

# The Witness of Peace

## Advent 2020

### Time to take a deep breath.

The season of Advent invites us into a time of pause, of pondering, of listening.

Our souls are perhaps in even greater need of a bit of quiet reflection this season, as it has been a year of crises: a global pandemic, confrontations with systemic racism, protests in the streets, economic struggles, upheaval of our educational systems, deep political divisions, a contentious election.

The spiritual practice of contemplation has an incredible power to help us in times of crisis: to heal, to guide, to renew hope, to give strength, to re-connect us with the Source of our being. We need to reclaim this practice, which too many of us have relegated to monasteries. Spiritual coach Rozella Haydee White has shared a simple outline of the four movements of contemplation, making it accessible to anyone. Best of all- it can be done anywhere! Try it out, in a way that works for you. Peace to you, *Pastor Annette*

1. **REST-** Stop for a few moments. Just stop. Pause from your to-do list, sit in silence, step outside, close your eyes. Breathe.
2. **REMEMBER-** Call to mind God's promise to be with you, always. Remind yourself that you are not alone. Think about a quote or an image from scripture that is comforting. Remember other difficult moments when God has shown up for you and lean into them. You will get through this present challenging time as well.
3. **RELEASE-** Let go of the anger, frustration, fear, whatever feels heavy. Choose an "open hand" stance before God, intentionally letting go control of what "should be", that you might receive what "is". Keep breathing.
4. **RESTORE-** Ask for what you need to be restored to calm and trust. "God is in the restoration business" and wants to bless you. Just rest for a moment in this quiet presence of the Spirit, with a listening heart.

***Be still and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10***



Dear Beloveds,

A prayer during this Advent season. O Savior, Come.

In these days when divisions seem unsurmountable, when hatred seems more real than love, when chaos churns, we pray, O Savior, Come.

In these days when a mysterious and virulent disease stalks this earth, as loved ones become ill, as we see the exhaustion of caregivers, as we grieve those whose breath is now air, we pray, O Savior, Come.

In these days when loneliness and anxiety are common, when we speak to one another behind masks or plexiglass, when we crave physical connection but are unable to touch, we pray, O Savior, Come.

In these days when lies are disguised as truth, when leaders refuse to lead, when institutions we rely on begin to crack, we pray, O Savior, Come.

In these days when silence is complicit in keeping others unheard, when cries for justice are treated with derision, when black and brown bodies are treated as less than sacred, we pray, O Savior, Come. In these days when ... we pray, O Savior, Come.

In these days when voices are raised up, peaceful protestors come together, incremental change occurs, we pray, O Savior, Come. In these days when truth is exposed, when the courageous stand up to injustice, when institutions give way to the Spirit's dance, we pray, O Savior, Come.

In these days when we gather in chat rooms and zoom calls across the miles, see faces on screens that bring smiles, hold babies up to computer cameras and we clap and sing and pray and laugh together, we pray, O Savior, Come.

In these days when scientists doggedly pursue a cure, nurses and doctors and medical staffs come day after day after day to bring expertise and healing to those who have fallen ill, when pastors and deacons bring comfort to the sick and to the bereaved, we pray, O Savior, Come.

In these days when we experience the ancient Word as the living Word, when we live into the radicalness of peace and wholeness and new life, when we join together in the Holy Community you call us into, we pray, O Savior, Come.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In these days when ... we pray, O Savior, Come.

Grace & Peace, Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee



## *Journeying Through the Advent Season*

- **Sundays of Advent: Nov 29, Dec 6, 13, 20** Join us for parking lot worship during the season of Advent
- **Celebrate at home with the tradition of an Advent Wreath.** A “wreath can be as simple as four votives surrounded by greenery, or a circular Advent candle holder with four blue tapers.” An additional candle is lit each Sunday.
- **Personal Prayer** Look for *a weekly resource from Peace* that will provide an Advent wreath-lighting prayer, scriptural reflections, and suggested activities to nurture your soul.
- **Daily Devotionals** Here are two free Advent resources available to download and use online or print out :
  - **For Adults: From Luther Seminary- *O Lord, How Shall I meet you?***  
[www.luthersem.edu/advent](http://www.luthersem.edu/advent)
  - **For Families: *Three choices for free devotionals*** available at [storyboardingchurch.wordpress.com/2020/11/18/advent-hope/](http://storyboardingchurch.wordpress.com/2020/11/18/advent-hope/)
- **Advent Community Night-** Join us for a parking lot gathering **Wednesday Dec. 2, 9 and 16 at 5:30 pm** for a simple activity and message led by Mary, followed by **Holden Evening Prayer at 6:00 pm.**
- **Holden Evening Prayer at Home** – Remember that if you cannot gather in person at Peace, you can join Richelle Tripp virtually on the recording she has made available. Find it on *YouTube* at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cb1WqSyf7e4> or on the main page of our website, [www.plsilvana.org](http://www.plsilvana.org).
- **Create your own opportunities for some quiet pauses or creative activity that give you comfort and joy.**



*A light that shines in the dark,  
a light that darkness could not overpower. -John 1:5*

Loving, ever-living and compassionate God,

You understand the pain of loss, the heartache of bereavement,

**May we hold in our hearts all those whose families or friends have died, who are suffering, who are struggling with illness.**

You are a light that shines in the darkest times,

**Guide us and heal us in our sickness and sorrow, our uncertainty and our anxiety.**

You comfort us in times of fear,

**May we comfort each other, even as we keep apart.**

You console and lead us in times of doubt and confusion,

**May we follow the light of your love and spread hope and encouragement.**

You move our hearts to acts of generosity,

**May we be led to share what we have with those in need.**

God of life,

We thank you for the signs of your light in the midst of our darkness,

**May we be signs of your compassion in the heart of your world.**

Amen. *(Prayer: Linda Jones/CAFOD)*

***Come, Lord Jesus!***

### **October Financial Update:**

**Income** to the General Fund totaled \$11,777.08 including the **Mission of the Month** collection for Josephine Caring Communities' Good Sam Fund of \$455.00

**Expenses** totaled \$13,968.10

Our **Mission Investment Fund** had a total of \$116,979.01 on October 30th after earning \$128.23 in interest at 1.30%.

***Thank you to everyone for your continued support!***





## *What are ELCA Good Gifts?*

ELCA Good Gifts are a creative, meaningful way to support the ministries of the ELCA that mean the most to you and your loved ones. These gifts are real examples from projects currently supported through ELCA churchwide ministries: the ELCA Fund for Leaders, ELCA Global Church Sponsorship, ELCA New Congregations, ELCA Vision for Mission, ELCA World Hunger, Disability Ministries and Lutheran Disaster Response. Each of these programs is a long-term, partnership-based ministry that focus on the needs identified by local congregations and global companion churches and their communities. See more at [www.elca.org/goodgifts](http://www.elca.org/goodgifts)



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

## *Celebrate Christmas!*

**Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Christmas Eve, 5:00 pm Drive in Worship under the stars at Peace**

**Private Prayer at the Little White Church, 8:00- 10:00 pm (tentative)**

We are hoping to be able to open the LWCH to our regular members for short periods of reflection. This opportunity would allow a very limited number of people **to sign up in advance** for a time to gather with family for quiet prayer, to share a simple provided meditation on the Christmas story, to light a candle. ***Please note: These details are still being worked out and are dependent on the public health situation at the time. Contact the church office as we draw closer to Christmas.***

## Youth, Family, and Community

I find it hard to believe that we are already in the month of December and starting my favorite season of the year, "Advent". Yes, we are beginning Advent, but like everything else this year we will be doing things at Peace slightly differently. Advent is a season of waiting and preparing for both the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas and the return of Jesus at the second coming. Each week we focus on a different message: Hope, Love, Joy, and Unity. During this time of upheaval and uncertainty, it is helpful to look to each of these messages to bring us closer to God and closer to humankind. God calls us to love one another and share his message with the world. When I think of unity, I think of how blessed I am, but also how challenged I am. God directly challenges us to go out and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Now, during this season of Advent and in the coming season of Christmas, is a time for you to be inviting and sharing the Good news of Jesus: that He loves everyone and wants each person to be a child of God.



This year we will still gather on Wednesday evenings, but we will gather in the church parking lot at 5:30 to hear a short message and receive a prepared craft bag. Each craft will be demonstrated on the church Facebook page so you can go home with all the materials you need to make it. Following the message and a possible game (weather dependent), Richelle Tripp



will be blessing us with the Holden Evening prayer service. I hope you all can join us and celebrate this joyous season.

MJ

### Our December

#### Mission of the month– Lutherwood



Our December Mission of the Month is Camp Lutherwood. As you can imagine, the impact of COVID-19 has been very hard for organizations such as Camp Lutherwood. They recently wrapped up a virtual auction that was very successful and raised \$20,000. Rob personally wanted to thank our congregation for our continued support in so many ways. The annual meeting this year is January 30<sup>th</sup> and will be done via Zoom. Your continued support is appreciated! [www.camp\\_lutherwood.org](http://www.camp_lutherwood.org)

Lutherwood is dedicated to providing life-affirming experiences for campers of all ages. We also provide campground, cabins, lodge and building event rentals.

## Peace Lutheran Church Women

I hope you have all been staying warm and dry during these last few weeks of PNW weather. On clear nights the stars have been shining bright and the moon has been magnificent. That being said, some people are not in a warm cozy house, but in a tent, a car, motorhome, or sleeping under a makeshift covering. The shelters have been overwhelmed with basic needs of people, from socks and underwear to personal toiletries. The women of Peace are collecting new socks of all sizes and new or gently used warm coats. You can drop these off Sunday mornings with the ushers or make arrangements to drop them off at the church. The need is great and we ask you all to give what you can.



Naomi and Lydia circles continue to meet via Zoom. If you are interested in joining them, please call Karen F or Mary J. Naomi will be meeting on Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 for a Christmas Zoom party. Lydia will be meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. On the 7<sup>th</sup> we'll begin at 5:30 with prayers and praises and the study will begin at 6. The 21<sup>st</sup> we will begin at 5:30 with prayers and praises and then at 6pm we will be having a Christmas party. Everyone is encouraged to wear something festive and have their favorite appetizer or dessert along with a cup of tea. Hope you can join these fun gatherings.

### Go Green Tip is back

Check your vehicle's air filters. Clogged air filters can reduce your car's efficiency, making it use up to 10 percent more fuel than necessary. SO, keep the filters clean and replace them regularly.



Do you like to read or would you like to start reading again? Maybe you just want to try something new! The book club gathers on the third Thursday of the month to discuss and just chat about the latest book, so far the books have been written by local women, but this month we decided to read something a little more seasonal. We will be reading "The Christmas Candle" by Max Lucado, this is a short book with a good message. This would be the perfect book to get you started with the group and the opening question for the group is how do you celebrate Advent and what family gathering do you remember the most. I hope you can join us, we meet via Zoom and a couple people who don't have access to internet have come to the church

and socially distanced for the gathering. If you have any questions or have a book you would like to suggest please contact Mary J. (Fuentes)



# 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

## Naomi Circle Christmas Party

December 9th at 9:30

This month's Zoom meeting will be our Christmas Party!

Wear a Christmas sweater.

Have some tea and a treat nearby for snacking and making the other viewer jealous.

There will be a short devotional.



## THANK YOU NOTE

To my Church family and friends,  
 Thank you so much for your caring thoughts, prayers, well wishes and cards to celebrate my 90th birthday. Thanks to all of you that wrote me cards-I received over 200 Cards much to my delight and surprise of my mail carrier. Your love and support have meant so much. I am so grateful to the Peace Lutheran community for supporting me all these years.

All my love, Ruth Schei

### December Food Bank Idea: YOUR FAVORITE CANNED VEGETABLE

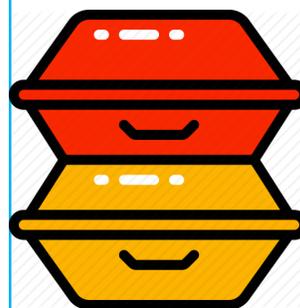


Monetary donations accepted as well. Sometimes large purchases allow us to receive a free turkey for use for another charity such as the Gathering Place

Last month we collected lots of cans of corn for the Arlington Food Bank's Thanksgiving Baskets. (I'm sorry I forgot to count.)



We were also able to purchase \$100 worth of corn from Winco and received a free turkey that was used for take-out Thanksgiving



boxes for the Gathering Place. Then with \$75 worth of cash donations we purchased some Green Beans which they requested.

Thank you all!



# DECEMBER



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 5:30 Community Night 6pm Holden Evening Prayer-live	3	4	5
6 10am Parking lot Worship with Communion	7 5:30 pm Lydia Circle Zoom	8	9 9:30 Naomi Circle Zoom 5:30 Community Night 6pm Holden Evening Prayer-live	10	11	12
13 10am Parking lot Worship	14	15 6pm Council Zoom mtg	16 5:30 Community Night 6pm Holden Evening Prayer-live	17 6pm Book Club	18	19
20 10am Parking lot Worship with Communion	21 5:30 pm Lydia Circle Zoom	22	23	24 5pm Christmas Eve Worship 8-10 LWCH Private Prayer (tentative)	25 Christmas Day	26
27 <u>Online</u> Service Only Lessons and Carols from the Synod	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		

Peace Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 100  
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## 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.
- Our website, [www.plsilvana.org](http://www.plsilvana.org) offers a link to our Sunday Worship, weekly reflections by Mary Fuentes and crafts with Phoebe.
- Facebook is another option. Most Sundays you can now watch the service live on Facebook or watch it recorded later.
- Advent Community Nights in the parking lot December 2, 9 & 16 at 5:30pm.
  - A recording of Holden Evening Prayer is another option this season.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cb1WqSyf7e4>
  - Holden Evening Prayer under the Stars: December 2, 9 & 16 at 6pm.