

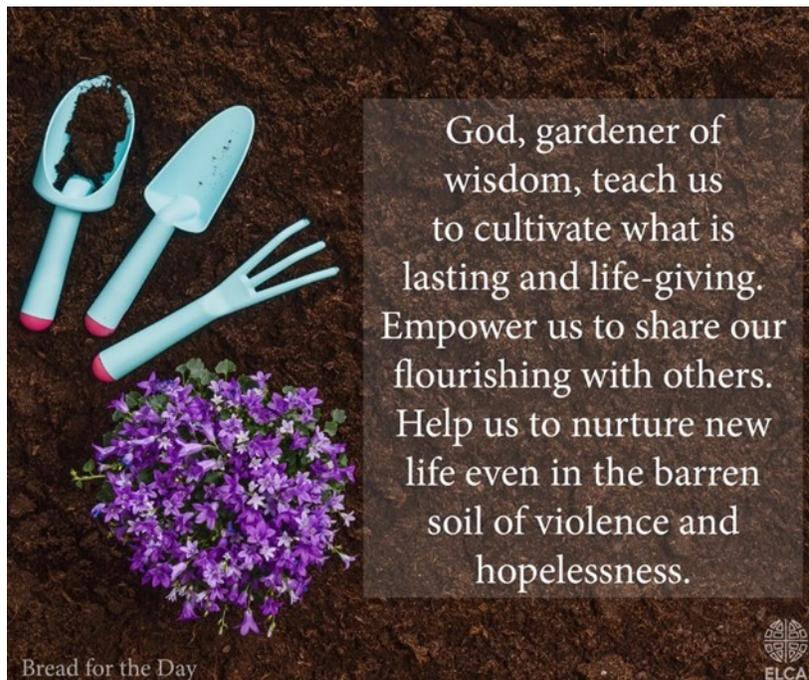
The Witness of Peace

Tending our Heart Soil, Planting Good Seed

This month is a time of focusing on seeds and soils, gardens and cropland. Jesus' teachings have also directed our attention in that direction. I have been reminded lately that what we feed and nourish in our hearts is what grows and takes root.

There are many opportunities daily for us to feed our souls with anger and judgment and resentment and bitterness. These are the seeds that lead to a bad heart-crop. In Galatians we read: *The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control... If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

These words are a good reminder to care for the garden our souls, that we may bear good fruit. We cannot always control what happens in the world outside- most especially these days! Let us give proper energy and focus to what we *can* control- our own minds and hearts and tongues and hopes, tending our inner gardens well. Cultivate life! *Pastor Annette*



Dear Beloveds of the Northwest Washington Synod,

I recently read the book *The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson about Winston Churchill during the blitz. I was surprised to learn that Churchill was appointed prime minister on the day that German forces stormed into Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg. He did not even have time to move into the prime minister's office. Instead, he began directing the war effort from his previous office. (And I thought that my first year had tumultuous events!)



On August 1, 2020, I will have completed my first year as your bishop. I have been excited, thrilled, sad, frustrated, energized, and challenged – perhaps you have been, too. I have been so grateful for everyone in this synod – the staff (Andy, Dianne, Susan, Traci, and David), the rostered ministers, and the members of our congregations/ministry sites. I have enjoyed working in the wider ELCA and with other faith leaders throughout the U.S. and the world. This call is truly a gift.

At the beginning of my call as Bishop, through prayer and conversation, I discerned what I believed God was calling us to emphasize as a synod during this first year:

- Leadership
- Community
- Youth and Young Adults
- Faithful Innovation

In collaboration with other individuals and groups within the synod, we began working on these emphases. And some good work is happening.

That said, I did not predict COVID-19. I did not predict churches stopping in-person worship nor did I understand how long this pandemic time would last. I did not anticipate how this pandemic would impact each person and each congregation in this synod. I am slowly realizing that it will be a long time before we shake hands, hug, sit closely, and sing together again.

I also did not expect that in these last months we would have marches in the streets, voices being raised, and laws being changed as people said, “Enough! Enough to systemic racism and brutality against people of color. Enough!” I did not anticipate that there is new possibility in this world towards true peace and justice if we all do the hard work God is calling us to do.

This is an exciting – and challenging – time to be church. But what opportunities we have! God is calling us to new ways of living, new ways of doing, and new ways of being. Truly, God is calling us to new life in Christ! As we hear in Romans 6:4, “*Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.*”

So, what will come in my second year as your bishop? If it is anything like this first year, a lot will happen! I anticipate that there will be highs and lows, joys and sorrows, confession and forgiveness, surprises and wonders. Through it all, though, I trust that God will be with us - in, with, and under – as we move forward together.

Every day I give thanks for you. I am so grateful to be with you on this journey. I thank you for your trust in me as your bishop and I thank God every day for the Spirit who calls us, gathers us, and sends us out into the world. May you rest, breathe, and act in God's love, justice, and true peace.

In the Hope and Love of Christ,
Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

From the August Edition of The Spirit
lutheransnw.org/publications

Taking Up the Work: ELCA Anti-Racism Pledge

Some people see the topic of racism as “political” and outside the realm of the ministry of the church. We belong to a church body that understands that working for healing and reconciliation between God’s children is at the heart of what it means to follow Jesus and to seek to live in the kingdom of God.



I commit to study, prayer and action to become an anti-racist individual in an anti-racist church.

As church we are called to confess the sin of racism, condemn the ideology of white supremacy, and strive for racial justice and peace. Beyond statements and prayers, we are called to also act and respond to injustices. <https://elca.org/racialjusticepledge>

Within the NW Washington Synod: The Strategic Team for Authentic Diversity.
<https://www.lutheransnw.org/authentic-diversity>

The Strategic Team for Authentic Diversity (STAD) is a coalition of rostered leaders in the Northwestern Washington Synod working towards authentic diversity in our synod through resourcing rostered leaders with education and resources that enable us to dismantle white supremacy in ourselves, our congregations and the wider church.

Beginning the Journey: Recommended Readings

- *So You Want to Talk about Race*, Ijeoma Oluo, 2018
- *Dear White Christians: For Those Still Longing for Racial Reconciliation*, Jennifer Harvey, 2014
 - *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, James Cone
 - *White Like Me*, Tim Wise 2011
- *Understanding White Privilege*, Frances E. Ken

BLOG POST: *White Fragility: Why it’s so hard to talk to white people about racism*

Update from the Council on Re-opening Our Church Building

Overview

Your council made the decision to begin gathering for outdoor/drive in worship on Sunday, June 28th. This option was in addition to continuing to provide a printed, weekly Worship in the Home resource, recorded online sermons and postings on Facebook. They have been well-attended and appreciated by those who are able to gather.

Snohomish County remains in Phase Two of the state Safe Start process. There is currently a statewide pause in any progression to the next phase, due to rising numbers of Covid cases both locally and in several parts of the state. This pause will last at least through July 28th. It remains uncertain when our county might be eligible to apply to move to Phase Three.

Current Council Recommendation

We will continue with outdoor worship at least through September, and our building will remain closed to group gatherings. At our mid-September council meeting, we will assess our county's progression to Phase Three. If we have transitioned to Phase Three by that time, the council will consider various options for resuming indoor worship, including the need for possible "hybrid" options of online/indoor or outdoor/indoor models to accommodate the most vulnerable, as well as the option of delaying any form of indoor worship until Phase 4. As always, you are welcome to contact your council members and Pastor Annette to offer your thoughts and observations.

*Thank you to everyone for your faithfulness
and patience during this challenging time.*

*Remember: the church is not closed;
only the building.*

*Continue to be church in the world
and for each other.*



Financial Update:

Thank you for your continued donations despite all of the changes that have happened with our worship during the last months. We are still in the process of moving our accounts from Bank of America and into Coastal Community Bank. With all that has happened with Covid the process is taking longer than expected. Our work with Randy Faber, the CPA, who is acting as our bookkeeper is moving forward. We are all getting used to the new process and are working at understanding our new financial statements. With a little more education we should be able to give you accurate financial reports. We are happy to report that we have been able to meet all of our financial obligations at this time.

The Mission of the Month collection totals for Heifer International during the months of May and June were \$509.13.

Our Mission Investment Fund had a total of \$116,471.08 on June 30th after earning \$123.55 in interest at 1.30%.

August Mission of the Month

Arlington Kids' Kloset, Making a difference to our kids in Arlington, Lakewood and Darrington. Our service is available to low income students in the three districts. We occupy four renovated classrooms in the old Arlington High School. Discretion and sensitivity are paramount in our services. By locating our services off-site from our student's own schools, we preserve privacy and make students more comfortable when using our service. We strive to create a welcoming environment, and an enjoyable "shopping" experience, just as it would be in their favorite retailer. The only difference is that all items are free of charge. When a student shops they find a large display room that is well organized and professionally presented with areas separated just like a department store: boys, girls, teens and shoes. The items we provide are high quality and are available in a wide variety of sizes and styles with private dressing rooms.



Arlington Kids' Kloset
WE ARE TAKING DONATIONS
GENTLY USED CLOTHING
 (FOR YOUTH AGES 4 TO 18 YEARS)
PJS (ALL SIZES) / NEW SOCKS
NEW UNDERWEAR PACKAGES
COATS / GLOVES / HATS
DONATION DROP OFF SITES:
ARLINGTON KIDS' KLOSET
IN THE BACK OF THE OLD ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
ARLINGTON CLEANERS, 5TH AND WEST ST.

360-435-4875



Upcoming this Month



Pastor Annette: Vacation Days

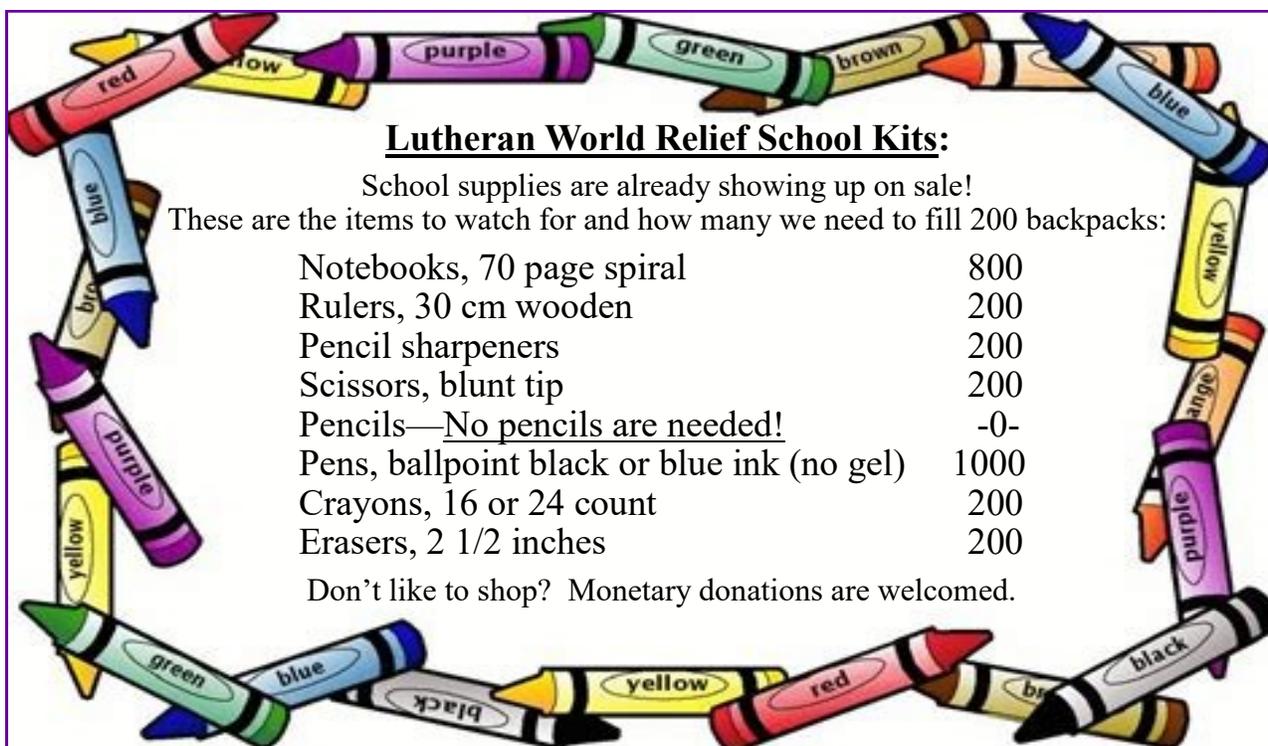
Monday, July 27- Monday, August 3

On Sunday, August 2 we will welcome a guest presider,
retired pastor Paul Hoffman.



Pastor Paul served most recently at Phinney Ridge Lutheran in Seattle and has continued his ministry as a musician, teacher, author and mentor for clergy.

If you have urgent need for pastoral services during the time Pastor Annette is off, please contact Becky Sather for the on-call pastor's contact information.



Lutheran World Relief School Kits:

School supplies are already showing up on sale!
These are the items to watch for and how many we need to fill 200 backpacks:

Notebooks, 70 page spiral	800
Rulers, 30 cm wooden	200
Pencil sharpeners	200
Scissors, blunt tip	200
Pencils— <u>No pencils are needed!</u>	-0-
Pens, ballpoint black or blue ink (no gel)	1000
Crayons, 16 or 24 count	200
Erasers, 2 1/2 inches	200

Don't like to shop? Monetary donations are welcomed.



- 4 Larry Sather / Pam Holdal / Rick Love
- 5 Margaret Ames
- 7 Sue Sather
- 9 Irene Anderson
- 12 Linda Legler
- 13 Daniel Gonzales
- 16 Jessica Ludwig
- 20 Jan Cabe
- 23 Charleen Tyler
- 28 Tony Coen
- 29 Rachel Backlund Coni Moyer
- 31 Mia Watanabe



Remember the beautiful Easter Lilies that we enjoyed during our services in 2019? The youth saved the bulbs and planted them all around the church in our flower beds. Here is one such bunch.



Here are some other lovely blooms in the church garden that you may have missed this spring. Thank you to all who have helped

to keep the grass and the gardens looking nice!

August Food Bank Item of the Month: Peanut Butter!

In an effort to make life easier for the food banks, we are collecting just one item each month. This way there is less sorting. **Please be generous!**



many thanks!

“Mange Takk” to the members of this congregation who showed their love and gave me support during my cancer treatments. Your care and concern really does make a difference in people’s lives. -Becky

Peace Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 100
Silvana, WA 98287



Show love ,wear your mask

WORSHIP OPTIONS AT PEACE

We offer “Worship in the Home” resources that are either emailed or mailed to your home.

We also have Sunday Worship at 10am
in your car in our parking lot.

Simply tune your car radio to listen to the service.



Facebook is another option. Most Sundays you can now watch the service live on Facebook or watch it recorded later. Facebook also offers weekly reflections by Mary Fuentes and recorded sermons by Pastor Annette. If you don't have a facebook account, don't worry.

You can access facebook from our website: www.plsilvana.org