

Witness of Peace

November 2024

*Little Altars Everywhere**

As most of you know, last month I spent two weeks along the pilgrimage trail in southern France known as “le Chemin de Saint Jacques”, journeying from Le Puy-en-Velay to Conques. One of the things that was most striking to me along the way was the regular appearances of little prayer shrines that had been erected along the route. Most of these had an accumulated pile of stones and shells and little pieces of paper and religious items, like a rosary. These piles were not just stuff; they were collected prayers, the heart-felt thoughts of pilgrims who had previously passed by. I paused momentarily before most of these. It was worth remembering all those prayers.

In most cases a fair amount of effort had been put into creating and setting up these little altars. The purpose of reminding the passing pilgrims of the focus of their walk and the opportunity for a momentary pause of communal worship was apparently worth it.

I found myself thinking, “isn’t this a wonderful practice of collective sacred remembering”. The visual reminders stand there, calling to each passerby to remember that all these lives, including my own, are held in a bigger hand.

This month, which begins with remembering all the beloved saints who have journeyed before us and closes with grateful acknowledgement of all the prayer stones left along our life’s path, let us keep our eyes and hearts open to little altars that we might discover along our own paths. Let’s pay attention to those moments and circumstances and visual signs that beckon us to pause, to remember, to lift our eyes heavenward, to send love and peace outward.



In our own hearts, may we place prayer stones for the suffering in Gaza and Israel, for the struggles in Sudan, for the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, for those suffering from the devastating floods in the southern US, and for the ongoing struggles in our nation to create a path forward that is built on honesty, accountability and genuine democratic values.

Gracious God, hear our prayers.

Pastor Annette



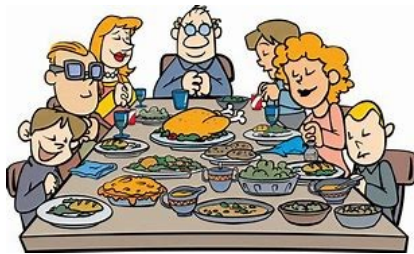
(*Title of a book by Rebecca Wells)

Youth, Family, and Community News

Fall is definitely here; I've had a fire in my wood stove and the mornings have been crisp-oh yay and the rain has finally started back up. The farmers have been rushing to get the last of the corn and grass crops off the fields without getting stuck. The hunters have been out looking for the elusive big game and watching the ducks and geese fly over. Several people have put their gardens to bed for the winter and have canned and frozen enough vegetables for the long winter months. I've been introduced to new squash and tried a couple new carrot varieties. I hope that you are all enjoying this season and don't let it pass you by with taking time to enjoy God's splendor.

From November 8th through the 11th, Tammy and I will be taking a group of high school girls to their family's cabin at Crystal Mountain. We will be talking and sharing about God's presence in our daily lives. We've planned some fun crafts, amazing food, and a few walks along the river. We still have a couple spots available if you want to join in the fun.

Back by popular demand- Bunco for the masses. Saturday night November 16th at 5pm. Come out and enjoy a night of fun and laughter and hopefully you will get to shout out **BUNCO!** Bring an appetizer to share with the group and a prize if you like.



Thanksgiving Eve Dinner at Peace, all are welcome to come and join us as we feast together and share family traditions and stories. I will be cooking a turkey and a few side dishes and everyone else is asked to bring a side if you are able. I hope you can join us and spend a fun family evening together; dinner will start at **5 pm**.

Out to Dinner group will be heading South on November 5th. The bus will leave the church parking lot at 5:15pm. We will be going to Kyoto Japanese Steak House in South Everett.

Out to Lunch bunch is going to the Mexico Café in West Mount Vernon on Thursday November 14th. Watch the bulletin or call me for the exact departure time from the church.

Looking ahead Advent family nights will be Wednesdays December 4th, 11th, and 18th. Once again, we will be having themed dinners with a message and craft. This is a time to try something new and find something special to share with the crowd. If you want to be preparing or trying out recipes you can explore German, Italian, and Mexican cuisine.

Food Bank Item of the month- Pie Filling (this will be for the Thanksgiving basket), to be delivered by the 22nd.

Go Green Tip-become a papertarian, a person who lives a paper-based lifestyle. It's about opting for paper-based packaging and then recycling properly.

Mary J. Fuentes

Stillaguamish Cluster News



The Lay Cluster group met together on Saturday, October 12th to go over the reviews received and to debrief how things went for our worship together on September 15th. Overall the committee was delighted with how things went. Food was well-received, there was plenty for everyone. People really got into the mingling portion of the worship and great stories were shared. Additionally, the questions discussed at our tables during the sermon time really showed that people are ready and willing to share their personal feelings about their beliefs and were grateful to have the opportunity.

Were there things that could have gone better? Certainly! One of the biggest concerns was that it was difficult to hear when so many were holding discussions all at once.

People are looking forward to our events together and are understanding our theme “Stronger Together” to be just that.... There is more we can do together than apart and joining together for some of these opportunities, we hope, will be coming in the near future.

We heard from several people that they wanted us to include the food bank more and one of our opportunities this coming year will be just that.... You will hear more as we get closer to January and the kick-off for this first effort. These food bank opportunities will be once per quarter – our cluster coming together to make a difference. Stronger Together.

We did meet up with our coaches and had session #5 on Saturday, October 19. We are learning together how to use the tools our coaches are providing us to help us discover the direction

Jesus has in mind. There are some things our churches each do separately that might have a bigger impact if we did them together. What would that look like? Work smarter, not harder.

WEDNESDAY, November 27



Join folks from around the Stillaguamish Cluster for a **Thanksgiving Eve** time of worship: **NOON** at **Peace**.



Dear Beloveds,

As the election season is here – and for many, your vote has already been cast – I have been doing some reflecting on what it means to vote as a Lutheran Christian. Please know that I am not telling you who to vote for in this election. It is not for me to tell you who to vote for. I mean, after all, God is neither Republican or Democrat, or even American. But in saying that, I am not abdicating the responsibility that we have as Lutheran Christians who live in a country where voting matters. As children of God, we are called to vote beyond our own self-interest or individuality. As people who follow Jesus, we are called towards God’s vision of a just and mercy-filled world. As people who have received grace upon grace, we are called to stand against injustice, and to remind everyone that, in God’s eyes, every single person is loved and beloved.

So, here are a few thoughts and questions:

1. Jesus is all about loving one’s neighbor. Even when it is hard. When he is asked, “Who is my neighbor,” Jesus expands his answer beyond imagination. In Jesus’ stories and actions he constantly goes to those who are on the outside, those marginalized, those without status, and shows how they are loved by God – how they are, in fact, his neighbor.

As you vote: Who is your neighbor?

2. Throughout scripture, hospitality to the stranger is embraced. In the Old Testament, the command to welcome strangers is repeated 37 times. In Matthew 25:35 Jesus says, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” **As you vote: Who is the stranger?**

3. God’s will and God’s calling is towards equity and justice for those who have been silenced, oppressed, or harmed. As we hear in Isaiah, “Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, and plead for the widow.”

As you vote: Who are the silenced, the oppressed, the harmed?

4. The eighth commandment declares that we are called to not bear false witness against our neighbor. This, of course, means not lying about another. This means no name-calling or false accusations. But it goes beyond this. As Martin Luther tells us in his Small Catechism, we are to defend our neighbor, speak well of our neighbor, and explain everything in the kindest way.

As you vote: Who is speaking truth?

5. God created this beautiful earth and declared that we are both part of the creation and are also called to be stewards. As we read in the ELCA social statement, Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice, we affirm that it is God’s intention for the healing and wholeness of creation.

As you vote: Who is caring for creation?

Dear Beloveds of God, there is so much more that could be written about the state of the country and what voting means. We could make this all complicated and intricate and difficult. (And to be fair, the United States sometimes feels shaky and unmoored). But truly it comes down to this: God’s love is unconditional and unending. Jesus came to this earth to show, to embody, to be God’s love for us and for all people. And so, knowing this, trusting this, believing this, we are called. We are called, as baptized and sent children of God, to show this love to the world. We are called to vote against hate. We are called to vote for God’s love. As we hear in 1 John, There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear ... We love because God first loved us.

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee bishop@lutheransnw.org

CHURCH COUNCIL

Please note that we continue to seek someone from the congregation to serve as **treasurer** beginning in January. This role involves working with Pastor regarding communication with our accountant, authorizing expenditures, presenting financial reports to council, occasional check writing (accountant pays most bills) and overseeing the budget. Talk to Patti Jones, our current treasurer, or Pastor Annette for more info.



