

# Witness of Peace

# February 2025

As I write this reflection for our newsletter, the media is abuzz with both admiration and disgust over a recently preached sermon by The Right Rev Mariann Edgar Budde, who is the Episcopal bishop of Washington. This mixed reaction, not surprisingly, was split along partisan lines.

Instead of hot button soundbites, I wanted to hear her entire sermon, which I found available online. (Ask me if you want a copy.) Her call to unity was powerful and comprehensive- and challenging to each and every one of us.

These words of lament particularly struck me: *The culture of contempt that has become normalized in our country threatens to destroy us.*

If we are honest with ourselves, we know that we have all been caught in this life-threatening net of contempt. It is so easy to engage in the snarky comments, the degrading humor, the name calling, the superiority and arrogance. Bishop Budde was not speaking to a select few- she nailed us all.

After lifting up the dignity of all people, and the core value of honesty, she calls us to humility. Let us listen:

*A third foundation for unity is humility, which we all need, because we are all fallible human beings. We make mistakes. We say and do things that we regret. We have our blind spots and biases, and we are perhaps the most dangerous to ourselves and others when we are persuaded, without a doubt, that we are absolutely right and someone else is absolutely wrong. Because then we are just a few steps away from labeling ourselves as the good people, versus the bad people.*

*The truth is that we are all people, capable of both good and bad. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn astutely observed that “The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties, but right through every human heart and through all human hearts.” The more we realize this, the more room we have within ourselves for humility, and openness to one another across our differences, because in fact, we are more like one another than we realize, and we need each other.*

I do not think that I am the only one who needs reminding of the truth that we are not divided into good people and bad people. We are *all* struggling with living the holy values of love, compassion, respect, generosity and inclusion. We are *all* called to repentance and renewal.

Lord, have mercy.

*Pastor Annette*



## Youth, Family, and Community News

It is already the second month of 2025, how is this even possible? I keep thinking it's 1988 and gas prices are \$.88 and the Seoul Olympics will be happening this summer. Time moves along and with it, new adventures and the opportunity to share God's love with many new people. In what way are you sharing love and peace and how can you envision yourself in 2025 being God's hands? Let us all make this new year about sharing the spirit and joy of God with everyone we meet!

If you want to play some bingo at the Viking Hall, Dance Group NW will be hosting on Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup>. The games will start at 5pm, with doors opening at 4:15 for dinner.

What did you have for dinner last night? If you were able to answer that question with a hot meal, then you are very lucky! In a country where food should be available to all, yet so many are going without, ask yourself – *Why is anyone going hungry in 2025?*



This year the youth, along with some adults, will be fasting on Super Bowl weekend to raise awareness about hunger in the community, state, country, and world. This is open to all in 6<sup>th</sup> grade through high school. **We will start our fast together Friday the 7th and break it with breakfast early Sunday morning. Come join us as we work to clean up Silvana and raise awareness about hunger.** As this moment I'm not sure who will be playing in the big game, but I do know that the youth of Peace will be playing in the bigger game, the game of being God's hands!

**February's Community Night will be Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5pm.** Come out and share an appetizer while we craft and play a couple games. This is always a fun night and a way to get to know the folks of peace. These gatherings are growing! Come and see, ALL are welcome!

**Go Green Tip**-minimize single-use plastics, compost food scraps, and choose products with minimal packaging.

Once again, the Guatemala team will be hosting a night out. **The Heart of Guatemala** dinner will be **Saturday February 15<sup>th</sup>** at Peace. The doors will open at **5 pm** with hor d'oeuvres followed by dinner and entertainment. **All are welcome to come out and support the team's goal of installing stoves, water filters, and building a school.** If you can, please sign up with Phoebe or Torunn. The night will be by donation, so please give what you're able to. We look forward to serving you for a delicious dinner followed by a dessert buffet.

### **HOLDEN VILLAGE MAY YOUTH WEEKENDS**

May 23-25 we will be taking youth 8th grade through High School up to the village.

"A Communion of Saints in All Places" is the theme and I am super excited for this fun and enlightening weekend. Registration opens Tuesday February 4<sup>th</sup> and I hope we can fill the bus! Please sign up with me ASAP.

*Mary J Fuentes*



**On January 14, 2025 the lay leaders of the Stillaguamish Cluster met with four pastors of the cluster with the purpose of providing insight as to our purpose and vision. We feel one of the ways to do this is to be more consistent with information of what our partner churches are doing. There are many opportunities for us to individually meet, meet new people, get together or become involved in different activities rather than wait for our Annual Organized Worship Gathering. Remember, we are **STRONGER TOGETHER**.**

**FREEBORN – Stanwood** 2025 marks the year Freeborn will be celebrating their 125 anniversary serving the local community. Look for further information on how our cluster churches can help and participate.

**PEACE LUTHERAN – Silvana** Men’s Breakfast Study meets on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month except for July and August. They prepare a home-cooked meal in the church kitchen and then enjoy their meal and fellowship. Their study follows the Gospel lesson for the next Sunday’s service. There are often men from many local congregations that attend.

**CAMANO LUTHERAN – Camano Island** February 2, 2025 Esprit Joyeux at 2:00 pm Come enjoy a concert of clever contemporary works written for flute, oboe, English horn & piano. An ensemble of local community members, including member of CLC. Location: St Aidan’s Episcopal Church 1318 State Highway 532 Camano Island, WA. Free will offering to support the Stanwood-Camano Area Foundation

Bereavement Support group for anyone grieving loss of any kind. “We come from our grief experience as deeper persons because we have been down in the depths of despair and know what it’s like. We come out of it stronger for we have had to learn how to use our spiritual muscles to climb the rugged mountain trails.” Come join us on the third Monday of each month at 2pm at the Leque residence 718 State Highway 532. Questions? Call Linda at (907) 500-8706. All are welcome!

Samplings with Luther – 7:00 pm the second and fourth Monday of every month. Men and women meet at Pub 282 to discuss various issues & topics relevant to day-to-day life.

**OUR SAVIOUR’S – Arlington** partners with North Snohomish County Outreach (NSCO) for The Laundry Project. It allows each participant to wash and dry one large load of laundry at nocost. Access to other social services are also available at each location since the NSCO is now part of the Volunteers of America.

SKY (Snohomish-King Youth) group gathering at Our Saviour’s on **February 2, 2025** at 6:00 pm. OSLC will provide food and beverage.

**ALL CLUSTER YOUTH (grade 6-12) ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.** The SKY group meets the first Sunday of the month and rotates around various church locations. Please contact Pastor John Schrann so he has an accurate head count for food!



### From the Bishop:

Dear Beloveds,

One of my most vivid childhood memories is when my home congregation welcomed a Vietnamese family. As a young child, I remember helping prepare the home that the family would live in, going grocery shopping with my mom for food to fill the pantry, giving our couch to them, helping with the “world dinner” that would raise money for this endeavor, and, most of all, anticipating the arrival of these new people – Loung and Young and Quin. I remember when this little family stood in the back of the sanctuary and everyone stood and clapped and embraced this family.

As you might know, I grew up in a little town in eastern Washington. This town was conservative and mostly voted Republican (although my grandmother was mayor and she was a Democrat). I believe that my hometown church, St. Paul Lutheran Church, was also more conservative in nature. I am grateful for the values taught to me by my siblings in Christ there. The love and care that I received and learned formed who I am today. These people embraced the challenge and gift of welcoming a family from a different continent, a different religion, a different language, a different culture, a different country, and so much more to become part of our community. According to my parents, there was no partisan debate about accepting a Vietnamese family with open arms.

Today, when I listen to political rhetoric or podcasts or the news, I wonder when and why the topic of immigration has become so fraught. While I understand that there are complexities and nuances of immigration and I understand the need to make sure that there is control and order at the U.S. border, I don’t understand why there is the need to vilify the vast majority of immigrants who are, quite simply, desperate for safety, work, and good government.

I know the arguments: Yes, sometimes people come into this country through the wrong avenues. Yes, sometimes people stay without documentation. Yes, sometimes crime happens by people who are in this country illegally. Yes, sometimes resources are used for people who are not citizens. Yes, there are laws in this country and people should follow the laws.

But let me push back a little bit. There is overwhelming statistical analysis that show immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than U.S. citizens. We know through our own experiences that immigrants will work hard at whatever job they find – as I have been told by one Mexican immigrant, “Mexicans will do anything and we’ll work harder and longer than anyone else.” We know people who were brought to this country as children and know no other country. We know that there are some laws that are simply unjust made to target people who are already desperate – simply because of the color of their skin or their birth country.

As people of faith, we are called to reflect God’s vision towards a more just and reconciled world. As people of faith, we are called to follow Jesus’ example towards loving and caring for all people – especially those that have been marginalized. As people of faith, when we are grappling with hard things, we are called to turn to God and scripture for wisdom and knowledge. In view of welcoming the stranger from other lands, here are a few passages:

Genesis 23:4, Deuteronomy 10:19, Leviticus 19:34, Deuteronomy 27:19, 1 Chronicles 16:19-22, Job 29:15-17, Psalm 146:9, Jeremiah 7:5-7, Ezekiel 47:22, Zechariah 7:9-10, Matthew 5:43-44, Matthew 25:35, Matthew 25:40, Luke 10:27, Acts 10:34, Romans 12:13, Romans 13:8, Romans 13:10, Colossians 3:11, Hebrews 13:1-3, 3 John 1:5, Revelation 21:3, and there are many more not named.

These scriptures are about welcoming the foreigner, the outsider, embracing those who are in need, loving God by loving neighbor. If someone wants biblical authority, scripture makes it pretty clear. We are to welcome and embrace those who come from other places. We are to love our near and far neighbors as God loves us.

I am writing this article one week before the new administration begins. Truly, I am deeply concerned about the millions of people who will be affected and harmed by presidential action and legislative policies that have been promised by the incoming president.

I encourage you to learn more about how to support and welcome these new neighbors in need:

ELCA AAMPARO (<https://www.elca.org/our-work/publicly-engaged-church/ammparo>)

Faith Action Network (<https://fanwa.org/>)


Lutheran Community Services Northwest – Refugees Northwest  
(<https://lcsnw.org/program/refugees-northwest-2/>)

Global Refuge (<https://www.globalrefuge.org/blog/resources/congregational-resources/>)

Watch for more information from the Synod as we work and move and join together in loving God by loving the most vulnerable.

Please, I implore you, love and welcome and embrace your neighbor as God embraces each one of us.

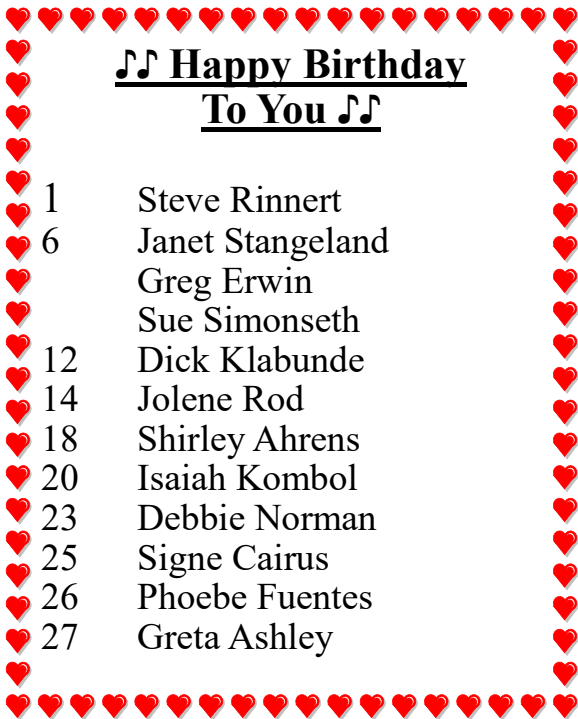
+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee | [bishop@lutheransnw.org](mailto:bishop@lutheransnw.org)



## Bishop's Election 2025:

This year at Synod Assembly (May 16-17) we will be electing a new bishop. The nomination period is open from January 15-February 16. Any member of a congregation in the NW Washington Synod may nominate one rostered minister of Word and Sacrament in good standing in the ELCA, including our current bishop who is eligible for a second term. For more information:

[www.lutheransnw.org/bishop-call-process](http://www.lutheransnw.org/bishop-call-process)


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

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

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Communion</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
2	Jordy T. & Char T.	Jordy Tyler	Simon Fuentes	Phoebe
9	Mary F. & Larry B.	Stephanie Bean	Janeen Smith	Emmie
16	Kris R. & Linda L.	Simon Fuentes	Al Camp	Khloe
23	Debra C. & Patti J.	Patti Jones	Wayne Erickson	Torunn

**Out To Dinner Group**  
  
 February 4th  
 Amigos in Stanwood  
 Meet at 6:00 pm  
*Please let Mary know ASAP if you plan to attend!*

**Out To Lunch Bunch**  
  
 February 20th  
 Trainwreck in Burlington  
 Bus Leaves Peace at 10:45 am  
*Sign up with Mary if you plan to attend!*

**Women's Group Gatherings**

Lydia Circle Bible Study: February 3 @ 5:30 pm  
 Peace Lutheran Church Women: February 5th @ 11:30 am  
 Naomi Circle Bible Study: February 12th @ 9:30 am  
 Lutheran World Relief Quilting: February 26th @ 10:00 am



