

# Witness of Peace

# January 2025



## 2025 Neighbors Gathering

Your Church Council is excited to share an idea that emerged last summer when we spent some time in reflective conversation. We hope to work with you to offer several opportunities this year to gather with diverse groups throughout the Silvana area to engage in relationship-building conversations which might guide us into shared future projects.

On **Sunday January 26<sup>th</sup>** we will welcome Pastor Terry Kylo, of Paths To Understanding. PTU has been focused on sharing a vision of gathering folks together to help heal our many divisions. They call it *Let's Go Together*:

*We believe in the power of face-to-face relationships. Let's Go Together invites people of all cultures, faith traditions, ethnic identities and socioeconomic situations to work together for the common good. PTU provides a vision, preparation, and practical support for wisdom communities to build meaningful relationships with their neighbors.*  
([pathstounderstanding.org](http://pathstounderstanding.org)).

Pastor Terry will join us as guest preacher that day. He will also meet with us for a while following coffee hour to share his vision of building connections, highlight stories of some recent events and inspire us to pursue our own out-reach efforts.

I hope you can plan to stay for a bit following coffee hour that day and get informed and inspired.

Here's to a new year of new connections!

*Pastor Annette*

## Youth, Family, and Community News



The thrill of Advent led us right into the joy of Christmas and now we get to celebrate Epiphany with a huge party on Saturday, January the 4th at 5:30 pm. Everyone is invited to come out for the fun. The night will begin with a potluck feast. Please bring one of your family's favorite dishes to share and maybe a little note as to why it's a favorite. We will have a quick craft and then a white elephant gift exchange. Please bring a gift valued at \$7 dollars or less, the gift should be appropriate for all ages. One more thing.... baby Jesus will be making an appearance, and you just might be one of the lucky ones who gets to help plan the next party.

The first Out to Dinner night of the year will be at the Dragon Palace in Stanwood on Tuesday the 7th. We will meet at the restaurant at 6pm, where we will have a delicious meal and even better conversation. Please reach out to me if you can join us for a fun night out.

The Out to Lunch Bunch will be heading north to the train wreck on Thursday the 23rd for a highly recommended lunch. The bus will leave Peace at 10:45. If you haven't heard the OTLB group has also started looking for the best Donut place in western Washington. If you want to join the hunt for the best donut in Washington, get on the bus and come have some fun.

This month PLCW will be gathering on the second Wednesday of January due to the holiday. Lunch will be served at 11:30 followed by a presentation from Al and Judy about their recent trip. The new 2025 women's book will be out in the first week of January. The book contains the serving groups and all the instructions for quilts and kits. If you would like to help serve after church or join a bible study, please reach out to one of the board members.

Another opportunity to gather for fun and fellowship is the ever-popular BUNCO night! Please join us on January 18th at 5pm. Bring a snack to share and get ready to yell BUNCO!

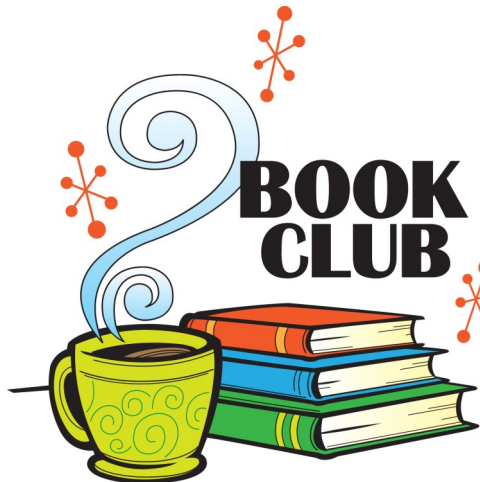
Mission of the Month- This January we recognize the Gathering place in Stanwood. Peace is one of the founding churches of the Gathering Place and we have served numerous meals over the last several years. Many members of Peace have helped create tasty meals and share the word of God with several people. The Gathering place is more than just a place to get a warm meal, it's a place of community. When the Gathering Place was first conceived, the youth leaders wanted a space where people could gather and share in a safe environment. Throughout the years we've built friendships and have been able to help folks come together. God is calling us to serve the community, and we ask that you all help us to be able to continue to serve.

*Mary J Fuentes*

## Stillaguamish Cluster News:

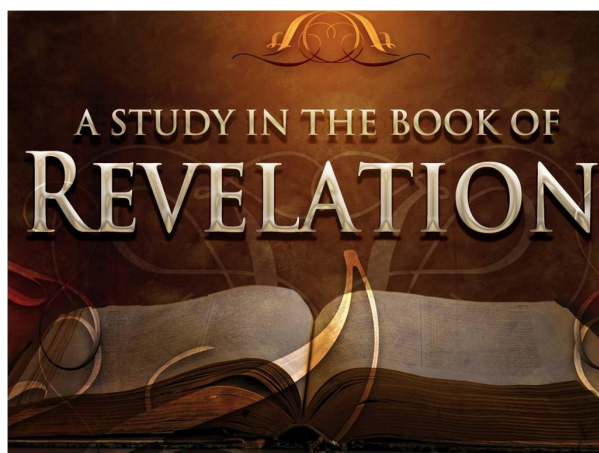
### *Loving and Serving our Neighbors STRONGER TOGETHER*

We will have more next month – we continue to meet with the coaches and are looking at ways our congregations can work together in small ways to get to know each other and do more for our neighbors without adding yet another event to everyone's schedule. Our last meeting was so darned exciting I know I was flying high afterwards. Maybe it was just the sugar in the treats. -Karen Dicken



Book Club is meeting January 28 at 6pm at the home of Robin Sather. We will be reading "The Secret War of Julia Child" by Diana Chambers. We would love to have more folks pick up a copy and join in the discussion! Please see Mary Fuentes or Karen Dicken for more info!

*Single, 6 foot 2, and thirty years old, Julia McWilliams took a job working for America's first espionage agency, years before cooking or Parish entered the picture. The Secret War of Julia Child traces Julia's transformation from ambitious Pasadena blue blood to Washington, DC file clerk, to head of General "Wild Bill" Donovan's secret File Registry as part of the Office of Strategic Services. The wartime journey takes her to South Asia's remote front lines of then-Ceylon, India, and China, where she finds purpose, adventure, self-knowledge – and love with mapmaker Paul Child. The spotlight has rarely shone on this fascinating period of time in the life of ("I'm not a spy") Julia Child, and this lyrical story allows us to explore the unlikely world of a woman in a World War II spy station who has no idea of the impact she'll eventually impart.*



Curious about the book of Revelation? The adult education hour meets each Sunday at 9:00 am and will be taking a dive into this mysterious book with a discussion led by Pastor Annette. Now is a great time to join the class!



### From the Bishop:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might... Isaiah 6:3

Do you hear a song, or maybe a multitude of songs, when you read the words above? We know these words in hymnody – in traditional songs, in praise songs, as part of the Eucharistic liturgy, and more. These words are deep in the bones of the Church. Of course, like so many lyrics that we sing in church, they weren't created out of thin air. We first hear these words from seraphs during the strange and grand vision that Isaiah had when he entered the holiest of holy places in the Temple – the place that housed the ark of God, the place revered as God's earthly throne, the place where God was simultaneously present in the heavenly realm and within the fabric of the world. We hear these words in Isaiah's call story in Isaiah 6:1-8. (Go ahead ... read the Isaiah story now before reading the rest of this article.)

As Isaiah enters into the Holy of Holies, God grants Isaiah a glimpse into God's celestial throne room. God is so magnificent and big that the hem of God's robe fills the temple. God is attended by fierce and fiery creatures – scary flying snakes with six wings called seraphim. These were not the cute cherubs holding flutes and harps. These were sea serpent-sized creatures singing (shrieking, screaming) in loud, ear-piercing voices, “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty...”

Isaiah is overcome. He falls on his knees and cries, “Woe is me!” Isaiah knows, in that moment, who the Creator of the universe is and what this Creator can do. Isaiah knows he could be destroyed in the flash of a second.

It needs to be said, of course, that Isaiah's vision didn't happen in a vacuum. Isaiah entered the holy of holies when the Assyrians were attacking and the people of Jerusalem were trying to barricade themselves against this most formidable army. Outside of the Temple it was a dark and scary time. For Isaiah, and the rest of the Judeans, the world felt frightening and terrifying and out-of-control.

Do you know this feeling? This feeling of being so small and powerless in a world that seems so big and overwhelming. This feeling of the world being topsy turvy and unpredictable. This feeling of not knowing what to do next because everything seems like too much to bear.

For Isaiah, the next thing that happens in his vision is that a huge seraph comes at him with a piece of burning coal and presses it to his lips. The pain must have been brutal. But when the coal touches Isaiah's lips, things are clarified for him – he is cleansed and he is prepared for what is coming next and he instantly pledges to God, “Here I am. Send me.” And Isaiah becomes God's prophet. (If only things could be made this clear for all of us.)

In any case, what do we do with this strange and beautiful story? What does Isaiah's call story mean for us today? Please know that I cannot wrap this story up in a tidy bow – nor do I want to – because this isn't how life works. (Also, Isaiah couldn't either ... as much as Isaiah pledged to follow God, if you read Isaiah 6:9-11 you'll hear Isaiah crying out, “How long, O Lord?”). But this is where I seize hope.

Above all things, God is God and we are not. God is wholly other. We cannot know the mind of God. And yet, in this extraordinary story, there are glimpses beyond majesty and awe. God is fearful to behold and God holds us as a mother holds a child to her breast. The touch of God burns and yet it is with life-giving fire. God towers above and God embraces us in inexplicable and earth-shattering tenderness and forgiveness. The One who creates all things also lives in the dirt and muck of life.

Dear Beloveds, may you always know and trust through all things: God is God. Almighty and Always. The One who shepherds you in life also tenderly holds you into death and beyond. The One who created the universe is as close as your next breath. For God gave you life, named you, and holds you near. Forever. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Amen. +Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee | [bishop@lutheransnw.org](mailto:bishop@lutheransnw.org)






Each Sunday in January following worship, our very own Simon Fuentes will be taking pictures of us for a new photo directory. Come camera-ready and Simon will happily capture your best side.

Thank you, Simon for your help with this project!


### **Together We Rejoice In Praise And Thanksgiving!**



Our beloved sister and brother in Christ, Sue and Larry Sather have generously gifted us \$20,000.00. This bequest means a great deal to us, not only for its tangible benefit but also as a reflection of their faith in our work and values. It is a privilege to honor their memory through the careful stewardship of this gift. We thank God for their years of faithful service with us and our greater community.

  
**♪♪ Happy Birthday**  
**To You ♪♪**

9	Jean Oien
11	Cheri Gonzales Dave Tripp
15	Karen Fuentes
19	Jordy Tyler
20	Tammy Chase
23	<b>Madelynn Wood</b> <b>Yulissa Martinez</b>
27	Darlene McClay Allyson Martinez <b>Carson Wood</b>
28	Jennifer Corser



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


<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Communion</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
5	Coni M. & Karen F.	Simon Fuentes	Spencer Fuentes	Phoebe Fuentes
12	Cheri & Pedro G.	Cheri Gonzales	Pedro Gonzales	Colbie Livingston
19	Lori P. & Debra C.	Patti Jones	Connie DiGregorio	Emmie Livingston
26	Karen & Dennis D.	Connie DiGregorio	Karen Dicken	Makena Kombol

**Out To Dinner Group**  
  
 Tuesday, January 7th  
 Dragon Palace in Stanwood  
 Meet at 6:00 pm

**Out To Lunch Bunch**  
  
 Thursday, January 23rd  
 Trainwreck in Burlington  
 Bus Leaves Peace at 10:45 am

**Women's Group Gatherings**

Lydia Circle Bible Study: January 6th @ 5:30 pm  
 Peace Lutheran Church Women: January 8th @ 11:30 am  
 Naomi Circle Bible Study: January 15th @ 9:30 am  
 Lutheran World Relief Quilting: January 22nd @ 10 am



# January 2025

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<b>1</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> AA Noon	<b>4</b> Epiphany Party 5:30 pm
<b>5</b> Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am  Directory Photos	<b>6</b> AA 10 am Lydia Circle 5:30 pm	<b>7</b> AA Noon  Out to Dinner Group 6 pm	<b>8</b> Al-Anon 10 am  PLCW 11:30	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> AA Noon	<b>11</b> Men’s Breakfast 8 am
<b>12</b> Sunday School 9 am Worship 10am  Directory Photos	<b>13</b> AA 10 am  4-H 6:30 pm	<b>14</b> AA Noon  Council 6:00 pm	<b>15</b> Naomi 9:30  Al-Anon 10 am	<b>16</b>  4-H 6:00 pm	<b>17</b> AA Noon	<b>18</b> BUNCO 5:00 pm
<b>19</b> Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am  Directory Photos	<b>20</b> AA 10 am	<b>21</b> AA Noon  Council	<b>22</b> Al-Anon 10 am Quilting 10 am <b>Witness Deadline</b>	<b>23</b>  Out to lunch Bus leaves Peace at 10:45 am	<b>24</b> AA Noon	<b>25</b> Men’s Breakfast 8 am
<b>26</b> Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am Directory Photos Special Guest: Terry Kylo	<b>27</b> AA 10 am	<b>28</b> AA Noon  Book Club 6 pm	<b>29</b> Al-Anon 10 am	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> AA Noon	

## Food Bank Item of the Month:

**Healthy breakfast cereals.**

**Please bring your items and place them in the shopping cart in the narthex. Thank you for loving our neighbors!**



A message received in the church office for the congregation:

This message is from Irene L. Anderson. I have not been to services for such a long time. Now it will be even longer. I am for now living in Bow, WA as a care companion to a dear family friend for the duration of his life. He is 97 and desires to live to 99. Only the Lord knows. We attend Edison Lutheran Church which is located to the west of his farm, just across the farm fields to the north is my older brother's home. So you can say I AM HOME. He has known me since I was 6 years old. My Daddy worked the farm for about 5 years. I have never been so happy in all my life. I am back home, my pain level is down to a 2-3 level and he is a Christian gentleman.

Sincerely,  
Irene L. Anderson.

## 2025 Missions of the Month

**Jan.: Gathering Place**

**Feb.: Local and Global Food**

**March: Salt of the Earth**

**April: Esther's Place**

**May: Lutherwood**

**June: Casino Road Kids Ministries**

**July: SnoCo Search and Rescue**

**Aug.: Josephine**

**Sept.: The Caring Place**

**Oct: Local Disaster Relief**

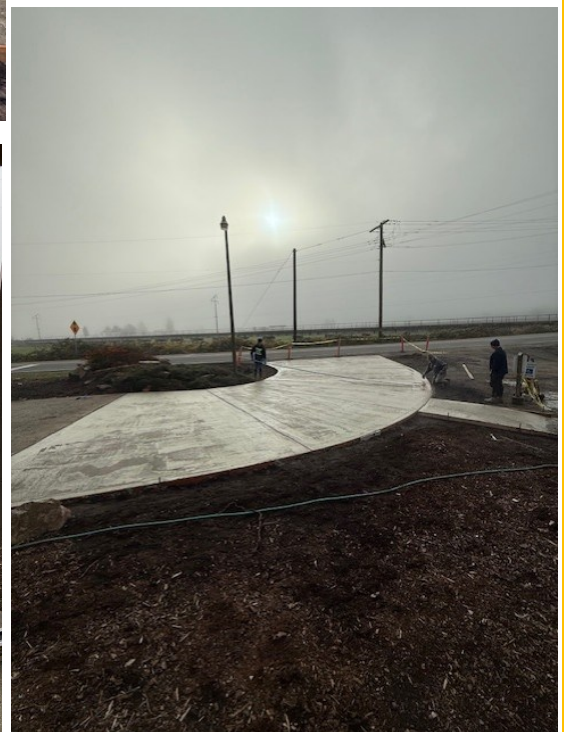
**Nov.: Faith Family Village**

**Dec.: Everett Gospel Mission**



# Driveway Revamp!

Spencer Fuentes, Simon Fuentes, and Juan Martinez ripped up some of the old driveway, then cut out root that had caused the cement to buckle. After that they built the forms for the new cement. The next day Spencer, Simon, Juan, Everett Fuentes, Devin Jones, David Sather, and Larry Bean helped pour the new cement. Big thanks to this dedicated crew for all of their hard work and to Ken Kristofferson and Stanwood Redi-Mix for the generous donation of all the cement.



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