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Mount Si Lutheran Church

To Serve
To Reach Out
To Grow In Grace

GOODNEWSletter

JANUARY 2026



Pastor's Note...

Grace and Peace to you!

Happy New Year to you all. I pray this new year finds you well and resting in the promises and gifts of Jesus.

As we enter the new year I want to share, for those who have not heard, how incredibly blessed Mt Si was during in the aftermath of the flood we had down on the lower level of the Sanctuary (Luther's Lounge).

First, after a quick text to a number of members who live near the church, folks started showing up to help move items to higher ground and save what we could.

Then, a team from Bulldog Construction showed up and donated their time and dump truck to remove the wet carpet and debris from the space the very next day.

Then, after a call to leadership at Lutheran Disaster Response, Rick and I took time to pull together a work party as fast as we could to take out the rest of the damaged dry wall and materials that were left and to remove all remaining items from the space. PEOPLE CAME! Wow! It was incredible to have 30+ people from Mt Si, the community, other Lutheran Churches and building partners,

like AA show up to cut drywall, sweep, haul, clean gutters, and share a spirit of community and love. It was incredible!

Not only that - we had lunch provided by Thrivent through our rep, Brendan Rorem. Not only that - we had a company show up and let us know they are donating all the dry wall - one of their employees attends gatherings at Mt Si and wanted to help. Not only that - we received a generous monetary donation from Holy Trinity Lutheran on Mercer Island. What a beautiful witness to the power of the Body of Christ at work. How humbling to be on the receiving end of such generosity.

Please join in praising God for this witness to community. Please join in offering prayers of wellbeing and joy for all who lent a hand.

We have a ways to go as we rebuild, but we are on the right track and taking steps forward.

Thank you to Building and Grounds members: Rick R., Mike H., Bud P., Tom B., Inge B., & David VH for putting in hours and hours of work and leadership. You are amazing!

Peace all, Pastor Krista

Pastor is on Vacation Dec. 29-Jan 7
Call Pastor Lara for pastoral emergencies: 425-505-5590

In this newsletter
you will find:

Special Events In
January

Celebrating
December Ministry
Events

Supporting One
another In Faith

January Birthdays

Key Partnership
Updates

Reaching Out

Luther's Lounge
Update

Letter From Bishop

Special Events in January



Life Line Screening January 2

A private medical company, Life Screen, will be in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, January 2 offering several medical screening opportunities for a flat fee of \$149. See flyers for details. or go to www.lifelinescreening.com to sign-up

Date: January 2

Time: 9:00-5:00pm



Blood Drive January 6

The American Red Cross will be hosting a Blood Drive at MSLC from 10-3pm in the fellowship hall. Sign-up online at redcrossblood.org and type in our zip code: 98045.

Date: January 6

Time: 10:00-3:00pm



Epiphany Bonfire January 11

Bring your live Christmas Tree or just come to enjoy fellowship at our annual Epiphany Bonfire.

Location: Tom & Inge

Burnside's home

Time: 1:00pm



Movie Night! January 18

This event is for our children and youth. A fun night of PJs, Popcorn & Pizza! Bring a friend! Sign-ups coming soon!

Location: Sammamish Hills

Lutheran Church

Time: 4-6pm



Reimagining Evangelism

The Synod Evangelism & Outreach team is hosting an event for anyone who wants to learn more about how to invite people into faith community and how to show hospitality to many kinds of people.

Location: Holy Trinity
Lutheran, Mercer Island

Time: 9:00-12:00pm



Congregational Meeting January 25

Come celebrate all the incredible ministry the Spirit has done through Mt Si Lutheran in 2025. Hear goals for 2026 and discuss the cluster collaboration efforts.

Location: Mt Si Lutheran

Time: 10:45-11:45am

Celebrating December Ministry Events!



Supporting one another in faith.....



Sunday Readings & Weekday Education Opportunities

Sunday Readings for January

January 4 - Christmas 2

First Lesson: Psalm 147:12-20

Gospel Lesson: John 1:1-18

January 11 - Your Kingdom Come

First Lesson: Psalm 91

Gospel Lesson: Luke 11:1-13

January 18 - Pray: for the World

First Lesson: Psalm 19

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 14:32-42

January 25: Pray: with your Neighbor

First Lesson: Psalm 100

Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:26-31

Education Opportunities in January

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

Women's Bible Study - Mondays starting at 12:30pm. Talk to Sue Oster for details

Confirmation - Sunday, Jan. 11 from 4-6pm @ SHLC

Sunday after Worship - We will focus on Prayer!

HAPPY
Birthday

Peggy Halferty 4th
Brent Koukol 7th
Michael Hanson 10th
Lisa Sampson 10th
Eleanor Haycox 13th
Joe Stone 14th
Vicki Wallentine 14th
Mary Abrahamson 16th
Leslie Hatling 18th
Dana Koukol 25th
Judy Stoddard 29th

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!

I could really use some more people to sign up rather than trying to figure it out almost every week myself!

• - Courtney

Key Partnership Updates...Reaching Out

Update on Luther's Lounge

Grace and peace to you all,

An update on our work to re build after the flood in Luther's Lounge.

All items that were damaged have been removed the space. Work is needed to clean-up drywall edges, remove nails, etc. in the days ahead. Please talk with Rick R. regarding ongoing projects that need to be competed.

Bulldog Construction, connected with Joyce Hibma, have done an assessment and are providing a scope of work and estimated cost for tackling ongoing water issues around the sanctuary building. They are willing to charge materials at-cost + labor, which is a huge blessing. Bud P. and Rick R. have knowledge of what is bring proposed if you have questions. Details will be shared at our annual meeting on Jan. 25.

AA will continue to meet in the Fellowship Hall until at least mid-January.

THANK YOU all who have stepped up to provide help during this time. I welcome your prayers as the 2026 council takes over leadership of the reconstruction phase with leadership from Building and Grounds.

Peace, P. K.



2026 Approved Budget

Projected income for 2026

Undesignated Offerings:

\$167,000

Building Use Income:

\$13,700

Projected expense for 2026:

\$ 195,200

Projected deficit for 2026:

-14,000

Thank you to those who turned in pledge cards for 2026 - this will help as we seek to determine how to address our budget deficit.

thank you

Thank you for supporting
Mamma's Hands, House of Hope
with toiletry supplies!
We collected over 200 items!
Thank you!



ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

AA continues to meet in the Fellowship Hall each Thursday at 7pm and Sunday at 6pm. Both meetings are well attended and their leadership expressed how important the space is for many in the valley.



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 he multipurpose room
 - *Men's Bible Study meets Saturday, 9:00 at Little Si Rest.
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Northwest Washington Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Bishop's Letter

Several years ago, when I was a young pastor serving in a congregation, a member came to tell me he was leaving the church for another one. When I asked why, he said, "I don't like all the lovey-dovey stuff." I was caught off guard and didn't have a very good response in the moment. Now I wish I had said something like, "When you say 'lovey, dovey' are you referring to the Sermon on the Mount when Jesus says we are to love even our enemies? Or when Jesus says his new command is that we love one another as he has loved us? Or when Jesus, hanging on the cross, says, 'Father, forgive them?' Or when the risen Jesus shows up on the shore, feeds his friends, and asks Peter – three times – 'Do you love me?' Or, maybe you mean Paul, who says that you can have all kinds of gifts and accomplishments, but without love, you are nothing. Or when Paul writes that out of faith, hope, and love, love is the greatest or ...". You get the idea. But I didn't have those words that day.

Now, several years later, I wish I could answer him again. Because as much as he thought he was rejecting something weak, living into God's expansive love is anything but. It can be beautiful and life-giving, yes – but it is also demanding and hard. Especially when that love calls us to care for people we don't particularly like, let alone agree with.

Today, in this fractured time, in this fractured world, how do we live into being 'lovey-dovey' in the way God first shows us through Jesus? How do we love when we're afraid? How do we love those who are causing real harm? How do we love people with whom we feel uncomfortable or "icky?" How do we love those we would rather avoid? How do we love those we despise?

First, we have to be honest with ourselves. As clearly as we may see the sin of others, we also must acknowledge our own. We fall short time and time again. We cannot justify ourselves out of sin, nor can we place ourselves above anyone else. God is the one who comes in Jesus to bring wholeness, reconciliation, and salvation – not just to some, but to the whole world (John 3:16-17).

Second, every person is made in the image of God. Every person is a small miracle. God formed each person with care and intention. Every person, all eight billion of us on this planet, are a wonder and a joy to God. God loves each person beyond measure. God loves those fleeing countries (like Moses and the holy family). God loves those tangled up in messes of their own making (like David). God loves those who are trying their very best (like Martha). God even loves those who would rather scroll on their phones than engage (well ... for a scriptural reference perhaps this could be those churches in Revelation who are neither hot nor cold). God loves us all. Thank God!

And because of God's amazing love, we are called to listen to one another and open our hearts to one another. This, of course, also means speaking up when there is injustice or harm – not out of hatred but out of love. Love rooted in Christ requires us to name and resist when harmful decisions made by those in power damage lives, especially when those decisions fall hardest on people who have been marginalized, silenced or erased. Love rooted in Christ pushes us to advocate for policies and practices that move people and systems toward equity and inclusion – whether we are talking about immigrants or farmers, children or grandmothers, those with homes and those without – neighbors all.

Third, we cannot love as God calls us to love on our own (see #1 above). We need the Holy Spirit and we need community. We need one another for accountability, and we need each other to help us journey forward together – beyond fear, beyond hatred, beyond the walls that we so easily build. Love cannot remain theoretical and abstract. No. Love is gritty and enfleshed.

As we begin 2026, I pray that, through the Holy Spirit, we love God and one another in our words and our actions. I pray that we practice loving all – even our enemies. And I pray that in this new year, others will look at us and say, "Wow. They are fiercely 'lovely-dovey.'"

Following the Way of Jesus, may it be so. Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee | bishop@lutheransnw.org
