

The Witness of Peace

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2011

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.

How does it fit, this statement above? It is the product of a lot of work by your leaders on the council. We hope to bring it to our November meeting for discussion, amendment if need be, and adoption as our mission statement.

What is a mission statement? It's a guide to tell your feet where to walk and your hands what to do. Christ gave us our primary mission statement at the end of Matthew, where he said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you." Like all good mission statements, Christ's commission is short enough to say in one breath and concisely describes what we will do. It is not a creed, which tells others what we believe, but instead gives us our marching orders.

Last year, we had some interesting conflicts at our February semi-annual meeting. The room was evenly split over what to do with our parsonage fund. Two different proposals were offered. One passed, and the other did not. At the next meeting of council, it became clear to our leaders that we had competing ideas about the direction we will march. Different visions, different objectives and different goals were creating factions in our church. Since anyone can move to spend that money (in part or in total) at any semi-annual meeting, the council decided that good leadership would mean offering the congregation a common, agreed-upon mission statement in order to give us a common framework for discussing that particular fund. I happen to believe it offers us much more.

If we can agree that this is what we as a congregation will work toward for the next decade, then our mission statement will guide all of our ministry as a church. When someone proposes any use of our building, our time, or our money, we can look to our statement first and ask ourselves whether or not the motivation to undertake that responsibility is coming out of our sense of love for God and our neighbors. We can remember together that the strength to do that work comes from the Holy Spirit, not our hands. We can question whether or not, what is being requested is bringing help, hope, or healing to our neighbor. Most importantly, we can keep the words that we have agreed to as our common mission in front of our eyes so that we can focus on what unites us rather than on our differences.

Your council invites you--and I encourage you--to try on the words above. See if they fit. Ask yourself if they make your hands and feet ready to go to work. Ask whether they speak for you to our community. Then, come to our semi-annual meeting on November 20th and we'll talk and decide together about our common mission.

God's Peace,

Pastor Jeff

Dreaming of a *Green* Christmas

As we embark on the Advent season in November, we await not only the birth of the Christ child but also the onset of a new creation. Jesus' whole life bore witness to this. His announcement of the arrival of God's kingdom inaugurated the restoration of all creation. His death served to reconcile all things in heaven and Earth. His resurrection marked the renewal of all things.

So, at Christmas, we celebrate the birth of one whose appearance showed that God so loved the "whole world." And it was a simple birth: Mary and Joseph, baby Jesus swaddled, lying in a manger without fanfare or excess. So before you find yourself caught up in another countdown to Christmas when there is less and less time to evaluate your priorities, take time now to think about how you can simplify your Christmas and celebrate the blessed birth in a more Earth-friendly and responsible manner. Here are suggestions on how you can incorporate a simpler, greener approach to Christmas this year:

Gifts

Instead of each person in your family or gift circle exchanging individual gifts with each other, draw names and let each one give to one person only. Reduce plastic and paper by shopping with reusable bags. Purchase eco-friendly gifts. Buy gently used books, toys and other gifts instead of new ones. Give someone a park pass or an event ticket rather than material items. Offer a service such as childcare or a massage. Give the gift of time: an experience or a trip with your family. If you are good at making crafts, consider making gifts for your loved ones. Purchase crafts from the Lutheran World Relief Handcraft Catalog. Or shop at a local fair-trade store. If you buy traditional gifts, minimize your carbon footprint by purchasing local and energy-efficient gifts that are minimally packaged. And consider reusable or recycled gift wrap this year. Plan ahead by recycling this year's paper, bows and ribbon for use next year. Purchase Christmas cards made from recycled paper or send electronic Christmas greetings.

A growing trend of recent years is alternative giving, which many congregations support by holding an alternative giving fair. Alternative gifts in the ELCA include a donation to an ELCA ministry, such as [ELCA World Hunger](#). Visit [ELCA Good Gifts](#) for many such options where you can make a donation and even have a card sent to the recipient in his or her honor.

Decorations

and reuse decorations from year to year. Make your own decorations. This can become a wonderful family tradition. Use recycled materials or natural materials like pine cones, leaves and vines. Making your own Christmas wreath out of materials you collected is carbon neutral and positively fun!

Save

Lights: Minimize or eliminate lighting decorations. Use LED lights, which use around 90 percent less energy than incandescent Christmas lights. Look for lights that are Energy Star approved. Remember to conserve energy and not to leave lights on all day or overnight.

Trees: Purchase potted trees, so they can be replanted. Or plant a tree that you could use later for many years outside. In some places, one can even rent a living tree. If you need to dispose of a tree, compost it rather than burning it.

According to "Green Christmas: How to Have a Joyous, Eco-Friendly Holiday Season" by Jennifer Sander, Peter Sander and Anne Basye, "Every year between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, Americans generate 25 million extra tons of garbage (about 25 percent more than during the rest of the year) and spend billions of dollars on purchases that may trigger an uptick on Wall Street but leave consumers burdened with more debt."

What can we do to minimize that disproportionate "holiday effect" on God's creation and spend money, time and energy in a more responsible manner? A lot! And in so doing, we will be giving the greatest honor to God by celebrating Christmas in ways that resonate deeply with the most precious gift of God's son.

Scripture Texts For November

November 6	All Saints Sunday
First Lesson	Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm	Psalm 34:1-10, 22
Second Lesson	1 John 3:1-3
Gospel Lesson	Matthew 5:1-12
November 13	22nd Sunday in Pentecost
First Lesson	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm	Psalm 90:1-8(9-11)12
Second Lesson	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Gospel Lesson	Matthew 25:14-30
November 20	Christ The King Sunday
First Lesson	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm	Psalm 95:1-7a
Second Lesson	Ephesians 1:15-23
Gospel Lesson	Matthew 25:31-46
November 24	Thanksgiving Eve
First Lesson	Deuteronomy 8:7-18
Psalm	Psalm 65
Second Lesson	2 Corinthians 9:6-15
Gospel Lesson	Luke 17:11-19
November 27	First Sunday in Advent
First Lesson	Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Second Lesson	I Corinthians 1:3-9
Gospel Lesson	Mark 13:24-37



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Sue Ludwig	435-5536

Youth & Family News

First of all, thank you to everyone who helped with the Crazy Hat Party. If you missed it Erich Pachur made a birdcage hat and Linda Staswick showed up with the smallest pumpkin. Brian and Michele Johnson ran an exciting Bean Bag Toss and lots of folks walked away with cakes/cupcakes.

The Youth and Family team will be arranging a movie outing over the Thanksgiving weekend. Stay tuned for to the bulletins and church announcements for more info. The Out To Lunch Bunch will be traveling to IKEA on November 10 for some fun shopping and Swedish meatballs!

Mission Team: Yes, we have a Mission Team and you are on it! As Christians we are all called to be missionaries. Some of us witness to those around us, while others feel the call to go out into the unreached world. Peace Lutheran will be sending a group to Guatemala in July of 2012. There is still room available and if you would like to join us come to our next meeting on November 16 (diner provided)!

Speaking of mission opportunities, Peace will be serving dinner at the Gathering Place on November 17th. We are scheduled for seven Thursdays next year and it would be terrific if different groups within the church would sign up for one of those months. Perhaps the women's organization, Circles, Men's Breakfast, etc. If you are not connected to any particular group but would like to help a serving team please talk with Debra or myself.

Wednesday evening Advent "Prayers & Promises" will begin on November 30 from 6:00—8:00 pm. Activities will include a hosted dinner, devotions, music, and family craft projects. We hope that you will come and join us as we count down the days until we celebrate Christ's birth!

Peace,

Mary J Fuentes

Note From Lutheran Campus Ministry

Dear Members of Peace Lutheran Church:

Enclosed is a check in the amount of five thousand four hundred eighty-four dollars and twenty-two cents (\$5,484.22) as the payment, with interest, of your very generous loan to Campus Christian Ministry in our attempt to buy our the Roman Catholic shares of the Shalom Center, 102 Highland Drive, Bellingham, WA, 98225 at Western Washington University (Campus Christian Ministry).

Your loan to us and your faith in us made it possible for us to continue our ministry as we attempted to retain the Shalom Center as our site for ministry. Due to unfortunate circumstances, the retention of the center was not possible. But, like a phoenix, we are rising out of the ashes of having to leave the Shalom Center and are moving on to new potential and new possibilities.

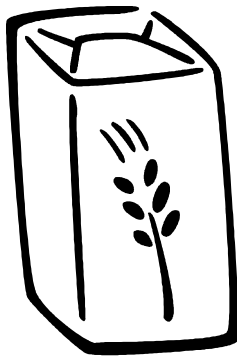
Your faith in us was humbling and incredibly heartening. We look forward to a continued relationship with you in the future.

Sincerely,

The Reverend Christopher D. Berry, Pastor and Director
Lutheran Campus Ministry at Bellingham
Campus Christian Ministry

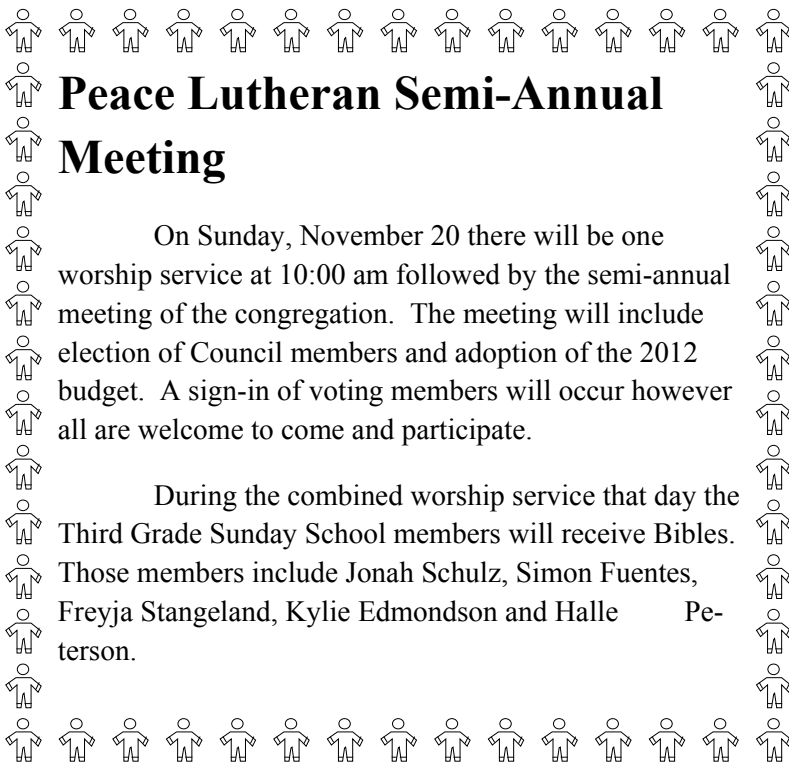
Jiffy Cornbread Mix

Once again the Arlington Food Bank is asking Peace Lutheran to provide the cornbread mix for the Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. Our goal is to gather 700 boxes (350 for Thanksgiving and 350 for Christmas)! This is also our Food Bank item of the month so lets try and collect our 700 boxes quickly. If you are unable to shop, donations for this project can be left in the office or put in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.



November Birthdays

- 1 Bill Rod
- 2 Ellie Smith
- A.J. Passalacqua
- 9 Shirley Cupic
- 12 David Sather
- 13 Tannisha Lee-Olson
- 14 Ruth Schei
- Sunny Moyer
- 19 James Wood
- 21 Connie DiGregorio
- 24 Patti Vroman
- 25 Mike Brady
- Joe Holden
- Joan Johnson
- 26 Linda Anderson
- 29 Linda Staswick



Peace Lutheran Semi-Annual Meeting

On Sunday, November 20 there will be one worship service at 10:00 am followed by the semi-annual meeting of the congregation. The meeting will include election of Council members and adoption of the 2012 budget. A sign-in of voting members will occur however all are welcome to come and participate.

During the combined worship service that day the Third Grade Sunday School members will receive Bibles. Those members include Jonah Schulz, Simon Fuentes, Freyja Stangeland, Kylie Edmondson and Halle Peterson.

Donation

Peace Lutheran recently donated two wheelchairs, a walker and a portable commode to the Lending Closet at Stanwood Senior Services. This agency loans these items to people in the community as they are needed. It makes much more sense than having them sit in our hallway!

WHAT?.....I DIDN'T KNOW THAT!!

How many times have you looked for something at the church and don't know where to find it?...or attempt to put it away but don't really know where it belongs?? So just like at home you shove it in the nearest available drawer or cupboard never to be found again! I found myself doing just that recently, after a long day working at the church, I just wanted the miscellaneous stuff that didn't have an obvious home to find one quickly so I could retreat to my own house. So I found myself opening the closest drawer and stuffing it inside. OOPS! Now that is just what has been driving me crazy lately about our church....."stuff" everywhere where it does not belong. The trouble is, it might not have a place and worse yet it might not need a space, short of the garbage or recycling bin.

So we are on a mission. It will begin soon after the Bazaar is over. A group of cleaning and purging "elves" will be systematically going through the church and throwing, cleaning and making some order of all of the "stuff" that has accumulated here, there, and everywhere. If you have a particular "space" that you call your own, please find time to go through it, clean and reorganize it in a way that the "elves" will recognize as the stuff that needs to be kept.

Just like at my own house, if it has a space, it will get put away and I can find it when I need it. If not...well, you know the rest of the story!

When the facility storage meeting group met, the one conclusion we came up with was that the more storage available, the more stuff we will shove into it whether it is useful stuff or not. So before we create more storage, we need to reorganize what we already have and go from there. Along with the reorganization, it is my hope that we can have a list posted in various spots in the church that will tell you where things are found and need to be stored. Now wouldn't that make our lives tidier and less frustrating? As soon as those elves finish here they are coming to my house!

God's house should be filled with real treasures...His people and His good works. If we don't want "junk" in our own homes why would we think God wants it in His?

By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. (Proverbs 24:3-4)

Jolene Rod



Grief Care

There is a sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness, but of power. They speak more eloquently than 10,000 tongues. They are the messengers of overwhelming grief, of deep contrition and of unspeakable love (Washington Irving)

Grief Care meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room at Peace Lutheran. All are welcome, just as you are, to come and share the message of Isaiah 40:31. Please contact Joan Johnson at 360-435-6299 if you have any questions.

*PLCW Early Country
Christmas Bazaar*

Saturday, November 5
10:00 AM ~ 2:00 PM

Lefse ♦ Rommegrot ♦ Vafflers
Crafts ♦ Harvest Items
Baked Goods ♦ Used Treasures
Silent Auction ♦ Lunch

Peace Lutheran Church
1717 Larson Road, Silvana

Happy Thanksgiving!

Josephine's Annual Christmas Bazaar

Friday, November 11, 2011 10 am to 5 pm

Activity Center at Josephine

Tables will be laden with jewelry, glass and copper art, angels, chocolates and candies for sale plus much more. The Josephine Auxiliary will have a bake sale and the Suites will have lunch for sale between 10 am and 1 pm. A few tables are still available to rent for \$15 per table. Call Becky Bunke at 360-629-2126 x 146 for more information.



November 2011 Faith and Care

8:30 Service at PLC

November 6th

November 13th & 27th

Head Usher	Mike Brady	Joe Johns
Usher	Gretchen Pigott	Hayden Love
Greeter	Donna Hefty	Michelle Love
Lector	Jerry Hefty	Jerry Hefty
Acolyte	Elise Driscoll	Hayden Love
Communion		Donna Hefty
Serving Group (Fellowship)	Jolene Rod Serving Group	Jolene Rod Serving Group

11:00 Service at PLC

November 6th & 20th

November 13th & 27th

Head Usher	JoDonna Olson	JoDonna Olson
Usher	Laura Kellogg	Joan Johnson
Greeter	Lyle Kellogg	Margaret Ames
Lector	Lyle Kellogg	Leilani Erps
Acolyte	Seth Olson	Seth Olson
Communion	Eden Ludwig	
Serving Group (Fellowship)	Joan Rapose Serving Group	Joan Rapose Serving Group

Saint Theresa's Prayer

May today there be peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be confident knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones and allow your soul the freedom to sing, praise, dance and love.

It is there for each and every one of us.



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

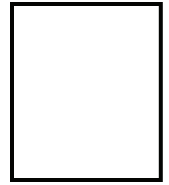
November Worship Schedule

8:30 A.M. Early Service at Peace
9:45 am Sunday School—All Ages
11:00 A.M. Second Service at Peace

Telephone: 360-652-8739

Email: PLSilvana@aol.com

Web Site: www.plsilvana.org



Congratulations Leymah Gbowee!

Just two days before learning that she was a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, Leymah Gbowee was speaking to a captivated audience at Queen Anne Lutheran, Seattle. Gbowee, a member of the Lutheran Church in



Liberia, is responsible for organizing a nonviolent women's movement that brought an end to a 14-year civil war in Liberia. The starting point of the women's movement was war fatigue, said Gbowee, a mother of six children. She grew tired of watching children die from hunger and "waking up every morning and not knowing whether a tomorrow was possible. You can't plan for the future." Along with thousands of other women from across Liberia, Gbowee wanted to dream of a better community. She decided it was time to stop the war and called together women of all faiths—Christian, Muslim, indigenous and others—from across Liberia to "step out," recognizing that Liberian women can play a critical role in peace building. Gbowee's story is chronicled in the documentary *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*. She has just completed her memoir, *Mighty Be Our Powers: How Sisterhood, Prayer, and Sex Changed a Nation at War* -- a book that examines "the power of women and the power of faith in getting you (out) from the darkest place in your life," she said. For the full press release on Gbowee please visit www.elca.org.

Community Events

Josephine Home

The Josephine Memory Loss Support Group is for persons experiencing memory loss and also involves their caregivers, partners, family members or friends. The group meets the 1st Tuesday of every month from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm at Josephine in Stanwood. An activity program for persons with memory loss is available during the meeting time. Please call Sharon to reserve a spot at 360-629-2126 x 127.

Trinity Lutheran College

6 Ways Mushrooms Can Save The World
Nov. 12, 2:00 p.m.

Citizens with the Saints Concert
Nov. 13, 7:00 p.m.

Pacific Lutheran University

40th Anniversary Yule Boutique
Saturday, November 19 ♦ 9 am—5 pm
(Olson Field House)

Christmas Magnificat, Monday, December 5, 7:30 pm
Benaroya Hall, Seattle