

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church, ELCA

Church office 307.733.4382

Email: sotmlcjackson@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.sotmlc.org>

750 Seneca Lane, Indian Trails Addition

P.O. Box 3257

Jackson, Wyoming 83001-3257

December 2011



Contents

Pastor's Message	2,3
Announcements	4
Food Bank Donations	5
Financial Report	5
Contacts	5
Special Message	6
Schedule of Ministers	7
Christmas Message	8
Upcoming Events	9
Calendar	Attachment

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Children's Christmas Program-
Dec. 18, 10:30AM
- ◆ One Starry Night
Dec 18, 2PM-5PM
- ◆ Christmas Eve Service
6PM & 9PM

The Shepherd's Staff Newsletter

Contact Information

Pastor Alan Schoonover

home - 307-883-3159

cell - 307-713-6179

office email: pastor.schoonie@gmail.com

home email: schoonie@silverstar.com

Office Hours

Tuesdays 10:00 am -4:00 pm

Wednesdays 10:00 am -5:00 pm

Thursdays 10:00 am -4:00 pm

(Other times by appointment)



Worship Sundays

8:00 am and 10:30 am

Sunday School For All Ages

Begins at 9:15 am

The Advent Greeting we should
share with one another is: Emmanuel, God with Us!

CHRISTMAS and "The Story"

*Christmas is the time that we tell our children stories –
Christmas stories*

Even parents, who normally do not tell stories will sit down, gather their children and start to tell a story. Children love stories. Stories are essential to children's well being. Stories can help a child find their way in life and teach values that take root in life. Do not think you can replace those stories by putting a child in front of television. Television is different. It does not really tell stories. It shows too many images and does not leave you time to build your own images with your own imagination. A story does!

Children are often lost and feel threatened. They do not know who to relate to or what to value. We have always known this. Through stories much of this confusion clears up, threats are eliminated, and relationships and values learned.

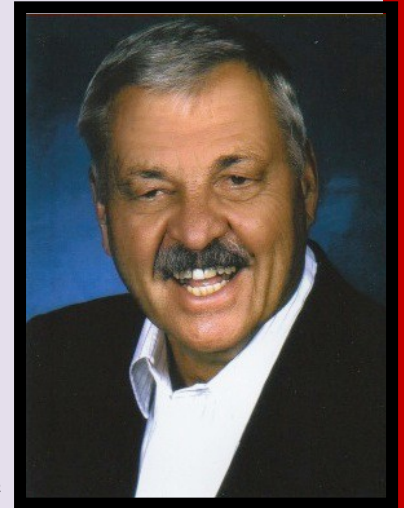
Of course, we have to tell the right stories, the helpful ones, life-giving ones. We need the stories that God tells, not only for our children, but also for the child in each of us.

THE STORY, God's story, is full of hope, love and Good News. It is a beautiful story. It is a story full of stars and angels, shepherds, a lively mother, and wise men. It is a story with good kings and bad, about murder and escape; but most of all, it is a story about new life, new possibilities and hope.

Yet, there is a difference between this story and all the other stories. THE STORY, God's good news, is the story about truth, real love and real people – about a God who became one of us to show how much God loves and understands us. It is a story about new life coming forth from old life in the most surprising ways.

Christmas is full of lights to help us overcome the darkness. This season our hearts fill with generosity and that is why we give gifts. That is why we worship. Because, THE STORY, is what matters most. Tell it to the children and let the child in your heart hear it anew this Christmas season.

~Pastor Allan Schoonover



“A THANKFUL HEART” a Thanksgiving Hymn Festival

I want to thank all who made the Thanksgiving worship service and pot-luck turkey dinner a huge success. The service was wonderful and the music was just out of this world. A very special thanks is offered to all who worked in the kitchen and made the meal come off with an amazing sense of hospitality and friendship. Not to mention the food was awesome. The wonderful people at Shepherd of the Mountains know how to do these events and we thank God that it is done so well.

GRATITUDE FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND CONCERN

Thank you to all who offered prayers, came to visit, sent cards and greetings during my health recovery. Your concern and caring was greatly appreciated during a time in which the anxiety was real. You will never know how much your prayers and concern meant to my wife and me. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Thanks be to God!
Pastor Al

Announcement from Pastor: CONFIRMATION UPDATE

We have 9 students and their parents currently enrolled in confirmation. We meet every Tuesday at 6:30pm. The curriculum that we are currently using comes from, *Free to Be, a handbook to Luther's Small Catechism*, by James A. Nestingen and Gerhard O. Forde. We are covering the 3 Articles to The Creed and their meaning. The goal of confirmation is to have a life giving faith instilled in these students and their parents. We teach the curriculum in such a manner that parents and students learn from one another. It is essential, as we pass on the faith, that we recognize that it is a relationship with God and one another. We are confirming the current group of Senior High School students late spring of 2012. If you have any questions or would like additional information about confirmation, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Schoonover. We believe that Confirmation Ministry is one of the most important gifts that we give to our young people. Pray for these families and their instruction.



- **The Bridger Teton Thrivent Board** has at least one position open, beginning in January. If you are a member of Thrivent, please consider serving on the board. Let's represent Shepherd of the Mountains. Our church benefits from this participation. This past year, Thrivent contributed \$1400 towards the Youth Guatemala trip. Other needs have been addressed as well. Please email or call, Rose Ann Jeske: rosedale@bresnan.net or 307-690-6194.
- **Newsletter comments or additions?** Send to the Newsletter Editor, Allison French by the 20th of the month. Please try to submit electronically: allisonm_french@yahoo.com
- **Contact Nikki with any bulletin information.** Please leave a message for her at the church 733-4382, or email her at nlt84@bresnan.net
- **Food Bank Helpful Hints!** Here are three ways to help you remember to purchase items for our food baskets: put a food item flyer at home where you write your grocery lists, on your desk at work, or in your car. Flyers are available in the narthex and sanctuary. Thank you for caring!
- **FUTURE DATES AND EVENTS**
 - **Sunday December 18th** at 10:30 Sunday School Program will be part of the service.
 - **One Starry Night December 18 2PM -5PM**
 - **Christmas Eve Candle Light Services 6:00 and 9:00**
 - **Christmas Day Service 1030 AM ONLY**
- Rehearsals for "**Jesus is the Reason for the Season,**" to include all youth grades kindergarten through sixth, will be December 4th, December 11th, and December 18th from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. during the Sunday School hour. If you know of a child who would like to participate, please contact Connie Swan at 733-1795.
- Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church youth grades K-6 invite you to join them as they present the Christmas program "**Jesus is the Reason for the Season**" on Sunday, December 18th as part of the 10:30 a.m. worship service.
- **Time and Talent Sheets, along with Pledge Cards,** were mailed out last week. Pledge cards should be sealed in an envelope and placed in the offering plate by 12/4/11. Pledge Cards will then go directly to Pamela Zernis. Time and Talent Sheets can be returned to the church secretary, Mitzi. You may leave them on her desk.



Food Bank Donations

	January - October 2011			2011
	Actual	Budget	\$ Over Budget	Budget
Offering & Income	146,821.42	156,941.68	-10,120.26	188,330.00
Expense				
Administrative Support	9,782.45	9,520.82	261.63	11,425.00
Benevolence	7,583.30	8,333.32	-750.02	10,000.00
Facility	32,406.32	37,516.64	-5,110.32	45,020.00
Personnel	80,009.90	85,091.68	-5,081.78	102,110.00
Program Support	12,287.64	16,479.22	-4,191.58	19,775.00
Total Expense	<u>142,069.61</u>	<u>156,941.68</u>	<u>-14,872.07</u>	<u>188,330.00</u>
	<u>4,751.81</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>4,751.81</u>	<u>0.00</u>

CONTACTS FOR CONGREGATIONAL MINISTERS

Inger Schou, Treasurer.....	733-8498
Pamela Zernis, Financial Secretary.....	733-2377
Holly Luense Sunday School.....	690-4731
Sharon King, Sunday School.....	734-1147
Robyn Lunsford, Youth Education.....	733-2534
Shari Meeks, Youth Education.....	733-4774
Sharon King, Worship/Music Ministry.....	734-1147
Cindy DeVos, Knitting Ministry.....	654-7707
Betsy Grande, Altar Ministry.....	690-1884
Nyles Ellefson, Usher Ministry.....	733-9676
Dine Dellenback, Prayer Chain Ministry.....	733-8409
Dale and Rose Jeske, Landscape Ministry.....	733-1748
Nikki Thompson, Bulletin.....	733-4382
Carolyn Daily, Circle of Care Ministry.....	690-1172



Food Bank Donations "Red Ticket Items"

Thank you so much for helping to meet a continuing need in our community of Jackson. The Jackson Hole Food Cupboard is most appreciative of the efforts SOTM Lutheran Church has put forth to help fill the pantries of those less fortunate. The "Red Ticket Items" for the month of **DECEMBER** are **PASTA-SPAGHETTI; CANNED PASTA SAUCE; DESSERT MIXES (CAKES, COOKIES etc.)** Please note, however, that any item on our Food Bank Flyer is acceptable and appreciated. Please remember - **PASTA-SPAGHETTI; CANNED PASTA SAUCE; DESSERT MIXES (CAKES, COOKIES etc.)** when you shop for groceries in the month of **DECEMBER**. Just a reminder from your Food Bank Committee -Please make sure that your donated items are **NOT EXPIRED**. The JH Food Cupboard will **NOT ACCEPT THEM**. For more information, contact Betty Garrison at 739-1496 or Jo Schmillen at 733-7443.

Welcome to Mitzi Thorkildsen, Secretary for SOTMLC



Mitzi Thorkildsen, was born in Jackson and graduated from Jackson Hole High School in 1982. She is a third generation Jackson local, and is proud of her Scandinavian heritage. Her great grandmother, grandfather and father were all members of the Lutheran Church. She still has family here in the valley. Sal

Thorkildsen is her aunt and John Thorkildsen, owner of the Red Chair, is her cousin. Most of her immediate family has moved to warmer climates over the years. Her grandma and grandpa were the proprietors of Al's Motel on Jean Street for over 40 years.

After graduation, she moved to Dallas, Texas to pursue a career in commercial real estate. She attended Executive Secretarial College as well as Dearborn Real Estate College in Dallas. She has strong organizational skills and great attention to detail. She has worked for major national corporations as well as small independent operators in various fields throughout her career. She semi-retired in 2001, and was fortunate enough to find fulfillment in offering her services on a part time basis. After 28 years in Dallas, Mitzi felt the Lord calling her back to her hometown of Jackson. She has been back in the valley since February 2011. Mitzi is a grateful believer in Jesus Christ, and continues to work on developing a stronger relationship with Him and our Father on a daily basis. She and her fiancé attend River Crossing Church, but will join us for Service from time to time, in order to meet and worship with each of you. She will be a presence in the church office from 10:30am to 2:30pm on a daily basis. Please join us in welcoming her to the SOTMLC Family.

The Schedule of Ministers Serving During the Sunday Morning Worship Services

If you are unable to serve on your scheduled day, PLEASE CONTACT SOMEONE IN THAT CATEGORY AND MAKE A TRADE; THIS IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. Thank you!

Liturgy Assistant List

December 4 8:00	Scott Daily	10:30	Sharon King
December 11 8:00	Scott Daily	10:30	Heidi Schmillen
December 18 8:00	Scott Daily	10:30	Betty Garrison
December 24 6:00pm	Heidi Schmillen	9:00pm	Scott Daily
December 25 8:00	NO SERVICE	10:30	Sharon King

Lector List

	<u>8AM</u>	<u>10:30AM</u>
December 4	Sherry Kinsella	Greg Fontaine
December 11	Diana Eden	Tanya Shedd
December 18	Steve Swan	Children's Christmas
Program		
December 25	No Worship	Hunter Swan
December 24 (Christmas Eve)	<u>6PM</u>	<u>9PM</u>
	Bill Welch	Robyn Lunsford

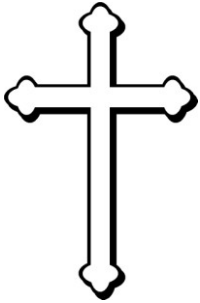
Usher/ Greeters List

<u>December</u>		
4 th	8AM Svendsen	1030 Schmillen
11 th	8AM Schou Family	1030 Kim Hunt
18 th	8AM Tracie Welch	1030 Steffan Freeman
24 th	8AM Schmillen	1030 Marion Hudnall
		Robyn Lunsford



Altar List

Diana	12-4
Jo	12-11
Rose	12-18



Christmas Greeting from Pastor Al and De

Christmas is more than a day. It is more than a moment.

It is God coming to visit us in person.

Christmas is more than toys, tinsel and turkeys.

It is the joy and presence of God in all of life.

Christmas is more than trees and greeting cards and candles.

It is God's love shared amongst us and within us.

Christmas is more than the 25th of December.

Christmas is Christ being born in us anew.

Let's make Christmas a place of peace, joy and new life.

Emmanuel, God with us. -Pastor Al and De

STANDING ON YOUR TIP TOES –

ADVENT HAS SOMETHING NEW TO SAY

Advent announces to us, that the future is not solely in our hands. By the grace of God, there is hope for more than merely present arrangements. We have seen the future and it is, by God's intervening love, considerably more open than we first thought. God is tearing the heavens open and coming down to us. This is the hope of Advent that gives us hope for the future. God is coming!

The Advent scriptures tend to be apocalyptic, that is revelation, uncovering of our future. Isaiah speaks to the people who are filled with yearnings. The exiles are languishing as strangers in a strange land. They are at the end of their rope, utterly without hope, particularly if their hope is dependent on their efforts or initiative. Therefore, they cry out "tear open the heavens and come down."

Jesus turns to his followers toward the end of this journey toward the cross in Mark's Gospel, and tells them to keep tense, keep awake, alert. An old age is dying and a new age is being born. Stand on tiptoes and see what God is birthing among us.

Our proclamation will be an attempt to lure the people of God towards the apocalyptic, to uncover in them a yearning for more. Tomorrow need not be like today. The poetic message of the apocalyptic is hope to the oppressed, threatening to those who are at ease in the present order. The consistent message of the strange, poetic images of the apocalyptic tends to be this: There can be a future because the future is God's and the "church" is a God who intervenes and makes a way when we thought there was no way.

~Pastor Allan Schoonover

You, your family, and friends are invited to step back in time as



Bethlehem comes to Jackson!



The youth and friends of
Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church present

one starry Night

a Christmas event for all ages

the afternoon of

Sunday, December 18, 2011

2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

This free event will help you experience Christmas as never before! Take an hour or so to stroll the streets of Bethlehem at your leisure . . . taste the market delicacies . . . evade the tax collector . . . make and play games that families played centuries ago . . . gaze at the stars with the shepherds and listen to their wonderful stories . . . and finally, visit the stable where Jesus was born.

Reservations, though not required, may be made by calling

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church
750 Seneca Lane
307-733-4382