

The Witness of Peace

JUNE 2020

SPECIAL EDITION

Black lives matter. Blue lives matter. All lives matter.

There has been so much anger and pain and accusation and lament. We have heard the cries of the African-American communities crying out 'how long?', having endured years, decades, centuries of oppression and injustice. We have heard the cries of law enforcement and their families who feel unjustly accused and mistreated, despite their genuine commitment and desire to serve all members of their districts. We have heard others advocate for reconciliation and unity. Where do we stand as a community of faith? How are we to be advocates of justice, as well as agents of healing?



It is a long journey ahead of us, but a first step I would suggest is to remember that we are not an *either/or* church, but a *both/and* church. These protests do not force us to choose a side, deciding who are the good guys and who are the bad guys. We must remember that we are **all** saints *and* sinners. We all have God's goodness within us, and we are all broken and limited sinners. We all are in need of repentance and forgiveness and God's healing.

We must be willing to acknowledge that when it comes to the sin of racism, nobody get a free pass. We *all* have been shaped by personal, familial, societal, religious and legal systems that produce in us destructive attitudes and actions that harm whomever we regard as the Other. We must face that truth head on, and be open to learn how racism shows up in our lives. We must also understand that if we are Caucasian, we are part of the dominant systems that carry the majority of responsibility for much of the racial oppression in this country.

To respond to the desire for justice, we must first recognize and understand the injustices. We must be willing to develop a wider understanding of history and of the Other's experience. We must listen to the voices that have been silenced. We must be willing to engage in and model *confession*- a clear-eyed, straightforward naming of the wrongs we have done- either through our actions or through our acceptance. Only when we are each willing to face the truth of our wrongdoing, to confess it and to ask for mutual forgiveness, can we open up a space between us where true reconciliation might be possible.

Pastor Annette



Re-opening of the Church

On June 5 Snohomish county was approved to move into Phase Two of Governor Inslee's Safe Start process. Current regulations now allow for a return to indoor worship with up to 50 people and a commitment to follow all Covid-safety requirements regarding social distancing/masks/sanitation/disinfection. However, there is a strong sense among our church leaders and members that we are not in a hurry to rush back, preferring to err on the side of caution.

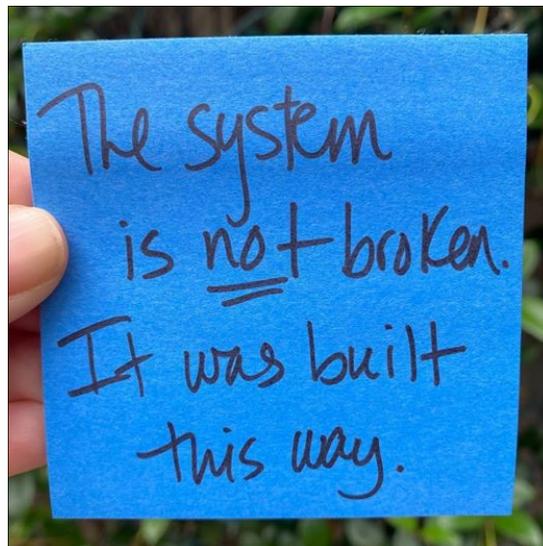
I have formed a Reopening Task Force to help me discern next steps. Richelle Tripp, Al Camp, Mary Fuentes, Jolene Rod and myself have been meeting to discuss options and will continue to meet. We are preparing a proposal to bring to the June 16 Church Council meeting regarding the possibility of beginning first with an outdoor worship gathering, likely at the end of the month. This proposal will need to be approved by the council to go forward. Depending on how things go, we may continue with outdoor worship through the summer or we may choose to pursue two smaller indoor services. Nothing is set in stone at this point because so much keeps shifting. We will try to keep the congregation informed as best we can.

***HOPE YOU ARE FINDING A WAY TO
STAY CONNECTED!***

From Our Youth and Family Worker

These past few weeks I have been praying and praying and asking God a lot of questions. I am reminded of the song: "Lord Listen to Your Children Praying". "Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace". The Lord is listening and we need to keep talking and asking questions. To seek knowledge from those who have experienced racism. Each of us have been born into a racist society whether we realize it or not. We know racism exist because we see it every day, sometimes it's blatant and other times it is so subtle that we don't even realize that it has happened. As young children we believe all of us live in a society that everyone is equal. It isn't until we start to grow up and begin school that we start to see the differences and start to realize that people of color are treated differently. Some people say it's 2020 and I've never seen racism and my kids are not racists and never will be racist. I pray that one day that will be true, but right now that isn't the case. If you question this all you need to do is look around, turn on the news, look at Face Book, or any social media site and you will see how people have come together to rise up against the blatant racism that is happening.

People are angry and rightly so, I am tired of people using their positions of power to up hold their racist agenda. There are people who have privilege and don't even realize they are privileged. It is time for us to look at society differently and help be the change to end racism. I am always amazed how things can look differently from another perspective. Change your view point, rise up and don't be afraid to let your voice be heard when there is injustice happening. We all need to teach our children to love one another and be gracious to all mankind. As adults it is our responsibility to lead by example and not participate in racism by not directly standing against the injustices that are happening to African Americans and all people of color. How will you show your solidarity against racism - will you march, will you make a poster, will you call your state representative, write letters to the legislature, will you teach your children about Martin Luther King, and will you pray for justice? **WILL YOU BE THE CHANGE!**



I continue to try and put out meaningful messages on Wednesdays and Sundays and I've been posting them on the church Face Book page. Recently I've been doing a series on the fruits of the spirit from Galatians and I hope you have found these messages interesting. I am planning to do a Face Book live community around the camp fire as soon as the weather cooperates. I continue to pray for you all and hope that the Spirit of the Lord continues to give you hope.

Mary J Fuentes



It has been challenging to find ways to keep everyone participating in worship, as there is a WIDE spectrum in the congregation as far as online technologies go, regarding computer access, comfort level and knowledge. To summarize for you what is currently available:

- A *printed* **Worship in the Home resource** is mailed weekly to all who do not use email.
- *Christ in the Home* daily devotional can be mailed upon request.
- A *digital* copy of the *Worship in the Home* resource is emailed each Saturday to the all Church email list (all who receive *The Witness*)
- A link is included in the email to the weekly recorded sermon and to any musical selections offered that week.
- The **current sermon is posted on the Main page** of the church website, www.plsilvana.org. Recent past sermons and Youth/family messages can be found under the Congregational Life tab/ Online sermons and Worship Resources section. (Note: this page can take a minute to load.)
- Sunday morning and mid-week messages offered by Mary are posted to the **Peace Lutheran Facebook page** (and are also eventually posted to our website.)

Are you a bit Tech-Challenged? We know that some of you have had difficulty with links/ website/facebook/ etc. **Dave Tripp has agreed to serve as our Tech Help Guru:** please call him if you are confused about accessing any of these online resources! He can talk you though the process and help troubleshoot. Home phone: 360-435-0290, Cell phone: 425-740-4619

LWCH Update

Covid has kept us from doing so many things the past several months, but on the bright side, it afforded the LWCH to get some much needed sprucing up. Using funds from the Karine Smith bequest, the committee was able to hire a painter who painted all of the trim work inside the church as well as the lower wall in the sanctuary and the kitchen, entry, classroom and bathroom. In addition, he cleaned out the gutters, washed the outside of the building, and patched a few spots outside that needed it. The carpet in the entrance was replaced and a new storage cabinet was built for the kitchen by Larry Hanson. The patio and the stone wall had collected some of our Western Washington moss and Larry cleaned that up as well. It looks so clean and tidy now! Ready for more weddings as we are able, and for beautiful worship experiences. Hopefully you can all see it soon. Many thanks to Larry and Lana, Jolene and Bill, and Carol Maurstad. *But special thanks for the beautiful job done by Tony Owrey.... Our painter!*



Mission of the Month

Please know that you can continue to contribute to our mission of the month by indicating what portion of our online or mailed check goes to the general fund and what goes to the monthly mission.

For The Month of June

Investing in farmers and business owners with the power to change entire communities.

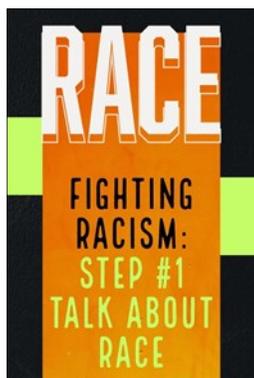


At Heifer International, we invest in farmers and business owners around the world, because we know that having a secure source of income can be truly transformational for families and their communities. We work with communities in 21 countries around the world as they strengthen local economies and build secure livelihoods that guarantee a living income to local farmers.

For The Month of July



The Mission of Holden Village , a Luth3eran ministry, is to welcome all people into the wilderness to be called, equipped and sent by God as we share rhythms of Word and Sacrament; work, recreation, and study, intercession and healing.



It is time.

In order to understand and respond to racial oppression, we need to understand how and where it shows up. Can we create a safe place where we can talk and learn together?

Join us.

A Note From The PLC Treasurer

I am giving a big shout out to all of you faithful members who have continued your giving through this difficult time of isolation!! We also received a very generous grant last month for \$8000.00 which helped us keep up with expenses. The love and devotion we have as a congregation is such a testament to the work of our loving God in our hearts.

Many more of you have chosen to give through Simply Giving. I am sure you have found it to be an easy way to ensure your prayerful giving is provided in the timely manner you choose.

Last month we moved our church account from Bank of America to Coastal Bank. The transition has been smoothly executed, and the Council feels the local ownership of the bank is a wonderful benefit. Their attentiveness and thoughtfulness to us as a small congregation is quite comforting.

We also have a new bookkeeping service provided by CPA Randy Faber and his company. I cannot wait to see all of you when we get back to fellowship in the church.

- Cathy Pryor

Faith and Society

“Faithful participation in society is integral and vital to the mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.” - *Social Statement Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective*



The ELCA is a church that believes God is calling us into the world — together. As part of this call, we seek the common good for society, provide moral vision and are committed to addressing social and cultural injustices and issues. The ELCA participates in God’s just and loving purpose for all of creation in many different ways, from the daily actions of members as citizens, to efforts in social service, to public witness for justice.

In response to God’s gracious love that seeks justice, the ELCA equips and nurtures us for our callings in the world, fosters social service and ministries of mercy, encourages learning and moral deliberation around social and cultural concerns, enacts social teaching and policy documents, interprets and applies social policy, and partners with agencies, organizations and institutions dedicated to service and justice.

Resources and opportunities for participation in addressing social concerns are found on many ELCA Web pages; see especially those dedicated to "*Publically Engaged Church*."

Happy BIRTHDAY

June

- 4 Larry Hanson
- 25 Kim Keefe
Stephanie Bean
- 26 Larry Bean
Marcia Erwin
- 29 Karen Dicken
- 30 Victoria Sather

July

- 1 Cathy Pryor
- 6 Mike Jacobs
- 9 Ken Sather
- 12 Grace Birkestol
- 20 Robin Sather
Michelle Lilgreen
- 26 Steve DiGregorio
- 27 Spencer Fuentes
- 31 Christy Jacobs

Dear Lutherwood Friends,

We are excited to announce that our local officials have ok'ed us opening the campground with phase two in Whatcom County. Currently our campground is open 7 days a week but we have many people who have made reservations. Please call for availability. Social distancing rules still apply. We have 20 spots available with water and electricity, for \$35 a night, 5 people a site. This also includes access to our swim at your own risk waterfront, hiking trails and basketball court.

Sincerely,

Robert Gillespie

www.camplutherwood.org/campground

360-734-7652



This is Christ's church.

THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU HERE.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person--questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT!



In Case You Missed It!

If you have Netflix you may want to check out the June 2 episode of Queer Eye “Preach Out Loud”. It is the story of ELCA Pastor Noah at Atonement Lutheran in Philadelphia where they are getting ready to celebrate their 125th Anniversary. The church council nominated their Pastor because they saw the makings of a great leader that just needed a little push as he struggled with life-long identity issues. For me, the words of the Bishop and a fellow pastor, were so meaningful as they spoke of God’s love for all people reminding me that the church is a place for all. We cannot say All Are Welcome and then close the door on some. It was delightful to watch Pastor Noah as he progressed through the phases that Queer Eye encompasses: fashion, grooming, food, culture and design. His sermon at the big event was spot on for all of us to hear. I give it two thumbs up!



Peace—Debra Compton

Peace Lutheran Church

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“Live your beliefs and you can turn the world around.”

- Henry David Thoreau