



August 2024 GOODNEWSletter

Mt Si Lutheran Church
www.mtsilutheran.org

Grace and peace to you!

It is good to be back with you all as we partner in ministry together for the sake of the Gospel. I am grateful for the time I had to step back from the responsibilities of pastoral leadership at Mt Si . I return thankful for all the volunteers who stepped up to take on my workload and for our cluster clergy who shared the Gospel with you each week as they led worship. To all on the Sabbatical Team: Lisa S., Dave S., Jack B. & Erica H. - THANK YOU for all your hard work and many hours of additional labor for this community of faith.

In the weeks ahead I would ask that you share your experience of this Sabbatical time with me, a member of the Sabbatical Team or a council member. We'd appreciate hearing about what went well? what could have gone better? what was missed? what did you enjoy?

Overall, I pray this time was as much a blessing for you all as it was for me. I have many stories to share when the time comes. Some I will share in sermons or via the newsletters. Other stories I will share during a special coffee hour in the fall.



This month I want to focus on the photo included with this article. It may be hard to see, but this is a granite baptismal font, 2+ feet across from the 12th century. The bowl is hand carved and a coil of stone was left in the middle of the font. Two eyes are carved into the end of the coil that are barely visible today after centuries of use. This font can be

found in Spain in small coastal town. I saw many fonts like this walking the Camino de Santiago except, none of the others had this coil in the middle. I was drawn to the font and was fascinated to learn from our guide that coil represented a snake meant to symbolize the earliest story of sin in the Bible. We witness humanities first decision to ignore God's command in the Garden of Eden when the snake convinces Adam and Eve that it is worth eating the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil in order to "be like God, knowing the difference between good and evil."

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Special points of interest

- *Back page: Message from Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee*
- *75th Anniversary*6 & 7



**MOUNTAIN VALLEY
PRESCHOOL**

M-F from 9-1pm

July 1 - Aug 23 Summer Camp



Mountain Valley
Preschool
Where a Love For Learning is Created

Joy

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 in-
cluded please let Kathleen
know.:*

mtsi.assistant@gmail.com

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

continued from front page

So why is this image showing up in the baptismal font? Well, our core understanding of baptism includes the language of dying, as Jesus did, and rising, as Jesus did, to new life. Scripture talks about baptism as drowning our old self and rising to life in Christ. The snake in the font is a reminder that Jesus has defeated sin, death and the devil. Seeing the snake covered over by the baptismal water reminds that Jesus, by his own death and resurrection, has reconciled us to God and set us free from our sin. Water is a powerful symbol in our faith and the sacrament of baptism gifts us with God's unending promise that we are clothed with Christ and marked with the cross of Christ forever. I don't know about you, but I need that reminder daily - multiple times a day if I'm honest! I forget so easily what Jesus has done for me, for us, for this world. Dipping my fingers into the waters of that font in Spain, with the snake looking up at me, I had to smile and in my heart of hearts say, "Thank you, Jesus! Thank you for setting me free!"

I don't know that you'll see a fake snake added to our baptismal font at church - I don't want to scare anyone! However, I hope you can find your own way to remember your baptism - to remember the promises you have in Christ. Amen!

Peace

P. K.

July Council Report

Greetings from your Church Council!

Council met on 7/9/24. The Treasurer's report shows a monthly loss in June of (\$13,151). After you adjust the six months or year to date number and back out the designated donations, the church is showing a profit of \$3,437. Or an average of \$859 per month.

The defibrillator unit is being set up across from the downstairs elevator in the church. This will provide quick emergency access from the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. Training was provided on Sunday 7/28 and in the future, as needed.

Serving in Christ's grace, Dave Spurling



Mountain Valley Preschool has officially completed the first school year!

It was a successful year full of learning, growth, connecting



with others and many, many smiles. As we said goodbye to the children moving on to kindergarten, we are eager and excited to have new friends join our program the Fall.



Thank you to Mt Si Lutheran Church for being so gracious and allowing our program to not only use their building space, but to create an outside area for the children to thrive! It has been a joy to serve our growing community in this way. Cheers to many more wonderful years!

Ms. Keeley

Cluster Outdoor Worship Sunday, August 25th

Worship will be at 10:00am

at Ebright Creek Park

1317 212th Ave SE, Sammamish, WA 98075



What to bring:

Please bring your own lawn chair or let Pastor Krista know if you would like the church to bring you one.

After worship we will share in a meal together. Please bring a pot luck dish or salad to share.

Plates, flatware and water will be provided.

Accessibility:

The park has a short paved pathway right to the picnic table and worship area.

There is handicap parking. If possible, try to carpool.

This year Sammamish Hills, Grace Chinese, Saint Andrews, Cross of Christ and Mt Si are participating in this shared outdoor worship! It is a joy to grow this worship each year!

Worship at Mt Si on the 25th?

For those who do not wish to attend the shared worship there will be an opportunity at 9:30am, here at Mt Si, for you to come for a brief, 20-30min spoken prayer service. This will be lead by a lay leader.

Questions? Please ask Pr. Krista.

AUGUST SUNDAY LESSONS

August 4

First Lesson:

Ephesians 4:1-16

Gospel Lesson:

John 6:24-35

August 11

First Lesson:

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Gospel Lesson:

John 6:35, 41-51

August 18

First Lesson:

Ephesians 5:15-20

Gospel Lesson:

John 6:51-58

August 25

CLUSTER WORSHIP

@ Ebright Park

First Lesson:

Ephesians 6:10-20

Gospel Lesson:

John 6:56-69

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.



Next Blood Drive: September 17th

Upcoming Blood Drive: December 10th

If you are
interested in
helping with the
blood drive
please
reach out to
Rick Rodriguez.



See highlights of this year's VBS
in this video:
<https://vimeo.com/992430953>

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

If you would like an article to
appear in an upcoming
newsletter please send all
information to
Kathleen, mtsi.assistant@gmail.com
no later than the 17th of
each month for the following
month's newsletter.



Garden of Giving

The Garden of Giving is off to a great start. We've already donated peas, beans, zucchini, lettuce, kale, and herbs to the Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank. The PVC watering system that everyone helped install at the last God's Work Our Hands Sunday is working well and is saving a lot of water because the water is more focused on the plants. Thanks to everyone who has been helping with harvesting and watering.

Let Terry know if you would like to help

Building and Grounds has scheduled a day to power wash the church buildings and parsonage on Aug 23, 2024. A commercial lift will be onsite. We are in need of 4 gas power washers and volunteers to operate the machines.



Additionally, the following day, Aug 24, 2024, will be a day of yard cleanups and lawn maintenance. Volunteers are needed to trim the bushes and hedges, and clean out the flower beds. If you are able to volunteer please bring your gardening gloves and tools you intend to use. The church has limited tools that will be made available.

Both days will start at 8AM and conclude in the afternoon. Rick Rodriguez is the organizer. Please reach out to him with any questions or additional information.



We will be doing a blessing of the backpacks August 18 and filling the last of our backpacks as our supplies continue to come in.

Backpack distribution will be August 20 and 21st.

Please chat with Erica or Janey if you have any questions.

North Bend Farmer's Market Every Thursday through September 12

Check your calendars and sign-up on the clipboard in the Fellowship Hall for a shift to help with crafts, greet the community, and share flyers for upcoming church events.
2 shifts available – 3-5:30pm and 5:30-8pm

Sabbatical Planning Team Update

It's a wrap!

Great job everyone, we made it through Pastor Krista's 3 month Sabbatical and are thrilled to have her back. The team met with Pastor Krista on 7/21 to share experiences, new processes, and plans for moving forward. Part of our goal with Sabbatical was to establish new routines, and have various church members pick up some duties that Pastor Krista owned by default after we came back from Covid closures, so she can focus on areas she loves - like leading the creation of meaningful, creative, and wonderful worship services.

We're happy to report the following changes will continue with her return:

1. Lisa will continue to monitor the Secretary email address (mtsilutheran@mtsilutheran.org) and dole out emails where they need to go.
2. Kathleen will continue preparing the Bulletins, Lector materials, Presider materials, and Proclaim slideshows. She also will continue to take ownership on the content and creation of the weekly NFTP and monthly Newsletter items.
3. The weekly process for Bulletins, Lector materials, Presider materials, and Proclaim slideshow will continue to include Lisa and Erica in the established review cadence.
4. Erica will continue to come into the office to be the primary printer of bulletins and newsletters.
5. The group will continue to support Pastor Krista with ongoing needs on a quarterly basis as we evolve into the A-Team (the Administrative Management Team)
6. Dave will take on opening the church each Sunday morning by 9am. Thank you, Tom and Inge, for taking care of this piece during Sabbatical, the baton is passed!

There is still one area where additional support is needed, so please reach out to Pastor Krista or Lisa if you can help with the following:

Folks to commit to a particular Sunday each month for Worship Assistant duties. We're finding it's still a weekly struggle to fill the roles needed for the following week, so we're hoping if individuals/couples/families commit to specific roles on specific Sundays, that will mean fewer last minute adds.

Thanks to everyone who stepped up (and offered grace!) during Pastor's Sabbatical, and please continue to share your feedback as we embark on our next chapter here at Mt. Si Lutheran!

- Lisa S.

The Synod is once again
hosting a
Fall Youth Retreat
for middle and high school students

Mark your calendars for the
weekend of **November 8-10**

This year the retreat will be held
at Camp Casey in Coupeville,
Whidbey Island, WA



Please

**Make a gift online
through our website:**
[www.mtsilutheran.org/
onlinegiving](http://www.mtsilutheran.org/onlinegiving)

Thank you for your
continued generosity.

- Treasurer

Month of June we have a loss
of (\$13,151)

Net Loss for the first six
months :

-2,903.41

Less: Designated Donation

-7,706.12

Memorial Donation

-8,584.26

Add flooring paid

22,631.75

Net income for the first six
months:

3,437.96

Avg Net Income per month:

859.49

**AUGUST
BIRTHDAYS**



Pat Palmer 1st
Rick Rodriguez 2nd
Katherine Yocom 3rd
Grace Culver 5th
Rosemary Hanson 5th
Sydney Yocom 5th
Erica Haycox 7th
Debbie Jones 10th
Joyce Hibma 13th
Jonathan Spurling 13th
Laura Ritzenthaler 16th
Virginia Williams 17th
Sue Oster 25th
Nick Adams 27th
Ralph Freeman 27th
Paul Dukich 31st

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

*Mount Si Lutheran Church
is celebrating 75 years
of 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**

We are getting closer to finalizing some of the details for the event on Sept. 14th and we would welcome your input. Thank you to the sub-committee leaders who have been working hard to help make it a wonderful celebration!

**The next 75th anniversary planning committee meeting
will be Aug. 19th at 11am**

There will be opportunities to help closer to the Sept. dates. Please watch for information in August on how you can help.

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

- September 12, 2009 - Rev. G. Mark Griffith accepts the call and begins his ministry at Mount Si Lutheran Church. (first Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009)
- September 12-13, 2009 - Mount Si celebrates 60th Anniversary
- October 11 2009 - Rev. Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop, installed Rev. G. Mark Griffith as the pastor of Mount Si Lutheran Church.
- April 18, 2010 - Mount Si Community Garden completed and after a garden blessing, we began planting the first seeds. Contest held to appropriately name the garden "Garden of Giving" as the bulk of the produce harvested will go directly to the Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank.
- Family Mission Trip to Colville, WA
- SnoValley Teen Closet begins at MSLC to distribute clothing to teens in the valley as an outreach program as there was a great need for teens and families in the community.
- As part of Global Missions, MSLC has been a partner with Team Russia for years and Pr. Mark was able to meet and host Bishop Dietrich Brauer, Bishop of the ELC of European Russia and former pastor of our partner church in Gusev, Kaliningrad Russia and Pastor Lena Bondarenko, Acting Dean of the Central Deanery with Moscow. The beautiful artwork hung in the library was donated a few years ago by Salzburg Church, Gusev, Kaliningrad, our partner church in Russia.

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More highlights of Mt Si Lutheran Church's Rich History (cont'd):

- February 19, 2013 - Removal of steeple from former Calvary Lutheran Church in Ballard, WA and transported steeple safely to Mount Si Lutheran Church property. The steeple was stored until a platform base is built in order to erect the new steeple.
- June 4, 2013 - Following the installation of the steel platform frame, the new steeple was successfully positioned on top of Mount Si Lutheran Church. After the steeple was placed on the platform, the steel platform was covered with white vinyl siding to match the church siding.
- September 29, 2013 - Mount Si Lutheran Church had a steeple dedication and celebration. Special guests included the congregation from Calvary Lutheran Church which merged with Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church after Calvary Lutheran closed.
- Family Mission Trip to Lummi Nation, NW WA.
- June-Aug. 2015 – Pastor Mark Griffith takes sabbatical. Pastor Larry Thomas serves as Pastor during Pr. Mark's sabbatical.
- Nov. 2015—Jan. 2016 – MSLC hosts SnoValley Winter Shelter.
- April 24, 2016 - Pastor Mark Griffith accepted call to St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Bellevue, WA. Pr. Mark's last Sunday with farewell reception provided.
- May 15, 2016 – Pastor Larry Thomas, Interim Pastor, welcomed with blessing during worship and reception during coffee hour.
- Nov. 12, 2017 – Pastor Larry Thomas completes call process as Interim Pastor and Pastor Krista (Oppie) Johnson accepts call as new pastor at MSLC.



- Dec. 3, 2017 – Pastor Krista (Oppie) Johnson's first Sunday leading worship at MSLC.



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES



Shelley & Michael Harding 6th
 Dave & Debbie Spurling 7th
 Jim & Nancy Flanagan 12th
 Jeffrey & Valerie King 18th
 Terry & Courtney Adams 19th
 David & Lorraine Wilkerson 20th
 Marcus & Lesia Tiongson 26th
 Katherine & Nate Yocom 26th
 Mark & Julie Imsland 27th



**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.



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!

NEWS FROM THE PEWS AND/OR BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

If you would like an announce-
 ment to be in an upcoming NFTP
 and/or bulletin insert, please send
 all information to Kathleen no lat-
 er than Monday if you wish it to
 be included that week. Items re-
 ceived after Monday may not ap-
 pear until the following week.
 Please indicate if you wish the
 announcement to appear in NFTP,
 the Bulletin or both.

Martin Luther writes in the Small Catechism:

What then does 'daily bread' mean? Everything included in the necessities and nourishment for our bodies, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, farm, field, livestock, money, property, an upright spouse, upright children, upright members of the household, upright and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, decency, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like. (Small Catechism, Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer)



In May, the six bishops of Region One (this includes the synods of Northwest Washington, Southwestern Washington, Alaska, Oregon, Northwest Intermountain, and Montana) were asked by the Region One hunger teams to write a joint letter requesting Congress to re-authorize the federal Farm Bill and to not cut important funding. The six bishops agreed to write this letter. After it was written and signed, the ELCA Advocacy staff in Washington, DC hand-delivered it to the House and Senate Agriculture Committees' leaderships and to the Representatives in each of the synod's respective states.

In June, there was a zoom event for all the Lutherans in the six synods to learn more about the Farm Bill and advocate for its continuation. This event was sponsored by the Region One hunger ministry teams, ELCA Advocacy, and Faith Action Network (FAN). Different speakers shared information, conversation happened, and the opportunity to write letters to legislators occurred.

As you might know, the six synods have over 560 congregations and tens of thousands of Lutherans from the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming. These synods and states are not homogenous. The bishops are not homogenous. The congregations within each synod are not homogenous. The members of these congregations are not homogenous. We have differences of opinion at times, we have different priorities, we vote differently, we even shake our heads at things that don't make sense to us about one another.

And yet, in our diversity, we are also joined in the unity of Christ and the promises we have received. Deep in our bones, we know that we are saved by grace through faith. We hold fast to the truth that God loves us no matter what. We know this and trust this and hold this. And, because of this, together we are called out into the world - as followers of Jesus and as civic members of society.

We join together - over and over - to bring about change and protect the vulnerable. We come together beyond political difference because of what we have been promised and what we are called to do and to be. The example I've been using in this article is the Farm Bill. When we advocate for this bi-partisan Farm Bill, we are advocating for farmers, migrants, agricultural workers, Indigenous peoples, hungry children, the inclusion of those who have been historically excluded, and more.

But, of course, we come together far beyond this Farm Bill. We come together because God calls us to love others as God loves us. We work together for a just society. As German pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "Mere waiting and looking on is not Christian behavior. Christians are called to compassion and action, not in the first place by their own sufferings, but by the sufferings of their brothers and sisters, for whose sake Christ suffered." (A Testament to Freedom)

I am thankful and proud to be Lutheran because of all of you who feed and clothe, nourish and shelter, love and protect those who are the most vulnerable in this country and this world. It would take pages to list all the ways that you do this individually, in your congregations, in the synod, and in the wider church. Thank you for your advocacy and your care. There is, of course, more work to be done. And so let us together work towards the day when all may receive "daily bread."

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee / bishop@lutheransnw.org