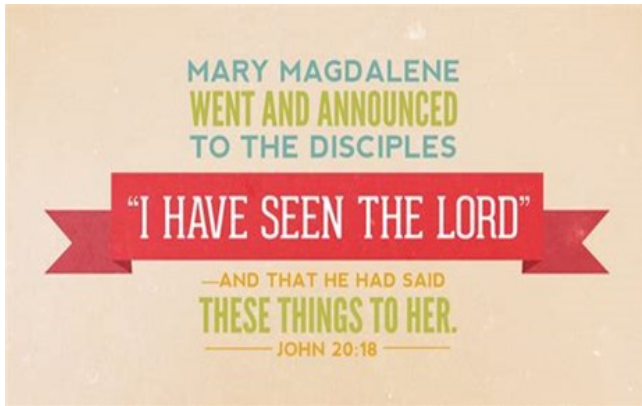


THE VOICE



Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The first and best Easter sermon was preached by Mary Magdalene (it is also the shortest): “I have seen the Lord!” There were obviously many questions, but Mary said all she needed to say in 5 words. She had seen the risen Christ and followed Jesus’ instructions to go and tell the others.

After the crucifixion, Jesus no longer teaches the disciples through his words, but only by his presence. He listens, he blesses, he asks that his sheep be fed. His resurrection is his “new” instruction. No parables, no healing, no rising other people from the dead. Only his presence. The disciples (and others) see and believe that Jesus fulfills his promises.

This theme of seeing and believing will continue throughout the rest of the book of John. The disciples see the scars and believe. They then go and tell Thomas, but he is a bit suspicious of the others. Thomas sees the scars and believes. The disciples on the road to Emmaus see and believe Jesus is the risen Lord of whom Mary spoke when he broke the bread. And then they, too, go and tell. Jesus even has a special blessing for those of us born too late to have seen, and yet believe.

Not much has changed since that first Easter morning. We are all charged to go and tell what we have seen. This is a tough thing for us Lutherans. We are not conditioned to be evangelists or missionaries. We see, we believe, and then keep silent. Going and telling is a terrifying thing for many of us.

With regards to this reluctance (or terror!), Karoline Lewis, Lutheran pastor, Luther Seminary professor, and author, asks, “Can you imagine reframing your understanding of ‘evangelism’ as invitation?...We share our relationship with Jesus or a special encounter with God not to force someone to believe in God or to have the same kind of faith as we do. Since God wants a relationship with people, they must have their own encounter with God and decide for themselves.” (*Belonging: 5 Keys to Unlock Your Potential as a Disciple*, Abingdon Press 2022, p.80) This sounds a lot less intimidating than how “evangelism” is often thought of!

Go and tell. Jesus spells it out for us in just 3 words. Go and tell of our relationship with Jesus or encounter with God as an invitation for people to find those encounters that have happened in their own lives.

Easter Blessings! Pastor Chris

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

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

COUNCIL

Council approved the purchase and installation of Ring video surveillance security system. Property team Jon Runa, Brad and Elaine Putzer installed the cameras and got them online. Thanks for all your work on this project.

SOTH and the newly formed Canon City Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Gerry Willis, have formed a ministry focus outreach. Grants will finance the Orchestra and programs will note SOTH as the sponsor. All concerts will be free of charge with free will donations accepted. Some concerts will be at our facility. On the agenda is a Mother's Day Concert on Saturday, May 11.

Semi-annual meeting is May 19. This meeting will involve presentation of annual reports of SOTH Teams and election of persons to serve on Council. Jon Runa and Brad Putzer are term limited. Thanks to them for their six (6) years of service. Please prayerfully consider becoming a member of the Council Team. The term is three (3) years. Two (2) to four (4) new members would be ideal. Meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month from 7-8:30 ish PM. Please contact Pastor Chris or a council member if you are interested.

Peace,
Charlene Coulson

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship team has met to brainstorm future outreach activities and review the 2023 campaign. If you have a suggestion, let Pastor Chris know or put it in my mailbox in the office.

Diana Biggs continues to research a new day for continued evening meal preparation at Loaves and Fishes.

Our three steward focus ministries are: Loaves and Fishes, Rainbow Trail Camp, Ministry of Excellence (facilities upkeep)

AS a reminder, SOTH offers a recurring donation site – Vanco – <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z5RF/home>. Invite code for Mobile App is BBYCEY. IRA and stock gifts are accepted. Stocks gifts accepted through Thrivent Stock Brokerage Account (TY9157990). Memorials and gifts may be directed to the Thrivent Gift Account (NYJ001729). The QR Code for phone scanning is available.

Thanks for your support of SOTH and our ministry.

Peace,
Charlene Coulson

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

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



PRAYER CHAIN

The SOTH Prayer Chain is still available to all who would like prayer on behalf of themselves or loved ones. Please call the church office to be added to the list.

BE ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING
but in
EVERYTHING
BY PRAYER & SUPPLICATION
with THANKSGIVING
— LET YOUR REQUESTS —
BE MADE KNOWN TO GOD
AND THE PEACE — OF —
GOD WHICH SURPASSES ALL COMPREHENSION
WILL GUARD YOUR HEARTS & YOUR MINDS
— IN —
CHRIST JESUS

Thanks to all of you for the cards, phone calls and prayers following my accident and surgery. They are so appreciated. I am doing well. God's blessings to everyone.

*Love & Prayers,
Bobbie*

Thank you to all who have donated items for the Mission Team's "Get Your Car to Church" Lenten project.. Since this project ran through March 31, we don't have a total of how many pounds of food was donated. The first delivery we took to Loaves & Fishes totaled 215 pounds. Watch for the info on the second delivery in our weekly emails.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the car repair fund for a friend of SOTH! Repairs were much more extensive than we first thought, but they have been completed and the car is back on the road. A special thank you to a couple of very generous donors!!

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.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

The Campership fund will send 10 students to Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp this summer. Thank you for the generous donations at the February and March breakfasts; we will be able to send all the students that want to go. Of course, as always, the families pay the \$100 down payment.

The March Fellowship Breakfast was successfully served by the Cracked Pots spiritual formation group plus others! Plenty of food and fellowship filled our hall that morning!

Created To Be is the theme for RTALC camp for summer 2024. Another opportunity to share God's radical grace!

Holy Humor Sunday comes but once each year! It's the first Sunday after Easter-April 7 this year. I look forward to pranking the Evil One as God played the ultimate trick on him by raising his Son, Jesus the Christ from the dead on Easter Morning. Come to worship with good humor!

Noisy Offerings continue to collect money that blesses a deserving community that the young people from our congregation choose. March's donation will go to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, a choice made by our youth. This "holy land" area has been a war zone and we need to support the Christians there.

Confirmation Time occurs each Sunday morning (except on the 1st Sunday of the month because of Fellowship Breakfasts). TIME: approximately 10:10 until 10:50. William, Evelyn, Kinley, Ashley, and Bryson participate in instruction. Taiya meets regularly with her mentor Sarah and will affirm her baptism on May 12! Becky, Dena, Pastor Chris and Pastor Lois commit to these Catechism meetings and miss seeing the kids when they are absent. Everyone might consider looking at worship notes during church.

Kids' Fellowship needs adult leaders! It is scheduled to meet every Sunday where we have LEADERS and STUDENTS. We thank Cindy Thoas for being a faithful leader for our younger students. Pastor Chris always invites our children to come to the altar for a children's message when kids are in worship. Shepherd of the Hills loves all children! Please pray about this ministry.

Milestones are special moments in our church family's lives that we celebrate together! Kellie Williams achieved her drivers license and we blessed her in this event. Baptisms and affirmation of baptism continue to occur in our church. What a blessing to celebrate together. If you have a milestone to report, please let Pastor Chris or Dena Richter know.

Thank you for the Easter egg hunt donations! On Palm Sunday, we had youth and other church family members assist us to fill the plastic eggs with good things for the children to find on Easter morning between the morning worship services.

Dena

NEWS & NOTES

Volunteer Opportunity – Fremont County Head Start will have their 2nd Annual Volunteer Day on Friday, April 5 starting at 10:00 am (that's a no school day for CC students). Tasks include repainting parking lot lines, filling sand boxes, picking up trash, raking debris, pressure washing fake grass turf, and various other tasks. Head Start is located at 1718 Brookside Avenue. There will be food, so please RSVP by March 29 by calling Head Start at 719-275-8696. Come on out and help our neighbors!

ELCA World Hunger – In 2024 we will commemorate the 50th anniversary of this ministry. Part of our church's long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA WH testifies to our hope for and commitment to God's promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. We have made great strides, but once again we face a startling increase in global hunger. As many as 828 million people worldwide live with hunger. In the US one in eight people isn't sure where their next meal will come from. The root causes of hunger are complex and include rising costs, global conflicts, climate change and the lingering impact of COVID-19. As we reflect on our last 50 years of ministry together, we know God calls us to respond to the needs of the world now more than ever.

ELCA WH walks alongside communities in 64 countries– including the US - to create solutions to specific challenges. With your help, our church can grow its support for our most vulnerable neighbors in a changing world. To make a donation, go online to [ELCA.org/hunger/donate](https://elca.org/hunger/donate), mail your check payable to “ELCA World Hunger” and mail to: ELCA, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009, or give through your Sunday offering. Just write “ELCA World Hunger” on the memo line.

Silent Auction on the two handmade quilts is still going through April 15th. Be sure to check them out. It's not too late to place your bid. Proceeds will be donated to the Canon City Literacy Center.

Ruth Circle meets **Thursday, April 11th, at 10 a.m.** The fourth session of Scripture and Nature: Teachers of Faith is titled “Food - Daily bread for the health of the world.” Most of us hunt, harvest and forage in grocery store aisles. We've forgotten the ways our food first comes to us—from fields, flocks, forests and farms. Considering our relationship with creation and our faithful stewardship of the earth means paying attention to the ways we eat. In this final session, we'll see how stories of food in scripture offer us ways of faithful eating that are responsible, celebratory and delicious. Locust and wild honey anyone?

Then we will gather on **Thursday, May 9th, at 10 a.m.** for a closing Devotional on Mental Health and Wellness by Elise Seyfried. As long as humans have existed, there has been mental illness. By some estimates, as many as 20% of all adults live with a mental health issue. In biblical times, mental illness was often misunderstood and thought to be caused by demonic possession. In modern times, we have learned much more about brain chemistry. Although the stigma around mental illnesses has decreased, we still have a long way to go, and our faith communities can help. Looking particularly at biblical people and passages that relate to living with mental illness, this devotional reminds us of Jesus' compassionate care for those who struggle. Together, we'll learn how congregations can become “stigma-free” zones, welcome and support those with mental health issues and their loved ones and provide opportunities for all ages to learn more about a topic that affects us all.

Hope to see you on one or both dates. Mercy Today Ministries has advised that they would appreciate our collecting canned fruit for them, except for applesauce. Please bring some if you are able.

NEWS & NOTES

Thank God for Our Food – *God said [to Adam and Eve], ‘See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. Genesis 1:29*

There’s a joke about the first-grade teacher who asks, “Where do apples come from?” Little Sydney speaks up: “From the supermarket!” We laugh, but the truth is, many of us forget that our food comes only from life, through the plants and animals that God alone created.

As stewards and disciples, we can develop a deep appreciation for all that God provides us, particularly our food. With every mouthful, we can thank God for our daily bread, and for the soil, air and water that sustains life. Easter and springtime are perfect occasions to celebrate God’s miracle of life that gives us fruit, vegetables, grains, meat, fish and dairy foods. Here are some ideas:

- At mealtime grace, thank God not only for food, but also for the cycles of seedtime, growth and harvest. Thank God for life-nourishing soil, water and air.
- While eating, think about how and from where the plants are grown or animals raised? How do they get to your kitchen?
- As a church or family, celebrate Earth Day (April 22) by learning about food production and our food supply, and how environmental problems affect it.
- Celebrate Earth Day by planting a garden.
- Learn about nutrition -- what foods are the best and worst for us. Promote healthy eating.
- Learn about food waste and take steps to reduce it in your home.
- At church, celebrate creation or seedtime.

We live in a culture where food is all around us all the time. As steward-disciples, we want to be sure not to take even a mouthful for granted.

-- Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2024, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org.

Royal Gorge Philharmonic – Save the dates! Saturday and Sunday, April 27 & 28, there will be a “World Premier Event” of performances of *Great Are the Words of Isaiah*, a cantata for chorus and orchestra composed and conducted by Gerry Willis. The Royal Gorge Philharmonic, the U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Choir, and the Royal Gorge Philharmonic Chorus will be performing the cantata on Saturday, April 27, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Michael’s Episcopal Church in Colorado Springs, and on Sunday, April 28, at 7:00 p.m. at the Steeple Events Center in Canon City. Both performances are free to the public thanks to generous donations from local businesses, individual donors, and a grant from the Music Performance Trust Fund in New York City.



Bishop Election – The Rocky Mountain Synod will be electing a new bishop at our Assembly in April. Seven pastors have submitted their biographies at this point. To see them, go to www.rmselca.org and scroll down to the section Leaders in Discernment and click "read more." Please join me in giving thanks to Bishop Jim for his 12 years as bishop and whatever shape his ministry will take in the future, and please pray for the seven pastors discerning a call to bishop.

Birthdays and anniversaries have returned to The Voice! If you do not see yours listed, please contact the office at (719) 275-6797 or email sothoffices@gmail.com so Jill can get you updated in the church database.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1 OFFICE CLOSED 9am Peace in Motion 6:30 Orchestra	2	3 9am VITA 6:30pm Choir 7:30pm RGP Chorus	4 3pm VITA	5 9am Peace in Motion	6 8am Men's Breakfast
7 Holy Humor Sunday	8 9am Peace in Motion 9am Meals on Wheels 6:30 Orchestra	9 7pm Church Council	10 9am VITA 1pm Crafting 2pm Book Club 6:30pm Choir 7:30pm RGP Chorus	11 10am Ruth Circle 1pm Book Club 3pm VITA	12 9am Peace in Motion	13 8am Men's Breakfast
14 <i>Noisy Offering</i>	15 9am Peace in Motion 10am Stewardship 5:30pm Worship Team 6:30 Orchestra	16	17 6:30pm Choir 7:30pm RGP Chorus PC Jury Duty	18	19 9am Peace in Motion	20 8am Men's Breakfast 10am Jerry Barslou's Celebration of Life
21	22 9am Peace in Motion 9am Meals on Wheels 6:30 Orchestra Jill Out of Office	23 Jill Out of Office	24 1pm Crafting 1pm NAMI 6:30pm Choir 7:30pm RGP Chorus PC at RMS Assembly (Through 4/27)	25	26 9am Peace in Motion	27 8am Men's Breakfast 2pm Oratorio / Colo. Springs
28 7pm Oratorio—Steeple Center 2pm Camera Club	29 9am Peace in Motion 6:30 Orchestra PC Vacation Begins (Through 5/5)	30	1	2	3	4

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

SOTH COUNCIL

Charlene Coulson
Brad Putzer
Linda Freed
Barbara Runa
Jon Runa
David Salyer

President
Vice President
Acting Secretary
Treasurer



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29 <i>PC Vacation Begins</i> (Through 5/5)	30	1 6:30pm Choir	2	3 9am Peace in Motion	4 8am Men's Breakfast
5	6 9am Peace in Motion 9am Meals on Wheels 6:30 Orchestra <i>PC back in office</i>	7	8 1pm Crafting 2pm Book Club 6:30pm Choir	9 10am Ruth Circle 1pm Book Club	10 9am Peace in Motion	11 8am Men's Breakfast CCO Concert
12 <i>Noisy Offering</i> Affirmation of Taiya's Baptism	13 9am Peace in Motion 10am Stewardship 6:30 Orchestra	14 7pm Church Council	15 6:30pm Choir	16 6:30 pm FCCCA	17 9am Peace in Motion	18 8am Men's Breakfast
19 Semi-Annual Meeting (Council Elections) 2pm Historical Society	20 9am Peace in Motion 9am Meals on Wheels 6:30 Orchestra	21	22 1pm Crafting 6:30pm Choir	23	24 9am Peace in Motion	25 8am Men's Breakfast
26 2pm Camera Club	27 <i>Office Closed for Memorial Day</i>	28	29 1pm NAMI	30	31 9am Peace in Motion	1

MAY BIRTHDAYS

SOTH STAFF

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Christine Hjelmstad	Pastor
Jill Boxdorfer	Office Administrator
Dena 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

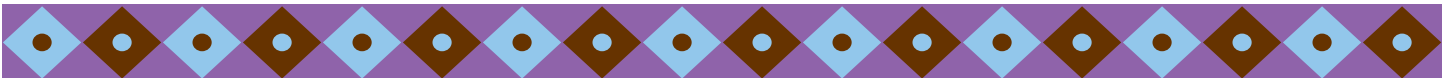


Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

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 sothoffices@gmail.com by the 15th of the month. If you no longer wish to receive the church newsletter, please inform the church office via email listed above or by calling 719-275-6797. Thank you!



You're invited

Worship with us each Sunday morning, in-person or online.

Traditional Worship
9:00 am

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

**Shepherd of the Hills
Lutheran Church**
801 N. Sheridan Ave.
Cañon City, CO 81212
(719)275-6797
sothlutherancc.com

Office Hours:
Mon-Thurs, 9am-1pm

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.



In this edition

Pastor's Message	1
Council & Stewardship News	2
Sharing God's Love	3
Faith Formation	4
News & Notes	5
April 2024 Calendar	6
May 2024 Calendar	7