



GOODNEWSletter

JANUARY 2025



Pastor's Note...

Grace and Peace to you,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each of you!

I pray the Advent Season Series, On the Way to Bethlehem was enjoyed by all. I appreciated the effort put in by the creators of the series. It is good to share our gifts with one another!

I also want to thank the many volunteers who gave of their time and talent to present our skits each Sunday, our pageant, shared Christmas Concert, fellowship time, and so much more. THANK YOU!

We are now entering the Epiphany season - a season that celebrates and honors that Jesus came not only for a small group of people who lived in a particular time or place - but also for all people of all times and places - like you and me.

We remember in this season that God's vision for salvation is expansive and we are part of God's vision.

We remember this season that Jesus, although only walking among us on earth for 30ish years, still has lessons to teach and wisdom to offer through the stories collected and passed down

by his disciples in the Gospels and book of Acts.

We remember this season that we are all called, named, claimed and welcomed by God into his Kingdom and into the vast Family of God. Let us all enter this season with anticipation - let us see what the Spirit will say through our worship, fellowship and prayer together.

A few notes as we enter January:

In January we'll take a break from our intergenerational ed. hour following worship given the other activities we have scheduled. We'll pick back up in February with a new study.

I invite you to save the date, **Saturday, February 1**, for a mini retreat for all friends and members of Mt Si. This will be a tie of fellowship, prayer, study and food that we pray is life-giving and strengthens our community.

I will be on holiday from December 26-January 4 - I'll see you back in worship on January 5. For pastoral emergencies while I'm away please contact **Pastor Lara** 425-505-5590. I'll return texts and emails upon my return.

Thank you all for another wonderful year of ministry!

Pastor Krista

In this newsletter you will find:

Special Events In January

Celebrating December Ministry Events

Supporting One another In Faith

January Birthdays

Key Partnership Updates

Reaching Out

Council and Financial Reports

Letter From Bishop

Special Events in January



Blood Drive January 6

The American Red Cross will be hosting a Blood Drive at MSLC from 10-3pm in the fellowship hall. Sign-up online at redcrossblood.org and type in our zip code: 98045.
Date: January 6
Time: 10:00-3:00pm



Epiphany Bonfire January 12

Bring your live Christmas Tree or just come to enjoy fellowship at our annual Epiphany Bonfire.
Location: Tom & Inge Burnside's home
Time: 11:00-12:00



Movie Night! January 19

This event is for our children and youth. A fun night of PJs, Popcorn & Pizza! Bring a friend! Sign-ups coming soon!
Location: Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church
Time: 4-6pm



Congregational Meeting January 26

Come celebrate all the incredible ministry the Spirit has done through Mt Si Lutheran in 2024. Hear goals for 2025 and discuss the cluster collaboration efforts.
Location: Mt Si Lutheran
Time: 10:45-11:45am



MSLC Winter Retreat, Feb. 1

All are invited to gather at MSLC for a special afternoon of fellowship, prayer & study. This mini-retreat is for all ages! Come enjoy a time of building relationships and re-centering, together, on Jesus. Details coming soon!
Date: Saturday, February 1st

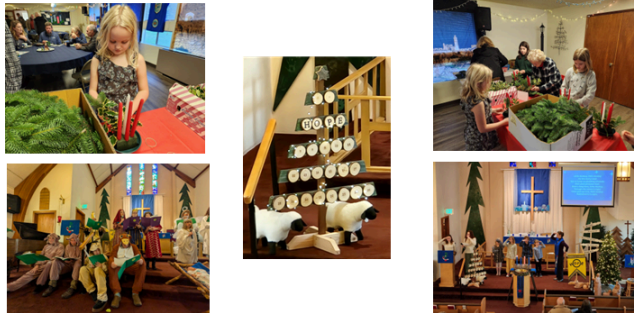


Wondering & Wandering with God Retreat

The annual women's retreat organized by several churches in our cluster is here!
Dates: March 7-9
Location: Rainbow Lodge
Registration forms coming soon!

Celebrating December Ministry Events

Christmas Pageant 2024



CYF Christmas Party @ OSLC



Holly Days 2024



ADVENT 1—December 1st



December 8th Skit



Supporting one another in faith.....



Sunday Readings & Weekday Education Opportunities

Sunday Readings for January

January 5th

First Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6

Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:41-52

January 12th

First Lesson: Isaiah 43:1-7

Gospel Lesson: Luke 3:1-22

January 19th

First Lesson: Psalm 146

Gospel Lesson: Luke 4:14-30

January 26th

First Lesson: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Gospel Lesson: Luke 5:1-11

Education Opportunities in January

Men's Bible Study Saturdays, 9am @
Little Si Restaurant.

Women's Bible Study - Mondays starting
at 12:30pm. Talk to Sue Oster for details

Confirmation - Mondays from 5-6pm.

Sunday after Worship - Taking a break in
January

HAPPY
Birthday

Peggy Halferty 4th
Brent Koukol 7th
Michael Hanson 10th
Lisa Sampson 10th
Eleanor Haycox 13th
Rachel Flanagan 14th
Joe Stone 14th
Vicki Wallentin 14th
Mary Abrahamson 16th
Leslie Hatling 18th
Nancy Flanagan 24th
Dana Koukol 25th
Judy Stoddard 29th
Marcus Tiongson 31st

Flower Chart Sign-ups

**Please consider signing up to
bring flowers for our altar on
Sunday morning.**

This can be in honor or memory of
a loved one or event in your life
or just because you enjoy flowers!

The flower chart is in the
Fellowship Hall hallway.

Thank you for your offering!

I could really use some more people
to sign up rather than trying to figure
it out almost every week myself!

• - Courtney

Key Partnership Updates...Reaching Out

DAUGHTERS OF NORWAY



We welcome a new building partner in January. A new lodge of the Daughters of Norway will begin meeting in the fellowship hall on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 10-12pm. This non-profit group meets to develop service projects for the local community and celebrate their Norwegian Heritage.

MOUNTAIN VALLEY PRESCHOOL

We continue to enjoy our partnership with Mountain Valley Preschool who meet in two upstairs classrooms M-F in the morning and M,W,F in the afternoon. This partnership is such a blessing to our community.



SVFB SHARED SPACE

We continue to offer space to SVFB in Luther's Lounge. We also host their monthly board meetings. Questions? Ask Erica H.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

AA continues to meet in Luther's Lounge each Thursday at 7pm and Sunday at 6pm. Both meetings are well attending and their leadership expressed how important the space is for many in the valley.



MSLC Council Report

We welcome new council members Lisa Sampson, Ed Benson and Janey Benson onto our 2025 council. The council will meet January 19 following fellowship hour to elect officers for 2025 and review year end finances and ministry reports.

Parsonage Update: As many of you are aware a slow leak from the toilet in the upstairs bathroom at the parsonage was discovered by Pastor in mid November. This led to mold developing below the flooring. In the course of taking action to remediate the mold and damaged flooring, asbestos layers of flooring were found under the top most layer of flooring. This led to the vanity, toilet and all flooring to be removed along with damaged drywall. As of Dec. 16 the bathroom is awaiting dates from plumbers and drywall folks to begin reconstruction. Additional demo needs to take place on the bathtub surround that has a few cracks in it. Look for opportunities to donate to this project that we estimate will cost around \$15,000. We already have generous donations of \$4500. Thank you to Joyce Hibma for helping connect us some folks who are donating time and talents to help with the project!! Thank you to Rick who updated the electric and is working to coordinate all the moving pieces along with Dave Spurling. We're hoping to complete the project by mid-January.

-Pastor Krista



MSLC Finance Update

Income for the first 11 months: \$176,347

Expenses for the first 11 months: \$184,340

Net income/loss: \$-7,993

Thank you for your continued generosity!

2025 Budget Snapshot

Projected income for 2025

Member Offerings: \$178,000
Building Use Income: \$12,000
Total: \$190,000

Projected expense for 2025:

\$200,260.00

Projected deficit for 2025:

-\$9,500



Bishop's Letter



Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might... Isaiah 6:3

Do you hear a song, or maybe a multitude of songs, when you read the words above? We know these words in hymnody – in traditional songs, in praise songs, as part of the Eucharistic liturgy, and more. These words are deep in the bones of the Church. Of course, like so many lyrics that we sing in church, they weren't created out of thin air. We first hear these words from seraphs during the strange and grand vision that Isaiah had when he entered the holiest of holy places in the Temple – the place that housed the ark of God, the place revered as God's earthly throne, the place where God was simultaneously present in the heavenly realm and within the fabric of the world. We hear these words in Isaiah's call story in [Isaiah 6:1-8](#). (Go ahead ... read the Isaiah story now before reading the rest of this article.)

As Isaiah enters into the Holy of Holies, God grants Isaiah a glimpse into God's celestial throne room. God is so magnificent and big that the hem of God's robe fills the temple. God is attended by fierce and fiery creatures – scary flying snakes with six wings called seraphim. These were not the cute cherubs holding flutes and harps. These were sea serpent-sized creatures singing (shrieking, screaming) in loud, ear-piercing voices, “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty...” Isaiah is overcome. He falls on his knees and cries, “Woe is me!” Isaiah knows, in that moment, who the Creator of the universe is and what this Creator can do. Isaiah knows he could be destroyed in the flash of a second.

It needs to be said, of course, that Isaiah's vision didn't happen in a vacuum. Isaiah entered the holy of holies when the Assyrians were attacking and the people of Jerusalem were trying to barricade themselves against this most formidable army. Outside of the Temple it was a dark and scary time. For Isaiah, and the rest of the Judeans, the world felt frightening and terrifying and out-of-control.

Do you know this feeling? This feeling of being so small and powerless in a world that seems so big and overwhelming. This feeling of the world being topsy turvy and unpredictable. This feeling of not knowing what to do next because everything seems like too much to bear.

For Isaiah, the next thing that happens in his vision is that a huge seraph comes at him with a piece of burning coal and presses it to his lips. The pain must have been brutal. But when the coal touches Isaiah's lips, things are clarified for him – he is cleansed and he is prepared for what is coming next and he instantly pledges to God, “Here I am. Send me.” And Isaiah becomes God's prophet. (If only things could be made this clear for all of us.)

In any case, what do we do with this strange and beautiful story? What does Isaiah's call story mean for us today? Please know that I cannot wrap this story up in a tidy bow – nor do I want to – because this isn't how life works. (Also, Isaiah couldn't either ... as much as Isaiah pledged to follow God, if you read [Isaiah 6:9-11](#) you'll hear Isaiah crying out, “How long, O Lord?”). But this is where I seize hope.

Above all things, God is God and we are not. God is wholly other. We cannot know the mind of God. And yet, in this extraordinary story, there are glimpses beyond majesty and awe. God is fearful to behold and God holds us as a mother holds a child to her breast. The touch of God burns and yet it is with life-giving fire. God towers above and God embraces us in inexplicable and earth-shattering tenderness and forgiveness. The One who creates all things also lives in the dirt and muck of life.

Dear Beloveds, may you always know and trust through all things: God is God. Almighty and Always. The One who shepherds you in life also tenderly holds you into death and beyond. The One who created the universe is as close as your next breath. For God gave you life, named you, and holds you near. Forever. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Amen.

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee
