



# the Clarion

October 2018

Peace Lutheran Church - 214 E. Pioneer - Puyallup, Wa. 98372  
253.845.8819 - [www.peacepuyallup.org](http://www.peacepuyallup.org)





## Congregational Exceptionalism and the Body of Christ

*"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." - John 15:5*

On August 12<sup>th</sup>, Rick Warren, founder and pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California, announced that the congregation would become the first to baptize 50,000 people. "50,000 individual lives transformed by Jesus since Saddleback Church began," he wrote in a Facebook post. "This is unprecedented in history!" Warren listed the milestone among many others that Saddleback has reached over the years, cheering the congregation's matchlessness within Christianity.

Such a declaration from such a prominent figure is likely to draw mixed reactions from the Christian world, both celebration and suspicion. But, theological differences and questions about Pastor Warren's personal brand aside, the assertion of any individual church's primacy warrants a second thought.

Call it congregational exceptionalism. And, although the largest, most visible congregations are perhaps the easiest targets for the charge of congregational exceptionalism, it is a theme that creeps into a wide range of contexts.

There is nothing wrong with holding one's congregation in high regard, or recognizing the singular gifts a congregation brings to bear on its setting. The congregation is the primary manifestation of the church "on the ground"; it is the point of contact between actual people of faith and God's means of grace, and between those same people of faith and their communities. Indeed, for many gathered there, the congregation is the only expression of the church to which they relate on a regular basis.

But devotion to one's congregation and relative unawareness of the larger church can become myopic. The notion of the individual congregation's uniqueness can subtly undergird a variety of self-justifying assumptions. For instance:

- My congregation possesses superior theology or morality (despite the theological and moral diversity within it).
- My congregation facilitates more meaningful worship (despite its members' varied priorities and tastes).
- My congregation more faithfully lives out the command to do justice and love kindness (despite its inevitable failures).

Moreover, a congregation's purported exceptionality can promote isolationism:

- My congregation is essentially free from the authority of any synodical or denominational body (despite stipulations in its constitution and associated benefits).
- My congregation need not contribute to the work of the larger church (despite the power of pooled resources to meet common goals).
- My congregation's health is unrelated to the health of other congregations (despite our unity in Christ).

In short, the danger of congregational exceptionalism is that it reinforces the idea that "my" congregation is not defined primarily by its continuity with the larger church, but by its autonomy within it.

In essence, however, the church is a universal communion, the living body of Christ in every place and time. To borrow the language of John's Gospel, it is a great vine sprouting branches in and through every assembly and stretching to all others, a single organism pruned and tended by the Vinegrower that it might bear good fruit. Congregational exceptionalism undermines this sense of unity.

The primary check on congregational exceptionalism is Christ's own expansive notion of the community of his followers. He always challenges the barriers we erect, claiming for himself those we would not readily claim for the church. The corresponding challenge is to honor each individual congregation in light of its undeniable connection to others. We might ask, for example:

- How is my congregation gifted and called to pursue God's purpose relative to other congregations?
- How can my congregation partner with other congregations in our shared context?
- How can my congregation, in concert with other congregations, support the ministries of the larger church?

After all, the work of God's reign is not competitive, but collaborative. It is true that congregations of varied traditions are often at odds with each other on account of unresolved differences. Theological, ethical, or other discord should certainly be taken seriously, especially for the sake of vulnerable people who often become targets in the conflict. But congregational exceptionalism, conscious or not, is an unnecessary barrier to cooperation. And, cooperation is a key to the church's thriving.



\$290,000...*Is It Worth It?*

Lights, heat, air conditioning, the freezer is on the fritz—is the roof leaking again?

Salaries, insurance, mortgage debt, supporting the synod...

When you think about it, it's a lot of money to keep this place running.

*So why do it? Why am I here?*

*Why do I keep finding myself in this place?*

*In the darker moments of my life The Answer is lurking, just around the edges of my consciousness...*

It whispers to me in the little things: The simple act of the commute home from work. **In traffic.** It rises indignantly: At the crack of dawn, I find that my car has been broken into. It rages like a beast devouring and consuming me: Hearing my own screaming voice as I lose it after my five year old child did the same thing...again. *Little things.* Inconsequential events in life. I'm not talking about the big stuff. The stuff that rocks your world, taking a 5 lb sledge hammer to the china cabinet, shattering everything...I'm talking about the little stuff. These little injustices and hurts can start to consume me, to gnaw at my consciousness until it is ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT. *I have become the wrongs I have received, and it is a slow, agonizing death.*

And then,

It is Sunday

Sunday Morning in a small downtown church

No matter the brokenness, the hurt, or the hopelessness, it is at church, where I meet Christ...

In Confession: It is here, at Peace, that I see my own shortcomings in their unvarnished ugliness.

In Hearing: It is here, at Peace, that I hear the living word spoken. Sometimes joyfully, sometimes forgiving, sometimes judging, yet always, always, the voice of God underneath, calling to me, whispering: "*listen...*"

In Healing: It is here, at Peace, that the Grace of forgiveness washes over me like the first rays of sunlight rising in the East, bathing me in a warm glow of light: I am forgiven. I am a better man. I am a child of God. I am transformed. It is at Peace Lutheran Church that Jesus Christ transforms my life...

*...so that I might transform others*

Joe, his house blown away in a typhoon

The single mom who needs groceries

The couple who lost their home as medical bills mount

As my eyes are opened, Christ shows me my neighbor. Sometimes it is a stranger, sometimes a foreigner, sometimes a relative.

\$290,000. It's not just lights and heating bills and mortgage and salaries...it's also quilts for the cold, WELCA for the needy, education for our kids, caring for the neighbor, caring for each other...*and... redeeming a life. My life.* And I am so thankful for that. It is my hope that this is not a singular experience, that there are other lives transformed as they hear the word spoken as well. So I give to this church. Am I tithing? No. Do I want to? Yes, and I hope to get there. I humbly ask for your prayers, for me, and for our community here at Peace. Thank you for reading. However much you give to Peace, know that you are transforming lives, and in my opinion, Yes, it *is* worth it.

God's Peace

Dave Ekse - Stewardship



Two of our primary ministry partners, Kid's Club and Family Housing Network, have experienced some changes. Kids club has been suspended this year due to low census of participants as well as staffing and funding issues. Family housing network is also being suspended due in part to low referral numbers and lack of host site locations.

Puyallup City Council has contracted with a group called Positive Interactions. The focus of their work is to serve as an intermediary between downtown Puyallup businesses and our homeless neighbors. They look to strengthen relational solutions and help connect homeless with resources. If any issues arise with our homeless neighbors, please call Positive Interactions at 253-396-5274 before calling the police, if possible.

The Memorandum of Understanding outlining expectations for our community groups which use our facility has been approved. The leaders of the various groups that use the building will receive a copy of the MOU and a church representative will meet with group leaders to discuss the MOU and outlined expectations.

Youth Ministry will move forward with a new partner leader model. Deena Jamison has nominated Becky VonWahlde to fill this volunteer role and she has accepted. Thanks Becky for stepping into this new role!

The council has initiated conversations regarding welcoming of new members and regular visitors or attendees, to provide opportunities to connect them with other members of our congregation in smaller group settings.



## Circle of Welcome Refugee Resettlement

From Hebrews after the visit of the wise men...Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise and take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him." And he arose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed for Egypt; and was there until the death of Herod.

As we work with our refugee family, we can think about Jesus and his family living in Egypt as refugees. Helping refugees resettle in our area has given those of us on the resettlement team a chance to learn what it is like to start over again in a new country with a new language. Several team members have gone on scheduled visits to practice English with the parents. We have been blessed to have a partner at All Saints who has taught adult English Language Learning classes, and we have benefited from her expertise. We have also learned how to use the Google Translate app.

Both parents have passed the written driving test and have appointments to take the driving test. The children have all been enrolled in school and are enjoying being with other children.

The children had summer clothes when they arrived but the weather is changing and they could use some help gathering winter clothing. We are looking for new or gently used clothing for 2 girls-sizes 6/7 and 8/9 and for 3 boys-sizes 5/6, 7, and 8. Long sleeved shirts, long pants, sweats, and pajamas, etc. are needed. Call or email Charlene Cook with any questions. 253 320-4868 or [dbccook@comcast.net](mailto:dbccook@comcast.net)

A big thank you to Kyle Aronson and Matt Kaes for being our computer troubleshooters! Also, thank you to the Johnstones for donating a TV.

If you have any questions, please see a team member Lisa Woodbury, Jenny Moore, Andy Casillas, Sue Casillas, Karen Ekse, Katie Ekse, Bethany Sutton, Mary Boben, and Charlene Cook.

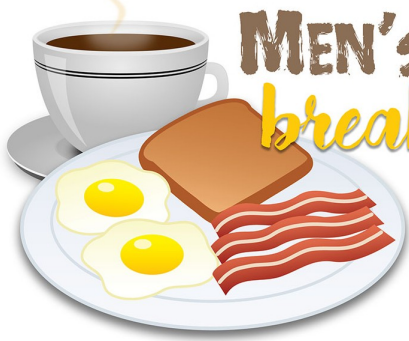
Thanks, Charlene



Circle  
of Welcome

Embracing Refugees in Friendship and Love





# MEN'S breakfast

OCTOBER 6TH

8:30 A.M.



A BIG thank you to all who donated to the school supply drive! This year was one of the biggest collections we have seen!

THANK YOU!

Giving is not just about make a donation,  
it's about  
making a difference.

- Kathy Calvin



## Volunteer Opportunity We need your help!

If you have a love for reading and can commit to one hour a week, you can make a difference in a students life.



Communities In Schools of Puyallup needs caring adults to tutor and mentor students one-on-one in kindergarten through third grade in our literacy program Good Samaritan Readers.

- Only 1 hour a week from October 2018-June 2019
- We train and mentor you at the beginning and through the year
- This program benefits students in the Puyallup School District
- Tutoring is one of the most rewarding volunteer experiences!

If interested and for more information of locations and times please contact our Good Samaritan Readers Program Coordinator:

Chris Stockslager, (253)604-3628 or [chris@cispuallup.org](mailto:chris@cispuallup.org)



Follow us on Instagram—Peacepuyallup



Like us on Facebook

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

PUYALLUP, WASHINGTON

Visit our website—[www.peacepuyallup.org](http://www.peacepuyallup.org)

## GENERAL FUND

August 2018

August Giving \$17,052.04

August Expense \$23,807.58

August Difference (\$6,755.54)

YTD Giving \$177,861.65

YTD Expense \$191,709.96

YTD Difference (\$13,848.31)

2018 Budget \$290,586.00



Trish Siltala	1	Mary Ann Larson	16
Ani Smith	1	Steve Hamilton	17
Alice Kaes	2	Leonard Barrett	17
Rosemary Chinery	2	Ann Pierson	18
Charlene Cook	3	Leo Armstrong	21
Marlys Tron	4	Chris Lee	21
Christian Henson	6	Rae Carbone	21
Brenda Mandt	6	Karen Lohrman	22
Lucy Younger	7	Bill Haines	22
Abby Howson	8	Janis Barrett	23
Pat Moore	13	Paul Cheek	24
Leigh Ann Mahaffie	13	Michah Doerr	26
Becky Von Wahlde	16	Eralow Kropelnicki	30



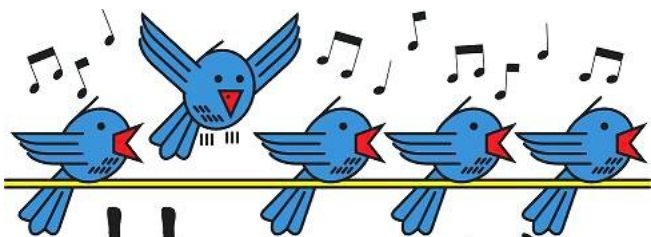
Tammy Grimm	Jessica Gaboury	Darlene Hale
Barb King	Lauren Anderson	Tony Marino
Devin Culpepper	Alex Sutton	Crystal Cunningham
Ron Glaser	Henry Johnstone	Christian Henson
Vivian Broshious	Paula Andrews	Amanda McMahon
Wayne Solberg	Judy Lange	



# October 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 4:30 - Diversion 5:00 - Cornerstones	<b>2</b> 10:00 - Bible Study 3:00 - PC Juv Ct 5:30 - Finance 6:30 - Executive 7:00 - Boy Scouts	<b>3</b> 12:00 - Sr. Ret. Potluck 5:30 - Quilting 7:00 - Choir	<b>4</b> 9:30 - Quilting 6:00 - Rowland & Assoc. 6:30 - Circle of Welcome 7:00 - A.A. Meeting	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 8:30 - Men's Breakfast
<b>7</b> 8:15 - Worship (CS) 9:40 - Resounding Joy 9:40 - Sunday School 10:45 - Worship (CS)	<b>8</b> 4:30 - Diversion 5:00 - Cornerstones	<b>9</b> 10:00 - Bible Study 3:00 - PC Juv Ct 6:30 - Council 7:00 - Boy Scouts	<b>10</b> 10:00 - Ladies Aid 12:00 - PPH @ FMStarbucks 7:00 - Choir	<b>11</b> 7:00 - A.A. Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8:15 - Worship (Jill) 9:40 - Resounding Joy 9:40 - Sunday School 10:45 - Worship (Joan) 12:05 - Youth CONNECT	<b>15</b> 4:30 - Diversion 5:00 - Cornerstones	<b>16</b> 10:00 - Bible Study 3:00 - PC Juv Ct 7:00 - Boy Scouts	<b>17</b> 5:30 - Quilting 7:00 - Choir	<b>18</b> 9:30 - Quilting 7:00 - A.A. Meeting	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 8:15 - Worship (Joan) 9:40 - Resounding Joy 9:40 - Sunday School 10:45 - Worship (Jill)	<b>22</b> 4:30 - Diversion 5:00 - Cornerstones	<b>23</b> 10:00 - Bible Study 3:00 - PC Juv Ct 7:00 - Boy Scouts	<b>24</b> 10:00 - Ladies Aid 12:00 - PPH @ Sparks Deli 7:00 - Choir	<b>25</b> 7:00 - A.A. Meeting	<b>26</b> Youth Camp Gilead	<b>27</b> Youth Camp Gilead
<b>28</b> Quilt Blessing 8:15 - Worship (CS) 9:40 - Resounding Joy 9:40 - Sunday School 10:45 - Worship (Joan) 12:05 - Youth CONNECT	<b>29</b> 4:30 - Diversion 5:00 - Cornerstones	<b>30</b> 10:00 - Bible Study 3:00 - PC Juv Ct 7:00 - Boy Scouts	<b>31</b> 5:30 - Quilting 7:00 - Choir <b>BOO allup</b>			





## Add your Voice

Peace Choir is welcoming to all singers interested in our ministry. Practice is Wednesday night 7pm- 8:15pm...We can also arrange for child care. If you love to sing, you are invited to join us. You do not have to read music to join with our ministry.

In addition, Peace Choir is looking for a flute player to join us for our advent anthem. Please let Greg Kronlund or a choir member know if you are interested.



## Caring and Calling

*"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." - Galatians 6:2*



Have you noticed someone's absence from church? Have you perceived that someone is carrying a burden? Please call your friends and fellow members and let them know you've missed them! And, with permission, please let the office know if there is a pressing concern.  
253.845.8819.

# THANK YOU THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people of Peace who sent get well cards while I have been recovering from surgery. A special thanks to JoAnn Robinson, Dave and Charlene Cook, and Jane and Steve Smith for bringing groceries, moving furniture and escorting me to my doctor's visits. All of you are very special to me and I just love my "extended" Peace family. God bless you all.

Thanks again, *Paula Schulz*

# THANK YOU



**PREP WORK FOR  
SERVING AT ST.  
LAWRENCE LAUNDRY  
MINISTRY.**

**THANK YOU TO ALL  
FOR YOUR TIME.**



*Join Us!!*

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

*Sundays*



# Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Postcards!

Let's celebrate our wide welcome at Peace. Please take as many postcards as you'd like, and send them to your friends, neighbors, community organizations, or others you think might be looking for a church home.

God graciously welcomes us into this community, joining us to the body of Christ by the movement of the Holy Spirit.  
Therefore, **we welcome all.**

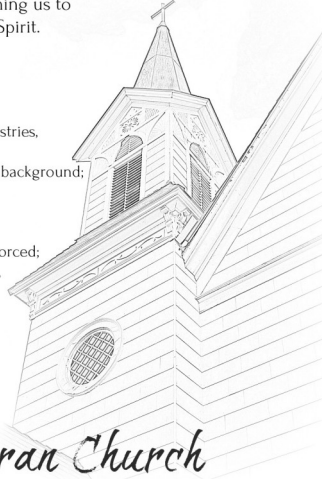
*We welcome...*

- 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.

*You will be honored here.*



*Peace Lutheran Church*



Wednesday, October 10th

12:00 - 1:00 **Fred Meyer**



Wednesday, October 24th

12:00 - 1:00

**THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU**

Denise Mace, Bill Haines, Pat and Jenny Moore - for everything you did to make Rally Sunday a success!

Nancy Jo Armstrong and WELCA - for the cakes you provided and the decorations to make the event festive.

Steve Smith - for all your hard work outside in the court yard, in the back of the church, around the office.....it is greatly appreciated.

Beck VonWahlde - for agreeing to be the Youth Ministries Partner Leader with Bill Haines!

## TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Sink your teeth into the weekly Bible texts with Pastor Nate, 10:00-11:00 am every Tuesday in the gathering area.



Women <sup>of the</sup> **ELCA** 

*Ladies Aid*

October 10th at 10:00 a.m.

Study Leader: Barb King

Hostess: Marlys Tron





## CONFIRMATION LOCK-IN

Peace Lutheran Youth (7th - 10th)

Joint Event with First Lutheran of Bothell



## Fall Confirmation Retreat

Camp Gilead

Carnation, WA

October 26th & 27th

\$55.00

Please see Youth Board for tentative schedule.

Sign up and money due by Sunday, October 7th.

## Confirmation Families!

Please mark your calendars for the following dates:

**Sunday, November 4, 12-4 PM - mini-retreat**

\*please note this is a date change from the original schedule

We will continue to begin with a potluck meal, and parents/family members will be encouraged to participate during part of each of these retreats.

This fall, we'll be taking a closer look at Jesus and the cross, the very heart of the Christian faith! Karen Ekse will continue to provide valuable adult leadership, for which we are very grateful.

An intercongregational Youth Group

# CONNECT

**CONNECTING HIGH SCHOOL  
AND PLU STUDENTS**

**CONNECTING TO SERVE  
AND LEARN ABOUT CHRIST**

To get a weekly reminder text:

**TEXT '@6e28hc' TO '81010'!**

PLU (Trinity Lutheran) 12115 Park Ave. S.



@connectPLU





# SAD NEWS

## Family Housing Network Shelter Program Is On Hold

We received this message recently from Alan Brown, the director of Catholic Community Services-Family Housing Network.

*Dear Host Site Volunteers and Coordinators:*

*Due to a variety of circumstances, at this time Catholic Community Services has decided to temporarily suspend our church-based shelter through the Family Housing Network Shelter. We will not be taking referrals of families and have put the operations of the shelter on hold until further notice while we work to address a number of issues.*

*These include:*

- Low shelter census: The shelter is currently empty and has not achieved its 5 family capacity for several months. Often, the shelter has been occupied by only one family, and for a couple of stretches, there were no families in the shelter. Understandably, this creates frustration with the host sites that prepare in advance for multiple families and it undermines the ongoing viability of the network.*
- Lack of consistently scheduled host sites: FHN has several upcoming weeks on the calendar without a scheduled host site for the shelter. This is in some part related to the first bullet as host sites aren't seeing a compelling need.*
- Lack of referrals: We are required to take our shelter referrals through the County's Coordinated Entry System. Often the referred homeless families are not responding after a referral, or not showing up for our intake.*
- Staff transitions: We have key program staff transitions that are further complicating operations making this a good time to make a deeper assessment.*

*We are convening our key partners and funders to look at program design, systems issues and service strategies to consider the best path forward for us to serve the needs of families experiencing homelessness. We know they are out there!*

*We greatly appreciate the support that the FHN shelter receives from the community, especially our participating host sites and many volunteers. We hope to be able to fully utilize your contributions and goodwill to continue this important mission. I appreciate your patience, and I also welcome your input as we work to address these issues.*

**We pray for discernment and for the future of the family shelter program and for our homeless neighbors.**



**HELLO**  
my name is

Do you need a name tag?  
Please notify the office  
([office@peacepuyallup.org](mailto:office@peacepuyallup.org) or 253.845.8819).



To those that helped cook and serve at the  
Armory Dinner!

And we could not cook without food donations!

Thank you, also, to those that provided the  
ingredients for our (very popular!) spaghetti dinner.

## **ELEMENTARY FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE!**

### SUMMER PROGRAM WRAP UP!

We had a very successful first year for our Summer  
Food Box Program.

We served between 25-60 children each week.

Each child received a minimum of 8 meals each  
week.

We provided a total of 3,128 meals over the course of  
the summer.

We are continuing to evaluate barriers and create an  
accessible program for all.

We are already planning for next summer and hope  
to offer the program in additional schools.

## **TRANSITIONING TO OUR WEEKEND FOOD PACK PROGRAM!**

Spinning Elementary is working on registrations for  
the weekend food pack program.

In the first 4 days of registration 26 children have  
been registered.

We are anticipating a higher number of children in  
the program this year.

We are off to a great start with 143 weekend food  
bags packaged at our first packaging event.



# Boo-Allup in Puyallup



Please join us as we hand out tricks and treats to the ghosts and goblins of Puyallup,

**Wednesday, October 31st**

**3:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

We welcome all, in costume and not, to come and help in this fun, family Puyallup event!

Candy and non-candy treats are always very much appreciated. If you would like to donate, please bring to the church office, or leave in the box marker  
Boo-Allup. Thank you!!!!



## Non-food ideas for trick-or-treaters

Vampire fangs  
Glow sticks  
Pencils, pens, crayons or markers  
Whistles, kazoo's, or noisemakers  
Bubbles  
Playing cards  
Spider rings  
Temporary tattoos  
Stickers  
Mini slinkies  
Bouncy balls  
Bracelets or necklaces



The TEAL PUMPKIN PROJECT® and the Teal Pumpkin Project® logo are registered trademarks of Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE).



The refugee family we are sponsoring is settling in, working on their English, getting their driver's licenses, and the children are going to school. The children had summer clothes when they arrived but the weather is changing and they could use some help gathering winter clothing. We are looking for new or gently used clothing for 2 girls-sizes 6/7 and 8/9 and for 3 boys-sizes 5/6, 7, and 8. Long sleeved shirts, long pants, sweats, and pajamas, etc. are needed. Call or email Charlene Cook with any questions. 253 320-4868 or [dbccook@comcast.net](mailto:dbccook@comcast.net)





## SUNDAY SCHOOL FOOD PACKING PROJECT



Simon Mark Sutton's baptism is scheduled for the 8:15 service on Sunday, October 14th. Please come celebrate with us! Cake will be served between services.





Thanks to the continued generosity of Dick Shipman, we will have turkey dinners available again this year! What a blessed tradition!

If you know of a family who would enjoy one of these meal baskets, please fill out a nomination form and place it in the box marked "Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets" in the gathering area, turn it into Sara in the office or turn it into Karen Ekse.

Feel free to nominate members of our congregation or to nominate relatives, friends, neighbors, acquaintances or community members. All are welcome to the meals. We have limited meals available so please sign up as soon as possible. Please submit all nominations by **Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>**.

# Thanksgiving Dinner Basket

## Nomination Form

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE FAMILY: \_\_\_\_\_

WILL THE BASKET BE PICKED UP FROM THE CHURCH OR NEED TO BE DELIVERED?

\_\_\_\_\_

NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF PERSON NOMINATING THE FAMILY (IN CASE WE HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED TO CLARIFY INFORMATION):

\_\_\_\_\_

WHO SHOULD WE CONTACT TO ARRANGE PICK UP / DELIVERY (PLEASE PROVIDE NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION):

\_\_\_\_\_

**ALL NOMINATIONS ARE NEEDED BY SUNDAY NOVEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>**

**THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP OR DELIVERY BEGINNING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18<sup>th</sup>.**



Puyallup, WA 98372