



Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church



Worship With Us
Sundays at 10 am

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

Pastor Tim Stådem

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

August 2024

Bread of Life – Are we really invited to consume (ingest) 'goodness and mercy'?

Many Biblical, Spiritual and Community images arise into view lately, especially while we walk through passages on 'the bread of life' in John's Gospel...for 5 Sundays in a row.

Bishop Meggan's visit with us on July 28th was a wonderful 'kickoff moment'—to begin hearing some good Bread Theology. One morsel that stands out is **"Jesus is promising, and showing us, that he is giving...himself."** Are you hearing this? Not only does Jesus multiply and distribute loaves and fishes for hungering and thirsting people, not only is God concerned with our physical/biological, emotional, social sustenance, but we are being led to understand that Jesus is literally serving us the 'non-perishables'...of Himself—so that we will chew, swallow, and process in our spiritual biome the bread of everlasting value (way beyond Wonder Bread's poisonous, preservative power). Jesus wants to abide—Gospel of John's word—inside you, to dwell in you. Let's chew on that.



Another way to say this:

1. On one hand, we take to heart that **Jesus is our Shepherd** – guiding & providing, leading to pasture's green, protecting, nurturing, saving. Dare I say we take this as a bit more external?
2. On another hand, in **Jesus is Bread**, He arises as much more than 'protector, daily influence, external guide, comforter, restorer from every trouble'—where Jesus becomes 'the food we put inside.' Thus it appears to move even more toward the internal (though trust and comfort are profound inner examples of what the shepherd induces).

Let it be said, then, that our relationship with God includes more than open to our Lord's leading and correcting, nourishing, restoring and renewing. We are invited, mysteriously, to 'ingest of the Divine' – we take God into/inside our whole person; "bread of life" moves into our Inner Lives; we consume 'goodness and mercy all the days of our lives' (Psalm 23). We find nourishment 'from the inside out.'

Over everything, God is so much larger than any surface level of influence—some boil this topic to 'a moralistic religion. We are invited to experience the 'embodiment of God'. 'Eat the bread that is ME,' says Jesus – consume this Good News that is Christ, embody all these promises of the good shepherd.

So, how do we trust in, and live into, this kind of invitation? How do relate to, pray with, God who is within? In these Sundays of August, let's talk more about 'Bread of Life'—these worship themes.

Some time ago a bishop suggested to us pastors, **"when you are struggling with someone difficult, just stick some bread in their mouth"**—a metaphor to Holy Communion, to 'giving people the bread of life'. I hear encouragement to figure out how to hand people a plate of 'goodness and mercy'.

PS: Luther is credited with saying, in reaching out in love for our neighbor—it is **"one beggar telling another beggar where to find food."**


More on 'bread of life', and 'bread to share', in August worships.
Pastor Tim



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 pastor.tim@sotmlc.org

August 2024 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Pentecost 7 Around Coffee Table 9 am Worship at 10 am with Pastor Tim Growing Young Study 11:15 - 12:00	5	6 Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt 10:30 am Prayer Group 5:30 pm AA 6:30pm	7	8	9	10
11 Pentecost 8 Around Coffee Table 9 am Worship at 10 am with Pastor Tim Council Meets	12	13 Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt 10:30 am Prayer Group 5:30 pm AA 6:30pm	14 Blood Drive 11:30 am 	15 Blood Drive 7:30 am 	16 Meet & Eat BBQ Potluck Dinner at 5:30 pm 	17 Snake River Cluster Picnic Liberty Park, IF @ 11 am 
18 Pentecost 9 Around Coffee Table 9 am Worship at 10 am with Pastor Tim Growing Young Study 11:15 - 12:00	19	20 Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt 10:30 am Prayer Group 5:30 pm AA 6:30pm	21	22	23	24
25 Pentecost 10 Around Coffee Table 9 am Worship at 10 am with Pastor Tim	26	27 Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt 10:30 am Prayer Group 5:30 pm AA 6:30pm	28	29	30	31

Funding Forward

We're Moving Forward in Faith – It's called:
"Funding Forward"

From our Congregational Meeting (June 30th) we are continuing to explore **new ways that our congregation can grow our offerings outside of our regular giving.** With our inspiring Mission Statement, we now have a renewed sense of purpose we are living into "we are now impassioned to fund this clear mission long into the future."

Your council has discovered that many congregations are struggling with financial sustainability. Resources are increasingly available among synods, non-profits, and other potential partnerships for leveraging assets of our congregation - including church property and parsonage.

Here are a few options our council is 'initially looking into' to strengthen our sustainability:

1. Potential rental arrangements with faith communities, non-profits, or business.
2. Potentially leverage our assets of land, building, or parsonage in lease or rental arrangements, or sale of portion of church property.
3. Possibility of constructing on church property for lease or rental arrangements.
4. Creative, mutual arrangements with pastor's housing and/or compensation, which include: sharing pastoral hours & salary (with another church in Full Communion with ELCA); bi-vocational arrangement (where pastor has a 2nd job, thus less hours at our church and reduced church salary); pastor housing at other location while renting parsonage for increased monthly monies.

The Congregational Meeting was 'informational' and everyone is invited into this exploration. Please contact your council leaders and/or pastor for clarifications and to share insights. More information is forthcoming in a timely manner; no voting will take place until all are informed. Thank you!



August Meet & Eat

Our August Meet & Eat will be
"BBQ Time"

Friday, August 16th at 5:30 pm

Hotdogs & Hamburgers with all the fixings.
 Side dishes, salads, and desserts will be needed.



A signup sheet is posted in the narthex if you want to bring food

Prayer Class & Practice

Takes place here on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:15.

Explore 'how to pray' while we deepen our relationship with God; reducing obstacles and practicing the presence of Christ.

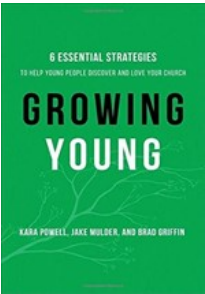


Faith Nurture Class



Sundays at 9:00 am. An informal exam of one or more of Sunday's scriptures. Coffee is served as we sit around the living room chairs in friendship and faith.

Congregational Conversations Report



The people of Shepherd of the Mountains are invited to book study with Pastor Tim entitled *Growing Young*. Beginning in August, we will enter an adventure of opening conversations and minds and church culture to an area of outreach we may not have known are in our reach.

In the midst of our recent Congregational Meeting June 30th (see previous page: *FUNDING FORWARD*, pg. 3) many thoughtful insights emerged about our ‘reaching out to young persons and families’. With our new language and commitment to our mission this *Growing Young* study is a timely, practical resource to carry us forward. Let’s empower our own body to begin branching out into the lives of our neighbors.

“All Churches grow old. Strategic churches grow young.”

Book Promo: Across the United States, churches are losing both members and vitality as increasing numbers of young people disengage. Based on groundbreaking research with over 250 of the nation’s leading congregations, *Growing Young* provides a strategy any church can use to involve and retain teenagers and young adults. It profiles innovative churches that are engaging 15- to 29-year-olds and as a result are growing—spiritually, emotionally, missionally, and numerically. Packed with both research and practical ideas, *Growing Young* shows pastors and ministry leaders how to position their churches to engage younger generations in a way that breathes vitality, life, and energy into the whole church.

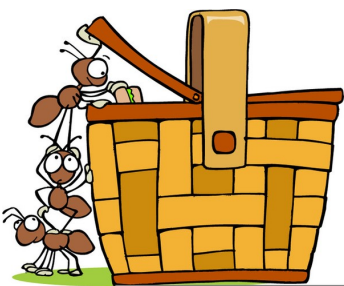
“Growing Young carries an urgent message. Young people need the body of Christ—and vice versa. This book is theologically informed, research savvy, and pragmatically outstanding. Read it now, before you get any older.”
John Ortberg

Starting in August: (every 1st & 3rd Sun; 11:15am; bring your refreshments)

Chapter discussions with Study Guide:

- Aug 4 – ch 1 *What Congregations are Doing Right*
- Aug 18 – ch 2 *Sharing Power with the Right People at the Right Time*
- Sept 1 – ch 3 *Empathize with Today’s Young People*
- Sept 15 – ch 4 *What’s Young about the Good News?*
- Oct 6 – ch 5 *Warm is the New Cool*
- Oct 20 – ch 6 *From Rhetoric to Reality*
- Nov 3 – ch 7 *Loving and Shaping Your World*
- Nov 17 – ch 8 *Growing Young in Your Context*

Upper Snake River Cluster Picnic



The Upper Snake River Cluster is sponsoring a picnic on

Saturday, August 17th at 11 am

At Liberty Park – adjacent to New Day Lutheran Church.
1000 S. Blvd, Idaho Falls

Parking in neighborhood and in the Presbyterian Church parking lot

Bring salads, desserts, and chairs

Thank You

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



- To Brook Redwine for your service to our parish.
- To our Council leaders for your time and dedication.
- To Bishop Meggan for your wonderful message on July 28th.
- To Nancy Wilbrecht, Xinlu Husng, and Pastor Tim for your gift of beautiful music on Sundays.
- To Claire and Devon for all the help that you gave during the Bishop's visit.

Prayers & Thanksgivings

- Prayers for those still suffering in the Middle East.
- Prayers for our political leaders.
- Prayers for those who suffer from depression.
- Prayers for those who are in a transition in their life at this time.
- Thanksgivings for Pastor Tim, our dedicated and amazing pastor.
- Thanksgivings for our quilters and the beautiful quilts that they create for Lutheran World Relief.



