

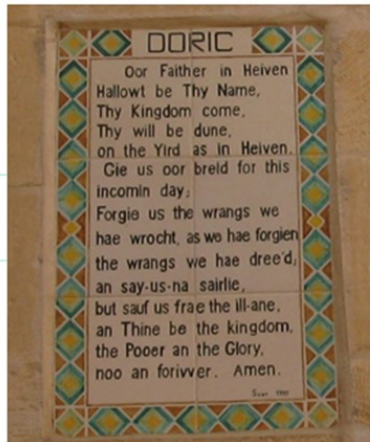


Grace and peace to you,

As part of our reading in Matthew we heard again the words of the Lord's Prayer that is so familiar to many of us. You can find it in Matthew 6:9-13.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And do not bring us to the time of trial,
but rescue us from the evil one.

"Visitors to the Church of the Pater Noster in Jerusalem almost always come away struck by one of the features of the cloisters of the Convent of the Pater Noster. Inside the iron gate of the convent visitors see decorated plaques along the walls each containing the Lord's Prayer. As you enter you see the prayer in Icelandic, Hebrew and Aramaic, and over a hundred other languages as you explore the cloisters. There are some eclectic languages represented from Tagalog to Ojibway, and even, remarkably, one of the languages high up on a wall is Doric, the North-East Scotland dialect. But no Klingon... yet. (Spill the Beans, Is. 14, pg. 87)



Luther found the Lord's prayer to be an essential teaching tool for all Christians and wrote explanations for each theme/petition of the prayer in his Small Catechism, which was meant to be taught in the home.

Do you remember where and how you learned the Lord's Prayer?
What is your favorite translation of the Lord's prayer?
What does the prayer mean to you?

I invite you over the next few weeks to take some time with the Lord's prayer, maybe even take a look again at Luther's explanations in the Small Catechism...consider what it means to pray for God's Kingdom to come and for God's will to be done. What does it mean to ask for daily bread and acknowledge the need for forgiveness and to forgive? Or, what does it mean to be rescued from the evil one?

May this prayer be a continued blessing in your life. I always find great comfort at the close of each council meeting to join hands and pray this prayer together. It is a display of unity, humility and joy in the Body of Christ.

- Pastor Krista



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Bishop's Letter on last page—*great read!*
- Council Report pg. 3

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



March 14th
10-3pm

Blood Drive registration
is live for signups

at www.redcrossblood.org

[Donate Blood, Platelets or Plasma. Give Life](#)

The drive is open to the public and a spot can be reserved using the code: MtSiLutheran. If you are interested in helping with this blood drive please reach out to Rick Rodriguez.

Mt Si 2022 Year End Finances

Jan-Dec Budget =

\$206,589

Jan-Dec Expense =

\$186,149

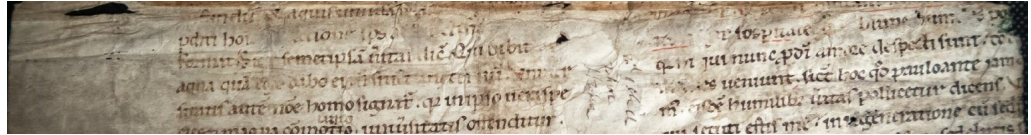
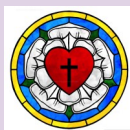
Jan-Dec Income =

\$174,577

Overall =

\$11,572

*note, we did not spend our full budget primarily due to hourly staff working less than full hours budgeted and the budgeting for a position where the individual chose not to receive compensation. We spent \$11,578 less on staff than we budgeted.



We seek to offer a range of education opportunities for all ages. If you any questions about these offerings please talk to Pr. Krista.

SUNDY EDUCATION

We will meet for adult ed on Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 25 as we continue to look closely at our Narrative texts from Matthew for the day. We meet in the fellowship hall following worship from about 10:45-11:30am.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

All ladies are welcome to participate. The Bible Study meets in the old nursery in the office wing each Monday at 12:30pm. They are studying the book of Joshua. If you have any questions, please reach out to Vivian Waid.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Each Saturday @ 9am the men gather at Little Si Restaurant in North Bend for breakfast and Bible Study. The Study focuses on the readings for the upcoming Sunday worship. Reach out to Dave Spurling or Ed Benson for details.

MID-WEEK DESSERT & STUDY: EVANGELIZING CHURCH

This is an adult study group that will meet to discuss both books on certain topics and books of the Bible. Each study will be 4-5 weeks in length with breaks in-between. We will meet each Wednesday night in February from 6-7:30pm. Our focus will be the book, The Evangelizing Church: A Lutheran perspective. We will work on this up to Ash Wednesday and then take a break during Lent. Dependent on interest, we will come back to it following Lent. All are welcome!

CONFIRMATION & FAMILY DINNER

Our confirmands gather Thursday evenings. In February class will meet on February 2, 9 and 16. We will share in dinner together from 5:30-6pm and then enter our study from 6-7pm. On Jan 2 we will have a special family worship from 6:30-7pm. *no meeting over mid-winter break, Feb. 23* Please hold our confirmands in prayer. Participating in confirmation are: Austin Hall, Toren Rhyne, Kaelynn Sampson and Judah Tiongsou.

COUNCIL REPORT

Greetings from your council.

On January 22 we held our annual year end meeting. We had hoped to vote on changes to our constitution but did not have a quorum. Our current constitution requires 40 active members to be present for a quorum. We only had 33 in attendance. One of the changes that we want to make is to set the quorum number to 30% of the active members. The active member roster that council approved in December has 85 people. That gives a quorum of 25.5 which we would round up to 26. We will schedule a congregational meeting in February to vote on the changes. Please make an effort to be there so we can complete this business.

We held a council retreat on January 21. We established three teams to aid us in moving forward to meet the goals we established through our discernment process. The three goals are, assure the safety and wellbeing of community youth, assure the safety and wellbeing of community seniors, and increase our evangelism in the community. Rick Rodriquez will lead the youth team, Jack Boller will lead the seniors team and Marlin Olson will lead the evangelism team. The youth and seniors teams will work with local service agencies to identify opportunities for us to increase our congregation's service to the community. The evangelism team will develop recommendations for including evangelism in all that we do. This activity is not limited to the council. If you would like to serve on any of these teams let me our Pastor Krista know.

As mentioned last month, in 2023 we will continue our involvement with East King County cluster to look for ways we can collaborate and share resources with other churches in the cluster. We will be focusing on executive management, finances , music, and youth programs.

Jack Boller

If you haven't had a chance to read the annual report, you can pick one up in the Narthex or a copy can be emailed or mailed to you if you let Pastor know. Thank you to all our ministry team leaders and volunteers. You are awesome!!

Ways to Give



If you purchase from Amazon:

1. Set up Amazon Smile
2. Select Mount Si Lutheran as a beneficiary.

We will receive a percentage as a donation from Amazon to Mt Si. *See our website for links and more info.*

Make a gift online through our website:

www.mtsilutheran.org/onlinegiving

Thank you for your continued generosity.

-Treasurer

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

Epiphany Bonfire

We had a good time visiting with friends and staying warm beside the fire.



Some elk even stopped by to see what was up. Thanks to the Burnsides for hosting.



GIRL SCOUTS

The Girl Scouts Leaders meet at the church on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30-8:30pm

AA

AA meets every Thursday evening from 7:00pm to 9:00pm

FAITH FORMATION

Sunday Skits



Have you noticed more livestock and exotic animals in worship recently?

You're not alone, it's a jungle out there! In anticipation for this summer's restructured VBS, we've got jokes! And great lessons to learn. Paired with our narrative lectionary, members of our Faith Formation team and a number of youth from our congregation have shared some musings (or is that moosings?) on Jesus's teachings. More skits will be included in future worship services. If you, or any children that you know, are interested in participating in future skits, reach out to John Grebe.

VBS

July 28-30

Registration opening February 15th

The Theme this year is Christmas in July

Cluster Youth Events

As we enter 2023, Mt. Si Lutheran is identifying ways to partner with other churches in our Cluster. If any of these peak your interest, reach out to John, Pastor Krista, or Lisa for more information! Here are a few upcoming events to consider – more will be added as we get more details:

- Youth currently in grades 8-12 are invited to join others from St. Andrew's Lutheran Church for the **Western States Youth Gathering** at California Lutheran University July 6-9. *Reach out by Feb. 10 if you're interested!*
- Youth of all ages and families are invited to join Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church (SHLC) for the **Shoshone Family Camp** scheduled for August 3-6. More details coming soon!
- **VBS** at SHLC the week of July 17-21
- **VBS** at St. Luke's Lutheran Church the week of July 24-28

CHILDREN AND YOUTH EDUCATION

Sunday School
1st Sunday of each month
following the Fellowship Hour

Children and youth are invited for the monthly Sunday School sessions on **Sunday, February 5**. Teachers are also available on all other Sundays for any children who would like to stay beyond the Fellowship Hour.

Thursday Children and Youth Activities

Thursday evenings are a time for our youth to join in on fellowship, food, fun, and learning! Each week we have Family Dinner from 5:30-6PM, and Confirmation 6-7PM.

Once a month on the 3rd Thursday we have F.A.M.S. which is one of our children's ministry for K-5th grade. This month it will be on January 19, 4:30-5:30PM. Come join in the fun!



Summer Family Camp

This summer we have an opportunity to partner with Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church youth ministry on a family camping trip to Lutherhaven's Shoshone Base Camp August 3-6th.

They are inviting families of all ages and sizes to join the Middle School, High School, and College students at Shoshone Base Camp. In the past it has been a wonderful camp for their older students, and it is exciting to be offered the chance for our families to join in the experience it as well. More information will come soon, make sure to Save-the-Date NOW!

If you have any questions or want more details regarding the Children, youth, and family ministries of Mt. Si Lutheran feel free to reach out to John Grebe at (360) 920-5876 or email him at cyf@mtsilutheran.org.



Confirmation Youth and YOU

Thursday evening Confirmation has provided opportunities for 4 of our youth to meet and reflect on the core of our Lutheran beliefs. These weekly meetings provide fellowship with families (beginning with a shared meal), learning the 10 Commandments, and learning about Worship in a smaller setting. It also includes "homework" to discuss topics with members of the Congregation, so YOU may be approached with questions! Thanks in advance for supporting these Confirmands!

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.

Send content for our weekly News From The Pews to Kathleen at:
mtsi.assistant@gmail.com

**FEBRUARY
BIRTHDAYS**



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

**FEBRUARY
ANNIVERSARIES**



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

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

WORSHIP NEWS

Mt Si Lutheran Church



*Ash
Wednesday
Worship*

February 22
7pm

www.mtsilutheran.org / 411 NE 8th St, North Bend

**Lent mid-week Soup Supper, Study
and Family Worship**

Wednesdays in March from 6-7:00pm
March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

Enjoy Soup, bread, prayer, study and worship around community tables in the fellowship hall.

We will begin at 6pm with prayer, song and a reading from Scripture and then share in our meal together. Discussion questions will be on each table for you to consider with those you are eating with. Following our meal we will take a moment to clear our tables and then move into a time of study, reflection, prayer and sending song.

Over lent we will be working with the beautiful and rich text of **Isaiah 55:1-13**

Pastor and Marlin O. look forward leading our study and worship together.

Look for sign-ups to help set-up, clean-up and bring soup and/or bread. Thank you!

WORSHIP NEWS—LENT SEASON

What is the season of Lent all about?

The term “Lent” originally comes from the Anglo-Saxon word “lencten” which means “spring.” This is the time, in the Northern Hemisphere, when the days are lengthening. The season began as period of fasting leading up to the Vigil of Easter. Catechumens, those preparing for baptism at Easter, would fast and spend days in intense preparation. For those that were already baptized, Lent was a period to be renewed in their faith by studying the Bible, the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer.



Although it was originally only a two-day period of preparation, Lent became a three-week preparatory period in the middle of the fourth century and then this was further expanded into six-weeks, or forty days. By the end of the fifth century, there was a desire to exclude Sundays from Lent since Sundays are always celebrated as feasts of the Resurrection. Thus Lent begins not on Sunday, but on Ash Wednesday.

The current practice of forty days of Lent recall Jesus’ forty-day fast in the wilderness after his Baptism (Matthew 4:2, Luke 4:1-2) as well as Moses’ forty-day fast on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:28).

Why do we generally refrain from saying/singing Halleluia in Lent?

Based on the Hebrew word, hallelu yah, meaning “Praise the Lord,” alleluia has been a word of great praise to God in the life of the church and was prominent in early Christian liturgies. Because of the penitential character of the season of Lent in the Western church, singing or saying the word “alleluia” has historically been suspended during Lent’s forty days. This period of individual and congregational reflection on the quality of our baptismal faith and life suggests that the joyful nature of alleluia is more appropriately reserved for our Easter celebrations when it is given full and jubilant voice. An alternate gospel acclamation for Lent that omits the alleluia is provided for in Settings One through Ten of Holy Communion in Evangelical Lutheran Worship. Additional settings can be found in the Service Music portion (ELW #176-77) and in additional resources.

The omission of alleluia during Lent goes back at least to the fifth century in the western church. The custom of actually bidding it farewell, however, developed in the Middle Ages. The hymn “Alleluia, song of gladness” (Evangelical Lutheran Worship #318) contains a translation of an 11th century Latin text that compares an alleluia-less Lent to the exile of the Israelites in Babylon. The text then anticipates the joy of Easter when glad alleluias will return in all their heavenly splendor.

What about fasting?

The practice of fasting (or “giving something up”) during Lent is not required for Lutherans because it is not commanded in Holy Scripture. Rather, as a matter of Christian freedom, starving oneself of a pleasure of the flesh is a way to remember daily the great sacrifice of Jesus on the cross to pay for the world’s sin. In more recent years the practice of refraining from something that takes our time so that we can use that time instead for prayer, worship or study of Scripture as a way to “draw near” to God is quite common. Some people fast from social media or tv for example.

-Taken from ELCA “What is Lent” resources online

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY LESSONS

February 5th

First Lesson: Psalm 98
Narrative Lectionary Text:
Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29

February 12th

First Lesson: Psalm 46
Narrative Lectionary Text:
Matthew 13:24-43

February 19th

First Lesson: Psalm 63:1-8
Narrative Lectionary Text:
Matthew 16:24-17:8

February 22nd

First Lesson: Psalm 51
Narrative Lectionary Text:
Matthew 18:1-9

February 29th

First Lesson: Psalm 103
Narrative Lectionary Text:
Matthew 18:15-35

The Sunday flower chart is in the Fellowship Hall outside of the library.

You are welcome to
sign-up for a
Sunday to provide
one vase of flowers
for the altar.

BISHOP'S LETTER

February 2023



When I was in sixth grade, my teacher decided that we were going to build chicken skeletons. From real chickens. So, the teacher divided us into groups. A local farmer donated the chickens. Each group had to boil and boil and boil their chicken. When all the flesh and tendons, etc. were boiled off, and the bones were clean, then we had to build the chicken back up so that it formed a complete bird.

When I think back on this project, I wonder what we were learning. Anatomy? Names of bones? I'm not sure. But what I did learn was community, relationship, and collaboration. Without the people in my group – and the different skills and gifts that they had – we would not have been able to put this chicken back together. We had to make sure that the bones were sorted into the right boxes (the feet bones, the leg bones, the wing bones, the beak, etc.) We had to make sure the bones weren't wet and that there wasn't anything left on the bones so it didn't stink. (My mom claimed it did stink. Side note, I was elected to bring home the completed chicken. My mom was not pleased and at some point, it disappeared from the living room bookcase).

Anyway, getting back to community, relationship, and collaboration ... as I think of our synod, and what God is calling us to do and to be together, I think that these three things are key. I know that many of you are already in relationship and collaboration with other ELCA congregations around you. Perhaps you share your building with other ministries. Perhaps you share a food bank or work with a school. Perhaps affordable housing is part of your collaborative work. Many of you have preschools. All of these are wonderful ways to collaborate.

I'm wondering if we can think even bigger and more relationally than that. What if people from geographically close congregations met and talked about who they are. What their hopes are. What their fears are. What they need from others. What they have to offer others. What might come out of these conversations and relationships? Perhaps a way to share staff? Perhaps a way to more impactful in the community? Perhaps new ways of using property? I'm not sure. It would be interesting and exciting to find out.

As I have mentioned before, study after study indicates that pastors today are lonely and feel isolated and anxious about the future. As my staff and I travel around the synod, we hear that many congregations also feel lonely and isolated and anxious about the future. Hearing stories and knowing some of the difficulties, doesn't it seem that it would be better to build relationship with one another and collaborate rather than every congregation trying to figure it out on their own? Here are three ways that we are encouraging congregations to be in community, build relationships, and collaborate.

First, we continue to expand the LiVE Project (Living into Vocational Engagement). We are excited about the synod's collaboration and building relationship with the Trinity Education Foundation who is contributing funding this year and partnering with us. I encourage you to visit www.lutheransnw.org/ministries/the-live-project and learn more.

Second, in lieu of a Synod Assembly this year, we are hosting two Synod Gatherings in the spring with forums where relationships and collaboration are key. Watch for information in early February on the two Gatherings (May 13 in Mount Vernon and May 20 in Bellevue) via email and on our website here: www.lutheransnw.org/events/synod-gatherings.

Third, the Grace Grant application this year asks applicants with whom they are collaborating on the proposed project. The application process is open February 1 – May 31. Read about the focus areas and how to apply for this final year of funding here: www.lutheransnw.org/pages/grace-grants
You know, I could never have built that chicken alone. Nor would I have wanted to. Truthfully, even with my group, it was messy and hard. In my memory, we had a few bones left over that we quietly threw in the garbage. And yet, I am still in relationship with many of the people in my sixth grade group. And we are bonded from the chicken-building experience.

As the body of Christ, may we build relationship, be in community, and collaborate together. I'd love to hear what you are doing in your congregation towards this. Please email me at bishop@lutheransnw.org.

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee