

AUTUMN 2021

MVLC FALL NEWSLETTER



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Come and see.

PSALM 66:5

JOHN 1:39

JOHN 1:46

JOHN 4:29

Matters of Faith

I am of the generation that likes “oldies but goodies” when it comes to music. I’m drawn to the music of my youthful days since they often bring to mind good memories. I saw the same preference in my parents as they reached back in a similar way, as do my adult kids for their generation.

Reaching back for an oldie but goodie works at times for ministry as well.

Recently purchased for the Deacons, books written by a Missouri Synod pastor and teacher by the name of Leslie Brandt, (*Jesus/Now, Psalms/Now, Meditations Now*) from the 1970s and 1980s offer insight into matters of faith that remain current.

Brandt wrote, based on Mark 10:46-52 (the healing of a blind man), this paragraph on becoming a disciple of Jesus and a servant to our neighbor in need:

The time is past when we can simply hold forth with weekly preaching services and center our activities around the sacred few who gather regularly in our sanctuaries. We may have gotten by with a modified concept of discipleship in years past that all but ignored the needy...the blind, lame, hungry and unsheltered, the dispossessed and disinherited multitudes throughout the world. We left this task for the most part to secular agencies or governmental programs and pacified our consciences by supporting denominational efforts to build a few schools, hospitals and homes for the aged. But no more.

Brandt wrote those words nearly 40 years ago to open the eyes of the church to the needs of the community around it. Yet not much has changed for the church in it’s discipleship. For Brandt, Sunday church could no longer be the sole witness, focus, or activity of Jesus’s followers. Ministry to neighbors in their need is what active love calls for and calls forth.

Mountain View has taken significant steps in that direction. The Food Bank and Community Center bear witness to that. But now the call is to look forward to new ways to do ministry, new ways to meet “neighbor need” in a large world and changing community, new ways to be faithful to the “oldies call” of the “good and golden gospel” to love our neighbors in ways we want to be loved as well.

What new ways come to your heart and mind for us to do just that?

—PASTOR KIM

Rally Day

rally \ 'ra-lē \

verb to come together again to renew an effort

noun a mass meeting intended to arouse group enthusiasm

All are invited to Mountain View Lutheran Church's Rally Day 2021, which will take place at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 12, 2021 in the Gymnasium.

Join us as we kickoff our "school year" of lifelong faith formation for all ages—

from kids age 3 through youth in 12th grade as part of Rock Ministry

and adults of all ages as part of Adult Education and Fellowship.

day \ 09.12.21 \

Rock Ministry

Greetings MVLC Parents,

As we prepare to begin Rock Ministry on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., I'm touching base to let you know what to expect this year. All of our Rock Ministry classes will be meeting in person. (Hooray!) And we have a great team of volunteer mentors who will be leading each of the classes (Thank you mentors!)

For safety protocol, MVLC will follow the guidance given to public schools. We will have everyone mask regardless of vaccination status. In classroom spaces we'll have the children and youth spread out at three-foot distances. This means many of our children's classes will be meeting in different spaces than usual. Clear signage will be out for the first few times we gather.

Perhaps the hardest part of gathering this year will be that all of us are out of the rhythm, myself included. As I've envisioned the return of many ministries this Fall, I have turned to the Book of Acts to be re-grounded in what that rhythm of a worshipping community looks like. In the second chapter, the community of believers lives and meets "day by day." (Acts 2:42, 46)

**Day by day...they devoted themselves
to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and the prayers.**

Know that I hold you each in prayer as you return to those day-by-day rhythms of in-person school and all the activities that fill family life. I pray for vitality and connection through those activities. I also pray for your day-by-day connection to God and to our faith community, that these continue to be your foundation in all things.

Christ's peace in all the beginnings this Fall holds,

—PASTOR BRI

High School

Can I Ask That?

CONVERSATIONS ON FAITH, DOUBT, AND BIG QUESTIONS

Our high school youth will be talking about the big questions of faith and life that they are asking and encountering. Did you ever ask these questions? Are you still asking them? The work of the congregation is to walk alongside our youth (and one another) as we wrestle with questions of faith alongside the realities of the world.

This fall, the **high school youth group** is extending an invitation to congregation members to join them for one of the sessions listed below. The hope of having a member or two present at each class is to provide good listeners and conversation partners for our youth. If you are interested in joining in for a class, please let Pastor Bri know ahead of time via email: bmerkle@mtviewlutheran.org

- Sept. 19 Is the Bible “true”?
- Sept. 26 Is the Bible “true”? Round 2
- Oct. 3 Is God on my side? (sports, politics, gender)
- Oct. 10 Can I believe in God and evolution?
- Oct. 17 Does prayer work?
- Oct. 24 Why does God let bad things happen?
- Oct. 31 Is Hell real?
- Nov. 7 Is the God of the Old Testament different from the God of the New Testament?
- Nov. 21 Are all Christians *really* Christian?

*Thank you to our High School mentors—
Geoffrey Boers, Marnie McManus, and Serena and Pope McHenry—
as they continue to build relationships and have important conversations
with the youth.*

2021 ELCA
YOUTH GATHERING

boundless

GOD BEYOND MEASURE

Every three years, **30,000 high school youth** and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

For the 1st time EVER... Mountain View Youth will be attending the Gathering!

When: July 24 — 28, 2022
**plus a possible travel day on either end*

Who: 8th-12th grade youth (for the 2021-2022 school year)

Cost: \$400/youth for Registration (scholarships available); we'll fund-raise as a group to cover further costs of travel, lodging and food

RSVP: Commitment to attend will be needed in early October

Theme verse:

"I want you to know all about Christ's love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is."

We'll be attending the Gathering with youth from 3 other ELCA churches in the Puyallup area. Registration will take place in October and then we'll begin making flight and travel arrangements. Youth who commit to this trip will work together throughout the 2021-2022 school year to fundraise (beyond the \$400/youth).

There will be an informational Zoom meeting September 26th at 7pm with more details. A meeting link will be emailed to all high school families.

Adult Education for Fall 2021

*Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.*

—PSALM 25:5

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Classes will resume from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Sundays, beginning September 12, 2021. They will be offered in-person and an audio recording will be made available afterwards for those unable to attend in-person.

Sunday September 12 = **RALLY DAY** and Fellowship time.

Sundays 9/19 thru 10/10 = “Parables of Economic Justice”
with PLU Professor Kevin O’Brien.

This four class series will explore issues of economic justice and what Christians are called to do in conversation with the parables of Jesus. Focusing on a different parable and moral challenge each week, we will build an ongoing conversation welcoming multiple perspectives on what it means to love our neighbors in a world of both prosperity and poverty.

Sundays October 17th – 31st = “The Lord’s Prayer”
with Pastor Kim Latterell.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

You may be wondering, *Are Wednesday evenings coming back?*

A central part of our Wednesday gatherings has been table fellowship. Due to the challenges of serving community meals, we are not yet going to offer Wednesday evening meals and classes.

If you are passionate about having Wednesday evenings return, please be in touch with the pastors as we will need a small team of people to imagine what Wednesday nights will look like when they do return, taking current circumstances and realities into account.

Book Recommendations for Small Groups

This list is meant to serve as a resource for the small groups at MVLC. There are a great variety of topics and themes represented in the hopes of offering resources of interest to our various small groups.

Please draw from this list throughout the year. If you have recommendations for additions, please share them with the pastors.

Christian Community

-) *True Community: the Biblical Practice of Koinonia* by Jerry Bridges

Grandparenting/Parenting

-) *The Grandparenting Effect* by Trevecca Okholm
-) *Making a Home for Faith: Nurturing the Spiritual Life of your Children* by Elizabeth Caldwell

Hope

-) *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times* by Bishop Michael Curry
-) *Hope in Disarray: Piecing Our Lives Together in Faith* by Grace Ji-Sun Kim

Faithful Witness

-) *A Burning in My Bones: The Authorized Biography of Eugene H. Peterson*
-) *In Defense of Kindness* by Bruce Reyes-Chow

Christianity in America

-) *Jesus and John Wayne* by Kristin Kobes Du Mez
-) *White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity* by Robert P. Jones

Gender and/or Sexuality

-) *The Great Sex Rescue: The Lies You've Been Taught and How to Recover What God Intended* by Sheila Wray Gregoire, Rebecca Gregoire Lindenbach, and Joanna Sawatsky
-) *The Making of Biblical Womanhood: How the Subjugation of Women Became Gospel Truth* by Beth Allison Barr

God's work. Our hands.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2021

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace. (from the ELCA's "God's Work, Our Hands" webpage)

Sign up in the Life Together Hall for one of our service events and show/share your love for the neighbors of our local communities.

YARD WORK: ASHLEY HOUSE

Clean up the yard of this group home for medically-fragile young adults.
May be required to wear a mask.

GROUNDS CLEAN UP

Clean up the flower beds around the MVLC campus.
Youth are encouraged to participate.

KIDS COOKIE BAKE

Bake cookies for Fellowship Hour and congregational shut-ins.
Kids age 8 and up wanted.

FOOD PACKS FOR KIDS

Fill food packs for the Mountain View Community Center's Food Pack Program.
Kids age 8 and up welcome.

ROADSIDE CLEAN UP

Picking up trash along roads in the City of Edgewood.
No children under age 16.

YARD WORK: NEIGHBOR IN NEED

Clean up the yard for of a single mother with children. May include fence repairs, some painting, et cetera.
May be required to wear a face mask.

RALLY DAY SET UP

Prepare the Education Building for Rock Ministry (Sunday school).
Youth are welcome.

Life Together



ON THE COVER.

Apples. 94 pounds of apples. With lots more apples to pick. And pears. And after that: beets, carrots, potatoes. We have been busy over at the Mountain View Community Garden and it is paying off. Last Saturday we picked and delivered 94 pounds of apples from just two of our trees! Wow!

Now, we admit, our apples are not as pretty as store bought apples. But we ate a couple and they were sweet and juicy and crisp.

Did you grow a garden this summer? Do you have a fruit tree that has given you more than you can eat? Consider donating part of your produce to the Edgewood Community Food Bank. Contact Kate Wright at edgewood@nourishpc.org or 253-826-4654 for information on the best time to drop off donations, and what kind of items they are taking at this time.



COMMUNION BREAD.

Members of MVLC will be baking communion bread at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, September 6, 2021 in the Life Together Hall kitchen. If you are interested in helping, then please contact Diane Nelson at 253-891-7147 or dnelson25@comcast.net for the recipe and more information.

Mountain View Lutheran Church

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*We are called by the Holy Spirit
to live out the love of God in Jesus Christ.*

*Compelled by our calling,
we invite all to worship God
and teach disciples to serve Christ in the world.*

MVLC FACEBOOK PAGE

www.facebook.com/mtviewlutheran

MVLC FLICKR PAGE

www.flickr.com/mtviewlutheran

MVLC YOUTUBE CHANNEL

www.youtube.com/mtviewlutheran

MOUNTAIN VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER

www.mtviewcommunitycenter.org

NOURISH PC FOOD BANKS

www.nourishpc.org

SOUTHWESTERN WASHINGTON SYNOD

www.swwasynod.org