



PASTOR'S REPORT

Grace and peace to you, dear siblings in Christ—

I want to share an update on our discernment process. So far we have worked together to determine that the following two Biblical stories will ground our work together as we seek to follow God's will for our faith community. These two Scripture are: Matthew 25:34-40 and II Corinthians 4:11-18.

The next step in the process began a few weeks ago during our Adult ed class and through invitations in our weekly email to the wider congregation. This next step is all about answering the question, "What are your Spiritual gifts." In baptism we are promised the gift of the Holy Spirit and, in turn, that the Holy Spirit imparts particular Spiritual gifts to each of us. Those gifts range from teaching, evangelism and exhortation to administration, leadership and service. Tools that help you determine your gifts were sent out via email in our weekly news and in hard-copy at the church. If you need a copy of the Spiritual gifts assessment, please call the office and we will get one to you! The assessment tool will help you determine your top 3-5 Spiritual gifts. I would then ask that you share this list with me so we can compile a complete gifts chart for the congregation.

Once we have a picture of where we have strong giftedness in our congregation we will be ready to move on to the third step in our process—determining the needs of our neighbors in the Snoqualmie Valley. We will hear from a couple social service providers who are well connected in our Valley to learn from them and ask questions.

We will then take a look at our congregation's sense of call through our Biblical passages, our giftedness as a congregation and the needs of our community and see where these overlap/align—this will give us the information we need to build short-term and long-term ministry goals for the faith community.

Please hold this process and your council leadership in prayer as we seek to follow our Lord by sharing the Gospel and caring for our neighbors in the unique ways God has gifted this community of faith.

As you hold this process and council in prayer—please know that you are each in my prayers. I pray that you sense God's presence with you day in and day out. In this season of Advent, may you find joy in the promises that were gifted to you in the coming of God's own Son.

Peace—P. K.



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Advent Festival—December 5th
- Bishop's Letter on last page—great read!



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

December 14th

10am–3pm

Mt Si Lutheran Church

You must have a reservation.

No walk-ins are being accepted at this time.

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

To sign-up for a time to donate blood go to:

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>

If you are unable to donate blood, please consider helping at

the registration table. Contact Rick R. for details.

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

ADVENT: A TIME TO PREPARE

WOMEN'S MONDAY BIBLE STUDY

Will be on hold for the time being.

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!

WEDNESDAY STUDY

Wednesday Oct. 6th-
November 10th
6:30-8:oopm
In the fellowship hall

In the fellowship hall.

Every year, most of us will rush to put away the trappings of Thanksgiving with just enough time to gather all the boxes of decorations, lights, and stockings to get ready for Christmas. We will move furniture to make sure there is plenty of space for the tree and the presents that will go beneath it. We will move family photos and our normal decorations for wreaths, garland, nativity sets, and statues of Frosty and Santa. Ladders and extension cords will be put to good use as we make sure that the exterior of our homes are just as festive as the interiors. We spend so much time in preparation for one wonderful day of sharing in gifts and time with our family and loved ones that we might forget that most of December is spent preparing for something else.

Every year, we as a church celebrate the season of Advent, a time to prepare and get ready for the birth of Jesus. It's something that we do every year and yet we often forget Advent and Christmas have their own seasons. Yes, Christmas has its own season. It is part of a twelve day season that goes from Christmas to Epiphany. Advent is the season that starts with the first Sunday in December and runs through Christmas Eve.

Each Sunday in Advent, churches around the world focus on different themes to welcome the birth of Emmanuel, God with us. Most churches will focus on four themes of hope, peace, joy, and love as they prepare for the joyous celebration of the birth of Jesus.

And here's the reality, both preparations are important. It is important to prepare and celebrate time together as family; a sacred time as more and more of our time is needed elsewhere. We must not forget that this time is also meant to prepare us for the birth of Christ. For the gift that was given to us and to all humanity in the form of a child, born in a manger and wrapped in swaddling clothes. For a gift that was given to both kings and shepherds a like. For a gift that would go on to save the world.

- Doug Johnson

COUNCIL REPORT

Greetings from your council. We hope you are all doing well as we approach the holidays and the advent season.

We had part one of our annual congregational meeting on November 21. We approved a budget of \$206,767.68 for 2022. This is more than our 2021 budget of \$198,077.88 and is more than our \$190,706 projected income for 2021. A significant portion of the increase was for salaries. New council members were also elected. The new members are Tom Burnside, John Keiser, Paul Ritzenthaler, and Dave Spurling. They will join the current members Terry Adams, Ed Benson, Jack Boller, Inge Burnside, Rosemary Hanson, Marlin Olson, Rick Rodriguez, and Jenna Rhyne. We thank Janey Benson, Sheila Rodriguez, and David Van Handel for their service as they leave the council.

Moving into the new year we will be continuing with the discernment process we are doing. We currently are in the final stages of identifying our spiritual gifts. If you haven't been able to give your input yet, please contact Pastor Krista and she can provide you with the worksheet we used to help identify our spiritual gifts. After the first of the year we will be seeking input from community leaders and charitable organization in the valley to determine the needs of the community. We will then match up our spiritual gifts with the community needs and put together a long-term plan for our mission.

As we move into Advent and Christmas we will kick off the season with our Advent Festival on December 5th. On December 4th we will be participating in the Holly Days event in North Bend. We will be providing crafts for kids at this event. If you wish to help, please contact John Grebe.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas.

Jack Boller



DECEMBER

SUNDAY

LESSONS

December 5

Children and Youth
Led Worship

First Lesson:

Malachi 3: 1-4

Gospel Lesson:

Luke 3: 1-6

December 12

First Lesson:

Isaiah 12: 2-6

Gospel Lesson:

Luke 3: 7-18

December 19

First Lesson:

Psalm 80: 1-7

Gospel Lesson:

Luke 1: 39-45

December 26

Lessons & Carols
Service without
communion

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.

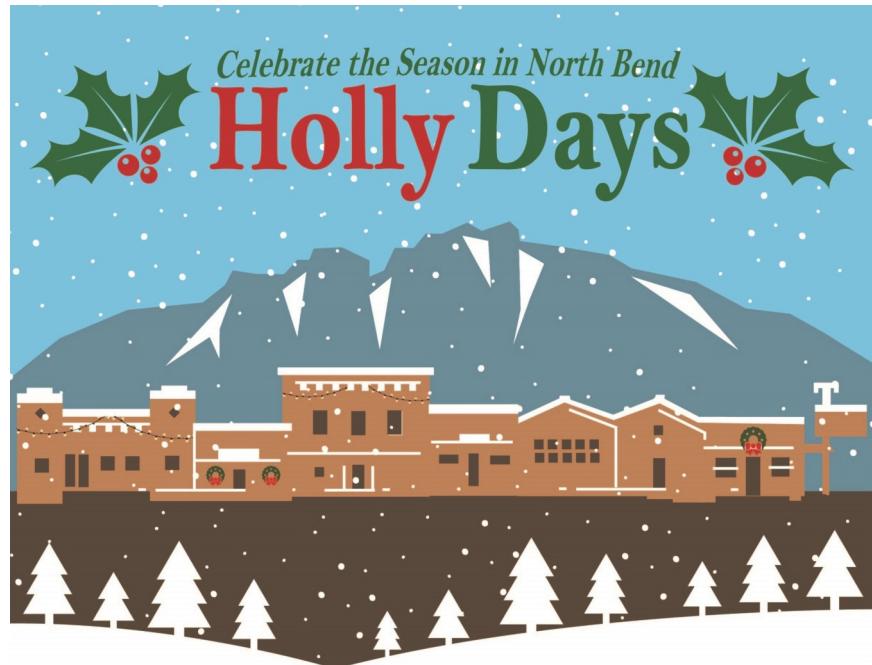


We are grateful to be able to support the SVFB by offering this temporary space.

Questions? Please reach out to Pastor Krista.



HOLLY DAYS EVENT!



Saturday, December 4th - 5:00-8:00pm

Downtown North Bend—Mt Si Lutheran will have a booth this year! Want to help? Talk to John G. or Courtney A.

SUNDAY ADULT EDUCATION

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

December 5th—Advent Festival during education hour. Please enjoy learning about the meanings of each Advent candle and spending time in fellowship together

December 12th— We will take a look at the results of our Spiritual gifts inventory and discuss how this information will help inform our Discernment process.

December 19th— TBD

December 26th—Christmas Carol History Challenge!

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

January 9th—Community Needs Part One

January 16th—Community Needs Part Two

January 23rd—Annual Meeting Part II (?)

WHAT IS ADVENT?

Advent is the first season in the church year, comprising the four weeks before Christmas. The word “Advent” comes from the Latin, “to come,” and the church has observed Advent as weeks of preparation since the fifth century with themes of watchfulness, preparation, and hope infusing this season. Together we both anticipate the celebration of God’s coming in the form of the Christ child and the final coming of Christ in the time to come.

-ELCA Worship Notes



Advent Prayer Stations

There are four advent prayer stations set-up in Luther's Lounge (area below sanctuary). The stations are open for anyone to spend time with Monday and Thursday from 10-12pm and Sundays from 9-11:30am. Questions? Contact Courtney Adams

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.

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

FAITH FORMATION DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Faith Formation Team Leadership:

Our team of volunteers continues to grow, and we want to give a warm welcome to Kaelynn Sampson and Toren Rhyne, these two youth have joined our team. They are working with us on upcoming events and planning for our future of youth Ministry.

Advent Project: The middle school youth are raising money to buy gifts for families in need.

They will be making ornaments that will be on sale in the narthex during Advent. Their efforts will help them to understand the benefits of working together to raise money to help others. Please show them your support!

Advent Yule Logs: Logs, greens, holly, and candles are available for pick up at the church through Advent. If you prefer to have an Advent Wreath, please let Courtney Adams or John Grebe know.

Christmas Caroling: In mid-December we will be going caroling to some of our homebound members. Final details are being developed and will be communicated by email to our families. If you would like to join us please contact John Grebe.

- Faith Formation Team

Advent Devotionals are in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall. If you would like a copy sent to you, please reach out to the office.

Holly Days December 4, 5pm-8pm: we are signed up to participate in this North Bend community event. We will be offering a craft for kids. If you would like to volunteer please let John Grebe know.

Advent Festival December 5 11:30-12:30pm: we are planning on having crafts and stations like previous years, activities will be limited due COVID.

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.

DECEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

Lauralee Ritzenthaler Dec 3rd
 Joshua Stone Dec 12th
 Ed Benson Dec 14
 Zowie Karren Dec 14th
 Jack Boller Dec 17th
 Kay Boyle Dec 22nd
 Michael Harding Dec. 22
 Chris Sampson Dec 24th
 Don Oster Dec 26
 Haley Chase Dec 30th
 Nate Chase Dec 30th



ANNIVERSARIES

Michael & Rosemary Hanson Dec 15
 Abe & Mary Abrahamson Dec 22



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

Dec 5th

Children and Youth Led Worship

Ushers: Haycox Family

Lectors: Kaelynn (Prayer of the Day) Kaiya
 (First Lesson) all children and youth
 (prayers of the people-details coming soon)
 Declan and Ellie (sharing the peace)

Communion Assistant: Erica H.

Communion Prep: Courtney A.

Sound/AV: Terry and Toren

Advent Skit: John G.

Acolyte: Annie S.

Dec 12th

Ushers: Dave V. and Marlin

Lector: Peggy H.

Assisting Minister: Jack B.

Communion Assistant:

Communion Prep: Courtney A.

Advent Skit: Rosemary and Mike H.

Acolyte: Kaelynn S.

Dec. 19th

Ushers: Jack

Lector: Tom B.

Assisting Minister: Pastor

Communion Assistant: Inge B.

Communion Prep: Suzy S.

Advent Skit: Terry and Courtney A.

Dec. 26th

Service of Lessons and Carols

Ushers: Ed and Janey B.

Lector: Ed B and Pat Palmer

Assisting Minister: Marlin O.

Communion Assistant: (No communion
 this service)

Communion Prep: (No communion this
 service)

ADVENT FESTIVAL

**This year we will celebrate
our Advent Festival
on December 5th.**

There will be activities outdoors as much as possible with some activities inside.

*We will have yule logs for folks to make,
crafts and more.*

For more details contact John G. or Courtney A.



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

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

We will offer Christmas Eve worship at 7pm and 10pm this year.

The 7pm service will be full of carols, dramatic retelling of the Christmas story and communion. We will have a guest vocalist to lead our worship along with bells and other pieces of special music.

The 7pm service will be live-streamed for anyone to watch.

The 10pm service will have a more meditative feel with readings, poems, reflective instrumental music and carols with our guest vocalist leading. There will be no communion at the 10pm service.

The 10pm service will not be live-streamed. If you wish to watch the service at a time other than 7pm, that's ok! It will be up on Facebook and our website for you

to click and watch at anytime after 8:30pm on Christmas Eve.

Both services will feature the traditional candlelight moments during the singing of Silent Night.

Families with young ones are encouraged to attend either service. I can note that the 10pm service will be a bit more low key than 7pm, but that may be a better fit for some of our young ones. If you have questions, please let me know!

I pray these services will bring life and hope to all who attend.

Peace

P. K.



December 2021

BISHOP'S LETTER

Miriam sings, “Sing to the Lord, for God has triumphed gloriously!” Exodus 15:21

Hannah sings, “My heart exults in the LORD; my strength is exalted in my God!” 1 Samuel 2:1

Mary sings, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!” Luke 1:46

I am so grateful for the stories of Miriam, Hannah, and Mary. I love their spirit. I love their faith. I love their songs. I love that even with the great adversity, sorrow, and difficulty each of them endured, Miriam, Hannah, and Mary defiantly sang.

Each of these women’s stories unfolded in a world that seemed bleak. A world of systemic injustice and no safety nets. A world where people upheld their own power to the detriment of others. A world where people refused to see another person made in God’s image before them. A world where people threw away people because they were perceived as “less than.” A world where people threw away people because they could not bear children. A world where people threw away people because they became pregnant without being married.

And while their experiences are not our experiences, for many still today, the world feels desperate.

Today, so many people are living in dire conditions. So many who are hungry, houseless, voiceless. We have injustice and violence, racism and hatred. We have anger and acrimony. We have the spreading of lies and misinformation. As I write this, our world is grieving the deaths of over 5 million people who have died of COVID. Over 100,000 people died of drug overdoses in the United States this past year. And so many other deaths and losses. There are still people that society throws away. There are still people that other people don’t even look at as human.

And yet ... And yet ...

We have Miriam, Hannah, and Mary. We have their defiant voices lifted up singing not only to their world in their time – but beyond their time – to us – and to future generations beyond us.

In this Advent time, let us turn to the stories and the songs of Miriam, Hannah, and Mary. Let us remember their prophetic voices. Let us remember their perseverance, their faith, and their grit. For even as the reality around them was difficult, they continued to sing of a new day, a new promise, a new reality.

May these amazing prophet women bring hope to us in this time. May we remember that new life is coming. May we trust that the world now is not how the world will be. May we hold before us that, through Christ, a new day is being born.

In this Advent time, we live in anticipation and in faith. And we sing. We sing.

People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:

“A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel”;

She conceived him, “God with us,” our brother, whose birth

Restores hope and courage to children of this earth.

ELW #266, All Earth is Hopeful vs. 3

In Advent Hope,

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee