

**Mt Si Lutheran Church**  
www.mtsilutheran.org



**JULY 2023**  
**GOODNEWSletter**

Grace and peace to you,

Welcome summer and sun! I ask that you keep all of our many volunteers in your prayers as they tend to the Farmers Market, VBS, North Bend Block Party, Backpack Supplies, Tiny House Build and so much more. Each week we see 80+ kids at the farmers market—we will serve dozens of kids at VBS—we will serve 200+ kids and their families through the backpack supply ministry—we will teach 15+ middle and high school youth how to build a tiny home and more through the Tiny House Build—we will reach over 150 kids at the North Bend Block Party on July 15th. It is such a joy to serve so many children and their families!



We have incredible opportunities through each of these outreach ministries to share the story of Jesus and to share our own faith with folks in our wider community. Please pray that the Spirit open our eyes to see those moments where we can plant even the smallest of seeds.

We are truly blessed to connect with so many in our community over the summer. I've said it before and I'll say it again—this congregation kicks it into high gear over the summer! It is amazing to see.

I also ask that you prayerfully consider how the Spirit is nudging you to share your gifts at these summer activities. We have many faithful volunteers, but we wish to share in this joy of service with each member of this congregation. When we can share in the ministry it frees us from the temptation to see ministry as an "I have to" on our list and not longer a "I can't wait to!" activity.

It is my prayer that these opportunities to serve enlivens the faith of all who participate. I give thanks to God for each of you. What a blessing and joy it is to serve this congregation. Thank you!!

Peace  
P. K.

Pastor Krista is on Vacation starting the afternoon of Sunday, July 16th—Monday, July 24th. Marlin Olson will preach and preside on July 23rd.



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**Special points of interest**

- Bishop's Letter on last page—*great read!*
- Council Report pg. 3



**WELCOME TO MOUNTAIN VALLEY PRESCHOOL—**

Class will begin in early September for around 10 students, M-F from 9-1pm. The church receives compensation for this use of space. The preschool will run over the summer. Questions? Please ask Jack or Pr. Krista. Please welcome Keeley when you see her!



Mountain Valley Preschool  
Where a Love for Learning is Created

*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 Pastor Krista know.*

**AA**

Will meet Thursdays in Luther's Lounge weekly - 7 pm  
Ogle Street entrance

**GIRL SCOUTS**

The Girl Scouts Leaders are on break for July and August and will resume meeting the 3rd Thursday in September

**SUNDAY EDUCATION**

Sunday education for all ages is on break for the summer—see you again in min September!

**THIRSTY FOR THEOLOGY**

Our Summer Thursday, Thirsty for Theology first gathering will be around the parsonage fire pit or inside depending on weather , 7pm on Wednesday, July 5th

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

On summer break. We will resume our group study in September 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 Spurling or Ed Benson for details.

**STEWARDSHIP: LEGACY GIVING**

Financial planning, retirement, estate planning, legacy giving—these are all topics that may not come up too often at church. However, the church has many resources available to help navigate these topics through the lens of our faith. Jesus talks a lot about money and challenges his followers to place more value on their relationship with God and one another than accumulating monetary wealth. Not all of us find ourselves in a position to have an abundance of monetary wealth and some of us struggle to pay bills. We are all in a different place as it comes to finances and that's ok. No matter your net worth, all of us can benefit from faithful conversations around finances. Recently, Luther Seminary shared a new financial planning resource free of charge to Lutheran Congregations. After receiving this resource the Stewardship Team thought it worth sharing with you all. Thank you to Jeff King for pulling together the following information—we hope to offer an adult forum soon to discuss this topic further and answer questions you may have. Peace, Pr. Krista

Did you know Mt Si Lutheran Church has establish an Endowment fund in 2018 in which you can donate cash, stocks, etc.? There are several ways to leave a legacy to a qualified charitable organization, but we are only going to mention a couple of them.

The current fair market value is \$5,149. The initial investment in the Endowment fund is \$4,888.

You can designate in your will to leave a dollar amount or a percentage of your estate to the Endowment fund and reduce the value of your estate and still leave a remainder to your heirs.

Are you approaching required minimum distribution (RMD) age? If so, you can designate any amount from your RMD to the church's endowment fund and avoid paying income taxes

Is your total estate is value over \$2,193,000 in Washington State?  
Is your total estate value over \$12,920,000 for federal tax purposes?

*The values cited above are for 2023 and are subject to change.*

If so, you may owe estate taxes to Washington State and/or to the Federal government or both.

