

# The Witness of Peace

MARCH 2019  
VOLUME 34, ISSUE 03

## *Discerning the Path Ahead*



Those of you who were able to attend our congregational meeting will know that I have invited us as a congregation into a process of reflection and discussion regarding the changes we are facing both within and without and how we are called to respond. I think that the reflection below, written by a fellow pastor of a Baptist congregation, not only speaks to the changing reality of the church across denominations but shares some very important wisdom that I deeply resonate with and believe we should all heed. ***Please take the time to read it carefully.***

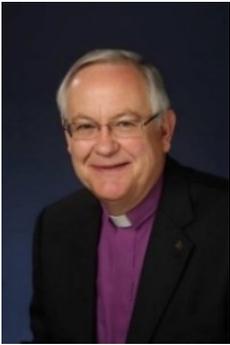
**“As a pastor trained by the 20<sup>th</sup> century but living and serving in the 21<sup>st</sup>, I know the next steps for all churches will require us to bless and release much of how things have always been. To move forward with integrity, we must all dream, innovate and discern what the next, right steps are... Wherever this journey takes each of us, our creative work must be more about authentically embodying faith than frantically shoring up institutions.**

**How will we know what path is ours to take? Well. That is something I did learn in seminary. We sit in holy quiet together, embracing ancient practices of contemplation and discernment. We follow the threads across ancient texts and look for the ways God has always been finding new and wildly imaginative avenues to know and be known by a people. We foster honest, brave, healthy, truth-telling communities that step even more fully and boldly into their calling as followers on the Way of Jesus. We ask really good questions and listen to each other in hopes of getting to even better ones.”**

*- Pastor Elizabeth Mangham Lott, St. Charles Ave. Baptist Church, New Orleans, from reflections on the closing of the seminary she attended, Baptist Theological Seminary.*

Many of us are not familiar with the process of spiritual discernment. Fortunately we have some helpful resources in the church's historical toolbox. **During this Lenten season, we will be exploring specific skills that can be practiced as we seek to “listen for God's voice”.** Using the teachings of St. Ignatius of Loyola, we will reflect on a different skill during each mid-week service. **If you are able, please make it a priority in your schedule to join us.**

***Blessings, Pastor Annette***



## The Power of Dignity

Bishop Kirby Unti | NW Washington Synod / ELCA | From the March 2019 edition of *The Spirit*

The most frequent question that I am being asked these days is, “What are you going to do next?” I announced in September that I would not be seeking reelection and immediately the question began. Strange as it may sound, I wasn’t prepared for it. In fact, I have given very little thought to what I might do next other than sleep, spend more time with Kim, and get out more on our boat, *Gratitude*.

I am now thinking more seriously about what I am going to do next - knowing that throughout my life God has always disrupted my plans.

One area I know I want to invest more heavily in is my work as a trustee of Renton Technical College. It has been one of the greatest experiences of my life’s journey to have a front row seat at the College. I have been tuned into the college for over thirty years. I was first attracted to the college knowing the population of students it serves - primarily those for whom traditional education is not fulfilling, those who cannot afford a 4-year college and more recently those who are new to our country whose primary language is not English.

The faculty at the college is likewise unique. They are people of great passion who believe that every person can learn and succeed. By and large, all of them can find much higher paying jobs in other areas of the economy. They are in it because they receive great joy in seeing students who have little or no confidence discover how smart and capable they are.

I recently returned from a gathering of trustees in Olympia where we hosted the Transforming Lives dinner. It was an opportunity to offer gratitude and praise to 34 students, each representing their school. Each of them arrived with incredible stories of moving from utter defeat to a pace of hope.

Five of the 34 were invited on stage to tell their stories. There wasn’t a dry eye in the room. One woman returned to college at 46 after years of abuse nearly ending in her own death. She was a high school dropout and had four children for whom she was responsible. She said to her kids before she entered college. “Don’t grow up to be like your mom.” It took only one counselor to see what potential she had. She went from wanting to drop out of college in the first week to getting her GED and will graduate this Spring with the intention to get her degree in psychology and use her life experiences to help others. At the end of her presentation she said to her four children in the audience, “Be like your mother - never give up.”

Another student had come out of an abusive home from which she ran from. She ended up in the horrific world of sex trafficking. She once again ran from the violence, knowing her only hope was in getting an education. It was a hard story, but she said, “I do so because I want others to find the hope that I have found.”

Two other students had been living on the streets and in their cars without shelter. Each had been incarcerated for lengthy periods of time. One living with HIV and the other having been a child soldier in the war in Liberia. They spoke powerfully of the confidence and hope they have in their futures. Further education and a living wage awaits all of these students.

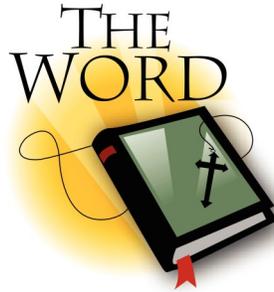
The final student came from a family of 24 siblings. They lived in incredible poverty. She never dreamed she would go to college. She found a dead-end job and knew that her only hope for a bright future was education. She is now a rising star in her college with a very promising future.

Each one of these students went from being unable to establish eye contact to finding their voices in less than two years’ time.

There wasn’t a dry eye in the room because we witnessed how resilient the human soul is when at least one other person knows you by name, sees you as fully their equal and believes in your ability to fulfill your dreams.

I don’t know all that I will be doing - but I will continue to be an advocate for fully funding our Community and Technical Colleges. +BKU

## Readings For March:



### March 3rd—Transfiguration of Our Lord

First Reading	Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm	Psalm 99
Second Reading	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Gospel Reading	Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

### March 6th—Ash Wednesday

First Reading	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm	Psalm 51:1-17
Second Reading	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Gospel Reading	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### March 10th —1 Lent

First Reading	Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Second Reading	Romans 10:8b-13
Gospel Reading	Luke 4:1-13

### March 17th—2 Lent

First Reading	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm	Psalm 27
Second Reading	Philippians 3:17-4:1
Gospel Reading	Luke 13:31-35

### March 24th—3 Lent

First Reading	Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm	Psalm 63:1-8
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Gospel Reading	Luke 13:1-9

### March 31—4 Lent

First Reading	Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm	Psalm 32
Second Reading	2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Gospel Reading	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



**President:** Larry Sather  
**Vice-President:** Al Camp  
**Treasurer:** Connie DiGregorio  
**Secretary:** Alanna Stone  
**Greg Erwin (1)**  
**Janeen Smith (2)**  
**Larry Bean (1)**  
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### Musicians

**Richelle Tripp**  
**Allyson Richards**

### Our Mission Statement

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



## “Liberating Beyond our Walls”

Dear Partners:

For those of you on the lectionary cycles for worship, you may have remembered Jesus confirming his mission in life: “...the Spirit has anointed me to bring good news to the poor...proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free...” (Luke 4:18). As I do weekly, I now try to read these texts through the eyes of the people I work with at Josephine. How would they read and relate to the scriptures we have? Would they take this text from Luke 4 and say: “I’m on a very limited income, what kind of good news could I offer the poor?” “I’m confined to a wheelchair and can’t drive anymore—how can I offer any kind of release to those who are captive?” “Sight to the blind?—I need a size 32 font to read these days and I can’t find my own glasses half the time!” For me as their pastor, I think it’s important for me to at least try to step in their shoes and to ask these questions—because now I have a context in which to reflect and respond.

It’s important for me to realize that I am often preaching to those who are poor, feel captive, and are often blind themselves. I also believe, though, that when we can be a part of liberating others we can often be freed to find *life* as well—*real* life. I think this is why one of the most important parts of worship for those I work with is the offering. For folks in their lives who are in the position of needing to receive care all the time, even for the simplest of their daily needs, many find life in being able to participate in the act of giving. This is why for the past couple of months, I’ve been putting together videos, to be shown during worship time, of where their offerings are going. We’ve been intentional about our giving and where it goes—spreading our gifts locally, nationally, and internationally; some directly connected with eldercare and sometimes beyond; some as continued support and some for new ministries... It’s been wonderful to be able to share that even though their limitations are real, and never what they would have ever imagined or hoped for, that they can also in their own small but significant ways be a part of liberating others.

This past Sunday, I shared about an \$800 benevolence that they made to the Good Gifts Program. I not only shared how their contributions helped buy pigs, chicks, goats, honey bees, a share of a cow, a share of an oxen and plow, and a fish farm but also how important each of these livestock can specifically be to those who are poor and often captive in that poverty. Next week, I will share their participation in helping provide clean water to communities and their help in providing micro-loans especially to women. It’s been totally life-giving to help our folks connect a face to the few dollars they put in the offering plate on Sundays. Maybe we’ve also discovered what we were anointed to do. If you are interested in seeing some of these videos, I will try to post them on our website for you. For now, let me offer a continued word of thanks for your partnership and for allowing us to continue our ministry here on your behalf. God bless you all!

Warmly, *Chaplain Andy*



**Josephine**  
Caring Community  
*One Heart. Many Hands.*



*Aspire*  
**Women's Event**

Aspire is a 1 night, 3-hour event just for women full of laughter, learning, stories and music. It is like a weekend retreat packed into one evening with National Speakers, Authors, Comedians, and Worship. We hope you can join us.

**Sunday, March 31st**  
**Northshore Christian Church, Everett**  
**The show begins at 5pm**

**Featuring:**  
**Speaker and Bible Teacher, Shannon Hoffpauir**  
**Comedian, Amberly Neese**  
**Worship with Jennifer Shaw**

**Tickets: \$25 general admission**  
**\$35 VIP**  
**\$20 for groups of 10 or more**  
**480-812-1100**  
**ASPIREWOMENSEVENTS.COM**

My lips will shout for **JOY,**  
when I **SING** praises to you; My soul  
also which you have **REDEEMED.**  
Psalm 71:23

**Peace Lutheran's January Financial Report**

**January**

**Donations / Expenditures**  
\$16,153.33    \$16,108.86

**Mission of the Month:** \$522.95—Gathering Place

**Mission Investment Fund**

Interest Income \$124.45

Balance \$118,100.53

**2018 Budget**

\$214,789

Average Donation Needed Each Month  
\$17,899





## China Review

To say I was nervous is a bit of an understatement! Mary met with us several times before we left and let us know exactly what should be expected, but nerves were still getting the better of me! I had a hard time sleeping the night before we left. See I had never been away from home that long or out of the Americas, but we ready for the adventure. As we left the Fuentes farm, I could hear a voice saying “be a blessing”.

Rachel and I settled in for our 12 hour flight with Bryce and Mary right behind us. The trip seemed to go pretty fast since every time I started a movie I fell asleep! Before I knew it we were in Beijing. After what seemed like a short layover we were on our way to Wuhan. Mark

and Kathi Williams were waiting for us with hugs. Mr. Mai himself also came to greet us! Once we got to the hotel that would become home we met Mrs. Mai, she had a welcome basket for us. We packed up all the crayons, markers, pencils and other goodies and headed to Mr. Mai’s Coffee Shop.

Prep week started with a trip to one of our camper’s family blueberry farm! I thought it was really neat to see some of the same berries that I knew from home. They treated us to an amazing lunch and some blueberry wine! The next day it was time to get Mary’s labs together and all the crafts. Due to Mr. Mai’s being open for family time on Saturday we had to wait to do most of the decorating but by the end we had Red Wheat Farm. On Sunday after fellowship and a visit to the Williams’s we all went to bed pretty early to get ready for camp the next morning.

Monday morning we met at the coffee shop for what I felt was the group leader’s favorite time of the week: pipe cleaner animals! Each day featured a different farm animal and we made that animal to put in our barns at the end of the week. I think Bryce and Rachel would agree is that if we never saw another pipe cleaner it would be to soon! Our tables started to fill and camp was under way. Our days started with songs led by farmer Kathi and the band, story time with Farmer Mai and Vicki Z his translator, and then it was lab time with farmer Mary. We got to play in the mud, touch and smell hay and different fleeces, and the best part was ICE CREAM!! Each camper got to make their own! After that was English as a Second Language (ESL) then lunch. We got to have McDonald’s and a special meal that Farmer Mai made for us of pulled pork sliders! After lunch we went up to crafts and made our pipe cleaner animals! After all that excitement it was time to go out for games, the first few days were rainy so we had to play under cover. The kids got wiggles out and got ready to settle down for movies and a snack to wrap up the day.

