



Grace and peace to you,

Over the next month in worship we will hear most of the 1st Letter of John read as our first lesson. 1 John is a short letter—only five chapters long and, to be fair, it is not so much a letter as it is a testimonial written by a community of faith. Notice the letter begins with, “**we** declare to you all what **we** have heard...what **we** have seen...what **we** have touched...” In Chapter two this language will shift to “I write,” and we read that with the understanding that the author is backed by a larger community. In other words, they are not writing alone.

I invite you to take time in the next month to read all of 1 John. As you do I would invite you to consider the following questions:

- What images of Jesus are presented?
- What descriptions or truths about Jesus are shared?
- What is the “new” commandment the community is encouraging the reader to obey?
- What does it mean to “abide in Jesus” and to “abide in love”?
- In Chapter 4, why is it important to test spirits to make sure they “confess Jesus has come in the flesh”?
- In Chapter 5 there is discussion about testimony and the Spirit that testifies—what is the testimony? Why are they testifying?

As you read through the 1 John I invite you consider another piece—since this is the testimony of a faith community—how might we write a testimony for this Mt Si Lutheran community of faith? What would be important to include about God, Jesus and the Spirit?

What would Mt Si Lutheran declare about what you all have heard,
what you all have seen, what you all have touched?

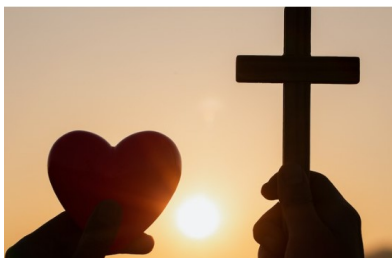
I know God is at work in and among this faith community and has been for its whole history of nearly 75 years. In that time I trust you all have heard, seen and touched the truth of who God is, what Jesus has done for us and how the Spirit is active in and through us.

As we prepare to celebrate God’s work at Mt Si Lutheran over the last 75 years I invite you to write down your stories of what you have seen, heard and touched. Also, write down the stories that have been passed down to you from those who have gone before us. It would be a great joy to share these stories with one another as we testify to the truth.

I pray the Spirit will speak to us as we study this text together. God’s word is a powerful, beautiful, challenging, transformative gift to each of us. May God’s word continue to encourage us in our faith and remind us of all the promises we have received. Amen.

Peace

P. K.



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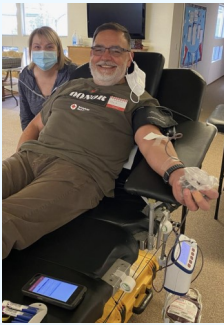
Special points of interest

- Bishop’s Letter on last page—*great read!*
- Council Report pg. 3



The office is closed in observance of Memorial Day on May 29th.
Pastor will be out the remainder of that week. She can still be reached on her cell for Pastoral emergencies. 206-473-7460

**Thank you
RED CROSS!**



**Next Blood Drive:
June 13th
10-3pm**

If you are interested in helping with this blood drive please reach out to Rick Rodriguez.

**Sundae Sunday
Save the date!
Sunday
June 4th**

following worship - this is our annual end of Sunday School celebration where we have Sundae fixings out for folks as part of fellowship

Did you take photos of an event with Mt Si that you would be willing to have used in our newsletters or other promotional purposes? Short videos are also appreciated. Please send to Kathleen at: mtsi.assistant@gmail.com

We seek to offer a range of education opportunities for all ages. If you any questions about these offerings please talk to Pr. Krista.



SUNDAY EDUCATION

Special Adult Ed on May 7th—we will spend time talking about worship and plan together for our summer and fall worship items. Bring a list of your favorite songs, hymns, scripture, etc. Let's learn together! May 14th we'll hear an update from Council on our Three Mission Goals and how everyone can be involved.

On May 21st we will wrap up our Adult Study time for the season. No Adult Ed on May 28th (Memorial Day weekend) Come participate in Sundae Sunday on June 4th as we celebrate the close of the Sunday School year with all ages.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

All ladies are welcome to participate. The Bible Study meets in the old nursery in the office wing each Monday at 12:30pm. If you have any questions, please reach out to Vivian Waid.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Each Saturday @ 9am the men gather at Little Si Restaurant in North Bend for breakfast and Bible Study. The Study focuses on the readings for the upcoming Sunday worship. Reach out to Dave Spurling or Ed Benson for details.

CONFIRMATION & FAMILY DINNER

Confirmation class will be held on May 4th, 11th and 18th.

Family dinner from 5:30-6pm and class from 6-7pm

On May 4th and 11th we will spend time exploring the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. On May 18th we will have a big celebration marking the end of the first year of confirmation! Wohoo!

Please hold our confirmands in prayer. Participating in confirmation are: Kaelynn, Judah and Austin.

WED. DESSERT AND STUDY

We will wrap up our Wednesday Dessert and Study classes on May 10th. We are finishing our study of the book of Matthew. All are welcome! 6-7:30pm in the multipurpose room (old nursery).

THIRSTY FOR THEOLOGY

Our Summer Thursday, Thirsty for Theology will be coming back in June—our first gathering will be around the firepit at the parsonage, 7pm on Thursday, June 8th. More details to come!

COUNCIL REPORT

Greetings from your council.

The council has been monitoring our financial situation. Our unrestricted funds at the end of the quarter January through March were \$50,275.70 in our checking account and \$33,030.72 in our savings account which gives us a total \$83,306.42 in unrestricted funds. Our income for the first quarter January through March was \$36,121.70. Our expenses for the quarter were \$50,582.38 which is a deficit of \$14,460.68. This averages out to a deficit of approximately \$3,800 per month. Our budget for the same period is \$51,569.46. We are spending under our budget so the deficit is not due to overspending. Our income is averaging about \$2000.00 per month less than last year for the same period. We are planning to meet with a representative from the Synod to discuss options for increasing our income and/or reduce our expenditures.

We have signed a contract with a preschool to rent two of our unused Sunday school rooms for their operations. We have emptied the two rooms and removed a partition between them so that it is one large room. They will begin moving in May 1. We have identified an area for a playground and they will begin construction on it soon. They will be paying rent monthly and will begin full operation in September.

A new Alcoholics Anonymous group has begun using Luther's Lounge for weekly meetings on Thursday evenings. They will be entering through the Ogle Street entrance. They will be paying \$25.00 a month. We ask that you respect their privacy and refrain from entering Luther's Lounge during their meetings

Next year will be the 75 th anniversary of Mt Si Lutheran Church. The council is looking for ideas on what we might do to celebrate this event. If you have any ideas please share them with Pastor Krista or with a council member.

We still have a council vacancy that we would like to fill. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. If you are interested, let Pastor Krista or a council member know.

Jack Boller

Ways to Give



**Make a gift online
through our website:**
[www.mtsilutheran.org/
onlinegiving](http://www.mtsilutheran.org/onlinegiving)

Thank you for your
continued generosity.

-Treasurer

Mt Si 2023 Finances

Income Jan-March =
\$36,644

Expense Jan-March =
\$50,606

**YTD Income vs.
Expense** = \$ -13,962



**Join us
for
Coffee Hour &
Adult Study!**



*"You show me
the path of
life. In your
presence
there is full-
ness of joy"
Ps. 16*

Cluster Youth Events

As we enter 2023, Mt. Si Lutheran is identifying ways to partner with other churches in our Cluster. If any of these peak your interest, reach out to John, Pastor Krista, or Lisa for more information! Here are a few upcoming events to consider – more will be added as we get more details:

- VBS at SHLC the week of **July 17-21**
- VBS at St. Luke's Lutheran Church the week of **July 24-28**
- Summer Family Camp **August 3-6th**. See article on pg. 5 for more info!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH EDUCATION

Sunday School
1st Sunday of each month
following the Fellowship Hour

Teachers are also available on all other Sundays for any children who would like to stay beyond the Fellowship Hour.

AA

Will meet Thursdays in Luther's Lounge weekly - 7 pm
Ogle Street entrance

GIRL SCOUTS

The Girl Scouts Leaders meet at the church on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30-8:30pm

FAITH FORMATION

Christmas in July - Mt. Si VBS 2023!

Have you heard the Good News? Of course you have! We would like to invite you to help share it at our Summer 2023 VBS from July 28-30. We've switched to a new format this year, so if a Friday evening from 6-8, Saturday from 9am Noon or Noon-3pm, and/or Sunday Celebration from 9:30-11:30 am work for you, please consider volunteering your time or donations to help make an amazing experience for youth in our community! Detailed sign-ups are set-up in the Fellowship Hall showing what each section of the VBS is about, which leaders have already signed up, and space for YOU to sign up in any or all of the 4 timeslots identified above. Questions can be directed to John or Courtney Adams.

We explore the meaning of Christmas with Wise Animal Friends, and a wise-cracking Elf who thinks it's all about themSELF. Join us to help share and experience the Good News in a truly unique way with children and youth in our community.



*For children 4 and under please contact John Grebe.



Link for the VBS 2023 registration:

<https://forms.gle/eZNdWouEYe8RLFRK9>

Or use QR code

Camp Lutherwood, Here We Come!

With some reboot happening at Camp Lutherwood, and our own John Grebe contracted to lead the Challenge Course, we're excited to share the Summer 2023 week-long summer camp plans! With multiple camp offerings (Traditional, H2O, and Counselor-In-Training) for multiple grade levels (1-5, 6-9, 10-12) in multiple weeks (June 25-Aug.11), we hope you can find a week that works for you. Several Mt. Si Youth are already making plans to attend, so feel free to reach out to John or Lisa Sampson if you know of someone who would be interested in attending. Find the brochure in the Fellowship Hall, and all the details here: Summer Camp — Lutherwood Camp & Retreat Center

No, this isn't baseball, nor is it a cornfield in Iowa. It's a Tiny House! Mt. Si will be partnering with St. Andrew's Lutheran Church and Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church from **August 7-11** to build a Tiny House at Mt. Si, and all are invited! We'll need project leaders and participants of all ages for the build, for the service opportunities (pairing with the Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank, Trail Youth, and the Humane Society, to name a few), for serving snacks and water to beat the heat, and so much more! There will even be a Youth Lock-In mid-week! See the flyer and stay tuned for more information, coming soon!



Tiny house Build & Service Learning Extravaganza!

Join with other Middle and High School youth from St. Andrew's, Sammamish Hills and Mt Si as we spend a week building a tiny home and engaging in multiple service learning projects.

For more info contact doug@salc.church

August 7th – 11th
9:00–4:00pm

Special overnight on Wed. the 9th +
Celebration event Fri. evening, the 11th

WELCOME TO MOUNTAIN VALLEY PRESCHOOL—The council has approved a three-year contract with Mountain Valley Preschool, run by local Keeley Harris, to utilize one of our larger upstairs classrooms and build a fenced playground area in part of our backyard property. Keeley will begin renovating and preparing the classroom and playground on May 1st. This classroom will be locked with a key for our use only in case of emergency.

This is a one room preschool with around 10 students participating. Class will begin in early September, M-F from 9-1pm. The church will receive compensation for this use of space. The current contract is \$500/mo. when students are present and \$350/mo. when students are not present. She does plan to run the preschool over the summer.

Our insurance has reviewed this building use and we have addressed all concerns. The Preschool will be separately insured with MSLC listed as additionally insured.

Questions? Please ask Jack or Pr. Krista. Please welcome Keeley when you see her!



Mountain Valley
Preschool
Where a Love For Learning is Created

Thursday Children and Youth Activities

Thursday evenings are a time for our youth to join in on fellowship, food, fun, and learning! Each week we have Family Dinner from 5:30-6PM, and Confirmation 6-7PM.

Once a month on the 3rd Thursday we have F.A.M.S. which is one of our children's ministry for K-5th grade. This month it will be on March 16, 4:30-5:30PM. Come join in the fun!

Summer Family Camp



This summer we have an opportunity to partner with Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church youth ministry on a family camping trip to Lutherhaven's Shoshone Base Camp **August 3-6th**.

They are inviting families of all ages and sizes to join the Middle School, High School, and College students at Shoshone Base Camp. In the past it has been a wonderful camp for their older students, and it is exciting to be offered the chance for our families to join in the experience it as well. More information will come soon, make sure to ***Save-the-Date NOW!***

If you have any questions or want more details regarding the Children, youth, and family ministries of Mt. Si Lutheran feel free to reach out to John Grebe at (360) 920-5876 or email him at cyf@mtsilutheran.org.

Updates to events are communicated through Constant Contact and an email list of families and friends, if you are not on this list but would like to be included please let John Grebe know.

MAY BIRTHDAYS



Tom Chase 1st
David Wilkerson 1st
John Keiser 4th
Alex Adams 8th
Jenna Rhyne 9th
Ava Lee 13th
Paul Ritzenthaler 20th
Jim Garhart 30th

MAY ANNIVERSARIES



Mike & Kim Buckmaster 1st
Charles & Patricia Thomas 19th
John & Anne Keiser 22nd
Ed & Jane Benson 26th

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please reach out to the office so we can make the correction.

Items of Interest



Please come take a look at items we are preparing to donate - we have kids toys, small tables, kids chairs and more! Items can be found in one of our upstairs classrooms.

Items are marked with a "donate" sticker. Help yourself! We will be taking these items to donation spots the first week in May.



Garden of Giving

Garden of Giving is starting up again! Reach out to Terry Adams if you would like a garden plot this year.



SYNOD NEWS

Synod Gatherings!

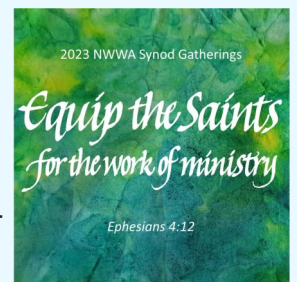
This year we will not be holding a Synod Assembly. Instead, all members of the synod are invited to attend one of two Synod Gatherings that will be held in May. Join us for worship, fellowship, and forums to inspire, educate, and equip members of the NW WA Synod!

Cost is \$40/person.

While registration will not open until April, please look for a promo pack to be emailed to all congregations and rostered ministers by the end of this week! Please share the info with your congregations and get ready to register a group from your church!

Saturday, May 13, 8:30am-3:30pm - Salem Lutheran Church in Mount Vernon

Saturday, May 20, 8:30am-3:30pm - Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church in Bellevue



WORSHIP NEWS—PENTECOST SUNDAY—May 28

In the church year, the day of Pentecost is the culmination of the 50 days of the Easter celebration. After showing himself to the disciples and after having ascended, Jesus' followers received the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. On the fiftieth day of Easter, our Lutheran worship is filled with festivity, color and movement as we both conclude the Easter celebration and welcome anew the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Many ELCA worshipers wear red on the festival of Pentecost, recalling the red of the flames of the Holy Spirit. You are invited to wear red to worship on **Sunday, May 28th** as a sign that the Holy Spirit comes to all the believers, not just the leaders of community.

The wind of the Holy Spirit both forms the church and urges us outside the walls of the church to carry on the mission and ministry of Christ in the world. In preparation for Pentecost Sunday, read again Acts chapters One and Two and watch for how the Holy Spirit is working through the early Christian communities. Think about where you see the Holy Spirit at work today in our faith community, your life and in the world around you.

Adapted from a Living Lutheran article from May of 2013



Blessings to Bud and Leslie as they head out on their third Camino trip!

Thank you for sharing your experience with us during
adult education on Sunday, April 23rd!



The 2023 Thrivent Action Team board is up!!

Did you know that Thrivent Financial for Lutherans awards \$250 gift cards as “seed money” to help fund activities that benefit the church community – including events that educate church members about Lutheran missions?

Last year, our Thrivent members applied for & received \$250 gift cards that supported 10 different projects like VBS, Farmers market, the quilting ministry and many others.

If you have project you would like to be considered for a card donation, sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway off fellowship hall listing the project and the date! If you have cards you would like to apply for and donate please check out the board too!

The cards do take some time to process so don't delay if you have a project coming up in the near future!

Together we can make a difference.

Any questions See Pastor Krista.

MAY SUNDAY LESSONS

May 7th

First Lesson:

1 John 2:7-17

Narrative Lectionary Text:

Romans 1:1-17

May 14th

First Lesson:

1 John 1:1-3, 18-24

Narrative Lectionary Text:

Romans 3:28-30; 5:1-11

May 21st

First Lesson:

1 John 4:7-21

Narrative Lectionary Text:

Romans 6:1-14

May 28th

First Lesson:

Acts 2:1-21

Narrative Lectionary Text:

Romans 8:14-39

**The Sunday flower
chart is in the
Fellowship Hall
outside of the
library.**

You are welcome to
sign-up for a Sunday
to provide one vase of
flowers for the altar.

BISHOP'S LETTER

May 2023



Some synonyms for GATHERING that I found on the internet include: association, caucus, collection, conclave, conference, congregation, convention, crowd, function, group, mass, meeting, party, throng, acquisition, affair, aggregate, aggregation, band, body, bunch, clambake, company, concentration, concourse, congress, convocation, crush, drove, flock, gain, heap, herd, horde, huddle, junction, knot, levy, meet, muster, parley, pile, rally, roundup, society, stock, stockpile, swarm, turnout, union, get-together, social function.

Some of these GATHERING words sound positive to my ears (group, party, social function), some sound political or corporate (caucus, acquisition, convention, meeting), some sound a little scary (crush, drove, horde, swarm) and one just makes me smile (clambake). How is a clambake like a GATHERING? I'd love to hear your answer!

We are excited that this year we are having two GATHERINGS. As a congregation, you are welcome to choose either May 13 or May 20 to GATHER with people throughout the synod. While there is no limit on the number of people who may attend from your congregation, we do have to cap registration at 300 each Saturday, so we hope that you are coming and that you are already registered as you read this! Here is the link for more information <https://www.lutheransnw.org/events/synod-gatherings/2023-05-13>.

At these two GATHERINGS we will have ample opportunity to learn together, laugh together, share information together, collaborate together, sing and play together, eat together, engage in possibility and vision-thinking together, pray together, plan together, and, especially to GATHER together in the Spirit of Christ.

For too long we have tried to do things alone. For too long we have tried to figure things out on our own. For too long we have not looked to others for collaboration and community. But Ecclesiastes 4:9 reminds us, "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help."

These last few years have shown us that there is nothing better than GATHERING with the body of Christ, especially in-person. We are excited for all of us in our synod to come together as we share our God-given gifts and wisdom. We are excited for the knowledge that will be shared and, even more, the Spirit of hope, generosity, and anticipation for what is next.

We are excited to see you and your congregation at one of the GATHERINGS this year. We can't wait to GATHER together with you on May 13 or May 20 and into the future!

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

