



Peace Lutheran Church

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No April Fools!

April Fool's Day is a harmless little holiday which falls on April 1 every year. It is a day for pulling pranks on your friends by concocting a false story and attempting to get your friends to believe it. Some of the stories are outlandish and easily not believed. However, some of the stories have a ring of truth to them and might fool people. If you do get your friends to believe the story you have concocted, then you shout out "April Fool's!" Everyone knows that the story is not true and just a joke.

In a very ironic bit of scheduling this year, Easter – the Resurrection of Our Lord – is scheduled on April 1 – April Fool's Day. Thus, the day on which the Christian Church celebrates its most outlandish truth claim, the resurrection from the dead of Jesus Christ, is the same day our culture devotes to getting people to believe stories that are either outlandish or have a ring of truth to them but are totally false.

Cynics, skeptics, and unbelievers would claim that the story of Jesus rising from the dead to live again is one big April Fool's Day joke. Some of the sentimental or gullible doubters might see the Easter account as having a ring of truth to it. But more skeptical critics would say that the claim that a corpse which has been dead and in a tomb for three days could suddenly come back to life is an outlandish story which no one could believe.

If you think that, after hearing and believing in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, that someone is then going to jump out and shout, "April Fools!", you wouldn't be the first ones. The people in the church at Corinth were experiencing similar worries or doubts. Some had come to believe that there is no resurrection from the dead and any claims to the contrary are outlandish or simply false.

Could there then be any Christian faith without the resurrection of the dead? St. Paul says that it is not possible. He writes, "if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ is not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ.... And if Christ is not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied." (1 Corinthians 15:13-19) If the resurrection of Jesus Christ is merely an April Fool's Day joke, then it ranks as the most cruel April Fool's Day joke of all time for it means that we are still in our sin and that we have hope only for this life (which should cause people to feel sorry for us). Worse yet, it means that those who have died, trusting in Christ, are dead and gone and when we die, that's it.

However, if you are afraid that, when you hear this wonderful news of resurrection and eternal life, someone is going to jump out and shout, "April Fool's!", you are wrong. St. Paul boldly declares, "But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." (1 Corinthians 15:20) The Word of God declares the resurrection of Jesus Christ to be a fact. Hundreds of eyewitnesses to the resurrection confirm this fact. And none of the enemies of Christ were able to refute this by producing the dead body of Jesus Christ.

Not only do we celebrate the factual event of the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter, but we rejoice in what it means for us. St. Paul says that Jesus' resurrection is the "the firstfruits of those who fall asleep." This means that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is not a unique event, but the first of many to come. All people who have died, trusting in Jesus Christ, as well as all those who live, trusting in Jesus Christ, will not remain dead but will share in Jesus' resurrection. Each of us shall rise from our graves to live eternally in the way and with the body God intended for us to have.

And THAT is no "April Fools!"

In Christ, our resurrected and living Lord,
Pastor Schlund

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The TOPS group, Fuddruckers and Ted and Nancy Barnes and everyone for cooking, setting up, cleaning, serving and donating rolls, crackers, bread and desserts for the soup suppers during Lent.

All of the ladies who go to Park Place, Benefis Extended Care Center and Highgate Senior Living to sing hymns and read devotions and minister to the shut-ins.

Gloria Creek and Val Martin 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.

Matt Schlund 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.

Ladies Bible study schedule

April! Our Easter celebration of our Lord's resurrection is a new joy each year. The Easter message is our never ending spring song! Alleluias resound! May Christ's promise of our own resurrection inspire us to continue to worship, study His Word, and be His witnesses!

The FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS continues their study of the Psalms, the song and prayer book of the Bible. Join them on a Friday in April for an afternoon of fellowship and study of one of the Psalms. They will meet from 1-3pm on Friday, April 6th, 13th, and 20th at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave So. Always know you are welcome!

Assisted Living Ministry with a devotion and hymn singing will meet at the following locations this month. On Tuesday, April 10th at 11:00 a.m. ladies and gentlemen will meet at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave So. The group will have a no host lunch on Friday, April 27th at 11:45 a.m. at Wheat Montana, 1116 9th St So. After lunch many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Come and share the Easter joy with these residents, as the Easter hymns bring God's message of Christ's resurrection!

LWML

- ♥ **LWML Montana District Convention is April 20 -22, 2018** at First Lutheran Church in Missoula. All ladies are invited and encouraged to join us! Registration is \$85 after April 1 and forms are in the church office. Convention is always a great time of fellowship with old and new friends, worship, and singing. We have reach and surpassed our budget goal and will be deciding where the additional funds collected will be spent! Thank you to everyone who donated to the mites during the years! It is truly appreciated!
- ♥ **Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 8 at 6:30 p.m. with a Bible study.** All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to come and join us! We will be having election of all officers. Remember your Mite boxes!
- ♥ **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 May 12, 2018.** More details will be available as the time gets closer.



April Anniversaries

April 12 Jeff and Vonnie Blomgren

Baptismal Anniversaries

April 2 Karen Birkholz
 8 Carol Thurston
 11 Vic Scheuffele
 12 Gary Creek
 12 Ruth Lowden
 26 Darrell Greenwood
 26 Pat Bliss
 26 Hunter Denning
 28 Cheryl Walker



INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

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- Tami Birkholz**, Karen's sister-in-law who is battling a rare skin tissue disorder
- Michael Drummond** – Lupus
- Joseph Furr II** (Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia).
- Leonard Gidlow**
- Daniel Hanneman** (Becky's brother battling leukemia)
- Jane Hering**
- Connie Juden**
- Rev. Erich Kaelberer**
- Dorothy Neuman**
- Kathy Politz**
- Jean Radke**

One member who is away serving in the military is **Michael Lewis**.

Ushers for April

April 1 ----- Kevin Aguiar
 ----- Arnie Wirth
 April 8 ----- Mitch Martin
 ----- Eric Fletcher
 April 15 ----- Darrell Greenwood
 ----- Ed Ostlund
 April 22 ----- Tyler Denning
 ----- Lyle Onstad
 April 29 ----- Pat Lewis
 ----- Jeff Blomgren

Finances

JANUARY 1, TO FEBRUARY 28, 2018		
CHURCH INCOME	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Regular Offerings	\$23,251.75	\$23,583.34
Interest Income	\$168.01	\$200.00
Total Income	\$23,419.76	\$23,783.34
Church Expenses		
Personnel/Benefits	\$15,411.98	\$16,076.42
Administrative	\$1,086.39	\$1,251.66
Buildings & Grounds	\$6,454.93	\$6,585.00
Missions	\$2,026.84	\$1,916.66
Worship	\$194.04	\$191.66
Christian Education	\$726.44	\$597.68
Evangelism	\$496.00	\$383.34
Total Expenses	\$26,396.62	\$27,002.42
Net Church Income	(\$2,976.86)	(\$3,219.08)

Cleaning Day

There will be a cleaning day on **Saturday, April 28th beginning at 9 AM**. Please come for as long as your schedule will allow. We will be cleaning inside and outside of the building. Many hands make light work and we could really use many hands! Lunch will be provided.

Voters meeting set

Mark your calendars now for the next **congregational voters meeting and potluck on Sunday, April 29 at 12 noon**. Please consider being a nominee for the following offices of Peace Lutheran Church: Chairman (1 person); Congregational Secretary (1 person); Elders (2 or more people); Trustee (2 or more people); Director of Education (1 person); Directors of Evangelism (1 person). Contact Mitch Martin or Greg Franczyk if you are interested. Thank you for your participation.

Easter Services 2018

Peace Lutheran Church

April 1 Easter –

The Resurrection of Our Lord



Sunrise Service –
6:30 AM

Easter Breakfast –
7:30 – 9:00 AM

Festival Worship
9:30 AM with Christ for the Deaf and Holy Communion

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Memories for a lifetime

We have moved the date for the picture taking of the Peace Lutheran picture directory!

The dates now are **May 8, 9, 10.**

Life Touch called and moved the dates due to lack of people signed up this close to our photo dates. New sheets will be hanging in the hallway on the bulletin board. Get out your calendar's and pick your date and time to have pictures taken!

Please plan to participate as this directory will only be complete if you are included!

Thank you!

Pictures will be taken
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday,
from 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM each day.

Each family will receive a complimentary 8X10 photograph and free directory for participating.