

PASTOR'S REPORT

Grace and peace to you, dear siblings in Christ—

I give thanks to God for the continued ministry the Spirit is working in the hearts, minds and hands of each of you. I see hands at work counting pencils, pens and crayons. I see hearts at work over each stitch in a prayer shawl. I see minds at work in Bible studies and team conversations and plans. I see hands at work tending the garden and hearts at work singing God's praises. I see minds at work puzzling over making the right decisions in these uncertain times. I see the Spirit at work in, through and among you. For this, I give thanks to God.

It is true that we are not always in harmony as our hands, hearts and heads collide and we can't help but get in the way of each other from time to time. It is true that for many, stress is high, anxiety is high and our ability to absorb information we are not fond of in a helpful way is diminished. It is true we can be short with one another, especially when we can't agree on the next right thing—the next right step...I know, because I'm struggling too!

Yet, I give thanks to God for each of you. You all are exactly who are needed to continue God's mission and ministry at Mt Si Lutheran Church. Each of you has been gifted with just what is needed for this time and place. So that, when we come together, we have all that is required to fulfill God's mission. God has our future in his hands. Jesus has our salvation in his hands and gives this gift freely. The Spirit is creating new life all around. Siblings in Christ—do not lose hope. Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing thanksgiving and praise to the Lord and Savior of all. Shout Hosanna to the King! Give thanks to God for the gift of this community of faith!

We are not perfect—but that's the whole point—if we were perfect we wouldn't need Jesus. Jesus came to gather up broken, hurting, anxious people and set them free knowing that that freedom would be fulfilled only in the life to come—Jesus didn't make us perfect (I wish!) Jesus said he loves and forgives us in all our imperfection. Even more, Jesus blesses us with the Holy Spirit and sends us out to gather more broken, hurting, anxious people...

I give thanks to God for each of you in all of our imperfections—in all of our Spirit given giftedness—I give thanks to God for the assurance of our salvation. Amen!

Peace, P. K.



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- God's Work Our Hands Sunday—September 12th—Worship @ 9:30am with Service projects to follow!
- Pastor on vacation from August 24th-September 4th
- Blood Drive @ Mt Si Lutheran on September 21st see pg. 3 for details

BACKPACK DISTRIBUTION



A big thank you to all the hands that came together to donate supplies, organize donations, fill backpacks, coordinate volunteers and distribute backpacks.

To our leaders, Janey Benson, Courtney Adams and Erica Haycox—THANK YOU! Without your hours of dedication to this ministry—we would not be able to serve so many families in the valley.

There is still time to help!

Distribution of backpacks will be on :

Tuesday, August 24th - 1:30-7:30

Wednesday, August 25th—8:30-5:30

Monday August 30th—8:30-2:30

If you are free during these times, please reach out to Janey to get on the schedule!

May God bless all who receive these bags of supplies.

- Pastor Krista

“Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.” - John 6

WOMEN'S MONDAY BIBLE STUDY BEGINS!

Monday, September 13th
@ 12:30pm the weekly
Women's Bible Study will
begin. All are welcome!

The women will study the
book of Joshua. Please
talk to Sue Oster if you
need a book.

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!

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. SUNDAY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH

We will celebrate God's Work. Our Hands Sunday once again this year. A special worship service will take place at 9:30am followed by multiple service activities.

This year our theme is: Being Good Neighbors

Team One: Pumpkin Kindness (Need 10-15 ppl)

Team Two: Clean-up Kindness (Need 6-8 ppl or more!)

Team Three: Repaint Harvest Carnival Games/Signs (need 6-8 ppl)

Team Four: Building and Grounds projects (6-8 ppl)

Permitting no changes with COVID safety—we plan to hold a potluck meal after worship. Once we are done eating we will break into teams and complete our service projects.

Please remember to wear your yellow God's Work. Our Hands. T-shirts! If you don't have one, please let Courtney know and we will help you get one.

Questions? Please talk to Courtney, John G. or Pastor.

“God's work. Our hands.” Sunday



COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello Mount Si Lutherans!

September is the month the temperature begins to settle down a bit. I think I am ready for fall to arrive and bring back the cooler temperatures and the much-needed rain. My hope and prayers are that you are all doing fine and feel the love of Christ in your lives.

In lieu of writing about all the wonderful activities occurring at MSLC I'm going to center my article on looking at community service from a different perspective. Specifically, I want to highlight two tragedies that happened almost simultaneously. Afghanistan and Haiti are on different hemispheres, thousands of miles apart from one another. No doubt the turmoil in both countries are very different situations, yet the bloodshed, hunger, thirst, and lack of adequate medical care and shelter are the same in both. It's hard for me to fathom what walking just for one minute, one hour, or a day in the shoes of a countryman in either place must be like. But I firmly believe with Faith and Hope all sadness will be overshadowed. I think sometimes being a person of God is to support both the local and larger community. You see, God created the world, as a sphere so there would be no start or end point. The local community line extends in all directions and ends right back to where you are standing, perhaps even crossing right through Afghanistan and Haiti. Mariners refer to this line as the great circle route. If you are moved or willing to make an impact to alleviate the suffering in these two countries please consider donating to worthy organizations that specialize in providing relief when disaster strikes. There are several for you to choose from, one in particular was founded by Lutherans in the United States at the end of World War II, grounded in Lutheran theology and building on decades of experience. This organization provides aid in emergencies and helps families restore their lives. They partner with communities to build and grow rural economies. The organization I'm referring to is Lutheran World Relief. LWR is a worthy organization and is in need of your support so they can do what they do best in Afghanistan and in Haiti. For decades LWR has been active in providing real relief to the refugees created by persecution, war or natural disaster. Keep in mind just like LWR, Mount Si Lutheran Church was also founded at the end of World War II, grounded in Lutheran theology and built on decades of experience. Our outwardly prayers of hope and faith for a safer world, just like a great circle route seems to return where one is standing. Perhaps your actions under 'God's Work, Our Hands' this year can be to support both the local and the greater communities. Donations to LWR can be made through the following avenues:

Mail checks to: Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061

Call: (800) 597-5972

Online: <https://lwr.org/donate-emergency>

Don't forget to sign up as a blood donor. The date is set for September 21st (Tuesday) between 10am and 3pm. This will be the first blood drive in North Bend and in time flyers and posters will pop up around town. All donors will sign up for their time slot online. The website is available. I still need one volunteer to help at the registration desk. The shift needing filled is from 10am to 12:30pm. The two afternoon slots are filled!

I ask for your continued prayers for the peoples of Afghanistan and Haiti. If you have ideas or suggestions regarding worship at Mt. Si Lutheran Church, please contact me at rsnmrod@mac.com or (206) 384-1042.

With God's Peace and in Christ's love,

Rick Rodriguez

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

September 21st

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. We have one open spot from 10:00-12:30

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



**American
Red Cross**

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY LESSONS

September 5th

First Lesson:

James 2:1-10, 14-17

Gospel: Mark 7:24-37

September 12th

First Lesson: Is. 50:4-9a

Gospel: Mark 8:27-38

September 19th

First Lesson:

James 3:13-18

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

September 26th

First Lesson:

James 5:13-20

Gospel: Mark 9:38-50



WORSHIP SCHEDULE ACCOUNCEMENT

In the last several months, the Worship and Music team realized that, over the last year, key worship leaders have moved away or are in a position in life that they can no longer commit to weekly worship leadership. These worship leaders have been dedicated volunteers to the worship ministry of Mt Si for decades and we are so grateful to them for their service!

Upon reflection, we realized we no longer had the capacity to support two full music filled worship services. We also realized that a number of families are still most comfortable worshipping online, which means we do not see as many people physically in the sanctuary on a Sunday. We also considered, that after so much time physically apart, the congregation may be blessed by staying united in worship for a while.

The Worship and Music team asked council to approve staying at one service, at 9:30am, for the remainder of 2021. Council has approved this proposal. The service will balance traditional hymns and contemporary music in order to meet the musical preferences of this congregation.

We are asking the congregation to reflect on the experience of one service and bring questions & comments to our November annual meeting.

Thank you for your support of our efforts to provide the most meaningful worship for our members.

If you have questions, please talk to Dave Spurling, Rick Rodriguez or Pastor

SUNDAY FALL EDUCATION

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

Education will be from **10:45-11:30** 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

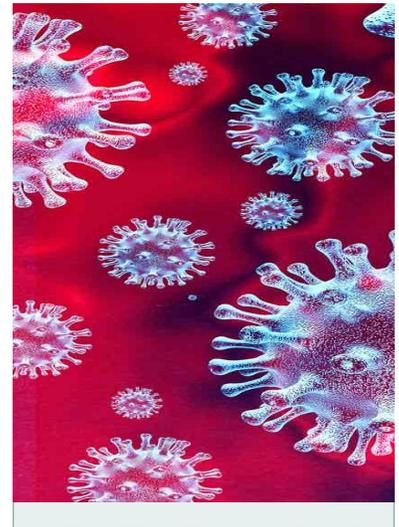
MASK MANDATE IN EFFECT

Please note that Mt Si Lutheran will continue to follow State guidelines regarding health and safety during the COVID pandemic. Starting Monday, August 23rd all groups gathering in any church building must be wearing masks.

This will include Sunday worship. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided to you. The state has moved this from a recommendation to a mandate regardless of vaccination status.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

—Executive Team (Rick R., Terry A., Jack B.)



“I lift my eyes to the hills—from where does my help come?” Ps. 121

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Children, youth, and families programming is a priority and during this time it continues to be fluid due to complications caused by COVID. We were planning on having a family barbecue / gathering on the same day as God’s Work Our Hands Sunday but feel at this time that it will be safer to wait until October or later. Our hope is to gather families new and long term for a meet and greet. This meeting time will be critical for helping us to determine the best types of activities and programs to have as a congregation.

We will **NOT** be having a Camping here at the church on Sept. 3-4 due to ongoing issues with COVID. We will be developing activities for families each month throughout the fall and winter. These events will be created with contingency plans in response to health department and church policies due to COVID.

September 12th - God's Work Our Hands Sunday. We will be focusing on the Theme: Being Good Neighbors.

September 19 Alpaca Farm in Carnation. We will be visiting the alpacas and enjoying sack lunches together at the farm in Carnation. The farm tour, with an included lunch provided by the church, is \$20 for adults and \$15 for kids. If you are interested in attending, please contact John for mor details.

Kid’s Garden Club we have enjoyed having students participate in this monthly activity! We hope to have at least 2 more events. We will communicate by email when decide on dates.

- Faith Formation Team



Don’t miss the alpaca outing on September 19th! We’re headed to the Alpaca farm in Carnation, WA
Talk to John Grebe to sign-up!

SEPTEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

Declan Haycox—9/2

Pam Willson—9/2

Alishia Blakely—9/3

Ambur Brown—9/4

Kelsey Harding— 9/6

Stefan VanHandel—9/8

Kailie Graciidis—9/11

Heidi Dukich—9/12

Janey Benson—9/14

Kim Buckmaster—9/25

Lorraine Wilkerson—9/27

SEPTEMBER

ANNIVERSARIES

Chris and Lisa Sampson—
9/2

Glen and Marge Bliss—
9/6

Paul and Heidi Dukich—
9/8

Charles and Jenny
Lynch—9/22

John and Erica Haycox—
9/25

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

September 5th

Lector: Ed B.

Ushers: Jack B. & Mike H.

Communion Assistant: Rosemary H.

September 12th

Lector: Erica H.

Ushers: Rick and Sheila R.

Communion Assistant: Kay B.

September 19th

Lector: Peggy H.

Ushers: Dave V. & Marlin O.

Communion Assistant: Inge B.

September 26th

Lector: Jenna R.

Ushers: Ed and Janey B.

Communion Assistant: Courtney A.

If you are interested in serving as Lector, Usher or Communion Assistant, please reach out to Pastor Krista. She is doing her best to schedule folks that previously served. If you previously served and have not been asked to yet, please send a reminder to Pastor that you would like to be on the list. Thank you!

There will be a training day for Lectors, Ushers and Communion assistants coming up soon!

A note to Counters—Sheila R. is coordinating our weekly counters. Please check with her regarding the schedule. Thank you!

We will also add acolytes back into the rotation soon :) If you are interested in being an acolyte, please send a note to Pastor.

FLOWER CHART RETURNS!

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.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Please note that the Women's Ministry is up and active in new ways this fall. There are sign-ups in the Fellowship Hall under the TV for all women in the church to consider.

We will pick up our Monthly evening Study and Fellowship and begin hosting some fun outings and gatherings as ideas and leaders step forward.

Please reach out to Courtney, Sheila or Pastor with questions and ideas!

Also—A big thanks to the Women's ministry team who put together an amazing surprise bridal shower for me a few weeks ago. What a joy! THANK YOU THANK YOU!!!

- Women's Ministry Team



“They dedicated themselves to fellowship, breaking bread and the Lord’s teaching” Acts 4

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

On August 1, 2021 I began my third year in the office of bishop for the Northwest Washington Synod. It is my pleasure and joy to serve God and to journey with you through this office. I am thankful for your partnership, your understanding, your forgiveness, your passion, and your faithfulness. We are living in a time of great turmoil and great opportunity. We are living in (to use a much-overused word) unprecedented times. What does this mean for us as individuals? The Northwest Washington Synod? The ELCA? The Body of Christ?

Many of us feel **grief**. Grief at what once was but is no longer. Grief that the world keeps changing around us and we cannot figure out our place or our sense of call in the middle of so much shifting. It is difficult when the world feels rocky and unsteady. It is hard to understand that what we often took for granted is no longer. Recently I visited my hometown in eastern Washington. The town is half the size it was when I was growing up. As I walked through the downtown, businesses that have been there for decades are gone. Boarded up. Abandoned. My world felt rocked. And I grieved. What do you grieve?

Many of us feel **anger or resentment**. We divide ourselves into camps. We use the words, “us” and “them” and act as though “our” camp is always right and holy and just. We throw words around like weapons and we refuse to truly listen to the other – because we are “right” and they are “wrong.” And nothing will persuade us otherwise. In John 8 we hear Jesus tell the men who wanted to throw rocks at a woman accused of adultery, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.’ When the men leave, Jesus says to the woman, “Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.” What would it mean for us to live into these words of Jesus?

Many of us feel **exhausted**. We are tired. We are weary. For a brief moment it felt as though we were moving beyond COVID19 and then suddenly, with the Delta variant, we were pushed back into worry and concern (I am writing this in the middle of August – perhaps the numbers will be better before you read this in September!). Quite frankly, I am tired of changing things on the calendar – wondering if something should be in-person or online, wondering if I am doing something risky or if I am not taking the variables into enough consideration. It is wearisome. What makes you exhausted?

Many of us feel there is **something more that we are missing**. We ache for connection with God and with others. We feel lonely when we are alone, and we feel even more isolated when we are in a group. We long for meaning. We yearn to truly live, move, and have our being in the Spirit (Acts 17). How does the community of Christ answer the loneliness so many are feeling? What have we missed in the life of the church and participants? How do we sink even more deeply into the waters of life that God has called us to and given us in our baptisms?

Many of us are **hopeful**. Yes, I fully am living in the reality of all that I said above. I am not a Pollyanna. And yet, I trust that God is here, God is present, God is active – in this beautiful, flawed world of ours. Right now, in our congregations and in our neighborhoods, there are grief-stricken, angry, exhausted, aching-for-connection people. And right now, God has given us the opportunity to not only reach out to these people, but to listen and reflect, grow and learn together. What a calling! What an opportunity!

I encourage you to check out the LiVE Project where you can connect, learn, and grow deeper in faith together and with others. <https://lutheransnw.org/ministries/the-live-project>

You might also be interested in Living Legacy where congregations are encouraged to have deep conversations about their values, their dreams, and what God is calling them to do and to be into the future. <https://lutheransnw.org/programs/livinglegacy>

The synod staff and I are here to journey, listen, and reflect with you. Thank you for these last two years. I look forward to this new year together in Christ.

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

