

The Witness of Peace

Be merciful to me, O God, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by.

Psalm 57:1 (ESV)



A member of my women's circle shared this text with us last time we met. This verse- and this particular translation – spoke to my heart and gave me strength and courage. These words from the ancient psalmist remind us that our faith and trust in God does not take away the “storms of destruction”. Chaos and suffering and tragedy and grief are still part of our lives. God does not ever promise that all our pain will be taken away. The promise is that we will be held, we will be given “refuge”, we will find what we need to make it through the storm. What we are asked to do is to seek shelter under God's protective wings, held close like a mother bird shelters her young in the protection of the nest.

Many of us continue to feel a deep weariness and uncertainty, even as we move into a new year, a new administration, a new hope for vaccination against Covid-19. The political storms will continue to rage, and new strains of the virus still threaten. Let us commit to finding ways to “take refuge”. Refuge can come in choosing to make time for prayerful silence, for spending time outdoors, for acts of creativity and of kindness, for reaching out in care to those we love, for a bit of silliness and laughter (case in point: all the Bernie memes!)

May you take advantage this month of the opportunity to gather for worship, to sing together Holden Evening Prayer, to remember each other as we face our individual and collective storms.

God's peace to you, my sisters and brothers,

Pastor Annette

Dear Beloveds,

There were many images that horrified me during the Washington DC riots. The violence, cruelty, anger, and destruction were terrible.

One image that made me both angry and almost nauseous was the photograph of the person holding up a bright yellow sign with the words, “Jesus Saves.” To be clear, it is not that I object to these words. I strongly believe that Jesus saves. But in this particular case, when one holds up a sign bearing these beautiful words but participating in mob violence, it becomes a mockery. Horrifically, there were other Christian symbols present that day. There was a giant wooden cross outside the Capitol. One man carried a Christian flag into an evacuated legislative chamber. Christian music blared all day from loudspeakers. It was disgusting to see sacred words and items suddenly used to foment violence. It was sickening, reckless, and horrifying. It was profane. The insurrection on the Capitol broke the first, second, fifth, seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth commandments. Any action that breaks one commandment is wrong. An action that breaks the majority of the commandments is beyond alarming. (And I could actually make an argument that this insurrection also broke the third and fourth commandments, too. This only leaves the sixth unbroken.)



In the ELCA social message on Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy we read,

ELCA social teaching holds that all residents of the United States have a responsibility to make government function well—not to abandon our democracy but to engage it in a spirit of robust civic duty. For Lutherans, this responsibility is lived out as a calling from God, expressed in the discipleship described in our baptismal promises.

(Full message here: www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Government.)

This social message states that as residents of the United States and as followers of Jesus, we all have a responsibility for government to function well. We are called to be a part of civic society. We are called to vote. We are called to be civil servants. We are called to speak out against injustice. We are called to march against hatred. We are called to peacefully protest when those in power act in ways that promote prejudice or bigotry or discrimination. We are called to speak truth. For those of us with privilege, we are especially called to examine ourselves, to listen to others, and to speak for those without voice. We are called to act in ways where God’s love is paramount – moving towards true peace, true equity, and true reconciliation. In short, we are called to live into our baptismal identity of forgiven and beloved children of God by loving and caring for God, our neighbor, and our world.

I encourage congregations and ministry sites to study the social message mentioned above. There are also other social messages and social statements found on the ELCA website to further conversation and action as we continue to learn how to be disciples of Jesus by engaging in the world. Perhaps this could be something that you and others do during Lent. But please don’t stop at reading, studying, and talking about it. Let us move forward with action. Our faith calls us to stand next to the oppressed and forgotten in faith, knowing that, as we are loved by God, we are called to love our neighbor.

I am appalled at what happened on January 6, 2021. As a citizen of the United States and, even more so, as a Christian, I am devastated. But I have hope. I have hope that out of this hatred, love will emerge. I have hope that those who have been fearful will gain courage. I have hope that we, siblings, beloveds in Christ, will join together and reclaim the words, “Jesus saves.” I have hope that we as a nation will form a more perfect union. I have hope – not because I’m an idealist but because I’m a follower of Jesus – that out of this death resurrection will come.

In God’s Spirit of Hope,
Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

From the February 2021 edition of *The Spirit*



LENT begins this year on Wednesday, February 17th

A brief drive-in service of prayer, scripture and imposition of ashes will be held in the parking lot at both Noon and 6:00 pm. Ashes will be distributed to each vehicle and we will each bless ourselves and/or others in our household.

In a wonderful moment of synchronicity, Ash Wednesday 2021 is also

Random Acts of Kindness Day

This year, I am inviting us to a common Lenten spiritual practice:



WORSHIP SCHEDULE THIS MONTH

- Sunday, February 7** Service of Holy Communion
- Wed, Feb 3,** 6:00 pm, **Holden Evening Prayer Around the World**
- Sunday, February 14** Service of the Word- a Valentine Sunday! 
- Wed, Feb 17** **Ash Wednesday** drive-in service: Noon *and* 6:00 pm
- Sunday, February 21** Service of Holy Communion
- Wed, Feb 24** 6:00 pm, **Lenten Evening Prayer**
- Sunday, February 28** Service of the Word,
guest preacher: Mission Developer Ryan Brown

December Financial Update:

Income to the General Fund totaled \$15,641.01 including the **Mission of the Month** collection for Lutherwood of \$600.00.

Expenses totaled \$15,088.21

Our **Mission Investment Fund** had a total of \$117,203.24 on December 31st after earning \$113.77 in interest at 1.15%.

2021 Budget \$194,582.00 2021 Average donation needed each month \$16,215.00

Thank you to everyone for your continued support!



Wednesday, February 3rd, 6:00 pm at Peace



Photo: John Noltner

Each year Holden invites Villagers across the globe to create community through participation in the Holden Evening Prayer. This year, more than ever, the world cries out for healing, justice and mercy. Let us support and draw strength from one another, reaffirming our values as people called, equipped and sent to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God.

Together, our prayers rise like incense. - *The Holden Village Community*

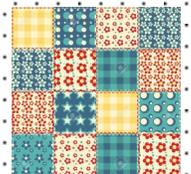
Calling all quilters!

We are getting ready to make a couple of senior quilts and we have room for any and all quilters who wish to participate.

If you are interested in making a few blocks, contact Karen Dicken at quilter@wavecable.com or 425-301-4118 and let her know. She will let you know all about it. The quilt pattern is fun and easy and turns out fabulous!

We will collect the blocks during the month of February.

If you have any questions, contact Karen Dicken



Youth, Family, and Community

HUNGER STRIKE

The Super Bowl is set for Sunday, February 7th at 3:30 pm and the headliners are the Chiefs and Buccaneers. Even though we are still living in a COVID time, people are still planning Super Bowl parties and will be eating well. However, there are several people here in Snohomish County and around the world who will be going without breakfast, dinner, and snacks. You can help make a difference and join in with many youth and adults around the country and world by fasting and doing community service throughout the weekend. Here at Peace we will gather via Zoom on Friday the 5th at 6:30 pm and eat dinner together and play some trivia. We ask you all to join us in cleaning up the streets of Silvana or the streets out in front of your own home. Here in Silvana we will gather at 8:30 am out in front of Peace and socially distance while we clean up all the roads that lead into Silvana. We will also be collecting food for the food bank and encourage everyone to join in with us. Please join in when you have time throughout the weekend. **We would love to have as many people join us for dinner as possible on Friday, even if you don't intend to fast.** We will break our fast Saturday night at 7 pm. We ask everyone to prepare crackers and cheese in your home and we will all gather once again via Zoom to break our fast together and close out the evening with prayer and reflection.

Think about this and what you can do to help end hunger. When a mother is undernourished during pregnancy, the baby is often born undernourished, too. Every year, 17 million children are born this way due to a mother's lack of nutrition before and during pregnancy.

Isaiah 58:10

“If you poor yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.”

Rise-up and help make a difference in the lives of your sisters and brothers - join in the work of the Lord!

Go Green Tip: Don't be “floored” by choices! Instead of artificial fibers, choose a natural floor covering such as sisal, jute, coir, or cork.

Mission of the Month-Everett Gospel Mission

Everett Gospel Mission first opened its doors in 1961 to care for the homeless men of Everett. Today, the Mission continues to be the only provider of emergency shelter for men in Snohomish County. The mission has expanded to include services for single moms and single women. We provide shelter and comprehensive recovery programs for 145 men, and 75 women and children each night. We provide all services without regard to age, gender, race or religion while sharing the love of Christ. Everett Gospel Mission is a member in good standing of the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions, and is managed by community volunteers who serve on the Board of Directors, as well as our CEO, Sylvia Anderson. As a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization, we are audited annually by an independent firm. 90% of our funding is provided by individuals, businesses, churches and foundations.

Our Mission Statement: Everett Gospel Mission Engages with the Community to Alleviate Poverty

Peace Lutheran Church Women

Our warm clothing drive was a success! We collected 4 boxes of warm coats and sweatshirts. There were 6 grocery bags full of socks and one of hats. A few items were retained for our needy including a windbreaker, sweatshirt and a package of socks some of which have already gone out.

Thank you to Mary Fuentes and Tina Hughes for delivering the items to the Everett Gospel Mission.

My Peace family,

Thank you so much for the prayers, love, calls, texts, flowers, and meals! Your love and kindness has helped get me through these last few months. You all encouraged and helped me get through my cancer diagnosis, surgery and now recovery.

MJ

I have discovered one positive thing about having cancer. I've never had so many people tell me that they love me!

Happy Valentines Day!
-Becky



FUTURE CHURCH

- In 1963, Zion Lutheran and Salem Lutheran merged to form Peace Lutheran Church.
- In 1987, the American Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Church in America and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches merged to form the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- Today, in 2021, we continue to consider what new partnerships might God be calling us into, that we may move forward into the mission of the church in our changing circumstances.

Our presiding bishop, the Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, has invited the entire ELCA to engage together in reflection on our future, both locally and nationally. Like Martin Luther, how can we creatively re-imagine a new re-formation?

Our local Stillaguamish cluster of ELCA congregations, supported by the NW Washington Synod, is inviting us to creatively re-imagine how we might partner together to serve our community and to bear witness to the gospel.

*Are you willing and able to be part of this visioning conversation?
Please talk with Pastor Annette.*



Office Hours

Becky will likely not have regular office hours
February 2nd, 3rd and 5th and
February 16th, 17th and 19th.

She does try to keep up with checking the church's email messages from home. She also accepts phone calls and text on her cell phone.

- 4 Heidi Pearson
- 6 Janet Stangeland
Greg Erwin
- 12 Dick Klabunde
- 14 Jolene Rod
- 18 Shirley Ahrens
Madison Lilgreen
- 20 Isaiah Kombol
Preston Grant
Payton Grant
- 23 Anne Grimm
Debbie Norman
- 25 Signe Cairus
- 26 Phoebe Fuentes
- 27 Greta Ashley

Our Church Council Members 2021:

President— Larry Sather
Vice-President—Al Camp
Secretary—Sue Sather
Treasurer—Cathy Pryor
PLCW Rep.—Stephanie Bean
Youth Rep.—Tammy Chase

At Large: Dave Tripp
Larry Bean
Dennis Dicken
Linda Legler

Staff: Pastor Annette
Mary Fuentes

February Food Bank Item:

Peanut Butter



Peanut butter continues to be one of the most requested items from our food banks.

Monetary donations accepted as well.



Thanks to you, the Stanwood Camano Food Bank will be picking up at least 41 cans of soup, 9 packages of individual dry soups and Soup mix packages that will serve 32. We also received other food items that will help fill hungry mouths. We received a \$100 donation for food that the youth will use as part of their Hunger Strike shopping trip. Another donation of \$100 was also received to purchase food.

Thank you!

| | |
|---|-------------|
|  John Smith 5000 Year St Yard - Room 50321 | DATE: _____ |
| PAY TO: _____ | |
| MEMO: _____ | |
| 12 34 5678 98 76 543210 | |



February



| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|--|-----|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 6pm Holden Evening Prayer Around the World | 4 | 5 6pm Hunger strike zoom Dinner and Trivia | 6 8:30am Hunger strike street cleaning 7pm zoom break fast |
| 7 10am Worship in the parking lot 3:30 Super bowl | 8 5:30pm Lydia Circle Zoom Meeting | 9 | 10 10am Naomi Circle Zoom meeting | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14  Transfiguration of our Lord 10am Worship | 15 | 16 | 17 Ash Wed Service Noon and 6pm | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 10am Worship | 22 5:30pm Lydia Circle Zoom | 23 | 24 6pm Holden Evening Prayer under the Stars | 25 6pm Book Club Zoom (Hank & I) | 26 | 27 |
| 28 10am Worship | <p>SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING</p> <p>Our February semi-annual meeting will be rescheduled for some date in the future. The annual reports will still be prepared and go out. If you need to submit a report, please get it to the office by February 15th.</p> | | | | | |

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

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 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.