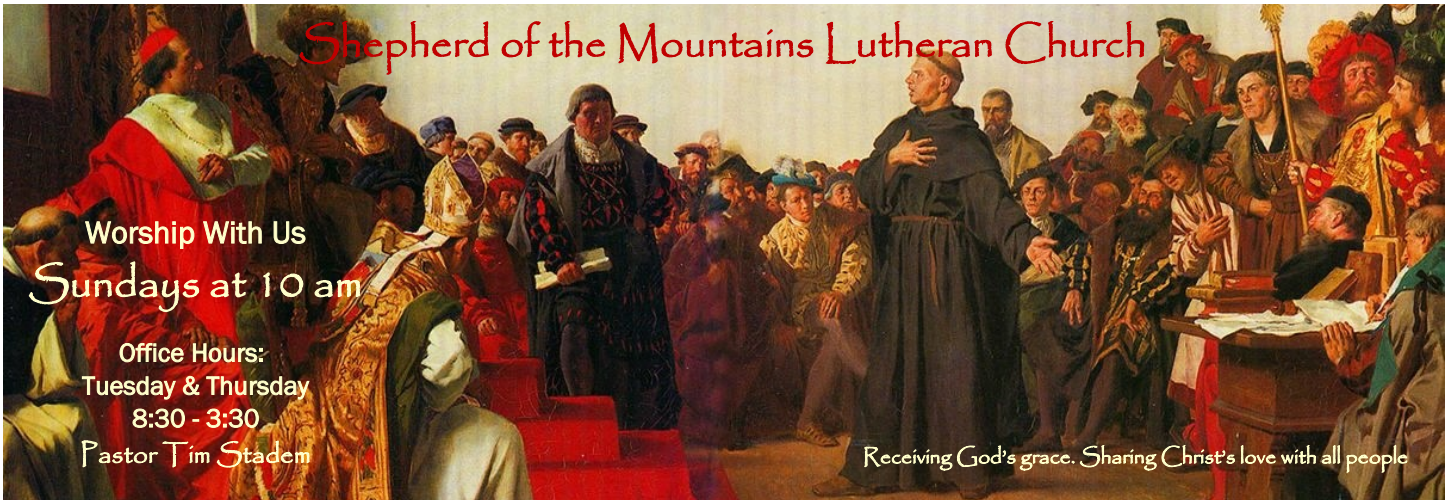


October 2026



WORSHIP THEMES

We are nearing the end of our church year; soon we will begin at Advent (Nov.29th) Lately we have been invoking the image of **God's Vineyard** – each Sunday's scriptures invite us to see we are *'gifted by God to be fruit'* for our neighbor and for one another in community.

The prophet sings an inspiring song of God's vision, *"My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill."* (Isaiah 5:1) And Jesus is calling us to *"go and work in the vineyard today."* (Matthew 21:28) Then in the next parable is the problem of oppositional religious leadership, where Jesus will differently give the kingdom to *"a people who produces its fruits" (Matthew 21:45)*, because of their misguided sense for conquest of God's vineyard.

Yes, God will always be bringing fruits to all the people of the world, even when the ultimate shape of God's fruit is manifest as *"Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his suffering by becoming like him in his death…"* (Philippians 3:10). Can you hear your/our invitation to be Christlike?

In our Lutheran tradition, our lens is to always see our faith and church life considering Christ—**gift and grace and renewal** – who is like the vine, where we are the branches (John 15). And the invitation from Jesus is that our life-long attention is to this promise—this connection and relationship—as a key to our identity in this world; **as branches who are abiding on the vine.**

So, here's the notion: our attention upon the vine—to this pouring out of Christ (Philippians 2)—is what generates fruit. The fruit is not about us, nor our productivity. Rather, our abiding uncovers *"the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord…and being found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith."* (Philippians 3:8).

A BOOK STUDY ON 'REVELATION': RAPTURE EXPOSED

As we near the ending of another church year and consider the ultimate Reign of Christ/Christ the King, it is timely to explore the scriptures in Revelation. Your invitation is to join in a discussion on the book of Revelation, beginning Oct 25th (see invite on page 4). We will explore significant, recent interpretations of Christ (in 1900s) – especially the roots of what has been named 'rapture theology.'

How often we gather in study and worship…to see God's vision of healing and hope, and to remember the role of Christ's church. There are many images – like the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, like the mind of Christ who *"emptied himself"* (Philippians 2:7), and like the branches that abide onto the vine…where the fruit is Christ in us.

Grace to You, Pastor Tim

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church, ELCA
750 Seneca Lane, PO Box 3257, Jackson, WY 83001
307-733-4382 office@sotmlc.org www.shepherdofthemountainsjh.org

Pastor Tim Stadem
970-219-2277 (please feel free to call & text)
pastor.tim@sotmlc.org



October 2026 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Church Rental 6:00pm AA 6:30pm	2	3 Blessing of the Animals 1—5 Church Rental 6:00pm
4 Pentecost 19 Blessing of the Animals Bible Class 9am Worship 10am Worship Board meets after church Church Rental 1-4	5	6 Bible & Breakfast 9am on Zoom Quilt 10 am Fellowship Board 5:30pm AA 6:30pm	7	8 Church Rental 6:00pm AA 6:30pm	9	10 Church Rental 6:00pm
11 Pentecost 20 Bible Class 9am Worship 10am Church Rental 1-4	12 Columbus Day Bishop's Convocation	13 Bible & Breakfast 9am on Zoom Quilt 10am AA 6:30pm Bishop's Convocation	14 Blood Drive 11:30 am Bishop's Convocation	15 Blood Drive 7:30 am Church Rental 6:00pm AA 6:30pm	16 Meet & Eat Tailgate Potluck Meal 5:30 pm	17 Church Rental 6:00pm
18 Pentecost 21 Bible Class 9am Worship 10am Council meets after worship Church Rental 1-4	19 Outreach Board 6:22pm	20 Bible & Breakfast 9am on Zoom Quilt 10am Women's Bible Study 11:30am AA 6:30pm	21	22 Church Rental 6:00pm AA 6:30pm	23	24 Council Thriving Training on Zoom 11 am AA 6:30pm Church Rental 6:00pm
25 Reformation Sunday Stewardship Begins Book Study 8:45am Worship 10am Church Rental 1-4	26	27 Bible & Breakfast 9am on Zoom Quilt 10am Book Study 5:30pm AA 6:30pm	28 Book Study 5:30pm - Idaho	29 Church Rental 6:00pm AA 6:30pm	30	31 Halloween Trunk or Treat 5:30 - 8:30 pm Church Rental 6:00pm

Blessing of the Animals



Christians around the world celebrate a ritual that St. Francis of Assisi started almost 800 years ago by blessing animals. It was Francis who introduced the idea that human beings are only one of God's many creations, but that all, including animals, are blessed by God. He was born in Italy around 1181 and is considered the Patron Saint of animals and the natural environment.

Every year, around **October 4th**, many congregations have a special liturgy called the "Blessing of the Animals." People are asked to bring their pet animals for a blessing on this day. The service includes prayers for creation and a blessing of the animals.

Pastor Tim will be hosting a community pet blessing event for our neighbors in the parking lot of the church on Saturday, October 3rd from 1 - 5, as well as a pet blessing during our Sunday service on October 4th.

Please feel free to bring your special companion to either event for a blessing.

Reformation Sunday

Reformation Sunday is a special festival in the Lutheran church that celebrates the start of the Protestant Reformation. It is usually celebrated on the last Sunday in October, right before the actual anniversary of October 31. On October 31, 1517, a German monk named Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. He wanted to object to church corruption, specifically the selling of indulgences (paying for the forgiveness of sins). This bold act sparked a movement that changed Christianity and led to the creation of the Lutheran church.



This year, we will celebrate Reformation Sunday on October 25th, please wear red if you can that day in celebration of this event.

Stewardship & Giving Our Gifts

Stewardship Sunday is a designated day in many Christian churches focused on managing and sharing the gifts of time, talent, and financial resources that God has entrusted to believers.

During worship on October 25th, we will focus on some of the gifts that our church family can contribute toward helping us grow in 2027. We hope you can take a moment to pray about some of the gifts that you can give to our church and our congregation.

October Meet & Eat



Need a night off from cooking, some fun fellowship & a delicious meal?

Join us at Shepherd of the Mountains Church for a

Football Tailgater Potluck Supper

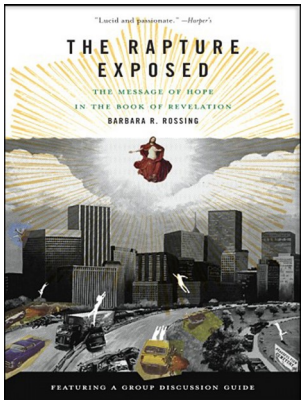
Friday, October 16th at 5:30

Bring tailgate finger food

wings, meatballs, nachos, chili, etc.

Yummy food and fun fellowship is waiting for you!

Book Study - The Rapture Exposed



We hope you can join us for a new and exciting Book Study, beginning on October 25th. The group will be reading ***The Rapture Exposed – The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation.***

New Testament scholar Dr. Barbara Rossing guides us to explore God's vision for our world…considering both faithful and unfaithful interpretations of Revelations. Beginning Oct 25th you are invited to gather in conversation about these messages. You may order and read the book ahead of time (used books a cheap). *Three weekly options* for fruitful discussions take place on: Sundays at 8:45am, Tuesdays at 5:30pm at church, and Wednesdays at 5:30pm on the Idaho side (stay tuned for any amendments of schedule).

Trunk or Treat



Trunk or Treat Fun

Thursday, October 31st, any time from 5:30 pm until 8:30 pm

Bring the kids by for some Trick or Treat Fun

Bring some chili or soup to share by the firepit if you can

Joseph Olson Joins Our Team of Talented Musicians



We are proud to add Vocalist and Musician, Joseph Olson, to our Sunday worship lineup.

Joseph is a passionate advocate for Functional Applied Neuroscience in vocal training. He is currently playing the piano at the Jackson Hole Playhouse during their production of Camelot. He also teaches vocal lessons privately, both online and throughout the country. Joseph holds a Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Vocal Performance (opera) from Brigham Young University.

Tanzania 2027



Have you wondered about visiting our companions in Tanzania? Here is another opportunity to do so! The Companion Synod Team is beginning our planning for the next trip, which will take place from October 26 to November 11, 2027. More details can be found on the synod website under the tab Tanzania Companion Synod. Please consider participating in this life-altering experience.

For detailed information and costs, see:

https://nwimsynod.org/blog/2026925/synod-trip-to-our-companion-synod-2027

Thank You for Your Old Bill's Donations

Thank you to all who helped with outreach for SMLC this year through Old Bill's. Whether you helped with the event, ran in the race, gave financially, we appreciate your support and time. To date we have received $1,865 in funds from our church family and friends, which will be matched later in October. Stay tuned for the final amount of outreach funds that we will receive at the Awards Party at the Center for the Arts on October 28th. Thank you to everyone for your help!



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 the those who came out to help with the Fall Cleanup.
Thank you to those who attended and brought food to our September Meet & Eat.
Thank you to Will Perkins and those who attended and brought food to our Ragtime Music Concert, it was a huge success!
Thank you to those who helped with our Old Bill's event. And thank you to all who donated to help with outreach, your generous donations are very much appreciated.
Thank you to our Finance Board for your time and expertise.
Thank you to Pam Zernis & Lorrie Lee for doing our church audit.

Prayers & Thanksgivings



Prayers for those on new health journeys.
Prayers for Robyn Lunsford as she continues on her health journey.
Prayers for Tom Russ, health.
Prayers for Nepal as they rebuild from the flood.
Prayers for those suffering with loneliness, depression, mental illness or ill health.
Prayers for those affected by the devastating wild fires in the west.

Lifting others in our prayers.

Individuals will remain on our Prayer List for a period of 3 weeks. Please continue to hold them in your prayers after that. Please let us know if you would like people to return to the list for another 3 weeks. Please email the church office with your prayers.

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.

Church Council

President: Rusty Mizelle

Vice President: Steffan Freeman

Secretary: John Parisee

Council Members:
Brook Redwine

Tim Cline

Di Meister

Pastor Tim Stadem

October Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays

Kerry Grande on October 10th

Claire Morley on October 12th

Please contact the church office if you would like your birthday

So Much To Be Grateful For!

September Meet & Eat

Our "Fiesta Friday" Meet & Eat welcomed 25 hungry friends and parishioners. Our Fellowship Board did an amazing job hosting another event of delicious food, good conversations, and the meeting of new friends. Thank You for another fun event!







Above: Carolyn Dailey, Claudia Ramos, Pastor Tim, Jolene Moulder, John Parisee, Robyn Lunsford, Edda Grove & Chris Moulder line up to get their plate of food.

Left: Members of the Apostolic Assembly Church, that also meets here on Sundays, join us for a meal.



Right Above: Dick & Mary Lou Klene, along with their friend Jeanne, enjoy the food and fellowship at the Meet & Eat.

Old Bill's Fun Run

Members & friends of our congregation joined us on September 12th for the Old Bill's Fun Run event. Thank you to Pastor Tim, Jolene Moulder, Edda Grove, Pam Zernis & John and Nancy Parisee for the time you put into making our booth happen. And Thank You to all those donors who gave to Old Bill's so that we may continue to support our community through Old Bill's outreach.





Left: Edda Grove helps to attract people to our booth.

Left: Pastor Tim gets some of the crowd to participate in his "Spin the Wheel" question and answer game.

Right: Ron Fabry and Xinlu Huang visit our booth after the race. Xinlu was one of the runners that day.





Above: Pam Zernis tells people about our upcoming music concerts at the church.

Fall Cleanup

Below: Thank you to Pastor Tim, Jolene Moulder, Pam Zernis, the Parisee's, Tim Cline & Bob Krause for cleaning up the church grounds.





Piano Outreach

Left: Brent and Julie Schindler accept the donation of our upright piano for Teton High School in Driggs.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS & OTHER NEWS

Highlights of Council meeting -- September 13, 2026

1) Audit Review of 2025 -- by Pam Zernis and Lorrie Lee Wells. They performed a general audit following synod guidelines and arrived at a favorable report which will be included in our annual report and meeting in January.

2) The Funding Forward Committee (leveraging our land and building for financial increase) guided conversation about higher income weddings. Council supports that we continue to more forward. (Of course, there are HOA and other considerations.)

3) Steward Season and Commitments to '27 will begin Oct 25th

4) Next 'Our Thriving Congregation' training event is Oct 24th, 11:00am. Council, Outreach Board, and congregational members are invited.

5) Much activity among our boards; grateful for faith at work

Music Concert Fun



On September 27th we hosted another fun, toe tapping Community Music Concert featuring Will Perkins and his wonderful Ragtime Jazz.

51 members of our community came out to hear Will play composers including Scott Joplin, Fats Waller, Eubie Blake, James P. Johnson, and more.

We look forward to hosting more music concerts in 2027, watch our weekly emails and monthly newsletters for the next exciting musical event, hosted by our Outreach Board.





Left: Ron Fabry & Will Perkins





The refreshments after the concert were so good! Thank You to all who helped out.

Women's Bible Study

The June Women's Bible Study will take place on

Tuesday, October 20th *from* 11:30 to 12:15

The women will focus on God's Name, God's Promise - Book of Exodus and John's Gospel.



The group will be continuing the series on Faithfulness

October Blood Drive



This month our Blood Drive will take place on

October 14th & 15th

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.

Blood Drive Dates for 2026

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.

September 2026

September 6	38	$1,262.00
September 13	32	$1,205 .00
September 20	25	$2,616.00
September 27	30	$2,140.00

$3,275.00 is needed weekly
your donations matter!

	October 4 Pentecost 19 Blessing of the Animals	October 11 Pentecost 20	October 18 Pentecost 21	October 25 Reformation Sunday
Musician	*Ozzy Ucak*		*Beverly Charette*	
Assistant Minister	*Beverly Charette*	*Brook Redwine*	*Rusty Mizelle*	*Jolene Moulder*
Reader	*Jim Wells*	*Tim Cline*	*Christina Mizelle*	*Robyn Lunsford*
Greeter/Ushers	*Brook Redwine*	*Robyn Lunsford*	*John Parisee*	*Karen Schroeder*
Head Offering Counter	*Lorrie Lee*	*Sherry Kinsella*	*Pam Zernis*	*Brook Redwine*
Altar Guild	*Brook Redwine*	*Sherry Kinsella*	*Pam Zernis*	*Robyn Lunsford*
Coffee Maker	*Lorrie Lee*	*Brook Redwine*	*Lorrie Lee*	*Jolene Moulder*