On Thursday night, our campers put on a concert for friends and family. Some of our campers that did not use English all week got up in front of their families and belted out the songs in English. I know I was so proud of my chicks! As camp came to an end I had mixed emotions. Proud, sad, happy, thankful, relieved.

As our time wrapped up in Wuhan, I left in tears. Every person we met in China left an impression on me and it was hard to say so long to the people we had spent the last two weeks with. However with that being said I was thankful to be going home back to my family and my bed! I would like to say thank you to everyone that prayed for us, encouraged us, and helped us along the way. We could not have been a blessing to our campers without the love and support from home. -Sunny Moyer





## Gathering Place Fundraiser

**Zoe Lonsinger**

Cordially invites you to attend her

**Violin Recital**

Sunday, March 10, 2019, 2:00 p.m.

Camano Lutheran Church

850 Heichel Road, Camano Island, Washington

Zoe will be performing works by Bach, Paganini, Tchaikovsky, and Bloch.

This recital is in celebration of my 14th birthday. As my birthday gift I would like raise money for Camano Lutheran Church's benevolence this month, The Gathering Place. The Gathering Place is a free community dinner sponsored by local churches in the Stanwood-Camano community. A free will donation basket will be passed during the recital.

### Peace Lutheran Church Women's Meeting

**Wednesday, March 6th**

**11:30 Lunch**

hosted by **Karen Fuentes, Carol Mendenhall and Lana Hanson**

**12:30 Meeting**

**Devotions with Stephanie Bean**

**Followed by**

**Candle Making with Tina Richardson**

## **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.



## KEEPING A HOLY LENT

Lent is the liturgical season of forty days which leads us into Holy Week. As it often comes close to the time of the spring equinox, I often like to think of it as a time of spiritual “spring cleaning.” Maybe it is better thought of as an intentional time of renewal. Traditionally it was a time to focus on the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These practices are still a good guide for us today.

*How might I spend a little more time in intentional reflection with God?* A daily bit of scripture with a devotional reading? A few moments of quiet reflection each morning on what I am grateful for? Simply finding some regular moments of silence? Make a commitment to come to Sunday worship each week? Participate in mid-week worship?

*How can I practice some form of “fasting”?* What needs to be let go of for a while? Maybe time in front of the TV, computer or phone? Maybe fast from the temptation of Facebook? Maybe I am being a bit too consumed with sugar, alcohol or unhealthy foods? Maybe it is time to intentionally part from an unhealthy habit?

*To what might I direct some of my financial or material resources?* Might I spend the time considering my current offering to Peace and the possibility of increasing my monthly giving? Maybe I can make it more regular by signing up for Simply Giving. Maybe I could make a gift to our mission of the month for the first time. Maybe someone in my family might have a need. Maybe it is time to donate some unused items around the house to a local charity.

Please also give serious consideration to joining on for our mid-week Lenten Soup Supper and Worship. We will be learning and growing together about the practice of spiritual discernment.

### Wednesday, March 6 ASH WEDNESDAY

Simple service at Noon, as part of PLCW, Evening service at 7:00 pm

Following Wednesdays, March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10

6:00 pm Soup Supper, 7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer, with scripture/reflection

*For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope. When you call to me, when you go to pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart, you will find me with you, says the LORD. (Jeremiah 29:11-14a, NAB)*

## March's Mission of the Month



## Community Resource Center – Arlington

Community Resource Centers move people from crisis to self-sufficiency. LCS Northwest's Community Resource Centers make a powerful impact on people and communities by working to eliminate barriers and provide hope.

The six Snohomish County centers are warm and welcoming places with caring staff who represent the communities and cultures we serve. Our team, specializing in Trauma Informed Care, serve people each day facing instability and crisis.

We stand ready to help low-income families and individuals meet life's basic needs. Our team helps them deal with mental health, domestic violence and substance abuse. We help them overcome language and cultural barriers. We help them improve their education, find jobs and regain hope.

### **The resource center at Smokey Point can assist with:**

- Finding a place to live
- Retaining current housing
- Basic necessities: food, toiletries, diapers
- Mental health support
- DSHS and government benefit applications
- Medical insurance applications
- Connecting those living with disabilities to support resources
- Veteran services
- Job search: resumes and cover letters
- Utilities (with disconnection notice)
- Emergency clothing and household items
- Back to school supplies
- Holiday giving for children
- Referrals to community resources

*Please be aware that the Arlington Resource Center is one of our major resources for referring folks in need who come to our door.*

*Thank you in advance for your generosity!*

**March Birthdays**

- 3 Gordon Conn
- Michelle Love
- 8 Brian Johnson
- Shannon Lux
- 9 Rebecca Freyenberger
- Mary Fuentes
- Tayden Richards
- Lincoln Richards
- 13 Robin Backlund
- 15 Eva Mullen
- 17 Molly Shackelford
- Reese Woodington
- 19 Suzanne Mullin
- Debra Compton
- 20 Richelle Tripp
- 21 Pedro Gonzales
- 24 Andrew Bean
- 25 Lynn Olseene
- Simon Fuentes
- 29 Bob Sund
- 31 Miles Lilgreen



PLCW serving group for March:  
 Group #1  
 Charleen Tyler  
 Remember to keep coffee time simple!

**Fat Tuesday Celebration at Peace**

Join the Peace Family for a Fat Tuesday Party  
 that includes  
**Desserts and Games!**  
 Tuesday, March 5th, 6pm



**Bingo for Lutherwood!**

Looking for a fun way to support Camp Lutherwood?



Play BINGO & dine  
 Sunday, March 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!



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					<b>1</b> World Day of Prayer  12:00 AA	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9:00 Sunday School for all 10:00 Worship-Transfiguration Sunday Council retreat	<b>4</b> 10:00 Women's AA  5:00 Pills Anonymous  5:30 Lydia	<b>5</b> 12:00 AA	<b>6</b> 10:30 Al Anon PLCW 11:30 Lunch 12:00 Ash Wed Prayer 7:00 Ash Wed Service	<b>7</b>  6:00 Voices music practice	<b>8</b> 12:00 AA	<b>9</b> 8:00 Men's Breakfast  5:30 Silvana Fair Auction at Viking Hall
<b>10</b> 9:00 Sunday School for all 10:00 Worship 5:00 Lutherwood Bingo Viking Hall	<b>11</b> 10:00 Women's AA  5:00 Pills Anonymous  6:00 4-H	<b>12</b> 12:00 AA Out to Dinner-Abbot's in Everett  6:00 Voices	<b>13</b> 9:30 Naomi 10:30 Al Anon 11:30 Esther  6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Service	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  12:00 AA  Lutherwood...	<b>16</b>  National Quilting Day  Retreat
<b>17</b> St. Patrick's Day 9:00 Sunday School for all 10:00 Worship	<b>18</b> 10:00 Women's AA  5:00 Pills Anonymous	<b>19</b> Witness articles due OTLB to Shawn O'Donnell's, Everett 12:00 AA 6:00 Voices 6:00 Council	<b>20</b> 10:30 AlAnon  6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Service	<b>21</b> 10:00 LWR Quilting  4-H Foods serving at the Gathering Place	<b>22</b> 12:00 AA	<b>23</b> 8:00 Men's Breakfast
<b>24</b> 9:00 Sunday School for all 10:00 Worship	<b>25</b> 10:00 Women's AA  5:00 Pills Anonymous	<b>26</b> 12:00 AA  6:00 Voices	<b>27</b> 10:30 AlAnon  6:00 Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Service	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 12:00 AA	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 9:00 SS 10:00 Worship 5:00 Aspire Women's Event						

## Peace Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 100 (1717 Larson Road)

Silvana, WA 98287



### Lenten Season

Wednesday, March 6th, Noon and 7pm—Ash Wednesday

Wednesdays, March 13, 20, 27, April 3 and 10

6:00 Soup Supper followed by

7:00 Holden Evening Prayer with scripture/reflection

### Contact us at Peace Lutheran

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Web Site: [www.plsilvana.org](http://www.plsilvana.org)

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