



## Finding A Home

## Peace Lutheran Church

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April, 2013

As many of you know, my family and I have been looking to buy a home of our own as we begin to plan for retirement somewhere down the road. Having lived in church parsonages for thirty years, this has been quite a new and somewhat frightening experience. We've never had choices before. We've also never had risks before. Can we find a home right for us? How will we know? Will we be able to afford such a home? Questions and hesitations linger.

Looking for a home – a place of safety, comfort, and happiness – is a metaphor for what life is all about. Everyone is looking for safety and comfort in their lives. Everyone wants to be happy. Questions and hesitations linger in this thought process as well. Where do we find lasting safety, constant comfort, and enduring happiness? How will we know where that is? What will it cost us to be safe, comfortable, and happy?

As we bask in the afterglow of our Easter celebration, we realize that this is what Easter and the resurrection is all about – gaining us a place where we can be safe, comfortable, and happy. Sin and guilt keep us from being happy for any length of time. We can never be truly safe or comfortable as long as death and the grave are peering over our shoulders. In fact, the Scriptures say that the devil uses death to hold us in slavery by our fear of death (Heb. 2:14-15)

We need a home. The good news is we don't have to go house hunting to choose a place. The Lord chose us, prepared a home for us, and gives it to us freely. On the night before He died, Jesus made this promise, "In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." (John 14:2-4)

Jesus died on the cross to prepare us for our heavenly home by taking away our sin which kept us out of heaven. Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven to prepare our heavenly home for us. He will return someday to bring us to that home. This home is all that we will ever need or want. In it, we will be eternally safe, constantly comfortable, and indescribably happy. And the best part is there is no mortgage. It's already been paid in full by the blood of Jesus Christ shed on the cross. This payment has already been accepted by God the Father through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from death and the grave.

St. John gives us a peek into our heavenly home in the book of Revelation. He describes the people he sees in heaven in this way: "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (Revelation 7:15-17)

Our family should be in a new house soon and I'm sure we will enjoy it. But nothing can compare with the eternal home the Lord is now preparing in heaven for each of us who believes in Jesus Christ. That will be beyond our wildest dreams. As St. Paul wrote, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Cor. 2:9) I can't wait for that. I hope you can't either.

In Christ, our Home Preparer,

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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**Everyone** who cooked, helped set up, clean, serve and donated desserts, crackers or bread for the soup suppers during Lent.

**Everyone** who helped set up, serve, cook and clean up for Patsy Zvara's funeral.

**All of the ladies** who go to Park Place, Benefis Skilled Nursing Center and Highgate House to sing hymns and read devotions and minister to the shut-ins.

**Gloria Creek, Val Martin, and Karen Schaefer** for playing the organ and piano during our worship services.

**All those who volunteer to teach Sunday school, Bible class, and midweek classes** on Sundays and Wednesdays.

**Idell Croskrey** for changing the banners and paraments.

**Angelika Fisher** for cleaning the church.

**Everyone on the Prayer Chain** for their time and prayers.

**Everyone** who has donated treats for our fellowship time.

**All of the men** who volunteer to usher.

**Cheri Magnuson** for cleaning the Communion linens.

This list is not inclusive. Please accept our apologies if we have missed giving you credit for serving the Lord in any fashion. We know that the Lord knows your service to Him.

## **It is that time of the year again....**

Summer Sunday School and VBS are around the corner. Plans are being made, dates being set. Guess what we need???

You are right. We need TEACHERS!!!!!! We need teachers for Summer Sunday School and Vacation Bible School.

Please find it in your heart to teach the children of Peace this summer.

A planning meeting -date and time and curriculum- for teachers will be forthcoming. VBS will be July 15-19 with the possibility of it being in the evening.

Thank you very much for your help and support.

## **State Fair and Farmers Market Out Reach coming soon**

A committee to help with the evangelism outreach at the State Fair and the Farmers Market is being formed. If you are interested in serving in this fashion, please contact Arnie Gidlow at [mobows@mcn.net](mailto:mobows@mcn.net) or 406-468-9385.

## **LWML**

- ♥ **Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 14 at 6:30 p.m. with a possible guest speaker and Bible study.** All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to come and join us! We will be having election of all 4 officers, president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. Don't forget your Mite boxes!
- ♥ **Thank you to everyone who helped with the 2 soup suppers that we sponsored.** Funds from the first one will go toward the purchase of King James Bibles for the Crow Indian Reservation ingathering at the LWML Rally on April 20. Funds from the second one will go toward Deaf Camp 2013.
- ♥ **The Central and Divide Zones will combine this year for the spring rally at Trinity Lutheran Church in Great Falls on April 20 beginning at 8:30 AM.** Registration is \$6 per person. The speaker in the morning will be Rev. Dan Jacobs from the Crow Indian Reservation and the afternoon will be a presentation of PING by LWML District personnel who received training at National LWML.
- ♥ **Remember to bring your new soap for Soap Sunday on the second Sunday of each month.** Soap collected will go to Lutheran World Relief. Thanks for your continued support.
- ♥ **The Lutheran World Relief drive will be on May 18, 2013 this year.** Be watching for more details!
- ♥ **During the month of June we will be collecting items for Helping Hands which is located at First English Lutheran Church.** Watch for wish lists to go shopping with!



## April Anniversaries

April 8 Ron and Diane Steffens  
April 9 Bill and Dorothy Neuman

## Baptismal Anniversaries

April 1 Don Brown  
1 Grace Eby  
2 Karen Birkholz  
3 Gordon Swaby  
5 Alex Schuman  
8 Carol Thurston  
11 Vic Scheuffele  
12 Gary Creek  
12 Ruth Lowden  
14 Ethan Southard  
15 Pamela Brown  
25 Barbara Swaby  
26 Darrell Greenwood  
26 Allison Mead

## Cleaning Day planned

The trustees of Peace have set the cleaning day for **Saturday, April 13 at 9 a.m.** Mark your calendars now to join us as we do some deep cleaning of the Lord's House! Lunch will be provided.

## Wee Disciples has 2 positions open

Wee Disciples has 2 open positions: a childcare teacher and one in administration. If you are interested in applying for either of these positions, please contact Debbie Lee at 771-7882.



### INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

**John Birkholz**  
**Jane Hering**  
**Kathy McIntosh**  
**Vicky Neiffer**  
**Michel Wayman**

Our members who are away serving in the military are **Kurt Mueller and Michael Lewis.**

## Voters meeting set

Mark your calendars now for the next congregational voters meeting and potluck on **Sunday, May 19 at 12 noon.** We will have election of officers and discussing some important issues. If you are interested in serving the Lord as an elected official of Peace Lutheran Church, please contact Vice-Chairman Rick Symonsbergen.

## “Evening with Your Elder”

The Elders of Peace Lutheran Church will be hosting their second annual "Evening with your Elder" on the 11th of April 2013 beginning at 6:30 P.M. We will meet in the fellowship hall for refreshments and break off into private rooms with your own Elder. The elders of Peace are Mitch Martin, Pat Lewis, Kevin Aguiar, Lyle Onstad, and Arnie Gidlow. The new Elders List will be handed out during the week of the 24th of March 2013. Watch your mailboxes and the table in the hallway of the church. Please take time to visit with your Elder sometime during the evening of the 11th of April. We look forward to seeing you.

## Ladies Bible study schedule

What a glorious Easter we have celebrated! We continue now during the Easter season to rejoice in the triumphant resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! The FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS marvels at the enrichment the study of REVELATION gives during the Lent and Easter seasons. Come and join them for Bible study from 1:15 - 3:15 pm on April 5th and 12th at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave So. On April 19th ladies will meet at the home of Ann Nimmick 2327 15th Ave So.

Assisted Living Ministry will meet at the following locations. Tuesday, April 9th at 11 am they will meet at Bee Hive Home #1, 2824 15th Ave So. Friday, April 26th the group will meet for a no host lunch at 11:45 am at Salad Creations 901 10th Ave So. After lunch ladies and gentlemen will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Come and enjoy the Easter hymn singing and a devotion with these precious assisted living residents!

## Members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans voting on extending our “Common Bond”

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a fraternal benefit society. So if you have Thrivent product, you are considered as part owner of the company. We also have a common bond, which will be voted on extending from Lutheran to all Christians. While almost all our members came as Lutherans, many are still active Christians but no longer attend Lutheran churches. (Information taken from *Thrivent* magazine Summer 2012; written by Bradford Hewitt, President and CEO of Thrivent.)

Between the dates of March 1 through April 30, 2013, if you are a Thrivent member, you will be able to vote on whether or not Thrivent should change their common bond to be Christian instead of Lutheran. Be watching for more details!

Also, don't forget to designate your 2012 Choice Dollars by March 31, 2013! If you have questions or need help with designating your money, please contact one of our Congregational Advocates: Ruth Denning, 899-3147; or Amy Dorr, 899-4050. We are also in need of another Congregational Advocate. If you are willing to volunteer in this fashion, please contact Ruth or Amy.

## Finances

We began the new year of 2013 with a deficit in the checking account of \$9,707.78. Our giving in February, 2013 was \$8,829.17 and our expenses for February were \$11,113.69. The amount NOT in our checking account at the end of February is \$13,966.59. The **Lutheran Church Extension Fund** loan balance as of February 28, 2013 is **\$19,982.46**.

## Expanding the Body of Christ on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation

Rev. Dennis Bauer's Vision: Eight years ago when we recognized that people were returning to the spiritual roots of their youth we decided to build a youth camp on church property. Six or seven years ago with the help of a group of people from the Carmel Lutheran Church in Carmel, Indiana (who were excited about the vision) we built three cabins that each housed eight people. The group from Carmel returned for several years bringing a saw mill with them. The three existing cabins have been used by groups throughout the years.

We are now ready to build the main lodge. The ground is cleaned, we have a saw mill and are ready to mill the logs from a burned area on the reservation. The 30' x 50' lodge will have a kitchen, bathrooms, a shower, and a mess hall that will also serve as the chapel. The plan for "the camp is for LCMS congregations to send teams of Christians to work with the Circle of Life members in conducting youth camps throughout the summer". These teams would be the staff and would supply all the goods needed to conduct youth camps for the local kids. The goal is to train the local youth to become the counselors and to work closely with the outside staff and eventually take over the leadership of running the camp. Another component of this camp is to have outside staff supervise our older youth from the reservation on backpacking trips.

We pray the Lord will increase the body of Christ among us through this involvement and growth in Him. This summer is the beginning of the milling logs and building the main lodge. We need financial support, people power, and anything else you can imagine for this to become a reality.

The dates of the work party are **April 29th-May 5th** just outside Lame Deer.

Please sign you name below if you plan to join us:

For questions and information please contact Arnie Gidlow at [mobows@mcn.net](mailto:mobows@mcn.net) or 406-468-9385.

## Members of Christ for the Deaf sponsor rummage sale

The annual rummage sale that is sponsored by members of Christ for the Deaf will be May 17 and 18 at the parsonage, 2922 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North. If you have items to donate, you may bring them to the church and place them in the office for the deaf. If you items that need to be picked up, please contact David Wise and he will make arrangements to come and get them. Thank you for all of your help and participation in this endeavor.