



the CLARION

March 2020

From the Pastor's Desk

This year, I had the honor of writing an entry for a Lenten devotional published by Tacoma's Center for Urban Peacemaking. Allow me to share my reflection on the Gospel text for the Second Sunday in Lent, and please let me know if you'd like a copy of the entire resource for your own devotional use.

Born

Word: John 3:1-17

"Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

Made Flesh:

There's a poem printed on an old yellow utility box on the southeast corner of 21st and Jefferson that reads: "Heaven is here. And earth. The space between is thin. A layer of dust separating the deep unknowns of Commencement Bay from the green metal sign at the Lakewood City Limits. I hear it told that angels hover above Lincoln Hardware on G Street, coveting the Barlow knives under the glass counter...."

It's an experiment with the old suspicion that "above" and "below" constitute a false dichotomy, that divine and material aren't so starkly divided. But, is it a delusion? "Earth's crammed with heaven" is a beautiful thought; still, what are we to make of all the hell?

Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, adapted for television, is a near-future dystopia depicting a repressive western theocracy marked by the subjugation and violation of a minority of women who are still capable of bearing children. One of these women, June, kneels day after day at the hospital bedside of a fellow handmaid who, though brain dead, is being forced to carry her pregnancy to term. June's compulsory vigil eventually takes a toll on her sanity as she begins to make out an '80s pop favorite in the tones and cadences of the life support system:

"Don't you hear it? Ooh, baby, do you know what that's worth? Ooh, heaven is a place on earth."

The tragedy, of course, is that the society June's captors have built is nothing like heaven, no matter how purportedly pious their motives.

If heaven is a place on earth, then what does it actually look like?

“No one can see the kingdom of God,” Jesus tells the seeker Nicodemus under the cover of night, “without being born from above.” Another translation of that last phrase, “without being born *again*,” is so laden with religious baggage that it’s hard to hear this week’s word in a fresh way. *Born again* has become insider language to define legitimate spiritual experience and practice, a shibboleth to mark the boundaries of inclusion. *No one can see heaven on earth*, in other words, *without the requisite stamp of approval*. You’re holy or you’re not.

But, if there’s one thing we all have in common, it’s the experience of being born. Jesus insists on pushing that experience to its fullest meaning. To be “born from above” is to know God as heavenly Bearer, conceiving, carrying, and giving birth to each of God’s beloved, then clutching us all together in a mother’s embrace. The kingdom of God is labor and delivery, and we are infants waiting to open our eyes.

When we do, the light that floods in can be disorienting, but ultimately it shows us how “God so loved the world.” No longer remote and transactional, divine love is suddenly immediate and personal, the brimming love of a new parent. It longs for both deep connection and our true freedom. It never ends. [“Our highest Father... who is ‘Being,’” writes Julian of Norwich, “has always known us and loved us ...in this love our life is eternal...in this love is our beginning.”](#)

To rest in this love, and to be joined with all that is dear to God, is to see the kingdom, the world as it should be, even in the midst of the world as it is.

Dwelling Among Us

- Reflection: Is there a word or phrase that stands out to you? What is it calling forth?
- Discussion: How do you react to the image of heavenly childbirth? What experiences inform your reaction?
- Public Action: Go for a walk in your neighborhood, or sit at a window for a time. As you take in your surroundings, look intently upon every person, every creature as a babe born of God, a heaven-sent sibling. Sense your deep connection to the whole world that God so loves.

Pastor Nate Sutton

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Les Gerstmann - Vice President

Allison Burch - Secretary

Pippa Simpson-Younger - Treasurer

Crystal Cunningham - Financial Secretary

Dani Jo Andrews

Ellen Aronson

Sue Casillas

Diane Dean

Karen Ekse

Becca Johnstone

Dave Mahaffie

Lisa Woodbury

Jayla Albenesius



Happy March! I hope this Lenten Season is treating you well as we anticipate the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord. So much to go through before that, though.

At our first quarter Congregational meeting we had a very favorable report on our financial situation. It has taken all of us to make it possible to continue our works of faith, and I appreciate all that has been given in treasure and time from the members of Peace. Also, WELCA is leading the way in their Soup Ministry; if you know of anyone who could use a special meal this season, or if you need some yourself, they will have frozen soup in the kitchen. Many thanks to them for this special ministry!

Also, your council met in February. One of the things we finalized was our commitment to mentor Susan Peterson as she pursues ordination as a Minister of Word and Service. This will mainly involve her meeting and working with Pastor Sutton; I think she will be much more visible to us in the coming months, and we welcome to the chance to help her as she helps us.

We ask for the Holy Spirit to guide us in our journey through this part of the Church Year.

Yours, in Christian fellowship,

Mark Siltala

Council President.



LENTEN CALENDAR

Shrove Tuesday	February 25th
Ash Wednesday	February 26th
Palm Sunday	April 5th
Good Friday	April 10th
Easter Sunday	April 12th
Easter Monday	April 13th



I want to thank everyone, again, for your kind words, cards and messages after the recent passing of my dad. In a time that is so tough for myself and my family, it is so comforting knowing we have people who care for us.

Diane Dean, thank you from the bottom of my heart for the meals for mom those first few days. You'll never know how much that meant to her, and to me. Thank you!

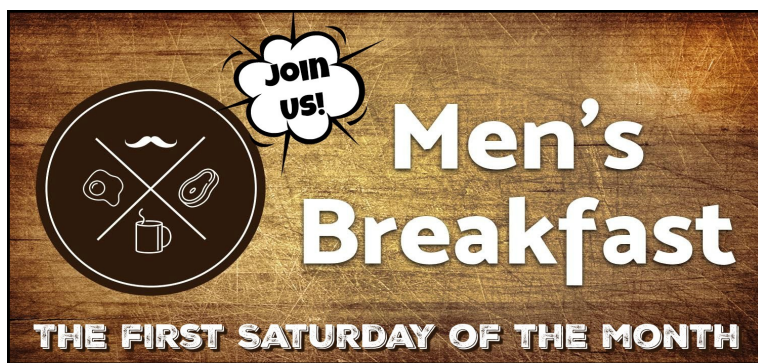
Sara Fowler

Marlys Tron
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The Youngish People with Youngish Families group will meet on the last Sunday of each month at 2:00 p.m. with childcare provided by our Peace youth.

Everyone who is youngish (or actually young!) is welcome to attend!





Thank you to the Ortega's for this amazing find and for setting it up for our kids to use on Sundays! You are greatly appreciated!

Ladies Aid
Wednesday, March 11th
 Leader: Barb King
 Hostess: Ann Pierson

Women of the **ELCA** 




It's time for our annual Pre-Easter cleanup!

When: **Saturday March 7**

What time: **9:30** until around noon, followed by fellowship and pizza

What are we doing? Outside: flower beds, and windows, inside: cleaning up woodwork, pews, and the gathering space. Bring rakes, small garden tools, buckets, rags and general cleaning supplies.

Questions, see Dave Ekse or Steve Smith

THE 2020 SYNOD EDUCATIONAL GATHERINGS SAVE THE DATES

Building Community. Being Church

- Saturday, April 25- Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Port Angeles
- Saturday, May 2- Messiah Lutheran Church, Vancouver
- Saturday, May 16- St Mark's Lutheran Church by the Narrows, Tacoma

All Sites, 9am-3:30pm. Registration starts in March.

Workshop Options: Most workshops will be available at all 3 locations. 2 Workshops sessions to participate in.

- Church Finances
- Growing Young
- What could it mean if the Synod was RIC
- Care Practices
- 3 Things you can do on Social Media to Build Community
- Raising Money for Ministry
- Working with Community Partners while retaining your non-profit status
- Affordable Housing Ministry
- Art in Community
- Compassionate Integrity
- Congregational Safety
- PSALM (Program for Strengthening Active Lay Ministry)

General Fund January 2020

January Giving	\$20,957.82
January Expense	\$24,554.34
January Difference	(\$3,596.52)
2020 Budget	\$299,345

OUTREACH

Preparing for the Summer Food Program!

The summer food program serves kids enrolled in weekend backpack programs in the Puyallup School District. This year we will be serving all elementary schools in the district and offering a pilot delivery program. Peace Lutheran plays a vital role in the program by providing food, assembling food boxes, and distributing food. This year to begin our preparations March will be PEANUT BUTTER MONTH.

Supporting the summer food program is as easy as bringing one 16 oz. jar of peanut butter to donate sometime during the month of March.

We will be assembling food boxes during the 9:30 CYFI project on Sunday May 3rd. All are invited to come join us!

SPINNING WEEKEND FOOD PACK UPDATE!

SPECIAL THANKS!

A special thanks to Kellen Doerr for using his garage sale earnings to support the weekend food program with donations of peanut butter, Ritz crackers and fruit cups. Thanks Kellen!

Next Spinning Food Packing Event
Sunday March 15th at 2:30 PM

Mark Your Calendars!
Armory Dinner
Thursday March 12th



Raffle sales begin soon

More prizes to win!

Lower ticket price!

....and still the opportunity to support our Living Stones men!

Preparations for our Spring 2020 raffle have begun. Packets of tickets and publicity materials will be mailed out to congregations next week, with sales to continue until the end of May. Bishop Rick Jaech will draw the winning ticket at the synod office on Tuesday, June 16.

This year's raffle includes not just one but **FOUR** prizes. The grand prize is \$2,020 cash and the second is a \$202 cash prize. The third and fourth prizes are creations from our men - one is a quilt and the other is artwork.

Tickets will be \$5 each or 6 for \$25.



LIVING STONES PRISON CONGREGATION

Spring 2020 Raffle
Help support the men and ministry of Living Stones

Win \$2,020 in 2020!

But wait, there's MORE!
We also have 2nd, 3rd AND 4th prizes this year!

GRAND PRIZE:
\$2,020 cash

2ND PRIZE: \$202 cash
3RD PRIZE: Quilt
(handmade by Living Stones members)
4TH PRIZE: Artwork
(created by Living Stones member)

Raffle tickets: \$5 each or 6 for \$25

Drawing will be held at the WWA Synod Office in Tacoma, WA, on Tuesday, June 16, 2020. Need not be present to win.
Questions? Call Sami at 360-807-4288.

Living Stones Prison Congregation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



Thank You for Providing Hospitality on Sunday Mornings!

The designated hospitality hour is **between services**, or after the service if there is only one service.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area for anyone who wishes to participate. If you choose to select a date it would be your responsibility to make coffee and bring whatever food you would like to serve. You may also invite others to serve with you. Coffee takes approximately 30 minutes to make and instructions are posted in the kitchen, so you may want to start the coffee prior to attending service. There is *not* a designated coffee hour following the second service, however anyone choosing to either serve or bring food is most welcome. *It is not the responsibility of the person signed up for that date to clean up after second service.*

In the kitchen there are cups, paper plates, silverware, serving utensils and baskets and serving trays for your use. Feel free to use them or set things out in the containers you brought.

Following the coffee hour it is your responsibility to clean up. Please take any food you brought that is left over home with you. Clean-up includes the serving table, coffee carafes, and the kitchen.

If you sign up for a coffee hour and are unsure as what to do, please reach out to mentors who are listed on the bulletin boards in the hallway between the sanctuary and Gathering Area.

Special Occasions:

If you are not signed up to provide hospitality but you wish to bring something special for a celebration, please check the hospitality chart and coordinate with whoever is signed up on that date. It is your re-



WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 11TH

12:00 - 1:00

Wednesday,
March 25th



909 S Meridian




For the remainder of Lent, we hope you will join us for a Soup Supper each Wednesday evening. It is a time of delicious soups and breads and wonderful fellowship.

All are welcome. Please bring a friend.
Supper is served at 6:00 p.m.



March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:15 - Worship (Jill) 9:40 - Resounding Joy 9:40 - CYFI 10:45 - Worship (CS) 3:30 - O.A.	2 4:30 - Diversion 5:00 - Cornerstones	3 10:00 - Bible Study 5:30 - Finance Committee 6:30 - Executive Committee 7:00 - Boy Scouts	4 5:00 - Soup Supper 6:30 - Holden Eve. Prayer 7:00 - Choir	5 9:30 - Quilting 7:00 - A.A. Meeting	6	7 8:30 - Men's Breakfast 9:30 - Church Cleanup
8 8:15 - Worship (Joan) 9:40 - Resounding Joy 9:40 - CYFI 10:45 - Worship (CS) 3:30 - O.A.	9 4:30 - Diversion 5:00 - Cornerstones	10 10:00 - Bible Study 6:30 - Council Meeting 7:00 - Boy Scouts	11 10:00 - Ladies Aid 12:00 - PPH @ Panera 6:00 - Soup Supper 6:30 - Holden Eve. Prayer 7:00 - Choir	12 7:00 - A.A. Meeting	13	14
15 8:15 - Worship (CS) 9:40 - Resounding Joy 9:40 - CYFI 10:45 - Worship (Jill) 2:30 - Food Packing 3:30 - O.A.	16 4:30 - Diversion 5:00 - Cornerstones	17 10:00 - Bible Study 7:00 - Boy Scouts	18 6:00 - Soup Supper 6:30 - Holden Eve. Prayer 7:00 - Choir	19  9:30 - Quilting 7:00 - A.A. Meeting	20	21 8:30 - PC Juv Ct 2:00 - Eagle Scout Ceremony
22 8:15 - Worship (Jill) 9:40 - Resounding Joy 9:40 - CYFI 10:45 - Worship (Joan) 3:30 - O.A.	23 4:30 - Diversion 5:00 - Cornerstones	24 10:00 - Bible Study 7:00 - Boy Scouts	25 12:00 - PPH @ Starbucks 6:00 - Soup Supper 6:30 - Holden Eve. Prayer 7:00 - Choir	26 7:00 - A.A. Meeting	27	28
29 8:15 - Worship (Joan) 9:40 - Resounding Joy 9:40 - CYFI 10:45 - Worship (CS) 2:00 - Youngish Families 3:30 - O.A.	30 4:30 - Diversion 5:00 - Cornerstones	31 10:00 - Bible Study 7:00 - Boy Scouts				

MARCH

happy birthday

Kaitlyn Cheek	9	Mark Burch	26
Fred Lehde	12	Kevin Doerr	26
Donna Richardson	14	Keith Hanson	27
Dave Cook	17	Arlen Storm	27
Jeff Carter	18	Kalex Gerstmann	29
Paula Schulz	21	Barb King	29
Hannah Steinberg	21	Tim Osborne	30

happy baptismal anniversary

Jerry Larson	Allison Burch	Laura Mandt
Susan Ortega	Janet Culpepper	Leigh Storm
Beth Kaes	JoAnn Robinson	Kyley Lamberton
Jim Baisch	Kaleb Lamberton	Darlene Olson
		Darla Anderson

March - Life of Jesus: Identity

Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life. -John 4:14

Children, Youth, Family & Intergenerational Ministry (CYFI for short) is a new approach to the 9:30 Education Hour here at Peace Lutheran. We hope you will join us and we look forward to growing ALL together in faith, hope, and love!

Here is a lineup of events and classes for the month:

» 1st Sunday (March 1st): Intergenerational Service Project

- When families find their homes destroyed, or must flee for their safety, soap and a towel rarely make the cut for what they can carry. Arriving in a refugee camp or other place of safety, they are scared, vulnerable and dirty from the travel. We will be assembling Personal Care Kits to distribute through Lutheran World Relief. See the Clarion or bulletin for a list of needed items.

» 2nd Sunday (March 8th): Biblical Storytelling

- Come hear and read stories related to this month's theme, Life of Jesus: Identity! These activities are meant for children of all ages and adults.

» 3rd Sunday (March 15th): Peer Group Instruction

- Elementary Youth: Meet in Koinonia to sing with Ms. Jill and Mr. Dennis and then go to Sunday School
- Middle and High School Youth: Meet in Shalom and Heseid for Sunday School
- Adults: Join Pastor Nate in Koinonia for adult formation

» 4th Sunday (March 22nd): Peer Group Instruction

- Elementary Youth: Meet in Koinonia to sing with Ms. Jill and Mr. Dennis and then go to Sunday School
- Middle and High School Youth: Meet in Shalom and Heseid for Sunday School
- Adults: Join Pastor Nate in Koinonia for adult formation

» 5th Sunday (March 29th): All-Church Brunch Potluck

Join us for some good food and interesting conversation with your favorite church friends.

- Last Names A-G – Bread / Dessert / Juice
- Last Names H-P – Main Dish
- Last Names Q-Z – Fruit / Veggies / Salad

If you have any questions about upcoming activities or CYFI in general, please reach out to the members of the CYFI Task Force - Pastor Nate, Becca Johnstone, or Ellen Aronson.



THE YOUTH
WILL BE
SERVING DINNER FOR
FREEZING NIGHTS
ONE LAST TIME THIS
SEASON

THURSDAY, MARCH 19TH
@ 7:15 PM

Parent's Afternoon Out!

Need some time to run errands? Or maybe hang with the rest of the young-ish family crew?

Well, let the Peace Youth watch your kids for a couple of hours!

Mark you calendars for the following dates:

Sunday, March 29th ~ 2-4pm

Sunday, April 26th ~ 2-4pm

Donations are highly encouraged.

PEACE YOUTH PRESENT

SUPER BOWL OF CARING RESULTS!

On Sunday, February 2nd, the youth raised money following both services for the Mary Bridge Children's Hospital Child Abuse Prevention Program.

Here are the results:

Kansas City Chiefs - \$96.14
San Francisco 49ers - \$68.24

Total: \$164.30
Thank you for your support!



BOTHELL FIRST LUTHERAN HAS
OFFERED FOR OUR YOUTH TO
JOIN THEM THIS SUMMER AT
LUTHERHAVEN!

July 12-17th

For: Youth entering 6th grade in
Fall 2020 through 9th grade
Family Contribution: \$250

Enjoy a week filled of camp fun,
including a day to Shoshone and
Silverwood!

If you are interested, please let
Becky know or email
youth@peacepuyallup.org



\$153.97 was raised and will be
donated to the Mary Bridge
Children's Hospital Child
Abuse Intervention Program

SHROVE TUESDAY

Thank you to
all who
attended!



People of all races and ethnicities, countries of origin, ancestries, and cultures;
People of all religious backgrounds, including no religious background;
People of all gender identities and sexual orientations;
People with differing physical and/or intellectual abilities;
People of all ages and from all family structures;
People who are single, partnered, married, widowed, or divorced;
People of all economic backgrounds, homeowners, renters, and people without permanent homes;
People of diverse political views; and
People with all kinds of gifts and challenges.

Join Us!

You will be honored here.

8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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