

The Witness of Peace

DECEMBER 2018
VOLUME 33, ISSUE 12



Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!

During this season of Advent, we look for the coming of Christ. It is easy to limit our focus to his past coming, in the manger at Bethlehem. But must we not also focus on how Christ continues to be made flesh in our own lives? I have always loved the phrase attributed to the 13 century German mystic Meister Eckhart: *What good is it that Christ was born in a stable in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago if he is not also born in me, in my own time and place?*

Advent is a season to pray for an open heart, that Christ may come and dwell anew in us. It is a season to remember that Christ continues to come to us each day, in the faces of our sisters and brothers. As an Advent prayer, I share the words to this hymn that I encountered during worship at the Iona Abbey. It offers a beautiful invitation to rise from the table of Holy Communion with the intention of living in the same state of union with Christ. We are urged to follow Christ on our daily pilgrimage, opening ourselves to each encounter as an opportunity to engage in the “sacrament of care”. May Christ continue to be birthed among us!

*Now let us from this table rise
renewed in body, mind and soul;
with Christ we die and rise again,
his selfless love has made us whole.*

*With minds alert, upheld by grace,
to spread the Word in speech and deed,
we follow in the steps of Christ,
at one with all in hope and need.*

*To fill each human house with love,
it is the sacrament of care;
the work that Christ began to do
we humbly pledge ourselves to share.*

*Then grant us grace, Companion God,
to choose again the pilgrim way,
and help us to accept with joy
the challenge of tomorrow's day.*

(Fred Kaan, 20th century minister and hymn writer)

*Advent blessings,
Pastor Annette*

God knows how to disarm the world

Bishop Kirby Unti

Friends, we are living in some disturbing times where violence, bullying, threats and hostility abound. The world can be downright mean. No one is spared - not even mothers and children.

How is one to respond in times like these? Do you just duck and seek cover? Do you remain silent? Do confront those who are the source?

What many have chosen to do is to up their security systems. It is one of America's fastest growing industries. Others choose to literally arm themselves. While still others practice what is called situational awareness. It is about being alert to your surroundings and trying to take the necessary precautions.

On a recent trip to Chicago I heard a wonderful story from one of our Lutheran Bishops about Munib Younan, Bishop Emeritus of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. (He served as bishop from January 1998 to January 2018.)

My colleague was traveling with Munib when they crossed through a Check Point between Palestine and Israel. They were met by a security guard armed with an assault rifle who was anything but kind to Munib requiring him to get out of the car before he could proceed.

What Munib did is unimaginable to me. During the interrogation Munib said to the guard, "I don't think you like your job." Obviously, this comment took the guard by surprise. It didn't stop Munib. He asked the guard about his family and discovered he had a girlfriend. Munib increased the level of empathy for the guard's difficult position. Before long the guard put down his assault rifle and wanted to know who this man was.

Munib Younan is one of the most disarming people you will ever meet. He feels so deeply that he has been freed in Christ that he experiences very little fear in what for many is a very frightening place in the world. Everywhere he travels, Munib engages people with this same disarming charm - confronting hostility by revealing the fear that lies behind it. When I grow up I want to be like him.

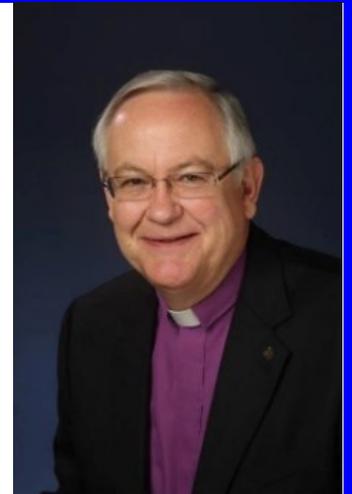
We are entering the Advent Season and Christmas. It is a time when we prepare ourselves to worship the Prince of Peace who was born in the same land as Munib. How brilliant of God to enter the world as a baby.

I know of no power greater than that of newborn. A newborn can quickly take over an entire household. They have the power to make macho men break into tears. They attract admiring looks wherever they go, unleashing a power of endearment that is hard to resist.

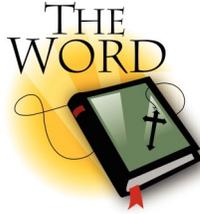
Yes, our God knows how to disarm the world. This God baby grew up teaching others to turn the other cheek. This baby who became an adult stood up to the likes of Herod and Pilate without batting an eye.

Yes, this Jesus, the Prince of Peace, has come into the world to disarm it. To disarm the hostility and meanness. To create a world where the stranger is welcomed, and all are accepted. This Jesus has come to face the fear of the world and replace it with peace.

Might this Season indeed be a season where each day we pray more fervently: Come Lord Jesus! -BKU



Readings For December:



December 2nd—1 Advent

| | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| First Reading | Jeremiah 33:14-16 |
| Psalm | Psalm 25:1-10 |
| Second Reading | 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 |
| Gospel Reading | Luke 21:25-36 |

December 9th—2 Advent

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| First Reading | Malachi 3:1-4 or Bar 5:1-9 |
| Psalm | Luke 1:68-79 |
| Second Reading | Philippians 1:3-11 |
| Gospel Reading | Luke 3:1-6 |

December 16th—3 Advent

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| First Reading | Zephaniah 3:14-20 |
| Psalm | Isaiah 12:2-6 |
| Second Reading | Philippians 4:4-7 |
| Gospel Reading | Luke 3:7-18 |

December 23rd—4 Advent

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| First Reading | Micah 5:2-5a |
| Psalm | Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7 |
| Second Reading | Hebrews 10:5-10 |
| Gospel Reading | Luke 1:39-45[46-55] |

December 24th—Christmas Eve

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| First Reading | Isaiah 9:2-7 |
| Psalm | Psalm 96 |
| Second Reading | Titus 2:11-14 |
| Gospel Reading | Luke 2:1-14[15-20] |

December 30—1 Christmas

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| First Reading | 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 |
| Psalm | Psalm 148 |
| Second Reading | Colossians 3:12-17 |
| Gospel Reading | Luke 2:41-52 |

Our Mission Statement

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



President: Larry Sather
Vice-President: Al Camp
Treasurer: Connie DiGregorio
Secretary: Alanna Stone
Greg Erwin (1)
Janeen Smith (2)
Larry Bean (1)
Dana Stoffel (2)
PLCW Rep: Anne Grimm
Youth: Simon Fuentes



Pastor: Annette Andrews-Lux
 360-652-8739
 (pastor@plsilvana.org)
Office worker: Becky Sather
 360-652-8739
 (office@plsilvana.org)
Youth & Family: Mary Fuentes
 360-652-8739
 (office@plsilvana.org)



Musicians

Richelle Tripp
Allyson Richards

News from Josephine

The Church's One Foundation

There is a piece going around the internet sharing the favorite hymns of the different professions. I'll share few here, and let you google the rest if you're interested:

The Dentist's Hymn – “Crown Him with many crowns.”

The Tailor's Hymn – “Holy, Holy, Holy.”

The Golfer's Hymn – “There Is A Green Hill Far Away.”

The Architect's Hymn – “The Church's One Foundation.”



It's this last one, above, that offered me this month's inspiration. One of the things that I love the best about being a chaplain at Josephine is the time that I get to sit down one-on-one with folks. As I mentioned in previous articles, although we would not wish the pain and suffering of getting older on others, I have found, time and time again, that folks who are going through those times often have a lot to teach us if we take the time to listen carefully. I'd love to share a couple of those experiences with you now from two of our female residents.

The first, I'll call “Laura” here, will be 100 years old soon! I never need to give her a Bible study sheet to study because she is almost totally blind and she uses a walker so that she can get around facility at her own brisk but steady pace. However, I'd like to focus not on Laura's physical limitations here—but something she shared as we had the chance to sit down and talk one day outside my office. We spoke for about 20 minutes, about a whole range of things, when I then had the opportunity to ask about her family. She shared that she had seven children and that three of them passed away. I took the time to try to empathize with her by trying to imagine what that would have felt like if it happened to me—and I couldn't—or wouldn't because it would be too painful to consider—and I shared that struggle with her. I then asked Laura, “How were you able to get through those devastating losses?” After a brief and thoughtful pause, she replied, “It was my *faith*.”

In less than an hour later, I had a second conversation with “Deena.” Deena was only 87 ☺, but Deena shared about her four children. In our 15-minute conversation she shared that two had passed away. Seemingly too much to be a coincidence, the similarities that I had in two separate conversations in less than an hour apart, I also asked Deena as well how she got through her devastating losses. Wouldn't you know it, her reply was exactly the same: “It was my *faith*.”

Both Laura and Deena taught me loud and clear, in that short hour I had the privilege to briefly hold their pain and listen, that the foundational messages we grow up with and learn in life are incredibly important. Does God promise to walk with us when we are going through rough times? “Ya, sure, ya betcha.” However, it is also those foundational years also, that can also be incredibly important to draw from—and for many of us, that time is now!

As always, dear Josephine Partners, I give thanks for your wonderful support of our ministry here. You make it possible for me to continue to listen and learn from some wonderful saints in light. God bless!
Warmly—Chaplain Andy

Advent/Christmas Season

Advent Worship:

- Sunday, Dec 2 Peace Advent/Christmas Luncheon
- Sunday, Dec 9 M of M speaker: Everett Gospel Mission
- Sunday, Dec 16 Youth Advent Reflections
- Sunday, Dec 23 Fourth week of Advent



Advent Community Nights: Wednesday Dec 5, 12, 19 6:00- 7:45 pm

A gathering for all ages, including a shared meal,
Advent reflections and Holden Evening Prayer (starting at 7:15).

Christmas Worship:

- Monday, December 24 5:00 pm, worship at Peace
10:00 pm worship at Little White Church
- Sunday, December 30 First Sunday of Christmas
- Sunday, January 6 Feast of the Epiphany

Peace Lutheran's October Financial Report

August

Donations / Expenditures

\$16,813.67 \$17,009.07

Mission of the Month: \$700.00—Housing Hope

Parsonage Fund

Interest Income \$130.16

2018 Budget

\$210,605.00

Year to Date

Donations / Expenditures

\$154,068.67 \$175,600.26

Balance \$123,719.56

Average Donation Needed Each Month

\$17,550.41

Year to Date General Fund Donations Under Budget by **\$21,435.43**



Peace Lutheran Church Women

How can it be December already? It seems like just last month that Mary, Sue, Anne, Stephanie and I were sitting around planning 2018 programs and events. Perhaps it's aging that makes the days fly by - all I know is that eleven months have literally flown by.

Our last meeting of the year will be on Wednesday, December 5 at 11:30 am. Lunch will be our traditional Christmas potluck! All women are invited to come and share in this time of breaking bread together. We are excited to have Deanna Kitchen from Twig and Vine Farm coming to be with us. A local favorite she will share info on flower design, growing favorite flowers, her classes, etc. After the program there will be a brief memorial presentation. Although we do have several items that need attention (election of 2019 Board and budget) we will try to keep the business meeting short!

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve this past year. Any time you volunteer for such a position you discover both the negatives and positives - I found that the latter prevailed in my time on this Board.

PLCW continues to be a strong group of women who want to make a difference in the lives of not only ourselves but women and children (and men) around the world. We eat, pray, laugh, cry and work together! We are fierce in our commitments and we can be a force to be reckoned with. But most of all, we are women who love the Lord and feel led to do the work Jesus calls us to do.

I close my time by wishing you a Merry Christmas - may the Baby of Bethlehem bring peace, love and joy to each of you this holiday season and in the coming new year.

See you in church,
Debra Compton, PLCW Co-President

Collections:

Warm Socks– PLCW is collecting warm socks to be distributed at the local cold weather shelters. Drop them off at the office.

Canned Corn– As of this printing 4 cases of corn are needed for the Christmas Baskets for the Arlington Community Food bank.



Custodial Care For Our Facility

As you may know, we have a part-time custodian on staff, Tomya Arroya. She spends 5-7 hours a week helping to keep this place tidy and clean. It is sometimes quite a challenge to negotiate our building use schedule and find a time for cleaning that fits everyone's schedules. You can help by providing the office with as much information about your group's event, including a start AND an expected finish time. We try to let Tomya know as much as possible about what is going on in the building each week. She is eager to serve us as best as she can, but sometimes she may show up to clean at a time that is less than convenient. My request is that you treat her with courtesy and understanding and that you communicate about the best option to accommodate everyone. She is quite open to feedback and suggestions; she wants to do a good job for us! Thank you for your patience and understanding. Let's work together to get janitorial needs met, as well as to be respectful of her time and efforts. Thank you! *Pastor Annette*

Youth and Family

Advent is finally here and it feels like we have been waiting forever! However the waiting and preparation have only just begun. For us here at Peace, *Advent* is the season anticipating the coming of Christ. Some practices associated with Advent are keeping an Advent calendar, lighting an Advent wreath, praying an Advent daily devotional, erecting a Christmas tree, and so much more. What are a few of your family traditions? Please share them with us at the first Advent family night on Wednesday, November 28th.

Hurray! **Advent Community Nights** begin on the 28th and will continue on into December on the 5th, 12th, and 19th. Each week will have a theme based around ANGELS and a themed potluck. The night will begin at 6:00 with dinner and a message. Then we'll have a *craft* and some nights we'll have a *game*. We will also have a time of sharing stories about our own family traditions and possibly come up with some new traditions to try. On the 28th the potluck theme is "Soup That You've Never Made", the 5th is "Southern Style", the 12th is "All About Pie", and the 19th is "Family Favorite Christmas Dish". This is a great time to invite a friend or neighbor.

Kids Christmas Party is December 1st. The doors open at 5:30 and we will start off the night with dinner (pigs in a blanket, tater tots & fruit). The evening will be filled with crafts, games, snacks, and we will end the night with a movie. This is a great opportunity for parents to go out to dinner or shopping. We ask that each child bring a **canned food item** for the food bank as a donation. The night will end at 8:00.

The **Out to Dinner Group** will be going to **Anthony's** in Everett on the 4th. Space is very limited, so please **sign up early**. The Out to Lunch Bunch is going to Bucks Café on the 18th. These are both great opportunities to invite friends to join us for a time of good fellowship and great laughter.

On January 3rd the **middle and high school kids** will be getting together for an afternoon of fun and games. Please watch the bulletin for more details.

December Mission of the Month

Everett Gospel Mission Engages with the Community to Alleviate Poverty

Everett Gospel Mission first opened its doors in 1961 to care for the homeless men of Everett. Today, the Mission continues to be the only provider of emergency shelter for men. The mission has expanded to include services for single moms and single women. We provide shelter and comprehensive recovery programs for 145 men, and 75 women and children each night.

We provide all services without regard to age, gender, race or religion while sharing the love of Christ.



Devotion: Heading into the season of Advent I always feel a strong sense of anticipation. A knowing that something is coming. As a child that longing was unnamed and revolved around cookies, presents, and Christmas morning. Now as an adult I still get those warm fuzzy feelings for cookies, but I feel a stronger pull to the recognition of Immanuel. The light of the world come down. Knowing but still waiting that God is on the move, that hope is being restored, and that a baby's cry will beckon the end of death. I love this season. I love what it means for generosity, for opening our doors and our families to others, for generations old recipes and remembering. My hope and call for

all of our partner churches this season is to lean into your young people. Embrace your relationships and listen to the effect of your past on their future. Take care to allow their voices at your tables, in your worship, and on your hearts.

This year my son is going to bring a dessert to dinner. He's five. His recipe will be on our table, no matter what. I can't wait to see his eyes light up as I taste his creation. He will know that he's loved by the trust, encouragement, and follow through of his father. Go back and read that last line. Amen.

We celebrate the work of Night of 100 Pumpkins at St. Aidan's Episcopal, their Bonfire Night and Ann Boid, and our team (Morgan, Anna, and Laura). We look forward to our shared work at Christmas time hosting our first ever Christmas Vacation Bible School. Good times!

We are grateful for the Pastors of the Stilly Cluster Annette (Peace), Drew (St. Aidan's), Scott B. (Camano), Andy (Josephine), Erik (Freeborn and Faith), Paul (Retired-ish), Scott S. (Our Saviours), and Mike (Retired-ish)) and for our partners in Everett, Trinity Lutheran and Pastor Tim. This year we have created a youth ministry model, a rotating VBS, special events programming on four different locations, a mentoring program that serves inside and outside of schools, and we are continuing to build strong towards the future of NCY. You all have been a dramatic part of that work and we are so grateful to have partners like you! Thank you for your care, prayers, financial support, and for showing up for students! We look forward to next year, and all that God has in store for 2019!

Things to look forward to in 2019:

Holden May Youth Weekend | May 24-26

Monthly Youth Gatherings

Two lock-ins

Developmental Assets Training for Partner Congregations and their Communities

Mental Health First Aid Training for Partner Congregations

Mentoring Partnership with Everett Public Schools, Everett Community College, Stanwood Schools, and a big surprise!

A summer partnership with Lutherwood

And more!

Christmas Bazaar A Big Success

Thank you to everyone who participated in the PLCW Bazaar. It took a lot of effort on many people's parts to make this day a success.....from lefse rolling in September to last minute set up on Friday, November 2nd, quilt making, crafty creations, baking and lots more!

The Bazaar had total sales of \$10,180 and a net of \$9,300 after expenses. The sales allows PLCW to continue to support a variety of charities and contribute to projects and events at Peace.

It was rewarding to see so many people enjoy the Bazaar. There was an abundance of good fellowship and good food. Congratulations to Carol Mendelhall, the winner of the beautiful quilt. All areas of the Bazaar were well supported and this year we didn't run out of lefse due to the lefse crew diligently making a larger quantity than past years!

The opening words of Fred Pratt Green's hymn sums up our efforts....

“For the fruit of all creation, Thanks be to God,
For the just reward of labor, God's will be done,
For the help we give our neighbors, God's will is done.”

Our Hands, God's Work

The New “Voices of Peace”!

We heard the requests for new and modern music at the congregational meeting. We are now practicing every Tuesday at 5:30 pm. We welcome anyone with hidden talent to come and join us.

We are currently learning “Song of Hope” by the Robbie Seay Band, “Lord Have Mercy” by Steve Merkel, “Everlasting God” by Benton Brown and Meredith Andrews’ version of “Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus”. You can listen to them on U-Tube!

Please pray for us that our music ministry be a positive part of this church's worship experience.



Christmas Party

Make a Joyful Noise **Christmas Pot-luck**

This year instead of our usual adult Christmas dinner we will be having a Christmas lunch on December 2 at noon! PLCW will be providing the main dish, prime rib and ham. The remainder of the dinner will be pot-luck. The congregation is asked to bring the side dishes, salads and desserts. For entertainment there will be Karaoke. Please sign-up so we will have your favorite music ready! There will also be a sign-up to “adopt a table centerpiece”. Volunteers to help with set-up and clean-up

December Birthdays

- 6 Carol Mendenhall
- 14 Dennis Dicken
Mary Nicholas
- 15 Cayden Tyler
- 16 Jonathan Pearson
Shelby Wing
- 18 Lola Woodington
- 21 Karalee Jacobs
- 23 Ted Oien
- 25 Hunter Backlund
- 26 Salene Wing
- 28 Wayne Haugen
- 31 Nathan Lux



Mary, the Mother of Jesus

Celebrate Christmas with Mary

Thursday, December 13, 11 am
Saturday, December 15, 4 pm

Rev. Gwen Ehrenborg presents “Mary of Nazareth”, the mother of Jesus. Hear Mary, now as a grandmother, share her extraordinary life story as she recalls those unique events in her and Jesus’ life recorded in the New Testament Scriptures, and invites us in to an experience of First Century synagogue worship.

Free drama
and festive meal to follow
Freeborn Lutheran
2300-300th St NW, Stanwood

PLCW serving group for December:

Group #1, Kini Stewart

Remember to keep coffee time simple!



VETERANS HONORED AT ZION CEMETERY

Fifty-four military veterans were honored at Zion Lutheran Cemetery for their patriotism, love and country and willingness to service and sacrifice for the common good on Veteran’s Day. It was also the centennial of the end of World War I or the Great War which concluded with the signing of the Armistice on November 11, 1918.

Military veterans who served during World War I that are buried at the cemetery include: Lars Druppung of Norman (d. 1923), Fred Holmeid of Arlington (d. 1965), Thore Johnson Sesby of Arlington (d. 1967), Carl F Nielson of Arlington (d. 1969) and Louie R Knutson of Silvana (d. 1969). World War I claimed 116,516 U.S. soldiers including 189 from Snohomish County.

Our local veterans served our country with distinction and we honor their service.

If you have a loved one interred at the cemetery who was a military veteran and would like to have them honored with a flag on their grave for Veteran’s Day and Memorial Day, contact the cemetery sextons or church office.





December 2018



| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | 1 5:30-8 Youth Christmas Party |
| 2 9:00 Sunday School for all 10:00 Worship 12:00 Peace Christmas Party | 3 10:00 Women's AA 5:00 Pills Anonymous 5:30 Lydia | 4 12:00 AA Out to Dinner Group to Anthony's in Everett 5:30 Voices | 5 10:30 AlAnon PLCW 11:30 Pot-luck 12:30 meeting 6:00 Advent Community Night 6:30 AlAnon Study 7:15 Holden Eve Prayer | 6 | 7 12:00 AA 5:30 Fir- Conway fundraiser | 8 8:00 Men's Breakfast |
| 9 9:00 Sunday School for all 10:00 Worship 12:00 Jacob's Family Party 4:00-6 NCY Christmas | 10 10:00 Women's AA 5:00 Pills Anonymous 6:00 4-H | 11 11:00 OTLB Buck's Cafe 12:00 AA 5:30 Voices 6:30 Council | 12 9:30 Naomi 10:30 AlAnon 11:30 Esther 6:00 Advent Community Night 6:30 AlAnon Study 7:15 Holden Eve Prayer | 13 11:00 Freeborn Drama | 14 12:00 AA | 15 4:00 Freeborn Drama |
| 16 9:00 Sunday School for all 10:00 Worship with Youth Advent Reflections | 17 10:00 Women's AA 5:00 Pills Anonymous | 18 12:00 AA 5:30 Voices 6:00 District AA | 19 10:30 AlAnon 6:00 Advent Community Night 6:30 AlAnon 12 Step Study 7:15 Holden Evening Prayer | 20 10:00 LWR Quilting Gathering place 4:30 prep 5:30 dinner 6:00 4-H Foods | 21 12:00 AA | 22 8:00 Men's Breakfast |
| 23 10:00 Worship 30 10:00 Worship | 24 10-Women's AA/ 5-PA 5- Worship @ Peace 10pm - Worship @ <u>LWCH</u> 31 10-Woman's AA/5-PA | 25 CHRISTMAS DAY 12:00 AA | 26 10:30 AlAnon 6:30 AlAnon 12 Step Study | 27 | 28 12:00 AA | 29 |

Peace Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 100 (1717 Larson Road)

Silvana, WA 98287

Christmas Eve Services:

5:00 pm Peace (downtown)

10:00 pm Little White Church on the Hill

Advent Community Nights-Wednesdays at 6pm

Holden Evening Prayer-Wednesdays at 7:15pm

Contact us at Peace Lutheran

Telephone: 360-652-8739

Email: pastor@plsilvana.org

office@plsilvana.org

Web Site: www.plsilvana.org

Like us on Facebook!

