

Seeing Our Vision Clearly

# Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church



Worship With Us  
Sundays at 10 am

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

Pastor Tim Stådem

September 2023

As a Transitional Call Pastor, I want to honestly say that **I am thrilled** (inspired) that Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church is arriving at 'specifics of our identity'. And I'm NOT saying that "we've fully arrived", but we are having this refreshing **face to face with our sense of identity and purpose**. I truly believe and trust that here is where the living Christ wants us to ground all our being and doing.



*"We are a Transitional Call Congregation being shaped by the specifics of God's sense of vision"*

Within this newsletter (page 4) you will find the excitement: **OUR SENSE OF VISION** – *this language is a visionary summary of our work together over the past 9 months – we've been centering our church by the guidance of the scriptures, in prayer, and in the sacred art of conversations; these are also characteristic of the early church in the Acts of the Apostles – we are acting much more like the early church than our modern day approaches, patterns, and discernment.*

So....please scroll to page 4 and spend a bit of time with *Our Sense of Vision*. Please read through the whole piece and picture our work together now and into our future. And don't forget to include this in your praying and meditating. Copies were printed and distributed in Sunday's worship and will be available in these future weeks together.

Some time ago we have named this process 'Finding Our Voice' – rooted in trusting that God's is active in our discerning work to zero in on our purpose as Christ's church in this world. Therefore, by inviting the whole congregation to dwell in this process (not merely a process with few leaders, but ALL are included), by writing what they are seeing and hearing, and adding affirmations to the perspectives of others...we have arrived at this 'working document'—OUR SENSE OF VISION.

Again, I ask that you spend some time with these visionary categories—Our Sense of Vision. Next in September, we will be voting on **Our Purpose**, brief mission language (12 words or less) we give to these images. And our final step in this Renewal Process is the vital step of deciding upon a small number of 'action items'—*Guiding Principles—that we collectively agree: to wholeheartedly do well in our present/future life together. These are items of vision and action that I am excited about, thankful and hopeful.*

Sunday, September 17<sup>TH</sup> – Congregation approves Our Purpose Statement

Sunday, October 1<sup>ST</sup> – Defining our Guiding Principles

God's graces and peace to you,

Pastor Tim



## Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church, ELCA

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307-733-4382

office@sotmlc.org

www.shepherdofthemountainsjh.org

Pastor Tim Stadem

970-219-2277 (please feel free to call & text)

pastor.tim@sotmlc.org

### September 2023 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> <b>Pentecost 14</b> Coffee Table Bible Study 9 am Worship at 10 am with Rev. Ben Nardi	<b>4</b> <b>Labor Day</b> 	<b>5</b> Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt Group 10:30 am AA 6:30pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Meet & Eat Potluck End of Summer Picnic BBQ at 5:30 pm at Shepherd's Park. Blessing of Children & Backpacks 	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <b>Pentecost 15</b> Coffee Table Bible Study 9 am Worship at 10 am with Pastor Tim Blessing of Children & Backpacks  Council Meets	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt Group 10:30 am AA 6:30 pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <b>Pentecost 16</b> Coffee Table Bible Study 9 am Worship at 10 am with Pastor Tim	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt Group 10:30 am AA 6:30pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>Pentecost 17</b> Coffee Table Bible Study 9 am Worship at 10 am with Pastor Tim	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt Group 10:30 am AA 6:30pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

## September "Meet & Eat"

Our next monthly evening gathering will take place on

**Friday, September 8th from 5:30 to 7:00 pm**

## End of Summer Picnic & BBQ

Hotdogs & Hamburgers provided with Picnic Food



Let's meet our neighbors while we picnic in Shepherd's Park

*Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert and a friend if you can*

(sign up at church)

Outdoor games & Blessing of the Backpacks will take place (weather permitting)

**Don't miss the fun!**

## Blessing Your Kids & Their Backpacks

### Blessing of the Backpacks

**September 8th at the Meet & Eat**

**September 10th during the church service**

Or with a "house call" – please let pastor know who he can visit to bless their backpacks

Pastor will arrange a time to come by, lead a prayer and blessing, with parents help in the front yard, home, or driveway.

Please invite your friends and neighbors. Call pastor at 970-219-2277 to set up a time for a "Home Blessing"



## Blessing of the Animals Coming in October



Don't miss our Blessing of the Animals & St. Francis Day celebration coming up on and around October 4th. Watch the weekly emails for more information.

**Don't miss a blessing for your beloved family pet!**

## Church Painting Update



**Thank you for all your support!**

Thank you to all who helped to support painting the church. The fund was set up to help us offset the \$11,000 cost of painting the exterior of the church.

It is still not too late to donate. Donations can be accepted via check or cash in the offering plate on Sundays, or they can be accepted online through Realm by going to

<https://onrealm.org/ShepherdMountainJH/Give>. When giving in the plate, please be sure to write "Church Painting Fund" on your check or envelope. When giving online, make sure you pick "Church Painting Fund" in the dropdown box on Realm. The church now has a fresh coat of paint and looks great!

**Thank you for  
your donations  
of  
\$9,100.00**  
Your gifts are a  
blessing!

## Old Bills



Old Bill's has been helping our community by raising money for non-profits like Shepherd of the Mountains Church. Contributions from donors are matched by donations each year, making each dollar you give through Old Bill's worth more! Shepherd of the Mountains needs your donations so we can continue giving back to those in need in our community.

You can easily give by credit card, cash or check, wire transfer or ACH, donor advised fund, give stocks. To give in the name of Shepherd of the Mountains please go to <https://www.oldbills.org/donate>.

## Our Sense of Vision

AS WE WERE LISTENING...IN THE SCRIPTURES, AND IN OUR PRAYING, AND  
IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,  
WE ARE ABLE TO SEE MORE CLEARLY WHO GOD IS CALLING US TO BE

*Where there is no vision, the people perish Proverbs 29:18*

Vision is images of the future...that produce passion in the present.

Here is what the people of Shepherd of the Mountains have envisioned thus far: (a working document)

### CHURCH CULTURE & CHARACTER



1. A welcoming, fun, caring fellowship
2. An intergenerational spirit, with diverse backgrounds
3. Worship that is meaningful for our variety of people
4. A people centered on Christ in our actions
5. Caring for one another (with kindness, with assistance)

### CONGREGATIONAL STRENGTHENING & GROWTH



6. Increase in the size of our community
7. Expanse in music (choir, ensembles, instrumental, etc.)
8. Effective teaching & learning for all ages (incl. Children/Youth, Sunday School, VBS, etc.)

### MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE & MERCY



9. A congregation that champions justice and mercy in society
10. Servant focus (where each individual is learning to serve)
11. Becoming sanctuary (safety, healing, and nurture for the oppressed)

### ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS



12. Partnerships with other churches (incl. youth ministry)
13. Study groups with other churches

### OUTREACH



14. Love that reaches out in our neighborhoods
15. Creative connections in our community (serving, growing faith)
16. Strong emphasis on reaching young families

## Thank You

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



- To Dale Jeske for his lawn mowing skills.
- To our Council members for their volunteered time and talents.
- To the Fellowship Board for the wonderful Meet & Eat picnics.
- To those who invite their friends and neighbors to join us in worship together.

## Prayers & Thanksgivings

Prayers for those who need healing.

Prayers for those suffering from addiction.

Prayers for those who have not yet found Jesus.

Thanksgivings for our friends and family.

**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

### September Birthdays

Kim Hunt – September 6th

Betsy Grande – September 6th

Christopher Thompson – September 9th

Steffan Freeman – September 13th

Pam Zernis – September 13th

Pastor Tim – September 30th

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







## Snake Charmer

Left: Our guitar playing/preaching pastor has many talents and snake charmer is one of them.

It seems a few snakes have decided to call our church home recently. Due to the screams of our church administrator, Pastor Tim decided to come in and save the day on more than one occasion.

At left, Pastor is seen getting one of the snakes off of our bush out front and then capturing it into a bag.

We think we have tacked the family of snakes, they are now safely relocated down the road.

## Church Painting

After 13 years, we finally gave our church the facelift that has been needed. Thank you to all who helped us offset the cost of the church painting, your generosity was a blessing!

Below: Pastor Tim takes time from his busy schedule to give blood during our August blood drive.



## The Stadem Brothers

Left: Some of Pastor Tim's family enjoyed a church on August 6th before Pastor led them on a rainy hike over the Grand Tetons.

Tom, Pete, and Pastor Tim Stadem lead the congregation with the hymns at that service. Their guitar playing and beautiful singing voices were a big hit!



## Our Neighbors

Above: Our neighbors make use of our "Big Bench" in Shepherd's Park. The bench is a great place to take a break after having fun roller blading.



## August Church Council Meeting

*Highlight of discussions and planning - keeping our congregation informed.*

Council Highlights – August 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting

- 1) Scripture reading, prayer, and conversation: "How do Guiding Principles Work?"  
- how to stay focused & actively living out specific action plans of our church
- 2) Discussion on reaching out – "Love where you live" design presented by Lorrie
- 3) Shascha discussed Education possibilities/developments
- 4) Monthly 'Meet & Eat' announced as a community outreach alongside our fellowship
- 5) Management finishing painting; researching resolves for ice dam prevention
- 6) Mutual Ministry recommends financial review; to begin with Financial Committee and council leaders
- 7) Jewish Community informal talks – set future meeting with them in their search for a place to meet with their congregation



## Grief Support Groups Being Offered



Pastor Barbara Condon and her co-facilitator, Tami McLaughlin, will be offering Grief Support groups again this fall.

Each group is grief-specific and will run for twelve weeks. The groups being offered are: Loss of Spouse or Life Partner, Loss of Child, Loss of Parent, Loss of Sibling or Close Friend. A Divorce Support groups may also be offered if there is enough interest. We need a minimum of five people for a group to form. All groups will be held via Zoom. Dates and times for the group to meet will be determined once enough have signed

up for that group. Please email Barbara Condon at [barbarajhc@gmail.com](mailto:barbarajhc@gmail.com) for more information or to sign up.

## 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

## August 2023

attendance & offering

August 6	33	\$ 1,906.34
August 11 Meet & Eat	13	N/A
August 13	25	\$ 1,922.00
August 20	20	\$ 1,545.00
August 27	27	\$ 1,338.00

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

	September 3 Pentecost 14	September 10 Pentecost 15	September 17 Pentecost 16	September 24 Pentecost 17
Preacher	Rev. Ben Nardi	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem
Assistant Minister	Jolene Moulder	Rusty Mizelle	Scott Daily	HELP NEEDED
Reader	Rose Jeske	Terry Di Mattio	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Greeter/Ushers	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Counters	Jolene Moulder	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Altar Minister	Pam Zernis	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Coffee Hour	Jolene Moulder	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED