

**MOUNT SI LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

411 NE 8TH ST
NORTH BEND, WA 98045

Mount Si's GOOD NEWSletter

February 2014

Special Points of Interest:

- Feb. 14th—Happy Valentines Day
- Feb. 17th—President's Day Holiday (offices closed)



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From Pastor Mark's Desk.....

New Year, New Beginnings...

This is an exciting time for us here at Mt. Si Lutheran Church. We look to this New Year and look forward to what God has in store for us. We are engaged in the community around us in

so many ways and I look forward to deepening those relationships as well as finding new ones. As we roll into this New Year I also give thanks for the warmth of our faith family. As we look to reach out it is also important for us to remember to nurture this great community we have. I am looking forward to deepening the relationships God has blessed us within our congregation. Together we will find new creative, and exciting, ways to live further into our mission statement: to serve, reach out, and grow in grace.



This New Year is also a time for another wonderful new beginning. This month we are thrilled to welcome James Mehring to our ministry staff to be our new Director of Family and Youth Ministry. He has spent the last year working as a youth director in a Lutheran church in the Seattle area. Before that he studied youth ministry at Trinity Lutheran College in Everett. He brings a great educational background and a passion for ministry and I am excited for you get to know him. Family and Youth Ministry has always been a vital part of who we are as a faith family and James will help us continue that legacy of strong ministry.

Many of you will take the opportunity to go to Holden Village as a church family in March. I believe that will be a time for us to learn and grow together but also to connect to one another and be knit closer together as a faith family. If you've never been to the village this is a great opportunity to experience what a great place it is. If you've already been up there you don't need me to convince you. James will be up there with us and there will be things for people of all ages to do.

We have a lot to be grateful for as we reflect on this past year and we have a lot to look forward to as this New Year unfolds. With grateful hearts we boldly go forward and trust God to lead and guide us. With open hearts we follow wherever Christ may lead.

Read more about James on pg. 5



Welcome to the Book of Faith page. The purpose of this page is to share all things related to the Book of Faith focus at Mount Si Lutheran. Stay tuned each month, and prepare to share your input as we together do what the above tag line says, “Open Scripture and Join the Conversation”.

Are We Being Transformed?

The New Year always provides the opportunity to re-evaluate—goals, eating habits, finances, etc. Another very important thing we should add to this list is an evaluation of our spiritual life. Are we growing in our life with God? Some questions we might want to ask ourselves are: How is my relationship with God? How much time do I spend with Him each day? Do I give Him any of my time on a regular, daily basis or is it more hit and miss? Do I see spending time with God as just another duty or responsibility that I need to mark off my to-do list, or do I cherish the time I spend with my Loving Father?

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:2).

Paul challenges us in this passage! He says we are not to act like the world around us. What is the world around us like? People are overworked, overcommitted, and overstressed. Many are on the run from early morning until late at night, and still feel like they haven’t accomplished all that needed to be done. Many feel isolated and lack joy in life. Does that describe us as well? Paul offers a solution, if we will only accept and practice it. He says we are to be “transformed by the renewing of our minds.”

Spending time with God on a regular basis will transform our life. The old self goes away and we take on a new identity. We grow “in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ...We will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is Christ” (Eph. 4:13,15, emphasis added). God wants us to grow up, to change, and to be transformed into the likeness of His Son, but that can only happen as we spend quality time with God.

So how is our mind renewed? We are only truly renewed by spending time—quality time—in God’s presence. We are renewed when we read His Word and hear the promises He has for us each day; when we spend time in prayerful conversation with Him so we can receive His guidance and direction for our lives; when we worship and praise Him for who He is and for all the many blessings He has given us; and when we take time to confess our sins and acknowledge our brokenness so we remember how much we need a Savior. We are renewed when we spend time just quietly listening, receiving the strength, joy and power God desires to give us. He is the Source of all we need, and He will provide for those needs when we come to Him—when we make our relationship with Him a priority rather than an afterthought.

Imagine an electrical outlet. There is plenty of power available. However, unless the power cord is plugged into the outlet, there is no electricity available to run the appliance. The same is true of our relationship with God. God is an endless resource for us. But we must “plug in” if we want access to that power.

Why is it so important that we be transformed and grow in our life with God? It is not just for our benefit. It is for the sake of God’s mission in the world. The Book of Faith Initiative Vision Statement puts it this way, “That the whole church become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered, and sent by the Word.



RICE BOWLS
FILL BOWL • FIGHT HUNGER

**From Dec. 1-
Jan. 5, we
collected
\$660.32 to help
feed hungry
children around
the world.
Thank you to
all who
donated.**



Wednesday Evening Worship at 7PM
This is a contemporary, contemplative worship with Holy Communion. Join us and see what all the enthusiasm is about!

Parish Education News!

Our Sunday School season is going strong. Come check us out! We have classes for ages 3-103, so there is sure to be something that will meet your needs! Check the schedule below:



- *Children's Sunday School is 9:30-10:30 AM
- *Teen Time Schedule: 9:45 Ready! 9:50 Set! 10:20 Go!
- *Adult Education Hour: 9:45-10:30 AM

Sunday School Staff for the 2013-2014 School Year:

Opening Music—Earl Wildes
Preschool & Kindergarten —Rosemary Hanson/Nancy Flanagan
1st & 2nd grade—Debbie Jones
3rd & 4th grades—Anne Bartlett/Courtney Adams
5th/6th grades—Kim & Mike Buckmaster/Joanne Chase
Teen Time—Dana Koukol
Adult Education Hour—Pastor Mark/Sue Shardelman



Adult Education

This winter the adult class will be reading and discussing a book about theologian Paul Tillich. The title of the book is Tillich: A Brief Overview of the Life and Writings of Paul Tillich by Daniel Peterson. Pastor Mark will lead us through these conversations. Grab a cup of coffee and join us in the library for lively conversation & fellowship. We meet at **9:45 am**.

Help Needed!

Vacation Bible School: We need leaders for this summer! We have already received the starter kit for "**Weird Animals**". All you have to do is follow the detailed instructions in the kit. The kit is available in the church office or contact Sheila Rodriguez to take a look at it.

If you are interested in helping with VBS, please contact Courtney Adams, Joanne Chase, or Sue Shardelman as soon as possible. Thanks.



God filled the world with a lot of crazy creatures...including you! When kids feel weird, different, or lost in a crowd—nothing compares to the extraordinary love of Jesus.



Senior Fellowship—We will not meet in February, but please mark your calendars for our March Sr. Fellowship event. On Mar., 17th at 2PM we are fortunate to have a representative from the North Bend Fire Department come and talk to us about fire safety. All are welcome to attend. Watch for more info in the March newsletter. If you have any suggestions for Senior Fellowship activities or programs, please call Joyce Ayers at 425 865-9853 or Genada Lynn at 425 292-3124.



LIBRARY NEWS—Books by Paul Tillich are on the display table in the library. If you want to check them out to help in knowing Tillich for our Adult Sunday School class, please sign the check out card in the book and put it in the box by the door. If you have questions or would like to volunteer in our library, please speak with Connie Som 425 888-0727, Joyce Ayers 425 865-9853 or Sue Oster 425 888-4056.



The gift of generosity—We thank everyone who has supported **Mt. Si Lutheran** this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead. If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings, we encourage you to look into our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. Visit mtsilutheran.org, go to the Home page, click "On-line Giving" and follow directions, or contact the church office for more information.



Thank you from the Teen Closet! Thank you to all who helped at the Teen Closet Event on Wed! It really does take a village! :) We had a good turnout at the event, the line was down the walkway when we opened the doors at 4pm. 19 teens came in when we opened the doors (we're now admitting teens only for the first 30 minutes) and by the end of the event we had 41 people walk through the door. Another 13 Teens who did not attend the Teen Closet received clothing that their parent(s) selected for them. We are running low on several clothing items so are looking for new or gently used TEEN styles for kiddos in 6th-12th grade:

- Boys-Jeans all sizes, Hoody Sweatshirts in Lg, XL, XXL, Tennis Shoes-new or very gently used**
- Girls-Jeans all sizes, Hoody Sweatshirts all sizes, Tops and T-shirts all sizes, Shoes-new or very gently used**

If you'd like to donate clothing or shoes, you can take them to the Mt Si Lutheran Church but I'd advise you call first (888-1322) to make sure someone is there to accept the donations.

Our next Teen Closet Event is scheduled for Wed March 29th. **If you would like to volunteer or if you have any questions, please email Monica: ruther3651@gmail.com.**

Thank you! Monica, Sno-Valley Teen Closet



Community In Action

www.snoqualmievalleyfoodbank.org

Help us maintain a healthy community and provide food to our neighbors in need. Be part of a community in action.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION
 Every Wednesday
 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
 No Appointment Necessary
 122 E 3rd St
 North Bend, WA 98045
 Located next to the King County Library in North Bend

FOOD DONATIONS
 Non-Perishable Donations
 Monday & Tuesday 9 a.m.-11 a.m.
 Wednesday from 9 a.m.- 6:30 p.m.
 Perishable Foods
 Monday & Tuesday 9 a.m.- 11 a.m.
 Wednesday from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.
 Bring donation to food bank located at
 122 E 3rd St North Bend, WA 98045

Meet your 2014 Council Members

President Jack Boller 2015 (1) Email: jboller@comcast.net	Vice President Heidi Dukich 2015 (1) Email: hedukich@hotmail.com	Secretary Courtney Adams 2014 (1) Email: courtneymadams@hotmail.com	Treasurer Annual Renewal Paula Hower Email: pjhower@comcast.net
Bob Bartlett 2014 (2) Email: bobnannieb@comcast.net	Ed Benson 2015 (2) Email: edwinsdad1@yahoo.com	Linda Luke 2014 (1) Email: half90a@gmail.com	Michael Hanson 2014 (1) Email: mrhanson@centurytel.net
Lee Prewitt 2014 (1) Email: prewitt_8321@msn.com	Paul Dukich 2016 (2) Email: pauldukich@tokulcreekmarketing.com	Paul Ritzenthaler 2015 (1) Email: paul.ritz@comcast.net	Kay Boyle 2015 (1) Email: kay.boyle@comcast.net
Debbie Spurling 2016 (1) Email: angeltender@hotmail.com	<h2>Council Corner!</h2>		Kelly Luna 2016 (1) Email: ksluna@gmail.com

Annual Congregational Meeting Update

Mt. Si's Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, January 26, 2014. The new Council Executive Committee was announced: **Jack Boller**, President; **Heidi Dukich**, Vice President; and **Courtney Adams**, Secretary. Jack led the meeting and thanked **John Cassidy** and **Rick Rodriguez** for their service the past two years as President & Vice President. **Courtney Adams** has offered to stay on as Secretary another year. Jack welcomed the ministries to give a verbal report of the past year. Many spoke of their ministry's accomplishments during 2013 and plans/goals for 2014. Pr. Mark presented **John Cassidy** with a card and gift card from the congregation in recognition of his faithful service on council for the past three years. **Tom Som** and **Heidi Dukich** were selected as the Synod Assembly Reps for this May. Pr. Mark announced that **Leslie Hatling** will serve as the next Financial Secretary. He thanked **Joan Guenther** for serving in that position for the past year. Pr. Mark also shared that the new Family & Youth Director, **James Mehring** will be starting this coming week and thanked **Lauren Frerichs** for her many accomplishments with the Family & Youth Program the past two years. We will announce soon a welcome reception for James. Stay tuned!



Hello, my name is James Mehring and I am your new Family and Youth Ministry Director. I am excited to be joining Mount Si's Ministries! I am a recent graduate of Trinity Lutheran College with a degree in Children, Youth, and Family Studies. I am coming from Northlake Lutheran Church in Kenmore, where I held the position as Director of Youth and Family Ministry.

Here is a little about my past. I was born and raised in a small town in Wisconsin and raised in a catholic family. I was raised by my parents Jim and Dawn, along with my two younger siblings Chloe and Zach. I have a big passion for sports; Wisconsin AND Washington teams so don't worry. I also enjoy listening and playing music, especially contemporary Christian music and of course 90's Pop.

I am excited to get my hands dirty and start serving Mount Si and the community surrounding it. I am jokester and love to use humor in my interactions with people because it puts a smile on my face when I put them on others. As I stated earlier I grew up catholic and it wasn't till my high school years that I really got involved in the Lutheran church. But I fell in love with the opportunities to talk, serve, and live the love of Christ in a supported community of my peers. After I graduated high school I spent a year volunteering with an organization called Youth Encounter. I was apart of a team of five college aged Christians and we traveled up and down the East Coast visiting churches, putting on an evening worship program. After I finished I followed one of my friends from Youth Encounter to Trinity Lutheran College in Everett, WA. It was here that I eventually decided to build my love for Christ and church ministry into a vocation.

This is just a small portion of who I am and where I have been. I'm sure you will get to hear more of my stories and experiences during my time with you all, but if you have any other questions feel free to ask me!

Excited for the future,

James Mehring

Email: jamesnmehring@gmail.com

Phone: (262) 210-7392

You may contribute to the newsletter by submitting your articles to the church office by email, snail mail, or a simple phone call. The Deadline for submissions is the THIRD MONDAY of each month, except when earlier deadlines are required due to holidays, etc.

Congratulations to Matt Rodriguez on his graduation from the University of Oregon. Dec. 2013, Matt received a B.S. degree from the Lundquist College of Business/Marketing with a minor in Psychology. His family is very proud and celebrates the next chapter ahead for Matt. GO Ducks! Rick, Sheila, & Natalie Rodriguez



Volunteer Opportunities

Office Volunteers

Needed: We are looking for office volunteers for Mar. 14-21. We will have limited office coverage during this time to accommodate the volunteer's

schedules (probably 9AM-Noon). If you can commit to one day or several days, please give Sheila Rodriguez a call at 888-1322. Thank you!



 **OFFICIAL ACTS**

WEDDING
Dec. 22, 2013 *Kira Clark and James Nelson were married by Pr. Mark Griffith at Mt. Si Lutheran Church*

 **Reminder!** 2013 Contribution statements will be available soon.

Also, if you have not been issued offering envelopes and would like either weekly or monthly contribution envelopes, please contact Joan Guenther. If you have any questions, please speak to Joan Guenther, or call the office at 888-1322.

 **The greatest love story!**

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." ~John 3: 16

Bible Study News...there's one for you!



Men's Saturday Breakfast Bible Study

Come join the men at 8AM and review the Sunday readings and lessons for that Sunday. All men are welcome. For more information, contact Paul Ritzenthaler at 425 888-5294. **Location: Mt. Si Golf Course**

Bible Study for WOMEN

The Monday Women's Bible Study Group has begun the Book of James. Please join us every Monday at 12:30PM in the Fellowship Hall. For more information contact Grace Culver at 425 222-7515 or Betty Shardelman at 425 888-0772.

Thought You'd Like to Know...

Is Serving as Worship Assistant Really a Ministry? Absolutely!

USHERING

Ushering is a public ministry of hospitality and evangelism. In a real and vital way, ushers are the “welcoming committee” here at Mt. Si Lutheran Church. Ushers model the congregation’s intention to be a welcoming and hospitable community where everyone may feel comfortable as they worship. Knowledge and understanding of the meaning of worship enables ushers to realize that ushering is indeed a vital and holy ministry.

COMMUNION HELPER

The Communion Helper also serves a vital and holy ministry. They assist the Pastor with distributing the “Bread” and “Wine” to those wishing to receive holy communion.

ACOLYTE

The word Acolyte is an ancient Greek word meaning helper or follower. Acolytes help shape the worship experience by lighting and extinguishing (putting out) the Altar candles. Since ancient times, light and fire have reminded God’s people that God is here among us. When you bring the light into God’s house, you are reminding worshippers that God is present as we worship. When you exit with the lit candlelight, you remind people that Jesus Christ is the light of the world and we are to let His light shine through us as we go out into our community. Your active, reverent participation in the Liturgy is a demonstration of your Christian witness and service to our Lord.

LECTOR

For the earliest times of the church, the reading of Scripture has been an essential part of Christian worship. Scripture remains a central authority for our Christian lives. The lector is the minister who brings the Word of God to life for all to hear. This calling requires preparation so that the readings can become a vehicle for sharing the Word with God’s people.

Each of these Worship Assistant positions are vital to each Sunday/Wednesday service. Mt. Si has many faithful people who have served as worship assistants for many years, but it is becoming more and more challenging to coordinate the list of volunteers for this ministry. We have several new members/families who may be looking for a way to become more involved with the worship service they attend. If you are interested in serving as a Worship Assistant, please complete a Worship Assistant form provided in the Narthex by the elevator and return the form to the church office. If you are interested, but would like more information or even a quick training for any of these positions, please speak to Pr. Mark or Sheila Rodriguez. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for this vital ministry. What a great way to give of yourselves and serve the Lord!

There are several other ways you can serve at Mt. Si each week:



1) You can sign up to provide flowers for the altar. Flowers can be from your own garden, or store bought flowers, Mt. Si isn’t picky. Whatever brings you joy and adds a special touch of beauty to the altar is fine. The 2014 flower chart is located in the Fellowship Hall in the hallway next to the kitchen. Please take a look and see what date you would like to bring flowers in loving memory of a loved one or friend, or in honor of that special anniversary or birthday of a family member or friend. We love seeing flowers on the altar each Sunday/Wednesday, so please consider filling one of the blank dates on the Flower Chart. Flowers should arrive by 8AM for the 8:15AM service.



2) Hospitality Coffee Hour/Fellowship is held between the first and second worship service. We all love having a little something to eat with our coffee/tea, so please sign up to host the coffee hour. It’s really pretty easy. Bake (or buy) some goodies, cheeses, fruits, crackers...that sort of thing. Joan Moe and Pat Thomas set up the coffee pots, and all you have to do is set up the food on the tables, clean up afterwards, including emptying and rinsing coffee pots after coffee hour. This is a wonderful way to show fellowship to our guests and members. More than one family can host together. The sign up sheet is available in the Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, contact Sue Oster or Sheila Rodriguez.



3) Altar Guild—This ministry provides the bread and wine and sets up for Holy Communion for Sunday and Wednesday services. If you are interested in joining the Altar Guild or would like more information in how you can help, please contact Pat Thomas, Barbara Touchette, or call the church office.

President's Annual Report for 2013

Blessings to all!

What an amazing year this has been for us! As I thought about what to write for this year's annual report I reclined into my chair and began to think about some of the events we have been a part of during this last year. I soon realized that I didn't need to be "creative"...God had already laid out the canvas before us. All I had to do was start writing things down, so here we go:

It was an endearing moment last year when the congregation voted overwhelmingly to use our church facility as a winter shelter for the homeless. And provide a warm place to sleep and find peace we did. And what about all of those Spirit-infused meals that our members brought in night after night to fill their empty stomachs. Matthew 25:35 alive and well here (*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in....*).

Outreach events once again were front and center in our local valley ministry: The community garden continued to flourish with higher yields than last year. VBS was well attended. Our presence at the Mt. Si Block Party and especially the North Bend Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony where over 100 kids came and took part in our activities. We heard stories of how our quilts touched the lives of those halfway around the world. Our family and youth mission trip to the Lummi reservation provided a great opportunity for our youth to get down and dirty in some good old-fashioned manual labor in helping to literally clean up the reservation. And as always, the fall Harvest Carnival was well attended.

Our building continues to serve the community in many ways: Scout troupes, A.A., Teen Closet and was the site for several weddings, baptisms and funerals. It is such a wonderful feeling knowing that we can be there during those important markers in the life of our loved ones, friends and anyone who desires to have the Spirit share in this moment of their life. Hats off (again) to the Women's Ministry who do so much but above all make our guests feel like family.

I am thankful for the time that we had Lauren to work with our youth. Although it was not a large group, it was a tight-knit group. As we continue to see new families visit us on Sundays, I am hopeful that you would take a minute to introduce yourself to them and give them a warm Mt. Si Lutheran welcome. I am excited for our new family and youth leader, James, who we will be seeing much of very soon. Let's get behind him and help our youth program grow in size, strength and Christ.

I am especially fond of our new Wednesday evening service. It has allowed us to connect with some folks who just aren't into the Sunday morning worship. It has become, for me, a staple in my weekly life—I really look forward to the peaceful and reflective setting. If you have not had a chance to attend, try it out sometime.

A big thanks to Rick Rodriguez for serving as council vice-president these last two years. And then there is Courtney who I often believe was hand-picked by God himself to inspire me to rise to the expectations of He who would be called the "King of kings". What an amazing job she did as council secretary. So much so that council refused to let her resign as Council Secretary even after term ended. Congratulations to your new Council President Jack Boller; your new Vice President Heidi Dukich and to returning Council Secretary Courtney Adams. Also a warm welcome to Kelly Luna and Debbie Spurling who are excellent additions to your church council.

I would be remiss in mentioning the steeple. I was one of those who voted that I would rather see the money required to build a new steeple go to mission work. But I couldn't shake the feeling that our building seemed incomplete. Thanks to the nifty work of Pastor Mark and those awesome building and grounds guys we now have that missing piece. As I turn onto 8th street heading toward the church I see it—that spire that points the way to a promise fulfilled of eternal life.

It has been an honor and a privilege to server on your church council these last 5 years.

Peace be with you, John Cassidy

**MT. SI LUTHERAN CHURCH
2014 APPROVED BUDGET**

	2011 Actuals	2012 Budget	2012 Actual	2013 Budget Request	2014 Budget Request
Income:					
Total General Fund Contributions	204,015		207,359	244,506	244,506
Interest - Smith Barney					
Miscellaneous Income - Other					
Total Income	207,062	230,000	209,260	246,445	246,445
Expenses					
Advertising	980	1,000	1,116	1,000	1,900
Bank Fees-General Funds	89	0	58	60	60
Reconciliation Discrepancies	0	0	0		
Benevolence					
Corner of Love	1,616	1,733	326	2,030	2,030
House of Hope	1,213	1,300	411	1,523	1,523
Evangelical Lutheran Church	13,498	16,269	2,541	19,061	19,061
Global Missions	1,213	1,099	311	0	0
Lutheran World Relief	1,617	1,733	326	2,030	2,030
World Hunger	809	866	859		
Benevolence - Other	385	0	533		
Pastors Discretionary Fund	250	0		0	0
Total Benevolence Ministries	20,601	23,000	5,307	24,644	24,644
Altar Guild	189	100	84	0	0
Parish Education	2,527	2,000	1,223	2,000	2,000
Building & Grounds	5,699	9,000	7,686	10,000	10,000
Couples in Christ	0	0	0	0	0
Evangelism	-95	300	334	340	340
Global Missions	1,206	300	-361	500	500
Hospitality	74	1,000	-130	1,000	1,000
Library	675	550	497	950	600
Quilting	411	700	1,014	500	500
Women's Ministry	413	450	159	450	400
Worship & Music	2,241	2,250	3,033	1,830	1,350
Youth Operations	2,839	6,725	6,340	6,475	6,475
Total Ministries	16,178	23,375	19,879	24,045	23,165
Conference and Convention	210	0	687	700	700
Total Payroll	129,256	158,300.00	147,376	148,900.00	149,876
Office Supplies & Expense	10,567	11,000	10,844	12,001	12,001
Scholarships	0	2,000	2,000		
Maintenance Reserve	0	0	0		
Capital Reserve	0	0	0		
Payroll Expenses	0	0	0	58	58
Taxes					
Payroll Taxes	5,950	6,988	5,472	7,669	7,669
Property Taxes	61	85	81	150	150
Insurance	7,546	7,887	9,535	8,500	8,500
Utilities	17,902	20,000	18,293	18,659	18,659
Total Expenses	209,340	253,635.00	220,648	246,386	250,083
Net Income or Loss	-2,278	-23,635	-11,388	59	-3,638

Advent Festival & Church Decorating

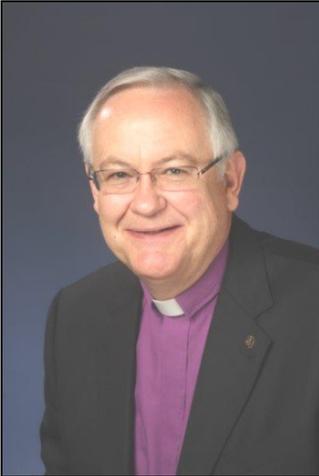






The Spirit

News for the congregations of the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



The Way of Kindness

by the Rev. Kirby Unti, Bishop

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35

Growing up I had a real hard time relating to my older brother. He was bright, a good athlete and an extremely high achiever. He also loved to tease his little brother. I was tormented by him and often felt very angry. In fact on one occasion I threw a barbecue fork at him as he was running out of the house. Fortunately I missed but my intentions were clear, "I wanted to hurt him."

I had forgotten the worst of these childhood memories until a few days ago when I was reflecting upon why is it that I have such a strong opposition to people being mean to one another? My daughters will tell you how upset I would be with them if I thought they were being mean. The answer to my question was obvious. It was about how miserable I felt as a child.

When I entered into middle school I got into an emotional grudge match with one of my peers. I found myself employing the very acts of meanness that my brother had used on me. In fact I invited as many of my friends as possible to join me in piling insults upon my friend. Later in life she would take her own life. We renewed our friendship in high school but it has always bothered me that I was so mean to her.

I honestly believe we could change the world if we were committed to honoring the 8th Commandment in the way Luther explained it when he said, "We should explain our neighbor's actions in the kindest way." Kindness is the opposite of meanness. Meanness robs and destroys life. Kindness is filled with grace and can be so life giving.

Over the years my brother and I have been able to make amends. We became very close in caring for our parents when they were dying. I saw in my brother a deep kindness. He was so tender with my mom and dad. He would anoint their bodies with lotion trying to massage away their pain. He was there to comfort both of them when they took their last breaths.

This is my prayer for each of us and for all of our ministry sites. I pray that we would seek to be people who lean in the direction of kindness. I pray that we would be a people who withhold being mean spirited which often expresses itself in being so critical of one another. I pray that we would strive to explain our neighbor's actions in the kindness way.

Facebook

Get the latest news, connect with other local (and not so local!) Lutherans, and share photos & quotes at www.facebook.com/pages/Northwest-Washington-Synod-ELCA. Another page that is fun to follow is one dedicated to what our Bishop is up to: www.facebook.com/BishopUnti.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<h1>Mt. Si Lutheran</h1>				1 8AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study @ Mt. Si Golf Course
2 Presentation of Our Lord/Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 8:15 Traditional Worship 9:30-10:30AM Sunday School & Coffee Hour 10:45AM Praise Worship 2PM Super Bowl Party at Cassidy's home	3 12:30PM Women's Bible Study	4 9:30AM Quilters 7PM Family & Youth meeting	5 6:30-7:30PM CS Den #4 7:00PM Wednesday Worship with Communion 	6 Noon ELCA Pastors' study 4-5:30PM GS #42488 4:30-6:30PM Girls choir 7PM AA 7:30-8:30PM Private Group Meeting in Youth Room	7 12:45-2:45PM GS #42385	8 8AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study @ Mt. Si Golf Course
9 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany 8:15 Traditional Worship 9:30-10:30AM Sunday School & Coffee Hour 10:45AM Praise Worship 6-8PM Cub Scouts Den #1	10 12:30PM Women's Bible Study 7PM Food Bank Mtg.	11 9:30AM Quilters 6:30PM Stewardship & Finance 7PM Parish Ed meeting	12 7:00PM Wednesday Worship with Communion 	13 Noon ELCA Pastors' study 4:30-6:30PM Girls choir 7PM AA	14 12:45-2:45PM GS #42506 	15 8AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study @ Mt. Si Golf Course
16 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany 8:15 Traditional Worship 9:30-10:30AM Coffee Hour 10:45AM Praise Worship	17 HOLIDAY President's Day (offices closed)  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 	18 9:30AM Quilters 6:30PM Evangelism Meeting 7PM Council meeting	19 6:30-7:30PM CS Den #4 7:00PM Wednesday Worship with Communion 	20 Noon ELCA Pastors' study 4:30-6:30PM Girls choir 7PM AA	21	22 8AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study @ Mt. Si Golf Course
23 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany 8:15 Traditional Worship 9:30-10:30AM Sunday School & Coffee Hour 10:45AM Praise Worship	24 12:30PM Women's Bible Study	25 9:30AM Quilters	26 7:00PM Wednesday Worship with Communion 	27 Noon ELCA Pastors' study 4-5:30PM GS #42488 4:30-6:30PM Girls choir 7PM AA	28 12:45-2:45PM GS #42506	Mar. 1 8AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study @ Mt. Si Golf Course



Flower Chart for the Sanctuary



DATE	NAME	IN MEMORY OR HONOR OF
Feb. 2	Benson Family	In Honor of Edwin's 22nd birthday
Feb. 9		
Feb. 16		
Feb. 23	Tom & Inge Burnside	In Honor of their wedding anniversary



If you would like to bring flowers for the altar for a special occasion in **2014**, please see the sign up chart in the Fellowship Hall for openings or call the church office at 425 888-1322.

Worship Assistants for February



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE 8:15AM & 10:45AM	Feb. 2 Presentation of Our Lord Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	Feb. 9 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	Feb. 16 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany	Feb. 23 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
Usher				
8:15AM	Tom & Connie Som	Mike Kober Herman Schlaht	Paul & Laura Ritzenthaler	Bert Sievertson Herman Schlaht
9:30AM	Sunday School & Coffee Hour Fellowship			
10:45AM	Ed & Jane Benson	Mark Imsland Mike Hanson	Bob Bartlett Tom Chase	Mark Imsland Mike Hanson
Counters		Ed Benson Courtney Adams	Lee Prewitt	
	-- Counters Needed--		-- Counters Needed--	
Communion Assistants				
8:15AM	Courtney Adams	Inge Burnside	Dave Franson	Kay Boyle
10:45AM	Debbie Spurling	Rosemary Hanson	Joanne Chase	Rosemary Hanson
Lector				
8:15AM	Terry Adams	Tom Burnside	Suzie Franson	Heather Griffith
10:45AM	Suzy Cassidy	Ed Benson	Joan Guenther	Linda Velebir
Cantor 8:15AM	Jack Boller	Dave Spurling		

Worship Assistants
If you are interested in assisting on Sunday mornings as Usher, Communion Assistant, Lector, or Acolyte, please call the office and speak to Sheila Rodriguez. She would be happy to add your name to the Worship Assistants list.

Please consider helping with the Sunday coffee hour at Mt. Si. It's a wonderful way to welcome and show fellowship to our members and guests. A sign up sheet is available during coffee hour.



February Birthdays!




NAME	DATE	NAME	DATE
Etta Katocs	1	Dave Spurling	12
Edwin Benson	2	Annabelle Cassidy	13
Nancy Anderson	3	James Mehring	14
Blake Imsland	3	Mike Buckmaster	15
Gregg Spear	5	Jenny Lynch	19
Paula Hower	6	Gavin Riley	19
Jim Flanagan	10	Lindsey Flanagan	19
Lauren Frerichs	10	Kelly Luna	20
Cole Van Gerpen	10	Renee Spear	24
Stuart King	12		

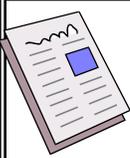


Anniversaries!

Paul & Laura Ritzenthaler	Feb. 9
Brent & Dana Koukol	Feb. 15
Tom & Inge Burnside	Feb. 21



Please call the church office at 888-1322 and let us know if we skip your special day.



Read All About it!!

If you have any questions regarding the newsletter, please call the office and speak with Sheila Rodriguez, Administrative Assistant at 425 888-1322, or via email at mtsilutheran@mtsilutheran.org. We would love to include special interest articles, i.e. awards & recognition for sports or academics, special events or gatherings, etc. The **GOOD NEWS**letter is your newsletter, so be sure to share your comments, suggestions, and articles! Visit our website: www.mtsilutheran.org.

Hospitality Coffee Hour Fellowship and Worship Assistants



We like to encourage a combined fellowship/coffee hour between services in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30-10:30. We need volunteers to sign up for hosting the coffee hour. There is always a sign up sheet at the coffee hour. Sue Oster is our coordinator for the coffee hour fellowship. If you would like to help with our coffee hour fellowship, please contact Sue at 425 888-4056 or sofficka@gmail.com. Also, if you are interested in being a worship assistant, please call the office at 888-1322. Mt. Si needs you!

Mount Si's Mission and Vision Statement

THE MISSION OF MOUNT SI LUTHERAN IS:

~SERVING~

Mount Si Lutheran is a Christ centered community in service to others.

~REACHING OUT~

We are following Christ's Great Commission, bringing others to Christ through our love, our faith, our hope and our actions.

~GROWING IN GRACE~

As we grow in understanding of God's unconditional acceptance and forgiveness, we encourage others to grow in the biblical principles of faith, hope and love.

THE VISION OF MOUNT SI LUTHERAN IS:

To develop ministries that encourage individual and group involvement in service, outreach and spiritual growth.

These ministries follow the Six Marks of Discipleship:

1.~Prayer

2.~Worship

3.~Reading the Bible

4.~Serving at and beyond Mount Si

5.~Spiritual Relationships

6.~Giving of our Time, Talents and Resources

We are a Christ Centered Community Located near Mount Si

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:15AM Traditional Service

9:15AM Fellowship/Coffee Hour

9:30-10:30AM Sunday School

9:45-10:30AM Adult Christian Ed

10:45AM Praise Service

Fifth Sunday of the Month will be Healing Sunday

7:00PM Wednesday Evening Worship w/Holy Communion



Pastor Mark Griffith

James Mehring—Family & Youth Ministry Director

Sheila Rodriguez—Administrative Assistant

John Cassidy—Council President

Andy Velebir and Carol Reitz—Worship & Music

Brittney Hower—Piano

Joan Moe—Custodian

Paula Hower—Treasurer

Leslie Hatling—Financial Secretary

Church Office Hours: M-F 9AM-12Noon & 12:30-3:30 PM
additional office coverage may vary

Church Location : 411 N.E. 8th North Bend

Mailing Address P.O. Box 487 North Bend, WA 98045

Office: 425-888-1322 Pastor Mark 425 922-7384

Pastor's email: pastor@mtsilutheran.org

Church email: mtsilutheran@mtsilutheran.org

Web Page www.mtsilutheran.org



Mount Si Lutheran Church (ELCA)

P.O. Box 487

North Bend, WA 98045

U.S. Postage Required



We are a Christ Centered Community
Celebrating 60+ years of Faith and Fellowship

Mount Si's GOOD NEWSletter