# February 2025

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

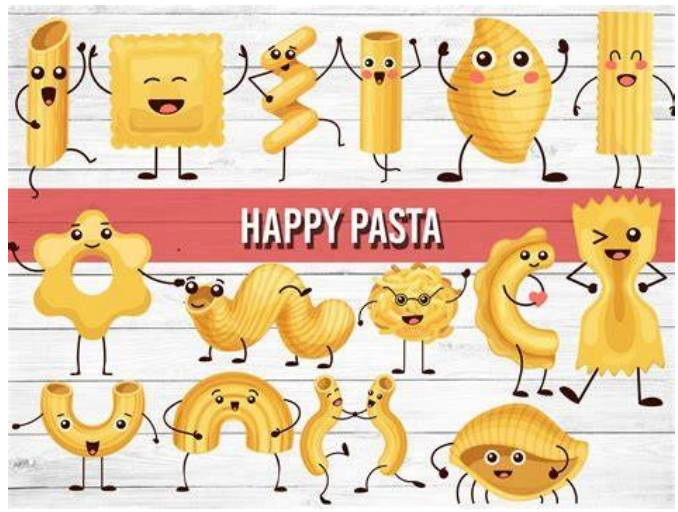
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> <b>Sunday School</b> <b>9 am</b> <b>Worship 10 am</b> Viking Hall Bingo 4:15 Dinner 5:00 Games	<b>3</b> AA 10 am Lydia Circle 5:30 pm	<b>4</b> AA Noon Out to Dinner Group 6 pm	<b>5</b> Al-Anon 10 am PLCW 11:30	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> AA Noon Hunger Strike Begins	<b>8</b> Men’s Breakfast 8 am Hunger Strike
<b>9</b> Hunger Strike Ends <b>Sunday School</b> <b>9 am</b> <b>Worship 10am</b>	<b>10</b> AA 10 am 4-H 6:30 pm	<b>11</b> AA Noon	<b>12</b> Naomi 9:30 Al-Anon 10 am	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> AA Noon	<b>15</b> <b>Heart of                      Guatemala                      Fundraiser                      Dinner</b> <b>5:00 pm</b>
<b>16</b> <b>Sunday School</b> <b>9 am</b> <b>Worship 10 am</b>	<b>17</b> AA 10 am 4H 5:00 pm	<b>18</b> AA Noon Council 6:00pm	<b>19</b> Al-Anon 10 am <b>Witness                      Deadline</b>	<b>20</b> Out to Lunch. Bus Leaves 10:45 4-H 6:00	<b>21</b> AA Noon	<b>22</b> Men’s Breakfast 8 am <b>Community                      Game Night</b> <b>5 pm</b>
<b>23</b> <b>Sunday School</b> <b>9 am</b> <b>Worship 10 am</b> <b>Congregational                      Meeting                      Following                      Worship</b>	<b>24</b> AA 10 am	<b>25</b> AA Noon Book Club 6 pm	<b>26</b> Al-Anon 10 am Quilting 10:00	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> AA Noon	

**Food Bank Item  
of the Month:**

PASTA, PASTA,  
PASTA!

Please, no  
spaghetti.

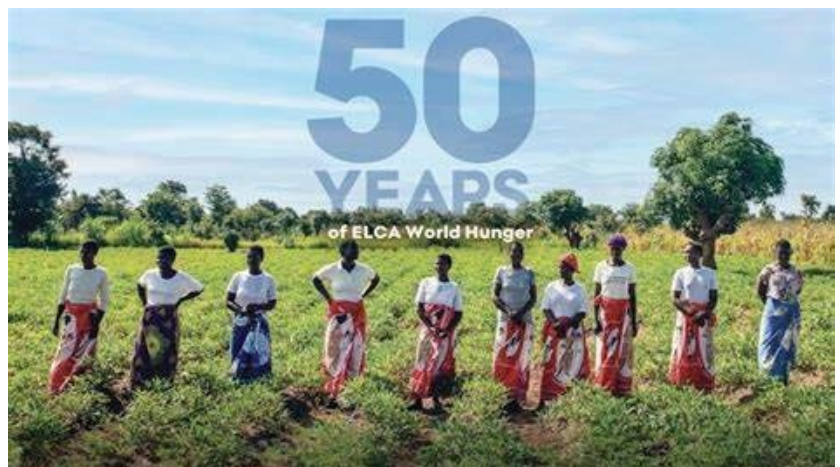
Let's get some  
variety!



**February Mission Of The Month:**

The ELCA Hunger Appeal  
will be highlighted in  
February.

Carol and Bob Wall serve as  
co-chairs of the Northwest  
Washington Synod Hunger  
Team and will share updates  
on this exciting ministry of  
the ELCA.



Watch for more info to follow!

-Carol Wall

**SAVE THE DATE**

*NEIGHBORS GATHERING-*

*a Silvana Community Dinner hosted by Peace*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 22**



Huge thanks to all that met with Simon in January to get your photo taken for the new directory. He will be available one more time on Feb. 2nd after church. If you can't make that day and would like to be included, please call or text Simon to make an appointment with him.

Thank you, Simon for taking on this big project. Your church family appreciates all that you do around here!



**Sunday,  
February  
23rd  
following  
worship.**



**Peace Lutheran Church is seeking a new Office Assistant. Here are the key details about the position:**

**16-20 hours a week.** Posted office hours of Tuesday-Friday 10:00-2:00, plus four hours flex time. Specific office hours may be negotiable. Total of 80 hours a month.

**Required skills:** Proficiency in Microsoft office, demonstrated organizational and administrative competency, hospitable presence to both members and visitors, good verbal and written communication skills, desire to support the ministry of the congregation.

**Compensation:** Starting pay of \$20.50 an hour, plus \$125 monthly contribution to private health insurance.

For more detailed job description or to apply please send cover letter and resume to Peace Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 100, Silvana, WA 98287, Attn: Job Search or by email to Pastor Annette Andrews-Lux, [pastor@plsilvana.org](mailto:pastor@plsilvana.org)

# LOVE PERIOD.

Well, friends. This is it! My last duty in the office here at Peace is to publish your February Witness. Making the newsletter has been one of my favorite parts of the job and was the piece I was most nervous about when I first started! Before I go, I wanted to share something with you that happened a couple of weeks ago

and perhaps a little reminder to turn off the noise and get back to basics. **Love, period.**

The morning of January 18th, a wild little boy that many of you love, walked into the room asking for the 95th time if it was time to go to bunco yet. The news was on the TV in the background, I wasn't watching or even paying attention to it, I didn't notice that it was on. Our future President came on the screen and the 5 year old child asks, "Is that Trumpet?" I chuckled and said, "Close, his name is Trump." He went back to talking about bunco. A couple of moments later he said, "Is he the prisoner?" I let him know that he will be our new president on Monday and explained the difference between the words prisoner and president.

As a Native American child who has drummed in circles for tribal Elders and has a 5 year old understanding of boarding schools and genocide and his own complicated generational/cultural trauma, obviously at his age he is unable to unwind all of the complexities of current events blasting from the television and what he has heard from the Elders at the tribal gatherings. I'm not even sure at my age that I can unwind all of it, actually.

Then, he walked out of the room and down the hallway and out of the tv came the word-*White House*. He turned around and ran back and gasped, "Mommy, is the white house where the white man lives? Is Trumpet the white man that is going to take the brown people to the boarding schools?" Folks, when I tell you that I was frozen and without words, which as most of you know, is very unlike me, I did not know what to do. I picked him up, hugged him, and assured him that he is safe. I have not turned on the news since. **Love, period.**

The days following January 20th have been hard. It's hard to turn it off. Even if you're able to unplug and disengage, it's coming out in interactions with beloved friends and family in sharpness of tone, transference of anxiety, and overall disinterest in participating in anything productive, no matter the side you're on. We **MUST** be careful. Our young people are watching and listening to EVERYTHING we say, do, and consume. Even if we aren't paying attention, like the tv noise in the background, they are listening.

The definition of publicity is this: *The activity of making certain that someone or something attracts a lot of interest or attention from many people or the attention received as a result of this activity.*

As followers of Jesus, lets publicize **LOVE**. Let's radically **love one another**. Yes, even \*them\*. Whoever \*those people\* are to you. We are called to **love our neighbors, period**. Not JUST the ones we deem worthy.



Guess what, friends-it's not up to us who deserves what and how much. However, it IS up to us to show up, do the best we can with what we have, share our resources, call out wrongdoing against another, and if you happen to be the offending party, make amends.

Let's turn off the tv, take the social media apps off the phone, unfollow or snooze the news media for 30 days and see how we feel. It's February, lets focus on - **Love, period.**

At my new job there's a man that comes in at the same time each morning and stays all day. The other day he was sitting alone in the main hall singing a familiar hymn. As I walked through I joined in and sang a few words. He looked up and smiled and said, "Mindy! Are you a Christian?" I smiled back and nodded. He told me that he knew there was something about me, I have a glow and now he knows what it is. "It's your love of Jesus, Mindy!" This kicked off a wonderful conversation about.... You guessed it, *love*.

Friends, as followers of Christ, all of us have that "glow" that the man called out. Join me in looking up, making eye contact with the stranger, and radically publicizing *LOVE*.

It has been my pleasure to serve at Peace in this area of ministry.

*Love,*

*Mindy*



**Peace Lutheran Church**  
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**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!