

Lent

Mt Si Lutheran - February 2021

Mini GOOD - NEWSletter

Grace and peace to you,

As we approach one year of online worship, zoom Bible Studies and meetings, modified outdoor gatherings and cancelled plans I find I am humbled, a bit overwhelmed and endlessly hopeful. As a congregation we were asked to adapt in a split second and we did. We took our call to love our neighbors seriously and opted to follow the recommendations of our national, state and local leaders to keep everyone as safe as possible. As options arise for us to meet together, leadership is dedicated to your well-being so that, when we do meet again, it will be in a way that allows everyone to safely return.

What we thought would be a few months has lengthened into many months. It has not been easy—yet—as we partnered with Sammamish Hills Lutheran we were given the gift of new relationships with siblings in Christ just down the road. We were given the gift of shared worship ministry that is reaching far beyond our walls to people around the nation and the world. We were given the gift of sharing worship with shut-ins in a way we never could before. We were given the gift of reconnecting with each other one-on-one. We were given the gift of caring for each other and our neighbors in simple ways by getting groceries, or mowing a lawn or raking leaves or making a phone call or making masks or...the list goes on...Our Lord has given us the gift of inviting people to worship and Bible Study without the barrier of time or location. I know it has been hard, but God has not left us empty. There are endless ways our Lord is providing us opportunity to follow and be filled with life and love and hope. I pray, this Lent, you can give yourself moments of reflection to see the gifts extended to you by the Spirit at this time. Receive those gifts—they are freely given. We have been forced to adapt in challenging ways this last year—yet—The Spirit never stopped working, God never stopped pouring out grace and Jesus never stopped forgiving, redeeming and setting us free. Thanks be to God! - P. K.

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

Etta Katocs— Feb. 01

Dave Spurling—Feb. 12

Edwin Benson—Feb. 02

Annabelle Cassidy—Feb. 13

Marge Bliss—Feb. 02

Kaiya Rhyne—Feb. 14

Marlin Olson—Feb. 09

Jenny Lynch—Feb. 19

Ethan Yocom—Feb. 09

Lindsey Flanagan—Feb. 20

Jim Flanagan—Feb. 10

Toren Rhyne—Feb. 23



February Anniversaries:



Don Jr. & Brenda Davis—Feb. 08

Paul & Laura Ritzenthaler—Feb. 09

Brent & Dana Koukol—Feb. 15

Tom & Inge Burnside—Feb. 21

If we missed including you in the Monthly Birthdays or Anniversaries and you wish for names/dates to be honored, please contact the office.

****Belated birthday wishes for January:**

Emma Miller—Jan. 03

Ellie Haycox—Jan. 13



NEW ADULT STUDY

The Manifesto of the King
(Title by G. Campbell Morgan)

This series is five video sessions on the Sermon on the Mount. The beginning session covers the occasion, method, and nature of the Sermon on the Mount. Then there are three sessions covering a single text from each of the

chapters in Matthew; five, six, and seven. Finally the concluding session is a relevant challenge to us as Jesus's disciples today.

Matthew concluded his coverage of the Sermon on the Mount by recording that the multitudes were astonished at Jesus's teaching. What caused them to be astonished will also cause us to be astonished!

We will follow the writings of G. Campbell Morgan. (1863-1945) Morgan's commentary on the Sermon on the Mount was written in the 1920's and is available in full length on the Internet.

Our method of study will enable us to hear what they heard. We will examine what was said (content) and how it is said (structure).

The Sermon on the Mount was Jesus' introductory instruction to his disciples about the Kingdom of God. The Sermon on the Mount is our "job description" for following the first disciple who heard it!

How to Access the Bible Study

The videos for this study will be available on our website.

You can watch them anytime, just click education tab and scroll to Sermon On The Mount link

Thank you to Marlin Olson who put this study together for us!

Parish Ed. and CYF goes virtual!

Faith Formation packets are available on the first Sunday of the month during drive up communion. These consist of lesson plans for bible lessons each week including craft or activities. Videos can be found online or through our web page: <https://www.mtsilutheran.org/education>

Select the folder for the month you want to explore and then select the file for the Sunday that correlate with the lessons.

Spring and summer planning is underway with limited understanding of what the future holds. We will be looking at the following in July and August:

- Camping: we will be taking steps to organize a trip for this summer with the limited information we have. We will be providing a sign-up soon.
- Servant Trip / Event: our hope is to provide an opportunity to serve others while growing together. The trip or event will be developed over time as we gain information regarding COVID.
- VBS: Either virtual or in-person or some combination there of...we continue to seek faith formation opportunities for our children and youth.

With state requirements and uncertainty due to COVID 19 we continue to seek flexible ways of doing activities. All activities are subject to change as we receive new guidelines and information.

Council President's Update

Hello Mount Si Lutherans! My hope is that this newsletter finds all of you in good spirits and looking to the joy and hope 2021 brings. As we enter into this period Council is working at ways to grow our ministries and fulfill our mission statement, "serving, reaching out, growing in grace". One way is to focus on you. Some of the activities coming up are live streaming service during Lent; CYF building activity kits for neighborhood distribution, and delivering care packages the week of Ash Wednesday.

By now you should have received a phone call from your Council representative asking how you are doing and if you need anything from the church. Are you receiving the monthly newsletter and the mid-week News from the Pews? If not please call the church office and the staff will make it happen. And, if you haven't done so, please consider sending in your 2021 pledge card. Additionally, we received a generous donation for health supplies and if anyone should be in need please contact Nancy Flannigan or Janey Benson. Some of the supplies available are cough syrup, Clorox wipes, paper towels, and hand sanitizer.

As was mentioned during the January Annual Congregational meeting the church applied for a second loan through the CARES Act legislation - Paycheck Protection Program. We are waiting for Umpqua Bank to review the loan application for

approval. And, as was the case for the first PPP loan, if the second loan is approved we will also apply for the full forgiveness of that loan.

We are putting the final touches on the agenda for the annual council retreat this month. This year the retreat will be, as expected, virtual over the Zoom platform. The main items for the retreat will be to amend the constitution so it lines up with the ELCA and NWWA Synod, discuss where we are with the COVID pandemic health restrictions, and continue working through the discernment project.

Lastly, Ambur Brown is no longer working at the church. We are truly thankful for her management of the office these past two plus years and wish her well. Sheila Rodriguez is filling in until we can fill the position. Office hours remain Mon-Thurs. from 10am-12pm.

Thank you for participating in the January Annual Congregational meeting. If you were unable to attend the zoom annual congregational meeting, and would like a hard copy of the 2020 Mt Si Lutheran Church Annual Report, please contact the church office and they will be happy to provide you a copy. It is a great way to hear about all the wonderful things our ministries have done in the past year and what is planned for 2021. Thank you to those who volunteered to attend the NWWA Synod Assembly virtual gathering on May 15, 2021. By vote, we approved Jack Boller, Rick Rodriguez, Dana Koukol, and Cassandra Koukol. During the annual meeting it was evident that our church is vibrant, healthy, and resilient. And, your continued prayers are working! Be certain Pastor Krista, staff, and council have you in their prayers as well. I am excited about our possibilities and look forward to working with all of you to meet our goals. Please consider volunteering in the many ministries currently in full swing. If you would like to contact me please call/text at (206) 384-1042 or email me at rsnmrod@mac.com.

With God's peace and in Christ's love,

Rick Rodriguez

Sunday Worship for February—10am

10am On-line—See website for link to FB or YouTube

www.mtsilutheran.org

Feb. 7th—Mark 1:29-39

Feb. 14th—Mark 9:2-9

Feb. 21st—Mark 1:9-15

Feb. 28th—Mark 8:31-38

1st Sunday of Every Month Drive-thru Communion - 11:30a-12:30p

You can also pick-up your Education Kits, along with monthly newsletter and devotionals!

February Bishop's Message

Dear Beloveds, There were many images that horrified me during the Washington DC riots. The violence, cruelty, anger, and destruction were terrible.

One image that made me both angry and almost nauseous was the photograph of the person holding up a bright yellow sign with the words, "Jesus Saves." To be clear, it is not that I object to these words. I strongly believe that Jesus saves. But in this particular case, when one holds up a sign bearing these beautiful words but participating in mob violence, it becomes a mockery. Horrifically, there were other Christian symbols present that day. There was a giant wooden cross outside the Capitol. One man carried a Christian flag into an evacuated legislative chamber. Christian music blared all day from loud speakers. It was disgusting to see sacred words and items suddenly used to foment violence. It was sickening, reckless, and horrifying. It was profane. The insurrection on the Capitol broke the first, second, fifth, seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth commandments. Any action that breaks one commandment is wrong. An action that breaks the majority of the commandments is beyond alarming. (And I could actually make an argument that this insurrection also broke the third and fourth commandments, too. This only leaves the sixth unbroken.)



In the ELCA social message on **Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy** we read,

ELCA social teaching holds that all residents of the United States have a responsibility to make government function well—not to abandon our democracy but to engage it in a spirit of robust civic duty. For Lutherans, this responsibility is lived out as a calling from God, expressed in the discipleship described in our baptismal promises. (*Read the full message here: www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Government.)*

This social message states that as residents of the United States and as followers of Jesus, we all have a responsibility for government to function well. We are called to be a part of civic society. We are called to vote. We are called to be civil servants. We are called to speak out against injustice. We are called to march against hatred. We are called to peacefully protest when those in power act in ways that promote prejudice or bigotry or discrimination. We are called to speak truth. For those of us with privilege, we are especially called to examine ourselves, to listen to others, and to speak for those without voice. We are called to act in ways where God's love is paramount – moving towards true peace, true equity, and true reconciliation. In short, we are called to live into our baptismal identity of forgiven and beloved children of God by loving and caring for God, our neighbor, and our world.

I encourage congregations and ministry sites to study the social message mentioned above. There are also other social messages and social statements found on the ELCA website to further conversation and action as we continue to learn how to be disciples of Jesus by engaging in the world. Perhaps this could be something that you and others do during Lent. But please don't stop at reading, studying, and talking about it. Let us move forward with action. Our faith calls us to stand next to the oppressed and forgotten in faith, knowing that, as we are loved by God, we are called to love our neighbor.

I am appalled at what happened on January 6, 2021. As a citizen of the United States and, even more so, as a Christian, I am devastated. But I have hope. I have hope that out of this hatred, love will emerge. I have hope that those who have been fearful will gain courage. I have hope that we, siblings, beloveds in Christ, will join together and reclaim the words, "Jesus saves." I have hope that we as a nation will form a more perfect union. I have hope – not because I'm an idealist but because I'm a follower of Jesus – that out of this death resurrection will come. In God's Spirit of Hope, Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

Lent Special Services Worship Schedule

All services will show on Mt Si Lutheran's Page via Facebook Live at 6pm. Once complete the videos will be uploaded to YouTube for anyone to watch. Links will be provided on our website: www.mtsilutheran.org

Feb. 17th, Ash Wednesday—6pm

Wed, Feb. 24th—6pm

Wed, March 3rd—6pm

Wed, March 10th—6pm

Wed, March 17th—6pm

Wed, March 24th—6pm

April 1st, Maundy Thurs.—6pm

April 2nd, Good Friday—6pm

Outdoor Mid-Week Lent Opportunity

Lent worship begins on Feb 17th with Ash Wednesday Services.

We will offer a Facebook Live service at 6pm. The video will then be posted to YouTube so more people have access.

We will also have an outdoor prayer experience using luminarias for everyone along with an imposition of ashes station. We are using the symbolism of the Luminaria as a way to reflect on how the Jews followed God's light, a pillar of flame, into the wilderness for 40 years. This activity will be open to the congregation and public after the service between 6:30pm and 7:30pm.

Each Wednesday following Ash Wednesday between 6:30pm and 7:30pm

you are invited to stop by the church and participate in a time of guided prayer. We will provide slips of colored paper and a way to tack the prayers to a cross. At the end of Lent we will be burning these as part of the 7pm Good Friday gathering. Also, since we cannot gather for soup and bread together, we are inviting you to bring a can of soup each Wednesday when you stop by for prayer. These cans of soup will be given to the Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank.

Pastor Krista will also offer an online prayer service via Facebook Live each Wednesday at 6pm. Videos will then be uploaded to YouTube.

Maundy Thursday

You can watch a simple Maundy Thursday worship service on our Mt Si Lutheran Facebook page at 6pm.

Good Friday

You can watch a simple Good Friday worship service on our Mt Si Lutheran Facebook page at 6pm

You are invited to participate in self-guided outdoor prayer stations from 10am-6pm

At 7pm please stop by for a special outdoor prayer opportunity with campfires and special appearances by Peter and other Biblical Characters.



conceptdesign from Pixabay

40-40-40

Lenten Hunger Walk

February 17 - April 3, 2021

40 Days. 40 Miles. \$40

Sign up at
ELCA-SES.org
TODAY!



Lent Care Kits

Are on the way!

Council members will be delivering Lent Care kits to each household between Feb 14-16

Want to give a bag to a neighbor? Let the office know and we can make some extra!



Need a Prayer Shawl? Want to make one?

If you or someone you know would appreciate a prayer shawl, please contact the office. Our knitters are still making these beautiful shawls to bring peace and comfort to those in need. Want to make one? Reach out to Leslie H for details! We always welcome new knitters and crocheters!

School Supply Donation

Mt SI has been asked to provide school supplies to classrooms as students return to school. We are asking for cash/check donations at this time. Please write "school supplies" in the memo line! THANK YOU!!! - Questions, Call Janey Benson



February Devotion

From our Siblings in Christ at the Lutheran Counseling Network

Have you ever struggled with highly resisting doing what makes most sense for you to do because you either don't want to or believe that you can't do it? I know a lot about that. When I was about to head off to college, I had made one vocational decision, I would not become a pastor. Math was easy for me in school, so I would become an engineer or a math teacher. Eight years later, I was ordained as a Lutheran Pastor and eleven years after that I started what I believe was my real calling to be a Pastoral Counselor.

God's spirit who lives in me and in all of us kept leading me in other directions. This is very much like the struggle that Moses was having with God, when God met him in the Burning Bush. Moses had become well educated and trained in the best Egyptian schools and was the very best person to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt.

BUT, Moses was very resistant to God and came up with a reason that he simply was not capable of taking on such a huge assignment. He had an impediment in his speech that was so bad that he feared the people would not be able to understand him.

God reassured Moses at the very height of his anxiety by telling him that He would be with him and help him with his speech, tell him what to say and the ability to be understood. To me, the promise of God to Moses and the promise of Jesus to be with us always are the greatest reassurances that we can have. The fear of abandonment and the shame of our incompetence can be so strong. Knowing that we are not alone, that we are loved and that we are capable of what God has put before us can help us to go forward each day. We can be confident that we are moving in the direction that God is leading and helping us.

Written by a staff member of Lutheran Counseling Network



<https://www.lutherancounseling.net/>