



# November 2024 GOODNEWSletter

Mt Si Lutheran Church  
[www.mtsilutheran.org](http://www.mtsilutheran.org)

Grace and peace to you,

What a beautiful fall we've enjoyed – the colors on the trees are outstanding this year. On a recent walk the familiar crunch of leaves beneath my feet brought a smile to my face. I pray you have ample opportunities to go outside and enjoy the crisp autumn air, misty mornings and stunning hues of the sunset against Mt Si. There is much to be thankful for as we enter November.

As always life is full and busy around the church. You may have noticed, through your time with visiting pastors from our cluster and invitation to “cluster wide” events, that our partnership with local Lutheran congregations is growing and evolving. Over the last two years we've increased our engagement within the cluster including hosting the Tiny House Build, attending and hosting family game nights, going on the Belize Mission Trip and more. Alongside the events, leadership from cluster congregations have been meeting to dream and discern how we can more effectively work together on the administration/business side of church life – what could work and what simply doesn't given geographic locations and acknowledgment of keeping independence where needed.

In the last couple of months these conversations have grown more frequent and more concrete. Draft proposals were crafted with a particular focus on the three Bellevue congregations, but with an invitation for Mt Si and other cluster churches to participate. Mt Si Council Leadership is discerning how we might be involved in the proposed plans. Please expect information and Q&A sessions over the next 4 months as the process moves forward. Please know that Council has no intention of making decisions on behalf of Mt Si without your input and involvement. More specifics will be shared at our **Annual Meeting on November 24**.

One area of shared ministry that is working is in children, youth and family (CYF) ministry. Right now, CYF leadership from Mt Si, Sammamish Hills, St. Andrew's, St. Luke's, Our Savior, Holy Spirit & Faith Lutheran Churches meet monthly to plan monthly CYF events, annual retreats, game nights, collaborative VBS & more. We are calling ourselves the **Eastside Lutheran Fellowship (ELF)**. We still do individual events that make sense to keep “in-house.” However, there is a lot we can do together that wouldn't be possible on our own. In particular, I'm looking forward to taking several of our youth

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### Special points of interest

*Back page: Message from  
Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee*



**MOUNTAIN VALLEY  
PRESCHOOL**  
M-F from 9-1pm & MWF  
from 1-4pm



Mountain Valley  
Preschool  
*Where a Love for Learning is Created*

### Quilters

Meet each Monday  
at 9:30am

### Girl Scout Troop 41115

The Girl Scout Troop  
Meets on Wednesday in the  
fellowship hall from 5-7pm

### Prayer Ministry

Prayer Group continues to  
meet each Tuesday at 9:30am  
in the  
Prayer Room at Mt Si.

### AA

Will meet Thursdays and  
Sundays in Luther's Lounge  
weekly at 7 pm  
Ogle Street entrance

### Girl Scout Leaders

The Girl Scouts Leaders  
meet the 3rd Thursday  
of each month

*continued from front page*

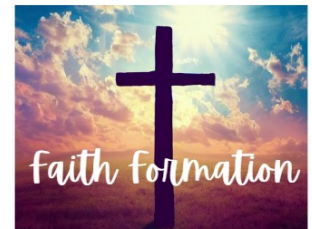
to a retreat at Camp Casey in early November. There will be about 100 youth in attendance. Thanks to work within our cluster leadership and synod, this event is possible. Thanks be to God!

As I give thanks to God for the beauty outside. I'm also giving thanks for the beauty of each of you in this faith, hope & love community (I was listening to your remarks at the 75th, Pr. Larry!). Your continued dedication to the gospel and the ministry of this church brings me great joy. I continue to be blessed to serve you all and I pray I am still a blessing to this community. I recently celebrated 13 years of ordained ministry. Over half my time has been spent with Mt Si and I couldn't be more grateful. May Spirit of God continue to build us up and send us out to be his disciples in the world.

Peace, P. K.

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

All ladies are welcome to join each  
Monday from 12:30-2pm.  
If you have any questions, please  
reach out to Vivian Waid.



### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Each Saturday @ 9am the men gather at Little Si Restaurant in North Bend for breakfast and Bible Study. The Study focuses on the readings for the upcoming Sunday worship. Reach out to Dave

## Sunday Intergenerational Study Hour

What is God's ideal calling for humans?



God calls all humans to be royal priests, representing his character and presence to the world. Come explore what it means to be a royal priest over seven weeks beginning on September 22nd. We will look at the portrayal of priests throughout scripture all the way through Jesus' teachings and the early writers of the New Testament. We will watch a video each week from the same creators as the Shema word study series we did last year. All ages are welcome as we explore this important Biblical image.

Questions? Please talk to Pr. Krista.



We are excited to introduce our special Advent Worship & Education series called, On the Way to Bethlehem. Each week we will explore important Biblical cities including Rome, Jerusalem, Nazareth and Bethlehem. The author of this worship and education series, Dr. Marcia McFee, writes, "Places shape us and shape our stories, even if we simply journey to and through them for a little while. We are changed as their narratives become part of ours. By focusing on the places that shaped the path of Jesus' birth narrative, we learn more about why his life, ministry, and death became one of the most significant narratives of human history."

The materials are based on the book, On the Way to Bethlehem by Rob Fuquay



All are welcome to stay after worship on December 1st

for our annual Advent Festival! Food, fellowship, crafts, advent wreath creation and more!

Join us for Coffee Hour after Sunday worship



You are welcome to bring a snack to share! Thank you!

Questions? Talk with Courtney A.



Confirmation

Mondays

@ 5pm

(no confirmation Nov. 11)







**Next Blood Drive:  
December 10<sup>th</sup>**

If you are interested in helping with the blood drive please reach out to Rick Rodriguez.



**YONDER SEA  
IS THE SEA**

November 8-10

**FALL YOUTH RETREAT 2024**

Please Pray for Participants

*Please pray for participants:*

*Kaelynn, Nellie, Kelsey, & Addy*

**Save the Date  
November 24, 2024**

**Annual  
Congregational  
Meeting**



**OCTOBER REPORT**



Greetings from your 2024 Church Council.

This month Council reviewed our 4th quarter progress and our 2025 budget.

Our year-to-date income is \$759, which covers our operating costs plus the capital funds decrease reported last month. We reviewed the 2025 budget in more detail, and discussed how our Cluster ministries and services will be able to increase our ministries and reduce administrative costs in 2025. This will be shared in more detail at our November Congregational meeting.

Building and Grounds is busy preparing our church and parsonage facilities for the winter.

Our Christmas calendar includes many activities and special services for members, new friends, and visitors to enjoy.

Serving in Christ's grace, Dave Spurling

# COMMUNITY FALL GAME NIGHTS

**November 17**  
**Mt Si Lutheran**  
**North Bend**

5pm-7pm!

Games for all ages!

Presented by Holy Trinity, St. Luke's, Sammamish Hills, Faith, St. Andrew's, Mt. Si Lutheran Churches and others!




**Join our "Eastside Lutheran Fellowship (ELF)" group for Family Game Night!**

This 2-hour window of time included potluck food for all, a myriad of games and puzzles, and good conversation. It is a fun opportunity to mingle, play some favorite games, and learn some new ones. Our next Community Game Night will be Sunday, November 17th from 5-7pm at Mt Si Lutheran Church. We hope to see you there!

Lisa S.

[Link for: Community Game Night Sign-up](#)

Greetings!

My name is Matt Turner.

I am the choir director at Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church. We will present a Christmas concert this year and would like to invite any singers from your church to join us. We did a similar invitation last year and it was a wonderful collaboration. The concert will take place on December 15th at 3:00pm in our sanctuary. Rehearsals will take place at 7:00pm on 11/14, 11/21, 12/5, 11/12, and 11/14, also in our sanctuary. If interested, please contact me through the SHLC office at [worship@shlc.org](mailto:worship@shlc.org). God bless!

Again, my thanks.

Matt Turner

### Interested in a Mission Trip to Rwanda?

Pastor Nyla in partnership with Gilbert Kubwimana are planning a trip to Rwanda in either Summer 2025 or Spring 2026

The mission trip would work directly with Love with Actions ministry.

Want to learn more?

Come at 5:30pm on Oct. 13th to Sammamish Hills or email Pr. Nyla directly

[pastornyla@shlc.org](mailto:pastornyla@shlc.org)




Love With Actions



Please

Make a gift online through our website:

[www.mtsilutheran.org/onlinegiving](http://www.mtsilutheran.org/onlinegiving)

Thank you for your continued generosity.

- Treasurer

**NOVEMBER  
SUNDAY  
LESSONS**

**November 3rd**

First Lesson:  
Isaiah 25:6-9 &  
Revelation 21:1-6a  
Gospel Lesson:  
John 11:32-44

**November 10<sup>th</sup>**

First Lesson:  
Hebrews 9:24-28  
Gospel Lesson:  
Mark 12:38-44

**November 17<sup>th</sup>**

First Lesson:  
Hebrews 10:11-25  
Gospel Lesson:  
Mark 13:1-8

**November 24<sup>th</sup>  
Christ the King Sunday**

First Lesson:  
Revelation 1:4b-8  
Gospel Lesson:  
John 18:33-37

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

If you would like an article to appear in an upcoming newsletter please send all information to: Kathleen @ [mtsi.assistant@gmail.com](mailto:mtsi.assistant@gmail.com) no later than the 18th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

**ELF (Eastside Lutheran Fellowship) Event**

**Sun. December 8 from 3-5pm**

**Our Savior Issaquah**

**Children & Youth Christmas Party**

**with graham cracker house contest!**

**CHILDREN & YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY  
And Graham Cracker House  
Building Contest!**

**Sunday,  
December 8  
3-5pm  
@ Our Savior**



Create sweet memories with family and friends during this friendly competition. Enjoy sweet treats as you challenge yourself to create a unique graham cracker house This FREE event is open to children and youth. You are welcome to invite your friends!

Watch the 2024  
Belize Mission Video  
to see what God is up to in Belize!



to watch, copy and paste the link into your web browser:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7tpY2pbMyw>



Mt. Si & Sammamish Hills Together in  
Mission announce our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual  
**BELIZE MISSION TRIP 2025**

**Dates: March 7-18, 2025**

**Registration is now open!**

Registration Forms are in the Fellowship Hall or request an email copy  
To register please complete and return forms along with \$350 deposit  
to Pastor Nyla Schoeld at Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church by November 17, 2024

**Location: Succotz & Placencia, Belize, Central America**

**Cost: \$2000 per person**  
(includes: airfare, lodging, food, in-country transportation, and most activities)



**NOVEMBER  
BIRTHDAYS**



Terry Adams 7th

Joanne Chase 7th

Sheila Rodriguez 11th

Tom Lee 13th

Jace Lee 15th

Charles Lynch 17th

Judah Tiongson 21st

Lindsey Cassidy 23rd

Margaret Mantz 23rd

2025 BELIZE MISSION FUNDRAISER  
**PIE SOCIAL**

**23 NOVEMBER - 3:00PM**  
@ SAMMAMISH HILLS LUTHERAN  
**TICKETS: \$10**  
suggested donation

Come see the 2024 Mission Video  
Enjoy a variety of pies, coffee and fellowship  
Pies and baked goods for sale +  
Silent Auction

All monies raised will support  
in-county mission projects



**The Sunday flower chart  
is in the Fellowship Hall  
outside of the library.**

You are welcome to sign-up  
for a Sunday to provide one  
vase of flowers for the altar.

We encourage all to please fill out a 75th Anniversary Memory Card. The cards will be provided in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall for a few more weeks, then they will be placed in an album and used as a memento of the 75th anniversary and shared for future historical events. It will be a great way to hear from members, former members, and guests what Mt. Si Lutheran Church has meant to you.



### Attention Thrivent Action Team Members!

If you are a Thrivent member who qualifies for Thrivent Action Team gift card(s) and would like to donate to a good cause, please get in touch with Sheila Rodriguez or Pr. Krista. Some Thrivent Action Team members qualify for two \$250 gift cards each year. Many of you already know about this benefit and have donated generously in the past. Thank you!

These Thrivent Action Team gift cards allow Mt. Si to continue providing many of the annual events we have offered for years, as well as allow us the tools and resources to fund new events that benefit the community. Please consider choosing Mt. Si for your Thrivent Action Team gift card. If you are not sure if you qualify for the Thrivent Action Team gift cards or have never applied for one and would like assistance, we are happy to help with that. It's easy and would mean a lot to receive your gift. Thank you!

### SYNOD-WIDE ELECTION PRAYER VIGIL

Nov 1st-9th

each day at noon & 7pm via zoom

We recognize that anxiety is high going into the 2024 election season. So, we want to cover our country, our communities, and especially our marginalized people groups in prayer leading up to and after the election. People will gather on zoom, from across the synod at noon and 7pm each day (other than Sunday) for a time of guided communal prayer for the days surrounding the 2024 Election. A list of in-person options will be provided too.



*Participation in this vigil is free and no registration is required.*

<https://www.lutheransnw.org/events/election-week-prayer-vigil/2024-11-01>





## Annual Meeting Sunday, Nov. 24

Please plan to attend our annual meeting following worship on November 24<sup>th</sup>. We will vote on new council representatives and on our 2025 budget.

Come hear updates on the cluster collaboration process taking place over the last two years. Council will share on our progress for our 2024 goals and what is in store for council next year. Thank for your participation in the life of the church.

### 2025 Women's Retreat:

**"WANDERING AND WONDERING WITH GOD"**

**Mark your calendars for March 7-9, 2025**

**Annual Women's Retreat**

**@ Rainbow Lodge in North Bend, WA**

Our speakers will be Jean Wahlstrom and Jane Prestbye; here's what they have to say about their topic: "Wandering and wondering is the essence of pilgrimage and pilgrimage is a fitting metaphor of one's whole life journey with God. Not everyone can go on physical pilgrimage, but everyone can have the mind of the nomad disciple. Pilgrimage involves doing something with whatever faith you have, and faith like muscle likes being worked. We will explore Christian pilgrimage as a faith walk with Jesus. (Jeremiah 6:16a and Luke 24:15)"

Jean and Jane recently did some wandering themselves on the Camino Santiago de Compostela, and are sure to have some insights to share from that experience as well as others.

More details to come, and registration will open after the holidays.

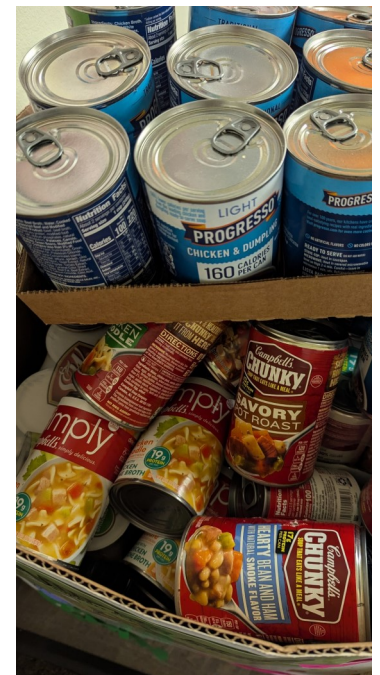
### Updates to events

are communicated through Constant Contact and an email list of families and friends.

If you are not on this list but would like to be included please let Kathleen know:

[mtsi.assistant@gmail.com](mailto:mtsi.assistant@gmail.com)

We reached our goal and filled our soup bin to the top for the Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank!



## At the Harvest Carnival we introduced Thankfulness Pumpkins.

We also handed them out on Sunday, Oct. 20.



If you don't have a pumpkin, but would still like to participate – that's ok! You can write on a paper plate, or piece of paper, or whatever you have that's handy. I invite you to write a name, place, event or thing that you are thankful for each day on your pumpkin. If you are able, please bring your pumpkin or other object to worship on November 24 as we give thanks to God in our worship.

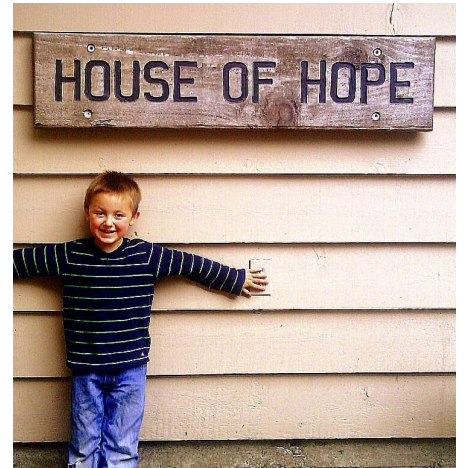
### Giving Tree for House of Hope

This year we will again collect gift cards from Target, Walmart, Safeway or Amazon. The gift cards will be given to mothers at House of Hope so they can purchase needed clothing, food or gifts for their children this holiday season.

We are also collected shampoo, conditioner & body wash as a special gift for each family.

Look for more info on the last day to turn in items!

Questions? Ask Courtney or Pastor



### Help Keep Folks Warm

We are gathering socks, hats, and scarves this year again to hand out at the food bank and are looking for donations.

They are wanting donations by the beginning of December.

From: Cyndi Remick, Saint Clare Episcopal Church.





**Thank you** to all our volunteers who worked to organize, set-up and staff the annual Harvest Carnival on Saturday, October 20. We enjoyed a cupcake walk, thankfulness pumpkin decorating, creative trunks, yummy chili, popcorn and so much more. Thank you all for your support of this event. It takes many hands to provide this event free of charge to our community each year. What a joy!



**NIGHT OF** NOV 3

*Prayer*

**FOR OUR COUNTRY**  
5:30 - 6:00 PM

Join us for a quiet, peaceful evening as we come together to pray the ancient prayer of Compline and walk the labyrinth.

Whether you're familiar with Compline or have never experienced it before, this ancient service of night prayers is a simple way to end the day with calm and gratitude. It's a time for personal reflection, renewal, and hope for our community and country.

PRAY TOGETHER FOR THE ELECTION

ANCIENT PRAYER    CONTEMPLATIVE SPACE

LABYRINTH    SILENT MEDITATION

St Clare's Church  
8650 Railroad Avenue, Snoqualmie, WA 98065

**Night of Prayer for Our Country  
November 3rd, 5:30- 6:30pm**

**St Clare's Church  
8650 Railroad Ave.  
Snoqualmie**

St Clare's Episcopal is planning a community prayer and Compline service just before the election, and building a temporary labyrinth for people to walk while they pray. Please join in prayer on November 3 from 5:30-6:30pm.



Dear Beloveds,

As the election season is here – and for many, your vote has already been cast – I have been doing some reflecting on what it means to vote as a Lutheran Christian. Please know that I am not telling you who to vote for in this election. It is not for me to tell you who to vote for. I mean, after all, God is neither Republican or Democrat, or even American.

But in saying that, I am not abdicating the responsibility that we have as Lutheran Christians who live in a country where voting matters. As children of God, we are called to vote beyond our own self-interest or individuality. As people who follow Jesus, we are called towards God's vision of a just and mercy-filled world. As people who have received grace upon grace, we are called to stand against injustice, and to remind everyone that, in God's eyes, every single person is loved and beloved.

So, here are a few thoughts and questions:

1. Jesus is all about loving one's neighbor. Even when it is hard. When he is asked, "Who is my neighbor," Jesus expands his answer beyond imagination. In Jesus' stories and actions he constantly goes to those who are on the outside, those marginalized, those without status, and shows how they are loved by God – how they are, in fact, his neighbor.

As you vote: Who is your neighbor?

2. Throughout scripture, hospitality to the stranger is embraced. In the Old Testament, the command to welcome strangers is repeated 37 times. In Matthew 25:35 Jesus says, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

As you vote: Who is the stranger?

3. God's will and God's calling is towards equity and justice for those who have been silenced, oppressed, or harmed. As we hear in Isaiah, "Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, and plead for the widow."

As you vote: Who are the silenced, the oppressed, the harmed?

4. The eighth commandment declares that we are called to not bear false witness against our neighbor. This, of course, means not lying about another. This means no name-calling or false accusations. But it goes beyond this. As Martin Luther tells us in his Small Catechism, we are to defend our neighbor, speak well of our neighbor, and explain everything in the kindest way.

As you vote: Who is speaking truth?

5. God created this beautiful earth and declared that we are both part of the creation and are also called to be stewards. As we read in the ELCA social statement, *Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice*, we affirm that it is God's intention for the healing and wholeness of creation.

As you vote: Who is caring for creation?

Dear Beloveds of God, there is so much more that could be written about the state of the country and what voting means. We could make this all complicated and intricate and difficult. (And to be fair, the United States sometimes feels shaky and unmoored). But truly it comes down to this: God's love is unconditional and unending. Jesus came to this earth to show, to embody, to be God's love for us and for all people. And so, knowing this, trusting this, believing this, we are called. We are called, as baptized and sent children of God, to show this love to the world. We are called to vote against hate. We are called to vote for God's love. As we hear in 1 John, There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear ... We love because God first loved us.

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee