

## PASTOR'S REPORT

Grace and peace to you, dear siblings in Christ—

The first two Sundays of adult education have been a blessing. Thank you to those who are finding time to spend 45min in Bible Study on Sunday morning. If you are not able to attend, that's ok! I want to get you up to speed on what we've discussed and invite you to participate in your own time at home.

Each week we are asking ourselves three questions of the Biblical text we are studying.

1. What is the Gospel in this passage? (Gospel-good news)
2. What is the Gospel message "for you" in this passage?
3. What is the Gospel for your/our neighbor in this passage?

Our first lessons was Psalm 121—Here is what we heard the Spirit speaking to us through the text:

The Gospel: God is our keeper; helper; present with us day and night.

Gospel for you: A reminder to look for help from God in every situation, reminder that God is present in all situations in life.

Gospel for our Neighbor: when a neighbor is struggling we can speak this promise to them: God is present to help—in fact, God may be using us to be that very help and presence with them.

Our second lesson was Psalm 96—Here is what we heard:

The Gospel: Rest in joy; sing a new song; be together & don't worry; awe of creation; connection to creation; Christ is coming to judge with love—no need to fear.

Gospel for you: Stop, take a minute to give thanks and praise; the marvelous works mentioned in the psalm are for us too; there is always change, but God is constant.

Gospel for our neighbor: invite those around to see the joy and beauty God has given us all to enjoy.

What do you hear from the Spirit when you read these texts? Our lesson on Oct. 3rd is Matthew 25:34-40...Enjoy the Word of God!

Peace—P. K.



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Everything Harvest Event  
October 10th after education!
- Trunk-or-treat and Outdoor games. October 30th 4:30-6pm
- Bishop's Letter on last page—great read!



## GARDEN OF GIVING

The Garden of Giving has been a great way to give back to the community and to get together as a church family. The kids from the Church started a Kid's Garden Club and, with the help of Courtney, Jack, and John, had a garden plot where they planted strawberries, tomatoes, cucamelons, sunflowers, and marigolds. They also worked with Jack to create a pumpkin patch where we have some giant pumpkins growing—a first for the garden. This year's group of gardeners prepared the plots,

fertilized, planted, weeded, watered, and harvested vegetables for both themselves and the Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank. So far we've donated 496 lbs of vegetables to the Food Bank, with a few peppers remaining to be harvested. I want to thank everyone who worked in the garden this year - Anne, Courtney, Denise, Doug, Emily, Jack, Inge, Kim, Krista, Tom, Travis, the BSA Troop, and the Kid's Garden Club.

Grow in Peace, Terry A.

*“Sing to the Lord a new a song! Let the heavens be glad and all the earth rejoice; let the sea roar and all that fills it...” Ps. 96*

### WOMEN'S MONDAY BIBLE STUDY

Will be on hold for the time being.

### MEN'S SATURDAY BIBLE STUDY

Each Saturday @ 9am the men gather at Mt Si Golf Course for breakfast and Bible Study. The Study focuses on the readings for the upcoming Sunday worship. All are welcome!

### WEDNESDAY STUDY

Wednesday Oct. 6th-  
November 10th

6:30-8:00pm

In the fellowship hall.

## GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. SUNDAY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH

Thanks to all who came and made this such a wonderful day of celebrational and service!



## NEW WEDNESDAY STUDY

Have you ever been in a difficult circumstance and cried out to God for help? Maybe it was more than a difficult circumstance; maybe it was life and death. Maybe it was your life or death or that of a loved one. In your fear, desperation, and helplessness you cried for God's help and...things got worse!

If you have cried out to God and things go worse you have a friend in Habakkuk. It happened to him too.

Habakkuk cried out to God and he didn't think God heard him, he didn't think God was listening to him. Habakkuk had questions: Does God care? Is God fair? Is God even present in my difficulties? Habakkuk in chapter 1 verse 2 says, "I cry for help, and thou will not hear?" Three short chapters later in verse 16 Habakkuk says, "I hear." What happened that caused Habakkuk to move from demanding God to listen to him in Habakkuk finally saying to God, "I hear"?

There are two major literary structures in Habakkuk, the first is a frame that encloses the book. This frame is constructed by the verse cited above. Habakkuk puts this frame around his book to show the contrast of where he started and where he ended in his crying out to God. The second literary construction is a ladder. Habakkuk had to take several "steps" to gain an understanding of who God is and how God works. Habakkuk needed to see God's view and timing in human history and events.

From beginning to end, none of the circumstances in Habakkuk's situation changed in the slightest, what changed dramatically was the prophet's understanding of who God is, how God works, and what it means to "live by one's faith" (vs. 2:4).

There is much to fear in our day too, we face a COVID pandemic, there is violence in our streets same as Habakkuk, there is injustice to those who are weakest among us as well. People are taken advantage of in many ways in our society. There are voices crying out many different things so that in many ways we live in a divided country. In this environment we all have our own individual fear, grief and questions. What are we to do?

If you, in your suffering ever asked God; why?  
If it has seemed that God wasn't hearing you and things were getting worse.  
If things seem to be falling apart around you.  
If you are asking if God is fair, if God cares, if God is even there.  
Come and discover the message God gave Habakkuk, and to us!  
This message was not what Habakkuk expected but after he listed to God he "jumped for joy" and "spun around rejoicing"! (vs. 3:18)

The study will begin **WEDNESDAY, OCT. 6th** from 6:30-8:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. The study will conclude after six weeks on November 10th.

In previous years this has been a dinner study. At this time we will just be offering the study. Hopefully we can add dinner back in someday soon!

This study will be taught by Marlin Olson and Pastor Krista

NEXT

**RED CROSS  
BLOOD DRIVE**

**December 14th**

10-3pm

Mt Si Lutheran Church

To sign-up for a time to donate blood go to:

[https://  
www.redcrossblood.org/  
give.html/find-drive](https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive)

You must have a reservation. No walk-ins are being accepted at this time.

If you are unable to donate blood, please consider helping at the registration table. Contact Rick R. for details.

The red cross plans to use Mt Si Lutheran as a quarterly blood donation site for the near future.



**American  
Red Cross**

## OCTOBER

### SUNDAY LESSONS

#### October 3rd

Children and Youth Led  
Worship—Lessons: Ps. 121,  
Ps. 96 (review) + Matt.  
25:34-40 (new)

#### October 10th

First Lesson: Jn. 13:1-20  
Gospel: Mark 10:17-31

#### October 17th

First Lesson:  
II Cor. 4:1-18  
Gospel: Mark 10:35-45

#### October 24th

First Lesson: Psalm 126  
Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

#### October 31st

Reformation Sunday! Re-  
member to wear red :)

First Lesson: Ps. 46

Second Lesson:  
Romans 3:19-28

Gospel: Jn. 8:31-36



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR 2021

A reminder that we will continue to worship at 9:30am for the remainder of 2021. Education is from 10:45-11:30am each Sunday. It is a joy to worship and learn with you!



## SUNDAY FALL EDUCATION

Education for all ages will begin on Sunday, September 19th

Education will be from **10:45-11:30am** each Sunday following coffee hour.

For September-October all ages of education will focus on the 5 Biblical Stories this congregation identified as being top contenders for our guiding Biblical Story. As a reminder, our guiding Biblical story is part of our ongoing Discernment process as we seek to define clear mission goals for the congregation. By the end of October we will select a single story of these 5 to serve as our guiding Biblical Story.

Pastor will lead these conversations in the Fellowship Hall with all adults gathered. Our Faith Formation team will lead our children and youth in these conversations in the classrooms upstairs.

Here are the 5 stories:

Psalm 121, Psalm 96, Matthew 25:34-40, John 13:1-20, II Corinthians 4:1-18

## EVERYTHING HARVEST—OCT 10TH

**October 10:** The event “Everything Harvest” is replacing (Everything Apples). The event will be 11:15AM-12:30PM. Come join us for crafts with pumpkins and apples, we will not be making apple cider together this year but we will have apples to prepare for other things!

If you intend on attending and wish to buy some apples, pies, and apple sauce, please let John Grebe know.

Pies will be \$10

Apple Sauce or pie filling will be \$5



*“Have salt in yourselves and be at peace with one another” - Mark 9*

## FAITH FORMATION NEWS

There are these wonderful moments when it starts to feel like our ability to interact with each other is either normalizing or returning to a place of familiarity! I am so grateful to be able to interact with our kids and to reengage them in person more and more every day.

I know our Faith Formation Team loved having students present during VBS this summer and now as we have begun to increase our in-person activities in the fall.

We had a wonderful time at the Alpaca + Llama farm! In October we have our weekly Sunday morning classes that will include a variety of great topics and teachers! Please consider joining us and inviting a friend! We will be focusing on service learning, bible education, as well as social activities this fall and winter.

### Sunday School and Worship Leadership

**October 3:** Children and Youth Led Worship. We are so glad to welcome back kids to Sunday

School and to our monthly worship service which is developed based on their input and highlights the things they are learning. We hope to see you in Sunday School and on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Kids will be invited to participate even if they haven't attended Sunday School!

Mark your calendars! November 7th will be the next children and youth led/focused worship.

**October 10th:** Everything Harvest event—see the article above for more details.

**October 30th:** Trunk-or-treat and outdoor games here at church! See the article on pg. 2 for details.

If you have any questions, concerns or ideas, please reach out to John Grebe or any member of the faith formation team.

- Faith Formation Team



Thanks to all who came for a fun event a few weeks ago. The alpaca farm was great!

**OCTOBER**

**BIRTHDAYS**

Bailey Dukich - 10/6

Joan Moe 10/9

Pat Thomas 10/9

Autumn Dukich 10/13

Victoria Spurling 10/13

Debbie Spurling 10/14

Riley Buckmaster  
10/20

Courtney Adams 10/23

Joyce Ayers 10/29



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

**WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE**

**October 3rd**

Lector: Children and Youth

Ushers: Families

Communion Assistant: Sampson Family

**October 10th**

Lector: Laura R.

