

Shepherd of the Mountains

June 2021

what is yet to be



Worship with us!

Sundays at 8 am and 10 am

tiny desk worship will be available Sunday evening

sotmlcjackson@gmail.com



protection, peace, and push

Contact Information

Pastor Inger Hanson

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Office Hours

by appointment
Tuesdays,
Wednesdays
or Thursdays

Call or Message
during

Online Office Hours

**Wednesday
8–10 am**

Days Off

Mondays &
Saturdays

Dear Shepherd of the Mountains,

The word vocation comes from the Latin vocare, to call. As Lutherans, we think of God calling us through the Holy Spirit to certain ministries and people. A teacher is called to work with a certain age group or subject. A doctor is called to specialize in a field or with a particular population. A pastor is called to be a steward of word and sacrament for a congregation. Vocation is not always professional: we can be called to be a friend, a spouse, a parent; a parishioner. What's hard about this life is that sometimes being called to necessarily means being called away.

Late in January, I was unexpectedly invited into a call process in Minnesota (the flatland! I did not think it would be a long conversation.) It turns out my connection to this congregation began here in Jackson. Years ago, I officiated a tiny wedding on a hill above Jackson Lake. The brother-in-law of the bride (the head of the religion department at St. Olaf College) brought forward my name for Bethel Lutheran Church's consideration. As I learned more about this congregation, I was drawn into further conversation, and my sense of call grew stronger and stronger.

And yet, to be called into these new possibilities necessarily means being called away from Shepherd of the Mountains. My strong emotions are a testimony to our time and work together: as much as there is energy and joy in this decision, I am also grieving leaving you and Jackson Hole. This new call itself is a testimony to you: you have shaped me to be the pastor chosen to lead this vibrant congregation in the heart of Lutherland (still a foreign territory to this Alaskan!) I am a better pastor and person because of my time here, and I am so grateful for how you have already been lifting and supporting me for what comes next.

The technical stuff: my last Sunday worshipping with you will be July 4. I will be taking a "stay-packing-cation" through July 18th (officiating a wedding on the 17th!) before going on the road and landing in Northfield, MN – and I assume being indoctrinated in all things Bethel, St. Olaf, and the mysteries of the prairies. I am hoping rivers and lakes will shape me as much as the mountains have.

Support is in the wings as you navigate what comes next: in Rev. Phil Misner, the Assistant to the Bishop who has a special attachment to you all, in Rev. Ben Nardi, the faithful pastor who has helped you through transition in the past, and in Rev. Eric Moehring, the recently retired ELCA pastor who has often assisted both us and St. Francis Episcopal with worship. The St. John's Episcopal and Presbyterian Church in Jackson Hole clergy are holding us in prayer as well.

Beloved, I will savor our last board meetings, studies, and fellowship times as your pastor. I am so thankful and proud to have shared life and ministry with you, and you will always have my gratitude, my love, and my prayers. As I joyfully anticipate this new call, I am also looking forward to seeing what you do next, trusting that the Holy Spirit will be guiding our respective ways forward.

May the protection, peace, and push of the Triune God surround and carry us into what is yet to be.

Pastor Inger



EVERY WEEK

SUNDAY



In-person Worship at SMLC We are offering in-person worship options each week. Join us on Sunday mornings at **8 am (spoken service)** or **10 am (some music and softly singing under our masks)**! For now, we are offering communion in one kind (bread).



9am Education Hour Between worship services we are exploring the promises of God in scripture.



"Tiny Desk Worship" will be available on YouTube and Facebook on Sunday evenings.

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.



Hole Food Rescue - On Sunday mornings, volunteers pick up bread and baked goods from Persephone & Picnic to be distributed to those in need. Would you like to help? Talk to Robyn Lunsford (rlunsford@jorgeng.com)

TUESDAY



Bible & Breakfast, our coed group that looks at the lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday, meets via ZOOM from **8 - 9 am (Jackson time)**. Grab a cup of coffee and join us! Email Pastor Inger for the link.

Holy Horizons - Please join us on Zoom to discuss *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Fellowship at 6 pm; discussion from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Email Pastor Inger for the link.

WEDNESDAY



Online "Office" Hours On Wednesday mornings, Pastor Inger will be more intentionally online and lifting up prayer requests. Give a phone call or check in through Facebook messenger, email, or text.

EVENTS IN JUNE

JUNE 10



Virginian Breakfast Fellowship on Thursday, May 20th at 9 am for fellowship, food, and coffee.

JUNE 13



Church Council will meet after second service. If you have something you would like to be on the agenda, please email a council member.

JUNE 16 & 17



Blood Drive Volunteer with Jolene to welcome and check in donors, or sign up to give blood at www.vitalant.org, or call 1-877-827-4376

JUNE 18



Bible & Campfire! 7pm at the Ninnemanns (1920 Buckrail Drive in Rafter J). Come for s'mores, fellowship, and to hear a Bible story in a new way!

JUNE 20



Confirmation Culminating Experience Sunday - the wait is over! Sascha Mizelle and Alex Shedd are helping with a special service, sharing their insights and learnings.



Fellowship Bike Ride After the second service, gather in the church parking lot at 11:15 and we'll bike to The Bird for brunch!

JUNE 26



Walk & Worship with St. John's Outdoors— Phelps Lake via Rockefeller Preserve. Meet in the Rockefeller parking lot at 7:30 am. Carpooling recommended. 3.4 miles round trip; relatively easy.

LOOKING AHEAD

JULY 4



Confirmation Sunday and **Pastor Inger's Last Sunday Service** at Shepherd of the Mountains.

JULY 7



Holden Evening Prayer Farewell Service 7 pm

distilled from Pastor Phil Misner, Assistant to the Bishop

A good goodbye

This is our time to celebrate the ministry and life we have shared (and to enjoy both the relaxed covid guidelines our high vaccination rates have provided as well as the convenience of zoom!)

In the weeks ahead, gather for

- in-person worship services on Sundays (8 am spoken; 10 am with music)
- education opportunities
 - in person at 9 am on Sundays as we continue to look at God's promises
 - by zoom at 8 am on Tuesday looking at the lectionary texts
 - or by zoom at 6 pm on Tuesday night discussing the book "Learning to Walk in Dark."
- special fellowship times
 - a breakfast fellowship at The Virginian Thursday, June 10th at 9 am
 - Bible & campfire at the Ninnemanns Friday June 18th at 7 pm
 - a Sunday bike ride after second service (no tiny desk worship June 20th)
 - walk & worship with St. John's siblings June 26th. Gather at 7:30 am in the Rockefeller Preserve parking lot for a 3.4 mile hike to Phelps Lake.

Finally, save the date for a special Holden Evening Prayer Farewell service on Wednesday, July 7th, at 7 pm.



What's next?

After Pastor Inger departs, we will focus on discernment. We will utilize supply pastors and have emergency pastoral care arranged for about a month as the council works with the synod to arrange an interim pastor. **Bishop Kristen Kuempel** is tentatively planning to worship with us July 25th!

discernment begins in earnest: who we are

Self-reflection

Who are we? Who are our neighbors? Where is God leading us next?

The congregation forms a Call Committee to work closely with the Interim Pastor to engage these questions and prepare an updated Ministry Site Profile (MSP).

The call committee will then use the MSP and our stated needs to find our next pastor.

discernment continues: who we hope for

Call Committee & Candidates



- The call committee reviews prospective candidates with the synod office, conducts interviews, and hosts final candidate(s) for an on-site visit and interview. Candidates are presented in slates of 2-3 persons (if a first call candidate is considered, that candidate will be presented as a slate of 1).
- If in this process, it seems like a candidate will not meet the needs of the congregation after all, their name is returned and these steps are repeated with new candidates until the call committee selects the candidate of their choice to present to the council.
- If the Council agrees with the Call Committee recommendation, a special meeting of the congregation is arranged. Only one name will be considered by the congregation.
- If the congregation votes to move forward, a letter of call shall be signed by the President and Secretary of the congregation and sent to the synod office for attestation by this bishop.
- The pastor usually decides to accept the call within a few weeks. In the event the pastor does not accept, the call committee shall continue the process.

