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Mount Si Lutheran Church

*To Serve  
To Reach Out  
To Grow In Grace*

## GOODNEWSletter

MAY 2025



### Pastor's Note...

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Christ is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed!  
Alleluia!

A tremendous thank you to all our volunteers who set-up, provided soup, bread, led worship and cleaned up each week of our Lent Soup Supper and Mid-week Worship. These evenings are truly a joy. I pray they were a blessing to those who attended and those who served.

In addition, thank you to those who took extra care to set-up, clean and make sure everything ran smoothly at our Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter services. There is so much work that goes on behind the scenes. Thank you! You are so appreciated. I pray all our tireless volunteers can take a good rest after this busy season.

There is something beautiful in all the hustle and bustle of this season. To see the community come together in faith, hope and love. To see this community stand together to praise God, to admit our brokenness, to laugh together and cry together. There is something deeply moving to hear voices raised in song, raised in prayer, in unity - unity that we find in Jesus.



In these times that seem to only promote division - that seem only to teach how to belittle, deride and hate one another - that uses violence, threats and bigotry to tear communities apart - it feels like an act of bravery to gather together as we do in our place of worship as we practice what Jesus taught us - that we are ONE in Christ.

How Jesus must weep to see the world as it is today AND how Jesus must shout for joy to see his beloved community gathered - if even for an hour - united in his name. I give thanks to God for your witness.

I understand that division remains, even within our faith community. However, we cannot hide our unity in Christ when we - as one - pray, praise, confess and receive - as one - grace, forgiveness and love from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ - the Son of God - the Word that was with God from the foundation of the World - the one true Messiah who lived, died and rose again for you and for me and for this world.

I am humbled to be united with you in Christ and I am thankful to Jesus for making our unity possible. Amen!

- Pastor Krista

In this newsletter  
you will find:

Special Events  
In May & June

Additional May &  
Summer Events

MSLC Executive  
Team Report  
MSLC Finance  
Update

Sunday Readings  
& Weekday  
Education  
Opportunities

May Birthdays  
and Anniversaries

Letter From  
The Bishop

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## Special Events in May & June



### Day of Service, May 3

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Day of Service, hosted by Sammamish Hills, is taking place on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10-4pm with specific projects happening at over 20 sites around North Bend, Issaquah, Sammamish, Bellevue and more! To sign-up for a team, go to: [www.dayofservice.info](http://www.dayofservice.info)



### Thrivent Financial Presentation, May 18

Brendan Rorem was invited to speak by our Stewardship and Finance team on the following topics after worship:

1. Qualified Charitable Distributions  
Age 70 1/2  
Required Minimum Distributions
2. Endowment Fund
3. Thrivent Products
4. Choice Dollars



### Red Cross Blood Drive, May 20

We will host a Red Cross Blood drive from 10-3pm on May 20<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall.

You can sign-up at: [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) go to Sign-up and put in our zip code: 98045



### Holden Youth Event, May 23-25

Please pray for Leslie H., Pastor, Kaelynn S. and Addy H. as we head to Holden Village for a youth retreat with other youth from around the Synod! Pr. Olaf will preach and preside at Mt Si on the 25<sup>th</sup>.



### Tiny House Fundraiser! June 1 @ SALC

All are welcome to a fun evening of Burritos and Bunco - June 1<sup>st</sup> at St. Andrew's Lutheran in Bellevue from 4-6:30pm.

A suggested donation of \$20 is appreciated! All proceeds will go to support the cost of materials for the Tiny House Build.



### Tiny House Build! June 23-July 3

The Eastside Lutheran Fellowship Team is leading a Tiny House build at Mt Si Lutheran again this summer. June 23-July 3. Find out more at [elfpnw.org/tinyhouse](http://elfpnw.org/tinyhouse)

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# Additional Event Information

## SPRING CLEAN-UP!

**Thank you** to all who came out to help clean up on April 12<sup>th</sup> and have been showing up on your own time to weed, mow and care for the facility. You are amazing! Thank you!!!!



## ELF TINY HOUSE BUILD

**Save the dates!** For all ages! The Eastside Lutheran Fellowship Team is leading a Tiny House build at Mt Si Lutheran again this summer. **June 23-July 3.** Once complete, the house will go to a LIHI tiny home village. To sign up go to: [www.elfpnw.org/tinyhouse](http://www.elfpnw.org/tinyhouse)



## VBS - SPLISH SPLASH!

Register Now for VBS!  
July 14-18 - Mon-Fri 9-12pm  
Our theme this year is: Splish Splash!  
God's Water and the Word.  
Go to: [www.elfpnw/events](http://www.elfpnw/events)

## MAY 25 FELLOWSHIP HOUR NOTE

Please note - no Fellowship Hour on Memorial Day Weekend - May 25<sup>th</sup>. Our volunteers appreciate the break. Thank you for your understanding.

## MSLC Executive Team Report

The Executive team has met to prepare for our **May 18** Council meeting. If you or a ministry team you serve on has topics you would like Council to discuss, please send word to Jack Boller no later than May 15<sup>th</sup>.

A reminder that ministry teams are asked to submit **written updates** and requests of council each month. If council has questions about your update they will reach out to the team directly. You can email or put a hard copy of your written report in council mail boxes, which are found in the hallway between the main office and multi-purpose room.

Respectfully Submitted, Pastor Krista Johnson

## RWANDA MISSION TEAM

Please pray for the team heading to Rwanda at the end of May. Peggy Halferty from Mt Si is going along with folks from Our Savior and Sammamish Hills. They will serve alongside leaders at Love with Action Ministry.

## MSLC Finance Update

To meet our projected annual budget, our General Offering income **goal is \$16,000/mo.**

Income from Jan-March:

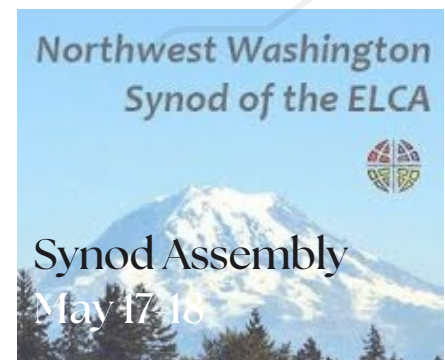
\$46,736

Expenses for Jan-March:

\$48665

Net Loss Jan-March:

-\$1928

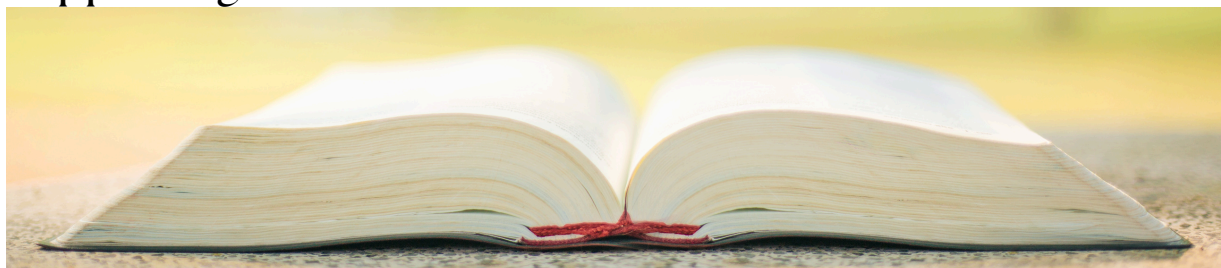


Our Annual Synod Assembly of the NWWA Synod will take place May 17-18. Dana Koukol was elected by the congregation to be our representative. Pastor Krista will also attend as a voting member. This year we will vote to re-elect Bishop Wee or elect Pr. Pricilla Austin as our Bishop.



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Supporting one another in faith.....



## Sunday Readings & Weekday Education Opportunities

### MAY SUNDAY LESSONS

#### May 4<sup>th</sup>

First Lesson: Revelation 5:11-14

Gospel Lesson: Acts 6

#### May 11<sup>th</sup>

First Lesson: Revelation 7:9-17

Gospel Lesson: Acts 8:26-39

#### May 18<sup>th</sup>

First Lesson: Revelation 21:1-6

Gospel Lesson: Acts 15:1-18

#### May 25<sup>th</sup>

First Lesson: Psalm 67

Gospel Lesson: Galatians 1:13-17; 2:11-21

### EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES IN MAY

**Men's Bible Study** - Saturdays, 9am @ Little Si Restaurant.

**Women's Bible Study** - Mondays starting at 12:30pm. We are currently studying the Gospel of Luke. Talk to Sue Oster for details

**Sunday after Worship** - May 18 - special guest, Brendan R. from Thrivent will offer a presentation. Otherwise we are on break from Ed. hour in May.

**Congrats to** Kelsey Harding and Nellie Sampson who were confirmed on Easter Sunday!



Tom Chase 1<sup>st</sup>

David Wilkerson 1<sup>st</sup>

John Keiser 4<sup>th</sup>

Alex Adams 8<sup>th</sup>

Jenna Haynsworth 9<sup>th</sup>

Ava Lee 13<sup>th</sup>

Paul Ritzenthaler 20<sup>th</sup>

Jim Garhart 30<sup>th</sup>



Mike & Kim Buckmaster 1<sup>st</sup>

John & Anne Keiser 22<sup>nd</sup>

Ed & Jane Benson 26<sup>th</sup>

### Flower Chart Sign-ups

**Please consider signing up to bring flowers for our altar on Sunday morning.**

This can be in honor or memory of a loved one or event in your life or just because you enjoy flowers!

The flower chart is in the Fellowship Hall hallway.  
Thank you for your offering!



Northwest Washington Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.



## Bishop's Letter

May 2025

There is a well-known parable where Jesus talks about seeds thrown in wild abandon. Seeds thrown randomly, haphazardly, you could almost say carelessly ... some seeds tossed upon a path, some seeds on rocky ground, some seeds among thorns and other seeds on so-called "good soil." (To read the whole parable, go to Matthew 13:1-9, Mark 4:2-9, Luke 8:4-8.)

In the parable there is extravagance, luxury, lavishness. Truth be told, it is terrible farming. But if you take out what we all know about farming techniques, the throwing of seeds in this parable is unfathomable and incomprehensible and beautiful to behold.

And yet ... so often we want to tame the throwing of seeds. We want to make straight lines and uniform rows. We want organization and structure. We might want new things to grow, but we want them to be what we want. Perhaps newish ... but not new. Undergirding it all, I think we want control over this seed thing. But this isn't how the Spirit works.

Instead, as we hear in this parable, God's seed-throwing is all about possibility and energy and the extravagance of God. This parable is about the wildness of God's Spirit. The Sower is throwing out seeds with abandon so that something may develop, sprout, and grow – something unexpected, something astonishing.

This, of course, doesn't mean we cast aside everything already growing. Not at all. Nowhere in this parable does it say that the plants already rooted must be cleared before new seeds can be sown. There are deep-rooted plants already flourishing in God's Garden. These plants have lived through trials and joys and still bear fruit. They need to be watered and tended. They deserve our care, our gratitude, our celebration. The new seeds being scattered don't replace what is planted. Instead, they add to the texture and beauty of God's Garden. Old and new. Rooted and scattered. This parable reminds us that God's Garden is not static—it's alive, growing, evolving.

Of course, some seeds that have been thrown have not always taken root. As the parable says – some seeds fall on rocky ground, other seeds land on thorns. There have been experiments that started with high hopes that ended sooner than we

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would like. There were perhaps disagreements or different ways of doing things. It is true that what works in one section of God's Garden doesn't necessarily work in others.

But this is why we plant and trust and sow and dig in the dirt. This is why we trust this Sower sowing seeds. For God's Garden is founded not on the quality of soil but on the lavishness of God the Sower through the Spirit.

When I hear this parable, I celebrate the many different ways that we are living into and sharing God's love and grace in this synod – in ways that the saints before us would recognize and cherish, and in ways they might never have imagined. I invite you to pause for a moment and think of the place and space where you are promised forgiveness and new life, where you receive the body and blood of Jesus, where you hear the proclamation of grace through faith, where you have holy community.

What are some ways that you are deeply rooted? What are some ways that seeds of new possibilities are being planted? What are seeds that are in the wind right now but haven't landed yet? When you think of the broader community where you live – what is your congregation called to in partnership and imagination? How is the Sower throwing seeds of God's love and grace where you live and move and breathe?

In the Northwest Washington Synod, let us rejoice in this time when old and new things come together. Now is the time that the Spirit is opening us up to new possibilities. Now is the time for listening and collaboration and being in community. Now is the time when we both hold that which we already love and, at the same time, open our hands in order to receive other gifts of promise and wonder.

The dirt, the soil that we are becomes holy ground when God is present. God's seeds of grace fall indiscriminately into the lives of all God's children, into the rocky, thorny, barren and fertile soil of our lives and ministries. The outcome of this gracious sowing cannot be known immediately. One never knows what may come of decedent grace. And yet, day by day, the Sower sows in wild graciousness. And we receive. Together.

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee | [bishop@lutheransnw.org](mailto:bishop@lutheransnw.org)

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