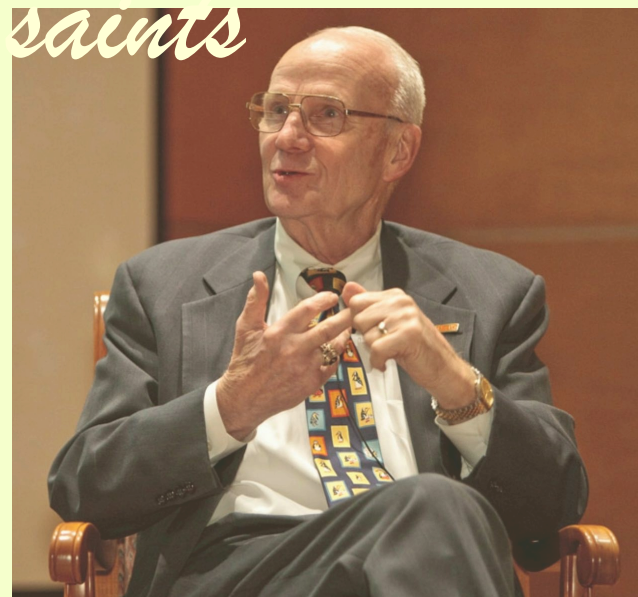


Shepherd of the Mountains

November 2020



Tiny Desk Worship

No regular in-person indoor worship at SMLC as we take COVID-19 precautions.

Email us to receive weekly worship resources at home and instructions for our "Tiny Desk Worship" series!

750 Seneca Lane
P.O. Box 3257
Jackson, WY 83001-3257
307-733-4382

sotmlcjackson@gmail.com
www.shepherdofthemountainsjh.org



Encouraged by Love

Dear Shepherd of the Mountains,

As I was preparing for tiny desk worship this week, it was an honor to spend time remembering the saints who have gone before us this past year, to glimpse the cloud of witnesses you claim in your own lives, and to be introduced to some of the older stories of the congregation (extra thanks to Rose Jeske for helping find pictures when I only had names.). The apostle Paul reminds us of others - the saints of Hebrew scripture: Abraham, Moses, and other Israelite heroes.

But we don't just remember those who went before because it's a nice thing to do, or because they sometimes have cool stories. I think we remember because our faith claims that we are still tethered together by God's love, by God's promise that death does not ultimately separate us. Even as I was hunched over my computer, alone in my office, I felt enfolded by that love that had been made tangible in so many lives. When even before the pandemic began, 3 out of 5 Americans reported being lonely, to be wrapped in that love is no small thing.

And we remember so that we may be encouraged:
 "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross..." Hebrews 12:1-2

Every weight and the sin that clings so closely. It's as if we often surround ourselves with anxiety and self-centeredness, seeking a static protection. Instead, Paul reminds us of the protection of living love, a protection that frees us for movement and nimbleness and a purpose beyond ourselves.

Let us lay aside every weight.
 The weight of the endless conversations over in-person or online worship.
 The weight of who will win the election, and when we will find out results.
 Important things, surely, but sometimes it seems they narrow our vision, making us lose sight of the race set before us *to be church*.

The church's work continues regardless of whether we worship in-person or online, or in some hybrid form; the church has work to do regardless of who wins an election.
 Drawing from our baptismal promises:
 How are we proclaiming Christ through word and deed in this time of pandemic?
 How are we caring for others and the world God made?
 How are we working for justice and peace?

Encouraged by the saints who have gone before,
 tethered to them and to each other by Christ's love,
 let us keep our eyes on Jesus and persevere as church together.

In Christ,
 Pastor Inger

Contact Information

Pastor Inger Hanson

Email:

pastor.inger@
 sotmlc.org
 (preferred for
 non-critical
 communication)

Office:

(307) 733-4382

Cell Phone:

(307) 248-0438

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 *staying connected even as we physically stay apart*

SUNDAY



On Sunday mornings, check for an email from Pastor Inger with an At-Home Worship Service, including the readings for the day, a sermon, songs for reflection, and prayers. A **“Tiny Desk Worship”** will also be available on the church’s Facebook page.

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, meets via ZOOM. We meet **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, weather permitting. You can check in electronically (through Facebook, email, text or message). Additionally, Nancy in the office will start reaching out and checking via phone. Let her know your latest updates, or if you desire follow-up from Pastor Inger.

THURSDAY



Communion Celebrations at the church on Thursdays from 12 - 2 pm. Pastor Inger has set aside this time for short, masked, socially distanced communion services in the sanctuary. Attendees are still expected to be their own altar guild (bring your own bread and wine or juice). Note this is not a full worship service but a 10-15 minute celebration of communion. If folks arrive at similar times and are comfortable, multiple households can space themselves apart in the sanctuary and participate in the same service. If this time frame does not work for you please let Pastor Inger know; and early evening option is being considered.

EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER
1



All Saints Sunday Tiny Desk Worship will have photos of the great cloud of witnesses surrounding Shepherd of the Mountains—be sure to send in a picture of loved ones who have died that you would like included.

NOVEMBER
8



In-Person Worship 8 & 10 am (see details on page 4); **Tiny Desk Worship** will be available that evening.

NOVEMBER
15



Tiny Desk Worship will feature a sermon from Kelly Sherman-Conroy as the synod continues the Color Amazed Preaching Project (see details on page 5). **Watch the facebook premiere at 9 am;** then join us for a **ZOOM Fellowship at 10 am!**



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

NOVEMBER
16-27



Pastor Inger will be out of the office with days off and vacation. Rev. Ben Nardi will lead Tiny Desk Worship on November 22nd; contact the church office if you are in need of pastoral care.

NOVEMBER
29



1st Sunday of Advent will feature a sermon from Rev. Tuhina Verma Rasche as the synod continues the Color Amazed Preaching Project (see details on page 5). **Watch the facebook premiere at 9 am;** then join us for a **ZOOM fellowship at 10 am!**

LOOKING AHEAD

We are still making plans for Advent & Christmas! What are some of your ideas?

*We will be offering two spoken services with Holy Communion
November 8th at 8:00 & 10am.*

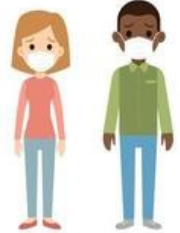
Tiny Desk Worship will be available in the evening.

Please wear your face masks (masks will also be available at the church if needed).

What Parishioners Can Do

Please stay home and join our tiny desk worship if:

- You are not comfortable with in-person gatherings or are a "high risk" individual.
- You, or someone in your family, is ill.
- You have had a fever in the past 72 hours, cough, or have lost your taste or smell.
- You have traveled to a COVID high risk area and need to self-quarantine for 14 days.



Coming Back Together

If you choose to attend an in-person worship:

- Please use your bathroom at home before coming to the church building.
- Dress warmly — Windows will be open for air flow and to reduce the virus load in the sanctuary.
- Face masks must be worn at all times.
- Maintain a distance of 6 feet from others.
- Hand sanitizer will be available—please use it!
- A contact tracing log will be kept at each service; please let the ushers know your name and phone number prior to entering worship.
- Bulletins will contain the whole service. Bulletins will not be handed out—please pick one up from the table on your way into the service. All hymnals have been removed from the sanctuary.
- Sit in designated chairs and rows; they will be marked to help ensure physical distancing.
- Passing of the Peace will be verbal and touchless. Please remain in your chairs.
- There will be no singing.
- Place your donation in the offering plate located at the back of the sanctuary.
- No congregating or socializing in the church building before or after the service.
- Children must be supervised by parents at all times.
- The church will be cleaned prior to each worship service.

Having Communion

We will celebrate a physically distanced communion. Each household should bring their own bread (see the micro communion bread recipe below!) and a small amount of wine or grape juice (Pastor Inger regularly uses a small jelly jar). Parishioners will stay in their places as Pastor Inger consecrates the elements from afar. Households can serve each other; individuals will hear God's word of invitation from Pastor Inger (and the assisting minister will be that voice for her).

Ingredients

- 4 1/2 tsp wheat flour
- 2 pinches baking powder
- 2 pinches salt
- 1/8 tsp oil
- 1 1/4 tsp very hot water
- 1 1/2 tsp honey

Directions

- Heat oven to 350
- Mix together dry ingredients
- Mix water, honey, and oil together; add dry ingredients
- Shape dough into a circle about 1/4" thick and score a cross on top.
- Bake for 5-7 minutes.

color amazed preaching project



The Northwest Intermountain Synod is thrilled to welcome Lutheran leaders of color to our digital pulpit. As our congregations continue to utilize online worship formats, this is a chance to hear siblings we may not have listened to as often. Our hope is that this project helps us begin to better live into the fullness of being the body of Christ. This month we have the opportunity to hear from two dynamic preachers.

On these special Sundays, Tiny Desk Worship will premiere on facebook at 9 am; join ZOOM Fellowship at 10 am for discussion and to catch up!

24th Sunday after Pentecost, November 15, 2020



Kelly Sherman-Conroy
Ph.D. candidate, Luther Seminary

As a proud member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, Kelly (she/her) is a Native American Theologian who has grounded her life in the Holy Spirit and the deep spiritual practices intertwined between her Lakota identity and Christian beliefs. As she pursues her PhD at Luther Seminary, she also serves as the Minister of Social Justice & Advocacy for CYF Ministries at Nativity Lutheran Church in Minnesota.

1st Sunday of Advent, November 29, 2020

Rev. Tuhina Verma Rasche

Rev. Tuhina Verma Rasche (she/her) has a complicated relationship with Jesus. She lives a hyphenated life as a second-generation Indian-American raised in a devout Hindu household and often finds herself in liminal spaces. She is an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and currently serves as the Minister of Small Groups at University AME Zion Church in Palo Alto, CA. Tuhina is also the Young Adult Coordinator for Arts | Religion | Culture. She is a sought after speaker and writer, recently speaking at the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering.





Rev. Meggan Manlove (Trinity Lutheran, Nampa, ID), Rev. Liv Larson Andrews (Salem Lutheran, Spokane, WA), and Rev. Inger Hanson on a post-zoom walk-about!



As you know, Pastor Inger was out of the office October 19-21st for Bishop's Convocation. Pastor Inger and two colleagues from the synod decided to take a pod approach to this year's ZOOM event. We were enriched by worship, excellent Bible studies and presentations by speakers Rev. Lenny Duncan, Deacon Ross Murray, and Ryan Panzer. Being able to process and discuss the material with each other was life-giving, as was hiking fellowship in the park.

Preparations for zoom worship pictured here. Hobey joined us of course!



Our Old Bill's Outreach Fund is replenished with \$3,260! Thank you to Sherry Kinsella, our faithful coordinator, and all who donated!

Thank you!

Bill and Nancy Barge reported that they are settled in Bozeman with Willie as they wait for their new house to be completed. It is under construction and should be ready by December 15th.



We received joyful news from former member Greg Fontaine. He got married in early October and he and Susan were enjoying their honeymoon in Nashville. Greg shared this selfie from the day they got engaged!



Bill & Nancy's new address will be:

1165 Stewart Loop
Bozeman, MT 59718

They are keeping their email and cell phone numbers. They send their best wishes and hope SMLC folks will say hi when you're up in MT!

*Church is not something you go to;
it's a family you belong to.*

Psalm 32:6-11

***Encouraged by the saints beside us,
we seek the way of the Lord.***

⁶Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

⁷You are my hiding place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

A Prayer

For all the saints
who went before us
who have spoken to our hearts
and touched us with your fire,
we praise you, O God.

For all the saints
who live beside us
whose weaknesses and strengths
are woven with our own,
we praise you, O God.

For all the saints
who live beyond us
who challenge us
to change the world with them,
we praise you, O God.

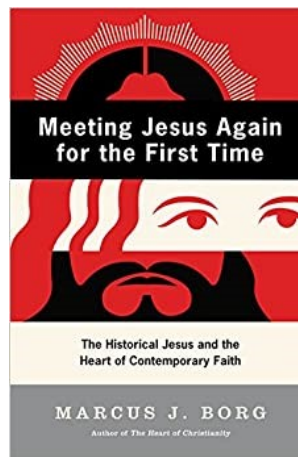
- Janet Morley

A Passage

Led on by Christ and the saints before us, death loses its sting. The cross becomes a way of transformation.

"Death as an image for the path of transformation points to a dying to the world of conventional wisdom as the center of one's security and identity and a dying to self as the center of one's concern. It is a striking image for the path of spiritual transformation. Not only is death the ultimate letting go, and thus the opposite of the grasping that marks the life of conventional wisdom, but the process may often involve the stage we have come to associate with the physical process of dying: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. The path of death is also, for Jesus, the path to new life. It results in rebirth, a resurrection to a life centered in God."

- Marcus Borg in *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*, page 86-87



Intrigued?

The Holy Horizons group selected this book as our next read. Join us!

We generally read a chapter or two and meet for discussion each week by ZOOM.

We will hopefully start later this month. Get your book now and begin reading or listening!

The day/time is still being determined by participants—please email Pastor Inger what your preferences are.

Dear members of the Shepherd of the Mountains Family,

I miss seeing you all and wish everyone God's Peace during this challenging time.

As a member of the church family and Treasurer for the congregation, I need to let you know how we are doing financially and ask for your support and cooperation. It is not surprising that our offerings have dropped since we stopped worshipping together at church. In September, our general offering was \$7,026 while our budget requires \$9,500 to meet expenses. At the end of September, our year-to-date income was \$124,126 and our expenditures \$119,261, for a net revenue of \$4,865. This positive number is only because we received a Paycheck Protection Program loan of \$17,317 that we expect to be forgiven, a \$6,000 grant from the synod to pay for Ron Fabry's benefits, a designated gift of \$1,000 toward Pastor Inger's new computer, and a grant from the State of Wyoming for \$1,748 which paid for the computer. We also received an extra offering of \$20,000 in July from an incredibly generous member after our mid-year individual giving reports were sent out. This out-of-the-ordinary revenue has allowed us to be even with where we were last year at this time.

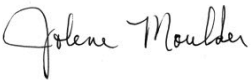
My concern now is for the future. We cannot depend on out-of-the-ordinary funds; we need to be able to meet our budget with our regular giving. With that in mind, we will be holding a Stewardship Drive this fall. We need to know how much money we can expect to receive from our members so we can prepare the budget for 2021. We've had members move away, leave the congregation, and suffer financial hardship during this pandemic, which is understandable, therefore, we need to be prudent and responsible as we prepare for next year.

Enclosed with this letter is a Stewardship pledge form. Please prayerfully consider next year's offering to Shepherd of the Mountains as you fill out the form. No matter what amount you can give, it is crucial that you return the pledge form so that the church can create a realistic budget for 2021. We are fortunate that we do not have a church or parsonage mortgage, but we do have our normal operating expenses of payroll, utilities, insurance, maintenance, and program support that must be paid. Your Stewardship pledge will give us a good idea of our income for 2021 so we can program our expenses for the upcoming year. Please mail your pledge to the church by the end of November. November and December are busy months with the holidays so the sooner we can have figures on which to base our budget, the better.

Also included with this letter is your third-quarter individual offering report. If you see you are behind in your giving to the church and are able to make up the difference, please do so.

I hope that all of you all are safe and that you have the Peace of the Lord in your hearts. Thank you for your pledge and support.

May God Bless You,



Jolene Moulder
SOTM Treasurer

OCTOBER 2020		
1st Simply Giving		\$ 1,675.00
Week of 5th	NA	\$ 1,265.00
Week of 12th	NA	\$ 625.00
15th Simply Giving		\$ 530.00
Week of 19th	NA	\$ 2,435.00
Week of 26th	NA	\$ 600.00
Total	NA	\$ 7,130.00
Note: Weekly budget needs: \$2,375.00		

Please feel free to cut out the pledge card below and mail it back to the church with your pledge.

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church

2021 Pledge Campaign

In gratitude for all of God's Blessings in our lives we respond by helping our church family by giving.

**Our/my total annual pledge
for 2021 is**

\$ _____

This estimate of giving may be revised
by calling the church.

Please mail this pledge card to SOMLC
PO Box 3257
Jackson, WY 83001



Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Thank you for your commitment to
Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church!