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

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 (WWT5).

President:

Lorrie Lee
alliswellnow@bresnan.net

Vice President:

Pam Zernis
zcircus3@yahoo.com

Secretary

Rusty Mizelle
wyomingmizelles@gmail.com

Council Members

Chris Moulder
chris@dubbe-moulder.com

Nikki Thompson
nltpurple1984@gmail.com

Sascha Mizelle
wyomingmizelles@gmail.com

Steffan Freeman
steffenfreeman@gmail.com

Birthdays & Anniversaries



August Birthdays

Inger Kirkegaard on August 1st

August Anniversaries

Tom & Nancy Ninnemann
on August 12th

Joe & Sherry Kinsella
on August 26th

So Much To Be Grateful For!



We are grateful for Chris Thompson and his dedication, not only to our church family, but his job as well. Chris was made 'Employee of the Month' by his employer High Country Linen Service. Congratulations Chris!



We are grateful for Weddings and Anniversaries. On July 12th Pastor Tim had the pleasure of marrying Michael Soh and Maylee Sands (above) at our church. Witnesses to the marriage were Dale & Rose Jeske (left), who happen to be celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary on the same day. Rose & Dale were able to be the perfect marriage role models to Michael and Maylee during their visit.

Bishop Meggan's Visit

We are so grateful for Bishop Meggan Manlove and her visit to our church on July 28th.

Below: Bishop Meggan recruits Claire and Devon to hand out questions for members to ask during the worship service.



We are grateful for the wonderful fellowship luncheon that took place after the worship service.

During her visit Bishop Meggan enlightened the congregation about happenings within the Synod and surrounding parishes.



We are grateful for Claire and Devon and the help that they gave Bishop Meggan and Pastor Tim while passing out Holy Communion. The girls did an amazing job!



July Church Council Meeting

Council Highlights – July 14, 2024

- 1) We begin with **prayer** and the topic: ‘Remaining Centered Around Our Mission’
- 2) Reviewed our **Congregational Meeting**, June 30th and conversations since then. The task force of Rusty Mizelle, Chris Moulder, and pastor are asked to bring a recommendation to Aug 11th council meeting.
- 3) **Funding Forward** – We are wanting to eventually define our best: Short & Long term plan
- 4) **Going Public** – is an ongoing task group of Jolene Moulder, Robyn Lunsford, pastor, and would welcome others as we communicate and market into community and generate partners in mission and in our church body.
- 5) Prepared for Bishop Meggan’s visit - July 28th
- 6) Growing Young – a congregational-wide study; ongoing discussions



Send Kids to School with Everything They Need

one22 RESOURCE CENTER If you think back on your time in grade school, I imagine you remember how important it was to arrive on the first day of school with a new backpack and everything from the teacher’s supply list. **That backpack with the full array of supplies was important for both social and academic reasons, and it remains critical today.**

For many local families, new school supplies are not in the budget. But with your help, One22 Resource Center will ensure that every local student has a new backpack with all the items requested by their teachers. One22 has set up a centralized Target registry with over 1,200 items for an anticipated 200 requests from families. **I am reaching out to request your help purchasing these items.**

Purchases from the Target registry will be delivered directly to our offices. For those who prefer to shop in-person, please use the supply request list and drop off items at one of the collection bins around town by August 15. [Click here for all the details, including the Target registry link.](#)

One22 staff and volunteers will pack and distribute backpacks the last two weeks of August. Please contact Ximena Sanchez (ximena@one22jh.org) if you’d like to volunteer for packing. Your contribution of ANY size helps give peace of mind to hundreds of local parents!

August Blood Drive



This month our Blood Drive will take place on

August 14th & 15th

Blood donors are always needed. If you don’t have an appointment for the next blood drive and want to donate please go to the Vitalant website at <https://www.vitalant.org> to make an appointment.

Your donation can make a difference. Donating blood saves lives!

Blood Drive Dates for 2024

October 16 & 17 at SMLC
 December 18 & 19 location TBD

Your donation matters!



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>

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

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.

\$3,120.00 is needed weekly
your donations matter!

July 2024
attendance & offering

July 7	27	\$ 2,985.00
July 14	32	\$ 1,785.00
July 19 - Meet & Eat	17	N/A
July 21	22	\$ 1,620.00
July 28	37	\$ 1,565.00

	August 4 Pentecost 11	August 11 Pentecost 12	August 18 Pentecost 13	August 25 Pentecost 14
Preacher	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem
Assistant Minister	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	Brook Redwine
Reader	Sherry Kinsella	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Greeter/Ushers	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Head Counter	Sherry Kinsella	Brook Redwine	Jolene Moulder	Pam Zernis
Altar Minister	Brook Redwine	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	Sherry Kinsella
Bread of Life	Julie Renneisen	Julie Renneisen	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Coffee Hour	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED