



## Peace Lutheran Church

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April, 2019

### And Then Came the Sun

Well, the last month and a half have certainly been interesting. Record snowfalls and record cold temperatures descended, not only on Great Falls, but throughout our country. Life was difficult in addition to being very cold. The snow just kept coming and coming. This made travel difficult. Driving was hard and many airline flights were canceled. There was so much snow that, even though people were trying to remove the snow, there was just no place to put the snow. People were becoming desperate. It seemed that the snow and cold temperatures would never go away.

And then came the sun.

Beginning at the end of March and continuing into April, the sun has been out more and more. The temperatures rose. The snow melted away. And everything seems so much better. There has been no difficulty in driving cars. Airline flights have gone off without a hitch. People have been in such better moods. The difficulty and disruption which the weather had caused just went away.

In April, we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord (otherwise known as Easter). What has happened meteorologically these past few months reminded me what has happened spiritually in Easter.

I have always imagined the Garden of Eden existing in an eternal spring day because God makes everything perfect and there is nothing more perfect than a warm spring day. Yet evil entered into this perfect state and sin corrupted it. The frigidness of evil made this world not a very pleasant place to live in. The sin caused by evil kept piling up like snow in an unending blizzard. Sin not only made our lives miserable, but condemned us to death and separation from a loving God for all eternity.

And then came the Son.

God moved great piles of sin away from us and plowed it upon His Son, Jesus. Jesus took the sin of the world to a cross and, during a three-hour period of discomfort and disruption, Jesus paid for that sin by His death upon the cross. Three days later, on a day darker and gloomier than anything we experienced here during the Great Winter of 2019, a group of women sadly made their way to Jesus' tomb. They expected more sadness and grief. It was as if it would never go away, like a bad winter.

And then the Son came out. They arrived to find, not Jesus, but angels who said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." (Luke 24:5) What a grand and glorious day it turned out to be!

Imagine how these women felt. I'm sure they felt joy and excitement in ways that could not possibly be described. Remember how you felt when the sun came out, everything got warmer, the snow went away, and everything was as it should be? Everyone I talked to was excited and happy about this change in the weather. When the Son came out of the tomb, joy and excitement abound in our lives. Death, the devil and all evil have been defeated. Our sins have been forgiven. We are restored in our relationship to Almighty God so that we neither fear the power of the devil or the guilt of our sin. Our life is given purpose. And we have the assurance of life after death in resurrected and glorified bodies that will last forever.

As you deal with mini-blizzards of suffering in the coming years and your life appears drearier than a Montana winter day, take heart and have hope. Then comes the Son to bring you to eternal spring in heaven.

Happy Spring! Happy Eternity!

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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**Everyone** for cooking, setting up, cleaning, serving and donating soup, rolls, crackers, bread and desserts for the soup suppers during Lent.

**Pat Lewis, Arnie Wirth, Greg Franczyk and Darrell Greenwood for your help** in trudging and shoveling through the snow to get copy paper from the shed.

**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

What a long winter! How welcome the first flowers of April will be! All this moisture will ensure an abundance of spring wildflowers which start blooming in the foothills about April 20th, just in time for Easter. Pasque flowers and yellow bells come up even when there's snow still melting nearby. Look for some on the church secretary's desk around that time.

THE FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS will be completing their study of 1 PETER. Join them on Friday, April 12th from 1-3pm at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave So. Always know you are welcome to drop in for these gatherings around God's Word!

Assisted Living Ministry will meet at the following locations with hymn singing and a devotion. Ladies and gentlemen will meet Tuesday, April 9th at 11 a.m. at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave So. The ever popular no host lunch will be held Friday, April 26th at 11:45 a.m. at the 4B's Restaurant, 4610 10th Ave So. Consider joining the group just for lunch, as many do. After lunch some of the people will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So, where fellowship continues with Easter hymns of praise! Share the joy of the Resurrection!

## LWML

- ♥ **Saturday, May 4 at Trinity in Billings and First in Missoula** LWML will sponsor Follow the Leader. LWML presenters will bring training resources to women and church workers in Montana. We want to equip current and future leaders to continue to share Jesus within our communities and throughout the world. For more information contact Val Martin or Ruth in the church office.
- ♥ **Our next meeting will be Monday, May 20 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 11, 2018.** More details will be available as the time gets closer.



## April Anniversaries

April 12 Jeff and Vonnie Blomgren  
April 20 Dylon and Angelea Bilskemper

## 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

**Rev. Mark Grunst** of Billings who has Lewy Body disease

**Connie Juden**

**Rev. Erich Kaelberer** - ALS

**Wallace Martin**, Mitch's brother under Hospice Care

**Dorothy Neuman**

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

## Ushers for April

April 7 -----Tom Maaske  
----- Pat Lewis  
April 14-----Arnie Wirth  
----- Kevin Aguiar  
April 21-----Gary Link  
----- Darrell Greenwood  
April 28-----James Onstad  
-----Lyle Onstad

## Youth Group Corner

**Save the date:** Saturday, April 20 for Easter activities!! The youth will get together to decorate the fellowship hall, food prep and have an Easter Egg hunt. We may do a lock in if enough kids are interested. Brook and Kaye have agreed to chaperone.

For Easter Breakfast the kids will make eggs, meat and French toast for everyone. Breakfast will be served from 7:30 to 9:00 AM. Please feel free to contact Kaye Franczyk if you have any questions or concerns.

One other thing, if one of our youth receive a scholarship for a camp or trip. We want them to report back to the board with how their trip went, preferably with picture and/or a thank you for the bulletin board.

## Life Quotes

“When the devil speaks, do not believe the lies. Whether your life be young or old, the deceit of death will enter it. You will walk by caskets. You will lie in a hospital bed. You will hear the devil speak in his native language. His lies will come to you just as they did to me. See through his faulty speech. Recognize his broken narrative. Deny every phony word. Christ calls you a Christian, and the devil's language holds no truth. When the deceit of death enters your life, listen to the truth Christ speaks on this day ... ‘He will speak again. You will visit family again. She will greet you again. Christ will rise again.’” *Rev. Paul Spaude, Martin Luther College – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

## *The Signs of Salvation*

Signs are very important to us. They direct us past themselves to more information or a final destination. If we pay attention to the signs, then we will get the information we need and arrive at the destination we seek.

God has given us many signs to show us His love and to direct us to His salvation. *The Signs of Salvation* will be the theme for our Wednesday evening Lenten services this year. In the services, we will meditate upon the signs God has given us and strengthen our faith in the salvation to which the signs point to us.

April 3 (Lent 5)	“The Sign of Celebration”	John 2:11
April 10 (Lent 6)	“The Sign Spoken Against”	Luke 2:34
April 18 (Maundy Thursday)	“The Sign of Blood”	Exodus 12:13
April 19 (Good Friday)	“The Sign of the Cross”	John 19:19-21
April 21 (Easter Sunday)	“The Sign of Nothing”	Luke 24:1-11

The services will have a simplified liturgy and, in lieu of children’s sermon, will provide activities for parents and children to do at home to reinforce the theme of the service. Worship begins at 7 PM. A light supper will be served at 6 PM. Join us as we contemplate “the signs of salvation” this Lenten season.

### **Holy Week Schedule Peace Lutheran Church 3340 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue South 761-7343**



Holy Communion

#### **Maundy Thursday – April 18<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 PM - Worship with Holy Communion.

#### **Good Friday – April 19<sup>th</sup> –**

7:00 PM - Service of Darkness



#### **Easter Sunday – April 21<sup>st</sup> -**

6:30 AM – Sunrise Service

7:30 AM – Breakfast served

9:30 AM - Festival Worship with Holy Communion.

This service will be interpreted for the deaf.

