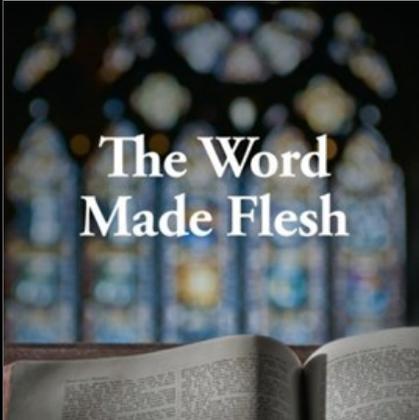


The Witness of Peace



For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.

-Jeremiah 29:11-13

This season of Advent is a time when we focus on the mystery of the Incarnation- the Word of God becoming flesh in the person of Jesus. We have grown very comfortable with this mystery and cling to it as the core of our faith. But I wonder if we are often much less comfortable with the idea of God's word taking flesh in our own lives. Have we failed to instill in each other the same certainty that the Spirit of God still seeks to become incarnate in each of us? In other words, do we actually believe and trust that God is at work in *our* lives, that God is invested in our choices and, indeed, has a particular calling and purpose for us? Have we helped each other learn the art of sacred listening to God in prayer, what has for many centuries in the Church been called the practice of "discernment"? Do we believe that God does indeed desire to speak to us, as the prophet Jeremiah describes in the scripture passage above?

It is important for us to stop and reflect: have you ever had a personal experience of being led by God toward a particular path or choice? How is it that you "heard" God? Many Christians go through their lives without that kind of experience. However, in times of great change, loss or uncertainty, the importance of discernment increases. How can we truly know what God wants of us? My hope is that in the coming year, we can spend time together honing our skill of discernment, coming before God with open and listening hearts, seeking to encounter God in new ways, as we move forward together in our future.

Advent Peace, *Pastor Annette*

A community deepening its discernment practice is a community learning to get out of its own way. It is a community coming to understand that prayer is not simply a means of getting God to do what we want. Through prayer, stillness and dialogue we place ourselves in alignment with God's purpose for us.-*How to lead when you don't know where you're going,*

Susan Beaumont

From the Bishop:

Miriam sings, *“Sing to the Lord, for God has triumphed gloriously!”*

Exodus 15:21

Hannah sings, *“My heart exults in the LORD; my strength is exalted in my God!”* 1 Samuel 2:1

Mary sings, *“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!”* Luke 1:46



I am so grateful for the stories of Miriam, Hannah, and Mary. I love their spirit. I love their faith. I love their songs. I love that even with the great adversity, sorrow, and difficulty each of them endured, Miriam, Hannah, and Mary defiantly sang.

Each of these women’s stories unfolded in a world that seemed bleak. A world of systemic injustice and no safety nets. A world where people upheld their own power to the detriment of others. A world where people refused to see another person made in God’s image before them. A world where people threw away people because they were perceived as “less than.” A world where people threw away people because they could not bear children. A world where people threw away people because they became pregnant without being married.

And while their experiences are not our experiences, for many still today, the world feels desperate.

Today, so many people are living in dire conditions. So many who are hungry, houseless, voiceless. We have injustice and violence, racism and hatred. We have anger and acrimony. We have the spreading of lies and misinformation. As I write this, our world is grieving the deaths of over 5 million people who have died of COVID. Over 100,000 people died of drug overdoses in the United States this past year. And so many other deaths and losses. There are still people that society throws away. There are still people that other people don’t even look at as human.

And yet ... And yet ...

We have Miriam, Hannah, and Mary. We have their defiant voices lifted up singing not only to their world in their time – but beyond their time – to us – and to future generations beyond us.

In this Advent time, let us turn to the stories and the songs of Miriam, Hannah, and Mary. Let us remember their prophetic voices. Let us remember their perseverance, their faith, and their grit. For even as the reality around them was difficult, they continued to sing of a new day, a new promise, a new reality.

May these amazing prophet women bring hope to us in this time. May we remember that new life is coming. May we trust that the world now is not how the world will be. May we hold before us that, through Christ, a new day is being born.

In this Advent time, we live in anticipation and in faith. And we sing. We sing.

People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:

“A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel”;

She conceived him, “God with us,” our brother, whose birth Restores hope and courage to children of this earth.

ELW #266, All Earth is Hopeful vs. 3

In Advent Hope,
+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

bishop@lutheransnw.org

Holden Evening Prayer
During Advent



Come to the Quiet.

You may participate from the parking lot, or indoors in the fellowship hall.

Wednesdays, following Advent Community Night (5:30)

December 1, 8, 15 6:30 pm



CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

Friday, December 24th

5:00 pm in the main sanctuary

10:00 pm in the Little White Church

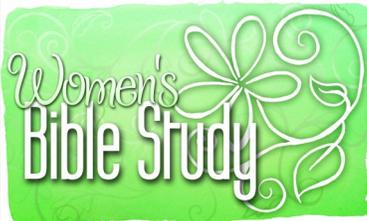
PLCW

This month we gather on Wednesday the first at 11:30, the board will be serving lunch and the program will be presented by Debra. We did not gather last December, and this year Debra will be sharing with us memorial books from the past two years. These books are always inspiring and a valuable way to remember the wonderful saints that have passed on. You will be able to find these new books as well as previous memorial books in the church library.



The women are also collecting new socks for the gospel mission. If you would like to donate, the socks can be dropped off in the narthex in the box.

Out to lunch bunch has started gathering again and we hope you can join us. For now, we are meeting at various local restaurants. We will be going into Marysville on Tuesday the 21st. Please watch the bulletin for time and location or give me a call.



Naomi circle will be gathering on Wednesday the 8th at 9:30 am and Lydia will be gathering on Monday the 6th at 6:15pm.



Our December Mission of the Month! PEORIA HOME is an organization dedicated to supporting women survivors of sex trafficking, prostitution, and addiction. Our vision is for women to grow individually, reclaiming their freedom while living in community. Located in Everett, WA, Peoria Home supports women in Snohomish County and across the US.

We don't ask, "What did you do?" We ask, "What happened to you?"

Most of the women we serve first experienced sexual abuse between ages 7-11 and began using alcohol or drugs by age 13, and first hit the streets between the ages of 14 and 16.

Traumatic childhood experiences give way to homelessness, addiction, further abuse, and incarceration, often compounded by poverty.

We believe that women do not end up on the streets on their own but as the result of multiple broken systems and communities.

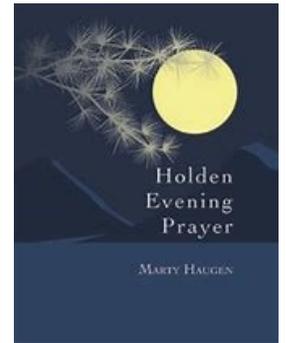
It takes a loving, healing community to welcome them home.

Youth/Family/Community

Have you heard any Christmas songs yet? Did you hear any before Halloween? I'm sad to say that I have been hearing Christmas songs on many radio stations. For me It's just not right to start playing Christmas music before Thanksgiving has even happened. I have some friends who have even put up their tree, now that is just way too much for me. However, I am looking forward to seeing all the lights that my various neighbors put up. I find it refreshing seeing the lights up and I like to think that they are bringing a little light into the valley.



During this season of **Advent**, we will once again be gathering on Wednesday nights for themed dinners and crafts. I will also be giving a short message and we are blessed to have Richelle Tripp playing the Holden Evening Prayer service for us. Each week will have a different focus. The Prophet's candle symbolizing **Hope**, the Bethlehem candle symbolizing **Faith/Love**, the Shepherd's candle symbolizing **Joy**, and the Angel's candle symbolizing **Peace**.



Dinner themes are:

- December 1st Grilled Cheese and tomato soup,
- December 8th Breakfast for dinner,
- December 15th Chili, and corn bread, and
- December 22nd Hot or cold pasta.



We will also be having a cookie crawl on the 22nd. Now you might be thinking what in the world is that. I'm asking everyone to bring cookies and decorate a small area to serve them. Let's see who has a festive spirit and tasty cookies. I'm looking forward to trying a variety of cookies. I hope you can join us as we bring light to Silvana and the world.



The **Tree Trimming** will be on December 4th at 10 am. If you would like to help decorate the trees, please come, and join us. We will be putting up two trees this year, one inside and one outside. We had such good feed back from the community last year for having the tree on the basketball court that we decided to put one outside again. We will need your help to decorate both trees, I hope you can join for some fun tree trimming.

The **Kid's Christmas Party** will be on December 11th. Drop your kids off at Peace at 4:30. You can go out to a nice dinner or shopping while we have dinner, games, craft and watch a movie with your kids. (We might have a special visitor.) Pick up your kids by 8pm.

We will be serving at the **Gathering Place** on Thursday the 16th. I'm not sure what the menu is yet, but if you would like to help, please reach out to me. We always try to make something different and tasty. We start preparing the meal at 3:30 and serve at 5pm.

On December 11th at 9am there will be **Krumkake** making. If you would like to come and make some to take home for your family party bring your own tin.

CHURCH COUNCIL 2022

We are grateful to those who will be serving as part of our leadership body in the coming year. Those folks include;

Council President: Larry Sather, who was extended to a third term

Vice- President: Al Camp continues his term

Secretary: New member, Jennifer Corser begins her term

Treasurer: **CURRENTLY VACANT.** Cathy Pryor is finishing her 2 year term. She is happy to help during the transition to a new treasurer. There is a clear and easy system in place to work with our accountant. Anyone with basic computer skills, who is well-organized and at relative ease with financial details can do this job. Thanks for considering serving the congregation in this role.

At-Large Members Dave Tripp will serve a second term. Linda Legler and Dennis Dicken will continue in their term. **We are currently in need of an additional at-large council member.**

PLCW Rep Debra Compton will serve in this role.

Youth/Family Rep **CURRENTLY VACANT-** *can you serve?*

Thank you to all!

October Financial Update:

Income to the General Fund totaled \$16,572.83

This included our **Mission of the Month** collection for Josephine Caring Community's Good Sam Club of \$650.00

Expenses totaled \$16,174.30

Our **Mission Investment Fund** had a total of \$117,800.49 on October 30th after earning \$49.90 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!

Book Club!

Please join us. We are a small group that meets on line and in person. We have a lot of fun with our discussions and learn a lot about each other. Contact Mary Fuentes for more details.

December selection: *The Chocolate Chip Cookie Murder* by Joanne Fluke.

This is the first book in the Hannah Swendsen series. Hannah Swendson already has her hands full trying to dodge her mother's attempts to marry her off while running The Cookie Jar, Lake Eden, Minnesota's most popular bakery. But once Ron LaSalle, the beloved delivery man from the Cozy Cow Dairy, is found murdered behind her bakery with Hannah's famous Chocolate Chip Crunchies scattered around him, her life just can't get any worse. Determined not to let her cookies get a bad reputation, she sets out to track down a killer.

January selection: *Against Medical Advice* by James Patterson and Hal Friedman

A True Story. This is a New York Times Bestselling non-fiction book by James Patterson and Hal Friedman, detailing the illness and medical struggles of Cory Friedman and his family.

Want to help with Worship? New participants, or old ones that haven't helped for a while are always welcome. Just let Mary Fuentes know!

