



PASTOR'S NOTE

Blessings Dear Siblings in Christ,

Blessed Holy Week and Easter Season to you all!

Once again we gather to witness the final days of Jesus' ministry on earth and stand in awe of the empty tomb on Easter morning.

We will sing Hosanna on Palm Sunday, then we will take the bread, wine/grape juice on Maundy Thursday as we hear Jesus speak of his life given for us, then we will hear Jesus speak from the cross, "forgive them" on Good Friday. Saturday is a holy day of waiting in anticipation for what God will do in the face of death. We will gather on Easter morning and hear God say clearly and boldly, "LIFE!" In the face of the death humans bring to each other and the earth, God defiantly speaks life, resurrection and hope. We find evidence of this as we gaze into the empty tomb and contemplate the mystery of faith, "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again." This phrase is called and known as "the mystery of faith" and many Christians will say this phrase during the celebration of Holy Communion. The pastor will say to the congregation, "let us proclaim the mystery of faith" and the congregation will respond, "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again." It is a mini creed (statement of faith) that we recognize to be a mystery. Meaning, we recognize that we cannot fully grasp what it means that God became flesh and then died on a cross and then, after three days, was resurrected and then promised those who follow him that he will return one day...We recognize that we will never fully grasp what this means for our life or the life of the world. It means we keep asking questions, we keep wondering and we keep learning about who God is and what Jesus 'life, death and resurrection means for us—how does it inform who we are and what we do?

Alongside the mystery of faith are those things we do know, these are the promises that Jesus speaks to us. Jesus promises that we are forgiven. Jesus promises that we are made righteous before God. Jesus promises us a place in the world to come. Jesus promises to be with us.

As we approach Holy Week once again I invite to reflect on the mystery of faith. I invite you to consider what you do know—what Jesus has told us. I invite you to find strength in what you know through the promises and strength in the mystery of you do not understand. It is ok that God is acting and has acted in ways we cannot fully grasp. We are a people of faith who trust in God's character of grace, forgiveness and love.

Peace, Pastor Krista



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Bible Studies.....	2
Service Opportunities.....	2
Council Report	3
Financial Summary	3
Faith Formation.....	4 & 5
VBS	5
Quilting Group.....	6
Lutheran World Relief	6
Birthdays & Anniversaries	6
Easter Flower Sales.....	7
Sunday Lessons	7
Holy Week Schedule.....	7

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Bishop's Letter on last page—*great read!*
- Children & Youth Reports pg. 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 28th
September 13th



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

MEN'S SATURDAY 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. All are welcome!

THIRSTY FOR THEOLOGY

Thursday, April 7th @ 7pm @ the Parsonage

ADULT EDUCATION

I am working to seek at least one more leader from the wider community to share with us regarding current needs in our community. If you are connected to leaders in the community, please let me know.

On April 3rd we will have a special adult education time as we explore more deeply our second guiding Biblical story—2 Cor. 4—this will be a hands on activity and Bible Study.

Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday we will enjoy fellowship time together after worship. April 24th we will begin to put the pieces of our discernment process together.
- Pastor Krista

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



Volunteers are needed !

10-15 volunteers are requested

Saturday, April 2nd

9am-12pm

Outdoor Spring Cleaning of the Church Property

We will clean gutters, rake, edge, trim, prune, and power wash around the buildings and parsonage. Please bring your garden tools, wheelbarrows, leaf blowers, and power washers.

Your point of contact for the spring cleanup is Rick Rodriguez. (206) 384-1042



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. We are currently looking for 2 event captains (job only includes being there and emailing reminders etc. to those who volunteer).

Sign up here:

[2022 Day of Service: Encompass NW \(14+\) \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com)

There also will be MANY other opportunities for folks closer to Issaquah!
Link for donations:

[Donate Events - Day of Service 2020](#) Questions: contact pastor Krista

COUNCIL REPORT

Greetings from your council. We hope you are all doing well as we move into spring and travel through lent to the joy and promise of Easter.

In accordance with the Governor's mandates we have moved to a policy making masks optional and not mandatory in our buildings. You are encouraging you to wear masks if you are not comfortable going mask free. We have also resumed our education time following our Sunday services. Coffee hour has also resumed.

Council approved the purchase of a defibrillator. We have connected with the Red Cross and are purchasing the unit through them. They will also be providing CPR and defibrillator training once we receive the unit. Council set a limit of \$3,000 for the purchase of the defibrillator unit and the CPR training.

On March 15 the Red Cross conducted a blood donation event in fellowship hall. There were 25 people donating blood. Thanks to Rick Rodriguez for coordinating with the Red Cross to organize this event. There will be another blood donation event in June.

On April 16th we will be conducting a property cleanup day. We need 10 to 12 volunteers to do yard work and outside building maintenance. Please bring any gardening tools you have. For more information contact Rick Rodriguez of our building and grounds committee.

On May 9th council members and Pastor will be participating in a leadership conference with leaders from the churches in the Eastside Cluster of our synod. The purpose of the conference is to share information on activities, needs and wants. We will be looking for opportunities team with other churches to fulfil our missions.

On May 14th we have agreed to participate in a day of service at the Encompass center in North Bend. We will be joined by members of Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church. For concerns or questions about facilities and programs please contact a council member.

Jack Boller

Mt Si Financial Summary

Jan-Feb Budget = \$34,182
Jan-Feb Giving = \$27,159
Jan-Feb Exp. = \$30,289
net income/loss = -\$3,130

We spent \$4,000 under our budgeted amount of \$34,182.

Our ministry teams are doing their best to keep their spending low.

In the first two months we received \$27,159 and spent \$30,289. This leaves us \$3,130 short for the first two months of ministry expenses.

*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, set up Amazon Smile and 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.

-You can always make a gift online through our website:
www.mtsilutheran.org/onlinegiving

Thank you for your continued generosity.

-Treasurer

Craft Day for Children and Youth

Sunday April 3rd

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

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

FAITH FORMATION

It is no wonder that we feel anxious about success when we create a society that values power, authority, and accumulation of wealth. This attitude fosters insatiable competition. We develop a drive to always be looking over our shoulder to see what is coming next, we always must be better, stronger, and wealthier than others.

When we can create a society that fosters greatness by working to improve the life of others, instead of looking back we look forward toward those who are struggling or just need. Following Christ, we are called to serve others, the love we feel in return is a delightful side effect. There is a degree of cognitive dissonance revealed in our efforts to be a Christian. All too often, we find ourselves distracted by the world around us which causes us to lose sight of true success found in the service to others. Our community at Mt. Si Lutheran is a testament to the success of service!

Just as the Jews under the leadership of Moses spent 40 years in the wilderness, we use the 40 days of Lent as a time for reflection. It is a blessing to know that Easter is coming soon.

Continued on pg. 5

FAMS (Faith Formation @ Mt Si)

Wednesday April 20th, 6:30-8PM

open to youth and children in grades K-8th

Upcoming dates include: Wednesday April 20th,

Wednesday May 18th, and Wednesday June 15

This is currently a monthly event for kids and youth, The evening is like our VBS type of rotation with music, games, biblical teachings, and crafts. The biblical teachings will include stories, object lessons, and science. There will be a snack and lots of fun!

Please register on our church website at: <https://www.mtsilutheran.org/fams>

We hope to see you here!



**Help us prepare for an
Easter Egg Hunt
Easter Sunday April 17th @ 11:15am**

We need candy and new plastic eggs please consider contributing!

You can place the donations in the basket in the Narthex. We are advertising the event to family and friends of Mt. Si Lutheran Church. Feel free to invite a friend!

Thank you for all you do! -- John

FAITH FORMATION *Continued from pg. 4*

If we keep Easter in front of us, we do not need to look over our shoulder to consider our brokenness. We need to keep in mind the life lessons we learned as a child when riding a bike. Look to where you want to go, do not fall into temptation of looking at the ditch where you do not want to go, our body tends to follow our head and heart. If we fill our head and heart with fear and doubt, then we are filled with dread. We hope to see your family at our upcoming events and activities so that we can fill each other with hope and grace.



Grace and Peace, John Grebe

Reports from our Children and Youth

Ice skating Fun by Kaelynn

We arrived at the skating rink and hung out together in line waiting for everyone's skates. While the adults talked, we excitedly waited to go into the rink and skate. Skating with friends and family was great with lots of people we were not expecting to see, and tons of fun! I was even able to (sort of) teach a newbie how to skate. We all ended early of exhaustion and soon headed to Starbucks for the treat of hot cocoa and croissants! We all said goodbye and soon we were all headed home.

FAMS night by Annie

The parents left their children at church, and we did fun activities like a Bible study (With some goofing around). Then we did some things with dry ice! For example, we made soda! Root beer and Orange Fanta. Then we had a snack, we had Jell-O with strawberries in it with pretzels! And some of the soda. After that we did a craft in the library and made a bracelet with six random beads and one cross for Lent. Then our parents came to pick us up. The end.

Vacation Bible School



We are excited to announce our planning for Vacation Bible School is well underway!

Reserve the dates:

July 24-28

6-8pm

Experience a tropical island getaway!

Registration is on our website:

<https://www.mtsilutheran.org/vbs>

Courtney Adams will be the director this year so if you would like to volunteer reach out and let us know.

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.

**APRIL
BIRTHDAYS**



- John Cassidy April 1st
- Vivian Waid April 3rd
- Don Culver April 4th
- Tasha Lynch April 4th
- Krista Johnson April 5th
- Molly Davis April 6th
- Tyler Koukol April 14th
- Annelise Sampson April 19th
- Addison Harding April 20th
- Abe Abrahamson April 24th
- Ryan Buckmaster April 24th
- Mauricia Case April 27th

**APRIL
ANNIVERSARIES**



- Hollis & Darlene Lockwood April 1st
- Jim & Ingrid Garhart April 25th

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

***The quilting group has restarted
our weekly meetings!
9:30-11:00 on Monday mornings.***



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. The tops are simple straight stitching from pre cut squares available from our quilting room and the bottoms are sheets to cut to a certain size. 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.



**We are collecting items
for LWR Personal Care Kits**

**These kits will be sent to LWR to distribute to support
the immediate needs of refugees from Ukraine and
other places in need.**

Please click the link to see what items are needed. We can only send items listed. [pdf to link into the article](#)

Please bring all items to church by April 3rd.
We will pack the items after worship on April 10th.
Thank you all for your support and generosity.

AA

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

GIRL SCOUTS

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

WORSHIP NEWS

Palm Sunday April 10th

9:15am Palm Procession,
Worship at 9:30am

Maundy Thursday—April 14th

Soup Supper at 6pm
Worship at 7pm

Good Friday—April 15th

Worship at 7pm

Easter Sunday—April 17th

Worship at 9:30am
Easter Egg Hunt at 11:15am



**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

APRIL SUNDAY LESSONS

April 3—Lent Five

Frist Lesson: Psalm 126

Gospel Lesson: John 12:1-8

April 10—Palm Sunday

First Lesson: Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel Lesson: Luke 19:28-40

April 17—Easter Sunday

First Lesson: 1 Cor. 15:19-26

Gospel Lesson: John 20:1-18

April 24

First Lesson: Psalm 150

Gospel Lesson: John 20:19-31

Easter Flower Sales

*tulips... hyacinths ...
daffodils!*

Each plant costs \$4.99

The plants will be put out
Easter Sunday for worship and
then you are

welcome to take them home.
Sign-ups in the Narthex and
Fellowship Hall.

Order forms are due by **April
10th**

Questions? Contact Janey
Benson.



DIRECTORY

We are working on updating
the Membership Directory
and hope to have it
available by Easter.

Faith & Everyday Life Devotions for 2022

Thank you to our friends
at [Lutheran Counseling
Network](#) for sharing this
collection of monthly devo-
tionals 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

April 2022

One of the things I love about living in the Pacific Northwest is the abundance of life. In January, the grass is green. In February, plants are blooming. In March, little flowers are pushing through soil. In April, color bursts out everywhere. To me, these signs of life are miracles.

And don't we need some of these signs right now? I mean, there are so many places where it feels like ongoing winter - the discord and acrimony amongst families, churches, peoples, and nations. As I write this article Russia is invading Ukraine. Perhaps when you read this article, things will be different but at this moment there is bombing and shooting and fear and death. And entrenched crises continue: homelessness, racism, ableism, unjust governments, and so much more. Individually, many are experiencing physical and mental illness, fatigue, and exclusion. I remember a quote from C.S. Lewis' book *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* where one of the characters says, "It is winter in Narnia, and has been for ever so long ... always winter, but never Christmas."

It has been a long winter ... perhaps even two years of winter. Pain and sorrow and death feel very close. There is grief, there is anger, there is exhaustion, and there is sadness.

And yet ... And yet ...

Gardens are full of seeds. Farmers are tilling the soil. Tulips are blooming. Rhododendrons are on their way. We see signs around us that winter is ending and the Bringer of Spring is coming.

As I travel through this synod, I see signs of new life and new hope. I see resolve and new partnerships. While there are challenges that we are all facing, while there is much work to do individually and together, I sense new possibilities.

When I meet with councils and other leaders in congregations, I am delighted that we are having good, strong, sometimes difficult conversations about things that matter. In our best moments, we are not as concerned about smaller difficulties but instead, as people of faith, we are leaning into what it means to love God and love neighbor in this time and in this place. I thank God for the opportunity for conversation, listening, and moving on the Breath of God's Spirit.

The truth is, alone - we cannot create life, alone - we cannot change systems, alone - we cannot move winter into spring. But through Christ, through the One who died for this world and who is raised into new life, we can.

And so, as it is written in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians:

We do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. 2 Corinthians 16-18

We are promised that through this time, through world events, through whatever is next, Jesus is with us. And even more than that, we are promised that there is something amazing beyond all measure - more than we can know or even imagine. It is difficult to sometimes comprehend this promise - especially when we look at the destruction and pain and devastation in this world - and yet ... and yet ... we cling to the promise. As people of faith, we pray and whisper and shout it out - that through Christ's death and resurrection all things that create death will be gone. Period. Full. Stop.

And because of knowing and trusting this promise, we are then called, as beloved children of God, to see, appreciate, and tend to the small plants entrusted to us - knowing that we also are plants, also seeds, also soil, called to live into and share this new life with and for others.

May this Easter spring forth with new life for you. May you feel the hope given through Jesus. And may together we shout, "Happy Easter! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!"

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee