

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church, ELCA

Church office 307.733.4382

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January 2012



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Mark Your Calendar

- ◆ Baptism of our Lord-
Jan 8th
- ◆ Annual Meeting -
1/29 1130AM
- ◆ Epiphany

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

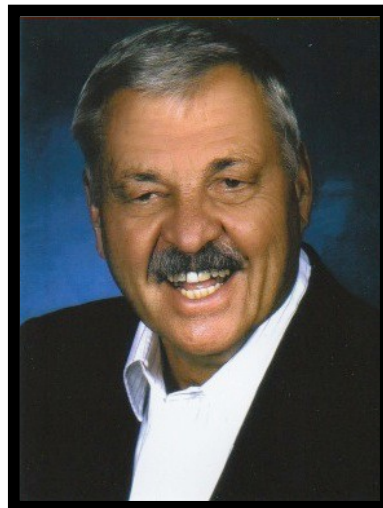
Begins at 9:15 am

EPIPHANY

God is Shining His Light on Us!

We Respond by – Arising and Shining.

Epiphany is from January 6th to February 21st



Theme

As Christians, we have seen something. A light has shown into our darkness. That light is Christ, the light of the world. Having seen the light, we are now commanded to share the light, to share the good news of Jesus with the whole world. Epiphany is the season of mission, that season when we are reminded that the light of Christ is meant to shine into the whole world.

Prayer

Almighty God, your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, came into the world, that we might have light in our darkness, life rather than death. Grant that your people, enlivened by the reading and preaching of your word, and refreshed by your sacraments, might rise, might shine forth into all the world the radiance of the glory of Christ.

May Christ be seen in us, worshiped by the world, obeyed by all, to the distant ends of the earth, now and always. Amen.

–Pastor Al Schoonover

To believe the Messiah has come means that we can no longer shape him to fit our dreams; He shapes us to fit God's will." –Fred Craddock



- **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.
- **KSGT 93.3 Radio Devotions:** Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning sometime between 7am to 8am, Pastor Al broadcasts a devotion to our community on KSGT 93.3 radio station. The devotions are from one minute to a minute and a half. These radio devotions have been graciously funded by some of our wonderful supporters through March 2012. We at Shepherd of the Mountains are appreciative of their support of our ministry. These messages are a great way for us to reach out to the community!
- **Church Hours:** The church office will be closed on Monday January 2, 2012.
- **Thank You** goes out to everyone that helped with the Children's Christmas Program: "**Jesus is the Reason for the Season!**" Presented by: Keaghan Shedd, Ryan Welch, Alex Shedd, Hannah Freeze, Jasper Welch and Sascha Mizelle.
- **Baptism of our Lord:** On January 8, 2012, SOTMLC will celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. We will also be reaffirming everyone's baptism. Before the 8th, we will distribute baptismal shells which you can fill out with your name and place of baptism. We need your participation so that we can have an opportunity to get to know one another better.
- **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.

- **God's Global Barnyard**: Now that the craziness of the Christmas Season is waning, we want to remind you that it is still not too late to aid in the fight against hunger by donating an animal to a needy family somewhere in the world. Please see the God's Global Barnyard board in the narthex for more information.
- **The Alpha Omega Women's Group** - The Alpha Omega Women's Group of Shepherd of the Mountains Church will meet again on the second Saturday of January - January 14, 2012 at 10 AM at the Church. The theme will be "Martha and Mary Revisited. How has that been working for you? Also, come with ideas for future topics or books. For more information, contact Betty Garrison - 739-1496.
- **"One Starry Night"** had a great turnout of about 100 guests, approximately half from SOTMLC and half from the community. What an awesome Christmas event! Be sure to check out the nice article in the Jackson Hole News and Guide. Thanks to all who attended and to all those who helped make "One Starry Night" possible, including: Jessica Freeze, Lucas Freeze, Jacob Freeze, Lars Schou, Bjorn Schou, Meghan McCreedy, Matt Schmillen, Heidi Schmillen, Robyn Lunsford, Connie Swan, Gannett Swan, Hunter Swan, Steve Swan, Kjera Henrie (Mary), Jacob Henrie (Joseph), Augustus Henrie (baby Jesus), Scott Schmillen, & Jo Schmillen.
Special thanks to:
 Carol Bocker and Dee Dee Sorsby for the use of their hay bales
 The Josh and Stacey Dieckmann family for the use of their goats
 Kathy Lucas for the use of her calf, Pistol
 Community Foundation of Jackson Hole for the use of the tents. All those who provided food items for the market (Names are in no particular order and any omissions are unintentional)
- **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

"We are a society of notoriously unhappy people: lonely, anxious, depressed, destructive, dependent – people who are glad when we have killed the time we are trying so hard to save." –Erich Fromm



	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 January 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 January. For more information, contact Betty Garrison at 739-1496 or Jo Schmillen at 733-7443.

“Give to live—those who perform regular volunteer work have death rates two and a half times lower than those who did not volunteer.” – L. Sweet

“Biblical hope is not rooted in prophetic scenarios or apocalyptic timetables. It centers in the triune God whose powerful promises are remembered with gratitude, embraced in faith, and affirmed in hope-full action. Authentic hope is thus better sung than argued.” –Walter Brueggemann

“Only in the continuous encounter with other persons does the person become and remain a person. The place of this encounter is the community.” –Paul Tillich

“Today people have no incentive to delay gratification, because they place so little faith in the future that has no meaning for them. Instead, they pursue the elusive dream that it is possible ‘to have it all and to have it now’ – a dream that turns out to be a lie, a materialistic cover for lack of meaning.” –T. Naylor, W. Willimon, & M. Naylor, *The Search for Meaning*

“The primary mode of being human is not individual but rather relationship; we are who we are in relating.” –David Buttrick

Usher/ Greeters List

JANUARY:

January 1:	8:00am 10:30am	Holly Luense Nyles Ellefson
January 8:	8:00am 10:30am	Bill & Tracie Welch Coleen and Nikki Thompson
January 15:	8:00am 10:30am	Bob Krause Chris and Jolene Moulder
January 22:	8:00am 10:30a	Schou Family Steffen Freeman
January 29:	8:00am 10:30am	Carol Bocker Kim Hunt & Family

Annual Meeting January 29, 2012 at 11:30AM

The Annual Meeting is a time to look at what God did through us this past year, and a time to look forward and catch God's vision for us as a community of God's faithful followers. At this Annual Meeting, we will not only receive reports on last year's work, but also look at what God has in store for us in the years to come. There will be an opportunity for all of us to have input into Shepherd of the Mountains direction for mission and ministry, as we together will listen to God's vision and call. The leadership can do its work much more faithfully with your input and the help from God as we all study His word to find God's will for Shepherd of the Mountains.

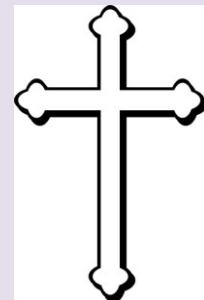
Robert Greenleaf says, "Not much happens without a dream or a vision and for something great to happen there must be a great dream or vision." The book of Proverbs makes it clear, "Without a vision the people will perish." What is your dream or vision for Shepherd of the Mountains? Even more importantly, what is our corporate vision for Shepherd of the Mountains? It is not only important that we have a vision for the future, but what is even more important is what the vision does for us.

The leadership of Shepherd of the Mountains has said that we need to work on two big important paradigms shifts:

1. We need to be proactive in addressing our outreach and practicing Christian hospitality.
2. We need to learn to live as the community of Christ. Working together, dealing with our differences, and living out our mission statement of "proclaiming the Gospel in everything we do."

We need your support, gifts and insight as we grow to move forward, faithfully doing God's mission and our ministry. Pray about our work together and pray that we might more clearly catch the vision that God is laying before us.

"The present time with all its uncertainty, can be viewed either as the end or as a beginning. The Christian faith always claims that the end can be the beginning. The vision of faith sees the resurrection in every death; the open door in every hopeless situation; and in every tragedy the possibility of new life." --Tim Long



Educational Hour on Sunday at 9:15am:

Starting Sunday, January 8th, during our Educational Hour, we will be reading from the book by *Marcus J. Borg* (Author of *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*), **“Speaking Christian. Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Meaning and Power—AND HOW THEY CAN BE RESTORED.”**

The books will be available at the church the first week in January. The church has graciously agreed to assist in the cost of these books; your cost will be \$12. If you decline to purchase the book, copies of the chapter that we will be discussing will be available on that Sunday or you can pick up a copy earlier in the week from the church secretary if you would like to read prior to our discussion.

The language of Christianity is in a state of crisis, warns bestselling author, bible scholar, and theologian Marcus J. Borg. Christian words and phrases have not only diminished in meaning, but they have become distorted and virtually stripped of their biblical and historic meanings. In this much-needed Christian primer, Borg teaches us how to read, hear, and digest our Christian language without preconceived notions getting in the way. In *Speaking Christian*, Borg redeems the language of Christianity by restoring its power to illuminate us and transform our world.

“What would we do without Marcus Borg? If he did not exist, we would have to invent him for we have no better guide to the recovery of an authentic Christian faith for these difficult times than this articulate and prolific public theologian.” – Peter J. Gomes, author of *The Good Book*



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GOD CREATED EVERYTHING. READ GENESIS 1:1-2

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Job 8:21

He will yet fill your mouth, with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy.