



SILVERDALE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Grace Filled. Spirit Led.

June 2019 Quarterly Newsletter

Gathering Place completed May 2019



In Memory of Darlene Britt
“Who Welcomed Everyone With a Smile”



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Greetings Silverdale Lutheran Congregation,

The history of Silverdale Lutheran Church holds many names – Herb, Jules, Bob, Sally, Vaughn, Elsie, Marie, Howard, Spence, and Happy are just a start to a long list that come to my immediate memory. But one name that seems to span the generations is Darlene. Whether you knew her as Darlene Pomerenk or Darlene Britt, or as both - you know she welcomed people to the front door of SLC for many years. Rain or shine, Darlene was there to make sure you felt at home.

On a personal note, when I was traveling for years, I received several handwritten notes from Darlene telling me she had not seen me for a long time and that SLC missed me. I jokingly remarked that “***You know you have been missing church too often if you received a note from Darlene.***”

Darlene left a financial legacy to SLC and a portion of that legacy was converted into a redecoration of the Gathering Place entry. The project, managed by **Carrie Auernhamer** and **Pastor Paula**, transformed the austere entry into a stunning welcoming area. **Lisa Gregg** and **Bob Arper** assisted in painting, electrical work and furniture assembly.

I encourage each of you to explore this new area!

In each quarterly newsletter you will find information on the ministry, the staff/personnel, the changes, and yes, some adaptive challenges to the daily life here at SLC. Each day I am asked, “How are things going?” And my reply is always the same, “With this team, nothing is impossible!” As summer approaches and we find ourselves traveling, enjoying warmer weather and sunny skies, the work at SLC continues in high gear!

Don’t forget to check in at www.silverdalelutheran.org for updates and the latest news.



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Mark your calendars to take advantage of these summer events:

<http://silverdalelutheran.org/9018-2/>

- **Family Camp- June 21-23 - Lutherhaven**
- **Middle Camp- June 23-27- Lutherhaven**
- **WOW Wednesday on Wildcat- July 10-Aug 14/ 6pm-8pm**
- **All Church Camp - Aug 3-8 @ Olympic Lutherhaven**
- **Ridgetop Neighborhood BBQ - August 14th**

As we look forward to the warm summer days and nights, and of course some summertime leisure activities, your Church Council understands that fall is not far behind. We are resolving some recurring issues such as Sunday School attendance, lagging volunteerism, and security issues such as earthquake/medical/fire preparedness, along with other safety concerns to our congregation. We are working hard to address these issues.

Most importantly, I see the need for community has never been higher than it is today. I look forward to hearing about Pastor Paula's experience as she leaves for a three-month sabbatical (returning in September) to focus on community and writing. Our fondest wishes for a great experience and rest. **Pastor Paula's letter follows below.**

Marietta's update on small group ministry and her internship is enlightening, another example of growing community and involvement. Closing out this newsletter are three of your SLC Council members: **Kara Willis** heads up Youth, **Tom Hawks** is working our Stewardship efforts, and **Kim Grasmick** our Evangelism/ OutReach Committee "reaches" out to you regarding Sacred Grounds.

Have a great summer!

Grace and blessings to each of you,

David C Soine

President, SLC Church Council

360-536-2162 or davidsoine@gmail.com



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Note from Pastor Paula

Dear SLC,

I am so grateful to be sent by you on sabbatical this summer. I will be gone June 3 through September 4. What will I do? As many of you know, these past years I have become interested in writing. What started out as a challenge on a women's retreat, has become a couple of times a month blog, and the desire to have some time to write more.

One of the things I find myself pondering often is community. A lot of people tell me they are lonely and find it difficult to find community. I want to think about this and to write about this. In the month of June, I will be talking to people—some professionals, some friends, some church folks and some non-church folks. I will be asking them to tell me stories about how they have found community or not found community.

I will also be reading some books on community and writing. I am currently taking Heidi Thorsen's memoir writing class and look forward to learning from her and the other participants.

I also have a son who will be a senior, so he and I have some college tours planned, and in July we will be taking a family trip to Italy.



In August, I look forward to camping, getting the kids ready for sports and school and continuing to write.

I'm excited to see what comes of this, what God has planned and again, I am so very, very thankful to be sent by you.

Pastor Paula

Note from Tom Hawks- Stewardship



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Speaking for myself, and I assume many of you, being a member of SLC is a reward unto itself and a blessing with which we are handsomely endowed. During my brief talk to the congregation I attempted to personalize and publish how lucky we are to have so many talented people injecting life and meaning into the church's offerings. Also, I urged our members to get in touch with this fabulous dynamic and transform those feelings into tangible contributions to the continued operation of SLC.

A few weeks ago, I prepared a letter to each of our members and informed them of the annual decrease in contributions we experience each year at the end of the second quarter. Traditionally, this drop has been significant and makes the budgeting activities necessary to keep things running on an even keel (love that Navy jargon).

It was explained to me that one of the primary reasons this occurs each year is due to the large number of our members that eschew electronic contributions and still place their contributions in an offering plate each Sunday. While this is a traditional practice, when members leave the area on vacation or work-related activities their contributions do not enter our fiscal system, resulting in the dip I just mentioned. The solution to solve this problem is simple. Please look into providing contributions to SLC via electronic means. Stability will ensue!

https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=Fi1giPL8kwX_Oe1AO50jRuxtznzZd8m0xw9LIbbdn8XjHO3iVYxvvhHjRfLOeq662EvVVAEjqawDomKT1pboubE36KaXQ8AuUTOj-NfXU4s=

By the way, if you might be curious enough to learn more about me, there is a biographical sketch around here somewhere. However, if you aren't curious about Tom Hawks, that's ok too. Thanks for your time.

-Tom Hawks





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From Marietta - Pastoral Intern and Small Groups Coordinator

Dear SLC,

I am so thankful to have been joyfully welcomed back into your midst. I'm wearing a few different hats these days at SLC, so read along and hopefully my new duties will be clear.

In August last year, I began in the job of small groups connector. In this position (10 hours a week) I am tasked with organizing small group ministry. Last fall, I worked with congregational leaders as we formed a plan for small group ministry and trained new leaders, along with supporting SLC's existing small groups. Our theme was focused around a passage in John 1:

"When Jesus turned and saw (the disciples) following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi, "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see."

Come - See - Connect became our mantra. Sign-ups for groups were held in February and the 11 new small groups launched toward the end of the month. Between participation in the new groups and some people joining existing groups, we had more than 70 people involved in Bible studies, discussions about faith, exercise, fellowship and mission. Some of these groups met for eight weeks and others continue to meet now. We are thankful for the leaders who were willing to step forward for this ministry, as well everyone else involved in small groups at SLC. We are making plans for the fall to launch another small group effort.





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A second hat is my job as SLC's pastoral intern. As a distance learner at Wartburg Theological Seminary (based in Dubuque, Iowa), I am learning to become a pastor in the ELCA. My course of study requires an internship in a congregation. In this position, I will be doing pastor-y things: Bible study, leading worship, preaching and pastoral care. This time as an intern at SLC is precious - it's where we students get to put into practice the things we learn in class. And the congregation is a partner in my learning.

A group of congregation members currently serve as my internship committee. We meet every six weeks. When I preach, I may ask some of you to fill out sermon evaluation forms. (These are shared with my seminary professors.) They will help me become a better preacher. Pastor Bill is my main supervisor, with Pastor Paula and Pastor Jonathan lending their expertise, too.



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A third hat that I continue to wear as I am the small groups connector/pastoral intern is that of full-time graduate student. My course of study at Wartburg involves continuing to take classes as I work in the church. So once in awhile, you might find a sticky note on my door at church that says, “In Class Right Now.” Just come back to visit me later.

Again, I am so thankful to be back among the people of SLC. It’s interesting that this newsletter begins with President David Soine writing about Darlene (Pomerenk) Britt. Guess who welcomed me and my then 1-year-old son, Ian, through the doors of SLC in February, 1995? Yes, indeed, it was Darlene. Thanks be to God for her, for all those saints who have come before us, and all of those around us now.

Peace,
Marietta



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A Note from Kim Grasmick, Evangelism/OutReach

We launched Sacred Grounds, our 2nd service coffee ministry on March 25th, 2018. Over the year, attendance has steadily grown and about 5 individuals and families have faithfully stepped up to be hosts. The purpose of this coffee time is twofold: of course, it is a great time for our church family to gather and fellowship, but it is also an intentional opportunity for us to welcome guests.

It is an important part of our welcoming ministry – when we notice visitors after worship, we can use Sacred Grounds as a conversation starter, welcoming them and shepherding them to coffee, where those gathered can help the visitor to feel at home.



It is vital for us to acknowledge each visitor so that they feel welcome and are invited to return. Even if you're shy, all that needs to be said is, "Good morning, it's nice to see you today. How long have you worshipped with us? I hope you enjoyed the service – please join us for coffee and snacks next door at the Fellowship Hall." It is as simple as that – and even gets you off the hook if



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the person is a long-time member of the church, but you just don't know him or her!

Let's continue to grow this important ministry, adding more volunteer hosts and greeters. If you feel called to host or greet, please call Kim Grasmick at 253.709.3012. Many hands make light work!

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in...Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:35,40

Kim Grasmick





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Youth- Kara Willis

Summer is just around the corner, and we have some exciting things planned for our middle school and high school students! We will kick it off with the "middle summer camp" which will be held June 23-27 at Olympic Lutherhaven on Wildcat Lake. This week will provide a chance for the campers to unplug and focus on this year's theme: "grit-faith takes guts". The days will be filled with exciting outdoor activities and experiencing God's presence in a "gritty" way! We still have spots available if your middle schooler would like to attend. You can register here: <http://silverdalelutheran.org/event-items/middle-summer-camp>





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From July 19-28 the high schoolers will take part in Silverdale Lutheran Youth 2019 Summer Servant Trip! Our trip participants will be devoting their by assisting the Blackfeet Nation of Heart Butte, Montana in building their new Sundance Lodge. This trip will focus on faith connection and a deep immersion into the culture of Blackfeet Nation as we connect and work with the elders.



We will also have the opportunity to hear from an elder who has used the customs and beliefs of her heritage to deepen her Christian faith.

The Summer Servant Trip Participants have been working hard to prepare for this trip through group gatherings and planning as well as through fundraising events. We appreciate all the support we have received and continue to receive in preparation for this trip! **Make sure to check out the next Quarterly Newsletter for a report on all the fun we had!**



Blessings,

Kara Willis