



## **Mt Si Lutheran - January 2021**

### **Mini GOOD - NEWSletter**

Grace and peace to you,

New Year's blessings to each of you! My prayer for each of us in this new year is space for deep healing mentally, physically and emotionally. We have all been under a level of stress non-stop for nearly a year now due to the global pandemic, political turmoil and social changes brought about by the revealing of deeply embedded injustice and prejudice. Not to mention the daily stress that comes with each of our unique lives with family, work, school, housing, relationships, medical challenges, finances, etc. Beloved of God, please take a moment to receive grace—know that when our Lord looks at you right now he looks on you with love and compassion and joy. Know that when our Lord sees you right now it is with arms wide open to embrace you—to be with you as the tears fall or the laughter bubbles or both. You are holy and precious. Please, dear ones, extend grace to yourself as well as to those around you—to those you disagree with—to those you don't understand. It's ok to be tired, to be sad, mad, upset, joyful, giddy, fearful, anxious, confused, broken, in love, overwhelmed, content, happy, sorrowful—wherever you find yourself right now—it's ok. Extend yourself grace—the grace that God is already extending to you. Give yourself permission to not be ok and in the same breath hear God say to you, even when you're not ok, I love you. Give yourself permission to be right where you are. We have all changed over the last months—there is no denying that. I pray that you enter this year with eyes wide open ready for the healing and reconciliation and peace that only our God can bring to us, to our communities and to our world. God is with us. Even when we're not ok—God is with us, making it right again. - P. K.

#### **Important Deadline!**

The last day to turn in un-reimbursed expense requests in Sunday, January 17th. This way tax letters can be completed in a timely manner. Thank you!

Financial Secretary, Leslie Hatling

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!! January Birthdays:

Peggy Halferty January 4	Brent Koukol January 7
Michael Hanson January 10	Ashley Kober January 10
Lisa Sampson January 10	Rachel Flanagan January 14
Joe Stone January 14	Vicki Wallentine January 14
Darrell Willson January 15	Mary Abrahamson January 16
Brett Imsland January 16	Leslie Hatling January 18
Nancy Flanagan January 24	Dana Koukol January 25
Krista Cassidy January 29	Judy Stoddard January 29



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## NEW ADULT STUDY



### The Manifesto of the King (Title by G. Campbell Morgan)

This series is five video sessions on the Sermon on the Mount. The beginning session covers the occasion, method, and nature of the Sermon on the Mount. Then there are three sessions covering a single text from each of the chapters in Matthew; five, six, and seven. Finally the concluding session is a relevant challenge to us as Jesus's disciples today.

Matthew concluded his coverage of the Sermon on the Mount by recording that the multitudes were astonished at Jesus's teaching. What caused them to be astonished will also cause us to be astonished!

We will follow the writings of G. Campbell Morgan. (1863-1945) Morgan's commentary on the Sermon on the Mount was written in the 1920's and is available in full length on the Internet.

Our method of study will enable us to hear what they heard. We will examine what was said (content) and how it is said (structure).

The Sermon on the Mount was Jesus' introductory instruction to his disciples about the Kingdom of God. The Sermon on the Mount is our "job description" for following the first disciple who heard it!

### How to Access the Bible Study

The videos for this study will be available on our website.

You can watch them anytime.

The videos will be available by January 17th on our website under the education tab. A link will also be sent via our weekly email. Enjoy!!

Thank you to Marlin Olson who put this study together for us!

## Parish Ed. and CYF goes virtual!

In the quieter hours of January, the Parish Ed. and CYF team will continue to develop the Faith Formation materials as well as a couple of winter

events leading us into Lent. We will communicate upcoming events in the weekly updates as well as in our email list.

Spring and summer planning is underway with limited understanding of what the future holds. We will be looking at the following in July and August:

- Camping: we will be taking steps to organize a trip for this summer with the limited information we have. We will be providing a sign-up soon.
- Servant Trip / Event: our hope is to provide an opportunity to serve others while growing together. The trip or event will be developed over time as we gain information regarding COVID.
- VBS: Either virtual or in-person or some combination there of...we continue to seek faith formation opportunities for our children and youth.

*With state requirements and uncertainty due to COVID 19 we continue to seek flexible ways of doing activities. All activities are subject to change as we receive new guidelines and information.*

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### **Council President's Report**

Hello Mount Si Lutherans! How great is it to finally be in 2021? I surly am grateful as I can see a new beginning for our congregation. It's been more than ten months since we've been able to hold in-person services due to the pandemic however, we are doing more with less because your faith-our faith remains strong. Our Pastor, staff, volunteers, ministries, and council have been anything but idle and we have seen growth in areas we never would have thought to explore had we not been so restricted in our capability. It seems we are reaching out more than ever, globally really, with our ability to offer online services over the web by joining our hands in friendship with Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church. Every online service has been beautifully orchestrated, from the music ensembles to the Children's message to the traditional Lutheran liturgy and sermons.

I have enjoyed every one more than I can express and would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to the wonderful staff and volunteers for making it look so easy. I know the details must be monumental but we thank you ever so much. Clearly, both our churches and congregations continue to show we are resilient!

I'm actually writing this note as the new Mount Si Lutheran Church council president for 2021. I am honored and humbled to be in the same company of Jack, Erica, and all the previous council presidents. I'm a bit nervous but I remind myself that I have the most dedicated council to help me along. As council we are ambassadors and champions of the congregation and I can assure you our efforts for 2021 will be guided by the Holy Spirit to move us in the right direction. It will be true team effort throughout the entire journey. As an introduction, our council members for 2021 are Jack Boller, Terry Adams, David van Handel, Sheila Rodriguez, Marlin Olson, Inge Burnside, Rosemary Hanson, Jenna Rhyne, and Ed and Janey Benson. We hold a special place on council for our own Pastor Krista, who is our mentor, our counselor, our friend, and beloved Shepherd. I believe this year our church will be transforma-

tive with the discernment project and as we begin our move away from the pandemic and take the necessary steps to safely reopen Mount Si Lutheran Church. I don't know when the transition will commence but I look forward to the day we are back in the Sanctuary in worship as one.

As we move into the New Year I will write to you through the monthly newsletter of the accomplishments and direction we are headed. Your prayers and support are crucial for the success of Mount Si Lutheran Church. My hope is that our decisions on council are representative of your views for our church. Please consider volunteering in the many ministries currently in full swing. I will make myself available and if you would like to contact me please call/text at (206) 384-1042 or email me at [rsnmrod@mac.com](mailto:rsnmrod@mac.com).

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

Rick Rodriguez

## **Congregational Meeting via Zoom**

### **January 17th—11-12:30pm**

We will hear reports from our ministry teams, hear final financials for 2020, discuss financial options for 2021 and vote on 5 NNWA Synod Assembly voting members to attend the Synod Assembly via zoom on May 15, 2021 along with other important business.

Look for instructions in our weekly emails.

### **Sunday Worship for January—10am**

10am On-line—See website for link to FB or YouTube

[www.mtsilutheran.org](http://www.mtsilutheran.org)

Jan. 10th—Baptism of Our Lord—Mark 1:4-11

Jan. 17th—John 1:43-51

Jan. 24th—Mark 1:14-20

Jan. 31st—Mark 1:21-28

### **1st Sunday of Every Month Drive-thru Communion - 11:30-12:30**

You can also pick-up your Education Kits!

### **Annual Meeting via Zoom—January 17th**

## January Bishop's Message

Dear Beloveds, For this new year, the synod staff has adopted a working statement. We are excited to share it with you and we hope that you may use it and adapt it in your context and community: "Trusting in the Spirit, we are walking together as God's people so that all may discover and participate in what God is doing among us through Jesus." "Trusting in the Spirit... Martin Luther writes in the Small Catechism regarding the third article of the Apostles' Creed, "I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel ..." As people of God, we know that doubts, concerns, worry, frustration and so many other things get in the way of following Jesus. But even when we do not have the strength or even the faith to carry on, God still calls us through the Spirit. As we hear and live into the good news that God comes to us – daily – hourly – every minute of every day, we are carried through the Spirit. ...we are walking together as God's people ... As I have said before, the word "synod" comes from two Greek words: sun- 'together' + hodos 'way'. I love the image of walking together – of helping someone up when they stumble, of holding hands when it is difficult to see the way forward, of cheering on those who are in the front and encouraging those who are in the back – one huge Jesus-following gathering. This, of course, does not mean that we always agree. And it does not mean that we won't have hard conversations. All of this is part of being in relationship (if you don't have conversation anymore, you don't have much of a relationship). But together, we, as the people of God, walk together, knowing that we are on a journey with Christ, knowing that we are Holy Community together. ...so that all may discover and participate in what God is doing among us through Jesus." Have you ever seen a baby discover their hands for the first time? Suddenly they are moving them around and laughing, curling their fingers, inspecting their palms, sticking them in their mouths. The gift of hands was something they never even comprehended before and suddenly – there they are. Right in front of their eyes. Have you ever heard someone who recently heard the good news of Jesus express their wonder and amazement at who God is and who they are in God's eyes? They suddenly see the world, themselves, each other, and God in a totally new way. Sometimes those of us who have been around for a while, we forget. We forget the wonder, the beauty, the sheer joy of experiencing and participating in what God through Jesus is doing in this world of ours. As people of God, we are called to open our hearts, open our very beings, to see and hear and feel and experience and participate in what God is doing among us through Jesus. We are called to laugh, to inspect, to taste what God is doing in this amazing world we have been given. And we are called to share the good news of what we see God is up to among us and the communities that surround us so that all may discover and participate. Dear Beloveds, all of us on the synod staff are thankful for you as we live and dance in the Spirit, walk with you, and continue to live into the amazing grace of God through Jesus Christ our Savior. In the Amazement of Epiphany, Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee



# Epiphany

## CHALKING THE DOOR

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 + 21

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 "21" 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)



**Christmas  
Caroling in our  
cars! Thanks John  
and Jack for making  
this happen!**



***A virtual Christmas  
Pageant! Thank  
you to all our  
families who  
participated!  
Missed it? Ask John  
Grebe for the link.***



**Christmas Eve Prayer Stations**

A self guided opportunity

Thanks all for coming!



Christmas was not what we expected this year—nonetheless we were reminded in new and poignant ways of Jesus' light and life and presence in our lives. Jesus is our Immanuel—God with us. This year, I am especially grateful for this truth—this hope—that we are not alone. God is with us. Amen! Thanks be to God!





## **Epiphany Bonfire!**

We can't gather in a large group, but Tom and Inge Burnside would love to invite you to come burn your live Christmas Tree on Sunday,

**January 10th at 1pm**

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## **January Devotion**

from our Siblings in Christ at the Lutheran Counseling Network

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.  
(Revelation 21:4)

Take a moment to read this verse, once through. Notice your reaction, the state of your heart, your body. Are you tense? Relaxed? Distant? Trusting? While this verse is comforting for some, my personal and professional life has made me keenly familiar with death, suffering, pain, and trauma. Every day I find myself crying out to God for justice and mercy, for help in time of need. Must we wait until we return "home" in Heaven for God to heal and renew us? Miracles happen, but often this is not the case and suffering results. How can we find respite in this Scripture when our suffering feels so invasive and destructive now? Scripture reminds us to return to the story of Christ, who asked this question in his final breath on the cross: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34; Psalm 22:1). Christ's cry from the cross illustrates that God is present with us to speak to, mourn with, and even to accuse. May we be bold to assume God's presence is alive and near, especially when our pain is at its worst. What if we were to close our eyes and imagine God leaning down, wiping our tears away, drawing us near and holding us now, at this very moment. When we do this, we experience a glimpse of Heaven on Earth, and we find true hope. Now take a deep breath and read this verse again, slowly. Notice your spirit, your body, as you read it. If you wish, repeat this process until you feel a sense of being at home with God, even in your suffering. Feel God's presence with you, wiping away your tears, drawing you near. Feel within you a sense of God's hope, God's peace, and even God's joy.

Written by a staff member of Lutheran Counseling Network