



February 2026



Our brother and sister bishops in six synods of the ELCA in Minnesota have issued a public letter regarding the escalation of violence. And within our congregation we are lifting prayers...for healing, for deescalation, for lawfulness, and for an end to the dehumanization of people, especially the horrific cruelty to immigrant people.

How do we faithfully respond? with dignity and purpose? Each is called to live into opportunities to shine light in these dark days, to be a vessel through which the Holy Spirit enlightens the world around you. Walking with God, we keep before us the baptismal calling: *"to work for justice and peace in all the earth."* This part of our mission is deeply challenging, and God guides us as individuals and as a congregation together.

Do you hear the incredible value of 'being the body of Christ together'? This phrase (above) was part of my pastor's report in our 2025 Annual Meeting booklet – filled with images, stories, programs, etc. of how we are following Jesus as individuals and as 'an interwoven community'. And while this annual meeting was like a conversation of 'how our life together is going', we were hearing a resounding YES—Yes, we understand this communal gift. Yes, we are prioritizing our being together in this world for the sake of our calling into the mission of the living Christ.

A highlight in '25 was our summer celebration—reflecting on 40 years as a worshipping and serving congregation in Jackson. One witness: "It was a REKINDLING of Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church!" And as this body shared experiences with one another (oh, so many stories), and in the presence of previous pastors, it sounded to me like songs of joy and mission for the purposes of being the life of Christ—to love the world.

How our congregation will thrive. Answers to the challenges of thriving are various, and they are also vigorous. I shared with everyone in our annual meeting that our efforts to thrive in 2026 include a fresh adventure: our council has secured a grant through our synod that will bring inspiration to our whole body – Helping Congregations Thrive, a congregation-wide refreshing and renewing program.

The purpose of these efforts are for constructive change in two dimensions: 1) lifting up and strengthening **what we value most**, and 2) inspiring and guiding us to innovate for **wider relationships**—both within our congregation and into the lives of our neighbors.

In our unfolding future, here are additional questions that will guide our conversations:

- * What are we valuing the most about Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church?
- * When do you feel like you've participated in God's mission – through our congregation and in your own circle of influence in this in this world?
- * Where do you see God leading us?

Partners in Christ, 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

February 2026 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Epiphany 4 Bible Class 9 am Worship 10 am Worship Board Meets	2 Prayer Group 5:30 pm	3 Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt 10 am AA 6:30pm	4	5 AA 6:30pm	6	7
8 Epiphany 5 Bible Class 9 am Worship 10 am Council Meets Souper Bowl of Caring Fundraiser after worship 	9 Prayer Group 5:30 pm	10 Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt 10 am Women's Potluck Lunch & Bible Study 11:30 am  Fellowship Board 5:00 pm AA 6:30pm	11 Blood Drive 11:30 am 	12 Blood Drive 7:30 am 	13 Meet & Eat Potluck Valentines Dinner at 5:30 pm 	14 Valentine's Day 
15 Transfiguration of Our Lord Bible Class 9 am Worship 10 am	16 Prayer Group 5:30 pm Outreach Board at 6:17 pm	17 Shrove Tuesday Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt 10 am Shrove Pancake Luncheon at noon  AA 6:30pm	18 Ash Wednesday Worship at 6 pm 	19 AA 6:30pm	20	21
22 Lent 1 Bible Class 9 am Worship 10 am	23 Prayer Group 5:30 pm	24 Bible & Breakfast 8 am on Zoom Quilt 10 am AA 6:30pm	25 Lenten Worship & Meal Roundtable at church at 5:30 pm 	26 AA 6:30pm	27	28

Shrove Tuesday Brunch

On Tuesday, **February 17th**, we will be hosting a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Potluck Brunch for all. Your donations of fruit, syrup, milk, orange juice, bacon and sausage will be needed. Cooks in the kitchen will be needed too!

Come at 12:00 noon and let Pastor Tim entertain you on Shrove Tuesday while he flips flapjacks and Norwegian pancakes in the kitchen!

A sign-up sheet for the lunch is posted. Bring a neighbor or friend.



Ash Wednesday Worship



Our Ash Wednesday service will be held on **February 18th** at 6:00 pm.

Ash Wednesday is about beginning anew. We begin the 40 days of Lent – from the Latin word for “spring” – a leaning into *life thru winter, hope in the midst of the dark*. Our hearts are turned toward Christ who raises us above the powers of destruction.

On this night, we mark our forehead in a cross shape; we remember both our *Mortality & Forgiveness* with songs, readings and prayer.

Lenten Worship with Soup Supper

“Come to the Table”

During Lent we gather around tables for friendship, faith, and a meal

Each Wednesday during Lent at 5:30 pm

5:30 pm begins with a meal together of fantastic soups and bread with guided conversations of ‘stories about Jesus at the table’.

* our locations for these meals will be announced.

Please see the ‘sign up’ sheet to help with the meals



Annual Meeting Review

On January 25th we held our Annual Meeting for 2026. At the meeting, we said thank you and goodbye to Council members who have fulfilled their terms, President Lorrie Lee, Vice President Pam Zernis, Chris Moulder, and Secretary Nikki Thompson. We then welcomed new members Tim Cline and Di Meister, who will join Rusty Mizelle, Steffan Freeman, John Parisee and Brook Redwine on Council. At the meeting a review of 2025 took place as well as the presentation of the 2026 budget along with hopes and visions for this year.



After the meeting the current Council members stayed behind to vote in Rusty Mizelle as Council President and John Parisee as Council Secretary, the Vice President will be selected at the next Council meeting.

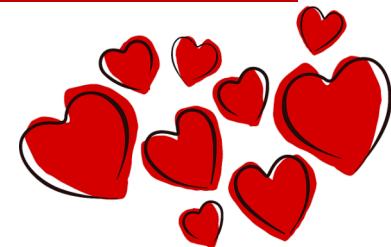
We look forward to our new Council and seeing what they have in store this year for our congregation this coming year.

Watch next month’s newsletter for more on our church Council.

Valentine's Meet & Eat

Our February Valentine's Meet & Eat will take place on
Friday, February 13th
 At 5:30 pm

*Bring your favorite Valentine's dish, side dish or dessert to share
 Wear red and don't forget your date!*



Last Call for Church Boards



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, are posted in soon in the narthex. Please take this time to think about how you can serve the church.

Worship Volunteers Needed

Want to volunteer in an amazing church, nestled among the Grand Tetons? Is trying something new and rewarding on your bucket list for 2026? If so, then we would love to have you at SMLC as an Assistant Minister, Greeter/Usher, Reader, Coffee Maker, or part of our Altar Guild Team. Sign-ups are out and we are ready for you to join our team.

For more information talk to Pastor or Nancy Parisee. We need you!



Souper Bowl of Caring



A Souper Bowl of Caring **fundraiser** will take place on Sunday, February 8th after worship. We will place **cash** in the soup kettle, giving to our neighbors in need. We are also asking that canned or boxed foods, as well as personal care products, be brought to our worship service that day, as these items are included in this fundraiser.

Synod Assembly

On April 24-26, our synod will host a synod assembly at First Lutheran Church in Kennewick, Washington. The meeting will include prayer, learning, elections, budgets, memorials and resolutions.



Synod Assembly voting members include Congregation members elected by their congregation, as well as other members of clergy, the Synod Council, and other rostered leaders. Our church allows 2 members of our church to attend the meeting, Robyn Lunsford and Brook Redwine volunteered at our Annual Meeting.

For more information please go to the Northwest Intermountain Synod website at <https://nwimsynod.org>

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 our outgoing Council members, Lorrie Lee, Pam Zernis, Chris Moulder & Nikki Thompson, for your hard work and dedication.
- Thank you to Di Meister and Tim Cline for coming on board to Council.
- Thank you to Brook Redwine for cleaning the kitchen.
- Thank you to those who signed up for church boards or Sunday Servants.
- Thank you to those who are taking a break this year from volunteering, your stewardship over the past years was a blessing!

Prayers & Thanksgivings



Prayers for Janelle Weber who was hospitalized & had surgery this week for a fractured hip.

Prayers for Robyn Lunsford as she continues on her health journey.

Prayers for Steffan Freeman as he continues on his health journey.

Prayers for those suffering with loneliness, depression, mental illness or ill health.

Prayers for those who are affected by the political uprising in this country.

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: Rusty Mizelle
wyomingmizelles@gmail.com

Vice President: TBD

Secretary: John Parisee
jparissee1@yahoo.com

Council Members:

Steffan Freeman
steffenfreeman@gmail.com

Brook Redwine
4268nbsven@gmail.com

Tim Cline
tcturle35@hotmail.com

Dianne Meister
dibo2226@yahoo.com

Pastor Tim Stadem
pastor.tim@sotmlc.org

Birthdays & Anniversaries



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

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

Nikki Thompson on February 3rd

Scott Daily on February 8th

Jim Wels on February 9th

Dale Jeske on February 14th

Carolyn Daily on February 27th

So Much To Be Grateful For!



January Meet & Eat

Right: Margie Aeckerle, Janelle Weber, Lorrie Lee, Nancy Ninnemann & Dick Klene joined others as they gathered together for a delicious meal at our January Meet & Eat.



Annual Meeting

Above: Jolene Moulder presents the budget during the meeting while Lorrie Lee and Nikki Thompson take notes.

Right: Our meeting was well attended on January 25th. New Council members Di Meister and Tim Cline were welcomed to Council while we said goodbye to those going off Council.



UKD Tumaini Lutheran School Scholarships

Our outreach toward the UKD Tumaini Lutheran school in Ulanga Kilombero, Tanzania continues to grow. Members of our congregation have been very generous with their financial support of helping our companion synod through this mission. Through a Mission Investment Fund, which is funded by ongoing donations from churches and individuals, girls have been able to attend school each year. The cost to send a girl to school is \$800 for a year.



If you would like to take part in this outreach mission with our companion synod in Tanzania, you can donate using our jar at the back of the church.

All donations go directly to our Synod office, which then puts the money into the Mission Investment Fund to cover the cost of tuition, room & board for each student.

To date we have raised \$10,675.00 toward sending a girl to school, that is something to celebrate!



January Church Council Meeting

Council Highlight in January 11 meeting:

- 1) Fine-tuning the 2026 proposed budget
- 2) Final preparations for annual meeting agenda, reports, decisions
- 3) Discussion of 'Helping our Congregation Thrive'



2026 Church Directory Coming Soon



The office is almost ready to launch a new church directory for 2026. In the coming weeks, we will begin taking updated photos of our church members and families. If you have not had your photo taken within the last year for the directory, please talk to Nancy Parisee or call the church office.

Hard copies will be available soon in the narthex. PDF versions will be available, for those who want their directory online.

If you do not want your name or photo published in our membership directory, please contact the church office.

Women's Bible Study



The February Women's Bible Study will take place on
Tuesday, February 10th from 11:30 to 12:15

The women will focus on
Faith Adventures: Peter and Cornelius

The group will be continuing the series on Faithfulness

Vertical Harvest

Nikki Thompson would like to announce that Vertical Harvest in Jackson now has a greenhouse where they will be growing their own food. They will be selling the produce that they grow in the greenhouse during the week. Starting January 26th, the greenhouse will be open on Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10-4, Wednesdays from 12-6 and Saturdays from 12-3. They are closed on Fridays and Sundays. For more information please speak with Nikki.



Blood Drive



This month our Blood Drive will take place on
February 11th & 12th

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 2026

February 11 & 12 at SMLC

April 15 & 16 at SMLC

June 10 & 11 at SMLC

August 12 & 13 at SMLC

October 14 & 15 at SMLC

December 9 & 10 at Comm. Bible Church

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



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.

January 2026

January 4	24	\$3,330.00
January 11	35	\$13,082.00
January 18	28	\$629.00
January 25	38	\$1,465.00

\$3,275.00 is needed weekly

your donations matter!

	February 1 Epiphany 4	February 8 Epiphany 5	February 15 Transfiguration of Our Lord	February 18 Ash Wednesday	February 22 Lent 1
Preacher	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem	Pastor Tim Stadem
Musician	Ozzy Ucak	Xinlu Huang	Beverly Charette	Nancy Wilbrecht	Nancy Wilbrecht
Assistant Minister	Beverly Charette	Rusty Mizelle	Brook Redwine	Brook Redwine	Jolene Moulder
Reader	Jim Wells	Christina Mizelle	Nikki Thompson	Robyn Lunsford	Chris Moulder
Greeter/Ushers	Nikki Thompson	John Parissee	Karen Schroeder	Robyn Lunsford	Lorrie Lee
Head Offering Counter	Pam Zernis	Sherry Kinsella	Brook Redwine	Jolene Moulder	Lorrie Lee
Altar Guild	Pam Zernis	Robyn Lunsford	Sherry Kinsella	Pam Zernis	Brook Redwine
Coffee Maker	Lorrie Lee	John Parissee	Pastor Tim	N/A	Brook Redwine