A way to lower your estate value is by giving a portion of your estate to a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). i.e. Mt Si Lutheran Church

A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA, payable directly to a qualified charity, as described in the QCD provision in the Internal Revenue Code. Amounts distributed as a QCD can be counted toward satisfying your RMD for the year, up to \$100,000. The QCD is excluded from your taxable income.

This is not the case with a regular withdrawal from an IRA, even if you use the money to make a charitable contribution later on. If you take a withdrawal, the funds would be counted as taxable income even if you later offset that income with the charitable contribution deduction.

- Stewardship Team

*The stewardship committee assumes no responsibility or liability for any error or omissions of the content. You should consult your accountant or lawyer if you have questions.*

## COUNCIL REPORT

Greetings from your council.

Our income in May was \$21,107 compared to \$12,074 in April. Our expenditures for May were \$20,184 compared to \$15,834. This gave us a net income for May of \$923. We know there were some extenuating circumstances that caused both the income and expenses to increase significantly in May. We are waiting to see what the numbers will be in June, which we expect to be a more normal month for both income and expenses.

Council is looking into the possibility of sharing our facilities with another congregation. If we do this we would expect to receive money from the other congregation for the use of our facility. We will be reaching out to the synod to help us identify a group in our area that may be looking for a place to meet. If we are able to find another congregation we would need to work out a rental agreement that would set a price and establish procedures for coordination on roles, responsibilities and timing for usage of the facilities.

On May 20<sup>th</sup> the synod provided training opportunities for us. Dave Spurling, Lisa Samson, Jack Boller, and Pastor Krista attended. One of the sessions was conducted by a group called Reconciling in Christ or RIC. This group works solely with the ELCA congregations to go through a yearlong process to decide if we really mean "all" when we say all are welcome or do we mean all who look like us and think like us. At the end of the year a congregation will vote to decide if they want to be recognized as a RIC congregation. Several congregations in our synod have gone through this process and voted to be RIC congregations. At this time the council decided that instead of going through the RIC process we will develop a welcoming statement that explains who we are, what we believe, and that all are welcome. Once council has developed this statement we will present it to the congregation for approval.

We still have a council vacancy that we would like to fill. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. If you are interested, let Pastor Krista or a council member know.

Jack Boller

### JULY SUNDAY LESSONS

#### July 2nd

First Lesson: Psalm 130  
Narrative Lectionary Text:  
I John 1

#### July 9th

First Lesson: Psalm 99  
Narrative Lectionary Text:  
I John 2

#### July 16th

First Lesson: Psalm 139:1-12  
Narrative Lectionary Text:  
I John 3

#### July 23rd

First Lesson: Psalm 95:1-7  
Narrative Lectionary Text:  
John 4

#### July 30th

VBS Sunday

**Next Blood Drive:  
Tuesday  
September 12th,  
2023  
10-3pm**

If you are interested in helping with this blood drive please reach out to Rick

*"You show me  
the path of  
life. In your  
presence  
there is full-  
ness of joy"  
Ps. 16*

## Cluster Youth Events

As we enter 2023, Mt. Si Lutheran is identifying ways to partner with other churches in our Cluster. If any of these peak your interest, reach out to Pastor Krista, or Lisa for more information! Here are a few upcoming events to consider – more will be added as we get more details:

- VBS at SHLC the week of **July 17-21**
- VBS at St. Luke's Lutheran Church the week of **July 24-28**
- Summer Family Camp **August 3-6th**. See article on pg. 5 for more info!

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH EDUCATION

**Sunday School is on break for the summer**—see you again in the Fall!

Did you take photos of an event with Mt Si that you would be willing to have used in our newsletters or other promotional purposes? Short videos are also appreciated. Please send to Kathleen at: [mtsi.assistant@gmail.com](mailto:mtsi.assistant@gmail.com)

## FAITH FORMATION

# VBS 2023 - "Christmas in July"

**VBS is coming! This month!**

**Register your kids & grandkids & look around! Who can you bring to our fun VBS??? We'd love to welcome your neighbors and friends! We have post cards for you to share & flyers for you to post.**

**Friday, July 28th 6PM - 8PM**

**Saturday July 29 9AM-3PM**

lunch is provided)

**Sunday July 30th 9:30AM**

Celebration Service with festivities to follow until 11:30AM.



## **Volunteers needed! Come join the fun!**

We are looking for 1 more person (youth or adult), to join the "cast" of our **Christmas Creation Station** skits for Friday and Saturday.

We need assistants for our **Bethlehem Bible Story station** & our **It's a Starry night Science station!**

We also need another **Sleigh all day team leader!** (even if you can't do all 3 sessions for any of these we'd love to have you!)

As we look to transform our campus in the week(s) ahead into a Christmas wonderland- Pastor Krista would love some help on **Team tinsel tosser** & we'd love to have some more help in our **Frosty's welcome station** welcoming kids as they come Friday night & Saturday morning!

**There's something for everyone to do! And everyone is invited to come to lunch!**

## **Coming up!**

The next couple weeks we will have out containers for a free will love offering for VBS needs in the narthex & fellowship hall. With your help, we are able to continue to offer a fun free program to all our kids!

Soon, you also will see a sign up board for needed food items for snacks and lunch to help supply goodies in our **Christmas Crunchies station**.

## **Can we borrow?**

If you have any fun Christmas decorations we would love to borrow them! We have plenty of Christmas trees but would love some fun garland or blow up decorations, deer, snowmen, nutcrackers – things we can use to transform the church!

Please don't bring anything fragile that cant be replaced but place in Luther's lounge with your name on it so we can return it to you!

***Thank you ahead of time for all your help!***

\*Any questions about anything? Please see Courtney or Pastor Krista!



**For more information: <http://www.mtsiluthean.org/vbs>**

## Big House? No! A Tiny House!

Mt. Si is thrilled to be partnering with St. Andrew's and Sammamish Hills Lutheran Churches for an all-hands-on-(tiny)-deck service project!

If you're available days the week of August 7-11, or evenings the week of August 14-18, join us as Mt. Si hosts this amazing experience! Whether you like the carpentry aspect, the opportunity to learn or lead side service projects, or you just want to hand out or donate water and snacks, we would love to see you there!

[Here the link](#) for the Adult Signup, and the Youth Signup for those entering grades 6 through 12th grade graduates.

Doug Johnson will be coordinating all the logistics, so if you have ideas or questions, you can reach out to him, Pastor Krista or Lisa Sampson.

We hope to see many of you there!

SAINT ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SAMMAMISH HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH MOUNT SI LUTHERAN CHURCH

**TINY HOUSE 2023**

Aug. 7-11, 9am-4pm  
Aug. 14-18, 5:30pm-8pm

Scan Here to sign up and get more information

Youth grades 6-12  
Adults

At Mt. Si Lutheran, North Bend



## Kids and Farmer's Market Fun!

If there's one thing Lutherans are good at, it's fellowship! Combine that with some old-fashioned Vitamin D, fun crafts, and re-connecting with friends in the community- and I think you'll find a very lovely Thursday evening indeed!

If that sounds enticing, please check your summer schedule, and sign up on a clipboard in the Narthex for as many 2-hr shifts as your fellowshiping heart desires!

*Kids, we're talking to you too!* See how many school friends you can see each night you're there! And if you happen to invite them to VBS, worship, and other activities, imagine how much fun THAT would be??



Lisa and Kaelynn Sampson joined other ELCA churches of our Synod in the Pride Parade on Sunday, June 25th.



## Camp Lutherwood, Here We Come!

Many camp offerings :Traditional, H2O, and Counselor-In-Training. For multiple grade levels: 1-5, 6-9, 10-12. In multiple weeks: June 25-Aug.11. We hope you can find a week that works for you. Several Mt. Si Youth are already making plans to attend, so feel free to reach out to Lisa Sampson if you know of someone who would be interested in attending. Find the brochure in the Fellowship Hall, and all the details here: [Summer Camp — Lutherwood Camp & Retreat Center](#)

**JULY  
BIRTHDAYS**



Denise Stone	7th
Tom Burnside	10th
Shelley Harding	20th
Rosemary Koukol	20th
Ingrid Garhart	25th
Andrew O'Leary	25th
Ava O'Leary	25th

**JULY  
ANNIVERSARIES**



Tom & Joanne Chase	1st
Don & Sue Oster	30th

*If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please reach out to the office so we can*

**Si View Farmers Market**

**We offer free crafts to children and youth who attend the Farmers Market each Thursday from 4-8pm.**



We are excited this year to partner with the market in a new way in the month of July through the **Power of Produce (POP)** Kids program. The market received a grant to teach kids about healthy eating and we've been asked to be Mt Si at their



booth and lead crafts while continuing to share all our normal advertising, bring our banner, etc. This will be a great way to engage the community even more than we already do at the market.

**We need your help** to be present at the booth and help facilitate the craft and engage in conversation with the children, youth and families who stop by. The crafts are all provided with clear instructions. Jack Boller has stepped up to offer leadership each week and is there to guide new volunteers through the process. If you are interested, please sign-up for an early (set-up) shift or late shift.



Questions about any of this? Please talk to Pastor Krista—  
Thank you!

**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 welcomed Pr. Iverson and his family on June 22nd.**



## Backpack Distribution for School Year 2023-2024



We will once again be providing school supplies for students in need enrolled in the Snoqualmie Valley School District grades K-12. We purchased 120 backpacks this spring, however, we are still in need of school supplies for over 200 backpacks. We are hoping to partner with the school district to enhance our buying power and use our community resources.

**This year we are asking for monetary contributions for our annual school supply and backpack drive.** Please make any checks payable to **Mt Si Lutheran** with the note of **School Supplies**. Thank you all for your loyal support of our valley students.

Distribution: August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at Mt Si Lutheran

[Link for more information: www.mtsilutheran.org/vbs](http://www.mtsilutheran.org/vbs)

## The 2023 Thrivent Action Team Board

**Did you know that Thrivent Financial for Lutherans awards \$250 gift cards as “seed money” to help fund activities that benefit the church community – including events that educate church members about Lutheran missions?**

If you have project you would like to be considered for a card donation, sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway off fellowship hall listing the project and the date! If you have cards you would like to apply for and donate please check out the board too!

The cards do take some time to process so don't delay if you have a project coming up in the near future!

**Together we can make a difference.**

Any questions See Pastor Krista.

## Ways to Support

**Make a gift online through our website:**  
[www.mtsilutheran.org/onlinegiving](http://www.mtsilutheran.org/onlinegiving)

Thank you for your continued generosity.

-Treasurer



## Mt Si 2023 Finances

We will give updated financials in August after we see how everything balances out with staff changes and new income from the preschool

## Garden of Giving

Garden of Giving has started up again! Reach out to Terry Adams if you would like a garden plot this year.



# BISHOP'S LETTER

## July - August 2023



As I write this, I am still re-living a beautiful experience that I had last weekend. Five of my friends and I drove to the Gorge Amphitheatre and we saw Joni Mitchell in concert. For some of you, this might be interesting, for others, you might not even know who Joni Mitchell is. For me, the time was filled with joy, laughter, tears, friendship, and community ... not to mention amazing music and storytelling.

But this isn't about Joni Mitchell ... at least not entirely. For what struck me as I sat on the grass with 26,000 other people, was the church-like feeling that was there. Or perhaps I should say the "Jesusy" feeling that was there. Or maybe the Holy Spirit in action feeling. And this came from the crowd itself.

As we all sat crowded together on blankets and chairs, people told stories, shared food and drink, sang songs, helped those who were having difficulty navigating the hillside, and together we became community. The little children sitting to the right of me danced, the young girls sitting to the left of me accepted blankets from my friend, and the man in front of me told me that he had traveled from North Carolina to see Joni. He told me that he was surprised to discover the Gorge was not located in Seattle!

There was one point in the concert, after it had gotten dark, when Joni was singing and people – one by one – started shining the flashlight from their cellphones towards the stage. Throughout the crowd, little points of light lit up the darkness. Now, if you have been to a concert in the last ten years, this is a common occurrence. Cell phone lights have taken the place of lighters being raised. However, because Joni has not performed in over twenty years, she was bemused by the lights. She turned to the person next to her on stage and said, "It looks like a fallen constellation. Where did they get all those lights?"

I thought her words and her surprise were charming. But as I looked around me, at the people sharing blankets, at those with arms around each other swaying to the music, at the cozy darkness around us and the lights looking like fallen stars, it was more than charming. It was holy.

For a moment, we were a cathedral. For a moment, we were community. For a moment, we were one.

At our best, this is what it means to be church. To be the Body of Christ. To practice hospitality and generosity, and grace. To see Christ in one another. To accept others' limitations and to be accepting of our own.

I confess that all was not perfect at the Gorge. There was a person close to me who insisted on singing every word to every song. While her voice was fine, I was not there to hear her but to hear Joni. There were people who cut in line after we had been waiting two hours to get inside. There was a driver who bullied his way into the front of the very long line of vehicles as we were leaving.

Perhaps this is like church, too. At least church as a human construction. Those of us who have been part of a church for a while, we know that church is not always sharing blankets and food, singing and joy. Sometimes, as humans, we hoard our stuff. We take offense at others. We refuse to listen. We bully. We push. Our voices sometimes drown out other voices.

And yet ... I pray that the moments of grace we receive this summer – from music at the Gorge to singing lustily in church, from sharing food on a hillside to receiving the body and blood of Christ – may we be church together. May we know and make it known that all are fully loved by God – in the times when we are like fallen constellations and in the times we are not.

May your summer be filled with holy moments.

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee