

# April 2024

# The Witness of Peace



## *Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! (Ps. 66:1)*

**Blessed Easter season to you!** Springtime is blossoming forth around us, and resurrection is in the air. It is also in the soil, as the earth wakes up and rises to life once more. This month we celebrate Earth Day, as we remember to cherish the gift of our planet home and to strive to live in compassionate harmony with our creation kin. We will be celebrating the earth in worship together on Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Martin Luther saw the presence of God in the holiness of creation: *God is entirely and personally present in the wilderness, in the garden, in the field...The power of God is present at all places, even in the tiniest tree leaf.....God is in all creatures, even in the smallest flowers.*

This is a good time to renew our commitment to joining together to be mindful of how our individual and collective choices make a difference, as we face widespread disruption of the planetary systems God put in place to sustain a diversity of life. One critical little creature is the *bee*, whose miraculous work of pollination keeps many of us fed. Come and join the Peace Lutheran Church Women on April 3 at 11:30 to hear about the amazing power of bees from a local beekeeper!



Remember every choice to eliminate disposable plastic, to reduce garbage, to compost, to conserve electricity and reduce carbon output is AN ACT OF LOVE for God's beautiful handiwork! Let's keep the earth joyfully thriving!



*Pastor Annette*



## Youth, Family, and Community News

As I sit at my kitchen table and write this article, I can see my puppy playing in the yard and the sun setting after the first weekend full of sun this spring. I feel blessed to live in such a magnificent area with the mountains to the east, the ocean to my west and a flowing river right outside my door. Sometimes it is literally right outside my door, but not today, today it is flowing peacefully confined within its banks.

My daffodils have been blooming, the tulips are up and on the verge, and I can see buds on many of my trees. The hay fields are growing (I'm hoping for a good crop this year) and I saw people mowing their lawns when I was out. During this season of growth and change we are also given the opportunity to make a change in someone's life for the better. Here at Peace, you can serve at the Gathering Place, donate to the food bank, teach Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, make quilts for LWR, collect school supplies, collect personal hygiene kit supplies, plant some extra produce in your garden, you name it and you can make a difference! How will you be God's hands in this place?



Back by popular demand, **BUNCO** on the 13<sup>th</sup>. We will pull out the tables and dice and play a few rounds of competitive BUNCO. No worries if you haven't played before, **BUNCO** we have plenty of experienced players who will teach you how. Bring an appetizer to share and a prize. In our bunco games everyone goes home a winner. Doors open at 5 and games begin at 5:30. I can't wait to hear folks yelling BUNCO!

The Out to Lunch Bunch is heading south this month, because I'm avoiding going north during tulip season. If you haven't tried McMenamins, you're in for a treat! Many folks have recommended that we go and give it a try. The bus will be pulling out of the church lot at 10:50 on the 18<sup>th</sup> and I hope you're on it.

The Out to Dinner group will also be heading south to try a recently opened restaurant, The Angry Crab Shack. I've been told by some reliable sources that this restaurant is fabulous. I look forward to the experience and voicing my own review. Join us at 6pm at the restaurant or 5pm at Peace to carpool on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

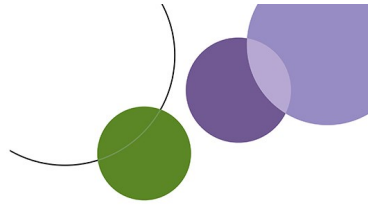
Vacation Bible School planning is underway and we are still looking for some volunteers to step into some crucial roles. If you would like to join this fun team to entertain the kids, come join us at our next planning meeting on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.

Food Bank items of the month is: **after school snacks**..... bars, rollups, chips, jello cups, pudding cups, etc.

**Go Green Tip:** I believe we are coming into the warm season, or maybe I'm just extra hopeful. Shut doors and close your curtains. Only heat or cool the rooms you use. In these warmer months keep curtains closed during the day to keep your home cool, you could also install external blinds or canvas awnings and they can also help keep your home cooler.

Mary J Fuentes

## *Upcoming Adult Ed Opportunity- begins Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup>!*



### DRAFT OF A SOCIAL STATEMENT ON CIVIC LIFE AND FAITH

A document for public comment provided by the  
ELCA Task Force for Studies on Civic Life and Faith



The ELCA is developing a **social statement on civic life and faith**, the relationship of church and state, and related matters, as called for by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. As fierce debates and the rise of Christian Nationalism pervade our nation during this critical election year, this is a timely opportunity for us to reflect on how our Christian faith informs and shapes our civic participation.

**Please note:** Social statements are the ELCA's primary documents to address significant social issues. They are intended to aid reflection, shape conscience and set forth the ELCA's teaching and policy on the major social issues and questions of contemporary life. Social statements are developed by task forces, using an established process of study and widespread participation across the church to guide theological and moral deliberation.

This is an opportunity to read and discuss this draft statement together, and to offer feedback, as we wish, to the ELCA Task Force developing the final form of this statement, which will come forward for adoption at the 2025 Churchwide Assembly. We hope you join us!



### **Exciting Changes Ahead!**

I have accepted a position with LINC NW so I will be working there part time in addition to working here with you all!

**Effective April 1, the posted church office hours will be: TUES/WED/THURS 8:30-12:30**

**The church will now be closed on Mondays AND Fridays.**

I have 12 posted office hours here at Peace and 8 additional flex hours that I sprinkle throughout the week.

So, I'll still be in the office 20 hours, just not the same 20 hours as before.

THANK YOU, MINDY



## From the Bishop

April 2024

In fifth grade, I started playing trumpet. This wasn't the instrument that I chose – it was chosen for me because my aunt had an old trumpet and my mom said, "If you want to be in band, you can use this trumpet." But even though I wanted to play the flute, the trumpet was definitely the instrument for me. I loved playing trumpet. I loved the sound, the way to make different notes with just three valves, using different mutes that produced complexity of tone. I loved to polish and clean my trumpet – especially when I received a new silver trumpet in high school. The only thing I didn't like was carrying it to and from school because of the big hill that we lived on.

In high school I was in both band and jazz band. In jazz band we traveled to many competitions – winning the Reno Jazz Festival one year. When I look back on my experience in band, I realize that there are so many things that I continue to apply in my life, and as part of the body of Christ, that go back to being in band.

First, you can't be a band on your own. If you play a solo instrument, that is lovely. But that isn't a band. There needs to be a group to form a band – it can be small or large – but an agreement that you are engaging with one another and playing music with one another leads to forming a band. If you are using music, the same music is important – also the same key and the same beats per measure helps. An agreement on how fast or slow the tempo is important. In short, community is needed for a band.

Second, you can't all play the same instrument. I mean, I love the trumpet – but a band of trumpets is one-dimensional (and can be very loud). I admit that as much as I love brass, you need more than brass to form a band. We have all heard brass quartets – but for a band, you need the saxophone, the piccolo, the clarinet, the drum, and so much more. Diversity is needed in a band.

Third, you can't drown out others. I speak as one who plays trumpet. Trumpets know how to be loud. And if trumpeters are not careful, they will hide the beauty of the other instruments. There is nothing more gorgeous than notes from an oboe coming from seemingly nowhere to fill the air with that wistful, haunting sound. In other words, listen for the woodwinds. A variety of sounds and voices are needed in a band – especially those that are more hidden.

Fourth, harmony doesn't mean the same note. It would be boring if every single instrument played the very same note for every song in a band's repertoire. Our ears are tuned to hear melody, harmony, dissonance, and resolution. In a band, it is imperative that different notes are played – different rhythm patterns are introduced, and a play amongst the instruments happens. Harmony and dissonance are needed in a band.

Dear people of God, these four things are also needed in the church and in the world: Community, diversity, variety of sound and voice, harmony and dissonance. I invite you to think about your worshiping community. How are we all like a band? How can we be more intentional in these four areas?

Our composer and maestro is God – God is directing and leading us – in the music we co-create. May this spring awaken you in the beauty and grace of God. May the community in which you gather bring music in all its fullness.

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

[bishop@lutheransnw.org](mailto:bishop@lutheransnw.org)

## A Springtime Challenge From Your Office Administrator!

The season of **Lent** is my favorite time of the year. I need this focused and intentional space to really step back and decide what is weighing me down that I need to outsource via prayer and literally hand over to God and let go of to make space for what the Holy Spirit has waiting for me.

This particular Lent has been quite different than any of my other **Lenten** seasons because I'm IN the church almost every day. It's sort of impossible to ignore the sometimes overwhelming gift of God's grace when I have the privilege of being confronted with it in each and every interaction with all of you! Thank you for an incredible, **love-filled** first six months on the job!

One of my spiritual gifts (and probably my husband's biggest annoyance) is that I'm blissfully unaware of my surroundings when I'm engaged in conversation with someone. I am very curious about people. Who they are, where they come from, (not just the surface stuff, like what really makes you tick?) and I want to learn all of it all at once!

Admittedly, my blissfully unaware self had never really noticed that our beloved Larry Sather kept to himself week after week and walked in and out of worship quietly, even though I sat right in the back of the church almost next to him for the last two years. But then... the day of my job interview, Pastor Annette received a phone call and stepped away. So there I was, alone, with my burning curiosity about people, and I just started asking him questions about himself. In that ten minutes or so that we had together, albeit, I had to fish a bit to get him to talk, I learned quite a bit about him! That little moment of time spent in fellowship laid a foundation for a relationship. He became my go-to guy for the first couple of months in the office and that carried over into short conversations before and after church.

Back to that blissful ignorance... I had no idea who the specific points of contact were for each of my questions as I was learning my job, so I just called or emailed Larry and he was happy to help and this provided more opportunity for us to get to know one another and share a laugh here and there.

As I was sitting in his funeral in the place where he faithfully sat for worship and Pastor Annette spoke about what might the world be like if the only label we placed on one another was Child Of God, and how when she sees the drawing of the crowded table with the arrow pointing that says, "A place for you" by Daniel Erlander, that she thinks of Larry and his life's work for social justice. After the brief months of getting to know glimpses of who he was, I proudly share that sentiment.

So, in memory of our friend, Larry Sather, I challenge you. When you walk down to the fellowship hall this spring and look for your seat at your usual table with your usual friends. Take a pause, picture everyone wearing a bright rainbow label that says **CHILD OF GOD**, be blissfully unaware of your surroundings, be wildly curious, pick a different seat by a different person, and you'll walk out of here with way more than you walked in with. That **sacred space** in those **holy interactions** is where I believe that Christ resides!

**Thank you for a wonderful first six months** in the office, for making me **smile** every time you walk through the doors of the church, and for answering all of my curious questions. **I love you all!**

God's Peace To You This Easter Season-

Mindy Livingston





♪♪ Happy Birthday To You ♪♪

April Birthdays

- 2 Elsie Pryor  
Ellyn Erickson
- 5 Alanna Stone
- 7 Bruce Grimm
- 14 *Axel Martinez*  
*Einer Martinez*
- 15 Dan Stoffel
- 18 Al Camp  
Betty Jacobs
- 28 Priscilla Brady

*\*youth are italicized*

**April Worship Assistants  
Thank you for serving!**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Communion</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Counters</u>
7	Isaiah Kombol Kris Rinnert	Ashley Kombol	Kris Rinnert	Jolene Rod & Larry Bean
14	Patti Jones Debra Compton	Patti Jones	Connie DiGregorio	Al & Judy Camp
21	Jordy Tyler Char Tyler	Simon Fuentes	Alanna Stone	Ralph & Gwen Dalseg
28	Mary Fuentes Simon Fuentes	Connie DiGregorio	Ellyn Erickson	Dennis & Karen Dicken

**New Table Covers:**

The Fireside Room and the west meeting room behind the sanctuary have new elastic table covers placed on them. These rooms are used several times per week by different groups. PLCW purchased covers to preserve the tabletops. If you notice that the covers need to be laundered, please remove them and take them to the office. Mindy will let one of the board members know. Thank you!

**ATTENTION PLEASE!**

If you happened to borrow the crutches or the rolling walkers from the church and are not using them, please return them so they are available for others to borrow. Thank you!

**Out To Lunch Bunch**

April 18th we will meet at Peace at 10:50 am to board the bus and head to McMenamin's in Millcreek

**Out To Dinner Group**

April 25th we will meet at the Angry Crab in Everett at 6:00 pm for dinner!

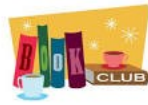
**Peace Lutheran Church Women**

**Lydia Circle: Tuesday, April 9th at 5:30 pm**

**PLCW: Wednesday, April 3rd at 11:30 am**

**Naomi Circle: Wednesday, April 10th at 9:30 am**





April's selection is: *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. We will be meeting on April 30th at 2 pm at the home of Robin Sather. Pick up a copy and join us!

## IT'S TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING!

The Guatemala group will be having the first rummage sale of the year on **Friday May 10th and Saturday May 11th.**

So, get busy and start sorting your drawers and closets for donations, please. It is also a good time of year to clean out your garage and storage areas.

**Starting any time after Easter**, you may bring your donations and place them in the East Sunday school room behind the sanctuary. That is the room on the right (when standing with your back to the sanctuary) with nothing in it but stored chairs and tables.

Please do not leave items in Fellowship Hall or the Quilting room.

The sale will be from 9 am to 5 pm on Friday and 9 am to noon on Saturday. All proceeds will go into the Guatemala fund to restart the process of saving for stoves and water filtration systems. If you would like to help with set up, working those days or clean up please talk to either Mary Fuentes or Stephanie Bean.

## A REMINDER FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL: COMMUNICATION DURING ADVERSE WEATHER/POWER OUTAGES/OTHER EMERGENCIES

**If there is a situation that would affect our ability to gather for worship or other planned church events, you can always check one of these avenues of communication: 1) we will send out an all church email, 2) we will post on our Facebook page, and 3) we will leave a message on our office voicemail. If all else fails, call or text Pastor Annette or a church buddy!**

## Stillaguamish Cluster News

We had our first session with our coaches and it went very well!

Our second session will be **Saturday, April 6th** at Our Saviour's. We will have more to share soon! Right now, Camano and Peace are well represented and Faith and Our Saviour's are looking for reps to continue this coaching opportunity.

Our big cluster worship this fall is scheduled for **September 15th** at the Stanwood-Camano Fairgrounds again this year. If you happen to have any photos of our past events that you can provide, the NW Washington Synod would like us to share our journey together so far at the assembly this year. Please let Karen Dicken or Jolene Rod know and we will put together a slide show.

# April 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 Lutheran Church Wom-	<b>1</b>  AA 10 am	<b>2</b>  AA Noon	<b>3</b>  ALANON 10 am PLCW 11:30 am	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  AA Noon	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>  Worship 10:00	<b>8</b>  AA 10 am  4-H 6:30 pm	<b>9</b>  AA Noon  Lydia Circle 5:30 pm	<b>10</b>  Naomi 9:30 am  ALANON 10 am  Confirmation 6:30 pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  AA Noon	<b>13</b>  Men’s Breakfast 8 am  Bunco 5:30 pm
<b>14</b> Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am Bingo at Viking Hall for Camp Lutherwood 5 pm	<b>15</b>  AA 10 am	<b>16</b>  AA Noon  Council 6:30	<b>17</b>  ALANON 10 am  VBS Planning 5:30 pm	<b>18</b> OTLB Gathering Place 3:30 4-H Foods 6 pm	<b>19</b>  AA Noon	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>  Sunday School 9 am  Worship 10 am	<b>22</b>  AA 10 am  <b>Witness Deadline</b>	<b>23</b>  AA Noon	<b>24</b> ALANON 10 am  Quilting 10-2	<b>25</b> Out to dinner Angry Crab, Everett 6 pm	<b>26</b>  AA Noon	<b>27</b>  Men’s Breakfast 8 am
<b>28</b>  Sunday School 9 am  Worship 10 am	<b>29</b>  AA 10 am	<b>30</b>  AA Noon  Book Club				



## Mission of the Month

April is Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month, **chosen because it is the birth month of James Parkinson**, who first identified the symptoms of Parkinson's disease more than 200 years ago. Our April mission of the month is :



**Providing resources to Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington states**, APDA Northwest aims to fulfill our mission by educating and empowering those in our community challenged with Parkinson's by promoting hope and optimism through innovative services and programs, and funding vital local and national research. This dual mission of helping people live better today while we also fight for a better life tomorrow, is unique.

APDA provides information, referrals, education, research, health and wellness classes, support groups, financial hardship support. You can find out more by visiting [About Our Chapter | APDA Northwest \(apdaparkinson.org\)](#)

## Rekeying update:



The key request forms are now available in the narthex. If you would like to be on the list for a key, please fill out the form and place it in Mindy's box outside the office door. The deadline to have your request submitted will be Sunday, April 14th.

Your church council will be reviewing the forms at the April council meeting. Once the council has determined the number of keys that will be distributed, the appointment will be made with the locksmith.

## **Would you mind....**

If you have anything for me (sticky notes, reminders, requests, etc.) would you kindly place it in one of my mailboxes either right inside the office door or right outside? Often times I have church projects in process left out and folks are leaving notes (sometimes sensitive information) out in the open stacked amongst other things around the desk and things are getting mixed up.

While I'm primarily the user of the space, it is shared by a handful of others. Please help me stay organized by streamlining communication to the mailboxes!

Thanks, Mindy

**Peace Lutheran Church**  
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Contact us:  
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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!