



Mt Si Lutheran - December 2020

Mini GOOD - NEWSletter

Blessed Advent to you all!

I pray you are well and find moments of joy this Advent season. It was lovely to see many of you pick up the Advent Yule log kits on Sunday the 29th. They will be out again on the 6th, which is also a drive-thru communion day from 11:30-12:30pm. Please take time to see the special opportunities for worship and prayer and outreach found in the newsletter. Also note that the CYF and Parish Ed article will include info for adults as well as children, so please don't skip over it!

In a season of waiting I know many of us are quite tired of waiting for life to return to "normal." What I think many of us now realize is this—there will be a new normal when this pandemic comes to a close. Some of us have learned new skills and will continue to utilize them in the future...the church at large and our congregation has learned that online worship is reaching far more people than our previous in-person gatherings. We have found new ways to connect to each other and brought back some older ways...I see more people making phone calls and writing letters to each other while others use zoom and video chats to stay connected—those are all good things! I think we all have a renewed appreciation for gathering together for worship and many other activities...We have all been given an opportunity to re-evaluate what is most meaningful in our lives. God is up to something—the Spirit is at work in and through this time. I know that for a fact. And I pray we listen well to what we are being asked to learn so that when life returns to "normal" we don't lose what we learned. Waiting always lends itself to learning and growing. This advent, as we wait and watch and keep awake—pay attention to what the Spirit is saying, what God is teaching, where Christ is leading. There is hope because Jesus was born, Jesus lived, Jesus died and Jesus was resurrected. Hold on to hope—hold on to Jesus, in a manger, on a cross, standing in the garden...all for you. Peace P. K.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!! December Birthdays:

Lauralee Ritzenthaler	Dec. 3rd	Joshua Stone	Dec. 12th
Ed Benson	Dec. 14th	Zowie Karren	Dec. 14th
Eric Kober	Dec. 17th	Jack Boller	Dec. 17th
Kay Boyle	Dec. 21st	Michael Harding	Dec. 22nd
Chris Sampson	Dec. 24th	Don Oster	Dec. 26th
Haley Chase	Dec. 30th	Nate Chase	Dec. 30th

December Anniversary!

Michael and Rosemary Hanson Dec. 15th



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Christmas Eve worship will premiere on Facebook and YouTube on Dec. 24th at **6pm** and again at **9pm**

CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER STATIONS @ MSLC

On Christmas Eve from 10am-6pm you are welcome to stop by Mt Si Lutheran and participate in six self-guided prayer stations. These stations will be set-up around the outside of the church. The first station will be in the courtyard between the education building and fellowship hall. Please start your journey here then follow the map to the other stations.

From 7:30-8:30pm you are welcome to return or come for the first time to walk through the stations. Those who come during this time will receive an electric candle and enjoy humming *Silent Night* in small groups after completing the stations. More details to come!!

Sunday Worship for December

10am On-line—See website for link to FB or YouTube

Drive-thru Communion December 6th 11:30-12:30

You can also pick-up your Advent Yule log kits and Dec. Education kits

Zoom COFFEE HOUR: Dec. 13th

Office Update The office is open to receive calls

Monday-Thursday 10am-12pm.

However, the office will not be open for drop-in visits. Please continue to call and email for best communication. Thank you!

Council Report

Greetings from the council. We hope you are all staying well.

As we approach the holiday season with thanksgiving, advent, and Christmas, we are still operating under Phase 2 of the reopening process laid out by the governor and supported by the synod. We are making plans for virtual services, meetings, and advent activities through the end of the year. Plans are being developed for a safe advent activity and virtual Christmas Eve services as well as virtual Sunday services in December.

As we move through November we are celebrating stewards. As part of this activity we sent out “estimation of giving” cards to all members. We ask that you fill out and return the card; even if you are not changing the amount you have been giving. The information provided by these cards will give us an estimate of what income we can expect and allow us to do a better job of planning.

We held a congregational meeting on November 15th to vote on the 2021 budget and elect new council members. The meeting was held on Zoom and voting was done electronically. We had forty three members in attendance. We passed a budget of \$198,478, which is approximately ten per cent lower than the 2020 budget. Using the income numbers for the first nine months of 2020 and extrapolating it out to twelve months, our projected income for 2021 will be \$187,301 which will be \$11, 177 below the approved 2021 budget. In order to meet our budget we will have to increase our total monthly giving by \$1000.00. We had five council positions to fill and were only able to fill four of them at the meeting. The newly elected council members are Inge Burnside, Rosemary Hanson, Sheila Rodriguez, and Jenna Rhyne. We look forward to working with them in the New Year. Those leaving the council are Nancy Flanagan, Peggy Halferty, Erica Haycox, and Suzy Cassidy. The fifth vacancy was held by Jeff Yocom who moved into Issaquah. We thank all of those leaving for their service. We currently have eleven council members and one vacancy. The congregation approved allowing the council to fill the remaining vacancy without a congregational vote.

The council and staff are still using our monthly phone tree calls to maintain contact with everyone. If you were being called by one of the council members who is leaving, you can expect that one of the new council members will be calling you in the future. If you need anything, please contact Pastor Krista, John Grebe or the council executive team of Jack Boller, Rick Rodriguez or Terry Adams. Be safe, stay well, and keep the faith. We are looking forward to when we can be together in person again. We wish blessings on you all.

Jack Boller

Parish Ed. and CYF goes virtual!

With state requirements and uncertainty due to COVID 19 we continue to seek flexible ways of doing activities. We are exploring ideas for gathering without being in close proximity. We are considering a drive in Christmas caroling at the church, a scavenger hunt, mentoring, a Christmas Pageant, and other creative activities.

Faith Formation / Parish Ed:

With the onset and fallout of COVID 19 it has given us an opportunity examine our parish education in context of a changing world. Even before we began Isolating ourselves, we were aware of the desire for alternatives for Sunday School. We began using the term Faith Formation as a way to describe the joint ministries of the Parish Ed and CYF Teams, particularly in reference to Sunday School. We hope that we will be able to return to in-person meetings and we will continue to work toward a holistic Faith Formation effort. As a team we are collaborating with all of the education at MSLC so that we grow together as a faith community.

Education Kits for kids will be available at the church on November 29 and December 6 or by appointment with Courtney Adams or John Grebe. In addition, the curriculum and videos are available through this link:

<https://mtsilutheran.sharepoint.com/:f/g/Eo0DsM6AYbdHgWv9-ASzpYBDLJuJkpxD4EjODiCXHuBBw>

Mentoring:

We are looking for adults who would enjoy be part of the support system of children and youth! We will be surveying the youth and adults to determine a good fit. For more information, please reach out to John Grebe. You will also need to request and fill out a Background Check form from the office.



Advent Festival has been changed to meet the requirements of the state health department and church policies. Instead of an event when we all gather to make wreaths and other crafts, we are providing a bag of crafts that will contain a Yule Log craft with advent candles to be made at home. This will be available for pick-up at the church on November 29th and December 6 from 11:30am to 12:30pm. IF you missed out on getting yours please contact John Grebe to make a plan for yours to be delivered or picked up.

Drive-In Christmas Caroling December 18, 6:30-7:30pm in the church parking lot. Dress up in your finest Christmas sweater or other attire and join us for singing and possibly pictures. This is particularly great for those who do not feel like they can sing well because cars will be appropriately distanced and you will have the option of keeping your windows closed. We will have a sound system projecting the music and you will sing along with your family. We are hoping to have a scene set up for taking pictures of families if we are able. More details to come through weekly communication.

Christmas Pageant is being planned for as a virtual presentation. We will be asking families to dress up in homemade costumes to help us tell the story from a character's point of view through pictures, videos, and audio recordings. More details to come in upcoming weekly communication.

SERCICE PROJECTS Support the quilt making at MSLC:

The quilters group has not been able to meet for 9 months due to COVID-19. I'd like to start a group to continue to make the quilt tops at home. This will allow us to continue to make our quilts to donate to Lutheran World Relief.

To get this project started I have put together kits to make an MSL community quilt, from Christmas material. If you would like to participate you can take a kit and sew the 6 squares of fabric into a row, I will sew the completed rows together into a quilt top. This quilt may be used for a raffle in the future. Here are the directions for your kit of squares:

Using a sewing machine sew the squares together starting with #1 through #6. Sew in a vertical line with #1 at the top and #6 at the bottom. Use a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seam (position your needle $\frac{1}{4}$ from the edge of the fabric). Iron the seam on the back to one side.

Please return your completed row of squares to the church, or to Janey Benson's house so she can sew all the squares together. Janey's address is 377 OGLE PL NE, North Bend. Phone # 425 831-6896

We will have these quilt kits available at the church on 11/29th and Dec 6th for pickup during the advent pick up, and Communion Sunday on the 6th. Please let Janey know if you would like her to set aside a kit for you at 425 831-6896.



God Bless—John Grebe and the CYF Parish Ed Team!

HOUSE OF HOPE HOLIDAY GIVING TREE!!



We are collecting monetary donations for the children of House of Hope so that we can purchase gift cards they can use to buy Christmas gifts for their children. We are hoping to have \$50 per child. We need donations of money by **Dec. 6th**. If you are writing a check please include "House of Hope" in the memo line. THANK YOU! Questions? Please ask Courtney Adams or Pastor Krista.

CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S CHOIR OPPORTUNITY



WE are inviting all the children and youth to participate in a special Children's Choir piece we will use in our online Christmas Eve Worship service. We need the recordings by Dec. 6th. Instructions will be coming in an email shortly. If you don't receive it or have questions, please contact Pastor Krista! The song is "Away in a Manger"

SPIRIT December 2020

Dear Beloveds,

A prayer during this Advent season. *O Savior, Come.*

In these days when divisions seem unsurmountable, when hatred seems more real than love, when chaos churns, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

In these days when a mysterious and virulent disease stalks this earth, as loved ones become ill, as we see the exhaustion of caregivers, as we grieve those whose breath is now air, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

In these days when loneliness and anxiety are common, when we speak to one another behind masks or plexi-glass, when we crave physical connection but are unable to touch, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

In these days when lies are disguised as truth, when leaders refuse to lead, when institutions we rely on begin to crack, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

In these days when silence is complicit in keeping others unheard, when cries for justice are treated with derision, when black and brown bodies are treated as less than sacred, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

*In these days when ...
we pray, O Savior,
Come.*

In these days when voices are raised up, peaceful protestors come together, incremental change occurs, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

In these days when truth is exposed, when the courageous stand up to injustice, when institutions give way to the Spirit's dance, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

In these days when we gather in chat rooms and zoom calls across the miles, see faces on screens that bring smiles, hold babies up to computer cameras and we clap and sing and pray and laugh together, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*



In these days when scientists doggedly pursue a cure, nurses and doctors and medical staffs come day after day after day to bring expertise and healing to those who have fallen ill, when pastors and deacons bring comfort to the sick and to the bereaved, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

In these days when we experience the ancient Word as the living Word, when we live into the radicalness of peace and wholeness and new life, when we join together in the Holy Community you call us into, we pray, *O Savior, Come.*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In these days when ... we pray, O Savior, Come.

Grace & Peace,

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

From the DECEMBER 2020 edition of *The Spirit*



There's Still
Time!

Advent Yule Log Kits

Please pick up
your kits on De-
cember 6th from
11:30-12:30pm

Also, Drive-thru
Communion will
happen at the
same time!



Prayer in the Sanctuary at Mt Si Lutheran

Wednesday Dec. 9th, 16th
and 23rd

Individual/Family Prayer

You are invited to sign-up for a one hour time space on Dec. 9th, 16th and/or 23rd for personal prayer and meditation time in the Mt Si Lutheran Sanctuary. Only one family/individual will be in the sanctuary at a time, so please sign-up in advance. This is time for you to spend with God however you wish to. Volunteers will clean the space once you leave to prepare it for the next family/individual.

The heat will be on to keep you cozy while you pray. There will be one pew designated for you to sit. Please bring whatever you wish to help you in your time of prayer. You may wish to bring your Bible or hymnal or devotional book.

To sign-up please call the office and leave a message or email Ambur at mtsilutheran@mtsilutheran.org. You will receive a confirmation email once we receive your request.

If you wish to meet with Pastor Krista during this time, please indicate this in your message and she will do her best to be available at the time you request. When meeting with Pastor Krista, please wear your mask. She will too!

You can sign-up between the hours of 9am and 8pm

Peace to you this Advent Season.