



Mt Si Lutheran - May 2021

Mini **GOOD** - NEWSletter

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

I want to begin with a thank you to the Faith Formation team for all their incredible work over Lent and Holy Week to provide wonderful outdoor in-person opportunities to connect and gather. It was such a joy to see many of you participate. I want to also thank Jenna for assisting with music during Lent Mid-week and Jack, John and Dave for recording pieces of Holden Evening Prayer for us to use in our worship. This is also a time to thank Sungjoon Lee once more for his time and effort and energy that has gone into music production and knitting together worship videos to create the incredible worship we enjoy each Sunday. I don't think I will ever fully know the hours and heart that he has put into our worship. I hope you all take the time to send him your thanks for his awesome work over this last year. As you will read later in the newsletter, our worship partnership is drawing to a close as both congregations seek in-person worship opportunities for our communities of faith. However, both Pastor Nyla, Pastor David and myself do not wish the spark of shared ministry that has developed between our two communities over the last year to fade away. You will notice an invitation to participate in service projects with our siblings at SHLC on May 15th. Take a look, I hope you will participate as you feel called by the Spirit. We will also seek ways to celebrate together at a future date when we can all gather together in-person. I know not all have found online worship to be fruitful. I pray you have found your own ways to stay connected to God in worship. I also know many have found this year of online worship to be a blessing and will miss these joint services. As always, let's be kind to one another as we again embark on something new with outdoor in-person worship in May and our own live-stream services. There will be hiccups along the way. I ask for your grace and patience. Please know the staff and leadership seek to provide the best we are able. I also want to share with the congregation a great joy in my life. I am engaged to a wonderful man, Doug Johnson. We have known each other for a number of years. He serves as the Youth Director at St. Andrew's in Bellevue. We will be married this summer in small private in-person service that will be live-streamed to those who wish to celebrate with us. Next summer we will host a grand celebration to which you are all certainly invited.

- Pastor Krista

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

Tom Chase—May 01
David Wilkerson—May 01
John Keiser—May 04
Alex Adams—May 08
Jenna Rhyne—May 09
D Davis, III—May 13
Ava Lee—May 13
Paul Rizenthaler—May 20
Jim Garhart—May 30

May Anniversaries:

Mike and Kim Buckmaster, May 1st
Charles and Pat Thomas, May 19th
John and Anne Kaiser, May 22nd
Ed and Jane Benson, May 26th



If we missed including you in the
Monthly Birthdays or Anniversaries
and you wish for names/dates to be
honored, please contact the office.

Adult Education

Bible Study

Thursday evenings at 7pm via Zoom
Link on our website under the Education Tab

Men's Bible Study

Saturdays at 9am
Meeting at the Mt Si Golf Course

Adult Study

5 videos exploring the Sermon on the Mount
Links on our website under the Education Tab

Sunday Worship Texts for May

May 2nd— John 15:1-8

May 9th—John 15:9-17

May 23rd— Acts 2:1-21

Remember to wear Red on Pentecost Sunday! May 23rd

May 30th—John 3:1-17

1st Sunday of Every Month Drive-thru Communion - 11:30a-12:30p

You can also pick-up your Education Kits, along with monthly newsletter and devotionals!

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR MAY—JUNE

The month of May is going to bring some changes to our worship life at Mt Si. We have shared worship with SHLC for over a year now. Our partnership in online worship is drawing to a close. We will continue to worship at 10am at this time. We will share in worship with SHLC on May 2nd and 9th. Please follow the schedule below for the remaining Sunday's in May

May 16th—10am

we will have our first solo live-stream worship service
via Facebook and YouTube. Links will be on our website

May 23rd—Pentecost Sunday– 10am

We will have our first outdoor in-person worship service.
A letter was mailed to each home and a link to the letter was sent via News from the Pews on April 29th with details of what this service will look like. We do ask that you sign-up for the service so we know where to seat everyone.

To sign-up to attend please email reopeningMSLC@gmail.com

OR call Jenna R. at 540-354-5724

Please do not call the office to sign-up. Jenna has graciously offered to coordinate on behalf of council.

You will be asked to wear a mask and remain 6ft apart from one another.
Please read the letter for all the details.

May 30th—10am

We will offer a live-stream worship
Via Facebook and YouTube. Links will be on our website
No in-person worship on this Sunday

June 6th—10am

We will host our second outdoor in-person worship service.
This is also a communion Sunday.
Details of this service will be sent out end of May

June 13th—10am

We will offer a live-stream worship
Via Facebook and YouTube. Links will be on our website
No in-person worship on this Sunday

One June 8th council will meet to discuss what outdoor worship and live-stream worship has been like for our community. Council will then determine the best path forward for the rest of June and into July.

Thank you for your grace and patience as we try something new yet again! For those not yet comfortable to worship in-person or who cannot attend in-person, we plan to record worship and upload the video later in the day on Sunday for everyone to view. This is new for us, so we can't know for sure when they will be available. The live-stream worship will become a permanent video for anyone to watch at anytime.

Faith Formation Team News (formerly CYF/Parish Ed Team)

Faith Formation Kits

We are glad that you are using these kits every week. We will continue providing kits until the end of the school year. Over the next two months we are hoping to have some in-person lessons and activities as we are able.

Confirmation

We meet 2 times a month on Zoom from 5pm – 6pm.

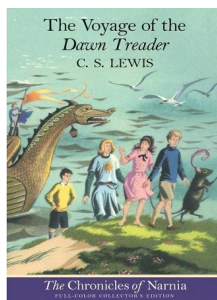
For this month the dates are May 6th and May 20th

Confirmation will take place on May 23rd during worship.

Our two confirmands are Addison Harding and Rachel Flanagan.

Molly Davis completed her first year this year and will complete her confirmation next year.

VBS - Week of July 18th



We are excited to announce that we will be having VBS on the week of July 18th. We are hopeful that it will be in person, but we are planning for a variety of possibilities depending on the phase of the pandemic we are in. The theme for this year is The Voyage of the Dawn Treader by C.S. Lewis. More details will be provided as they are made available. If you are interested in helping, please reach out to John for ways to help.

Spring and Summer Activities

At this time of year, we would normally be advertising camping and mission trips, and other activities. The Faith Formation Team (Parish Ed. and CYF ministries) have decided to postpone scheduling large activities at this time, we will be keeping an eye on the progress of the pandemic and update accordingly. We will be coordinating activities such as frisbee golf, ice skating, hikes, scavenger hunts, and a variety of other opportunities to come together for fellowship and service opportunities.

- Faith Formation Team

Council President's Update

Hello Mount Si Lutherans!

In last month's newsletter I wrote to you that the Charter Reopening Team was diligently doing the necessary research to forecast a day when our in-person services would open again. Well, I'm here to say the Team (Jenna, Inge, Janey) delivered a very detailed and thorough proposal to Council. Council and the Team are now putting together the right protocols that will

be put in place so that when we do arrive at that reopening date, our church will provide the best protection for us all. We're going to start with limited outdoor service and if that goes well, services will move indoors. Additionally, the proposal has an element to allow small groups to use the buildings to meet in-person. And, as I mentioned already, protocols are in the development stage to guide the small groups as they schedule and hold their meetings. Both the outdoor service and the small group meeting will require certain rules that must be followed, such as scheduling the meeting in advance, using a contact log to record each participant, setting up sanitation areas, ensuring proper distancing, masking, sanitizing before and after the event, etc. As you can see there are many, many pieces that still needs to be fitted together. And although the exact date is still being decided, I can assure you once the date is determined it is because all aspects for protection have been carefully implemented. Doing your part in following the protocols will be vital to continue with the reopening process.

I cannot say enough good things about Lent and Holy Week, led by Pastor Krista and coordinated by our CYF Director, John, and the Faith Formation Team. All the online services and the outdoor prayer stations throughout March were meaningful and very impactful from my perspective. I can say that by participating my spirit has been renewed for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As you are aware, Pastor Krista is leading us through the Discernment Project and if you haven't already done so, we need you to provide your answers to the three questions after reading the five Bible passages previously sent to you. Why is this important, you say? It's because *your* answers are crucial to determining the mission and ministry of our church. If you need assistance or clarification please don't hesitate to contact anyone on Council or Pastor Krista.

A final note of thanks for your prayers and support for both Sheila and I as I went through a bit of a health crisis this past week. I truly felt your prayer lifting me up, and it is something I have never felt before. I am here to tell you prayers; specifically your prayers do work!

Please continue your prayers of support and guidance for our church. We have something special here at Mount Si Lutheran. You are all in my prayers that God keep you in good health. I also pray for the Holy Spirit to guide this Council in our efforts to reopen to in-person service and carry out the mission of Mount Si Lutheran Church. If you have questions or concerns you can always contact me at rsnmrod@mac.com, or (206) 384-1042.

With Gods' peace and in Christ's love,

Rick Rodriguez

Bishop's May Letter to the Congregation



In the book *Anxious People*, the author, Fredrik Backman, crafts a humorous, poignant, and wise story of a group of people thrown together because of a bank robbery. But the bank robbery is the least interesting part of the book. The characters, who seem flighty and weird and strange or just unlikeable at the beginning of the book, change into complex humans with such rich inner lives that you love each of them by the end of the story. This was one book that I was sad to see end because I wanted to continue with each character in their journey.

I finished this book during Holy Week. And I couldn't help but reflect on the flighty, weird, strange and unlikeable people that surrounded Jesus that we get to know in the Gospels. These men and women who leave everything to follow Jesus – and who end up leaving Jesus after his arrest – only to once again connect with Jesus after his death and resurrection – are (we must admit) flighty, weird, strange and unlikeable.

Thomas who is skeptical throughout the Jesus story and who won't recognize Jesus until seeing his wounds.

Mary Magdalene who can't recognize Jesus until he calls her by her name.

The disciples locked in a room, afraid to go out, and finally just going back to fishing until Jesus shows up once again.

I mean, ask yourself:

Would we really have wanted John the Baptist over for a barbecue?

Would we really have accepted a woman who washed Jesus' feet as being justified when she extravagantly wasted an expensive bottle of perfume?

Would we have embraced the woman who bled for over a decade and invited her to our book club even after she assured us that she was cured and clean?

I finished this book during Holy Week. And I couldn't help but reflect on the flighty, weird, strange and unlikeable people around me – on the news, on social media, in my neighborhood – and how I have judged them based on a very superficial understanding of who they are and what makes up their story. I call them ignorant or lazy, bigoted or uncaring, dirty or smelly or unclean in some way.

But as I continue to reflect on Backman's compelling story of seven "idiots" (as he calls them), and, as I continue to reflect on Holy Week, (even though it is now way past Holy Week), I see Jesus kneeling down and washing feet. I hear Jesus saying, "Peace be with you." I experience Jesus embracing disciples on a beach, offering them fish, and saying, "Feed my sheep." Loving and caring and forgiving – even though these humans are flighty, weird, strange and, at times, unlikeable.

None of us are Jesus. None of us can embrace the other as Jesus did. And yet, we are called, as sinners and as beloved children of God, to hear another’s story. To listen. To reflect. To forgive. To ask for forgiveness. To engage. To be silent when needed and speak when necessary.

For my part, I repent. I repent for my judgment, for my verdict that I render without knowing the complexity of another’s story, for my blindness to my complicity, for my withholding forgiveness in the name of self-righteousness, for my refusing to acknowledge my need for forgiveness, and for my judgment on who God loves and who God does not love (because, as I have been taught, if God only loves those I love, than I have remade God in my image).

So I ask you, dear Beloveds of NWWA Synod, with all of your stories, how may your stories be joined into the One Story? How may your hearts be open to the flighty, weird, strange, sometimes unlikeable (but always God’s beloved) people that we are called to love? What are your thoughts, feelings, explorations, attempts, experiments? I’d love to hear how you are living into God’s Holy Community of love, grace, compassion, justice and peace.

As for you, you are called. By name. Embraced, loved, and cherished – in all your flighty, weird, strange, sometimes unlikeable ways. And always, always, God’s beloved.

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

DAY OF SERVICE with SHLC - May 15th

On **May 15th** SHLC is hosting a day of service. They are looking for folks from MSLC to partner with them and lend a helping hand.

This year the focus is yardwork for seniors in the Sammamish area. The exact addresses will be shared by the team leader once you sign up to maintain privacy.

To sign-up go to or check out the link on our website
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044fa4a82aa2fc1-eastside6>
Not up for yardwork? We are also invited to participate in a diaper drive and blanket making! The diapers will support Eastside Baby Corner which distributes diapers at the SVFB and other local nonprofits.

To learn more about blankets go here:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044fa4a82aa2fc1-diaper>
To learn more about diapers go here:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044fa4a82aa2fc1-blanket2>

Thank you in advance for your service!

GARDEN OF GIVING

Thank you all for your efforts in the Garden of Giving! Weeding and prep took place on a hailing, raining, lovely day in the PNW. Planting day was in far more favorable weather. We still have lots to do. Watch for further work days to come as the Spring continues and summer arrives.



OFFICE UPDATE—We are seeking to hire an office assistant at 8hrs/wk. Competency in Word and Publisher needed. Want to know more? Reach out to Lisa Sampson or Pastor Krista

Farewell Cheerio
Ciao AU REVOIR
AUF WIEDERSEHEN ADIEU
Ta-ta BON VOYAGE
ARRIVEDERCI ADIOS
Peace Out SO LONG
TOODLE PIP T.T.F.N.
BYE-BYE Sayonara
CHEERY-BYE Hasta la vista
SEE YA LATER, ALLIGATOR
in a WHILE, CROCODILE

We are sad to announce that Mike and Kay Kober made the decision to move away from North Bend to be closer to family. We will miss you dearly, Mike and Kay! They send their fond farewell to you all.

We also wish to share that we will be saying goodbye to the Davis family—Don, Brenda, Molly and D—in July. If you have a moment, please reach out and offer your farewell and well wishes as they head back East to be near family.