

The Witness of Peace



Reimagining the Norm

Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. – John 12:24

We have all seen and heard comments lately about everyone longing for “things to get back to normal”. I have also seen just as many comments asking, “Should we go back to normal?” Perhaps there are some aspects of this pandemic experience that have indeed changed us forever.

I have been thinking about how, in many ways, Jesus came to call us to imagine a new normal. He challenged so many of the mindsets, rules and practices that people of his day took for granted. He was clear that it was time for some accepted norms to die, so that a new vision for God’s people could be born.

At Easter, the darkness of the tomb became the darkness of the womb.

The disruption of this past year has stirred the pots of normalcy in a variety of ways. What might the Spirit - the ‘holy disrupter’ - be up to*? What are some of the norms that we have operated from as Church that we might need to break open – even allow to die- so that new life might emerge? What are the assumptions that are being challenged in the growing awareness about the pervasiveness of structural racism? How have we come to see in new ways how issues of privilege and access dominate our societal practices? How and where does an extreme and rather toxic individualism need to die in order for the fruit of true community to emerge? How might the Spirit be working in us, igniting our collective imagination and leading us toward a new kind of normal- one that might truly serve the whole? These are important questions to ponder in the days and months ahead.

Come, O Risen Christ, and work your Easter transformation in us!

Pastor Annette

***The Holy Spirit is the disrupting, chaotic force that compels us to challenge all that stands in the way of God’s reconciling love, to move always towards the liberation of all Creation.**

-Rev. Adam Thomas

The Spirit

There is a cave in Kentucky called Mammoth Cave. When you first enter, it appears quite empty of life. Dark, quiet, dank, barren.

And yet ... and yet ...

Like many caves, first impressions can be deceiving. You see, over 200 animals live in Mammoth Cave. Animals that range from raccoons and other small creatures who accidentally venture into the cave and cannot figure out how to return to the outside, to animals who deliberately live both inside and outside of the cave, to forty-two species of troglobites - animals adapted exclusively to life in the darkness. ***Amid seeming emptiness, life is abundant.***

If one were to drive by most of our church buildings, parking lots would be empty and the doors would be locked. A casual observer might say, "That church is empty. Nothing is happening there."

And yet ... and yet ...

First impressions can be deceiving. There is a lot of life happening in congregations and ministry sites. There are people who have joined communities of faith in our synod that, for various reasons, would never have entered the doors of a church building. They have become part of the community through online worship – even if they live thousands of miles away. There are people who were a part of the church community for years – but because of work schedules or health issues or mobility concerns – they had faded away. Now they are coming each week as they re-connect. And there are people who have never left. They continue to foster relationships, enjoy serving in the community of the church, and who are faithful to the tasks that are required to keep churches functioning.

We have groups in many churches that are working with other organizations to help feed, clothe, teach, and be with people in the neighborhoods. We have those who are having sometimes uncomfortable (but always fruitful) conversations about what it means to be faithful in this time and place. We have many who are visiting and calling the sick and the dispirited.

Fundamentally, together we are living into the good news of Jesus and journeying together in the Spirit as we are Church in the world. ***Amid seeming emptiness, life is abundant.***

Listen to these words from the first Easter, "Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him!'" (John 20:1-2)

Mary looked into that tomb and saw only lifelessness and she despaired. She peered into the shadows and felt, deep in her bones, the darkness of sorrow, abandonment, disappointment, grief, heartache, and pain. She had gone searching for something, someone, and she came away with nothing.

And yet ... and yet ...

Jesus had risen. Jesus, scars and all, was going to meet her in the garden. In a few hours Jesus would call Mary's name and assure her of his love. Jesus would come to the disciples and breathe on them – giving them peace and asking them to, "Feed his sheep." And they would. ***Amid seeming emptiness, life is abundant.***

Dear Beloveds, this last year has felt somewhat like we were living in a cave. We have been confined, somewhat lost, weary, and wondering where the new life is. We have stumbled on rocks and fallen in despair.

And yet ... and yet ...

We trust that soon we will be gathering in-person together. Soon we will be beyond this pandemic. Soon life will not "return to normal" but instead will move forward as we live God's calling of loving God and loving neighbor.

We know this because we are a resurrection people. Out of death comes life. We place our trust in our risen Savior who died and is raised again. ***Amid seeming emptiness, life is abundant in Christ Jesus our risen Savior.***

And we all proclaim: Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee





- **Palm/Passion Sunday, March 28**
10:00 am Drive-In Worship at Peace
- **Maundy Thursday, April 1**
6:00 pm Drive-In Worship at Peace
- **Good Friday, April 2**
7:00 pm Stillaguamish Cluster Live Online Worship:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTgb73DJGK8>
- **Easter Sunday, April 4**
8:30 am Simple service, outdoors on the porch at Little White Church
9:15 am Easter Cinnamon Rolls at Peace
10:00 am Festive service, Drive-in worship at Peace

Needed: Flowers for Easter Sunday!



- Pots/baskets of lilies and/or other colorful flowers to decorate the parking area at Peace and the porch at LWCH
- Individual flowers to decorate the standing cross



Worship: April is Easter Season!

April 4 Easter Sunday 8:30 am outdoor service w/communion at LWCH;
10:00 am Drive-in worship w/communion at Peace

April 11 Easter 2 Worship with the Synod! You can find this full service online (we will send out the link) or join us for a drive-in service of the Word that will incorporate the sermon and selected musicians from around the synod.

April 18 Easter 3 Service of the Word - Celebrate Creation with Lutherans
Restoring Creation (April 22=Earth Day)

April 25 Easter 4 Drive-In service of Holy Communion

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!



February Financial Update:

Income to the General Fund totaled \$12,716.92 including the **Mission of the Month** collection for Everett Gospel Mission of \$492.00 as well as \$50 designated for food/food banks and \$348.29 designated to the LWCH for memorials.

Expenses totaled \$14,705.77

Our **Mission Investment Fund** had a total of \$117,381.96 on February 26th after earning \$80.63 in interest at .90%.

2021 Budget \$194,829.00

2021 Average donation needed each month \$16,235.75





At our March council meeting, we began the process of planning to re-open our church buildings. For the past year “CHURCH” has not closed down, but our doors have remained closed. Many are eager to resume indoor worship in the sanctuary; others are a bit anxious. It is helpful that many are currently in the process of getting their coronavirus vaccinations.

During the coming month your council will continue to monitor our local situation and to make our plans. We are hoping to get some feedback about various options we are considering. The options involve some kind of combination of indoor, parking lot and online/FB Live access to worship. If you get a phone call, can you please share with us your honest feedback? Or you can be proactive and contact one of your council or staff and let us know what you think!

Remember that even when we resume indoor worship, we will be subject to Covid -19 restrictions regarding limited numbers of attendees, physical distancing, wearing masks and forgoing congregational singing. We will also not be resuming coffee hour and large group shared fellowship for a while longer.

***We are Church Together-
no matter how we gather!***

Youth, Family, and Community



The first day of spring has finally arrived and the tulips are starting to bloom. For some, this is the best time of year, a time to plant and watch new growth shoot up. If you are growing a garden of any kind, be it vegetables, flowers, or even beef, maybe you can grow a little extra for the food bank. If you don't have the space to grow something, maybe you could partner up with someone who has the space, but not the time. Think of this as a time to build something for others. The Lord has given us each hands to do His work and share His love. Spring symbolizes new growth and that can be growth of nature, but also growth in the Lord and His teachings. While we are able to work alongside someone to grow foods for others, let us also work along side each other to deepen our love of the Lord and share His love with others. May this season of spring fill you with the Spirit of Lord and bring growth to your life.

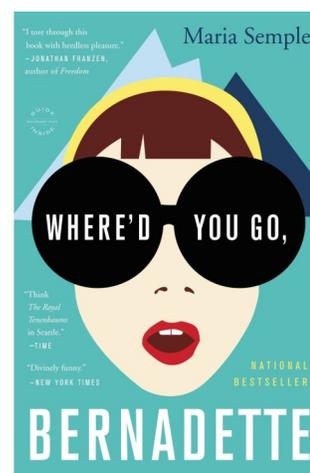
I hope you are ready for a socially distanced outdoor gathering on Saturday the 17! At 5:30 pm we will gather in the parking lot for s'more making and a couple games. I hope you can come out with lawn chairs and your favorite filling for s'mores. We all have a special combination for s'mores! Now is the time to share your tried-and-true best s'more. I like a little chocolate and peanut butter in my s'more! One of my friends mixes strawberries in with her chocolate when she makes s'mores. I hope you can join us for a fun night and be prepared for a little trivia.



Go Green Tip! Looking to the future: Encourage children you know to write vows to look after the planet, and help them to crate a "promise tree" with their vows on paper leaves. Earth day is April 22nd try and write your vows and possibly even plant a live promise tree.

BOOK CLUB

Book Club will be gathering via zoom and in the church socially distanced on Thursday the 22nd. This month the book we will be reading is "Where'd You Go Bernadette" by Maria Semple. This book is said to be whip-smart and divinely funny. I'm looking forward to reading this as it comes recommended by the Everett reading club.



Peace Lutheran Church Women



We will be gathering via zoom on Wednesday the 7th at 11:30 for lunch and a brief message. This month I hope you can have a favorite sandwich with sides (mine will be BBQ chips and sweet tea). We will also have time to share Prayers & Praises and just chat. We plan for this to last only an hour, so that people can return to work if they are on their lunch break. Karen and I will set up the Zoom link and share it on the Lydia FB page and the OTHER option will be to email it to you when you request it.

Lydia circle will be gathering on Monday, April 5th at 5:30 pm for Prayers & Praises and then at 6pm will share the Gather Magazine's Bible Study. They will again meet on Monday the 19th. The Zoom invite is posted on the Lydia Facebook page or emailed out. All are invited to gather.

Naomi circle will gather via Zoom on Wednesday the 14th at 9:30 am. They will be sharing the Gather Magazine's Bible Study as well as sharing Prayers and Praises.

If you would like to receive the Zoom for any of these gatherings, please contact Mary J or Karen Fuentes and they will send it to you. If you are having troubles with joining a Zoom gathering, we can set up a practice gathering and walk you through the process.

APRIL MISSION OF THE MONTH

Kids' Kloset



Local Non-Profit where students in need shop for clothing, new shoes, socks and undergarments, free of charge. Districts served: Arlington, Lakewood & Darrington.



Birthdays

- 2 Elsie Pryor
- 5 Alanna Stone
- 7 Bruce Grimm
- 8 Darlene Strotz
- 15 Dan Stoffel
- 18 Allan Camp
Betty Jacobs
- 20 Kelsie Mullin
- 22 Jodi Sather-Smyth
- 23 Steve Norman
- 24 Emily Tripp
- 28 Priscilla Brady

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

April Food Bank Item:

Pasta and Pasta Sauce



March Food Collection Report

Stanwood Camano Food Bank picked up 32 jars of peanut butter and 67 containers of soup along with other assorted items.

Since then we have collected 54 various sized containers of soup along with other items. We also received a \$50 donation for the food bank. We still have one more Sunday to go!

Thank you for your continued support!

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.



APRIL



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 6pm Maundy- Thursday Drive In Worship	2 7pm Good Friday Cluster Worship On-line	3
4 EASTER 8:30 outdoor Worship LWCH 9:15 Breakfast 10am Worship in the parking lot	5 5:30pm Lydia Circle Zoom Meeting	6	7 11:30 PLCW Zoom meeting	8	9	10
11 10am Worship in the Parking lot/ or on -line worship with the synod	12	13	14 9:30am Naomi Circle Zoom	15	16	17 5:30 Community night s'mores
18 10am Parking lot Worship- Celebrate Creation	19 5:30pm Lydia Circle Zoom Meeting	20 6pm Church Council Zoom meeting	21	22 Earth Day 6pm Book Club Zoom	23 9-5 Garage Sale	24 9-5 Garage Sale
25 10am Parking lot Worship	26	27	28	29	30	

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.

Easter Day: 8:30 Worship outside at the Little White Church on the Hill. 9:15 Easter Drive-thru breakfast at Peace.
10am Festive parking lot worship at Peace.

- 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.