Lower Columbia Church Tour: Washington

Saturday September 21, 2019

Members of Lower Columbia Preservation Society are invited to tour five historic churches in Pacific & Wahkiakum counties on Saturday, September 21, between 10am and 2pm. These churches include: St. Mary’s Catholic Church at McGowan, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Chinook, Chinook Methodist Church (formerly The Sanctuary), Naselle Lutheran Church, and Deep River Pioneer Lutheran Church.

Please feel free to tour at your own pace and in your own order. There will be representatives from each church at each site to help guide you and answer questions.

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Chinook
767 Hwy 101, Chinook, WA

Chinook Methodist Church (The Sanctuary)
794 Hwy 101, Chinook, WA

The Chinook Methodist Church was built in 1906. Originally a United Methodist or Methodist-Episcopal Church, the building’s most recent use has been a restaurant and antiques store. Joanne Leech ran The Sanctuary Restaurant here for over 25 years. She then opened Sanctuary Antiques, Collectibles & More. The property is currently for sale.

St. Mary’s Catholic Church at McGowan - 354 HWY 101, Chinook
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Chinook - 767 HWY 101, Chinook
Chinook Methodist (Sanctuary) - 794 HWY 101, Chinook
Naselle Lutheran Church - 308 Knappton Rd., Naselle
Deep River Pioneer Lutheran Church - 2 miles north of Junction East, Deep River County Road and State Route 4.

Please be respectful & courteous when visiting these sites.

Lower Columbia Preservation Society
OFFICE AND REFERENCE LIBRARY
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Deep River Pioneer Lutheran Church
Deep River County Road, Rosburg, WA

The site on which this Finnish pioneer church was completed in 1902 was donated by Erik Maunula, a local farmer, and also a skilled mechanic and engineer. His designs and inventions were incorporated into Astoria salmon canneries.

The congregation of the church decreased over the years and became only a handful. Main services were moved to Naselle Lutheran Church, leaving the Deep River site used only sporadically.

After the church building fell into disrepair, the town of Rosburg made attempts to purchase it as salvageable lumber for the rebuilding of their community hall. Dependents of the original congregation became alarmed and persuaded Naselle Lutheran to deed the church to the concerned group, known as Deep River Cemetery Association.

This organization has undertaken significant restorations and repairs and placed the building on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

Historic sandy school photographs were used to guide the restoration.

As the only remaining church in the area, it serves as a focal point for the history of its locale. It is still used for special events.

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Naselle Lutheran Church
308 Knapton Road, Naseelle, WA

The Naselle Lutheran Church was dedicated on October 19, 1930. Historically, Naselle and Salmon Creek residents attended the Deep River church but in 1908, it was decided that worship services would be split and held at both Deep River and Naselle.

The property on which the church is located once held the Landing School owned by Tom Carlson. In 1906, the Naselle Finnish Sewing Circle purchased the land and building for $300 and used the site to host events supporting the war effort. The Lutheran Church purchased the land in 1920 and held church services in the school until the new church was completed, in 1930. Church services were held in both Finnish and English until 1967.

For more information about supporting the restoration effort, contact 360-642-2002.

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St. Mary’s Catholic Church
354 HWY 101, Chinook, WA

Built in 1904, by builder P.J. McGowan, this 115 year old church is designed with late victorian gothic style as exhibited by the windows, doors and bell tower.

St. Mary’s at McGowan is located near a one-time chinook tribal village which also became a camping location for Lewis & Clark.

The church is still in use with services throughout the summer and special events. Check out the kiosks next to the building about historical information about the site.

Renovations and repairs of the structure are currently underway and will match or recreate the original design.

For more information about supporting the restoration effort, contact 360-642-2002.