Worship Participants

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Communion</u>	<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Counters</u>
December 5	Cheri & Pedro	Cheri Gonzales	Janeen Smith	Jolene & Larry
December 12	Karen, Spencer & Phoebe	Simon Fuentes	Spencer Fuentes	Karen & Dennis Dicken
December 19	Mary & Phoebe	Tammy Chase	Larry Bean	Al & Judy
December 24 <u>5pm Peace</u> 10pm LWCH	Mary & Phoebe Everett & Simon Kombol, Stoffel, Moyer families	Simon & Phoebe Dana & Kim	Spencer & Karen Ashley Kombol	
December 26	Phoebe & Everett	Simon Fuentes	Karen & Spencer	Ralph & Gwen



Go-Green tip: If you are purchasing lights for your home or for that outdoor Christmas display, think about using solar lights. This will save you dollars and the environment.

- 6 David Corser
- 14 Dennis Dicken
- Mary Nicholas
- 15 Cayden Tyler
- 16 Jonathan Pearson
- Shelby Wing
- 18 Lola Woodington
- 19 Kathy Rasmussen
- 21 Karalee Jacobs
- 23 Ted Oien
- 25 Hunter Backlund
- 26 Salene Wing
- 28 Wayne Haugen
- 31 Nathan Lux

Card of Thanks!

We would like to thank everyone who has supported us in Becky's struggle with cancer again this year. The prayers, cards, calls, food and help have all been much appreciated. It is wonderful to have such a supportive team in our corner!

-Becky & David Sather

Holiday Food bank items

Once again we will be collecting canned corn for the Arlington Food Bank's Holiday baskets for December. In the past we have provided 300 cans or 25 cases for Christmas. Don't want to shop? Cash is also welcomed.



Other holiday meal items will also be accepted.

Food Bank collections in November:

149 cans of corn were delivered to the Arlington Food Bank on November 18th. Another delivery of corn will be made before Christmas.

The other food bank items were picked up by the Stanwood-Camano Food Bank. Thank you to all who have participated. The food banks greatly appreciate your efforts!

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.



December



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 11:30 PLCW 5:30 Advent Family Night 6:30 Holden Evening Prayer	2	3 12:00 AA	4 10- Tree Trimming
5 9 am Sunday school for all 10am Worship in the sanctuary & broadcast to the parking lot.	6 10:00 Women's AA 6:15 Lydia	7 10:00 Alanon 12:00 AA	8 9:30 Naomi Circle 5:30 Advent Family Night 6:30 Holden Evening Prayer	9	10 12:00 AA	11 9:00Krum kake baking 4:30 Kid's Christmas Party
12 9 am Sunday school for all 10am Worship in the sanctuary & broadcast to the parking lot.	13 10:00 Women's AA 6:15 Lydia	14 10:00 Alanon 12-AA 6-Dist AA 6-Council	15 10:00 LWR Quilting 5:30 Advent Family Night 6:30 Holden Evening Prayer	16 3:30 Gathering Place prep 5:00 Dinner	17 12:00 AA	18
19 9 am Sunday school for all 10am Worship in the sanctuary & broadcast to the parking lot.	20 10:00 Women's AA	21 10:00 Alanon ? - OTLB 12-AA	22 5:30 Advent Family Night Cookie Crawl	23	24 12:00 AA 5- Worship at Peace 10-LWCH Worship	25 Christmas Day
26 9 am Sunday school for all 10am Worship in the sanctuary & broadcast to the parking lot.	27 10:00 Women's AA	28 10:00 Alanon 12-AA 6pm Book Club	29	30	31	

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

Contact us:
360-652-8739
office@plsilvana.org
pastor@plsilvana.org



WORSHIP OPTIONS AT PEACE

We offer “Worship in the Home” resources that are either emailed or mailed to your home.

At 9am we will now have Sunday School!

At 10am there is a masked and socially distanced **worship** inside in the sanctuary at Peace. At the same time the service will be broadcast over the radio to the cars in the parking lot.

Advent Family Nights will be at 5:30pm on December 1, 8, 15 & 22

Holden Evening Prayer will be at 6:30 on December 1, 8 & 15

Christmas Eve Services will be held at 5pm at Peace and 10pm at the Little White Church on the Hill.

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.