

The Witness of Peace

AUGUST 2018
VOLUME 33, ISSUE 8

Just recently, I received a little book called *Forming the Missional Church* which talks about some of the deep shifts that are happening in the way we understand the emphasis in congregational life. For centuries now, there has been a tremendous emphasis on church *membership*, on bringing folks into the church to “get God” so to speak; that is, understanding the church as the place we encounter God and receive salvation through Christ. In this view the church is understood as “ark”, a place of safe haven where believers gather to find deliverance from the sin and evil of the world. It sees the mission of the church as primarily “bringing them in.”

In today’s post-modern culture, we are encountering many new perspectives, including understanding that our God- the God of the Bible- is much more dynamic and diverse that we have been proclaiming. God appears to, once again, be bursting out of the box we have so carefully placed God in. God is just too big to fit into a box of our own making.



One central shift of perspective can be pared down to this: God does not live in the church alone. God is at work in the world, and it is there that God’s central mission is to be discovered. One author put it this way: *It is not the church of God that has a mission in the world, but the God of mission who has a church in the world.* The church’s primary missional task is to ‘find out what God is doing and join in’. This perspective restores the original understanding of church as an “apostolic” community - as those who are “sent out” to join in God’s work of loving the world.

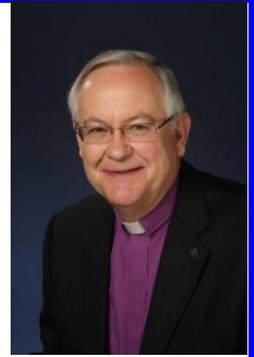
This shift makes me think of one of the kingdom images that Jesus used: *The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour, until all of it was leavened. (Matt. 13:33)* Leaven is a transforming agent that mixes in and changes the essential nature of a thing. Flat dough becomes filled with air; a hard world is filled with the lightness of the Spirit. God’s vision of the Kingdom changes everything as it is spread.

There is a very challenging thing about joining the mission of God, though. There is no “one size fits all” instruction manual. We must do the prayerful, listening work of discovering “God’s desired future” here, in *this* place, in *this* time. But one thing *is* clear: it is time to step out of the box.

Pastor Annette

This Changes Everything

By the Rev. Kirby Unti, Bishop, NWWA Synod
From the AUGUST 2018 edition of *The Spirit*



It was my joy to attend the National Youth Gathering with 276 young people and adult leaders from Northwest Washington. We gathered under the theme: THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING. What changes everything? Discovering the love, grace, and hope that has come into the world in the name of Jesus.

Thirty-one thousand students, all in brightly colored t-shirts bearing the gathering logo, took Houston by storm. Our first day was our synod congregations' Service Learning Day. I joined up with students from a few of our congregations and folks from a couple other synods in the Midwest. We were sent to a local Houston park where we spent time on three projects: reclaiming a sand volleyball court that had been invaded by deeply rooted weeds; gathering up trash around the park; and sweeping out all the picnic shelters.

It was steaming hot outside, with many of our young people experiencing major humidity for the first time in their lives. Fire ants were another first. But, this didn't stop them. They grabbed their working tools and took on the challenge. Sweat was dripping off our brows. For some it got so hot they cut the sleeves off their t-shirts. For those of us who didn't know what end of the shovel to use, the farm kids from Minnesota offered us a demonstration. Three hours of hard work and not a single complaint. Around the greater Houston area, other church groups were painting murals to lift the spirits of some of the oppressed neighborhoods, cleaning up schools, helping at non-profits, and preparing thousands of book donations for distribution.

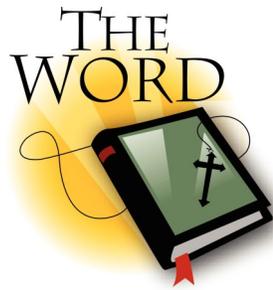
Our second day was spent in the Interactive Learning Center - which had activities to appeal to every young person's interests - inviting our students to: "encounter God through a variety of learning styles and sensory experiences." You could do everything from building a picnic table, riding bumper cars, sailing on a zip line, participating in a coloring book prayer exercise, learning active Bible Story tell to chilling in Hammock Village. (You can find out more about these interactive learning stations here: www.elca.org/YouthGathering/details/interactive-learning.)

Day Three was our Synod Day. It was a day to spend time in scripture and to explore how God sends to us messengers who are, more times than not, strangers. We unpacked the story of the disciples on the Road to Emmaus where they discovered the stranger to be none other than Jesus. We asked the question how is Jesus showing up as stranger in our world?

Every evening we gathered in the NRG Stadium for music and inspirational speakers. Many of the kids will tell you the speakers were the best part of the event. They understood the challenges facing our young people and knew how to relate to them. There were, shouts, tears and many standing ovations.

I must tell you what impressed me most was the young people themselves. I told our Synod youth they made me so proud to be their Bishop. I was deeply moved by their deep desire for justice, their care for their neighbors, and their ability to articulate the kind of world they want to see. The Holy Spirit is indeed moving among the young people of this church.

Their behavior is to be applauded. I spoke to police officers, Metro employees, bell hops and complete strangers who commented on how wonderful our young people were. It was powerful for me to witness how they cared for one another. They worked hard to see that no one was left out and comforted those kids who were having a hard time being away from home or facing the realities of what is happening in their own lives. I was moved by how comfortable and committed they are to inclusiveness. I left Houston with a renewed sense of hope for the church knowing God is forming a new generation of disciples who are well-fit to be the church now and into the future.



Readings For August:

Preaching series on Ruth continues

August 5th— Pentecost 11

Ruth 2:1-23

August 12th—Pentecost 12

Ruth 3: 1-18

August 19th—Pentecost 13

Ruth 4: 1-22

August 26th—Pentecost 14

First Reading Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18
 Psalm Psalm 34:15-22
 Second Reading Ephesians 6:10-20
 Gospel Reading Mark 6:34-44



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's Breakfast is still meeting during the summer! You can find them on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 8 am at Willow and Jim's Café in Silvana.

Our Mission Statement

“Called by Christ to offer help, hope and healing.”

CHURCH COUNCIL



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- Pam Holdal** 360-629-4263
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Richelle Tripp 360-435-0290
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Allyson Richards 360-652-8739

News from Josephine

“Will You Be My Brother?”



I've been bothered by something these past few months and I thought that I would begin by sharing it with you here. The issue is around how people with Alzheimer's grieve. It doesn't seem fair that an Alzheimer's resident, one who I will call "John" in this article, needs to relive the shock of his wife passing away not only on a daily basis but often several times during a single day because he cannot remember. People without the disease would get the initial shock once and then can journey on into the grieving process. It doesn't seem fair that, because of John's disease, he has to be stuck in an endless cycle of grief.

The feelings I just shared with you led me to this next idea with John...if we can't do much about helping him out of his endless cycle of grief (and don't worry, I haven't given up trying) could we at least find something that might give him at least a break from it? I know that this might be just a band-aid— and you don't need to tell me that it borders on denial— but please know that I'm just trying to reach an existence with John that, even if temporary, is for now a bit less cruel to this fellow Brother in Christ of mine.

Now, to the good part of this story. I think I may have found something. I asked John about activities that have given him joy in the past. Besides car repair, John mentioned a desire to play basketball. John will be 91 years old this year, he is stooped over, hasn't shot a basketball in ages, and doesn't have enough strength to even come close to reaching a regular sized basketball hoop. With some adjustments, and to make a long story short, John is shooting baskets, getting them in (12 in a row the other day!), and loving it! He was so happy in this short little activity that, when we were done and heading back in the building, he put his arm around me and said: "I don't have a brother— but I want to ask you: 'Will you be my Brother?'" I don't know if this was the right thing to do with John within the world of "Alzheimer's research" but I can tell you that when this question reached my heart I knew that we were onto something right here. For the first time in almost five months, even though it was temporary, John finally had a moment of true relief from the grief of his loss and it was replaced by a *true joy*.

If we spend time and energy doing it, I am confident that we could find this kind of joy for every one of our Josephine residents. I invite you to contact me to be a part of this ministry— or to maybe spend some time shooting a basketball with John— or chipping a golf ball with him— or knitting with Judy— or finding something to laugh about with Alvin— or....*you fill in the blank...* May our goals not only strive to be safe but may we reach out to find the places we can thrive and have life abundantly! - *Chaplain Andy*

August Mission of the Month:



Our Mission

Josephine is a caregiving community for all generations

Our Vision

To be the community of choice where no one is left uncared for.

Our Values

Josephine, rooted in God’s love, believes in:

- Excellence of care
- All people are worthy of exceptional and compassionate care in mind, body, and spirit.
- A pioneering spirit and courage
- Honoring our past while responding to changing needs and moving into the future.
- Responsible stewardship. Being proactive stewards of all possible resources, Leveraging them to ensure a sustainable future.

The Good Samaritan Fund: This fund provides financial support to Josephine’s residents who find themselves lacking the resources to pay for rent, specialized equipment or services. Please consider the Good Sam fund with a gift that will help provide the continued comfort of a loving, caring environment- allowing residents in need to live with dignity and security.

Peace Lutheran’s June Financial Report

June

Donations / Expenditures

\$14,042.96 \$18,032.83

Year to Date

Donations / Expenditures

\$90,831.49 \$104,965.38

Mission of the Month: \$524.00—Cocoon House

Parsonage Fund

Interest Income \$101.22

Balance \$123,259.88

2018 Budget

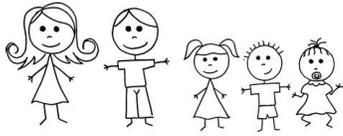
\$210,605.00

Average Donation Needed Each Month

\$17,550.41

Year to Date General Fund Donations Under Budget by **\$14,470.97**





Youth and Family

Where did July go?? It seems like I was just making plans for the 4th of July and now I'm trying to figure out what to serve at the gathering place in a couple weeks. August is here and wanting us to get outside and have some fun in God's amazing creation. The Out to Dinner group decided to go to Ray's in Everett and pick up dinner and then go over to the park to play outside. We will meet at Rays at 5:30 on the 7th.

If you are looking for some water fun we will once again be going up to the Birch Bay Water Slides on the 9th. The plan is to leave at 9:45 and return late in the day. We always have a good time and laugh way more than we probably should. However I scream more than normal in the black hole of death.

This month's planned walk is up at Deception Pass. I'm hoping that this walk will be a little more challenging, but just as scenic as the last walk. We will be leaving the church at 9:30 and I'm not sure on the return time.

The Out to Lunch Bunch is going to Mount Vernon to try a Chinese restaurant. We've been in search of a good Chinese restaurant and we are all hoping that this place is the ticket. We will be leaving Peace at 10:45 on August 21st. Maybe we will be able to do a little shopping while we are up there.

This month we will be serving at the Gathering Place on the 16th and we are hoping to serve a meal that has been entirely grown by members of Peace. If you are willing to help contribute to the meal or help serve please talk to me soon, so that I can plan the meal around what we are all growing.

Blessings to everyone and I do hope you're all having a wonderful summer filled with many God sightings!
MJ



Lovely new **gate at Valley View Cemetery** has been installed!
Join us for the blessing dedication on **Sunday, September 2** at noon.

PLCW Summer News

It's August and it is hot, hot, hot! Which reminds me right off the top - for those who volunteered to plant extra for the food banks don't forget to water! I left for a few days and forgot to ask someone to look after my flowers and they were looking pretty sad when I got home. And stay hydrated yourselves!

Naomi Circle will be meeting on August 8 at the home of Cathy Pryor. We will share prayer concerns, finish up the summer Bible study and enjoy our annual potluck luncheon. Come join us if you'd like.

The church's School Kit drive is underway and you will see a list of needed supplies listed on page 10 of this newsletter. Thanks to Linda Legler for making our bags, we will be able to make at least 200. Supplies can be left on the cart outside the office or brought to the Hill Church. For those who want to contribute but not shop, money donations can be given to me for some quantity shopping!

PLCW has donated \$500 toward the 40th Anniversary celebration on September 9. We hope everyone comes out to enjoy this time of fellowship and fun.

Don't forget to be working on bazaar crafts, selling quilt raffle tickets and when housecleaning setting aside items for the Used Treasures Room.

LWR quilting has continued to meet through these summer months. Check out the calendar page for days and times or if more info is needed please contact Alanna Stone.

One final note - in January a new 3 month study on Repentance (by Meghan Johnston Aelabouni) will be featured in the Women of the ELCA magazine. Anyone interested may join Naomi Circle members on the second Wednesday of each month. Esther Circle meets for lunch and study info can be obtained from Maudie Gedstad and info on what Lydia Circle will be studying can be gotten from Mary J. Don't see anything that meets your needs/desires - give me a call and let's chat.

See you in church....

Debra Compton, PLCW Co-President



Peace Lutheran Church Women



Joining Hands, Giving Thanks

**40 Years
of
Celebration and Service**

Come gather with our neighbors, celebrate the many ways this building supports our community, and plant seeds for further collaboration in meeting local needs.

September 9th, 2018

10:00 festive Worship begins, followed by a BBQ out on the lawn. **PLEASE PLAN TO BRING A SALAD OR A DESSERT TO SHARE WITH OUR GUESTS.**

To help with meal planning, please RSVP at office@plsilvana.org or 360-652-8739.

August Food Bank items needed!



During the summer months many young people who normally get a nice lunch at school are left to prepare their own meals at home while their parents are at work. So the food banks are requesting donations of food that is easy for children to prepare. Think “heat and serve” or “peanut butter and jelly” or something that your family’s children always liked to fix themselves. Please bring your items to Peace and leave them in the shopping cart in the narthex.



Summer Listening Circles

During these summer months we will begin our process as a congregation of taking regular listening time together- listening to Scripture, listening to each other, listening to God. We will use the simple process of ***Dwelling in the Word***, a reflective way of prayerfully listening to a scripture passage and then carefully listening to what each other has heard. By engaging in this process together over time, we can gradually be led into a deeper sense of what God is saying to each of us and to us as a congregation about what lies ahead for us.

If you have never done this before, don't worry! It is very simple, and anyone can participate at the level they are comfortable. This type of sharing actually builds a nice sense of connection with each other. Plus, it offers a chance for some spiritual "refreshment"- a deep renewing breath!

Can you try to come at least once this summer? The gathering will be about an hour, with time for prayerful reflection and conversation. Here are several upcoming daytime options. Are you interested in an evening or Sunday option Please talk with Pastor Annette.

Wed, August 1, 11:00 am, Fireside Room
Also Wed, August 15 and Wed, August 29

SUMMER PREACHING SERIES

The Book of Ruth

July 29-August 19th

Come to church these four Sundays to hear the whole of this ancient story about bearing witness to God's steadfast love in our daily lives.



- 4 Larry Sather
- Pam Holdal
- Rick Love
- 5 Margaret Ames
- 7 Sue Sather
- 12 Linda Legler
- 13 Daniel Gonzales
- 16 Jessica Ludwig
- 23 Charleen Tyler
- 29 Rachel Backlund
- Coni Moyer

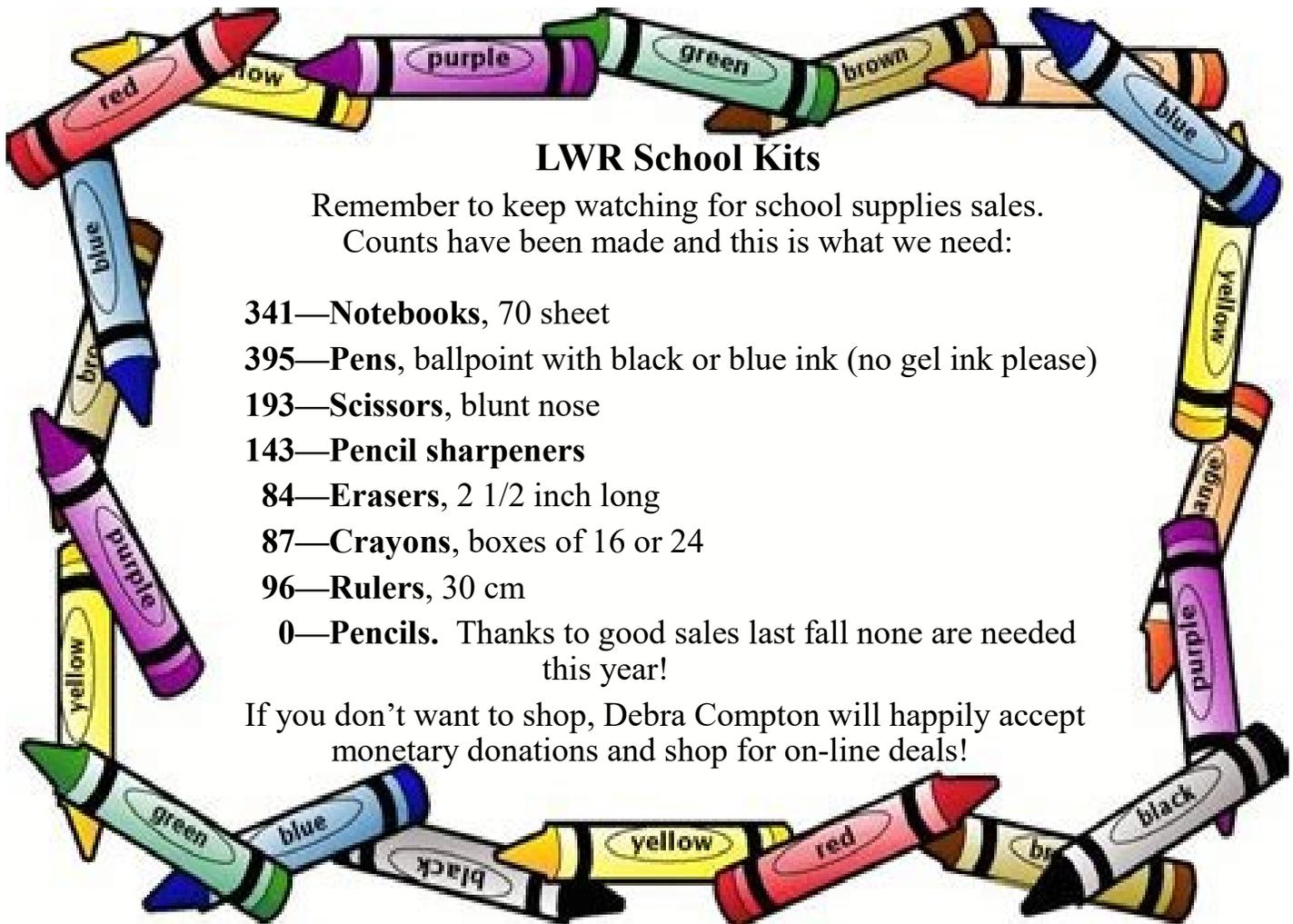


PLCW serving group for August:

Group #1, Kini Stewart
Remember to keep coffee time simple!

Worship Participants

Becky is always looking for volunteers to help with ushering, greeting, reading, candle lighting, music and communion. If you have never done it before, she would be happy to add your name to the list and instruct you on what is involved. Please sign-up or give Becky a call.



LWR School Kits

Remember to keep watching for school supplies sales. Counts have been made and this is what we need:

- 341—Notebooks, 70 sheet
- 395—Pens, ballpoint with black or blue ink (no gel ink please)
- 193—Scissors, blunt nose
- 143—Pencil sharpeners
- 84—Erasers, 2 1/2 inch long
- 87—Crayons, boxes of 16 or 24
- 96—Rulers, 30 cm
- 0—Pencils. Thanks to good sales last fall none are needed this year!

If you don't want to shop, Debra Compton will happily accept monetary donations and shop for on-line deals!



August 2018



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 10:30 AlAnon 11:00 Summer Circle	2 12:00 Silvana School Reunion Pot-luck lunch 12:00 LWCH Wedding on the lawn	3 Stanwood Fair 12:00 AA	4 Stanwood Fair
5 WORSHIP 8:30 PEACE 10:00 LWCH Stanwood Fair	6 10:00 Women's AA 5:00 Pills Anonymous 5:30 Lydia	7 12:00 AA 5:30 Out to Dinner to Ray's Drive In-Everett	8 9:30 Naomi Circle 10:30 AlAnon 11:30 Esther Circle	9 9:45 Birch Bay Water Slides	10 12:00 AA	11 8:00 Men's Breakfast at Willow & Jim's
12 WORSHIP 8:30 PEACE 10:00 LWCH	13 10:00 Women's AA 5:00 Pills Anonymous 6:00 4-H	14 9:30 Day walk to Deception Pass 12:00 AA	15 10:30 AlAnon 11:00 Summer Circle	16 10:00 LWR Quilting Gathering Place 4:30 prep 5:30 dinner	17 12:00 AA Garage Sale?	18 LWCH Wedding Garage Sale?
19 WORSHIP 8:30 PEACE 10:00 LWCH	20 10:00 Women's AA 5:00 Pills Anonymous 6:30 Council	21 10:45 Out to Lunch Bunch Chinese in Mt. Vernon 12:00 AA	22 10:30 AlAnon	23	24 12:00 AA	25 8:00 Men's Breakfast at Willow and Jim's
26 WORSHIP 8:30 PEACE 10:00 LWCH	27 10:00 Women's AA 5:00 Pills Anonymous	28 12:00 AA	29 10:30 AlAnon 11:00 Summer Circle	30	31 12:00 AA	

Peace Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 100 (1717 Larson Road)

Silvana, WA 98287



AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE -

August 4th—August 26th

8:30 am *Informal service at Peace-*

10:00 am *Worship at Little White Church*

Contact us at Peace Lutheran

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Web Site: www.plsilvana.org

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