

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church, ELCA

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February 2012



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The Shepherd's Staff Newsletter

Contact Information

Pastor Alan Schoonover

home - 307-883-3159

cell - 307-713-6179

office email: pastor.schoonie@gmail.com

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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)

Mark Your Calendar

- ◆ Red Cross Valentine's Benefit Dinner-Feb 11
- ◆ Ash Wed, 2/22
- ◆ Blood Drive 2/29, 12-6:45PM

Worship Sundays

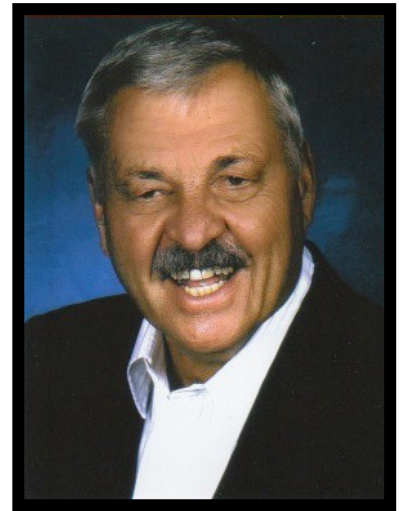
8:00 am and 10:30 am

Sunday School For All Ages

Begins at 9:15 am

LENTEN JOURNEY

After being baptized by John in the river Jordan, Jesus went off alone into the wilderness where he spent forty days asking himself the question— what does it mean to be Jesus? **During the forty days of Lent, Christians are supposed to ask themselves what it means to be themselves.**



- If you had to bet everything you have on whether there is a God or whether there isn't, which side would get your money and why?
- When you look in the mirror, what do you see that you like and what do you see that you dislike?
- If you had only one last message to leave to the handful of people who are most important to you, in 25 words or less, what would it be?
- Of all the things you have done in your life, which is the one you would most like to undo? Which is the one that makes you happiest to remember?
- Is there any person in the world, or any cause that if circumstances called for it, you would be willing to die for?
- If this were the last day of your life, what would you do with it?

To try to answer questions like these is to begin to be aware not only of who you are but of both what you are becoming and what you are failing to become. It can be a depressing and tough business, but if ashes, sackcloth and a cross are at the start of it, something like Easter may be at the end.

~ Pastor Al Schoonover



LENTEN SERVICES SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| February 22 nd 6:30 PM | Ash Wednesday Worship |
| February 29 th 5:45 PM | Wednesday Lent Soup Supper |
| February 29 th 6:30 PM | Wednesday Lenten Worship |

- **Red Cross Benefit Valentine's Dinner** This year it will be Saturday, February 11 at The Pines. Doors open at 5:30 pm and dinner is at 6:30 pm. Dessert auction and prime rib and seafood offering. Vegetarian option if requested. All money from the event stays here in the Bridger-Teton area to help with disaster relief. Pre-sale tickets are \$75 a person or \$130 couple. If not a sell-out, tickets at door will be \$85 and \$150. If we can get a group to go, I can arrange for special seating as am on the committee. See Mary Lou for tickets 739 1137.
- **Sunday, February 5th - Super Bowl Sunday** at the Schmillens. All are welcome to join in the celebration of football at 3:30pm, kick-off is at 4:30pm. Please bring an appetizer to share.
- **Wednesday, February 22nd is Ash Wednesday**. Shepherd of the Mountains will hold worship service at 6:30pm.
- **Lent Soup Suppers** begin on Wednesday, February 29th at 5:45pm followed by worship at 6:30pm. Please mark your calendars for the four Wednesdays of Lent.
- **Pastor Al Schoonover will be on vacation** starting Monday, February 6th. He will be returning on Saturday, February 18th. In case of emergencies, you can contact Mitzi Thorkildsen, Church Secretary. The Reverend Lynn Cunningham from Dubois, Wyoming has graciously accepted our offer to perform Worship Services on February 12th. Please make him feel welcomed!
- **Circle of Care** just finished their 2012 Training Session for its current and new volunteers. If you are aware of anyone in need of their wonderful and loving services, please contact Carolyn Daily at 690-1172, or Mitzi Thorkildsen at the church to make a referral.
- **Souper Bowl of Caring**
The congregation will have an opportunity to participate in the Souper Bowl of caring on Sunday, February 5th. If you have any questions, please contact Robyn Lunsford for more information.



SO SIMPLE. SO GOOD.

***** tacklehunger.org *****

MORE THAN 20 YEARS AGO, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

“Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat.”

Since that day, more than \$81 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

Through this mission, young people learn what it's like to make a positive difference in the world – as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to those in need.

Be part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday. Every dollar donated goes to

The Jackson Hole Food Cupboard

our 2012 Souper Bowl of Caring charity of choice.

- **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.

- **Wednesday, February 29th** - Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church in Jackson will host a Community Blood Drive on Wednesday, February 29th, from 12pm-6:45pm and on Thursday March 1st, from 10am-2pm. Donors can make an appointment at www.bloodhero.com. It takes about an hour of your time and your one unit of blood can SAVE THE LIFE of up to three individuals! If you can help out at the registration desk for an hour or two, please contact Jolene Moulder at 413-4561. **Please Read These Facts:** *Someone needs blood every 2 seconds. · One pint of blood can save up to 3 lives. · Healthy adults who are at least 17 years old (16 in some states) and weigh at least 110 pounds may donate blood every 56 days or every two months. · More than 40,000 pints of donated blood are used each day in the U.S. and Canada. · About 1 in 7 people entering a hospital need blood. · 4.5 million Americans will need a blood transfusion each year. · 37 percent of the U.S. population is eligible to donate blood – less than 10 percent do annually. Nearly all organ transplants require the patient to receive blood transfusions. · People who donate blood are volunteers and are not paid for their donation. · About three gallons of blood supports the entire nation's blood supply for about 1 minute. · Red blood cells must be used within 42 days. · There is no substitute for human blood.*

- **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!

- **Worship at the Living Center:** The 2nd Sunday of every month the Pastor and the Singles Group will be holding worship services at 2:30pm at the Living Center. We invite each of you to come sing, worship and spend time with the wonderful residents of the Living Center located next to St. John's hospital.

- **WHAT A NEAT IDEA!**
...to put Shepherd of the Mountain's Endowment Fund in my giving-away plans!
 How can I do this?
 - *by including the Fund in my will.*
 - *by naming the Fund the sole or shared beneficiary of a life insurance policy, new or revised.*
 - *by making the Fund the ultimate beneficiary of a life insurance policy, IRA, pension plan, living trust, or gift annuity.*
 - *by giving gifts of cash, securities, or personal property during my lifetime.*

The Endowment Fund is needed. It can do God's work in new and creative ways in ministry and missions. It is a way I can witness to my faith in Jesus Christ and my love for His Church. It also shows my gratitude for God's good gifts. A brochure describing the Fund's policies and purposes is available in the church office.

Food Bank Donations

	January - November 2011			2011
	Actual	Budget	\$ Over Budget	Budget
Offering & Income	162,217.38	172,635.84	-10,418.46	188,330.00
Expense				
Administrative Support	10,009.24	10,472.91	-463.67	11,425.00
Benevolence	8,320.34	9,166.66	-846.32	10,000.00
Facility	37,620.22	41,268.32	-3,648.10	45,020.00
Personnel	87,488.38	93,600.84	-6,112.46	102,110.00
Program Support	13,029.03	18,127.11	-5,098.08	19,775.00
Total Expense	<u>156,467.21</u>	<u>172,635.84</u>	<u>-16,168.63</u>	<u>188,330.00</u>
	<u>5,750.17</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>5,750.17</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 has informed us that they would like us to help in meeting the NUTRITIONAL NEEDS of those who visit the JH Food Cupboard. So, the "Red Ticket Items" for the month of February 2012 are MULTI-VITAMINS FOR ADULTS AND MULTI-VITAMINS FOR CHILDREN. Please note - ALL VITAMINS MUST BE IN THEIR UNOPENED PACKAGE AND HAVE AN EXPIRATION DATE OF AT LEAST A YEAR. As always, any item on our SOTM Food Bank Flyer is acceptable and appreciated. So please remember MULTI-VITAMINS FOR ADULTS AND MULTI-VITAMINS FOR CHILDREN when shopping for groceries in the month of February. For more information, contact Betty Garrison at 739-1496 or Jo Schmillen at 733-7443.

February is American Music Month

The History of Hymns

Please welcome a new feature of Shepherd of the Mountains monthly newsletter, the History of Hymns. From time to time, we will be featuring the history and background of some of our favorite Hymns. We hope that you enjoy these. –Ruth Ellefson, Music Director

Great is Thy Faithfulness

The words to “*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*” were written by Thomas Chisholm (1866-1960). He was born in a humble log cabin in Franklin, Kentucky. He had little schooling but became a schoolteacher at age 16. He is credited with writing over 1,200 poems. Reverend Runyan received many of Mr. Chisholm’s poems and set them to music. He was a musician associated with the Moody Bible Institute.

He Leadeth Me

Joseph Gilmore (1834-1918) wrote the hymn “*He Leadeth Me*” in 1862. He was born in Boston, Massachusetts. His father was governor of New Hampshire and Joseph was a preacher. He wrote many other hymns but this one he wrote in a hurry when he was a visiting pastor in Philadelphia. His wife sent it in to be published without his knowledge. William Bradbury saw the text in a magazine and wrote the melody to match the words. William Bradbury also wrote the music to ‘Jesus Loves Me.’”

Jesus Loves Me

“*Jesus Loves Me,*” words by Anna Warner (1820-1915) with music by William Bradbury (1816-1868) is probably the most influential of all hymns for children (ages 1 to 100+). Anna, and her sister, grew up along the Hudson River in New York in a secluded area. Anna wrote the words to this hymn (with the help of her sister) as part of one of the bestselling novels of the day, “Say and Seal.” The sisters were devoted Christians and for years taught Sunday school for young adults at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

William Bradbury composed the music for Anna Warner’s text in 1861 and added the chorus to the four stanzas. This song is said to be translated into more languages than another hymn.

CENTURY news

Sources include:
Religion News Service (RNS)
Ecumenical News International (ENInews)
Associated Baptist Press (ABP)
denominational news services

Christianity by the numbers

With 2.18 billion adherents, Christianity has become a truly global religion over the past century as rapid church growth in developing nations offset declines in Christianity's traditional strongholds, according to a new comprehensive report.

Billed as the broadest and most reliable study to date, the Pew Research Center's "Global Christianity" report on self-identified Christian populations uses more than 2,400 sources of information, especially census and survey data.

Findings reveal major shifts since 1910, when two-thirds of the world's Christians lived in Europe. Now only one in four Christians reside in Europe. Most of the rest are distributed across the Americas (37 percent), sub-Saharan Africa (24 percent) and the Asia-Pacific region (13 percent). The broad trends have been known for decades, but the new report provides some unexpected perspectives.

"In two out of three countries in the world, the majority of the population identifies as Christian," said Conrad Hackett, lead researcher on the report. "I had no idea about that. . . . I was surprised."

The report, issued December 19, confirms Christianity's standing as the religion having the largest following, with 32 percent of the global population. Islam is second with about 23 percent, according to a 2009 Pew report.

The new study, based on a nation-by-nation analysis, found that Catholics make up slightly more than half of the world's Christians—50.1 percent. Protestants, broadly defined, account for 36.7 percent and Orthodox Christians nearly 12 percent. Pew researchers put "other Chris-

tians," such as Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses, at about 1 percent.

A close look at the study reveals these details:

- Although Christianity traces its beginnings to the Middle East and North Africa, only 4 percent of residents in these regions claim the Christian faith today.

- The faith has grown exponentially in sub-Saharan Africa, from just 9 percent of the population in 1910 to 63 percent today. Nigeria, home to more than 80 million Christians, has more Protestants than Germany, where the Protestant Reformation began.

As a result of historic missionary activity and indigenous Christian movements by Africans, six in ten sub-Saharan Africans identify with Christianity; only one in ten did in 1910.

For its part, Europe is more religiously diverse than it was in 1910, when

94 percent were Christian. Still, Europe hasn't abandoned its Christian heritage, according to the report. Today, 76 percent of Europeans self-identify as Christian.

"Many people may have the impression that a smaller percentage of Europe claims to be Christian" than is actually the case, Hackett said.

The study also sheds light on the difficult question of how many Chinese are Christians. Researchers have struggled for reliable numbers since China's policies on religion are thought to discourage Christians from self-identifying as such in official surveys. Adjusting for such variables, Pew researchers believe that Christianity has flourished despite a policy forbidding Christianity among Communist Party members. Researchers estimate that the Christian community in China includes 5 percent of the population, or 67 million. —G. Jeffrey MacDonald, RNS

Nearly 80 percent of Americans are Christian

AS THE YEAR 2012 unfolds, more than three-quarters of Americans identify themselves as Christian, Gallup reports. Its pollsters found that in more than 325,000 interviews it conducted in the first 11 months of last year, 78 percent of U.S. adults identify with Christianity.

Overall, more than 82 percent of Americans have a religious identity, with this breakdown:

- Protestant/other Christian: 52.5 percent
- Catholic: 23.6 percent
- Mormon: 1.9 percent
- Jewish: 1.6 percent

- Muslim: 0.5 percent
- Other non-Christian religions: 2.4 percent
- None/atheist/agnostic: 15 percent
- No response: 2.5 percent

The findings fit the trend of an increasing percentage of Americans not embracing a formal religious identity (15 percent). In 1951, only 1 percent did not have a religious identity.

Gallup found in 2011 that 92 percent of Americans said they believe in God, which suggests that a lack of religious identity is not necessarily linked to atheism. —RNS

letter from the Presiding Bishop

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

We are a church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. It is this confidence and the gifts you have received from God that will guide your ministry in the year ahead.

As you prepare for this journey, remember we are renewed daily in the freedom that comes through Christ and invites us to share our blessings with others. This sharing reflects a spirit of gratitude and generosity based on a loving relationship with our abundant God. We are freed in Christ to serve our neighbor and to share all that we have been given. Thanks be to God!

Just as the Apostle Paul expressed his joy to the Corinthians before their participation in an offering for the Christians in Jerusalem, I rejoice because I have complete confidence in you. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work, knowing that together we are doing God's work for the life of the world.

Thank you for the offerings you freely give through your congregation to make all that we do together possible. The portion of the offerings your congregation shares with your synod and the churchwide organization is called mission support. This is the lifeblood of the work that God does through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

As the Holy Spirit guides both your personal and congregational decisions about a faithful response to God's blessings for the coming year, I invite you to consider how your generosity is making a difference in the lives of others, especially through your commitment to mission support. This year as the ELCA we have:

Planted **60 new congregations**, 50 percent of them in multicultural communities

Launched renewal efforts in **163 congregations**

Responded to our neighbors when disasters hit Alabama, Massachusetts, Missouri and North Dakota

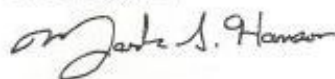
Sent **50 young adults** into service around the world

Awarded 43 scholarships to promising young international leaders from some of our global Lutheran partners

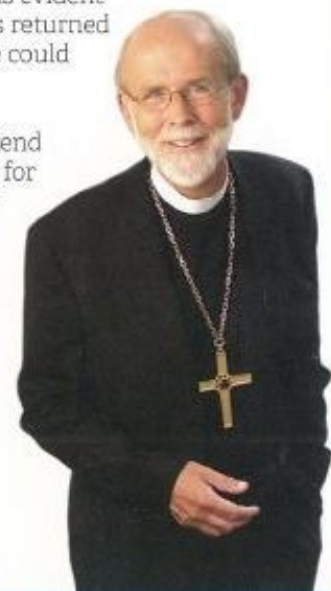
I am grateful for your eagerness to be a church engaged in mission. This spirit was evident in our recent Churchwide Assembly and multiplied even further as our attendees returned home. Today we are in a stronger position than ever to do more together than we could ever do alone.

As you gather for your conversations, both at home and in your congregation, I extend my appreciation for the commitment and resourcefulness you have demonstrated for the support of God's work. Through our 10,000 congregations, 65 synods and many churchwide ministries, we capture the spirit of a church that is thankful to be freed in Christ to serve. May a spirit of generosity continue to flow through you and your congregation in the year ahead.

In God's grace,



Mark S. Hanson
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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!

SOTMLC is looking for ALTAR GUILD volunteers! If you are able to help with this ministry, please contact Betsy Grande at 307-690-1884

Altar List

February:

5th-Rose Jeske
 12th-Betsy Grande
 19th-Melanie Sands
 26th-Diana Eden

March:

4th-Jo Schmillen
 11-Rose Jeske
 18--Betsy Grande
 25-Melanie Sands

Usher/ Greeters List

FEBRUARY

February 5:	8:00am 10:30am	Scott Schmillen & Family McCreeedy Family
February 12:	8:00am 10:30am	Kelly & Kevin Krause Marianne Hudnall & Robyn Lunsford
February 19:	8:00am 10:30am	Freeze Family Moulder Family
February 22: Ash Wednesday	6:30pm	Sherry Kinsella
February 26:	8:00am 10:30am	Holly Luense Grande Family

Lector List

	8:00	10:30
February 5	John Daily	Ed Liezeit
February 12	Susan Freeze	Nyles Ellefson
February 19	Mike Eden	Christina Mizelle
February 26	Tracie Welch	Marion Hudnall