

The Witness of Peace

DECEMBER 2019
VOLUME 34, ISSUE 12

ADVENT 2019



Advent starts with a call to pay attention.

Stay awake! Be alert! Keep watch! This season is meant to stir us up and get us ready. But ready for what? Ready to watch and wait.

What are we waiting for? We wait for comfort, for hope, for new life. We wait for wisdom, for courage, for the next right step. We wait for that which our hearts long. We wait for who we will become. We wait to discover the presence of the Spirit breaking into our lives. But if our waiting is to lead to discovery then we must make the effort to pay attention, to keep our eyes (and our hearts) open, to watch for a God that we actually expect to be present in our lives.

Many of us are uncomfortable with waiting. It makes us worried and anxious. But Advent waiting draws upon the sacred tradition of *keeping vigil* – of waiting through the night in prayer for the dawn, which is sure to come. There is a difference between anxious waiting and keeping vigil. Waiting with purpose, patience, and expectant hope is *vigilant* waiting.

Advent calls us to learn the art of “holy waiting”, to “practice waking up” and paying careful attention to the stirrings of the Spirit in words, songs, people, creation, dreams, casual comments, ideas that show up and won’t go away. To live as Advent people is to learn the art of *living awake* and ready to embrace the gift of the present moment.

Keep watch! You don’t know when (or where) God might show up.

Pastor Annette

Recently I had a meeting at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. As I walked on campus I had to take a deep breath. You see, I had to prepare myself for how much different Luther Seminary is now then when I was a student almost thirty years ago. When I attended Luther, there were 800 students on campus. Lots of faculty. Almost everyone lived on campus. The cafeteria was stuffed full with people. On Wednesdays you had to arrive early for chapel or you wouldn't be able to find a seat.

This is not what Luther is like now.

And so I take a breath. And I miss what used to be.

I have the same experience when I drive past a soccer field and see kids playing. I have an urge to stop and watch the game. (I need to tell you, this is very strange for me to WANT to watch youth soccer.) Back when I had kids playing soccer I often complained that I was too hot or too cold or too wet or I had laundry to do or ... whatever ... and now when I drive by I think, "Oh, I just want to watch kids play soccer."

Obviously, it is not that I want to watch youth soccer. It is that I miss having younger kids at home.

And so I take a breath. And I miss what used to be.

So often we look backwards and hold something up as "the best time" and wonder how to get back to that place. And this is understandable. As humans we need to acknowledge the grief that we are carrying. If we don't do this careful and important work, grief can fester and come out as anger or apathy or just become so deeply imbedded we are unable to live in the present or into the future.

We in the synod office have been wondering how to acknowledge this grief about "what once was" in order to move forward into the future. We're wondering if some sort of get-together or some holding space would be helpful to talk about this. One suggestion is to collectively read Bishop Michael Girlinghouse's book, *Embracing God's Future Without Forgetting the Past*. I have started reading it and find it a useful and lovely book. I would be interested in hearing if you would be interested in reading this book together and discussing it.

Going back to that visit to Luther Seminary, while I took a deep breath and prepared myself for things "not as they once were," when I arrived on campus and listened to students, after I talked with administration and professors, after worshipping together in chapel, I realized that God is acting and moving in the life of Luther. Through the new webtools at Faith+Life, through the correct sizing of their campus, through their new pathways towards MDivs, through their emphasis on student formation and, especially, through their listening, they are dancing with the Spirit in this new day.

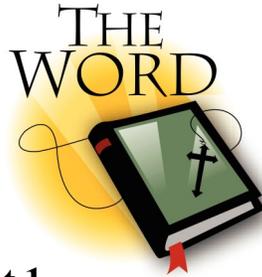
Dear Beloveds of God, I encourage you to have deep, sometimes hard, conversations about who you have been and who you are called to be. I encourage you to tell the stories of your life and your congregation. Record them. Remember them. And I encourage you to dream into the next stories of your place. What is next?

For this is what we trust and hold: *So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!* 2 Corinthians 5:17

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



Readings For December



December 1st—Advent 1

First Reading Isaiah 2:1-5
 Psalm Psalm 122
 Second Reading Romans 13:11-14
 Gospel Reading Matthew 24:36-44

December 8th—Advent 2

First Reading Isaiah 11:1-10
 Psalm Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
 Second Reading Romans 15:4-13
 Gospel Reading Matthew 3:1-12

December 15th —Advent 3

First Reading Isaiah 35:1-10
 Psalm Psalm 146:5-10 or
 Luke 1:46b-55
 Second Reading James 5:7-10
 Gospel Reading Matthew 11:2-11

December 22nd—Advent 4

First Reading Isaiah 7:10-16
 Psalm Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
 Second Reading Romans 1:1-7
 Gospel Reading Matthew 1:18-25

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 25th - Christmas Day II & III

First Reading Isaiah 62:6-12 or 52:7-10
Psalm Psalm 97 or 98
Second Reading Titus 3:4-7 or
 Hebrews 1:1-4[5-12]
Gospel Reading Luke 2:[1-7]8-20 or
 John 1:1-14



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Secretary: Alanna Stone
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Janeen Smith (2)
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Musicians
Richelle Tripp
Mae Grossruck



December 29th—1 Christmas

First Reading Isaiah 63:7-9
 Psalm Psalm 148
 Second Reading Hebrews 2:10-18
 Gospel Reading Matthew 2:13-23

Community, Youth and Family

As I've been watching TV and listening to the radio I keep hearing that this is the season of giving. I would like to believe that all year long is the season of giving. Right now the Stilly Senior Center Food bank is in need of the following items: Frozen dinners like lasagna and chicken pot-pie, ensure, pickles, peanut butter, spam, canned veggies, canned fruit, canned soup and olives. All the food banks are in need all year long, but right now the food banks are in immediate need. If you can help, please give generously.

Advent is here and we are preparing. Advent means "coming". This is the coming of Jesus into the world. As Christians we use the four Sundays and weeks of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas. Some people fast during Advent to help them concentrate on preparing to celebrate Jesus' coming. We light four candles during Advent. The first candle symbolizes "Hope". It is sometimes call the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets. The second candle, the "Bethlehem Candle" symbolizes "Love". The third candle, the "Shepherds Candle" symbolizes "Joy" and the last candle, the "Angels Candle" symbolizes "Peace". On Wednesday, December 4th we will be celebrating "Hope" the first week of Advent. This is the time to gather as a family and celebrate the coming of Jesus. We will once again be having a themed pot-luck dinner. The 4th will be "Tailgate Favorites", the 11th, "18th Century Foods" and the 18th, "Red White and Green Foods". The nights begin at 6pm and this is a fun time to invite a friend.

Tuesday, December 3rd, the Out To Dinner Group will be going to the Tulalip Casino.

The Youth Christmas Party is Saturday, December 14th at 5:00 pm. We will be dining on our traditional pigs in a blanket and tater tots dinner. There will be crafts, games and a movie.

Tuesday, December 17th, the Out To Lunch Bunch will be going to Mount Vernon to the Tea House.

Peace will be serving at the Gathering Place on December 19th. The plan is to serve a traditional holiday dinner of ham, potatoes, and all the homemade sides and desserts that go with. If you can help cook or bake please give me a call.

MJF

ADVENT COMMUNITY NIGHTS



- * **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, 6PM**
POT-LUCK DINNER THEME: TAILGATE FOOD
LESSON THEME: HOPE, CRAFT PROJECT: WREATH AND SNOWMAN AND A GAME



- * **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11TH, 6PM**
POT-LUCK DINNER THEME: 18TH CENTURY FOOD
LESSON THEME: LOVE, CRAFT PROJECT: SNOW GLOBE AND A GAME



- * **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH, 6PM**
POT-LUCK DINNER THEME: RED, WHITE AND GREEN FOOD
LESSON THEME: JOY, CRAFT PROJECT: SNOWFLAKE AND A GAME

INVITE A FRIEND OR COMMUNITY MEMBER!

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER DURING ADVENT



COME TO THE QUIET

WEDNESDAYS, FOLLOWING ADVENT COMMUNITY NIGHT

DECEMBER 4, 11, 18 7:15 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE



WORSHIP

Christmas Eve Worship

festive music,
candlelight and
Holy communion

5:00 PM

**Peace Lutheran Church
(Downtown)**

10:00 PM

**Little White Church
on the Hill**



Peace Lutheran's October Financial Report

Donations / Expenditures

\$13,445.75 \$17,187.46

Mission of the Month: \$391.00—Our Food Banks

Mission Investment Fund

Interest Income \$150.53 Balance \$115,317.38

2019 Budget

\$214,789.00

Average Donation Needed Each Month

\$17,899.00



**Thanks
for Your
Support!**

Christmas Tree Decorating

Saturday, December 7th,
10:00 am

Join us for a fun time decorating the tree for our sanctuary! Hot Chocolate and Cookies will be provided.

(Hopefully we won't need the lift!)



Youth Christmas Party

Saturday, December 14th, 5:00pm

Dinner: Pigs in a Blanket, Tater tots and fruit

Activities: Crafts—Games—Movie

This is the perfect time to drop off your kids and get a little Christmas shopping done!

Josephine Caring Community is asking for our help!

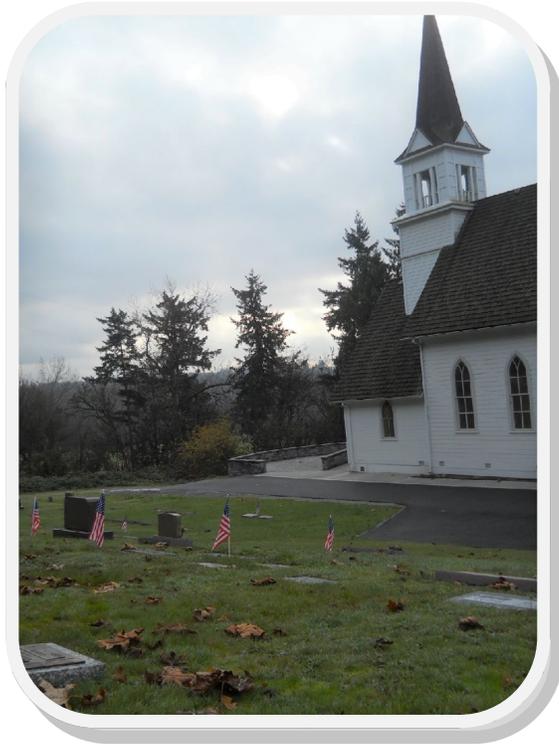


Since 2017, 19 nursing homes have closed, and more closures are on the horizon. Closures are devastating to patients, families and communities. Those seniors who rely on Medicaid care are at risk because of a chronically-underfunded system that is driving closures. When a skilled nursing facility closes, patients, families and their caregivers suffer. Patients suffer trauma when they are moved from local communities. Families lose access to their loved ones at a most critical time. Caregivers suffer job interruptions, grief and loss. These outcomes are unacceptable.

Please go to the Washing Health Action Network's website <http://wahealthactionnetwork.com> click on the "Take Action" button. It will direct you to how to contact your elected officials and provides a sample letter to fill out. WHAN exists to shine a light on the needs of Washington seniors living in senior housing, assisted living communities and nursing homes and to advocate for a sustainable system of supports and services for those who require care.



REMEMBERING OUR VETERAN'S 2019



On Veterans Day, we honor and thank all military personnel who served in the United States armed forces in all wars, particularly living veterans. Zion Lutheran Cemetery at the Little White Church on the Hill paused again this year to honor our deceased veterans by placing over 60 U.S. flags at the graves of those who served in the military.

Veterans protect our rights and freedom and they also provide services and aid to those in need. The ELCA helps veterans through "Care for Returning Veterans" workshops for use in congregations, chaplaincy, financial relief and other programs. We sometimes need to be reminded to welcome and care for those who are placed on the edge of society, particularly people who experienced war and combat.

We especially honor veterans who served in World War I including Lars Drupping (d. 12/05/1923), U.S. Marine Corps, Fred Holmeid (d. 04/23/1965) U.S. Army, Louie Richard Knutson (d. 10/22/1969) U.S. Marine Corps, Carl F. Nielson (d. 05/11/1969) U.S. Army, Thore Johnson Sesby (d. 01/14/1967) and others. Veteran's Day is a United States public holiday observed on November 11 of every year to honor all persons who have served in any branch of the U.S. military but historically it was known as "Armistice Day" where on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, World War I ended.

Remember all veterans the next time you visit our cemetery. It is open to the public Wednesday and Sunday as well as major holidays.

Bruce Grimm, Sexton



December's Mission of the Month

Everett Gospel Mission

FOOD, SHELTER, HELP AND HOPE

Everett Gospel Mission engages with the community to alleviate poverty.

Our staff loves Jesus and He is the reason we do everything we do.

We believe he has called us to help and love all of our neighbors in need regardless of age, gender, race or religion.

The **Genesis recovery program** is offered to those struggling with addiction. It is a personalized 12-step program with an emphasis on God's guidance and healing. The program explores trauma, coping mechanisms and mental processes, and offers the tools necessary to reverse generations of addiction and build a healthy life.

The men and women in our **Feed Hope Here Kitchen program** receive job-skills and culinary training, while also preparing the hundreds of daily meals for the men, women and children staying at the Mission – as well as hungry guests who visit our shelter. Program graduates receive a certificate and assistance in furthering their culinary career through community resources.

Our **Passport program** is designed to offer a transitional, structured environment for people who need assistance securing employment, housing and financial freedom. Program residents can choose to either serve at the Mission or pay a low bed fee as they teach them life skills and encourages financial independence.

Poverty 101 is a training class that will help our community better understand the unique challenges of long-term poverty. It is designed to provide tools that will help each of us find the best way to engage with the people God puts in our path.

A Path Our of Homelessness

Whether they come for a meal, for shelter, or just for a shower and a change of clothing, each is welcomed and treated with dignity and respect.

Our long-term housing facilities provide a safe, affordable place for individuals to transition into a life of sustainability with the support they need to continue moving toward independence



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

PLCW serving group December: Group #2

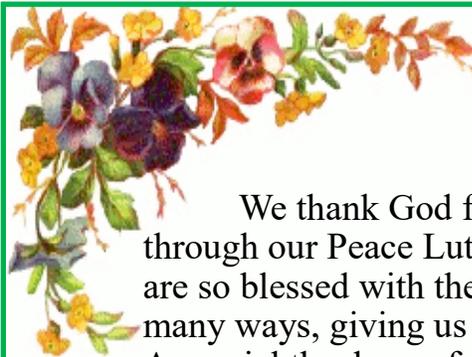
**COFFEE
FELLOWSHIP**

Join us!



Leader: Linda Legler

Remember to keep
coffee time simple!



Card of Thanks

We thank God for His grace that is shown through our Peace Lutheran Church family. We are so blessed with the warmth received, in so many ways, giving us hope, joy peace and love. A special thank you for all your kind thoughts and prayers as we struggle with the loss of Kari. Again, thank you!!

John and Carolyn Ihde and family

Peace Lutheran Church Women

Join us December 4th for our regular monthly lunch and meeting. The lunch will be a Christmas Pot-luck The meeting will feature the Memorial Books given to our Church Library by PLCW for those who have passed in the last year. There will also be some Holiday decorating tips. Devotions will be led by Maudie Gedstad. Don't forget to wear a Christmas sweater!



Women's Fellowship

December 2019



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9:00 Sunday School for all 10:00 Advent Worship 1-4 Wreath making at Lutherwood	2 10:00 Women's AA 5:00 Pills Anonymous 5:30 Lydia 7:00 Voices	3 12:00 AA	4 10:30 Al Anon PLCW 11:30 Lunch 12:30 Meeting 6:00 Advent Community Night 7:15 Holden Prayer [Pastor on an Advent	5 Retreat.....]	6 12:00 AA ]	7 10:00 Christmas Tree Decorating 5:30 Adult Christmas Party
8 9:00 Sunday School for all 10:00 Advent Worship 1:00 Jacob's Christmas Party	9 10:00 Women's AA 5:00 Pills Anonymous 6:00 4-H	10 12:00 AA	11 9:30 Naomi Circle 10:30 Al Anon 11:30 Esther Circle 6:00 Advent Community Night 7:15 Holden Prayer	12	13 12:00 AA	14 8:00 Men's Breakfast 5:00 Youth Christmas Party
15 9:00 Sunday School for all 10:00 Advent Worship with youth narrative	16 10:00 Women's AA 5:00 PA	17 12:00 AA 6:00 Council 6:00 District AA	18 10:30 Al Anon 6:00 Advent Community Night 7:15 Holden Evening Prayer	19 10:00 LWR Quilting Gathering Place 4:30 prep 5:30 meal 6:00 4-H	20 12:00 AA	21
22 9:00 Sunday School for all 10:00 Advent Worship	23 9:00 Piano tuning Women's AA 10:00 5:00 PA	24 12:00 AA Christmas Eve Worship 5:00 Peace 10:00 LWCH	25 Christmas Day 10:30 Al Anon	26	27 12:00 AA	28 8:00 Men's Breakfast
29 9:00 Sunday School for all 10:00 Worship	30 10:00 Women's AA 5:00 Pills Anonymous	31 12:00 AA				

Peace Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 100 (1717 Larson Road)

Silvana, WA 98287

Advent Activities/Worship

Wednesdays at 6pm—Community Night: Dinner/Activities/Games

Wednesdays at 7:15pm—Holden Evening Prayer Worship

Christmas Eve Worship

5:00 pm—Worship at Peace

10:00 pm—Worship at The Little White Church on the Hill

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

Contact us at Peace Lutheran

Telephone: 360-652-8739

Email: pastor@plsilvana.org –or– office@plsilvana.org

Web Site: www.plsilvana.org

Like us on Facebook!

Our Mission Statement

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