Ushers: Ed and Janey B.

Communion Assistant: Jack B.

Communion preparer: Suzy S.

Assisting Minister: Marlin O.

**October 17th**

Lector: Ed B.

Ushers: Marlin O. & \_\_\_\_\_

Communion Assistant: Ed B.

Communion Preparer: Courtney A.

Assisting Minister: Jack B.

**October 24th**

Lector: John K.

Ushers: TBD

Communion Assistant: Kay Boyle

Communion Preparer: Courtney A.

Assisting Minister: Jenna R.

Acolyte: Kaiya R.      Sound/AV: Toren and Terry

**October 31st**

Lector: Kaelynn Sampson

Ushers: TBD

Communion Assistant: Lisa S.

Communion Preparer: Sheila or Courtney

Acolyte: Annie Sampson      Sound/AV: Annie and Terry

The Sunday flower chart is returning to the Narthex (area outside sanctuary) You are welcome to sign-up for a Sunday to provide one vase of flowers for the altar.

If your flowers are celebrating an occasion or honoring someone, please indicate that in the space provided.

## TRUNK-OR-TREAT & GAMES

**October 30th**

**4:30-6:00pm**

**Trunk-or-treat  
& Outdoor Games**

Everyone is welcome to decorate a trunk and come out to help make this a great event for our children and community. Please sign-up with John or Courtney or in the all at church on the bulletin board.

Questions? Don't hesitate to reach out!



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*“whoever has done it for the least of these, has done it to me.” Mtt. 25*

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## WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

When we worship together on a Sunday morning it is a group effort! We are a church that celebrates the liturgy—which means—the work of the people.

Many willing hands are needed to bring worship together each week.

One way is to be a Lector (reader) or usher (helping folks get a bulletin and find where to go). There are communion assistants who help serve wine and grape juice and there are folks who bake the communion bread ahead of service and take the time to fill the communion cups.

There are those who help by running the sound equipment and video equipment and those who help put out the paraments (colorful clothes up front) as the seasons change.

There are those who may wish to help sing a song, play the drums or share their unique musical gift during worship. Dave Spurling is happy to help those who may wish to learn how to accompany music or serve as a song leader.

We are also restarting an older practice of having trained worship assistants who lead parts of the spoken liturgy you might be used to the pastor doing—but are not required for a pastor to do.

There are those who light candles or bring flowers for the altar and so much more.

We are always looking to share the joy of worship.

If you are interested in serving, please reach out to Pastor Krista. Thank you!



## BISHOP'S LETTER

At first glance, it does not seem as though Teresa of Avila, noted Spanish Roman Catholic saint from the sixteenth century, would have much to say about today's world. You see, she is well known for her mysticism, her ecstatic prayers, several quotes that she might or might not have said, and her reforms in the church. All of these things are interesting – but what do they have to do with the 21st century and what is happening in the world today? In the last few days, though, I have been thinking about what she writes at the beginning of her work, *The Interior Castle*.

At the beginning of this book Teresa admits that she is tired. On the first page she writes, "I'm writing this book under obedience and I'm already finding it hard. God hasn't given me any desire for this work, and my head is so full of noise I can barely compose a letter about the most ordinary business, much less a book about prayer."

I am so thankful for Teresa stating it bluntly. Teresa is unsure if she'll succeed, she is not sure she has it in her to do what she is being asked to do, she is nervous and distracted. In other words, St. Teresa sounds a lot like all of us – especially when we are being asked to do something that is different or hard or difficult.

Truthfully, it can be daunting as we continue to navigate this pandemic, as we continue to navigate the changes of the world and the changing church, as we strive to live into what God is calling us to do. It is difficult, as Teresa fully expresses, to push past our fear or our unease or our malaise to do what God is calling us to do. It is pretty impossible to do a new thing without God's help and guidance.

And so, as I reflect on Teresa's difficulties, our difficulties, I am also drawn to scripture – specifically Isaiah 43. In the first part of Isaiah 43 we read:

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

The prophet writes that  
God created us, God formed us.  
We have no need for fear because  
God knows each of our names.  
God calls each of us. We are God's.  
No matter the circumstance,  
no matter the trial, no matter the fire.

This is what Teresa understood and it is what we cling to when we struggle and when we wonder if we can go on. I invite you to hold Isaiah 43:1-3 closely as we hear these words from Isaiah 43:18-19.

Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

As we hold close the promise that God creates us, forms us, names us, calls us, and holds us, only then can we hear the promise in these words that a new thing, a new day is coming. That God will make a way. May we hold close the words of St. Teresa and the prophet Isaiah. May you feel God's love surrounding you when all seems overwhelming. And may you rise in the strength of the Lord knowing that God's love surrounds you and fills you – and a way is being made as we all go forward together in Christ.

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

