

Witness of Peace**May 2024****MAY MISSION OF THE MONTH****Peace Lutheran's LOCAL CARE FUND**

Did you know we maintain a special fund that is designated to help local folks in need who come to our door or give us a call? Each month we put \$75 into the fund, and people have made special gifts to this fund from time to time.

Cash is not given out, but payments are made on a person's behalf to help with rent, temporary housing, utilities, gas and other miscellaneous expenses. An individual can receive help only every six months, and the limit is \$300.

I have mostly been the one to pay out these funds, and I can tell you how grateful people are to receive them. People are so touched by the witness of generosity with no strings attached. It is often just a drop in the bucket of people's financial needs, but every little bit helps.

Last year, between the local care fund, and a special discretionary fund which was gifted to me to spend as I wish, we spent over \$3000. The fund has dwindled down and really needs a boost so we can continue to respond to requests. Can you make a special gift this month? Do you know anyone who can match your donation?

THANK YOU!
Pastor Annette



Youth, Family, and Community News

It's May, which means we are five months in to 2024. I'm not sure if you are as ill prepared as I am, but it feels like I'm being pushed along, and the train just keeps going faster and faster. I'm still trying to figure out what I can plant in my garden for myself and the food bank, and hopefully keep it under control. I am patiently waiting for my first calves of the season to be born while I'm transplanting raspberries in hopes of being able to share later this summer. Please remember that even though we celebrated Earth Day just over a week ago, we are always God's hands and called to serve. It is up to each of us to find a way to serve and be good stewards.

Out to Lunch Bunch will be heading north to Mount Vernon to try COA Mexican restaurant, The bus will be leaving Peace at 10:45 on Thursday the 23rd.

Out to Dinner group will also be heading North to go back to Sakura. This is a Japan's style grill. We will be going on Thursday the 16th and meeting at the Sakura at 6pm. Starting in June we will be changing out to dinner to the first Tuesday of the month. This is so we can accommodate more people's schedule.

Go Green Tip: This summer use reusable utensils, plates, napkins, and table cloths.

Food Bank Item of the month: Soup- any kind, just make sure it is something you would want to eat.

Guatemala – All twelve of us had a great time with the village of San Carlos Carretera. The people were so welcoming and trusted us to come into their homes. We were able to **build 83 stoves and install 83 home water filters.**

We also gave out potholders, quilts, beanie babies, Spanish bibles, frisbee (fans), jump ropes, balls, school supplies, dresses and shorts. It was a privilege to be able to go and be God's Hands and represent Peace and the community of Silvana.

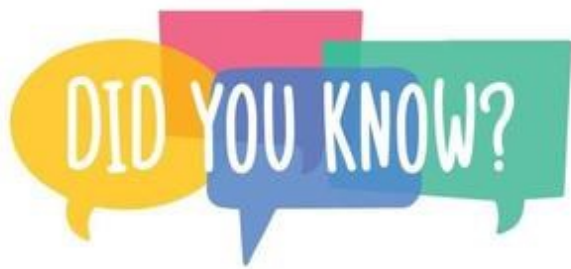


We look forward to sharing with you all on May 5th following worship. The team will be providing lunch to say thank you for all your prayers and generosity.

Speaking of Guatemala and service the team is already planning for their next trip and starting their fundraising journey. We will kick it off with a garage sale on Friday May 10th and Saturday May 11th. If you would like to donate you can drop stuff off in the fellowship hall starting Monday, the 6th. If you have any questions, please contact Mary or Larry. Please no microwaves, clothing,

TV's, computers, and electronics.

As Sunday School is winding down, we will be taking the kids to Snow Goose Produce after church on Sunday the 26th. This is sure to be a fun outing on the bus. The year has been filled with fun and the ability to divide into two groups has been a blessing. Thank you to Mindy and Karen for always being willing to share with our youth! ~ *Mary J Fuentes*



In addition to the many active ministries within the congregation of Peace Lutheran Church, we also serve as a meeting facility for seven additional community groups.

Our monthly meetings are:

District AA on the same evening as church council. Silvana Lads and Lassies 4H gathers the second Monday of the month, and Karen Fuentes joyfully leads her 4H food kiddos each third Thursday evening.

Weekly we host:

Monday morning a women's recovery group meets in the fireside room at 10, on Tuesdays at noon you'll find a full parking lot and house with the folks from Alcoholics Anonymous that make use of our facility, and on Fridays at noon another big AA group meets as well. Wednesdays at 10 Al-Anon assembles behind the sanctuary for an hour and then every other week a few of the ladies move into Katie's room to sit on comfortable couches and enjoy a book study.

Each of these groups contributes to our offering, tidies up around our facility, shops at our rummage sales and bazaar, and most importantly, carries outward the heart of Peace. If you've had the opportunity to be in the building while any of these meetings are taking place you've likely gotten to witness the excitement of the children running a business meeting in 4H or been invited to try their culinary delights. If you're here during the day I'll bet you've been told, "Our meetings are open! Come in! They're for everyone!"

This is what it means to BE church. Like the sign out front says,

"All are welcome, really!"

Let's get to know all of these folks that pitch in to make Peace Lutheran, Silvana this little slice of the Kingdom of Heaven that it is!

³¹ Here is another illustration Jesus used: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. ³² It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into a tree, and birds come and make nests in its branches." (Matthew 13:31-32)

We've got some big branches here! Let's keep our soil rich and inviting!

Blessings to you in the month of May- *Mindy Livingston*



From the Bishop:

I have a confession to make, I am a terrible pool player. I am so bad that the last time I played, the person I was playing with stopped the game and said, “You are the worst pool player I have ever played with.” (I had told him I was horrible but he didn’t believe me.) I’m using this story as a very thin tangent to talk about gifts and the Spirit ... bear with me.

In Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 12, we read, *“Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”*

As many of you know, Paul was writing to a congregation in Corinth after receiving some correspondence from them and hearing their concerns. Throughout this letter Paul emphatically makes it clear that no one is spiritually better than others – no one has better faith, no one has better gifts, no one should eat better than another at the Eucharist table. Paul is adamant in this. (He is talking about this because of some struggles in the Corinth church. You are welcome to read the entire letter of 1 Corinthians to get more context.)

Paul emphasizes that because we all receive faith through the Holy Spirit, no one is spiritually superior. Paul further emphasizes that because we all receive a variety of gifts given by the Holy Spirit, no one has a worthier gift than another. And, to emphasize this point, Paul writes that the Spirit does not give only one kind of gift to all. Because the church and the world need diverse gifts, the Spirit gives different gifts to different people. In other words, Paul is simply saying this: same Spirit – lots of gifts.

You hear this? In a society where we emphasize certain gifts and skills and abilities above others (and often feel like we have fallen short), we hear in 1 Corinthians that the Holy Spirit gives a variety of gifts to a variety of people. Specifically, YOU have been given a variety of gifts, and this is good.

Further, these Holy Spirit gifts – they are not meant to benefit the individual person but are to benefit the entire community and world. Paul emphasizes that these gifts are not to be used in selfish ways or in self-seeking ways. Paul clearly states that if a gift cannot be shared, and shared for the good of others, it is not from the Spirit. Ultimately, the purpose of these different gifts of the Spirit is to share in God’s love and grace and mercy with all through Jesus Christ our Savior.

As Americans, we have often been told (and maybe believe) that as individuals we are responsible for ourselves. We are not to rely on others – we are to be strong and self-sufficient. We are taught that to have freedom is to be autonomous. But let’s be clear. This is far from what we read in 1 Corinthians. Paul says each person receives gifts for the common good. Paul says that each person receives the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. It is in community where the gifts from the Holy Spirit shine. It is in community where the Holy Spirit is made manifest.

You see, it is God’s intention that we are to be with one another – for one another – as the community of faith, as the body of Christ, as the Church on earth. The Holy Spirit has given a variety of gifts to a variety of congregations and individuals. And together we are called to bring these gifts together to help bear one another’s burdens, to love and pray together, to bring justice and new life, to be made manifest in the Holy Spirit for the common good.

Honestly, it doesn’t matter that I am a terrible pool player. But it does matter how I both share the gifts that God has given me and how I reach out to others in mutual support when I am in need.

I would love to hear stories from you about your gifts being made manifest in the Holy Spirit – individually and in your congregation. How are each person’s gifts being shared in your own particular congregation? How is your congregation sharing with another congregation? What gifts were missing from your particular place of worship that you have found outside of your space? What gifts have you been able to share with others?

May we live into what we often say in worship, “The gifts of God, for the people of God.” Amen.

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

bishop@lutheransnw.org



UPDATE

Though it is early in the year, we need to remind the congregation of the current and expected vacancies on the Church Council which will need to be addressed soon. Please consider if you can serve the congregation in this way. This is the current roster of membership:

OFFICERS: Two year term

President: Debra Compton has offered to step into this role to complete the term.

Vice-President: Steve Rinnert, term ends in December

Treasurer: Patti Jones, current term ends in December

Secretary: Alanna Stone, current term ends in December

At-large Members: Two year term

Linda Legler, current term ends in December (second term)

Al Camp, current term ends in December (second term as at-large)

Wayne Erickson, One year into first term

One At-large position – VACANT

Representatives: One year appointment

Youth – Emmie Livingston has offered to step into this role.

PLCW: Debra Compton

Incoming council members will be voted in at the November congregational meeting and their term will begin in January 2025.

♪♪ Happy Birthday To You ♪♪

May Birthdays

- 5 Katelynn Hubbard
- 9 Maudie Gedstad
- 10 Judy Camp
- 11 Karen Danner
- 16 Carol Maurstad
- 18 *Torunn Stangeland*
- 19 *Jacob Martinez*
- 24 Mindy Livingston
- 25 Louis Stangeland
- 29 Lana Hanson
- Ashley Kombol

**youth are italicized*

May Worship Assistants
Thank you for serving!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Communion</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Counters</u>
5	Phoebe Fuentes Spencer Fuentes	Simon Fuentes	Spencer Fuentes	Jolene Rod & Larry Bean
12	Isaiah & Ashley Kombol	Ashley Kombol	Wayne Erickson	Al & Judy Camp
19	Cheri Gonzales Jordy Tyler	Cheri Gonzales	Pedro Gonzales	Ralph & Gwen Dalseg
26	Char Tyler Mary Fuentes	Jordy Tyler	Al Camp	Karen & Dennis Dicken

Out To Lunch Bunch

May 23rd. Bus leaves Peace at 10:50.
 COA Mexican Eatery in Mount Vernon

Out To Dinner Group

May 16th. 6:00 pm
 Sakura Japanese Steakhouse in Burlington



Our May book is “Against the Odds: A Path Forward for Rural America” by Bruce Vincent, Nicole J. O. Widmar, and Jessica Eise. **Our meeting will be Tuesday, May 28, 1:30p.m.** Place we will meet to be determined as the time gets closer.

This is a story of a man whose family was in the logging business. He was sent off to college, however, when his school principal convinced Bruce’s parents that he was too smart for the logging business. Bruce later got a job in a city and married. Later, he and his wife moved the family back to Libby, Montana where he anticipated hard work but a rewarding life in the logging business.

Join us! Either read along, or just drop by and discuss the book! Let us know if you have book suggestions! You can get them to Mary or Mindy in the office.

Peace Lutheran Church Women

Lydia Circle: May 7th 5:30 pm

PLCW: May 1st at 11:30 am

Naomi Circle: May 8th at 9:30 am





Guatemala Rummage sale May 10th and 11th. You may bring your donations Sunday the 5th or during the week during office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:30-12:30.

Donated items may be placed in the Fellowship Hall. The only items we do not accept are clothing and electronics.

Thanks in advance for your donations to help build up the Guatemala fund for our next trip.

Lutheran World Relief Baby Care Kits:

Lydia circle has assembled 36 Baby Kits for the spring shipment to Lutheran World Relief.

Now our supplies are depleted. **CAN YOU HELP?** We need to build back up for the November shipment. Summer garage sales are a great opportunity to find items for the kits.

Here’s a list of what we include:

- *Individually wrapped bar soap (Ivory, or any other gentle soap) 2 per kit
- *Diaper pins- 2 per kit
- *Hand towels (dark colors preferred) One per kit. Gently used are okay.
- *Long and short sleeved t shirts- infant up to 24 months (no onesies please)
- *Sleepers/Gowns- infant to 24 months - 2 per kit
- *Socks- infant to toddler sizes- 2 pair go in each kit
- *Coat/Sweater/Hooded sweatshirt– 1 per kit
- *Hats– 1 per kit to go with a sweater or coat without a hood
- *Blankets– 1 receiving and 1 large blanket per kit (crocheted or knitted okay)
- *Cloth Diapers– 4 per kit

If you are a sewer and would like to make diapers or blankets for us talk with Mary Fuentes or Stephanie Bean for the pattern.



You may place your donations in the basket marked “BABY CARE KITS” in the Narthex or you may give them to Mary or Stephanie.

Thank you for your help!

May 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-			1 Al-anon 10 am PLCW 11:30 am Confirmation 6:30 pm	2	3 AA Noon	4 Cluster Mtg. 9 am.
5 Sunday School 9:00 Worship 10:00 Mission Team Luncheon following worship	6 AA 10 am	7 AA Noon Lydia Circle 5:30 pm sale set up	8 Naomi 9:30 am Al-anon 10 am sale set up	9 Sale set up	10 AA Noon 9-6 Rummage Sale	11 Men’s Breakfast 8 am 9-12 Rummage Sale
12 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am	13 AA 10 am 4-H 6:30 pm	14 AA Noon	15 Al-anon 10 am	16 Out to Dinner 6 pm Sakura	17 AA Noon	18
19 Pentecost Wear red Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am	20 AA 10 am	21 AA Noon Council 6:30	22 Al-anon 10 am Quilting 10-2 Confirmation 6:30 Witness Deadline	23 Out to Lunch Bus Leaves 10:50	24 AA Noon	25 Men’s Breakfast 8 am
26 Worship 10 am	27 AA 10 am	28 AA Noon Book Club 1:30pm Location tbd	29 Al-anon 10 am	30	31 AA Noon	

Looking ahead to the.....**BAZAAR!**

Always the first Saturday in November! This year, November 2nd!

*As you spring clean in the house and garage and choose donations for the Guatemala rummage sale, keep a look out for any items that might work well in the **Silent Auction**.

*As you plant your vegetable and flower gardens please keep the Bazaar in mind. **Plant an extra row** for the Harvest room. Squash- all varieties, pumpkins and zucchini are all great sellers. Root veggies would also be great. Dried flowers, bay leaves, plant starts, herbs and any seeds you can harvest sell well too.

***If you are a crafter/sewer** and have a favorite item you like to make, consider donating some to the crafts room. Handmade Christmas ornaments, aprons, scrubbies, tote bags, knitted items and anything else you can think of do well in that room. Last year we had dog jackets that sold like hotcakes!

*Start planning now what you would like to make/bake for the **bakery** in November. Breads, rolls, pies, candy, specialty cookies all do great!

*If you clean out a drawer any time between now and November and find gift cards you don't think you will use please donate them for our **Gift Card Tree raffle**. Cards may be dropped off in the office beginning NOW or handed to Stephanie Bean.

*The **quilt** for this years **raffle** is almost done and will soon be on display! Raffle tickets will be available to buy and to take to sell to others. Betty Jacobs is the creator of this year's quilt and her daughter Debra Compton is in charge of ticket sales.

It is a huge group effort to put on the Bazaar. The women count on what is raised that one Saturday for their budget for the following year. The women of Peace contribute in many ways to the congregation and we are very appreciative of all that pitch in and help us.

If you have any questions- please see Stephanie Bean, Bazaar Chairperson, Thank you.

Keys, Keys, Keys!

The building re-keying project is COMPLETE! If you filled out a key request, please see Mindy to sign for your new key. Each key is numbered and is made specifically for you.

Thank you!

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!