

MVLC February 2019 NEWSLETTER



FAITH BEING CAUGHT

Young parents in the congregation occasionally share moments when their kids have clearly remembered and applied their faith as it has been formed within the community of Mountain View Lutheran Church. For example, a child will be heard singing “*Up from the waters God has claimed you, up from the waters child of life! Praise to the one who called and named you, up from the waters into life!*” ... maybe not with all the correct words yet... but none-the-less singing to the spirit of these words in the midst of their daily, baptized life.

When I hear such stories, I recall the idea of faith being caught, not just taught.

*“It is chiefly by the parents living the Christian story that their children will come to pick it up and to develop the skills necessary to be faithful to it. The story and the skills are only partially conveyed in explicit lessons. Christianity, it has been said, is more caught than taught, and the model for learning it is closer to that of an apprenticeship than that of a classroom.” (C. Ellis Nelson, in *Where Faith Begins*)*

This Christian apprenticeship takes place in the home with parents, and amidst the relationships of the church, and through the various transitions of childhood, to youth, to adulthood. When *parents and congregation* make vows at a baptism, this apprenticeship is what we vow to do. It is offered in a very real and honest way—based on sharing both the successes and failures of our own striving toward faithfulness, so that younger generations might continue to strive toward faithfulness themselves.

For the remaining time in our Marriage and Family ExALT class, we will accompany one another on this journey of being the primary faith educators in our children and youth’s lives. We will look at stages of development among children and youth, and how faith development parallels these. We’ll consider how to accompany our children and youth in faith when they face suffering or trials. We’ll study the expression of family life in the New Testament’s vision for Christian community. And most importantly, we’ll discuss and share our own stories of family life, drawing from one another’s experience and support.

Please join in these discussions on our daily living as Christian families:
January 30, February 6, and February 13.

God’s grace and peace be with you and your family in the midst of daily, baptized life,

Pastor Bri Merkle

PRAYERS of the CHURCH

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

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

-] Aidan Cornell and family at the death of her grandfather Dennis Doohan.
-] Chuck Huber and family at the death of his father Carl Huber.
-] Helen Harwood and family at the death of her brother Don Blomdahl.
-] Dorothy Nelson and family at the death of her sister-in-law Helen Wilhelm.
-] George Rowe and family at the death of his father.

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

-] Clarence Aaserud.
-] John Bachner.
-] Larry Coghill.
-] Kent Hamilton.
-] Stewart Luckman.
-] Doug Mandt.
-] Agnes Purvis.
-] Tom Som.
-] Pete Thibadeau.
-] Mark Williams.

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

-] Laurie Carver, mother of Peggy Thurston.
-] Trent Erickson, son of Dick and Nancy Erickson.
-] Stacey Hailey, daughter of Ed and Lois Stark.
-] Fred Hanenburg, brother of Rich Hanenburg.
-] Ken Hicks, friend of Genie Lennon.
-] Pat Hicks, friend of Genie Lennon.
-] Steve Johnson, brother of Emily Thompson.
-] Bob Kearney, husband of Cecily Kearney.
-] Dianne Kimble, sister of Darlene Thompson.
-] Joan Seacrest, aunt of Beth Ann Johnson.
-] Diane Taylor, mother of John Meagher.
-] John Taylor, stepfather of John Meagher.
-] Ernette Yim, niece of Mervina Sturgeon.

Amen.

ExALT for FEBRUARY

-)] Children's Choir rehearsal at 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
-)] Dinner at 5:45 p.m. in the Life Together Hall.
-)] Classes at 6:30 p.m.
-)] Sanctuary Choir rehearsal at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Wednesday evenings. **Extraordinary Active Life Together!**

ADULT CLASSES

Wednesday, February 6

"Marriage and Family: Living the Gospel in our Lives" with Pastor Briana Merkle.

Wednesday, February 13

"Marriage and Family: Living the Gospel in our Lives" with panel discussion.

Wednesday, February 20

"A Jewish Voice for Peace" with Sallie Shaw.

Wednesday, February 27

"A Jewish Voice for Peace" with Sallie Shaw.



CONNECT

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Sunday, March 10
through
Sunday, April 7

New Members Class Coming This Spring

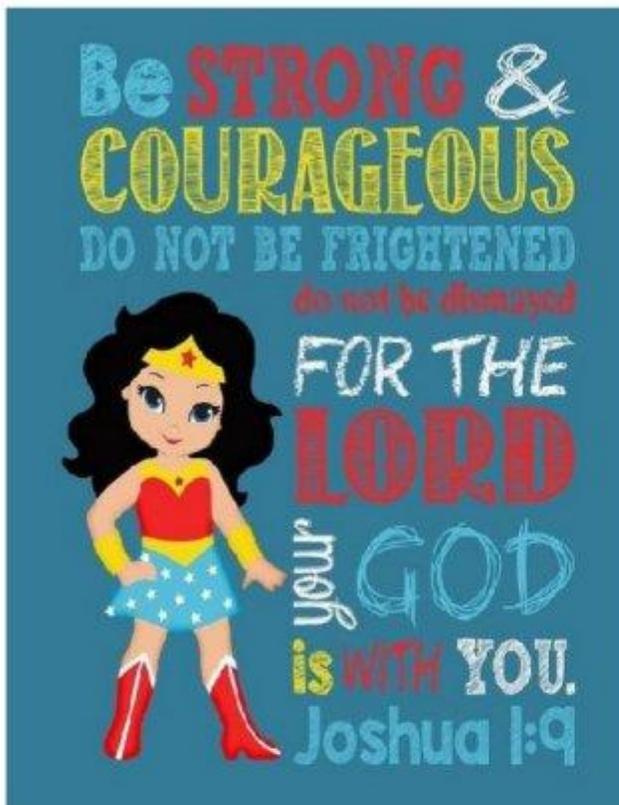
This spring we are offering our New Member/Inquirer's Class led by Pastor John. This class gives an overall view of our mission and ministry here at Mountain View, as well as a better understanding of the Lutheran faith.

This year's New Member Class begins on Sunday March 10, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. during the education hour. The class meets for five weeks through Sunday April 7, 2019. Attendance at the class does not mean membership at MVLC unless that is what you decide to do. You are always welcome to worship without membership, but we are hopeful you will feel compelled to join us in the mission and ministry of Mountain View Lutheran Church.

A brunch and reception for new members will be held on Palm Sunday and new members will be welcomed into the congregation the following week during the Easter Vigil service.

If you are interested in being a part of this class, please contact Parish Worker Marlene Wright in the Church Office by calling 253-863-5171 or emailing mwright@mtviewlutheran.org.

Jesus is my Superhero!



MARCH 15-16, 2019

ELEMENTARY RETREAT (1ST – 6TH grade)

Come to camp with your church. Maybe it's your first time at camp or you just want to come back to meet new friends through songs, games, bible encounter, and even a campfire with s'mores, yum yum! We will be learning about what it means to conquer our fears and live outside our comfort zone.

\$57/camper \$40/adult * plus an addition 4 % registration fee

Register online: <http://www.camplutherwood.org/retreats/>

**Be sure to select March 15-16 as the dates!*

**Be sure to list that you are with MVLC!*



**Elementary
Retreat**

**Come and
conquer the
challenge course!**

**Fight through your
comfort zone!**

**Gaga ball,
campfire,
canteen, kayaking
and much more!**

**LUTHERWOOD CAMP
AND RETREAT CENTER**

1185 Roy Rd.

Bellingham, WA 98229

360-734-7652

www.camplutherwood.org

5/6/7 YOUTH EVENTS

for 5th –7th grades

Friday, February 1 and Saturday February 2

[567 Super Bowl Lock-In! Meet at the church at 6pm](#)

We'll make all the casseroles for our Souper Bowl of Caring fundraiser, then watch movies and play games. Friends are welcome, just let Pastor Bri know how many. Pick up Saturday morning at 9am.

Friday, February 8 through Sunday, February 10

[Synod Youth Retreat at Camp Arnold for 6th and 7th graders](#)

If you registered to come to the retreat, meet at the church on Friday night @ 5:30pm (we'll grab some dinner on the way). We'll be back at church at 11:45am on Sunday.

Friday, February 22

[5/6/7 Hangout, 5:30-8:30](#)

We're heading to hang-out with some of the other 567 Lutheran youth in the area. We'll do dinner and games. Bring \$5 for dinner. Friends are welcome. RSVP to Pastor Bri by Friday, Feb. 15th

ROCK MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, March 3

[Family Day in Rock Ministry, Pancake Feast and Lent Intro](#)

All Rock Ministry ages will gather in the gym. Our high school students will be cooking a pancake feast for us, in the tradition of Shrove Tuesday. We'll prepare ashes to be used on Ash Wednesday, and will learn about some family rituals for Lent.

Wednesday, March 6

[Ash Wednesday](#)

Children's ExALT Classes will pause for Ash Wednesday and Lenten worship services. ExALT classes will resume after Easter.

Friday, March 15 and Saturday, March 16

[Elementary Retreat at Lutherwood](#)

For 1st through 6th graders

Sign up for a one-night retreat at camp! This is a great way to introduce kids to camp and help them build up to longer retreat weekends. See the flyer (page 6) for information to sign up!

HIGH SCHOOL ROCK MINISTRY

Conversations on Mental Health, Depression, Suicide, and Drugs

On Sunday mornings in February, our mentors are leading the high school youth in discussion around mental health, depression and suicide, and drugs and addictions. The mentors and I recognize that in the midst of rising addiction rates, depression rates among youth, the availability of substances, and our youth's confrontation with such struggles every day in their schools, that we need to spend some time talking about such topics from a faith perspective.

Part of this conversation will also focus on how we can pay attention to shifts in our own spirit and mental health, as well as how we respond to friends/family who are struggling in such ways. See below for an idea of the week to week topics and speakers we have coming.

The mentors and I are working hard to offer opportunities that are significant to the transitions and life stages our youth are in the midst of. **Please encourage them to participate as much as possible.**

Sunday, February 3

“When friends and family suffer: suicide, depression, and addiction,” with guest speakers Lynn Wadnizak and Michael Braun.

Sunday, February 10

“Paying attention to our own mental health,” with guest speakers UW Campus Ministry Pastor Elizabeth Rawlings and UW students.

Sunday, February 17

“Faith-based practices for well-being,” led by Pastor Bri.

CHURCH SCHOLARSHIPS for GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

**Scholarship applications are available in the church office, online, or electronically by emailing Pastor Bri (bmerkle@mtviewlutheran.org). You may apply for as many of these scholarships as you are eligible. Please be sure to read the descriptions to discern which are applicable to you.*

LEAF Scholarships

Due: Monday, April 1, 2019

Lutheran Educational Aid Fund (LEAF) Scholarships are for students who will be attending a Lutheran College or University. This scholarship is renewable from year-to-year so long as the student remains at a Lutheran college.

www.mtviewlutheran.org/2019scholarshipleaf.pdf

WELCA Scholarships

Due: Monday, April 1, 2019

Women of the ELCA Scholarships are given to students who will be attending a college, university, community college, business college or vocational/technical school *not* affiliated with the Lutheran Church. Students should be entering courses for at least 1 full year of study. The scholarship is a one-time grant and is therefore not renewable. The award is given to full-time students entering college immediately after high school.

www.mtviewlutheran.org/2019scholarshipwelca.pdf

Baurichter Scholarship

Due: Monday, April 1, 2019

The Donna Marie Baurichter Klauser Memorial Scholarship is given to one student each year in honor of an incredible woman who believed in the power of faith and the pursuit of knowledge. This application requires an application along with letters of recommendation, an essay, school transcripts, and a copy of the Letter of Acceptance to your school of choice.

www.mtviewlutheran.org/2019scholarshipbaurichter.pdf



INTERFAITH *Women's* CONFERENCE

PRESENTED BY
am ASSOCIATED
MINISTRIES

Saturday, March 9, 2019 • 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Curtis Junior High School • University Place, Washington

Join us Saturday, March 9, 2019 for the 2nd Biennial Interfaith Women's Conference, "Seeking Peace: Our Journey", an event for women of all faiths and goodwill throughout the entire Puget Sound region. Together, we'll experience the power of unity and discover new ways to strengthen our communities. As we learn from and grow with one another at the Interfaith Women's Conference, we will explore ways we can work together to assist more people in need.

This one-day conference was designed for women who are interested in exploring the potential and power of interfaith collaboration, renewing their personal spiritual life, and engaging with their community to spur positive change. In an often-divisive world, the Interfaith Women's Conference will emphasize that which unites us—the desire to understand one another and support each other as we seek peace along our journey.

Visit the Associated Ministries website at associatedministries.org/iwc for more information, to register, or become a sponsor.

For more details, contact Sandy Windley at sandyw@associatedministries.org or 253-426-1506.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study meets at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 1 and Thursday, February 15, 2019 in the MVLC Library. All women are invited to come and explore the Letter to the Ephesians. Stop on by for pastor-led Bible study, fellowship, discussion, and snacks.

SCHOLARSHIP BAKE SALE

The MVLC chapter of the Women of the ELCA is hosting a scholarship bake sale on Sunday, February 10, 2019 in the Gathering Space, immediately following each worship service. Donations of cookies, muffins, lefse, pies, bread, jams, jellies, and candy to the bake sale are welcome. Bring your appetites on 2/10! Funds raised provide scholarships (see page 12) for graduating high school students who plan on attending non-Lutheran colleges, universities, and trade schools in the fall.

MVLC QUILTERS

Can you sew? If you can tie a knot, then come and join the MVLC Quilters as they work each Wednesday to make quilts that are distributed to those in need throughout the world via Lutheran World Relief. The MVLC Quilters are also seeking donations of fabric of any amount as they are nearing the end of their stock of fabric and material. If you are able to help in any way, or if you have questions, then please contact Ann Marie Bachner at 253-232-4508.

EDUCATION on DEMENTIA

Save the date! A representative from The Alzheimer's Association will come to Mountain View Lutheran Church to give an educational talk about the warning signs of dementia, as well as tips on how to approach someone with memory concerns. This is a meeting for MVLC's Deacons Ministry, but we would like to open it up to any members or friends of Mountain View who might be interested in this topic. It will be held in the Life Together Hall on Thursday, March 14, 2019 from 6:45 to 8:00 p.m. Please come!

THE APOSTLE PAUL on JUSTICE and EQUALITY

How do we read Paul? Over the centuries, including today, Paul has been used, referenced, and cited in order to justify slavery, anti-Semitism, misogyny, patriarchy, homophobia and pro-authoritarian governments. Recently, the U.S. Attorney General referenced Romans 13:1 as justification for his policy of using federal powers to kidnap children, taking them away from their refugee and immigrant parents. Does Paul, indeed, justify all manner of oppression—slavery, misogyny and the like? Does Paul support patriarchy and authoritarian regimes?

How do we read Paul on matters of justice and equality?

Which Pauline letters actually come from the Apostle Paul?

In terms of understanding Paul's teaching, particularly on Justice and Equality, is it fair to cite Pauline passages which do not actually come from St. Paul?

Paul and the Roman Empire.

In general, what is Paul's attitude toward the Roman Empire? Just how radical or conservative is Paul? What are key themes of his theology about God in Jesus and in the world?

Paul and Luke.

How does the Paul whom we glean from Paul's own authentic letters differ from the Paul presented to us in Luke's telling of the Acts of the Apostles?

Paul and Justice-Equality.

What does Paul's justice-equality look like? Read Galatians 3:27-28 and 2 Corinthians 5:16-19.

) Paul and Justice-Equality regarding Slavery.

As a principle, there is no longer slave or free. What, however, does that mean in practice? Read Philemon.

) Paul and Justice-Equality in the Eucharist.

In a culture of class distinctions, what is the proper etiquette for dining together at the Eucharist of the Lord Jesus? Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; 11:17-34.

) Paul and Justice-Equality in Offerings.

How is justice-equality to be practiced in terms of giving, sharing, and contributing offerings? Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; 9:6-8.

) Paul and Justice-Equality in Gender.

Paul has been accused of being a thorough-going patriarchal misogynist. How true is this? Read Romans 16:1-16.

) Paul and Justice-Equality in the Resurrection of the Body.

What does Resurrection of the Body have to do with Justice-Equality? Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-24.

*Sunday Adult Education classes at 9:30 a.m. in the Life Together Hall.
Sundays of February with Pastor Glenn Petersen.*



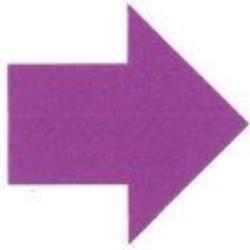
General Fund Giving Update

Your giving supports the day-to-day operations of the mission and ministry of MVLC, as well as that of our benevolence recipients and ministry partners.

	2018 actual + thru 1/27/2019 actual	2018/2019 Spending Guideline	Difference	2017/2018 Actual
Month ending 12/31/2018	\$128,579	\$112,103	\$16,476	\$145,957
Month to date 1/27/2019	\$67,639	\$75,538	-\$7,899	\$51,598
Year to date 12/31/2018	\$1,012,218	\$1,031,941	-\$19,723	\$996,658
Year to date 1/27/2019	\$67,639	\$75,538	-\$7,899	\$51,598

A Heart Healthy Lifestyle

Heart disease is a leading cause of death for both men and women.



Leading causes:

- ▶ Inactivity
- ▶ Obesity
- ▶ High Blood Pressure
- ▶ Smoking
- ▶ High Cholesterol
- ▶ Diabetes



What can you do to improve your heart health?

Eat Healthy!

- ▶ Buy lean, skinless meats and poultry
- ▶ Use fat-free and low-fat dairy products
- ▶ Limit your alcohol intake
- ▶ Prepare foods without added salt
- ▶ Avoid foods high in sugar or dietary cholesterol
- ▶ Eat whole grain breads and pasta



Get Fit!

- ▶ Find an active way to relax: It's tempting to want to sit and relax. Instead, go for a bike ride or join a recreational sports team.
- ▶ Go for a walk: Find a local area where you can go and walk for a few miles. Spend time outdoors, and enjoy what nature has to offer while you get fit!
- ▶ Make it a family event: Help your children build healthy habits. Take a ball or Frisbee and visit a nearby park. Build memories while improving your heart!



When you create habits for a Healthy Heart you also help with:

- ▶ Weight loss and preventing weight gain
- ▶ Endurance and vitality
- ▶ Improving blood sugar control in diabetes
- ▶ Relieving anxiety, depression and stress

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FEBRUARY 2019 HEALTH NEWS

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

—JEREMIAH 29:11

A happy, safe, and healthy new year is wished for each of you!

February is heart health month. Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women. Make a copy of the flyer on page 14 and put it on the refrigerator. It includes great reminders of what we can do to reduce our risk and keep our hearts healthy.

Help and support that can be provided by a Faith Community Nurse. Here are some of the times contacting an MVLC FCN may be helpful:

When you (or a loved one)

-) have questions about medical test results or have questions about a medical diagnosis.
-) are facing surgery, plan to be hospitalized, or are hospitalized.
-) are being discharged from hospital to home.
-) need help transitioning into an assisted living or skilled nursing facility.
-) need support with medical equipment .
-) you have a newborn, or are a new parent.
-) are struggling with a chronic illness and may need help.
-) are looking for a second medical opinion.
-) have received medical bills and are unsure what to pay or have received medical documents and are unsure of what to sign or not sign.
-) are grieving the loss of a friend or family member, are looking for a support group, or feel hopeless or depressed.
-) want help with “end of life” planning.
-) want to pray with someone to seek healing and/or consolation.
-) need help with finding a doctor or help with insurance.
-) notice changes in a loved one that may indicate a physical, medical, emotional, or cognitive problem.

Call one of our Faith Community Nurses at MVLC—Wendy Neptun, 253-878-2076; Lori Neptun, 253-22-9890; or Terry Freed, 253-640-9119.

Now is a great time to revisit our wishes if unable to speak for ourselves due to accident, stroke, or incapacity. A Living Will or Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare can provide invaluable guidance to family members and healthcare professionals if a person cannot express his or her wishes. Without a document expressing those wishes, family members and doctors are left to guess what a seriously ill person would prefer in terms of treatment. They may end up in painful disputes, which occasionally make it all the way to a courtroom.

FROM the CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Giving to Mountain View Lutheran's Ministry & Mission General Fund Exceeds \$1 Million for the First Time!

As you may have recently read in the 1/10 MVLC E-news, giving to the General Ministry and Mission Fund of Mountain View exceeded \$1 million for the first time in its 114-year history (\$1,012,218 to be precise)! This is a remarkable milestone in the life of Mountain View, as it **represents more than \$175,000 in Benevolences beyond the walls of our congregation**; distributed to community, national, and global ministry partners, addressing hunger, homelessness, education, and disaster relief, and impacting countless lives! This amount also supports the many programs and ministries happening on the Mountain View campus, through the pastors and staff, and the facility itself. **Although we receive many generous gifts to the *Former Things New Things* building campaign, memorials, and various other designated funds, without your continued faithful and generous support of the general ministry and mission fund, none of the above would be possible.**

Thank you, again, for your continued faithful support of God's ministry through Mountain View Lutheran Church.

Mountain View Lutheran Church's New Treasurer

Thank you to Chris Duskin, who has agreed to serve as Mountain View Lutheran Church's Treasurer! As Treasurer, Chris serves as a vital independent representative of the congregation, to ensure that financial information provided by the Church Office to the Church Council accurately reflects Mountain View's financial status.

FROM the CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Projects Completed in December 2018 and January 2019

-) Completion of the sound system installation for the Nursery, All Saints Room, Main Kitchen, Office, and Gathering Space. Completed with funding from Thrivent Choice, Thursday Women's Bible Study offering, and Building Rental Fund!
-) Completion of the video feed for Gathering Space TVs and Life Together Hall projector from Sanctuary. Completed with funding donated towards this purpose, Building Rental Fund, and Thrivent Choice.

