

Mt Si Lutheran - JUNE 2020

Mini GOOD NEWSletter

Grace and peace to you brothers and sisters in Christ!

Today I went into the sanctuary to put the red paraments up. I know folks won't see it and let's be honest, the paraments are for humans, not God. I realize how silly it was, but for me, it was a joyful act to dress the space for the season and festival we will honor on Sunday, May 31st. If you find yourself longing to see the colors, put up some red cloth in your own home. You might find comfort in it as I did.

As I stood looking about the room I found myself staring at the stained glass windows with their beautiful scriptural reminder of "Now faith, hope and love abide and greatest of these is Love." 1 Cor. 13:13. Why is love the greatest? Perhaps, one way to see it is that when we falter in our faith, God still loves; when we falter in our hope, God still loves; when we falter in our love, God still loves. Does not scripture also say, "God is love"? Well, there is no greater than God...The reminder left me smiling and uplifted. We are going through a trial right now...our faith may falter, our hope may falter...but God—Love, won't.

Brothers and Sister, I pray that you are finding strength in God's Word during this time. It has held God's people together through far worse trials than what we are facing today and anything that will come tomorrow. Breathe deeply and rest firmly in our God and God's love.

- Pastor Krista

June Anniversaries:

Joe and Denise Stone—June 14th

Larry and Kay Boyle—June 20th



June Birthdays:

Darlene Lockwood—June 2

Inge Burnside—June 9

John Haycox—June 15

Emma Imsland—June 20

Mike Kober—June 21

Tiana Graciidis—June 22

July Imsland—June 25

Suzy Schuba—June 30

Megan Stone—June 30



Council Update

Greetings from the council. We hope that you are all doing well and coping with the corona virus responses. The council and Pastor Krista have been discussing how to implement the best plan for offering in-person gatherings. We are leaning on the wisdom and advice of our Bishop and the ELCA Presiding Bishop to make these decisions. We are also taking into account the advice of the CDC and WA State Department of Health. We are expecting that we will move into phase two sometime in June. As we move into phase two the council has decided that we will continue to have virtual services and meetings through at least June. The buildings will remain closed to any group gatherings. We will be allowing Ambur and Alisha to work in the building with proper PPE and distancing. The office will not be open for any drop in visits. We are still discussing what we want to do once the state moves into phase three.

The garden is in full swing now with most of the plots planted and growing. If you wish to work in the garden or help with any of the landscaping maintenance we ask that you maintain social distancing if there is more than one of you at a time.

Suzy Cassidy has resigned from council and her position as secretary. We thank her for her service. Terry Adams has been selected to be the Secretary.

We are still doing what we can to keep in touch with all of you to check in and ask if you need any help with anything during these hard times. If you do need anything, please contact Pastor Krista, John Grebe or the council executive team of Jack Boller, Rick Rodriguez or Terry Adams.

Be safe, stay well. We are looking forward to when we can be together in person again. We wish blessings on you all.

- Jack Boller

Photo Album Correction

My apologies to Dar Lockwood who I named Dar Williams in the Photo Album! Dar Williams is a singer I like and apparently was thinking of when I created the album. So sorry, Dar! - Pastor Krista

Sunday Worship for June

10am On-line—See website for link!

Scripture for June

June 7th—Holy Trinity Sunday—Matthew 28:16-20

June 14th—2nd Sunday of Pentecost—Matthew 9:35-10:8

June 21st—3rd Sunday of Pentecost—Matthew 10:24-39

June 28th—4th Sunday of Pentecost—Matthew 10:40-42

Virtual Gatherings

We are offering an online Zoom Bible Study on Tuesdays at 12:30pm and Thursday at 7pm. Links are on our website.

The FIRST Thursday of the month (June 4th)

will be a Thirsty for Theology Gathering (use the Bible Study link)

Men's Saturday Bible Study is also meeting via Zoom at 8:30am. Link in on the website.

Children's Ministry is meeting on Fridays via Zoom. Contact John Grebe for details. Confirmation gatherings have begun. Contact John Grebe for details. Next Confirmation Retreat dates :June 5-6th

Office Update

When we enter phase two in King County Ambur and Alisha will be returning to work in the office and buildings. However, the office will not be open for drop-in visits. Please continue to call and email for best communication. Thank you!

Stewardship and Finance Update

Payroll Protection Program / Mt Si Lutheran obtains approval

As some of you may know, The Small Business Administration (SBA) made available funds for small businesses (including churches) to borrow money to help them survive financially the COVID-19 pandemic.

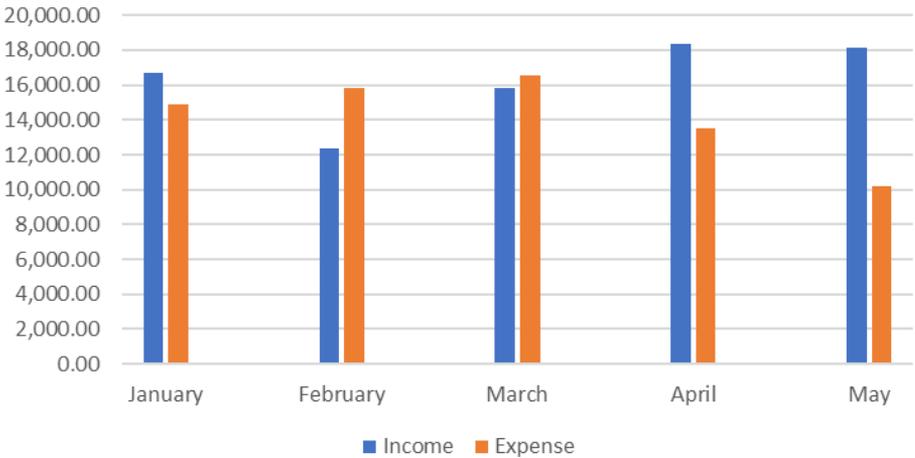
The intent of the PPP program was to keep workers on the payroll and off unemployment. Business owners should have the freedom to use the funds as they see fit on other major expenses like rent, but Congress opted for payroll. While business groups and associations are lobbying to reduce the percentage used on payroll to 50%, you can't count on that and should assume the status quo. For complete forgiveness of these loans the SBA wants at least 75% of the funds be used on payroll.

With the approval of council, several members worked very hard on behalf of Mt Si Lutheran to apply for this loan. Mt Si Lutheran was approved for a loan of \$31,200.00, which was based on the average monthly payroll for 2019. The Council met and approved the agreement.

The goal is to keep employees and prevent the need for them to apply for unemployment. We think borrowing the amount above meets that need and is done in good faith. There has been much discussion on this issue and it is difficult as the church is really very different than most small businesses. There were many discussions with members of the Stewardship Committee, Personnel Committee, Executive Committee and Council regarding this Payroll Protection Program. We decided it was in the best interests of our employees to apply for this loan and use it as intended to assist our employees who were being negatively impacted. The church will be using the funds as recommended by the program and will not need to repay them.

Sincerely, Stewardship and Finance Team

Income & Expense



Thank you to all who have responded generously to the letter sent regarding our financial outlook. Giving has increased and expenses are down. Our expenses are down mainly because of the reduction in staff hours during the stay-at-home orders. Council has also chosen to hold off on paying all our benevolence to the Synod until we are certain of continued financial stability. If we were paying all our staff their full wages and paying benevolence we would still be behind by about \$2,000 YTD. We also have significantly less ministry expenses. With this said we can't thank you enough for your generosity. We hope this will allow us to continue forward with our approved budget expenses. Council will be monitoring our finances closely along side the Stewardship and Finance Team. We will keep you updated.

- Pastor Krista

Serving Our Community

Food Bank

We continue to support the Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank. If you want to make a monetary donation to the Food Bank, please send checks directly to: Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank

122 E. 3rd St. North Bend, WA 98045

Wellness Provisions

Thanks to an incredibly generous person, council was given funds to create wellness kits for anyone in our community who is ill and needs basic supplies. Nancy Flanagan and Janey Benson are taking the lead on this project. If you are sick or know someone who is, please call Nancy or Janey and we can put together a bag of supplies for them!

Blood Drive

More information to come! There is a local blood drive located in the QFC parking lot on July 11th. If you are interested, information will be on our website in a couple weeks.

Si View Farmers Market

We are working with the leaders of the Si View Farmers Market to see what we can do to serve again at these weekly events. Right now only Farmers are permitted to be part of the market, but we are registered and they will contact us as soon as we can participate. The Evangelism Team is preparing pre-filled art supply and game kits to distribute when we are able. We could use two Thrivent Cards to help us purchase supplies! Please reach out to Erica Haycox if you are interested. Thank you!



CYF Report

The transition from being isolated to being in groups will be somewhat of a challenge for children as they test the waters of what the boundaries are. Drastic changes are often difficult for children in ways that may not be apparent. Often their anxiety due to uncertainty will come out in play or conversations when least expected. During our time of transition, I will continue to hold Friday afternoon meetings with kids whether through Zoom meetings or in person. My thoughts and prayers continue to be with the families of Mt. Si, please do not hesitate to continue reaching out to me if you have any needs or concerns.

Children's ministry bible study, socializing, and games on a Zoom meeting 1-2 PM. I am available before and after this

meeting for children and their families. In a way to create safer practices I provide the connection details to families when they

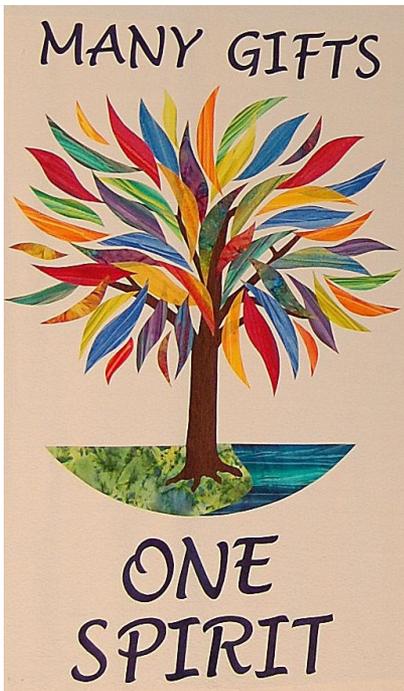
reach out to me. We have a few visitors attending these sessions and I want to encourage kids to invite their friends. A big thanks to Jack Boller for helping out with this ministry!

Confirmation students have had 3 zoom sessions to socialize and learn. June 5-6 is our next retreat with 4 teaching session. We meet from 11-12:30 on Friday and Saturday. If you know of any youth who may be interested in our church or learning about Lutheran theology this is a great way to do so. Please have them reach out to Pastor Krista or John.

Summer Camping to Odlin County Park in the San Juan Islands has been canceled due to the county park system not allowing group camping. We are exploring camping at Lake Easton on the same dates. Please reach out to Janey Benson or John for more details. You will need to book your own reservation. There will be a possibility for members to come up for the day as well depending on the social distancing policies in place.

VBS 2020:

Many Gifts—One Spirit!



For the 2020 Vacation Bible School August 2-6, we will be exploring spiritual gifts. As we prepare for the week of VBS we will create the sessions as a virtual experience for families and kids through live stream sessions on Zoom and recorded videos on YouTube videos. Registration will be open in early June so that we can get an accurate count for preparing and ordering supplies.

Bible Study, Drama, Music, Games, and Art Projects!

Volunteers: We will need small group leaders. I need volunteers willing to take on roles with each area. If you are interested let me know and I can help you get started.



Art Installation @ Mt Si Lutheran

Good day! We are just about ready to begin a beautiful, colorful and collective art installation at Mt Si. Each individual or family that wishes to create a tile will be able to pick a design: cross, tree, home or geometric/quilt pattern and pick colors: light green, dark green, light blue, dark blue, yellow, red, white, orange and pink. The tiles will be square, rectangle or triangle. The photo above are some examples of what you can create. We are able to make 100+ individual designs.

If anyone wants to learn how to cut glass please contact me! We are beginning to cut the glass now. Lesia is willing to teach you in ones and twos at her home. You can then take the material home to complete the cutting. Lesia shared that this step takes a steady hand for the best result. Once all the tiles are cut, I'll invite folks to drop-in at church where you can pick the tiles and pattern. I'll have everything set-up in the breezeway.

Once you have your tiles and picked a design you will place the design on sticky contact paper. Completed designs will be returned to church so Lesia can finish the installation. These will be affixed to the risers going up to the main sanctuary doors.

This art installation will be a celebratory work of art to honor our 70th anniversary. I pray it will convey the beauty of each individual member and, together, the beauty of the community God has created here at Mt Si. Please watch the weekly news for more details!

A big THANK YOU to Lesia who is offering her time and expertise for us to create this work of art.

- Peace P. K.