



Grace and Peace to you,

There is so much to celebrate from October—we had a wonderful Harvest Carnival thanks to Courtney and all the hands who came together to organize, donate and staff the event. We blessed about 20 quilts heading to Lutheran World Relief thanks to the quilting group that meets weekly. We kicked off a new Bible Study on Wednesday evenings on Romans 6-8 thanks to Marlin and his love of Scripture. We welcomed a new AA chapter into the building on Sunday nights. We hosted our ongoing women’s Bible study, prayer circle, confirmation class, council and girl scout leaders group. We participated in a joyful Family Game Night with cluster churches at St. Andrew’s with over 50 in attendance from three congregations. We have enjoyed worship and fellowship together each week. I’m excited to share that we welcomed Bonnie King as a new member here at Mt Si. Bonnie would love help getting to worship each Sunday, she lives in Snoqualmie Ridge, please let me know if you’d be willing to help.

Last month we were also invited to be part of a network of service agencies who support our community through food, clothing, holiday gifts, school supplies, safe spaces for kids and more. Some of those around the table were, Trail Youth, Feed Kiddos, Kiwanis and Treasure’s in Heaven. We recognize that many of our goals to serve the community overlap and we know we’d be able to do more if we coordinated and worked together. Erica and I attended this meeting and the ball is rolling to see how we can wrap our community in love and support. We each took on responsibilities to connect with other groups to grow our circle of impact. At Mt Si I was asked to connect Feed Kiddos with the SVFB and to connect all the providers with House of Hope to we can offer full support over the holidays. Erica is working to connect us in with school counselors and teachers since they know the needs of our families in the valley. Out of that meeting, Mt Si is exploring a new partnership with Trail Youth, who is seeking to use a small area to store some socks and other clothing supplies for homeless and at-risk youth in the valley. They are also looking to hold some of their larger youth meet-ups in our space in the future. I was so encouraged to hear the passion of those gathered around the table to unite our efforts and share in these critical ministries together. One area each organization is on board with is to assist with the backpack/school supply ministry that is largely on our plate. More to come on that front!

The Spirit is surely moving in our valley and within our congregation. I am also happy to share that the cluster continues to dream and imagine what a more integrated and shared ministry may look like for our cluster. We continue to share youth events, worship and other opportunities. We are now at a point we are considering broader partnerships that would allow for vibrant ministry to continue in the valley. Jack has been attending these meetings, please connect with him if you have any questions! I’ll have more to share next month after our next cluster gathering.

With all of this said—I find there is much to be thankful for as we enter November and prepare for the Thanksgiving holiday. To be sure, there have been difficult moments too in our congregational and personal lives. I pray that the hope and promise we have from our Savior grounds us and gives us strength for today.

Thank you for your commitment to Mt Si and your commitment to the gospel—the good news of Jesus—that we saved by grace through faith apart from work of the law—in this freedom we go out into this world to love our neighbor and love our God with all our heart, strength and mind. Thanks be to God!

Peace  
P. K.



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**Special points of interest**

- Bishop’s Letter on last page—*great read!*



**MOUNTAIN VALLEY  
PRESCHOOL**



Mountain Valley  
Preschool

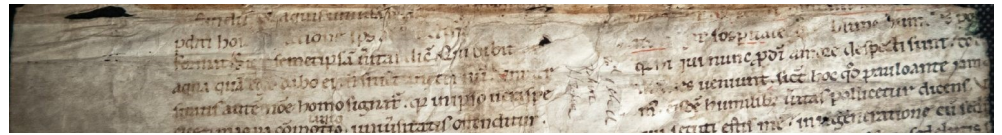
Where a Love for Learning is Created

*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.*

**Pr. Krista is  
on vacation  
November 15th-22nd.**

Guest preacher, Pr. Kristy Daniels, will preach and preside on November 19th.

For pastoral emergencies during this time please reach out to Pr. Lara Forbes at 425-505-5590



**THIRSTY FOR THEOLOGY**

Thirsty for Theology will gather around the parsonage fire pit or inside depending on weather at 7pm on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Parsonage. Come share in conversation, light snacks and beverages of all kinds.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Mondays at 12:30. 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.

**NEW BIBLE  
STUDY**

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; **death no longer has mastery over him.** The death he died,

**ROMANS 6-8  
A SEVEN  
WEEK STUDY**

LED BY MARLIN OLSON

**WEDNESDAYS  
6:30-7:30  
OCT. 18-  
NOV 29**

he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves **dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.** Romans 6:8-11

*Tricia Goyer.com*

**No coffee hour or education hour on Sunday, November 26th**

We are grateful for all the work our kitchen volunteers put in to prepare coffee hour each week. It is good to rest and have a break.

**Intergenerational Education Hour**

**Theme: Fruits of the Spirit**

following worship



Kids and Adults meet together in the Fellowship Hall where we learn together about the Fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5) After sharing together we break into groups for certain discussion and projects.

**The study ends on Nov. 19th**

Thank you to Courtney, Erica and Rosemary who helped develop and teach!

## COUNCIL REPORT

Greetings from your council.

Our income in September was \$14,216. Our expenditures for September were \$18,808 which included nearly \$4,000 of one time payments for maintenance and repair of our facilities. This is a loss of \$4,592 for the month. Our Jan-Sept loss is just under \$20,000. At the end of the month we had \$47,130 in our checking account.

Please remember that we will be having our congregational meeting on November 12 following the service. Please put this on your calendar and make an effort to be there. We need a quorum of 40 to approve the 2024 budget and to approve changes to our constitution that we proposed in January. Our current voting membership is 83 people. If you can't make it in person, you will be able to join on line. We will be sending out directions for connecting on line prior to the meeting.

At the congregational meeting we will also be electing new council members. Currently, our constitution requires that the council will consist of 12 to 16 members. We will have at least 4 vacancies to fill to reach the minimum of 12. One of the constitutional amendments we are proposing will reduce the number of council members required to 7-12. This will be added to the amendments we will vote on at the November annual meeting. We will still need to fill vacancies for 2024. Please give consideration to joining us. The term is for three years with an option to continue for a second three years. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. If you are on council and decide that it is not working out, you have the option to resign.

As an outcome of the discernment process we conducted we decided that our vegetable garden for the food bank and our involvement providing activities for kids at the farmers market and other community activities are things we should keep doing. We also identified opportunities to volunteer at the senior center and other community organizations. We will be posting these opportunities on a bulletin board. If you know of any other opportunities please let me or Pastor Krista know.

Jack Boller

### NOVEMBER SUNDAY LESSONS

#### November 5th

First Lesson:

Ephesians 2:11-22

Narrative Lectionary Text:

Exodus 1:8-14, 3:1-15

#### November 12th

First Lesson:

Ephesians 3:14-21

Narrative Lectionary Text:

Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-9

#### November 19th

First Lesson:

Ephesians 4:1-6

Narrative Lectionary Text:

Ruth 1:1-17; 4:13-17

#### November 26th

First Lesson: Psalm 150

Narrative Lectionary Text:

2 Sam. 5:1-5; 6:1-5

#### AA

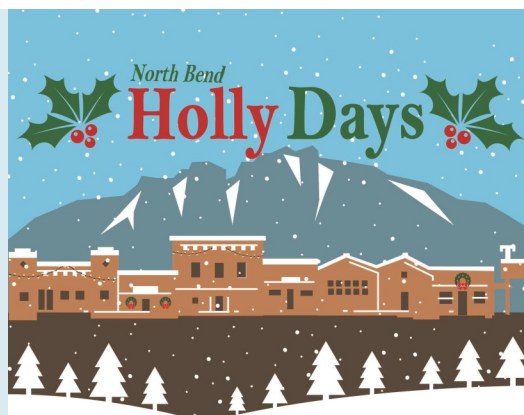
Will meet Thursdays and  
Sundays in Luther's Lounge  
weekly at 7 pm  
Ogle Street entrance

#### GIRL SCOUTS

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

**Holly Days**  
**December 2nd**  
**5-8pm**

Sign-ups coming soon  
to help out at this  
community event  
in downtown North Bend



## 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)

## Family Game Night

November 19th

5-7pm

at Sammamish Hills Lutheran



## Thank you! to the volunteers for Harvest Carnival



We have the BEST prayer shawls at the church. If you are ever in a tough or complicated time, they can help. All you need to do is snuggle it or hug it and you can pray. It is like a closer connection to God. And we even have prayer squares if you want to use a smaller one. Leslie H., Inge B., Rosemary H., and Laura R. are the people who knit our prayer shawls. And we can give a BIG thank you to them.



"Nellie" s.

## FAITH FORMATION

Middle and High School retreat November 10-12 @ Camp Lutherwood. Please pray for Nellie (Annie), Kaelynn, Kelsey and Ray who are attending this retreat. Please pray for the leaders and organizers (Doug & Bobbie) as they prepare to welcome over 60 youth from across our Synod. Thank you to the cluster and synod for supporting this retreat!

The Harvest Carnival was a great hit and there were a ton of kids and adult who had fun. There was delicious food, fun sweets and a wonderful trunk-or-treat afterwards. It was a great time and I know all the youth and families of our church had a wonderful time. All the activities for prizes were wonderful, and Kelsey and Addie did a wonderful job with the cupcakes and running the cupcake walk. A large thanks to all the people who helped make this event fun for everybody.

