlc.org)

#### Office:

(307) 733-4382

#### Cell Phone:

(307) 248-0438

#### Office Hours

by appointment  
Tuesdays,  
Wednesdays  
or Thursdays

Call or Message  
during

#### Online Office Hours

Wednesday  
8–10 am

#### Days Off

Mondays &  
Saturdays

Worship as we know it being reshaped – the regular liturgy shortened, recorded, edited, converted, compressed, and then accessed at various times by individual households. Communion has been shared at a distance.

Education as we know it is taking new forms – we’re zooming across town, but not in our cars; we’re gathering across time zones to study scripture; perhaps we’re even joining synod offerings and getting to know faces in the wider church. But we’re also struggling with zoom fatigue, to reach those who don’t enjoy technology, and to gather youth with already full schedules.

Fellowship and Service as we’ve known them are being transformed – many hands still contributing to work, but often without the companionship of coming together and grabbing a meal or a coffee before or after.

The council and I are hoping to be able to offer relief from the distancing we are experiencing by offering an in-person worship on October 11<sup>th</sup> in addition to tiny desk worship. The protocols for this hoped-for day, developed by our Worship Board, are given on page 4. However, COVID-19 has recently surged to new highs in Teton County. We are watching the hospital’s recommendations closely and this service may have to be rescheduled. Please watch your emails for a decision on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.

I find it comforting to remember that while we often commemorate the posting of the 95 Theses in 1517 as its start, the Reformation unfolded over years. And while our current changes are driven by a pandemic rather than a professor with provocative ideas, the first Protestants also experienced political and economic upheavals.

And so, here we are. I’m drawn to a song inspired by Psalm 46 (also the inspiration for A Mighty Fortress) by Rolf Vegdahl and Tom Witt:

*Though the earth shall change, though the mountains tremble,  
though the waters rage, you God, are here.  
Though the nations war, though the peoples battle,  
though the empire falters, we will not fear.*

I wish I could hear our voices added together, drawing comfort from each other and swelling with strength. But songs aren’t always sung out loud. Sometimes they are carried in our hearts. Sometimes they give the beat as we move through our daily lives.

God is here, dear ones, in the midst of the bulldozers and the battles. Keep listening. And when you catch the tune of God’s love song, sing along with your hands and feet.

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



**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 Pastor Inger at pastor.inger@gmail.com.

### WEDNESDAY



**Hybrid "Office" Hours on the Parsonage Porch!** On Wednesday mornings, Pastor Inger will be more intentionally online and lifting up prayer requests, weather permitting. You can check in electronically (through Facebook, email, text or message).



**Join us for communion** on Wednesdays at 1 pm at Legacy Lodge. Visit with our Legacy Lodge congregants, A.J., Elaine & others, via headset, while socially distancing. Please bring your own bread and wine for communion. **You can also schedule your own outdoor communion at another time;** please email Pastor Inger at pastor.inger@sotmlc.org.

## EVENTS IN OCTOBER

OCTOBER 4



**Tiny Desk Worship with a special St. Francis Blessing of the Animals.** Please send in a photo of an animal in your life (domestic or wild) that brings you joy!

OCTOBER 11

**In-Person Worship 8 & 10 am** (see details on page 4); **Tiny Desk Worship** will be available that evening.

OCTOBER 18



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

OCTOBER 19 - 21



Pastor Inger will be attending Bishop's Convocation (via Zoom); please note no Bible & Breakfast and no Online Office Hours this week.

OCTOBER 21 & 22



**Blood Drive** Volunteer with Jolene to welcome and check in donors, or sign up to give blood at [www.vitalant.org](http://www.vitalant.org), or call 1-877-827-4376

OCTOBER 25



**Reformation Sunday** Tiny Desk Worship will feature a sermon from Rev. Lamont Wells as the synod kicks off the Color Amazed Preaching Project (see details on page 5). **Watch the facebook premiere at 9 am;** then join us for a ZOOM fellowship at 10 am!

## LOOKING AHEAD

NOVEMBER

3



**All Saints Sunday** Tiny Desk Worship will have photos of the great cloud of witnesses surrounding Shepherd of the Mountains—be sure to send in a picture of loved ones who have died that you would like included.

We will be offering two spoken services with Holy Communion

October 11th at 8:00 & 10am.

Tiny Desk Worship will be available in the evening.

Please wear your face masks (masks will also be available at the church if needed).

### What Parishioners Can Do

Please stay home and join our tiny desk worship if:

- You are not comfortable with in-person gatherings or are a "high risk" individual.
- You, or someone in your family, is ill.
- You have had a fever in the past 72 hours, cough, or have lost your taste or smell.
- You have traveled to a COVID high risk area and need to self-quarantine for 14 days.



### Coming Back Together

If you choose to attend an in-person worship:

- Please use your bathroom at home before coming to the church building.
- Dress warmly — Windows will be open for air flow and to reduce the virus load in the sanctuary.
- Face masks must be worn at all times.
- Maintain a distance of 6 feet from others.
- Hand sanitizer will be available—please use it!
- A contact tracing log will be kept at each service; please let the ushers know your name and phone number prior to entering worship.
- Bulletins will contain the whole service. Bulletins will not be handed out—please pick one up from the table on your way into the service. All hymnals have been removed from the sanctuary.
- Sit in designated chairs and rows; they will be marked to help ensure physical distancing.
- Passing of the Peace will be verbal and touchless. Please remain in your chairs.
- There will be no singing.
- Place your donation in the offering plate located at the back of the sanctuary.
- No congregating or socializing in the church building before or after the service.
- Children must be supervised by parents at all times.
- The church will be cleaned prior to each worship service.

### Having Communion

We will celebrate a physically distanced communion. Each household should bring their own bread (see the micro communion bread recipe below!) and a small amount of wine or grape juice (Pastor Inger regularly uses a small jelly jar). Parishioners will stay in their places as Pastor Inger consecrates the elements from afar. Households can serve each other; individuals will hear God's word of invitation from Pastor Inger (and the assisting minister will be that voice for her).

#### Ingredients

4 1/2 tsp wheat flour  
2 pinches baking powder  
2 pinches salt  
1/8 tsp oil  
1 1/4 tsp very hot water

#### Directions

Heat oven to 350  
Mix together dry ingredients  
Mix water, honey, and oil together; add dry ingredients  
Shape dough into a circle about 1/4" thick and score a cross on top.  
Bake for 5-7 minutes.

# color amazed preaching project

The Northwest Intermountain Synod is thrilled to welcome Lutheran leaders of color to our digital pulpit. As our congregations continue to utilize online worship formats, this is a chance to hear siblings we may not have listened to as often and also to provide preaching relief for local pastors. Our hope is that this project helps us begin to better live into the fullness of being the body of Christ. The “Color Amazed Preaching Project” kicks off on Reformation Sunday as the church celebrates God’s renewing Spirit and takes seriously our need to be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world.

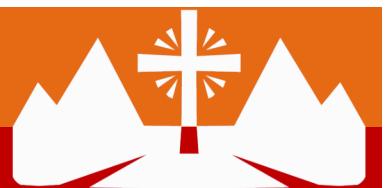
**Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2020**



**Rev. Lamont A. Wells**

Rev. Lamont Wells (he/him) is the program director for LuMin/Campus Ministry in the ELCA, which is a network of inclusive faith communities celebrating God's love and grace on and near 240 college and university campuses. He is also the president of the African Descent Lutheran Association, which aims to engage, involve and invest in the gifts, interests and capacity of people of African descent in every aspect of the life of the ELCA.

For Reformation Sunday,  
the facebook premiere  
of tiny desk worship  
will be at 9 am –  
reconnect with other parishioners  
at ZOOM fellowship at 10 am!





**Kaelynn** and **Kinley Hull** took remembering their baptisms to new heights—literally! Over Labor Day Weekend, **Pastor Inger** and Hobey joined them (and their intrepid mother **Keri**) on a camping adventure in the Wind River Range. Here, we enjoyed resting next to Big Sandy Lake.



Old Bill's Run looked very different this year. **Sherry Kinsella** (not pictured) told us about "Run Day Reimagined" - thanks to all who helped with our special Peace Relay! Did you see the video?



**Ron** and **Etta** tackled some much-needed gardening at the church while **Lola** was in music lessons. On another day, **Bob Krause** (not pictured) came by to do some much needed trimming!



For God's Work, Our Hands Sunday Dale & Rose Jeske and **Pastor Inger** (not pictured) helped prepare Robyn Lunsford's front yard for winter.



When a microburst took down several trees on the church property, **Jim Wells** came to rescue! We didn't get an action shots, but are filled with awe and gratitude for his efforts.

*Church is not something you go to;  
it's a family you belong to.*

***Psalm 46***

<sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength,  
    a very present help in trouble.  
<sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear,  
    though the earth be moved,  
    and though the mountains shake  
        in the depths of the sea;  
<sup>3</sup> though its waters rage and foam,  
    and though the mountains tremble  
        with its tumult.  
<sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams  
    make glad the city of God,  
        the holy habitation  
            of the Most High.  
<sup>5</sup> God is in the midst of the city;  
    it shall not be shaken;  
        God shall help it  
            at the break of day.  
<sup>6</sup> The nations rage,  
    and the kingdoms shake;  
        God speaks,  
            and the earth melts away.  
<sup>7</sup> The Lord of hosts is with us;  
    the God of Jacob is our stronghold.  
<sup>8</sup> Come now,  
    regard the works of the Lord,  
    what desolations  
        God has brought upon the earth;  
<sup>9</sup> behold the one who makes war to cease  
    in all the world;  
        who breaks the bow,  
            and shatters the spear,  
            and burns the shields with fire.  
<sup>10</sup> “Be still, then, and know that I am God;  
    I will be exalted among the nations;  
    I will be exalted in the earth.”  
<sup>11</sup> The Lord of hosts is with us;  
    the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

***A Passage***

There's much reflection and wisdom in our hymn lyrics. Ron pointed out how fitting these words, by Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000, are for reformation:

**The church of Christ, in ev'ry age beset by change,  
but Spirit-led, must claim and test its heritage  
and keep on rising from the dead.**

Across the world, across the street, the victims of  
injustice cry for shelter and for bread to eat,  
and never live before they die.

**Then let the servant church arise, a caring church  
that longs to be a partner in Christ's sacrifice,  
and clothed in Christ's humanity.**

For he alone, whose blood was shed, can cure the fever  
in our blood, and teach us how to share our bread  
and feed the starving multitude.

**We have no mission but to serve in full obedience  
to our Lord, to care for all, without reserve,  
and spread his liberating word.**

- ELW #729 The Church of Christ, in Every Age

***A Prayer***

O Loving God, to turn away from you is to fall,  
to turn towards you is to rise,  
and to stand before you is to abide forever.  
Grant us, O God, in all our duties your help;  
in all our uncertainties your guidance;  
in all our dangers your protection;  
in all our sorrows your peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- A prayer from Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

SEPTEMBER 2020		
1st Simply Giving		\$ 1,675.00
Week of 7th	NA	\$ 965.00
Week of 14th	NA	\$ 1,845.00
15th Simply Giving		\$ 530.00
Week of 21st	NA	\$ 600.00
Week of 28th	NA	\$ 497.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>\$ 6,112.00</b>

Note: Weekly budget needs: \$2,375.00

**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 ([thobbs6@hotmail.com](mailto:thobbs6@hotmail.com)) about using Sign Up Genius!

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

*Even while we refrain from singing together out loud,  
Ron helps us hear and tune our hearts to God's song.*



Although he will continue to be our musician for prerecorded worship services, we wanted to thank Ron Fabry for his time as our director of music. We surprised Ron Fabry with an elegant candy jar for his new office at St. John's, and a variety of goodies to fill it with. Parishioners sent in special donations and brought in treats. We hope it will always remind him of the gratitude of his sweet and salty Lutherans at Shepherd of the Mountains.

**Please don't forget your offering!**

*Use online giving,  
or mail your offering directly to the church:*

Shepherd of the Mountains  
PO Box 3257  
Jackson, WY 83001

**To give your offering online,**

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>

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