



July 2024 GOODNEWSletter

Mt Si Lutheran Church
www.mtsilutheran.org

Conversions

July 1, 2024

Pr. Larry Thomas

So, Ananias went and entered the house (on Straight Street.) He laid his hands on Saul, and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me to you so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 9:17)

Last June I attended Seattle’s Greenwood Car Show. Cars were backed in and lined up on both sides of the street all along Greenwood, from 70th to near 90th Street. It was a beautiful morning and there were lots and lots of us checking out classic cars, hot rods, and custom cars.

There was a perfectly restored 1931 Packard, a whole lot of Tri-Five Chevrolets (1955-57) and a number of Fords. There were vendors selling t-shirts, youngsters sitting at lemonade and cookie stands, and a few clubs hosting special interest booths. One of them was the Hell’s Angels.

When I first saw the Hells Angel’s merch booth, I did a double-take. The Hells Angels? Are they rebranding themselves? Known as an outlaw motorcycle club dating from the late 1940s, The Hells Angels Motorcycle Club has been prosecuted over the years for a variety of crimes including illegal firearms sales, distribution of heroin, cocaine and marijuana, and murder.

I walked up to the booth and introduced myself to Jed. (I didn’t get his partner’s name.) I told Jed I had a question I wanted to ask him. He said, “Buy three t-shirts and you can ask me three questions!” I laughed and then he said, “Go ahead, fire away.”

I said, “I grew up in Los Angeles. Before I had ever heard of the Hells Angels, there was a motorcycle club called Satan’s Slaves. Have you ever heard of the Satan’s Slaves?” Jed said he had. “Really! What happened to them?” Jed said he didn’t think they were around much anymore. “Some of them converted to Hells Angels.” I said, “They converted? You mean like a religious conversion!?” This exchange was followed by some awkward laughter.

Jed’s partner took up the slack and asked me, “So what brought you up here to Washington?” I told them that I was a Lutheran pastor and had been invited serve a church in Issaquah in 1992. Jed then said that he thought maybe his grandparents were Lutheran. I thanked them for their time and moved on. Over the course of the next several days, I kept thinking about our conversation and conversions. I was baptized in a Baptist church when I was eight years old. Going forward to accept Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior one Sunday night in June of 1955 was, for my Baptist pastor, my conversion.

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**MOUNTAIN VALLEY
PRESCHOOL**

M-F from 9-1pm

June 24 -28 Summer Break
July 1 - Aug 23 Summer Camp



Mountain Valley
Preschool
Where a Love For Learning is Created

IN THE OFFICE

While Pastor is on Sabbatical you will see Erica H. and others helping out in the office. Stop by and say hi!

Office hours will remain from 10-12pm each Monday.

Updates to events are communicated through *Constant Contact* and an *email list of families and friends, if you are not on this list but would like to be included please let Kathleen know.:* mtsi.assistant@gmail.com

AA

Will meet Thursdays and Sundays in Luther's Lounge weekly at 7 pm
Ogle Street entrance

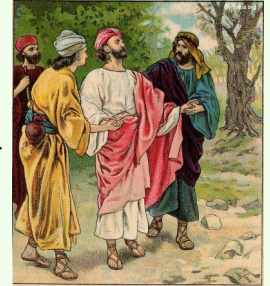
GIRL SCOUTS

The Girl Scouts Leaders meet the 3rd Thursday of each month

(continued from front page)

My favorite conversion story is the conversion of Saul (aka St. Paul) who “was breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord” while on the road to Damascus. According to Acts 9, Saul was blinded by the light of Christ and brought by his traveling companions to Damascus, where he sat in a house on Straight Street for three days fasting.

The Lord deployed the disciple Ananias to lay hands on Saul “so that he might regain his sight,” whereupon Ananias also baptized Saul and he was filled with the Holy Spirit. “After taking some food he regained his strength.” Not long thereafter Saul began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues in Damascus saying, “He is the Son of God.”



SAUL OF TARSUS CONVERTED
Acts 9:1-18
GOLDEN TEXT:—Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out. Acts 3:19.

Lutherans don't talk as much about conversions as Baptists do but we believe in it just the same. In my mind, Martin Luther's explanation of the daily meaning of Holy Baptism is about the gift and grace of *daily* conversion. Luther writes: *Baptism signifies that the old person in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned through daily sorrow for sin and repentance, and that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.*

Out of curiosity I googled “Hells Angels Conversions Stories,” and I found a March 2024 story from the *Enterprise Ledger*, (Enterprise, Alabama,) about Lester Grout, a former member of the Hells Angels who “converted to Christianity and now ministers to the very gangs he used to ride with.”

A former Marine sniper, Mr. Grout joined the Hells Angels and became an “enforcer” whose job was to “hurt people.” While attending his grandfather's funeral in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, the youth pastor remembered Lester from his teenage years and invited him back to church. “Eventually Mr. Grout turned his life over to Christ and left the Hells Angels.” For the last twelve years, Mr. Grout has ridden with a group of bikers who visit outlaw motorcycle camps and talk to them about God and Christ.

My conversions have not been as dramatic as Saul/Paul's or Lester Grout's. Maybe yours haven't been either. Still, the daily gift of our baptism is a way to renew our lives in Christ for loving service to God and others. In his *Letter to the Romans*, St. Paul (aka Saul) writes about the transforming power of baptism: *Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.* (Romans 6:3-4)

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Each Saturday @ 9am the men gather at Little Si Restaurant in North Bend for breakfast and Bible Study. The Study focuses on the readings for the upcoming Sunday worship. Reach out to Dave Spurling or Ed Benson for details.



Sabbatical Planning Team Update

Lisa S.

Welcome to July! Pastor Krista's adventures will be wrapping up mid-month, with a return to the office set for Wednesday, July 17. With the worship format we've set up, she will be our "Visiting Pastor" on July 21 and 28 (subject to change!). We look forward to hearing about her time on Sabbatical, and sharing with her our own experiences and learnings when she returns.

As you see her around the neighborhood and in the community, feel free to say hi, but please do your best to resist sharing church business with her until July 17. We know it's tricky with her living next door, but the extra "rest" will benefit us all!

And as we wind down the Sabbatical time, please prayerfully consider what you've taken on, and what you are able to continue. While we all know we are a better community for having her in it, we are also a better community having each other in these roles.

June Council Report

Greetings from your Church Council!

It's been a busy time working with our Sabbatical team, Ministries, and visiting Pastors, as Pastor Krista enjoys her well-deserved sabbatical rest.

The Fellowship Hall Reflooring activity has been completed, replacing the old carpet with synthetic hardwood! Originally this was planned for just the dining area and bathroom hallways, but after receiving additional requests and donations to our Endowment Fund, this was expanded to include the east wing hallway. Thank you to each that supported this improvement!

At this month's Council meeting we reviewed the Treasurer's report. We had a net loss in May but income remains above expenses for the year. Summer givings are sometimes lower, as people are away on vacation. Thank you for your ongoing support.

The defibrillator unit we had ordered last year has arrived and we will be setting this up and providing training in the near future. Stay tuned for more information.

Serving in Christ's grace, Dave Spurling

JULY SUNDAY LESSONS

July 7

First Lesson:
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Gospel Lesson:
Mark 6:1-13

July 14

First Lesson:
Ephesians 1:3-14
Gospel Lesson:
Mark 6:14-29

July 21

First Lesson:
Ephesians 2:11-22
Gospel Lesson:
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 28

First Lesson:
Ephesians 3:14-21
Gospel Lesson:
John 6:1-21

NEWS FROM THE PEWS AND/OR BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

If you would like an announcement to be in an upcoming NFTP and/or bulletin insert, please send all information to Kathleen no later than Monday if you wish it to be included that week. Items received after Monday may not appear until the following week. Please indicate if you wish the announcement to appear in NFTP, the Bulletin or both.

*We will welcome
Pr. Krista back
from her sabbatical
on July 17th*



NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

If you would like an article to appear in an upcoming newsletter please send all information to Kathleen, mtsi.assistant@gmail.com no later than the 17th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

Garden of Giving

Terry A.



It's been a busy month in the Garden of Giving. Starting off with a wonderful Garden Blessing service by Pastor Olaf. All the garden plots are planted and we are waiting for some more sun to come out so that the veggies start growing. So far, we've harvested some strawberries and herbs for the Food Bank. We've also been working on finishing up the watering system that was installed during last year's God's Work Our Hands Sunday. That has required us to check PVC connections, drill holes in the PVC to target seeds/plants, and to test it all out. We are looking forward to warmer weather and big harvests for the Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank.



Let Terry know if you would like to help



The School Supply Backpack Project provides backpacks and schools supplies for about 300 Snoqualmie Valley children in August before the new school year begins.

The monetary donations allow us to purchase the supplies we need.

For more information please talk to:
Erica Haycox or Janey Benson

North Bend Farmer's Market Every Thursday through September 12

In July we will be teamed with the "Power of Produce" (POP) group that has activities to teach kids about vegetables as part of a healthy diet. Our crafts will be complimentary to each weeks POP lesson. We will have sign-up sheets in the narthex beginning in May for you to volunteer to help man our booth.

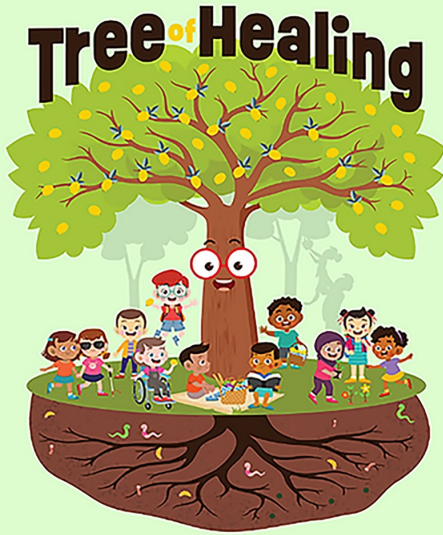
If you enjoy working with kids, this is a great opportunity to help us reach out to our community.



FREE! You're Invited!

Vacation Bible School

Tree of Healing



July 22 - 26

Mon. - Fri
9am - 12pm

**Fun!
Food!
Crafts!**



Register using QR code or
at www.mtsilutheran.org/vbs
Questions? mtsilutheran@mtsilutheran.org

Mt Si Lutheran Church - 411 NE 8th St - North Bend, WA



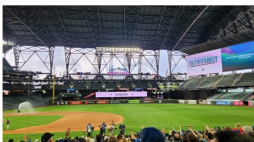
**Upcoming
Blood Drives:
September 17th
December 10th**

If you are interested
in helping with the
blood drive please
reach out to Rick
Rodriguez.



**Congratulations
Graduates!**

Rachel Flanagan &
Cassandra Koukol



Mariners Game

We had 28 people attend
from
Mt Si Lutheran Church
and
Sammamish Hills
Lutheran Church



**The Sunday flower chart
is in the Fellowship Hall
outside of the library.**

You are welcome to sign-up
for a Sunday to provide one
vase of flowers for the altar.

**JULY
BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES**



Denise Stone	7th
Tom Burnside	10th
Shelley Harding	20th
Rosemary Koukol	20th
Ingrid Garhart	25th
Andrew O'Leary	25th
Ava O'Leary	25th



Tom & Joanne Chase	1st
Don & Sue Oster	30th

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please reach out to the office so we can make the correction.

*Mount Si Lutheran Church
is celebrating 75 years
of Serving - Reaching Out - Growing in Grace*

**Sept. 14: 3:30pm Celebration Program
with dinner and fellowship to follow at 5pm**
*Please RSVP for dinner by using the QR code on invitation
or flyer, or by email: mtsilutheran@mtsilutheran.org
by July 31, 2024*

**Sept. 15: 9:30am Special Sunday Worship with
Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee**
Refreshments and fellowship to follow at 10:45am

We are getting closer to finalizing some of the details for the event on Sept. 14th and we would welcome your input. Thank you to the sub-committee leaders who have been working hard to help make it a wonderful celebration!

**The next planning committee meeting will be
Monday, July 29 at 11:00am**

There will be opportunities to help closer to the Sept. dates. Please watch for information in August on how you can help.

Some highlights of Mt Si Lutheran Church's Rich History (cont'd):

- Mission trips to Caguas Puerto Rico, July 2003; Commerce City, CO, July 2004; Red Lake Indian Reservation, Red Lake, MN, July 2006.
- Mission and Vision Statement revised 2005.
- Transitional Housing Ministry began using parsonage 2007.
- Family mission trip to Pearlinton, MS, July 2007; and adult trip back in January.
- Weekly contemporary worship service on Sunday mornings began.
- Mar. 30, 2008—Pr. Paul Hermansen accepts call to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Centralia, WA. Last sermon at Mt. Si Lutheran Church.
- April 2008 – August 2009 Pastor Tim Wolbrecht, Interim Advised us through the transition & call processes.
- Aug. 2008 Church steeple successfully removed due to continued leaking issues in the roof. Copper cross salvaged for future use. Cedar shakes salvaged and used to make wooden crosses as special keepsake for 60th anniversary celebration.
- 2009-ELW hymnal purchased and introduced for worship services.
- 60th anniv. cookbook with historical information completed March 2009.
- High School Youth Mission Trip to San Francisco July 2009.
- Aug. 30, 2009—Pr. Tim Wolbrecht's last Sunday at MSLC as Interim Pastor.

14 & 15 September, 2024

You're Invited!

Mount Si Lutheran Church

*Celebrating
75 years*

1949 - 2024

September 14
CELEBRATION PROGRAM
3:30pm
DINNER & FELLOWSHIP
5:00pm

September 15
WORSHIP
9:30am
FELLOWSHIP
10:45am



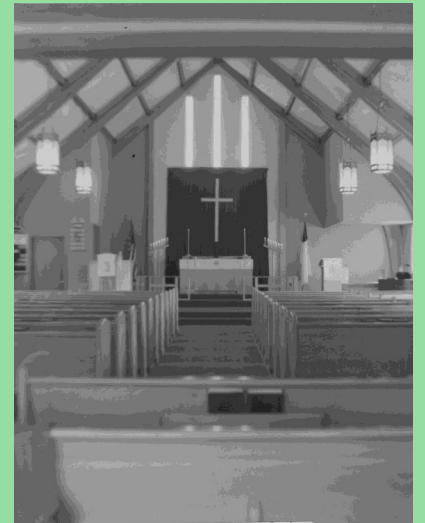
All Events held at
Mt Si Lutheran Church
411 NE 8th St.
North Bend, WA 98045
www.mtsilutheran.org



Please RSVP by July 31 for Dinner
using the QR code or by email at:
mtsilutheran@mtsilutheran.org



January 23, 1949 - First service of the mission congregation held in the Community Methodist Church in Fall City.



October 1953 - The organ, pews and carpeting were dedicated.



December 10, 1950 Ground breaking service for the Mt Si Lutheran Church



June 1949 – November 1951
Worship services held at American Legion Hall in Snoqualmie.

Martin Luther writes in the Small Catechism:

What then does 'daily bread' mean? Everything included in the necessities and nourishment for our bodies, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, farm, field, livestock, money, property, an upright spouse, upright children, upright members of the household, upright and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, decency, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like. (Small Catechism, Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer)



In May, the six bishops of Region One (this includes the synods of Northwest Washington, Southwestern Washington, Alaska, Oregon, Northwest Intermountain, and Montana) were asked by the Region One hunger teams to write a joint letter requesting Congress to re-authorize the federal Farm Bill and to not cut important funding. The six bishops agreed to write this letter. After it was written and signed, the ELCA Advocacy staff in Washington, DC hand-delivered it to the House and Senate Agriculture Committees' leaderships and to the Representatives in each of the synod's respective states.

In June, there was a zoom event for all the Lutherans in the six synods to learn more about the Farm Bill and advocate for its continuation. This event was sponsored by the Region One hunger ministry teams, ELCA Advocacy, and Faith Action Network (FAN). Different speakers shared information, conversation happened, and the opportunity to write letters to legislators occurred.

As you might know, the six synods have over 560 congregations and tens of thousands of Lutherans from the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming. These synods and states are not homogenous. The bishops are not homogenous. The congregations within each synod are not homogenous. The members of these congregations are not homogenous. We have differences of opinion at times, we have different priorities, we vote differently, we even shake our heads at things that don't make sense to us about one another.

And yet, in our diversity, we are also joined in the unity of Christ and the promises we have received. Deep in our bones, we know that we are saved by grace through faith. We hold fast to the truth that God loves us no matter what. We know this and trust this and hold this. And, because of this, together we are called out into the world - as followers of Jesus and as civic members of society.

We join together - over and over - to bring about change and protect the vulnerable. We come together beyond political difference because of what we have been promised and what we are called to do and to be. The example I've been using in this article is the Farm Bill. When we advocate for this bi-partisan Farm Bill, we are advocating for farmers, migrants, agricultural workers, Indigenous peoples, hungry children, the inclusion of those who have been historically excluded, and more.

But, of course, we come together far beyond this Farm Bill. We come together because God calls us to love others as God loves us. We work together for a just society. As German pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "Mere waiting and looking on is not Christian behavior. Christians are called to compassion and action, not in the first place by their own sufferings, but by the sufferings of their brothers and sisters, for whose sake Christ suffered." (A Testament to Freedom)

I am thankful and proud to be Lutheran because of all of you who feed and clothe, nourish and shelter, love and protect those who are the most vulnerable in this country and this world. It would take pages to list all the ways that you do this individually, in your congregations, in the synod, and in the wider church. Thank you for your advocacy and your care. There is, of course, more work to be done. And so let us together work towards the day when all may receive "daily bread."