

GROWING IN *Grace*

The Monthly Newsletter of Morning † Star Lutheran and Monroe United Methodist Churches

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August 2021

How are YOUR Soles??



August already! It's been a whirlwind summer it seems, as your church teams of volunteers have been working hard and meeting often to keep the weekly on-line services going, and prepare for the reopening of the church for in-person services COMING SOON after we get all the summer vacation schedules over with and the new needed equipment installed in the sanctuary. It sure will be good to see real faces in the pews looking back, and not having to just imagine them as I have been! 😊

I don't have to tell any of you how hard the last 16 months has been on so many, but I know I learned so much from this pandemic and lock down about being resilient and keeping the faith and not letting go of the things that are important to us, and I learned that in large part to those of you, in BOTH churches, who have given of your time and your resources, consistently all along as you were able, to support MUMC-MSLC / United in Grace.

I should never doubt that everything will work out fine if I just have faith! If God sends us on *strong paths*, we are provided *strong shoes*! Mine might need new soles, but they have worked just fine so far – how about yours?

Nancy Franke
MUMC Financial Secretary



From the Spirit, August 2021

My dining room table has been my office for sixteen months. Right now, as I look at the surface I see my computer, a picture of my kids, my phone, a coffee cup, two glasses filled half-way with water, my notebook, gum, sticky notes, my Bible, The Management of Policies and Procedures for Management of the Roster of the ELCA, The ELCA Constitution, various stacks of paper, some books I want to read, the ELW, my devotion book, and pushed way out of the way, at the very edge of the table, my lovely quilted table runner and candles that used to sit in the middle of the dining room table (when it wasn't being used to eat on).

If my dining room table could speak, it would say, "I am tired. I am tired of you sitting here day after day. I am tired of you making a mess on me. I am tired of not being used for what I'm supposed to be used for. I am tired."

Or maybe ... I'm projecting.

When this pandemic first hit, the synod staff and I went into emergency mode. We made plans. We sent out emails. We revised (and revised and revised) COVID-19 guidelines. Like you, we kept going and going. And we have survived. And you have survived.

Together, we have survived. And together ... we are tired.

As you might recall, Jesus also got tired. There are many verses throughout the Gospels where we read: "Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." ... "Jesus was sleeping." ... "He didn't want anyone to know which house he was staying in."

And it didn't start in the Gospels. Truly, from the beginning of time, we hear how God rested. In Genesis, God rested on the seventh day. And God understood rest not only for Godself but also for the very creatures that God created. The only thing that God calls holy in the creation account is the sabbath. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments God specifically declared, "Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy." And this commandment was for everyone – including outsiders and animals. Fully fifteen percent of life was to be sabbath. In this commandment we hear how the sabbath is sacred for those who live in relationship with a living God – this God who rescued people from slavery in a land where no rest was allowed.

I think somewhere we forgot the rhythms that God placed on this earth. The rhythm that is in the very way that trees grow and lay dormant; how tides ebb and flow; how spring moves into summer and into fall and into winter and back to spring. While it is true that Jesus did say, "The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath," he also said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Sabbath is a time of rest, a time of renewal, and a time to listen for what God is up to in our lives, in our communities, and in our world. Sabbath is a time to reflect on the world without rushing to "fix it." Sabbath is not "guilt-ridden stolen time." Instead, sabbath is holy. Sabbath is sacred. Sabbath is commanded and modeled by God.

Beloveds, we are called to sabbath. We are called to sabbath even when it seems the needs of all are pressing in on us. While you – and your vocations, your desires, your gifts, your responsibilities – are important, so is understanding that the world does not revolve around your work. And, in taking sabbath, you become a better leader and servant.

Enjoy August. Take sabbath. Let others take sabbath. The world is in good hands. In the best hands. In God's hands. (And yes, I am going to clean off my dining room table. Soon.)

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee



The NWWA ELCA Synod is providing pre-recorded sermons from the rostered synod staff members for the first Sunday of the month through October.

The sermon on August 1 is provided by Bishop Shelley Wee.

Margaret Ray, retired, licensed, local pastor, will offer the sermon on August 15 as Pastor Malcolm enjoys his vacation.

AUGUST 2021 MORNING STAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

<u>NON-DESIGNATED OFFERINGS AND EXPENSES</u>			
	2021 Budget	May Actual	June Actual
Offerings	\$ 8,930	\$ 8,749	\$ 7,989
Expenses	\$10,163	\$10,040	\$10,383
Surplus/deficit		- \$ 1,291	- \$ 2,394

2021 MSLC COUNCIL

Administrative Director	Missy Maxson	206-437-2535
Treasurer	Brian Johnson	452-503-8352
Community Relations	Cindy Gulbranson	425-210-2095
Facilities	Jay Morgan	425-903-1678
Secretary	Marla Wardell	360-794-4072
Ministry Director	Jill Sumpter	360-348-7231
Worship	Kathi Cooley	425-293-8694

AUGUST 2021 MONROE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH


Below are the June 2021 figures from the treasurers report – thanks, Tanya !

	June 2021	YTD 2021
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$ 7,605.53	\$ 42,424.51
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 6,188.57	\$ 39,851.00

+ \$ 1,416.96 + \$ 2,573.51

Still doing GREAT! Thank you ALL! If you would like copy of any months treasures report, please email the church at: office@monroeamonline.org

Now that we are able, it's time to start thinking about the few projects that need to be done around the church grounds to sprue things up for our reopening. **Volunteers from both congregations are needed** (as we are all going forward as ONE congregation soon).

 Anybody itching to get your paintbrushes in use again on our church? Now that the annex is finished and has a brand new coat of paint on it, the wheel chair ramp railings at the front door of the annex are looking a little shabby and could use a coat of white paint as well. It will require a bit of sanding on the old, peeling wood before paint is applied (which I can help with if we can get a painting crew together). If you are able to help, let me know by emailing me at nfranke@comcast.net and we can set a date for it!

Also, thanks to Ric Hart who has been doing some trimming on the church grounds – looks great, Ric!

Congrats to Tanya and John Hubbard as they formally celebrated the marriage of their daughter, Claudia, to Max Larsen on July 24th! Hard to believe that Claudia is married! Many of us remember her as a little girl growing up at MUMC! We wish Claudia and Max a long and happy marriage and Gods blessings on the years to come!

Some happy /sad news as we say good bye to our church family members, **Jim and Jan Gee** who are moving to Auburn to live on their daughter's property. New address is 31403 44th Ave S , Auburn, WA 98001. Though we will miss them, I know they will enjoy being so close to their daughter and other family and friends in their new home. Thanks for all you have done to support MUMC throughout the years, Jim and Jan, and our prayers and blessings go with you!

Enjoy your summertime and stay safe in the heat and remember that the virus is still a menace to contend with so keep you masks on!

Blessings!

Nancy Franke
Financial Secretary

2021 MUMC LAY LEADERSHIP

Board of Trustees Co-Chairs	Chris & Don Hoerner	360-563-9309
Finance Chair	Mike Obright	206-369-5028
Treasurer	Tanya Hubbard	425-210-2095
Financial Secretary	Nancy Franke	360-794-6954
Staff-Parish Relations Committee	Judie Esqueda	951-201-0061
Membership Secretary	Rhonda Dean	425-359-2851
Lay Leader to Annual Conference	Nancy Franke	360-794-6954
UMW President	Jasmine Ray-Symms	425-223-9866
Recording Secretary	Margaret Ray	509-432-3029



Morning Star Lutheran Church



Monroe United Methodist Church

412 South Lewis Street

Monroe, WA 98272-4149

August



August 1: 10TH PENTECOST ~ Online worship with Holy Communion ~ Scripture: Psalm 78:23-29; John 6:24-35
August 8: 11TH PENTECOST ~ Online worship ~ Scripture: Psalm 85:8-13; Matthew 14:22-33
August 15: 12TH PENTECOST ~ Online worship with Holy Communion ~ Scripture: Psalm 39:9-14; Matthew 15:10-28
August 22: 13TH PENTECOST ~ Online worship ~ Scripture: Psalm 138; Matthew 16:13-20
August 29: 14TH PENTECOST ~ Online worship ~ Scripture: Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

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MONROE UNITED METHODIST

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Music Director: Lee Ann Obright: 206-369-1621

Website: www.monroeuonline.org

MORNING STAR LUTHERAN

Office Administrator: Kathi Cooley

Cell Phone: 425-293-8694

Phone: 360-794-2111

Email: mvlc@morningstarlc.org

Music Director: Jill Sumpter: 360-348-7231

Website: www.morningstarlc.org

worship
ONLINE

**Morning Star Lutheran Church &
Monroe United Methodist
Church**

The service is ready for viewing
Sundays after 6:00 a.m. and is
available 24/7.

YouTube



what are other words for rerun?

rebroadcast, repeat, repetition, replay, echo, renew, recite, reiterate, redo, rehearse



The Worship Team is trying something a little different with our online worship services. Beginning Sunday, August 8, our services will be a *hybrid* service; a mix of old and new. There will be a rebroadcast, or rerun if you prefer, of the summer services of 2020. The services will have updated announcements with current information, a different reading or sermon occasionally, and we may change a hymn or two.

Thank you for worshipping with us each Sunday, and thank you for your support and understanding as the Worship Team takes a bit of time for rest and renewal in anticipation for planning our in-person worship in the fall.

For those who will not join us in person, please know that it is our intention to continue to provide an online worship experience and we are currently working out what that will look like.

Kathi Cooley

Worship Team Coordinator

SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Average monthly views for YouTube, Facebook and Zoom services combined:

July: 55

June: 54

May: 48

Thank you for your constant and loyal support of

Hazel's Little Free Pantry

We've decided to keep the pantry in the portico next to the church until we resume in-person worship. It's nice being out of the weather when restocking and we're sure our guests enjoy the cool shade.

Pantry Needs:

The pantry consistently runs short of the following: chili, canned or boxed meals & soup (especially cup-o-soup types), and shelf stable milk (small sizes). All are needed. Vienna sausage, tuna and fruit cups are also quite popular, as is bottled water.

As always, if you'd rather donate money, we'll do the shopping for you!

Thank you!

Call or text if you have any questions or would like to donate:

Kathi Cooley: 425-293-8694 - Nancy Franke: 425-345-6954 - Cindy Gulbranson: 425-210-2095



1 Corinthians 13:1-3: “If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.”

For those of us who strive to follow Christ, sometimes knowing what to do, what it truly means to be a disciple of Christ, can be challenging. We have God’s Word but good people disagree with what the Bible really says about many issues: immigration, abortion, homosexuality, or women’s roles in the church just to name a few. But there are some things that are not negotiable: Loving God and Loving Others. 1 Corinthians 13 makes it very clear what the “bottom line” is regarding Christianity: Love.

When we disagree on current issues it comes back to Love. It doesn’t matter what we do if it isn’t built on Love. It doesn’t matter if we think we’re “right” if we don’t have Love. Without Love we will never be right with God or his people. Without love “I am nothing”. Without love “I gain nothing”. Serving God means loving others. Following God means loving others. Being a Christian = loving others.

Jasmine Ray-Symms
 425-223-9866
jasisymms@outlook.com



On July 19 Morning Star said good by to several long time members, as Janet Blade and the Schroeder family, Jeff, Jenny, and Megan, moved to Prescott, Arizona. Our sadness in saying goodbye is mixed with joy and hopefulness for you all.

Thank you for everything you’ve done to support MSCL throughout the years. Your time spent serving on the Council, sewing with the Quilters, and teaching the Word of Christ to our children will always be remembered.

May the lord bless and watch over you as you move on to the next chapter of your life's.

August Birthday & Anniversary* Celebrations

1	Denny & Diana Coates *	18	Autumn Wardell
4	Bob & Nancy Franke *	22	Josh Skittral
8	Barbara Nagy	24	Mary McCullough
8	Lee Ann Obright	26	Martin & Gwen Paietta *
10	Peter & Missy Maxson *	28	Linda Bender
10	Rita Stuff	29	Doug & Linda Bender *
14	Kianna Cooley	31	Michelle Stuff
15	Jim Bulis		

(If you had an August celebration and you don't see your name, please call or email Kathi and let her know.)