



SILVERDALE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Grace Filled. Spirit Led.

September 2019 Quarterly Newsletter

Silverdale Lutheran Preschool



Celebrates 25 years!



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Dear Silverdale Lutheran Members, friends, family and visitors:

Every year at this time and on my drive to Silverdale, I am reminded of the word “chance.” This is the week the deaf and/or blind who attend the Seabeck Conference Center Camp are given a “chance” to fellowship, enjoy the outdoors, participate in games, and enjoy the world’s longest slip and slide chute (of which admittedly, I am a little envious).

There are ropes that guide them from activity to activity to remove any chance of getting lost or misguided. Guides are stationed to help many of them find a cup of coffee across the street. On one hand the recipients are given a chance, to be successful and on the other hand, all chance is taken away for safety sake. **Interesting how we all want a “chance” by leaving nothing to “chance!”**

From the very first day of taking this position as President of Silverdale Lutheran, I have heard a chorus of voices, “We have to attract more families.” Another and more often heard version of that phrase is “We have to get younger!” Coincidentally, a recent edition of the Seattle Times noted that Kitsap County is one of five counties in Washington that is getting younger!

I also learned that our K-5 Sunday School attendance has been following a national trend and **has decreased over the years.** That prompted the Church Council and ministry staff, to take action and find some solution(s) to address this situation. After a number of studies performed, committee meetings held, and discussions we discovered what parents wanted:

- **Sunday School to be on Sunday, not another day of the week**
- **Less time between services and start of Sunday School**
- **Later start to the first service to get the kids ready**



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With the ministry staff in total agreement, The Council voted **unanimously** to change our worship times to 8:30am and 11:00am. To accomplish this task, some lag time between services has been removed and the service shortened to 60 minutes (give or take 4 or 5 minutes now and then for special occasions).

As we move forward with our new schedule, we are giving our Sunday School and youth a better **chance** to engage in our quality faith developing ministry. We did our best to place all the guide ropes and people in the right place to guide this safely.

For additional information, please see our webpage at <http://silverdalelutheran.org/9306-2/>

This edition of the Quarterly Newsletter is all about the youth, children and young adults of Silverdale Lutheran Church. We have self written contributions from our Preschool (which celebrates 25 years), Pastor Jonathan, Music and Worship, Sunday School, Fellowship, and Youth.

“These times, are the best of times, if we only knew what to do with them.” Please keep that phrase in mind as you read through the next pages regarding our youth, children, and young adults of our congregation.

Grace and Blessings,

David Soine, Council President

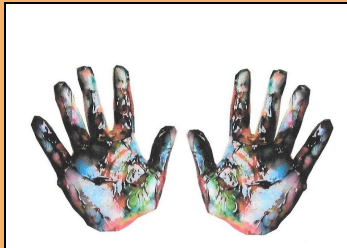


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PRESCHOOL NEWS-Nancy Williams

We feel so blessed that starting this September it will mark 25 years that Silverdale Lutheran Preschool has been a ministry of the church. WOW the years have gone by so fast. We have grown from three classes and as of this year we have six. As a staff of five, we work very hard. Our goal is to provide a happy, safe and nurturing learning environment that encourages the development of each child. We provide a hands on learning environment through play. We welcome children ages 2 to 5 to our Preschool. September is an exciting month of new beginnings, meeting new challenges, making new friends and having new experiences for the children and their families. We hope families take this opportunity to be involved with their children in this growing progress. Families are always welcome in our classrooms.

Through the school year, the children are involved in many activities throughout the Church. Each week we have Chapel, where the Pastors share the love of Jesus through stories and music. (We do some dancing too!) In the spring **Pastor Paula** will have Chapel in the Labyrinth which is a treat. Then we go to Hearty Meals and share a song and a snack with our friends that make wonderful meals.



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It's nice when we go check out the quilters and they tell the children about how they make so many warm quilts for those in need. This year we will be having a music time with **Mr. Justin** twice a month. He will show the children different instruments, teach them new songs and just have fun. In the spring we have Preschool Sunday where we invite all our Preschool families to join us in celebrating the children with the congregation in music and songs. What a joyous sound!

The Preschool is very lucky to have a staff that is dedicated to the children and the families we serve. **Tricia Puebla has been with the school for 16 years, Teresa Corogliano 12 years, Carol DeRusha 18 years, Debbie Kramer 7 years and I have been with the school for 24 years.** I am blessed to work with this team of educators which give so much of themselves to make our Preschool a very welcoming place.

Being a ministry of the Church has brought many blessings to our Preschool. We have opened our doors to so many families and shared our hearts and love of Jesus with hundreds of children throughout the years. We appreciate the support of the congregation so very much and all of those that help make Silverdale Lutheran Preschool what it is. Everyone is always welcome to stop by and see what the Silverdale Lutheran Preschool is all about.

God Bless,

Nancy Williams, Director



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Pastor Jonathan:



Reflections of Summer

There is a well established addiction in our nation to brag about our “busy-ness.” So I risk joining the crowd if I say, “It’s been a busy summer.” So let me say it this way...”It’s been a meaningful summer.”

My church summer has started off the last few years with middle camp, but personally it started a bit sooner as our family moved to a new neighborhood all of a mile away from our first Silverdale home. The new place has offered us more space, especially for Jadon and friends to keep connections going. His illness has not improved much over the summer, so we continue to pray and wait and try to get his health right. But his amazing patience and ability to go with the flow is a great teaching to me. Zoe continues to do all she can to be in front of a microphone or on a stage, and her highlight of the summer was getting to play Little Elsa in the CSTOCK summer production of Frozen.

Karen’s summer deserves its own paragraph as she partnered with our church to do a summer feeding program at Cottage Bay apartments. Because of her teaching at Esquire Hills Elementary in East Bremerton, she has gotten to know the area, and thought this summer program would be a great connection to our community. Was it ever! If you haven’t noticed before, look at how often great things happen in Jesus’ ministry around food and a table. I was reminded of that when, about half way through the summer, Karen was called into the Cottage Bay office by the staff. They were excited to share how much the feeding program had helped change some things that were happening at Cottage Bay. Many of the skirmishes between kids had stopped; they were playing outside more often; racial tensions between some kids and families had all but disappeared. And that was in addition to the food given and connections made. **Thanks to all who volunteered and supported this effort!**

My summer did include another middle camp, and we piggybacked off the Grit theme being used for Vacation Bible School. This helped me take a run at it before July, and was great for our middle school youth to focus on as a theme. More and more their faith and beliefs are challenged. What does it take to follow Jesus? We plan for this question to be in



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the forefront throughout their faith formation here. As soon as middle camp at Lutherhaven was done, my focus shifted to our Montana Service Trip with the Blackfeet Nation. This year our trip was on our own (we had gone with YouthWorks in the past), and that turned out to be a great decision. We were able to spend much more time with the tribal elders, be on our own schedule, and, in a nutshell, fully engage in “native time.” This time we also stayed for almost the entire Sundance ceremony. This offered an intense experience and deep cultural immersion. It also offered our youth the opportunity to connect deeply to their faith. They were led to a deep appreciation of creation, a deep connection within the group AND to the Blackfeet, and a deep appreciation of how much God loves them and has done for them in Jesus Christ. Along with those meals I mentioned above, a lot happens around Jesus when people serve and connect with others. After arriving home from Montana at 11pm Sunday night, I found myself at the church again around 6:45am to get ready for a week of VBS. Around 70 youth joined a very well prepped and excited staff for a wonderful week of G.R.I.T. – God-given, Really Important Tools. My favorite part was re-writing the lyrics to the popular song Old Town Road and singing it with the kids. They are amazing learners! Once again, our VBS was unique as we write our own curriculum, and it clearly pointed to God’s saving work in Jesus Christ.

With the fall season ahead. I still have dump trailers to rent and land to fill with dirt and gravel and garden soil. We still have decisions to make about our son’s health and school. Karen has ANOTHER room move at school. And there are all kinds of preparations to make to help our families nurture their youth in the faith – campouts, retreats, Sunday and Wednesday classes and meals, etc. And there are all kinds of ways to keep busy. My hope and prayer is that whatever we busy ourselves with, it is meaningful, fruitful, and faithful.

There are ways for you to engage – mentoring, offering a meal, helping to organize.

Contact Kathleen Johnson or PJ to engage in something that matters.



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Notes from Music and Worship – Kate Alcock

In my nearly 30 years at SLC, worship has always been memorable. I remember the unique moments like when a fire alarm was pulled and we had to evacuate during the service or when a bird got in and was flying around the rafters right as a soloist was singing “His eye is on the Sparrow.” I also remember many of the sermons and lessons I’ve learned from one of the many fabulous ministers and music presented by all the talented musicians we’ve had over the years. But some of the memories that really stand out to me are when I was personally involved in reading lessons, serving communion, or when any of my family members were involved in the music. Somehow having a part in the service heightened the worship experience for me, whether it was doing something up front or quietly in the background.

The term “communal effort” takes on new meaning as our community meets each week to worship and commune together. The following teams keep worship running each week: Acolytes, Altar Care, Communion Assistants, Eucharistic Ministers, Kid’s Corner, Liturgists, Scripture Readers, Sound Team, Ushers, Visual Arts Team, as well as numerous musicians. Each of these groups has a facilitator that keeps them functioning and our full time music minister, **Justin Cormier**, keeps the musicians organized and ready.

Fall is a great time to join in. Watch for opportunities in the Beacon or contact me or Justin for ways you can be involved in our weekly worship!

Kate



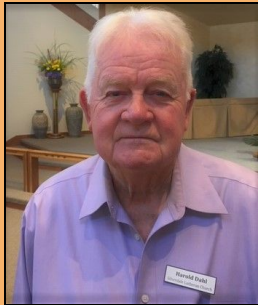
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Sunday School- Kim Rubenstein, Dawn Rittenbach

The first in the classroom day of Sunday School is Sept. 15. We know kids (and adults) have crazy lives. So what are the perks of spending an hour on Sundays listening and interacting with others who want to know more about Christ and deepen their faith beyond the church service?

1) **Amazing teachers:** SLC's Sunday School teachers have a heart for their students, and some have decades of teaching experience.



Harold Dahl, who teaches third through fifth grade, has been teaching Sunday School for nearly **50 years** and comes back every year, leaving a lasting impression on his students. Harold is known for the glass crosses he hands out to fifth-grade students graduating from his elementary Sunday School class. One-time students who are now adults still cherish their crosses — one former student now over the age of 50 and living in Alaska still hangs their cross in their kitchen window.

Vicki Josal, who teaches pre-K and Kindergarten, has been teaching Sunday School since before SLC moved to its current location on Ridgetop in 1990. She is cherished for the love and patience she shows to the youngest of Sunday School students.

2) **Variety:** Sunday School never gets boring! In addition to interactive weekly lessons, throughout the year students of all ages come together for events like Advent log-making, service projects through “God's Work, Our Hands,” and more.



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3) **The music:** All Sunday School students (including adults this year) will gather at 9:40 a.m. in the Gathering Place for an all ages musical opening to start out the Sunday School hour singing old favorites and learning new ones.

4) **Connections:** Friendships form for the youngest and the oldest of our students during Sunday School hour. Get to know members of your church family more deeply!

5) **Parents:** It's free time! Dropping your kids off for an hour can give you time to connect with your spouse, bring your coffee and relax in the newly decorated foyer of the Gathering Place. Or, take a breather for yourself while participating in **Pastor Bill's** adult education class.

2019-2020 Sunday School

Key Dates – Mark Your Calendars

September 8 – Rally Day/God's Work, Our Hands

September 15-29 – Regular Sunday School

September 15 – Ice Blocking, 3-5th Grade. \$5 meet at SLC at 2pm, return by 4:30pm. Need grubby clothes and towel

October 6-27 – Regular Sunday School

October 19 – 5 hour Funfest, 3rd-5th grade. \$5, 5-10pm, friends welcome.

November 3-17 – Regular Sunday School

November 24 – All Church Activity Advent Logs



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December 1 – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

December 8-15 Regular Sunday School

December 22 – Regular Sunday School

December 29 – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (Winter Break)

January 5-26 – Regular Sunday School

February 2-9 – Regular Sunday School

February 19 – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (President's Day)

February 23 – March 22 – Regular Sunday School

March 29 – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (Spring Break)

April 5 – Regular Sunday School

April 12 – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (Easter)

April 19 – May 10 – Regular Sunday School

May 17 – Last Day of Sunday School – All Church End of Year Activity



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Notes from Fellowship- Sue Starks

Summer is almost over! Where did it go?

We had many Fellowship events happening over the summer. I hope you attended a few and enjoyed them. The Church picnic at Lutherhaven is always a fun way to spend a Sunday. There was plenty of food, games and swimming (if you could handle the cool water). We have had many wonderful brunches that raised money for ministries within our church and in our community.



Our biggest Fellowship event was our annual Neighborhood BBQ. We had approximately 200 people come to enjoy BBQ, art projects, music and games. The big push for this wonderful event is to provide our local community free school supplies. Once again our congregation stepped up to make this an awesome evening!

Sue



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Youth- Kara Willis

As Summer comes to an end, I can't help but think about all the exciting opportunities our Youth were given to help deepen their relationships with



Christ and with one another. Our middle schoolers kicked off the Summer with *middle camp* at Olympic Lutherhaven. Four days and nights spent in the rugged outdoors, unplugged, and diving into the

Word. This year's camp theme was *GRIT - faith takes guts*. The campers read the stories of Esther and Gideon and pondered how God can use even the most unlikely of characters for His glory. The days were filled with outdoor games, crafts, swimming and boating; while the evenings set a slower pace allowing for reflection and campfire singing (and s'mores ofcourse). I am positive that the campers *and leaders* left feeling inspired, connected and spent!

Our High Schoolers wrapped up the summer by heading east to Heart Butte, MT for their Summer Servant Trip. The first two nights of this adventure were spent in Idaho at Shoshone Mountain Retreat, where the group enjoyed the





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outdoors and bonded through team exercises. The remainder of their trip was spent in Heart Butte, MT on the Blackfeet Reservation. It was a week filled with



connections, inspiration and hard work! Our group worked alongside the locals and tribal elders in assembling the Sundance Lodge for the special four day ceremony. While the group was hard at work and even during their downtime, they learned about the culture and traditions of the tribe from the tribal elders. Our Youth were honored to attend the Sundance ceremony in the newly constructed

Lodge during the last four days of the trip.

Wonderful memories were made through this unique opportunity in celebrating cultural differences while serving the Lord!

Kara Willis