



We are called to be in relationship with God, with God's people
and with God's world every day.

Shepherd's Staff

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church Newsletter



Photo: Michael TeKrony

It seems strange to me that as we enter into this Holiday season of 2020 there is still that burst energy that always comes this time of year. The activities may look different, but there are still decorations to be unpacked, gifts to be purchased, cookies to be baked, and plans to be made. Even in a pandemic, we have not left behind all that comes with Halloween, Reformation, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

This shift to holiday mode indicated to me that we have entered into a new normal. How we celebrate, who we celebrate with, even what church looks like may all be different, but some things have stayed the same. We are all learning to adjust, to live into this time that is different than we ever imagined.

Our church body has changed and adjusted too. We have moved Sunday worship and communion to online platforms, and are beginning to make upgrades to our technology to make that streaming even better. New ministries have formed, like the Caring Connections Team that reaches out to different members of Holy Shepherd. There are still opportunities for service like the blood drive, writing notes and cards to senior living centers, the youth packing hygiene kits for the Action Center, and many more. Groups like Men's Breakfast, the Writer's Group, and Thursday's Bible study continue to meet. Some of what we do, and how we do it, has changed, but in many ways we are still the same.

When the Israelites were brought into Exile in Babylon, they were hopeful and expectant that things would soon return to normal.

They didn't want to learn to adjust or live full lives in exile. The Israelites longed for a return to Jerusalem, to the Temple, to the way things were before. Instead, through the prophet Jeremiah, God told the people to stay, to put down roots, to build houses and get married, have children and run their businesses. They may have been in unfamiliar surroundings, but God invited them to life—full life—even in the uncertainties and grief of their present moment.

Life looked different for the Israelites during the Exile, just like it does for us in this time of pandemic. The people of Israel needed time to grieve what they had lost, and so do we. But God is always inviting into God's work in the world. After all, if the people of Israel hadn't learned to live in new ways during the exile, we wouldn't have the story of Esther or Daniel.

And so it is for us too. Somethings have stayed the same, but we continue to long for what was. What would happen if we viewed the next months of a time for both grief at what was lost and hope for what might be? What new stories of God's activity and work in the world might God be writing during this time of pandemic? As much as we long for normalcy, how might God be fashioning a new ministry, a new commitment, or a new relationship in you? How might God be calling Holy Shepherd to be church?

Courtney Steitz



Re-Gathering Update

Hello People of Holy Shepherd,

Thank you for the ways that you are caring and supporting one another during this pandemic. As we have opened up the outdoor space and now the building for small group gatherings, many of you have been able to connect with one another in person again. It has been a gift for us to hear some of the stories and see some of the photos of you all connecting with one another.

Many of you may be wondering what the next steps are for Holy Shepherd as we try to find new and creative ways to gather together safely. We are paying close attention to the Covid-19 infection rates from the Jefferson County Public Health Department (JCPHD) and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). We are currently taking steps towards live streaming/recording services from the sanctuary. Only worship leaders will be present for these recordings, but we look forward to seeing the sanctuary and the building once again during worship videos. As we track this data, please know that we will continue to be in communication with you all.

This pandemic has stretched on far longer than many of us first anticipated, so we appreciate your patience as we take careful, thoughtful steps towards meeting together in person. This has been a long road, and we trust that the God who has been with us thus far will continue to be faithful in the coming weeks and months.

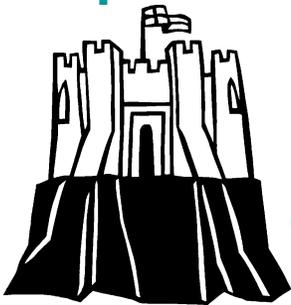
Peace,

The Regathering Team

Kevin Klinkerfues, Amy Evancheck, Larry Lagerberg, Pastor Michael TeKrony, Pastor Courtney Steitz



God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea; though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day. *Psalms 46:1-5*



Guidelines for Gathering Indoors

- Reserve your meeting room and time with Donna Madsen, church secretary (office@holyshepherd.com or 303.233.2740 ext. 108) well in advance of your meeting. Only one group will be allowed in the building at a time.
- Please keep a list of all who attend, should contact tracing be necessary, send this to Donna Madsen following each meeting.
- The group leader should ask all those attending:
 - if they have been in contact with anyone positive for Covid-19?
 - if they have been experiencing any symptoms of Covid-19 like fever or sore throat?
- No more than 15 people in attendance. If your group is using the bell room or the choir room, this number will be lower given space limitation in those rooms.
- Masks must be worn at all times.
- Refrain from eating or drinking during the event or meeting.
- Maintain 6 feet of separation between all households in attendance.
- We ask that participants limit bathroom use whenever possible. If participants need to use the bathroom, only one person in the bathroom at any time. Sanitizing wipes will be provided, please wipe down any surface that you touch in the bathroom before and after use.

During November and December, the Missions Team usually offers several different ways to give generously to groups and individuals in need. Since we are not gathering for weekly worship at 9th and Kipling, we are hosting a giving parade as a sign of our thankfulness and generosity. On **November 15th from 9-noon** at Holy Shepherd you can drop off any of the following items and wave to fellow members of Holy Shepherd. There will be volunteers to assist you, you won't even need to get out of your car!

1. Food items:

- a. Thanksgiving Groceries for the Action Center: stuffing, pumpkin pie mix, cranberry sauce, canned fruits, and canned veggies
- b. Other food items: there are still 50-75 families a day coming to the Action Center for food. Staples like peanut butter, tuna, mac and cheese, and canned meat are especially needed but any type of canned food would be great!



- ### 2. Mittens and hats:
- Those who knit, crochet, and anyone willing to purchase hats and mittens --all are welcome. These warm weather essentials will be distributed to the Action Center and our other partners. If you are unable to drop off your hats or mittens, call Paula at 303-986-3968.

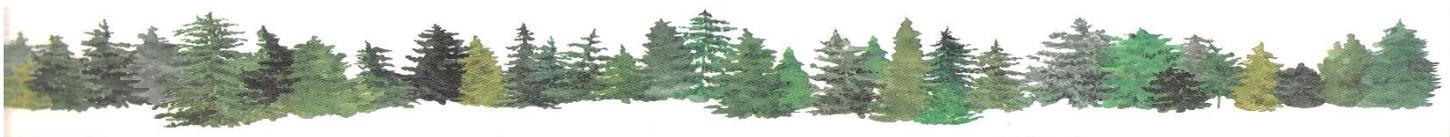
- ### 3. Giving to ELCA World Hunger:
- during the Thanksgiving Eve service we usually take of a collection for ELCA World Hunger. Because there will not be an in-person Thanksgiving service this year, we invite you to drop off financial gifts to World Hunger during this time as well.



The Missions Team continues to be astounded and grateful by the amazing generosity of the people of Holy Shepherd. We can't wait to see you on November 15th! (p.s.: *Larry and Shirley both turn 80 in November! Be sure to wish them a Happy Birthday as you drive through.*)

- *The Missions Team*

Susan Linner, Mike and Susan Boehm, Amy Evancheck, Shirley and Larry Bradsby, Paula and Jim Freeman, and Pastor Courtney



Shirley Bradsby and Pastor Courtney recently met with Cynthia Sanders, the Eiber Community Liaison. At Eiber, like elsewhere, things look very different for students, teachers, families, and administrators this year.

Eiber News

Elementary

But all of these changes have also provided opportunities for Cynthia to build community within Eiber. Because of all of these changes, many of the former programs (Donuts with Dads, Trunk or Treat, Christmas Crafts, etc.) will not be able to happen this year, **but there are still important ways for Holy Shepherd to get involved:**

1. The school is in need of baked good for teachers and families. If you are interested in baking or transporting baked goods this **Bakery for Eiber** might be for you.
2. Many families are in desperate need of food and **gift cards** can help make ends meet for hungry kiddos.
3. Christmas will look much different too. Because of the close relationships teachers are building with students, the teachers will be more involved this year in helping to pick Christmas gifts. **Gift cards** are again welcome to help foster these deeper relationships and provide gifts for Eiber students.
4. Three families have just moved into new apartments and **need new or gently used home goods and furniture**. For a complete list contact Shirley Bradsby.

Holy Shepherd has generously supported Eiber in the past, and we are grateful for these new opportunities to care for this vital part of our neighborhood. If you want to help, want to know more about how things are going at Eiber, or have Thrivent grants available please reach out to Shirley or Pastor Courtney.



Adopt-A-Family

In the past, Holy Shepherd has participated in the Adopt-A-Family program through Eiber.

Because of COVID-19, the Action Center and Eiber need to do things differently! They have combined to create an **Adopt-A-Family Wish List**. Gifts will be given to children in need throughout Jefferson County as well as children who attend Eiber.

It is really easy! Donations needed by Dec. 1st

1. Go to Roonga.com
2. Under search put "The Action Center"
3. Scroll through the Wish lists and pick a family you would like to shop for. The recommended amount for each child is \$50.
4. Bring the gifts to the Action Center. Call Kerri Stroupe at the Action Center so she makes sure she gets your gifts. Her number is 303-237-7704 ext. 244
5. You may shop on line with Rooga, or use Amazon or go in person to a store. If you use Amazon every toy you buy, they will buy one for Toys for Tots....double your gift giving.

Anti-Racism

Last month Pastor Michael and Pastor Courtney attended the annual Theological Conference for Rocky Mountain Synod pastors and deacons. It was held over Zoom and the theme was ACT to End Racism. Dr. Reggie Williams was the keynote speaker and he used the life and theology of Bonhoeffer to illustrate the importance and theology of anti-racism. Cleo Parker-Robinson, who owns and directs a dance studio in Denver, led us in prayer, story, and movement. Worship was filled with opportunities for repentance, lament, and reflection. We hope to bring some of what we learned alongside our colleagues in the Rocky Mountain Synod back to Holy Shepherd. If you have questions or want to know more, the Pastors would be happy to share. Additionally, many of the resources are available on the Rocky Mountain Synod

Faith Formation

WNL Adult Education

WE'RE BACK..... Wednesday Nights at 6:30pm

We will explore a variety of topics with the use of DVDs:

Class will meet via ZOOM. The link will be available in the weekly Happenings or contact the church office at office@holyshepherd.com .

- **November 4 & 11 - CORRIE TEN BOOM: A Faith Undefeated**
Books & movies have made this woman of faith well known. Her story and faith are documented in this DVD on location at her home in Holland, the Ravensbruck concentration camp and narrated by people who knew her. You will be inspired, not only by her faith, but her capacity for forgiveness and hope for the future.
- **November 18 - HEBRON: City of Promise**
Want to learn more about this ancient city where Abram and his family came after receiving a promise from God? The events that took place here were significant to Christians, Jews, and Muslims. Filmed in Hebron, our guide will be journalist Jimmy De Young. Learn about the past and present of this important Biblical site.

Leader : Bonnie Yockstick (She's back, too).

Friday Prayer Group

Holy Shepherd Prayer Group will meet Fridays, November 13th and 27th at 10:00 A.M. in the church library. We are using the book, Beginning To Pray by Anthony Bloom. We welcome everyone to come and join us for discussion and prayer!

Leader: Pat Mohrbacher

Women's Early Afternoon Bible Study

WEABS will meet November 2nd, 16th & 30th at 1:00 P.M. in the church library. We will continue our study of the apocalyptic visions in the book of the Prophet Daniel. If you need a study book let me know, but you don't need a book to participate. Please consider joining us!

Leader: Pat Mohrbacher

Sunday Morning Adult-Ed: The Book of Acts

Beginning November 8th , the Sunday Adult Ed class will be exploring the book of Acts. This book is full of stories of the early church and early Christians figuring out what it means to follow a risen Jesus. Join us as we wrestle with stories of miraculous healings, persecution, shipwrecks, and church conflicts. **Adult Ed meets on Sundays at 10:15,** expect for the first Sunday of the month when we gather for communion.

Small Groups Gathering at Holy Shepherd

If you would like to participate in these groups below, please contact the group leader.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

3rd Monday of each Month 6:30pm

Share knitting & crocheting, prayers, love, and hope. Instruction available.

Contacts: Marcy Lloyd & Gaylene Szaltzer



Men's Morning Bible Study

Saturday's, 8:00am

Join us for a wonderful discussion on a variety of topics.

Contact: Bob Gordon

Prayer Group

2nd & 4th Friday of each month 10:00am

Contact: Pat Mohrbacher

Women's Morning Bible Study

3rd Tuesday of each month 10:00am

Contact: Doris Frick

Writer's Group

1st Thursday of each month 1:00pm

Learn how to put our stories into writing

Contact: Carol Rossini

Women's Early Afternoon Bible Study

2nd & 4th Monday of each month 1:00pm

In-depth Bible studies and discussions.

Contact: Pat Mohrbacher

Small Groups Gathering via Zoom

Please contact the church office – office@holyshepherd.com – for the zoom link

Adult Lectionary Bible Study

Thursday Mornings, 8:30am

Discuss & study upcoming Sunday lectionary readings.

Leaders: Pastors

Sunday Morning Adult Education

10:15am

A variety of subjects, forums and studies are offered during this time. Leaders: Pastors

Prayer Time

Tuesdays 12:00pm

Leaders: Pastors

Beyond Colorblindness

Fridays, 2:00pm

Leaders: Denise Ikenberry & Pastor Courtney

WNL Adult Education

3 Wednesday's – November 4, 11, 18, 6:30pm

Explore a variety of topics with the use of DVDs:

Leader: Bonnie Yockstick



Preparing for Advent

ALL AGE Cross-Generational Gathering

Sunday, November 22nd 6:30pm ZOOM

All ages are invited to gather together to prepare our hearts and homes for the season of Advent.

We will gather to sing, learn about the history of Advent, listen to the Word, create a craft to use at home during advent and share our Advent/Christmas traditions. Our time together will be about 40 minutes long.

Registration is required. Those who register will receive supplies for the craft and an Advent Devotional booklet. Please email the church office at office@holyshepherd.com with your name, email address and number of people participating. Deadline to register is November 17th. Zoom link will be sent to those who register on Nov.21st.

On Saturday, November 21st from 11:00am – 1:00pm, those who have registered can come to the church parking lot to receive their craft bag and devotional booklet.

(if you are unable to come during that time, please call Karen Novess at 720.854.5365 for other arrangements).

We look forward to being together!

Columbarium Renovation

A place for Contemplation, Worship & Coffee

In October 2019, a group consisting of Pastor Kari Reiquam, Paul Johnson & Karen Novess, met with the Columbarium Ministry Team Leader, Don Johnson, to dream and vision how the columbarium space could be expanded to be used in a variety of ways. Our conversation revolved around how to create an inviting, contemplative and small group gathering space for Holy Shepherd and beyond.

Possible uses:

- Worship services
 - More intentional space for inurnment services
 - Small: Memorial services, weddings, Mid-Week etc.
- Comforting space, to spend time in, for families paying respect to loved ones
- Contemplation area - a space for reflection
- Fellowship/coffee conversations
 - Fall/Spring: Area could be an extension for WNL dining, Sunday morning fellowship
- Small group gatherings/meetings/classes
- Music venue – small concerts



Ideas were discussed and collected. A landscape architect was employed, as a gift from Ken DiPaolo, to take our ideas and create a plan. Over the following 10 months 3 plans were created and the final one was accepted by the remaining team – Paul Johnson & Karen Novess. Plans were recently presented to council, which gave the go ahead to pursue the renovation.

The plan is set up to be done in 2 phases:

Phase 1: Landscaping - extending the grass area, adding plants, groundcover, benches, & stone paths.

Phase 2: Re-do the existing upper deck and stairs, create a deck/platform on the west side & add a pergola above the lower deck.

Of course, as we all know, funds are needed for these plans to become a reality.

The cost for **Phase 1** is \$17,000; **Phase 2** is \$20,000.

Donors, who have expressed over time, a need for renovation, have come forward to cover all the costs of Phase 1!

Phase 1 has already begun!! *Thank you, Thank you!*

Fundraising for Phase 2 begins now! The goal is to complete Phase 2 next spring or early summer. If you would like to contribute to the renovation, please send your checks, made out to Holy Shepherd, with “Columbarium Renovation” in the memo line, to the church office – 920 Kipling St., Lakewood, CO 80215.

**We continue to embrace the possibilities of expanding the ministry of Holy Shepherd in new ways.
Your contributions will be gratefully appreciated.**

Pandemic Positives

*When the Writers’ Group met in October, we decided to write about positive aspects of the pandemic.
These are some of the ideas that we came up with.*

- Spending less money
- Enjoying more time outdoors (picnics, gardening, walking, reading books outside)
- Eating better since most meals are homemade
- Getting to know neighbors better
- Becoming acquainted with new technology such as Zoom
- Having time to smell the roses and appreciate the good things in our lives
- Freeing up time for meditation and contemplation
- Finishing projects that have been put off
- Pursuing new creative projects
- Learning a new language
- Using technology like Zoom to explore the creative ways that other people are responding to the pandemic



What can you add to this list?

Church Council Corner



October 20th Meeting Summary

- Council approved plans for the Columbarium renovation. The Columbarium space is being used more and needs updating to create an inviting, contemplative and small group gathering space.
- Several donors have designated funds for the Columbarium renovation. A fundraiser will be held to complete the project. Landscaping will begin immediately.
- Property manager Kevin Klinkerfues will prioritize a list of projects for safety and security to be presented to Council in November.
- A draft 2021 budget is being prepared for the January 2021 congregational annual meeting.
- Two Council positions will open in January 2021 when terms have been completed. Council is now accepting nominations.

Trust Committee Report



Over 22 people contributed money as a Memorial to a loved one or friend from November 2019 – October 2020. Some of this money has been designated for specific projects and went to that particular budget item. The rest was donated generally and the Trust committee uses that money to fulfill Trust Fund requests submitted by members of Holy Shepherd for items needed to enhance our church and worship.

*Thank you to everyone who donated money this year as a Memorial to those they love.
Your gift will continue to enhance the life of our church.*

Thank You's

Dear Holy Shepherd Family –

Thank you for the many cards & memorials given in memory of our dear Kari. We miss her, but are thankful for the many years we had with her & are now thankful she is out of decline & with Almighty God –

Ron & Verona Skabo

Dear Holy Shepherd Family & Prayer Shawl Ministry,

Wanted to express a very belated “thank you” for the recognition you had for me on my high school graduation, I very much appreciated it. I also wanted to express a special “thank you” for the beautiful prayer shawl the Prayer Shawl Ministry presented me with. I know as I continue with my education at School of Mines, that this shawl will encourage me and be a reminder of the care my Holy Shepherd family has for me .

Sincerely, Kale Mason

Shoeboxes

Thanks to everyone who is participating in the shoebox project. We are able to fill 22 boxes for the kids

Martye Madison

Plant Care

A big thank you to Ursula Schulz who during these last months has tenderly cared for all the living plants inside the church. She spent some of her summer days repotting and trimming plants so they could flourish during this quiet time with little activity in our building.

And now a thank you to Linda Jones who has volunteered to take over this task from Ursula. We appreciate the time and effort by Ursula and Linda to maintain these plants.

Thanksgiving Eve Service

It is a Holy Shepherd tradition to gather for worship and pie on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Because of limitations on gathering size and other safety guidelines we will not be holding this service in the traditional way. Instead, you are invited to something that we are just as excited to share with you. The ELCA pastors of the Metro-South Conference will be hosting a joint Thanksgiving Eve Service on Zoom, on **Wednesday the 25th of November at 7 PM**. Come and worship with our siblings in Christ from across the South Metro. Zoom information will be made available later this month.



Gatherings at Holy Shepherd

Blessing of Animals



Fire Department Blankets for Kids



Packaging Snack Bags for those experiencing homelessness.



Office Hours

The church office is closed during this time but you can contact the church office via phone or email. Messages will be received and responded to daily.

Office Phone - 303-233-2740 office@holyshepherd.com

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Staff & Council

Pastor's Emergency Phone Available 24 Hours 303-562-4207



Co-Pastor Courtney Steitzext. 106

csteitz@holyshepherd.com

Co-Pastor Michael TeKronyext. 109

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Ministry Partner, Karen Novess.....ext. 101

knovess@holyshepherd.com

Secretary, Donna Madsen.....ext. 108

dmdasen@holyshepherd.com

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Property Manager, Kevin Klinkerfues

Custodian, Larry Lagerberg

Organist, Jordan Ortman

Chancel & Bell Choir Director, Dave Gleason

glea7149@hotmail.com

Prime Time Choir Director, Ron Skabo

rskabo34@msn.com

Praise Team Director, Diane Klinkerfues

dklinker@me.com

Sound Tech, Carmine Gabbianelli

carminesamuel@gmail.com

Nursery Coordinator, Pat Braden

Lay Leadership Church Council

Diane Klinkerfues, President

Susan Scott, Vice President

Judy Ekberg, Secretary

Jen Kurtz, Personnel

Scott Ikenberry, Finance

Newsletter Article Deadline

3rd Friday of each month

Please submit your articles to knovess@holyshepherd.com