

The Witness of Peace

JULY 2019
VOLUME 34, ISSUE 07

When life changes... God is good!



VBS this year was framed around the theme of staying aware of all the ways God shows up during hard times as well as happy ones. Sometimes change is for the better, but all too often it is not what we would have chosen.

There are many ways that unwelcome change shows up. We lose a job and are not sure where to find a new one. Or we find the new job, but it means we must move to a new part of the country. Kids grow up and set off on their own, and our long-standing role as parent changes. Mounting health issues force us to abandon our beloved homes and seek assisted living. Congregations and denominations falter and worry about surviving all the cultural changes they encounter. Eventually, growing older catches up with all of us and brings new limitations, diminished options and the loss of what used to bring so much pleasure.

When loss and unwelcome change breaks in and seems to dominate our lives, it is easy to feel like God has turned away and left us floundering alone. *Why did this happen? Why do I have to go through this? I don't want this in my life. God, do something!* How can we continue to see and celebrate God's goodness when everything seems so dark and messed up?

At VBS we talked with the kids about how to keep our eyes and hearts open, trusting that when change comes and we experience loss, God's goodness shows up in new and perhaps unexpected ways. Sometimes, in order to make it through a very hard change, we must focus on very small, daily blessings to remind ourselves that we are still being cared for. This week, I am grateful for the children, teen and adults who gathered here at Peace to celebrate God's goodness. For now, today, the Spirit is at work within these lives and within these walls!

Thanks be to God!
Pastor Annette

***Give thanks to the LORD, for our God is good!
God's faithful love endures forever. - Psalm 106:1***

By Bishop Kirby Unti

From the July 2019 edition of *The Spirit*

As a little boy, I learned that saying goodbye is not easy. We had visited cousins in Michigan for the first time. It was an exciting week meeting new family members and playing with our cousin. When it was time to go we packed everything into our 1960 Oldsmobile and then stood outside to say our goodbyes. I was not prepared for the flood of emotions that came over me. I discovered what it meant to become “choked up” and I was fighting back the tears. What was this all about?



What I didn't know then, but I have discovered in life's journey, is leaving is a constant pattern. It begins with labor and leaving our mother's womb as we enter the world with that first bawling cry. Crying crafted for the purpose of breathing in our first breaths of our new world. For the fortunate, we settle into the comfort of our parent's loving arms where we are fed, nurtured and strengthened for what will lie ahead. It will not be the last time we are birthed.

There would be a smattering of miniature leavings - like mom going to the grocery store without me or being left in the care of a babysitter. I don't doubt these leavings came with labor for mom and tears for me.

The big leaving would happen when it came time to head off for kindergarten. I went to Mr. & Mrs. Black's Kindergarten in Jamestown, North Dakota. It was hosted in their home and we each had our little rug for nap time. The coolest part is we were picked up by Mr. Black in his big station wagon that had a favored seat all the way in the back. While my memories are fond, I am told I did not go easily. Remember leaving involves labor and tears and I was leaving as a five-year-old into an unknown world.

Leaving is always preparation for the next time of leaving and there would be many all filled with anticipation, anxiety and joy. One of the hardest was heading off to Kenmore Junior High School. I had been warned by my older brother's friends of all the horrors that awaited me. The most joy-filled leaving was when I drove away at sixteen for the first time, sporting my own driver's license.

The constant of leaving would include heading off to college, seminary, single to married, parenthood, and the cycle starts over again accompanying our children through their leavings. Then there is death. My most powerful leaving experience. A sacred time of labor and crying. A sacred time of grief and joy.

In death, I discovered that a person's life becomes magnified. All that they stood for and shared is now seen and heard more clearly.

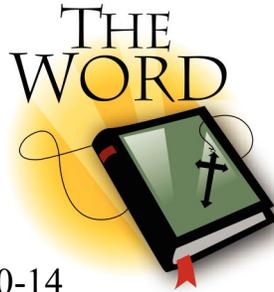
Jesus, put it this way, **“I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.”**

How often I have learned this lesson – that Spirit comes in the experience of leaving.

I will miss you and I will miss my monthly Spirit article which has given me a chance to share with you how I see God at work in our world.

Come, Holy Spirit!!!

Readings For July:



July 7th—Pentecost 4

First Reading Isaiah 66:10-14
 Psalm Psalm 66:1-9
 Second Reading Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16
 Gospel Reading Luke 10:1-11

July 14th—Pentecost 5

First Reading Deuteronomy 30:9-14
 Psalm Psalm 25:1-10
 Second Reading Colossians 1:1-14
 Gospel Reading Luke 10:25-37

July 21st —Pentecost 6

First Reading Genesis 18:1-10a
 Psalm Psalm 15
 Second Reading Colossians 1:15-28
 Gospel Reading Luke 10:38-42

July 28th—Pentecost 7

First Reading Genesis 18:20-32
 Psalm Psalm 138
 Second Reading Colossians 2:6-15[16-19]
 Gospel Reading Luke 11:1-13

Our Circles this summer

Naomi Circle will continue to meet at 9:30 am on the second Wednesday of the month in the fireside room.

Esther Circle also plans to continue meeting at 11 am at Willow and Jim's on second Wednesday of the month.

Lydia Circle will meet during the summer at Hazel Blue Acres, 5:30 pm on the first Monday of the month.



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
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Office worker: Becky Sather
 360-652-8739
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Youth & Family: Mary Fuentes
 360-652-8739
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Musicians

Richelle Tripp
 Allyson Martinez

Our Mission Statement

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



It was probably a year since I've heard her say anything. Don't get me wrong, she always seemed content as she sat in her recliner. When I took the extra time to make eye-contact with her, she always smiled back at me. At least her silence was not because of anger or because of being overly medicated. Yet, like I said, it had been probably about a year since I'd heard an intelligible word roll past her lips—until today!

It had been about a month since I've brought Chewie, my English Bulldog, into Josephine to visit the children and residents. Some of the residents had been bugging me to bring her in again—but Chewie in the morning is often like my teenage boys—not always easy to wake up and get out of bed. When you add to this the extra time and effort to get her fed, out of the house, and into the car in a timely manner—it can be a battle I'm not always willing to face each morning—but I did today and I am so happy I did!

When I brought Chewie into our Memory Care that afternoon, and she finished cleaning the carpet of the little runaway morsels of food from lunch plates, Chewie made her way to the residents to get her petting for the day. "Is that your dog?"—this was the question that floated through the air and into my ears. When I turned my head to look for its author, I saw her leaning over her recliner reaching towards the floor, her head was turned up to look into my eyes, and flashing at me was the biggest smile you'd ever seen—it was Rose! As I looked even closer at her beautiful face, I noticed another telling detail—a single tear came out of her right eye and was making its way down her wrinkly cheek. She petted Chewie with this amazing combination of purpose and love and then graced me with her second full sentence in a year: "She makes me so happy!"

Thanks, dear Partners in Christ, for allowing us to continue our ministry here at Josephine Caring Community. If you have a pet you'd like to share, contact our Activities Department. It might be the very thing that might bring a forth life!

Warmly,
Chaplain Andy



July 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 May Financial Report

Donations / Expenditures

\$14,578.65 \$16,830.22

Special Gift from Harold and Karine Smith Trust: \$7,333.41

Mission of the Month: \$555.11—Bethany of the Northwest

Mission Investment Fund

Interest Income \$135.15 Balance \$114,618.37

2019 Budget

\$214,789.00

Average Donation Needed Each Month

\$17,899.00



Peace Lutheran Church Women

Our last PLCW meeting was about Dairy, but our speaker was ill, so we talked about the changes happening in the processes at the Appel Farm Dairy in Ferndale.

Our luncheon was put on by the Board. We had wonderful pizzas and salads with ice cream bars for dessert. Thank you to everyone that put this together.

Devotions were led by Connie DiGregorio.

Our Out to Lunch Bunch went to Colophon Café in Fairhaven on Tuesday the 18th. What a lovely town! I really enjoyed seeing it for the first time. We drove down by the water and found the ferry landing that said, "Gateway to Alaska". I didn't realize you can ride a ferry from here all the way to Alaska. Wouldn't that be fun?

We will be taking a summer break and start meeting again on September 3rd. I am looking forward to our PLCW meetings starting back up in the Fall. I hope everyone has a wonderful summer.

Have a Happy 4th of July!

Carol Mendenhall



SAVE THE DATE!

PLC WORSHIP IN THE PARK

On **Sunday, August 11** we will gather for a festive summer worship outside in God's creation! In lieu of gathering in either of our sanctuaries, we will have our service at 10:00 am at Church Creek Park in Stanwood, followed by our annual church picnic.

We want to gather as a whole community, so *please* let us know if we can help with transportation or mobility assistance.

This is a **great time to invite friends and family** who don't normally come to worship but may feel comfortable at this informal, community event!

Youth & Family



How do we welcome new people? How do we open our doors and say, "Come on in" with a welcoming heart filled with joy? I could also ask how we say "hello" to those around us: those that we see and yet maybe never approach. I've been thinking a lot about how I can be more inviting and welcoming to all the people that I encounter. God calls us to go and make disciples of all nations, yet how can we go when we have a difficult time

reaching out and sharing God's joy with the people around us? I've challenged myself for the month of July to be more inviting and more sharing of the joy that God brings to me. This month and every month, even every day we have opportunities to invite. Choose one thing that you want to invite someone to and ask.

Looking for a way to celebrate the 4th of July? Well I have a great opportunity for you. Come and serve with us at the Gathering Place in Stanwood. We will be serving a traditional All American Dinner. If you would like to help, please reach out and talk to me.

On July 9th the Out to Dinner group will be traveling north to Mount Vernon to try out Gentlemen Gene's Pub and Eatery. The reviews have been great and the Pub comes highly recommended. Please sign up early, so we can plan transportation.



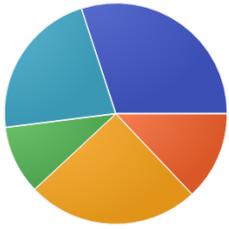
Looking for a fun evening around the camp fire? Friday, July 12, come on out to the Fuentes farm for s'mores and some barnyard ping pong. Yes, you read that correctly we will be playing barnyard pin pong. If you want to find out how to play, come out. The fun starts at 6pm and all are welcome.

The Out to Lunch will be heading to Anacortes on July 16th. The bus will leave at 10:30 and you really don't want to miss this trip. We will be going to the Secret Cove, which offers amazing views and a variety of family food.

Once again Peace will be hosting a hospitality booth at the Silvana Fair. If you are able to bake some cookies or provide water for the booth, please contact either myself or Stephanie. We are looking for people to work in the booth. The only skill that you will need is to be friendly and willing to share a spot of water and a cookie. The Fair is the perfect place to share the Spirit with all those in the community. Come and help us share the Joy of God!

MJ

HOSPITALITY
IS
SIMPLY AN
OPPORTUNITY
TO SHOW
LOVE
AND
CARE



PLC Budget Task Force Survey Results

May 23 to June 16, 2019

The Task Force presented the results of the survey about budget issues at the June 23, 2019 special (informational only) congregational meeting. If you were not able to attend the special congregational meeting and would like to see the results of the survey, you may pick up a hard copy at Becky’s office, or Becky can email a digital version of the document to you. Please note that the Task Force did not go into detail about the comments question; the Task Force is summarizing those comments and will present the summary to the Church Council, and the summary will be made available to the congregation.



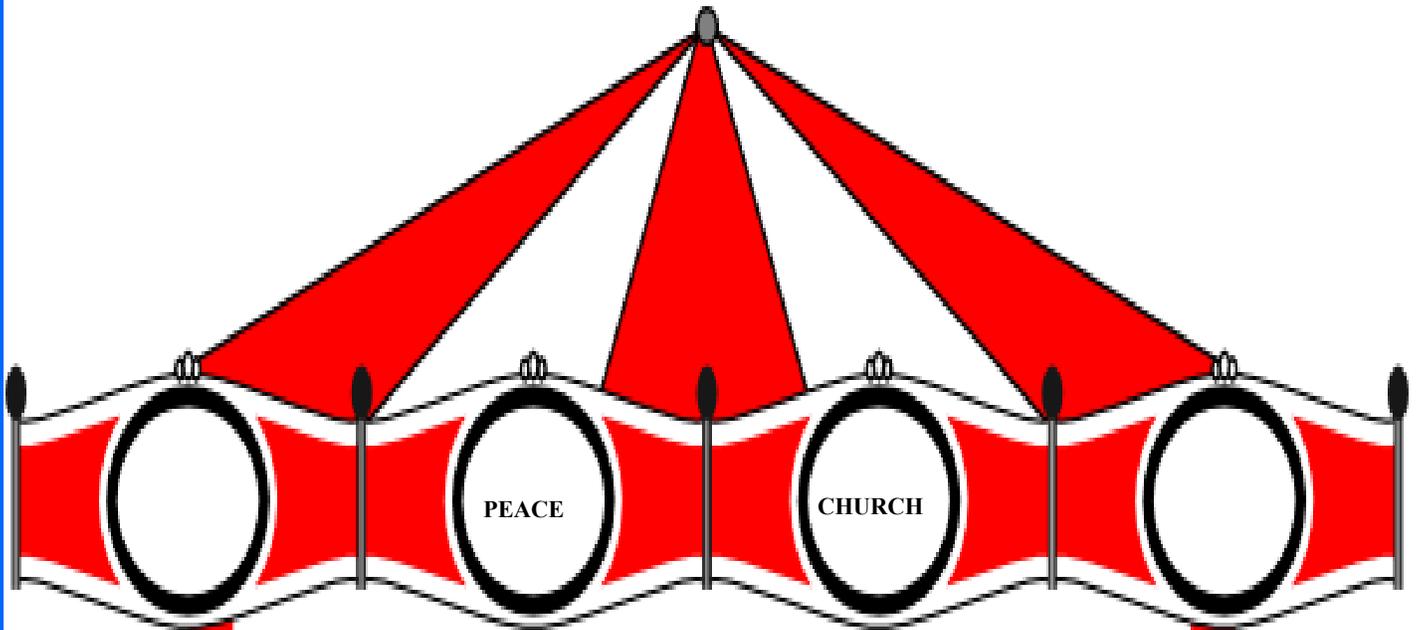
You Are Invited!

**Celebrate
50 Years of Ordination
with
Pastor Donald Brekhus**

**July 28, 10:00 am
Little White Church on the Hill**

(There will only be one service that day)

Peace Lutheran's Hospitality Booth at the Silvana Fair



Silvana Fair is just a few weeks away and we will once again be hosting a hospitality booth and providing transportation with the bus. We have a few needs and if you would like to help out please sign up in the office.

Ways you can help:

- ◆ Drive the bus
- ◆ Wash the bus
- ◆ Set up the area
- ◆ Take down the area
- ◆ Bake non-melting cookies
- ◆ Serve cookies & water
- ◆ Bring water
- ◆ Sell quilt raffle tickets
- ◆ Greet and interact with people as they pass by

If you would like to help out in any of these areas please sign up in the office. This is a great opportunity for people to see the church outside the building!



- 1 Cathy Pryor
- 6 Mike Jacobs
- Oscar Cabe
- 9 Ken Sather
- 12 Grace Birkestol
- 13 Cody Hoffmeister
- 17 Krista Cairus
- 19 Ryan Norman
- 20 Robin Sather
- Michelle Lilgreen
- 26 Steve DiGregorio
- 27 Spencer Fuentes
- Jerry Brekhus
- Claire Harrison
- 31 Christy Jacobs



Silvana Community Fair Schedule

6:30-8:30am	Livestock check-in and vet check
9:00 am	Opening of the 72nd annual Silvana Community Fair Flag Raising Kids Games (16 and under)
10:00 am	Livestock Judging begins Demonstrations in the Viking Hall
12:15 pm	Greased Pole Contest (12 and under) Sponsored by Stanwood Redi-mix
12:30-1:30 pm	Break time Live Music
1:00 pm	Judging continues
4:30 pm	Parade of Champions Closing Ceremony
5:00 pm	Release of inside exhibits
5-6pm	Clean-up and release of outside exhibits

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

Summer Worship
Peace: Informal service Sunday mornings at 8:30 am
(except for July 28th)
Little White Church on the Hill: Traditional worship service at 10 am
July 30th– Special service led by Pastor Don Brekhus
to celebrate 50 years since his ordination



July 2019



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 10:00 Women's AA 5:00 Pills Anonymous 5:30 Lydia Circle	2 9:30 Clergy Text Study 12:00 AA Mariner's Game	3 10:30 Al Anon	4 Office Closed Gathering Place 4:30 prep 5:30 meal	5 12:00 AA	6 10:30 LWCH-Coonrod graveside service
7 8:30 Peace Worship 10:00 LWCH Worship	8 10:00 Women's AA 5:00 Pills Anonymous 6:00 4-H	9 12:00 AA Out to Dinner Gentlemen Gene's, Mt. Vernon 6:00 Voices	10 9:30 Naomi Circle 10:30 Al Anon 11:00 Esther Circle	11	12 12:00 AA 6:00 Fuentes Farm Bonfire	13
14 8:30 Peace Worship 10:00 LWCH Worship	15 10:00 Women's AA 5:00 Pills Anonymous	16 10:30 OTLB Secret Cove, Anacortes 12:00 AA 6:00 Voices 6:00 District AA	17 10:30 Al Anon	18 10:00 LWR Quilting 6:00 4-H Foods	19 Witness articles due 12:00 AA	20
21 8:30 Peace Worship 10:00 LWCH Worship	22 10:00 Women's AA 5:00 Pills Anonymous	23 12:00 AA	24 10am-7pm Silvana Fair Demonstration and Educational display entries at Peace 10:30 Al Anon	25 10am-3pm Fair Demo & Ed display entries at Peace	26 12:00 AA	27 9-5 Silvana Fair at Viking Hall
28 ONE SERVICE 10:00 LWCH Pastor Brekhus' 50th anniversary of Ordination	29 10:00 Women's AA 5:00 Pills Anonymous	30 12:00 AA	31 10:30 Al Anon Pastor's Vacation	Aug 1	Aug 2	Aug 3

Peace Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 100 (1717 Larson Road)

Silvana, WA 98287

Check the calendar inside or our website for all the activities at Peace!

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office@plsilvana.org

Web Site: www.plsilvana.org

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