



Grace and peace to you,

Beloved, the rain has returned to nourish the earth and show off every shade of grey sky you could dream of.

There is a part of me that can't wait to cozy into the fall and winter seasons - hot tea, warm blankets, fires in the fireplace, yummy soups, changing colors and the smell of wet leaves - yes, there is a part of me that doesn't mind cold and rain and endless gray. There is also a part of me that will soon long for warmth of the sun, cheerful flowers and fresh greens all around. In truth, this fall and winter season can be an honest mental challenge for many of us. We can feel lethargic, lonely or loose focus and interest in what is happening around us. This is not an unknown to us - you are probably well versed in what helps you get through the season - a sun lamp, some additional vitamins, taking extra time to be with others - If you haven't found what works for you - start asking your friends, doctors and others for guidance.

Recently, at our Thirsty for Theology gathering, I was reminded of an important practice that strengthens my well-being and strengthens our community. This practice is simple, but often overlooked. The practice is to celebrate - to share the positive experiences with each other. The practice is to share with one another those beautiful and powerful moments when we encounter God/Holy Spirit/Jesus during the week.

Sometimes, as Christians, we become more comfortable sharing our struggles, needs and concerns within a community we trust, than we can be at sharing God's awesome work in and through us. Sometimes, we spend our energy pointing out those things that aren't quite right, need to be fixed or should be changed and miss putting equal energy into pointing out those things that went really well, were fixed or were a blessing despite hiccups along the way.

It was noted at our gathering that we take time in worship to pray for others and ourselves, but we lack space to share joys and blessings - it is not that one is right and one is wrong - rather, we need both for a balanced and healthy community. We need to celebrate and give thanks to everyone in our community for being truly beautiful children of God. We also need space to be broken, share our struggles and be honest about ways we may need to change and rethink how we do things.

Scripture teaches us to be intentional about what we dwell on in our day. There is a reason for this - our hearts and heads need daily reminders that we are loved, forgiven and welcome in God's kingdom. We also need daily reminders that God is still active and working for good all around us each and every day. Sometimes it can be nearly impossible to see without a community surrounding us and pointing it out.

No matter the season, I have seen the impact of taking time to celebrate in community and to honor God's work within a community. Perhaps, as we enter this fall and winter season we can find ways to celebrate together and make space to share what amazing work God is doing in our lives.

So I wonder, what would you celebrate in your own life? What would you celebrate within Mt Si Lutheran? What have you seen God doing in your life? What about the church? We are coming up on our 75th Anniversary next year— as you think back on your time here at Mt Si— what should we celebrate?



As you are able, I encourage you all to celebrate whenever and however often you can. I encourage you to look for God at work around you and, when it is hard to see, seek the encouragement of a brother or sister in Christ. We might be surprised a how much there is to celebrate!!

Blessings,
Pr. Krista



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Special points of interest

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



**MOUNTAIN VALLEY
PRESCHOOL**
M-F from 9-1pm.

Questions? Please ask Jack or Pr. Krista. Please welcome Keeley when you see her!



Mountain Valley
Preschool
Where a Love For Learning is Created

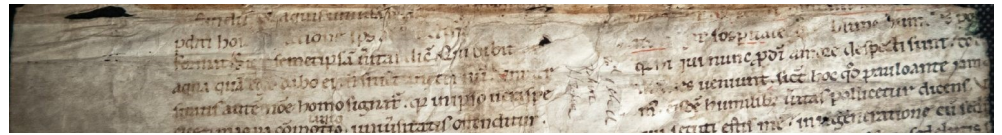
Updates to events are communicated through Constant Contact and an email list of families and friends, if you are not on this list but would like to be included please let Pastor Krista know.

AA

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

GIRL SCOUTS

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



THIRSTY FOR THEOLOGY

Thirsty for Theology will gather around the parsonage fire pit or inside depending on weather at 7pm on Thursday, October 5th—Please note the change back to Thursday for the fall and winter due to Confirmation on Wednesday nights.

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.



October 29th

Remember to wear red as we celebrate the 507 years since Martin Luther's reformation "officially" began.

On Reformation Sunday we honor and recall a time in our church history when change was needed. The Gospel had become hidden and distorted. On Reformation Sunday we proclaim the Gospel as clearly as we can. This is a festival Sunday to honor the movement of the Holy Spirit through Luther and many others.

SUNDAY EDUCATION

Intergenerational Education Hour in the Fall

Theme: Fruits of the Spirit

**Through November 19th,
following worship**

Kids and Adults will meet together in the Fellowship Hall where we will learn together about the Fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5)

After sharing together we will break into groups for certain discussion and projects.

We look forward to taking this time to deepen our understanding of the Fruits of the Spirit and our relationship with Jesus.



COUNCIL REPORT

Greetings from your council.

Our income in August was \$12,084. Our expenditures for August were \$14,917. This is a loss of \$1,939. At the end of the month we had \$49,261 in our checking account.

We have been busy this summer with service to our community. We had a good year at the North Bend farmers market where we provided crafts for kids each week. We averaged 80 kids per week. Our high was 120 and our lowest was 25 on the one week it rained the whole time. In addition, we had a booth at the North Bend block party in July and had close to 200 kids show up for that. Our Garden of Giving was also successful providing fresh produce to the food bank. In August we participated with two other congregations to construct a tiny house to be used in one of the tiny house villages housing homeless in the greater Seattle area.

A reminder 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 to approve the 2024 budget and to approve changes to our constitution that we proposed in January. At the September council meeting we confirmed a voting membership list of 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.

Sheila Rodriguez will be coordinating the celebration of our 75 th anniversary celebration next year. We are working with the synod to set a date that the Bishop is available to be present. If you have any ideas, please share them with Sheila.

Looking forward to next year, we will have at least six vacancies to fill on the council. Our constitution currently requires that the council will consist of 12 to 16 members. We are considering a constitutional amendment that will reduce the number of council members required. 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 as we move forward in this time of change. 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.

Jack Boller

OCTOBER SUNDAY LESSONS

October 1st

First Lesson:

Ephesians 2:11-22

Narrative Lectionary Text:

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

October 8th

First Lesson:

Ephesians 3:14-21

Narrative Lectionary Text:

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

October 15th

First Lesson:

Ephesians 4:1-6

Narrative Lectionary Text:

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

October 22nd

First Lesson: Psalm 150

Narrative Lectionary Text:

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

October 29th

First Lesson:

Romans 5:1-11

Narrative Lectionary Text:

1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29

Sunday

November 26th

No adult education
or

fellowship hour

following worship



**Thank you to our Council
Members who will be
leaving the Council at
the end of the year:**

Terry Adams

Ed Benson

Rosemary Hanson

Marlin Olson

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



**God's Work. Our Hands.
Sunday, September 10th**

**Thank you!
To all who participated.**



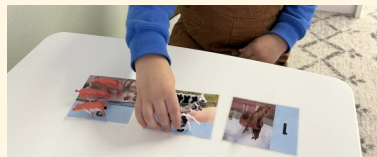
***Save the Date!*
Sunday
November 12**

Following Worship—please stay or connect via zoom

At this meet we will vote to:
update our constitution
approve the 2024 budget
and elect new council members

Your presence is greatly appreciated.

**Mountain Valley
Preschool
is going well!**



FAITH FORMATION

CONFIRMATION

We will meet on
Wednesdays from
4:45 to 5:45 pm.

This year we will focus on an overview of scripture from Genesis to Revelation. We will focus on major biblical characters and the overall outline of the biblical story. Please hold our confirmands in your prayers. Our second year students are Austin H., Kaelynn S. and Judah T. Our first year students are Kelsey H. and Annie S.



October 15th

All Age Family Game night!

5-7pm

at St. Andrew's Lutheran

Game Night!



**Our first Family Game night on
Sept. 17th was a huge success!
Nearly 30 folks gathered to enjoy
games, food and conversation
at Mt Si.**



Next Blood Drive
Thursday, December 14th
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 – includ-
ing events that educate
church members about Lu-
theran 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 pro-
cess so don't delay if you have a pro-
ject coming up in the near future!

***Together we can make a
difference***

**OCTOBER
BIRTHDAYS**



- Bailey Dukich 6th
- Stephanie King 8th
- Joan Moe 9th
- Matt Rodriguez 9th
- Pat Thomas 9th
- Kaelynn Sampson 10th
- Autumn Dukich 13th
- Victoria Spurling 13th
- Debbie Spurling 14th
- Riley Buckmaster 20th
- Courtney Adams 23rd
- Joyce Ayers 29th



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

Invitation for
75th Anniversary
planning

Connect with Sheila R. for more information on how you can be part of the planning and festivities

Save the Date: September 15th 2024

Bishop Shelley will be here to celebrate the 75th Anniversary

Everyone Welcome!

FREE!

October 21st

4pm - 6pm

Mt Si Lutheran Church Presents

Family Harvest Carnival

Trunk or Treating
in Parking Lot

Costume Parade
Chili Cook-off
Food, Crafts
Games & More



411 NE 8th St - North Bend
www.mtsilutheran.org for more info



Garden of Giving

The Garden of Giving has had an incredibly productive year this year. It started in the Spring with our garden clean-up and the donation of a Thrivent Card which allowed us to purchase a bunch of vegetable starts. We also had vegetable starts from the Burnside's Greenhouse (thanks

Tom & Inge). The weather cooperated this year and we were able to start planting and harvesting a month earlier than last year, with our first harvest on 6/12 of 5 lbs of zucchini. The harvests took off from there with 10 weeks of over 30 lbs, including 2 weeks of more than 70 lbs, and we had a peak this year of 126 lbs of produce donated in one week. Our total for the year was 713 lbs of produce donated for the Snoqualmie Valley Foodbank. Thanks to everyone who has helped with the garden plots, either cleaning, planting, weeding, or harvesting. God is Good!



I'd also like to thank our God's Work Our Hands work party who added drip irrigation to the garden beds. We utilized a grant from the Northwest Washington Synod, ELCA to purchase the supplies and our great team did the assembly. The project will help us reduce

water waste and to continue to grow more vegetables for the Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank. Our Team also dug potatoes, harvested other vegetables and cleaned out some of the garden beds.



Grow In Peace,

Terry Adams



We Need Your Support

Make a gift online through our website:

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

October 2023



"Sometimes it's boring. Sometimes it's thrilling. Sometimes it makes me cry."

(Quote from *"The Wonderful Ordinarity of Congregational Life"* by Cheryl Fullerton, *Christian Century*, March 2022)

Recently I was thinking about church. (Full disclosure ... I think about church quite a bit.) But, in particular, I was thinking about the rhythm of church life. And I think the above quote from Cheryl Fullerton sums it up pretty nicely.

Sometimes it's boring.

I admit, sometimes there is something that is uninteresting about church. Perhaps it is the repetitive nature of it. Perhaps it is the cyclical nature of things. Perhaps it is seeing the same people in the same pew week after week and year after year.

We know that Fred will sing the hymns out of tune ... every time. We know that Mary will cluck her tongue at someone's tattoo peeking out from their sundress. We know that Mike will fall asleep during the sermon and we know that Dan will try to share the peace with every single person. We know that the children will fidget. We know that the baby might cry. We know that we have rituals and sacraments and prayers that we say each week. We know that sometimes we won't hear the utter preposterousness and absurdity and utterly amazing news that Jesus loves each of us and all of us – that sometimes this message sails over our heads because we're too busy looking at the bulletin.

And yet ...

Sometimes it's thrilling.

I always get goosebumps when I hear the words, "I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." I rejoice each Easter when we all shout, "He is risen! He is risen indeed!" Candles lit in darkness bring hope and light on Christmas Eve. When I am privileged to place bread in people's hands and I see young, old, wrinkled, black, white, brown hands reaching out for Jesus, it is truly miraculous.

We know that Fred cares for his wife with Alzheimer's. We know that Mary still grieves her daughter. We know that Mike works the late shift and we know that Dan only leaves his group home for church. We know that the children will hear of Jesus. We know that the baby will grow up in the community of elders. We know that sometimes we will hear and understand, if even for a moment, the utter preposterousness and absurdity and utterly amazing news that Jesus loves each of us and all of us.

And so ...

Sometimes it makes me cry.

Church is not for the faint-hearted. Church is not for people who only want to be with their own kind. Church is for the young, the middle-aged and the old. The healthy and the sick. The spiritually depleted and the spiritually full. Those who are seeking, those who are exhausted, and those who are filled with fire for justice. We all come together. The Freds and Marys and Mikes and Dans. And we sing and we pray and we receive Jesus, in community, together.

Church is wonderfully boring and thrilling. We catch glimpses of the divine amongst the coffee pot and petty disagreements. We see Mary hug the tattooed young girl after she is baptized. We see Mike exchange high fives with Dan. We see Fred with tears singing at the top of his lungs, "I Know that My Redeemer Lives."

There is nothing like church.

"Sometimes it's boring. Sometimes it's thrilling. Sometimes it makes me cry."

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee