

# THE SHEPHERD'S CROOK



**SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2000 Ptarmigan Trail  
Estes Park, Colorado 80517**

**Phone: 586-3900  
Pastor Ron Bockhaus**

**Website: [www.smlc.us](http://www.smlc.us)  
Cell: (970) 232-5922**

**Pastor's Corner**

**September 2011**

## How Will You Mark the Tenth Anniversary of 9-11?

Even though the attack occurred five days previous, I remember how numb people seemed to be the following Sunday back in 2001. Each day people were glued to their TVs hearing the latest news coming from New York City, Pennsylvania and the Pentagon. New security measures were enacted, travel was restricted and people began sending money to the funds created in wake of the tragedy. The following Sunday a local male choir gave a performance during worship. Normally it would have been an energetic time of welcoming new faces to our gathering but that day the mood was subdued. People had 9-11 on their minds.



Much can be said about how 9-11 touched our lives in this country. The one thing I would highlight is how Christians have since responded by engaging people of different faiths in more dialogue, learning and service. The religious aspect of the 9-11 attack cannot, and has not been ignored. I'm glad to learn that SMLC hosted a group of Muslim people last year for a time of meaningful conversation. Our Learning Committee recently showed a film on Buddhism, followed by a visit to a Buddhist Stupa to gain first-hand experience. The Estes Park Christian community is encouraged to get involved in a Crop Walk that will occur on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011, walking around Lake Estes. Proceeds from the walk will go to both local needs through Crossroads Ministry, and international needs through Church World Service. Also in connection to 9-11, Bethany Lutheran Church (Cherry Hills Village, CO) is spearheading a major ecumenical effort in the Denver area to raise \$120,000 and collect 120,000 pounds of food for Metro-CareRing. In addition, you know of other events as well.

One of the most difficult scripture passages our Lord Jesus taught concerns our enemies.

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; Matthew 5: 43-45a.

The basis for such an approach is God's love, not ours. Our love does not begin to have the depth needed to love as we should, let alone love the enemy. So our only hope is to live in the power of God's love for all people, including the righteous, the sinner and the enemy. I am grateful when I forget this, God surrounds me with brothers and sisters in faith who keep me loving others when I don't feel like it. As we have seen, tragedies highlight both the good and bad in life. Rejoice that we worship the Living God whose *goodness and mercy follows us all the days of our lives* (Psalm 23).

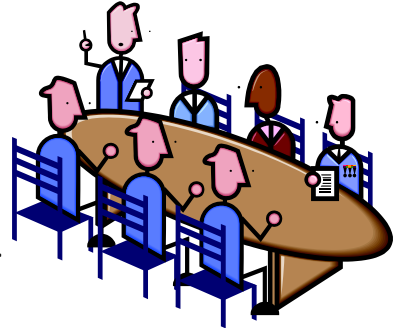
Following the Good Shepherd

Pastor Ron

## AUGUST 2011 COUNCIL MEETING

The church council met August 11, 2011

Pastor Ron reported that five men from our congregation attended the Lutheran Men in Mission conference on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. They are exploring ways of expanding the ministry of the men possibly with Synod youth.



Pastor Ron has been voted in as board member of the Estes Park Restorative Justice Program.

Peter Nelson has agreed to serve as church treasurer. He will be meeting with the appropriate people to discuss the position and assume the responsibilities of treasurer. The council expressed appreciation to Marge Gallagher for her years of service.

An additional tile was added to the church homestead on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Corner Cafe is gearing up to resume this fall. Gary Wallace announced the dates for the La Puente trip will be September 29<sup>th</sup> through October 2<sup>nd</sup> with a train trip to Chama on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. He is in need of a truck/trailer to transport tools.

There will be a hunger emphasis beginning the 14<sup>th</sup> of August with a special offering the 4<sup>th</sup> of September for the Horn of Africa. The money collected will be sent to Lutheran World Relief. Carol McDivitt from the Hunger Task Force will make a presentation at the worship service on September 4<sup>th</sup>. Donations, however, can be made at anytime.

The next Church Council meeting is set for September 13, 2011.

## THE SMLC LIBRARY

The SMLC Library is open! Please enjoy these wonderful resources located on the bookshelves in the multi-purpose room. Instructions on checking out materials are located there as well.



This is a project "under construction," so you will continually see improvements and changes, but please go ahead and enjoy!

## WEDNESDAY PRAYER GROUP

The Wednesday noon prayer group is beginning a new unit on Lectio Divina – the spiritual practice of praying through Scripture. Join us Wednesdays at 11:45 AM for about an hour at the church. Everyone is welcome to join us at any time – on a regular, seasonal, or intermittent basis.



**Treasurer's Report - 07.31.11**

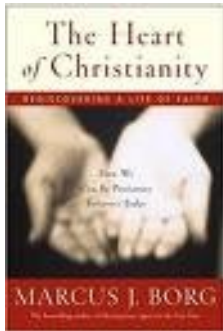
	Actual	Budget
July Income	14,980.06	179,338.00 Annual
July Expenses	13,898.58	
Difference	1,081.48	
YTD Income	101,036.65	104,613.88 YTD
YTD Expenses	102,182.28	
Difference	-1,145.63	

**New SMLC Church Treasurer**

The opportunity to serve as our congregation as Treasurer has been filled. The new SMLC Treasurer will be Peter Nelson.



**EXPERIENCING THE HEART OF CHRISTIANITY” STUDY**

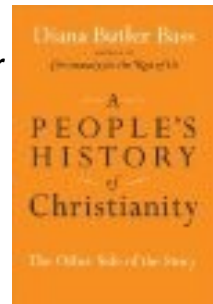


It is not too late to join the “Experiencing the Heart of Christianity” study on Sunday nights. A wealth of thought-provoking material will be explored through this book and its accompanying DVD and study guide. Lively discussion and debate are sure to follow! Join us Sunday evenings at 7 pm at the church.

**COMING SOON**

Coming October 28-30, 2011, to Messiah Lutheran Community Church in Denver:

Dr. Diana Butler Bass is an author, speaker, and independent scholar specializing in American religion and culture. She holds a Ph.D. in religious studies from Duke University and is the author of seven books including: ***A People's History of Christianity: the Other Side of the Story*** (HarperOne, 2009). Her best-selling ***Christianity for the Rest of Us*** (2006) was named as one of the best religion books of the year by Publishers Weekly and Christian Century. The SMLC book group has selected this last book for their March 2012 reading. For those interested, we will set up discussion times in October prior to the workshop event for both of these books.





## GROUNDS CARE UPDATE

**Water Usage.** It has been called to my attention that our church is using excessive amounts of water this summer. It has been a very dry summer, but we have not done a lot of unusual things for irrigation, so there had to be leakages. With Stan's help we have located what appears to be most of the problem and are in process of making adjustments in the system to further limit our consumption.

**Use of Coffee Grounds.** We are looking into the prospect of using our coffee grounds as fertilizer for our trees. I am confident that a convenient, efficient and neat way can be developed to do this. Our first step is to use the grounds resulting from our coffee service at our church. If members are interested in bringing their coffee grounds for this purpose, that can be considered as a further step.

**Tree Fencing.** Our trees are growing, some of them to the point where their branches are being turned inward by surrounding fencing. In these instances we are removing the fences and posts. I do have in place a program to protect our trees from the elk post-fencing. I have a high pressure sprayer that attaches to my garden tractor and can be used to saturate our trees with animal repellent; in fact, all of the trees could be sprayed in about a half hour. Repeated treatment, especially after a heavy rain, should repel the elk. The few fences removed will be an occasion for monitoring the success of this program. If it is successful, a gradual removal of fencing will take place next summer. Removed fencing and posts will be stored behind our utility shed. Anyone who has use for these, among our members, will be welcome to pick them up. If there are no takers, Matt Matthison will begin spreading the word about their availability for anyone who has use for them.

– Don Groskreutz

## SAFEMART GIFT CARDS

Are available from Kelly Brown, either after church or by calling her at 586-2021 during the week. They are just like cash to you, and remember 5% goes back to the church automatically with no cost to you! Thanks to everyone who is participating.



## ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GATHERING NOVEMBER 18TH-20TH, YMCA OF THE ROCKIES!

The Senior High Youth of our Synod are coming to Estes Park in November! What a great opportunity for our youth and our congregation! How might we support this important ministry? Think. Dream. Discuss. Pray. Let's talk about your ideas. - P. Ron  
(You can find more information on the Rocky Mountain Synod High School Youth Gathering online at: [www.rmselca.org/shyg](http://www.rmselca.org/shyg) & on the SLMC Community Board)

## UPDATE: HORN OF AFRICA DROUGHT

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

The worst drought in 60 years has reached crisis level in East Africa. Thousands and thousands of people in Ethiopia, central and northern Kenya, Djibouti and Somalia are leaving their homes in search of food, water and shelter.



The Dadaab refugee center, managed in partnership with The Lutheran World Federation, was built to accommodate 90,000 people. However, recently more than 380,000 thirsty and hungry people have gathered in and around the center. This number continues to grow with more than 1,000 people arriving daily.

“This is the last of my food, a few beans. I used to grow food myself but there has been no rainfall in eight years, so now I have to buy all my food from the market. The prices keep going up. We only have enough food for one meal a day now, and that goes for all people in this area,” says Lucia Muvili Ngotho from the Kalimui village in Mwingi, Kenya.

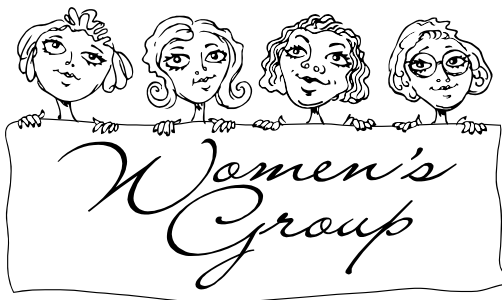


Nearly half of the total population of Somalia is currently in need of emergency food assistance. Yet, the al Qaeda-linked group al-Shabaab, which controls parts of Somalia, has made bringing assistance to many of the malnourished incredibly difficult, if not impossible. The famine in Somalia has been brought-on by lack of governance combined with crippling droughts throughout East Africa, which some experts have linked to climate change. High food prices worldwide and a lagging response by the international community and donors have made matters only worse.

On **September 4<sup>th</sup>**, Shepherd of the Mountains will take up a special collection, with 100% of the monies collected used to directly help with this disaster. However, donations can be made at anytime via SMLC.

Gifts made through ELCA Disaster Response ([www.elca.org/disaster](http://www.elca.org/disaster)) are now providing water and enriched porridge to children and older adults who are too weak to eat dry food. Your generous gifts will make it possible for this church’s response to continue as long as the drought does and, even afterward, as the people seek to restart their lives. **Please designate your gift to SMLC noted for the “Horn of Africa Drought Relief”** All will be used in relief effort .

**PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING GENEROUSLY TO THIS CAUSE. Thank you!**



## WELCA NEWS

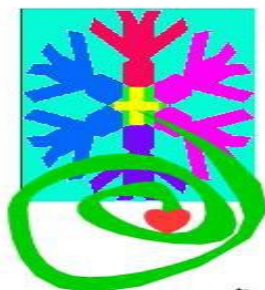
Women of ELCA met on Tuesday, August 9th, for our Bible Study and business meeting. We concluded our summer Bible Study Series with the lesson "Rejoice" led by Betty Yohe. This lesson along with the lessons of Renew and Respond are the anchor points for our life of faith.

We are excited that in September we will begin a nine-session study of the Gospel of Mark. The theme verse for the year is from Mark 10:49b. . ."Take heart, get up, [Jesus] is calling you."

The study covers the 16 chapters of the Gospel of Mark with an emphasis on what it means to follow Jesus today. These lessons can be found in the magazine, "Gather", formerly known as "Lutheran Woman Today"

At our business meeting we planned our menu for serving the Retired Pastors' Dinner on Monday, September 19th. Discussion was held regarding how we can help with needed supplies for the Community Corner Cafe.

The Fall Gathering of the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod will be held at SMLC on Saturday, October 15th. We are fortunate that the meeting is being brought to us here in Estes Park and will be getting additional information to you in the Sunday bulletins. All women of our congregation are invited to attend this Synod cluster meeting .



**W**omen's  
**E**vening  
**B**ible-study

2011 7pm  
**GATHERINGS**

STUDY: *To Follow and to Serve:  
The Gospel of Mark*

### DATES:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

### LOCATIONS:

Linda Schlitt's house  
951 Rockwood Lane

Nancy Matson's house  
1843 Highway 66

Mary Banken's house  
1523 Fish Hatchery Road

To be announced

rsvp: Linda Schlitt  
phone: 970-586-5071  
email: llsjoy@aol.com

Get your lesson from: **Gathering** magazine,  
WELCA website download, or Linda Schlitt

**Bring a Bible**

# Labor Day Double Header



**Celebrating Liszt**  
*Lloyd Arriola*  
**Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**



**Songs of Love & Hate**  
*Lindsey Blackhurst*  
**Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.**

*At Shepherd of the Mountains Church*  
**2000 Ptarmigan Trail, Estes Park**

*Free will donations support building the Estes Park Performing Arts Center*  
<http://eppac.org/>

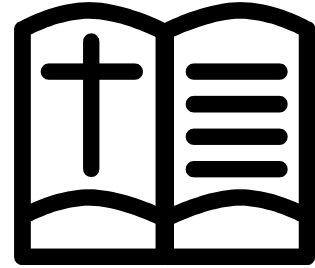
**SEPTEMBER BIBLE READINGS**

**September 4**

Ezekiel 33:7-11  
 Exodus 12:1-14  
 Psalm 119:33-40  
 Psalm 149  
 Romans 13:8-14  
 Matthew 18:15-20

**September 11**

Genesis 50:15-21  
 Exodus 14:19-31  
 Psalm 103:1-7, 8-13  
 Exodus 15:1-11, 20-21  
 Romans 14:1-12  
 Matthew 18:21-35



**September 18**

Jonah 3:10-4:11  
 Exodus 16:2-15  
 Psalm 145:1-8  
 Philippians 1:21-30  
 Matthew 20:1-16

**September 25**

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32  
 Exodus 17:1-7  
 Psalm 25:1-9  
 Philippians 2:1-13  
 Matthew 21:23-32

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

**BIRTHDAYS:**

Susan Kjerland	9/9	Claire Molle	9/20
Gloria Lickfett	9/12	Bobbie Christenson	9/24
Peter Nelson	9/12	Shayna Gallagher	9/24
Isaac Paswaters	9/16	Earl Matson	9/27
Isabelle Paswaters	9/16	Barb Headley	9/29



**SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:**

Robert & June Wesel	9/03		
Bruce Adams Sr. & Kris Adams	9/06	Austin & Nancy Condon	9/19
Rick & Penny Brisbin	9/08	Ed & Jan Acela	9/25
Daniel & Carolyn Mangler	9/14	Loren & Lynette Johnson	9/30
		Mark & Peggy Lorenz	9/30





# P R A Y E R C H A I N

## PRAYER REQUESTS FROM AUGUST 2011

**August 1, 2011** Please lift up prayers for my good friend, Beverly, who called from Memphis. Her mother is on hospice care. They request peace for her mother and the entire family.  
Thank you – Jill Johnson

**August 6, 2011** Please pray for the family of Beverly Dawkins, whose mother died this morning in Memphis. - Thank you- Jill Johnson

**August 14, 2011** Please pray for the 12 million plus people in the Horn of Africa who due to the driest year since 1951, are at risk of having no food and no water. Please pray for the 3,000 plus that are flooding into refugee camps everyday, the small children, the elderly, and the aid workers. Thank you - P. Ron

**August 21, 2011** Please pray for Peggy Lorenz' father. (Experiencing some medical delays)

**August 23, 2011** Please pray for Elizabeth Olson. She is having surgery.

**August 23, 2011** Please pray for Marilyn Dutton. She is having cataract surgery on August 30<sup>th</sup>.

## FALL THOUGHTS

Fall is coming! Soon the glorious valley will fill with yellow aspen as summer winds down and the days grow shorter.

The acknowledgement that summer is coming to an end reminds us of all the things we love to do as the seasons change.

As all the leaves fall and fade, there is deep color and rich variety. The crimson high bush cranberry leaves, the yellow-veined birch leaves, the bright orange gooseberries – noticing these reminds us of the beauty in change.

So, as we watch the leaves fluttering to the ground in the fall, we are reminded that nature's cycles are mirrored in our lives. Autumn is a time for letting go and looking forward to the change in season.

Fall is the right time to practice getting out of the way and letting the Holy Spirit take charge of our lives. "God makes everything beautiful in its time." - Ecclesiastes 3:11

**"Happy Fall!"**

- Vanessa Paswaters



God  makes everything  
beautiful  
in its time. -Ecclesiastes 3:11  
Happy Fall!  
hotgitterszine



## **12TH BIENNIAL CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY OF THE ELCA**

**The 12th Biennial Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** was held Aug. 15-19, 2011, at the Marriott World Center in Orlando, Fla. The assembly included 1,025 voting members. The theme was "Freed in Christ to Serve."

### **Summary of Actions**

#### **ELCA Malaria Campaign officially launched**

The assembly officially launched the ELCA Malaria Campaign under the auspices of ELCA World Hunger. Along with our full communion partners, ELCA members will join with Lutheran churches in Africa to work toward a malaria-free future. A goal of the campaign is to raise \$15 million over a four-year period. The assembly acknowledged that gifts to the ELCA Malaria Campaign are not intended to replace gifts to ELCA World Hunger.

#### **"Genetics, Faith and Responsibility" social statement adopted**

The assembly adopted "Genetics, Faith and Responsibility," a social statement on genetics. The statement, described as the first by a North American church, develops a comprehensive ethical framework for addressing advancements in medical and agricultural research. It is the 11th social statement of the ELCA.

#### **Review process for social statements adopted**

The assembly called for a review process of current procedures for the development and adoption of social statements. No new social statements will be considered until a review process has been completed and shared with the ELCA Church Council in the fall of 2012, followed by a report to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly. During this time, the process for developing the criminal justice social statement and the justice for woman social statement will continue.

#### **Living into the Future Together implementing resolutions adopted**

There were resolutions put forth by the ELCA Church Council and the Living into the Future task force, designed to set a course for the ELCA's future and to consider this church's structure and relationships.

- Churchwide Assemblies will transition from a biennial to a triennial cycle, starting after the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.
- The assembly also approved recommendations that focus on strengthening connections within and across the expressions and partner ministries of this church.
- Voting members of the ELCA Church Council shall include the four churchwide officers and the chair of the ELCA Conference of Bishops. Thirty-three members will continue to be nominated by their synods; the council may not exceed 45 members. Additional members may be nominated by the Church Council to ensure diversity and expertise. All will continue to be elected by the Churchwide Assembly.



## 12TH BIENNIAL CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY OF THE ELCA CONTINUED

- The Congregational and Synodical Mission unit of the churchwide organization will review a recommendation for ministry with mentally and physically "handi-capable" children and adults.
- The assembly invited members of the ELCA to initiate collaborative work by congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, institutions of the church and others to create and support diverse non-legislative forums and events that bring together leaders of this church to participate in theological study and reflection, foster leadership development and enhance the interdependence of this church.
- The assembly provided a means to continue the work assigned to the Living into the Future Together task force in collaboration with the Church Council and the Conference of Bishops.

### **ELCA budget proposals adopted**

The assembly approved a 2012 current fund spending authorization of \$61,792,900, and approved a 2012 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$18,500,000. This vote included approving a 2013 current fund income proposal of \$61,939,400, a 2013 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$18,500,000, and authorizing the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.

### **Memorials adopted**

The assembly adopted a variety of resolutions to expand multicultural ministry, acknowledge the International Year for People of African Descent and work to prevent bullying, harassment and related violence.

- The assembly supported immigration reform and the DREAM (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) Act, which would provide a path for citizenship for undocumented high school graduates.
- The assembly received memorials related to investment for positive change in Palestine, and encouraged members, congregations, synods and agencies of this church to achieve a deeper understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- The assembly also recognized and celebrated Lutheran Campus Ministry and the central role of farmers and ranchers in providing an abundant supply of food and fiber for our nation and the world. The assembly declined to change governing documents that would increase the number of voting members to Synod Assemblies and Churchwide Assemblies who are layperson.

### **Constitutional amendments adopted**

The assembly moved to change ELCA governing documents related to Living into the Future Together, the redesign of the churchwide organization and other matters.

### **Resolutions from the Reference and Counsel committee**

The assembly considered and approved a variety of resolutions on topics ranging from suicide prevention to confronting injustices in immigration, from youth-related matters to mission support.

**SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL**

COUNCIL		COMMITTEE LIASONS
President	Leif Johnson	
Vice President	Bobbie Christenson	Resource/HR
Secretary	Carolyn Jarmin	Witness
Member	Lynette Johnson	Worship
Member	John Stencil	Stewardship
Member	Gary Wallace	Service
Member	Mike Van Brunt	Property
Member	Don Lickfett	Learning
Alternate	Nancy Knoll	
Alternate	Ed Acela	
Treasurer	Marge Gallagher	
Financial Secretary	Ruth Turner	

**SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2000 Ptarmigan Trail  
Estes Park, CO 80517**

## AMY GRANT/MICHAEL W. SMITH CONCERT

We have three tickets available for this concert, which will be in Greeley on Saturday, October 1st. Please talk to Jill Johnson or call 613-1208.

### 20 THINGS TO BE THANKFUL FOR:

1. Fall leaves
2. A tail-wagging greeting from a dog
3. Home-canned vegetables
4. Waking up to a brand new day
5. Large print books
6. Sunlight filling up a favorite room
7. Goodnight kisses
8. Red wine is good for you
9. Back rubs
10. The welcoming glow of a porch light
11. Calculators
12. A fish at the end of your line
13. Free parking
14. Fantasy football leagues
15. Bicycle rides
16. Hikes in the woods
17. Bird feeders
18. Slow drives down a country road
19. High School football games



**SMLC SUPPER GROUP** Please give thought to participating in the Supper Group - all are invited & welcome. The Supper Group meets once a month in homes in small groups of 6 - 8 people. The host provides the entree with the others bringing a salad, dessert or appetizer. For this fall quarter the months are September, October & November with the possibility of a Christmas party including all the groups in December. New groups will be formed for January, February and March. This is an excellent way for all SMLC members to really get to know one another - thus enabling us to do our work for our church. If you would like to attend one of the small groups to get a better understanding of what we're about or if you would like more info please contact Mary Settje [asettje@aol.com](mailto:asettje@aol.com) or 586-5026.

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