

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod)

2035 S. Penrod Lane, Pinetop, AZ

Ph/Fax (928) 367-1183 E-mail: shepherdpt@frontiernet.net

www.shepherdofthemountains.com

Pastor: R. Wayne Morton

Ministers: Each and Every Member

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 21, 2018

Welcome

In the name of Jesus Christ, we warmly welcome you to God's house this morning. Especially if you are visiting, we pray that you will feel at home with us and discover the blessing of God's grace in this service.

As We Gather

Peter, Andrew, James, and John were fishermen by trade. Jesus invited them to follow Him, promising He would make them fishers of men. What could this possibly mean?

The prophet Jonah may provide a clue. Swallowed, and then regurgitated by a great fish after running from God, Jonah was given another chance to cast a Gospel net for the people of Nineveh. With only the lure of Jonah's brief, Law-heavy sermon, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!", God reeled in a bountiful Kingdom-catch, saving more than 120,000 people and animals in that city.

Jesus' own preaching announces the fullness of time, the presence of God's reign, and invites repentance and faith in the Good News from God, which He embodies and enacts. This message - proclaimed and sacramentally enacted - is the net by which Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies people under God's gracious reign.

(10:25 a.m.) The Ringing of the Bell

(10:25 a.m.) Make a Joyful Noise: #833 "Listen, God is Calling"

(Although this Kenyan mission song was written for a leader and chorus, we as a congregation sing it in both parts.)

(10:25 a.m.) The Welcome

(The Pastor may invite the people to God's house with the following greeting:

"The Lord be with you." "And also with you.")

* (stand) The Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

(Mt. 28:19)

* (stand) The Confession and Absolution of our Sin

Pastor: Most merciful God, we confess that, as the prophet Jonah, we too have refused to announce Your mercy to the people around us when You gave us the opportunity.

People: Forgive us, heavenly Father.

Pastor: With Your people throughout the ages, we have valued our social and professional connections, our property and possessions, our intellect and emotions more than Your abiding presence each and every day.

People: Have mercy, loving Lord.

Pastor: Unlike the disciples who left everything behind to follow You, we have continued with business as usual without significant regard for Your divine will in our lives.

People: Open our hearts and minds to Your guidance and direction, O Holy Spirit.

Pastor: "I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God"

(Ezekiel 33:11, adapted)

Therefore, upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Entrance Hymn: #614 "As Surely as I Live, God Said" (vs. 1-4, 7,*8)

(Tune: HAMBURG, LSB #425 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross")

(* In honor of our Triune God we stand to sing the Trinitarian verse.)

The Kyrie (the prayer for mercy)

Pastor: O LORD, who send Jonah with a message of repentance for the people of Nineveh

People: have mercy on us

Pastor: O LORD, who calls our marriages a picture of you as King and your King, the Church

People: have mercy on us.

Pastor: O Lord, who proclaimed the present reign of God, inviting all people to repent and believe Your Gospel,

People: have mercy on us, and grant us Your peace. Amen.

The Gloria in Excelsis:

#946 “Glory to God, We Give You Thanks and Praise” (vs. 1,2, *3)

(Tune: ELLERS, LSB #917 “Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise”)

(* In honor of our Triune God we stand to sing the final, Trinitarian verse.)

* (stand) The Greeting and Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

(The people of Nineveh repent.)

1 Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, 2 “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” 3 So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. 4 Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” 5 And the people of Nineveh

believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31(32-35)

(We are living in the end times.)

29 This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, 30 and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, 31 and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

32 I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. 33 But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, 34 and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. 35 I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

* (stand) The Gospel Acclamation

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

* (stand) **The Holy Gospel: Mark 1:14-20**
(Jesus calls four fishermen to follow Him.)

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, 15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

16 Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. 17 And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” 18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him. 19 And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. 20 And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon Hymn: #839
"O Christ, Our True and Only Light" (vs. 1-5)

The Sermon

We Believe, Teach and Confess: The Apostles' Creed
(from inside the back cover of your Lutheran Service Book)

The Offering

(If you have not already done so, please register your attendance with the Friendship Form at this time and pass it down and back your pew, taking note of the names of those sitting with you and rejoicing in their presence here today.)

* (stand) **The Offertory: #806 “Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart”**

* (stand) **The Responsive Prayer and Lord's Prayer**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, Your Son once called Andrew and Peter, James and John to follow Him with the promise that He would make them fishers of men. Grant Your baptized the faith so to hear and heed the Savior's call, that through following Christ, the Holy Spirit would draw many into the Savior's net and rescue them from everlasting destruction. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, You are high above all nations and Your glory is above the heavens! Look in mercy on our nation. Give to those entrusted with civil authority courage and compassion, wisdom and integrity. Raise up men and women who will speak Your warning threat of judgment to our nation just as You raised up Jonah, Your servant, to warn Nineveh. Give our nation the grace of repentance to turn from evil. We beg Your protection especially for those most vulnerable among us, particularly those in the womb. Free us from all willful blindness and disregard of Your precious gift of life. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Kind Master, the words of St. Paul seem more true to us today than ever before. We know and can see that the world in its present form is passing away. Protect all Your children from fear in these gray and latter days, and fill them with great confidence and hope in what never passes away: Your faithful promises in Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: As Your Son came proclaiming the Gospel of Your Kingdom and inviting all to repentance and faith, so prosper the preaching of Christ in our land and in every place throughout the world. From the rising of the sun to its setting, may Your name be praised! We especially commend to You those who have left home and kindred to proclaim the Good News in foreign lands. Strengthen them in the tasks at hand and supply their daily bread. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Our Father in heaven, we praise You also for the gift of education and pray that You bless those who teach and those who learn during this National Lutheran Schools Week and always. Raise up faithful teachers and directors of Christian education who are equipped to assist parents in nourishing children in faith and preparing them for life in this world. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your merciful hands, we commend all who are afflicted or suffering in any way particularly those we have been asked to remember before You. Stretch forth the right hand of Your majesty to heal and defend them in Your own chosen time and manner, giving them faith to trust Your wise governance. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

*(Here special intercessions may be made.
Each petition concludes: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**)*

Pastor: Holy Father, You have given Your Son to raise us from the dust of death and seat us with princes in the new heavens and the new earth. Receive our thanks for all Your servants who have died, looking forward with eager expectation to that joyous day. When our last hour comes, support us by Your power and receive us into Your everlasting Kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Now hear us as we pray the way our Lord first taught us to pray:

People:

(The Lord's Prayer)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who t
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

* (stand) The Blessing of Our God

*Pastor: "Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying,
"Arise, go So Jonah arose and went . . . according to the word of the
LORD " (Jonah 3:1).*

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and (+) give you peace (Num. 6:24).

People: Amen.

The Closing Hymn: #856

"O Christ, Who Called the Twelve"(vs. 1-4)

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Announcements

Organ Postludes

MISSION MINUTE: Have you looked at the clock lately? Or, better yet, have you peeked at the calendar? Have you just listened to St. Pau? "*The appointed time has grown very short.*" Not just short, mind you, but *very short!* "No pressure," he adds: "*I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.*" So what do you say - to that friend, or family member, or neighbor of yours? Before time runs out? Say what Jesus said: "*Repent and believe in the gospel.*"

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.

- Marty & Debbie Minninger
- Marianne Klisares
- Brenda Stickler - Concho AZ
- Donna Stewart - Show Low, AZ
- Bruce & Beth Lynn - Lakeside, AZ
- Dave & Gwyn Goodet

WHAT WAS THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY? Christian Ed. - 16; Worship - 35 (Members 30, Friends 5, Visitors 0) How many were here because you invited them, will return because you welcomed them?

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK: 1/24 - Rosemary H.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS WEEK:

Organist: Maja C Elder in Charge: Kevin D
 Project Keep-In-Touch Mailing: Patti and Corky

LIFE QUOTE OF THE DAY (from Lutherans For Life) "Life issues didn't arise overnight. Their frequent connection to medical technology can make them seem like recent developments—and advances in understanding physiology and pharmaceuticals have made abortion and euthanasia more efficient and available of late. But these circumstances have been causing society's difficulties—and providing opportunities to proclaim the Gospel—since ancient times." (Rev. Michael W. Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life).

Sun	1/21	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. - LWML "Mites for Missions" Coffee Fellowship
Tues	1/23	5:00 p.m. - Confirmation Class (Melissa cooking.)
Wed	1/24	9:30 a.m. - Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 p.m. - <i>LifeLight</i> Bible Study
Sun	1/28	8:15 a.m. - Handbell Choir Practice 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30 a.m. - Divine Service - Holy Communion (4 th Sunday) 11:55 a.m. - Dorcas Society "Mites for Missions" Coffee Fellowship

WE INCLUDE IN OUR PRAYERS TODAY:

- All those who are sick
- All those who continue to receive treatments
- All those who have suffered due to wind and rain, fire and flood, cold and ice
- All those who travel
- All those who serve
- Bob D - as he awaits his transplant surgery
- Morning Star Lutheran Church - Lakeside, CA. Pastor Justin Laughridge
- Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church - Mission Hills, CA. Pastor Wm. Naumann
- New Life Community (Nazarene) - Show Low, AZ. Pastor David Embry
- January SS/BC Mission Project - Bread of Life Mission, Holbrook, AZ

WHERE ARE OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERINGS OFF TO THIS MONTH? We voted in our Sunday School and Bible Class opening to support the work of Bread of Life Mission in Holbrook. Bread of Life is far more than just a food pantry or a homeless shelter. Their work is changing lives. Their mission is "to provide spiritual guidance and physical assistance including shelter, food and vocational training to people in need, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to help them recognize and deal with their problems in a life changing" way.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN BIBLE CLASS THESE DAYS? We're working our way through the book of Luke. When we're done, well, see, that's the thing; then, we'll decide what we want to do next. Come, be a part of the decision. Come, be a part of the study. Sundays beginning at 9:20 a.m.

THE CRECHE IS GONE; IT'S BEEN REPLACED BY A HOUSE. For Christmas is over and the Epiphany season has begun, and the Scriptures tell us that the Magi (Wise Men) visited Mary and Joseph in their house in Bethlehem rather than in the stable out back the No-Room-In-The Inn. (No wonder, it took them quite a while; they came quite a way from the east.) And the gifts of those Magi are laid out there for you too, in that oversized treasure chest: gold (okay, *that* one's not real), frankincense (you can smell it) and myrrh. See for yourselves, after worship.

AND JUST IN CASE YOU HADN'T HEARD:

OH, THE PRICE WE PAY! Did you hear Louis Farrakhan "repent"? One point eight million Facebook viewers did! And why *not*, when the word was the eighty-four-old Nation of Islam leader was turning from Islam and had discovered the truth of Christianity? And why *not* - at least on the *surface* - when the high-profile Muslim leader now-famously said in his video, "I know - I'm not guessing - that my Jesus is alive. . . . So I say to the devil I know I gotta pay a price for what I've been teaching all these years." Does it *sound* Christian? *My* Jesus? I gotta pay a price for my *false* teaching all these years - all that "white people - and their religion - are created and inspired by Satan just to deceive blacks into accepting subjugation and slavery" stuff? Why *not*? Because of what "Minister" Farrakhan has said since, combined with what he has said before. Because, say most religious experts, as other cult leaders do, he intentionally used confusing language in order to attract Christians. That "price" he's paying isn't conviction for *wrong* teaching; it's persecution for what he remains convinced has been and will continue to be *right* teaching. Said another way, it's not what Jesus warned his disciples they should expect from the world; it's from His church! And when Farrakhan says, "my redeemer," his writings and his speeches indicate that he believes that one - the Messiah prophesied in the Torah - to be former Nation of Islam leader Elijah Muhammad, who died in 1975, but whom Farrakhan believes is still "physically

alive." The video notwithstanding, the NOI leader has since said "I am a Muslim."

JUST WHAT CHURCHES NEED - YET ONE MORE EXPENSE IN THE NEW YEAR! In years past, in keeping with a US Department of Labor mandate, as long as full-time, salaried workers were paid more than \$23,660 per year, they did not have to be paid any overtime (time-and-a-half). But then Labor dropped a bomb to all small businesses - churches and schools included; they more than doubled the salary threshold from \$23,660 to \$47,476! Suddenly just about every church employee was going to have to be paid overtime for any hours they worked over forty. But Christmas came early this year to many of our churches and schools as just before Labor Day, ironically, a federal judge struck down Labor's ruling. A new number is anticipated, but it's likely to be something closer to the old one adjusted for multiple years of inflation, and it's expected to focus more on job duties and not just salary alone. So, Church treasurers can relax a bit, but they're still having to keep their eyes and ears open.

ATTENTION ALL VOTERS! Well, attention everyone in the Shepherd of the Mountains family, for two weeks ago was our quarterly Voters' Assembly meeting. And we did just as advertised; we established our Ministry Plan and approved our budget for the upcoming year (2018). There have been quite a few changes - we've now got this beautiful new addition to heat, and cool, and clean, and maintain, and complete! There *will be* a few changes - we'll have some one-time expenses associated with a change in pastors. Bob the Bean Counter - a.k.a. Bob the [Bean] Roaster - worked tirelessly with the Elders and President and the Budget Committee (Pastor, Elder, Trustee) to provide the Voters with the best estimate of what the upcoming year of God's grace will look like for us here financially. And in the end, our Voters adopted a conservative approach, engaging Pr. David Lindemann of Scottsdale to be our Vacancy Pastor beginning April 22, establishing a starting salary of \$50,000 for our new seminary graduate, assuming *family* coverage for Concordia Health Plan coverage, and building in \$5000 for "relocation" (moving, and or closing costs) expenses.

P.S. And once the budget was approved, the last few remaining items on the Call paperwork could be inserted, and the Call Documents and Diploma of Vocation could be forward to the District and on to the Synod (Seminaries). That all was completed by last Thursday - thanks, Elder Kevin and President

John - so everything is in place for our new candidate/pastor to be able to see those numbers in his Call Documents and Diploma of Vocation. Well done, everyone. We beat the 1 February deadline with weeks to spare!

DO WE HAVE YOUR IMPORTANT DATES - birthdays and anniversaries? We do if you've completed a SOTMLC member biographical form. We may well not if you haven't. Wonder why we missed praying for you on your birthday? That could well be the reason. If you'd like us to be able to celebrate with you, please see Pastor or one of the Elders for a form today.