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M V L C
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MATTERS of FAITH

Martin Luther was convinced that government was a gift from God; that good government was a blessing; that Christians needed to be educated in order to serve well in government. Luther believed that government is responsible to God and its' primary role is to contain and punish evil, maintain peace and good order, and work to ensure that no person goes hungry or is need of basic and necessary goods and services.

To move government in that direction, Luther and his supporters started a community chest that collected money from business and government leaders, a well as a tax upon the rich. From that chest of money, the poor were fed and clothed and offered interest free loans. Money from that chest was also used to bring medical care to the poor at no cost to them. They started the public school system to offer education to all students and not simply the wealthy. And they offered education to girls and women so that at one time, girls made up half the number of students in school. These ministries spread in popularity and use throughout Europe and formed the foundation of modern European health and education systems to this day. Governments embraced these social efforts.

Luther also taught that we are to pray for our leaders, support them when they do right for the common good, and challenge and criticize them when they fail to carry out their God-given duties. And when their policies seek to do things that harm such a mandate, we are to disobey them.

Social welfare. Social services. Free and universal health care. Public schools for all instead of private schools for the few and wealthy. Low-cost subsidized business and education loans for the poor. Government that serves the common good not just the powerful or wealthy few. A church engaged in the world for good.

Do these teachings and actions fit with your understanding of faithfulness to the gospel? Do they motivate you to speak up, act out, serve the common good? Will they lead to an examination of your support of politicians and political parties?

If so, you are a Lutheran Christian. If not, just who are you?

—Pastor Kim Latterell



PRAYERS of the CHURCH

We pray for members of our congregation in need of healing.

- J Wanda Danielson.
- J Bruce and Janice Deck.
- J Darrel Hagen.
- J Ione Huseboe.
- J Barb Keehnel.
- J Lorraine Larson.
- J Don Mott.
- J Darel Roa.
- J Ken Sturgeon.
- J Jim and Zoya Walker.

We pray for our family and friends in need of healing.

- J George Bachner, son of Ann Marie Bachner.
- J Sue Baker, mother of Diane Tyler.
- J Verna Burrows, mother of Karen Quandt.
- J Jim Gruwell, nephew of Jeanne Pouley.
- J Sandra Gruwell, sister of Jeanne Pouley.
- J Dennis Hulse, friend of Bob and Joan Linden.
- J Dianne Kimble, sister of Darlene Thompson.
- J Daniel Newton, son of David and Eileen Newton.
- J Gary Oordt, nephew-in-law of Jeanne Pouley.
- J Ken Rammer, cousin of Ione Huseboe.
- J Marshall Smith, brother-in-law of Ann Yost.
- J Pete Thibadeau, husband of Claudia Thibadeau.
- J Sheryl and her daughter Amanda, friends of Ione Huseboe.

We pray for those who mourn the deaths of loved ones.

- J Lucine, Denise, and Josh Lane and family at the death of husband, father-in-law, and grandfather Jim Lane.
- J Beth Ann Johnson and family at the death of her uncle Russ Johnson.
- J Bill White and family at the death of his wife Jackie White.
- J Peggy Thurston and family at the death of her cousin Terry's wife.
- J Barb Keehnel and family at the death of husband Roy.
- J Bob and Debbie Ballard and family at the death of father and father-in-law Gerald Ballard.
- J Marilyn, Nils, Julie, Shannon, and Ivan Luckman, and family at the death of husband, father, father-in-law, and grandfather Stewart Luckman.
- J Lois Carlson and Cindy Jones and family at the death of brother and uncle Donald Weber.
- J Becky, Chris, Nathaniel, Gretchen, and Joanna Schaefer, and family at the death of father, father-in-law, and grandfather Steven Milton Featherkile.
- J Bill Hansen and family at the death of his aunt Barbara.

PRAYERS of the CHURCH

We pray for members of our congregation who are celebrating baptismal anniversaries in February.

- J Holly Barlow.
- J Ramon Barnes.
- J Sue Larson.
- J Amy Lewis.
- J David Lewis.
- J Sophia Lewis.
- J David Maxwell.
- J Serena McHenry.
- J Anne Roff.
- J Jan Sisco.
- J Cooper Webster.

Are any among you suffering?

They should pray.

Are any cheerful?

They should sing songs of praise.

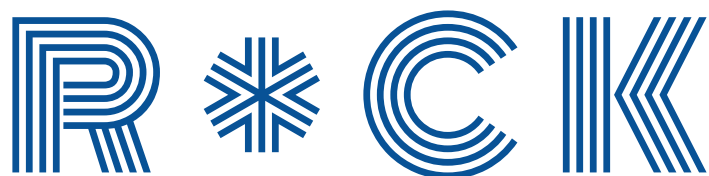
Are any among you sick?

*They should call for the elders of the church
and have them pray over them,
anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.*

*The prayer of faith will save the sick,
and the Lord will raise them up;
and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.*

*Therefore confess your sins to one another,
and pray for one another,
so that you may be healed.*

*The prayer of the righteous
is powerful and effective.* —HEBREWS 5:13-16



MINISTRY

What's been happening in Rock Ministry?

One of the great disadvantages of not meeting on-site at the church is that we don't get to see all our children and youth and the ways they are active in faith right now. Even though you haven't seen them, ministry with our children and youth has continued through all the challenges and changes of COVID.



Suzie sighting!

Highlights of Ministry from Fall 2020.

All children and youth had Back To School Kits delivered with a devotion and goodies in September. High school youth had fresh donuts & a devotion delivered to their doorstep on the first day of school.

We had lots of campfires! Both Middle Rock (5th-7th grades) and High School Youth took advantage of the new fire pit, with time for devotions and outdoor games.

Middle Rock meet in-person in small groups of 5 up until late November when Covid precautions increased. We also had an online-version small group for youth who weren't able to meet in person. Surprisingly, we've had better participation from this age-group during Covid times than prior. Almost the whole roster has been frequently active, so we find ourselves with the very good challenge of pin-pointing what has been working so well!

Children ages 2 through 4th grade received weekly "Mt. View Epistles" in the mail with a devotion based on the lectionary epistle. They also received a special craft packet for the Festival of All Saints, as well as a special craft packet for the week of Christmas. A Jesse Tree Advent daily devotion was also sent to all these families.

In December, church members made cookies for our youth, which were then delivered along with decorating supplies. Children from 2nd grade up through High School gathered in online Zoom sessions with their Rock Ministry mentors to decorate these cookies and enjoy each other's company.

Several inter-generational small groups were formed to support our 'younger' moms during this stressful time in their lives. These groups consist of 2-3 young moms and 2 'wise women' of the congregation. The small groups engaged in conversation, faith-based reflection and vespers worship together.

What is happening in Winter/Spring 2021.

Children Age 2 through 4th grade: 22 families are receiving weekly devotions (usually based on a lectionary reading for the week). Sam and Cindy Jones have been helping adapt Godly Play materials (usually used on Sunday mornings) so that they are easy for families to use at home. Families also receive a ‘family check-in’ page with news, photos and updates from one of our MVLC families.

Each family also received a “home altar” kit that has a liturgical cloth (sewn by MVLC members Joan Linden and Marie Philipsen), a candle and other devotional tools. *COVID times have been a reminder that faith practiced in the home is as important as faith expressed in communal worship; we hope to equip our families to do so.*

Youth from 5th – 7th grade continue to gather for weekly Zoom Youth Group with devotions, prayer and time for fellowship/games. In January we began a lesson series on being made in the image of God. The lessons are part of the curriculum that Mountain View members wrote about 10 years ago when Rock Ministry was established. This curriculum hasn’t been used for some time but is very good content. The image of God lessons are also age appropriate to the ‘tween’ stage of changing bodies, changing friendships, and changing perceptions of their identity.

High school youth from 8th – 12th grades will have occasional Zoom gatherings for check in, devotion and prayer. Our emphasis is equally on connecting the youth beyond technology, particularly in 1-on-1 relationships: youth to youth and MVLC adults/mentors to youth.

Our winter focus will be on what it means to be people of “good news” to one another. We are encouraging the youth to support and build up one another with intentional Acts of Kindness.

Once small group in-person gatherings are possible, we’ll gather the youth for as many outdoor activities as possible, as these have been a highlight.

How can you help?

Stamps. We need more stamps for weekly mailings to families! Each week we send out 22 letters or packets for our children's ministry. Stamps can be mailed to the church or dropped off at the office Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Home Deliveries. We frequently need drivers to drop off special kits at children's and youths' houses. These can be no-contact deliveries—safe for anyone to do. You just need to be comfortable navigating to new addresses. Contact Pastor Bri if you are available to help.
(bmerkle@mtviewlutheran.org or 253-863-5171, ext. 111)

Reach Out! As the Body of Christ, you are 'adopted' family for our children and youth. Is there a child, youth or family you know and haven't seen or heard from? Send them a note or drop off cookies. Your presence and ministry with them is deeply valued.



Timmy Hamburg visiting Art Larson (January 2021). Know that your relationships to our children and youth matter. Faith is passed on from "generation to generation."



ALIVE REPORT JANUARY 2021

Active Listening. Imagination.
Vision. Empowerment.

ALIVE Co-Chairs:

Barry Johnsrud
Gretchen Johnsrud

ALIVE Team:

Megan Hutton
Terry Jensen
Connie McCrossin
Karen Quandt
Mary Quinn
Chris Schaefer
Kim Soeder
Murphy Thompson

Report Author:

Hannah Johnsrud

READ the ALIVE Report to the Congregation
at <https://www.mtviewlutheran.org/alivereport.pdf>

JOIN the Zoom meeting at 9 a.m. on Sunday 1/31
for an update on that status of our transition process, and a
sharing of some of the things we are learning and
discovering about ourselves as we move forward into what
our Lord is unfolding before us.

JOIN the Zoom meeting at 9 a.m. on Sunday 2/7
for a conversation with Southwestern Washington Synod
Bishop Richard Jaech, your pastors, and members of the
MVLC Church Council regarding process, feelings, and
healing that happens in a pastoral leadership change.

Same Zoom information for both meetings:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89400672108?
pwd=QkZncnpqMUVwV1QwL2sxVjNrTGhqZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89400672108?pwd=QkZncnpqMUVwV1QwL2sxVjNrTGhqZz09)

Meeting ID: 894 0067 2108

Passcode: 422169

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,89400672108# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 894 0067 2108

looking ahead to Lenten midweek worship

2020 was a challenging year in so very many ways. Tears in the fabric of community life appeared in our politics, economics, healthcare, social lives, and faith life, often leading to division and occasionally to violence.

It seems a good time and season for reflection on what was and on what, by God's grace, can be a better present and more hopeful future.

The Lenten season at Mountain View begins with an *Ash Wednesday* PRKNPDR ("Park and Ponder") service in the parking lot where participants receive Communion and will be marked with the ashes of repentance and mortality. The following five Wednesday services will be also be in the parking lot and will help us take time to ***lament*** our struggles, ***confess*** our brokenness, ***pause*** to catch our breath, ***praise*** God for sustaining us, and then ***proclaim*** the goodness of God in Jesus Christ for all the world to hear. Worship will lean into the hopes, fears, and dreams found in the Book of Psalms.

To honor the tradition of Lenten soup suppers, members will be provided recipes for preparing soup at home for each Wednesday in Lent. Two unique recipes will be available each week, one of them vegetarian. Members are encouraged to make and eat the chosen soup at home prior to the worship at 7:00 p.m.

We remain in a less-than-normal time, hungering for normalcy and community. Our hope and prayers are that we will be strengthened by this 2021 *season of reflection and renewal*, together in worship and prayer.

Ash Wednesday 2/17

Lenten Midweek Worship Wednesdays 2/24 • 3/3 • 3/10 • 3/17 • 3/24



For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

During the season of Christmas, Geoffrey Boers and Barry Johnsrud hosted two virtual gatherings of young adults—one for those age 18 to 23 and another for those age 24 to 30 (pictured above).

Look at those smiles!

Many thanks to Geoffrey and Barry for offering a space for the young adults of MVLC to gather together.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

In this time of significant change regarding the leadership gifts of women (think elected and appointed positions in the new Administration for “*first woman to...*”), it seems fitting to look at a host of women in the bible stories that have been largely overlooked.

People like *Abishag, Dinah, Gomer, Jael, Salome, Jezebel, Judith, Susanna*, and more. Their stories are often brief, edgy, and unsettling, and yet relevant to the challenges of being a woman in our still often male dominated system. Some of their stories are cringeworthy and some simply smile-worthy!

Pastor Kim will be the host and resource. Bible reading assignments will be posted.

EVERY Thursday afternoon • 1:00 p.m. • via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81130068567?pwd=RlovN1dmUFRHaTd4NUtQUE9ubTBadz09>

Meeting ID: 811 3006 8567 / Passcode: 169388

BIBBLE
STUDY

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

This long-standing Bible study continues to meet each week. They are currently studying some of the letters of the Apostle Paul, using *The Letters to the Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians (The New Daily Study Bible)* by William Barclay.

Participants volunteer to serve as facilitate and lead prayer each week.

The Bible study officially starts at 7:30 a.m. but may be joined for conversation at 7:00 a.m.

EVERY Saturday morning • 7:30 a.m. • via Zoom

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/677918519?
pwd=M1RKWVh2ZoxKaldBc1FvOGhGL1pPZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/677918519?pwd=M1RKWVh2ZoxKaldBc1FvOGhGL1pPZz09)

Meeting ID: 677 918 519 / Passcode: 000795

B I B L E
STUDY



Allie Smith, of Bonney Lake, is the very first female Eagle Scout of Scout Troop 525 (which is chartered by MVLC.)

“At Midtown Park in Bonney Lake, Allie fixed up and redid a trail that was part of the previous trail system that had become overgrown and disorganized. Part of the work included widening the walkway, spreading bark and adding signage.” (from *The Suburban Times*)

Congratulations to Allie on her achievement!

Images include:

- J Page 3: Photograph of the Chapel as the sun readies to sink behind North Hill, 2021, by Troy Kehm-Goins.
- J Page 6: Photograph of Suzie, 2021, by Pastor Briana Merkle.
- J Page 9: Photograph of Timmy, 2021, by Jee Hamburg.
- J Page 10: Cover of the “ALIVE Report,” 2021, created by Hannah Johnsrud.
- J Page 13: Screenshot of MVLC young adult gathering, 2020, by Geoffrey Boers.
- J Page 16: Photograph of Allie Smith, by the Smith family.
- J Back cover: Photographs of @home altar kits, 2021, by Pastor Briana Merkle. Kits were dropped off at the homes of families whose children are part of elementary school age Rock Ministry classes.

Mountain View Lutheran Church

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