



### PASTOR'S REPORT

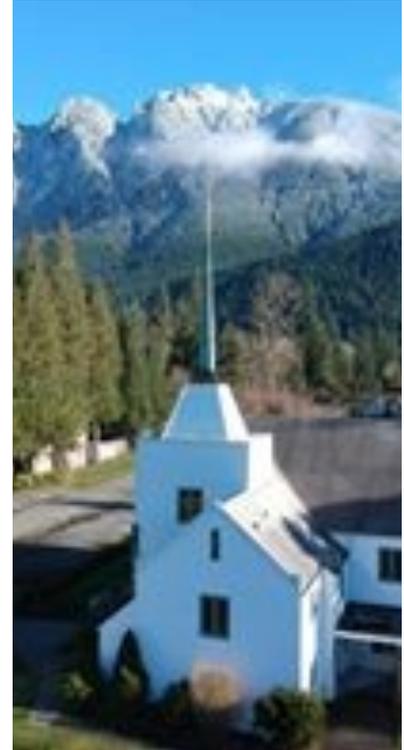
Grace and peace to you, dear siblings in Christ—

We find ourselves in the season of Epiphany—the word epiphany means “to make known,” “to show.” “to become manifest,” or “to appear.” It is a season we give thanks for the peace we experience in the beauty of darkness as in a mother’s womb—safe and secure— and the season we give thanks for the exposing light that bring us to birth with new life in Christ.

Often during the pandemic I have invited us to consider how God is being made known—seen—appearing—manifesting amid our daily lives. In our discernment process I have invited us to consider how God is being made known—seen—appearing—manifesting amidst our faith community and amidst the Snoqualmie Valley. I do this because we claim Jesus’ promise at the ascension, “I will be with you to the end of the age,” to be true and constant. We ask the question because we know God is present—we know the Spirit is working and we know Jesus is here with us. We take the time to discern so that we do not lose heart and do not become discouraged.

It is true that seeing God at work and present with us is not always obvious or intuitive. It is true that seeing God at work and present with us can be impossible to recognize without the guidance and encouragement of our siblings in Christ. It is also true that even when we fumble to name or recognize God at work—God is still working—God is still present. Be tenacious in this claim—insistent in this claim—With authority and fervor you can tell every part of you that says, “no, I don’t see God,” “no, God can’t be here,” “no, God has abandoned me,” to BE SILENT and stop lying—remind those clamors of fear that even if you cannot see, cannot recognize and cannot believe, even then and especially then—GOD IS HERE.....Dear siblings if you are too exhausted and worn down to speak that word of truth to your inner fear, find a friend of faith and ask them to speak it to you and for you in prayer and exhortation. Please know that I am here to speak this word of truth to you and for you as well. Please know that I will pray with you and for you.

Blessed new year, beloved of God! - Pastor Krista O. Johnson



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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Bishop’s Letter on last page—great read!

*Joy • Joy • Joy • Joy*



The red cross plans to use Mt Si Lutheran Church as a quarterly blood donation site for the near future.  
 Upcoming Dates  
 March 15th, June 28th & September 13th

## EPIPHANY BONFIRE @ THE BURNSIDE'S

**Sunday, January 9th**  
**11-12pm**

All are welcome to the Burnside's home for our annual Epiphany Bonfire. If you have one, you can bring your live Christmas tree to burn. We will have hot coco and coffee to enjoy. If you need directions, please reach out to Tom or Inge Burnside



*The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. Jeremiah 33:14*

### 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!

### THIRSTY FOR THEOLOGY

Jan 13th, 7pm @ the Parsonage

## EPIPHANY BLESSING



Chalking the door is a Faith @ Home practice you can use to invite Christ's blessing upon your home and those who live there in the New Year.

**20 + C + M + B + 22**

The letters have two meanings

1. The initial given to each Magi — Caspar, Malchior, and Balthazar — who came to visit Jesus in his first home.
2. An abbreviation of the Latin phrase for "MAY CHRIST BLESS THE HOUSE."

The "+" signs represent the cross, and the "20" at the beginning and the "22" at the end mark the year.

**YOU MAY CHALK YOUR DOOR AND PRAY  
 BRING PEACE TO THIS HOUSE AND TO ALL WHO DWELL HERE**

[WWW.EVERYDAYSANCTUARY.COM](http://WWW.EVERYDAYSANCTUARY.COM)



## COUNCIL REPORT

Greetings from your council.

We hope you all had a joyous Christmas and are looking forward to the New Year.

We had a successful advent and Christmas season. We had a booth at the Holly Days event in North Bend. We provided crafts for kids and were visited by over 100 kids. There was a good turnout for our advent festival. We also provided gift certificates for House of Hope clients. We had over seventy people in attendance in person at the two Christmas Eve services with many others participating virtually.

In the New Year we will be continuing with the discernment process. We have identified our spiritual gifts. Pastor Krista has prepared graphs and charts showing the outcome of our spiritual gift determination. They are posted at the back of the sanctuary. In January we plan to have visits from community leaders and charitable organizations in the Valley to share with us what they see as needs for service in the valley. We will then match up our spiritual gifts with the community needs and develop plans for future service to our community.

On January 23 we will be holding part two of our congregational meeting. It will follow the 9:30 service. We will approve minutes from the last meeting, elect delegates to the Synod assembly coming up in May, and hear year end reports from our various ministry committees. The meeting will be both in person and virtual. We will be sending out instructions on how to participate virtually.

I look forward to the New Year with hope of new clarity and refreshment of our mission in the years to come. The council wishes you all a happy New Year.

Jack Boller



## JANUARY

### SUNDAY

### LESSONS

#### January 2

Children and Youth  
Led Worship

Frist Lesson:

Isaiah 60:1-6

Gospel Lesson:

Matthew 2:1-12

#### January 9

First Lesson:

Acts 8: 14-17

Gospel Lesson:

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

#### January 16

First Lesson:

1 Cor 12:1-11

Gospel Lesson:

John 2:1-11

#### January 23

First Lesson:

1 Cor:12:12-31a

Gospel Lesson:

Luke 4:14-21

#### January 30

First Lesson:

1 Cor. 13:1-13

Gospel Lesson:

(Pastor Krista will choose)

## **Partnership with Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank (SVFB)**

The Council has approved a short-term building use request with the SVFB. They will be using part of Luther's Lounge to store excess canned and dry goods from now until March.

The food bank has been blessed with an outpouring of donations that they simply didn't have the space to store.



We are grateful to be able to support the SVFB by offering this temporary space.

Questions? Please reach out to Pastor Krista.



## **DIRECTORY**

### **It is time again to revise and print a new directory.**

We are not going to work with a professional photographer this time.

We are going to print our own directory for everyone.

There will be dates in January we will take photos after worship for those who want a new one.

January 23rd following the annual meeting will be one date.

You can also submit a family photo to the church office to include.

We will also have the previous directory out for you to make any corrections that are needed.

Please check your email, phone, cell phone(s) and address are correct.

All photos and updates need to be turned in by February 20th

More info to come!

## **WORSHIP IN 2022**

The worship team has recommended to council that we remain at one service through 2022. The service time will remain at 9:30am. We will continue to live-stream worship each Sunday thanks to Terry and Mike. A thanks to our youth are have also stepped up to help with the live-stream when they are able.

If you have questions or concerns about the worship schedule for 2022, please contact Pastor Krista.

## **SUNDAY ADULT EDUCATION**

We will continue with our Discernment Process during Adult Education in January. A rough outline of our process is listed below. Thank you for your participation in this process!

January 2nd—Please enjoy Fellowship this day, Pastor is out of town.

January 9th—Epiphany Bonfire Fellowship, no Adult Ed.

January 16th—Community Needs

January 23rd—Annual Meeting Part II—Year End Ministry Sharing

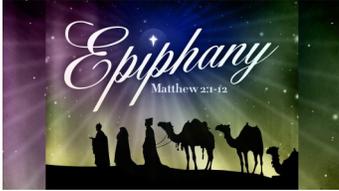
January 30th—Review of God's Call, Our Gifts and Community Needs



## WHAT IS EPIPHANY?

Epiphany is the second-oldest festival of the Christian church (only Easter is an older observance). Originally, Epiphany celebrated four different events, all on one day: the birth of Jesus, his Baptism, his first miracle, and the visit of the Wise Men. Each of these is a revelation of God to humanity.

Eventually, the celebration of Christ's birth was separated out and became Christmas, twelve days earlier, so that the season of Christmas began with the revelation of Christ to Israel (represented by the shepherds at Bethlehem) and ended with the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles (represented by the Wise Men). Epiphany is therefore sometimes called "The Gentiles' Christmas."



Over the centuries, the other two celebrations were also separated. The celebration of Jesus' Baptism moved to the first Sunday after Epiphany and the commemoration of his miracle at the wedding at Cana moved to the second Sunday after Epiphany.



### Faith & Everyday Life Devotions for 2022

Thank you to our friends at [Lutheran Counseling Network](#) for sharing this collection of monthly devotionals for 2022. (and for the many ways they walk alongside members of our communities!)

Find it here: [Faith and Everyday Life Devotions](#)

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

## FAITH FORMATION

### Faith Formation Team Leadership:

*January 9th Epiphany:* Sunday School activities for kids will be available at the church after the service as well as at the Burnsides where we will be having a bonfire of Christmas trees at 11am. You are invited to join us during these times to learn and share in fellowship. There will be treats but not the traditional lunch.

*January 12th, Youth and Kid's Club:* we are inviting families with kids in K-8th grades to join us on Wednesday evening 6:30-8pm for some learning, fun, and fellowship. This will be an opportunity to explore the idea of a monthly event based on Kid's Club and VBS style gatherings. We recognize that Sunday mornings are not always ideal times for kids to gather for these opportunities. Our goal is to create alternate opportunities for kids to learn and grow in their faith.

*February Snow Day:* The Faith Formation team is working on a plan for a snow day outing to go play in the snow, more details to come. If you have any recommendations, please let John Grebe know.



*Updates to events are communicate4d 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.*

**JANUARY  
BIRTHDAYS**

Emma Miller 3rd  
Peggy Halferty 4th  
Brent Koukol 7th  
Michael Hanson 10th  
Lisa Sampson 10th  
Eleanor Haycox 13th  
Rachel Flanagan 14th  
Joe Stone 14th  
Vicki Wallentine 14th  
Mary Abrahamson 16th  
Brett Imsland 16th  
Leslie Hatling 18th  
Nancy Flanagan 24th  
Dana Koukol 25th  
Krista Cassidy 29th  
Judy Stoddard 29th  
Marcus Tiongson 31st



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

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

**WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE**

**January 2nd**

Children and Youth Led Worship

Ushers: Sampson Family

Lectors: Children and Youth

Presider: Marlin Olson

Communion Assistant:

Communion Prep: Courtney A.

Acolyte: Annie and Kaelynn

**January 9th**

Ushers: Marlin O.

Lector: Terry A.

Assisting Minister: Jack B.

Communion Assistant: Courtney A.

Communion Prep: Courtney A.

**January 16th**

Ushers: Dave V. & Mike H.

Lector: Pat P.

Assisting Minister: Marlin O.

Communion Assistant: Rosemary H.

Communion Prep: Suzy S.

**January 23rd**

Ushers: Tom B.

Lector: Tom B.

Assisting Minister: Jenna R.

Communion Assistant: Inge B.

Communion Prep: Courtney A.

**January 30th**

\*Service of Anointing\*

Ushers: Ed and Janey B.

Lector: John K.

Assisting Minister: Marlin Olson

Communion Assistant: Laura R.

Communion Prep: Courtney A.



## HOLLY DAYS



## PRAYER SHAWLS

Those of you who have receipts for unreimbursed dollars and would like to have them added to your financial tax statement, please have them turned in to Leslie Hatling by January 12.

Thanks,

Leslie Hatling Financial Secretary of Mt Si Lutheran Church

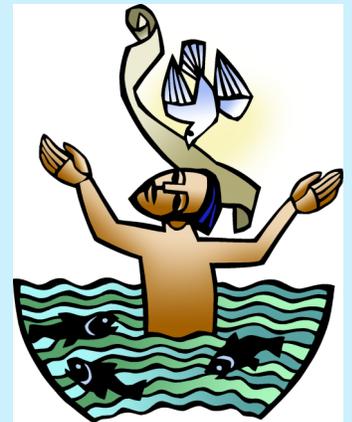
*“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone.” Philippians 4:4-5*

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS—UPDATE

Spiritual Gifts of MSLC



**Spiritual Gifts  
THANK YOU!**  
Thank you to all who participated in the Spiritual Gifts Assessment. The chart to the left shows the gifts of our members. We have a church blessed with the gifts of Serving, Giving, Admin, Music and Artistry/Skilled Craft. We will talk more about what all this means in the coming months.



Joy

# BISHOP'S LETTER

## January 2022

During this winter, as many continue to grapple with - and be discouraged by - the continuation of the pandemic, isolation, discontent, and loneliness, we might feel that our relationships are not as strong as they once were – with family and friends, with colleagues and co-workers, and with those in our church.

Recently I read a book called *Tempered Resilience* by Tod Bolsinger. While I wasn't enthralled with the whole book, I did resonate with one visual that he used and perhaps you will find helpful in this time, too. He writes about how our different relationships help us in our resilience and in our on-going ability to adapt. On page 112 Bolsinger writes, "To flourish in ministry or other forms of social leadership, leaders need to be conscious of at least three different contexts, and the relationships needed to flourish in those contexts, 'front stage, backstage, and offstage.'"



The Front Stage is the public face that we show to the world. It is the place where "performance" happens. It is critical to have trustworthy colleagues or teammates where you are able to be yourself. These relationships could include peers and teammates, partners, and colleagues. An example from scripture would be the disciples. Who would you include in your life?

The Back Stage is the place to support and nurture you in your "front stage" work. Good front stage work depends on lots of time backstage analyzing and thinking about the work that is being done, learning from the lessons of success and failure from others, and especially, gaining perspective from experienced leaders. In his book Bolsinger cautions, "Backstage relationships don't happen because of others. They happen because of you." (p. 116) In other words, you might have to seek out "backstage people. Backstage relationships include therapists, coaches, mentors, spiritual directors, pastors, and more. An example in scripture would be David listening to Samuel or Moses listening to his father-in-law Jethro or Ruth listening to Naomi. Who would you include in your life?

The Off Stage are the people that you are emotionally closest to and who are your confidants. As Bolsinger writes, "The quality of your relationships with other people influences how emotionally resilient you can be in the face of an emotional or physical crisis. In general, the more quality social support you can draw upon from family and friends, the more flexible and resilient you can be in stressful situations." (p. 120) An example in scripture would be Elizabeth and Mary. Who would you include in your life?

So, I'm wondering, how are you doing in these three areas? Are your relationships strong "front stage, backstage, and off-stage"? Do you have good connections? Where could you form deeper connections? Where do you need help in forming new relationships?

I'd love to hear from you how we can be a more connected church community, how we can support one another, and how resilience can be built up by forming and growing relationships.

I know this is a difficult and frustrating time for many. I feel it, too. May you feel connected with one another. May you feel upheld by one another. And, especially, in this Epiphany season, may God's presence, love and grace be made known to you.

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee