

The Witness of Peace

February 2024



*Let love be genuine
hate what is evil,
hold fast to what is good,
love one another with mutual affection,
outdo one another in showing honour.
Do not lag in zeal,
be ardent in spirit,
serve the Lord.
Rejoice in hope,
be patient in suffering,
persevere in prayer.
Contribute to the needs of the saints
extend hospitality to strangers. (Romans 12:9-13)*

The season of Lent begins this year on Valentine's Day, a fitting time to focus on the invitation to "create in us new hearts". The passage above could be the source of a whole year of meditations on what a "new heart" might look like; it is certainly more than ample for the 40 days of Lent. Which of these 13 exhortations calls to you, invites you into some personal reflection? The one that struck me was the final one: *extend hospitality to strangers*.

Paul is inviting us into an expansion of heart, asking us to extend the kindness and welcome and generosity that we share with family and friends to strangers. Strangers are not only people we have never met. They are those who come from "somewhere else". They can include all those who seem "strange" to us, who are different from us, whose ways and views are unfamiliar, perhaps uncomfortable. The stranger presents to us as "Other"- the one we do not know or understand, and maybe even have no real desire at all to do so. In so many ways in this current age we are "strangers" to one another- whether divided by race, creed, theology, political ideology, culture or gender identity. And yet, this invitation to extend ourselves in love.

Who are the "strangers" knocking at the door of your heart, asking for a hospitable welcome?

Pastor Annette

HEART of Guatemala DINNER



Saturday, February 10th
Peace Lutheran Church – Silvana

All Are Welcome

Hors d'oeuvres at 5:30pm

Dinner at 6:00 pm

~ Dinner is by donation ~

RSVP: Mary Fuentes 360-618-2076

Simon Fuentes 360-631-1871



You're Invited!

Sunday, February 18th

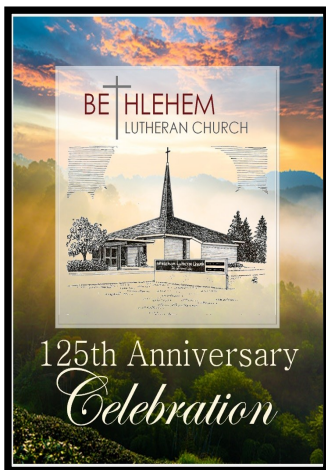
Please join us at Viking Hall in Silvana at 5:00 pm for dinner with games starting at 6:00.

Monies raised will be used for Christian Camperships for our youth.



Mardi Jorgensen, the Caring Place director, was diagnosed on December 15th with stage three lung cancer. They are calling her diagnosis stage three "A" adenocarcinoma. She is prepared to fight.

The Caring Place is going to need extra help, especially while Mardi is going through treatment. So if you have extra time to give, please head down to the Caring Place **Monday-Thursday from 1-5pm or call 360-913-1551** for information about volunteer support areas that are needed. They will work with your schedule. Please hold Mardi in prayer during this time.



Congratulations to Bethlehem Lutheran of Marysville on **125 years** of ministry.

On February 11th they will hold a special anniversary worship service at 9:30 am with a celebration to follow!

LENTEN WORSHIP



ASH WEDNESDAY February 14th

Noon, simple service at Peace

7:00 pm Cluster Worship at Our Saviour's, Arlington

LENTEN MID-WEEK AT PEACE

Fill Us With Your Love

Taize Prayer Around the Cross, 7:00 pm

February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20

Following a soup supper at 6:00 pm, we will gather in the sanctuary for a service of reflective readings, simple chant-style songs, silence and honoring prayer intentions through candle lighting.



Sunday, February 25, following worship

Youth, Family, and Community News

My question to all of you is have you ever been truly hungry? Do you know what it means to be food insecure? Have you ever had to use a food bank? Right now, the use of food banks in Snohomish County is steadily increasing, and is projected to continue to increase over the next several years. Here, in North County, we are blessed to have schools who provide breakfast for youth who are in need, they also send home a backpack full of essential foods for the weekend.

I've never used a food bank and I can say that I don't know what it means to have to give up my meal so that a child can eat. However, what I do know is that a parent should not have to make the decision on how much to serve their children in order to make sure they have enough food to get them to the end of the month.

On **Friday the 2nd** and **Saturday the 3rd** the youth and a few adults are going to be fasting (willingly going without) to raise awareness about hunger here in our community. The fast will begin Friday at noon and continue until Saturday night. On Friday we will gather and stay the night playing games and sharing stories. On Saturday we will spend the day in service of the community. The youth will also be going on a food scavenger hunt. **If you would like the kids to visit your home, please reach out and I will add you to the list.** On Sunday morning we will be banging pots to collect money and food for the food bank, this is just one more opportunity to give. This month's item of the month is peanut butter and jelly. Let's all join to overflow the grocery cart!

Out to lunch bunch will be going to Calico Cupboard in Mount Vernon, on Thursday the 15th. We will meet at the church at 12:45 and carpool with the plan to be seated by 1:15. If you would like to join us, please text, or call, so that I can make arrangements with the restaurant. **Out to dinner group** is going to give Maxi's a try again on Thursday the 22nd. Due to the weather in January, we were unable to go. We will meet at the restaurant at 6pm. Again, if you plan to go, please give me a call or text, so I can make a reservation.

Mark your calendars now for the annual **PLC Vacation Bible School**. We are super excited to announce the dates are June 25-27 and this year we are considering adding an extra day and ending on Friday. We will be having a **planning meeting on Thursday February 7^h at 5:30 pm**. If you want to join the team or just come and find out more, you are invited! I will have pizza for dinner, come hungry!

Holden Village is calling all 8th through 12th graders for a fun filled weekend **May 17-19th**. Holden is a remote mining village that was given to the ELCA many years ago. This is always a memorable weekend where life long friendships are made. Karen Fuentes and Kris Rinnert will accompany our youth. If you are interested, we need to get your paperwork filled out and turned in ASAP. Please don't let the cost be a barrier to attendance. The PLCW offer **scholarships**, and the Livingstons and I are hosting **fundraising bingo** on February 18th at Viking Hall for camperships. We can make it happen for all interested.

Go Green Tip: Energy savings tip: switch off lights and electrical appliances when not using, shut doors and close curtains, insulate your roof. These are just a few tips to help you save.

Mission of the Month: Tiny Blessings Boutique

The Tiny Blessings Boutique is housed within the Arlington Free Methodist Church at 730 E Highland Drive.

The Boutique serves children and families focusing primarily on pregnancy through Kindergarten. During the pandemic a member of AFM, Karla Marsh, saw a gap in services in the community for this portion of the population and decided to take action. She posted in some community Facebook groups to solicit donations of diapers, wipes, clothing, and equipment and the community answered the call.

The boutique grew very rapidly from one small room at the church serving a handful of walk-in clients per week to presently serving 4 families per hour, by appointment, 3 days per week. Even expanding from one room and adding an extra room at a time, to an entire wing of the church to meet the need.

We like to call it the "Not so tiny" blessings boutique now. Each and every individual who walks through the doors is treated like a VIP. They are given a shopping cart, a personal assistant to help them bag their treasures, entertain their children, or hold the babies (this is the best perk of the job!)

The greatest ongoing need at Tiny Blessings is to keep the diaper and wipes stocked up. There are also additional needs of hygiene items such as baby bath soap and diaper cream.

Thank you ALL for generously contributing. An extra thanks to Linda Legler and Debra Compton for supplying me with truckloads of goods over and over again.

This little ministry has my whole heart, and we could not continue to do what we do without each of us contributing. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Mindy Livingston and the entire team at Tiny Blessings.



All are welcome!! Open by appointment only
 "Arlington FM's Tiny Blessings Boutique" on Facebook
 Email questions: office@arlingtonfm.com



Today as I write this, I am acutely aware that I am home. You see, I was supposed to be on a plane to day – traveling to the Holy Land – with thirty people from this synod. We were going to see holy sites: the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, Galilee, Jerusalem, and so much more.

Besides visiting these holy sites, we were going to be with our Lutheran siblings in Palestine and Israel. We were going to visit with and learn from Bishop Azar, the pastors, and the laypeople of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). We were going to visit our Lutheran schools in Bethlehem, Beit Sahour, Ramallah, and Beit Jala. We were going to visit the only liberal arts university in Palestine – Dar Al-Kalima University in Bethlehem. We were going to visit the Lutheran hospital, Augusta Victoria Hospital. And we were going to visit our Jewish siblings who work for justice and peace.

Today as I write this, I am acutely aware that today is the one hundredth day since fighting began in the Holy Land.

On October 7, 2023 Hamas killed around 1,200 people and kidnapped over two hundred. It was a horrible and horrendous attack on women, children, and the elderly.

Following this attack, Israel began striking with guns, bombs, and other devices of war. At this moment, the death toll in Gaza is 24,100 dead with 61,000 others wounded. It is estimated that two-thirds of those killed in Gaza so far are women and children –all non-combatants. Almost the entire population of Gaza is now displaced, and starvation and disease are rampant.

By anyone's estimate, these are horrifying statistics, and they cannot, at all, begin to acknowledge the pain and anguish from all sides.

Now, I am not an expert of the Holy Land or the Israel-Palestinian conflict. I cannot begin to parse out all that happens in this area of the world – especially in such a short article as this. But as a baptized child of God, pastor, and your bishop, I know that this war is not God's way. I know that God calls us to advocate for those whose voices have been silenced. I know that God calls not for a pretend cease fire but true dialogue. I know that God calls us to a just peace where all people are recognized as human.

As many of you know, I was part of a group of seventeen ELCA bishops who went to the Holy Land last year. While we were there, we visited the ELCJHL schools in Palestine and Israel. We saw Muslim and Christian children learning together. We saw dancing and singing. We listened to their stories and we rejoiced at the hope we saw there. When we visited Augusta Victoria Hospital during this same visit, we saw Muslim doctors treating Christian patients and vice versa. When we visited with an Israeli non-profit dedicated to justice for the Palestinians, we saw Jews and Muslims, Israelis and Palestinians, working together for peace and justice.

Dear Beloveds in Christ, please take to heart what our brother in Christ, ELCJHL Bishop Sani Ibrahim Azar, said on Reformation Day 2023 while speaking at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem:

“It is very hard to speak about hope here in Jerusalem ... As Palestinian Christians, we have been here for many years, not recognized, but calling for reconciliation. We are serving people's needs and we are working for the future of the whole human family...The priority right now is to end the war, to stop the killing of women and men, children and the elderly ... We hope that our Christian brothers and sisters elsewhere in the world are praying for us, praying for Christians in the Holy Land and for the rights of Palestinians to exist here.”

As we are privileged to be in our homes – and as millions have been displaced from their homes – let us pray for true peace, work for justice, and speak out against hatred.

Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it... The Lord is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:14, 18 + Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee / bishop@lutheransnw.org

January at Peace Was Full of Action!

The Epiphany Feast, Epiphany Program, and Bunco provided fantastic opportunities to gather, laugh, and play together.



♪♪ Happy Birthday To You ♪♪

February Birthdays

- 1 Steve Rinnert
- 6 Janet Stangeland
Greg Erwin
- 12 Dick Klabunde
- 14 Jolene Rod
- 18 Shirley Ahrens
- 20 Isaiah Kombol
- 23 Debbie Norman
- 26 *Phoebe Fuentes*
- 27 Greta Ashley

**youth are italicized*

February Worship Assistants
Thank you for serving!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Communion</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Counters</u>
4th	Larry Bean Kris Rinnert	Stephanie Bean	Kris Rinnert	Jolene Rod Larry Bean
11th	Patti Jones Debra Compton	Patti Jones	Connie D.	Al & Judy Camp
18th	Jordy Tyler Char Tyler	Simon Fuentes	Alanna Stone	Ralph & Gwen Dalseg
25th	Mary Fuentes	Connie Digregorio	Ellyn Erickson	Karen & Dennis Dicken

Out To Lunch Bunch

SIGN UP WITH Mary Fuentes!

February 15th meet at the church at 12:45 to carpool or 1:15 at Calico Cupboard in Mount Vernon

Out To Dinner Group

SIGN UP WITH Mary Fuentes!

February 22nd at 6:00 pm. Maxi's in Marysville.

Peace Lutheran Church Women

Lydia Circle: Tuesday, February 6th at 5:30 pm

PLCW: Wednesday, February 7th at 11:30 am

Naomi Circle: Wednesday, February 14th at 9:30 am





Book Club! February 27th at 5 pm at the home of Robin Sather. We will be reading *Dragon Teeth* by Michael Crichton. The book was written in 1974 (author of Jurassic Park) but not published until 2017– An adventure story that takes place during the “bone wars” where universities competed for dinosaur bones among others. The two professors, one from Yale, the other from Harvard, are real people, but the protagonist is fictional.



Tuesday, February 13th you're invited! Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 to feast and play. Our very own party planners, Mary, Lori, Paityn, Mason, Phoebe and Char are ready to bring the fun! You don't want to miss it!

Foodbank Item of the Month

Peanut butter & Jelly
Let's fill that shopping cart!



Sew-A-Rama Success!

On Saturday, January 27th, our sale resulted in **\$2,657** net profit for Lutheran World Relief missions at Peace. We were happy to see many familiar faces at from the wider community including Camano Island and Marysville. Shoppers left with bags and boxes filled with treasures for their sewing and craft rooms.

A **special thank you** to Bruce and Anne Grimm, Dick and Joyce Klabunde, and Karen Dicken for their generous contributions as well as to the many others who donated items for sale.

Thanks to Mindy Livingston for promoting the event online and printing our materials for us.

Linda Legler, Jolene Rod, Joan Gibson, and Karen Danner were steadfast partners in the sale. This wouldn't have happened without your help!

As always, a deep and appreciative thank you to the good people of Peace for their continued support of Lutheran World Relief missions at Peace. A special remembrance of our dear friends in the quilt group Carol Mendenhall and Sue Sather. Along with Joyce and Anne, they are sorely missed.

~Alanna Stone

Lutheran World Relief Coordinator

February 2024

Peace Lutheran Church Mission Statement
*“Called by Christ to offer help, hope,
 and healing.”*

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
*OTLB=Out to Lunch Bunch *OTDG=Out to Dinner Group *PLCW= Peace Lu-				1	2 Hunger Strike AA Noon	3 Hunger Strike
4 Sunday School 9:00 Worship 10:00	5 AA 10 am	6 AA Noon Lydia Circle 5:30 pm	7 ALANON 10 am PLCW 11:30 am VBS Planning 5:30 pm	8	9 AA Noon	10 Men’s Breakfast 8 am Valentine Dinner 5:30 pm
11 Sunday School 9:00 Worship 10:00	12 AA 10 am 4H 6:30	13 AA Noon Fat Tuesday Party 5:30 pm	14 Naomi 9:30 ALANON 10 Ash Wed 12:00 Ash Wed Cluster 7 pm at OSLC Arlington	15 OTLB meet at Peace at 12:45 4H Foods 6 pm	16 AA Noon	17
18 Sunday School 9:00 Worship 10:00 Bingo Fundraiser Viking Hall 5 pm	19 AA 10 am	20 AA Noon District AA 6 pm Council 6:30	21 ALANON 10 am Witness Deadline Soup @ 6 Prayer around the Cross @ 7	22 OTDG Maxi’s Marysville 6 pm	23 AA Noon	24 Men’s Breakfast 8 am Thor Stangeland Memorial 11 am
25 Sunday School 9:00 Worship 10:00 Congregational Annual Meeting 11:30 am	26 AA 10 am	27 AA Noon	28 ALANON 10 am Quilting 10-2 Soup @ 6 Prayer around the Cross @ 7	29		



Updates and needs from the Spiritual Care Department

Strengthen Community Connection and Support:

Josephine residents created and donated a total of 83 toiletry kits to *Skagit Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services* in Mount Vernon. This Hands of Hope project included 48 children's kits and 35 kits for women.

Current Volunteer Opportunities:

Knitters: Basic skills and willingness to learn.

Sewers: Straight stitching and a willingness to learn.

Project Assistants: Encouraging and supportive interaction with residents.

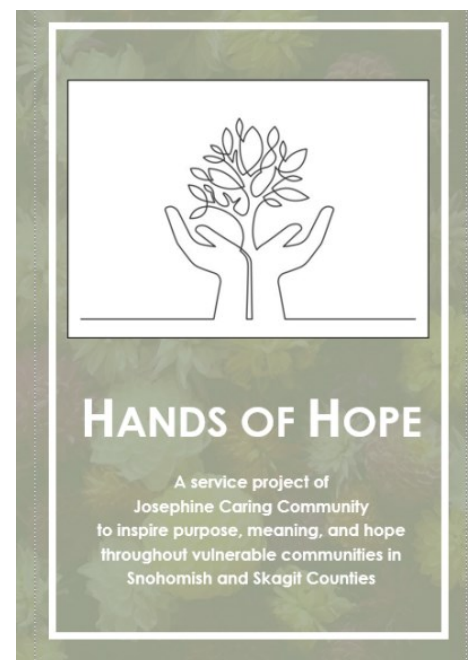
Donations Needed:

Reading glasses: 2.5 and greater magnification

Washable wool yarn

New hand towels

Travel-sized toiletries



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

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

Look Inside for information about church and community events and post the calendar on your wall so you don't miss a thing!