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Mount Si Lutheran Church

*To Serve  
To Reach Out  
To Grow In Grace*

# GOODNEWSletter

FEBRUARY 2025



## Pastor's Note...

Grace and peace to you dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

On Sunday, January 26, we gathered for a congregational meeting to celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit through Mt Si in 2024, to discuss the continued work with the Eastside Church Community (ELCC) partnership efforts, and to approve our Synod Assembly representatives for the Spring.

If you haven't had a chance, please take a look at the Annual Report published in NFTP or in print here at the church to read all about the incredible work God has done through Mt Si in 2024!

At our meeting the congregation voted unanimously to continue conversations with the ELCC and to send representatives to sit on the **ELCC Advisory Board** consisting of our Council President, Jack B., Pastor and one at-large member. The Advisory Board will develop proposals for partnership to be brought back to each congregation to vote on. Look for updates in the weeks and months to come!

We also reminded ourselves which congregations are part of the ELCC. St. Luke's in Bellevue, Cross of Christ in Bellevue, St. Andrew's in Bellevue, Grace

Chinese in Bellevue, Sammamish Hills, Our Savior in Issaquah and Mt Si Lutheran Churches.

Our Synod representative so far to Synod Assembly is Dana Koukol. We are still looking for a male representative. The Assembly is May 16 & 17 in Everett.

At the meeting we also gave an update on the Parsonage repairs. A big thank you to Bulldog Construction and KDS Drywall for donating time and talent to complete the demo, drywall, and installation of the floor - What a gift!! Nobel plumbing will finish up their work sometime the week of Feb. 3rd. Thank you to Rick R. for all the help coordinating contractors, working on the electrical and helping keep the project on track. There is more work to be done at the parsonage in the year to come. Stewardship and Finance suggested a parsonage fundraiser to cover costs. Look for details to come! Thank you to those who have already donated to support the cost of the bathroom repair.

As we continue into this new year may the Spirit of peace dwell in you; the God of love hold you close and Jesus our Savior be ever present at your side. Amen.

- Pastor Krista

### In this newsletter you will find:

Special Events In  
February and  
March

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another In Faith

February Birthdays  
and Anniversaries

Key Partnership  
Updates

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Council and  
Financial Reports

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## Special Events in February & March



### ELF Event Farmer Jim, Feb 8

Our children and youth are invited to help out on Farmer Jim's farm in Snohomish on Saturday, February 8th. The farm supports several local food banks. We will build greenhouses together. Our plan is to be at the farm by 10am. Let Pastor know if you are interested so we can work on carpooling!



### MSLC Winter Retreat, Feb. 15

All are invited to gather at MSLC for a special morning of fellowship, prayer & study. This mini-retreat is for all ages! Come enjoy a time of building relationships and re-centering, together, on Jesus.  
Date: Saturday, February 15th  
Time: 10-12pm



### Community Game Night, Feb 16

Come one, come all to enjoy board games, card games and more during our monthly game night with other area Lutheran churches. As you are able, please bring a snack to share and a favorite game. This event is sponsored by ELF.  
Location: Sammamish Hills  
Time: 5-7pm



### Shrove Tuesday March 4

Come enjoy a pancake supper, fellowship and fun as we mark the last evening before the Lenten season begins. **6pm** in the FH! This tradition of gathering for food and fellowship began back in the 6th century. The tradition of eating pancakes began in Britain in the 16th century. This event is for everyone! Let's celebrate together!



### Ash Wednesday March 5

Gather to worship and remember that "you are dust and to dust you shall return" on Wednesday, March 5th at 7pm in the Sanctuary.  
This service marks the beginning of Lent.



### Lent Midweek Soup Supper & Worship

Gather in the fellowship hall at **6:00pm** for a soup supper. At **7:00pm** we will head to the sanctuary in worship using the Bless this Night vespers service written in part by Pr. Mark and Heather Griffith.

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Supporting one another in faith.....



## Sunday Readings & Weekday Education Opportunities

### FEBRUARY SUNDAY LESSONS

#### February 2nd

First Lesson: Psalm 84

Gospel Lesson: Luke 6:1-16

#### February 9th

First Lesson: Psalm 119:105-107; 145-149

Gospel Lesson: Luke 7:1-17

#### February 16th

First Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Gospel Lesson: Luke 7:18-35

#### February 23rd

First Lesson: Psalm 103:1-12

Gospel Lesson: Luke 7:36-50

### EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES IN FEBRUARY

**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** - Mondays from 5-6pm.

**Sunday after Worship** - Starting on Feb. 2 we will again gather for intergeneration education following worship. We will enjoy watching videos on specific Biblical themes.



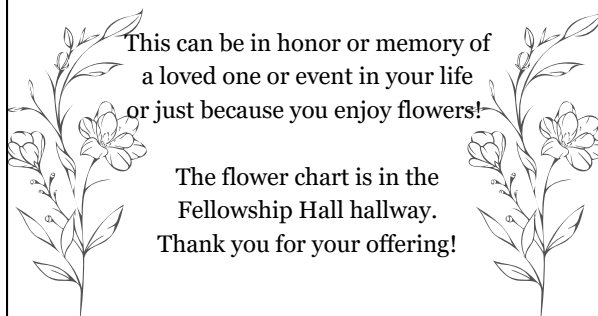
Edwin Benson	2nd
Marge Bliss	2nd
Blake Imsland	3rd
Marlin Olson	9th
Ethan Yocom	9th
Jim Flanagan	10th
Tammy Hayes	10th
Stuart King	12th
Dave Spurling	12th
Annabelle Cassidy	13th
Kaiya Rhyne	14th
Mike Buckmaster	15th
Charlie Tiongson	15th
Jenny Lynch	19th
Lindsey Flanagan	20th
John Grebe	23rd
Toren Rhyne	23rd



Paul & Laura Ritzenthaler	9th
Brent & Dana Koukol	15th
Tom & Inge Burnside	21st

### 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!



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# Key Partnership Updates...Reaching Out

## DAUGHTERS OF NORWAY



A new lodge of the Daughters of Norway began meeting in the fellowship hall on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 10-12pm. Their next meeting is **Saturday, March 8**. A couple members from Mt Si are participating. If you have Scandinavian heritage - you are welcome to participate!



## MSLC Finance Update

### 2024 Year End Financial Snapshot

#### General Budget Income:

\$206,003

#### General Budget Expense:

\$209,176

**End of Year Deficit: -\$3,173**

#### Estate Gifts in 2024: \$18,609.26

used to cover partial cost of flooring in FH and parsonage bathroom repairs

#### Special Offerings in 2024:

nearly \$11,000 donated in support of the Belize mission, VBS, Backpack Ministry and the FH flooring project

#### Thrivent Action Teams in 2024:

\$3500 used to support Faith Formation, Outreach & Evangelism efforts

#### Unreimbursed Expenses:

Over \$3600 donated by our members on various fellowship, outreach, worship and educational items. Thank you!

## BELIZE MISSION TRIP 2025

A new team is headed back to Belize to serve the schools and local church of Succotz. They will serve from **March 8-18**. This year the team is working on building picnic tables for the cafeteria, making improvements to at least one classroom, teaching Sunday School, presenting an Allateen (supports teens who have family who struggle with alcohol) workshop and more! The team includes: Pr. Nyla, Pr. Krista, Bud, Leslie, Dave, Peggy, Ed & Shelley. Please hold our team in prayer.



## GIRL SCOUT LEADERS

In case you didn't know - On the third Thursday of each month a group of 20-30 adult girl scout leaders meet in our fellowship hall to plan upcoming events and care for the business of their troops.



## MSLC Council Report

Council met on January 19th. We welcomed new council members: Ed B., Janey B., Bud P., & Lisa S. Jack B. was elected to the role of Council President and Janey B. was elected to the role of Council Vice President. The secretary position will rotate among the council leaders. We reviewed council responsibilities and discussed our new meeting schedule. The next council meeting is set for **Sunday, Feb. 23rd** following Fellowship/Ed. Hour.

Council discussed the ongoing work at the Parsonage and the recent \$10,000 Estate gift. The decision was made to put the Estate monies in the Maintenance Reserve Fund to offset the cost of the Parsonage repairs. If any funds remain once the Parsonage is complete, council will revisit how to use the funds.

Council also heard from Stewardship and Finance who encouraged council to begin work to fully fund the Mission Endowment Fund begun in 2019. Council also approved inviting a representative from Thrivent Financial to speak to the congregation about Estate gifts and more. Stewardship & Finance was asked to plan these events and communicate them to the congregation.

Finally, we welcomed Pr. Mark G. to present updates from the ELCC collaboration efforts. A decision was made to present again to the congregation on Jan 26 and seek approval to have representation on the Advisory Board.

-Respectfully Submitted, Pastor Krista





Northwest Washington Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

## Bishop's Letter



Dear Beloveds,

One of my most vivid childhood memories is when my home congregation welcomed a Vietnamese family. As a young child, I remember helping prepare the home that the family would live in, going grocery shopping with my mom for food to fill the pantry, giving our couch to them, helping with the “world dinner” that would raise money for this endeavor, and, most of all, anticipating the arrival of these new people – Loung and Young and Quin. I remember when this little family stood in the back of the sanctuary and everyone stood and clapped and embraced this family.

As you might know, I grew up in a little town in eastern Washington. This town was conservative and mostly voted Republican (although my grandmother was mayor and she was a Democrat). I believe that my hometown church, St. Paul Lutheran Church, was also more conservative in nature. I am grateful for the values taught to me by my siblings in Christ there. The love and care that I received and learned formed who I am today. These people embraced the challenge and gift of welcoming a family from a different continent, a different religion, a different language, a different culture, a different country, and so much more to become part of our community. According to my parents, there was no partisan debate about accepting a Vietnamese family with open arms.

Today, when I listen to political rhetoric or podcasts or the news, I wonder when and why the topic of immigration has become so fraught. While I understand that there are complexities and nuances of immigration and I understand the need to make sure that there is control and order at the U.S. border, I don't understand why there is the need to vilify the vast majority of immigrants who are, quite simply, desperate for safety, work, and good government.

I know the arguments: Yes, sometimes people come into this country through the wrong avenues. Yes, sometimes people stay without documentation. Yes, sometimes crime happens by people who are in this country illegally. Yes, sometimes resources are used for people who are not citizens. Yes, there are laws in this country and people should follow the laws.

But let me push back a little bit. There is overwhelming statistical analysis that show immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than U.S. citizens. We know through our

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own experiences that immigrants will work hard at whatever job they find – as I have been told by one Mexican immigrant, “Mexicans will do anything and we’ll work harder and longer than anyone else.” We know people who were brought to this country as children and know no other country. We know that there are some laws that are simply unjust made to target people who are already desperate – simply because of the color of their skin or their birth country.

As people of faith, we are called to reflect God’s vision towards a more just and reconciled world. As people of faith, we are called to follow Jesus’ example towards loving and caring for all people – especially those that have been marginalized. As people of faith, when we are grappling with hard things, we are called to turn to God and scripture for wisdom and knowledge. In view of welcoming the stranger from other lands, here are a few passages:

Genesis 23:4, Deuteronomy 10:19, Leviticus 19:34, Deuteronomy 27:19, 1 Chronicles 16:19-22, Job 29:15-17, Psalm 146:9, Jeremiah 7:5-7, Ezekiel 47:22, Zechariah 7:9-10, Matthew 5:43-44, Matthew 25:35, Matthew 25:40, Luke 10:27, Acts 10:34, Romans 12:13, Romans 13:8, Romans 13:10, Colossians 3:11, Hebrews 13:1-3, 3 John 1:5, Revelation 21:3, and there are many more not named.

These scriptures are about welcoming the foreigner, the outsider, embracing those who are in need, loving God by loving neighbor. If someone wants biblical authority, scripture makes it pretty clear. We are to welcome and embrace those who come from other places. We are to love our near and far neighbors as God loves us.

I am writing this article one week before the new administration begins. Truly, I am deeply concerned about the millions of people who will be affected and harmed by presidential action and legislative policies that have been promised by the incoming president.

I encourage you to learn more about how to support and welcome these new neighbors in need: ELCA AAMPARO (<https://www.elca.org/our-work/publicly-engaged-church/ammparo>) Faith Action Network (<https://fanwa.org/>) Lutheran Community Services Northwest – Refugees Northwest (<https://lcsnw.org/program/refugees-northwest-2/>) Global Refuge (<https://www.globalrefuge.org/blog/resources/congregational-resources/>) Watch for more information from the Synod as we work and move and join together in loving God by loving the most vulnerable.

Please, I implore you, love and welcome and embrace your neighbor as God embraces each one of us.

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee | [bishop@lutheransnw.org](mailto:bishop@lutheransnw.org)