

The Building of Mount Si Lutheran Church



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Mount Si Lutheran Church has but one purpose and that is to glorify God by faithfully worshipping and laboring so that His Kingdom might come and His Will be done in this beautiful God-wrought valley.

I put together this book to celebrate those who worked so hard to start and build up our church and to those who continue to work hard to give many people a chance to worship in this beautiful valley. I hope those who look through the book are as inspired as I was by the can-do attitude of the church's founders.

Terry Adams



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Foreword by Pastor Mark Griffith:

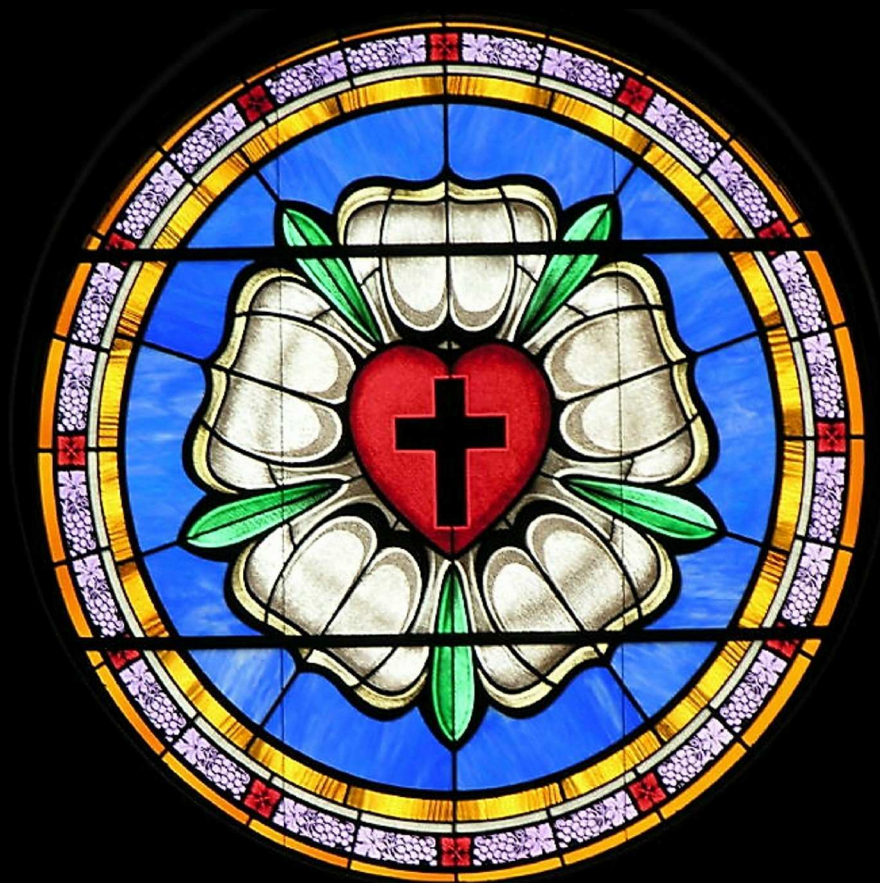
"This past All Saints Sunday, I was struck by what a blessing this congregation is. We have a tremendous gift in one another and in the legacy of faith that has been passed to us. Faithful people poured themselves into building and creating Mount Si Lutheran Church, faithful people continue to pour themselves into this community of faith to make it what it is today, and we pray for those who are to come who will carry this legacy beyond us. It is important for us to remember, we are not a building, we are not simply a social service organization, we are the people of God--the body of Christ in the flesh--in the world. It was a great joy to remember the saints who have died in faith and how they touched our lives, and to look around and see the saints surround us in this life!"

Charter Members—1949

*(As recorded in
the church register)*

*Mr. & Mrs. Peter Alm
Mrs. Melaine Anderson
Delary & Patricia Badten
John & Clara Badten
Harold Badten
Norbert Badten
Leonard Henry Berg
Miss Vada Bride
Mrs. Goldie Davidson
Herman C. Furstnow
Herman J. & Hazel Furstnow
Emil Furstnow
Lorraine Furstnow
Darrell Furstnow
Raymond Furstnow
Arthur Halverson
Ella Marie Halverson
Mrs. Amalia Hammer
Robert & Esther Hoialmen
Arthur L. (Sr.) & Marion Ketz
Arthur L. Ketz, Jr.
Richard Ketz*

*G.B. & Lydia Klin
Michael & Alice Kukla
Nelmer & Ida Lee
Charles & Viola McCullough
Nils & Pearl Nielson
Marlene Anderson Parker
Delavin Rosenow
Mrs. Amelia Rosenow
Mildred Orcutt Sliter
Emil & Esther Tellinghuisen
John & Agnes Tellinghuisen
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Thompson
Miss Doris Thompson
Miss Nora Ann Thompson
Donald Torguson
Mr. Chris Wahl
Fred & Elvira Weisenbach
Arthur & Hilda Wothe*



The Lutheran Church was founded on the theology of Martin Luther and his seal shown above is a summary of that theology. Mount Si Lutheran Church was founded on the same theology and also through the dedication of both the founding members and those who have worshipped at the church. This book is meant to document some memories of those early years of Mount Si Lutheran Church.

Picture by Gary Haas, of window from First Lutheran Church, Beaver Dam, WI

Martin Luther's Description of his seal.

Grace and peace from the Lord. As you desire to know whether my painted seal, which you sent to me, has hit the mark, I shall answer most amiably and tell you my original thoughts and reason about why my seal is a symbol of my theology. The first should be a black cross in a heart, which retains its natural color, so that I myself would be reminded that faith in the Crucified saves us. "For one who believes from the heart will be justified" (Rom. 10:10). Although it is indeed a black cross, which mortifies and which should also cause pain, it leaves the heart in its natural color. It does not corrupt nature, that is, it does not kill but keeps alive. "The just shall live by faith" (Rom. 1:17) but by faith in the crucified. Such a heart should stand in the middle of a white rose, to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. In other words, it places the believer into a white, joyous rose, for this faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). That is why the rose should be white and not red, for white is the color of the spirits and the angels (cf. Matt. 28:3; John 20:12). Such a rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that such joy in spirit and faith is a beginning of the heavenly future joy, which begins already, but is grasped in hope, not yet revealed. And around this field is a golden ring, symbolizing that such blessedness in Heaven lasts forever and has no end. Such blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and goods, just as gold is the most valuable, most precious and best metal. This is my compendium theologiae [summary of theology]. I have wanted to show it to you in good friendship, hoping for your appreciation. May Christ, our beloved Lord, be with your spirit until the life hereafter. Amen.



January 23, 1949 marked the first service of the mission congregation. It was held in the Community Methodist Church in Fall City and led by Reverend L. Myron Lindblom, pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Seattle, the sponsoring congregation.

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CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 1951
 Back row:
 Rev. Paul Gerlach, Don Wotke, Neil McCullough,
 Darryl Botten, Gary Grina
 Front row:
 Nancy Halvorson, Shirley Thompson, Joan
 Oberg, Karen Merrill

On June 19, 1949, the Mount Si Lutheran congregation was organized with 55 charter members, guided by Reverend Lindblom. The church name was chosen for the beloved mountain which graces the valley. On March 12, 1950 Reverend Paul Gerlach was installed and served as the first full-time pastor. Worshipp services were held at the American Legion Hall in Snoqualmie until November 1951.



Mount Si Lutheran Church gathering at the American Legion Hall in Snoqualmie.

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A picture of the first church parsonage, a small house on State Route 202, right outside North Bend. Mrs. Gerlach can be seen in front of the house doing some yard work, and their daughter Julie is seen in the driveway.

Top right: Pastor Paul Gerlach



December 10, 1950 marked the ground breaking service for the Mount Si Lutheran church building with Pastor Gerlach doing the honors. Financing initially came from loans and donations from members of the congregation, and later from a mission loan fund.

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Labor was provided by members of the congregation who worked at their regular jobs during the day, then spent many evenings and weekends at the church. Everyone helped in some way to support the effort.

"It was almost all voluntary labor. Never had any among us ever worked so hard, or known a more joyous experience as we labored together, in a bond of close fellowship." Viola McCullough



WE ARE GOING TO BUILD A NEW CHURCH! Our aim and ambition is to complete the foundation before our rugged (!) winter sets in. This will take some doing. The Church site, a fine corner lot in the Silver Creek Tracts is being cleared of brush and horse-high ferns. The men, and even some of the women, have turned out numerous evenings to clear the property. September 1950 Newsletter.

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From the Mount Si Lutheran News - Without a question, this promises to be the busiest spring for each one of us. These lovely, warm spring days are just the prescription we need to tackle all the the jobs--biggest of which is work on the New Church. If you haven't seen what's been accomplished on the Church plot lately, hop in the car (might be a good idea to ask your neighbor along, too) and have a look at our structure. You'll find that the Church is going up. (cont.)



(cont.) By Monday we hope to be pouring the last of the foundation and then we will begin the superstructure. When we begin this we will be sending out calls for Men! Men! Men! So keep you shirt sleeves rolled up and a hammer at hand. When we get our arches up we will want to get the building under roof as quickly as possible...so plans are beginning ... to use up some of this daylight savings time on the the church.

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A picture of "Galloping Gertie" the scaffolding that was used to help build the church. It was said that the scaffolding was a little wobbly, hence the name. In fact, the church was built around the scaffolding. I was told by Janetta Hanson that Lois Gerlach (Pastor Gerlach's wife) called her one evening and asked if she was afraid of heights because she wanted help to paint the last section of the church (above praise choir section) before Galloping Gertie was to be torn down the next day for the first wedding in the church. Galloping Gertie was on her last legs. Mrs Gerlach went up first, followed hesitantly and prayerfully by Jan--"it was very wobbly". As they were rolling the paint onto the last section of the wall, "rolling the paint on with one roller would cause the whole contraption to sway." The next morning "Galloping Gertie" was put to rest by several men from the church. Based on the stories I've heard, she wasn't missed much.



Early members, Frances Johnson and Alvina Thompson helped to put together Sunday School the room by the organ. Frances Johnson's husband Earnest built the church's Altar, Pulpit, Lectern, Cross, and Railing. Frances is shown in the picture above, right in the middle with hammer in hand. Elvina, Shirley's mom is to her left working hard on the roof. As told by Shirley Forgey, Elvina Thompson's daughter.

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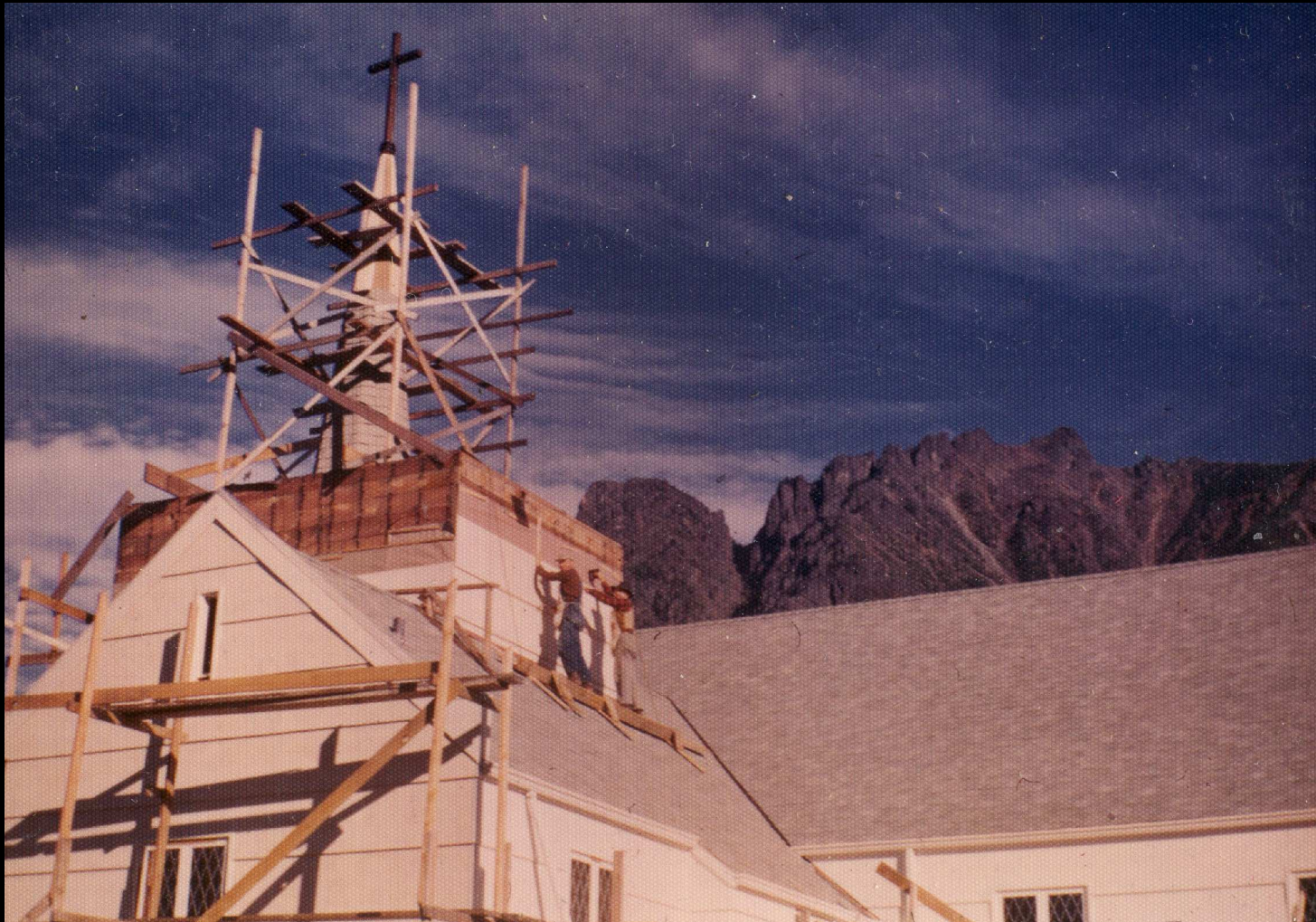


Building Crew - Unknown, Ernest Johnson, Pastor Gerlach, Art Wothe, Charlie McCullough, Mike Kukla.

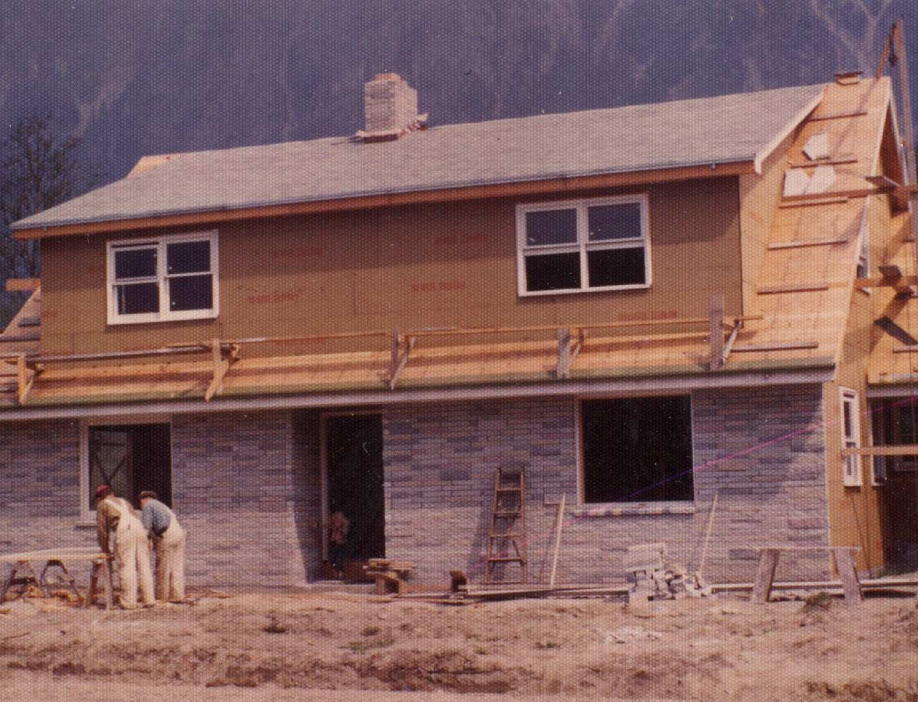


When the church was being built, much care was given to the arches so they would not get damaged. The story is that once the arches were put in it did not rain again until the roof was on to cover them, which caused the people in town to say they hoped that the church would get its roof on because the area needed some rain.

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The church's steeple leaked pretty badly. It was covered with layers of plywood, shingles, and then siding in various attempts to keep it from leaking. Unfortunately, it had to be removed from the church in 2008 because it was still leaking and also very unstable.

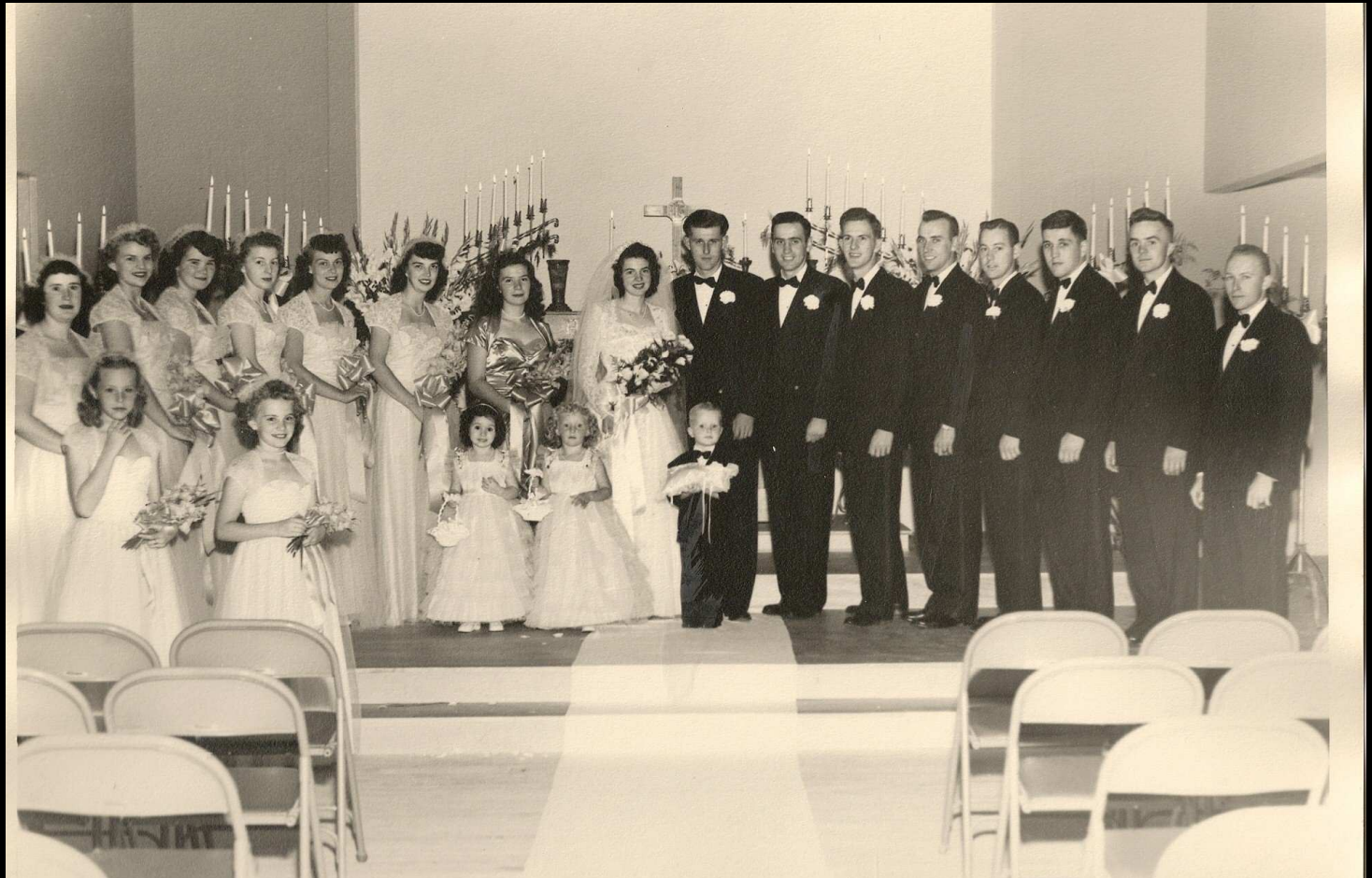


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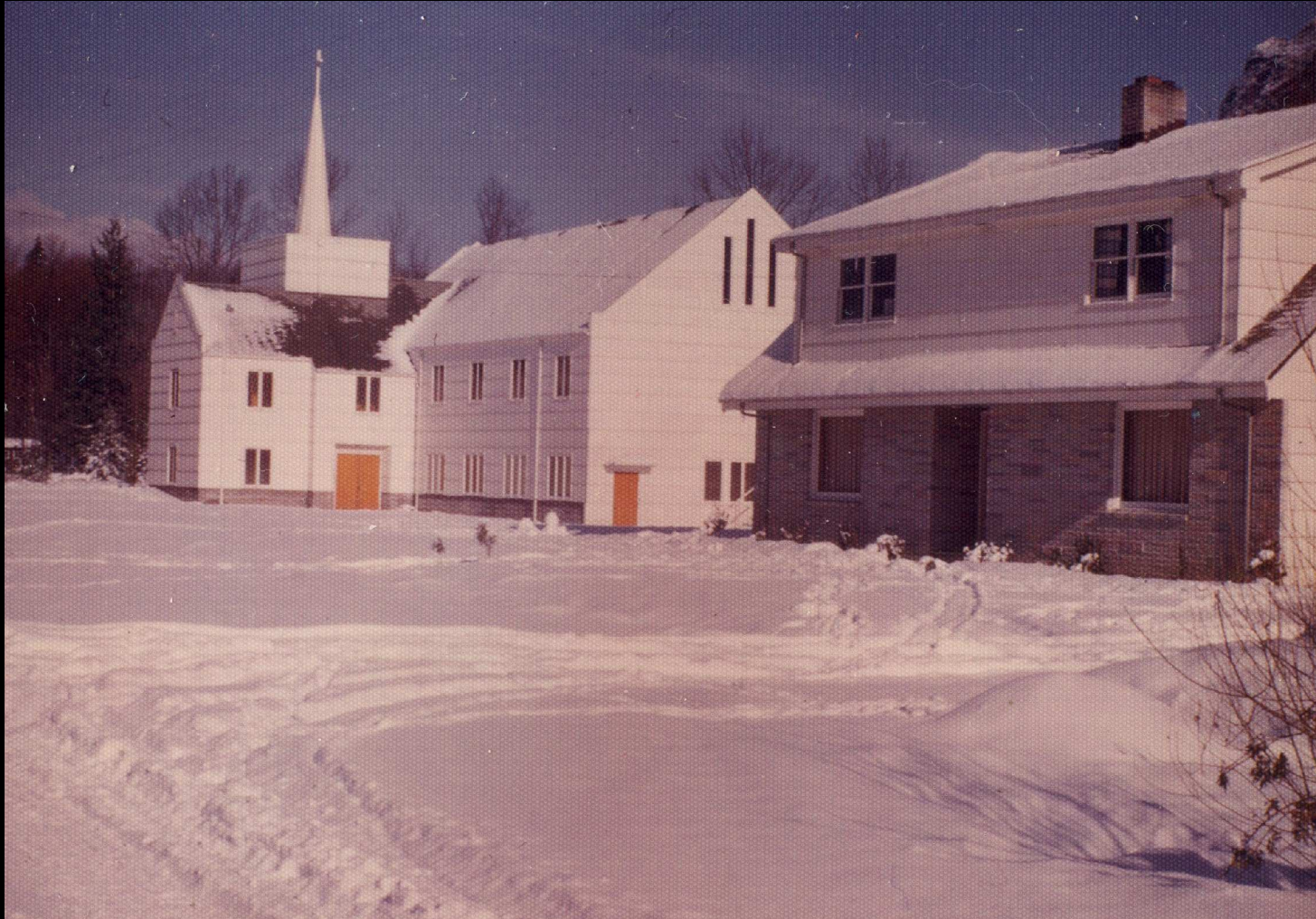
November 11, 1951 The first service was held in the basement of the new church with 117 in attendance, double the number of members who had started the church just two years earlier. "We first met in the basement of the church and had movable dividers put in for Sunday school classes. It was like a big family and those days were real fun. We all got acquainted and worked together." - Audrey Johnson

Top Right: Altar used initially in the church basement for the first services and now used in the chapel in the Sunday School building. Art Wolthe built the altar that was used in the basement.



This is a picture of the first wedding at Mount Si Lutheran Church. John Alfred Lund Jr. and Patricia Joan Wakefield were married Saturday, September 6, 1952. Pastor Gerlach had set up the first wedding in the church almost a year before it was finished, and the completion of the church was cutting it close, notice the folding chairs and the lack of carpet. Patricia said they were nervous about whether the church would be finished and she thought they might have to kick aside the sawdust to have the wedding. The wedding went fine, and as John said to me when I met with him, "Pastor Gerlach tied a good knot--because its lasted 59 years so far."

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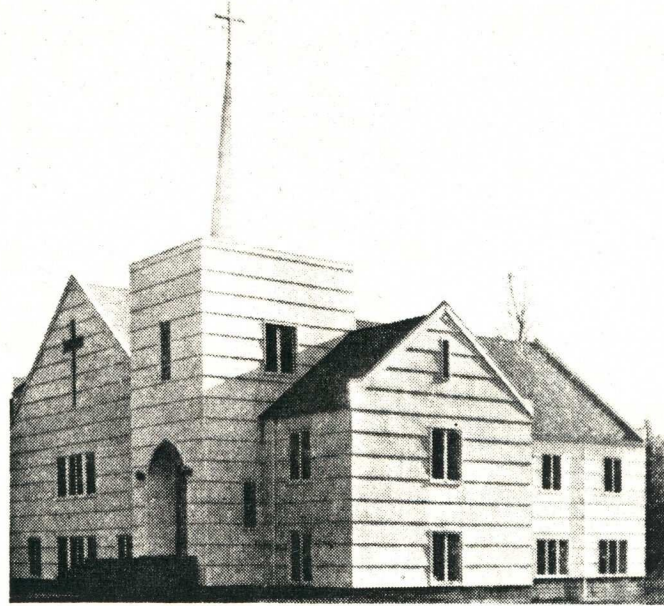


November 30, 1952 The church and parsonage were dedicated. Total cost to construct & equip both buildings was \$43,000.

Mt. Si Church Dedicated

Dedication services were held on November 30 for the new church and parsonage at Mount Si Lutheran Church, North Bend, Wash., Pastor Paul R. Gerlach. Preaching at the morning service was Dr. S. C. Siefkes, president of the Northwestern District. The actual rite of dedication was held in the afternoon. Pastor Myron Lindblom preached the sermon. Assisting in the service were Pastors George Grewenow and Orrin Consear. Following the afternoon service an open house and coffee hour was held.

Although the Mount Si church and parsonage have been appraised at \$100,000, the cash cost to the congregation was a little over one third of that amount. More than 90 per cent of the labor on both of the new buildings was volunteered; 97 different people worked without pay on one or both buildings, and several of these put in more than



Pictured is the new Mount Si Lutheran church, North Bend, Wash., which was dedicated along with a new parsonage on November 30.

1,000 hours each. The total number of man hours donated is estimated at more than 20,000.

Mount Si Congregation was organized four years ago. A group of 39 persons held its first service in the Fall City Methodist church on January 23, 1949, under the direction of Pastor Lindblom. On March 12, 1950, Pastor Gerlach was installed.

Article from the Lutheran Standard, January 3, 1953.

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On October 4, 1953, the organ, pews and carpeting were dedicated. Before the pews were installed, members sat on folding chairs, which were packed back & forth each Sunday between the sanctuary for worship service and the basement for Sunday school. The men and boys who packed the chairs were very relieved to give up this duty when the pews arrived.



With the dedicated labors of our own hands we have constructed a beautiful and adequate church plant. We are justly proud of our fine sanctuary and parsonage. Yet we can only humbly bow our heads and declare, "Behold, what God hath wrought!"

As we look in retrospect we realize that we have really only begun. The foundation has been established upon which we must continue to build for God and for eternity. Innumerable opportunities surround us in the present demanding our increased devotion to duty. Future prospects challenge us to deeper consecration and greater efforts in the work we have undertaken as a Christian congregation.

God has loved us infinitely. The gifts of His great love are in our hearts and in our hands. Individually we have the means with which to do His work. The challenge we face is to let our love for Him compel us to dedicate the first-fruits of our profitable labor to the work of His Church. He demands this in His Word and promises that we who share liberally and cheerfully with Him shall find great joy and satisfaction in our giving. We are faced with a test of our faith. May God give us grace to face that test triumphantly. Let us ever be faithful stewards of our material means. God will bless us for it. Remember we are investing in eternity.

Reverend Paul R. Gerlach,
Pastor



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The dedication of the lectern, pulpit, baptismal font and altar took place during the years 1953 -1955. Each piece was built by Ernest "Packrat" Johnson, an early member of the church. We are still blessed to have these today.

They were paid for by member donations. Costs to build these pieces: Altar \$48.35, Baptismal Font & Altar Rail \$27.81, Pulpit \$20.98, Lectern \$5.63, Candelabra & Candle Sticks \$16.00.

The original vestments were made by women in the church. The pulpit vestment, top right was made by Janetta Hanson, who told me it took 2 hours a day for 2 years to make it. Gurlie Halstrom made the altar vestment, center right. The lectern vestment is bottom right. All three were made by rolling thread in gold leaf and then stitching on the design. The three of them went to a place in Seattle to do this and if they made a mistake they spent the day pulling it out.



Previous Page: Two stories about the curtains behind the altar.

Capt Earnest Fossey (Elvina Thompson's cousin) brought back the raw silk from Japan, that was used to make the altar curtain, he was a member of the Merchant Marines.

The people at the church wanted to get the new curtains in place before one of the church's first weddings, and from the story I heard, it took some prayer to make this happen. The original altar curtains were made from the raw silk and were sent away to be dyed the same color as the carpet; but the people who dyed them shipped them to North Bend, Oregon (not Washington). The curtains finally arrived in our North Bend, the night before the wedding. The morning of the wedding, the local laundry pressed them and they had to hurry and hang the drapes while people were standing in the vestibule. Janetta (Hansen) had to stand on a ladder set atop the altar to hang the drapes (they were still warm), while Lois Gerlach was praying in front of the altar to tell God they weren't desecrating the altar only hanging the drapes. It must have been quite a site.

As told by Shirley Forgey and Janetta Hanson.



Early Easter and Christmas
Decorations
at Mount Si Lutheran Church.



Early Sunday School Classes at the Church



Early Sunday School Classes at the Church

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“The women of the church cooking for Toastmasters, Weyerhaeuser businessmen and other catered affairs helped the church purchase the first Wurlitzer organ and other needed things.” - Rosemary Coverdale-Munson
The women of the church hosted a very popular smorgasbord fundraisers at the Mt Si Center which included ham and turkey dinners where as many as 500 people would gather to enjoy the meal.



This picture shows the results of a Ladies Aide contest to see who could bring the most new members. The theme was "right side and wrong side of the tracks. You'll notice the railroad tracks running down the center of the table. The ladies that won the contest got to sit on the "right side" of the tracks and enjoyed fine china and linen while those on the "wrong side" ate off of tin plates and newspaper, and wore funny hats. (as told by Janetta Hanson & Shirley Forgey)



An Early Church Picnic



Early Sunday School Picture - In a letter to the congregation Pastor Gerlach noted: "Today we number within our Christian fellowship nearly 275 souls. Our Sunday School enrollment has reached 185. Attendance at Divine worship through the first 5 months of 1956 has averaged 125." Already the year 23 confirmed members have been added to our church roll. We are definitely on the move numerically and spiritually."

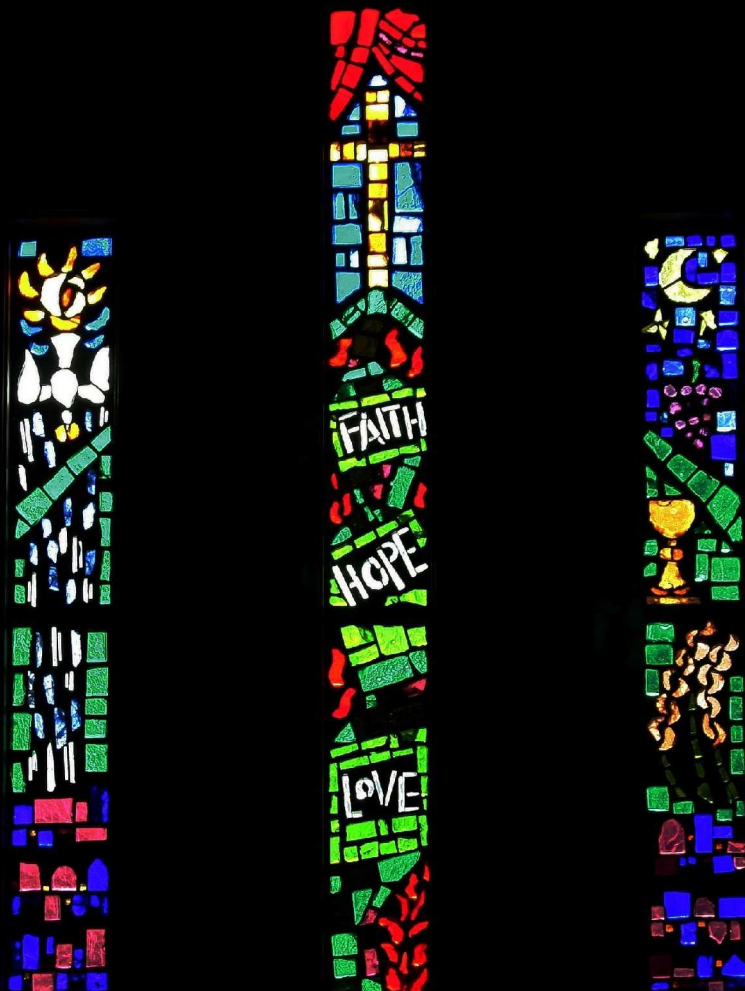
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Mount Si Lutheran Church, in the center of the picture, from the top of Mount Si, circa 1972, picture taken by Tom Burnside.



A church float in an early Alpine Days



Memorial Stained Glass Window

Psalm 121 is portrayed in our stained glass window.

See the Mountain in all three panels

The Cross is the symbol of Gods supreme help to man, in His Son, our Savior

The Red Curtain tells us that Christ's sacrifice opened the way to God. God Gives us the blessings of the cross through the Word & Sacraments.

The Dove and Three Streams of Water depict Baptism.

The Grapes, Chalice and Wheat represent Holy Communion.

A Path leads from the Cross. our Christian life begins at the cross, and in this life the Lord is our keeper. The Sun is in the top left panel.

The Moon and Stars are in the top right panel.

The Fire on both sides of the path, center panel. symbolizes the temptations and trials of life. In the Christian life pathway, the Lord leads us into Faith, Hope and Love

You can find Your Home in the bottom of either side panel. The Lord keeps us in His loving care in this life and He keeps us to all eternity in the heavenly home. He has prepared us.

On November 18, 1962, the stained glass window above the altar was dedicated. It was paid for by Memorial Funds at a cost of \$460. The window was installed with the help of a Puget Power Lift Truck.

In June 1965, the church's bright and beautiful stained glass entryway window was installed at the church for at a cost of \$140.

The elements of the window are:

The hand of Christ with wound; the hand of man rising from the world, overcoming both moral death and physical death.

The hands represent union of Christ and man together with the Eucharistic Chalice (Abstract behind hands).

Rising from the chalice is a cross of red and gold, suggesting that Christ's death on the cross freed man from moral death if he extends his hand for Jesus' aid.

The purple color at the very top is the garment symbolic of the sacrificial offering Christ made of Himself for us.

The entry design is meant to act as a introductory message prior to one's entering the sanctuary.



Mount Si Lutheran member and artist, Adolph Hienzsch, presented the congregation with the gift of a wood carved statue of Teacher & Child. Originally intended for display outdoors, the congregation voted to place this artwork in the narthex to better preserve its beauty. September 1977

Mount Si Lutheran Church's Psalm - Psalm 121



Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD watches over you—the LORD is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

