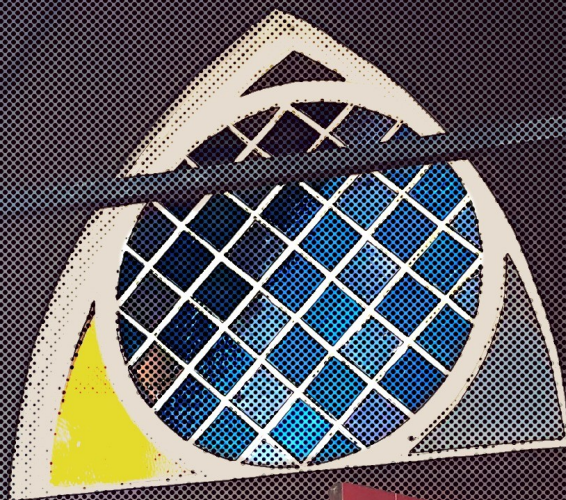


the Clarion

NOVEMBER

2019



You Will Be Honored Here.

The Church: Fellow Citizens in Christ

"[Christ] came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone." -Ephesians 2:17-20

"To call yourself a saint is no presumption but an act of gratitude and a confession of God's blessings." -Martin Luther

"She was such a good Christian woman," I'll often hear people say as they remember a loved one who has died; "He was such a good Christian man." I know what they mean. They want to confer dignity on their dear departed by insisting on that person's faithfulness and goodness. *My loved one was a saint.*

Of course, all those who have died in the faith are saints, although perhaps not for the reasons we assume. When we make a distinction between "good" Christians and "less-than-good" Christians, or "good" Christians and non-Christians, for that matter, we treat faith as an achievement, a mark of honor that sets some above the rest. But faith is a pure gift, a work of the Holy Spirit alone; it does not depend on our merit, "so that no one may boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). So, your faith is not a matter of *your* success or failure, but of *God's* faithfulness to you. As Luther puts it: "To call yourself a saint is no presumption but an act of gratitude and a confession of God's blessings."

This insight sheds light on the identity and purpose of the church as a whole. If you are not required to climb a ladder to righteousness – if God does not hold your faults against you, but persistently loves and sustains you in spite of yourself – then you have nothing to prove. All your self-justifying and self-serving impulses dissolve, and you simply join with other forgiven sinners in a great song of praise to God and a great cascade of love for the world. You become a "citizen with the saints."

And, this citizenship is marked by radical belonging. In spite of our diverse identities and gifts, God has called us together into a holy communion, the living body of Christ. Dying and rising with Christ every day in baptism, we become signs of resurrection for others.

What do those signs look like at Peace? How do we bear the promise of new and abundant life to each other and to our neighbors near and far?

Spend some time this month giving thanks for the saints who have gone before and praying for the saints who share the life of faith with you now. Release your anxieties and cling to your hopes. And, bear each other's burdens, even as Christ bears yours.

+ + +

I invite you to come explore the identity and role of the church with me at adult formation on the fourth Sunday of November (24th).

Peace,

Pastor Nate Sutton





"We are the clumsy stewards of our own souls" Richard Rohr, "Falling Upward"

His argument is simply this: *"...God gives us our soul, our deepest identity, our True Self....our unique little bit of heaven is installed by the manufacturer within the product, at the beginning!"* Richard Rohr then argues that it is up to us to discover our soul, to nurture it, to grow it...and in the end, *return it to God.*

What does it mean to discover and nurture my soul? I'm not really sure, but for me it means nothing less than engaging God in conversation (prayer) about who I am meant to be, and then taking another step on that journey of calling. I know all along I will fall short; and yet be forgiven, that I will stumble, and yet I must try.

A question: Where does Peace Lutheran Church fit in to this for you? How does the pledge card you got in the mail fit in to this? If Peace Lutheran Church *is* an integral part of your faith, I encourage you to use the card to start (or continue) that conversation with our "Manufacturer". Think about all of the things going on here—the school lunches, the quilting, the soup meals, the armory dinners, the wonderment of worship, just to name a few...will you feel called to give to Peace Lutheran generously in the following year? I am taking a leap of faith and asking you to start that conversation in prayer—to explore what being a steward of your soul looks like—and maybe think about what your financial giving might look like while you are at it!

It is my hope that 100% of pledge cards get returned this year. Yes, I believe we will see Spirit driven generosity this year! Yet even as I write that I hear Christ's voice, through Mark 12:41-44 *and* Luke 21:1-4, which is, of course, the parable of the Widow and the copper coins. *"Truly I tell you, this widow has put in more than all of them"*. It is not for your fellow brothers and sisters to cast judgment on your financial gifts to the church. That is between each of us and God. In that spirit, I want to assure you that while your pledge will be entered into the records, only the Pastor and the individual actually entering the data into the record (our bookkeeper, I believe) will see it. No one on Stewardship, or Finance, council, etc, will look at individual pledge cards. So what do you say?

(Lost your pledge card? Hehe, we have lots. Just ask us for a replacement.)



*Thermostats, Furnaces, and
Being Stewards to our Environment*

Last fall, the property team made some changes to reduce our heating bills. As fall and cooler weather approaches, I thought I'd give you an update. If you recall, we reprogrammed the thermostats to keep the building cooler when it isn't occupied, and we added insulation to the koinonia room. Year over year, those two changes reduced our natural gas consumption by 33%! That is 86,400 cubic feet of natural gas that we did not burn, when compared to the first three months of 2018. Average outside temperatures were slightly warmer, but I believe we will continue to see a much reduced carbon footprint (and financial savings!) moving forward. This year, we hope to make further efficiency improvements by replacing the furnace in the education wing, which is almost 40 years old.

As always, our goal is "toasty warm and comfy" when occupied, and "Not so toasty warm" when empty. If it's cold when you arrive, please feel free to push the "Temp Occ" (that means temporary occupied, by the way) button on the thermostat. If that isn't working, please reach out to me.

Oh, and don't forget! Men's breakfast, Saturday, November 2nd, Prayer at 8:30 followed by breakfast and fellowship. There will be a property meeting following breakfast at 9:30 in the Koinonia room. Anticipated agenda items: Siding options on the rental house, and prioritization of upcoming maintenance items/capital improvement projects on our campus. All our welcome to the meeting.

Your Brother in Christ
Dave Ekse
Property



Living Stones Prison Ministry

Visiting the Washington Corrections Center in
Shelton for Worship

*"...you also, like living stones, are being built
into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood,
offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God
through Jesus Christ..."*

1 Peter 2:5

"I was in prison and you visited me."

Matthew 25:36

Living Stones Prison Congregation offers a Word
and Sacrament ministry to incarcerated men.
The congregation is a member of the of the
Southwestern Washington Synod of Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America and exists inside the
walls of the prison in Shelton, WA. Every
Saturday evening this congregation meets for
worship and to proclaim the good news of Jesus
Christ.

Every Saturday up to 10 visitors have the
opportunity to worship and visit with the men of
the Living Stones Prison Congregation

***Peace Lutheran Church will be visiting and
worshipping with the Living Stones Prison
Congregation on Saturday, January 11th, 2020.***

If you are interested in attending please speak
with Karen Ekse.

DON'T FORGET TO



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD!



The Church Office will be closed the following
days in November:

- ◆ Monday, November 11
- ◆ Thursday, November 28
- ◆ Friday, November 29





NOVEMBER: THE CHURCH

[Christ] came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. - Ephesians 2:17-20

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 of November:

» 1st Sunday (November 3rd): Intergenerational Service Project

- One of the ways Peace is connected to the larger church is through our vibrant quilt ministry.
- The love and care put into the quilts comforts people here in our community and around the world. Learn about this special way to serve and be prepared to tie a knot (or two!)

» 2nd Sunday (November 10th): Biblical Storytelling

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

» 3rd Sunday (November 17th): Congregational Meeting

- 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 Hesed for Sunday School
- Adults: Meet in the Gathering Space for the 4th Quarter Congregational Meeting

» 4th Sunday (November 24th): 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 Hesed for Sunday School
- Adults: Join Pastor Nate in Koinonia for adult formation

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.

Council Nominations

Peace Lutheran Church Council plays a critical role in the leadership of the congregation.

Do you have a member in mind whose gifts and perspective you admire? Please consider nominating them for a position on Council beginning January 2020. The election will take place at the congregational meeting on November 17. Nominees will be contacted prior to the election in order to receive insight into the work of the Council and an opportunity to accept or refuse the nomination.

Per the Constitution, Council members serve a two-year term, at which point they are eligible for reelection once. At the fourth-quarter congregational meeting, we will elect **at least four** and **up to nine** members to Council.

Outgoing members of Council who are **not eligible for reelection** include: *None!*

Members currently serving who will remain on Council and **do not need to be reelected** include: Ellen Aronson, Sue Casillas, Diane Dean, Karen Ekse, Becca Johnstone, and Pippa Younger.

Members of Council whose first term is ending this year but who **are eligible for reelection** include: Dani Jo Andrews, Allison Burch, Andy Burch, Lily Mace, Dave Mahaffie, Tim Mahaffie, and Lisa Woodbury. All other baptized and confirmed members of the congregation are also eligible.

Nominations Due: November 10th

Nominee's Name: _____

What gifts would s/he bring to Council? _____

SPONSORED BY PEACE LUTHERAN YOUTH

Youth Annual
Dinner & Auction
 11 / 9 / 2019

Tickets can be purchased Sunday mornings between services on
 October 27th & November 3rd.

\$15

Silent Auction • Raffle • Beer & Wine Bar • Dessert Auction

Doors Open: 5:00 p.m.
 Dinner: 6:00 p.m.
 Dessert Auction: 6:45

Dinner Catered By:  The Savory and Sweet
 Cakes and Catering Company



Peace Lutheran will be serving a spaghetti dinner at the Armory on Thursday November 14th. This is a great opportunity for families with upper elementary age children to serve together! Sign up sheets are in the gathering area. If you have questions feel free to talk with Charlene Cook or Karen Ekse.

Soup-To-Go



Soup for a quick hot lunch?

Soup for a friend or neighbor who needs a pick-me-up?

Soup for a shut-in you're going to visit?

Several choices are now available to you in the kitchen freezer. Help yourself!


A "souper" thank you to the 5 cooks who have provided our first soups!

Next soup making at the church kitchen will be November 14th (Thursday) at 9:00 a.m. Bring your ingredients to prepare your soup (an alternative to making soup at home). Please let us know if you will be cooking on the 14th.

Question? Need containers/labels? What are you cooking? Call Barb at 253.864.0998 or Nancy at 253.845.0346. Thank you!



SOUP

Wednesday, November 13th
 12:00 - 1:00 

Wednesday, November 27th
 12:00 - 1:00 

Christ Episcopal Church in Tacoma, Washington
CHRIST CHURCH PUBLIC LECTURE

A Christian View of Social Justice

Wednesday, November 20, 2019, at 6:30 PM
Wells Hall at Christ Church

While Episcopalians and Lutherans promise in the baptismal liturgy to seek God's justice, what does this oft-used term actually mean for Christians? How does it inform Christian commitments to the poor, the homeless, refugees, and the earth?



Dr. Kevin O'Brien, PLU Professor of Christian Ethics, will speak on this significant question that has now become a part of American political and social discourse.

Free and open to the public.
For those who are able, donations will be gladly welcomed.

Christ Church is located in the Stadium District, north of Tacoma General Hospital. Parking is available in the church lots, on the street, and at the parking lot on MLK Way, opposite Kaiser Permanente.



310 North K Street
(253) 383 – 1569

The Rev. Janet Campbell | Priest-in-Charge
The Rev. Samuel Torvend | Associate Priest Adult Formation
<https://christchurchtacoma.org/>



SPINNING WEEKEND FOOD PACK UPDATE

Thank you to those who helped package food for the weekend food pack program at Spinning Elementary during the Intergenerational Service Project in October. This program serves kids who are on the free and reduced lunch program and who experience food scarcity on weekends when those meals are unavailable. Research indicated that food scarcity and learning are connected. Kids that are not hungry will achieve better in school. The weekend food packs are part of this bigger vision of providing education.

We were able to package 396 bags of food, make treat bags to send home over the Thanksgiving break and make some note cards to send home. And we did it all in less than an hour! So thank you all for being a part of this ministry.

We are now in need of replenishing our stock of food. Helpful items to donate to the weekend food pack program include:

- ◆ Instant Oatmeal
- ◆ Canned Soup
- ◆ Canned Pasta/Just add water pasta
- ◆ Sleeves of Crackers
- ◆ Granola Bars
- ◆ Juice Boxes (100% Juice)
- ◆ Fruit (single serve size)
- ◆ Tuna Fish

Donations can be left on the pew in Koinonia.

Armory Dinner

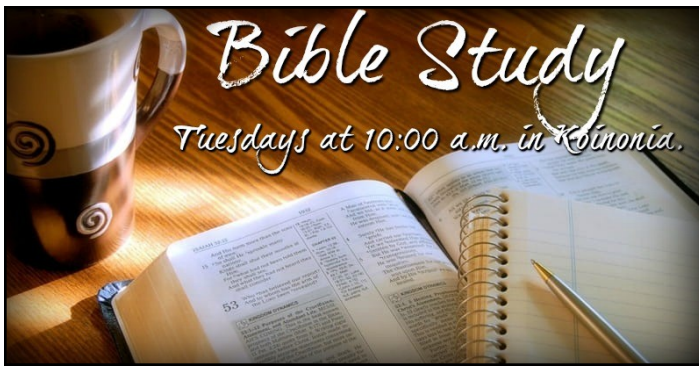
Thursday November 14th

5:45 pm to 6:30 pm

Sign-ups are in the gathering area. Come join a few other members of Peace Lutheran for a time of fellowship and serving together and spaghetti for dinner. Elementary age children and families welcome to serve in this ministry. If you have questions about our ministry with the Armory just ask Karen Ekse or Charlene Cook.

We are currently in need of canned green beans for the Armory Dinners. Donations can be left on the pew in Koinonia.





Big bright quilts, soft pastels, 9 squares designs, strips, stripes, all the quilts displayed on our church pews were made to keep someone warm. These quilts will go to storm and flood survivors, to victims of abuse, to young families without funds, to folks who have no belongings. Some will travel world-wide and some will stay in our area. Lutheran World Relief is our partner in giving, helping send quilts to other countries.

Quilt making begins with fabric, thread, batting, and yarn. A quilt happens when folks cut and piece and sew. But a quilt becomes a treasure because of the love that is within the fabric. A quilt becomes a gift when good folks spend time together, not just sewing, but donating fabric, and sheets, and funds for batting and shipping. A quilt is given when it is blessed, and boxed, and sent to Seattle, or to St. Francis House nearby.

Thank you so much for each thread of help. We will be able to distribute over 100 quilts because you contributed so generously.

We have a morning quilt group, and an evening one; you are welcome to join us, or you can quilt at home too. We are thankful for donations of fabric or funds to cover shipping costs. For more information contact Joan Siburg, Jane Smith, or the church office. Thanks Be to God



Ladies Aid Women of the ELCA

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13 - 10:00 A.M.

“No Hard Feelings?”
Session 3
Stewarding the Gift of Joy
Psalm 30, 150 - Song of Solomon 2

Hostess: Baerbel Lorenz
Leader: Barb Hamry



On Tuesday, November 8th, members of Peace joined Marlys Tron to bless the new handrails installed at the entrances to the office with funds from Randall's Memorial Fund. "Randall's Rails" are sturdier and taller, providing better access to the office for people with mobility impairments.

We give thanks for Randall's memory, and for God's goodness made evident in the ways we put material things to use for the sake of hospitality!

4th Quarter
Congregational Meeting
Sunday, November 17th
9:30 a.m.



Join us!

Men's Breakfast

THE FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

General Fund September 2019

September Giving	\$25,964.02
September Expense	\$28,152.86
September Difference	(\$2,188.84)

YTD Giving	\$284,290.99
YTD Expense	\$287,691.21
YTD Difference	(\$3,400.22)

2019 Budget	\$312,237.00
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YOUTH

Youth Annual
Dinner & Auction
11 | 9 | 19



YOUTH AT THE PUMPKIN PATCH







happy birthday

Lisa Woodbury	2	Andrea Bennett	11
Lauren Storm	3	Dr. Paul Gerstmann	13
Carrie Mandt	4	Eric Anderson	13
Paul Ortega	4	Kyle Aronson	15
Connor Aronson	7	Lily Macy	16
Bobbi Van Alstyne	8	Rebecca Togstad	19
Livia Mahaffie	8	Tim Mahaffie	21
Kevin Mandt	10	Pastor Nate Sutton	23

happy baptismal anniversary

Kalex Gerstmann	Colleen Thrift
Jenn Doerr	Carole Lee
Martha Gerstmann	Marlys Tron
Ron Dymond	Brenda Mandt
Sara Anderson	Becky Von Wahlde
Scott Togstad	Chris Lee
Edward Andrews	Janis Barrett

November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS 8:15 - Worship (Joan) 9:40 - Resounding Joy 9:40 - CYFI 10:45 - Worship (Jill) 6:00 - O.A.	4 4:30 - Diversion 5:00 - Cornerstones	5 10:00 - Bible Study 5:30 - Finance Committee 6:30 - Executive Committee 7:00 - Boy Scouts	6 5:00 - Quilting 7:00 - Choir	7 9:30 - Quilting 7:00 - A.A. Meeting	1	2 8:30 - Men's Breakfast 5:00 - Confirmation Rehearsal/Dinner
10 8:15 - Worship (CS) 9:40 - Resounding Joy 9:40 - CYFI 10:45 - Worship (CS) 12:00 - Youth CONNECT 12:15 - Small Groups 6:00 - O.A.	11 OFFICE CLOSED 	12 10:00 - Bible Study 6:30 - Council 7:00 - Boy Scouts	13 10:00 - Ladies Aid 12:00 - PPH @ 7:00 - Choir	14 9:00 - Soup Making 7:00 - A.A. Meeting	15	16 9:00 - PC Juv. Ct.
17 THANKOFFERING 8:15 - Worship (Jill) 9:40 - Resounding Joy 9:40 - CYFI 10:45 - Worship (Joan) 6:00 - O.A.	18 4:30 - Diversion 5:00 - Cornerstones	19 10:00 - Bible Study 7:00 - Boy Scouts	20 5:00 - Quilting 5:15 - Worship/Music Meeting 7:00 - Choir	21 9:30 - Quilting 7:00 - A.A. Meeting	22	23
24 8:15 - Worship (Joan) 9:40 - Resounding Joy 9:40 - CYFI 10:45 - Worship (CS) 12:00 - Youth CONNECT 6:00 - O.A.	25 4:30 - Diversion 5:00 - Cornerstones	26 10:00 - Bible Study 7:00 - Boy Scouts	27 12:00 - PPH 6:30 - Worship (Jill)	28  OFFICE CLOSED	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30 10:00 - Youth Swag



Seems that members and staff of Peace all had the same idea in October!

Confirmation

Women of the
ELCA

Thankoffering

"... gifts from
individuals in
gratitude for
blessings."
- Women of the ELCA Committee

Sunday, November 17th

Join with Jayla Albenesius, Jakob Steinberg, and Riley Wicklander, their families, and all the saints at Peace as our confirmands affirm their baptismal promises on **Sunday, November 3rd, at the 10:45 service.**

Merciful God, we thank you for these saints,
whom you have made your own by water and the
Word in baptism.

You have called them to yourself,
enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit,
and nourished them in the community of faith.
Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of
baptism,
and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought
to new birth.

We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen!

Since the early years of Peace Lutheran Church, Thankoffering has been a tradition for the women of the church. It probably began with 4 or 5 women counting daily blessings with a penny, and a total dollar amount for all of them totally a single digit. Over the past hundred years, it has included hundreds of women and hundreds of dollars. Those first offerings were used to help in the local community. Now all offerings are sent to the churchwide women's organization of the ELCA for education, mission and needs world-wide. Whether you collect your daily "blessing money" in a box, an envelope or a jar (the original way), we invite you to participate in Peace Lutheran Church Women's Annual Thankoffering Ingathering on November 17th. WE come together to thank God for His love and daily blessings.



Property Committee for the work they have done. It is a considerable amount. We especially thank Steve Smith and Dave Ekse for their leadership.

CYFI Task Force for their tireless work developing a new and exciting Sunday morning education experience. Thank you also for working to solidify the Youth Board and the events they are planning for the youth. Special thanks to Pastor Nate, Karen Ekse, Ellen Aaronson and Becca Johnstone.

Cary Nilson we thank you for teaching so many of our youth to run the power point on Sunday mornings. It is a joy to see so many youth in the balcony on Sunday mornings.

Paula Nordby, Resounding Joy and "Rodney" (aka Boe Woodbury) thank you for the wonderful performance on Sunday October 27th.

There are so many people in our congregation doing so many things, thank you.



Serving Christ Through Worship

We have a really special worship service here at Peace Lutheran Church. Because we are a small church, we as a congregation are able to become very involved in the worship process. The challenge is providing a full worship team each week.

These first questions are about whether or not to continue with the Worship Teams the way they are, change them in some way, or change to a monthly sign-up sheet. Your input is very important to us and will be used to make this decision.

Option #1: Do you wish to see the Worship Teams continue as they are currently set up with some rebalancing?

Yes: _____ No: _____

If the decision is made to continue with the current Worship Team setup, are you willing to be on a team?

Yes: _____ No: _____

****If yes, are there changes that you would like to see made?** _____

****If no, why not?** _____

Option #2: Have Worship Teams that are set up according to one task or a couple of tasks? Such as separate Team of Ushers, Team of Readers, Team of Assisting Ministers. Or combined teams like Ushers/Readers and Sacristans/Deacons/Communion Bread Yes: _____ No: _____

I am willing to sign-up Yes: _____ No: _____

Option #3: Have a monthly sign-up sheet placed where other sign-up sheets are on display

Yes: _____ No: _____

If the decision is made to have a monthly sign-up sheet, would you be willing to sign up on a regular basis?

Yes: _____ No: _____

Option #4: I have no idea what you are talking about. _____

Do you have any other suggestions that may help Sunday morning worship run smoothly? _____

The next area is about specific areas you may be interested in helping with or being involved with.

	I regularly serve in this way	I would like to service in this way, but need to learn how to do this	I would like more information about this area	I am not interested or not an area I have talent in
Assisting Minister				
Usher				
Deacon (help serve communion)				
Scripture Readings				
Sacristan (set up/clean up com- munion)				
Provide bread (for communion)				
Help count offering				
Video Presentation (during worship)				
Running Sound board (during worship)				
Choir				
Cornerstones				
Resounding Joy				

Name: _____

Address: _____

Best Phone Contact: _____

Email Address: _____

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

214 East Pioneer
Puyallup, WA 98372