

The Witness of Peace

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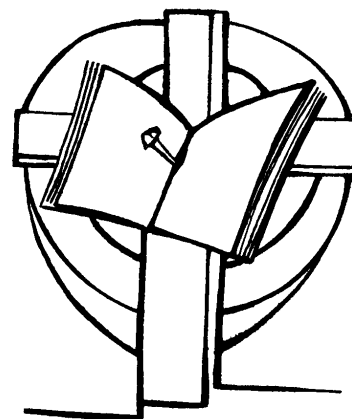
Not Lutheran?

Every once in a while, someone in the congregation will apologize to me for not being Lutheran. Usually in a hushed voice they will tell me of their upbringing in the Roman Catholic church, or Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Methodist, Pentecostal, or even Mormon church! As someone who was baptized in the Lutheran church but raised Episcopalian, who ate and celebrated regularly with his Irish Catholic relatives, who was sent to an Assemblies of God school that taught a Baptist curriculum, I can relate. I could say I have always been Lutheran, but my father was Episcopalian, and after my baptism in the Lutheran church, we did not worship with Lutherans again until I was 11

I discovered I was Lutheran at seminary, after being raised and confirmed in the Lutheran church. I also discovered that there are Lutherans in nearly every denomination. That has always been our heritage and confession, because we have never wanted to establish a Lutheran church. The Lutherans set out to establish a Christian church and to reform the corrupted view of Christianity that prevailed in the sixteenth century. We wanted to return people to a Christ-centered Christianity. So wherever we encounter that Christianity--no matter the denominational name--we find fellow Lutherans

The Lutheran church introduced me to confirmation. We had it in the Episcopal church, but it was a six week course with little content. Lutherans, I discovered, did confirmation with gusto and relish unparalleled by other denominations. I find that odd because Luther said very little good about confirmation. The phrases *devil's business*, *monkey business* and even *mumbo jumbo* come to mind when I think about what Luther said about confirmation. Of course he was describing a church that had elevated the confirmation rite into a sacrament whereby a person received grace by participation in the ritual of confirmation, and we don't have that elevated opinion of confirmation today, do we? No, Luther believed in *catechesis*. *Catechism* comes from the same word meaning "To echo the teaching." Luther believed in learning about our faith, and he believed that learning was a life-long work of a disciple of Christ. He did not believe in a one-time magic class in 7th and 8th grade that was sufficient to teach a Christian what is needed to live in faithful relationship to God.

In keeping with his spirit, and the need of our congregation, I am going to give you all an opportunity to experience catechesis this year. On Thursday evenings at 7:00 beginning September 15th I will begin teaching confirmation for anyone high school age or older. All are welcome. If you have been confirmed, you are welcome. If you never were, you are certainly welcome. If you are not sure you are Lutheran or even Christian, you are most certainly welcome. This adult confirmation class will seek to teach you the basics of the Christian faith and our denominations confessions about that faith. Come and see for yourself what those so-called cradle Lutherans cling to, and we can return together to an old tradition of the church and make it new again.



God's Peace,

Pastor Jeff

Grief Care

We invite all who are dealing with grief issues to come and participate in our Grief Care group. These issues may include:

- Physical Disability
- Job Loss
- Miscarriage
- Divorce
- Death of a Loved One
- Empty Nest
- Spiritual Crisis
- Depression
- Relocation



There is no reason to walk this journey alone. Come and join us on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at Peace Lutheran Church starting on September 13, 2011. Contact Joan Johnson at 360-435-6299 if you have any questions.

“Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. He will cover you with His feathers, He will shelter you with His wings.” (Psalm 91:1, 4)

Words From The Wheelhouse (excerpt from NW WA Synod Maritime Ministry of Puget Sound)

Meet Chaplain Paul Tan! Chaplain Paul Tan lives in Seattle. He was born and raised in Manila, Philippines. Chaplain Tan is an ethnic Chinese, speaking in both Mandarin and Hokkien (the language of southeast China and Chinese all over Asia) and also Tagalog (the language of the Philippines). He graduated from college with a B.S. degree in Electronics and Communication Engineering in 1978. Later, he came with his family to the United States in December of 1982.

Here in America, he acquired a 2-year certificate in Biblical Studies at the Lutheran Bible Institute in 1998 and then a Master of Divinity (MDiv) at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia in 2004.

Previously he worked as an electronics technician and as a handyman and now is a part-time chaplain for Lutheran Maritime Ministry in Seattle, where he has served since 2005. He visits ships and helps the seafarers at the Port of Seattle every Thursday and Friday and sometimes on Saturdays as well. His wife Rui-Lian (or Priscilla) is from China. They have a young son name John (Yong-en in Chinese, which means God’s grace rushing in) was born in September 2009.

Scripture Texts For September

September 4 Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

First Lesson Ezekiel 33:7-11
 Psalm Psalm 119:33-40
 Second Lesson Romans 13:8-14
 Gospel Lesson Matthew 18:15-20

September 11 Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

First Lesson Genesis 50:15-23
 Psalm Psalm 103:[1-7]8-13
 Second Lesson Romans 14:1-12
 Gospel Lesson Matthew 18:21-35

September 18 Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

First Lesson Jonah 3:10—4:11
 Psalm Psalm 145:1-8
 Second Lesson Philippians 1:21-30
 Gospel Lesson Matthew 20:1-16

September 25 Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

First Lesson Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
 Psalm Psalm 25:1-9
 Second Lesson Philippians 2:2-13
 Gospel Lesson Matthew 21:23-32



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The Spirit

Volume 28, Number 7

News for the congregations of the Northwest Washington Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

August 2011

Our Synod's Newest Ministries

by The Rev. Jerry Buss, Director For Evangelical Mission/Assistant to the Bishop



Of the 65 synods in the ELCA, the Northwest Washington Synod is near the top as far as starting new congregations. Currently we have 10 congregations-under-development, three second sites of existing congregations and four

exploratory worshipping communities for a total of 17 new starts.

The energy and resources invested by our synod in this area is quite significant. These new starts are supported by the synod's Evangelical Outreach Team, by congregations filling the role of fiscal agents, by prayer partners and by me as Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM).

A total of 15 mission developers are at work in these new ministries. Support for them comes from the synod candidacy committee, the TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministry) program, and by people who serve as their coaches and mentors. The DEM is responsible for supervising mission developers and for overseeing a process to identify new mission developers and re-developers.

Up to half of the funding for new starts comes from the ELCA Churchwide, but our synod is expected to be a financial partner as well. About \$90,000 in synod funding is required every year to fulfill our part of supporting these new starts, with the synod share needing to grow even greater in the coming years. Also, several congregations and many individuals in our synod provide partnership support that is crucial to these new ministries.

While the support story is of great interest, even more interesting is the ethnic and multi-cultural mixture within the new starts. Five are among Chinese people, two among Latinos, one is Ethiopian and one is Indonesian. Others are multi-ethnic and multi-cultural, including the Church of Steadfast Love at the Compass Housing Alliance in Seattle where worship takes place in both English and Spanish. Some reach out to particular age-ranges or groups of people who have not always sensed that the church was for them. Welcome and hospitality formed by the Spirit of Jesus Christ makes these ministries possible. (An example is Luther's Table in Renton, which will be highlighted at the Churchwide Assembly in Orlando, FL.)

The newest ministry is just now being formed and receiving synod authorization. It is an exploratory worshipping community of Taiwanese people. There are fewer than 10 Taiwanese congregations in the entire ELCA, and the closest one is in Beaverton, OR. An ELCA Taiwanese pastor, Jeremy Shih, has been holding Bible studies in the homes of Taiwanese families while they search for a place to hold worship. About 40 adults are already part of this group, with significant momentum for the future. The families come from all over the Seattle metro area, but the worship site will most likely be in Bellevue.

As you can see, new possibilities "pop-up" anywhere and at any time. The Holy Spirit energizes the mission, and we do our best to keep up. If you have a dream for a new start or if your congregation wants to support mission work here in Northwest Washington, please be in touch with me or other leaders in the synod. Thank you.

Go Green Tip



Naturally Lighter: Help our home to work in harmony with sunshine. By painting interior walls in pale colors and keeping your windows clean, you'll make your rooms look brighter and reduce the need for artificial light!

September Birthdays

- 3 Patti Jones
- 4 Jody Hoffmeister
- 5 Grace Barlund (Happy 90th!)
- 6 Wynn Holdal
- 8 Bonnie Fuentes (Happy 70th!)
- 11 Amanda Bean
Paul Ashley
Jeff Driscoll
- 14 Gail Blake
- 15 Dolly Pachur
- 17 Kim Moyer
- 19 Jazz Glastra
- 20 Donna Burlingame
- 21 Donnella Rod
Della Ludwig



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.



* * * * *
Grace Barlund's
90th Birthday
Celebration
 * * * * *
 Please join Grace for
 cake & coffee
 to celebrate her
 90th Birthday
 on September 10th
 from 1pm to 5pm.
 * * * * *
 Peace Lutheran Church
 Fellowship Hall
 * * * * *

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

School is starting. The days are shorter. The weather.....well, we won't talk about the weather! For many of us it is a time to get back into a routine and back to a schedule. At Church it is a time to get back to "business" and it starts with our September 7th PLCW lunch and meeting starting at 11:30.

The theme for the day is: RENEW, RESPOND, REJOICE! That was the theme of the ELCA's Women of Faith Triennial Convention/Gathering held in Spokane in July. Several of our ladies attended. I heard it was amazing and that those who attended came back "renewed, refreshed and rejoicing". Fortunately for the rest of us, we have a chance to benefit from their experience as the program that day will be given by them.

If you are not a regular at PLCW meeting consider coming! It is such a great time to fellowship with such a loving, caring group of women. I was unable to attend for the many years while I was working, and only attended Sunday worship. I felt a disconnect to the church. For me PLCW has become my connection to the happenings at our church and that has given me a sense of belonging that I was missing. I have heard people say that we need to be part of smaller groups within the Church to gain a sense of belonging. If you are one of those people who feel like I did, I invite you to join us on the first Wednesday of each month. It might be the very thing that will reconnect you to the people you worship with each week.

God has called us to reach out to others in need. No matter where we look there is a need. We can't do everything and sometimes that makes me hesitate to do *anything*. But together and with the help of God, PLCW, a group of ordinary women, are making a difference in the lives of others. Come join us. Invite a friend. Invite a stranger. INVITE!!! Just as Christ has invited us into His grace; into his loving arms, we are called to invite others to experience the same. Hope to see you.

Jolene Rod
President PLCW

Rally Sunday is September 11!

The whole congregation is invited to our Sunday School Kick-off Event at 9:45 am on Sunday September 11! We will celebrate with music, games and food as members of all ages of the Peace Lutheran Church come together to start a new year of STUDYING GOD'S WORD. There will be a service project UNVEILING the new Lutheran World Relief BACKPACKS for kids around the world! We have a goal to create 100! Stay late after early service or come early for late service and show the youth of our congregation your support!



Youth and Family News

Neah Bay: What a way to end the summer! Though our numbers were small (just six of us) we had a fabulous time. We walked up and down Hobuck Beach, out to Cape Flattery and the ShiShi Trail out to the Point of Arches. We also went to the Makah Museum. The weather was perfect and the neighbors in the campground were very kind.

We stayed in tents and prepared our own meals. We ate extremely well with breakfast including blueberry pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage and hot chocolate (made with milk—not water). Lunches were either PB&J or meat and cheese; for dinner on the first night we had personal pizzas and the next night we had hot dogs and campfire beans. On the last night we had pulled pork sandwiches! Along with each meal we also had fresh fruit...as you can see, we ate very well!

For our service project we cleaned up ShiShi Beach. The walk in was longer than I had originally thought, but it was well groomed and fairly level until the last section. Here it was very steep and we had to grab on to the tree roots for balance. We all decided that next time (?) we would pack in to spend the night because there was so much to see. The beach was pretty clean. We gathered one large garbage bag full and moved a tire up to the edge of the hill.

We all agreed that everyone was very friendly and helpful. We camped next to a group of kayakers so we shared the firepit and even some of our meals. This is an amazing place to visit. The views are breathtaking, the people friendly and the history is incredible. We only saw a tiny bit—there was so much more to see and do. I hope next time you can join us!

ELCA World Hunger

Betty Adau Bul has a mission: Ending cattle raids. “Raiding kills, so they must stop it,” says this member of the volunteer peace committee in Twiic county, South Sudan. Volunteer peace committees throughout the region are trained thanks to your gifts to ELCA World Hunger.

In Twiic county, people of the Kinka community graze their families cattle near their homes during the rainy season. In the dry season, the men and boys move the herds closer to water. The neighboring Nuer and Murle communities follow the same ancient pattern.

When herders of different communities clash, cattle are stolen and men can be injured, even killed. Arms left over from the long civil war have brought a new level of violence to the cattle raids.

“We tell the people that peace is crucial and why it is important to keep peace. Tension can easily become a community-wide conflict,” explains Bu Mayen Deng, head of the peace committee.

Mary Abuk of The Lutheran World Federation speaks happily of fewer raids since the peace committees began their work. Community leaders agree: The trained volunteers of the peace committees are making a difference.



International Day of Peace—Sept. 21

Come and celebrate “whirled peace” at PLC on Sunday, September 18, 2011.

We will be decorating pinwheels to “plant” in our sign field to make a visual statement about our feelings for:

- Tolerance
- Cooperation
- Harmony
- Unity

This is not political! Peace can come down to a simple definition: a state of calm and serenity, with no anxiety, the absence of violence and freedom from conflict or disagreement among people or groups of people.



September 2011 Faith and Care

8:30 Service at PLC

September 4th & 18th

September 11th and 25th

Head Usher	Bill Niegemann	Bill Niegemann
Usher	Dennis Dicken	Molly Shackelford
Greeter	Karen Dicken	Watanabe Family
Lector	Brian Johnson	Jeanne Watanabe
Acolyte	Lauren Niegemann	Kenji Watanabe
Communion		Jeanne Watanabe
Serving Group (Fellowship)	Lana Hanson Serving Group	Lana Hanson Serving Group

11:00 Service at PLC

September 4th & 18th

September 11th and 25th

Head Usher	Spencer Fuentes	Spencer Fuentes
Usher	Karen Fuentes	Ruth Schei
Greeter	Karen Fuentes	Gretchen Pigott
Lector	Spencer Fuentes	Gretchen Pigott
Acolyte	Simon Fuentes	Simon Fuentes
Communion	Sunny Moyer	
Serving Group (Fellowship)	Laura Kellogg Serving Group	Laura Kellogg Serving Group

Remember In Prayer

Church: ELCA, Maasae Lutheran Girl's School

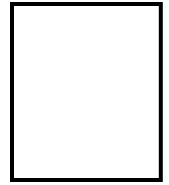
Military: Nichole Moman (Iraq), Dr. John Harvey (Afghanistan)

Continued Care: Selvin Stensen, Dorothy Madson, Doris Ohde

Healing: Sharon Daoura, Sandi Nysether, Randy Libby, Jyoti Mutschler, Darlene Crouch, Dennis Whitney, Marilyn Katz, Rob Delbrauk, Katie Klous, Peggy Parker, Dawn Stoffel, John Gedstad, Grace Dahline, Jenny Burgess, Carol Ronken

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

September Worship Schedule

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

Telephone: 360-652-8739

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A Simple Ministry

“More and more, the desire grows in me simply to walk around, greet people, enter their homes, sit on their doorsteps, play ball, throw water, and be known as someone who wants to live with them. It is a privilege to have the time to practice this simple ministry of presence. Still, it is not as simple as it seems. My own desire to be useful, to do something significant, or to be part of some impressive project is so strong that soon my time is taken up by meetings, conferences, study groups, and workshops that prevent me from walking the streets. It is difficult not to have plans, not to organize people around an urgent cause, and not to feel that you are working directly for social progress. *But I wonder more and more is the first thing shouldn't be to know people by name, to eat and drink with them, to listen to their stories and tell your own, and to let them know with words, handshakes, and hugs that you do not simply like them, but truly love them.*”

- Henri Nouwen

Prayer of the Month

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with an anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that you can reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this World, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

A Franciscan Benediction

