

# The Witness of Peace



Some of you have probably heard that the “new and right spirit” that I am seeking this Lent is the spirit of kindness, particularly in those situations and with those persons when I find it most challenging. Kindness seems to be where everything good in relationships has its start.

Which makes sense, because one of the core characteristics of God that we find in the Hebrew Scriptures is **loving-kindness**, an attempt to translate the Hebrew

word חסד (chesed) which we also see translated as **mercy**. I think of this beautiful word as God’s covenant love: lavish, fierce, sacrificial, unending, tender, insistent on seeking us out and drawing us in. Here is a reflection on this attribute of God from a Jewish perspective:

- *Chesed* appears in the Torah to communicate God’s kindness and love toward humanity, as well as human kindness and love toward each other
- *Chesed* emerges as one of the essential ways humans engage with God to sustain creation.
- *Chesed* is when you give your heart and mind to the well-being of the one in need.
- Chesed occurs when there is understanding between two people and when the command to “love your neighbor as yourself” is fulfilled.

([myjewishlearning.com](http://myjewishlearning.com))

Maybe we can think of loving-kindness as the Divine image ( a “right Spirit”) which God planted in us and intended to pour forth from our hearts: to God, others and all creation. That can only happen when we have cleared out enough of everything that clogs us up. That’s where Lent comes in! Time for a deep cleanse, a spring cleaning that can make space for God’s loving-kindness to dwell and grow.

Making space for grace, *Pastor Annette*

Dear Beloveds,

This is a picture of a calendar I have on my desk. The date on it is, “March 10, 2020. Yes, I am not making a mistake, the year on this calendar is 2020.

Last year, when I turned the page on this calendar, I had no idea that this date would mark the last time I had a “normal” day in my office – with my staff and I talking, sitting at our desks, crowded together, laughing, doing business – not thinking at all of masks or physically distancing or washing hands (well, hopefully we were washing our hands!).

I have kept this calendar on March 10, 2020 as a snapshot of when life changed to a new reality. Like many of you, I never dreamed that one year later we would all be planning our second Easter of COVID or having second birthdays under these strange circumstances or still not knowing for sure when we might gather together safely.

I did not anticipate the suffering so many people have undergone. The hundreds of thousands of people who have died. So many who are still suffering from the ravages of COVID. The impact of this virus has been brutal for millions of people.

While I consider myself a patient person, truth be told, I am becoming impatient. I am ready to be done with this pandemic. I am ready for the pain and anxiety of this disease to be over. I am ready for the loss of life and health of so many to stop. I am ready for this underlying feeling of anxiety and fear to end.

And you? My guess is you are feeling some of the same things.

But, as we hear in many of the psalms, we don't stop at despair. As people who believe in resurrection, we don't stop at death. In this Lenten season as we move towards Easter, we proclaim that we are a people of hope, too. As I read in my devotions this morning from Psalm 147: “The Lord heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.” Through community with one another, through helping those who are marginalized, through coming together in prayer and song and worship, we are healing the brokenhearted and binding up wounds.

So, let me ask you, even as we wait, what are you looking forward to? Truly, what is bringing you hope right now? What are some things that you have learned and discovered during this pandemic that you want to take forward? We know that God works through all things – how do you see God working in your life and in the life of this nation and world?

I would love to hear from you where you see God's Holy Spirit – in your congregation, in your home, in your workplace, in the world. Where are you finding hope? Where are you finding resurrection joy? You are welcome to email me at [bishop@lutheransnw.org](mailto:bishop@lutheransnw.org). I would love to hear from you.

In this Lenten season (a season that sometimes feels like it began last March and is still happening) we trust that we are walking the way of the Lord. God's hand is guiding us. God's love is surrounding us. And God brings us hope.

May you feel God's grace through Jesus in these days. And may we soon gather in-person again.

Stay safe. Wear a mask. Wash your hands. Get a vaccine when you are eligible. And know that we are church together, even when we are physically separated.

In God's Spirit of Hope,

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee



**This Lenten season, choose kindness.  
It will do your heart good.**



1. SMILE at everyone you see.
2. Let someone go ahead of you in line.
3. Pick up litter at the park.
4. Hold the door open for someone.
5. Give a COMPLIMENT.
  6. Do a chore without being asked.
  7. Donate diapers to a local diaper bank or women's shelter.
  8. Babysit for free.
  9. Bake cookies for a neighbor.
  10. Visit senior citizens at the nursing home.
    11. Tape a pack of popcorn to the DVD rental machine.
    12. Take flowers to a friend.
    13. Send a thank you note to a teacher.
    14. Paint and hide a Kindness Rock.
    15. Volunteer at the Animal Shelter.
16. Buy a movie ticket for the person behind you in line.
17. Give a HUG.
18. Donate blood at the Red Cross (ages 17+)
19. Leave little containers of bird seed at the park so people can feed the birds.
20. Donate canned goods to a food pantry.

## **30+ RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS IDEAS**

21. Take the neighbor's dog for a walk.
22. Give someone a gift card.
23. Leave your waiter an extra tip.
24. Tape quarters to parking meters.
25. Post a positive comment on social media.
  26. Participate in a 5K for a good cause.
  27. Leave a container of change by the wishing fountain.
  28. Mail a Thinking of You card to a friend.
  29. Scatter wildflower seeds where everyone can enjoy them.
  30. Pay for someone's meal or coffee.
    31. Walk or ride your bike to work.
    32. Read to a young child.
    33. Recycle.
    34. Give blessing bags to the homeless.
    35. Take in the neighbor's garbage cans.

**No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted. -- Aesop**

## Easter Breakfast!!!

The Mission Team will be hosting a Drive-up Easter Morning Breakfast! We will be serving cinnamon rolls, oranges, coffee or hot chocolate. We will start serving at 9:15 am and all are welcome to drive up and pick up your breakfast and then go to the parking lot where you will be able to listen to **beautiful music**. The money the team raises will go directly to the purchase of Aler Wood Cook Stoves for Guatemala. We hope to see you Easter morning for a celebration of the resurrection!



### Lenten "Soup Suppers"

During Lent we will be sharing 2 SOUP/CHOWDER RECIPES each week as well as a bread recipe. As we are unable to gather and share a meal together in the Fellowship Hall, we hope we can at least share a similar meal in our own HOMES or in our CAR in the parking lot!



### January Financial Update:

**Income** to the General Fund totaled \$14,439.84 including the **Mission of the Month** collection for Sarvey Wildlife Center of \$506.00 as well as \$200 designated for food/food banks.

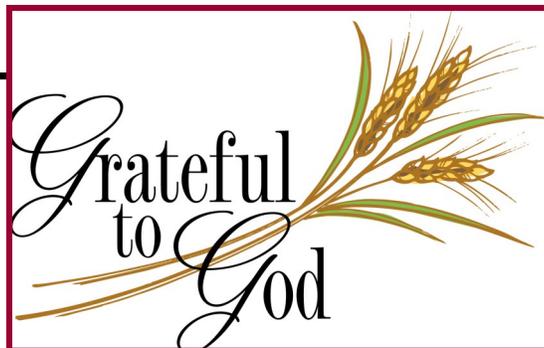
**Expenses** totaled \$14,728.03

Our **Mission Investment Fund** had a total of \$117,301.33 on January 31st after earning \$98.09 in interest at .99%.

2021 Budget \$194,829.00

2021 Average donation needed each month \$16,235.75

*Thank you to everyone for your continued support!*





# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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## Northwest Washington 2021 Synod Assembly

Our annual Synod Assembly will be

**Saturday May 15, 2021, from 9am-4pm,**

and this will be a first: **it will be completely online, via Zoom.**

We are building a great team to make the event smooth and easy to navigate.

Assembly will include worship, reports from our synod and churchwide leaders, elections, resolutions, and ministry anniversary celebrations.

**Registration is now and will close March 31st.**

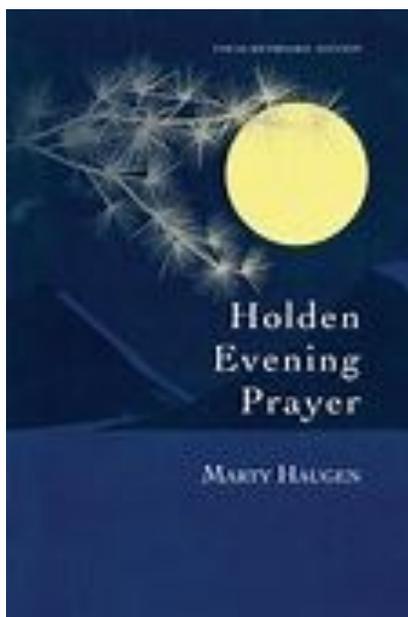
We are looking for one or two people (I man, I woman) to join Pastor Annette in attending this year's assembly.

This is a great way to learn about being Church Together in the wider region.

**Please let Pastor Annette know if you are interested!**

### Lenten Wednesdays

Join us for Holden Evening Prayer



6:00 pm, in the parking lot or on Facebook Live.

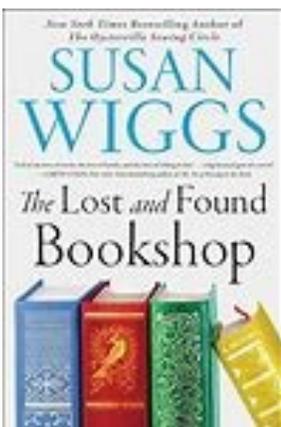
## Youth, Family, and Community

Thank You! Thank You! Last month we cleaned up Silvana, collected over \$350 dollars, and over 350# of food for **Hunger Strike** weekend. The numbers are still coming in for Souper Bowl of Caring, but so far all the reports have been exceptional. Life is indeed challenging for many people and we are called by God to help people through challenging times and be their light. Every one of us faces times where we need someone to help us. For some it is with food and shelter, for some it is someone to listen to them and pray with them. God has challenged us to be His hands and to work in His name for the betterment of all the people, animals, and the earth. Let us all work together to make this world a better place for everyone and everything!

Once again throughout the season of Lent, Phoebe and I will be hosting a **Midweek Craft and Message**. We hope that you will be able to join us either on Facebook or the church website. Each week we will focus on what Lent means to each of us as youth and as adults. Phoebe will share about her take on Lent while teaching a craft and I will share a short message along with her.



**Go Green Tip!** Blessed Release! Open radiator valves regularly to remove any trapped air and ensure they're working at maximum efficiency.



**BOOK CLUB** continues to meet and for the month of March we will be reading a library recommended book by local author Susan Wiggs called "The Lost and Found Bookshop". I'm excited to read this book, because the review say it's about family, rediscovering your passions, and learning to understand your grandparents. If you would like to join us, we will be gathering to discuss the book on Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm via zoom and a small in person gathering.

MJ

## Peace Lutheran Church Women

Life certainly has changed, but we are looking forward to gathering once again. In MARCH we are going to try something NEW. We are asking all to gather with us via Zoom on Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at noon for a **salad lunch** OR **what you have on hand**. We will share a meal while hearing a short message. We will also have time for prayer requests and praises. If you would like to join us, please call or text me and I will email you the link.



The Lydia Circle will be gathering on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. They open the meeting at 5:30 for Prayers & Praises and then begin their Bible Study OR Devotions at 6 pm. If you would like to join in, please contact Mary or Karen for the Zoom link.

Naomi Circle will be gathering on March 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. They will begin with a half hour of prayer/sharing and then at 10 am begin the Bible Study. If you would like to join in, please contact Karen Fuentes for the Zoom link.

## MARCH MISSION OF THE MONTH

### *BETHANY OF THE NORTHWEST AT SILVER LAKE*



Originally Bethania College, “Bethany Home for the Aged” was established in 1901 by a group of Lutherans who believed there was a need for a Christian facility to care for the elderly in the Everett area. Today, Bethany of the Northwest is a continuing care ministry, dedicated to enhancing the quality and dignity of life for those they serve, out of love for God and neighbor. **One of three Bethany sites**, Bethany at Silver Lake is just a block from beautiful Silver Lake in south Everett and

provides 24-hour skilled nursing care and rehabilitative services, as well dementia care. Bethany continues to be a ELCA-affiliated social ministry.



- 3 Gordon Conn  
Michelle Love
- 8 Brian Johnson  
Shannon Lux
- 9 Rebecca Freyenberger  
Mary Fuentes  
Tayden Richards  
Lincoln Richards
- 13 Robin Backlund
- 15 Eva Mullen
- 17 Molly Shackelford  
Reese Woodington
- 19 Suzanne Mullin  
Debra Compton
- 20 Richelle Tripp
- 21 Pedro Gonzales
- 24 Andrew Bean
- 25 Lynn Olseene  
Simon Fuentes
- 29 Bob Sund
- 31 Miles Lilgreen

**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

**March Food Bank Item:**

**SOUP**

The food banks are once again requesting this wintertime favorite to warm cold bodies.

**February Food Collection Report**

The first of the peanut butter collected was added to the Hungerstrike Community Food collection and was taken to the Arlington Food Bank. The Cash, \$383.75, was donated to the Darrington Food Bank.

More peanut butter comes in every Sunday.

Thank you for your support of our local food banks!

**Office Hours**

Due to medical appointments, Becky’s office hours in the church office will be irregular. Please call before venturing to the office to make sure she is there.



# MARCH



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b> 5:30pm Lydia Circle Zoom Meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 11:30 PLCW Zoom 6pm Holden Evening Prayer	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 10am Worship in the parking lot	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10am Naomi Circle 6pm Holden Evening Prayer	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>Daylight Savings Time</b> 10am Worship in the Parking lot	<b>15</b> 5:30pm Lydia Circle Zoom Meeting	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>St Patrick's Day</b> 6pm Holden Evening Prayer	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 10am Parking lot Worship Guest Preacher Pastor Andy Yee Asst. to Bishop	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6pm Holden Evening Prayer	<b>25</b> 6pm Book Club Zoom	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Palm Sunday 10am Parking lot Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

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.
- Lenten/Holden Evening Prayer Services will be held in the parking lot at 6pm on Wednesday, March 3,10,17 & 24.
- 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.