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Mount Si Lutheran Church

*To Serve  
To Reach Out  
To Grow In Grace*

# GOODNEWSletter

## FEBRUARY 2026



### Pastor's Note...

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As we look ahead to February we will transition from the Season of Epiphany to the Season of Lent.

This kicks off with a Pancake Supper on Tues. Feb 17, 6pm and a special mid-week worship, Ash Wednesday, on Wed. Feb 18, 7pm. These events mark the beginning of our 40 day Lenten Journey - a time of reflection, renewal and restoration.

This year, on Sundays, we will focus in on healing stories in the Gospel of Matthew and consider how Jesus' life, death & resurrection were not only for life in the hereafter - but an invitation to wholeness and healing in this life (physical, communal, mental, intellectual and environmental) This doesn't mean that if we follow Jesus closely enough or pray hard enough that we will someone be relieved of every ailment we've ever experienced - we cannot escape the reality that we live in finite, fragile bodies. However, there is promise of healing as we claim our identity as shattered, yet holy vessels.

For our Mid-week Lent offering we will gathering, beginning Wed. Feb 25, 6pm, for a potluck soup supper. We will wrap up supper around 6:45 and move to the sanctuary for worship beginning at 7:00pm. We will use "Bless This Night" vespers to guide our worship. During worship each night you will be invited to participate in a different prayer practice as we continue our year long commitment to deepening our personal and communal prayer life.

In addition to the beginnings of Lent, we also commission our missionaries to Belize. We will be serving there from Feb. 13-23. Please pray for Leslie, Bud, Peggy, David, Toren, Erik, Nyla, Dianne, Roger, Nancy, Debbie, Caeden, Monica, Kirsten, Barbara and I as we foster old and new relationships and take on the building and other projects asked of us on this trip.

Thanks to your generosity through just the noisy offerings & baked good sales Mt Si send just shy of \$2,000 to Samm Hills for the trip. This doesn't include the hundreds of dollars for pies and brown bear car wash tickets. THANK YOU!!!

My prayers are with you all as we move forward into 2026.

Peace, Pastor

#### In this newsletter you will find:

Special Events In February

Celebrating January Ministry Events

Supporting One another In Faith

February Birthdays

Key Partnership Updates

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Financial Snapshot

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Letter From Bishop

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## Special Events in February



### Bell Choir Visits February 8

The ELCC Bell Choir will offer its music during worship at Mt. Si.

Date: February 8

Time: During worship



### Belize Mission Trip February 13-23

Please pray for those serving in Belize. Thank you again for helping us reach and exceed our goal of \$10,000! We are building at the school, painting, teaching classes and more!

Date: February 13-23



### Game Night February 15

Come and play all the games! This family-friendly, all ages event includes snacks and lots of laughs!

Location: Our Savior Lutheran Church in Issaquah

Time: 5pm-7pm



### Shrove Tuesday February 17

Come enjoy a pancake supper, fellowship and fun as we mark the last evening before the Lenten season begins. This tradition of gathering for food and fellowship began back in the 6th century. The tradition of eating pancakes began in Britain in the 16th century. This event is for everyone! Let's celebrate together!

Location: Fellowship Hall

Time: 6:00pm

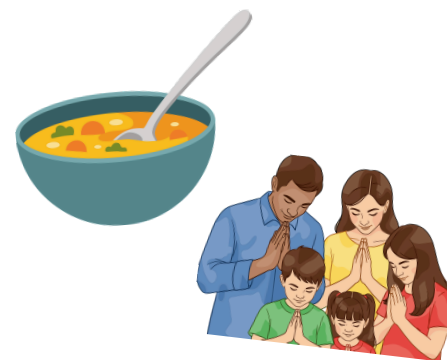


### Ash Wednesday February 18

Gather to worship and remember that "you are dust and to dust you shall return" on Wednesday, February 18 at 7pm in the Sanctuary. This service marks the beginning of Lent.

Location: Mt. Si Sanctuary

Time: 7:00pm



### Mid-Week Soup, Supper, & Worship Begins February 25

Gather in the Fellowship Hall at **6:00pm** for a soup supper. At **7:00pm** we will head to the sanctuary in worship using the Bless this Night vespers service. We will focus on exploring a new prayer practice each week.

# Celebrating January Ministry Events!



# Supporting one another in faith.....



## Sunday Readings & Weekday Education Opportunities

### Sunday Readings for February

#### February 1 -

First Lesson: Psalm 8

Sermon Text: Genesis 1:26-31

#### February 8 -

First Lesson: Psalm 133

Gospel Lesson: John 17

#### February 15 - Transfiguration Sunday

First Lesson: 2 Peter 1:16-21

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 17:1-9

#### February 22 - Lent One

First Lesson: Romans 5:12-19

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 8:1-4; 16-17

### Education Opportunities in February

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, Feb. 8, 12:30-2:00pm @ St. Andrew's Lutheran

Sunday after Worship - We will focus on Prayer!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Edwin Benson	2nd
Marge Bliss	2nd
Blake Imsland	3rd
Ethan Yocom	9th
Tammy Hayes	10th
Stuart King	12th
Dave Spurling	12th
Annabelle Cassidy	13th
Kaiya Rhyne	14th
Mike Buckmaster	15th
Charlie Tionson	15th
Jenny Lynch	19th
John Grebe	23rd
Toren Rhyne	23rd

**HAPPY Anniversary!**

Brent & Dana Koukol	15th
Tom & Inge Burnside	21st

## 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!

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## Key Partnership Updates...Reaching Out

### Women's Retreat -

"Telling our Story, Listening for God" is the theme of this year's women's retreat. Join women from around the ELCC! Pastor Deanna Wildermuth will be our retreat leader.

There are many attendance options - check out the brochure on the ELCC website! **Registration is due in full by February 20th.** Contact Marilyn Carlson (mcarlson@dogwoodsolutions.com) from Our Savior's or Sherry Grindeland from Saint Andrew's (sherry@salc.church) for more information.



### Jan. Congregational Meeting Update

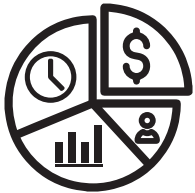
We had 38 in attendance at our Congregational Meeting on January 24, 2026.

- The Congregation voted to ratify constitutional changes
- The Congregation approved meeting minutes from Nov. 2025 cong. meeting
- The Congregation approved spending up to \$10,000 of general fund monies for repairs to Luther's Lounge.
- Congregation was made aware that Mt Si has entered into a contract with Bulldog Demolition for updates to damage around sanctuary building.
- Celebration of all the wonderful work God has done through Mt Si in 2025!



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Ash Wednesday  
ELCC Worship  
7pm @ Holy Trinity  
Lutheran Church



### 2025 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Thrivent Action Team support in 2025 totaled \$4,250! These grants supported ministry such as Farmers Market, Garden of Giving, Fall Family Festival, Advent Worship, Youth Ministry and more.

With our partners at Sammamish Hills and Cross of Christ we raised \$10,000 for mission projects in Belize.

We received a \$5,000 gift to help cover costs of Luther's Lounge flood repairs and drainage/foundation improvements. Council voted to bring a request to the congregation to expend up to \$10,000 of the Memorial Fund to cover remaining costs.

### ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

AA continues to meet in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday at 6pm and in Luther's Lounge on Thursday at 7pm. 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 the multipurpose room
  - \*Men's Bible Study meets Saturday, 9:00 at Little Si Restaurant.
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Northwest Washington Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

## Bishop's Letter

If you follow the Revised Common Lectionary, this is the year of Matthew. Matthew's gospel offers a clear vision of the world as God intends through Jesus. It is also a clear mandate for the Church. While I encourage you to read Matthew in its entirety, here are some highlights to catch glimpses of this new world through Jesus:

Matthew 1-2: Matthew begins with a genealogy of Jesus that refuses to be neat or respectable. You see, it includes women who are foreigners, sex workers, and more. Jesus is born to a working-class family that soon become refugees as they flee Herod's murderous plot. The wise men refuse to bow down to Herod's power.

Matthew 3-4: Jesus is baptized, joining with others who are broken and burdened, entering the waters with them. He is then sent into the wilderness where he is tempted to seize power. (He says no!) Then his public ministry begins as he calls fishermen – ordinary laborers – to follow him.

Matthew 5-7: The Sermon on the Mount. Jesus blesses the poor in spirit, the meek, those who grieve. Righteousness is defined not by power or coercion but by mercy, reconciliation, and love – even love of enemies. Jesus teaches his disciples (and us!) to pray – emphasizing that God will provide each day, that we are not to be anxious, that we are not to hoard or judge but instead love and live in mutual care for one another.

Matthew 8-10: Jesus' teachings take on flesh as he heals a leper, a centurion's servant, Peter's mother-in-law, a paralytic, a hemorrhaging woman, and those who cannot hear or see. He eats with sinners, calls a tax collector, and restores people who have been pushed to the margins. He calms a storm for his scared disciples and sends them out to minister – without money or power – to also heal and restore.

Matthew 11-16: Jesus clarifies his mission by naming it plainly: healing, liberation, and good news to the poor. Human need is prioritized over religious rules. His parables lift up small, hidden things that the world overlooks. He feeds hungry crowds (5000!), challenges exclusion, and reminds his followers that being the Messiah means suffering service, not triumph.

Matthew 17-20: Jesus welcomes children and even places one at the center, calling them great in the kingdom of heaven. He warns leaders against harming the vulnerable. He tells a rich young man that true discipleship is not about the love of money. And to the chagrin of all, he tells a parable about workers where economic fairness is not tied to productivity or worthiness.

Matthew 21-25: Jesus enters Jerusalem. He comes on a donkey (not a military parade!). He overturns tables in the temple condemning its exploitation, and he heals those without power inside its walls. He condemns leaders who prey on others and he tells parables that insist on welcome, generosity, and care for the least. He makes it unmistakably clear: when you feed, clothe, welcome, and visit the stranger, you are doing so to him.

Matthew 26-27: Jesus is anointed by an unnamed woman. He is arrested, put on trial by the empire, and executed as a criminal of the state. His embodiment of God's reign inevitably brings him into direct conflict with the powers of the world.

This could be the end. But there is one more chapter.

Matthew 28: This chapter proclaims that death does not have the final word. God brings life where there was death. The women are entrusted to proclaim the good news. And the Church is formed – not to retreat from the world, but to continue Jesus' mission of manifesting God's presence in the world where children are valued, outcasts are accepted, enemies are loved, foreigners are embraced, and all people are treated in love and mercy.

This vision is Matthew's Gospel. And today, in the midst of everything, in spite of everything, it is still unfolding.

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee | [bishop@lutheransnw.org](mailto:bishop@lutheransnw.org)

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