



Grace and peace to you,

Blessed Holy Week and Happy Easter to you all!

What a blessing to again find ourselves in the season of Spring. One thing I love about the changing of the seasons is that it engages all our senses

Visually we can see new growth, fresh greens and bright colors

We can hear birds sing their songs

We can smell spring rains, floral sweetness

We can feel deep warmth from the sun and the soft fresh growth of pine needles and petals

We even taste fresh produce not available in other seasons

All of this feeds our mind as it processes these sensations and determines that, indeed, Spring is here—new life is unfolding—dormant life is re-emerging—warmth is returning. For many this realization brings a smile to our faces as we anticipate all that we will see, hear, smell touch & taste in the days to come.

If we take the time to pay attention—each changing season brings with it a veritable feast for our senses—it is marvelous, abundant and a privilege to witness.

I would suggest that worship and life in the community of faith is similarly, a sensory cornucopia.

Visually we see the colors and objects of the worship space change and shift, we see symbols of cross, font, table, light and more

We hear the liturgy shift expression, the hymns and praise songs change in response to the seasons and lessons

We smell the anointing oil, the candles, the coffee, the soup, the bread

We touch the water, hold the hymnal, the bulletin, the bread, the cup

We taste wine or grape juice, the bread, the coffee or tea, the soup the cheese

What do these sensory experiences of worship and fellowship tell you? What do they mean to you? How do they fortify and inform your faith? I invite you to reflect on this over our Holy Week and Easter Season. Much of our worship during these special services is specially created to speak to our senses. You might consider the following questions

What do I sense when I see the cross

What do I sense when I taste the bread, wine or grape juice of communion

What do I sense when I see the candles extinguished, the table set, or the sun through the stained glass

What do I sense when I smell the fresh brewed coffee or smoke from the candles

What do I sense when I touch the water in the font or familiar curve of the pew back

If you are watching worship from home, what space have you set aside to watch worship? How is watching worship from your home different from in-person? Are there ways you might consider adding to your sensory experience of at home worship?

In so many ways our senses add depth and meaning to all that we experience and I believe God invites us into fellowship through whatever sense(s) we have. You don't need to score 100% in each sensory category to experience worship or community.

However you experience worship and fellowship through your senses in the days to come—I pray you are blessed, renewed, restored, encouraged, challenged, feel loved, forgiven, blessed and so much more.

Through it all—may you know with all confidence—Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

Peace, Pastor Krista



#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Bible Studies .....	2
Council Report .....	3
Ways to Give .....	3
Faith Formation.....	4 & 5
Birthdays .....	6
Holy Week Schedule.....	7
Thrivent Action Team board.....	7
Sunday Lessons.....	7

#### Special points of interest

- Bishop's Letter on last page—*great read!*
- Council Report pg. 3
- Upcoming Events for Families  
pgs. 4 & 5

**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.

Thank you to Marlin, set-up, clean-up, soup and bread crew for a wonderful Lenten mid-week Soup, Study and Worship experience!



Thank you to all who came out for worship, fellowship and study.

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](mailto: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**

No Adult Study on Easter Sunday. Adult Ed will continue to look closely at our Narrative texts from Matthew for the day. We meet in the fellowship hall following worship from about 10:45-11:30am.

## **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 is asked to attend Maundy Thursday worship on April 6th, 6pm

No confirmation during Spring Break on April 13th

April 20th we will complete our section on Prayer and on April 27th we will have a review session

Confirmation will continue through May and then take a break for the summer. Watch for an email soon regarding Confirmation Retreat in the Fall with St. Andrew's and St. Matthew's

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



**Johnson Family Update:** Introducing, Hux, the newest member of the Johnson clan. Hux is a delightful mutt with lots of energy and spunk. We don't know how big he'll get—he keeps doubling in size everything we look at him!

Hux loves everyone and will be making appearances at church events over the coming months as he works on training and his ability to be left along for more than 5 min! Haha!

Pancakes, Apollo, Zoe and Rhea are taking this new intruder in stride and may even like him if they'd dare admit it!

# COUNCIL REPORT

Greetings from your council.

Our three teams that are working towards our goals that we developed from the discernment process have been meeting. The youth team met and decided initially to reach out to Trail Youth and Encompass. The senior group has met with the Mt Si Senior Center and discussed some ways we might team with them. The evangelization team has met and will be contacting the Synod to connect with resources they have to help us do a better job of evangelizing. The evangelization team has made a distinction between evangelism and evangelizing. Evangelism is a noun that refers to our church's commitment to the gospel. Evangelizing is a verb referring to the active sharing of the gospel with others. Our goal will be to improve our evangelizing.

I mentioned last month that we have been approached by a person who is looking for a place to establish a small day care. We are continuing to talk to her about renting some of our space. An inspection of our facilities was conducted and it was determined that our kitchen meets the requirements to be used for the day care. We are working on deciding which Sunday school rooms would be dedicated for the day care. We also need to determine where she could put a small out door playground. We are working out the details so she can file to get a permit from the city by the first of June. If everything goes well her plan is to open the day care the first week in September.

As you may know the Alcoholics Anonymous group that has used our facility for several years has disbanded. However, we have been approached by a different AA group about using our facilities for their weekly meeting. Pastor Krista met with them and they would like to use the Luther's lounge area for their meetings. Under their charter they are required to pay rent, so they would pay us \$20 per week.



We approved a new contract for the copier. We will be getting a slightly smaller color copier unit and will be able to do fewer copies per month. The new contract will reduce our monthly fee by approximately \$100.

Next year will be the 75th 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.

Amazon Smile is no longer available. Amazon discontinued the program on February 20th.

-Treasurer

## Mt Si 2023 Finances

**Income** Jan-Feb. = \$24,709  
**Expense** Jan-Feb = \$32,960  
**YTD Income vs. Expense** = \$ -8,251

Join us for Coffee Hour & Adult Study!



*"You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness 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 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 beginning April 13th, 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

### VBS 2023

July 28-30

**Registration is open now!**



**The Theme this year is "Christmas in July"**

Who doesn't love celebrating Christmas in July? Join Mt. Si as we explore the meaning of Christmas with Wise Animal Friends, and a wise-cracking Elf who thinks it's all about them ELF. 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/eZNdWouEYe8RFLFRK9>



**Or use QR code**

### Cluster Youth Event

Mt. Si youth joined St. Andrew's youth for a fun miniature golf outing in Redmond in March, with future fun activities in the works! Watch your email for invites and sign-ups to activities as they pop up! If you're not getting these email invites, reach out to John Grebe or Kathleen to get added to the distro list.

## The Hunt for the Missing Easter Eggs



**Calling all kids!** We thought we knew where they all were, but we're expecting a large number of Easter Eggs to go missing on Sunday, April 9! We need all the help we can to find them! Bring your baskets, bring your friends, bring your parents if you'd like. Join us outside the Fellowship Hall following our Worship and Easter Brunch, right around 11 am.



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](mailto:doug@salc.church)

**August 7th – 11th**  
**9:00–4:00pm**

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



### Elementary Camp at Lutherwood, by Annie Artichoke

It was 1 of the best camps that I have ever been to. I loved the games and I loved the fun activities. Even though it was only really 1 day, I felt like it was an entire year. I made so many friends and I even have an awesome nickname. Annie Artichoke. I really hope that I can come here during the summer. That would be bussin' or I could say that it would be awesome-sauce. Or to shorten all of that into 6 words, **THAT WAS THE BEST CAMP EVER!!!** I would love love love to go there in the summer. And I would love to give a BIG thank you to Erica Haycox and to John Grebe.

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday** we have F.A.M.S. which is one of our children's ministry for K-5<sup>th</sup> 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 [cylf@mtsilutheran.org](mailto:cylf@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.*

**APRIL  
BIRTHDAYS**



- Vivian Waid 3rd
- Tasha Lynch 4th
- Krista Johnson 5th
- Tyler Koukol 14th
- Annelise Sampson 19th
- Addison Harding 20th
- Abe Abrahamson 24th
- Ryan Buckmaster 24th
- Mauricia Case 27th
- Valerie King 28th

**APRIL  
ANNIVERSARIES**



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

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

**FELLOWSHIP**

**Vivian Waid is inviting you to her 90th birthday party** on April 15th here at MSLC in the Fellowship Hall from 2-4pm. Cake, tea, coffee and juice will be provided. In lieu of gifts, please consider a donation to the Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank.

**Wednesday Dessert + Study**

Begins again on April 19th, we will complete our study of the book of Matthew with special attention to learning how Matthew understands discipleship and the call to share the Gospel message with the world. In other words, what does evangelizing look like to Matthew? We will meet for four weeks and then take a break for the summer.

**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!**

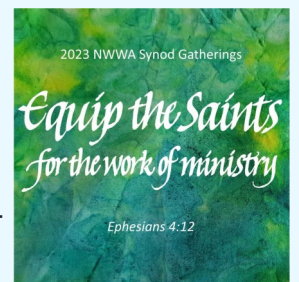
This year we will not be holding a Synod Assembly. Instead, all members of the synod are invited to attend one of two Synod Gatherings that will be held in May. Join us for worship, fellowship, and forums to inspire, educate, and equip members of the NW WA Synod!

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—HOLY WEEK

Mt Si Lutheran Church invites you to  
Holy Week Worship Services

<b>Palm Sunday</b> April 2nd 9:30am Palm Procession! 	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> April 6th 6:00pm Meal + Worship 	<b>Good Friday</b> April 7th 7:00pm Tenebrae Worship 	<b>Easter Sunday</b> April 9th 9:30am Egg Hunt + Meal after Worship 
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411 NE 8th St. North Bend, WA + [www.mtsilutheran.org](http://www.mtsilutheran.org)

- Palm Sunday** Worship begins in the Fellowship Hall with the processional Gospel and Palm procession to the sanctuary
- Maundy Thursday** Potluck Soup Supper + Bread see sign-up in Narthex and/or Fellowship Hall
- Good Friday** A Tenebrae candlelight service of readings, music, prayer and reflection
- Easter Sunday** Please bring long stem flowers for easter cross creation during worship, extras will be provided.
- Easter brunch hosted by Council and Hospitality teams
- Easter Egg Hunt following worship for children and youth hosted by Faith Formation

### *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.

## APRIL SUNDAY LESSONS

**April 2nd**  
(Processional Gospel)  
Narrative Lectionary Text:  
Matthew 21:1-17

**April 9th**  
First Lesson:  
Isaiah 43:1-7 (see bulletin  
for revised wording and  
refrain)  
Narrative Lectionary Text:  
Matthew 28:1-10

**April 16th**  
Narrative Lectionary Text:  
Matthew 28:16-20

**April 23rd**  
First Lesson: Joel 2:28-32  
Narrative Lectionary Text:  
Acts 10:1-17, 34-48

**April 30th**  
First Lesson: 1 John 1:1-9  
Narrative Lectionary Text:  
Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18

**Maundy Thursday  
Worship—April 6, 6pm**

**Good Friday Worship—  
April 7, 7pm**

**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

April 2023



I recently learned that the largest glacier between Mt. Rainier and Glacier Peak is no more. The reporter actually said that the glacier had died. Died. Gone. For thousands of years, the Hinman Glacier lived in the Washington Cascades providing much needed water to the Skykomish River. It is now gone.

A few months ago, my beloved dog, Gracie, died. She was thirteen. She was sick. It was time. But Gracie was with me through my cancer treatment, my children leaving home, my marriage ending, moving to a new city, beginning a new job, being in a new relationship ... and now she has died. She is now gone.

In this synod we recently had two churches close: Clearbrook Lutheran Church in Lynden and Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Concrete. There are additional congregations who are discerning closure in this synod. All these congregations thrived in their communities for many years. Baptisms, weddings, funerals happened. People heard, shared, and lived into the good news of Jesus. And now these congregations have either decided, or are discerning, if their time lifecycle has come to an end.

All of these deaths are hard. They hurt my heart. There is grief and there is pain. And, while I might not know what you are grieving, I am sure that there is heartache in your life, too. Sometimes it seems that there is so much death. And sometimes it seems overwhelming.

As Christians we might say, "But I thought we were promised immortality. I thought "death has lost its sting." Truthfully, it doesn't feel that way. Death is real. It hurts. Where is this resurrection and new life we are promised?"

Dr. Brian Bantum, professor and author, writes regarding human immortality:

Our personhood, the body we speak of so confidently that was meant to live forever, is itself an arrangement of cells and tissues that are cycling through life and death. Our bodies are constantly undergoing changes, small transformations in our gradual development from infant to adult. Our bodies are no different and are connected to the cycles of life and death that are intrinsic to creation's goodness. As Indigenous theologian Randy Woodley reminds us, 'Death is simply another part of living.' (Christian Century, Did God intend for Adam and Eve to live forever?, March 12, 2023)

On Ash Wednesday this year, I had a vision of God playing in the dirt. Kneeling down, mixing dirt into mud, molding and mixing, and forming each human. God – laughing and creating. God – loving and generating. I smiled at this sight. Later in the service, when I went forward to receive ashes in the shape of a cross upon my forehead, when I heard, "Dust to dust and ashes to ashes," I had a vision of God scooping each beloved human into God's arms at the end of their life. Holding the human turned dirt again. Loving and creating even more.

Dr. Bantum writes later in the same article, "Change, transformation, death, cycles of renewal and cessation—these are all part of God's creation. And this change is beautiful and good." Is it possible to move beyond the grief we feel when something ends and see the new life that might be coming?

Perhaps the glacier that died could be an impetus for us to take seriously the threat of climate change. I would hope so. I hope that the love my dog Gracie had for me will make me more loving towards others. In our synod, we are working with the closing congregations so that together we may begin new ministries and new ways of being church in this new day and age.

During this season of Lent – and into Holy Week and Easter – we know the truth of death. We know it in our bones. We acknowledge the pain, the difficulty, the fear, and the grief that comes with death. And yet, even more so, as people of faith, as people who celebrate Easter, we trust in God's love through Jesus Christ who died and rose again for us and for the redemption of this entire world. Yes. There is death. And yes. There is resurrection.

God continues to play in the soil. God continues to create and nurture new life. God continues to hold and sustain life. And, fundamentally, without question, God brings life from death - each and every day.

May you have a blessed Easter. May we together, in this real world that we live in, trust in Jesus. And may we, with all the angels, archangels and all the saints, shout the good news together, "Happy Easter! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!"

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee