

Shepherd of the Mountains

September 2020

done & u n d o n e



**reconnecting with
confession and forgiveness**

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
P.O. Box 3257
Jackson, WY 83001-3257
307-733-4382

sotmlcjackson@gmail.com
www.shepherdofthemountainsjh.org



**God of all mercy and consolation,
come to the help of your people...**

Dear Shepherd of the Mountains,

While online worship has its strengths (the swell of readers and assisting ministers helping with services, the simple focus, etc), the constraints of time are more sharply felt, and tiny desk is truncated compared to in-person worship. Perhaps you have missed confession and forgiveness, that way we often connect to our baptisms at the beginning of a service.

The end of summer always brings a time of reflection, of the things I have done, and the things I have left undone. The ways I was able or unable to connect with family, friends or parishioners. The ways I reacted, and the ways I could have responded. In a turbulent year, reflection, repentance, and receiving anew God's forgiveness seem especially important.

In September, as the lectionary explores the themes of sin and grace, we will reconnect with this part of the liturgy, this part of our work as the people of God. Sometimes we will use the words and forms deep in our hearts, reconnecting with our repentance muscle memory. We might also explore fresh forms and words that help us examine ourselves and experience God's grace in new ways.

The poems of Rev. Ted Loder, a retired Methodist pastor, do that for me. Below is a poem that I feel the Spirit working through, opening up my heart, naming my desires, and uncovering my secrets. At the end of the newsletter, there is a poem on forgiveness that opens up new possibilities. May they be a blessing to you too.

In Christ,
Pastor Inger

Gracious and Holy One,
creator of all things
and of emptiness,
I come to you
full of much that clutters and distracts,
stifles and burdens me,
and makes me a burden to others.

Empty me now
of gnawing dissatisfactions,
of anxious imaginings,
of fretful preoccupations,
of nagging prejudices,
of old scores to settle,
and of the arrogance of being right.

**turning us from our sin
to live for you alone.**

Empty me
of the ways I unthinkingly
think of myself as powerless,
as a victim,
as determined by sex, age, race,
as being less than I am,
or as other an yours.

Empty me
of the disguises and lies
in which I hide myself
from other people
and from my responsibility
for my neighbors
and for the world.

Hollow out in me a space
in which I will find myself,
find peace and a whole heart,
a forgiving spirit and holiness,
the springs of laughter,
and the will to reach boldly
for abundant life for myself
and the whole human family.

Contact Information

Pastor Inger Hanson

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

- "Unlock the Door of My Heart" by Ted Loder
in *Guerrillas of Grace*, LuraMedia, San Diego: 1984.

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.

Join us for communion on Sundays at 10:00 am, 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 our own outdoor communion with Pastor Inger; please email her at pastor.inger@sotmlc.org.



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 Scott Daily (scott@hoback.org).

WEDNESDAY

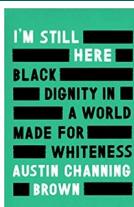


Hybrid "Office" Hours on the Parsonage Porch! On Wednesday mornings, Pastor Inger will be more intentionally online and lifting up prayer requests, weather permitting. You can check in electronically (through Facebook, email, text or message) OR, if you are comfortable being socially distant outdoors, grab a mask and stop by the parsonage between 8 am - 10 am.

EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER

1



Join the Synod Discussion of Austin Channing Brown's "I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness" Rev. Phil Misner is asking participants to prepare by reading different chapters each week, please check the weekly emails for updates on the chapters. The meetings will take place from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Email phil.misner@nwimsynod.org or Pastor to get the zoom invite.

SEPTEMBER

13



God's Work Our Hands Sunday! We need ideas—see page 4.



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

SEPTEMBER

18 & 19



Pastor Inger will be attending Synod Council (virtual)

SEPTEMBER

20



Caring for Creation Sunday Our Tiny Desk Worship will draw from a service created by Lutherans Restoring Creation. We will hear from important voices in the ELCA, including Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, the Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing, Rev. Lenny Duncan, Rebekah Bruesehoff (Lorrie Lee's grand-niece!), and Marty Haugen!

LOOKING AHEAD

OCTOBER

19-21



Bishop Convocation (While virtual, this commitment will replace Pastor Inger's weekly events)

TBA



We don't have a clear timeline for when a morning prayer service (no communion, no singing) might be offered in-person. Per synod guidelines, we are waiting for there to be two weeks of declining active cases of COVID-19 in Teton County.

Our Old Bill's coordinator, Sherry Kinsella, would like us to celebrate "Run Day Reimagined" during "Countdown Week."

We will have a special "passing of the peace" for our Sunday, September 6th Tiny Desk Worship— we will form a virtual peace relay team!

Please wear an Old Bill's shirt or your yellow God's Work Our Hands shirt and your running sneakers (further athletic costuming encouraged) and stop by the church on Tuesday, September 1st or Thursday, September 3rd between 10:30 am – 3:30 pm so we can film your "leg" - passing the peace with our "peace" sign.



*Stop by Tuesday,
September 1st
or Thursday
September 3rd
10:30 am - 3:30 pm
to run your leg
in front of the church!*

OLD BILL'S FUN RUN.® 2020



Run Day Reimagined: A Passing of the Peace Relay!

What ideas do you have for what this "service Sunday" could look like in JH this year? What one-hit wonder service projects would you like to tackle with other church members? (ideally outdoor and socially distanced). Please send Pastor Inger your ideas ASAP.

**God's work.
Our hands.**

Sunday, September 13



This special day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

and worthily magnify your holy name

The language of sin and repentance might be helpful in grounding our ongoing work in racial justice when it is easy to feel fatigued. The synod discussions of Austin Channing Brown's "I'm Still Here," wrap up at the beginning of this month. What other ways have you found to engage in this work? What might we do together?





Donors enjoyed social distancing in the sun at our August community blood drive! Also good to see SMLC's usual suspects.



Donors extraordinaire, Ethan Moulder (far left) and Pam Zernis, show us the meaning of being good stewards to their church and their community.

Sharing joy...

Former council president Holly Luense was briefly in town for a last hurrah (here pictured with Tracie Welch)



Dorothy Remington (cat Joy not pictured) is taking these strange times in stride... and is thrilled to be back in water aerobics!



Rose Jeske stopped by with her sisters and their spouses after enjoying a ride on the bike path.

Our largest Legacy Lodge communion yet! A.J., Rose Marie (a resident who has recently been attending), Elaine and Pastor Inger were joined by Elaine's eldest son David Skatrud, his partner (and Methodist pastor) Ellen, and Pam Zernis.



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

even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ.
By grace you have been saved. God forgives us all our sins.

Psalm 32:1-6

¹Happy are they
whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!
²Happy are they
to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
³While I held my tongue,
my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.
⁴For your hand was heavy upon me
day and night;

my moisture was dried up
as in the heat of summer.
⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess
my transgressions to the Lord."
Then you forgave me
the guilt of my sin.
⁶Therefore all the faithful will make
their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow,
they shall not reach them.

A Poem-Prayer

Jesus said,
"Your sins are forgiven;
rise and walk."
Forgiveness is an unlocked door
to walk through
into a wide-whoopee-open world.
Forgiveness is a seed
to water with new dreams and wild risks
until it bears unexpected fruit.
Forgiveness is an enemy-friend
to be born out of,
a quietness beneath the clamor.

Forgiveness is a flower to smell,
a wind at my back,
a gull to scream with,
a pain to laugh beneath,
a burden that carries me.

It is I
becoming We
becoming Yours.
Forgiveness is a song to sing.
O Lord,
unlock the door of my heart.

- "Unlock the Door of My Heart" by Ted Loder
in *Guerrillas of Grace*, LuraMedia, San Diego: 1984.



What door does
forgiveness
unlock for you?

August 2020		
1st Simply Giving		\$ 1,675.00
Week of 3rd	NA	\$ 1,170.00
Week of 10th	NA	\$ 1,455.00
15th Simply Giving		\$ 1,330.00
Week of 17th	NA	\$ 2,100.00
Week of 24th	NA	\$ 315.00
Week of 31st	NA	\$ 2,625.00
Total	NA	\$ 10,670.00

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) about using Sign Up Genius!

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



A message of gratitude from our Episcopal siblings

Dear Shepherd of the Mountains,

I suspect the news of Ron Fabry's departure is met with a real measure of sadness. No doubt Ron's gifts as a musician have supported and added to both the face to face and the virtual worship experience of your congregation over these many months. As the Rector (our fancy Episcopal word for Pastor) of St. John's Episcopal Church here in Jackson, I wanted to write to you to express my sincere gratitude for making Ron's move to our congregation one that is full of love, support, and transparency for both of our congregations and for Ron.

Some of you may already know that Pastor Inger is a wonderful addition to the reflection or devotion portion of our regular staff meetings. Having Pastor Inger's voice added to the voice of our staff on Tuesday mornings is a rich blessing for us, and I sincerely hope we are a blessing to her and, perhaps, in turn, to you. Soon, Ron's voice will be added to that mix.

My great hope in this transition is that you might see your real and loving contribution to the ongoing ecumenical and inter-faith relationships that carry forward in this exchange. No doubt we could simply point out that we steward a pipe organ over here at St. John's, and it seems like a natural fit for Ron, but that's not the point. The point is that we are working together to make a love-spreading difference in this valley as followers of Jesus. Though our "styles and approaches" to the Gospel and traditions of the church differ, we are in this together, and YOU have generously made us even more aware of that reality. So, on behalf of the Staff, the Vestry (another fancy Episcopal word for the church council) and all the people of St. John's Episcopal Church, thank you for your generosity, care for Ron, and kindness in transition. Please know we look forward to partnering in big ways and small ways and all ways in between, as we move forward together in faithful mission.

Love,
The Reverend Jimmy Bartz



breeze

Have you ever thought about giving your offering through online
but don't know how?

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>

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

**Online Giving
is simple and easy**



**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