

# LOOKING FORWARD

I will pour out  
my spirit on all flesh;  
your sons and your daughters  
shall prophesy,  
your old men  
shall dream dreams,  
and your young men  
shall see visions.

ANNUAL REPORT  
+ NEWSLETTER

## Lead Pastor of Administration

What are you looking forward to? As your elected, appointed and called leaders of Mountain View Lutheran Church have been preparing their input for this edition of our congregational newsletter, this has been the question each of them have been asked to consider: What are you looking forward to?

I believe that this is a “right time” question not only for our leadership here at Mountain View to be considering, but it is a good and right question for each one of us to consider—to pray about, talk about, imagine, share, and invest in. This forward leaning question kindles within us and amongst us not only the possibilities of what we would like to see, but just as important, to consider what it is that God is calling each of us to be and do.

For each one of us, as the people of Mountain View Lutheran Church, through our baptismal covenant we are called and gathered in this place and time, equipped through the Holy Spirit, and fed by the grace of God in Jesus Christ. As we have learned through so many previous years and affirmed through our shared work with the ALIVE Team, it is here with one another that we can safely dare to dream and imagine the ways God is even now shaping us as new clay upon the potter’s wheel. It is here we have the voices to speak and the ears to hear the cries for difference—for change within us, for change among us, and most certainly, for change through us.

What are you looking forward to? As I consider this question, I am drawn time and again to this unrelenting promise of God from Jeremiah 29: *“For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

The path forward is not always well-defined and clear. As a new path it means that we won’t always get it right the first time, that we will stumble, grow, and learn into new ways of being the voice, the touch, the reflection of God’s will in this time and place. Yet, in the midst of it all we can be gracious and patient with ourselves and with one another anchored in the promise that God is working a new creation within us, amongst us and through us.

What are you looking forward to? So much of this good story has already been identified and lifted up in the ALIVE Transition report. This is your work, and these are your words, these are the collection of your dreams and your responses to the ceaseless stirrings of the Holy Spirit. Each time I read through this amazing report, I gain new insight, I see new possibilities, I hear new longings. And I would encourage each of you to keep pulling out this Transition report, open its pages, read again the words, see the new things that capture your thoughts and your heart. This is your story, this is our story, these are your dreams, and these are our dreams from which we can gain clarity into “What we are looking forward to?” and “What are the paths God is now calling us to walk on?”

What are you looking forward to? Your story, your dreams, the stirrings, and the hungers of your heart matter. I am convinced and committed to the truth that your story and our story is an invaluable story which we must continue to share with one another.

In a sentence, or at least no more than three sentences per submission, I encourage you to send me your responses to the question, “What are you looking forward to?” Think and pray in terms of not only what you envision in and through Mountain View Lutheran Church, but also, what do you hear our Lord calling you to commit to in the new ministries and new life which God is stirring here. I will ask our church staff to help me find the best tools to share what you have shared, so that together we can grow ever more strongly in this ministry upon a hill.

*“Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”* —President Barack Obama

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Mike

Read the **ALIVE Report to the Congregation**  
online at [mtviewlutheran.org/alive-report](http://mtviewlutheran.org/alive-report)



## Pastor of Children, Youth, and Family

*You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other... Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. (Joel 2.27-28)*

The prophet Joel begins with a lament of all the devastation Israel (and even all creation!) has experienced. There seems to be a question of: how will repair and renewal come to the people? Will it ever come?

Joel assures us that in turning to the Lord our God we will see how God is in our midst. The people of God will be filled with dreams and visions and imagination, truly living by the Spirit of God. A way forward will be made known!

In looking forward, we turn to God and notice God's Spirit at work among us, even now. We look forward by leaning into the dreams that *are* filling and inspiring us.



## God's Spirit at work in Rock Ministry: A Discernment Process

A small team, including myself and several parents, have been meeting to identify the needs or gaps within children, youth and family ministry at Mountain View. Part of that naming process also involves dreaming and imagining what is possible and what is hoped for. This has been a life-giving conversation in a year when many things haven't been possible.

*Some* of the needs and dreams we've identified include:

- more opportunity for fellowship!
- a new family program centered around parents and children learning and playing together
- high school youth activities in connection with area-churches for a more robust youth program
- a family-friendly worship service
- more conversations/classes around marriage, parenting and daily life
- recruitment and training of new Rock Ministry mentors

Of course, we can only tackle so many things at once, but it is through such dreams and visions that the Spirit stirs us into new and imaginative ministries. In the coming weeks, this discernment team will set goals for the next year from these hopes and dreams; and we will identify lay leaders to help envision and implement those goals.

Truly, it is a time for dreams and visions to take hold!

I look forward to what the next few years bring for Mountain View and for its children, youth, and family ministry.

Your partner in Christ,  
Pastor Bri



# Lead Pastor of Pastoral Care

In this time of change and challenge, the task at hand is to keep *looking forward*. While what's past may try to hold and hinder, and the present may consume most of our energy, it's the possibilities that the future may hold that work to draw us onward. So, the advice offered is simple: *Watch where you're going!*

If you don't watch, don't take heed of what lies before you, chances are you'll stumble or end up in some ditch instead of on the right road or right path. A brief look back to see where you've been, where you've come from, and then a quick look down and around to see where you are, all help to orient you. The past is gone, the present is fleeting, but the future is where hope truly lies. So, again, watch where you are going, as a person, as a family, as a community seems important advice to heed.

As several tribes of the ancient Israelites move into new territory and a new future, their leader Joshua (22:5-6) offers them words of advice and blessing. He says: *Take good care to observe the commandment and instruction that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you; to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.* Joshua blessed them and then sent them on their way.

As members of Mountain View, it has been important to reflect on the past, to fully engage with the present, but then turn and look toward the new future God is at work to bring our way. The invitation is to trust that what is coming will prove a good gift of God. To trust that new challenges will be met with strength and resolve. To believe that the Spirit will bring and bestow the gifts needed to help this community do what Joshua spoke of: to love God, walk in his ways, keep his commands, hold fast to him and serve him with all that we have and are.

Indeed, the call is to keep looking forward. Yet the task is to not only look but to start walking and working into the future that God will bring. God wants us to see with our eyes, to hear with our ears...but to take what Paul proclaims are the "beautiful feet of those who bring the gospel" and begin not only looking and listening but start walking forward.

Joshua makes it clear for us. Not only are we to *watch where we're going* but to *"Walk this way, please!"*

God's way. With all our heart and soul.

Pastor Kim

## Ministries Coordinator

As I look back over this past year my thoughts go immediately to how much change we have been inundated with. How we have had to adapt and adjust so many things in our lives. We have had to rethink and reimagine what we do and how we do it. This has been especially true as it relates to mission and ministry at Mountain View. But during this time of great change and transition is the opportunity, as we look forward, to rethink and reimagine the ministries at Mountain View. Ministries that help us grow and thrive as a community.

There are two ministries that have existed at Mountain View in various forms in the past that need revitalizing and revisioning. The Welcome Team and The Care Team.

The Welcome Team's focus is on identifying and welcoming visitors. But what does that look like? How do we show our hospitality? How do we encourage visitors to return? How can we extend the invitation into our community? We need members to help us reimagine this vital ministry.

The Care Team in the past has helped provide meals to families in times of death or illness and provided transportation to appointments. When I first became a member at Mountain View I volunteered for this ministry team. I had the privilege to take Pearl Ginther to a few of her medical appointments. Pearl was very grateful but I was blessed by the opportunity to get to know her.

This ministry needs new leadership and fresh ideas. What new tools can we use to coordinate meals for our members? What services can we provide and who can provide them?

As we look to the future of mission and ministry at Mountain View, please take some time to consider where your passion and/or gifts might call you to serve. If either the Welcome Team or the Care Team Ministries interest you, please contact Marlene at the church office (253-863-5171) or email at [mwright@mtviewlutheran.org](mailto:mwright@mtviewlutheran.org).

