

**MISSION MINUTE:** . “For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. . . . But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief” (1 Thess. 5:2, 4). Oh, but your neighbors are! But “you are all children of light,” so shine the light for them; tell them of the Savior who is coming, “for God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**AND SPEAKING OF MISSION,** please take a few minutes to welcome those **VISITING WITH US AT SHEPHERD THE LAST FEW WEEKS** If you know them, be sure to let them know how glad you were to see them at worship. And if you don’t, make it a point to meet them, to invite them to worship again or to Sunday Bible Class or Ladies’ Bible Study or *LifeLight* Bible Study.

Jen & Alan Radloff - Prescott Valley, AZ

Michael & Leonor Buss - Prescott Valley, AZ

Donna Stewart - Show Low, AZ

Brenda Stickler - Show Low, AZ

Lesta Cromwell and Si”Layna Bradley - Pinetop, AZ

Tiffany Nosie, Richard Johnson - Church of the Open Bible, Whiteriver, AZ

Marty & Debbie Minninger

Ken Fitschen - Pinetop, AZ

Brianna Hicks - Pinetop, AZ

**WE INCLUDE IN OUR PRAYERS TODAY:**

Linda - and all those who are sick

John - and all those who are in pain

Jean - and all those who are in/nearing labor

MaryLynn and Linda - and all those who continue to receive treatments

Grace Church - Show Low, AZ. Pastor Gary Wingate

Christus Rex Lutheran Church - Rio Rico, AZ. Pastor Vern Schindler

Faith Lutheran Church - Tucson, AZ. Pastor Kurt Cockran

November SS/BC Mission Project - Hurricane Maria relief

**CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:** Birthdays: 11/28 - Donna S, 11/30 - Mike H, Krista S. Anniversaries: 11/30 - Luke & Carol W; 12/2 - Ewald & Sally Ann K (18 years into their second 50!).

“This is the week that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!”

Sun	11/26	8:15 a.m. - Handbell Choir Practice 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30 a.m. - Divine Service - Holy Communion (4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday) 11:55 a.m. - LWML “Mites for Missions” coffee fellowship
Tues	11/28	5:00 p.m. - Youth Confirmation (?? serving dinner)
Wed	11/29	9:30 a.m. - Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 p.m. - <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study
Sun	12/03	8:15 a.m. - Handbell Choir Practice 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30 a.m. - Divine Service 11:45 a.m. - “First Sunday of the Month” Potluck Luncheon

**WHERE ARE OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERINGS OFF TO THIS MONTH?** All our offerings to the Lord in November are going to be sent to help relieve the suffering of those who lost in Hurricane Maria.

**WHAT WAS THE ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK?** Christian Education: 21. Worship: 64 (Members 45, Friends 6, Guests 13) How many were here because you invited them! How many will return because you welcomed them? How many might have been here, had you simply asked them?

**LIFE QUOTE OF THE DAY** (from Lutherans For Life) “All that we call human history—money, poverty, ambition, war, prostitution, classes, empires, slavery—is the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy” (C. S. Lewis in *Mere Christianity*).

**SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE THIS WEEK:**

Organist: Maja Chadwick

Elder in Charge: Kevin Dooley

Greeters: (Your service possible here)

Bulletins: Maja Chadwick

Project Keep-In-Touch Mailing:

Donna & Corky

**LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR** (by Lutherans for Life) “Even death lies subject to God (1 Corinthians 15:25-26). Jesus has established His dominion over it, bending it into an instrument of His life-giving will. This victory enables us to guard the gift of life especially within the least of these – where mortal minds conclude life cannot flourish but faith beholds the firstfruits of the new creation (Mt. 25:37-40).” (Prayer: Lord of glory, let us bear Your cross alongside the undeserving and inherit the kingdom You have prepared. Amen.)

**AND NOW FOR THE THIRTEENTH YEAR IN A ROW, . . . THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE AND GOODIES SALE! SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>, BEGINNING NOT A MOMENT BEFORE 11:45 A.M.** How’s *that* for a Christmas present - the ladies of the Dorcas Society will be doing your Christmas baking! Invite the boss over. Invite your mother-in-law over! Invite the finickiest eater in the family over. You won’t be disappointed! Many of you know the drill: you may buy them by the plate (all the same kind) or in bulk (mixing and matching and jamming as many as you can into one of our SCCs - our styrofoam cookie capturers. If past years are any indication, you’ll find chocolate-covered cherries with a little somethin’ - somethin’ they can’t tell Pastor about - extra in them, biscotti, hand-painted shortbread cookies, cardamom coffee bread, and every imaginable Christmas cookie - including Russian tea cakes (Donald’s friend Vladimir’s favorite!) and the ones you like with the Hershey’s kisses! What a gift! But if you want to get in not just on the receiving, but the giving, these ladies welcome your contributions! It would be most convenient if you could bring your cookies and goodies - either in bulk, or already arrayed on Christmas plates or in tins, whichever you prefer - to Church on **Saturday morning (December 9<sup>th</sup>)** from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. However, we’ll try to make a place for them right up until 10:15 a.m. on Sunday morning. Either way, we’ll put a price on them for you that’ll keep your prize-winners in competition with all the other goodies we’ll get that day. Where will all the money go? All proceeds this year will go toward the Dorcas Society’s ministry programs. Yes, it’ll all be given away. Not even one dollar will be held back for “Administration” - the way 10 or 20% is with all the other charities you support this time of year. So, please support this delicious event by baking, buying, and enjoying. And from all the Dorcas, a very merry Christmas to you all!

**THE ADVENT OF OUR KING . . . AND THE NEW CHURCH YEAR!**

Behold! Our King comes! Christ, our King, is coming - to Bethlehem’s manger. So, let’s be sure we’re ready for his coming. Let’s prepare a place for him, not in the manger, but in our hearts, during this Advent season. Our *three* Wednesday evening Advent services of informal, family worship will begin at 7:00 p.m., after a Soup, or Salad, or Surprise (You pick!) Supper at 6:00 p.m. We can come to church, or we can come to your place! It’s up to you. Just let us know.

12/06 \_\_\_\_\_  
12/13 \_\_\_\_\_  
12/20 \_\_\_\_\_

**WELCOME, WELCOME, WELCOME!** Last Sunday it was our joy to welcome our newest members here at Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church. Richard Emelo and Ken & Pat King joined by Letter of Transfer. JB Backus came by Profession of Faith. They are the four who finished five weeks of “What It Means to be a Lutheran Christian” (WIMTBALC) class. Please welcome them as brothers and sisters in Christ, and see that they continue to feel welcome as you study and worship and fellowship and serve together.

Jack & Judith Shipp are patiently waiting for the next WIMTBALC Class to form. Are you, too? There’s no commitment to join if you take the class, but we do insist that you take the class if you’d like to join. One - even if you’ve been a Lutheran your whole life - it’s a good refresher. Two - because practice differs from pastor to pastor and congregation to congregation - you’ve got a right to learn what it means to be a Lutheran Christ right here at SOTMLC. And three, it’s always great to have a handful of folks you get to know well - even in a small congregation.

## **CALLING ALL VOTERS! CALLING ALL VOTERS! ALL VOTERS**

**CALLING!** Yes, that's the way it went at last Sunday's special Voters' Assembly meeting. The congregation voted to extend a call to a seminarian. (What? Hadn't you heard - that Pastor and Beth announced his retirement after Easter next year? It's true - after just short of 25 years! They'll tell you all about it.) Pastor explained that in calling, congregations have two choices - to call "from the field," or to call "from the seminary." Calling from the field means it would be a big "pool" - any of the seven thousand pastors on the Synod roster would be eligible. It also typically means that we'd be asking one of them to leave the ministry they've been serving. And if a call were to be "returned" - "declined" - we'd be back starting the process all over again. Calling from the sem is somewhat more predictable - all the calls are extended the third or fourth week of April (and without extraordinary circumstances, all are accepted). Yes, the pool is considerably smaller - maybe fifty "candidates" available from Ft. Wayne and another 60 from St. Louis. So the risk, then, is that not all calling congregations will receive a "candidate." However, the Elders have discussed that possibility with English District President Hardy, who sits on the Placement Committee, and he encourages us to be optimistic. In calling from the field, a congregation has to decide what its process will look like: e. g. How will it make its choice? Will it do telephone interviews? What would the questions be? In calling from the seminary, our paperwork tells the Placement Office/committee everything that we'd want our future pastor to know about us, our work, and our ministry area. And each graduating seminarian's paperwork does the same - telling the placement folks all about him, his family, how he sees his strengths and weaknesses, where he sees God using him, where he falls on many of the issues that make up pastoral ministry. So with the decision to call from the sem made - unanimously! - and before the first of January, so as to be a full month ahead of the official February 1 deadline - now, the work of completing the paperwork and accumulating the information that we'll want to include in the Call Packet our candidate will receive begins. Congregational history, demographics, and budget. Economic information. Employment opportunities. Housing. Health care. Schools. All of it. The Elders will be "playing point" on the call process, but any and all volunteers or assistance will certainly be welcomed.

## **AND JUST IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD**

**THANKS TO ALL WHO PRAYED WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE CLOUDY WEATHER TWO MONDAY MORNINGS AGO TO CLEAN UP OUR SECTION OF HIGHWAY 6** - we did it! We did it! We did it! Many hands make light work, they say, and it's true of this effort. So thanks, Bob & Sylvia (and Mimi and Jay) for coordinating and organizing and supervising. It's a nice service that we provide our communities, and it's - the sign that shows that SOTMLC adopted that portion of the highway - good PR for us as a congregation.

## **HAVE YOU HAD A CHANCE TO GET TO KNOW OUR YOUTH**

**CONFIRMANTS?** You know well **dinner** works for that kind of thing. We've got a **sign-up sheet** up in the fellowship hall where you can pick the week you want to come. With just two in class, our parents - and Pastor and Beth - have had more than a few opportunities. We can tell you a little about our two, but you'll learn a lot more sharing dinner with them. Ella (a.k.a. Ella) already had a year of confirmation instruction in Texas. She's a student this year at Mountain Christian School (on the campus of White Mountain Bible Church on SL Lake Road). Shelby (a.k.a. "Chipmunk") - well, you've known her since she was a youngin! She is enrolled right here at Blue Ridge USD. Class runs from 5:00 -5:45 p.m. nearly every Tuesday. Dinner is served between 5:45 and 6:15 p.m. And, tummies full, we're back learning again until 7:00 p.m. The menu is up to you; we will be happy with whatever you bring. And we'll look forward to getting to know you and being able to let you get to know us! Thank you.

**WE'VE JOINED THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER** - right here in our own community! Through the early weeks of December we'll continue collecting non-perishable food. We could send it on to East Fork Lutheran School for their lunch program, or we could join in the Community Holiday Food drive (BRUSD, Rotary, Timber Mesa Fire, Tate's Auto, etc.) that makes boxes available at Thanksgiving and Christmas to some of our neediest neighbors. How do you participate? Simply leave your gifts on the little table in the narthex each week, and after the ushers

