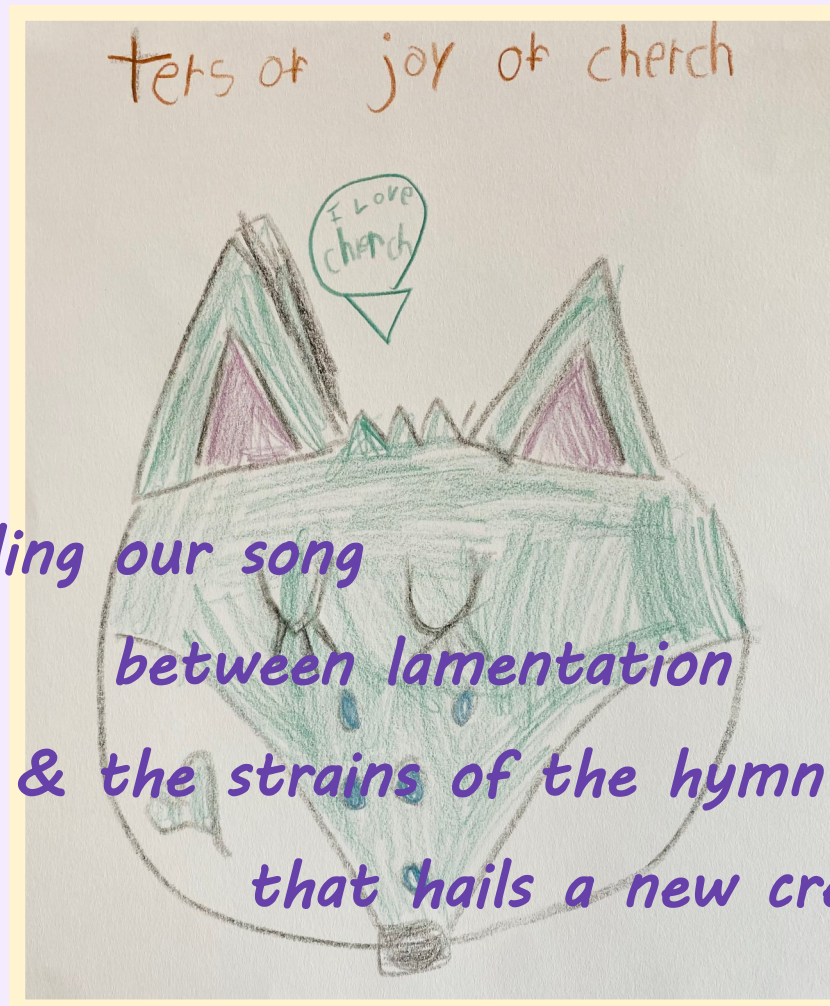


Shepherd of the Mountains

March 2021



Sunday artwork by Olive Amundson-Perryman, age 7,
created at our first indoor in-person worship service
in almost a year (and on her birthday!)

In-person options (with Covid precautions)

Sundays at 8 am and 10 am

ways to worship

tiny desk worship will be available Sunday evening

Send us an email if you'd like to receive a link to our Tiny Desk Worship on Sundays,
or to learn more about what to expect at in-person options.

sotmlcjackson@gmail.com



*Living with Lent
as finding our part in a song*

Dear Shepherd of the Mountains,

Last Sunday, at our first indoor in-person worship service since the pandemic began, my sermon incorporated the hymn of the day, "My Life Flows On in Endless Song." I worried about the irony that, as part of our covid precautions for loving our neighbors, we are refraining from singing out loud. The first verse, however, is a powerful metaphor for living with Lent:

*My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.*

Lent is a time of lamentation, of recognizing brokenness, but it also has this strong hope that repentance can be more than recognition and regret – that repentance can be real: with reversals and changes in how we live and move. I don't imagine the Christian life ignoring the earth's lamentation or trying to drown it out, but rather in conversation with the earth's grief, empathetically harmonizing with it, modulating the tones. The Christian life brings God's promises to meet lamentation and transform it. Because even as the song weaves with the wounds it finds, it is ultimately tuned to that far-off hymn of resurrection and God's new creation.

As Lent continues this month, I also like that songs don't usually unfold in a linear fashion. There is ebb and flow, refrains and codas. Sometimes the beat of earth's lamentation seems relentless, and then smooths and softens. Sometimes that sweet hymn sounds out clearly, before growing faint again.

What lamentations are you hearing in our community?
What sweet melodies of God at work in the world have you caught?

Vaccinations and the growing sunlight of the Northern hemisphere are giving me a strong sense of Easter's song reaching into Lent and beckoning us towards new creation. Now that our health department has lowered the covid risk assessment to yellow, we are going to resume offering weekly in-person worship, while tiny desk will continue to be available on Sunday evenings. Whether in the joy of seeing each other face to face (or mask to mask!), or in the miracle of crossing geography and time zones over zoom, this March may our lives flow together in myriad ways, carrying the hope of Christ.

God's peace,
Pastor Inger

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

EVERY WEEK

SUNDAY



In-person Worship at SMLC has resumed! As our Health Department has lowered the covid19 risk assessment in Teton County to yellow, we plan to offer in-person worship options each week. Join us on Sunday mornings at 8 am (spoken service) or 10 am (some music)! *Remember things will feel a little different - we'll be wearing masks and sitting a bit farther apart. We won't sing or pass the peace the way we have in the past. For communion, please be your own altar guild and bring your own bread and wine or juice, or simply receive a blessing.*



9am Education Hour We are also resuming our in-person education hour between services. Currently, we are exploring the promises of God in scripture.



Going forward, we will continue to offer **"Tiny Desk Worship"** - look for an email with the bulletin and YouTube and Facebook links on and 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 weekly coed group that looks at the lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday, is currently meeting via ZOOM **from 8 - 9 am (Jackson time)**. Grab a cup of coffee and your most Virginian-worthy breakfast, and join us! If you would like to attend, please email Pastor Inger at pastor.inger@gmail.com.

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.

Midweek **"Living with Lent Contemplative Spaces"** On Wednesday evenings in Lent, stop by the church between **5:30–7 pm** for contemplative prayer. Stations focus on the traditional Lenten practices of fasting, prayer, and giving. Some material varies each week. Take as much time as you need with each station. Please wear masks and practice physical distancing.

EVENTS IN MARCH

MARCH
14



Church Council will meet at **11 am**. If you have something you would like to be on the agenda, please email a council member.

MARCH
21



Tiny Desk Worship will feature a sermon from **Rev. Misael Fajardo Perez** as the synod continues the Color Amazed Preaching Project (see details on page 5). Join us at **6 pm** via Zoom **fellowship and discussion**.

MARCH
28



Palm / Passion Sunday

LOOKING AHEAD

APRIL
1 & 2



Maundy Thursday & Good Friday We hope to continue our tradition of sharing Holy Week with our Presbyterian siblings. Stay tuned for details!

APRIL
4



Easter Sunday

APRIL
14 & 15



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



On the 1st Sunday of Christmas, we were gifted with a sermon through the Northwest Intermountain Synod's "Colored Amazed Preaching Project." The speaker was Rev. Kara Skatrud Baylor, a pastor we have a special connection to. Three generations of Skatruds attend SMLC: matriarch Elaine Skatrud; Kari, Matt, Meghan, and William McCreedy; and the Mellos who sometimes brave the pass to worship with us.

For Pastor Inger, awareness of interwoven lives and a sense of the wider church deepened even more when she spotted a Native Alaskan seal ornament on the Christmas tree that Rev. Kara had in the background of her sermon. Sleuth-Pastor Inger soon discovered that Kara's father, Rev. Roger Skatrud had served in Shishmaref and Nome Alaska in 2005 and 2009. In fact, Roger had gone to college and was close friends with the then Alaska Synod Bishop Ron Martinson (Pastor Inger's confirmation pastor!). Pastor Inger's mother, Kristin, who played piano for the Alaska Native Lutheran Church in Anchorage for many years, had also spent time in Shishmaref and Nome. Her Inupiaq friends had told her about the great sermons and pastoral care from interim pastor Skatrud. Kristin even briefly met Roger on one of his trips through Anchorage.

When Pastor Inger contacted him, Roger Skatrud recalled his times in Alaska with great fondness. He remembered the names of the elders who made the ornaments he brought home for his family; he also named the artist who made seal skin slippers that he treasured. These names were well known to Kristin.

Shortly after giving that Christmas sermon, Rev. Kara received a diagnosis of Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer. SMLC began holding her in prayer. As a way of making our prayers more tangible, and to remind Kara of the wider community rooting for her (as well as the many connections shared) Pastor Inger commissioned seal skin slippers for Kara. Kristin contacted the same respected artist, Rachel Stasenکو, who had crafted slippers for Kara's father. Happily, while bringing Rev. Kara a little comfort and beauty in the midst of battling breast cancer, the slippers also allowed us to support the artistry of a Lutheran sibling in a Covid- quarantined, remote Alaskan village.

Rev. Kara received the slippers on Monday! She wrote to Pastor Inger:

I just received a box with the most amazing gift inside. My slippers have been wearing out and I was thinking about getting a new pair. So, receiving this gift at this moment means meant to be. I hung that ornament to be seen on purpose during my sermon. I wanted to celebrate the diversity of who we are as Lutherans. I didn't know it would lead to degrees of separation in our family and the talented maker Rachel Stasenکو.

She also posted a photo and the following words on facebook:

*Today I received an amazing gift from Pastor Inger Hanson and the people of Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church. These are Inupiaq seal skin slippers. My folks have slippers just like these made by the same artist from their time in Alaska in the early 2000's. There are no degrees of separation in the ELCA which can be amazing. These slippers are a gift from creation. I'm **grateful**.*



Wednesdays in Lent – Contemplative Spaces

On Wednesday evenings in Lent, stop by the church between 5:30–7 pm for contemplative prayer. Stations focus on the traditional Lenten practices of fasting, prayer, and giving. Some material varies each week. Engage one or all of the stations, taking as much time as you need. Please wear masks and practice physical distancing.



color amazed preaching project

In the words of a recent guest to the Northwest Intermountain Synod’s digital pulpit, Rev. Kara Skatrud Baylor, “the Color Amazed Preaching Project is about creating relationships virtually with leaders of color in the church body that we are all apart of. It is about learning more about the church as a whole, hearing how others interpret scripture, and what work God is putting in our hands...”

5th Sunday of Lent, March 21, 2021



Rev. Misael Fajarado Perez

We know this name and face! Rev. Misael Farjarado Perez (he/his) served in our synod first as an Intern Pastor and then as the Mission Developer for the Wenatchee Valley Lutheran Latino Ministry. Originally from Mexico City, Misael came to the United States when he was 18 years old. He attended Trinity Lutheran College, Issaquah, WA. After graduation, he was called to work with young people in the multicultural context of Yakima, WA at Tree of Life Lutheran. He went on to earn his Masters of Divinity from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, CA, graduating in May, 2013 with a concentration on evangelism and justice. Currently, Rev. Misael serves in the ELCA’s Pacifica Synod with St. Peter Lutheran / Iglesia Luterana San Pedro in Santa Ana, California.

Join ZOOM Fellowship at 6 pm for discussion and to catch up!





▲ Fellowship Board's zoom Valentine's Dinner (benefitting Hole Food Rescue) was such fun! Thank you **Jolene** and **Mary Lou** for organizing!

Holy Horizons has also been taking advantage of zoom and enjoyed reading Marcus Borg's "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time" together. ▼



▶ The amazing **Jolene Moulder** organized yet another successful blood drive at the church. It's wonderful to see SMLC members like **Terry DiMattio** donate or help host!

Lorrie Lee shows off her "Living with Lent" bowl! ▶



▶ **Abbie Moulder's** basset hound Taggart Bradley made the Thanksgiving for Baptism on tiny desk worship extra joyous during the time after Epiphany. On the 1st Sunday in Lent, four generations of Moulders helped lead various parts of the service.



Pastor Inger had her first communion visit with **Elaine Skatrud**. St. John's Living Center's visitor set-up has a clear window with an excellent speaker system and a much-appreciated warming hut. Elaine is settling in well and is especially enjoying **Joey**, the Living Center's rescue dog. ▼



▲ On February 28th, we offered our first indoor in-person worship services in almost a year. 18 members pioneered our new safety precautions, while online attendance metrics remained strong. A warm welcome to **Andrew Clark**, our new pianist. He was on the keys for most of our February worship services—online and in-person! A graduate of Oberlin College, Andrew comes to us highly recommended by Ron Fabry.



Psalm 19

- ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.
- ² One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- ³ Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,
- ⁴ their sound has gone out into all lands,
and their message to the ends of the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.
- ⁵ It comes for the like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- ⁶ It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
- ⁷ The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the simple.
- ⁸ The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear
and gives light to the eyes.
- ⁹ The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever;
the judgements of the Lord
are true and righteous altogether.
- ¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
- ¹¹ By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- ¹² Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.
- ¹³ Above all, keep your servant
from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.
- ¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

A Passage

We must become bilingual, fluent in the two languages of creation and torah. The speech of creation is visual, a kind of "sign language." In very different language the torah instructs us in the wisdom of the LORD. From the psalmist we learn that creation and torah join together in testimony to the LORD God. They speak different languages, but have the same intent. One interprets the other, yet both point to the same God.

- Dr. Greg Earwood

A Prayer

O Lord, we give thanks for the heavens and the lengthening days declaring to us your glory. In this holy season, we meditate on your teachings and commandments. Enlighten us and help us to keep the spirit of your laws in our times, in our lives. Keep us especially from presumptuous sins. Help us live our lives with humility, or as our siblings in recovery say, "right sized"—neither inflating nor diminishing our importance, neither inflating nor diminishing the importance of others. Strengthen and redeem our words, our meditations, our actions.

AMEN.

Online Giving
is simple and easy



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!



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.

You may also mail in your donations to

Shepherd of the Mountains
P.O. Box 3257
Jackson, WY 83001

Thank you!

Your financial support is important to us!

Church Office Hours

Tuesdays & Thursdays
8:30 am - 3 :30 pm

FEBRUARY 2021

1st Week	NA	\$ 5,022.00
2nd Week	NA	\$ 2,262.00
3rd Week	NA	\$ 555.00
4th Week	NA	\$ 615.00
5th Week	20	\$3,195.00
Total	20	\$11,649.00

Note: Weekly budget needs: \$2,375.00

Blood Drive Dates for 2021

Your help is always needed in our blood drives.
To give blood please go to
<https://www.bloodhero.com>

April 14 & 15
June 16 & 17
August 18 & 19
October 20 & 21



December 15 & 16 (at Presbyterian Church)

Your donation matters!