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Mount Si Lutheran Church

*To Serve
To Reach Out
To Grow In Grace*

GOODNEWSletter

OCTOBER 2026

Pastor's Note...

Grace and peace you,
September was a joyful month of engaging the community.

We kicked off September by participating in the Snoqualmie Street Fair. Thank you to our volunteers who facilitated the crafts and offered a warm welcome to kids and their families. We were a popular booth with well over 200 kids passing through in the six hours we were there. I had many engaging conversations with adults and kids about life, our church, the upcoming Fall Festival and more. I'm grateful we were able to participate and be blessed by those we met because of this congregation's spirit of love for children.

September also saw the return of the preschool to full capacity. The first day back I set-up the little play bench outside the parsonage fence and waited to see if the kids would come over to say hi - and they sure did! My heart was full to see the kids run around the corner and up to the bench to say hello and play with the sheep, cars and other items I have out for them. The parents slowly followed I got to hear about their summers and chat with the parents about their lives and our community.

They expressed gratitude for the church hosting the preschool and for the little bench of toys. I am grateful that we have this unique opportunity to be blessed by these kids and their families because of this congregation's spirit of hospitality.

Next, I had the pleasure of attending the Give. Gather. Grow. event put on by the Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank on Sunday, Sept. 20. At the event I was excited to hear that the Campaign to raise 5 million for the new building has been met! Wow! What a show of community coming together. Mt Si was highlighted as a ministry partner during the event. Erica and I were able to share about Mt Si's longstanding connection and dedication to the food bank. We also got to celebrate the handing out of nearly 500 backpacks this year! Again, I was filled with gratitude for the blessing of being part of the larger work of feeding the SnoValley community because of this congregation's spirit of service.

Thank you, Mt Si, for being the witness you are in the community. I give thanks to God for the Spirit's work among you.

Peace, Pastor Krista

In this newsletter
you will find:

Special Events
In October &
November

Serving our
Neighbors

Our Mission

Sunday Readings
& Weekday
Education
Opportunities

October
Birthdays
and Anniversaries

*The Spirit & Lay of
the Land*



Oct 3, 9am-3pm at Edmonds Lutheran Church

This retreat invites us to discover the blessing, and simplicity that evangelism can be when we tap into our own stories. Our life in God is not bound by doctrine or correct belief but integrated in the social fabric of our daily lives with others. We access God's story in the giving and receiving of our own stories. Through attentive listening and shared storytelling, we will create opportunities to practice the particularities of our own God-experiences as a portal into what God is already doing among us. God is in our words, and also in our interactions. Evangelism is not something to be feared, but favored. We can celebrate a way of showing up as human, in God's world, by giving space to receive our stories with curiosity and courage.

Special Events in October & November



Oct. 17
Family Fall Festival
4-6pm @ MSLC

Crafts & games, trunk-or-treat, hot dogs & popcorn, and a costume parade!

You also are invited to bring a can of soup for the food bank.

Please sign-up to help on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. We need lots of trunks! Please consider decorating your car and handing out candy 😊



Oct 18
Community Game Night
5-7pm @ St. Luke's

Community Game Night is back! All ages are welcome to a night of food, fellowship and fun as we share board games, card games and more. Please bring a game to share/teach others and a snack to share. We'll see you at St. Luke's in Bellevue.



Oct 25
Reformation Sunday

On this Sunday we honor the 500+ year history of the Lutheran Church and celebrate our faith that we are: "saved by grace through faith apart from works of the law." (Eph. 2:8-9)

You are invited to wear red on Sunday as a symbol of the Holy Spirit's work among us.



Nov 6-8
Synod Youth Retreat

We are excited to go one again for the Fall Youth Retreat hosted by the Synod. This retreat is open to Middle and High School youth. We are headed to Black Diamond Camp this year. Want to know more? Please talk with Pastor Krista.



Nov 14
Rummage Sale

9am-3pm in the Fellowship Hall, Luther's Lounge and Breezeway. From 2-3pm everything is 50% off!

Donated items can be brought to church AFTER Oct. 17. We will not accept items that will cost money for the church to haul away if not sold. NO electronics and NO large furniture. Please check with Courtney if you have a question.



Nov 22 - Flannel Fest & Congregational Meeting

Let's have some fun!

Following worship on Nov. 22, we'll conduct business and then have a chili cookoff and pie.

Wear your flannel shirts, and bring canned soup and chili for the food bank!

Other churches in the ELCC are joining in on this festive fun filled fellowship gathering.

Our mission: to serve, reach out & grow in grace...

What a wonderful God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday!

Who could have guessed how many vases we had tucked away around the church! Wow! Thank to all who shared their time with us on Sept. 13 as we shared in a potluck meal, sorted vases, cleared out the boiler room, made Christmas cards for homebound seniors, added new hymnals & ribbons to the pews (Thanks St. Andrew's for loaning us a dozen red hymnals!) and began work repairing the Garden of Giving fence. It was a full & joyful day.



Guardin' the Garden Gratitude

One of the God's Work Our Hand's Project was "Guardin' the Garden", which was to take down and replace some of the original wood and wire fencing used for Mt Si Lutheran's Garden of Giving. With a rainy God's Work Our Hands day we started the project in the rain. Tom Chase, Mike Hanson, Tom Burnside and Mike Buckmaster helped take apart the old fencing and load up some of the old wood from the garden and rain barrel structure into Tom B's truck for disposal. We worked for a couple of hours and were able to get all of the slats removed from the old fencing. Tom Chase, Pastor Krista, and I put in two afternoons of work the following week to finish removing the old fencing boards replacing them and adding new chicken wire to keep the rabbits out. The new fence looks much better and should keep the garden protected for years to come.

Thanks to everyone who supported the project. ~Terry Adams

Luther's Lounge Re-Dedication

Thank you to all who came out to celebrate the rededication of Luther's Lounge.

We welcomed Mayor Mary Miller, Pr. Andy Yee (Assistant to the Bishop), Ray Shjerven (Lutheran Disaster Response Rep), Mt Si members community volunteers and guests.

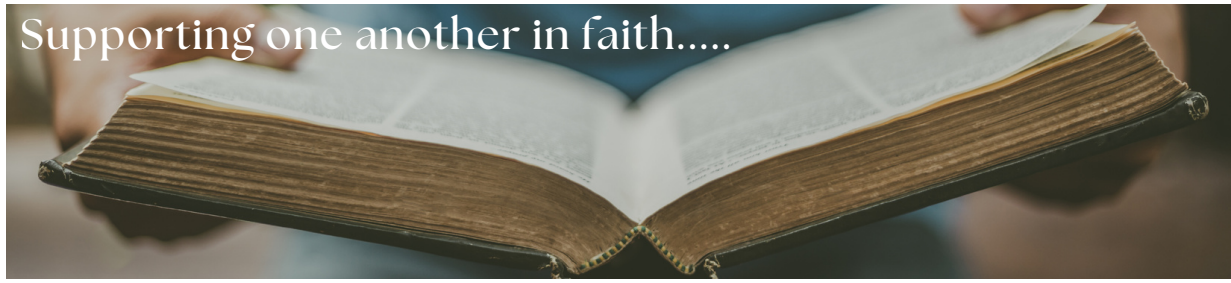
It took many hands and countless hours to rebuild Luther's Lounge.

We received \$20,000 in direct donations from two congregations along with just under \$1000 from our own Mt Si members. Mt Si also set aside \$10,000 of our own monies to support the rebuild. We will use every dollar that was dedicated to the rebuild. What is amazing is how many hours of labor and materials were donated.

We received donated materials & time with an estimated value of \$23,000. What an incredible gift to receive. Thanks be to God!



Supporting one another in faith.....



Sunday Readings & Weekday Education Opportunities

OCTOBER SUNDAY LESSONS

October 4

First Lesson: Isaiah 5:1-7

Second Lesson: Matthew 21:33-46

October 11

First Lesson: Isaiah 25:1-9

Second Lesson: Matthew 22:1-14

October 18

First Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Second Lesson: Matthew 22:15-22

October 25

First Lesson: Romans 3:19-28

Second Lesson: John 8:31-36

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES IN OCTOBER

Men's Bible Study - Saturdays, 9am @
Little Si Restaurant.

Women's Bible Study -
Mondays, 12:30pm, Multi-Purpose Room
12:30pm.

Wednesday Bible Study - Begins
Wednesday, Oct. 7 and runs for six weeks.
The group will meet in the Multipurpose
Room from 6pm-7:30pm and work through
Jesus: The God Who Knows Your Name, by
Max Lucado.



Bailey Dukich 6th
Stephanie King 8th
Matt Rodriguez 9th
Pat Thomas 9th
Kaelynn Sampson 10th
Autumn Dukich 13th
Victoria Spurling 13th
Debbie Spurling 14th
Riley Buckmaster 20th
Courtney Adams 23rd
Joyce Ayers 29th

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

You are invited! Weekly Gatherings

*Come tie quilts on Monday mornings
at 9:30am.

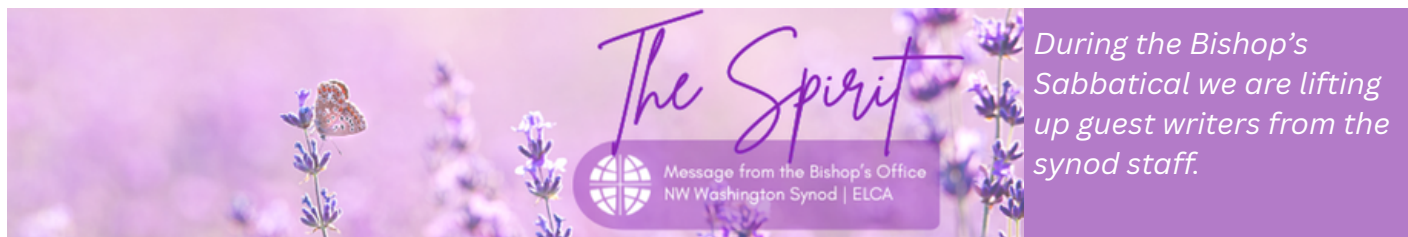
*The Prayer Group meets on Tuesdays
at 9:30am

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!



October 2026

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" Isaiah 43:19

God IS up to something – what is it?
How do we perceive, recognize, notice whatever "it" is – and then respond?

As both individuals and faith communities, isn't this part of our regular reflection all the time? We know God is active in the world. We know God is continually moving to bring love, grace, healing, and wholeness to a world that desperately needs it. And we believe that as members of God's body, however small we are, we get to be a part of that big "Good News" mission.

The congregations and ministries in our synod are mission centers – where God's beloved people are embraced, inspired, strengthened, and equipped to be participants in God's work in the world. I am humbled to listen as so many people share with me profound stories about how God is working through them – both individually and through their communities of faith. Of course, I don't have enough space here to share with you all these stories, but I will tell you one:

Pastor Wendy Cheung serves as the Mission Developer for two of our Synod Authorized Worshipping Communities (SAWCs). One of them, called Jesus Loves Me Lutheran Church, is a unique community serving special needs children, adults, and their families. Pastor Wendy told me:

"There have been many times when I have struggled with this ministry because I know how complex and demanding it is. The greatest challenge is not designing programs. The deeper challenge is how to walk faithfully with children with special needs and with their families. Children with special needs may experience sudden emotional, behavioral, or sensory challenges, and their parents and caregivers often carry long-term stress, anxiety, exhaustion, and pain. I often ask myself: How can we truly care for these families? How can we accompany them without simply trying to solve their problems? How can we help bring them into the presence of God so that they themselves may receive strength, comfort, and hope from Him?

This ministry requires more than good programs. It requires patience, training, pastoral care, wisdom, and a community willing to learn how to walk together... My hope is that Jesus Loves Me will continue to be a community where these families experience love and belonging, and where they are also empowered to share that love with other families who live with similar realities. I hope it will become a place where every person has meaningful opportunities to participate, serve, and use the gifts God has given them."

God is at work in and through this beautiful ministry – and I am so grateful that this community is part of who we are as people of faith in the Northwest Washington Synod.

I am honored to serve as a connector, supporter, and advocate for all the congregations and ministries throughout our Synod. I am grateful for you, and for all our many mission centers, active in both perceiving and participating in what God is up to in our amazing corner of the world. Let's stay connected!

Your partner in ministry,
Rev. Judy Brennan, Director for Evangelical Mission | Northwest Washington Synod |
dem@lutheransnw.org

For more info about congregations and ministries in our synod, please visit our website:
<https://www.lutheransnw.org/pages/congregations-mission-starts-ministry-sites> or invite me to tell you some more stories. To financially support Jesus Loves Me and other Emerging and Strategic Ministries of our synod, please donate here (select New & Strategic Ministries in the dropdown menu)
<https://www.lutheransnw.org/give>



We travel to the northern tip of our synod and the other side of the globe for Volume 1, issue 2 of The Lay of the Land. This is the story of two ordinary women with an extraordinary idea.

Dawn-Marie Hanrahan, attended Zion Lutheran Church in Ferndale for the first time with her 6- and 8-year-old children 36 years ago. After Sunday school that first Sunday, her 6-year-old pleaded, "Mommy, Mommy, can we please stay?" They did.

In 2013, Shilla Adyero, a Ugandan woman studying at the Fairhaven School at Western Washington University, arrived at Zion Lutheran Church for Easter morning worship service.

A Custer, Washington, couple who had visited Uganda previously, had heard Shilla speaking about sustainable development opportunities and were so impressed they invited her to continue her studies in the United States, at their expense. She was living with them and attending Fairhaven School. Homesick and missing her village community, Shilla wanted to connect with a Christian congregation.

Shilla and Dawn-Marie met that Easter morning and became instant friends. Zion felt "like home" to Shilla, so she continued to attend services and welcomed the invitation to join our congregation officially. Soon after they were working together to support the Slum Doctor Programme, a non-profit that focuses on health care, public health, food supplies, education, and aid for communities affected by HIV/Aids in Kenya and Uganda.

When Shilla's term with her host family was complete, she was suddenly in need of new housing. Dawn-Marie was aware of an alternative housing possibility with another Zion family. Robin and Bob Ogmundson had lost their 27-year-old daughter, Amy, to juvenile cancer just a few months earlier. After prayerful consideration, Dawn-Marie approached the Ogmundsons with Shilla's housing need and they, in turn, generously agreed to host Shilla as their contribution to her philanthropic work and studies. Both the Ogmundsons and Shilla found great solace and healing in giving of themselves and their resources.

One afternoon, while sitting together in Shilla's new home, Shilla shared with Dawn-Marie that because the Ogmundsons had taken her in as their own daughter, she wanted to do something special for them, in Amy's honor. Shilla wanted to bring books to her home village in Gulu; she wanted to build the first public library. When Dawn-Marie asked, "So where do we start?", the seed for Lutino Adunu was planted. Lutino Adunu means "children loved" in Shilla's native Acholi language and is now a registered Ugandan children's educational non-profit. It is the only organization in the region that serves the needs of children and has grown to become so much more serving the greater communities.

Dawn-Marie stated that realizing the dream and expansion of Lutino Adunu has been a long and winding journey, full of twists and unexpected challenges. But then, aren't a lot of the journeys God takes us on that way?

Dawn-Marie recalled story after story of how the Holy Spirit has worked in and through them along this journey.

- A \$20,000 P.E.O. International Scholarship award given to Shilla to continue her graduate studies in sustainable development at the School for International Training, in Brattleboro, VT.
- Ogmundson family connections additionally provided Shilla's housing while a student at S.I.T.
- Many fundraisers, donations and grants that, much like the Bible story of the 5 loaves and 3 fish, continued to sustain Lutino Adunu.
- The airline agent who so kindly waived the overweight costs of Shilla's suitcases returning to Gulu, because Shilla had filled her suitcases with the first library books rather than return home with her personal clothing and belongings.
- The generosity of the Catholic dioceses to allow use of an outbuilding as the temporary community library.
- The challenges overcome when the temporary library was immediately closed due to termite infestation causing damage to the structure, furniture, books and administration documents.
- The life-saving assistance Lutino Adunu offered during the Covid-19 shutdown: masks for law enforcement and medical personnel, hospital and clinic supplies, emergency transportation, providing infant formula for orphaned babies, which saved their lives, and so much more.
- The MicroLoan Program established to assist start-up businesses.

(continued)

(Lay of the Land - cont'd)

The Atek Pad Project, training sewers in making reuseable feminine hygiene kits. Adequate hygiene supplies for young girls and women significantly reduce school drop-out rates. To date, Lutino Adunu has trained 57 schools and multiple communities throughout the region.

- Development of the Community Demonstration Farm on Lutino Adunu land in partnership with the Pangora Demonstration Farm. Includes hands-on youth-group training for sustainable agriculture, education, and community empowerment; Crop and Seedling Production; and School Feeding and Gardening Projects. More information can be made found at: Global Opportunity Fund (GO Fund).
- Initiated a cooperative relationship with the local prison to begin a prisoner reading program and women's empowerment groups
- October 2023, Dawn-Marie coordinated a local "Fun-raiser" Dinner and Live Auction in Ferndale in support of building the permanent library. The single even raised or \$47,000 and the cost to host the event was generously supplemented by several Lutheran member's Thrivent Action Team Grants.

And the list goes on with too many to include here! Of course, there are countless stories of challenges along the way, too.

- Lack of adequate funding
- Unreliable internet connection for corresponding
- Lack of adequate devices: phone, laptop, computers
- Political unrest within Uganda
- Lack of transportation
- Covid pandemic
- Critical medical and survival needs of the community utilizing Lutino Adunu resources
- Government lockdown
- Supply shortages
- Misunderstandings due to cultural differences
- Funding withdrawals
- Rising costs of building materials
- Inclement weather conditions

With Shilla living in and operating Lutino Adunu in Uganda and Dawn-Marie living in and assisting from the Pacific Northwest, the distance alone has been sometimes overwhelming. But anytime another challenge arises, Dawn-Marie and Shilla turn to prayer for guidance and discernment. Their dream of building a public library in Shilla's home village has expanded into a resource center with Administration Offices, public Conference Room and so many more programs and projects now serving the wider community. These ordinary women with an extraordinary idea have never lost sight of the facility's completion. Grace happens. And God completes good works begun.

The new Lutino Adunu Community Library and Resource Center is nearing completion. Additional funding is still very much needed. If you would like to find out more information about Lutino Adunu, you can Follow them on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/lutino.org/> They also have a GoFundMe online donation site, if you wish to help them finish the building and fill the library with books. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-build-lutino-adunuresource-center>.

Joyfully,
Cindy Shultz, NW WA Synod Vice President | veep@lutheransnw.org



Hanging of the Greens!



This year we will bring back an old tradition called Hanging of the Greens.

This is an event for the whole church and all ages. Come help decorate the church and other areas for the Advent and Christmas Season!

This year we'll need your help to build special displays for each window in the sanctuary, modpodge caroling pages on canvas, put up Christmas trees and more! Enjoy fellowship and food! DATE: **Sat. Nov. 28**

BRINGING FOOD CLOSER TO HOME

A NEW HOME DELIVERY PROGRAM IS HELPING REMOVE BARRIERS AND EXPAND ACCESS TO NUTRITIOUS FOOD ACROSS THE SNOQUALMIE VALLEY.

This September, Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank is expanding access to nutritious food with the launch of our new Home Delivery Program.

For many of our neighbors, getting to the Food Bank isn't always easy. The Valley's rural geography, limited transportation, mobility challenges, disability, aging, illness, or caregiving responsibilities can create barriers, even when food is available. Home delivery allows us to meet neighbors where they are.

Through the **Amazon Community Delivery Program**, eligible households can now receive approximately 25 pounds of balanced groceries delivered directly to their homes each week. Deliveries include a mix of protein, dairy, vegetables, grains, and other staples, with seasonal and locally sourced foods incorporated whenever possible.

But this program is about more than delivering groceries.

Each delivery can also provide recipes, nutrition information, and connections to trusted community resources such as senior services, SNAP enrollment, transportation assistance, veteran services, housing, utilities, and healthcare resources. **At SVFB, we believe food is the beginning of the conversation, not the end.**

And, like so much of what happens at the Food Bank, this program is powered by partnership. **Mount Si**



SVFB's first home delivery in partnership with Amazon and Mount Si Lutheran Church on Sept. 16.

Lutheran Church provides space and volunteers to pack weekly orders. Amazon provides the logistics to deliver them directly to participating households. Referral partners, including Snoqualmie Valley Senior Center and Eastside Friends of Seniors, help connect eligible neighbors with the program.

Together, these partnerships allow us to remove barriers while supporting dignity, independence, and connection. Home delivery is another example of what can happen when nonprofits, businesses, faith communities, volunteers, and neighbors work together, using the strengths of each partner to ensure more people throughout the Valley have access to the food and key resources they need to thrive.

Sometimes expanding access means opening our doors wider. And sometimes, it means bringing the Food Bank directly to someone's door.



SVFB Food Box Packing - Volunteers Needed!

**Each 3rd Thursday of the month
10:00-12:00pm
Luther's Lounge**
Please sign-up in the Fellowship Hall
We need 4-5 volunteers each week
Next Packing Date: October 15

