

# The Witness of Peace

MAY 2021

VOLUME 37, ISSUE 5



## EASTER CONTINUES!

This beautiful poem below gave me deep encouragement to bear resurrection witness to the “unkillability of love”. - P.A.

Forget about the afterlife.  
Resurrection is not for dead people.  
It's for those of us most alive.  
It's the way we live when we've gotten over  
being afraid of dying, maybe because  
we took to heart the raising of Jesus and maybe  
because our life got ripped out of our hands.  
Either way God stayed with us and gave us life,  
raised us up out of the coffin of our individualism  
and its brittle, consuming survival,  
and made us part of the Risen Body of Christ,  
alive with a life that's irrevocable, and such a gift  
that we've gotten over death as a thing and now  
we live not in the afterlife but this very life,  
the afterlife of what we're no longer afraid of,  
totally free to love no matter what.

Resurrection is the unkillability of love  
that nothing can stop, not even death and despair.  
Resurrection is when we love to the bitter end  
even when it's really bitter, and really the end,  
and God carries it on anyway in a grace we can't see  
because the love we have is actually God  
and God is eternal. Resurrection is what gives us  
the audacity to get all up in the devil's face  
with joy and kindness and hope,  
and laugh at all his threats, and love people  
as if there were no tomorrow precisely because  
there always is one, and it's always God.

*Resurrection* , Steve Garnaas-Holmes, [www.unfoldinglight.net](http://www.unfoldinglight.net)



### From the Bishop:

In the book *Anxious People*, the author, Fredrik Backman, crafts a humorous, poignant, and wise story of a group of people thrown together because of a bank robbery. But the bank robbery is the least interesting part of the book. The characters, who seem flighty and weird and strange or just unlikeable at the beginning of the book, change into complex humans with such rich inner lives that you love each of them by the end of the story. This was one book that I was sad to see end because I wanted to continue with each character in their journey.

I finished this book during Holy Week. And I couldn't help but reflect on the flighty, weird, strange and unlikeable people that surrounded Jesus that we get to know in the Gospels. These men and women who leave everything to follow Jesus – and who end up leaving Jesus after his arrest – only to once again connect with Jesus after his death and resurrection – are (we must admit) flighty, weird, strange and unlikeable.

Thomas who is skeptical throughout the Jesus story and who won't recognize Jesus until seeing his wounds.

Mary Magdalene who can't recognize Jesus until he calls her by her name.

The disciples locked in a room, afraid to go out, and finally just going back to fishing until Jesus shows up once again.

I mean, ask yourself:

Would we really have wanted John the Baptist over for a barbecue?

Would we really have accepted a woman who washed Jesus' feet as being justified when she extravagantly wasted an expensive bottle of perfume?

Would we have embraced the woman who bled for over a decade and invited her to our book club even after she assured us that she was cured and clean?

I finished this book during Holy Week. And I couldn't help but reflect on the flighty, weird, strange and unlikeable people around me – on the news, on social media, in my neighborhood – and how I have judged them based on a very superficial understanding of who they are and what makes up their story. I call them ignorant or lazy, bigoted or uncaring, dirty or smelly or unclean in some way.

But as I continue to reflect on Backman's compelling story of seven "idiots" (as he calls them), and, as I continue to reflect on Holy Week, (even though it is now way past Holy Week), I see Jesus kneeling down and washing feet. I hear Jesus saying, "Peace be with you." I experience Jesus embracing disciples on a beach, offering them fish, and saying, "Feed my sheep." Loving and caring and forgiving – even though these humans are flighty, weird, strange and, at times, unlikeable.

None of us are Jesus. None of us can embrace the other as Jesus did. And yet, we are called, as sinners and as beloved children of God, to hear another's story. To listen. To reflect. To forgive. To ask for forgiveness. To engage. To be silent when needed and speak when necessary.

For my part, I repent. I repent for my judgment, for my verdict that I render without knowing the complexity of another's story, for my blindness to my complicity, for my withholding forgiveness in the name of self-righteousness, for my refusing to acknowledge my need for forgiveness, and for my judgment on who God loves and who God does not love (because, as I have been taught, if God only loves those I love, than I have remade God in my image).

So I ask you, dear Beloveds of NWWA Synod, with all of your stories, how may your stories be joined into the One Story? How may your hearts be open to the flighty, weird, strange, sometimes unlikeable (but always God's beloved) people that we are called to love? What are your thoughts, feelings, explorations, attempts, experiments? I'd love to hear how you are living into God's Holy Community of love, grace, compassion, justice and peace.

As for you, you are called. By name. Embraced, loved, and cherished – in all your flighty, weird, strange, sometimes unlikeable ways. And always, always, God's beloved.

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

## AROUND THE STILLY CLUSTER

**Our Saviour's Lutheran in Arlington is hosting a totem pole blessing, Monday, May 3rd, from 1-4pm.**

This new pole, created by the Lummi House of Tears Carvers, which will eventually be delivered to Washington, DC, is embarking on an extensive tour with the goal of gathering the hopes, prayers and support from communities to protect sacred places and the natural world, for generations to come.

Timeline of the event: 1pm arrive; 2pm visit with carvers, local music; 3pm blessing ceremony; 4pm departure. (*Masks are required, and keeping 6' apart.*)

Come be a part of this unique event!

615 E Highland Drive, Arlington, 360-435-8921.



## May Worship

May 2     Easter 5, Service of Holy communion;  
musician: Jeb McGlinchy



May 9     Easter 6 (Mother's day) Service of the Word

May 16    Easter 7, Service of Holy Communion; musician: Richelle Tripp

May 23    Pentecost! (and also honoring our GRADS!); musician: Jeb McGlinchy

May 30    Holy Trinity, Service of Holy Communion; musician: Richelle Tripp

### High School Graduates being honored on May 23rd



**Cayden Tyler** is graduating from Kamiak High School. She is Elsie Pryor's granddaughter.

**Freyja Stangeland** is graduating from Stanwood High School. She is Janet and Louie Stangeland's granddaughter

**Halle Peterson** is graduating from Arlington High School. She is Al and Judy Camp's granddaughter

**Simon Fuentes** is graduating from Arlington High School. He is Karen and Spencer Fuentes' son

### February Financial Update:

**Income** to the General Fund totaled \$17,1760.02 including the **Mission of the Month** collection for Bethany of the NW-Silverlake of \$390.00 as well as a \$50 food bank donation.

**Expenses** totaled \$13,814.14



Our **Mission Investment Fund** had a total of \$117,456.43 on March 31st after earning \$74.47 in interest at .747%.

2021 Budget \$194,829.00      2021 Average donation needed each month \$16,235.75

*Thank you to everyone for your continued support!*

## Congregational Input Regarding Resuming Inside Worship

As you know, Snohomish County is now in Phase Three, and your Church Council has begun planning for a return to indoor worship in the sanctuary. We are aware of the possibility that due to rising numbers of Covid cases, we might soon be returning to Phase 2. However, we would like to still pursue our planning at this time.

Have you taken the opportunity to share your thoughts on these issues?

### Phase 3 Planning for Returning To Indoor Worship: Feedback for Council

Given the requirements for social distancing, masks and extremely limited congregational singing, would you like to have worship services conducted again in the sanctuary?  Yes  Not at this time

There will be a limited number of seats. If we are unable to accommodate everyone, should we instigate a reservation system, a first come/first served or some other means?  Reservations  First Come/First served  other suggestion?

Should we continue to offer an **outdoor service option**?

Yes  No

If so, which of the following options would you **most** prefer?

An outdoor option concurrent with the 10:00 indoor service (i.e. some folks outside and some folks inside;

An 8:30 am parking lot service and a 10:00 am service in the sanctuary;

An 8:30 am service in the sanctuary and a 10:00 am parking lot

Have you used any of our **online worship** options?  Yes  No

If so, which of the following would you like us to continue?

Continue to broadcast the service **live via Facebook** (which also stores a recording)

A live option is not necessary, but post a recording of the service on the website.

Online options are no longer necessary.

**Thanks for your help as we make decisions for the congregation moving forward!**



## Youth, Family, and Community

I want to begin by thanking all the wonderful people who have continued to volunteer their time in the parking lot! This has been a big commitment and change for all of us. We've learned do's and don'ts along the way, all with the intention of keeping everyone safe and able to worship together. We've been able to meet people's dogs and even a cat or two, we've been able to teach people how to use their radios (which is a challenge at times- darn new-fangled cars), we've learned to serve communion, and most of all we have had fun getting to know everyone's cars. We can now recognize people by their cars for the most part. There has been a few times where we have tried to wave people in only to realize they are on their way to someplace different and are not church members (oops). We now have people who drive by



and honk and some even drop off food for the food bank. I believe being in the parking lot has made us more visible to the community and just maybe they see us in a better light.



May 15<sup>th</sup> is the third Saturday and we are going to have a camp fire behind the church. Bring your lawn chair and hot dog roasting stick. I will have dogs and buns and maybe we will even have some s'mores. We also have some fun trivia questions for the entire family. I hope you can join us at 6pm for some socially distanced fun.

### Mission Team

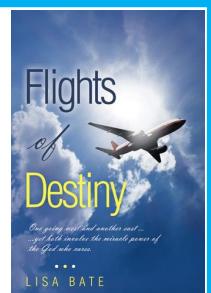
The mission team would like to thank everyone for your generous donations to the garage sale. We raised enough money to purchase 11.38 stoves. This is amazing and yes it does take a lot of work, but it is well worth it. We will be having another sale the end of summer, so start saving and even spread the word to your friends.



**Go Green Tip!** Go Green Tip: Every last scrap – Recycle all your paper, not just news papers and magazines. Every ton of paper reused leaves 17 trees standing, looking beautiful, and working hard to absorb CO2 on our behalf.

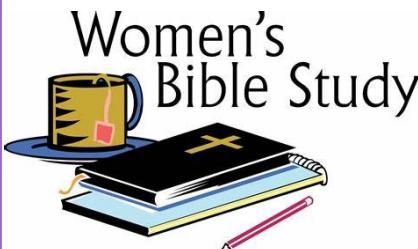
### BOOK CLUB

This month the book club will be reading “Flights of Destiny”, by Lisa Bate. This a true story about two kids being adopted from Romania. This book will take you on a journey of family, faith, and miraculous healing.



## Peace Lutheran Church Women

PLCW We will once again be meeting over ZOOM on Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:30. We will share a brief message while eating lunch. It is Cinco De Mayo, so maybe we all might want to have something of Mexican cuisine?? I hope you can join us we gather for good conversation and prayers and praises.



Lydia circle will be gathering on Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30pm

and Naomi will be gathering on Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30.

## MAY MISSION OF THE MONTH



Lutherwood is much more than just a youth camp. They offer lodge rentals, camp grounds, and even a place for your wedding or other group event.

For children they offer Bible Camps and Day Camps for all ages. They also offer Family Camp, Local Church Day Camp, Music Camp and camps that feature survival, creative arts, fishing, archery and water activities as well

as challenge courses and outdoor education. There is also a Counselor in Training camp. This year they are hosting Camp Phoenix which is a camp for burn victims. They even offer a Certified Lifeguard class!



**Mission Statement:** *In partnership with Western Washington Lutheran Congregations, Lutherwood Camp and Retreat Center is a year-round outdoor ministry, renewing all in the Holy Spirit through education, adventure, service, and prayer.*



- 2 Jeff Erwin  
4 Randy Libby  
5 Katelynn Hubbard  
6 Sarah Gonzales  
9 Maudie Gedstad  
10 Judy Camp  
11 Karen Danner  
Jim Jones  
16 Carol Maurstad  
Gracie Riggle  
23 Karen Hopper  
25 Louis Stangeland  
28 Jacki Tyler  
29 Lana Hanson  
Jeff Olseen  
31 Ashley Kombol

### 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.

### 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

### **May Food Bank Item: CANNED MEATS**

**OR**  
**CANNED CHILI**

Please help us support the local food banks.

### **March/April Food Collection Report**

Stanwood Camano Food Bank picked up 49 containers of soup along with a box of other assorted items.

We have since collected 17 jars/cans of pasta sauce and 33 containers of pasta. We also received cash donations of \$50 which was forwarded to the Arlington Community Food Bank

Thank you for your continued support!



# MAY



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 10am Worship in the parking lot	<b>3</b> 5:30pm Lydia Circle Zoom Meeting	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 11:30 PLCW Zoom meeting	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 10am Worship in the Parking	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:30am Naomi Circle	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:00 Community night s' Camp Fire
<b>16</b> 10am Parking lot Worship	<b>17</b> 5:30pm Lydia Circle Zoom Meeting	<b>18</b> 6pm Church Council Zoom meeting	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6pm Book Club Zoom	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23 Pentecost</b> 10am Parking lot Worship-honor our Graduates	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30 Holy Trinity</b> 10am Parking lot	<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.
- 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.