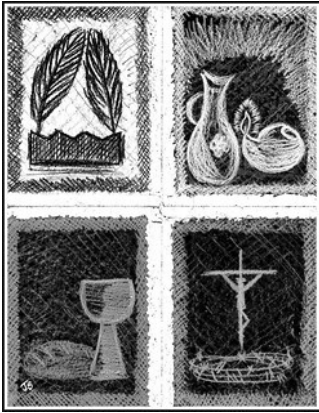




Grace and peace to you,

This month our Epiphany Season will come to an end and the season of Lent will begin with Ash Wednesday Worship on February 14. Once again, we look to our liturgical calendar to keep our minds focused on the ministry of Jesus, his birth, life, death and resurrection. Each season has its own purpose for the faith community, or I could say, each season has its own opportunity for the faith community.



In Lent we have the opportunity and gift to sit with the promise of resurrection, which, by its very nature, is preceded by some kind of death. This is the painful and uncomfortable reality of the promise of resurrection - we would not need it if death, in all its forms, did not haunt us.

Lent is a season of truth-telling about humanity. We are humbled as we gather in worship to receive the sign of the cross with ashes hearing the words, "you are dust and to dust you shall return." In that same moment we place those ashes in the form of a cross as a symbol of hope, promise and defiance of death.

Yes, we are dust, but, in the cross of Jesus, I am free from the finality of death - in the cross of Jesus I know there is resurrection - new life - reconciliation - wholeness. So, just as we wrestle with the truth of our mortality in this season, we are not left there. Jesus' own death and resurrection provide us the truth that death is not the end - death no longer has the final word. Jesus has the final word. Resurrection has the final word. Just as this is a season of truth-telling about humanity and our frailty, it is also a season of truth-telling about Jesus and the freedom we receive from him as pure gift.

This season we are once again invited to take time apart from our day-to-day schedules to walk with Jesus through his last days, his last teachings, his last meal and his final hours. This season we are once again presented with opportunities to gather as a community during the week to share in a meal, song and worship. We will hold special services to honor Jesus last days and his final words.

As we move through Lent together I invite you to dwell in the promises we receive from Jesus through his teachings and through his death and resurrection. These promises are our rock and our sure foundation. These promises are our anchor that cannot be moved during the storms the world will throw at us.

As a community we gather to hear again what Jesus has done for us so that we can remember and so that we can tell others what we have seen and heard and know to be true for ourselves.

Blessings through this season of Lent!

Peace

P. K.



75th Anniversary - pg. 4

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#### Special points of interest

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



**MOUNTAIN VALLEY  
PRESCHOOL**



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

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

**THIRSTY FOR THEOLOGY**

February 1st, 7-8:30pm @ the parsonage

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

The Monday Ladies Bible Study will not be meeting during the month of December. We will resume our study in January. 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.



**Join us on  
Wednesday evenings  
6:30 - 7:30 pm  
for a historical view of the  
Letters to the Seven Churches  
of Revelation**

Learn what the message to the churches at Ephesus, Pergamum, Thyatira, Smyrna, Philadelphia, Sardis, and Laodicea say to the original hearers and also to Mt Si Lutheran Church at North Bend, Washington.

**Lent Mid-Week Soup Supper and Study**  
our annual Lent Soup Supper and Worship  
beginning on Wed. February 21 through Wed. March 20



All are welcome to participate. Come hear scripture, sing together and listen to various trees of the Bible tell their story as we "Behold the Tree." Our supper and worship will be blended together in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 6:30pm with prayer and song and then moving into our meal. After our meal we will continue our worship together.

## COUNCIL REPORT

Greetings from your council.

Our income in December was \$14,068. Our expenditures were \$12,486 for a net income of \$1,582. For the year 2023 our expenditures were \$191,633 and income was \$170,139, for a net annual loss of \$21,494. Our end of year checking balance was \$44,165.

Council met on January 13 for a planning Retreat. We discussed our financial situation and ways to get to a balanced budget in 2024 and 2025. We also discussed ideas for increasing membership, and ways to improve communication within Mount Si, the Synod, and our community. Our next steps are to cut our budget deficit from \$18,000 to \$10,000 this year by focusing on our mission to serve the community and by collaborating with our cluster churches to identify costs that could be shared by the cluster. Our second goal is to improve coordination and connectedness among our congregation.

Our Congregational meeting is January 28<sup>th</sup>. We are ratifying changes approved in November to our constitution, sharing plans to stabilize our budget, electing representatives to the Synod Assembly, and sharing about the Belize mission trip.

Your 2024 council members are Jack Boller (Secretary), Inge Burnside, Tom Burnside (Vice President), John Keiser, Marlin Olson, Rick Rodriguez, Paul Ritzenthaler, and Dave Spurling (President).

Serving in God's grace, Dave Spurling



Epiphany Bonfire  
January 7  
@ the Burnside's



### FEBRUARY SUNDAY LESSONS

#### February 4th

First Lesson:

Psalm 138

Narrative Text:

Mark 6:1-29

#### February 11th

First Lesson:

Psalm 24

Narrative Text:

Mark 8:27-9:8

#### February 14th Ash Wednesday

First Lesson:

Psalm 51

Narrative Text:

Mark 9:30-37


#### February 18th

First Lesson:

Lent 1

Narrative Text:

Mark 10:17-31



### Intergenerational Sunday Education

In February and March come learn all about a central prayer, the Shema, from Deuteronomy 6. Key words of the prayer will be explored each week: Love; Heart; soul; & Strength.

#### Pastor Out of Town February 6-13

She will be available by phone, text or email while in Boise with family.  
Please call Pr. Lara Forbes for pastoral emergencies: 425-505-5590

## Quilters Group

Quilters meet on Monday mornings in the quilting room.



**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.

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)

## SAVE THE DATE—September 14 & 15, 2024

Mount Si Lutheran Church is celebrating 75 years of Serving, Reaching Out, Growing in Grace. The Anniversary Planning Committee is busy planning the Event on Sat., Sept. 14 with a program, special guests, special music, and a dinner to follow.

On Sun., Sept. 15, there will be a special Worship Service and we are blessed that Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee will be able to join the celebration.

Mt. Si Lutheran Church has a rich history:

- **January 23, 1949** marked the first service of the mission congregation. It was held in the Community Methodist Church in Fall City and led by Rev. L. Myron Lindblom, Pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Seattle, the sponsoring congregation.
- **June 19, 1949**, the Mount Si Lutheran congregation was organized with 55 charter members, guided by Rev. Lindblom. The church was named for the beloved mountain which graces the valley.
- **December 10, 1950** marked the ground breaking service for the Mount Si Lutheran Church building in North Bend, WA.
- **November 30, 1952** The building of Mount Si Lutheran Church was completed and dedicated.

Please be sure to check out the bulletin boards in the Fellowship Hall to view photos of members and events over the years. This is one way the committee plans to highlight the 75th anniversary all the way up to September's event. There is still time to be part of the planning, if interested in hearing more about how you can help, please contact Sheila Rodriguez or Pr. Krista.

**The next planning committee meeting will be Monday, March 18, 2024 at 11:00AM.**

Please join us if you can.



North Bend 1949

Mt Si Lutheran Church invites you to Holy Week Worship Services

Palm Sunday	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	Easter Sunday
March 24 9:30am	March 28 6:00pm	March 29 7:00pm	March 31 9:30am
Palm Procession!	Meal + Worship	Tenebrae Worship	Meal after Worship
			

411 NE 8th St. North Bend, WA + [www.mtsilutheran.org](http://www.mtsilutheran.org)

Dear Church Family,

We are looking for a few volunteers to help prepare the bread and wine for communion for our Sunday worship service. You will receive training & these can be prepared ahead of time. This is a simple yet meaningful way to participate in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper and to support our church community.

