



Peace Lutheran Church

3340 Eleventh Avenue South,
Great Falls, Montana 59405

The Rev. Steven Schlund, Pastor

Office: 761-7343

Home: 952-4567

www.peacelutherangreatfalls.org

Pastor Schlund: Peacepastor@bresnan.net

Peace's secretary: Peacesecretary@bresnan.net

April, 2015

Yeah, So?

April 2015

A young pastor was so excited to lead his first Easter Sunday worship service that he couldn't contain himself. When he stopped to fill up his gas tank and get a cup of coffee on the way to church on Easter morning, he exclaimed to the cashier at the gas station, "Christ is risen!" The cashier gave him an odd look and said, "Yeah, so?"

While we might know the correct liturgical response to the pastor's exclamation, might many people have more in common with the cashier's response? Oh, sure, Easter is a joyous occasion and many churches are filled on that day. However, cultural or family traditions might be more of the reason for attending worship on Easter than the message of the day. Christ IS risen, but so what? What difference does it make other than to give us a reason for a spring holiday? Christ's resurrection is not only a life-changing and life-giving event for Him, but it is for us, as well.

Suppose Christ had died but had *not* risen from the dead. What difference would that have made? Paul takes up that question in 1 Corinthians 15. He says there are three very bad things that would be true for us if Christ had not been raised from the dead.

First, Paul says, "your faith is futile." In other words, trusting in a Savior who lies dead in a tomb is a waste of time. There have been other miracle workers, other helpers of the downtrodden and other preachers. They were of help to the people of their time, but they are of no help to us today. A dead Jewish rabbi from 2,000 years ago would be equally of no value whatsoever to us today. It would be futile to think otherwise.

Second, Paul says, "you are still in your sins." Jesus came to earth to do more than teach, preach, heal, feed, and help people with their problems. Jesus came to solve the far worse problem of sin and death. He came specifically to offer up His life to the Father as a sacrifice for our sin that we might be forgiven and have new life. His resurrection was to be the guarantee and proof that the Father had accepted this sacrifice, forgiveness had been won, and new life had been secured. Without Christ rising from the dead, we have no proof and no guarantee of anything. We would still be in our sins, awaiting an uncertain fate after we died.

Third, Paul says, those "who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished." If you are waiting to be reunited with grandma and grandpa, mom and dad, and others who died trusting in Jesus, forget about that. If Christ cannot rise from the dead and continue living, then nobody can. Our family, friends, and fellow Christians are simply gone.

If we think Jesus can be of any good in helping us with this life, then think again. Paul says, "If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied." People should feel sorry for us if we follow a dead Savior and think it's going to do us any good.

Christ's rising from the dead changes everything. Paul says, "But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." As a result, our faith is well founded. The sacrifice for all sin for all people has been completed and accepted. The dead in Christ will rise from their graves and live forever.

We have comfort for our past life of sin. We have strength as we face temptation and evil in our present life. We have a sure and certain hope for a future life that continues past the grave and into eternity at our Savior's side. It is no wonder that a young pastor or any Christian can't contain himself. *Christ IS risen! He is risen indeed. Hallelujah!*

In Christ, our risen and living Lord,

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

**T
H
A
N
K
S

TO**

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.

Linda Aguiar for being the church secretary for Ruth while she was on vacation!

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.

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.

Confirmation Day

Confirmation Day will be on Sunday, May 3rd. We have two young people to be confirmed this year – Nolan Croskrey and Mackenzie Smelser. Please remember them in your prayers and join us for that day of celebration.

New Bible study begins

Our Sunday morning Adult Bible Class recently started a study of *Lutheranism 101: The Lord's Supper*. We will examine what the Word of God says about this wonderful gift from our Lord. We will study what we believe about the Lord's Supper and how we practice the Lord's Supper. Join us each Sunday morning at 11:00 AM for what should prove to be a fascinating class.

LWML

- ♥ **Because of the change in dates, our next meeting will be Tuesday, April 14 at 6:30 p.m. with a Bible study.** The bible study will be handed out prior so we can study it and then discuss it in more depth at the meeting. All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to come and join us! We will meet again on May 12 at 6:30 p.m. and will be having election of all officers. Remember your Mite boxes!
- ♥ **Thank you to everyone who helped with the soup supper that we sponsored.** Funds went toward the purchase of red/white reversible paraments for the altar.
- ♥ **The Spring Rally will be held on Saturday, April 18 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Lewistown.** Registration fee is \$8 per person and begins at 9:45 a.m. Rally begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 2 p.m. Brunch and lunch will be provided. Opening and closing devotions will be led by Rev. Eric Stinnett and he will also be the guest speaker on his soon-to-be Ethiopian mission. Free will offering will be given to him in support of his fund raising efforts. What a wonderful opportunity we have to support him in this endeavor!
- ♥ **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 Montana District Convention for 2016 will be held here in Great Falls! Ladies from Peace are the host society!** If you would like to be involved in the planning process or in any way, please let Ruth Denning or Gloria Creek know. We are in the planning stages but there is much work to be done! Venues for the convention and the Saturday night banquet need to be selected, as well as entertainment for the Saturday night banquet. Meals need to be planned along with table favors and many other details. Please consider joining us for this exciting event and help us make it the best convention Montana has ever seen!!
- ♥ **The Lutheran World Relief Drive will be May 16, 2015.** More details will be available as the time gets closer.



April Anniversaries

April 9 Bill and Dorothy Neuman
April 12 Jeff and Vonnie Blomgren

Baptismal Anniversaries

April 1 Don Brown
1 Grace Eby
2 Karen Birkholz
5 Alex Schuman
8 Carol Thurston
11 Vic Scheuffele
12 Gary Creek
12 Ruth Lowden
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

We pray for the families of **Lucile Back** and **Fern Campbell** who died last month.

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

Finances

The following is a rundown of our giving for the year 2015 so far:

First Quarter (January – March)
January – Given: \$9,221.75
Expenses: \$13,381.28
February – Given: \$11,707.40
Expenses: \$9,096.64

Voters meeting set

Mark your calendars now for the next congregational voters meeting and potluck on **Sunday, April 26 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 Pat Lewis.

Ushers for April

April 5----- Tyler Denning
----- Pat Lewis
April 12 ----- Dan Grove
----- Greg Franczyk
April 19 ----- Tom Croskrey
----- Tommy Croskrey
April 26 ----- Lyle Onstad
----- Jeff Blomgren

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 in May 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.

Ladies Bible study schedule

FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS has just begun the study of I CORINTHIANS. Come and join them as they find how this book of the Bible applies to our lives today. They will meet on Friday, April 10th from 1 - 3 p.m. at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave So.

Assisted Living Ministry with hymn singing and a devotion will meet at the following locations.

Tuesday, April 14th at 11 a.m. ladies and gentlemen will meet at Bee Hive Home #1, 2816 15th Ave So.

On Friday, April 17th at 11:45 a.m. the group will meet for a no host lunch at JB's Family Restaurant, 1322 10th Ave So. Afterward many in the group will gather at Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. How these residents love to sing the great Easter hymns! Come and celebrate Christ's glorious resurrection with them!

Applying Biblical Teachings

“Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law” (Romans 13:8).

By our attitudes and conduct, those around us should regard us as servants of Christ. As Christ’s servants, we show great integrity and honesty in our dealings with others. When we incur a debt, whatever that debt may be, we repay it according to the instruction given in Psalm 37:21 - “The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously.”

We have been brought to faith by the Holy Spirit working through the Word, and from this faith, our attitudes and conduct proceed. These attitudes and conduct directly reflect Christ’s love. In this love, we take care of all our obligations owed to others.

In his commentary, Matthew Henry wrote, “Render to God His due in the first place, to yourselves, to your families, to your relations, to the commonwealth, to the church, to the poor, to those that you have dealings with in buying, selling, exchanging, etc. Render to all their dues, and that readily and cheerfully, not tarrying till you are by law compelled to it.”

Motivated by the Holy Spirit, our attitudes and conduct go beyond any sense of duty that may be derived by individuals. This motivation arises from the debt that can never be marked as “paid in full,” the debt of love. God so loved us that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, who in love met our deepest needs. We, in turn, as servants of Christ, show this same love toward others. We show great integrity and are truly honest in all of our dealings. We gladly repay the debts we owe. In Christ’s love, we serve and do not sin against our neighbor, which may harm him and bring the condemnation of the Law. Rather, in the role of servant, Christ’s love lives and works through us, thus fulfilling the Law and doing the will of God.

Holy Week schedule

Jesus spoke about the Kingdom of God through special stories called parables. Jesus brought the Kingdom of God to people by His work on the cross. The theme for our Lenten midweek services was *Parables from the Cross*. We continue this theme with our Holy Week schedule as follows.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Word</u> | <u>Parable</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| April 2 (Maundy Thursday) | It is finished | The Wedding Feast |
| April 3 (Good Friday) | Into Your hands, I commend my spirit | The Mustard Seed |
| April 5 | Sunrise Service at 6:30 AM | |
| April 5 | Divine Worship at 9:30 AM | |

Youth of Peace will serve breakfast between services from 7:30 to 9 AM