Upcoming Priorities for 2019

-) Replacement of the Chapel Septic Tank. To be funded by the Building Rental Fund.
-) Replacement of all campus thermostats with ones that will integrate with our new church management software to save money on heating/cooling bills. Provided for in the 2019 Spending Guideline.
-) Publication of the 2019 Pictorial Directory.
-) Complete re-striping of parking lot. Honey Doer project.
-) Video recording capabilities for both the Sanctuary and Life Together Hall for Adult Education and "Grace Place" events. Potential Mission Endowment Fund 2019 project.
-) Replace flooring in Chapel Restrooms. Honey Doer project.
-) Address acoustics in the MVCC upstairs main room. Thrivent Choice Project

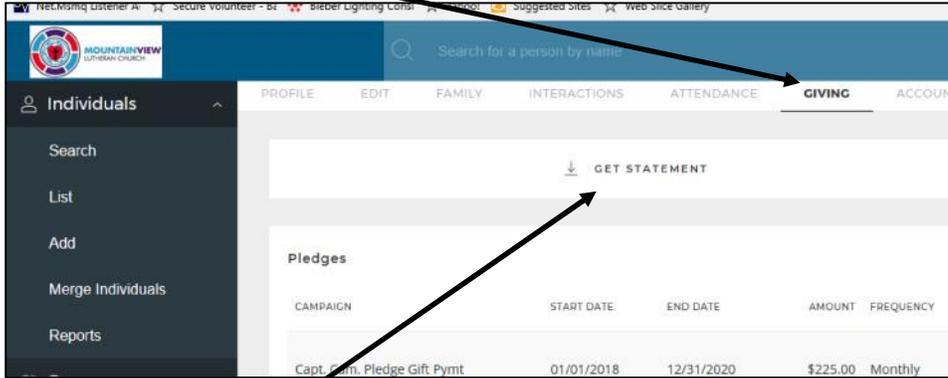
Thank you for your continued support of "God's work. Our hands." through the ministry and mission of Mountain View Lutheran Church!

In His service,
Phil Edlund
Church Administrator

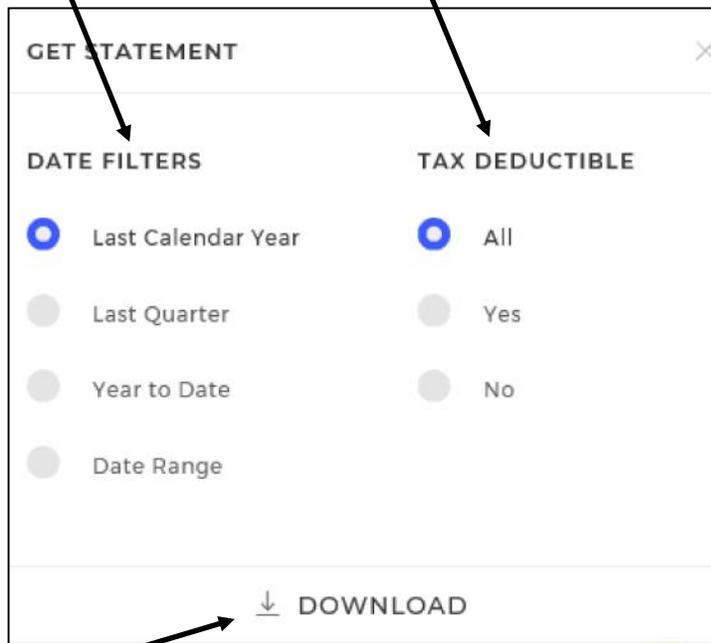
ELECTRONIC RESOURCES • GIVING STATEMENTS

You can now download your giving statement anytime online!

1. Go to mtviewlutheran.shelbnextchms.com
2. Login.
3. Click on “Giving.”



4. Click on “Get Statement.”
5. Select the Date Filter and Tax-Deductible Options. (hint – if you give through your IRA or a Charitable Fund, these gifts only appear if you select “All” for “Tax Deductible”)



6. Click “Download.”

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES • WEB ACCESS

Mountain View Lutheran Church Directory and Worship Check-in App and Online Access

Our new Church Management Software is up and running! If we have your email address on file, you should have received an email in November 2018 from Mountain View, with your login information for the new system.

