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Mount Si Lutheran Church

*To Serve
To Reach Out
To Grow In Grace*

GOODNEWSletter

DECEMBER 2025

Pastor's Note...

Grace and peace to you,

As we enter the Advent season we will be using materials from Worship Design Studio and their series, "What Child IS This." Here is a brief description of the series from the author, Dr. Marica McFee:

"The anchor image' (visual metaphor) for this series is the nativity scene, or crèche. These character's faces have lived in my imagination all my life, a kind of romantic vision of a 'silent night.' Yet the actual reality of each of these characters was fragile and difficult. This worship series is meant to help us know more about who Jesus is by looking at the actual lives and circumstances of these narratives. And to see that God is also with us in our fragility, as we are to be with others. We have lots of ideas about highlighting this theme's messages and spiritual metaphors with the use of nativity sets in the church and outdoors. Advent is usually about waiting. But we cannot wait to have hope; it is essential now. We cannot wait to work for peace; lives are at stake. We cannot wait to embrace joy, even and especially when it seems in short supply. We cannot wait to love, most of all, because we are the ones who follow the saving love of Jesus Christ, God-With-Us."

You will notice around the church that there are nativity scenes everywhere! We also have a special day (Dec. 14) that all are invited to bring their own nativity sets to church so we can share the stories of where they came from and what they mean to us.

The other piece you will notice is that we will hear the full Christmas Story during worship bit by bit each week. This will allow us to dig more deeply into the Christmas Story.

I pray this series is a blessing to you over this season. I pray you find spaces to rest and be renewed in this season as we are reminded of all the hope, joy, peace and love Jesus brings to our world - especially in a time our world seems to only hold the opposite - despair, loss, violence and hate.

The other piece I wanted to make sure I share - you will see many events happening throughout the season. You are welcome to attend as many or as few events as gives you life and joy this season.

Take care and be well beloved brothers and sisters in Christ. You are in my prayers each day.

Peace, P. K.

In this newsletter you will find:

Pastor's Note...

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Advent & Christmas Events



Nov 30
Bless This Night Worship
6pm @ OSLC

On the first Sunday of Advent our conference is gathering together to share in Evening Prayer together at Our Savior Lutheran in Issaquah (745 Front St. S.).

5pm - Preview of Bless this Night Liturgy with writers

6pm - Worship

6:30pm - Treats and Fellowship

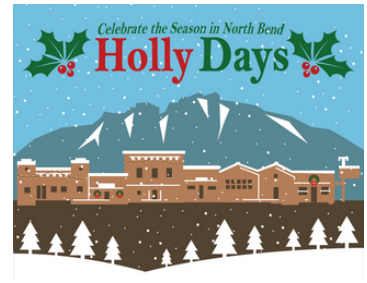


Nov 30
Advent Festival
Following Worship

Are you excited! Advent is here! Come gather after worship on November 30th for a special Advent Festival. We will make Advent wreaths, ornaments and share in a special time of fellowship.

This is fun for all ages.

See you there!



December 6
Holly Days, 5-8pm

We will be back offering free crafts and hot coco at the North Bend Holly Days on December 6.

Sign-ups are in the Fellowship Hall. We need help setting up, facilitating crafts and cleaning up at the end.



December 7
St. Lucia Festival
@ SLLC

St. Luke's Lutheran has invited everyone at Mt Si to participate in their St. Lucia Festivities on Sunday, December 7th at 11:30am.

Enjoy a Swedish Meatball lunch and watch the St. Lucia pageant. Fun for all ages! RSVP to melinda@slukes.org



December 13
St. Martin & Garden
d'Lights Festivites!

This event is for everyone of all ages! **Come to St. Andrew's at 4pm** on Saturday, Dec. 13 to hear the story of St. Martin, build lanterns and decorate gingerbread cookies while we enjoy fellowship and hot coco. Then, we'll head to the Bellevue Botanical Gardens to see the **Garden d'lights show at 6pm**. Purchase your Garden d'lights tickets here:

<https://bellevuebotanical.org/garden-dlights/>



December 14
Nativity Showcase

Bring your nativity set to church and set-up in the Fellowship Hall before worship (or after). Fill out a small card with the story of your set. We will all share stories and enjoy seeing each others sets after worship!

Advent & Christmas Special Events



December 14 Greatest Christmas Pageant Ever, 2pm

Come and see multiple Mt Si members and community folks act in the "Greatest Christmas Pageant Ever" at the Valley Center Stage Theatre in North Bend.

There are many shows, but we are looking to go as a big group from Mt Si on Dec. 14 at 2pm. Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall!

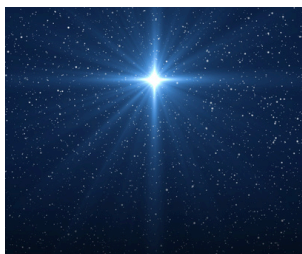


December 21 Christmas Concert @ SHLC, 3pm

Enjoy an afternoon of music, reflection and fellowship; a time to gather in hope and comfort. A donation of \$10 per person is suggested.

Bake sale and art/craft sale following the concert.

contact Mary Sue Payne at: stephlo@aol.com for tickets.



December 17 Blue Christmas, 7pm

This mid-week service is for anyone who needs a break from all the celebrations to honor their feelings of grief, sadness, anxiety, loneliness and other emotions this holiday season stirs up in you. This is a service of lament and hope. All are welcome.



December 24 Christmas Eve, 7pm

Our candlelight Christmas Eve service will take place at 7pm on Wed., December 24. Come enjoy a service filled with music, scripture and joy!

Let us welcome the child who set us free and remember the great promises that Christ brings.



December 21 Mt Si Christmas Pageant & Mug Sunday!

Enjoy a fun filled Christmas Pageant during worship on December 21.

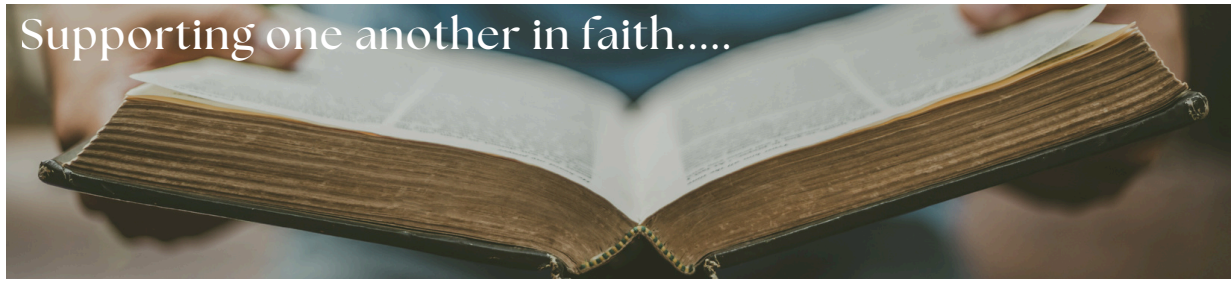
Want to be in the play? Let Pastor Krista know - all ages are welcome to participate.



December 28 Lessons & Carols

Sunday worship will be a service of readings and carols. We will hear the history of the carols we sing as well as hear the stories of what happened following Jesus' birth from the Gospel of Matthew.

Supporting one another in faith.....



Sunday Readings & Weekday Education Opportunities

DECEMBER SUNDAY LESSONS

December 7 - Advent Two

First Lesson: Luke 1:5-25

Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:57-80

December 14 - Advent Three

Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:26-56

December 21 - Advent Four

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

December 28 - Christmas One

Service of Lessons and Carols

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES IN DECEMBER

Men's Bible Study - Saturdays, 9am @
Little Si Restaurant.

Women's Bible Study -
Mondays, 12:30pm, Multi-Purpose Room
12:30pm.

Confirmation - Sunday, December 14, 4-7
@ SHLC



December Birthdays

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



December Anniversaries

Michael & Rosemary Hanson 15th

Abe & Mary Abrahamson 22nd

Flower Chart Sign-ups

**Please consider signing up to bring
flowers for our altar on Sunday morning.**

This can be in honor or memory of
a loved one or event in your life
or just because you enjoy flowers!

The flower chart is in the
Fellowship Hall hallway.
Thank you for your offering!

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



Bishop's Letter

December 2025

Have you ever paused to consider how the Christmas story includes the very sordid tale of an engaged young woman who, to all appearances, was unfaithful to her fiancé? While we often sing about the hope and joy of this child (we know who this child is after all!), those in the middle of it all, heartache abounded. Joseph wondered who the father of this child truly was. Mary's parents feared for her reputation and her future. And Mary? Mary did not walk through any of this untouched by pain. What a miserable, tangled mess. Poor Joseph. Poor Mary. And what a precarious, almost unthinkable situation for God to choose to be the way of coming into the world.

And perhaps this is why we love this story so deeply. Because God coming to the world as a baby, God becoming flesh – incarnate – becoming human, was never meant to only be miraculous and beautiful and amazing. It was never merely a night where angels sang and shepherds worshiped. It was never simply about a couple who accepted and embraced this new thing without thought or questions or fear.

No. In this story of incarnation we are given truth. The truth that life is sometimes difficult, sometimes hard. The truth that in this world there is confusion and fear and brokenness and messiness. Though no angel has come to interrupt our lives with such extraordinary news, every one of us knows frustration and grief and those heavy, unspoken things that keep us awake at night. And so, this story is not only something we know – it's a story that knows us.

If you have a Bible handy (or a Bible app), I invite you to open it up to Matthew 1 and read the genealogy listed there. At first glance, it reads like a list of heroes. But if we scratch the surface, there is a more complicated truth of who these people were. Abraham nearly sacrificed his son. Jacob cheated his brother out of his birthright. David arranged a man's murder to prevent a scandal. And then there's all those women listed – Bathsheba, Rahab, Ruth – whose stories, or at least the way they have been remembered, are filled with struggle, tragedy, or suspicion.

But here's the thing. We know that God was with every one of those men and women, as broken as they were, as much fear or anxiety they might have had, as messy as their lives were, as complicated as the world was. God worked through their lives in the midst of it all. We know that Abraham's son Isaac was not sacrificed, a ram was provided. Rahab saved God's people. Ruth became the ancestor of kings. And above all these stories, we have the Christmas story – truly the whole Jesus story.

We know, through all these stories, that God comes and is incarnate in the lives of messy, complicated people. We know that the Spirit is always moving through broken places to bring wholeness and new life. Always, always God comes – even when all seems hopeless or chaotic.

So, perhaps now, in this time, when so much seems to be fraught and unknown, so much seems to be uncertain or just plain bad, when we aren't sure what is next or what choice is best, we hear the Christmas story anew. And, in hearing it, may we trust that God is here, always, in our stories and in our lives.

Today we live in expectation. Today, we hope and trust, even in our messiness, that God comes to us, holds us, and loves us. Today we hold onto the promises that God is with us – incarnate in Jesus – and together we have the promise of a world made new through Jesus Christ, bringing true peace to this world. And, until then, we pray, come, Lord Jesus, come!



Concert @ Cross of Christ

Saturday - December 6 - 10:30-12:00pm

Come join in a morning of sharing love with music. This event benefits children with special needs locally, through Love Me Ministry, and supports children globally, through Love With Action, ministry in Rwanda.

Tickets are \$10 per person

Location: Cross of Christ Bellevue

Thank you for your support!

Belize Fundraisers - Goal \$10,000



Pies for Belize! Each Sunday, from now until the end of January, Leslie will provide a pie/dessert for someone to take home and enjoy. Pick up your ticket(s) (suggested donation of \$1 per ticket) in the Fellowship Hall after worship.

We'll draw a winner about 11am.

If that's not enough pie for you - we'll soon be taking orders for homemade chicken and veggie pot pies that will be delivered to you in January.

Look for order forms coming soon!



You are invited! Weekly Gatherings

- *Come tie quilts on Monday mornings at 9:00am in the quilting room
- *Women's Bible Study on Monday afternoons, beginning at 12:30pm - in multipurpose room
- *The Prayer Group meets on Tuesdays at 9:30am in the Prayer Room
- *Acts Bible Study meets Wednesday Evenings at 6:00 in the multipurpose room
- *Men's Bible Study meets Saturday, 9:00 at Little Si Rest.

MSLC Finance Update

We heard a financial update for 2025 at our Annual Meeting on Nov. 23. It was shared that we anticipate a year end deficit of about about \$1500, which is good news.

We also approved our 2026 budget. We anticipate a deficit of close to \$12,500. To meet this anticipated deficit, we are asking each family to prayerfully consider increasing their giving in 2026. If each family were to increase by \$19 a month, we could meet our deficit. We realize not everyone can do this, that's ok! We are grateful for the generosity of this congregation

Special Funds Update

I want to thank everyone who has donated so far towards our capital campaign. We have raised over **\$15,000** so far towards our goal of \$20,000.

Please note - we have received nearly \$1500 from the noisy offering collected each first Sunday of the month for our upcoming Belize mission. **THANK YOU!** Next noisy offering is on **December 7**

Pledge Cards - please fill out a pledge card and place in the offering plate by Dec. 14.