

# Witness of Peace

# March 2025

As we enter into the season of Lent, we find ourselves as a nation and as a church in tumultuous times. Many of us struggle with feelings of anger, fear, anxiety and uncertainty of where to place our trust. There are many bold, brave voices that are calling us to reassert a commitment to our democracy. I encourage you to seek them out. But as disciples of Jesus, we must also be seeking out the bold, brave voices that are calling us to reassert our commitment to following Jesus.

One of the resources that I am turning to in these days is a bold, brave voice that I have admired for several decades: Rev. Jim Wallis, who for many years led the Sojourners movement in Washington, DC and who continues to serve the church as writer, preacher, evangelical pastor and public advocate for justice. I am reading his book: *Christ in Crisis: Why We Need to Reclaim Jesus*.

In one of his reflections, he pointed out that one of the most radical statements in the Bible is found near the very beginning, in the story of Creation: *So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*

To declare that each and every human being is made in the image of God is to disallow any kind of devaluing or demeaning of another person based on differences of race or creed or gender or wealth or abilities or nationality. As children of God, we do not get to “other” anyone.

This outcry that we are hearing around us about the supposed “evils of DEI” is actually a theological heresy. To speak out against the values of diversity, equity and inclusion is nothing less than a refusal to believe that ALL people are created in the Divine image. God’s creation celebrates diversity. The prophets of God cried out for equity. Jesus preached a kingdom in which all were welcomed.

As Jim Wallis reminds us, “It all goes back to who we believe is made in the image of God.”

Amen.

*Pastor Annette*



## Youth, Family, and Community News

### Mission and Ministry

Thank you to all who have continued to support the team as we aim for the goal of building a school on the next trip to Guatemala. We also plan on building and installing Aler wood cook stoves and water filters. Thanks to matching funds we have deposited \$20,000 in our Hands for Peace Making account. Up next is the Easter breakfast, come out and have a delicious meal while supporting a great cause. Yes, we will be having a garage sale at the beginning of May, and we are accepting items now. You can drop them off in the classroom behind the sanctuary or call us and we can come pick up your items. Again, thank you!!!

**Fat Tuesday Celebration, March 4th 6pm Peace Lutheran Fellowship Hall.** Come out for a variety of pancakes and bacon. We have games planned and an entire evening of fun. We invite everyone to bring their favorite dessert to share with the masses!! I'm not sure what I will be making because I have so many favorite desserts, but I can guarantee that it will be tasty!

**This year Lent will begin on the 12th** and here at Peace we will begin the evening at 6pm with soup and bread. Each week will have a different focus during the dinner hour. The weeks will be different and give everyone time to share or just reflect and possibly even craft. I'm excited for us to experience lent together and possibly come away with a new outlook.

**Out to Dinner night** has been bumped out by a week, we will be heading back to a favorite on Tuesday the 11th. We will be leaving Peace at 5:20 and heading to Everett to the Heritage African restaurant. Please join us for a fun evening out, sign up with Mary, so she can make reservations.

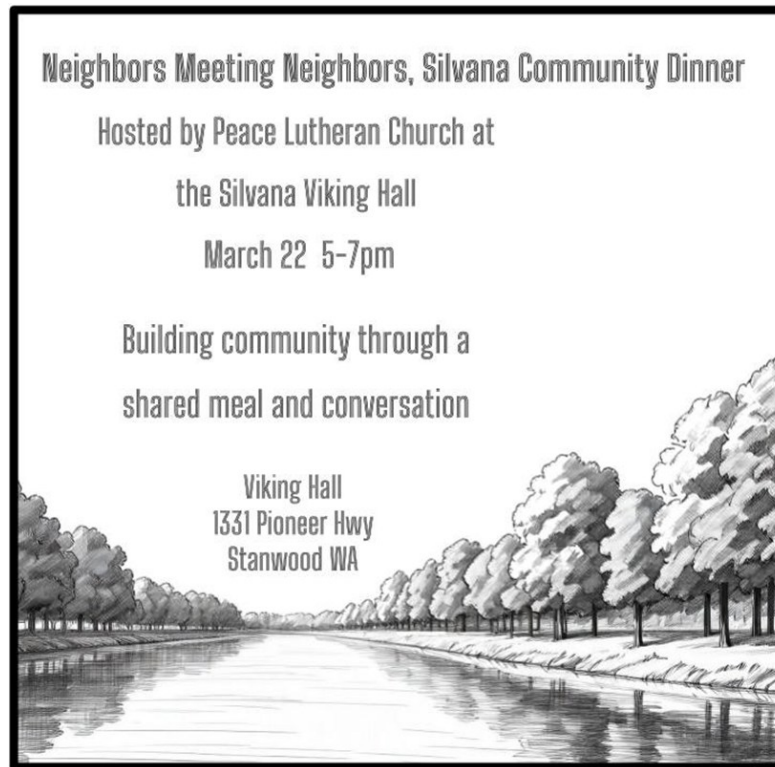
**Out to Lunch Bunch** will be heading out on Thursday March 27th for a great lunch at Shawn O'Donnell's. Yes, it's a little after St Patrick's Day, but everyone enjoys Irish food anytime of the year. The bus will be leaving Peace at 10:30am, please sign up so I can make reservations.

**This month Family night is back with Bunko on Saturday the 29th.** Come out and get prepared to yell out BUNKO! Please bring an appetizer to share. We will have appetizers at 5 and then again during an intermission. Games will begin at 5:30 and end when the last BUNKO is yelled out.

**Go Green tip:** Question – Do you have a habit of going to get coffee or an iced drink before work or when your out and about? If you answer yes, then my next question is do you bring your own cup or do you use a single use plastic cup? Find your perfect cup and use that instead of plastic cup.

**Food Bank Item:** The bank is still in need of penne or rigatoni pasta and after school snacks.

*Mary J Fuentes*



In a time of great division, anxiety and anger, we want to be a public witness to building community and nurturing relationship. For this first gathering, we will focus on our immediate geographic neighbors here in Silvana.

We hope you will help us provide a warm welcome. Please sign up in the narthex or send Pastor Annette an email if you plan to attend. We will also be needing people to help with set up, hospitality, table discussion facilitation and clean up.

**Plan to join us!**



**Vacation Bible School  
July 8th, 9th, and 10th.**

(Yes, we've moved it out into July, this is due to so many key helpers being gone in June.)

We will once again be having it in the evening starting with dinner and ending with a campfire and s'mores. We have not yet decided on the materials we will be using but hope to have that decided soon. If you would like to join the team, please contact Mary Fuentes.



### From the Bishop:

Dr. Anna Lembke, a psychiatrist and an expert in addiction, states: “Rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide are going up in countries all over the world, and they're going up fastest in the richest nations of the world. ... We are now turning to [electronic] devices and to the Internet to meet our physical, emotional, sexual, educational, every need we have. We don't really need other people anymore. We can get those needs met from the internet. I think that's a very scary prospect because I think it means that we will become more and more isolated.” (“Digital Drugs Have Us Hooked. Dr. Anna Lembke Sees a Way Out,” *The Daily by The New York Times* podcast, 2/1/2025)

What Dr. Lembke is talking about is the dopamine hit that people receive while on their phones and other devices. More and more research is coming out that dopamine, the neurotransmitter that motivates us to do things we think will bring pleasure, is being activated by electronic media in the same way that junk food activates over-eating.

So why am I (a theologian, pastor, and bishop - but not a scientist) talking about this? Well, I think that the moving from human interaction to electronic interaction is of theological and pastoral concern. You see, at the same time that more and more research is telling us about the harm that is happening when we get “hits” of dopamine from electronic media, we are also hearing (and experiencing in our own lives and social networks) that loneliness and anxiety and stress are rising. In isolation, we might lose trust in others and in our institutions, experience a crumbling of empathy, be susceptible to disinformation, and build walls instead of bridges to another.

Now, before you say to me, “Do you know what is happening in this world?” Please hear me – I know. I know. There is a lot going on in our families, with people we care about, in the United States, and in the world as a whole. I, too, am feeling despair and disbelief. There are valid reasons for feeling anxiety and stress. And we might feel isolated and scared because of these circumstances.

But I implore you, please don't try to navigate all of the things you are experiencing alone – without anyone around you. Please don't always turn to your phone and doomscroll or neglect relationships or separate yourself. Instead, I encourage you to look for those spaces where you can physically connect with another person or people. Please find those places where you can authentically, truly be yourself – in your joy, in your sorrow, in your anxiety, and more.

I pray that one of these places is your church community. That you can pray and sing and learn and grow, that you can receive and grant forgiveness through Jesus, receive the sacraments, take action through the Spirit, give and receive care, and that you can rest when needed. I pray that you may do this all in a sacred space where you deeply connect with others – even if you don't always agree with one another. I pray that you can have meaningful relationships, conversation, and can be there for one another. I pray that you receive love just as

you love others. I pray that if you are feeling lonely or despairing, there are those you can reach out to who will sit with you and bring God's promises again to you.

In these days, when it feels like there is so much, may you feel God's love and grace surrounding you in the community of others. May we trust in Jesus' promise, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

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

## ***LENTEN WORSHIP***



### **ASH WEDNESDAY March 5<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Opportunities to Gather in Prayer:**

11:00—Simple service of imposition of ashes prior to PLCW meeting

Noon—Stillaguamish Cluster worship at Our Saviour's, Arlington

7:00 pm—Cluster Worship at Faith, Lakewood

### **LENTEN MID-WEEK AT PEACE**

**March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9**

6:00 pm—Soup supper in fellowship hall, including opportunity for sharing youth-centered prayer stations.

7:00 pm —Worship in the sanctuary of varying styles each week, including prayer around the cross, dwelling in the Word, a service of healing and the new vespers service, *Bless This Night*.

♪♪ Happy Birthday  
To You ♪♪

9 Mary Fuentes  
*Lincoln Richards*  
*Tayden Richards*

13 Robin Backlund

15 Sunny Moyer

19 Debra Compton

20 Richelle Tripp

21 Pedro Gonzales

25 Lynn Olseene  
Simon Fuentes

29 Bob Sund

**Out To Dinner Group**


March 11th  
African Heritage Restaurant  
Bus leaves Peace at 5:20 pm  
*Please let Mary know ASAP if  
you plan to attend!*

**Out To Lunch Bunch**

March 27th  
Shawn O'Donnells  
Bus Leaves Peace at 10:30 am  
*Sign up with Mary if you plan to  
attend!*

**Women's Group Gatherings**

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



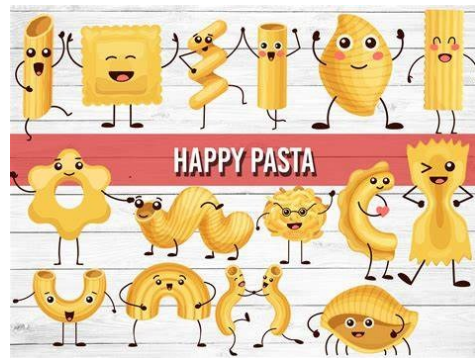
# March 2025

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> Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am	<b>3</b> AA 10 am  Lydia Circle 5:30 pm	<b>4</b> AA Noon  Fat Tuesday Celebration 6pm	<b>5</b> Al-Anon 10 am  PLCW 11:30	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> AA Noon	<b>8</b> Men's Breakfast 8 am  Silvana Fair Auction Opens 5pm
<b>9</b> <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i>  Sunday School 9 am Worship 10am	<b>10</b> AA 10 am  4-H 6:30 pm	<b>11</b> AA Noon  Out to Dinner Group 5:20pm	<b>12</b> Naomi 9:30 Al-Anon 10am Lent 6pm Soup 7pm Service	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> AA Noon	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am	<b>17</b> AA 10 am  4H 5:00 pm	<b>18</b> AA Noon  Council 6:00pm	<b>19</b> Al-Anon 10am Lent 6pm Soup 7pm Service <b>Witness Deadline</b>	<b>20</b> 4-H Foods 6pm  Serving at the Gathering Place	<b>21</b> AA Noon	<b>22</b> Men's Break- fast 8 am <b>Neighbors Gathering 5pm Viking Hall</b>
<b>23</b> Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am	<b>24</b> AA 10 am	<b>25</b> AA Noon  Book Club 6 pm	<b>26</b> Al-Anon 10am  Quilting 10am Lent 6pm Soup 7pm Service	<b>27</b> Out to Lunch. Bus Leaves 10:30am	<b>28</b> AA Noon	<b>29</b> BUNKO 5pm Appetiz- ers 5:30 Game
<b>30</b> Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am	<b>31</b> AA 10 am					

## **Food Bank Item of the Month:**

**PASTA, PASTA, PASTA!  
Rigatoni and Penne!!!  
Also, after school  
snacks!!**

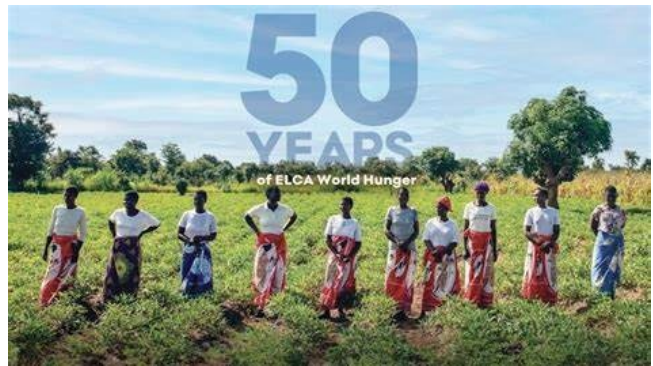


## **ELCA World Hunger**

Despite changes to humanitarian aid, ELCA World Hunger is steadfast. For over 50 years, ELCA World Hunger has worked to end hunger, connecting people with food, health care, job opportunities, clean water and education.

U.S. foreign aid is shifting constantly, and we're already seeing the impacts in Tanzania and South Sudan. But ELCA World Hunger stands with the individuals and communities it serves.

Our call to build a just world where all are fed is more urgent than ever. We can do so much more together than we can alone — will you join us?— Bob and Carol Wall



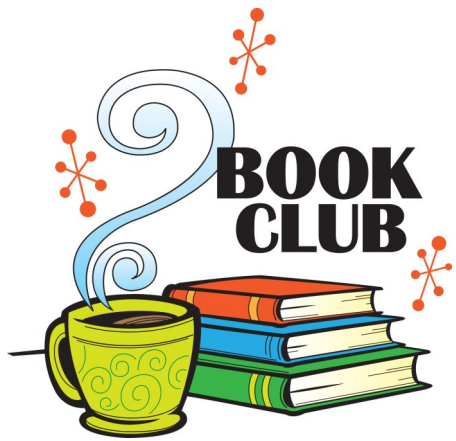
## **Salt of the Earth Food Bank**

We are dedicated to God's promise of giving food to the hungry while creating community through compassionate service.

We have 5 thriving food blessing locations in the area along with mercy housing and senior housing food drops. Our organization is run by the love and compassion of our volunteers working together as the body of Christ. We rally together with the same heart and vision, serving our community.

[Soteblessings.org](http://Soteblessings.org)





**The Personal Librarian**  
by Marie Benedict  
and Victoria Christopher Murray

The Personal Librarian is a historical fiction novel about Belle da Costa Greene, the first director of the J. P. Morgan Library.

**Summary:**

Belle is hired by J.P. Morgan to curate his library's collection of art, books, and manuscripts. She becomes a prominent figure in New York society and the art world. Belle must hide her true identity as a Black woman to navigate racism and prejudice. She struggles with her identity and the historical context of her time. She becomes wealthy and independently able, but she continues to guard her privacy. In her later years, she burns her personal papers to protect her secret.

Join us in reading this book – and if you'd like to discuss it at our next meeting – we will be at Robin Sather's the last Tuesday of March – March 25 at 6:00p.m. Be sure to let us know if you plan to come in case there is a last minute change in the meeting time or place. Contact Mary Fuentes or Karen Dicken.



**Welcome To Our New Office Assistant!**

Hello everyone! My name is Morgan Crosby, and I am grateful to be your new parish admin. We have a common link actually through Hands for Peacemaking in Guatemala. I have been 4 times and am going again in June for a water catchment project.

Service is very important value of mine, and I have been in Rotary International since 2017. I attend Trinity Episcopal in Everett and live in Marysville. My boyfriend and I have a 2 year old puppy who we adopted from Noah. Fun fact about me I have travelled to 11 countries.

I look forward to serving the Peace Lutheran congregation as the office admin and look forward to connecting with the community here!



NW Washington Synod is the congregations, people & ministries of the Pacific Northwest - journeying together. Learn more, get connected, and partner with others as we are the Body of Christ on this territory. Journeying Together-- Our synod extends from the Canadian border in the north to Kent in the south, and from the Cascade foothills out into the islands of the Puget Sound. [www.lutheransnw.org](http://www.lutheransnw.org)

Stillaguamish Cluster - There are many opportunities for the five churches of the Stillaguamish Cluster to meet; whether individually or as a group in order to meet new people, become friends or become involved in different activities rather than wait for our Annual Organized Worship Gathering. Remember, we are STRONGER TOGETHER.

SKY (Snohomish-King Youth) group. 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. Contact one of the church pastors for additional information. This month's host church: GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH - Lynnwood Sunday, 2 March at 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

HOLDEN VILLAGE MAY YOUTH WEEKENDS – May 23-25 YOUTH 8th grade through High School up to the village. “A Communion of Saints in All Places” is the theme. Registration opens Tuesday February 4th. Please sign up ASAP by contacting Mary Fuentes (Peace Lutheran) or ANY of the PASTORS of the cluster churches.

#### **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH – Lakewood**

- ASH WEDNESDAY, 5 March, cluster worship service at 7 pm. All are welcome. LENT MIDWEEK - soup and service starting on Wednesday, 12 March at 12 noon. All are welcome.
- Faith Lutheran makes a big mission impact through their partnership with LINC NW.

#### **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.

#### **FREEBORN LUTHERAN – Stanwood**

- Everett Norwegian Male Chorus Saturday, 29 March at 2:00 PM
- GOOD FRIDAY CLUSTER SERVICE – Friday, 18 April at 12:00 PM

- 2025 marks the year Freeborn will be celebrating their 125 anniversary. One of the events that Freeborn has scheduled to mark the occasion is a performance by: The Everett Norwegian Male Chorus at Freeborn Lutheran Church. The Chorus sings a wide mixture of Norwegian, English, other Scandinavian, religious, secular, and patriotic songs. Being able to speak any of them is optional, not mandatory! The Everett Norwegian Male Chorus has been celebrating the love of singing, and Norwegian/Scandinavian culture since 1902. They meet every Wednesday at Normana Sons of Norway in Everett, 2725 Oakes, downstairs from 7-8:30.

### **CAMANO LUTHERAN – Camano Island**

- LENT MIDWEEKS – Wednesdays, 12 March, 19 March – 6:00 PM – bring your own goodies to eat and we'll have conversations around issues of the day. All are welcome.
- LENT MIDWEEKS – Wednesdays, 26 March, 2 April, 9 April – Soup supper at 6. Holden evening prayer to follow at 7:00 PM. All are welcome.
- MAUNDY THURSDAY – Thursday, 17 April at 7:00 PM All are welcome,
- GOOD FRIDAY CLUSTER SERVICE – Friday, 18 April at 7:00 PM All are welcome.
- NATIONAL QUILTING DAY - Come help make quilts for LWR - Saturday, 15 March 10 to 4 pm If you can tie, pin or cut you can help! If you'd like to sew, please bring your machine. Fabric, thread, etc. Will be available. A light lunch will be served. Contact Thea Hanna with questions [tete4now@gmail.com](mailto:tete4now@gmail.com) or 562-760-3874
- 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 for additional information. All are welcome!
- Samplings with Luther – 7:00 pm the second and fourth Monday of every month. Men and women meet at Pub 282 (Camano Island) to discuss various issues & topics relevant to day-to-day life.

### **OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN – Arlington**

- SHROVE TUESDAY, 4 March Pancake Feed, fun and more! 5:00pm-6:00pm. All are welcome.
- ASH WEDNESDAY , 5 March , cluster worship service at 12:00pm. All are welcome.
- First Thursday's – Coffee, conversation & connections. Join us Thursday, 6 March at 10:00am in the narthex for coffee and conversation. A good way to catch up with each other and to build community. Feel free to bring neighbors and friends.

### **CONTACTS & INFORMATION:**

- Camano Lutheran Church [www.camanolutheranchurch.org](http://www.camanolutheranchurch.org) 850 Heichel Rd, Camano Island, WA 98282 (360) 629-4592 [office@camanolutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@camanolutheranchurch.org)
- Freeborn Lutheran Church [www.freebornchurch.org](http://www.freebornchurch.org) 2416 300th St NW, Stanwood, WA 98292 (360) 629-3149 [freebornlutheranchurch@gmail.com](mailto:freebornlutheranchurch@gmail.com)

**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!