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Mount Si Lutheran Church

*To Serve
To Reach Out
To Grow In Grace*

GOODNEWSletter

APRIL 2025



Pastor's Note...

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

Peggy, Dave, Leslie, Bud, Shelley, Nyla & myself recently returned from our second year of mission in Belize with the community of San Jose Succotz and the schools of Alvin Young HS and Victorious Elementary.

I've had the privilege of participating in many international mission trips. On every trip I receive the gift of a fresh perspective on what holds true value in my life.

It was early in our trip when this reminder came to me once again as we visited with two families that receive scholarships from our Mt Si members in order to attend High School.

As we visited the second family, chairs began appearing from all over the property in order for everyone in our group to have their own seat. The mother was busy preparing the outdoor cookstove so we could make fresh tortillas, the father was directing the kids to provide fresh squeezed orange juice to each of us to ward off the hot mid-day sun. What a treat!

Soon a chair was brought to me to sit in by a small boy. It was a lovely plastic, purple lawn chair. At first glance I was skeptical, the chair was broken. As I took a closer look I couldn't help but notice that the chair, in fact, was expertly mended. I smiled - of course it was mended! Whereas I would have thrown the chair away - in truth - the chair still had value and purpose in its



mended state and the family knew this. The purpose of the chair was not for it to be perfect to look at. The purpose of the chair was to provide a place for guests to sit and be comfortable. The purpose was hospitality. They were not ashamed to present a mended plastic chair to their guest. They were proud to provide a perfectly sturdy chair for their guest - as they should be.

As we near the end of the Lenten Season and look to proclaim Christ crucified and risen I am challenged to remember what really matters - what holds value. Maybe there is room for me and for us to set aside all the things we falsely worry are important because there is some imaginary standard we're supposed to meet - all our energy spent on trying to perfect life in ways that holds no real value. Perhaps, Jesus, battered and bruised, put in a tomb and raised again with marks still in his hands and side is the perfect example of what matters most. The salvation of the world came through the brokenness of the cross and the shock of the empty tomb. There is nothing of greater value on earth.

I pray we all find ways to hear the Holy Spirit's call to us to place our energy into that which matters most - our faith - our relationships - our family - our community. Thanks be to God. Amen!

In this newsletter
you will find:

Special Events In
April

Supporting One
another In Faith

April Birthdays
and Anniversaries

Additional April &
Summer Events

Council and
Financial Reports

Letter From Bishop

Holy Week
at Mt Si

Special Events in April



Lent Midweek Soup Supper & Worship

We continue to gather in the fellowship hall at **6:00pm** for a soup supper. Supper will be served until 6:45pm. At **7:00pm** we will head to the sanctuary in worship.

Wed. April 2nd & 9th



Palm Sunday, April 13, 9:30am

Come celebrate the beginning of Holy Week! We will begin with a procession from the FH to Sanctuary. Stay after to hear from our Belize mission team & bake communion bread together during fellowship hour!



Maundy Thursday April 17, 6pm

We will begin in the fellowship hall at 6pm with a meal, prayer, song and scripture. As a close to our time together folks are invited to the sanctuary for the stripping of the altar.



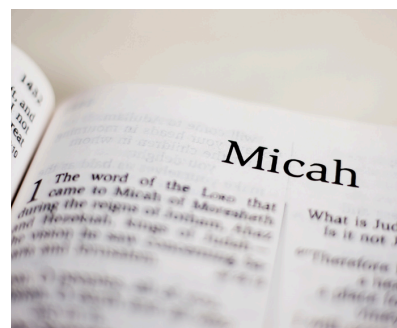
Good Friday April 18, 7pm

This is a candlelight service centered on prayer, music and contemplation as we hear again the story of Jesus death.



Easter Sunday April 20, 9:30am

Please bring cut flowers to decorate the cross before worship. We will begin decorating at 9am. Service will begin at 9:30am. We also celebrate confirmation! Stay after worship for a special coffee hour. See sign-ups for how you can help. Christ is Risen!



Women's Luncheon, April 26, 11am

All women are invited to attend this luncheon hosted by Cross of Christ in Bellevue on Saturday, April 26th at 11am. Pr. Nyla S. will be speaking on the passage Micah 6:8

Additional events in April & Summer!

