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Mount Si Lutheran Church

*To Serve
To Reach Out
To Grow In Grace*

GOODNEWSletter

JULY 2026



Pastor's Note...

Grace and peace to you,

Our mission team has returned and VBS is starting soon - Farmers Market is going strong and collecting for School Essentials is underway - the Community Garden is producing fruit and vegetables each week and faithful volunteers are sprucing up the garden beds and keeping the lawn mowed. Every summer I say the same thing - this is one busy church when it comes to summer!

I also reflect that this church has such a beautiful heart for connecting with the community and I want to celebrate that. These activities are not just to keep the calendar full - they are key to building relationships and trust in our community and for opening up opportunities to share about Jesus when someone asks or the Spirit leads.

While attending worship in Mexico, at an Assemblies of God Church, I was touched by the expression of community they displayed. As the opening songs, lasting 30+ min, went on and on, people not only sang, they moved to sit with new people so they could pray with each other or share a hug. As we moved further in the service you could see this how much this community meant to each other. They also extended a warm and vibrant welcome to our team - offering handshakes and hugs before worship even began - coming to each person in our group - young and old.

When it came time for fellowship after worship they made sure we were served first - a sign of hospitality that was humbling. I always appreciate the opportunity to worship with other communities and see how the family of God expresses itself from place to place.

At Mt Si I appreciate the rhythm of worship and the willingness to go "off script" and try new liturgies and series. I have enjoyed our time learning the VBS stories together these past weeks.

I've also been reflecting on the generous financial gift from our siblings in Christ in AZ - who gave us their Christmas Eve offering - what a blessing this gift is to Mt Si.

These and other moments remind me what a joy it is to be in community together - not just us here at Mt Si - but as Christians beyond the brick and mortar. Jesus binds us together across distance, language and culture. Our love of Jesus - our thankfulness for all he has done for us - our commitment to care for our community - to love God and love our neighbor - these bind us together and give me hope for the future.

I invite you to pray this month for the community of Lantern Hill in Mexico and for the community of Desert of the Hills Lutheran in AZ. It is blessing to be in this family of God; together. Amen.

In this newsletter
you will find:

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and Anniversaries

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Special Events in July & August



VBS - At the Table - July 13--17

VBS Begins on Monday, July 13th. Thank you to all who have helped decorate and set-up each station.

We invite all volunteers to arrive at 8:30am each day so we can go over the details of the day and pray together.



Summer Evening Worship at St. Andrews

The first Sunday of July, August, & September, St. Andrew's will offer worship at 5pm instead of 10am. The service will be their regular order of worship and will include Holy Communion.

All are invited!



ELCC Outdoor Worship Aug. 16 at 10am

It's time again for our annual outdoor worship service with the congregations of the ELCC. Worship will be at 10am at Ebright Creek Park in Sammamish. A picnic will follow worship. Look for details in the Fellowship Hall for items we need help with. Thank you!



Beach Church Aug. 5, 12, 19 - 6pm

We meet for potluck, grilled hotdogs, and smores; games and a swim; devotions and songs. This is an intergenerational event for members and friends of Issaquah and Eastside churches. Please bring a dish! Consider bringing your own table setting to reduce trash and recycle. And bring beach games, of course!

Directions: Drive West on E Lake Sammamish PKWY SE; just after Lake Sammamish Park Boat Loading Ramp Road, turn left on SE 44th St and drive to the Lakeshore.



Back to School Essentials Drive

Support the effort to collect back-to-school essentials by purchasing from the Amazon wish found below!



School Supply Pick Up Aug. 18-& 19

Students in the Snoqualmie Valley School District who need help with back-to-school essentials can find support at Mt. Si. Pick-up occurs Tuesday, August 18, from 2pm-6:30pm and Wednesday, August 19, from 10am-1:30pm

SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS

FARMERS MARKET BEGINS!



Farmers Market is in full swing! We are seeing about 80+ kids come through each week depending on the weather. Thank you to Jack who drives everything to the market each week and Terry who brings it back and to everyone who is helping with crafts. See the sign-up sheets in the Narthex if you want to help. We can always use more volunteers.

GARDEN BLESSING & SUNDAY!



On June 14th, following worship, we gathered around the Garden of Giving to bless and entrust the harvest to God's hands. We are so grateful to have such a beautiful space to grow produce for our neighbors.

MISSION TRIP TO LANTERN HILL

We're home! Wow! What an adventure. Thank you to Abby and the leadership of Lantern Hill for inviting us to walk with you for a week. What a beautiful and humbling experience. Be sure to ask Erica, Declan and Pastor how the trip was. We would love to tell you all about it.



Supporting one another in faith.....



Sunday Readings & Weekday Education Opportunities

JULY SUNDAY LESSONS

July 5

Psalm 104

Mark 11:15-17

July 12

Micah 6:6-8 & 7:18-20

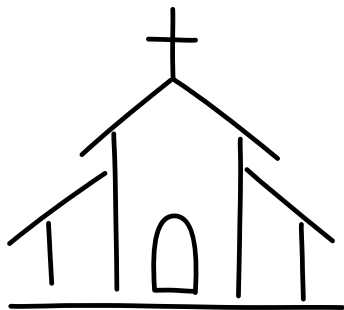
Luke 10:25-37

July 19

John 2:1-11

July 26

Luke 4:14-21



EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES IN JULY

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

Women's Bible Study - is on their seasonal break. They will resume their study of Acts in the Fall.

VBS - July 13-17, 9-12pm



Denise Stone	7th
Tom Burnside	10th
Shelley Harding	20th
Rosemary Koukol	20th
Ingrid Garhart	25th
Andrew O'Leary	25th
Ava O'Leary	25th



Tom & Joanne Chase 1st
Don & Sue Oster 30th

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!





Northwest Washington Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Bishop's Letter

July & August 2026

On July 18, 1976 Pastor Nancy Winder was ordained into Word and Sacrament ministry. She was the first woman ordained in what was then the North Pacific District and the fourteenth woman ordained in the American Lutheran Church.

But Nancy and those thirteen women were not the first. We remember all the women who came before them. In scripture we remember Mary, the mother of Jesus, Elizabeth, Mary and Martha, Mary Magdalene, Phoebe, Priscilla, Junea, Lydia, and all the unnamed women including the Samaritan woman at the well who ran to proclaim what she had seen and heard, becoming the first to declare Jesus as Lord.

Along with these women in scripture, we also remember the countless women in these last 2000 years – Hildegard, Katie Luther, Argula von Grumbach, Maria Stewart, Phoebe Palmer, Catherine Booth, Margaret Wold, and so many others who were called by the Holy Spirit to preach, teach, proclaim, lead, and serve. We give thanks for the myriad of gifts that God has poured out through women for the sake of the church and the life of the world.

I am so thankful for the many women in our lives who passed on their faith to us. The women who taught Sunday School, prepared the altar, made meals, visited those who were sick, and marched against injustice. The women theologians, mystics, and writers. The women who, in countless ways, proclaimed through word and deed the good news of Jesus.

Thank you to our sisters in Christ. Thank you for the ways you have lived out your faith in every vocation. Thank you to the women who have gone before us, to the women serving today, and to the women who continue to say yes to God's call – including those called into ordained ministry.

I wonder, do you remember the first time you heard a woman preach? The first time you heard an alto or soprano voice chanting the liturgy or saying the words of institution? I remember. I was twenty years old. Seeing and hearing someone who looked like me, who had a body like mine, made the gospel come alive in a way I hadn't experienced before. Truly, it changed my life.

This is why I grieve what is happening to some of our sisters in other denominations. In recent weeks, the Southern Baptist Convention voted at its annual assembly to further restrict women from teaching, preaching, and pastoral leadership. This means women ordained ten or twenty or fifty years ago may now find their callings denied by the very churches they have faithfully served. So many women – chosen, loved, called, sent – women with fire in their bellies to preach the gospel may no longer do so. Not by God, but by their denomination. Their silencing is not only a tragedy for them; it is a tragedy for the whole Church.

So today there is an urgency to remember, celebrate, and publicly proclaim, that women are called by God. Just as the Spirit came to Mary, who sang of the mighty brought down from their thrones, just as the Spirit sent Mary Magdalene to proclaim resurrection to the apostles, just as Lydia helped birth a community of believers, the Spirit has called and continues to call women in every age. *(continued next page)*

(Bishop's Letter, July/August 2026 - continued)

So, in joy, thankfulness, and celebration, let us give thanks for the women of the past, present, and future who continue to proclaim, teach, lead, and serve. For, as we read in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, "Since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart ... For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord."

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee |
bishop@lutheransnw.org



Save the Date!

8/29: Re-dedication of
Luther's Lounge, 1-3pm

9/6: Mt. Si Outdoor
Worship, 9:30am

Stay tuned for details!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Eastside Friends of Seniors is looking for individuals who feel called to serve in communities such as Fall City, Snoqualmie, North Bend, and Preston. The needs of older adults in these areas are growing quickly, and they are seeking compassionate volunteers who would like to help support their neighbors through simple acts of kindness, connection, and practical assistance.

Volunteering is flexible and can fit a variety of schedules and comfort levels. Whether someone has a few hours a month or more regular availability, every connection matters.

To learn more about volunteering with Eastside Friends of Seniors, contact Lisa Varner, Volunteer Coordinator, Eastside Friends of Seniors: 425-369-9120; lisav@eastsidefriendsofseniors.org
www.eastsidefriendsofseniors.org