



September 2024 GOODNEWSletter

Mt Si Lutheran Church
www.mtsilutheran.org

Grace and peace to you!

Wow! This has been a packed first month back from Sabbatical. So many folks are working on various projects all around the church from yard work, to backpacks to the Farmers Market to prep for the 75th and so much more. This congregation is blessed with truly dedicated disciples giving their all to lift up this community of faith and our neighbors all around us in the Snoqualmie Valley.

As I return to ministry with you all I've noticed a clear theme as I've checked in with our ministries. PARTNERSHIP

Everywhere I turn I hear about ministry being blessed by new and strengthening partnerships.

I first noticed it with the continued conversations and opportunities to partner within our cluster of Lutheran churches here on the Eastside. There are big ideas being shared about how to find ways to share certain "business" areas of church life in order to free up each congregation to focus on mission and care for their community. There are practical ideas like getting together for continued Community Game Nights like we did last year. There are new ideas such as sharing in larger children and youth fellowship events. One of these events is a Gingerbread House Contest which will be held on Sunday, Dec. 8, 3-5pm (location TBD) between 9 churches! I experienced the joy of worshiping with six congregations on Aug. 25th - what a beautiful expression of partnership!

I've also noticed the blessing of partnership within ministries at Mt Si such as the Farmers Market and Backpack/School Supply Distribution Ministry. Our partnership with Si View Parks and their Event Director, Jill Rittenhouse, continues to flourish. She wrote a beautiful thank you to Mt Si that is included in this newsletter. Jill wanted to make sure Mt Si knows how much our presence there is appreciate.

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... We are talking about ways the Market can better support Mt Si ministry for next year such as a Market wide push to collect supplies for the Backpack Ministry. Speaking of which, when you read the article about the backpack program check out how many groups came together to offer our families not only backpacks and school supplies, but also shoes, socks, underwear, food and books all at the same distribution event hosted here at Mt Si. It was amazing! This event caught the eye of a local reporter for the Valley Record and an article about the event will be published soon. With the partnership of everyone here at Mt Si and all the community groups, we were able to better serve our neighbors. Amen! Thanks be to God!

Why is partnership such a big deal - well, it is another way of talking about being a part of the larger Body of Christ. It is remembering that we, as individuals or as an individual faith community, do not need to do everything and do it all perfectly. We have all been given different gifts - that goes for our faith communities as well. Just because we used to do a ministry all by ourselves in the past doesn't mean that it is a sign of weakness that we choose now to do that ministry through partnership with other groups. It is quite the opposite - it is a sign that we're beginning to see how God is working through others and how, together, in partnership, we are a more complete/full/whole Body of Christ. And when the Body of Christ expands and grows you know the Spirit is moving and grooving.

I'm excited to see where the Spirit leads and I'm grateful for those leaders who are taking a chance on these growing partnerships. It can be uncomfortable to blaze a new path or try to adjust a well-worn one. Please hold all our ministries in prayer as we seek to Serve, Reach Out and Grow in Grace.

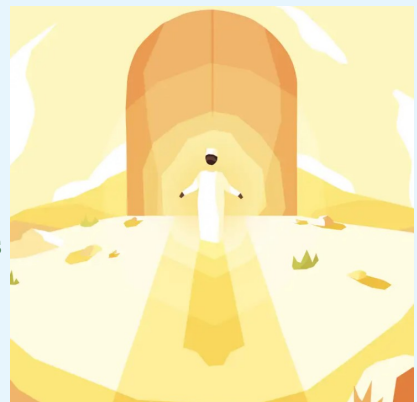
Peace

P. K.

Sunday Intergenerational Study Hour

Starting September 22nd

What is God's ideal calling for humans? God calls all humans to be royal priests, representing his character and presence to the world. Come explore what it means to be a royal priest over seven weeks beginning on September 22nd. We will look at the portrayal of priests throughout scripture all the way through Jesus' teachings and the early writers of the New Testament. We will watch a video each week from the same creators as the Shema word study series we did last year. All ages are welcome as we explore this important Biblical image. Questions? Please talk to Pr. Krista.



Council Report

Greetings from your 2024 Church Council.

Council met on 8/13, welcoming Pastor Krista back! The Sabbatical "A-Team" (administrative support) has agreed to continue working with Pastor to manage our workload.

Our finances remain positive, with YTD Net Income of \$338 reported in July. This includes our Capital projects (Fellowship Hall re-flooring) and Sabbatical expenses. We appreciate our donors and supply pastors, who have faithfully given of their offerings and time.

2025 plans and budget requests are being worked. A Fall Council Retreat is planned for October.

Building & Grounds is compiling a list of items needing maintenance or service in the near future.

Council and the Executive team are working with the East King County Synod Cluster, who is developing a formal charter for resource sharing, ministry coordination, and consolidation of certain costs within the participating churches. The Bellevue churches (St Andrews, Cross of Christ, and St Luke's) will be early adopters, with possible later addition of Mount Si, Our Savior and Sammamish Hills Lutheran. We are creating a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet to explain how this would affect Mount Si.

Setup of the defibrillator was reviewed. The unit is installed in the church basement across from the elevator, to offer quick access from the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. Chris Sampson, an experienced CPR trainer has provided training to the first group. Labelling and instructions are being set up. If you have any questions please ask - several people are available to answer your questions.

Serving in Christ's grace, Dave Spurling

Thank You, Mt. Si Lutheran Church!

Dear Mt. Si Lutheran Church Friends:

Thank you so much for your kind and grace-filled celebration of the 50th anniversary of my ordination during and after worship on Sunday, July 14, 2024. We are grateful for your generosity and your thoughtfulness. Thank you for the prayers of blessing and the presentation of the quilt during the worship service and we thank you for the orchid for Ann, the notes, the photos, the delicious cake and the refreshments during the reception following worship. We wish you all the best as you continue to serve God, each other, and your neighbors near and far. May the God of all grace be your strength and peace.

Yours in Christ,

Pr. Larry and Ann Thomas



Clean-up Day

Rain didn't slow down our work crews on Friday and Saturday as they worked for 15hrs+ over the two days. We had about eight volunteers helping power wash all the buildings on Friday and over 10 volunteers on Saturday to finish some clean-up of garden beds and trimming of bushes. THANK YOU all for your hard work over the past two days. You'll also notice new sconces on the front of the church and next to the elevator entrance. The grounds are really looking beautiful as we prepare for our 75th anniversary celebrations in a few weeks.

Special thanks to Leslie and Bud for all the extra time and care they are putting into the front of the church grounds including lawn revival, cherry tree trimming and more.



Thank you for your donations of time and talents! We were able to distribute 390 backpacks full of school supplies for children in the Snoqualmie Valley School District. This year we also handed out 320 pairs of shoes thanks to Snoqualmie Valley Alliance. Each child received a pair of socks thanks to St. Clare's Episcopal and we handed out underwear thanks to Snoqualmie UMC, Cascade Covenant, Lifepoint and Reign Church. In addition, food snack bags were given to each family thanks to Feed Kiddos. Last but not least, the Snoqualmie Valley Library was present to hand out 3-4 books per child! WOW!!! A huge thank you goes to Erica Haycox and Janey Benson for their efforts to shepherd and grow this ministry. Look for a feature article in an upcoming issue of the Valley Record!"



Everyone Welcome - All Ages! **FREE!**
Mt Si Lutheran Church Presents
Saturday, October 19th 2024
Family Harvest Carnival
4 - 6pm
 Trunk or Treating in Parking Lot
 Costume Parade
 Chili Cook-off
 Food, Crafts
 Decorate Pumpkins
 Games & More

Donation: This year we are challenging the community to help us fill a barrel from the Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank to the top with pop-top canned soup!

Thank you for your generosity!

Events: Trunk-or-Treat, Chili Contest, Games, Crafts, Costume Parade, Decorate Pumpkins, Food and more!



This event is free and open to the public - all ages!



Time: 4 - 6pm
Location: 411 NE 8th St - North Bend

Jan-July Income \$124,693

Jan-July Expense \$124,355

Thank you to all who donated for the flooring project. Your donations plus the income from an Estate Gift and Memorial funds covered the full cost of the floor. Way to go Mt Si! We also want to thank our building partners who have signed contracts with us for use of space: Mountain Valley Preschool, the Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank and AA. Their building use donations total over \$6,500 YTD. This building use income plus the generous and faithful giving of this congregation is helping keep our financials steady this year.

Thank you for your generosity! - Pastor Krista

Garden of Giving

Thanks to everyone who has been helping with harvesting and watering.



Red Cross Blood Drive September 17th at Mt Si Lutheran Church 10am - 3pm

[registration link for the September blood drive](https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=98045)

(<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=98045>)

Emergency Blood and Platelet Shortage

The Red Cross national blood product supply has fallen by more than 25% since July 1. The Red Cross is working with hospitals around the clock to meet the blood needs of patients – but can't do it alone. We need donors, like you, to help provide this lifesaving care.



**Upcoming
Blood Drive:
December 10th**



SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY LESSONS

September 1

First Lesson:

James 1:17-27

Gospel Lesson:

John 8:1-10

September 8

First Lesson:

Psalms 146

Gospel Lesson:

Mark 7:24-37

September 15

First Lesson:

James 3:1-12

Gospel Lesson:

Mark 8:27-38

September 22

First Lesson:

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Gospel Lesson:

Mark 9:30-37

September 29

First Lesson:

James 5:13-20

Gospel Lesson:

Mark 9:38-50

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 Kathleen
know.:
mtsi.assistant@gmail.com

**Please Join Us
September 14 & 15
2024**

**Celebrating
75 years
1949 to 2024**



Mount Si Lutheran Church

Serving - Reaching Out - Growing in Grace

Sept. 14: 3:30pm Celebration Program with dinner and fellowship to follow at 5pm

The reservation window has ended and we are pleased to say we've reached our seating capacity for the dinner in the fellowship hall on Sept. 14. If you still wish to attend the dinner, please call the church office and we'll do our best to accommodate additional seating.

Sept. 15: 9:30am Special Sunday Worship with Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee Refreshments and fellowship to follow at 10:45am

Some highlights of Mt. Si Lutheran Church's Rich History (cont'd)

- May 15, 2016--Pr. Larry Thomas accepts call as Interim Pastor to advise and lead the congregation through the transition and call processes. Organizing a transition team; doing the ministry site profile; recruiting a call committee and calling a new pastor are transition priorities.
- Congregation votes in favor for the council to move forward with hosting the winter shelter after Jan. 6, 2017 if an agreement can be reached with Congregations For the Homeless (CFH). The Shelter liaison committee reached an agreeable Memorandum of Understanding with the Congregations For the Homeless and the church will host the shelter for 45 days starting Jan. 19 through Mar. 4, 2017.
- July 31, 2016--Congregational meeting held to vote on the future of the parsonage. The majority vote was to sell the parsonage to Life Enrichment Options (LEO). The Building and Grounds committee met with LEO and decided to move forward with the offer. In Dec., the letter of intent for the sale of the parsonage was signed and LEO is taking steps to receive an approved septic design and permit.
- April 2017--Life Enrichment Options (LEO) made decision not to move forward with the purchase of the parsonage. A committee was created to discuss options for the future of the parsonage.
- Pr. Larry was fundamental in advising and encouraging the congregation to prepare the parsonage for a new Pastor which required extensive work and some renovations in the parsonage.
- July 2017 Guatemala Mission Trip. 10 people from Mt. Si Lutheran traveled to Guatemala for service project with Habitat for Humanity.
- Oct. 31, 2017 Reformation 500th Anniversary: the ELCA celebrates the 500th Anniversary of the day Martin Luther posted his 96 theses which touched off the Lutheran Reformation.
- Aug. 2017 The Call Committee selected a candidate of choice that they felt would be the best match for our congregation's needs based on the survey and input from the congregation.

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... An informal meeting with council, call committee, and staff was held with Pr. Krista (Oppie) Johnson, candidate of choice, the end of August. Following this positive meeting, the Call Committee extended an invitation to Pr. Krista for a congregational meet and greet on Oct. 1st. Pr. Krista joined us for worship and after worship we had a chance to get to know Pr. Krista and enjoyed her devotion and message with the children.

· Oct. 15th the congregation voted unanimously to offer a Letter of Call to Pr. Krista and she accepted the call. We were excited to have Pr. Krista return to the Pacific Northwest and to Mount Si Lutheran on Dec. 1, 2017.

· Nov. 12, 2017 Pr. Larry Thomas completes call process as Interim Pastor and farewell blessing and reception followed.

· Nov. 2017 Pr. Krista moved from Elmira, NY to North Bend, WA. Pr. Krista receives a warm Mt. Si welcome and congregation helps her get moved into the parsonage.

Dec. 3, 2017 Pr. Krista began preaching on Advent Sunday.

· Dec. 16, 2017 Service of Installation by Bishop Kirby Unti and the Rev. Shelley Bryan Wee, Asst. to Bishop, NWNA Synod presided. Rev. Norma Malfatti, Director for Evangelical Mission, Upstate NY Synod gave the sermon. A welcome reception followed.



For the celebration meal we will need a lot of help

- Courtney has a **signup sheet** for food, food prep, set up & cleanup! See her today!
- Church Clean-up Requests:
As we spruce up the outside for our 75th Anniversary Celebration, and you see things needing cleaning inside the church buildings, **please connect directly with Alisha on the needs** - she can be reached by text, phone call, by leaving a note in her mailbox in the hallway by the offices, or in person if you're at the church at the same time she is. This will help her to focus on areas that may be outside the normal rotation for cleaning. Thank you!
- There will be areas we will need your help at the Saturday event. Watch for ways you can help or **contact Sheila** to find out how.
- **We need 20+ folding chairs** for the Anniversary dinner. Anyone who has folding "card table" size chairs we can borrow, please bring to church (with their names on the bottom of chair) to church **by Sept. 8**

The next 75th anniversary planning committee meeting
will be Sept. 9 @ 11am



Sunday, Sept. 8

Congregations of the ELCA will join together for our annual day of service, **"God's Work. Our Hands"**

This day continues to be an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the ELCA — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

"God's work. Our hands." is an extension of the work you do every day to make your community a better place. We look forward to working together on Sept. 8! This year we will focus our efforts on clean-up inside and outside our church buildings as we prepare for the 75th celebrations. We'll have opportunities to serve for all age and ability levels

Don't forget to wear your yellow t-shirt to worship!



God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday Worship and Outreach Activities!

September 8th - 9:30am worship with outreach activities to follow

We are excited to once again join with ELCA congregations around the US to celebrate God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday on September 8th.

We will have a special worship at 9:30am followed by a potluck coffee hour and multiple service opportunities for all ages and abilities.

This year many of our activities will center around preparing for our 75th Anniversary celebrations.

In addition, we will work to complete the LWR Hygiene care kits. We will have five teams working on projects ranging from installing the peace pole out in the front yard, filling gift bags for the 75th, putting rubber caps on chair feet and more!

Items to Remember for the day:

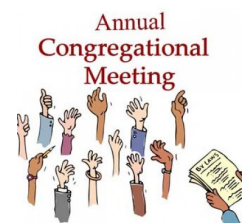
1. Wear your yellow God's Work. Our Hands T-shirt! If you don't have one, we will have them for sale on the 1st and 8th for \$15ea.
2. If you can bring a potluck coffee hour item to share that is ready to serve
3. Consider bringing a lightweight dark towel (between 20'-40' and 57'x27' for our care kits - we need 35 more towels to complete the kits!

Save the Date

Annual Meeting: November 24, 2024

Following Worship—please stay or connect via zoom for our annual meeting. At this meet we will vote on constitutional changes, budget and council members.

Your presence is greatly appreciated.



Krista and the Mt Si Lutheran Church market volunteers!

I am in awe of your participation, in-kind craft donations, and overall support of the 2024 PoP Club!

You all gave your precious time and energy to offer the market and the POP Club well over 40+ hours of volunteer time for the 6-week PoP Club program.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU
THANK YOU! I am not sure if you noticed, but I have waived the \$25 Tent Package fee for the last 3 markets of the 2024 season!



Many thanks,
Jill (Rittenhouse)

Family Game Nights return!

We started something fun last school year, and it returns and grows! Our Family Game Nights with our cluster churches has evolved to now include some bonus churches in our synod - Holy Trinity on Mercer Island and Faith Lutheran in Redmond - welcome to those faith communities! Our first game night will take place on Sunday, September 22nd from 5-7 pm at Holy Trinity on Mercer Island. They'll provide the main meal, and we ask attendees to bring a snack to share and any games they are wanting to share with others! It was a lot of fun learning new games, playing with all ages, and rotating around to make new friends throughout our cluster and synod. All are invited, come join us!

A poster for Community Fall Game Nights. The text "COMMUNITY FALL GAME NIGHTS" is written in large, colorful letters. Below it, "5pm-7pm!" and "Games for all ages!" are written in a smaller font. The background features a board game and dice. The poster also includes a QR code and a list of dates and locations.

9/22 - Holy Trinity Lutheran - Mercer Island
10/20 - St. Luke's Lutheran - Bellevue
11/17 - Mt. Si Lutheran - North Bend

Scan for sign-ups and more info

Presented by Holy Trinity, St. Luke's, Sammamish Hills, Faith, St. Andrew's, Mt. Si Lutheran Churches and others!

- Lisa S.

Calling all Confirmands-to-be!

We're excited to start the next round of Confirmation classes in October.

As we finalize, we want to make sure all interested kiddos are involved. If you are a 6th-9th grade student who is interested in learning more about the Lutheran faith and wish to attend weekly classes to gain a deeper understanding of who we are as Lutherans, please talk to Pastor Krista. There are amazing conversations and activities that occur with your peers and leaders, and a lot of fun activities. The commitment is 1-hr/week from October through the spring, with occasional weeks off for school breaks or as needed. Come to learn, come to grow!



- Lisa S.

Mark your calendars for the weekend of November 8-10



NW Washington Synod
Children, Youth & Family Ministry
2024 Fall Retreat
Yonder is the Sea!
at Camp Casey
Friday, November 8 at 6pm –
Sunday, November 10 at 11am

6-12 grade youth will join us as we explore Psalm 104 and the themes of water, promise, blessing, and more! Registration, cost and additional details Watch for more information in News From The Pews in early September.

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.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study resumes **September 9**, 2024, at 12:30. If you have any questions, please reach out to Vivian Waid.

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Declan Haycox 2nd
Alisha Blakely 3rd
Kelsey Harding 6th
Stefan Van Handel 8th
Kailie Graciidis 11th
Heidi Dukich 12th
Jane Benson 14th
Kim Buckmaster 25th
Lesia Tiongson 27th

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



Christopher & Lisa Sampson 2nd
Marge Bliss 7th
Paul & Heidi Dukich 8th
Charles & Jenny Lynch 22nd
John & Erica Haycox 25th
Judy Stoddard 25th

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

A note from Pr. Kristin-Luana serving Our Savior Lutheran in Issaquah:

Today, I am writing to you to let you know about a special event series we are planning at Our Savior's in partnership with the local Non-Profit Issaquah Arts. This cooperation came unexpectedly, and we are so grateful for it! We are planning for a Labyrinth of Lanterns as Community Art Installation. The Labyrinth will be up from September 21 to October 6 on the meadow behind the church. Lantern making workshops will be offered and every group can also host their own. Pr. Krista is looking into hosting a Lantern making day at Mt Si for those interested.

What is a labyrinth?

Walking the labyrinth is a meditative technique which helps us to quiet our minds. Oftentimes people focus on a spiritual question or a specific prayer. While walking towards the center of the labyrinth, we can practice focusing on the specific question or prayer. By walking out of the labyrinth, we can practice applying that specific question or prayer to our lives. This is a spiritual practice that many find helpful. Others may not. That's ok!



FROM THE BISHOP + SEPTEMBER 2024

You might have noticed that we are in the middle of another election season. The rhetoric, the tone, the attempts to vilify and amplify are all around us – coming from candidates and superPACs and social media and neighbors and family and more.

You might wonder where does faith fit into all of this?

As Lutherans, we believe that God loves and values every single person. This means all are beloved of God – even those who we might not agree with or even like. All are God’s children. This means that even those who are the farthest from our political views are humans and worthy of care. Further, as Martin Luther once said, we are called to be little Christs for one another. This means listening and wanting the best for one another.



In saying this, please know that loving one another is not the same as remaining quiet in the presence of hate speech or abusive actions. There are times to speak up and engage. As we know from the prophets and from Jesus, we are called to work and to speak out against powers and systems that have historically marginalized or silenced so many of God’s beloved people.

So I ask again, where does faith fit into all of this?

Well ... If you are full of anxiety for this coming year, if you wonder how to engage with others on issues that you care about, if you want to help foster a sense of community and love, we invite you and your congregation to join Northwest Washington Synod’s LiVE Project. This coming year LiVE is engaging faith and life with new classes, retreats, and cohorts. This year’s theme is *Faith Out Loud*. The 2024-25 offerings are chosen explicitly to address how to engage faith and life. This fall there is a multi-week class on Faith in Public Life starting on September 18. On October 19 there is a one-day retreat on Christian Nationalism. And from October 21-November 9 there will be an election prayer vigil. Further out in the year there is a retreat on land use, embracing difference, and a Lenten Journey along with other cohorts and more.

Together with what is happening in each of the individual congregations throughout the synod, LiVE is providing ways for people to share their faith stories, listen to one another, and connect with God and with one another to live their *faith out loud*. LiVE is a place where people from all over the synod and beyond engage in ways that foster growth, encourage conversation, provide mutual support, create community beyond difference, and ultimately connect one’s faith in day-to-day life. With the different offerings, all are encouraged to participate in what God is calling us to be and to do – to cultivate empathy, love, justice, and service. To live *faith out loud*.

This coming year is full of possibilities to together live our *faith out loud*. If you have been part of LiVE in the past, we urge you to invite others. If you are interested, please talk with others in your congregation and form a group together. Find the list of upcoming courses on our synod website here: <https://www.lutheransnw.org/ministries/the-live-project>. If you have questions, please email live@lutheransnw.org

As you know, we are not called to an individual “me and Jesus” faith isolated from the world. Instead, faith is a communal journey where we celebrate our uniqueness as we walk in the unity of Christ. We learn, grow, support, challenge, and travel together in Christ as we live as God’s beloved.

I am so grateful for the vision and leadership of synod staff members Rev. Dr. David Hahn and Ms. Mandy Neill, the LiVE Project Board, the professors and teachers, and all who have collaborated on the LiVE Project. Their work and the LiVE Project are truly gifts to this synod and to this church. Let us embrace God’s love and let us live our *faith out loud*.

Blessings,

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee