

The Witness of Peace

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 12

NOVEMBER 2011

Advent is upon us, and Christmas. As the days grow grayer and darkness sets in earlier, I am already anticipating a season, which for us is nearly the opposite of what our ancestors experienced. Winter is coming. That used to mean something very threatening, even ominous. Not long ago, our people would worry at this time of year. Did we harvest enough and preserve enough food for the winter? Did we store up enough fuel to keep our house warm and our food hot? Will our lamps go out and darkness overtake us? Now, November and December are a time of comfort and coziness. Our house is always warm and well-lit. The smell of good food and evergreen branches will season our home, and music will lighten our mood. From the Thanksgiving turkey to the Christmas prime rib there will be laughter, security, and warmth. Peace on earth and good will toward all. I hope we don't sleep through Advent and the coming of our salvation.

This Advent, I will be preaching from Isaiah. Isaiah had a lot to say about a people who were complacent. Even when Israel became an occupied nation and were exiled to Babylon, they thought little of trading their birthright, their traditions, and their temple for the cultural delights of their conquerors the Babylonians. They became so sated and comfortable, that they lost sight of the poor, the hungry, and the oppressed among them. They lost sight of their salvation because they really didn't think there was much from which they needed to be saved. In fact, after they were released from Babylon by their savior Cyrus the Great and given permission to go back to Jerusalem, most Jews remained in Babylon, proving that their captivity was no longer political but had become spiritual.

Advent is not a time for complacency and comfort. It is a penitential season, a time for repentance. Rather than look at our full cupboards and pantries, we are challenged to ask ourselves why so many are without food. Rather than simply being thankful for our own jobs and homes, we must ask ourselves to what extent we are participating in the dispossession of others. We have our homeless, our jobless, our hungry who need salvation, who cry out for it. Isaiah and Christ cry out words of hope and promises that the day of salvation there will establish a new kingdom where there will be families made up of the least among us and mighty nations made of the small.

Of course, both Isaiah and Christ also offer a disquieting warning. You can sleep through this kingdom. Those who see no need of salvation will not have it forced upon them. They will miss it because those who never see the hungry will never see them fed. Those who ignore the homeless and least among us will also ignore their saving Messiah. One homeless family, turned away, who then occupy the barn and there give birth to distressed, infant cries, becomes both an annoyance to those trying to sleep off their meal inside the inn and salvation to all who are seeking their King in lowest and unlikely place.

May we keep awake, keep watch, and see our salvation.

God's Peace,

Pastor Jeff

Mission Statement

Called by Christ to love our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and our neighbors as ourselves, Peace Lutheran Church, by the power of the Holy Spirit, offers help, hope, and healing to all in need.

Youth and Family News

The mission team feels Jesus alive and active in their lives! We are all so very excited to be going to Barrilles, Guatemala representing Peace Lutheran Church and the Silvana area. We have been meeting monthly and planning our trip as well as doing fundraisers. As of this writing there are eight of us going, but we hope that more people will join us on this exciting adventure.

We will be helping the people of Barrilles breathe easier! Many of the villagers suffer from years of breathing smoke from open fires. The ceilings of the huts tell the story of this silent killer. We will be assembling and installing highly efficient Aller Stoves that burn 65% less wood. These stoves were developed by Hands for Peacemaking. These stoves will force the smoke outside, save trees and prevent children from falling into the open pit fires, as well as making the women's lives much easier when preparing meals.

We are responsible for \$200 of the cost of each stove. Initially we planned to install 30 stoves, but after meeting with the leaders we decided to up our goal to 80 stoves. We know this is a huge goal both financially and to install. We raised our goal for a few reasons. First, the need is great; second, we were told we would probably be able to install 30 stoves in a day as we will be working along side the villagers. Our goals are high, but we decided Jesus has given us this chance to spread His Word while working along side His people that have not even heard of Him! Do you feel the call of Jesus to GO? If so, then come and join us—we will meet again the second Wednesday of December at 6:00 pm during the Advent dinner.

Your Servants,
Larry Bean, Amanda Bean, Jeff Hoffmeister, Tammy Hoffmeister, Cody Hoffmeister, JoDonna Olson, Ashley Stoffel and Mary Fuentes

For Your Information

- The Out To Lunch Bunch will be traveling to Molbak's in Woodinville on December 13; the bus will leave the church at 10:00 AM. Lunch destination to be determined later!
- The High School youth group will be hosting a Christmas Celebration for children 6th grade and younger on December 16 here at Peace Lutheran Church. This event will run from 5:30 pm—8:30 pm and will include dinner, games, crafts and a movie!
- Christmas Caroling and party time is planned for the High Schoolers on December 20 beginning at 5:00 pm. All are invited to come and show your spirit of the season!
- Go Green Tip: Fall in love with nature so you will want to protect her!
- Gathering Place: PLC will be serving dinner on the 15th of December at the Gathering Place. Please feel free to come and join us as we prepare dinner and eat with the guests who come for dinner. As mentioned in other places of this newsletter we will be handing out our FIN's hygiene kits, blankets and gift cards (if available). We have a good time, both emotionally and spiritually, as we serve our neighbors in need.

Scripture Texts For December

December 4 Second Sunday in Advent

First Reading Isaiah 40:1-11
 Psalm Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
 Second Reading 2 Peter 3:8-15a
 Gospel Reading Mark 1:1-8

December 11 Third Sunday in Advent

First Reading Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
 Psalm Psalm 126
 Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
 Gospel Reading John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 18 Fourth Sunday in Advent

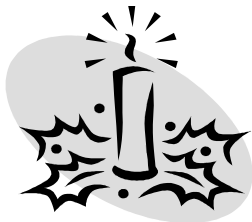
First Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
 Psalm Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
 Second Reading Romans 16:25-27
 Gospel Reading Luke 1:26-38

December 24 Christmas Eve

First Reading Isaiah 9:2-7
 Psalm Psalm 96
 Second Reading Titus 2:11-14
 Gospel Reading Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

December 25 Christmas Day

First Reading Isaiah 52:7-10
 Psalm Psalm 98
 Second Reading Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)
 Gospel Reading John 1:1-14



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Delaney Scott w/Voices of Peace

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WHAT?? I DIDN'T KNOW THAT!!

Thank you to all the women, men and youth who worked to make this year's PLCW bazaar such a huge success. We made our goal plus a bit more so that our 2012 budget will be able to fund all of the work that we do as we reach out to help others. There have been several conversations about the unique atmosphere that was created that gave this bazaar such a homey welcoming feel. From Judy and Al's cozy outdoor décor, to the cups of coffee poured up to those waiting outside by Larry Bean and Steve Keefe. Those gestures created a welcoming mat that made a positive impact on those who entered the doors that day. We should keep that image close as individuals and as a congregation as we look for ways to connect to others and open God's doors to them.

Have you ever heard about the "FIN" mission? Last year a group of ladies took on a new task that came out of an obvious local need. Why when we make health kits for overseas are we not also recognizing that we also have people in our own community that are in need of hygiene products? So spearheaded by Chris Jacobs and Bernice Stensen, the "FIN"s (Friends in Need) got started by making up health kits to give out at the Gathering Place dinner that our congregation cooks at once a month. It quickly grew and kits are being given out from Stanwood to Darrington and every community in between. This year for the Christmas "Giving Tree" project, we are asking that you support this mission. Somewhere else in this Witness you will see a list of items needed. At our December PLCW meeting we will be bringing in items for our FIN mission. Please join us for a fun day on Wednesday December 7th at 11:30. This month is potluck.....but no one will notice if you come without your "pot"(have you ever known the ladies of Peace to be short on food??) Consider bringing a friend. The coffee will be on and there are lots of smiles to go around.

Wishing you a Christmas that is filled with purposeful preparation as we wait for the Christ Child.

Jolene Rod
PLCW President

Family Advent Nights

Wednesday Evenings

6:00 PM



Dinner ~ Devotions

Music ~ Crafts

All are invited to attend!

Prayer Corner

Please remember the following people in prayer this month:

Church: ELCA, Maasae Lutheran Girl's School

Military: Nichole Moman (Iraq)

Continued Care: Selvin Stensen, Dorothy Madson, Doris Ohde

Healing: Sharon Daoura, Sandi Nysether, Randy Libby, Jyoti Mutschler, Darlene Crouch, Dennis Whitney, Rob Delbrauk, Katie Klous, Peggy Parker, Dawn Stoffel, John Gedstad, Grace Dahline, Jenny Burgess, Carol Ronken, Arlene Jones, Hazel Allen, Dolly Pachur, Alice Jacobs, Audrey Carlson, Brent Beard, Coni Moyer, Leilani Erps, Judy Bressler, Lynn Olseene, Anne Grimm, Nate Maher, Renae Cupic, Grace Birkestol, Lois Dodd

Grief Care

The holidays for many are a happy time when people take a break from the normal routines of life—you would like to take a break from your pain but it's not possible. Grief doesn't take holidays.

The holiday season can be a tough time for those grieving the loss of a loved one, the loss of a job, divorce, or any number of things that make this time of year hard to deal with. We are confronted with the traditions and memories that leave us feeling alone, depressed and wondering how we will get through.

Please consider joining us at Grief Care on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 pm. We will be there to share our stories, grieve with you and listen. For more information please contact Joan Johnson at 360-435-6299.

"...but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles. They will run and not be weary. They will walk and not faint."

(Isaiah 40:31)

December Birthdays

- 4 Nik Enquist
- Joel Ludwig
- 5 Tim Brady
- 6 Laura Kellogg
- Susan Parr
- 7 Bernice Stensen
- 13 Donna Hefty
- 15 Charlie Holden
- Judy Bressler
- 16 Shelby Wing
- 17 Erik Brady
- 18 Jeff Ludwig
- Richard Compton
- 21 Karalee Jacobs
- 23 Leilani Erps
- 25 Lindsay Vanwinkle
- Hunter Backlund
- 26 Ted Oien
- 27 Lyle Kellogg



Christmas Schedule

Saturday, December 10

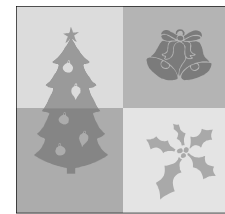
6:00 PM All Church Potluck Dinner

Saturday, December 24

5:00 PM Worship at Peace Lutheran
 10:00 PM Worship at Little White Church

Sunday, December 25

11:00 AM Worship at Peace Lutheran



Lutheran World Relief

The bazaar was a great success and along with all the work that goes with it we were very busy with our LWR quilts and kits. We shipped 62 of the quilts and saved the rest to give locally; about 145 were made! Many of us were involved in making the school kits. We completed 204 backpacks and 100 bags. This coming Fall we have make all backpacks. They are a bit of a challenge to make but on Rally Sunday filling them and closing them up was a dream. The draw strings keep everything inside without anything falling out.



We packed and shipped 252 health kits and 51 baby layettes. A job well for a lot of our women, men and Sunday School kids. Many thanks to all of you!

This coming year there are a few changes, so before purchasing items be sure to check the new requirements. They are all printed out in the PLCW women's booklet. Don't be afraid to call me if you have questions. A couple of items we are looking for are lots of soap and bath towels. NO hand towels or wash cloths!

The local health kits (FIN's) made up by Chris Jacobs and Bernice Stensen use a few different items. A kit of these kits have been made up and given out. There is a great need for health supplies and quilts in our own community.

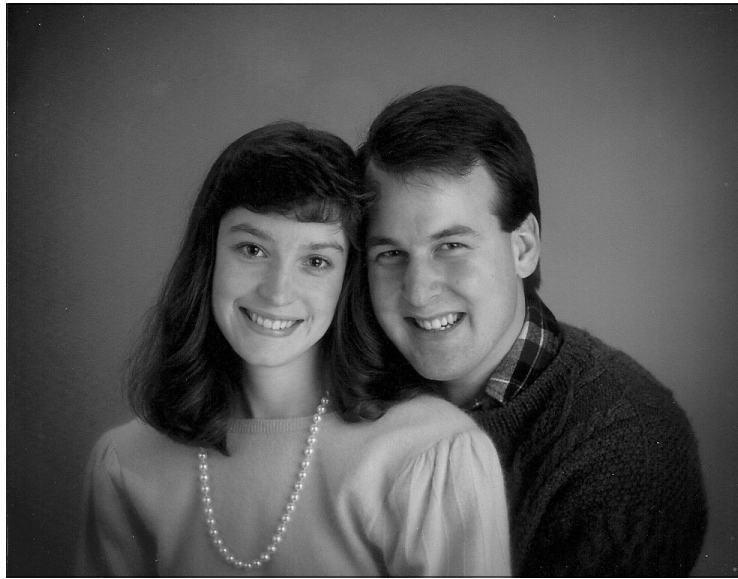
We've got a source for electric blankets which we take the wires out of and use as filler in many of our quilts. Our first purchase was for 50 and Karen Dicken picked them up for us. Thanks so much Karen. We have put in an order for 100 more for next week. They make really nice warm quilts and most of the first 50 are done and given away thanks to Mary. Jerry delivered 10 to Everett Gospel Mission; Larry and Lana took 10 to the Granite Falls Food Bank and Chris Jacobs delivered 10 to the Darrington Food Bank. Mary took a total of 35 to the Gathering Place in Stanwood; we have 20 ready for Lutheran Compass Center in Seattle and about 30 in the sewing room ready to go!

Maudie has 3 in her car to give away to anyone in need and Tammy has 2 in her car ready to go. We sold 5 at the bazaar. Maudie and Ruth delivered 10 to Matthew House in Monroe and Joan Johnson and Margaret Ames brought 10 up to the Friendship House in Mount Vernon.

Pastor Jeff delivers material on his visits to Else Danner and brings back quilt tops she has sewn. Many thanks to Else for this wonderful gift.

As you can see, we have involved many people in many ways. We are so blessed with so many ready helpers. If you know of someone in need of quilts, health kits or more, please contact Debra in the church office our Donna Hefty at 350-652-7403 any time!

- Donna Hefty, LWR Chair



As

*Happy 25th Wedding Anniversary
Jeff and Carla!
May you be blessed with many more.
December 20, 1986 ~ December 20, 2011*

Merry Christmas from your staff!

Helping Hands

When you send in your labels, please designate these are to be credited to the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission account. We are truly grateful to all of you who continue to send us those labels. It does make a difference! Please check the website at www.labelsforeducation.com for step by step instructions. Or easier yet, place them in the appropriated baggie posted on the Narthex bulletin board.

Please note that the same information is true of the General Mills Box Tops for Education.

The following sponsors and friends provide needed support to continue the mission's work:

Spirit in the Desert; Wheat Ridge, Community Healthcare, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

December 2011 Faith and Care

8:30 Service at PLC

December 4

December 11 and 18

Head Usher	Mike Brady	Mike Brady
Usher	Wayne Haugen	Kim Keefe
Greeter	Mary Morcum	Emily Keefe
Lector	Gretchen Pigott	Jerry Hefty
Acolyte	Taylor Morcum	Elise Driscoll
Communion		Priscilla Brady
Serving Group (Fellowship)	Priscilla Brady Serving Group	Priscilla Brady Serving Group

11:00 Service at PLC

December 4 and 18

December 11

Head Usher	Sunny Moyer	Sunny Moyer
Usher	Dave Tripp	Coni Moyer
Greeter	Richelle Tripp	Wynn Holdal
Lector	Richelle Tripp	Mary Fuentes
Acolyte	Emily Tripp	Simon Fuentes
Communion	Dana Stoffel	
Serving Group (Fellowship)	Patti Vroman Serving Group	Patti Vroman Serving Group

Christmas Eve (5:00 pm/10:00 pm)

Head Usher: Spencer Fuentes/Sunny Moyer

Usher: Karen Fuentes/Coni Moyer

Greeter: Linda Anderson/Kim Moyer

Lector: Jon Glastra/Ashley Stoffel

Acolyte: Simon Fuentes/Shawn Moyer

Communion: Jon Glastra/Dana Stoffel

Christmas Day (11:00 am)

Head Usher: Sunny Moyer

Usher: Coni Moyer

Greeter: Wynn Holdal

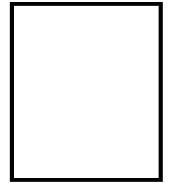
Lector: Mary Fuentes

Acolyte: Simon Fuentes

Communion: Connie DiGregorio

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

December Worship Schedule

8:30 A.M. Early Service at Peace
9:45 am Sunday School—All Ages
11:00 A.M. Second Service at Peace
**{Christmas Eve} 5:00 PM at Peace Lutheran
10:00 PM at Little White Church**
{Christmas Day} 11:00 AM at Peace Lutheran

A Word From the Bishop

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 NRSV

As you read the Biblical passage that leads into this column I ask you to remember that this is the season of Advent, which is the season of preparation. The fact that there was no room in the inn is well known to us. We quickly create romanticized pictures of a clean and peaceful stable. The fact is that Mary and Joseph were homeless when Jesus was born.

I write this coming from the annual meeting of the denominational executives and the Governor's office in Olympia. The news on the economic front for this state is sobering. There will be more significant cuts in state spending. I am well aware that this synod has members on all sides of the political divides. I am not proposing a solution to the state budget woes.

I am looking at the reality that the cuts in services will impact many of the people who are already coming to your congregation for help. We should use this Advent to prepare for those who will be coming. This could be the homeless, the hungry or those who cannot afford health care. They will be coming and we have a long history of helping in a variety of ways.

Now is the time for congregations and ecumenical associations to begin the discussions on how the people of God will respond to our neighbors in need.

Each community is different and one size does not fit all. The fact is that we are called to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and visit those imprisoned, even those imprisoned in their own bodies due to poor health.

The coming years will be difficult and we can argue about how we got here and how best to fix the problem. The fact is that those most affected by this situation will be coming to us. We are the keepers of the inn. Do we have room?

~ The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger