



Grace and peace to you,

What a joy it has been to explore the first letter of John this summer. In early August we will finish up 1 John and experience a some special Sunday Services. The first will be on August 13th. This will be a Hymn Sing worship where we will learn some of the history and stories behind the creation and meaning of each hymn we sing. Then, on August 20th we will be offsite as we worship with Sammamish Hills, Grace Chinese and Cross of Cross at Ebright Park in Sammamish at 10am. You will have a guest preacher on August 27th when I am out of town and then, believe it or not, we will be in September!

As you reflect on hearing the full letter of 1 John in worship or in your own reading I would love to hear from you what pearl of insight, learning, teaching and or truth you will take with you from the text. I trust the Spirit continues to speak through the words of Scripture and I trust we are each listening for that voice. Sometimes, we don't have space to share what we hear and/or what is most meaningful to us through our study and hearing of Scripture. I believe, it is in sharing that we find ourselves building up the body of Christ. If you haven't already, would you consider reaching out to a friend, fellow Christian or family member and sharing what you have heard and what is sticking with from 1 John or from any passage you have read in your life?

One piece that is sticking with me is the conviction behind each word of this text. I can almost picture the author writing at a frantic pace in order to deliver the message as quickly as possible. There is deep compassion for the recipient of the declaration/letter and that compassion extends beyond the original hearers to you and I. I hear the Spirit pleading with us to trust that we are Children of God and to trust that love, however difficult, is worth the effort. The verse that will stay with for some is 1 John 4:12—"No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.:

What do you hear? What is the Spirit saying? And if you haven't had a chance to read 1 John yet, I encourage you to do so. It is 5 short chapters.

I pray that this summer is creating the space and opportunities that you were looking for no matter what season of life you find yourself in. If this summer has been difficult, I pray the Spirit of Comfort will hold you close. May the peace of God be with you always. Amen.

Peace
P. K.

Pastor Krista is on Vacation Wed., August 23rd—Wed. August 30th.
For pastoral emergencies please call Pr. Lara at

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

- 1 John 4:12 -



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Bible Studies.....	2
Sunday Lessons.....	3
Council Report.....	3
VBS.....	4
Faith Formation.....	4 & 5
Youth Fall Retreat.....	5
Birthdays.....	6
Backpack Distribution.....	7
Ways to Give.....	7
Thrivent Action Team Board.....	7

Special points of interest

- Bishop's Letter on last page—*great read!*
- Council Report pg. 3



WELCOME TO MOUNTAIN VALLEY PRESCHOOL—

Class will begin in early September for around 10 students, M-F from 9-1pm.

The church receives compensation for this use of space. The preschool will run over the summer. Questions? Please ask Jack or Pr. Krista. Please welcome Keeley when you see her!



Mountain Valley Preschool
Where a Love For Learning is Created

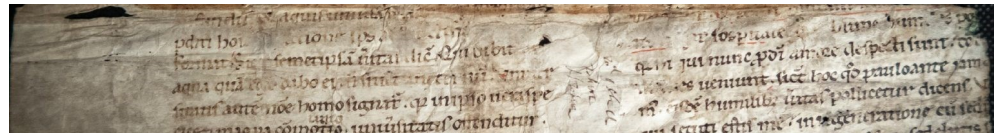
Updates to events are communicated through Constant Contact and an email list of families and friends, if you are not on this list but would like to be included please let Pastor Krista know.

AA

Will meet Thursdays in Luther's Lounge weekly - 7 pm
Ogle Street entrance

GIRL SCOUTS

The Girl Scouts Leaders are on break for July and August and will resume meeting the 3rd Thursday in September



THIRSTY FOR THEOLOGY

Our Summer Thursday, Thirsty for Theology first gathering will be around the parsonage fire pit or inside depending on weather , 7pm on Wednesday, September 6th. (With the Tiny House build, we won't meet in August)

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

On summer break. We will resume our group study in September If you have any questions, please reach out to Vivian Waid.

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.

SUNDAY EDUCATION

Intergenerational Education Hour in the Fall

Theme: Fruits of the Spirit

Beginning Sept. 17th - November 19th following worship

We are excited to try something new this fall with our education hour. Kids and Adults will meet together in the Fellowship Hall where we will learn together about the Fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5)

After sharing together we will break into groups for certain discussion and projects.

We look forward to taking this time to deepen our understanding of the Fruits of the Spirit and our relationship with Jesus. See you in September!



COUNCIL REPORT

Greetings from your council.

Our income in June was \$15,329. Our expenditures for June were \$14,323. This appears to be a profit of \$1,006. However, \$2,000 of the income was a designated donation to repair a bathroom floor in the parsonage and is not available for routine expenses. This gives us a net income for routine expenses of \$13,329, which results in a net loss for June of \$1,077.

Council has developed the following welcoming statement that, if approved by the congregation we could include in our bulletins, and newsletters to help people outside of our congregation understand what we believe and that everyone is welcome to join us.

"In the shadow of Mount Si sits a small country church, wonderfully illuminated by the light of God. We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person with all your complexities, gifts, questions, and challenges. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world. We believe our mission is to serve, reach out and grow in grace. ALL are welcome to join us in this quest."

Please share any thoughts you have about this statement with the council.

As I mentioned last month, when the executive team talked to the Synod about our financial situation one suggestion was for us to look into the possibility of sharing or facilities with another congregation. The executive team decided to look into the possibility of doing this. The Synod has connected us with Re/Max Northwest to see if there are any congregations in our area seeking a place to meet. We are interested in getting input from the congregation on this idea. We still have a council vacancy that we would like to fill. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. If you are interested, let Pastor Krista or a council member know.

Jack Boller

AUGUST SUNDAY LESSONS

August 6th

First Lesson: Psalm 16
Narrative Lectionary
Text: 1 John 5

August 13th

Hymn Sing and
Storytelling

August 20th

Joint Worship With
SHLC -10am @ Ebright
Park, Sammamish

August 27th

First Lesson: TBD
Narrative Lectionary
Text: TBD

Blood Drive



**Next Blood Drive:
Tuesday
September 12th, 2023
10-3pm**

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

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



"God's work. Our hands."



Join us for a day of service!

**Save the Date!
God's Work. Our Hands.
Sunday, September 10th**

FAITH FORMATION

Cluster Youth Events

As we enter 2023, Mt. Si Lutheran is identifying ways to partner with other churches in our Cluster. If any of these peak your interest, reach out to Pastor Krista, or Lisa for more information! Here are a few upcoming events to consider – more will be added as we get more details:

- August Tiny House Build
- November Youth Retreat to Camp Lutherwood

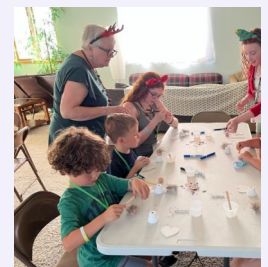
CHILDREN AND YOUTH EDUCATION

Sunday School is on break for the summer—see you again in the Fall!

Did you take photos of an event with Mt Si that you would be willing to have used in our newsletters or other promotional purposes? Short videos are also appreciated. Please send to Kathleen at: mtsi.assistant@gmail.com



VBS 2023



Tiny House Build Update



We're excited to welcome all who have registered to participate in the Tiny House build here at Mt Si Lutheran August 7-11 and August 14-18. We are building the home at the far end of the parking lot. You're welcome to stop by and see the progress as the week goes on. Please hold all our youth and adults in prayer as they seek to build and learn about the complexities of housing insecurity in the PNW and beyond.

Youth Fall Retreat

All Middle and High School Youth

November 10-12

@ Camp Lutherwood in Bellingham



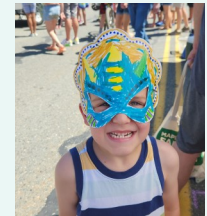
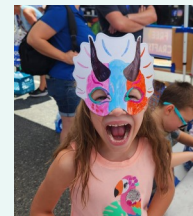
You do not need to be in Confirmation to participate.

Several other congregations are participating in this event.

Questions about the retreat? Please reach out to Doug Johnson doug@salc.church for details.

If you need help with the cost, please let Pr. Krista know - we have retreat funds available.

North Bend Bock Party



**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 Ritzenhaler 16th
- Virginia Williams 17th
- Sue Oster 25th
- Nick Adams 27th
- Ralph Freeman 27th
- Paul Dukich 31st

**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

Si View Farmers Market

**Last market is on September 7th
Thank you volunteers!**

**We offered free crafts
children and youth.**

to



**Save the Date!
All Church Potluck Picnic
and Outdoor Worship
Friday, September 8th**



Sunday, August 20th

10am @ Ebright Park

1317 212th Ave SE, Sammamish

On Sunday August 20th we will worship with Sammamish Hills, Grace Chinese and Cross of Christ Lutheran Churches. Worship will begin at 10am at Ebright Park. This park is accessible with bathrooms nearby. We will offer a brief in-person worship at Mt Si at 9:30am with prayer and scripture.

As part of the picnic we've been asked to bring **fruit and desserts**
Questions? Ask Pr. Krista

**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.

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

Backpack Distribution for School Year

2023-2024



We will once again be providing school supplies for students in need enrolled in the Snoqualmie Valley School District grades K-12. We purchased 120 backpacks this spring, however, we are still in need of school supplies for over 200 backpacks.

This year we are asking for monetary contributions for our annual school supply and backpack drive. Please make any checks payable to **Mt Si Lutheran** with the note of **School Supplies**. Thank you all for your loyal support of our valley students.

Distribution: August 22nd and 23rd at Mt Si Lutheran

[Link for more information: www.mtsilutheran.org/vbs](http://www.mtsilutheran.org/vbs)

If you have any questions, please reach out to
Erica Haycox or Pastor Krista

Ways to Support

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

Thank you for your continued generosity.

-Treasurer



Garden of Giving

Garden of Giving is producing 100's of pounds of vegetables! Reach out to Terry Adams if you would like to help this year.



The 2023 Thrivent Action Team Board

Did you know that Thrivent Financial for Lutherans awards \$250 gift cards as "seed money" to help fund activities that benefit the church community – including events that educate church members about Lutheran missions?

If you have project you would like to be considered for a card donation, sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway off fellowship hall listing the project and the date! If you have cards you would like to apply for and donate please check out the board too!

The cards do take some time to process so don't delay if you have a project coming up in the near future!

Together we can make a difference.

Any questions See Pastor Krista.

BISHOP'S LETTER

July - August 2023



As I write this, I am still re-living a beautiful experience that I had last weekend. Five of my friends and I drove to the Gorge Amphitheatre and we saw Joni Mitchell in concert. For some of you, this might be interesting, for others, you might not even know who Joni Mitchell is. For me, the time was filled with joy, laughter, tears, friendship, and community ... not to mention amazing music and storytelling.

But this isn't about Joni Mitchell ... at least not entirely. For what struck me as I sat on the grass with 26,000 other people, was the church-like feeling that was there. Or perhaps I should say the "Jesusy" feeling that was there. Or maybe the Holy Spirit in action feeling. And this came from the crowd itself.

As we all sat crowded together on blankets and chairs, people told stories, shared food and drink, sang songs, helped those who were having difficulty navigating the hillside, and together we became community. The little children sitting to the right of me danced, the young girls sitting to the left of me accepted blankets from my friend, and the man in front of me told me that he had traveled from North Carolina to see Joni. He told me that he was surprised to discover the Gorge was not located in Seattle!

There was one point in the concert, after it had gotten dark, when Joni was singing and people – one by one – started shining the flashlight from their cellphones towards the stage. Throughout the crowd, little points of light lit up the darkness. Now, if you have been to a concert in the last ten years, this is a common occurrence. Cell phone lights have taken the place of lighters being raised. However, because Joni has not performed in over twenty years, she was bemused by the lights. She turned to the person next to her on stage and said, "It looks like a fallen constellation. Where did they get all those lights?"

I thought her words and her surprise were charming. But as I looked around me, at the people sharing blankets, at those with arms around each other swaying to the music, at the cozy darkness around us and the lights looking like fallen stars, it was more than charming. It was holy.

For a moment, we were a cathedral. For a moment, we were community. For a moment, we were one.

At our best, this is what it means to be church. To be the Body of Christ. To practice hospitality and generosity, and grace. To see Christ in one another. To accept others' limitations and to be accepting of our own.

I confess that all was not perfect at the Gorge. There was a person close to me who insisted on singing every word to every song. While her voice was fine, I was not there to hear her but to hear Joni. There were people who cut in line after we had been waiting two hours to get inside. There was a driver who bullied his way into the front of the very long line of vehicles as we were leaving.

Perhaps this is like church, too. At least church as a human construction. Those of us who have been part of a church for a while, we know that church is not always sharing blankets and food, singing and joy. Sometimes, as humans, we hoard our stuff. We take offense at others. We refuse to listen. We bully. We push. Our voices sometimes drown out other voices.

And yet ... I pray that the moments of grace we receive this summer – from music at the Gorge to singing lustily in church, from sharing food on a hillside to receiving the body and blood of Christ – may we be church together. May we know and make it known that all are fully loved by God – in the times when we are like fallen constellations and in the times we are not.

May your summer be filled with holy moments.

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee