

Mt Si Lutheran - September 2020

Mini **GOOD NEWS**letter

Grace and peace to you!

This is a season of deep breaths and reminding ourselves to take a step back to center ourselves in Christ. I find almost everyone I meet is on edge and grasping for solid ground. This is a season where we come to learn more about ourselves that we did before. This is a season that is straining our resilience, our patience, our compassion and our relationships. None of us asked for this. We did not seek a year overrun by disease, unrest, economic hardship, insecurity, brutality, death, polarization, hatred and fear. We did not seek a season that would push us to our limits and well beyond. Yet, dear siblings in Christ, we are here in this moment. I cannot offer answers as to what you should or what you should think about all that is going on. That is between you and Jesus and how you understand Jesus' call to "follow me" and Jesus command to, "be servants of all."

What I can say is this. If there is anything Scripture tells us over and over and over again, it is this: God's people will be faced with hardships—famine, disease, exile, war, unrest, hatred and fear time and time again—sometimes for decades on end—and yet—faced with the hardship and faced with all that would attempt to destroy hope—God—time and time again - pours out unending Grace upon the people—pours out the Spirit to speak words of truth to the people—words of wisdom that remind people who God is and that God is with them always...God NEVER gives up on the people. God NEVER walks away from the people. God NEVER allows the people to be destroyed. What God does is bring new life to the suffering, brings hope to the downtrodden, brings compassion to the broken hearted, shepherds those who have become lost and weeps with us and for us and then dries those very tears from our eyes and restores our joy. God is here—right now —with you. God is your anchor and your rock. I pray this truth gives you the strength to continue to face the days ahead. Peace, P. K.

September Birthdays:

Declan Haycox 9/2

Alisha Blakely 9/3

Kelsey Harding 9/6

Stefan Van Handel 9/8

Kailie Graciidis 9/11

Janey Benson 9/14

Patricia Prewitt 9/18

Kim Buckmaster 9/25

Lorraine Wilkerson 9/27

Pam Willson 9/2

Ambur Brown 9/4

Alysa Lilleberg 9/8

Keira Booth-Risner 9/9

Heidi Ducich 9/12

Rose Wildes 9/20

Kyley Hayes 9/26

Abbey Walker 9/29



September Anniversaries:

Chris & Lisa Sampson 9/2

Glen and Marge Bliss 9/6

Paul & Heidi Dukich 9/8

Charles & Jenny Lynch 9/22

John & Erica Haycox 9/25

Sunday Worship for August

10am On-line—See website for link!

Scripture for August

Sept. 6th— Matthew 18:15-20

*Sept. 13th — Confirmation Special Presentation

*God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday

Sept. 20th — Matthew 20:1-16

Sept. 27th — Matthew 21:23-32

Office Update Now that we are in phase two in King County, Ambur will be in the office Mon & Wed 10-12:30pm and Fri 10-12pm.

However, the office will not be open for drop-in visits. Please continue to call and email for best communication. Thank you!

GODS WORK will continue,
please let it be with OUR
HANDS! You will have two ways
to be involved this year.

God's work.
Our hands.

Firstly, by directly assisting in completing a small one-two person project for someone needing assistance and secondly, by using your "Missions Passport."

For the first approach, we will have a list of projects for neighbors in need of assistance with outside work that can be completed by one or two people. The work can be completed anytime during the month of September. This is the traditional approach to GODS WORK OUR HANDS that we are familiar with, only on a smaller scale.

The second approach is new and exciting, even in these difficult times. We will have six stations which provide information on local, national and international mission efforts and what can be done through these efforts. A specific time window and date will be announced for you to visit each of these stations where the information and an activity for children will be available. Each household will be receiving a "Missions Passport" which will provide the location of each of the six stations, which can be stamped at each station. Only one household at a time will be allowed at a station for the protection of all. All Mission Passports stamped for all six stations will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift card at Frankie's Pizza.

All who volunteer and complete works noted in the first approach will also be entered into the drawing for the gift card.

Particularly in difficult times, we can all be doing **GODS WORK** with **OUR HANDS!**

- Evangelism and Outreach Team

God's Work. Our Hands.

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits

As a part of God's work our hands, Sunday we are going to collect and assemble personal care kits to send to Lutheran World Relief on September 13th at Mt Si Lutheran church. The kits are sent out nationally and worldwide when disasters strike. The kits contain a light weight bath towel, soap, toothbrush, sturdy comb, and a nail clipper.

You will receive a bag delivered to your house with all you need to prepare for God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday!

Garden of Giving Update!

Burnsides are harvesting and delivering this week. Thanks to the Scouts for signing up for additional harvest weeks. That means that we only have one more open spot for delivering on 9/8—if you are interested in taking that spot then please let me know. Updated schedule below. Harvest was down a little bit last week, we had a little over 26 lbs. So, we have now donated 242.2 lbs of vegetables to the Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank.



Serving Our Community

Food Bank

We continue to support the Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank. If you want to make a monetary donation to the Food Bank, please send checks directly to: Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank
122 E. 3rd St. North Bend, WA 98045

School Supply Update

On September 1st, 2nd and 3rd we are distributing school supplies to the community. We have filled over 400 bags of supplies to hand out! Thanks to the community who really showed up for the Give and Go event on the 22nd. The wider community donated hundreds of supplies for us to hand out. Also, a big thanks to the SVFB who donated \$1,500 in gift cards for us to use to purchase needed supplies.



Thanks to Janey who has led this effort and put in countless hours of work. Thanks also to Erica H, Courtney A, Tom and Inge B, Laura R., Edwin B., and Anne K. (forgive me if I missed you!) for helping pack bags and sort supplies.

Want to help distribute? Please call Janey Benson to see if there are any time slots available.

Way to Go Mt Si!

Council Report

Greetings from the council. We hope you are all enjoying this nice summer weather and staying well.

We are still in Phase 2 of the reopening process laid out by the governor and supported by the synod. We are making plans for virtual services and meetings in the foreseeable future. This includes plans for virtual Christian education sessions in place of face to face Sunday school. Once the state moves to Phase 3 the council will use the framework that we have developed to assess what changes we should make regarding services and meetings. We will also decide what precautions we will take regarding social distancing and face-mask wearing. Once we are opening up for face to face activities we are planning to continue preparing virtual services and educational material that would be made available to anyone unable to attend in person.

We had a successful VBS the first week in August. Most of it was done virtually. There was a scavenger hunt and a “reverse” parade that were enjoyed by all. We are planning to use what we learned from this activity as we move forward with our plans for Cristian education activities. Contact John Grebe or see the newsletter for more information.

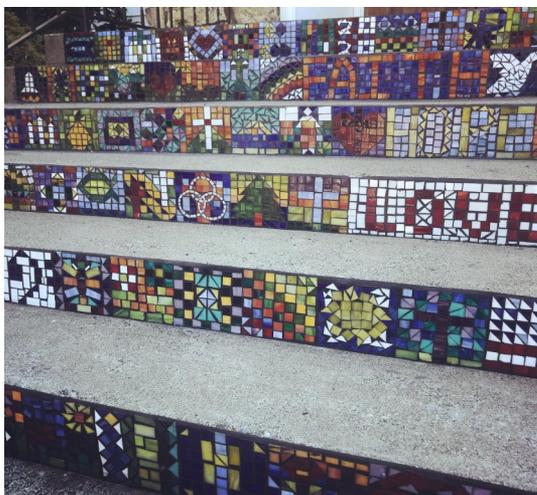
The mosaics that members of our congregation created are now being applied to our front steps. It will be great addition to our facility once it is completed

Our garden is still producing a lot of fresh vegetables for the food bank each week. Thanks to those who are watering and harvesting each week.

The council and staff are still trying to maintain contact with everyone. If you need anything, please contact Pastor Krista, John Grebe or the council executive team of Jack Boller, Rick Rodriguez or Terry Adams.

Be safe, stay well. We are looking forward to when we can be together in person again. We wish blessings on you all.

Jack Boller



Parish Ed. and CYF goes virtual!

It feels like it was just yesterday or approximately 3 years ago that I was looking forward to the summer. There are many things in life that seem to make time speed up and slow down some of the time it can be simultaneous. I can imagine we have all dreaded the slowly dragging on of isolation due to quarantine. I am grateful for the ongoing efforts to keep worship central to who we are. Having been able to create object lessons for worship, participate in a variety of meetings and projects for our community, the Friday afternoon Zoom gathering for our kids, and VBS has given me feelings of purposefulness.

In planning for this fall the Parish Ed. and CYF Team are following the guidelines set forth by church council. At this time, we will not be having in person meetings but will be reintroducing virtual meetings along with support for some creative activities such as crafts or scavenger hunt type activities.

Mentoring: There are a variety of ways to interact with children and youth that help to create community. We are exploring possibilities of reintroducing mentoring. This will include adult to youth, youth to youth, and adult to youth. Much of this is already happening and we would like to encourage this with some formal assessment to see what is happening, what more can we do to support it, and what are some ways we can increase it.

Virtual object lessons, education videos, and music for children. We are forming a team to create videos that will help to tell the stories for our children and youth education opportunities.

Confirmation students took a brief break for August. They will be involved in the worship for September 13 and will have a retreat later in the month.

Sept. 13 God's work our hands Sunday will include object lessons at each station to engage kids and youth. We hope you will attend for some good learning about serving.

Sept. 16 Friday Kid's Gathering will be changing to Wednesday and the first one will be on the 16th. We are hoping to see what the SVSD has in store for Wednesdays. John will be communicating with families to determine the best approach.

Oct. 4th will be our first Sunday Morning Education hour for Kids. In addition to gathering virtually we will be creating videos of music and drama with our local talent and we are always looking for those willing to be involved. Please reach out to John if you would like to share some creativity digitally.

Veterans:

With Veterans Day on November 11th we would like to have our November 8 education time reflect our thanks. We would like to interview anyone who has served. We are planning on recording the interviews but if you do not wish to be videotaped, we can record just the audio, or we can do some other creative form of capturing your service. PLEASE reach out to John Grebe or Ed Benson for more details.

May God's grace wash over you and may your heart soar as we look forward with eyes of a child!

Peace,

John Grebe M.Ed.

Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

cyf@mtsilutheran.org (360) 920-5876

Bible Story and Discernment Process Update



Good day! Thank you to the 15 or so households who have sent in their 5 Bible Stories that they feel best describe who Mt Si Lutheran is called to be as God's people in North Bend. This is a very important part of our discernment process.

If you haven't had a chance to complete this work, please take a few hours to do so. I am extending the deadline to have your top five stories to September 13th. We need at least 20 more households to complete this work, otherwise, we won't have enough input to move forward in our discernment process.

As a reminder—we are doing this to help ground our mission in Scripture. Grounding our understand of who we are and who God

has called us to be in Scripture gives us the ability to move into God's future with confidence and direction. The Bible Story that helps direct who we are and what God is calling us to be will guide the decisions we make for the future and our present. Thank you!!

As a reminder—here are the 26 Bible Stories we are looking at...

Abraham and Sarah and the birth of Isaac (Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7)

The Call of Moses (Exodus 3:1-12)

David anointed by Samuel (I Samuel 16:1-13)

The Healing of Naaman (II Kings 5:1-19)

Psalms 23

Psalms 96

Psalms 121

For Everything There is a Season (Ecclesiastes 3:1-15)

Micah 6:6-8

Valley of the Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37:1-14)

The Feeding of the 5,000 (Matthew 14:13-21)

The Least of These (Matthew 25:34-40)

"Who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:27-38)

James & John ask for high places (Mark 10:35-45)

Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)

The Golden Rule and other amazing challenges (Luke 6:20-36)

The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

The Prodigal and Elder Son (Luke 15:11-32)

Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)

Philip & Nathanael recruited (John 1:43-51)

Jesus and the Samaritan Woman (John 4:1-42)

Jesus heals on the Sabbath (John 5:1-18)

Jesus washes the disciples' feet (John 13:1-20)

After Pentecost (Acts 2:37-47)

Lydia and Paul (Acts 16:11-15)

II Corinthians 4:1-18

Here are the three questions we are asking for each story:

What is God's relationship to the people in the story?

What is the attitude of the people towards God and towards each other in the story?

In what ways do you see this congregation in the story?