

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

February 2025



I am deeply thankful for Shepherd of the Mountains – and the excitement and vision for this next year in our life together. At last Sunday's Annual Meeting we reflected on 2024, and envisioned the year 2025: equipped with sustaining and new leadership, equipped with each person summoned to God's sacred dance, and equipped with a church body that is trusting in the fresh directions from God – our renewed missional language for the Purpose and Guiding Principles of our church



In our worship together we are listening to eight great stories through the Epiphany season –this time after Christmas, before Lent. And each profound story addresses vital questions about 'who Jesus really is' and 'who Christians really are called to be'. So as we hear and see of abuses upon our neighbor and planet, where vulnerabilities and weaknesses are further traumatized, we look for God and the Spirit within our church community to 'work out' and 'live into' faithful responses.

Welcome to our faith perspective named: Epiphany! Only recently we were gathering around a sequence of Advent & Christmas stories around of God's promises kept: to dwell among us ('moving into the neighborhood', says one translation) – the Word from the beginning is now a living person in Jesus. And now in Epiphany we are pausing and worshiping with epic events in the scriptures – even with three festival opportunities for 'exploring Christ deep in the flesh with us' through his own body, baptized, presented, and transfigured.

So now, with these Epiphany stories shining light upon distinct identifiers of the mission of Jesus, we are ones benefitting through helpful (and radical) guidance for our own call to follow and to serve. Leading right up to the next liturgical season of 'Jesus journey to the cross' (which is Lent, starting with Ash Wednesday, March 5th), we are ultimately processing our own mission statement...as both individuals and as a congregation.

As we are listening, recognition of Jesus' power grows throughout Luke's gospel. And when we arrived at Jesus' inaugural sermon (last Sunday), where he reads from the ancient text in Isaiah, Jesus shows everyone that 'his power is not the goal – God's justice is'. And these sacred words Jesus reads in his home town synagogue direct all questions about his mission, and our calling, toward very distinct ways of being in relationship with one another and our neighbors:

*"The spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Luke 4:18-19*

Thanks be to God for our community in Christ – seeing the light of Christ for us, and for all the world, and especially for those God gives us to serve. Pastor Tim



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February 2025 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Presentation of Our Lord Around Coffee Table 9 am Worship 10 am Blessing of the Quilts Worship Board meets	3 Prayer Group 5:30 pm	4 Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom AA 6:30pm	5	6	7	8
9 5th Sunday after Epiphany Around Coffee Table 9 am Worship 10 am Council Meets	10 Prayer Group 5:30 pm	11 Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom AA 6:30pm	12 Blood Drive 11:30 am 	13 Blood Drive 7:30 am 	14 Valentine's Day 	15
16 6th Sunday after Epiphany Around Coffee Table 9 am Worship 10 am Reception of New Members during worship Pastor Phil Misner Visit 	17 Prayer Group 5:30 pm	18 Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom AA 6:30pm	19	20	21 Meet & Eat Italian Potluck Meal at 5:30 pm 	22
23 7th Sunday after Epiphany Around Coffee Table 9 am Worship 10 am	24 Prayer Group 5:30 pm	25 Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom AA 6:30pm	26	27	28	

Annual Meeting News



On Sunday, January 26th, Shepherd of the Mountains hosted their Annual Meeting and meal after the worship service.

Pastor Tim called the meeting to order, which began with a prayer, litany and hymn. The 2024 Annual meeting minutes were then read, followed by Jolene Moulder reporting on the finances and assets of the church for 2024, after which she presented the 2025 budget for the year.

The church board reports were presented within the report, where each chair wrote about what their board had accomplished within the last year.

Next came the nominations for the 2025 Nominating Committee and nominations for new Council members or existing members extending their term. This year, the three members whose terms were expiring, Brook Redwine, Rusty Mizelle, and Steffan Freeman all decided to extend their terms for another three years. John Parisee was nominated for Council from the floor, he accepted the calling for a three year term. Lorrie Lee was voted in as Council President for another year and Pam Zernis will act as our Vice President for another year as well. Nikki Thompson was elected to be the secretary and Chris Moulder will stay on as a Council member. Jolene Moulder volunteered to stay on as our church treasurer for another year.

Sherry Kinsella, Jolene Moulder, and Nancy Parisee all volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee for 2025, since there were no Council members going off this year.

At the end of the report it was mentioned that in 2025, the Synod Assembly will take on May 3, 2025 on Zoom. Each voting member will need to have their own device (computer/iPad) to log into the Zoom meeting for the Synod Assembly. Voting members will need to attend one of the Synod Assembly orientations. The number of hearings will depend on resolutions submitted. Registration information will be sent February 3.

Thank you to all who came out to attend the meeting and to those who volunteered their time to our Council, our church Treasurer, and volunteers on church boards in 2025.

It's Not Too Late to Join a Church Board



There is still time to be a part of one or more our Ministry Boards in 2025. Come and play a part of our spiritual growth as well as our service to the community. **Fellowship, Worship, Management, Youth & Education, Stewardship, and Outreach** boards all need your help, sign up today!

Hurry and sign up now! Signup sheets will be posted until the end of February.

February Meet & Eat

Our February Meet & Eat will be

“A Taste of Italy”

Friday, February 21st at 5:30 pm

Bring your favorite Italian dish, bread, salad, or dessert.

A signup sheet is posted in the narthex



New Members in February

During the worship service on February 16th, our church family will be growing and welcoming more new members.

Would you consider joining our church family through membership? Membership is primarily about partnership -- begins with conversations (and getting to know you) and inspiration about our renewed mission, our lively history, and then how we might share ministry together. What is most revealing is the 'rite of reception' named: Affirmation of Baptism -- where we publicly acknowledge our trust in God's grace. Formally, in our constitution, membership allows serving on church council, leading a ministry, and voting congregational meetings.



Please speak with Pastor Tim if you wish to know more about this exciting opportunity.

Pastor Phil's Visit



On Sunday, February 16th, Pastor Phil Misner, Associate to Bishop Meggan Manlove, will be our guest at Shepherd of the Mountains Church.

Pastor Phil will bring us the sermon in our worship (in which we also celebrate the reception of new members) and he will also join us for some informal conversation during the reception.

The topic for the informal forum is: *'how shall we serve our neighbor?'* Therefore, in light of Pastor Phil's role as a synod pastor, and hearing many stories of faithfulness within a variety of congregations, let's talk about Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran serving in this time and place in history.

We invite you to join us for both a reception of joy in our new people, and an opportunity to explore how to be servants in Christ together. Hope you are able to attend.

Regional Immigration Event

The Region 1 of the ELCA is offering an ecumenical forum online of immigration experts, including leaders from Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and Lutheran Community Services NW. Pastor Tim is registered and you are invited to register; it's free. Date & Time: Feb 12, 2025 07:30 PM, Mountain Time. To register, go to <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/azM5gslyTZm79SjOnaVgbw>.



Focus: Considering the new Trump Administration directives limiting congregational rights to offer sanctuary for our immigrant neighbors, and our position as a faith community rooted in biblical admonitions to accompany the stranger, we highly encourage you to participate in a Region 1 online forum discussing protections for churches, organizations and individuals and how we might know our rights and/or rise up to be sanctuaries for our most vulnerable.

2025 Directory



The office is almost ready to launch a new church directory for 2025. In the coming weeks, the office will be taking individual photos of each of you during office hours and on Sundays. Special clothing is not necessary, the photos will be head shots, from the shoulders up. Please feel free to stop by on Tuesdays from 8-4, Thursdays 1-5 or Fridays 8-10, or after worship on Sundays to get your picture taken.

If for any reason you do not want your name in our membership directory, please contact the church office.

Thank You

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



- To those on Council that served in 2024.
- To Jolene for serving as Treasurer in 2024.
- To those who volunteered to serve on Council and our church boards for 2025.
- To those who served our church through volunteering in 2024.

Prayers & Thanksgivings

- The family of Miranda Hadley, step-daughter to Jolene's brother Marvin.
- BS, health and guidance.
- EW, health and guidance.
- Prayers for those who suffer from violence, poverty, and environmental disasters throughout the world.
- Prayers for the families of those who lost their lives in the fires in California.
- Prayers for those who lost their homes or belongings or whose lives were impacted by the fires in California.



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	Rusty Mizelle wyoming- mizelles@gmail.com
Vice President: Pam Zernis zcircus3@yahoo.com	Steffan Freeman steffenfreeman@gmail.com
Secretary: Nikki Thompson nltpurple1984@gmail.com	Brook Redwine 4268nbsven@gmail.com
Council Members: Chris Moulder chris@dubbe-moulder.com	John Parisee jparisee1@yahoo.com
	Pastor Tim Stadem pastor.tim@sotmlc.org

Birthdays & Anniversaries

February Birthdays



- Nikki Thompson on February 3rd
- Scott Daily on February 8th
- Jim Wells on February 9th
- Dale Jeske on February 14th
- Carolyn Daily on February 27th

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

So Much To Be Grateful For!

The Joy of Choir!

Below & Right: We have been blessed with the joy of having a choir once again in our worship services. What a gift to be able to offer even more layers of beautiful and spiritual music at our church.



The Joy of Music!

Right: Beverly Charette brings joy to our worship through her various gifts of music on Sundays.



Quilts For California

Left & Below: The quilts made by the Quilt Group are ready to be blessed at the worship service on February 2nd. This batch of quilts will be heading to southern California to help those who have been impacted by the fires in that area.

Annual Meeting

Above: Jolene Moulder presents the financials and budget at the 2025 Annual Meeting that took place after worship on January 26th.



Love. Grow. Serve.

January Church Council Meeting

Council Highlights for January 12th meeting:

- 1) Approved a Budget Proposal for 2025, a recommendation for the Annual Meeting, Jan 26th
- 2) Growing Young 'best practices' will be taken up by the Outreach Board
- 3) Approved Guidelines for our Board and Ministries -- for leadership, communications, responsibilities, etc.
- 4) Nominating Committee - report and conversation about 3 year terms, as constitution reads



Prayer Class & Practice

Takes place here on Mondays 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.



Helping the California Wildfires

There are two ways to help with the California wildfires through the Lutheran church.

Lutheran World Relief offers a giving platform to give through their website, you can go to [LWR Wildfire Relief](#) to give directly.



Giving through Thrivent - Through the Thrivent's website you can make a donation; Thrivent will boost - up to \$500,000! Thrivent has partnered with six organizations who are actively responding to the crisis in California. Donate online today to one of these partnering organizations, and Thrivent will boost your donation. For every \$2 donated through Thrivent's [online giving platform](#) or through a Thrivent Charitable Impact and Investing® Donor Advised Fund, Thrivent will add \$1. The match will run until the \$500,000 cap is met, or March 10, 2025, whichever comes first. Thrivent pays all the processing fees so 100% of your donation will go directly to the cause.



February Blood Drive



This month our Blood Drive will take place on

February 12th & 13th

Blood donors are always needed. If you don't have an appointment for the next blood drive and want to donate please go the 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 2025

- February 12 & 13 at SMLC
- April 16 & 17 at SMLC
- June 11 & 12 at SMLC
- August 13 & 14 at SMLC
- October 15 & 16 at SMLC
- December 10 & 11 location TBD
- Your donation matters!

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



January 2025

attendance & offering

January 5	25	\$ 4,450.00
January 12	29	\$ 890.00
January 19	26	\$ 1,440.00
January 26	37	\$ 5,265.00

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!

	February 2 Presentation of Our Lord	February 9 5th Sunday after Epiphany	February 16 6th Sunday after Epiphany	February 23 7th Sunday after Epiphany
Preacher	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem
Assistant Minister	Brook Redwine	Help Needed	Nancy Parisee	Help Needed
Reader	Dale Jeske	Jim Wells	John Parisee	Help Needed
Greeter/Ushers	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed
Head Counter	Sherry Kinsella	Brook Redwine	Jolene Moulder	Pam Zernis
Altar Minister	Rose Jeske	Brook Redwine	Help Needed	Sherry Kinsella
Coffee Hour (Setup & Cleanup)	Setup- Cleanup -	Setup- Cleanup -	Setup- Cleanup -	Setup- Cleanup -