



Grace and peace to you,

We now find ourselves in the season of Lent—this year, during our mid-week Soup, Study and Worship we are exploring Isaiah 55:1-13. The text describes in detail God’s great invitation to all people to, “come to the waters.” The passage explores how God gives gifts, “without price,” and invites us to self-reflection, humility and joy. In the passage the “trees of the field clap their hands” as we hear the truth that God’s Word will accomplish all its sets out to do—and what is God’s word in this text you might ask? Here are the first few verses to get us started:

- 1 Hear, everyone who thirsts;
 come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
 come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.
- 2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread
 and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.
- 3 Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.

If you are planning to participate in mid-week offerings or you are unable to I invite you to spend time with the full passage each week. Here are some ways you can do a self study with the text.

1. Spend one time reading through the full text and look closely at the questions the text asks. How would you answer these questions?
2. Spend one time looking at the imperatives in the text “hear,” “come,” “listen,” “seek” etc. These words indicate that we should pay attention to what is said next—what is God saying through these imperatives?
3. Spend one time looking at the images in the text such as water, wine, milk, rain, snow, mountains or trees. How do these help you understand the text? In what ways do they make it more confusing?
4. Spend one time looking at what God promises to do in the text. What actions are we asked to take? How might you take time to follow through on these asks or how do you already take time?

There are many ways you can approach this text and many methods of studying it—please feel free to approach it in a way that works best for you. If you are here on a Sunday morning and can stay for fellowship hour there will be opportunities to fill out a prayerful refection and post it on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall (details provided on the table below the bulletin board).

Most importantly, I pray you find the space you seek this Lent to rest deeply in God’s embrace. If this is Sunday morning, Wednesday night or study on your own time that’s all good—and so is just taking a nap!

Be well dear beloved of God—if you are thirsty, hungry, tired, overwhelmed, unsure—know that God is there to provide everything you need—without price. Thanks be to God!

Peace

P. K.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Bible Studies	2
Blood Drive	2
Council Report	3
Ways to Give	3
Faith Formation.....	4 & 5
Birthdays	6
Lent Season.....	7
Thrivent Action Team board.....	7
Sunday Lessons.....	7

Special points of interest

- Bishop’s Letter on last page—*great read!*
- Council Report pg. 3
- Upcoming Events for Families pgs. 4 & 5

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



**March 14th
10-3pm**

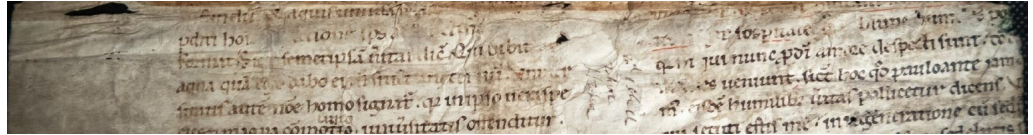
Blood Drive registration
is live for signups

at www.redcrossblood.org

[Donate Blood, Platelets or Plasma. Give Life](#)

The drive is open to the public and a spot can be reserved using the code: MtSiLutheran. If you are interested in helping with this blood drive please reach out to Rick Rodriguez.

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



We seek to offer a range of education opportunities for all ages. If you any questions about these offerings please talk to Pr. Krista.

SUNDAY EDUCATION

Adult Ed will continue to look closely at our Narrative texts from Matthew for the day. We meet in the fellowship hall following worship from about 10:45-11:30am.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

All ladies are welcome to participate. The Bible Study meets in the old nursery in the office wing each Monday at 12:30pm. They are studying the book of Joshua. 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.

MID-WEEK SOUP, STUDY & WORSHIP for LENT

Wednesdays in March from 6-7:00pm. Enjoy Soup, bread, prayer, study and worship around community tables in the fellowship hall. Over lent we will be working with the beautiful and rich text of Isaiah 55:1-13

March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

CONFIRMATION & FAMILY DINNER

Our confirmands gather Thursday evenings. In March class will meet each Thursday. We will share in dinner together from 5:30-6pm and then enter our study from 6-7pm.

Please hold our confirmands in prayer. Participating in confirmation are: Austin Hall, Toren Rhyne, Kaelynn Sampson and Judah Tionson.



Ash Wednesday from home.

COUNCIL REPORT

Greetings from your council.

As I mentioned in last month's article, at our annual meeting in January we had hoped to vote on changes to our constitution but did not have a quorum. We discussed this at our council meeting and decided that we will wait until our congregational meeting in November to vote on the changes. We thought we will have better luck drawing a quorum for that meeting than if we tried to hold a meeting just to vote on one item.

Our three teams that are working towards our goals that we developed from the discernment process will be using a four phased approach. In the first phase we will decide on goals and which agencies and organizations we will approach. In the second phase we will contact potential partners and develop a scope of work which we will share with the congregation. In the third phase we will implement our plan and ask for the congregation to help. In the fourth phase we will evaluate our activities, make changes as necessary, and put together a plan of action for next year. Watch for opportunities to participate as we move through this process.

We have been approached by a person who is looking for a place to establish a small day care. They are trained and licensed to operate such a facility. They would pay us rent and pay for a building inspection and any alterations we may need to make. They would have their own liability insurance. The day care would be for ten children and would operate Monday through Friday each week. The preschool would use two classrooms upstairs, which will require some rearranging of current items, and will leave two large and one smaller classroom open for our use. Council approved going through with the inspection and make our final decision following the outcome of the inspection.

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

Ways to Give



Make a gift online through our website:
www.mtsilutheran.org/onlinegiving

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Amazon Smile is no longer available. Amazon discontinued the program on February 20th.

-Treasurer

Mt Si 2023 Finances

Jan Expense =
\$18,494
Jan Income =
\$12,615
Overall =
-\$5,879



Join us
for
**Coffee Hour &
Adult Study!**



*"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 John, 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 see article on pg. 5 for more info!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH EDUCATION

Sunday School
1st Sunday of each month
following the Fellowship Hour

Children and youth are invited for the monthly Sunday School sessions on **Sunday, March 5**. Teachers are also available on all other Sundays for any children who would like to stay beyond the Fellowship Hour.

GIRL SCOUTS

The Girl Scouts Leaders meet at the church on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30-8:30pm

FAITH FORMATION

VBS 2023

July 28-30

Registration is open now!



The Theme this year is “Christmas in July”

We will be following 4 characters as they explore the true meaning of Christmas. From the myths based on the historical Magi figures who visited the holy family, we will be introduced to their three steeds - a horse named Farasi, an elephant named Tembo, and a lion named Simba. These three have created their own story once they decided to become reporters for the news outlet Jews in Exile. As reporters they will help to shed light onto who Jesus is. The fourth character is one of Santa's elf's named Popabawa who believes the purpose of Christmas is to celebrate her birthday.

The sessions will include crafts, games, science, and bible study. Snacks will be included on Friday, July 28th 6PM - 8PM, Saturday July 29 9AM-3PM (lunch is provided), and Celebration Service on Sunday July 30th 9:30AM with festivities to follow until 11:30AM. Children ages 4-12* are welcome to attend this FREE VBS @ Mt Si Lutheran (411 NE 8th St., North Bend). If you have any questions, please call 425-888-1322 or email cyf@mtsilutheran.org. We look forward to seeing you at VBS!

*For children 4 and under please contact John Grebe.



Link for the VBS 2023 registration:

<https://forms.gle/eZNdWouEYe8RLFRK9>

Or use QR code to left

Easter Egg Hunt

Join in the fun! Our children and youth Easter Egg Hunt will be on Easter Sunday, April 9, following Worship and the Fellowship Hour. If you'd like to donate individually wrapped candies or small toys/trinkets for the kids to trade found-eggs for, please bring them in to give to John Grebe by the end of March. Thank you for adding to the fun!



Thursday Children and Youth Activities

Thursday evenings are a time for our youth to join in on fellowship, food, fun, and learning! Each week we have Family Dinner from 5:30-6PM, and Confirmation 6-7PM.

Once a month on the 3rd Thursday we have F.A.M.S. which is one of our children's ministry for K-5th grade. This month it will be on March 16, 4:30-5:30PM. Come join in the fun!



Sunday Skits

In anticipation for this summer's restructured VBS, we've got jokes! And great lessons to learn. Paired with our narrative lectionary, members of our Faith Formation team and a number of youth from our congregation have shared some musings on Jesus's teachings. More skits will be included in future worship services. If you, or any children that you know, are interested in participating in future skits, reach out to John Grebe.

Elementary Adventures

Camp Lutherwood, here we come! Our own John Grebe is getting more involved with Camp Lutherwood, and the first opportunity for our church to participate is the 2023 Elementary Retreat at Lutherwood!

"You Have a Friend In Me" is the theme for the overnight trip March 10-11 up in Bellingham on beautiful Lake Samish. We have 4 youth in grades K-5 signed up to attend, and 2 adults (Erica Haycox and John Grebe). **Sign-up closes on March 5.** Cost is \$60 for kids and \$40 for adults, with scholarships available upon request. Let John know by then if you (and maybe some friends!) are interested.



March Mini-Golf in Redmond

Saturday, March 18
starting at 10:30 am.



Let's try that again - no wildfire smoke in March! Youth grades 6-12 are invited to join St. Andrews and other Cluster youth for Mini-Golf on the Rainbow Run at Willows Golf Course in Redmond. Youth Director, Doug Johnson is coordinating. Cost is \$13/person and you can signup at: *Saint Andrews Lutheran Church » Youth – Mini Golf* by Wednesday, March 15. Hope to see you there!

Summer Family Camp

This summer we have an opportunity to partner with Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church youth ministry on a family camping trip to Lutherhaven's Shoshone Base Camp August 3-6th.

They are inviting families of all ages and sizes to join the Middle School, High School, and College students at Shoshone Base Camp. In the past it has been a wonderful camp for their older students, and it is exciting to be offered the chance for our families to join in the experience it as well. More information will come soon, make sure to Save-the-Date NOW!



If you have any questions or want more details regarding the Children, youth, and family ministries of Mt. Si Lutheran feel free to reach out to John Grebe at (360) 920-5876 or email him at cyf@mtsilutheran.org.

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 John Grebe know.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



Suzy Cassidy 1st
Hannah Kathleen Miller 8th
Mark Imsland 9th
Gretchen Chase 13th
Cassandra Koukol 14th
Austin Hall 18th
Anja Yocom 19th
David Van Handel 20th
Anne Keiser 24th
Jeffrey King 31st

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES



Rick & Sheila Rodriguez 22nd

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

SYNOD NEWS

Synod Gatherings!

This year we will not be holding a Synod Assembly. Instead, all members of the synod are invited to attend one of two Synod Gatherings that will be held in May. Join us for worship, fellowship, and forums to inspire, educate, and equip members of the NW WA Synod!



Cost is \$40/person.

While registration will not open until April, please look for a promo pack to be emailed to all congregations and rostered ministers by the end of this week! Please share the info with your congregations and get ready to register a group from your church!

Saturday, May 13, 8:30am-3:30pm - Salem Lutheran Church in Mount Vernon
Saturday, May 20, 8:30am-3:30pm - Saint Andrew's Lutheran Churn in Bellevue

WORSHIP NEWS

Lent mid-week Soup Supper, Study and Family Worship

Wednesdays in March from 6-7:00pm
March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

Enjoy Soup, bread, prayer, study and worship around community tables in the fellowship hall.

We will begin at 6pm with prayer, song and a reading from Scripture and then share in our meal together. Discussion questions will be on each table for you to consider with those you are eating with.

Following our meal we will take a moment to clear our tables and then move into a time of study, reflection, prayer and sending song.

Over lent we will be working with the beautiful and rich text of **Isaiah 55:1-13**

Pastor and Marlin O. look forward leading our study and worship together.

Look for sign-ups to help set-up, clean-up and bring soup and/or bread. Thank you!

WORSHIP NEWS—LENT SEASON

What is the season of Lent all about?

The term “Lent” originally comes from the Anglo-Saxon word “lencten” which means “spring.” This is the time, in the Northern Hemisphere, when the days are lengthening. The season began as period of fasting leading up to the Vigil of Easter. Catechumens, those preparing for baptism at Easter, would fast and spend days in intense preparation. For those that were already baptized, Lent was a period to be renewed in their faith by studying the Bible, the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer.



Although it was originally only a two-day period of preparation, Lent became a three-week preparatory period in the middle of the fourth century and then this was further expanded into six-weeks, or forty days. By the end of the fifth century, there was a desire to exclude Sundays from Lent since Sundays are always celebrated as feasts of the Resurrection. Thus Lent begins not on Sunday, but on Ash Wednesday.

The current practice of forty days of Lent recall Jesus’ forty-day fast in the wilderness after his Baptism (Matthew 4:2, Luke 4:1-2) as well as Moses’ forty-day fast on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:28).



Palm Sunday
9:30am
April 2

Maundy Thursday
7:00pm
April 6

Good Friday
7:00pm
April 7

Easter Sunday
9:30am
April 9

The 2023 Thrivent Action Team board is up!!

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?

Last year, our Thrivent members applied for & received \$250 gift cards that supported 10 different projects like VBS, Farmers market, the quilting ministry and many others.

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.

MARCH

SUNDAY LESSONS

March 5th

First Lesson: Psalm 84

Narrative Lectionary Text:
Matthew 20:1-16

March 12th

First Lesson: Psalm 89:1-8

Narrative Lectionary Text:
Matthew 22:1-14

March 19th

First Lesson:

Psalm 96:1-3; 9-13

Narrative Lectionary Text:
Matthew 25:1-13

March 26th

First Lesson:

Psalm 118:1-6; 14-17

Narrative Lectionary Text:
Matthew 25:31-46

**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.

BISHOP'S LETTER

March 2023



The 10-year-old girl at the school we were visiting was asked, “When was the last time you went to the beach?” She paused, thought, and finally said rather quietly, “I think when I was three.”

This might not seem like a huge deal. Many people choose to not visit bodies of water. But you see, this little girl is a Lutheran Palestinian attending one of our Lutheran School in the West Bank. She is fluent in English. She is warm and engaging. She has dreams and aspirations. Her family is dedicated to her education, and they are faithful Christians. And she cannot get to the water that historically was her people’s land because of checkpoints and government policies. She is literally a few miles from the water that she cannot swim in.

In January, seventeen ELCA Bishops traveled to the Holy Land on a “Living Stones” listening tour. Bishop Azur of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) invited us to come and see the Lutheran Church in the Holy Land and for us to witness firsthand how the Lutheran Church is positively impacting thousands of people.

On this tour we didn’t have time to visit many “holy sites.” Instead, this was a working trip that was designed to meet with those who are living in the Holy Land today – or as Palestinians say – to meet with the Living Stones of the Holy Land. During our time with our siblings in Christ, we learned and listened; prayed and contemplated; laughed and wept. These beautiful and courageous people welcomed us into their lives with grace and dignity. We were given an abundance of food, gifts, laughter, worship, and dancing.

And the stories. The stories were rich and beautiful ... and devastating. Like so many people throughout history whose lives have been ripped apart by oppressive powers, the Palestinian Christians have had their land, their identity, and their freedoms radically diminished. In some cases, completely erased.

Excerpts of stories I heard:

- The men whose family homes have been demolished because they cannot produce paperwork from the Ottoman Empire that their family has owned their land for over a century.
- The fourteen-year-old boy who was killed in a refugee camp. In his pocket was a piece of paper where he had written his last will and testament. Many young people are now carrying wills in their pockets as they fear they will be killed.
- Concern that the Holy Land will become a museum rather than a living expression of the rich diversity of people who call this land their home.
- A principal at one of the Lutheran schools stating proudly: “We are educating the next creative leaders in Palestine and in the Middle East.”

Truly a highlight of this trip was the ordination of Pastor Sally Azur. Pastor Sally is the first Palestinian woman pastor in the Holy Land. She is called to serve two Lutheran Churches in the Holy Land and we are excited to see her flourish.

We were able to visit with a Jewish human rights organization, the United States Ambassador for Palestinian Affairs, the Palestinian Authority Prime Minister, the General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, and many others who listened to our concerns and who also stated their deep dedication to working for peace and justice in this land.

I confess that what I have written here barely touches on the complexity of the situation in the Holy Land. Hundreds if not thousands of books have been written. I am no expert. But as I continue to reflect on this trip – and as I hope to plan a trip for this synod in the next year or so – I hold this verse in my heart from Isaiah, “Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.” Isaiah 1:17

May we all learn, seek, rescue, defend and plead for all of God’s beloved children. For the little girl who longs to see water. For the little boy whose life was cut short. For the men who want their family homes. For those who daily work for justice. For those who daily pray for peace. Oh God, we pray, Kyrie eleison.

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee