

The Witness of Peace

FEBRUARY 2019
VOLUME 34, ISSUE 02



Epiphany Continues!

During this time between the feast of the Epiphany on January 6 and the feast of the Transfiguration, this year on March 3, we discover anew who Christ is, as he continues to be made “manifest” to the nations. What does it mean that he has come to change “water into wine” and to “preach good news” and to “set captives free”?

To follow Jesus as disciple is to commit oneself to contemplate these questions, for in some way the answers must give shape to our lives. “Who do you say that I am?” is the question that gives form to our faith lives, both individually and collectively.

As we gather around the means of grace – *Word* and *Sacrament*- we immerse ourselves in the process of living into the answer. Our liturgical worship has a rhythm that engages all our senses in opening our lives to be shaped by the witness of Jesus.

Gather the people. Tell the stories. Share the meal. Send them out.

The diverse community, with its variety of gifts and perspectives, teaches us what it means to listen, to forgive, to accept, to respect. The sacred stories engage our minds and hearts, as we break open God's word and discover its message for our lives today. We come together to the altar of holy communion – the parade of saints/sinners – all in need of grace, to both heal and empower us. We close our celebration with the exhortation: *Go in peace, to love and serve the LORD!*

It is easy to allow worship to become an empty ritual, going through motions and prayers by rote, more obligation than celebration. Can we ask God to open our eyes and ears and hearts anew this season, that we might see the shining presence of Christ's light among us- not only on Sunday morning, but daily? Weekly worship helps us remember *who* we are and *whose* we are. It is easy to forget.

You are God's beloved child. With you, I am well-pleased. In this community of faith, I bathe you with love and feed you with courage. Sing your songs of new life and embrace a new vision for this broken world. Go, shine your Christ light, be a voice for peace and healing, be a doer of justice, help birth the Kingdom- now!

Blessings on the journey, Pastor Annette

Come... Worship... Bow down

O Come, let us worship and bow down

Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker!

For he is our God and we are the people of his pasture

And the sheep of his hand.

Psalm 95:6-7

Our Father calls us... People of Peace here in Silvana

Come... Worship... Bow down

Connecting the dots

Bishop Kirby Unti

NW Washington Synod / ELCA

From the February 2019 edition of *The Spirit*



I have thought many times about my trip last year to Standing Rock to stand in solidarity with our Native American brothers and sisters as they fight to protect their lands and waters.

I will never forget how the Standing Rock people spoke of their sacred land. Their relationship with the land is very personal. They understand the earth is their mother. The soil is the womb of the mother. The rivers, lakes and sea are the amniotic fluid. They were there with tribal representatives from around the world not to protect their property, but to protect their mother's womb and the fluids that make for life.

It was so clear to me how they live in relationship with the land and water. Relationship for them is about seeing themselves as a part of the earth - not separate from it or in any way above it. Their relationship with the land is very mutual - each knowing they rely upon the other for their very existence.

Compare that to how we have treated the earth in the Western world. Often, we see the earth as an object that we are free to exploit. The earth is there for our use and benefit. It becomes our property and our possession, and we have monetized every part of it.

It is only in recent times that we come to the realization that we are severely harming the earth and may be pushing her beyond her capacity to heal and renew herself. The rate of decline of the polar ice cap and the increase of carbon dioxide into the air is alarming. We are noticing the damage in the rising of both temperatures and the seas. Our Lutheran Church in Shishmaref, Alaska is faced along with the whole town with having to relocate as the seas continue to rise.

Luther would find this to be very disturbing because he believed so strongly that God is embedded in all the creation - even in the tiniest tree. Just as we are called to love our neighbor, we are called to see the creation as sacred and to be in relationship with it.

When we do not honor our relationships, we cease to live long in the land.

I am starting to connect the dots – I see that we in the West have not only become separated from the land, we have become separated from our neighbors. I believe this separation is one of the leading forces that is dismantling the church as we have known it.

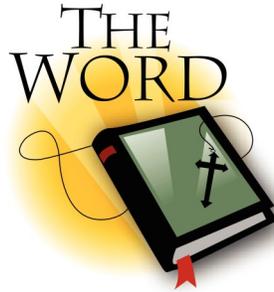
In too many cases we no longer see our neighbors as subjects to be highly regarded. We see our neighbors as objects to be used for our benefit. Exploitation not only will destroy the earth, it will destroy the church and the communities in which we live.

Our Living Local movement invites us to overcome the gap that exists between us and our neighbors. The movement invites us to come to know our neighbors. It is all about entering mutual relationships of caring and serving together.

One of the classic definitions of sin is separation – when we become separated from God and neighbor and are turned in on ourselves.

Might I suggest we all need to get our hands in the dirt and discover once again Mother Earth. Might we care for her, deeply respect and honor her, and learn how to live in relationship with her. And might we come to know our neighbors, care for them, deeply respect and honor them and learn how to live in relationship with them. +BKU

Readings For February:



February 3rd—4 Epiphany

First Reading	Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm	Psalm 71:1-6
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Gospel Reading	Luke 4:21-30

February 10th—5 Epiphany

First Reading	Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]
Psalm	Psalm 138
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Gospel Reading	Luke 5:1-11

February 17th—6 Epiphany

First Reading	Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm	Psalm 1
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Gospel Reading	Luke 6:17-26

February 24th—7 Epiphany

First Reading	Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Psalm	Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Gospel Reading	Luke 6:27-38



CALLING ALL MEN!

Men's breakfast meets the 2nd and 4th Saturday, 8:00 am in the fireside room. Enjoy food, fellowship and study the Gospel.



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

Our Mission Statement

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

Looking for a way to serve here at Peace?
**Consider being part of the Team that helps
 put our weekly offering to work.**

Each week a pair of behind-the scene volunteers put their time and effort into getting the weekly offering entered into our database system and the deposit dropped off at the bank. You might not be aware of this service, so here is a quick overview:

The counters work with one of the ushers to ensure a correct count of the loose cash before beginning to process the checks. The usher will complete the usher form, which includes both monetary and attendance information, and leaves the form with the counters. The counters then open all of the offering envelopes and separate the checks, marking the envelopes with the contents if needed. If there is cash that is not labeled with a person's name in the envelopes, and they are unmarked pew envelopes, those dollars are added to the loose cash.

After counting, the total amounts for the General Fund are entered in our church financial database (called Church Windows.) Checks and other contributions meant for designated gifts are also entered. Care is taken to determine if any of the designated gifts are to be deposited into one of the special savings accounts. After all are entered, the checks are totaled manually to see that they total what is in Church Windows. If it balances, the deposit is posted, reports are printed and distributed, and the deposit is packaged and taken to the bank for the night drop.

This all might sound a bit complicated (and sometimes is!). However, **training will be available, with support for as long as it is needed.** You won't be left high and dry and confused!

Are you a good fit for this ministry?

One basic requirement: those interested in this position should be fairly comfortable with a computer or willing to **assist** a team member who oversees that role.

It is helpful to be proficient on the 10-key (calculator). Sorting, stamping checks with the endorsement stamp, etc. is something the assistant can do and it is very helpful.

People in these positions are those that can **keep confidences**. What people give to the church is to be kept private, not to be discussed.

Ideally we are looking for **a team of two people**, though we could help form a team from two individuals who are willing.

Be available every few weeks after church. The schedule is worked out as a team and is somewhat flexible. The work on any given Sunday can take anywhere from 45 minutes to two hours (if there's trouble balancing) to perform.

To find out more talk to one of our current counters: Dennis & Karen Dicken, Al & Judy Camp, Debra Compton, Patty Jones. **THANKS FOR THINKING ABOUT THIS!**

Peace Lutheran Church Women

PLCW meets the first Wednesday of each month. The first item on the agenda is lunch. After lunch the group moves into the fireside room for the meeting. Each month they learn something new from a speaker. Last month Pastor Annette shared her "Celtic Pilgrimage" with the group. The slide show presentation took us through her travels in Ireland and Scotland and made us wish we could have been there too!

On February 6th the topic will be "Healthcare". Devotions will be led by Karen Fuentes and the lunch provided by Betty Jacobs, Shirley Cupic and Debra Compton. Please join us!

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 24th, 11:30. Be there!

Reports will be available on February 10 for your perusal.

Peace Lutheran's December Financial Report

<u>December</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Donations / Expenditures	Donations / Expenditures
\$16,811.98 \$20,895.36	\$186,043.88 \$205,337.12

Mission of the Month: \$962.00—Everett Gospel Mission

Mission Investment Fund

Interest Income \$130.43

Balance \$123,976.08*

*\$7000.00 transferred from MIF to General Fund on 12/31/18 to meet December expenses.

New MIF Balance—\$116,976.08

2018 Budget

\$210,605.06

Average Donation Needed Each Month

\$17,550.41

Year to Date General Fund Donations Under Budget by **\$24,561.18**



A book review...from our PLC library

“In My Father’s House” by Bodie Thoene

This story begins toward the end of WWI. It follows several soldiers of various backgrounds as they try to survive in the bloody battlefields of this war. After the battles end, we follow their recovery, the celebrations in Europe, the trip home and the difficulties of reuniting with their families. The society that they returned to in the United States was hard to understand. This was an era full of hatred toward Jews, Germans, as well as other immigrants, but mostly for anyone who was a Negro. I learned about sharecropping, the Klu-Klux-Klan and lynchings. I also learned how little it took to ruin a person’s reputation and how lives could be ruined just because of their political or religious beliefs.

This is not a feel good type of story. I found myself quite angry at times. There are very few happy endings for these soldiers! I was upset at the end because so many of the stories were not yet finished. Then I discovered that this is just the first book in a series. Luckily, the next book in the series was also in our library! I can’t wait to read the next book and hope that some of these lives have a happy ending! -Becky Sather

If you would like to share about a book you have read in our library please submit it for the Witness.

Parents, please note: Coming this month!

*Sunday school series on the Sacraments,
with Pastor Annette*

A time for all our young ones to deepen their understanding
of Baptism and Holy Communion

February 10, 17, 24

Please try to have your child join us.



**Habitat
for Humanity®**



February Mission of the Month

Mission Statement: Putting God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope

Vision Statement: Empowering people to empower themselves

We build:

- Strength**-with a little help, we all have the potential to stand on our own
- Stability**-strong and stable homes help build strong and stable communities
- Self-reliance**-homeowners receive financial education, help build their homes and pay and affordable mortgage
- Shelter**-a place to call home is something we all need to thrive

Youth and Family

February is rolling in fast - well, more like a Hunger Strike kind of fast. Tammy, Jordy, and Hunter will be leading the youth in a Hunger Strike starting Friday, February 1st. This weekend is a time for the youth to learn about hunger around the community and how we

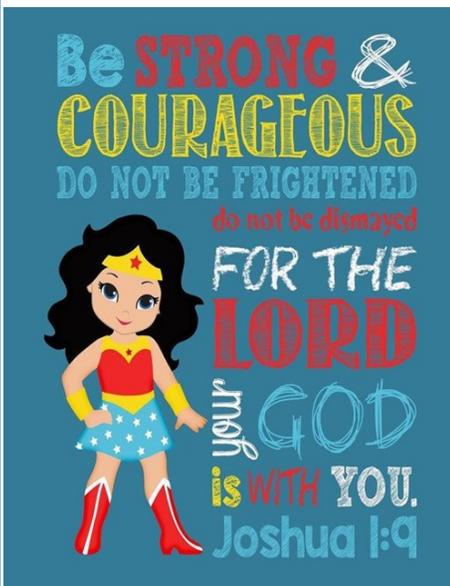


can help end hunger around us and globally. The weekend begins with dinner, so that we can all begin the fast together and continues with games. Saturday will find the youth doing various community service projects. They will then end their fast with communion on Sunday morning. If you would like to join the youth or you know of some youth that would like to participate, please give Tammy a call.

The Out to Dinner Group will be going to Abbott's in Everett on Tuesday the 12th. Abbott's has received many great reviews and serves classic American food. Please leave a message on my desk if you are able to go.

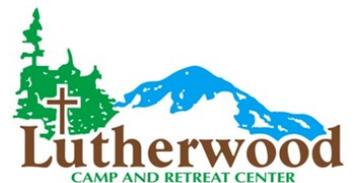
The Out to Lunch Bunch will be going to Hubbs Pizza and Pasta in Arlington on the 19th of February. Hubbs has a great reputation around Arlington and has received many compliments from members of Peace.

Youth Group will resume on the 6th at 6pm. Yes, I will most likely be tired, but I'm looking forward to sharing a few stories about my journey to China. We will be serving pizza and root beer floats.



ELEMENTARY RETREAT

JESUS IS MY SUPERHERO!



MARCH 15-16, 2019

Come to camp with your church. Maybe it's your first time at camp or you just want to come back to meet new friends through songs, games, bible encounter, and even a campfire with s'mores, yum yum! We will be learning about what it means to conquer our fears and live outside our comfort zone.



PLCW serving group for
February:
Group #4, Ashley Kombol

Remember to keep coffee time simple!

- 4 Heidi Pearson
- 6 Janet Stangeland
Greg Erwin
- 12 Dick Klabunde
- 14 Jolene Rod
- 18 Shirley Ahrens
Madison Lilgreen
- 20 Isaiah Kombol
Preston Grant
Payton Grant
- 23 Anne Grimm
Debbie Norman
- 25 Signe Cairus
- 26 Phoebe Fuentes
- 27 Greta Ashley

A book review...from our PLC library

“*A Basket Brigade Christmas*” by Judith Miller, Nancy Moser and Stephanie Grace Whitson

Expecting a rainy, cold December weekend, I decided to grab a book from our church’s library. I picked one with a pretty cover and headed home. Only when I opened it later that evening, did I realize that I had picked the memorial book that Debra Compton had chosen for my mother-in-law, Joanne Sather!

The book is based during the Civil War in a town where the train carrying the wounded soldiers from the battle field makes a stop before heading to the hospital in Chicago. The women of this town observe the poor conditions and care that these soldiers are receiving and take it upon themselves to try to make life a bit better for them.

This is actually three stories in one. Each author tells their story based on a different woman in this town. If you like historical fiction that is morally based with happy endings, this is the book for you! -Becky Sather

Bingo for Lutherwood!

Looking for a fun way to support Camp Lutherwood?



Play BINGO & dine
Sunday, February 10
Viking Hall, Silvana



(1331 Pioneer Hwy., Stanwood)

Proceeds go to Camp Lutherwood

Dinner(\$7) is served starting at 5 pm

Bingo(\$10) starts at 6 pm. Door prizes!



February 2019



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Annual reports due 12:00 AA Hunger strike begins	2 Hunger Striker's Service Projects
3 9:00 Sunday School for all 10:00 Worship-Souperbowl of Caring 4-6pm NCY Lakewood	4 8:30 Music meeting 10:00 Women's AA 5:00 Pills Anonymous 5:30 Lydia	5 China travelers return 12:00 AA 6:00 Voices (Pastor.....)	6 10:30 Al Anon PLCW 11:30 Lunch 12:30 meeting 6:00 Community Night 6:30 AlAnon Study Annette - continuing..	7 education.....	8 12:00 AA in Seattle.....)	9 8:00 Men's Breakfast
10 9:00 Sunday School for all 10:00 Worship 12-4 Council Retreat 5:00 Lutherwood Bingo	11 10:00 Women's AA 5:00 Pills Anonymous 6:00 4-H (Kitchen.....)	12 12:00 AA Out to Dinner-Abbot's in Everett 6:00 Voices Closed.....)	13 9:30 Naomi 10:30 Al Anon 11:30 Esther 6:00 Confirmation at Peace 6:00 Community Night 6:30 AlAnon Study New.....)	14 Valentine's Day Floor.....)	15 12:00 AA ..Installation!)	16
17 9:00 Sunday School for all 10:00 Worship	18 Presidents Day 10:00 Women's AA 5:00 Pills Anonymous	19 Witness articles due OTLB Hubb's in Arlington 12:00 AA 6:00 Voices 6:00 Council 6:00 District AA	20 10:30 AlAnon 6:00 Community Night 6:30 Confirmation, Our Savior's, Arl. 6:30 AlAnon 12 Step Study	21 10:00 LWR Quilting 6:00 4-H Foods	22 12:00 AA	23 8:00 Men's Breakfast
24 9:00 Sunday School for all 10:00 Worship 12:00 Congregational Meeting	25 10:00 Women's AA 5:00 Pills Anonymous	26 12:00 AA 6:00 Voices	27 10:30 AlAnon 6:00 Community Night 6:30 Confirmation, Our Savior's, Arl. 6:30 AlAnon 12 Step Study	28		

Peace Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 100 (1717 Larson Road)

Silvana, WA 98287

Contact us at Peace Lutheran

Telephone: 360-652-8739

Email: pastor@plsilvana.org

office@plsilvana.org

Web Site: www.plsilvana.org

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