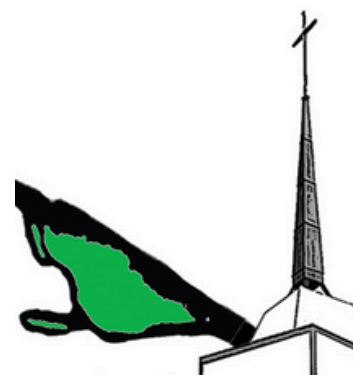
RWANDA MISSION FUNDRAISER

Saturday, April 5th from **4-6pm** at Sammamish Hills Lutheran. Come support the mission team headed to Rwanda and learn about Love with Action Ministry. Tickets are \$30 per person. A meal and silent auction will be part of the evening. The goal is to raise \$8,000-10,000.



SPRING CLEAN-UP!

Saturday, April 12, 9-12pm - Spring Clean-up day at the church. Come help clean out the flower beds and spruce up around the church. Questions? Check in with Rick R.



MSLC Finance Update

To meet our projected annual budget, our General Offering income **goal is \$16,000/mo.**

Income from Jan-Feb:
\$30,878

Expenses for Jan-Feb:
\$31,968

Net Loss Jan-Feb: \$1,090

Lent Special Offering LCSNW

Lutheran Community Services Northwest provides refugee services, adoption services, housing, citizenship programs and so much more throughout WA, ID & OR. With their government contracts & grants frozen they are asking for additional help from local congregations. See flyers in the FH for more details.

From Feb 15-Apr 20 we will take a special offering for LCSNW. Envelopes are in the FH. Thank you for your support!

=SUMMER= =SUMMER=



ELF TINY HOUSE BUILD

Save the dates! For all ages! The Eastside Lutheran Fellowship Team is leading a Tiny House build at Mt Si Lutheran again this summer. **June 23-July 3.** Once complete, the house will go to a LIHI tiny home village. We look forward to partnering with seven other congregations for the build this year!

VBS - SPLISH SPLASH!

Save the date for this year's VBS!

Mon-Fri 9-12pm

July 14-18

Our theme this year is: Splish Splash!
God's Water and the Word.



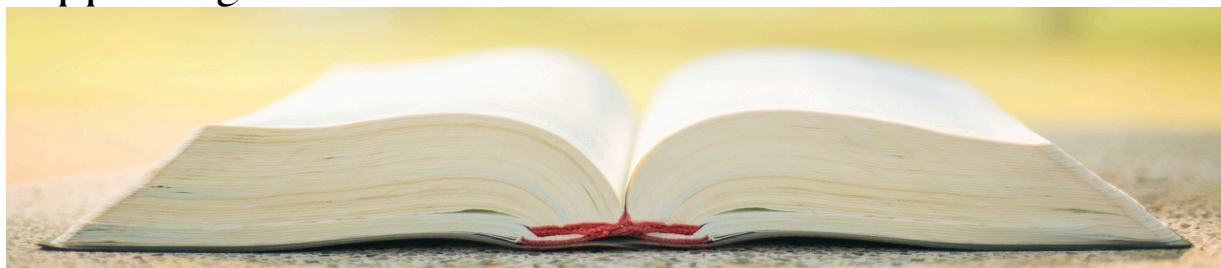
MSLC Executive Team Report

The Executive team has continued meeting with the Finance team and Building and Grounds leaders to develop a clear plan for an upcoming fundraiser to cover Parsonage repairs and updates. This will include the bathroom, fixing some windows and potential upgrade to electrical (fuse box is still twist in glass fuses).

Council will not meet again until May. A reminder that ministry teams are asked to submit **written updates** and requests of council each month. If council has questions about your update they will reach out to the team directly. You can email or put a hard copy of your written report in council mail boxes, which are found in the hallway between the main office and multi-purpose room.

Respectfully Submitted, Pastor Krista Johnson

Supporting one another in faith.....



Sunday Readings & Weekday Education Opportunities

APRIL SUNDAY LESSONS

April 6th

First Lesson: Psalm 126

Gospel Lesson: Luke 18:31-19:10

April 13th

Gospel Lesson: Luke 19:29-44

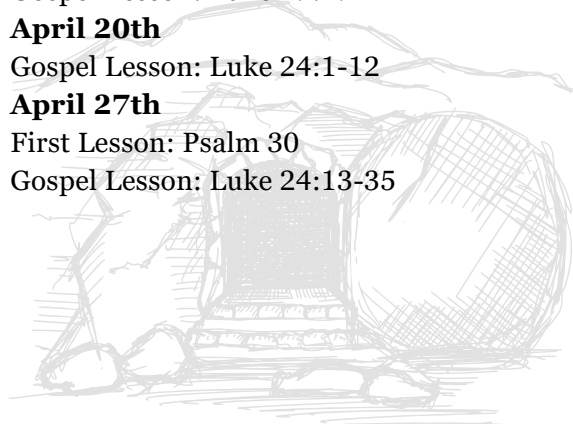
April 20th

Gospel Lesson: Luke 24:1-12

April 27th

First Lesson: Psalm 30

Gospel Lesson: Luke 24:13-35



EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES IN APRIL

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

Women's Bible Study - Mondays starting at 12:30pm. We are currently studying the Gospel of Luke. Talk to Sue Oster for details

Confirmation Sunday - April 20th!

Sunday after Worship - Intergeneration education on the "I AM" statements of Jesus in John's Gospel until April 6th.

April 13, Palm Sunday - after worship, come make communion bread with us!



Vivian Waid 3rd

Krista Johnson 5th

Tyler Koukol 14th

Nellie Sampson 19th

Addison Harding 20th

Abe Abrahamson 24th

Ryan Buckmaster 24th

Mauricia Case 27th

Valerie King 28th



Hollis & Darlene Lockwood 1st
Jim & Ingrid Garhart 25th

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!





Bishop's Letter

April 2025

As you probably know, thousands of bison once roamed the plains of North America. In the late 1800s they were almost brought to extinction. Thankfully, due to conservation efforts, bison are back in the United States plains – even if they aren't nearly as ubiquitous as they once were.

You probably also know that bison are the largest mammals in North America. Male bison (called bulls) can weigh up to 2,000 pounds and stand 6 feet tall, while females (called cows) weigh up to 1,000 pounds and can reach a height of 4-5 feet. Bison calves weigh 30-70 pounds at birth. These are large and powerful creatures.

But even though bison are formidable, the plains can still be dangerous. Their main predators are wolves and mountain lions (what we in the west call cougars), who prey on the weak and the slow – like young bison. Bison typically run when they sense danger, but when predators approach without warning, bison form a multilayer circle of protection. The cows form a ring around the young, and the bulls form an outer ring surrounding the cows.

Just picture this for a moment. A wolf is coming ... the bison cannot run anywhere. And instantly, instinctively, they corral their young in the middle, the females encircle the young, and the males encircle the females. The two rings facing outward. It is a pretty powerful picture. The bison community automatically protects those who cannot protect themselves.

May I ask why we, as humans, seem to do a worse job of protecting the vulnerable than bison? We know God's imperative from Genesis to Revelation. I mean, who did the prophets cry out for? The laborer, the prisoner, the widow, the orphan, the foreigner, the enslaved, the marginalized. Who did Jesus heal? The blind, the deaf, the paralyzed, the bleeding, the possessed, the outcast, the sinner, the forgotten. Again and again, God calls for each beloved person to be held safe – to be provided for and protected – and, when necessary, for those able, to encircle those who are defenseless, especially those society has called expendable.

This is the call God places on each of us – to protect and care for the most
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vulnerable. Yet, we are witnessing and experiencing the opposite in our society and through government actions. Beloveds in Christ, do not be deceived. When food assistance and benefits are slashed, the vulnerable are left defenseless. When rights are stripped away from women, people of color, the LGBTQ+ community, immigrants, and others, they are being cast to the wolves. Jesus himself warns in Matthew 7, “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.”

As followers of Jesus, in these times that may bring discouragement or a sense of being overwhelmed, in these times when it feels wolves are coming at you or for someone you love, may you feel encircled in love and protection – even as you are called to encircle others. May we advocate, love boldly, and protect those who are most at risk. Let us take heart in the promise of God’s justice and mercy. Let us be a people who uplift the weary, feed the hungry, and shelter the displaced. May we be a church that embodies Christ’s compassion and courage, refusing to look away, refusing to be silent, refusing to let the wolves win. For all people are beloved in God’s eyes.

I close with this. I have a little miniature bison on my desk in my office. I look at it often to remember that I am protected by God and that I am called by God. May you remember – as a baptized and beloved child of God, God has called you in this time and in this place. And you are not alone. For even as you protect others, God protects you. Amen.

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee
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HOLY WEEK SERVICES AT MT SI

