

The Witness of Peace

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OCTOBER 2011

Can We Have Church?

When I was on vacation, I went to the Gorge for a weekend music festival. We set up our tent on the campground of the amphitheater and settled in for three days of music. I am not ashamed of being a pastor, but let's just say it is not my usual conversation starter. Usually when I announce my vocation, I get uncomfortable looks and a quick and polite, *Good day to you*. Sometimes I get the opposite reaction and am asked to explain a tragic death or to engage in a theological discussion on comparative religions, the nature of God, or the nature of suffering. Sometimes, I will be treated to confessions--confessions of past sins, confessions of guilt over not coming to church, or confessions of doubt about Christ. All this is to say that if I let it slip during my Sabbath rest what it is that I do the remainder of the year, I will most likely find myself working again.

At the concert we made good friends with our immediate neighbors at the campground. There were three young couples nearby. What started as borrowing groceries from one another, quickly turned into shared meals and long conversations about life struggles and tragedies. We shared stories about jobs, marriage, and children. During one of those conversations, one that was focused on a particular personal tragedy and the presence or absence of God in it, I finally had to fess up. I let them know that I was a pastor. Because we had developed a friendship, my confession wasn't received with the usual weird, uncomfortable reaction. We talked a little further. Each couple felt the need to confess their own religious belief. There were two lapsed Catholics, an atheist, and two people who were *spiritual but not religious* (though decidedly anti-organized religion). One person was silent. As the conversation turned to my own vocation and why I became a pastor, the two anti-church people said, "It's a shame you don't live closer. We would come to your church." The two lapsed Catholics asked, "Can we have church tomorrow?"

We didn't have church the next morning, though I was willing. The fun idea of the two Catholics was interrupted by the business of preparing for the concert. The people who said they would go to my church didn't bring it up again. The silent person was still silent, and the atheist wasn't about to remind everyone that we had agreed to worship that morning.

Upon reflection, it occurred to me that this generation (they were all in their late twenties and thirties) is the generation who also doesn't come to our church. Perhaps most Saturdays they think they might go tomorrow or would go if they found someone whose church they wanted to go to. So many writers prophesy that this decade will be the demise of the church as a formal institution. Like newspapers and the Elks clubs, churches will be ignored away. I think they may be right. As I watch our own attendance get crowded out by summer vacations and notice that each fall our *Let's-go-back-to-church* Sunday is advancing and now appears to happen in October, I wonder how long our own church is from closing our doors, at least from June to Advent.

But then, I also have to wonder at the impulse of those two Catholics who asked, "Can we have church tomorrow?" I love the hope of that question. Where two or three Christians gather, there will always be that question. We may not have buildings in the future (I can't remember the last time I passed an Elks Lodge). We may not have formal ministry, and the work of Lutheran Disaster Relief may have to be handed over to FEMA when our institutions fall due to lack of interest and commitment. We may, as an organization and institution, be ignored out of existence. The prophets may be right, and this might be the last decade of the church. But, I know the Lutheran slogan we sing in the final stanza of *A Mighty Fortress* because its Latin acronym is on my class ring VDMA God's Word Forever Will Abide. The Word will not fall even if churches do. That is, after all, what we sing when we sing that song. Perhaps in another decade I will be a professor somewhere, sitting around a living room at a dinner party sipping wine and discussing tragedy and life and man's inhumanity to man and all those ancient themes, and someone will say, "Weren't you also a pastor?" After I talk a bit about God's Word, that one thing that even those who ignore us cannot take away, another person will say, "Pastor, here is bread. We have wine. Can we have church?"

God's Peace,

Pastor Jeff

Council News ~ July 11, 2011

Members Present: Pastor Jeff Driscoll, Jesse Driscoll, Ashley Stoffel, Donna Hefty, Sunny Moyer, Mike Cairus, Kathy Rasmussen, George Daoura, President Ernie Fosse, Pedro Gonzales

Members Absent: Mary Fuentes, Coni Moyer, Robyn Canteras, Joe Holden

Others Present: Knut Rasmussen, Bob Sund

Called to order by President Ernie at 7:05 pm. Opening prayer by Pastor Jeff. Pastor's report given by Jeff.

Treasurer's report given by Kathy.

- Executive Committee is charged with releasing Memorial Funds
- It was suggested that the Executive Committee transfer funds from the Memorial Fund to the general account to cover the cost of gutters and supplies.

Council meeting called to recess at 7:16 pm. Council meeting called back to order at 7:20 pm.

Treasurer's report continued:

- Ernie presented Council with a five year look at the past
- It was suggested we relook over our budget
- Mike reminded us that the current budget has not been changed in two years
- Ashley moved we receive the Treasurer's report, George seconded and the motion carried

Communications were given by Sunny.

- Jesse moved we accept the May minutes as written; Ashley seconded, motion carried.
- Jesse we moved we accept the June minutes as written; Ashley seconded, motion carried.
- Whitney Holden has officially resigned her position as Youth Rep on the Council.

Mike moved to have Carol Maurstad and Debra Compton added to the Little White Church on the Hill accounts; Ashley seconded, motion carried.

Ashley moved that we approve Debra's request for leave on the following dates: August 18-26, November 29-December 5 with remaining to be used in September; Pedro seconded, motion carried.

Council reemphasized that NO ONE is to spend money without contacting the current Treasurer first.

Mission statement notes:

- We will work to pick words that are our church.

All church picnic

- Cannot be at Big Rock
- Linda Legler said we can have it at her house but she is in need of help to get property ready
- George and Pedro will organize the picnic which will be held August 28th at the church

Adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Executive Meeting: President Ernie Fosse called the meeting to order at 7:16 pm with Vice-President Pedro Gonzales, Secretary Sunny Moyer, Treasurer Kathy Rasmussen and Pastor Jeff Driscoll present. Sunny moved that \$2000 dollars be moved from the Memorial Fund to the General Fund to cover gutters and other expenses.; Pedro seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Scripture Texts For October

October 2

First Lesson	Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm	Psalm 80:7-15
Second Lesson	Philippians 3:4b-14
Gospel Lesson	Matthew 21:33-46

October 9

First Lesson	Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm	Psalm 23
Second Lesson	Philippians 4:1-9
Gospel Lesson	Matthew 22:1-14

October 16

First Lesson	Isaiah 45:1-7
Psalm	Psalm 96:1-9(10-13)
Second Lesson	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Gospel Lesson	Matthew 22:15-22

October 23

First Lesson	Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18
Psalm	Psalm 1
Second Lesson	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Gospel Lesson	Matthew 22:34-46

October 30

First Lesson	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm	Psalm 46
Second Lesson	Romans 3:19-28
Gospel Lesson	John 8:31-36



PLC Council

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Youth Rep:

Staff

Pastor: Jeff Driscoll 435-3104
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(Debbers54@aol.com)

Youth & Family: Mary Fuentes 652-8694
(mjfsilvana@hotmail.com)

Musicians:

Pam Holdal 629-4263
(holdal@netscape.com)

Randy Libby 425-218-5178

Custodian:

Sue Ludwig 435-5536

Youth & Family News

The youth group has started meeting weekly on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm. We begin the evenings with dinner and prayer, have a discussion time and then play some fun games. During the month of October our focus will be on witnessing to our neighbors. Come and join us as you can! If you need more information please don't hesitate to call me.

Wow—if you haven't heard already—I've been taking a night class! Every Tuesday evening I am down at Trinity Lutheran College in Everett taking a Perspectives class. I must say it taken a few weeks to get back into the swing of reading and turning in weekly reviews. Perspectives is a course on vision, hope and passion. There's joy in vision. Jesus told his followers that the value of "living fruitfully for His Father's glory was that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full". (John 15:11)

This is a fifteen week class and each week we have a different speaker. Each one has been very inspiring. Some of the topics have been: The Living God is a Missionary God, The Story of His Glory, Your Kingdom Come, Mandate for the Nations and Unleashing the Gospel. Each of these lessons is opening my eyes to better understand my call as God's servant. I feel these lessons will be used within my personal life and my work. My Tuesdays are pretty tied up for the next few months but they are tied up in a good way! If you are interested in hearing more about the classes please just ask me—we can have a conversation!

Go Green Tip: The best things in life are flea—market, that is! Think vintage—think antique—think second-hand!

Harvest Party: We will hold our annual Harvest Party on Saturday, October 22 at 5:30 PM. It will be "Crazy Hat" night and I do mean **CRAZY**—the weirdest, wildest, tallest, fattest, smallest, or whatever—it'll all be good. We have all kinds of prizes and not only for hats but for costumes, donut eating, heaviest pumpkin, lightest pumpkin, and most pounds of walnuts cracked. Yes, once again we will be cracking walnuts for the bazaar. Dinner and dessert will be provided however we are asking people to bring a food/cash donation for the local food banks.



Another exciting thing that is happening, of course, is the Early Country Christmas Bazaar. This popular event will take place on Saturday, November 5 from 10:00 am—2:00 pm. Remember that it is still not too late to can some veggies, make some jam, finish that craft project, clean out the closets and dust off the cookbook! Items for the Silent Auction are being solicited, Fair Trade coffee from Lutheran World Relief has been ordered, Quilt Raffle tickets are on sale and our favorite Scandinavian treats (lefse, rommegrot and vafflers) and a divine lunch are already being made and/or dreamed about. Make plans to come and spend the day with us for some real country fun.

Food Bank Items for October: Canned Meats or Vegetables

Peace,
Mary J Fuentes

Java Justice

Across the country, Lutheran congregations are serving up justice with their java during coffee hour. We have turned our Narthex and fellowship hall into a ministry of hope with delicious Fair Trade Coffee that improves lives and promotes futures. Each week the coffee that is served at Peace comes from Fairly Traded coffee.

Debra will be placing an order with Lutheran World Relief's fair trade coffee project in the next week. If you have a preference or would like to buy some for your personal use please let her know.

Also, watch for the LWR Fair Trade basket at the 2011 bazaar. It will have a Christmas flair to it and will be in the Silent Auction!

October Birthdays

- 3 Magnus Cairus
- 5 Sharon Daoura, Wayne Vroman
- 6 Whitney Holden
- 7 George Daoura, Alice Jacobs, Everett Fuentes
- 10 Connie Smith
- 11 Mike Cairus, Robin Canteras
- 12 Dolores Vanwinkle
- 14 Mark Ludwig
- 17 Carla Driscoll
- 18 Jeanne Watanabe
- 19 Marcie Conn, Luke Passalacqua
- 20 Kenji Watanabe
- 22 Charles Mullin
- 24 Dana Stoffel
- 27 Joan Rapose
- 30 Susan Enquist



Thank You Notes

- Thank you, thank you, thank you to all my wonderful friends at Peace Lutheran for all of the beautiful birthday cards. The Lord has blessed me to be a part of this great congregation. Blessings to all of you! Love, Cille Krock
- Thanks for the privilege and honor of celebrating my birthday at the church. Thanks also for all the cards and visits. Blessings to all, Grace Barlund and her Family
- Wynn and I would like to thank everyone from the bottom of our hearts for the cards, calls, prayers and hugs we have been given during these last 2 very difficult months. We can't even begin to tell you how much of a comfort that has been for us while experiencing the loss of our parents. Something as simple as just listening or sharing your own story has made the burden a little lighter. You are all truly "little ministers". Thank you especially, Pastor Jeff, for the moving words and beautiful music you gave for Dorothy's service. The whole family is appreciative and very deeply touched by that gift you gave us. Thank you all so much.....God's peace. Wynn and Pam Holdal and Family

WHAT??I DIDN'T KNOW THAT

The PLCW Bazaar is coming soon. It is always the 1st Saturday of November. Mary and Bonnie Fuentes are Co-chairmen this year, and it is well on its way toward being another fun and successful event. Did you know that our PLCW has a yearly budget of around \$10,000 with around 90% of it coming from the proceeds of our Bazaar? Did you know that of the \$10,000 half of it goes directly to Mission work. Another quarter goes into supporting our Youth for everything from Campships and other retreat events, to Bibles, and the Senior Quilts given at graduation. The last quarter is used for the work the women do here at Peace that ranges from kitchen needs to the coffee you drink every Sunday morning. That's quite a lot of good that comes from a little one day Bazaar that not only raises funds for all those good causes but also creates a great time for fellowship for both our members and those who come in as guests. Thank you ahead of time for the part that you play in making our Bazaar the great event it will be again this year. We so appreciate all of the ladies who give of their time and talents and for all the men who come and help too.

The Women of Peace along with the Council are in the process of looking at our storage needs. All the outreach that we do creates a lot of STUFF! And it all needs a place. Currently we are short on storage space. There will be a meeting to brainstorm what the storage needs are and what creative ideas emerge. Many of you have been contacted about the meeting, but all or any are welcome to come as we work to solve this need with a well thought out approach. The meeting will be held at the church on Tuesday, October 11th at 10:00 am.

The 2011 budget will be presented at the November meeting and voted on at the December meeting along with officers for the coming year. As always we invite you to come join us for lunch on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 11:30.

May our work and our fellowship be a blessing to His name.

Jolene Rod, President PLCW

Josephine Sunset Home

Josephine Sunset Home recently underwent its annual review and received the highest Federal rating available with just one low-level infraction out of 500 State and Federal regulations. One Inspector commented that of the 15 years they has been coming to JSH it was noted that the staff were happy and honest and that residents and their families were complimentary on the general care they are receiving and the overall cleanliness and orderliness of the buildings. This is a great review and PLC is proud to be a Partner of such a well-recognized care facility. Great job, good and faithful staff of Josephine!

Hands For Peacemaking Foundation

On Wednesday, September 21 Pete Finch of Hands for Peacemaking Foundation, gave a power-point presentation to members of Peace Lutheran regarding the organizations needs. Through discussion and planning it was decided that Peace Lutheran will be taking a team of workers to Guatamala in July, 2012 to install stoves in villagers homes. If you are interested in participating in this project please talk with Mary Fuentes about some of the immediate details. We will be raising monies for both the team travel and the stoves. The congregation will be hearing more about this project and ways you can help in the months to come. Also, keep this project in your prayers as more concrete decisions/plans are made.

Grief Care

No one is immune to loss and the resulting dynamic of grief.

Grieving is a journey. At Grief Care we'll define grief, look at ways to say good-bye and identify the symptoms of grief. You'll also learn how long the grief process can last and ways to help make your journey easier.

Grief Care meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room at Peace Lutheran Church. It is open to anyone regardless of what has brought you to the grief you are experiencing. Contact Joan Johnson at 360-435-6299 for more information or for a listening ear.

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts." (Psalm 139:23)

Joan Johnson, Grief Care Coordinator

Lutheran World Relief

What a great time we had filling our new School Back Packs and so nice not to have to tie them shut—just pull the drawstring.

We completed 204 packs to add to the 100 bags the ladies had already completed. Many thanks to all for the supplies, sewing and packing; it was a job well done and so many kids will enjoy them.

Our next job is Health Kits. Two of the women's Circles will be tying them up at their next meeting on October 12. Our goal is to provide 200 kits. Good job PLC!

We will need boxes to get the rest of the kits packed along with the quilts that some have been completed. Our Thursdays together have been fun and we've enjoyed coffee, cookies and great fellowship together. Think about joining us—there's a lot to do besides sewing and tying quilts.

Shipping for LWR is early again this year—October 21 & 22. We'll need someone to drive boxes down to Seattle. We could also use help packing the Monday after the Sunday morning blessings.

Thanks again and God's blessings on all,
Donna Hefty, LWR Coordinator

Reformation Sunday
October 30, 2011

October 2011 Faith and Care

8:30 Service at PLC

October 2nd & 16th

October 9th & 23rd

Head Usher	Pedro Gonzales	Pedro Gonzales
Usher	Kathy Rasmussen	Jeff Olseene
Greeter	Pam Guilford	Lynn Olseene
Lector	Connie DiGregorio	Brian Johnson
Acolyte	Zac Keefe	Elise Driscoll
Communion		Pam Guilford
Serving Group (Fellowship)	Betty Jacobs Serving Group	Betty Jacobs Serving Group

11:00 Service at PLC

October 2nd, 16th & 30th

October 9th & 23rd

Head Usher	Mike Cairus	Mike Cairus
Usher	Krista Cairus	
Greeter	Mary Fuentes	Debra Compton
Lector	Krista Cairus	Debra Compton
Acolyte	Magnus Cairus	Ava Mullin
Communion	Laura Kellogg	
Serving Group (Fellowship)	Mary Fuentes Serving Group	Mary Fuentes Serving Group

Praying

It doesn't have to be the blue iris, it could be weeds in a vacant lot, or a few small stones; just pay attention, then patch a few words together and don't try to make them elaborate, this isn't a contest but the doorway into thanks, and a silence in which another voice may speak. **Mary Oliver**

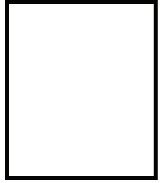
Please remember in prayer: Church: ELCA, Maasae Lutheran Girl's School

Military: Nichole Moman (Iraq), Dr. John Harvey (Afghanistan)

Continued Care: Selvin Stensen, Dorothy Madson, Doris Ohde, 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

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

October 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

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Why Give?

In his book, "Giving to God", Mark Allen Powell wrote, "We are invited to put money in the offering plate on Sunday morning not because the church needs our money but because we want and need to give it."

For many of us, this may fly in the face of our typical notion of giving our offering. We may have been brought up thinking we give because the church has bills. There is a building that has upkeep and expenses, staff needs to receive a salary and there is the larger church that receives our support also. In essence, we give because of the need of others.

While this is true, this is not the primary reason why we receive an offering during our worship service. If we simply view giving as a way to meet budget needs then we most likely will not find a whole lot of joy in giving, we will view it as we view paying our gas or electric bill for our home.

As Allen points out, if giving is simply to meet the budgetary expenses, then why is this part of the service at all. We should simply have dues and let everyone know their share. But if we give because we recognize our need and desire to give, then offering becomes an act of worship and it changes our motivation for giving. We turn from meeting an obligation to "expressing our love of God in the purest way imaginable, by giving up something that we value."

This is, in essence, why we receive an offering during our worship service. Yes, it helps to pay the bills, but more importantly, it is a way for us to actively participate in and recognize and express our emotions to God. This is why it is part of our worship service.

I encourage everyone to think about their motivation for giving, to have a conversation with those whom you trust and talk about giving an offering at church. You do not have to name numbers or how much, unless it is a decision you are making together, but rather talk about what it means to you personally when you give and how you decide what to give.

God's blessings on your conversations and please come forward with any questions and joys that you discover.