

The Witness of Peace

Our Spiritual Discipline: *Be Imitators of God*

In this passage from the New Testament letter to the Ephesians, Christians are called to be “imitators of God”. This does not mean Christians are expected to be perfect; we know we all fall short. Rather, it means that we choose to open to the Spirit at work in our lives- quickening, healing, guiding, encouraging- so that our actions and attitudes might seek to genuinely reflect the love and forgiveness we have received through Christ. To be a **disciple** of Jesus is to live under this **discipline**- and it can be hard work!

How would the life of the Church- indeed, the life of our American society- be transformed, if every professed Christian strove to live by these precepts?

How would our own life be changed? It is worth pondering our own call to discipleship and consider where we might deepen our practice.

Pastor Annette

²⁵So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another.

²⁶Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not make room for the devil.

²⁸Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy.

²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.

³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption.

³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice,

³²and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

^{5:1}Therefore **be imitators of God**, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

(Ephesians 4:25--5:2)



From the Bishop:

On August 1, 2021 I began my third year in the office of bishop for the Northwest Washington Synod. It is my pleasure and joy to serve God and to journey with you through this office. I am thankful for your partnership, your understanding, your forgiveness, your passion, and your faithfulness.

We are living in a time of great turmoil and great opportunity. We are living in (to use a much-overused word) unprecedented times. What does this mean for us as individuals? The Northwest Washington Synod? The ELCA? The Body of Christ?

Many of us feel **grief**. Grief at what once was but is no longer. Grief that the world keeps changing around us and we cannot figure out our place or our sense of call in the middle of so much shifting. It is difficult when the world feels rocky and unsteady. It is hard to understand that what we often took for granted is no longer. Recently I visited my hometown in eastern Washington. The town is half the size it was when I was growing up. As I walked through the downtown, businesses that have been there for decades are gone. Boarded up. Abandoned. My world felt rocked. And I grieved. What do you grieve?

Many of us feel **anger or resentment**. We divide ourselves into camps. We use the words, “us” and “them” and act as though “our” camp is always right and holy and just. We throw words around like weapons and we refuse to truly listen to the other – because we are “right” and they are “wrong.” And nothing will persuade us otherwise. In John 8 we hear Jesus tell the men who wanted to throw rocks at a woman accused of adultery, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” When the men leave, Jesus says to the woman, “Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.” What would it mean for us to live into these words of Jesus?

Many of us feel **exhausted**. We are tired. We are weary. For a brief moment it felt as though we were moving beyond COVID-19 and then suddenly, with the Delta variant, we were pushed back into worry and concern (I am writing this in the middle of August – perhaps the numbers will be better before you read this in September!). Quite frankly, I am tired of changing things on the calendar – wondering if something should be in-person or online, wondering if I am doing something risky or if I am not taking the variables into enough consideration. It is wearisome. What makes you exhausted?

Many of us feel there is **something more that we are missing**. We ache for connection with God and with others. We feel lonely when we are alone, and we feel even more isolated when we are in a group. We long for meaning. We yearn to truly live, move, and have our being in the Spirit (Acts 17). How does the community of Christ answer the loneliness so many are feeling? What have we missed in the life of the church and participants? How do we sink even more deeply into the waters of life that God has called us to and given us in our baptisms?

Many of us are **hopeful**. Yes, I fully am living in the reality of all that I said above. I am not a Pollyanna. And yet, I trust that God is here, God is present, God is active – in this beautiful, flawed world of ours. Right now, in our congregations and in our neighborhoods, there are grief-stricken, angry, exhausted, aching-for-connection people. And right now, God has given us the opportunity to not only reach out to these people, but to listen and reflect, grow and learn together. What a calling! What an opportunity!

I encourage you to check out the **LiVE Project** where you can connect, learn, and grow deeper in faith together and with others. <https://lutheransnw.org/ministries/the-live-project>

You might also be interested in **Living Legacy** where congregations are encouraged to have deep conversations about their values, their dreams, and what God is calling them to do and to be into the future. <https://lutheransnw.org/programs/living-legacy>

The synod staff and I are here to journey, listen, and reflect with you. Thank you for these last two years. I look forward to this new year together in Christ.

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee
bishop@lutheransnw.org



WORSHIP NEWS

At our July meeting the Church Council addressed September worship plans. After discussion that included serious consideration of the current local situation, in which Covid cases are once again rising, as well as the diverse needs of our congregation, it was decided to **continue our two service option** (8:30 drive-in and 10:00 indoor at Peace) for the month of September.

We will reassess the local circumstances at our **September 21st** council meeting.

July 30, 2021

Hello Beloveds:

I write to you today as we continue to love God and our neighbors ... and navigate the complexities of COVID-19.

In light of the new Delta Variant, **I strongly encourage everyone, vaccinated and unvaccinated, to wear masks during indoor worship services and gatherings.** As we encounter this more transmissible variant, please consult the County, State, and CDC guidelines while you review your congregation's COVID-19 guidelines.

More information and links on our synod's COVID page:
<https://lutheransnw.org/resources/covid-19-resources>.

I am holding you all in prayer, knowing that we are the body of Christ together,
 Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee



The Gospel of Mark - the gospel readings of all of the Sundays of this church year (which ends when the Advent season begins Nov. 28th) have been from Mark. In 2022 they will be from the Gospel of Luke. This means we will have 12 weeks left with readings from Mark. Have any of us ever sat down and just read through Mark as we would have read any other book...any novel? What would God say to us if we did that? This is His book, His word to us - us here in Silvana. How about if you and I and all of us read through His book to us? How about reading it through - once every week until the lectionary changes Nov 28? Think of it - all of us at Peace reading through God's word which He wrote for us via Mark. Let's join together, sit at His feet, and see what God our Father might say to our hearts and minds. And we won't know the answer to that until we sit down and actually read it. Let's do it? Together?

Lana Hanson

LWR Quilters

We will meet on September 8th at 11:30. Bring a sack lunch. We will discuss the future of our group. Please join us as we try to get our group active again!



Mission of the Month-Silvana Fire Department

Their mission is “Serving Our Community By Saving Lives and Protecting Property”. Staffed with three full time employees and 20 volunteers they protect 22 square miles between Marysville, Arlington and Stanwood. They operate out of two stations, the volunteer station at Island Crossing and their Headquarters on Happy Valley Road. In 2020 they responded to 914 calls. 85% of those calls were for aid. They also operate a water rescue team that is active on the river. From address signs to blood pressure checks they are here to serve our community.



July Financial Update:

Income to the General Fund totaled \$16,832.18

This included our **Mission of the Month** collection for “Camp Erin” of \$570.00

Expenses totaled \$17,363.17

Our **Mission Investment Fund** had a total of \$117,652.45 on July 30th after earning \$49.84 in interest at .50%.

2021 Budget \$194,829.00

2021 Average donation needed each month \$16,235.75

Thank you to everyone for your continued support!



Youth-Family-Community-Mission

I want to begin by saying this has been a very interesting summer! We had excessive heat in June and when I say excessive, I mean it. I could barely handle the 100+ degrees and now we've finished off August with temps in the 70's. Many farmers were able to put up some beautiful hay and kids even took their show animals to a few fairs. Summer even brought out some zucchini enthusiast and of course the elusive blackberry pickers were spotted along many a road. The food banks have benefitted from a few of the farmers as they have been giving their over abundance to the banks, so it doesn't go to waste in the field.

Youth Mission Guatemala

Guatemala service team is planning their next garage sale for September 17th and 18th and if you would like to donate to the garage sale, please drop your stuff off in the classrooms off the fellowship hall. If you need some of us to come and pick up your item's we are more than willing to come to you. All the monies we raise go to the purchase of stoves, water systems, latrines, and bibles. This is a great program, and we feel privileged to be Gods hands!



"God's work. Our hands." Sunday



Sept. 12
2021

Almost all the school supplies have been gathered. Could **you** supply the 15 erasers (2.5") or the 32 scissors (blunt tip) that we still need? Monetary donations are also gladly accepted!

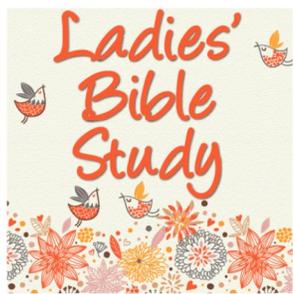
Might **you** be able to assemble the kits and get them ready to be shipped off to where they are needed?

Might **you** be able to help transport the boxed to the pick up site?

LET US KNOW IN THE CHURCH OFFICE!

Vandalism!

Our fellowship hall doors were the recent victim of an angry woman who is either mentally ill or on drugs. She smashed all of the glass from the doors with a rock, yard art she found in our flower bed and bricks she brought with her. Then she pulled up some Easter lilies and put them inside. The carpet was littered with glass shards. Because of watchful neighbors calling 911 no other damage was done. Since pressing charges we believe that the woman has been apprehended and we hope that she will get the help she needs. Thank you to all who were involved in reporting, securing and cleaning up this mess.



Peace Lutheran Church Women

PLCW will be gathering again, and we can't wait to see you all on September 1st at 11:30 in the fellowship hall. We will have devotions and hopefully a guest speaker. We are asking everyone to bring a salad to share with the group. We have much to talk about, but mainly we just want to start gathering again.

Naomi Circle will be gathering on Wednesday the 8th at 9:30 in the fellowship hall.

Lydia will be gathering only once in September on Monday the 20th at 6:15 in the fellowship hall. All are welcome to all of these gatherings.

BOOK CLUB

For September we will be reading two books, "The Builder, The Life of Peter Henning, 1868-1958" and "The Son" (about Peter Henning, Jr.). Both books were written by David Buerge and edited by Peter Henning, Jr. For those of you new to the community, the Hennings have been active in our community for years. They started the farm near Island Crossing now owned by the Sinnema's where they sell raw milk. They also owned the Henning Farm on the Norman Road where Cliff & Helen Henning farmed followed by their son Cliff William Henning. They were members here at Peace.

"The Builder" follows the adventures of Peter Henning, Sr which moves from Sweden to the Mid-West, Stanwood, Alaska and clear down to New Mexico. "The Son" continues the Henning legacy with the life of his son

Carol Maurstad, also related to the Henning clan, has graciously located several copies of these books for us to use. If you would like a copy to read please contact Becky in the office or Mary Fuentes.

Book club will be meeting on September 28th at 6pm in the church and via zoom.



- 3 Patti Jones
- 4 Jody Hoffmeister
Paityn Brower
Nathan Norman
- 6 Wynn Holdal
- 11 Amanda Cave
- 15 Dolly Pachur
- 17 Kim Moyer
- 19 Michele Johnson
- 21 Della Ludwig
- 23 Emily Gonzales
- 25 Khloe Markham

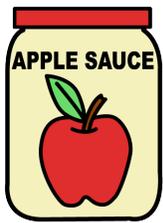
Our Church Council Members 2021:

- President— Larry Sather
- Vice-President—Al Camp
- Secretary—(position open)
- 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

Food Bank collections in August:

We collected 14 jars and cans of pasta sauce and 17 packages of pasta. Thank you to all those who participated.

September Food Bank Items:



Ap-



plesauce or Cooking oil.

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.

Go Green Tip!

Adopt reusable bag practices- Take reusable bags to the store when you grocery shop instead of opting for paper or plastic. It’s wasteful and unnecessary. Several bags with every grocery trip can add up to a whole lot of garbage over a lifetime.



September



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 11:30 PLCW in person meeting	2	3 12:00 AA	4
5 8:30am Worship in the parking lot 10am Worship in the sanctuary	6 Labor Day 10:00 Women's AA	7 12:00 AA	8 9:30am Naomi Circle 11:30 LWR Quilters	9	10 12:00 AA	11
12 GWOH 8:30am Worship in the parking lot 10am Worship at LWCH	13 10:00 Women's AA	14 12:00 AA	15	16	17 Mission Garage Sale 9-5 12:00 AA	18 Youth Mission Guatemala Garage Sale 9-5
19 8:30am Worship in the parking lot 10am Worship at LWCH	20 10:00 Women's AA 6:15pm Lydia	21 12-AA 6-AA District 6:00 Council	22	23	24 12:00 AA	25
26 8:30am Worship in the parking lot 10am Worship in the sanctuary	27 10:00 Women's AA	28 12:00 AA 6pm Book Club	29	30		

Peace Lutheran Church
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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 now offer two Sunday Worship services! 8:30am **in your car in our parking lot**. Simply tune your car radio to listen. This service is also broadcast on Facebook Live.

- At 10am there is a masked and socially distanced **worship inside in the sanctuary** at Peace



- Our website, www.plsilvana.org offers a link to our Sunday Worship which is posted to the website on Sunday afternoon, 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.

