

# Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church



Worship With Us  
Sundays at 10 am

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 - 3:30  
Pastor Tim Stadem

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

December 2025



## Reflections from Your Pastor: Saying YES in Advent

### The Season of Advent is Unfolding

What a celebration!...at the final Sunday of the church year—*Christ the King*—with meaningful worship then enjoying the many gifts of our community in a delightful, delicious Thanksgiving meal. I feel grateful for our thoughtful and generous sisters and brothers sharing these adventures of faith and life together. Then, by the next Sunday, we open our lives to the next church year emerging as *Advent*—faith in the shape of “hope being born into a weary world.”



### Anything New this Advent?

Our life of discipleship includes the ongoing invitation to hear God saying, “*behold everything is new.*” So, responding with “Yes” is not unknown to followers of Jesus, like us. But perhaps the freshness of this year’s Advent series—*The Power of Yes*—has more to do with repetition. Like every Advent season before: we hear the stories again, year after year. The biblical stories don’t change. Actually, times have changed, and we have changed; and we will change.

Maybe we’ve experienced even more changes this year—with valleys ‘as deep as ever,’ and with mountains to climb ‘as high as ever.’ Thus could our ears be attuned to God in different ways these days? Might we see differently how God is active in our world, in our lives?—where God’s incarnate love enters this fragile, broken world as we haven’t experienced before? Sounds like we are opening ourselves to the way of God with us called: transformation.

### The Power of saying Yes (an invitation, by Shawna Berg, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie, MN)

The series—*The Power of Yes*—reframes Advent not just a countdown to Christmas, but also as an invitation for us to yes to what God is calling us to do in our lives, even if that means there is something we may have to say no to. It is about being intentional. It is about helping others see what the yes moments are in their own lives, that have helped shape their own faith journeys.

### Where do you see the power of yes showing up in your own life?

I see the power of yes showing up when I say yes to community, when isolation would be easier.  
I see the power of yes showing up when I say yes to healing and forgiveness, even when it is hard.  
I see the power of yes showing up when I say yes I see the power of yes showing up when I say yes to generosity, even when I worry about having enough. I see the power of yes showing up when I say yes to joy, even when I want to be a cynic. Choosing my yes, and conversely my no, carefully, means that I am living with intention and purpose.

Advent Blessings Be With You, and with Our Community of Faith, for the Hope of the World,

Pastor Tim



## Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church, ELCA

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## Pastor Tim Städem

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

pastor.tim@sotmlc.org

## December 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Prayer Group 5:30 pm	<b>2</b> Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt 10 am Finance Board 2:30 pm AA 6:30pm	<b>3</b> Holden Evening Prayer Advent Service 6 pm 	<b>4</b> AA 6:30pm	<b>5</b> Church Rental 5 - 7	<b>6</b> Church Rental 9 - 1
<b>7</b> <b>Advent 2</b> Bible Class 9 am Worship 10 am Worship Board Meets	<b>8</b> Prayer Group 5:30 pm	<b>9</b> Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt 10 am Women's Potluck Lunch & Bible Study 11:30 am AA 6:30pm	<b>10</b> Blood Drive @ Community Bible Church 	<b>11</b> Blood Drive @ Community Bible Church AA 6:30pm 	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Community Choir Rehearsal 1:30 - 5
<b>14</b> <b>Advent 3</b> Bible Class 9 am Worship 10 am Council Meets Community Choir Concert at SMLC 4:00pm	<b>15</b> Prayer Group 5:30 pm	<b>16</b> Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt 10 am Fellowship Mtg 5:30 pm AA 6:30pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> AA 6:30pm	<b>19</b> Meet & Eat Potluck Dinner Canceled 	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>Advent 4</b> Bible Class 9 am Worship 10 am	<b>22</b> Prayer Group 5:30 pm	<b>23</b> Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt 10 am AA 6:30pm	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm 	<b>25</b> Christmas Day Service 10:00 am AA 6:30pm 	<b>26</b> Office Closed	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>Christmas 1</b> Bible Class 9 am Worship 10 am	<b>29</b> Prayer Group 5:30 pm	<b>30</b> Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt 10 am AA 6:30pm	<b>31</b> New Years' Eve 			

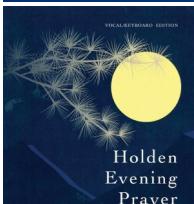
## Christmas Services



Join us as we gather to joyfully celebrate the story of Jesus' birth! Gather to hear the story, sing the carols of faith and celebrate the birth of our Savior!

This is a time of preparation, tradition, hope, and celebration, that God so loved the world that he became flesh to live among us.

## Advent Service



The First Sunday of Advent is our beginning of the church year; this year Advent begins on November 30th. To bring in the new year we will be hanging the greens and preparing our sanctuary that day. We will hold an Advent Vespers service on Wednesday, December 3rd, with a Holden Evening Prayer service at 6:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you for this special Advent service.

## The Power of Yes

Throughout Advent, and into Epiphany, our congregation focuses on the theme "The Power of Yes" within worship.

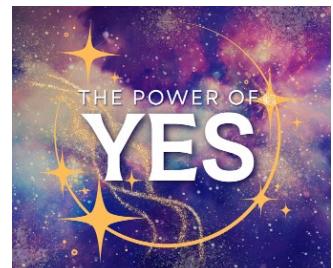
In this liminal time, there are so many reasons to not say yes.

Even the small yeses in our daily lives feel riskier somehow. Decisions about where we put our money, our time, our energy, our confidence, and our faith feel more important than ever during these volatile times. We come from a history of people who said yes. Throughout the story of the people of God, brave and faithful, everyday people said yes to God. In Advent, these yeses are even more significant.

What does it take to get to yes? Why does it matter? Why does it matter that we believe this? This is a story that we tell, that isn't just on a page or in ancient tales, but one that lives in our bones, and calls us to say our own yes when we are called into what God is doing now.

Join us each Sunday as we explore different themes throughout this series. Come and find out how those in Jesus' life said "Yes".

Please take home the daily devotional - Power of Yes - for your Advent season of faith.



## A Message About Reverends Wilson & Ezekiel



Asante Sana! Thank you, Northwest Intermountain Synod, for the wonderful welcome you extended to our companions from the Ulanga Kilombero Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Our guests were impressed by the size of our synod, the warm hospitality they received, and the vast array of ministries of our NWIM Synod people. I hope you had a chance to meet these remarkable pastors and engage in our relationship with the people of our companion synod. They ask that I pass along their deep appreciation for the time they were with us!

Unfortunately, Ezekiel and Wilson had a rough trip home. Due to the civil unrest in Tanzania after their presidential election on October 28, flights into the country were cancelled for about a week. It took our guests 9 days to get home – spending 6 nights in Nairobi, thankfully at a Christian retreat center. As soon as it was safe to travel, they were able to make it home to the loving arms of their families!

A Post Script: A trip to the UKD is planned for June 2026. If you are interested in exploring participation in that trip, please *Heidi Cryer*, Chair, NWIM Companion Synod Team [hacryer@gmail.com](mailto:hacryer@gmail.com) or 509-539-0449. We have a few spots still available but need to finalize the group by mid-December. We would love to add you!

## Stewardship Wrap Up



It is still not too late to get your Commitment Cards in for our 2026 stewardship campaign. Commitment cards are available in the narthex and in the November newsletter. You may also call or email the church office with your commitment for 2026.

To date we have received

**23 commitment cards for 2026 totaling \$88,300.00.**

Thank you all for your commitment to your church family!

## Poinsettia Fund Raiser

In preparation for our Christmas Services, we will once again host a poinsettia fundraiser.

Poinsettias will be used for the altar on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, after that you may take your plant home to enjoy. Due to the price of poinsettias going up, the price will now be one for \$18 or two for \$30. A sign-up sheet is posted in the narthex, please leave your donation in the envelope provided. This fundraiser helps us raise money for the church.



## Sunday Bible Classes



### 'The Power of Saying Yes' - December Bible Classes

Throughout the story of 'the people of God', searching, faithful and brave individuals like us said, "Yes". Each Sunday we lift up another person in the scriptures who models a willingness to stay in relationship with Christ.

Please join us on Sundays at 9:00am. Coffee and friendship provided.



## 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 all who brought soup for the "It Takes a Valley" event.
- Thank you to those who helped with our children's "Art, Play & Eat" community event.
- Thank you for the delicious food & your help at our Thanksgiving Brunch.
- Thank you to all who stayed to help green our church on November 30th.
- Pastor Tim says "thank you, thank you for the gift of trees at my birthday". They are planted, and thinking about spring.

## Prayers & Thanksgivings



Prayers for Steffan Freeman, health

Prayers for Robyn Lunsford, health

Prayers & Thanksgivings for our Tanzanian brothers and sisters in faith.

Prayers for all those suffering in body, mind, soul, and strength.

Prayers for the multitude who are living with loneliness.

Prayers for those who suffer from armed conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza, Israel, Syria, and all around the world.

Prayers for those who are alone or suffering during the holiday season.

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

## Church Council

### 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.

**President:**  
Lorrie Lee  
alliswellnow@bresnan.net

**Vice President:**  
Pam Zernis  
zcircus3@yahoo.com

**Secretary:**  
Nikki Thompson  
nlpurple1984@gmail.com

**Council Members:**  
Chris Moulder  
chris@dubbe-moulder.com

Rusty Mizelle  
wyomingmizelles@gmail.com

Steffan Freeman  
steffenfreeman@gmail.com

Brook Redwine  
4268nbsven@gmail.com

John Parisee  
jparisee1@yahoo.com

Pastor Tim Stadem  
pastor.tim@sotmlc.org

## Birthdays & Anniversaries



### December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Caroline Svendsen on December 7th

Devon Morley on December 8th

Nancy Ninnemann on December 14th

Christina Mizelle on December 25th

Please contact the church office if you would like your birthday or anniversary listed in our newsletter.

## So Much To Be Grateful For!

### All Saints'

Below: Brook Redwine looks at pictures brought in for our All Saints' service on November 2nd. During communion, members of the congregation stopped by one of the tables and lit a candle in memory of one of the saints' in their lives.



### Thankful for Our Thanksgiving Meal

Below: We had a wonderful turnout for our Thanksgiving meal on Nov 23rd. We are so grateful for our church family!



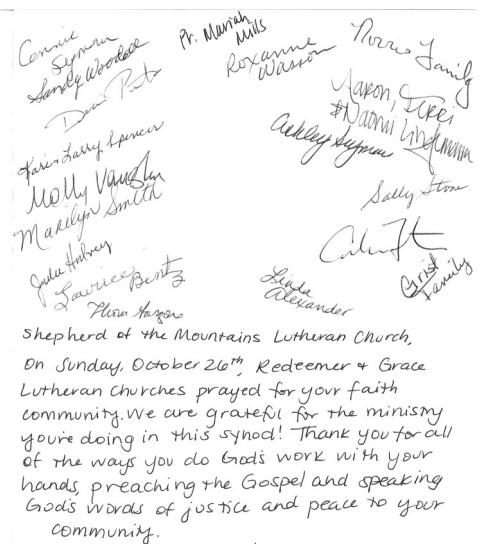
### Art, Play & Eat

Below: A neighboring family came to enjoy some the many crafts that were available at our community event. Many thanks to those who came to help out!



### A Prayer for Our Church

Below: We received a lovely prayer card from Redeemer Lutheran in Boise & Grace Lutheran in Horseshoe Bend.



### Vivian Turns 90!

Below: Vivian Moulder celebrated her 90th birthday on November 29th with her family and church friends.



In Christ's love,  
Your siblings in Christ  
at Redeemer (Boise) &  
Grace (Horseshoe Bend)

## November Church Council Meeting

Highlights from Council Meeting Nov. 9, 2025

- 1) Several Boards and Leaders have been active: Tanzanian Guests, Trunk or Treat, It Takes a Valley, Create Event with children
- 2) Preparations for Annual Meeting - Jan 25, 2026 - incl Nominating & Budget reporting their ongoing work
- 3) Recap from Council Retreat held on Oct 23rd at parsonage



## Angel Tree in Advent



This Advent we are giving to local families in need through a 'Giving Tree'. Several tags are located in the Fellowship Room. Pick up a tag, purchase the gifts, and bring it back to our church by Dec 14th. You can wrap the gift or we will probably have a wrapping party after worship Dec 14th.

We are pleased to join up with First Baptist in this servant event. Please see Bailey Morley for more information.

## Our Church Boards Need You!



Do you have some time or a talent and passion that you could give to your church family or the community? Now is the time to think about how you can be good stewards at Shepherd of the Mountains and those who live among us.

Boards where help is needed in 2026 include **Fellowship, Management, Outreach, Worship, Youth & Education & Stewardship.**

Where do your talents lie? Descriptions of each board, along with an opportunity to sign up, will be posted in soon in the narthex. Please take this time to think about how you can serve the church.

## Community Choir Concert



## Our Common Ground Community Interfaith Choir Concert & Creche Display

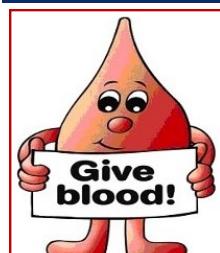
at Shepherd of the Mountains Church

December 14<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm.

Come and enjoy the music

Come to see the amazing creche displays in our narthex

## December Blood Drive



This month our Blood Drive will take place on **December 10th & 11th**

at the Community Bible Church - 1450 S. Park Loop Rd. Jackson, WY

**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.

## Giving



Welcome to our 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.

### November 2025

November 2	29	\$7,932.94
November 9	40	\$4,217.00
November 16	46	\$1,940.00
November 23	43	\$6,084.00
November 30	24	\$1,635.00

**\$3,275.00** is needed weekly

your donations matter!

	December 7 Advent 2	December 14 Advent 3	December 21 Advent 4	December 24 Christmas Eve	December 25 Christmas Day	December 28 Christmas 1
Preacher	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem
Musician	Beverly Charette	Xinlu Huang	Ozzy Ucak	Nancy Wilbrecht	Pastor Tim	Pastor Tim
Assistant Minister	Brook Redwine	Rusty Mizelle	Jolene Moulder	Brook Redwine	Help Needed	Jolene Moulder
Reader	Jim Wells	Christina Mizelle	Chris Moulder	Robyn Lunsford	Help Needed	Tim Cline
Greeter/Ushers	Tim Cline	Karen Schroeder	Robyn Lunsford	Colleen T. & Lorrie Lee	Help Needed	Lorrie Lee
Head Offering Counter	Pam Zernis	Sherry Kinsella	Jolene Moulder	Brook Redwine	Lorrie Lee	Lorrie Lee
Altar Guild	Rose Jeske	Sherry Kinsella	Robyn Lunsford	Brook Redwine	Brook Redwine	Help Needed
Coffee Maker	Lorrie Lee	Pastor Tim	Jolene Moulder	N/A	Help Needed	Brook Redwine