Marlene Wright



# Deacons

Like so much else in our life together as people of faith, the Deacon Ministry was very negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the ministry depends on Deacons being able to visit in person those who are sick or homebound, the need to adopt measures to keep ourselves safe brought our ministry to an abrupt halt. For much of the year our contact with our fragile brothers and sisters was limited to weekly phone calls. As the weeks and months passed it became increasingly clear that many members of our ministry team felt we could do more. As a result we began to reengage the practice of Sunday Deacon sending along with calling to check in on people. While this looks different than it did before COVID, it has given many a chance to participate once again to meaningfully reach out to members of our faith family.

As we go forward and a hoped for return to a more normal life together, we are excited to be able to renew our in person ministry. We expect that we will be discussing lessons we have learned as a result of our experiences. We expect also there may be new ideas, and perhaps some reimagining as we look ahead to a vibrant and meaningful Deacon Ministry group.

God bless and stay well,  
Ken and Sandi Swanson





## Deacons: A Story

I'd like to illuminate the incredible work of the MVLC deacons. This group of dedicated individuals visit those that for one reason or another cannot come to church. Not only do they bring the elements of communion, but they sit to hear the current stories, anxieties, bright linings present in their situations and truly come to know them and bring the love of Christ in Word, prayer and even deeds. These same people meet together to learn more about how to minister more deeply to our congregation. Deacons are called upon to help set-up, bring goodies, and be present for memorial services held at MVLC in whatever capacity is needed. The call goes out via email and these dedicated people show up due to their love for Christ and neighbor.

I'd also like to mention the inspiration of the music program at MVLC. Singing in the choir and hearing the high quality of Lutheran church music “ministers” to my worship experience. All praise and Glory to God!

Mary Beth Peterson



# Staff Advocacy Committee

***1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58 states: Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.***

This scripture illustrates a servanthood that we are all called upon to respond to as children of God. We, at Mountain View Lutheran Church, are blessed with many that step forward to answer their call of servanthood. One of the areas of unwavering servanthood is the staff, who work diligently to support our congregation in carrying out the mission and vision of our church.

In recognition of their service, and as we all have a responsibility to support our staff, the Church Council has established a Staff Advocacy Committee. This Committee works in the capacity of “human resources or personnel”. The Committee members are Chris Duskin, Amy Lewis and myself. We have been working side-by-side with leadership, Pastor Mike, and the staff to establish how the Committee can be a resource for staff. The Committee has been meeting often and has identified several areas where work is needed, including:

- )] Up-to-date job descriptions
- )] Establishment of an annual review process
- )] Review and revision of personnel policies
- )] Resource for staff issues

An immediate focus is to document the job descriptions of each staff member. This work began in 2020 and has been ongoing with the Committee, Pastor Mike and with each staff member.

As the Chair of the Staff Advocacy Committee, I cannot underscore how blessed we are to have ***Troy Kehm-Goins, Phil Edlund, Marlene Wright, Susan Bloomfield, Yelena Zhurko and Pastors Merkle, Greenwalt and Latterell*** working on behalf of our church. Their commitment and dedication of tireless service is truly a dedication of servant leadership on behalf of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Please join me in thanking them for this commitment.

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact me via e-mail at [jules.williams@yahoo.com](mailto:jules.williams@yahoo.com) or by phone at 253-232-3559.

In Christ's love;  
Julie Williams

# Return to Worship

The Return to Worship Task Force is meeting weekly to make a recommendation on when to return in person worship. We feel the yearning for community, fellowship, gathering, and the longing for worshiping together. We are discussing how to balance the safety of all our brothers and sisters in Christ, with 42% of our congregation aged 65 and older, and our wonderful staff.

Our team is looking at the data from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department, reviewing recommendations from the Department of Health, and the WA State Governor's office. As Phase 2 started on Monday, Feb. 1 and public schools beginning to open, we too are evaluating and discussing how and when to begin in-person worship.

The Task Force is comparing the COVID-19 rates from last fall when we were worshiping in person. Since we considered it safe to meet in November, then we are considering it safe to worship when the numbers are similar. We are setting targets that are near the same numbers as last Fall. The trend was going up when we suspended in-person worship as Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years were predicted to have significantly higher rates. The trend line was increasing in November and the recommendation from the WA State Governor was to stay at home.

As we enter the second week of February, the COVID-19 trend rates are decreasing and vaccine distribution is continuing, we anticipate being together in person soon. The safety protocols will be the same as last Fall. An RSVP system will be in place to sign up for worship. Screening questions will be asked prior to entering the building. Masks will be required and six feet distance is expected. We anticipate starting with one in-person worship service and expanding as needed.

We will continue to offer live-streaming for any inside worship services to allow more people to view worship in the comfort of their home. Please keep an eye on the e-news to announce the exact date of in-person worship.

We look forward to worshiping and praising God together soon.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Sonja Dahl, Return to Worship Task Force Chairperson.



# Property Ministry Management

**Committee Statement:** We work with the Facilities Manager (Phil Edlund) and the Church Council to manage and prioritize Mountain View Lutheran Church (MVLC) physical plant/property maintenance, renovation projects, and capital projects backlog lists to provide for long-term use and best use of limited dollars. MVLC property management efforts preserve the significant physical infrastructure and grounds of our almost ten-acre campus. Members of the Property Committee seek input from MVLC members and others to ensure the needs of our congregation are met to the best of our ability.

**Scheduled Activities:** Monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month and at other times when special needs arise.

**Help Needed Details:** Looking for two committee members with an interest in preserving our physical plant and willing to take on responsibility for monitoring a zone or section of our property and report identified maintenance needs to the property committee.



**Honey Doers Statement:** We meet weekly, and occasionally other times as needed, to repair lighting fixtures, plumbing fixtures, renovate older construction, install new appliances, moving tables/chairs for special events, paint interior/exterior walls, maintain parking lots and walkways, off-season yard work, and provide for the safety of our members and guests.

**Scheduled Activities:** We meet most Thursday mornings, assign work tasks, and then we spend the rest of the morning taking care of the worklist priorities.

**Help Needed Details:** Two or more members willing to work a half-day on most Thursdays, taking care of the Honey Doers worklist. Occasionally, a construction project or painting project may require more time than the one-morning-a week described above. Missed Thursdays are OK with the Honey Doers; life keeps us all pretty busy! Most recent examples of special projects include reworking the electrical outlet layout of the Sanctuary balcony area to accommodate remote broadcasting of church services, replacing the tile floors in the entry area and restrooms of the Chapel basement, renovating the meeting room area of the Chapel basement, and repainting the classrooms and hallways of the Education Building (2019).



## Honey Doers: A Story

You may have wondered, what the Honey Doers have been doing this past year of COVID-19 stay-at-home guidance from Governor Inslee. February 2020 seems like a long time ago, but that's when we all began pondering the impacts of meeting with our small groups at MVLC, and among the Honey Doers, participation quickly tapered off as soon as the governor's office started mandating closures, separation distances from others, washing hands repeatedly and wearing masks. We took about a month off, but it became clear that preventive maintenance and several projects still needed to move forward.

Our first big project late last spring was pulling the failing floor tile from the bathrooms and hallways of the Chapel basement and installing porcelain tile in those spaces. That sounds like a straight-forward project, but we quickly found out that it would require an accelerated learning curve to learn how to install large tiles across an uneven surface (the 95-year-old basement floor of the Chapel). It took some time, but the floors were updated, and now they look great! We didn't stop there. The new flooring made it very apparent that the walls in the basement meeting rooms were long overdue for painting. Volunteers came in to work, typically one at a time, or working on different sides of the room to complete the painting. Then, we installed a chair rail all the way around the main meeting room, in an attempt to keep furniture from banging into the walls in the future. Check it out sometime when you are wandering around the MVLC campus. It shows what can be carefully accomplished, all safety measures considered.

We missed the opportunity for the annual campus spring cleanup last year because of COVID-19 restrictions. This busy task has been fully supported by the Scouting BSA and Girl Scouts troops that use MVLC as a base for activities and training in prior years. So, the Honey Doers took on this task one section at a time, and repeated the cycle a few months ago to clear debris from the beautiful landscaping beds in anticipation of a beautiful spring. What was great for the team was the ability to spread out and work a safe distance away from each other to complete the work while staying in compliance with the governor's mandates.



The Honey Doers also took on the task of clearing young cottonwood and alder trees, blackberry vines, and other invasive plant species from the eastern end of our property, something that there was little time to accomplish during normal times. We found that working outside in small groups provided a great opportunity for the Honey Doers to fellowship with each other while completing the various tasks. The work environment provided opportunities to talk about life issues, dispel rumors about what may have happened almost a year ago, and keep each other cheerful. If you happened to drive onto the campus on Thursday mornings during the past year, you probably saw Honey Doers working away but also leaning on their shovels, from time to time, talking with each other. That has probably been the greatest part of being one of the Honey Doers during our year of COVID-19. We kept in touch with each other, and I always departed at the end of a busy morning feeling mysteriously refreshed.

In addition to the never-ending preventive maintenance tasks that needed to be completed on schedule, we also took on some work that typically had not been performed by the Honey Doers, such as relocating Sanctuary balcony electrical outlets and audio connections so that our latest form of worship could be captured by video without tripping all over the sea of cords on the floor. We also had additional time to do more tasks for the community center and food bank that we usually had to delay when the campus was full of activities prior to COVID-19 restrictions. Our goal has always been to keep the beautiful MVLC campus ready for our eventual return to full, normal worship and activities.

May God be with you!

Dan Neptun

# Altar Guild

Altar Guild provides a vital part in each Sunday worship service by preparing the altar for communion and preparing the traveling boxes for our Deacon Ministry. Other major events include Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Vigil, Christmas Eve, funerals, and weddings.

Altar Guild is a wonderful opportunity to serve on a very important ministry team. You will meet and work with a very dedicated group of members that have fun serving.

*Our mission statement:* It is the privilege of the altar guild to help care for this special place, Mountain View Lutheran, built and dedicated to the honor, mystery, and glory of God.

We always are thankful for and welcome new members. If you are interested in joining the team or would like more information please contact Flora Larson or Diane Nelson.

Flora Larson: 253-848-0495

Diane Nelson: 253-891 7147 • [dlnelson25@comcast.net](mailto:dlnelson25@comcast.net)



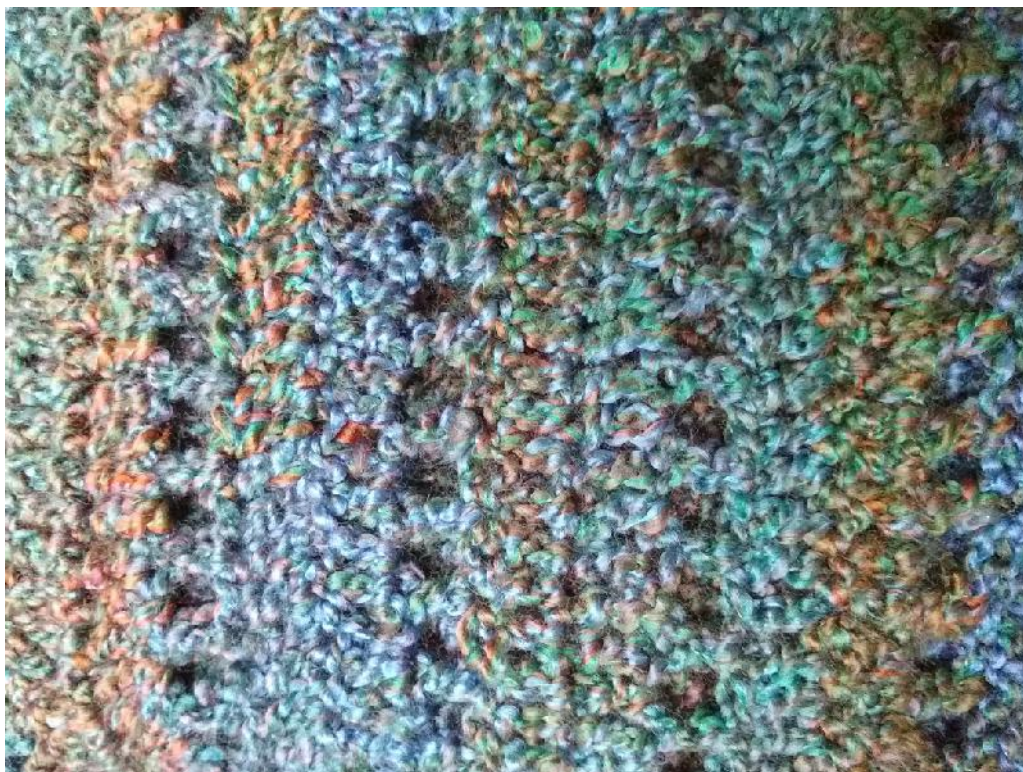
## Prayer Shawls Ministry

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry at Mountain View Lutheran Church started in 2009. About a dozen of us have been knitting and crocheting prayer shawls, which are given to patients in hospitals and nursing homes, as well as to members that no longer are able to attend services or are in grief situations. We've kept our hands busy during the pandemic doing something we love and is close to our hearts. Our shawls are filled with prayers of Faith, Hope, and Love.

The Prayer Shawl "Knitters and Crocheters" meet on the second Thursday of each month in the MVLC Library from 9:30 to 11:30. We hope to return to this in-person gathering as soon as we can and we would welcome all levels, from veteran crocheters to first time stitchers. Just bring your smile and join us.

For more information contact Barbara Egan at 253-845-6770.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Egan





## Friday Nighters

Our small group the Friday Nighters have been meeting once a month on Friday nights on Zoom during this pandemic. It has been a great joy for us to be together each time even if it is only to appear in a box on the computer screen. Our initial conversations are always about family and friends and how COVID has changed the ways we've visited with them. Our meetings usually extend beyond our allotted study time as we continue to visit with one another. We are thankful for our small group fellowship during Mountain View's time of transition, and we look forward to greeting one another in person in the days ahead.

This community in Christ has held us together during the many changes we've faced as a congregation and nation this past year and will continue to do so as we move forward. For each of us the future is filled with hope and anticipation for the time our group will once again meet in each others' homes as members of Mountain View Lutheran's small group ministry.

Bob and Joan Linden



## Communications Director

The recent ALIVE report was a way to talk about what we want in our life together at Mountain View Lutheran Church without dwelling upon what occurred in the past year, which was rather limited due to guidelines, restrictions, and recommendations in the midst of a global pandemic. It was a first (and vital) step in discerning where God may be calling us.

In that same spirit, church leadership and ministry groups were challenged to imagine what the future shape and forms of mission and ministry at MVLC may entail. What will life together look like when we can fully gather together again—in worship, at educational opportunities, as we serve others, when we share meals together?

Part of my role as Communications Director for the congregation is to inform you of the various events and opportunities in life together. But I also believe that another part of my ministry is to hear and share your individual stories and ministry group stories. And that means that you need to be willing to share your stories with me, in order that I am able to share them with the congregation as a whole. (*Hint, hint!*)

In the near future, I will be inviting members of the congregation to share their “stories.” Some of those invitations will be open calls for everyone to share photos and brief reflections based upon a particular event or season of the church year. Some of those invitations will be individual asks to share part of your faith journey with your fellow sisters and brothers in Christ.

Therefore, I challenge you to begin praying, reflecting, dreaming, and remembering the “things of faith” that make you *who* you are and *whose* you are.

*Who has been a teacher of the faith, a mentor, or a spiritual guide to you?*

*What is one of your favorite memories of life together at Mountain View?*

*What are the gifts that God has given you to share with this community of faith?*

*What is something you look forward to as we “return to normal” later in the year?*

I’m looking forward to reading and hearing your stories. I’m looking forward to sharing them with the members of our congregation.

Troy Kehm-Goins

# Peace and Justice Ministry Group

*Everything that is done in the world is done by hope.* —Martin Luther

When the Peace and Justice Ministry Group was asked to dream, to vision, to imagine what our ministry could be like in the future, we almost immediately reverted to the past. We want to see more people volunteering at the food bank. We want to see more people helping us when we do the Armory Meal for St. Francis House. We want to see more involvement in groups like Faith Action Network, or the working on preventing homelessness. We want to have a real discussion about topics like domestic violence, gun violence, and what we can do to help.

It sounds great. And very, very familiar. Because it is what we almost always say when asked about the future. And it is all good stuff. Needed stuff.

We are not the largest ministry group in the congregation, but we are not small: ten to twelve congregation members are regularly involved, working on issues, reading books, studying the text, and learning.

Still, what is our vision for the *future*?

Our vision is a congregation that doesn't see church ending at the end of the parking lot. Rather, a congregation that takes seriously Christ's command to "go and do likewise" seriously, and goes out into the world each Sunday, refreshed, and renewed and ready to care for their neighbor. A congregation that finds ways to come together, instead of simply leave at the end of church service on Sundays.

Now, before you go running for the door to escape, ask yourself "What could that look like?" Put aside the job, the kids and all the things you think get in the way of helping your neighbor in need and ask yourself what it would look like for you.

It might look like becoming a trained Mental Health First Aid Volunteer, someone who can see when someone is in trouble—and help connect them to real help.

It might look like raising an extra row of vegetables in your garden for the food bank.

It might look like making a call to a friend, just to see how they are doing.

It might look like having a half dozen "homeless" kits in your car to hand to a person in need.

It might look like mentoring community youth.



We must be honest: we do not know all the answers to what it will look like. Part of that will depend on *you*, and how you want to get involved.

We believe that every member of this congregation can make a difference. And that even those things that appear small can have a huge impact. An example of this is Verna Burrows; her daughter Karen Quandt is a new member of our group. Verna has occasionally attended Mountain View, though her home church has been Faith Family in Milton.

When Verna learned last spring that we wanted to plant some of the unused raised beds in the garden to provide food to the food bank, she volunteered for a huge job: weeding them out. They had not been planted in a couple of years, and the weeds were waist high. We all wanted to plant those beds—but no one was excited about weeding them. No one except Verna.

Verna, who wasn't even a church member. She brought along her son-in-law Gene, and they weeded those beds out, and got them ready to plant. Then she shared several tomato plants and zucchini plants to help get things started. Maybe that doesn't sound like a big deal. But when we took tomatoes, zucchini, carrots, potatoes, and beets to the food bank, it felt like a big deal. It felt like boxes and bags of fresh vegetables for people who needed them. It felt like sharing hope.

Verna passed away recently from cancer, but in her wake she left a lot of hope. Whether it was pulling weeds from a garden or sending an Elvis impersonator to entertain (on the lawn, in a socially distanced way) at a group home for medically fragile youth in Edgewood who are shut in during a pandemic, she created a little joy and a little hope. What more could we want from anyone in our life?

We all have a purpose—some might even call it a “holy purpose.” Going forward, we hope to help you and other members of the congregation connect to your purpose. Maybe you are passionate disability issues, or want to learn more about prison outreach, or any of the other possible ways that we can help our neighbor. Our hope is to have opportunities to provide more education and connections on a variety of topics that help us recognize our faith has real world/real time implications.

We invite you...and you...and, yes, *you*...to consider joining us. We currently meet online via zoom, the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining us, email Beth Ann at [bajohnsonfreelance@gmail.com](mailto:bajohnsonfreelance@gmail.com) or contact Kristi Ceder at [kceder@gmail.com](mailto:kceder@gmail.com) and we will make sure you get the zoom link.

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. —ROMANS 15:13*

# LOOKING FORWARD

## What is your story?

What is your faith journey?

What part does Mountain View Lutheran Church play in that journey?

What do you think MVLC's story entails?

How do you share MVLC's story with people in your life—family, friends, neighbors, coworkers?

What do you imagine is unfolding for us at MVLC?



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- ) Front cover: “Life,” photograph, by Chaewon Lee, [unsplash.com/photos/VfhoKbFv16Y](https://unsplash.com/photos/VfhoKbFv16Y). Public domain via Unsplash. The verse is Joel 2:28.
- ) Pages 4 and 5: Photographs by Pastor Bri Merkle.
- ) Pages 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, and 22: Photographs by Troy Kehm-Goins.
- ) page 24: Illustration of the MVLC Sanctuary, 2021, India ink, graphite, and colored pencil, by Troy Kehm-Goins.

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# **Mountain View Lutheran Church**

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