Thank you for your consideration and may God bless you. Please contact Pastor Krista or Courtney Adams if able to help.



*Cluster*  
**FAMILY GAME NIGHT**

**Family Game Night Returns!**

We will continue to gather the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month from 5-7pm with cluster churches starting on February 18<sup>th</sup> @ Sammamish Hills Lutheran. Look for sign-ups in an upcoming News From the Pews.

**FEB 18 5-7PM**

**SAMMAMISH HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Bring a game and a snack to share!

ALL AGES AND ALL FAMILIES ARE WELCOME!



**Mt Si Lutheran Church**

*Ash Wednesday Worship*

February 14  
5:30-7pm

[www.mtsilutheran.org](http://www.mtsilutheran.org) / 411 NE 8th St, North Bend

## Red Cross Blood Drive



Upcoming Blood Drives:  
Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>  
And Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

Blood Drive registration is live for signups at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://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.



Confirmation continues to meet each Wednesday from 4:45-5:45pm unless otherwise noted due to school breaks, etc.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Edwin Benson 2nd  
Marge Bliss 2nd  
Blake Imsland 3rd  
Marlin Olson 9th  
Ethan Yocom 9th  
Jim Flanagan 10th  
Tammy Hayes 10th  
Stuart King 12th  
Dave Spurling 12th  
Annabelle Cassidy 13th  
Kaiya Rhyne 14th  
Mike Buckmaster 15th  
Charlie Tiongson 15th  
Jenny Lynch 19th  
Lindsey Flanagan 20th  
John Grebe 23rd  
Toren Rhyne 23rd

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES



Paul & Laura Ritzenthaler 9th  
Brent & Dana Koukol 15th

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

This is a *great* time to be church!



WAIT – WHAT?!?

*You are invited!*

## Women's Retreat March 1-3 at Rainbow Lodge

You can attend the whole time, a couple days or just Saturday.



The speaker for the retreat one of the newly arrived pastors at Our Savior in Issaquah, Pr. Kristin Luana Baumann.

***Registration and details are here:***

***Details***  
***Registration***

Let Pr. Krista know if you have any questions!

Hey Church Family,

We all love the fellowship time every Sunday after the worship service. As we know, this is a great opportunity to connect with other members of our church, share our joys and concerns, and enjoy some delicious food and drinks.

To make this fellowship hour possible and defray church costs, we need your help in providing some food items for the table. You can bring anything you like, such as cookies, breads, fruit etc., but we are also in the need for pre-sliced cheese and regular/decaffeinated ground coffee.



We would love to return to the days when families sponsored the coffee hour for special days providing the food and goodies. If this is something you would like to do see the sign-up sheet in FH.

\*please note coffee should be Starbucks brand if possible as our coffee maker is powerful and finely ground coffees don't work well in it.

Any questions? See Courtney A.

Thank you,  
The Hospitality Committee

# Belize Mission Fundraiser

## SAVE THE DATE

Feb 03, 2024 | 3-5pm

Sammamish Hills Lutheran

Join in a dinner inspired by Belize cuisine, learn about Belize, participate in fun games and a silent auction.

All proceeds will go to support the mission projects our team will carry out in country.

RSVP by January 27 to [pastor@mtsilutheran.org](mailto:pastor@mtsilutheran.org) or [pastornyla@shlc.org](mailto:pastornyla@shlc.org)

Suggested donation of \$30 per person for dinner

Our Goal is to raise \$5,000-\$8,000



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Saturday, February 3rd**  
**3-5pm @ SHLC**

**Belize Mission Trip fundraiser!**

**Come enjoy a Belizean inspired meal, silent auction, games and more.**

Proceeds from the evening will go to support mission projects we hope to accomplish while in Belize. Our goal is to raise \$5,000-8,000. Suggested donation for the dinner is \$30 a person. See sign-ups in the Fellowship Hall or reach out to Pr. Krista.

Thank you!

I begin my 7th year serving as your Pastor. I will leave for the Belize Mission Trip on April 3rd and move directly into my sabbatical time when I return. I will return to the office on Wednesday, July 17th and be in worship on Sunday, July 21st. - Pastor Krista Johnson

## PASTOR'S SABBATICAL PLAN

April - July 2024



**Please**

**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 Women's Gathering

**Saturday, March 23**  
**10-12pm**

All women are welcome to a time of fellowship, worship, prayer and reflection as we prepare to enter Holy Week.

You are invited to bring appetizers to share.

The theme of our gathering is

**Simply Still** and will

include space to reflect on scripture, pray and sing together. Look for sign-ups coming soon!

# BISHOP'S LETTER

February 2024



Today as I write this, I am acutely aware that I am home.

You see, I was supposed to be on a plane today – traveling to the Holy Land – with thirty people from this synod. We were going to see holy sites: the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, Galilee, Jerusalem, and so much more.

Besides visiting these holy sites, we were going to be with our Lutheran siblings in Palestine and Israel. We were going to visit with and learn from Bishop Azar, the pastors, and the laypeople of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). We were going to visit our Lutheran schools in Bethlehem, Beit Sahour, Ramallah, and Beit Jala. We were going to visit the only liberal arts university in Palestine – Dar Al-Kalima University in Bethlehem. We were going to visit the Lutheran hospital, Augusta Victoria Hospital. And we were going to visit our Jewish siblings who work for justice and peace.

Today as I write this, I am acutely aware that today is the one hundredth day since fighting began in the Holy Land.

On October 7, 2023 Hamas killed around 1,200 people and kidnapped over two hundred. It was a horrible and horrendous attack on women, children, and the elderly.

Following this attack, Israel began striking with guns, bombs, and other devices of war. At this moment, the death toll in Gaza is 24,100 dead with 61,000 others wounded. It is estimated that two-thirds of those killed in Gaza so far are women and children –all non-combatants. Almost the entire population of Gaza is now displaced, and starvation and disease are rampant.

By anyone's estimate, these are horrifying statistics, and they cannot, at all, begin to acknowledge the pain and anguish from all sides.

Now, I am not an expert of the Holy Land or the Israel-Palestinian conflict. I cannot begin to parse out all that happens in this area of the world – especially in such a short article as this. But as a baptized child of God, pastor, and your bishop, I know that this war is not God's way. I know that God calls us to advocate for those whose voices have been silenced. I know that God calls not for a pretend cease fire but true dialogue. I know that God calls us to a just peace where all people are recognized as human.

As many of you know, I was part of a group of seventeen ELCA bishops who went to the Holy Land last year. While we were there, we visited the ELCJHL schools in Palestine and Israel. We saw Muslim and Christian children learning together. We saw dancing and singing. We listened to their stories and we rejoiced at the hope we saw there. When we visited Augusta Victoria Hospital during this same visit, we saw Muslim doctors treating Christian patients and vice versa. When we visited with an Israeli non-profit dedicated to justice for the Palestinians, we saw Jews and Muslims, Israelis and Palestinians, working together for peace and justice.

Dear Beloveds in Christ, please take to heart what our brother in Christ, ELCJHL Bishop Sani Ibrahim Azar, said on Reformation Day 2023 while speaking at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem:

"It is very hard to speak about hope here in Jerusalem ... As Palestinian Christians, we have been here for many years, not recognized, but calling for reconciliation. We are serving people's needs and we are working for the future of the whole human family... The priority right now is to end the war, to stop the killing of women and men, children and the elderly ... We hope that our Christian brothers and sisters elsewhere in the world are praying for us, praying for Christians in the Holy Land and for the rights of Palestinians to exist here."

As we are privileged to be in our homes – and as millions have been displaced from their homes – let us pray for true peace, work for justice, and speak out against hatred.

Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it... The Lord is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:14, 18

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee