



Pastor's Note

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. A blessed Advent to you and a Merry Christmas when the time arrives. Council asked me to write a note about the current mission statement of Mt Si Lutheran. For those who have connected in worship over the last few months you may recognize the mission statement right away—we use it in our words for Dismissal each Sunday—I start by saying, “let us go to serve, reach out and grow in grace,” and you all respond, “thanks be to God!”

The mission of Mt Si is to Serve—Reach Out—and Grow in Grace. What does this look like? I asked that questions at the first council retreat I led at Mt Si. I wanted to understand the heart of who this faith community is in its witness and service. We took time at that retreat to name the many ministries at Mt Si and how they fit into one or more of these categories of mission. Under “Serve” we named: Quilters, Prayer Shawl, Backpack Program, Hygiene kits for LWR, Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank, Garden of Giving, sharing our building with AA & Scouts, House of Hope Giving Tree, Groundskeeping and more. Under “Reach Out” we named VBS, Farmer’s Market, Harvest Carnival, Holly Days, North Bend Block Party, NB Parade and more. Under “Grow in Grace” we named Sunday School, adult Bible studies, Worship, Lent mid-week, Prayer Chain, Council leadership, ministry team leadership and more.

These all answer the “what” of our mission statement—but that still leaves us with the underlying question of “why?” Why does Mt Si Lutheran guide its ministry around Serving, Reaching Out and Growing in Grace? I invite you to reflect on this question. It is vital for a faith community to know, at its core, the purpose/mission God has given it to do. It is our lifeline, it tethers us to the Rock of our Salvation—to Christ. Without a clear understanding of why we do what we do and who we do it for, we can loose focus, loose passion and loose direction.

Here is my rumination on why this mission is important. I’ll start with the last statement, because without it, the other’s can’t happen. Grow in Grace—first, we have the grace of God already given to us—Growing in Grace is all about growing in our understanding, trust and conviction of the fact/truth that, “by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (ESV) Eph. 2:8-9) Meaning, we have the totality of God’s promises of forgiveness, new life and presence now and always because of what Christ accomplished for us on the cross and in his resurrection. We do not need to grow in the sense of accumulate grace, however, we do need the constant reminder through study, prayer and worship that grace has already been given. As we grow in our understanding of the gift of grace we are set free from worry of God’s acceptance of us and we can turn our attention to Christ’s command to love and serve our neighbor. One way we do this is by direct service—through monetary gifts or physical effort—we show up in tangible ways for people in need within our community of faith and for our neighbors. Finally we come to “Reach Out,” we do this because we are so excited about the gift of Grace and word of the Gospel that we seek to find ways to share this message with our neighbors. We do this to honor Christ’s command to, “make disciples of all nations.” (Matthew 28)

There is much more that can be said about the mission of Mt Si. I pray you find time to reflect on the mission that God has called us to and on the goals that were brought before the congregation at our annual meeting. These goals are meant to help us focus our ministry on our mission. Thank you for your partnership in ministry. Peace, Pastor Krista



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Bible Studies	2
Giving Tree	2
Blood Drive	2
Council Report.....	3
Ways to Give	3
Faith Formation.....	4 & 5
Youth Christmas Party	5
December Events.....	6 & 7
Birthdays	6
Sunday Lessons.....	7

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Bishop’s Letter on last page—*great read!*
- Council Report pg. 3
- Upcoming Events for Families pgs. 4 & 5

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



Dec. 13th
10-3pm

Blood Drive registration
is live for signups

at www.redcrossblood.org

[Donate Blood, Platelets or Plasma. Give Life](#)

The drive is open to the public and a spot can be reserved using the code: MtSiLutheran. If you are interested in helping with this blood drive please reach out to Rick Rodriguez.

Mt Si Financial Summary

Jan-Oct. Budget =

\$173,146

Jan-Oct. Giving =

\$141,247

Jan-Oct. Exp. =

\$154,396

YTD income/loss =

-\$13,122

*since we print the newsletter prior to the end of the current month, the newsletter reporting will always be one month behind.



SUNDY EDUCATION

We will meet for adult ed on Dec. 4th, 11th and 18th. We will continue discussions around the Narrative Lessons for the day. On December 4th there will be a special lesson for children and youth led by Courtney A.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

All ladies are welcome to participate. The Bible Study meets in the Fellowship Hall each Monday at 12:30pm. They are studying the book of Joshua. If you have any questions, please reach out to Vivian Waid.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

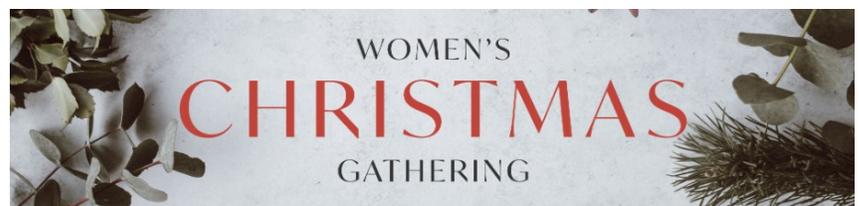
Each Saturday @ 9am the men gather at Little Si Restaurant in North Bend for breakfast and Bible Study. The Study focuses on the readings for the upcoming Sunday worship. Reach out to Dave Spurling or Ed Benson for details.

MID-WEEK DESSERT & STUDY

This is an adult study group that will meet to discuss both books on certain topics and books of the Bible. Each study will be 4-5 weeks in length with breaks in-between. Dec. 7th is the last class for "Searching for Sunday" book study. The group will meet again following Christmas to begin a study of the book of Matthew.

CONFIRMATION & FAMILY DINNER

Our confirmands gather Thursday evenings. In December class will meet on Dec. 1st and Dec. 15th. No class on Dec. 8, Dec. 22 or Dec. 29. We will share in dinner together from 5:30-6pm and then enter our study from 6-7pm. Please hold our confirmands in prayer. Participating in confirmation are: Austin Hall, Toren Rhyne, Kaelynn Sampson and Judah Tiongson.



Saturday, December 10th * 11am - 1pm

Come gather for food, fellowship, crafts, games, devotion and more! We will also have a quilt raffle. Bring family and friends, young and old to our Women's Christmas Gathering. We invite you to bring a dish to pass for our brunch meal: egg casseroles, quiche, fruit, muffins and dessert are some ideas of what you may wish to bring.

Questions? Please ask Pastor Krista or Courtney A.

COUNCIL REPORT

Greetings from your council.

On November 13 we had our annual congregational meeting. We passed a budget for 2023. The total 2023 budget is \$216,565. Our estimated income for 2022 is \$168,188.25. Council will be monitoring our income versus expenditures and in July will decide if we need to make cuts in our budget.

For the 2023 council Jack Boller, Rick Rodriguez, and Dave Spurling were each approved for a second three year term. We have one council vacancy to fill but there were no nominations and no volunteers to fill the position so it will be left vacant. If you are interested in filling this vacancy please let us know. The 2023 council members are Terry Adams, Ed Benson, Jack Boller, Inge Burnside, Tom Burnside, Rosemary Hanson, John Keiser, Marlin Olson, Paul Ritzenthaler, Rick Rodriguez, and Dave Spurling.

We did approve adding hours to Kathleen's position to be responsible for marketing and advertising. Kathleen and Pastor will work to develop a comprehensive advertising plan to reach out to our community. Pastor has created several advertising materials including printed business cards and special event postcards. They contain information on our church and invite people to come visit us. If you would like some of these cards to hand out they are available in the narthex.

As we move into next year we will be focusing on the three goals we identified through our discernment process. The goals are to assure that children and youth in our community are safe and have their needs met, to assure that seniors in our community are safe and have their needs met, and to improve our efforts to spread God's word to our community. Watch for opportunities to get involved in these activities.

The churches of the East King County Cluster of our synod met on November 5 to continue discussing ways we might collaborate to maximize the use of our resources. There was some discussion about the possibility of some of the churches that are located near each other merging into one large church with branch campuses at each of the individual churches. There was also talk about renting out some of our unused space for offices or other uses. We are planning to continue meeting on a monthly basis.

For concerns or questions about facilities and programs please contact a council member.

Jack Boller

Ways to Give



If you purchase from Amazon:

1. Set up Amazon Smile
2. 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.*

Make a gift online through our website:

www.mtsilutheran.org/onlinegiving

Thank you for your continued generosity.

-Treasurer

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



God We Come to You

As we gather here in this place
do we think of it as a place of
healing?

As we gather here in this place
do we look for cleansing?

As come to God in worship
what is it we are looking for?

Health and wellbeing, rich
blessings or love?

God of wisdom, God of
healing, God of heavenly
riches, We come to you in
worship and praise seeking
healing and cleansing for our
souls, richness in our lives and
peace for our world.

God we come to you.

- Spill the Beans, iss. 13

GIRL SCOUTS

The Girl Scouts Leaders
meet at the church on the
third Thursday of each
month from 6:30-8:30pm

AA

AA meets every Thursday
evening from 7:00pm to
9:00pm

FAITH FORMATION

Confirmation Youth and YOU

Thursday evening Confirmation has provided opportunities for 4 of our youth to meet and reflect on the core of our Lutheran beliefs. These weekly meetings provide fellowship with families (beginning with a shared meal), learning the 10 Commandments, and learning about Worship in a smaller setting. It also includes "homework" to discuss topics with members of the Congregation, so YOU may be approached with questions! Thanks in advance for supporting these Confirmands!



Our Confirmation families! Confirmation is led by Pr. Krista with support from John Grebe.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH EDUCATION

Sunday School
1st Sunday of each month
following the Fellowship Hour

Children and youth are invited for the monthly Sunday School sessions on Sunday, December 4 and a date change for January to Sunday, January 8. Teachers are also available on all other Sundays for any children who would like to stay beyond the Fellowship Hour.

Come join us
for a Christmas Party
Thursday, December 15th!



F.A.M.S. (grades K-5) and Confirmation will be a joint Christmas party on Dec. 15th with cookie decorating, baking, dinner, games and more! We will meet from 4:30-6:30pm

More details to come! Watch for updates in News From the Pews.

OTHER NEWS

Cluster Events

As Mt. Si Lutheran continues to connect with other churches in our region of the NWWA Synod, youth events for grades 6-12 are scheduled periodically.

November's opportunities included a virtual Minecraft gaming night, as well as a "Sock Samurai" event at St. Andrew's, with Pastor Krista's husband, Doug, as the leading Ninja!

Leaders will be meeting in early December to discuss future opportunities for this group, so stay tuned for more events coming soon!

Please Note:

Pastor Krista will be out of town Jan 6th-Jan 20th.

Please reach out to Pr. Lara Forbes, 425-505-5590, for pastoral emergencies. Pr. Paul Benz will be preaching and presiding on Jan 8th. He serves Seattle Night Watch, a ministry that offers a wide range of services for folks living in poverty or homelessness. He will share about this ministry during Adult Ed time following worship. Pr. Kristy Daniels from Encompass Housing will be preaching and presiding on Jan. 15th She will also lead the adult hour and share about the work and ministry of Compass Housing and the Church of Steadfast Love. We are blessed to have these two gifted pastors share the Gospel with us and share about their unique ministry settings.



The Advent Festival was such fun!



Thank you to Courtney and Inge who helped pull this event together for us! And to the Faith Formation team for providing the food.

EVERYTHING APPLES!

Thank you to those who participated, as well as those who joined in Part 2 the following Saturday!



Cider was made and we had multiple requests for apples that exceeded the approximate 360 pounds of apples so we did not have any left over to donate to the food bank this year.

★
For
unto
you is
born this
day in the
city of David
a Savior, which
is Christ the Lord
Luke
2:11

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.

**DECEMBER
BIRTHDAYS**



- Martha O'Dell 3rd
- Lauralee Ritzenthaler 4th
- Joshua Stone 12th
- Ed Benson 14th
- Zowie Karren 14th
- Jack Boller 20th
- Kay Boyle 22nd
- Michael Harding 22nd
- Christopher Sampson 24th
- Don Oster 26th
- Haley Chase 30th
- Nate Chase 30th

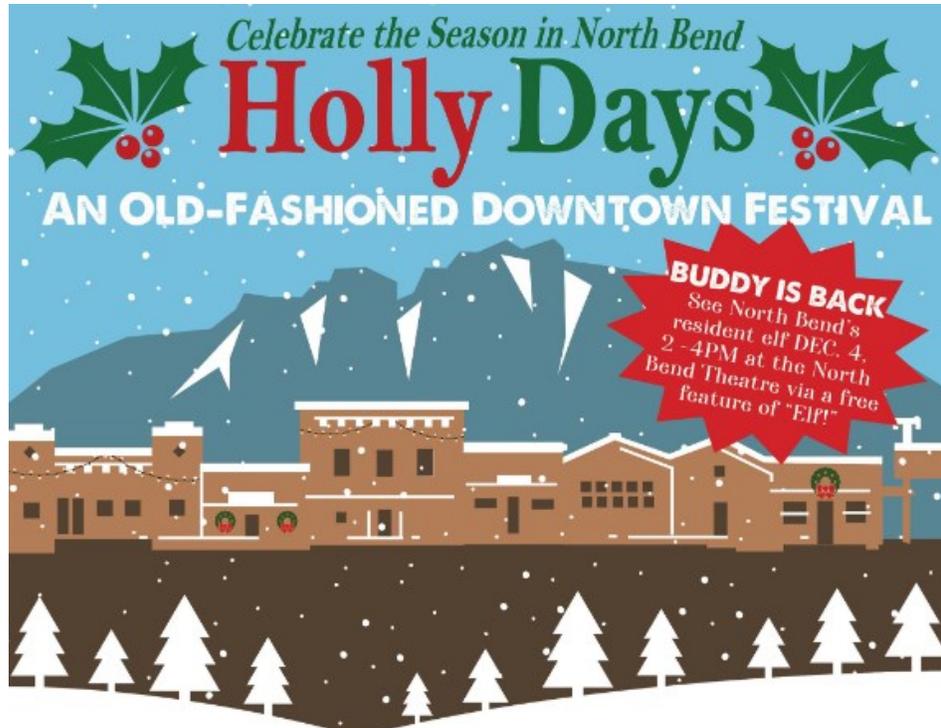


- Michael & Rosemary Hanson 15th
- Abe & Mary Abrahamson 22nd

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

Send content for our weekly News from the Pews to Kathleen at: mntsi.assistant@gmail.com

OUTREACH NEWS



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4
5 - 8 PM**

Tree lighting * Streetside smores * Live performances
Santa * Crafting for kids * Holiday dining & shopping

Mt Si Lutheran Booth at Holly Days

Mt Si will again have a booth with free crafts, hot coco and more at this year's North Bend Holly Days. We need help setting up, supervising crafts, handing out church info and cleaning up. See sign-ups in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall for more details or talk to Pastor Krista.

The House of Hope/Mamma's Hands Giving Tree is up in the Fellowship Hall

As of now we have four families -4 moms & 6 kids (with a possibility of more) Our hope is to be able to give \$50 in gift cards for each person. Gifts cards are awesome because they allow the families to get just want they need & want!

You also can just donate money we will use to purchase the gift cards.

Please choose a tag and return the gift card with the tag attached by December 7.

Let's help these families have a Merry Christmas!

Thank you!



WORSHIP NEWS



THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS HARD FOR
THOSE WHOSE HEARTS ARE
HURTING. YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Blue Christmas

a gentle, contemplative worship service for
those who are carrying pain or loss during
this season of celebration

WED, DEC 14 - 7PM
MT SI LUTHERAN CHURCH
411 NE 8TH ST, NORTH BEND

WWW.MTSILUTHERAN.ORG



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

7:00PM & 10:00PM
MT SI LUTHERAN CHURCH
411 NE 8TH ST, NORTH BEND



DECEMBER SUNDAY LESSONS

December 4th
First Lesson: Matthew 5:13-16
Narrative Text:
Esther 4:1-17

December 11th
First Lesson:
Matthew 12:15-21
Narrative Text: Isaiah 42:1-9

December 18th
First Lesson: Psalm 23
Narrative Text: Matthew 1:18-25

December 25th
First Lesson: TBD
Narrative Text: Luke 2:8-20



**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.

BISHOP'S LETTER

December 2022



I took the quilt to the cleaners to get washed. They looked at it and handed it back. If we touch this, they said, it will fall apart.

To most eyes, the quilt is nothing to look at. The bright yellow ducklings have long faded to muted colors. The binding is frayed. Happy, my dog from childhood, chewed holes in the fabric where stuffing came out and repair was never finished. (Happy did this to many sheets and blankets in my growing up years. My sisters and I called them “Happy holes.” My mom did not.)

From the time I was a toddler, this quilt has held my laughter, tears, secrets, sleep, insomnia, sickness, health, anger. In darkness, this quilt surrounded me in warmth. Years later, my children were wrapped in this same quilt.

Long before my grandma quilted my “duckie” blanket and gave it to me, there was a young family without permanent shelter and a baby soon to be born. The village midwives came into the night to help birth a baby for a family unknown. They came to an unhoused couple, a foreign couple, a poor couple with no prospects or power. And yet, these midwives left their warm houses and their own families, bringing their own handmade blankets and strips of cloth as they participated in this baby’s birth. And, when he was born, they wrapped this child and his mom in warmth.

We know this because we hear the angels’ words to the shepherds, “This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ Surely if the baby was wrapped in bands of cloth, the child was also wrapped in blankets.

What a difference it would have been without these blankets, without these swaddling cloths, without these midwives. Without the skills and the gifts God gave to them. The vocation of midwife brought Jesus into the world. The hands and wisdom of these women wrapped him in swaddling cloths.

It is such an amazing story ... through God’s invitation, and from Mary saying yes and Joseph saying yes and the innkeeper saying yes and the midwives saying yes – Jesus came.

Two thousand years ago, in a way no one could have imagined, God was with us in human form. Wrapped in blankets. Held in love.

What love, what grace, what beauty. Amazingly and almost inconceivably, in this little baby, God’s love came and God’s love continues to be among us through Jesus – Immanuel, Incarnate, God-in-the-flesh love. Embodied love ... for you and for me. Always.

I know that life is messy. Life is sometimes hard. Sometimes the world seems out of control and we are so small against so much of what is out there. And yet ... through something as small and vulnerable as a newborn baby, we are promised that God is here. Amongst us. And God’s love is for everyone. Absolutely everyone. Regardless of your job or your political party, your anxiety or your income. Your ethnicity, your language, your gender, your situation in life. God’s love is for you who celebrate this holy day and God’s love is for those who don’t. God’s love is for those you are estranged from and those you embrace.

This Christmas and this year, may you feel surrounded by God’s love and presence. In your laughter, tears, secrets, sleep, insomnia, sickness, health, anger - in darkness and in light may you feel God wrapping you into God’s embrace ... like a worn, faded blanket that is covered in ducks and Happy holes.

Have a Blessed Christmas,
Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee