



Peace Lutheran Church

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When Hollywood Writes The Story

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There is a buzz going through the Christian community with the release of a new movie, *Noah*, starring Russell Crowe. Despite the almost total disconnect from the Biblical record (one reviewer said that the only thing the movie had in common with the Bible was the name, Noah, an ark, and lots of animals) and the fact that the director himself, an admitted atheist, described the film as "the least biblical 'biblical film' ever made", there are some Christians who are promoting this movie as a good thing.

It reminded me of the same kind of buzz that went through the Christian community a generation ago when the musical, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, came out. Despite the fact that it portrayed a Jesus who was clueless about the Father's will and the reason for his crucifixion and the fact that the musical left Jesus dead in the tomb, many Christians thought the "rock opera" and the movie based on it were good things.

Why are we so willing to overlook, ignore, or even accept unbiblical and anti-biblical themes in religious movies? Perhaps it is because, as Christians living in a blatantly anti-Christian culture, we are so starved for any positive attention. When the "cool kids" make a movie about our faith, we desperately want to like it, no matter what the content is.

However, when Hollywood tells the Biblical story, it often gets it wrong, either through ignorance or a deliberate attempt to discredit Christianity. Sometimes it's only a matter of adding harmless non-Biblical details to fill out the story. Sometimes it's a matter of leaving out or changing important parts of the Biblical record. And sometimes it's a matter of adding things which go against or contradict the Biblical message. Since "the Holy Scriptures...are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15) it is important that we proclaim them clearly and accurately. It could be a matter of spiritual life or death.

As we celebrate the greatest high points of our Christian faith this month – the death of Jesus Christ on Good Friday and the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday, let's allow the Scriptures to tell the story rather than Hollywood (which will most certainly try to deny the bodily resurrection of Christ). We are not to change the story to make it more appealing. We simply pass on to others what we ourselves have received. As St. Paul wrote to the saints at Corinth, "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve." (1 Corinthians 15:3-5)

Jesus truly and physically died for your sins that you might escape the wrath of God, have forgiveness for all your sins and be at peace with Him. Jesus truly and bodily rose from the dead that you might have a new life with Him now and an eternal life with Him in His Kingdom. May that be the object of our faith and the center of our celebration during this Easter season...regardless of what Hollywood tells us.

In Christ,

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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

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

Charlene Schottery, Loretta Walker, Val Martin, Ruth Denning, and Angelika Fisher for all of your time and hard work putting the confirmation and various pictures on the new display boards.

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.

Everyone who came and helped the clean the church on cleaning day.

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.

Confirmation Day

Confirmation Day will be on Sunday, April 27th. We have one young person to be confirmed this year – Rebecca Gerard. Please remember her in your prayers and join us for that day of celebration.

New Bible study begins April 23

The Lost Books? Ever wondered if some books were intentionally excluded from the Bible and why? In *Lost Books?* our Wednesday evening Adult Bible Class will look at why some ancient writings failed to make the cut for inclusion, why other texts most definitely met the standard, and why others, including those "gospels" found in the last century, came up short. Family Night will begin again after Easter on Wednesday, April 23rd. A potluck with a Chinese theme will begin at 6:00 PM. Bible Class begins at 6:30 PM.

Crafting Day planned for May 10th

A crafting day is planned for Saturday, May 11th. Anyone interested in helping with displays from various groups in the church to be placed on the display panels is invited and welcome to come! There will be people available to help as needed on that day. Bring your ideas, a dish to share and any of your favorite craft items along! Stay as long as your schedule will allow. Come and join the fun!

LWML

- ♥ **Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 13 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. 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 went to Lutheran Church Charities and it has not been determined where the fund from the second one will go.
- ♥ **There will not be a spring rally due to the fact that we are having a Montana District Convention at Trinity Lutheran Church in Miles City May 2 – 4, 2014.** Registration forms are in the latest Missive. There are several people driving if you would like ride with someone.
- ♥ **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 17, 2014 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



INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

John Birkholz

June Foard, June Meier's daughter

Jane Hering

William McBride, brother-in-law of Shannon Birkholz

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

Cleaning Day thanks

The trustees of Peace thank everyone who came and helped clean the Lord's house which is Peace Lutheran Church on **Saturday, April 5**. Your time, effort and talent are truly appreciated in helping with this cleaning!

Finances

Our giving in February 2014 is \$9,898.25 and our expenses for February were \$11,335.63. The general fund balance at the end of February is \$11,502.97. As you can see, the need for people to continue given is very great!

Voters meeting set

Mark your calendars now for the next congregational voters meeting and potluck on **Sunday, April 27 at 12 noon**. We will have election of officers and discuss some important issues. If you are interested in serving the Lord as an elected official of Peace Lutheran Church, please contact Chairman Darrell Greenwood.

Lutherans For Life prayer dates

The first two Fridays in April, the 4th and 11th, are the days that Cascade County Lutherans for Life committed to standing on the sidewalk in front of The Planned Parenthood Clinic to be a peaceful presence praying that hearts and minds of people would realize that life in the womb is valuable.

7 a.m. to 7 p.m. we will be on the street. If you are able and willing, please join us as your presence is a witness for the sanctity of life.

Barbara Going, coordinator.

Ushers for April

April 6----- Tom Croskrey
-----Tommy Croskrey
April 13 ----- Tyler Denning
----- Greg Franczyk
April 20 ----- Karl Dorr
----- Jeff Blomgren
April 27 ----- Dan Grove
----- Mitch Martin

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 16 and 17 at the church, 3340 11th Avenue South. If you have items to donate, you may bring them to the church and place them in the office for the deaf. If you have 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.

Applying Biblical Teachings

There is no such thing as a self-made man or woman. In reality, the amount of money and wealth we receive is a blessing from God. According to his divine knowledge and plan, He blesses each of us with money and wealth for our service to Him. We are given great freedom in the use of these blessings.

King Solomon made this observation, “I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all” (Eccl. 9:11).

Man cannot devise a logical course or develop a formula that will insure great wealth. Man stands humbled before God, realizing he is fully dependent on God for the blessings he receives.

This does not mean, however, that we sit idly by praying and studying the Bible, waiting for God’s blessings to miraculously appear. The Apostle Paul stated clearly, “. . . If a man will not work, he shall not eat” (2 Thes. 3:10). In his letter to Titus, he expanded this thought: “Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives” (Titus. 3:14).

How should each of us react to our financial state? As Christians, we are led to the realization that God’s infinite wisdom far surpasses our limited perspective. In Christ, we accept with a thankful spirit what God has entrusted to us. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we honor God by our living and by our giving.

“. . . remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth. . .” (Deut. 8:18).

Ladies Bible study schedule

The FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS will resume their study of the BOOK of REVELATION. It's been such a long recess! This is an excellent time to join the group as they pick up their study in Chapter 13, which is Lesson 8 in the study booklet. A study booklet is provided for you. Ladies will meet at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave. So. from 1:15 - 3:15 p.m. on April 4th. They will not meet on Good Friday, April 18, or April 25.

The faithful group of gentlemen and ladies involved all winter with Assisted Living Ministry will meet for hymn singing and a devotion at the following locations. On Tuesday, April 8th they will be at Bee Hive Home #1, 2816 15th Ave So at 11:00 a.m. Friday, April 11th they will meet at 11:45 a.m. at Maple Gardens, 5401 9th Ave So for a no host lunch. Afterward they will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So to enjoy leading the residents in the a hymn sing. Come and join us!