

SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH

2000 Ptarmigan Road
Estes Park, CO 80517



"I am the
resurrection
and the
life."

JOHN 11:25



THE SHEPHERD'S CROOK

SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH

P. O. Box 4399, Estes Park, CO 80517

2000 Ptarmigan Trail

The Rev. Daniel H. Mangler, Pastor

Phone: 586-3900 Cell: (970) 227-3741 Website: www.smlc.us

NOVEMBER 2009

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

By and large people are drawn to churches today as consumers. They choose a specific church to join because the church is friendly, the worship service is meaningful, it has a strong Sunday school, it has an active youth group, or for a variety of other reasons most of which fall under the category of meeting that person's or that family's religious, spiritual, and church needs.

This isn't all wrong. To attend and eventually join a church from which one receives no spiritual direction or satisfaction would seem to be counterproductive. But what is very wrong is the all-too-common occurrence that members who join as consumers of ministry never get beyond being consumers of ministry.

The church's task, for the benefit of its own life as an institution as well as for living out of its purpose as Jesus defined it, is to transform consumers of ministry into partners in ministry. In New Testament biblical terms, it is inviting followers to become disciples.

Jesus set for us an example. He turned to the large crowd who had been following him as consumers, listening to his preaching and being blessed by his miracles, and challenged them to become partners in his ministry by becoming disciples. In Luke 9:23 Jesus said to the crowd, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me," Here was the invitation to move beyond being a consumer of Jesus' ministry and into being a partner in his ministry.

This is also the invitation that our church extends to its members twice a year in its Every Member Response stewardship effort, once in the spring with Ministry Opportunity commitments, and then again in the fall with financial commitments.

Stewardship of time, talent, and treasure is, in a very real way, an incarnational ministry. In our giving we become God's hands doing his work. "God's work; our hands", our stewardship theme this year, reflects the ministry our financial giving supports making God visible.

In your financial commitment to the church's ministry for 2010 you are invited to join your hands with the hands of your brothers and sisters in Christ to do God's work.

Pastor Dan



Retirement Party for Pastor Dan & Carolyn Mangler

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church has been blessed with nearly ten years of ministry, leadership and friendship by Pastor Dan and Carolyn.

Most of you aware that they will be retiring from SMLC after the Christmas Eve Service on December 24, 2009.

SMLC will be hosting a party to thank them for their years of ministry here and wish them well as they implement their vision for retirement. Members and friends are invited to the party which will be on Sunday afternoon, December 13 from 2:00 to 4:00 at the church at 2000 Ptarmigan Trail. Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information.

Members and friends are invited to attend this gathering which will include finger foods, tea sandwiches, desserts and beverages.

You may bring a card and/or a joke for the "Joke Basket" to replenish Pastor Dan's supply in the future.

The SMLC Party Committee will present entertainment at 3:00 p.m. on that day. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.



(10-20) Nancy and Ralph Knoll: Please pray for our granddaughter, Jennifer Perkins, in Lincoln, NE. She has an undefined growth in her abdomen and is going in for surgery on Wednesday morning, Oct. 25th. She is 26, married and has two toddlers. Please pray for peace of mind and courage for Jennifer, Jay and their entire family. We pray for wisdom and skill for the medical team that will be treating her, for successful surgery and we give thanks to our Lord for such talented servants. **(Update 10-28)** Thank you all for your prayers. Jennifer had her surgery today and they discovered a tumor in the muscle of the abdomen. It was removed and will be sent in for further test which should be available on Monday. We are praying it will be benign. This could be a painful recovery so pray for healing and control of pain. Little Jackson, who is a Momma's boy is having a pretty tough time adjusting. Jennifer was home in about 4 hours after surgery!!!! Pray that she will have help from family and friends as she cannot do any lifting for at least 4 or possibly more weeks.

Also remember my friend, Margie Henock and her son Frank, both suffering from multiple, critical health conditions and both without health insurance. May they somehow be able to get the treatment so desperately needed.



Many thanks to Larry Kilgore for building the beautiful shelves for the future church library! Please take a moment to stop in the multi-purpose room and take a look at the shelving, and then say "thank you" to Larry for sharing his talents with us!

FROM DOROTHY REFSELL: Thank you to my church family for your prayers, cards, phone calls and generous gifts of food after the surgery for my ankle replacement. It is healing well but the order is for "no weight bearing" for 2 months. I'm getting along well with a wheel chair and John's assistance.



Prayer Requests October 2009

Linda Schlitt: (10-13) Prayers for my younger brother, Dave, who had a heart attack on Sunday while on business travel in California. Prayers for healing, wisdom about travel and follow-up care and peace and protection for he and his dear wife,

Kim. And prayers of thanksgiving for those in his company who are going out of their way to help him.

(10-14) Dave's wife, Kim made it safely to California. My brother Dave is out of the hospital and though weak and tired, is doing pretty well. They are hoping to fly home to Colorado on Saturday. Prayers for continued healing and protection for both of them. Thanks for all your prayers and concern.

Mary Banken (10-18): My mother, Dorothy Banken, passed away at 7:50 this morning. Please pray for peaceful hearts for her survivors: my father, Gene Banken... six children and spouses, and nine grandchildren.

Prayers for Alta and Bill Wachs on the unexpected death of Alta's brother in Wisconsin and for the entire family as they grieve his death.

Prayers continue for Scott Lindemann, resuming chemo treatment for the serious stomach illness he has. And for his parents, Dick and June Lindemann.

Peggy Lorenz (10-19): Please keep my dad, Lee Loseke, in your prayers. He's been having fairly severe chest pains at times, and was scheduled to have minor surgery today to put a stent in an artery near his heart. That was not able to be done, as the surgeons discovered a major blockage (that hadn't shown up in any previous tests). He will need to have more extensive surgery at another hospital, date not yet determined.

(10-19) **Please pray** for the Diedrich family. Daughter, Erin, is a member of SMLC and was baptized and confirmed a few years ago. Her father, Tad, is at Medical Center of the Rockies with a deteriorating heart condition for which he had surgery a couple of years ago. Prayers may be uplifted the Tad and for his wife, Samantha, and daughter, Erin, during this family crisis.

Witness Committee

The Witness Committee is charged with the responsibility of leading the congregation in reaching out to people of the community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, inviting them to become participating members of our faith community. Special attention is given to people who have expressed an interest in our congregation. A current concern is gaining new members.

The Committee's work deals with public information, hospitality and evangelical outreach. Our focus in the following is especially on evangelical outreach.

Our Lutheran persuasion leads us to be aware of the complexity of witnessing in the modern world. We are also aware that our social environment today is filled with a multiplicity of words—in advertising, political advocacy for special interests, communications technology, and all the elements of grass roots democracy at work

In this context, what we do comprises a truly significant aspect of our witness: "Actions speak louder than words." Our members are witnessing in a great variety of ways. Here are a few of them:

1. Sending letters of appreciation and invitation in response to visitors who have attended our worship..
2. Prospective members home visitation .
3. Sharing Lenten crosses with people in public life.
4. Opening our church to various musical and other service groups.
5. Our WELCA ladies provide financial support to Christian service projects throughout the world.
6. Our Youth Group is providing service projects for the Estes Park Community, for our own congregation, and at the recent national youth gathering provided assistance for the reconstruction of New Orleans.
7. Our quilters are providing quilts for local, regional and world relief.
8. Our men are providing for physical necessities for the functioning of our church, as well as serving in Habitat for Humanity; likewise, men and women are serving together in the Puente Project.
9. Various members of our congregation are serving in a variety of community service projects. We have a prayer circle that is providing spiritual support for the entire ministry of our faith community.

These are but a few of the things that our people are doing in witness to their faith. Research makes it clear that the most effective dynamic of church growth is the witness of lay people who invite or bring prospective new members to our worship. What we do is a primary part of our witness. It shows that we care, and if done in truth and sincerity communicates the Gospel of Jesus Christ—which is a pouring out of the love of God purely as a matter of grace. — Mardy Groskreutz, Witness Committee Chair



of **Welcome**
of **Our New**
Members

NEW MEMBERS

On October 18 we were delighted to welcome as members to Shepherd of the Mountains the following individuals: Frank and Terry White, 2003 Ptarmigan Trail, 586-3535.

Frank and Terry moved to Estes Park from Longmont in July this year, having lived most of their years in Chicago, Il. They are both retired from Pepper Construction, Co. of Illinois.

Frank lists gardening as a hobby and Terry enjoys reading, cooking and writing.

Carolyn Jarmin, 2000 White House Dr, Lyons, 303-747-2154. Carolyn lives with her husband George in a home closer to Allenspark than to Lyons. She is employed by the Colorado Department of Revenue.



THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

This year's Community Thanksgiving Eve worship service, sponsored by the Interfaith Council of Estes Park, will be hosted by Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church on Wednesday, November 25th, at 7:00 p.m.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Our monthly WELCA meeting will take place on Tuesday, 7 p.m. Nov. 11, at Linda Schlitt's home. Bible study leader is Nancy Knoll. The topic is "Hope Does Not Disappoint." Our theme verse is Romans 6:11: "So you also must consider yourself dead to sin and alive to God in Jesus Christ."



Women's Bible Study

THANKOFFERING SERVICE, NOV. 15

The Women of the ELCA traditionally prepare and present the worship service once a year, and display their quilts. At this time, women are also encouraged to bring forward their Thank Offerings to help women's ministries throughout the world. Also, take a moment to look at the posting—**Where did Lutheran World Relief Quilts and kits go in 2008?**—on the bulletin board by the Secretary's office door.



Christmas Plans from the Worship Committee

First, we want to invite everyone to join with us for an informal Sunday afternoon decorating party on November 29 at 2:30. This is already the first Sunday in Advent. Bring your willing hands and/or a plate of cookies to share after we put up the two trees and hang the lighted roping in the sanctuary.



Christmas Music

Secondly, since this will be Pastor and Carolyn's last official Christmas Eve Service, we are asking all of the musicians, young and not-so-young, to help us prepare any musical offerings that would be appropriate to play or sing while people are gathering. Phyllis likes to lay the plans for each worship service out well in advance, and, especially this last one with the Manglers. If you do not have printed music of your own, we have a new book of simple, accompanied, Christmas duets for either C or B-flat instruments to work from. Please call Phyllis Eggers at 586-1956, or Loren Johnson at 586-2192.

In fact, the Worship Committee welcomes any musical offerings that you might want to add to our worship services throughout the year as well. For example, we also have a couple of instrumental duets for the Advent Sundays before Christmas.



Interested in helping with the church library? If you did not indicate your interest on the most recent Time & Talent sheets, please contact Annette Gaskill at 303-823-0299 or jagaskill@earthlink.net. One of the first projects will be to choose a cataloguing system, so please join us if you have any ideas you would like to share.

NOVEMBER BIBLE READINGS

November 1

Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 24
Revelation 21:1-6a
John 11:32-44

November 8

1 Kings 17:8-16
Psalm 146
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44



November 15

Daniel 12:1-3
Psalm 16
Hebrews 10:11-14
Mark 13:1-8

November 22

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Psalm 126
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37

November 30

Ezekiel 3:16-21
Psalm 19:1-6
Romans 10:10-18
John 1:35-42

Treasurer's Report – September 30, 2009

| | Actual | Budgeted YTD |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| September Income | 11,990.41 | |
| September Expenses | 13,399.92 | |
| Income YTD | 155,185.00 | 127,160.00 |
| Expenses YTD | 149,030.42 | |
| Difference | 6,154.58 | |



My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. (Psalm 42:2) The Wednesday Noon Prayer Group invites you to quench your thirst by joining us for a different kind of group prayer experience. Beginning on November 18 at 11:45, and continuing weekly for about three months, our Wednesday sessions will engage in a program of group *lectio divina*. *Lectio divina*, also known as “divine reading”, is an approach to scripture which is a prayerful immersion into God’s message for your life. The focus for our group will include a concentration on the seasonal scriptures for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Participants do not have to buy a book or complete “homework” in order to participate. Just come and feast on the Lord’s bounty. If you would like to participate but cannot make the Wednesday noon time slot, contact Mary Banken (586-5350, mkbanken@ou.edu).

LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION RECEIVED (9-26-09)

Dear Shepherd of the Mountains Congregation,

Greetings! On this 17th Sunday after Pentecost we wanted to write and say thank you for bringing the epistle from James to life. You have faithfully prayed for Jeff Giles and his family without really “knowing” us—we have felt blessed by your prayers. You have been willing to be companions on our journey and you have given us strength! **Thank you!!**

When Jeff was facing a difficult round 2 of his maintenance chemo we received a beautiful card—signed with greetings from you—it hangs on our bedroom closet door so that the days Jeff can’t literally get down to look at the lighthouse on the Bay of Lake Superior we have the lighthouse pictured there!

Thank you!!

We will return to Mayo Clinic the middle of November to see if this chemo is working—and if it is we will have a year of treatments ahead—and if not there is a lot of uncertainty—we have hope—we have peace and we are holding on to each other—to God and to friends and family—so we are thankful to call you friends and we truly appreciate your companionship on our journey. Your prayers are cherished and a blessing to us! **Thank you!**

Blessings and peace, Jeff and Jennae Giles