

# The Witness of Peace

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2011

## Sacrificial Giving

Today I began leading the Confirmation camp students through the book of Acts. I began as I always do by explaining that this book details the Acts of the Holy Spirit. I then challenged them to compare the church in Acts to our churches and our worship.

The first similarity was easy to define. Within ten verses Jesus sends out his church to tell the world about the Gospel. Five verses later the second similarity appears: Christians gather and devote themselves to prayer. Before the first chapter is finished the church hears Peter quoting scripture and calling for the election of a new leader to replace Judas's ministry and Matthias is called and set apart for ministry. Worship, scripture, preaching, and even a church-wide meeting to call a pastor and set him apart for apostolic ministry--it's all very familiar. Chapter two shows more witnessing and preaching under the power of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Chapter three opens with the healing of a beggar. The church leaders are called out by the religious authorities to explain themselves for this. The kids could see parallels between these leaders and modern Christian leaders who faithfully carry out Christ's duties in the face of opposition and criticism.

Then we hit the end of Chapter 4, which doesn't look anything like our churches. *"Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet."*

"What is this like?" I asked. "Offering?" One student tentatively answered.

We wanted to say this was like offering, but no one could remember even one church member selling everything he had and giving the whole amount to the church--no strings attached! No, this was giving beyond just wanting to meet a budget or fundraise for a worthy cause. In faith, they gave over everything that they had and the end result was that no one was in lack. The church defined a Christian as one who gives over everything to God. After all, God withheld nothing from them, giving them his only Son. When the church lived Christ's priorities there was not a needy person among them. *"But they had nothing!"* I can hear my materialistic self protesting, *"They all owned nothing."* Quite to the contrary, they all owned everything. That's how they saw it. No one lost in giving; they all gained. Feeding widows and orphans did not mean less food for my household, it meant my household gained more members. It meant I would never have to worry about being fed. I would not live alone. I would certainly not die alone. These people took seriously that they were all one household under God.

I wonder what that feels like. I wonder what it is like not to have to remind the church that we have again spent \$12,000.00 that wasn't in our bank account. I wonder what it is to hold in common an abundance rather than a stack of bills. I wonder what it is like to have everyone in the church from the richest to poorest seeing themselves as equally responsible for the common life of the church and giving all they have out of joy, gratitude and hope, rather than obligation. It looks like death, but sounds like freedom. And whenever anything sounds like freedom to me, then I always have to wonder out loud where I have allowed sin to ensnare me? Where have I lost my way?

God's Peace

*Pastor Jeff*

## Peace Lutheran Council

June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Members Present: Mike Cairus, Pastor Jeff Driscoll, Whitney Holden, Ashley Stoffel, Jesse Driscoll, Pedro Gonzales, George Daoura, Ernie Fosse, Sunny Moyer, Mary Fuentes, Donna Hefty, Joe Holden

Absent: Coni Moyer, Robyn Canteras, Kathy Rasmussen

Others Present: Bob Sund

Called to order 7:01pm . Devotions read by Pastor Jeff.

Minutes to be approved at July meeting

Treasurers report presented by Ernie Fosse.

Mission statement- the importance of a mission statement is it gives us something to turn to:

- this is who we are and what we do
- Ernie led us in an exercise to get our minds thinking about our mission

Ernie is to write two letters concerning summer giving and help with our mission statement.

It was suggested that a council member stands up the Sunday after to give a brief report about the meeting.

Pastors report given by Pastor Jeff.

Youth and Family report given by Mary.

Jesse made a motion that we move July's Council Meeting to July 11, 2011. Mike seconded. Motion carried.

Church picnic to be talked about next meeting.

Adjourned 8:56 pm

Respectfully submitted: A.M. Sunny Moyer

### Remember in Prayer

**Church:** ELCA, Maasae Lutheran Girl's School **Military:** Nichole Moman (Iraq), Dr. John Harvey (Afghanistan) **Continued Care:** Selvin Stensen, Dorothy Madson, Doris Ohde **Healing:** Sharon Daoura, Sandi Nysether, Randy Libby, Don Hefty, Jyoti Mutschler, Darlene Crouch, Dennis Whitney, Marilyn Katz, Rob Delbrauk, Ron Backlund, Katie Klous, Peggy Parker, Dawn Stoffel, Michele Johnson, John Gedstad, Grace Dahline, Jenny Burgess, Betty Kirn, Coni Moyer, Molly Layman and Baby Tahlia

## Scripture Texts For August

### August 7 Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

First Lesson 1 Kings 19:9-18  
 Psalm Psalm 85:8-13  
 Second Lesson Romans 10:5-15  
 Gospel Lesson Matthew 14:22-33

### August 14 Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

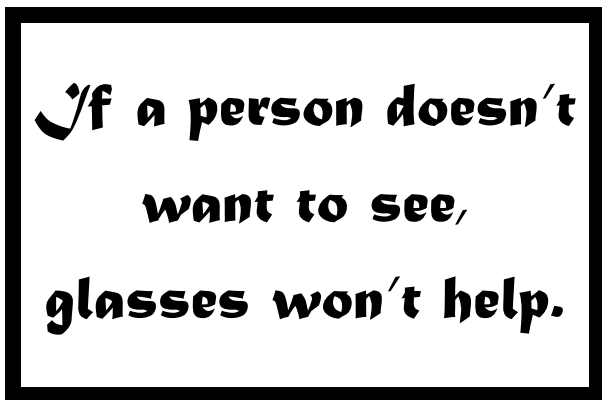
First Lesson Isaiah 56:1, 6-8  
 Psalm Psalm 67  
 Second Lesson Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32  
 Gospel Lesson Matthew 15:[10-20]21-28

### August 21 Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

First Lesson Isaiah 51:1-6  
 Psalm Psalm 138  
 Second Lesson Romans 12:1-8  
 Gospel Lesson Matthew 16:13-20

### August 28 Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

First Lesson Jeremiah 15:15-21  
 Psalm Psalm 26:1-8  
 Second Lesson Romans 12:9-21  
 Gospel Lesson Matthew 16:21-28



## PLC Council

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**Randy Libby** 425-218-5178

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### Custodian:

**Sue Ludwig** 435-5536

## 2011 Churchwide Assembly Welcome

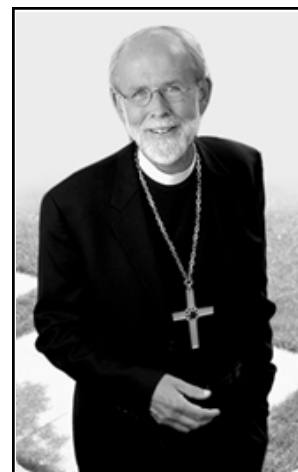
*"For freedom Christ has set us free ... only do not use this freedom as an occasion for self-indulgence, but serve one another in love" .. - Galatians 5:1, 13*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord!

As we prepare for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly, we have much to celebrate. God continues to bring the new creation in Christ to our life together in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Confident that our hands are doing God's work, we are active and engaged throughout the world.

Working together, we are a church known for rolling up its sleeves and solving problems, for being a catalyst, convener and bridge builder. Recently, as I boarded a plane in Los Angeles, a woman pointed to my clerical collar and asked, "What church?" When I told her, she startled everyone by bursting out, "We LOVE Lutherans! I work for FEMA and we know that you're the ones who are there until the work is done."



Even in the midst of change, the ELCA is the church it has always been, one that is being renewed daily in the freedom that comes alone from Jesus Christ. The liberating power of the gospel releases us from our human limitations so that we may reach out in love to our neighbor. Thanks be to God! We are freed in Christ to serve.

"Freed in Christ to Serve" expresses the very heart of our faith. Freedom is God's gift that has been flowing to us and through us since the day of Christ's death and resurrection. Through word and sacrament, freedom flows to the center of our being, transforming our very life and making us into servant vessels of the Spirit's liberating work.

As the living water of the gospel flows into your synod and congregations, it flows out through your serving as everyday evangelists. When the Spirit's liberating power flows through us together as a church body we also serve the gospel as we plant new congregations and accompany global companions. Our work in the world is on a scale and scope that would be inconceivable as individual congregations or synods. The stories in the video shown at your synod assembly capture the spirit of a church that is freed in Christ to serve.

As we prepare for the assembly, I extend my gratitude for the creative and imaginative ministry of service flowing through this church -- through each of you, our more than 10,000 congregations, our 65 synods and our churchwide ministries. Together we share commitment to do God's work with our hands throughout the world.

In God's grace,

Mark S. Hanson  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## 2011 Assembly Actions

### Legislative Highlights To Be Considered

- **Elections:** Church Council members and members of churchwide committees and boards.
- **Memorials:** resolutions on policy and other major issues that are passed by synod assemblies and request action from the churchwide assembly.

**ELCA Malaria Campaign:** consideration of a churchwide campaign to support work aimed at ending malaria.

**Genetics, Faith and Responsibility:** consideration of this document and its implementing resolutions.

**Living into the Future Together (LIFT) Task Force:** consideration of recommendations from the task force that is charged with renewing the ecology of the ELCA **Amendments** to the constitutions, bylaws and continuing resolutions of the ELCA, both regular ones and ones implementing the reconfiguration of the churchwide organization.

For full information on these memorials please go to the ELCA website and click on Churchwide Assembly.

## August Birthdays

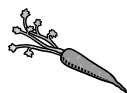
- 4 Pam Holdal
- Rick Love
- Larry Sather
- 5 Margaret Ames
- Scott Stensen
- 7 Sue Sather
- 12 Sue Ludwig
- 16 Jessica Ludwig
- 20 Cille Krock (**Happy 90th!**)
- 23 Evie Bredeson
- 27 Toby Rapose
- 29 Rachel Backlund
- Coni Moyer
- 31 Mike Smythe
- Miya Watanabe



## First Annual Carrot Festival

Peace Lutheran Church on Saturday, September 17 at 6:30 PM. Just what is a “Carrot Festival”, you ask? How about a stupendous way to celebrate the bounty of God’s good earth for starters?

1. Grow a carrot (get them in the ground now—they take time to grow; by this time you may have to purchase at store)
2. Bring it—or them—to PLC on Saturday, September 17 at 6:30 PM
3. Proudly enter your carrot in any number of thrilling contests:
4. Potluck dinner will be served.....however, EVERYTHING brought must contain carrots (appetizers, salads, main course, vegetable sides, desserts, beverages, etc.) Yep, everything!
5. The cost for this amazing event of weird entertainment is a paltry \$5 per family. Purchase tickets from Debra.



Peace Lutheran Friends:

I would sincerely like to thank everyone who donated money to help in my time of need. It went to good use after fire destroyed my home on Easter morning. I also would like to thank everyone who took part in cleaning up the mess, especially my brother Mike who coordinated the whole effort.

Again, thank you for your generous donations. God bless each of you with peace and hope.

Yours truly,  
 Max E. Jacobs

## Youth and Family News

August is going to be full of adventure and fun. A group of us will be going to Neah Bay to do some community service projects, walk to the Point of Arches, and going to the very Northwest corner of the United States. Some of us will be pitching our tents at the Hobuck Beach Camp grounds while others will be bringing their campers. All are welcome to come out and join us as we clean up the beach and enjoy some great food around the campfire! We will be leaving on Tuesday morning, August 9th and returning late Friday, August 12th. Let me know if you have any questions or would like to join us!



**Stanwood Fair:** Several youth from our church and local community will be showing animals and other exhibits at the Stanwood Fair on August 5—7. Come out and enjoy some good, wholesome fun and support our kids!

The Out To Lunch Bunch will be going to the Smokey Point Bakery & Café on Tuesday, August 16th at 11:30 am. Since it is so close we will meet at the Café. It is in the strip mall next to the old Food Pavilion at Smokey Point.

Kids Movie Night will be held on Friday, August 19 at 5:30 pm. All of the young people who participated in Vacation Bible School will be invited as well as anyone else who would like to come. An easy dinner of hot dogs, baked beans and chips will be served prior to the showing of a G rated family film.

The All Church/Community Picnic will be held here at Peace on Sunday, August 28! The event will be at 12:00 noon and everyone is encouraged to invite a friend! Watch the bulletin for more information on this Council led event.

I will be taking the PLC bus to the Evergreen State Fair in Monroe on Senior Day (Monday, August 29) **IF** at least 10 people sign up! You don't have to be a Senior to ride the bus with us. It will be a fun day to watch fitting and showing of different animals, view a variety of exhibits and try a lot of yummy fair foods.

Peace,  
Mary J Fuentes

### VBS Thank You

A special thanks to all those volunteers who made Vacation Bible School happen. Chair Michele Johnson and her team made Hometown Nazareth come to life for over **60** children. Well done, good and faithful servants!

### Go Green

Get off the “work—spend” cycle. Buy less and have more time, money and you!

## Peace Lutheran Church Women

Why do the women have a separate "group" from the congregation? The women who are active in Women of the ELCA experience a strong community of women who walk together on their faith journeys. No doubt they want their daughters, nieces, granddaughters and younger friends to be supported by a strong community of faithful women too. And the reality is that whatever their age, women want to come together with other women to discuss their faith. Women of the ELCA provides a place for that community to gather, a place where fellowship, friendship and support are nurtured.

The organization is more than Bible Study groups and quilters. Every year grants are given throughout the nation. For instance: DOMESTIC GRANTS in Region 1 (our area), \$2,800 was given to provide a variety of services to homeless and low-income women that foster growth and wholeness in order to help them move towards stability; \$2,000 went to South Carolina for refugee and immigrant children, ages 4-14 to learn English, math and other life skills; \$3,000 to offer screening, treatment, and education as a means to prevent heart disease, diabetes and strokes in women of the Mississippi Gulf Coast region; \$3,500 to Texas offering free or low-cost healthcare to uninsured women and their families; \$2,000 to the Minneapolis area to train and support women who work with women seeking to escape lives of prostitution, domestic violence and chemical dependency; \$3,000 to Sioux Falls to provide shelter and support for families visiting incarcerated loved ones; \$1,500 to Wisconsin for retreats providing emotional support for women who have been diagnosed with cancer; \$2,000 to Virginia to purchase baby food and formula for infants whose families' household income is below the federal poverty line. INTERNATIONAL GRANTS were distributed to: \$1,000 to Kenya to support female teenage orphans who are victims of abuse, sexual exploitation and child labor; \$1,000 to Peru to provide training for midwives in the Peruvian Amazon to reduce the rate of infant and maternal mortality; \$1,000 to Uganda for an HIV/AIDS awareness program with series of workshops in communities and schools. Also many grants have been given for mosquito netting and medicines for pregnant women and children under five years of age to help prevent malaria ---- monies for water projects --- grants to aid women farmers in the Sudan and cook stoves that use clean fuel. These are programs which the offerings of Women of the ELCA provide for. Our Peace Lutheran women support these programs, and many more local projects throughout the year.

Want to get involved? Come and participate in our monthly lunches, meetings and programs. For those who cannot make daytime meetings and circles check out Eve Circle which meets on the third Friday evening of each month. For additional information contact PLCW President Jolene Rod.

### Lutheran Woman Today

With the September issue, Lutheran Woman Today magazine becomes **Gather**. The new magazine will still have the award-winning Bible study, the same great articles and the columns that inform, challenge, comfort and encourage.



### Physical Offerings for August

Items needed for Stanwood Housing  
Hope: Laundry Soap, Soap, Paper  
Towels, Toilet Tissue, Kleenex,  
Cleaning Supplies, Size 5 & 6  
Diapers and Diaper Wipes

## August 2011 Faith and Care

### 8:30 Service at PLC

August 3rd & 7th

August 14th & 28th

<b>Head Usher</b>	Larry Bean	Bill Niegemann
<b>Usher</b>	Andrew Bean	Carol Maurstad
<b>Greeter</b>	Amanda Bean	Keli Niegemann
<b>Lector</b>	Stephanie Bean	Brian Johnson
<b>Acolyte</b>	Zac Keefe	Lauren Niegemann
<b>Communion</b>		Keli Niegemann
<b>Serving Group</b> (Fellowship)	Priscilla Brady Serving Group	Priscilla Brady Serving Group

### 10:00 Service at LWCH

July 3rd, 17th & 31st

July 10th & 24th

<b>Head Usher</b>	George Daoura	George Daoura
<b>Usher</b>	Ted Oien	Jim Wood
<b>Greeter</b>	Jean Oien	Barbara Wood
<b>Lector</b>	Richelle Tripp	Janeen Smith
<b>Acolyte</b>	Everett Fuentes	Shawn Moyer
<b>Communion</b>	Judy Camp	
<b>Serving Group</b> (Fellowship)	Patti Vroman Serving Group	Patti Vroman Serving Group

## Prayer of the Month

Dear Lord,

**Please give me: A few friends who understand me and remain my friends;**

**A work to do which has real value,**

**without which the world would be the poorer;**

**A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed;**

**An understanding heart; A sense of humor; Time for quiet, silent meditation;**

**A feeling of the presence of God; The patience to wait for the coming of these things,**

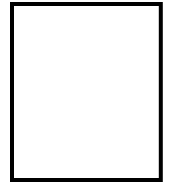
**With the wisdom to recognize them when they come.**

**Amen.**



## Peace Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 100 (1717 Larson Road)  
Silvana, WA 98287



Pastor: Jeff Driscoll

Parish Worker: Debra Compton

Youth & Family Worker: Mary J Fuentes

### August Worship Schedule

8:30 A.M.	Early Service at Peace
10:00 A.M.	Second Service at Little White Church on the Hill

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Email: PLSilvana@aol.com

Web Site: [www.plsilvana.org](http://www.plsilvana.org)

## Women of the ELCA Triennial News

What a joy it was to join over 2,100 women at the Eighth Triennial Gathering of Women of the ELCA. Here are a few of the highlights! (Editor's Picks!!!)

- "Sisters of the ELCA, it's time to rise up," said Lehmah Gbowee, Saturday's plenary speaker—and peacemaker, activist, and mother from Liberia. "God is calling us today to reclaim our space."
- Delegates adopted final memorials during the afternoon session July 13. They adopted a memorial on gender justice that calls for learning about and advocating for protection of women and children from sexual violence, including women in the military affected by sexual violence, abuse and sexism. A second action combined two memorials calling for an end to hunger. It encourages members to send offerings to ELCA World Hunger through the church-wide Women of the ELCA organization, to link synodical Web pages to hunger resources, to encourage members to be hunger leaders and to join hunger communication networks.
- On the third ballot delegates elected Jennifer Michael, Pensacola, Fla., as the churchwide Women of the ELCA president. Michael was elected with 217 votes.
- More than 365 runners including people in wheelchairs participated in the "Run, Walk, Roll" event raising \$18,515 for grant programs through Women of the ELCA (PLC members Mary Fuentes and Karen Dicken participated in this event); \$41,797 was gathered at the Friday morning Thankoffering Service which will go to support the entire ministry of the women's organization; at closing worship on July 16, participants gave \$36,189 to ministries of the church (including the new ELCA Malaria campaign) and a peacekeeping network; 27 women donated 3.5 gallons of blood; \$10,420 in gift cards and 11,160 minutes of phone cards were presented as in-kind gifts to help the homeless in the Spokane area; in addition, donations included: 600 health kits, 400 pencils, 150 boxes of crayons, 325 glue sticks, 450 washable markers, 250 notebooks, 600 sheets of construction paper, 779 bags of socks, 58 support kits, 2,225 prayer shawls and 80 quilts! Definitely God's work. Our hands.
- Dozens of women in their 20's and 30's, and some a little older, took part in the July 14 Chocolate Lounge at the Doubletree Hotel, sponsored by *Cafe'*, Women of the ELCA's online magazine for young adult women.

Don't just take my word for what a good experience Gatherings are (this was my seventh)—talk with Patti Vroman, Mary Fuentes, Maudie Gedstad or Karen Dicken for their views. I believe that Karen Dicken was one of 407 women who pre-registered for the 2014 Gathering in Charlotte, North Carolina. Start saving your money now and join us when we head to the Tar Heel state!

~ Debra Compton