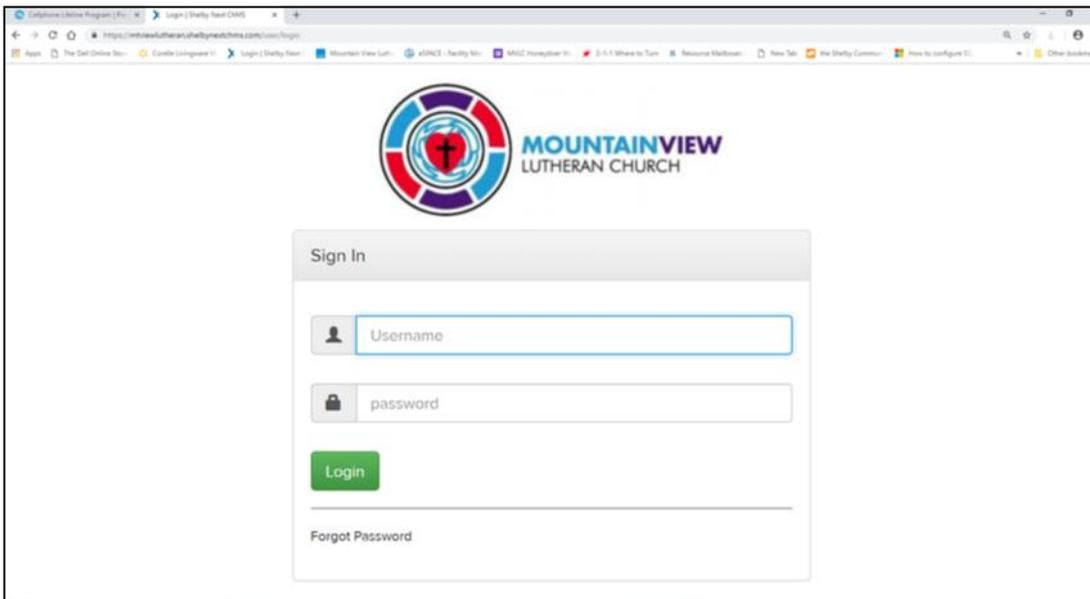
Web access

You can access the church directory (Phone, Address, Email, pictures, etc.), the church calendar, your giving history, and attendance history. In the future, you will also be able to register for events on this site.

-) Open your web browser.
-) Go to <https://mtviewlutheran.shelbnextchms.com>
-) Enter your email address and the password that was emailed to you.
-) Click “Login.”

Contact the Church Office if you need assistance.

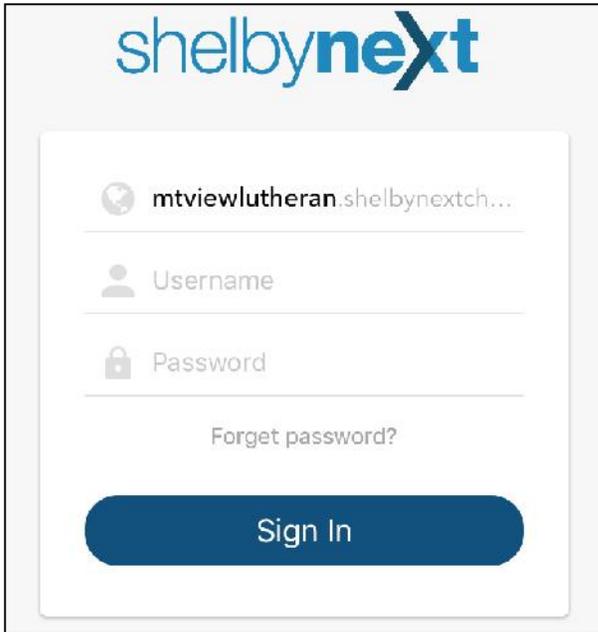
We will also begin sending Rock Ministry updates and the MVLC E-news through this system. See the screen shots in the next pages for details!



ELECTRONIC RESOURCES • SMART PHONE

If you have a smart phone, we encourage you to download the app:

1. Go to your App Store (iPhone) or the Google Play store.
2. Search for “Shelby Next.”
3. Choose the “Shelby Next Membership” app under the “Lifestyle” category.
4. Follow the prompts to finish the download.
5. Once downloaded, enter “mtviewlutheran.shelbynextchms.com” as the “domain.”



6. Enter your email address and password that was emailed to you in November 2018.

You will now be able to view the church calendar, phone numbers, email addresses, addresses, and pictures, for members of Mountain View. You will also be able to check into Worship service, check in to Rock Ministry classes for your kids and check your kids into the Nursery

(You will need to be on the church campus to check-in, so no cheating while you are out of town!)

You can also add a picture and update your email address, phone number(s) and mailing address!



TROOP T-7525

Pictured above are Meaghan Pahre and Steve Pahre, representatives of the MVLC-sponsored Scouts BSA “linked” troop for girls, symbolically ringing the Pacific Harbors Council bell, a tradition when new units are “born.” This bell has been rung so many times in recent weeks that new bolts were required to beef up the mount system.

The linked troop is number T-7525. The 7 indicates a Scouts BSA Troop for girls, and the 7 is mostly “silent” (primarily used for official paperwork purposes).

This new unit will be meeting on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the MVLC Chapel basement. They will likely join the boys T-525 for opening ceremonies and then have their own meeting and closing.

Do you have a sister, relative, or friend who would like to experience Scouting? Suggest that they check out T-7525 for girls and T-525 for boys. Plus, Pack 526 for Cub Scout age groups (dens for boys and dens for girls).

This now makes family Scouting a reality.

More information about Troop T-7525 and Scouts BSA:

- J Website: www.scoutlander.com/publicsite/unithome.aspx?UID=1467
- J Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/132760361796
- J Pacific Harbors Council: www.pacificharbors.org
- J Scouts BSA: www.scouting.org

Scout Sunday is Sunday, February 3, 2019 at MVLC.

- J Members of Girl Scouts will be present at the 8:15 a.m. worship service.
- J Members of Scouting BSA will be present at the 10:45 a.m. worship service.



Thank you to everyone that donated to “Pennies for Palestine.” We were able to purchase 17 books for Dar al-Kalima College and many different school supplies for the school, including alphabet blocks, math supplies and games. The teachers at the school were very excited to go through the bag with \$50 of supplies and can’t wait to begin using them with their students. Pastor Mitri Raheb expressed gratitude and excitement for the books, many of which he had personally picked for the library at the college. Hannah’s host mother is the librarian and was also very excited to get new books. Pastor Raheb told us that books are very hard to get for the college because of Israeli import controls. The college depends on Christian friends, like us, bringing books with them.

Thank you for your support,

*Gretchen
and Barry
Johnsrud*



YALLA HANNAH



HOLIDAYS

Spending the holidays away from home wasn't anything like I imagined it would be, though I didn't really know what to expect. I have never celebrated Thanksgiving among an expat community outside the US, nor have I ever spent the Christmas season away from home.

For Thanksgiving, the JWB YAGMs all gathered at our country coordinators' home to celebrate. This year, I had the honor of being the Thanksgiving Schedule Marshal, in charge of getting a Thanksgiving dinner for 9 adults and 2 kids on the table at 4pm with only 1 oven between us. I have never been prouder to say that dinner - consisting of pulled pork, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, green bean casserole, stuffing, sweet potatoes, and three types of pies - was on the table at 4:15pm.



After enjoying our Thanksgiving Dinner, the YAGMs headed north for our first retreat of the year - and a brief, needed break from daily life. As a group we explored Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee, making stops at the Mount of the Beatitudes, the site of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, Capernaum, and Magdala along the way. Colin even drove a pontoon boat on the Sea of Galilee!



We also had lots of conversations about the difference between the Empires of this world and the Kingdom of God, and how these forces oppose each other throughout the Biblical narrative and on through this day. The structures of empire that so bother me here - military occupation, capricious injustice, unequal distribution of wealth, patriarchy, racism - were also structures that Jesus spoke into and worked to turn around. This has offered me some measure of peace in the midst of the context here, which is still very challenging at times.

DEC/JAN YAGM NEWSLETTER CONT.

From the end of the retreat in November, it was full speed ahead into Christmas! I've lost count of the number of times that people have exclaimed to me how wonderful it must be to be in Bethlehem for Christmas. Don't get me wrong - it is pretty amazing!

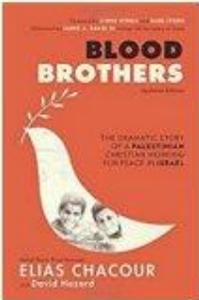
Festivities began with tree lighting ceremonies in the three major cities of the area - Bethlehem, Beit Jala, and Beit Sahour. All through the month, Christmas lights went up around town and residents argued about who had the best tree. Genna and I helped to decorate the Christmas tree and put up the nativity set (complete with a cave-like grotto) in our church.

On Christmas Eve, the day started early with a parade through Bethlehem. Hundreds of Scouts (a community organization that's somewhere between the Boy Scouts and a marching band) marched through the town playing bagpipes, drums, and brass. Children ran through the streets with balloons, dressed up as Santa Claus.

I attended two Christmas Eve services at Christmas Lutheran Church, just off Manger Square and the Church of the Nativity. We sang all my favorite Christmas hymns and even did a candlelight Silent Night.



READING RECOMMENDATION



Blood Brothers
-Abouna Elias Chacour
This memoir of a three-times Nobel Peace Prize nominee explores the experience of Palestinian-Israelis living in what became Israel in 1948.

"Seeing White"
-Scene on Radio
The JWB YAGM listened to this podcast on our January Continuing Education trip as we explored race, privilege, and injustice.



Christmas continues here all the way through - the Orthodox traditions celebrate Christmas on the 7th, and the Armenians don't celebrate until the 19th! It's been fun to experience Christmas multiple times in different ways throughout the season.

Still, I missed my family and home intensely, although I did manage to make my mom's Christmas cookie frosting to share, and my parents shipped me my Christmas Eve pajama shirt so I could match the family.



*Left: Manger Square, Bethlehem
Top: Scouts march in the parade in Bethlehem*



Right: The JWB Crew celebrates Christmas!

MVLC member Hannah Johnsrud is serving with the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program.

TASTE OF PALESTINE

Mutabbal (also called Baba Ghanoush) is one of the classic salads served with all formal Arab meals, and it's surprisingly easy to make!

Char 3 medium eggplants over a grill or gas burner for 30 - 40 minutes until tender and blackened on all sides. Scoop out the insides of the eggplants and let drain briefly to remove excess moisture. Then, in a bowl, mix eggplant with 3 cloves minced garlic and the juice of one lemon until it resembles a paste. Stir in 3 TBSP tahini and 1/3 cup olive oil along with chopped parsley. Serve with fresh pita bread! *Sahtein! (Enjoy!)*

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Being a YAGM, I've discovered, means having some tough conversations - about faith, the Church, race, power, privilege, and oppression. Over the course of the year so far we as a cohort have been able to unpack a number of these topics.

Our January continuing education focused on race and racism, both here and in the United States. It's an incredibly important conversation to have, and honestly one that I have only superficially engaged with before this year.

You see, being here has opened my eyes to all of the ways I participate in racist systems simply by being passive to them and the unconscious biases I hold towards those I perceive as people of color. I use the word perceive here deliberately - Palestinians, especially Palestinian Christians, label themselves as white. Although I sometimes joke about being a "white girl" in this context as a way to diffuse tension, the Arabic word for what I am is actually *ajnabia*, "foreigner," which has no racial connotation at all. Who am I to suggest that I am white and my companions are not?

I also find many parallels here between the experiences of Palestinians and the experiences of Black Americans. Hearing the stories here of random searches and police violence makes me understand the news reports from home so much more intimately. As much as I want to pretend that the systems of injustice here are different from the ones in America, at their base they are fundamentally the same. I'd encourage you to join me in reading and learning more about these issues.



Top Left: Santa visits the family, bringing presents!

Top Right: Kindergarteners dress up as Santa for school.

Bottom Left: Both of my families together! My parents visited last week and I could show them my world here.

Bottom Right: Pastor Ashraf and Santa Claus pass out presents at church.



Above: JWB visited the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth and super salty body of water. It was fun to float around!

WANT MORE STORIES? FOLLOW ALONG AT YALLAHANNAH.WORDPRESS.COM

MVLC member Hannah Johnsrud is serving with the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program.

Reading Biblical Stories

One of the most effective ways to communicate, says one famous biblical theologian, about biblical stories. A child can follow them and retell them. Scholars can puzzle over them endlessly to figure out what they mean. In this class we will develop and use literary tools to read and interpret stories from the Hebrew Bible—Old Testament. Degrees of depth help us get into the characters of this rogue's gallery. Deciphering twists and turns and following manipulating of time give clues to the developing plot. We will use these techniques and more to read and enjoy fascinating stories from one of the world's greatest collections of stories. Come and join in the discussion and see their relevance for life today.

at Temple Bethel, 5975 S 12th St, Tacoma, WA 98465

led by John Petersen, Professor of Religion, emeritus, at Pacific Lutheran University

on 4 Thursday evenings: 6:30-8:30; February 7, March 7, April 11, May 9

THE BIBLE as LITERATURE

Reading biblical stories is one of the most effective ways to communicate, according to one famous biblical theologian. A child can follow them and retell them. Scholars can puzzle over them endlessly to figure out what they mean. In this class we will develop and use literary tools to read and interpret stories from the Hebrew Bible—Old Testament. Degrees of depth helps us get into the characters of this rogue's gallery. Deciphering twists and turns and following manipulations of time gives us clues to the developing plot. We will use these techniques and more to read and enjoy fascinating stories from one of the world's greatest collections of stories. Come and join in the discussion and see their relevance for life today.

Led by John Petersen, MVLC member and Professor of Religion, Emeritus, Pacific Lutheran University.

Classes held at Temple Beth El, 5975 South 12th Street, Tacoma WA 98465 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on four Thursday evenings—February 7, March 7, April 11, and May 9, 2019.

The cost is \$10 for members of Temple Beth El and \$15 for non-members.

Learn more on page 4 of the PDF at the following link:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f40mX8_sxzjgy7XODiGp_ZA39-KjX6ly/view

IMAGES/NOTES

-] Front and back covers: Photographs by Troy Kehm-Goins.
-] Page 4: Photograph by Troy Kehm-Goins.
-] Page 5: Image created by Marlene Wright.
-] Page 6: Flyer created by Camp Lutherwood.
-] Page 13: Photograph by Carmen Van Soest.
-] Page 14: Flyer by *Church Health Reader*.
-] Pages 18, 19, and 20: Information and images from Phil Edlund.
-] Page 21: Still image from video by Darel Roa.
-] Page 22: Photographs by Gretchen Johnsrud.
-] Pages 23, 24, and 25: Young Adults in Global Mission newsletter by Hannah Johnsrud.
-] Page 26: “Reading Biblical Stories” flyer created by John Petersen.

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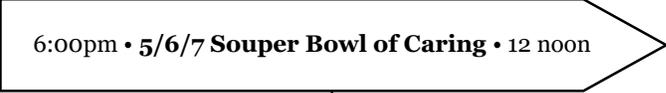
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Mountain View Lutheran Church

FEBRUARY 2019

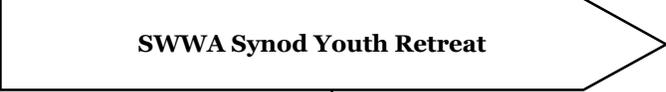
www.mtviewlutheran.org

<p>3 FOURTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST</p> <p>8:15am Worship 9:30am Adult Education and Rock Ministry 10:45am Worship</p> <p>Scout Sunday</p> <p>Souper Bowl of Caring (pick up your casseroles!)</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00am WELCA Board 10:00am Staff Meeting</p> <p>6:30pm Church Council</p>
<p>10 FIFTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST</p> <p>8:15am Worship 9:30am Adult Education and Rock Ministry 10:45am Worship</p> <p>Women of the ELCA scholarship bake sale</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Book Club 6:00pm Peace and Justice</p>
<p>17 SIXTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST</p> <p>8:15am Worship 9:30am Adult Education and Rock Ministry 10:45am Worship</p> <p>Fair trade coffee, tea, and chocolate sales</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00am Staff Meeting 12:30pm Rebecca Circle 6:30pm Church Council</p>
<p>24 SEVENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST</p> <p>8:15am Worship 9:30am Adult Education and Rock Ministry 10:45am Worship</p>	<p>25</p> <p>1:00pm Mary Circle</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00am Staff Meeting</p>

1	2 7:00am Men's Bible Study
	

6
9:30am Quilters
1:00pm Grief Group
5:00pm Children's Choir
ExALT
5:45pm Dinner
6:30pm ExALT Classes
7:30pm Adult Choir

7
8:30am Honey Doers
9:30am Women's Bible Study
1:00pm Property

8	
	

9
7:00am Men's Bible Study
9:00am Deacon Training

13
9:30am Quilters
5:00pm Children's Choir
ExALT
5:45pm Dinner
6:30pm ExALT Classes
7:30pm Adult Choir

14
8:30am Honey Doers
10:00am Prayer Shawls

15

16
7:00am Men's Bible Study
9:00am Deacon Training

20
9:30am Quilters
5:00pm Children's Choir
ExALT
5:45pm Dinner
6:30pm ExALT Classes
7:30pm Adult Choir

21
8:30am Honey Doers
9:30am Women's Bible Study

22
5:30pm 5/6/7 Hangout

23
7:00am Men's Bible Study
9:00am Deacon Training

27
9:30am Quilters
5:00pm Children's Choir
ExALT
5:45pm Dinner
6:30pm ExALT Classes
7:30pm Adult Choir

28
8:30am Honey Doers

This calendar only includes MVLC events.
 For a full campus calendar, please visit
www.mtviewlutheran.org/calendar online.



Mountain View Lutheran Church

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