Kaelynn S.

### TINY HOUSE UPDATE:

Hello friends, just noting something cool is happening at our new Salmon Bay Village in the Interbay neighborhood of Seattle. The first 4 houses to be placed are from church groups, maybe just a coincidence....



Thanks to St Marks Lutheran Church in Tacoma, Sammamish Presbyterian Church, Union Hill Church in Redmond, and St. Andrew's/Mt Si/ Sammamish Hills Lutheran in North Bend for partnering with us and building these beautiful houses for our project.

Praying those who pass through here will be blessed by the work of your hands with safe and supportive shelter.

Cheers!  
Paul Steenstra  
Village Construction Manager - Tiny House Villages



I had a lot of fun at the harvest carnival this year. I like how we make it open to anyone. I enjoy seeing everyone having fun and smiling. My favorite part is the crafting room and making all the crafts. Striking a pose during the costume parade is always fun too!

Kelsey H.

**Next Blood Drive**  
**Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**from 10-3pm**

Blood Drive



**American  
Red Cross**

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

## 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***

## 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



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

## 75th Anniversary planning

### SAVE THE DATE!

Next year, Mount Si Lutheran Church will celebrate 75 years of Serving, Reaching Out, and Growing in Grace. The Anniversary Planning Team has met and the date for the celebration will be **Saturday, September 14, 2024**. There will be many opportunities for you to volunteer to help. At the Nov. 12 Congregational Meeting, we will have sign ups for the following sub-committees. Please prayerfully consider joining one or more of these sub-committees. It may seem early to be signing up, but we hope to have special events leading up to the September celebration and we will need your ideas as well as your help. If you have questions or suggestions for the upcoming events next year, please contact Sheila Rodriguez. You can call the church office for her contact info.

The following sub-committees/leaders:

- \*Historical Review (gather photos, slides, make poster boards for each decade, decorate bulletin boards, etc.)-Sue Oster
- \*Hospitality (plan the meals, set-up, clean-up and work with decorating committee for # of tables, chairs, tablecloths, etc.)-Courtney Adams
- \*Decorating (Fellowship Hall, Narthex & Sanctuary, possibly Luther's Lounge)-Debbie Jones & Shelley Harding
- \*Worship & Music (music selections, musicians, input on the program and speakers)-Pr. Krista
- \*Publicity & Council Rep (work with local news publications, distribute flyers, postcards, etc.)-Jack Boller
- \*Invitations/Program Editor/RSVP Contact-Kathleen Taugher
- \*Commemorative Special Projects/Keepsake gifts-Sheila Rodriguez & Terry Adams
- \*Sound AV/Music slides/photos/videos-Terry Adams
- \*Welcome Committee (contact former Pastors and Youth Directors to invite them and get contact information).-LEADER NEEDED

**Save the Date: September 15<sup>th</sup> 2024**

Bishop Shelley will be here to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



## Advent Festival

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

following worship

We will put together Advent wreaths, a special advent devotional jar, crafts, and learn more about the season of Advent.

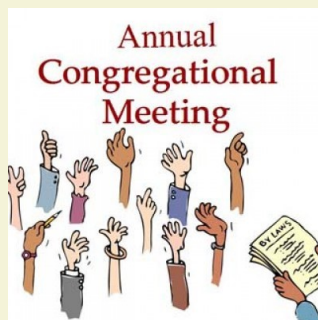


## All Saints Sunday November 5th

We will honor those who have gone to be with the Saints in Light over the past year. There will be space in the service to light candles and share names of loved ones.

### November 12th

Please plan to attend our annual meeting following worship on November 12. We will remain in the sanctuary for those attending in-person. If you are unable to attend in-person, you can connect via Teams (like Zoom). A link will be sent out through the weekly email and posting in bulletins a couple weeks prior to the meeting.



We need a quorum of 40ppl for us to vote on several important items.

#### Constitutional Changes:

Changing our quorum from a fixed number of 40ppl to a 30% of our voting membership. Our current voting membership is 83 people.

Changing our Congregation Council number from a fixed number of 12ppl to a range of 7-12ppl.

Council voted to recommend this change after consideration of our current active membership. We recognized that we have about 50 active members. With 12 on council, that's 25% of the active membership. Council noted that attempting to fill 12 spots on council may not be the best use of the gifts of our members, however, council didn't want to simply lower the number in case there is a sense of call to council leadership in more than 7 people, which is why council opted for a range of 7-12.

Approving additional changes/updates required by the National ELCA Church body per previous votes at annual conventions of the ELCA. These changes were presented to the congregation last year with no concerns, but we did not have a quorum to pass the changes, so they are before the congregation a second time. If you wish to see the changes, please ask Pastor for a copy.

#### Approve 2024 Annual Budget

#### Appoint Council Positions

Currently serving: Tom B. - term ending Dec. '24, John K. - term ending Dec. '24, Paul R. - term ending Dec. '24, Jack B. - term ending Dec. '25, Rick R. - term ending Dec. '25, Dave S. - term ending Dec. '25, Inge B. - term ending '26 if confirmed for second term

Positions open: 1yr. term ending Dec. '24, position not required if constitutional change approved. Four open three-year terms ending Dec. '26, positions not required if constitutional change approved

Thank you for your commitment to Mt Si and our mission to serve, reach out and grow in grace.

Peace  
P. K.

## We Need Your Support

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

Thank you for  
your  
continued  
generosity.



-Treasurer

#### Financial Update

Income from Jan-Aug	110,455
Expense from Jan-Aug	131,750
Total Income/Loss	-21,295

We are spending just under our anticipated budget for the year. Our anticipated expenses for Jan-Aug was \$138,234

Checking Acct. Balance	49,261
Unrestricted Savings	38,000



# BISHOP'S LETTER

November 2023



In the song Amazing Grace we sing, "I once was lost but now I'm found."

Because my job sometimes involves travel, there are times when I am wandering unfamiliar airports – trying to find my flight, trying to find edible food, trying to find a place to charge my phone, trying to find a place where there isn't a cacophony of sound and crowds of people. And sometimes at airports I also experience a feeling like a disconnection from my "self." Sometimes I am wandering the airport trying to find my "self." Strangely, there are moments at airports where I get this feeling as though I am unmoored from what connects me to other people. Honestly, I don't know if this is something only I experience or if others feel the same way.

There have been a slew of recent articles and social media posts written about how churches are dying and pastors are leaving and people are upset and no one goes to church anymore and so on. These posts are hard to read, and I wonder - is this a sign that we are feeling unmoored? That we are searching for something? Or maybe it is simply being lost.

In the gospel of Luke, Jesus tells two parables – one about a lost sheep and one about a lost coin (Luke 15:1-10). You probably remember these parables – the shepherd leaves the ninety-nine in search of the one. The woman turns over her entire house for the one coin that is missing from her purse. I think that traditionally we hear these parables as Jesus searching for the one who needs to hear the good news of Jesus for the very first time. But I think that is a misreading. The lost lamb was a part of the shepherd's flock. The lost coin was in the woman's purse. This story is for insiders. For those who know and yet have gotten lost.

This lostness might be of one's own volition. The sheep wanders from the prescribed pasture. But it can also be something that just happens. A coin cannot, on its own, get lost. We have all experienced the disruption of the pandemic, the cracks in our government, the warming of our climate causing suffering and death, and so much more. We notice changes in our churches and in our families and in our communities. Many of us have experienced personal troubles and tragedies. These all can lead to a sense of feeling adrift. And it can lead to fractures in our church community and our faith life.

However, the circumstance comes about – because of one's own actions or because of something that descends upon us – lostness occurs. And even when we know God's love and grace and comfort, even when we know that community is important, even when we are already part of God's community and church, we can still feel unmoored, lose our sense of belonging, our capacity to trust. We can get so lost that we don't know who we are or whose we are or where we belong anymore.

I don't know where you are at as you read this article today. Perhaps you are feeling snug with the other ninety-nine in the sheepfold of God. Perhaps you are a coin cozy with the other nine coins. But perhaps you are not. Perhaps you, too, are wondering and wandering. Perhaps you, too, are feeling disconnected from friends or family or your church community. Perhaps you, too, are wandering in Concourse C wondering how in the world you get to Concourse A. Perhaps you, too, are a sheep bleating for help or a coin under the couch cushions.

If this is you, the good news is that God is a searcher and a finder. The amazing news is that God is the shepherd hiking into the wilderness looking for you. The astounding news is that God is the housewife lighting her lamp and sweeping every corner in the house to find you. You are worth looking for. You are loved and desired. And when God finds you, there is rejoicing and laughter and a party! As Dan Erlander writes, "Love is God's action to bring us into abundant life – reconciled to God, to each other, and all creation!"

In the 2023-24 course offerings of the synod's LiVE Project there are many ways to be community together and the body of Christ together. There are ways to encourage and uplift one another. There are retreats, ongoing classes, and a year-long "Abide in the Word" Bible Study. (Learn more at <https://www.lutheransnw.org/ministries/the-live-project>) If you are feeling unmoored, lost, alone, adrift, I encourage you to first join in your community at your church and second, to join in the offerings in the wider synod. We are church together. We are journeying together. We get lost, and we get found, together.

Together we sing, "We once were lost but now we're found."

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee