



PASTOR'S NOTE

Blessings Dear Siblings in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I want to start with a thank you to the many folks who made our Holy Week worship truly beautiful. You are awesome! Thank you!

We enter now the Easter season when we hear the stories of Jesus following the resurrection. We will watch as Jesus encounters the disciples and has powerful one-on-one conversations with Thomas, Peter, the Beloved Disciple and more. We will hear, at the end of John's Gospel, a line that has always intrigued me. John 20:30-31 "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But, these are written so that you all may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you all may have life in his name." As someone who loves to dive into the details of a Biblical story and hear more of its context and background I am reminded that the purpose of the Gospel stories is to evoke *pistos*. What is *pistos*? It is the Greek word for trustworthiness, which in our text, is translated as belief. I find trust to be a helpful way to read the word *pistos*. When read with the meaning of trust we understand that the Gospel witness is meant to show us why Jesus and Jesus' teaching is trustworthy. We ground our faith in trust that the words of Jesus, the promises of Jesus, are trustworthy and therefore something we can rely on. It is hard to trust, especially when we have experienced broken trust. Yet, we claim Jesus to be trustworthy day in and day out. We claim Jesus to be the only permanent place we can trust. Everything and everyone else around us will fade away, we are mortal after all. But God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, will never pass away...I am reminded of the words of the hymn, "If You But Trust in God" Red Hymnal #769

If you but trust in God to guide you
With gentle hand through all your ways,
You'll find that God is there beside you
When crosses come, in trying days.
Trust then in God's unchanging love;
Build on the rock that will not move.
What gain is there in anxious weeping,
In helpless anger and distress?
If you are in your Savior's keeping,
In sorrow will he love you less?
For Christ who took for you a cross
Will bring you safe through every loss

I pray your trust in Jesus strengthens each day by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Peace, Pastor Krista



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Bishop's Letter on last page—*great read!*
- Council Report pg. 3
- Children & Youth Reports pgs. 4 & 5

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The Red Cross plans to use Mt Si Lutheran Church as a quarterly blood donation site for the near future.

Upcoming Dates:

June 21st

September 13th



AA

AA will be meeting again at the church every Thursday evening from 7:00pm to 9:30pm

*The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.
Jeremiah 33:14*

GIRL SCOUTS

The Girl Scouts Leaders will be meeting at the church on the third Thursday of each month

SUNDY ADULT EDUCATION

Greetings!

On April 24th and May 8th we will spend time looking at all the information we have gathered during our discernment process and begin goal setting based on what we have learned.

On May 15th we will welcome Pr. Herb Shao, assistant to the Bishop, who will preach during worship and lead our Adult Study time. He will speak about his experience as a military chaplain.

On May 22nd we will hear from a team that is attending a cluster gathering on May 21st. They will share possible opportunities for shared mission and ministry with local ELCA churches in our cluster.

- Pastor Krista

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study is meeting again! All ladies are welcome to participate. The Bible Study meets in the Fellowship Hall each Monday at 12:30pm. They are studying the book of Joshua. If you have any questions, please reach out to Vivian Waid or the church office. Welcome back!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Each Saturday @ 9am the men gather at Mt Si Golf Course 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.

THIRSTY FOR THEOLOGY

This group meets to discuss various theological topics. This is a low key group that welcomes open minds and hearts. We tend to laugh a lot and rarely get to an answer outside of our grounding in Christ and his abundant grace and mercy. Please bring a beverage of choice to the gathering. We meet at the parsonage next to the church. Reach out to Pastor with any questions.

Our next gathering is on **Thursday, May 12th @ 7pm**

Topic of conversation: Luther's Two Kingdom Theology (don't know what it is, that's ok! We'll learn together!)



COUNCIL REPORT

Greetings from your council as we move into spring. Hopefully the weather will start to warm up and we can begin planting gardens and enjoy other outdoor activities.

Council has been watching our finances closely. Our bank balance as of March 31, 2022 is \$73,182. For the first three months of 2022 our contributions have been \$42,318 compared to \$44,275 in 2021. This is a decrease in giving of \$1,957. Our expenditures for the first three months of 2022 have been \$46,055 compared to \$42,601 in 2021. This is an increase of \$3,454 because we did not have a secretary to pay last year and all of our gatherings were either virtual or outdoors which reduced our utility costs. The bottom line is, last year we had a net income of \$1,674 for the first three months while this year we have a net loss of \$3,737. If we continue at this rate our net loss for the year will be \$14,948.

On April 16th we had a good turnout for our property clean-up day. The eave gutters were cleaned out, the buildings were power washed, the flower beds were weeded, and the hedges were all trimmed. Thanks to everyone that turned out.

As I mentioned last month council approved the purchase of a defibrillator. We have placed a purchase order through the Red Cross. Due to a shortage of computer chips and delays in shipping it may take three to four months before our unit arrives. Once we receive the unit we will schedule CPR and defibrillator training through the Red Cross.

On May 9th the Eastside Cluster of our synod will be holding a leadership conference at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Bellevue. The purpose of the conference is to share information on the activities, needs and wants of each congregation. We will be looking for opportunities to team with other churches to fulfill our missions. Attending for Mt. Si will be Pastor Krista, Jack Boller, Ed Benson, Dave Spurling, and John Keiser.

For concerns or questions about facilities and programs please contact a council member.
Jack Boller

Mt Si Financial Summary

Jan-Mar Budget =
\$50,008
Jan-Mar Giving =
\$42,318
Jan-Feb Exp. =
\$46,055
net income/loss =
-\$3,737

*since we print the newsletter prior to the end of the current month, the newsletter reporting will always be one month behind.

Ways to Give

If you purchase from Amazon:

1. Set up Amazon Smile
2. Select Mount Si Lutheran as a beneficiary.

We will receive a percentage as a donation from Amazon to Mt Si.
See our website for links and more info.

Make a gift online through our website:
www.mtsilutheran.org/onlinegiving

Thank you for your continued generosity.

-Treasurer

*“You show me
the path of
life. In your
presence
there is full-
ness of joy”
Ps. 16*

NEXT Craft Day for Children and Youth

Sunday June 5th

11:30am-1pm at the parsonage

Lunch and crafts will be provided.

Let Pastor Krista or John know if you wish to attend.



SUNDAY Children and Youth Education

FIRST Sunday of each month
10:45-11:30

Questions? Please talk to John Grebe or Courtney Adams



FAMS

(Faith Adventures at Mt. Si)

Wednesday, May 18th

6:30-8PM

Our elementary and middle school program meets once each month.

We include games, crafts, snacks, and scripture lessons for a fun filled evening. Sign-up ahead of each night on our website at: <https://www.mtsilutheran.org/fams>

We hope to see you here!



Church Helper by Kaelynn

It is so fun to help out at church! Basically, you tell them what you would like up do and they help you do it. Some things I help out with are reading passages, plays songs, be acolyte, and be an usher. Those are all things we can do to help.

You arrive a little early to practice what you're supposed to do. As the church service starts, you sit in your pew and wait for your time. When it is time to go up you walk up to the front to go your job. It is super fun and joyful to know I am helping out the church!

If you want to help out, kids or adults, let Pastor Krista or John or my Mom know.

VBS DETAILS: July 24-28 will be here before you know it, as quick as two shakes of a lamb's tail. Registration is open on our website (www.mtsilutheran.org/vbs) We will have a cap of 50 kids, so please invite your friends to register early!

We are looking for volunteers for a variety of roles. If interested, please reach out to Courtney or John for details. We will be asking you for a background check, so we hope to get connected with you as soon as possible.

We are also seeking to borrow decorations related to tropical islands. If you have anything to lend, please let Courtney Adams

FAITH FORMATION

During Easter I often reflect on the limitless possibilities that God has given us. Jesus has portrayed the Kingdom of God as being just, built on equity and equality for all. Often this tends to be contrary to what we experience on earth. Our systemic desire to compete and gain power diminishes our ability to be compassionate and results in cognitive dissonance. The greatness of the Easter story is the ability to overcome death. Death seems to be very final and for the most part it is fearsome. It is out of our control, but we can find great relief in our faith that Jesus has given us the gift of forgiveness and eternal life. Even the smallest effort to step aside from doing evil is a huge victory over evil! Each time we are successful at receiving God's grace we should celebrate this victory. In our culture it seems, at times, to be easier to condemn poor behavior than to honor good behavior. We are constantly bombarded with images and stories in the media of all that is wrong in the world. We must remember to express our gratitude for all that has been done for us by the heavenly hosts. Opening our hearts to life rather than worrying about death will always be good for our soul!

It is with these desires that we create experiences for our children and youth as they grow in their faith struggling with their Christian values in contrast with the worldly ones. Remember to greet our children and youth with open hearts. Help them to understand how much community means to you and how in our darkest hours community helps us to get through the hard times. We hope you will join us for some of the upcoming activities which will help to encourage our children and youth to foster a strong sense of community.

John Grebe, Faith Formation Director

Vacation Bible School



**Reserve the dates:
July 24-28**

6-8pm
*Experience a
tropical island getaway!*

Registration is on our website:

[https://www.mtsilutheran.org/
vbs](https://www.mtsilutheran.org/vbs)

GAME NIGHT

Friday, May 13

**All ages are welcome
for a fun Game Night!**

Are you feeling lucky?

Come try your luck on Friday the 13th. Bring a favorite board game or just come ready to play. From 6-9pm, pizza provided, feel free to bring snacks for later in the evening.

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 John Grebe know.

FAMS Fun by Annie

We started out in Luther's Lounge and played. Then we opened eggs that had things in them to represent the death of Jesus. After that we prayed. Then we made croissants with a marshmallow inside. When we baked them the marshmallow was gone, just like Jesus was gone from his tomb. We played and then our parents picked us up.

MAY
BIRTHDAYS



- Tom Chase 1st
- David Wilkerson 1st
- John Keiser 4th
- Alex Adams 8th
- Jenna Rhyne 9th
- Ava Lee 13th
- Paul Ritzenthale 20th
- Jim Garhart 30th

MAY
ANNIVERSARIES



- Mike & Kim Buckmaster 1st
- Charles & Pat Thomas 19th
- John & Anne Keiser 22nd
- Ed & Janey Benson 26th

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

QUILTING GROUP
meets on
Monday mornings
9:30-11:00



All are welcome to come and help tie quilts together with yarn as a group on Mondays and/or make quilt tops and bottoms at home between each Monday meeting. We appreciate any donations of any size sheets or fabric at least 10 1/2 inches wide. Happy quilting! The quilts go to Lutheran World Relief and go to disaster areas all over the world.

Thrivent members are encouraged to check out a new bulletin board located in the hallway between fellowship hall and the main offices.

The bulletin board lists upcoming activities and events that could benefit from the use of a Thrivent action team. There is a space to fill in your name if you wish to donate one of your action teams to support a particular event.



Thank you for sharing this gift with our community!
Questions? Contact Courtney or Pastor



DAY OF SERVICE
May 14th

Mt Si and Sammamish Hills are working together on a Day of Service activity. We look forward to working with our congregation and friends!

We will be working on the playground area and some gardens at the location in NB. We need to fill 2 shifts with 10 people each at 10am-12 and from 12pm-2.

Sign up here:
[2022 Day of Service: Encompass NW \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.encompassnw.com/signupgenius.com)

Or Call Pastor Krista to sign-up

EAST KING COUNTY CLUSTER UPDATE

Did you know the Mt Si Lutheran is part of the East King County Cluster of ELCA congregations? Others in our cluster include Sammamish Hills, St. Luke's, St. Andrew's, Cross of Christ, Holy Cross and Our Savior Lutheran.

The Pastors and Deacons of these congregations meet each week for text study and once a month to discuss and share ministry ideas. One desire that each congregation expressed is to work more closely in shared mission and ministry.

With that in mind, each congregation was asked to find 3-5 leaders to attend a Cluster Collaboration event on May 21st. Jack Boller, Ed Benson, Dave Spurling and John Keiser have agreed to attend the event.

They will share what we are doing at Mt Si and hear what others are doing and see where there may be common ground and interest for shared mission and ministry. They will share what they've learned at the May 22nd Adult Study!

- Pastor Krista

The Sunday flower chart is in the Narthex

(area outside
sanctuary)

You are welcome
to sign-up for a
Sunday to
provide one vase
of flowers for the
altar.

*"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone."
Philippians 4:4-5*

MAY SUNDAY LESSONS

May 1

Frist Lesson: Psalm 30

Gospel Lesson: John 21:1-19

May 8

First Lesson: Psalm 23

Gospel Lesson: John 10: 22-30

May 15

First Lesson: Acts 11: 1-18

Gospel Lesson: John 13: 31-35

May 22

First Lesson: Psalm 67

Gospel Lesson: John 14: 23-29

May 29

First Lesson: Acts 16: 16-34

Gospel Lesson: John 17: 20-26

Welcome, Pr. Herb Shao!



He will be our guest
preacher and
teacher on May 15th.

Pastor Shao works
on Synod Staff as
one of our Directors
for Evangelical Mission.

He works with our Asian congregations and ministry sites as well as implement the NWWA Synod Living Legacy Initiative. Together he and Deacon Johnson will work with new ministry sites and current congregations in the area of vitality. We are grateful to have this dynamic duo serving together in this important ministry area.

Pastor Shao comes to the NWWA Synod with a myriad of skills and experiences, most notably he just completed 20 years as a chaplain in the US Air Force. He and his wife, Akiyo, are delighted to be back in the NW Washington Synod. Together they have two young adult children.



Faith & Everyday Life Devotions for 2022

Thank you to our friends at [Lutheran Counseling Network](#) for sharing this collection of monthly devotionals for 2022. (and for the many ways they walk alongside members of our communities!)

Find it here: [Faith and Everyday Life Devotions](#)

BISHOP'S LETTER

May 2022

I recently watched a documentary series that talked about bodies. In this documentary it was pointed out how in our society certain bodies are acceptable and “beautiful” (usually thin, young, female, white, etc.) and other bodies are not (usually fat, old, disabled, disfigured, etc.) One of the suggestions in this documentary to counteract society’s shaming culture about bodies is to stand in front of a mirror and look at your body. And, as you look at your body, to name, out loud, the positive things that you see in the mirror. For five minutes. Five. Minutes. This is a long time. And, to be honest, I have a much easier time naming my body’s deficits than attributes. Perhaps you can relate to this.

I think that we have the same problem when it comes to “church bodies.” Just as individual bodies are critiqued, church bodies are critiqued in this society, as well. A church body that has 800 bodies in it seems “sexier” than a church body that has 40 bodies in it. A church body that has younger bodies in it seems more attractive than a church body that has older bodies in it. A church body that has X, Y, or Z seems better than a church body that has R, P, or G (you fill in the letters). We have narrowed what it means to be beautiful and viable in the church much like we have with people in society - and if your particular context is different, it is easy to become tired and overwhelmed. It is easy to feel overlooked and shamed. It is easy, quite simply, to be discouraged.

But what if we expanded what it means to be the body of the church? What if – much like beauty standards need to do – we embraced a diversity of sizes and shapes? What if we truly incorporated what God does constantly – create and shape and grow and nurture a multitude of church bodies for the sake of the good news of Jesus?

I mean ... just as God never intended for the evergreen to be the only tree on earth (as beautiful as our state tree is), God never intended for one body to be the perfect body (as beautiful as each body is). The same goes for our church bodies. Think if we truly embraced the young and the old, the small and the large, the variety and multi-faceted ways of being church – including celebrating all that we do and are for the sake of the Gospel.

What if we listed all of the ministries that we participate in and that we partner with others outside of the church? What if we looked at the ministries that last a month or a year as important as those that last for decades? What if we said “yes” to ideas that seem different from what we’ve always done? What if we expanded church beyond worship on Sunday morning to ... what? What would you say? What do you envision? How is your imagination sparked through the Holy Spirit?

I encourage you to do the same exercise that is suggested from that documentary I mentioned above – only hold the mirror to our church body. What are you seeing and experiencing as attributes? What do you love about the church body that you participate in? What is beautiful? What formative experience is deep within you that you hold onto and would like to share with others? What do you see as a possibility beyond what you have been doing? What do you see as an obstacle that perhaps, upon closer inspection, could be a passageway? How has God gifted your community? Where is God’s Spirit nudging you now?

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— Jews or Greeks, enslaved or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:12-

13

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee