

THE VOICE

It is so hard to believe that it is already November and 2023 is about gone!

November is a time when we pause to give thanks for all the many blessings we have received. All Saints Day is November 5th. Although we tend to focus on all the saints who have died, this is also a day when we consider all the saints of the church and acknowledge both baptisms and deaths that have occurred since last All Saints Day. We give thanks for all the people who have enriched our lives and our faith, both living and those resting in the Lord.



Of course, we all know that Thanksgiving is also this month too. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

As a congregation we have so much to give the Lord thanks for. We have a fantastic group of leaders, volunteers, and staff to continue to carry out the mission God has placed before us. I am grateful for your passion and dedication to doing Christ's work! We have been able to make a difference for organizations with not just our financial offerings, but also with our time. I hope that we are able to continue to serve in that way next year and long into the future!

We knew going into 2023 that this would be a lean budget year, and while we are still running a bit short, it is not nearly what it could have been. Thank you for your generosity! We have also had the opportunity to see where our priorities are, and will be mindful of them in the 2024 budget planning.

We also give thanks for those who are no longer a part of the life of the congregation because they have moved away. We continue to miss the Corkill family after their move to Idaho. In October we said farewell and God speed to Sheila Foley as she makes a new home in her home state of Washington. She is, and will be missed by many for the blessing she is. We also have the blessing of welcoming and getting to know Jill Boxdorfer in the role of office manager.

We have also had the privilege and pleasure of getting to know some new people in the congregation! Many of those people have jumped in, rolled up their sleeves, and become involved with the ministry. For all of this and these saints we give thanks to God!

Give thanks to the LORD for he is good; and his love endures forever.

Abundant Blessings, Pastor Chris

You're invited

WORSHIP WITH US SUNDAY MORNINGS

Traditional Worship

In-person: 9:00 am

Online: [youtube.com/@sothservices1386](https://www.youtube.com/@sothservices1386)

Our mission

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church is a reflection of God's love and grace. Our mission is to grow in faith and love, connect with community, and share and serve with compassion.

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

801 N. Sheridan Ave.
Cañon City, CO 81212
(719)275-6797

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CHURCH COUNCIL

Our current objective is organization of the annual Living Nativity presentation for the community. A congregational meeting is October 15. Dates for the event are December 8 and 9. If you did not attend, but are interested in organizing or participating, call the office or sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

Thanks to Barbara Runa, our new treasurer, for all her time in learning the new program and keeping us updated.

Council wishes to acknowledge our Administrative Office Assistant, Sheila Foley, for the many years she has shared her time and talents with us. We give a big THANKS and wish her well as she relocates to Wenatchee, Washington. And as one door closes, so we open another to welcome Jill Boxdorfer as her replacement. Come by, introduce yourself and say hi!

Thanks to Jennifer Corkill, who through the wonder of the internet, has produced this edition of **THE VOICE**. Hopefully you are settled into your new home and school is going well for the kids.

Peace. Charlene Coulson

STEWARDSHIP

October has been a busy time. Members have been responding to an opportunity to prepare a dinner for clients at Loaves and Fishes on the last Friday of each month. Diana Biggs has organized the events and Marv Sampson has led the “chef” volunteers. Thanks to all volunteers! Watch for your opportunity to participate. Diana Biggs arranged for Carrie Trimble of River Watch to engage a group of SOTH volunteers in learning about monitoring water in the Arkansas River. An opportunity exists for SOTH monitoring a site. That opportunity is being explored. It would require a week of training. Contact Diana if you are available to train.

DISCIPLESHIP: SHARING ABUNDANCE

This is the theme for our fall stewardship appeal. “Why I Give” presentations were presented by Diana Biggs, Ray Quick, and Bob Erickson. Thanks for your introspective thoughts. Letters, including the three targeted intent areas—Loaves and Fishes, Rainbow Trail, and Ministry Excellence—are highlighted in the mailing being sent out the week of October 16. Please check your current statement of giving, as we have a new program—Power Church—and wish to insure you have been properly credited. Thanks for your generosity in 2023. A prompt response for 2024 will enable the Budget Team to commence preparation of the new budget. As a congregation we look forward to an active 2024.

FAITH FORMATION

The Faith Formation team's mission is to encourage, guide, and support lifelong learning of God's Word for all ages so that we may grow in knowledge, service, and love towards God and all people.

“**Now thank** we all our God, with heart and hands and voices” for He is good and His mercy endures forever! Our FAITH encourages us to make EVERY day Thanksgiving Day! Grace and mercy comes to us each and every day - how do we respond to God’s infinite love and abundant blessings? Do we meet regularly with our brothers and sisters of faith? Do we reflect God’s love and kindness to others? Do we engage in fellowship, giving of our time, talents and treasures? I invite all of my siblings in Christ at Shepherd of the Hills to meet regularly to encourage each other and reach out to those outside of our family in their faith struggles.

Catechism lessons for our kids occur **EVERY** Sunday (**excluding the first** Sunday of month when we have fellowship breakfasts). We meet right after worship (about 10:15 - 10:45) in the Youth room. This year, students help drive the lesson topics as leaders facilitate the engagement in scripture and Catechism understanding so that students grow in knowledge and faith in our Triune God. Confirmation program develops relationships with GOD and others in our church family so that a solid FAITH foundation can accompany our youth for the rest of their lives. Brycen, Birdie, Ashley, Kinley, Bella, Evelyn and William can grow in their knowledge of GOD’s boundless love and plan of salvation when they meet regularly after worship for ½ hour. Taiya continues to meet with her mentor, Sarah Anderson in preparation for her confirmation Sunday. Thank you Sarah, for your leadership.

Kids’ Fellowship, formerly known as Sunday School meets from 10:15-10:45 Sunday mornings also. This is for kids ages 4 years through 5th grade. The lesson begins in worship with the Children’s sermon and culminates with gathering in the Drama room to share and fellowship together. ADULT leaders are needed for this gathering! Developing relationships with each other and God in these gatherings is vital to maintain our church on Earth! Thank you, Bobbie and Tonya for helping to lead these meetings so far this program year,

Noisy Offerings continue on the 2nd Sundays of each month, beginning with September. Our loose change has gone to victims of the Hawaiian fires and to St. Jude’s Hospital. Our youth choose the recipient each month. Thanks, dear members, for sharing your coins!

Opportunities to grow in knowledge, service and love for God and all people include volunteering for Living Nativity, Loaves and Fishes, Meals on Wheels, attending worship, Confirmation, Kids’ fellowship, and engaging daily in praying and doing random acts of kindness: reflect God’s LOVE.



SHARING GOD'S LOVE

Opportunities to make a difference through the giving of your time, talent, and treasure

25 years of Shepherd of the Hill's Living Nativity!!!

The Living Nativity is coming! Our annual Christmas gift to Cañon City and Fremont County continues this year on December 8 and 9, 5-7:30 pm. We will again open the building to the community for hot drinks and cookies on Friday evening, and for soup and chili on Saturday. If you would like to participate as an actor, behind the scenes, or providing food, please sign up ASAP. Thank you for your commitment to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with this meaningful event!!



SHARING GOD'S LOVE

Opportunities to make a difference through the giving of your time, talent, and treasure

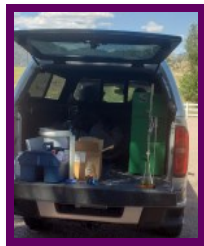
River Watch - Shepherd of the Hills Service Project



On September 9, 2023, a service team headed out to meet Carrie Tremble, our River Watch leader. We met up at the 9th Street access to the River Walk and then headed up to Parkdale to do water quality testing on the Arkansas River. We learned about protocol for testing the water, how not to contaminate the samples, the correct procedure for collecting water samples, and got to see the traveling science lab that Carrie uses.



We learned that the river water testing is done around the state of Colorado and that the collectors are all volunteers. Some of the testing is done at the site and some is done at a state lab in Denver. Carrie walked us through the various tests, like dissolved oxygen, that is done in the field with a science lab in the back of her vehicle.



Our lunch was provided by a Thrivent grant, which was enjoyed by all.

A memorable day for all who could join us - and an educational one.



God's Work, Our Hands

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

Opportunities to make a difference through the giving of your time, talent, and treasure

Bake/Food Sale

The Mission Team will be hosting this annual event on Sunday, November 12th. Think about what you might bring to this event. Buyers and bakers/cooks are needed to continue the success of this event. All proceeds will go to our Community Educational Fund and will in turn be donated to a Fremont County school or education related nonprofit. (Watch the Thursday congregational emails in November.) Thanks for the great support you've provided over the many years of this fund raiser!

The Giving Tree

Watch the Thursday congregational emails in November for project details.



The 17th Annual Grace Race A Huge Success!

The Race was blessed with a picture-perfect day and an enthusiastic crowd. Those participating helped make a difference that day by raising funds for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. 167 participants and volunteers came out for the race. There was also a great post-race party with burgers and fabulous music. People hung around and picnicked following the race and celebrated those who won medals. Our traveling trophy for the "Fleetest Flock," (that is, the ELCA church that had the most registered members of their congregation,) went to Augustana Lutheran Church again, which boasted 36 members registered! The final totals are not in, but it looks like we will be able to send a check for around \$8,000 to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. In its 17 year history, the Grace Race has raised over \$96,000! The 18th annual Grace Race is scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday, October 5, 2024 in Sloan's Lake Park starting at 4:00 pm. Put it on your calendars now! We look forward to seeing you there next year! Yours in Christ, Dave RTL

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle meets again Thursday, November 9th, at 10 am. The third session of the fall Bible study, "Holy Places", is titled "Pilgrimage". Pilgrimage, a journey to a sacred place, is a spiritual practice with a long history in Christianity (and many other religions). In the Bible, pilgrimage is not only about the destination, but also about the "holy place" of the journey itself. Considering the journey of the Magi, the walk to Emmaus, and Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, we'll ponder how pilgrimage can inspire, challenge and transform our faith and our lives.

Join us as we come together to learn, discuss and also enjoy fellowship. All women of SOTH and friends are invited. We look forward to seeing new faces. Need a copy of the lesson? Contact Marty Waite (275-5950 or cab-nlife@yahoo.com). **The Circle continues to collect boxes of cereal for Mercy Today Ministries.** Please bring some as

NEWS & NOTES

SOTH welcomes Jill Boxdorfer as the new office manager!

Jill is a recently-retired homeschooler with a long history of serving local churches, most often in the realm of worship and music ministries. Raised in the tightknit Lutheran community of Altenburg, Missouri, she is happy to call Cañon City home the past three years along with her husband Jeremy and sons Tommy and Danny. Jill and Jeremy's eldest son Sam and his wife Chia live in Alton, Illinois, and hope to join the rest of the family out west in the near future. Jill is passionate about creating nurturing spaces for brothers and sisters suffering in silence, especially those with a history of childhood sexual abuse and religious trauma. Her favorite ways to rest and recharge are camping with her family and engaging others in rich conversation. She also loves to hike, write, crochet, and is always on the lookout for anyone patient enough to teach her fly fishing.

Attention Quilters!



Shepherd of the Hills and St. John Lutheran Church are needing more helping hands. If you can tie knots, there is a place for you. We meet Thursday mornings at St. John (790 Greydene Ave.) from 9-11 AM. All materials are provided and finished quilts are distributed locally. Any questions, call June Ver Sluys @ 719-275-7144.



Altar Guild News

We are bringing back the Poinsettia Garden again this year. Watch the weekly announcements for more details. Thank you!



Thank you to everyone who contributed needed items for New Creations Inn. A car load of supplies was delivered to the Inn by Charlene and Rick Coulson. A former member of the Mission Team also donated \$40.

*Pictured:
Charlene
Coulson, Sandi
Allen, and Mike
Merlino of New*



NEWS & NOTES

Shepherd of the Hills Men's Fellowship and Bible Study Group

Testimonial from Al Ballard: *I find this men's group valuable in the pursuit of biblical knowledge and applications in my walk with the Holy Spirit, and other like-minded men. Sharing breakfast allows for spiritual fellowship as many day-to-day topics are dealt with. Studying and discussing scripture with other men is a sanity check as all of us deal with the chaos of the world, including spiritual issues, and applications as men seeking to follow Jesus. I would recommend men who have attended in the past to return; and new men to join us at 8 am on Saturday mornings.*

Please reach out to Ian Forbes with any questions. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday!

Sons of Norway—Frokost

Sons of Norway annual Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner on Saturday November 11th. See or call Clarence VerSluys at 1-719-275-0147 for information and reservations.



Meals on Wheels



Help wanted! This amazing organization feeds 60-70 people six days a week! We would love for you to join Pastor Chris every other Monday morning at St. Thomas More Hospital. Meet us in the St. Thomas More kitchen to dish up some delicious meals!

If you have time to share, join us:

♥ November 13 @ 9-10:30am

♥ December 11 @ 9-10:30am

♥ November 27 @ 9-10:30am

♥ December 25 @ 9-10:30am

NEWS & NOTES

“As Foretold” Oratorio For Chorus And Orchestra

Start the Holiday Season with As Foretold—Join members of the SOTH Choir and the Cañon City LDS choir as we team up once again with choir members from St. Michael’s Episcopal (Colorado Springs) and the USAFA Cadet Choir to sing Gerry Willis’ Oratorio with the Royal Gorge Philharmonic. This will be a FREE performance, but the Philharmonic will gratefully accept donations at the door or on their website: www.royalgorgephilharmonic.com

Saturday, November 18th (Colorado Springs) @ 5:00 pm

Saint Michael's Episcopal Church

7400 Tudor Road

Colorado Springs, Colorado 80919

Sunday, November 19th (Cañon City) @ 4:00 pm

Steeple Community Events Center

701 Macon Avenue

Cañon City, Colorado 81212



What do we really own?

‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return there; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.’ -- Job:1:21

There’s the joke about the nosy neighbor attending a rich woman’s funeral. Peering into the coffin with a friend, he asked, “How much money did she leave?” The friend smiled and replied, “All of it, of course!” As Job laments, we come into the world naked and leave the same way. We may be dressed in our best clothing on our way out, but we take it to the grave, not the afterlife. The joke and Job reveal a basic concept of stewardship: We don’t really own anything. We may take possession of it for a period of time, but we eventually leave it for others.

Yet we spend so much of our energy and life accumulating more and more – as if we were going to have it forever, as we were going to live forever. The danger is that absorbed with accumulating wealth, we shortchange the most valuable treasures – loving the Lord our God with all our being and loving our neighbors as ourselves. That’s why the Bible consistently warns us about wealth. Jesus repeatedly points out the pitfalls. Money and possessions can turn us inward, stunting our growth and preventing us from being the people God created us to be.

Generosity is the preventative cure for this malady. The Bible counsels that tithing – giving away 10 percent of our income – is a good benchmark for faithful giving (although on several occasions Jesus told his disciples to give away ALL their possessions). Giving 10 percent, or any amount substantial enough to be sacrificial, is a declaration that you are free from the power that money might have over you. Because however much money you can accumulate in life, you will be like the rich woman in the joke: You will leave it all.

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NEWS & NOTES



Senior Services Solutions
Plus
321 N. Cottonwood St.
Canon City, CO 81212
Phone: (719) 275-3900

October 02, 2023

Marty Waite
Mission Team Leader
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
801 N Sheridan Ave
Canon City, CO 81212

Dear Ms. Waite,

On behalf of the board, our volunteers and clients, I want to express our sincere appreciation for the monetary support from your church. These funds will enable us to continue providing transportation for Fremont County adults to medical, dental and optical appointments.

Your donation of \$75.00 for this quarter is greatly appreciated and will help us further our mission.

Thank you so very much for your kind generosity!

Sincerely,

Senior Services Solutions Plus

Patti Sedillo

Patti Sedillo
Executive Director

9/13/23
Dear Woman who provided salads and attended feed,
On behalf of my Dad and sisters I would like to thank you for your kindness and gracious service to our family @ the luncheon after the funeral. All the salads were delicious but I have to give special mention to those delicious Armenian cakes! My mom would have loved those too! I know she appreciated what you did for us!
Best wishes, Debra Westkamp

Thank you so much for overseeing the lunch after Wilma's service. The food was great.

We deeply appreciate your thoughtful expression of sympathy which was of the greatest comfort to us at the time of our loss.

The family of
Wilma Kattning

November 2023



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | | | 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM RGP Chorus Rehearsal | 10 AM Stewardship Call Training | 9 AM Peace In Motion | 8 AM Men's Breakfast |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| All Saints Sunday | 9 AM Peace In Motion | | 1 PM Crafting for Christ 2 PM Book Club 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM RGP Chorus | 1 PM Book Club | Veterans Day 9 AM Peace In Motion | 8 AM Men's Breakfast |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| Noisy Offering Mission Team Bake/Food Sale | 9 AM Peace In Motion 9 AM Meals on Wheels | 1 PM Faith Sisters 7 PM Council Mtg | 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:30 PM RGP Chorus Rehearsal | | 9 AM Peace In Motion | 8 AM Men's Breakfast 5 PM Oratorio / Co Springs |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 4 PM Oratorio / Steeple Center | 9 AM Peace In Motion PC vacation thru 12/4 | | 1 PM Crafting for Christ 6:30 PM Choir Practice | Thanksgiving | 9 AM Peace In Motion | 8 AM Men's Breakfast |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 |
| | 9 AM Peace In Motion 9 AM Meals on Wheels | Giving Tuesday | 6:30 PM Choir Practice | | | |
| 3 | 4 | Notes | | | | |
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Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

801 N Sheridan Ave.

Cañon City, CO 81212

The Voice is published bi-monthly to keep you connected to Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. Newsletter announcements can be submitted to sothnewslettersubmission@gmail.com by the 15th of the month.

If you no longer wish to receive the church newsletter, please inform the church office at 719-275-6797 or sothoffices@gmail.com

| SOTH Lutheran Church Staff | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Christine Hjelmstad | Pastor |
| Jill Boxdofer | Office Administrator |
| Bobbie Anderson | Youth Ministry & Administrator |
| Dean Richter | Faith Formation Director |
| Gerry Willis | Music Director |
| Leslie Woodhull | Violinist |
| Cheri Chiaro | Accompanist |
| Andy Fisher | Audio-Visual |
| Barbara Runa | Treasurer |
| Barbara Knicely | Financial Secretary |
| Teresa Burdick | Custodian |
| Caroline Barnhardt | Grounds Maintenance |

| SOTH Council Members | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Charlene Coulson | President |
| Brad Putzer | Vice President |
| Linda Freed | Acting Secretary |
| Barbara Runa | Treasurer |
| Jon Runa | David Saylor |