**Mission
of the
Month**

This is your chance to help decide where we designate the 2025 Mission of the Month. Each month Peace has

a designated mission that we recognize and support. Some missions carry through year to year, while others are new and a way to learn about a local mission that we can all support. If you have a suggestion, please drop off the name of the organization, location, and a little about the organization in my box at church or email or text me. Thank you for continuing to support the mission outreach of Peace. —**Mary J. Fuentes**



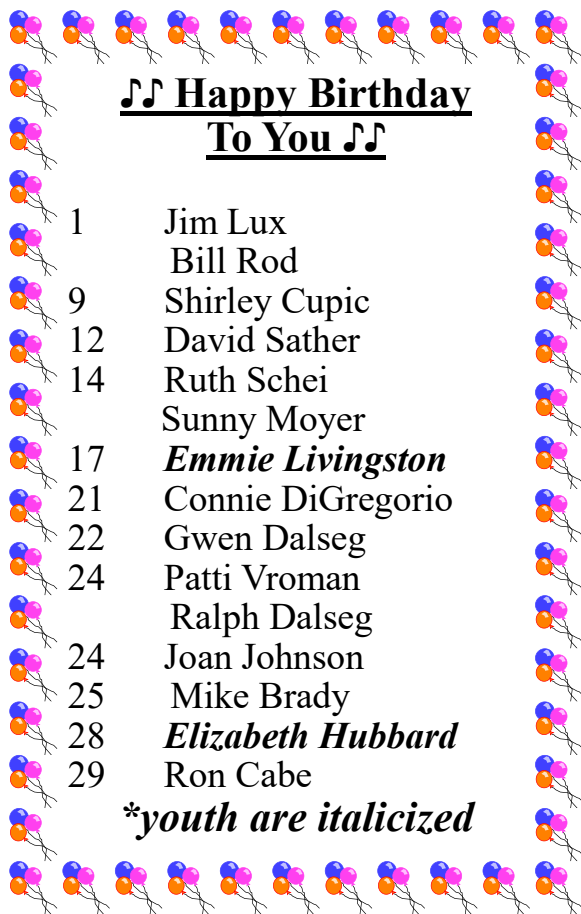
Sunday, November
24th

Please join us for a time to gather as a congregation to discuss and approve our 2025 budget, elect new council members, and receive updates from the Council and Pastor

Thank you, Thank you!

The Early Country Christmas Bazaar took place on November 2nd. There will be an article next month about how everything turned out and details about what we plan to do with our 2025 budget.

Stephanie Bean, Bazaar Chairperson



**Happy Birthday
To You**

- 1 Jim Lux
Bill Rod
 - 9 Shirley Cupic
 - 12 David Sather
 - 14 Ruth Schei
Sunny Moyer
 - 17 *Emmie Livingston*
 - 21 Connie DiGregorio
 - 22 Gwen Dalseg
 - 24 Patti Vroman
Ralph Dalseg
 - 24 Joan Johnson
 - 25 Mike Brady
 - 28 *Elizabeth Hubbard*
 - 29 Ron Cabe
- *youth are italicized*

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Communion</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
3	Coni Moyer Char Tyler	Jordy Tyler	Ellyn Erickson	Khloe Markham
10	Cheri & Pedro Gonzales	Ashley Kombol	Pedro Gonzales	Makena Kombol
17	Patti Jones Debra Compton	Patti Jones	Connie DiGregorio	Mason Field
24	Mary Fuentes Jordy Tyler	Jordy Tyler	Allan Camp	Torunn Stangeland

Out To Dinner Group

Tuesday, November 5th
Kyoto Japanese Steakhouse,
Everett
Bus Leaves Peace at 5:15 pm

Out To Lunch Bunch

Thursday, November 14th
Mexico Café, Mount Vernon
Bus departure time to be
determined.

Women's Group Gatherings

- Lydia Circle Bible Study: November 4th @ 5:30 pm
- Peace Lutheran Church Women: November 6th @ 11:30 am
- Naomi Circle Bible Study: November 13th @ 9:30 am
- Lutheran World Relief Quilting: November 21st @ 10:00 am



November 2024

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Pie Making for bazaar 9:00 am AA Noon	2 Bazaar 10-2
3 All Saints Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am Council budget mtg 11:15	4 AA 10 am Lydia Circle 5:30 pm	5 AA Noon Out to dinner group bus leaves at 5:15pm	6 Al-Anon 10 am Peace Lutheran Church Women 11:30 am	7	8 High School Girls Retreat Begins AA Noon	9 Men’s Breakfast 8 am
10 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10am	11 High School Girls Return AA 10 am	12 AA Noon	13 Naomi Circle 9:30 am Al-Anon 10 am	14 Out to Lunch Bunch	15 AA Noon	16 All Church Clean-up Day 9:00 am Bunco 5 pm
17 Confirmation Sunday Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am	18 AA 10 am 4-H Banquet 5:30 pm	19 AA Noon Council Meeting 6:30 pm	20 Al-Anon 10 am	21 LWR Quilting 10-2 Witness Deadline Gathering Place 3:30 4-H 6:00	22 AA Noon	23 Men’s Breakfast 8 am
24 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am Congregational Mtg 11:15	25 AA 10 am	26 AA Noon Book Club 6 pm	27 Al-anon 10 am Thanksgiving Eve Noon Service Thanksgiving Dinner 5 pm	28 Thanksgiving Office Closed	29 AA Noon	30



Unwrapping Joy and Sharing Smiles

Community. This year on wish lists you'll find a personalized Christmas card, blanket, word search, crossword puzzle, or adult coloring book, and some no skid cozy socks. The sign up sheet will be in the Narthex on the table.

It's that time of year again to bless our neighbor residents at Josephine Caring

Community. This year on wish lists you'll find a personalized Christmas card, blanket, word search, crossword puzzle, or adult coloring book, and some no skid cozy socks. The sign up sheet will be in the Narthex on the table. On November 18th I will let the folks at Josephine know how many friends we will be shopping for and they will send us the gift tags with your assigned gift bundle identifying favorite colors, book choice, and names to make sure these packages are personal and meet the intended recipient's likes.

Thank you for contributing to this ministry year after year!





MARYSVILLE COLD WEATHER SHELTER



Open when temperatures are forecast to drop to **34°**



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
7215 51st Ave. NE Marysville, WA

Doors open at 7:00 p.m. ❄️ Doors close at 9:30 p.m.



CHECK IF THE SHELTER IS OPEN AND INFO ON ADDITIONAL SHELTERS IN SNOHOMISH ONLINE



www.bit.ly/snococold

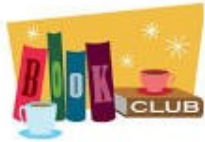
For more info. contact Nathan Ray: nathan@lincnw.org

MARYSVILLE COLD WEATHER SHELTER INFO
WWW.BIT.LY/SNOCOCOLD



THANK YOU!

Larry Bean, Spencer Fuentes, Simon Fuentes, Juan Martinez, and Jonathon have been hard at work all of October painting, sealing windows, replacing siding, and much more. Your hard work is appreciated. The building looks wonderful!



Meets Tuesday, November 26 at 6pm at the home of Robin Sather. We'd love to have you join us!

Our book for November is "The Fellowship of Puzzlemakers" by Samuel Burr.

"An extraordinary, gloriously uplifting novel about the power of friendship and the puzzling ties that bind us."

"Clayton Stumper might be in his twenties, but he dresses like your grandpa and fusses like your aunt. Abandoned at birth on the steps of the Fellowship of Puzzlemakers, he was raised by a group of excentric enigmatologists and now finds himself among the last survivors of a fading institution. When the esteemed crossword compiler and main maternal presence in Claton's life, Pippa Allsbrook, passes away, she bestows her final puzzle on him: a promise to reveal the mystery of his parentage and prepare him for life beyond the walls of the commune. So begins Clay's quest to uncover the secrets surrounding his birth -- secrets that will change Clay -- and the Fellowship -- forever."

The Fellowship of Puzzlemakers is pure joy, a story about love and family and what it means to find your people -- no matter what age you are.

We are also looking for a great Christmas story if you have one to recommend for our December meeting.



Rite of Confirmation:

Plan to join us on Sunday, November 17th as, Mason Field, Elizabeth Hubbard, Colbie Livingston, and Emmie Livingston affirm their baptism!



Please mark your calendars for Saturday, **November 16 at 9 AM** when we will be doing a deep cleaning of the inside of the church. Bring your cleaning supplies but of course we'll have some too! Lunch will be provided.

Contact Spencer Fuentes with questions.

SOCKTOBER

Share a pair to show you care!



Peace Delivered!!!

I am THRILLED to share with you that we collected **326** pairs of socks and **98** pairs of underwear.

LINC NW placed 31 bins throughout the community and our bin was one of the top collectors! (It wasn't a competition, but I love that we crushed it!) Our little corner of Silvana alone will serve 141 neighbors in need. WAY TO GO, TEAM! Alone we can't do everything, but when we pull together we sure can make a difference. The heart of Peace never ceases to amaze me.

Every little bit matters. Every pair of clean, warm, dry socks matter.

THANK YOU! -Mindy

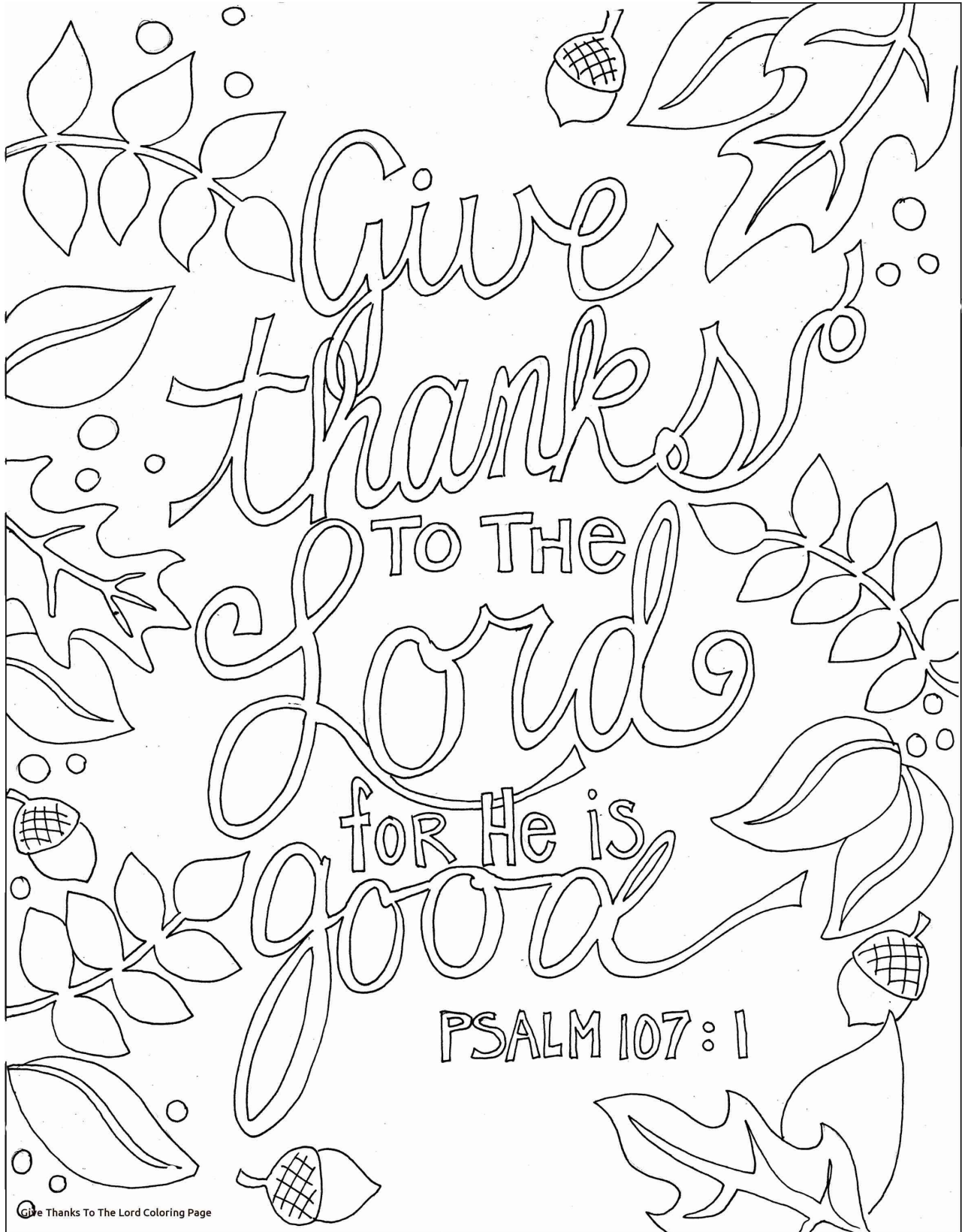
Would you mind?

If there are things that come up that you would like me to take care of, such as: announcements for the bulletin, calendar requests, questions about upcoming events, and it's not an emergency and doesn't need an immediate response, **please email the church office at: office@plsilvana.org**. I check this everyday, even when I'm not physically in the office. I have been receiving many, many text messages with administrative requests early in the morning, while I'm at my other office, and during family time. This causes me to stop what I'm doing, copy your text messages to an email, and email them to the office so that I have them when I'm at work and can address them. This is part of the challenge of worshipping where you work and having a very full and busy life with family, community, and work commitments. Please help me to keep my church relationships separate from my church work. Please, call or text me for anything else, just not the office stuff!



I appreciate you all—Mindy

Happy Thanksgiving, Friends.



Give Thanks To The Lord Coloring Page

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!