

**February 2024**



**Ministers: The Congregation**  
**Pastor: Ian McMichael**  
**Church Secretary: Kristi Nelson**  
**Pianist: Kate Schneider**  
**Custodian: Rex Rutledge**

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## General Announcements

The Church Directory is being updated for the new Year. If you have any changes to be made (email, phone, address, etc), or if you would like to be added or removed for any reason, please notify the office with those changes before February 29th. Thank you!

The Confirmation Class will be attending a youth retreat at Lutherhaven the weekend of February 2-4. Pastor Ian and Rex will be attending with the youth. Pastor Jeannette Solimine will be leading worship for us on Sunday the 4th.

Have you heard of Harmonie of the Gospels? Join us starting this Sunday (Jan 28th) for a new adult study to find out! Mary Cocking will be leading the study following Worship. Come and learn!

The next PAC (Peace Action Conference) meeting will be February 13 at 11:30 am. This group focuses on Community Outreach and Evangelism. All are Welcome!!

Pastor Liv Larson Andrews, who is the Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop is going to be visiting us and preaching on February 11th

The next Family Promise host week for Peace is coming up! We have the following needs and responsibilities to fill: Feb 11 Setup in the afternoon at Pullman Presbyterian, Feb 15 Dinner and 2 overnight hosts, Feb 18 Take down at 7:00 am. Please speak to Mary Cocking if you can help or if you have any questions!! The help is appreciated.

Sunday, February 11th, we will be decorating sugar cookies for the residents at the Courtyard. If you would like to participate, please bring 2 dozen unfrosted cookies. We will provide the rest! Alternatively, there will also be note cards going out to the residents and we will need help writing those messages!

## -----Lent Schedule 2024-----

February 14--Ash Wednesday at Peace at 7pm

There will also be a Community Service at Plymouth- 11:30 am soup, 12:15 pm  
Worship

February 23 (Friday)--Soup and Bread at Peace--Bring your favorite board game to share at 5pm until we are done.

February 27 (Tuesday)--Bread baking at Trinity at 10am.

First week of March--This is our "Visit a shut-in week.". Stay tuned for more information about how you can participate!

March 13--Community Soup and Bread at Trinity, followed by a short time of card writing to people either inviting them to Easter or checking in again with shut in/those who have moved. Soup begins at 5:30.

March 19 (Tuesday)--Bundle making (for LWR) at Peace at 1:00 pm.

March 28--Maundy Thursday service at Peace at 7pm.

This will be a combined community service (Trinity, Plymouth, and Colfax Community Church) here at Peace, with Soup at 6:15 pm proceeding the 7:00 pm  
Worship service.

March 29--Good Friday service at Trinity at 7pm.

March 30 (Saturday)--Easter Egg Hunt at Trinity at 10am (?)

March 31--Easter!

There will be transportation available for ALL dates!! If you would like a ride, please call the office (397-2121 and leave a message so Kristi can call you back to confirm!). We want everyone to be able to come and not have transportation be an issue!!

## **Your financial gifts can be received in a number of ways!**

In addition to leaving your offering during in-person worship, we also have, Tithe.ly, our online giving platform, which can be found here:

[https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1302894](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1302894)

You may also may also drop your offering in the mailbox at church or mail it to:  
309 N Lake Street, Colfax, WA 99111

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

3rd - Marilyn Wigen

5th - Robin Cocking

10th- Emma Nelson

11th - Pete Wigen

15th - Brady Cornelius

17th - Chandra Maki

21st - Catherine Olson

25th- Marvin Wigen

28th - Judy Larkin

9th - Russ & Sandy Jamison (1991)

## **Sunday Attendance**

<b>Week 1</b> December 3	<b>Week 2</b> December 10	<b>Week 3</b> December 17	<b>Week 4</b> December 24	<b>Week 4</b> December 31
30	29	42	71	21

<b>Week 1</b> January 7	<b>Week 2</b> January 14	<b>Week 3</b> January 21	<b>Week 4</b> January 28
21	16	29	21

# Pastor's Message

By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”--Genesis 3:19

Dear Members of Peace and Trinity,

I am, generally, an optimist. That doesn't mean I have my rose colored glasses on all the time. I also don't think that this fact precludes me from also being a realist. I am not an optimist, at least I don't think, that ignores the real challenges, pain, and brokenness that exists in the world. However, I remain an optimist. First, I think it makes life more enjoyable. It is just better to assume that people, as harsh as they can be sometimes, are simply doing the best that they can with what they have. It is more fun to assume good intent than bad. It is more life-giving to join in all the wonderful things that people are doing around the world, to find vocational call in the hard realities of life, and to hear God's call as we work to make the world a little less broken. I also think choosing to view the world in the best possible light is biblical. All that God has created is good. We are stewards of that goodness. To view life through this lens, no matter how hard it may seem sometimes, is a call from Christ. When life is too hard, when too much piles up, when we can't view the world like this, God is still with us, but God constantly calls us to participate in the goodness of God's creation. In many ways it remains a both/and. We Lutherans are good at that. There is one holiday, though, that brings out my cynical side, where it is difficult for me to view it in a positive light: Valentine's Day! Now, defenders of Valentine's Day will say that to find joy in the holiday one need only look into a Preschool classroom full of four year olds exchanging Valentines. Or, regardless of the less-than-stellar history of the holiday with regard to the greeting card companies, it can still be an extra day set apart to show people that you love them. You would be 100% correct on all counts. That is entirely true.

However, my biggest complaint about Valentine's Day is that it often gives this sort of unattainable goal of love. For one day at least, we ignore the fact that love is hard times. There are disagreements with those whom we love. There are days of immense stress, days where you are so tired you can't even utter a sentence, days when you hardly see each other because of busy schedules. Even as I write this, the optimist in

me is poking out to say, “Yes, but maybe this is the one day that you can put the hard stuff behind you for 24 hours and enjoy each other.” While I can agree with my inner voice here, I also think this day puts so much pressure on that outcome, that I dare say it rarely actually happens.

But this year...this year! Take a guess as to what else falls on Valentine’s Day? The beginning of Lent! Ash Wednesday. It is a day where we will remember that we are dust, and to dust we shall return. It is a day where we remember Christ’s sacrifice for us, a true sacrifice of love. In some ways, I wonder if Ash Wednesday is a more realistic view of love than Valentine’s Day. On Ash Wednesday we acknowledge that we don’t want to, but that we will hurt those we love the most. That we will let them down. That we are sinful and broken even though we would give almost anything not to be. And yet, even as sinful broken people who will send our Savior to the cross, who live in a world that is falling apart all around us, we still choose to celebrate love. Jesus still chose to die for us. Still gave everything as a sign of God’s love for us. That’s worthy of celebration and God is worthy of worship.

I think there is something there that will preach! If you’d like to hear more, or if you would simply like to gather with people who also want to enter into these forty days remembering their mortality, and their willingness to love deeply as a sign of God’s love for us, then please join us to begin the journey together. Details of time and place, along with our other Lenten offerings, can be found in this newsletter. I look forward to celebrating love with you this Valentine’s Day, optimist or not!

Peace,  
Pastor Ian

