

# The Witness of Peace

NOVEMBER 2019  
VOLUME 34, ISSUE 11



*Peace Lutheran Church, Lauderdale, Minnesota*

*I will bless you...so that you will be a blessing.*

The article below (edited for length) about another Peace Lutheran, in a community near Minneapolis, was inspiring to me. I wonder, how does it stir your own imagination of how to “be a blessing” in our own community?

Peace Lutheran Church was slouching toward extinction. Only 20 members remained. It wasn't hard to understand why. You'd have to be lost to find the building, hidden next to a giant noise barrier on a backstreet in Lauderdale, the micro-suburb where East Hennepin and Larpenteur Avenues converge. Yet Peace's problems were greater than geography. There was a past affiliation with the conservative Missouri Synod brand of Lutheranism, whose rigidity drove people away, rather than invited them in. Peace had quietly defied doctrine by elevating women to prominent roles and welcoming anyone to its door. But this wasn't something you could advertise to bring in new members. (contd. page 2)

It all blew up when an out-of-towner attended service, witnessed the heresy, and ratted them out.

Then came the graying of Christendom. If older parishioners knew there were still churches that walked it like they talked it, their children and grandchildren did not. They'd grown up under a bombardment of pedophile priests, prosperity gospelers who reimagined Jesus as a venture capitalist, evangelicals who found so many loopholes in "love thy neighbor" there were few left to love at all. Religion's good name was soiled for generations, pushing small churches to the brink.

By the time Rev. Dave Greenlund arrived, just 18 months' worth of savings remained to stave off closure. "It looked like he was either going to help it die or revive it," says his wife, Karen Carlsen. "The first service he basically said to them they're dead. 'Now what are you going to do?' Parishioners decided if they were to die, they would die well. So they took loving thy neighbor to a practical extreme. Peace leafleted Lauderdale with 700 fliers, offering to roof houses, fix plumbing, repair anything in need, free of charge...

Greenlund knew Peace would get few takers. Lauderdale is a mix of working people and those who've seen better days, with only the first hints of gentrifiers seeking cheaper housing just 10 minutes from downtown Minneapolis. These were not people who publicly confessed their troubles. There was also the natural suspicion of anything religious, the assumption that "free" would come with a downpour of proselytizing. At the time, Peace was a neighborhood non-entity with little good will. "It was always closed, dark," Greenlund says of his initial impression. "I didn't even think it was open anymore." Only two women responded. One needed concrete repaired and the footings fixed in a rotting garage. Another hoped her house could be painted...

Peace stayed at it, cleaning homes for shut-ins, building chair lifts for the disabled, rewiring old houses for widows whose husbands had kept the lights on with the duct tape method. There would be no preaching, no expectation that recipients come to church. They would simply help.

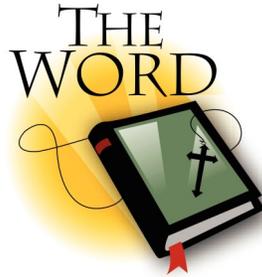
Word spread. If an elderly widow's furnace broke on Christmas Eve, Lauderdale came to know that the first move was to call Pastor Dave. The idea was infectious. Non-members joined the cause by the dozens. Donations from the grateful kept the church afloat. In an age of foreboding, Peace was proving that tenderness still rose in small, unexpected places...

Peace's membership has quadrupled since Greenlund arrived, but it remains a poor church. While the congregation itself remains small, parishioners say hundreds of others consider the church theirs. They may never come to service. They may think God an archaic superstition. Yet they nonetheless feel the pull of kindness. "It's easy to lose perspective and feel isolated and of little consequence," says Pastor Greenlund. While these may not be times of hopefulness, Peace offers a chance at someday getting there.

(Wednesday, October 23, 2019 by Pete Kotz, [www.citypages.com](http://www.citypages.com) )

**Peace, let's continue to imagine together! - Pastor Annette**

## Readings For November



### November 3rd—All Saints Sunday

First Reading Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18  
 Psalm Psalm 149  
 Second Reading Ephesians 1:11-23  
 Gospel Reading Luke 6:20-31

### November 10th—Pentecost 22

First Reading Job 19:23-27a  
 Psalm Psalm 17:1-9  
 Second Reading 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17  
 Gospel Reading Luke 20:27-38

### November 17th —Pentecost 23

First Reading Malachi 4:1-2a  
 Psalm Psalm 98  
 Second Reading 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13  
 Gospel Reading Luke 21:5-19

### November 24th—Christ the King

First Reading Jeremiah 23:1-6  
 Psalm Psalm 46  
 Second Reading Colossians 1:11-20  
 Gospel Reading Luke 23:33-43

### November 28th—Thanksgiving Day

First Reading Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
 Psalm Psalm 100  
 Second Reading Philippians 4:4-9  
 Gospel Reading John 6:25-35

#### 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

### New Council Members Needed for 2020!



- (1) Secretary
- (2) Members at Large

Council Members are elected to a 2 year term. Monthly meetings are currently scheduled on the 3rd Tuesdays at 6:00 pm. Please talk to Larry Sather or Pastor Annette.



**Pastor:** Annette Andrews-Lux  
 360-652-8739  
 (pastor@plsilvana.org)  
**Office worker:** Becky Sather  
 360-652-8739 (T-F 10-2)  
 (office@plsilvana.org)  
**Youth & Family:** Mary Fuentes  
 360-652-8739  
 (office@plsilvana.org)

**Musicians**  
 Richelle Tripp  
 Allyson Martinez



## We turn to serve and love our neighbor

I share two stories that I heard in the last two weeks.

The first story I heard was from Pastor Ron Glusenkamp from a trip he took to Senegal with other ELCA folks:

We landed in Dakar, Senegal where the people are 95% Muslim and the other 5% are Christian or something else. Our group traveled to a small village to visit a Lutheran health center that is funded by ELCA World Hunger. When we arrived, we met ten guests who were living there. They all were HIV positive and all had been banned from their homes and so lived together with about a hundred others at this Lutheran health center.

When we asked the group how they were doing, one of the women spoke. She spoke in her own dialect that was translated to English. She spoke eloquently and simply. She said, “If it wasn’t for this Lutheran clinic, I would be dead.”

The second story I heard while attending the Conference of Bishops in Chicago. There we heard of Lutheran owned and operated Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem. The United States government had voted to continue funding this important medical center but for some reason they are not releasing the money. This is putting people at risk. Chemotherapy is not able to be administered. Surgeries are unable to be performed. Children, especially, are dying.

While this is a complex issue, the stories we heard compelled Presiding Bishop Eaton to write a letter to the administration. She and all 65 bishops signed this letter requesting the United States government to restore the millions of dollars in funding promised to Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem that primarily serves Palestinian Christians. This hospital, owned and operated by the Lutheran World Federation and is supported by the ELCA, is vital as it is the only medical center there. (Read the letter here: [www.elca.org/News-and-Events/8009](http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/8009))

In the first story above, I don’t know what happened to this woman or the other people gathered that day in Senegal. I hope all of them are still living and still receiving care. In the second instance, I do know that many of the people treated at AVH are Christian Palestinians whose only access to healthcare is through AVH. And I do know this: As people of God, we hold all people sacred. As people who believe in the priesthood of all believers, we know that the staff and volunteers at these health centers are doing holy work. As people who believe in Jesus, we know that Jesus is in the midst of those that others have rejected. As people of the cross, we know that in the midst of suffering, Jesus is there.

You see, as Lutherans, we take seriously what justification by grace alone means: Salvation is not the process or goal of life but rather its foundation. Because we are claimed by God through no merit of our own, we are free to live and love and serve our neighbor – whether it is the neighbor next door or the neighbor in Senegal or Jerusalem.

Way back in the sixteenth century, Martin Luther wrote about establishing a common chest for the sake of the poor in the city of Leisnig, “Those individuals in our parish ... who are impoverished ... shall receive each week on Sunday ... support from our common chest ... This is to be done out of Christian love, to the honor and praise of God, so that their lives and health may be preserved.” (LW, 45:189)

I read Martin Luther’s words and they remind me that we are called out into the world – not because we have to but because of what God has claimed for us. I am so thankful that as we remember the Reformation on October 31 we continue in the footsteps of Martin Luther and the other reformers: Trusting in God’s grace through Jesus, we turn to serve and love our neighbor – whoever or wherever that neighbor is.

Thank you for the love and care you are showing to your neighbors – both near and far – as we see the face of Jesus in all.

In God’s Peace and Joy,  
Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee



## A Greeting from Josephine

Dear Partner Churches,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Your partnership in ministry is a rich gift as we continue a caregiving community for all generations. Thank you.

As the seasons turn and we head towards the liturgical season of Advent, our thoughts are turning towards Christmas preparations. Planning has begun for the **Christmas Giving Tree**.

Like the rest of us, folks at Josephine delight in knowing they are remembered. For the past few years, this community has offered gifts to each of our nursing home, rehab, and assisted living residents. With you, we approach the task of acquiring and delivering over 200 personal gifts, thoughtfully wrapped in love, prayer, and connection.

It takes some time to do this well. A volunteer coordinator from your church will work with you to decide if and how many gifts your congregation would like to contribute. Our activities staff provide you with 2-3 ideas from each resident for gifts (under \$20) that they would be glad to receive. You decide what to give, then acquire the presents and bring them to us. We then distribute them to the residents at Christmas with your well-wishes.

My request of you at this time is to pray about your participation. Then let your coordinator know how many resident gifts you would like to give, hold these precious people in prayer, and share some of God's abundance. (If your congregation doesn't already have a coordinator for this, reach out to your Josephine Delegate to see if they might be willing to head this up or find someone to help...perhaps even you!) We hope to hear from you this month.

As Paul reminds us in Acts, Jesus said "It is more blessed to give than to receive." May you find blessing in your generosity of prayer and presence and presents with Josephine!

Peace,  
*Helen McPeak*  
 Interim Spiritual Care Director,  
 Josephine Caring Community



# SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> FOLOWING WORSHIP

## *Semi Annual Congregational* Meeting



*Join us to vote on our 2020 budget and review our congregational plans to move forward.*

**NOTE:** Please be sure to review the copy of this significantly reduced budget which you should have received in the mail. **An opportunity for discussion of budget reductions will be offered during coffee hour on Sunday, November 10** with your church council leaders available to receive any of your questions or concerns.

### **Peace Lutheran's August Financial Report**

**Donations / Expenditures**

\$14,369.06    \$15,796.65

**Mission of the Month:** \$522.00—Skagit Domestic Violence

**Mission Investment Fund**

Interest Income \$145.50 Balance \$115,166.85

**2019 Budget**

\$214,789.00

**Average Donation Needed Each Month**

\$17,899.00





**Lutheran World Relief**  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

## **Lutheran World Relief is our November Mission of the Month.**

LWR is a nonprofit organization that helps families in the world's poorest communities build the resilience they need to thrive. They are an organization that helps people in crisis and stays around to enhance their recovery.

Lutheran World Relief works in three major areas: Agricultural Development, Climate Adaptation and Mitigation, and Emergency Operations. Their projects include: helping people deal with climate changes by developing sustainable agricultural practices; helping people make economic choices that sustain their community; and helping to make people in crisis more comfortable until they can begin to rebuild.

Our annual assembly of school kits, health kits, baby layettes and quilts are part of the international ministry of Lutheran World Relief. Distributing quilts and kits assembled by Lutheran congregations is one of the many ways that LWR supports those in need in countries around the globe.

**Look at the website [www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org) to see how our mission dollars help support this internationally respected ministry.**

## Youth, Family and Community



Silvana has survived the first *flood* of the season and I am so thankful for all the people who called, texted and kept me and my family lifted up in prayer. The flood set lefse making back by a day and delayed a few other activities, but all was fine. We had a great crew of peelers, cooks, rollers, coolers and quality controllers who came together to make the world's greatest lefse. A huge thank you to all who came out and worked together and laughed together while we turned out a quality Scandinavian treat.

If you're looking for a fun evening out, the **Out to Dinner Group** will be heading south to try out a "newish" Hawaiian restaurant on Tuesday November 5<sup>th</sup>. We will be leaving Silvana at 4:45 pm.



**Community Gathering:** This month we will be gathering on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 pm. The night will begin with dinner, then we will be having a craft and finishing the night with a game. These gatherings are a time to get together and share a meal with old friend and new friends, a time and place of laughter & joy!

**Lunch Bunch:** Would you like to go to IKEA? The bus will be heading south on Tuesday, November 19 for a day filled with shopping and eating. We will be leaving at 10 am.



### **Christmas Dinner**

**Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.**

**The dinner will be catered by Kathi Otter  
salad bar, pork loin, potatoes, roll,  
dessert bar and special entertainment!**

**Sign up with Alanna Stone**

**The cost is \$17.50**



***Thanksgiving Eve Service  
Wednesday, November 27th  
7:00 pm***

This was the most popular place and time chosen by the congregation.  
Please come, take a deep breath and give thanks for all that we have been given!



**The Gathering Place dinners**

Nine or ten times a year members of our congregation serve a free meal at the Gathering Place in Stanwood.

Mary Fuentes heads up the effort.

This month we will be serving on November 21st.

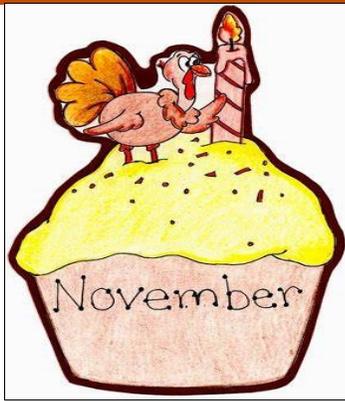
Mary would like to serve a traditional Thanksgiving meal. She is asking for the donation of three turkeys. Often grocery stores have specials or even free turkeys with your purchase.

Please consider giving that turkey to the church.

Also consider helping!

Talk to Mary Fuentes for more information.

Preparation begins at 4:30 and the meal is served at 5:30.



- 1 Jim Lux
- Bill Rod
- 3 Journey Grant
- 9 Shirley Cupic
- 12 David Sather
- 14 Ruth Schei
- Sunny Moyer
- 21 Connie DiGregorio
- 24 Patti Vroman
- 25 Joan Johnson
- 28 Elizabeth Hubbard
- 29 Ron Cabe

PLCW serving group November: Group #1

Leader: Charleen Tyler

Remember to keep coffee time simple!



Coffee Fellowship



25<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
Trip

Pastor Annette and Jim will be gone November 18-25th, returning to their honeymoon isle of Maui. A schedule of emergency pastoral coverage will be available in the church office.

## Peace Lutheran Church Women

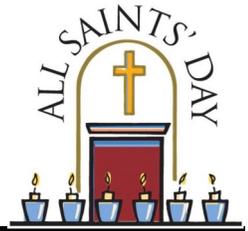


Women's Fellowship

Join us November 6th for our regular monthly lunch and meeting. Be sure to bring your "Thank offering". We will be collecting them that day. Lunch will be Sub-Sandwiches provided by the board. Shirley Cupic will be giving devotions. A major topic of discussion will be how everything went at this year's bazaar.



# November 2019



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					<b>1</b> 12:00 AA	<b>2</b> Early Country Christmas Bazaar 10-2 2:00 Bishop's Installation, St Marks, Seattle
<b>3</b> 9:00 Sunday School for all 10:00 <b>All Saints Worship</b>	<b>4</b> 10:00 Women's AA 5:00 Pills Anonymous 5:30 Lydia	<b>5</b> 12:00 AA 4:45 Out to Dinner Group	<b>6</b> 10:30 Al Anon <b>PLCW</b> 11:30 Lunch 12:30 Meeting 6:00 Voices music practice	<b>7</b> 5-10 pm County Septic Workshop	<b>8</b> 12:00 AA	<b>9</b> 8:00 Men's Breakfast
<b>10</b> 9:00 Sunday School for all 10:00 Worship Congregation Discussion Meeting	<b>11</b> <b>Veteran's Day</b> 10:00 Women's AA 5:00 PA 6:00 4-H @ Viking Hall	<b>12</b> 12:00 AA 6:00 Council	<b>13</b> 9:30 Naomi Circle 10:30 Al Anon 11:30 Esther Circle	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 12:00 AA	<b>16</b> Lutherwood Auction Our Savior's Everett 4pm-Silent 5pm-Dinner/live auction
<b>17</b> 9:00 Sunday School for all 10:00 Worship <b>Congregational Meeting</b>	<b>18</b> Pastor's..... Women's AA 10:00 5:00 PA	<b>19</b> Vacation..... 12:00 AA 6:00 District AA	<b>20</b> ..... 10:30 Al Anon	<b>21</b> ..... 10:00 LWR Quilting Gathering Place 4:30 prep 5:30 meal 6:00 4-H foods	<b>22</b> ..... 12:00 AA	<b>23</b> ..... 8:00 Men's Breakfast 5:30 Community Gathering
<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	<b>27</b> 10:30 Al Anon 7:00 Thanksgiving Eve Worship <b>Thanksgiving Eve Service</b>	<b>28</b> <b>THANKS-GIVING DAY</b> 	<b>29</b> 12:00 AA	<b>30</b>

## Peace Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 100 (1717 Larson Road)

Silvana, WA 98287

Early Country  
Christmas Bazaar  
Saturday, November 2, 2019  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Lefse • Rommegrot  
Vaffler • Bakery  
Harvest Items  
Crafts • Silent Auction  
Used Treasures  
Quilt Raffle • Gift Card Tree Raffle



Delicious Lunch: Soup, Salad, Roll, Pie

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

### Contact us at Peace Lutheran

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[office@plsilvana.org](mailto:office@plsilvana.org)

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

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