A warm welcome

Once a call has been accepted, starting dates and an installation service are planned!

The Call Committee or another task group appointed by Council may be charged with the tasks of helping the new pastor settle into the community (finding a doctor, bank, schools, vet, etc).





Carolyn Daily and Bert Mount were busy in May, organizing three days of quilting! Here, Carolyn, Karen Schroeder, Rose Jeske, Sherry Kinsella and another friend enjoy fellowship while tying.

It's a special Sunday when there are four generations of Moulders in worship! Aksel (Lucas and Mollie's son) borrowed a walker from Chris to stroll the aisles and race great-grandmother Vivian.



Even as the Spirit carries some to new locations, she brings others back. Dr. Stephanie Ninnemann is returning to Jackson Hole in July to practice small animal medicine and surgery at Spring Creek Animal Hospital. All creatures great and small rejoice!



Congratulations to Jess Freeze and Nolan Jaenicke on their engagement!



Psalm 23

*What Pastor Inger thinks of
as this congregation's "namesake" psalm*

- ¹The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
- ²The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
- ³You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
- ⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

A Passage

Even when light fades and darkness falls—
as it does every single day, in every single life—
God does not turn the world over to some other deity.
Even when you cannot see where you are going
and no one answers your call, this is not sufficient proof
that you are alone. There is a divine presence
that transcends all your ideas about it,
along with all your language for calling it to your aid,
which is not above using darkness as the wrecking ball
that brings all your false gods down—
but whether you decide to trust the witness of those
who have gone before you, or you decide to do whatever
it takes to become a witness yourself, here is the testimony
of faith: darkness is not dark to God; the night is
as bright as the day.

- Barbara Brown Taylor

in *Learning to Walk in the Dark* (HarperOne, 2014)

A Prayer

*Wondrous Worker of Wonders,
we praise you
not alone for what has been,
or for what is,
but for what is yet to be,
for you are gracious beyond all telling of it.*

*We praise you
that out of the turbulence of our lives
a kingdom is coming,
is being shaped even now,
out of our slivers of loving,
our bits of trusting,
our sprigs of hoping,
our tootles of laughing,
our drips of crying,
our smidgens of worshipping;
that out of our songs and struggles,
out of our griefs and triumphs,
we are gathered up and saved,
for you are gracious beyond all telling of it.*

*We praise you
that you turn us loose
to go with you to the edge of now
and maybe,
to welcome the new,
to see our possibilities,
to accept our limits,
and yet begin living to the limit
of passion and compassion
until,
released by joy,
we uncurl to other people
and to your kingdom coming,
for you are gracious beyond all telling of it.*

- modified from Rev. Ted Loder's
"I Praise You for What is Yet to Be"
in *Guerrillas of Grace* (Luramedia, 1984)

what is yet to be

Online Giving



Have you ever thought about giving your offering 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!

You may also mail in 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

Help the church while you buy your groceries

Please consider enrolling in Smith's Grocery's *Inspiring Donations* Program.

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
4. Finish the process.



MAY 2021		
Week of 2nd	17	\$ 2,500.00
Week of 9th	17	\$ 2,200.00
Week of 16th	28	\$ 1,060.00
Week of 23rd	19	\$ 1,040.00
Week of 30th	24	\$ 2,402.00
Total	105	\$ 9,202.00
Note: Weekly budget needs: \$2,976.00		
* Recently updated to reflect 2021 budget		

	June 6 Pentecost 2	June 13 Pentecost 3	June 20 Pentecost 4	June 27 Pentecost 5
Preacher	Rev. Inger Hanson	Rev. Inger Hanson	Rev. Inger Hanson	Rev. Inger Hanson
Online Assistant Minister	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Assistant Minister	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Reader	Rose or Dale Jeske	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Ushers	Rose or Dale Jeske	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Counters	Rose Jeske	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Piano	Andrew Clark	Andrew Clark	Andrew Clark	Andrew Clark