



Shepherd of the Mountains
Lutheran Church
Park City, Utah

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SHEPHERD OF THE MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH

In the summer of 1980, a group of Lutheran Christians met in the city park of Park City, Utah. Their intent was to explore the possibility of forming a Lutheran church. These were people who had moved from Salt Lake City to Park City and were finding the distance to the nearest Lutheran church to be a problem. Approximately 25 people (8 families) were involved at that time.

The first Worship Service was held on September 14, 1980. The group met at St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Park Avenue. John Krehbiel, a former intern of Zion Lutheran Church, SLC, led the service.

Under the name "Park City Lutheran Mission," the group continued to meet for Sunday worship and eventually formed a Sunday School program which met in their homes. Because Krehbiel was not ordained, Pastor Clayton Hammell, a retired pastor living in Summit Park, was asked to lead worship on occasions where the Eucharist was celebrated.

In the spring of 1981, Pastor David Krueger was contacted about the possibility of coming to serve as the pastor of this young and enthusiastic group. After an initial visit in July 1981, and a week-long visit in January 1982, Pastor Krueger accepted the challenge and moved to Park City in April of 1982.

Because the congregation could only afford a half-time salary, Pastor Krueger sought additional work. He found employment as the half-time Protestant Chaplain at the V.A. Medical Center in Salt Lake City. It was the plan of the congregation to place Pastor Krueger into a full-time position in the near future.

Shortly after Krueger's arrival, the congregation took on the name of Shepherd of the Mountains. It joined with the Park City Community Church to form a Sunday School in September 1982, and immediately worked to form an active youth group. In July 1983, the congregation moved to St. Mary's Catholic Church, having outgrown the facilities of St. Luke's.

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Other important dates include: Spring 1984 – LCA (Lutheran Church in America) purchased 3 ½ acres of property on State Highway 224 as a future building site. September 1984 – the congregation begins its own Sunday School, using the Memorial Building. January 1985 – Charter opens for the signatures of the congregation’s first members. March 3, 1985 – Shepherd of the Mountains is organized as a congregation of the Pacific Southwest Synod of the Lutheran Church in America.

We are indeed grateful, above all, to Almighty God, who has brought about this “impossible dream.” Beyond that, we thank Zion Lutheran Church in Salt Lake City, who has been our “parenting” church and constant support.

From 25 people to a congregation of 140 strong. The days ahead certainly bright and challenging as we look to building a sanctuary and possibly a conference center. May God’s Spirit be the power behind all that we do in the name of Jesus Christ!

Thanks be to God!

Submitted to the files in 1986



Dedication of land – July 26, 1984 – new site for church building on Highway 224

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Service on the building site – July 26, 1984

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**Pastors that have been called to serve at
Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church**

- Pastor David Krueger: 1982 – 1988
- Pastor Johnathan Nelson: 1988 – 1992
- Pastor Marc Miller: 1993 – 1997
- Pastor Victor Nelson: Interim 1992 and 1997
- Pastor Jeffery Loudon: 1998 – 2007
- Rev. Peter Van Hook: Interim 2007
- Pastor Steven Leiser: 2008 – present