



Peace Lutheran Church

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August, 2012

Why Dr. Winn Is Not My Dentist

August 2012

Dr. Jeff Winn is a very fine dentist in Delavan, Wisconsin. He used to do a great job of cleaning my teeth, filling my cavities, and putting in a crown or two. His office would send out reminders so I would get my teeth checked on a regular basis. I was completely satisfied with him as my dentist.

Then something changed. I stopped going to Dr. Winn's office. He stopped cleaning my teeth and filling my cavities. His office even stopped sending me the nice reminder cards. He was no longer was my dentist. What had changed?

I moved. In fact, I moved twice, first to Nebraska and then to Montana. Nothing bad had happened. My feelings weren't hurt that he took me off his patient list. I'm sure his feelings weren't hurt that I stopped coming to his office. The simple truth is that he could no longer do the things for me that a dentist needs to do. I could no longer do the things that a patient needs to do. It was nothing personal, just a matter of distance.

Why am I making a big deal about this? It all seems to be common sense. I use this story as an analogy of how people think about church membership. Sometimes we let emotions, rather than common sense, dictate our actions in this area.

While our Christian faith is always personal, the Bible says it is never private. In other words, faith is normally lived out in a group setting. We do things together: worship, sing, teach, and so on. Paul writes to the Colossians, "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God." (Colossians 3:15-16) This is exactly what the early Church did. Acts 2:42 says, "They [the Christians] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." They learned together, worshiped together, communed together, and prayed together.

When someone moves away permanently from a local congregation, it's like moving away from a dentist. Just as you can no longer remain a patient of a dentist when you live a great distance from him, you can no longer remain a member of a congregation when you live a great distance away from it. Why? It's nothing bad. It's just that you can no longer receive the services of the pastor and fellow congregation members. And, you can no longer participate in the worship, Bible Study, and ministry of the congregation. It's just a matter of distance.

Dr. Winn never helped me find a new dentist. (I didn't expect him to do that.) However, the Christian Church is different. Your Board of Elders and I will do all that we can to help those who have moved away to find a new church and transfer their membership to it. However, if, after a year or more, members have chosen not to transfer their memberships, we will remove them from our membership role. We are not doubting their faith or consigning them to hell. We are admitting reality: we can no longer serve them and they can no longer serve with us. It is simply a physical impossibility.

I have a fine new dentist here in Great Falls. However, imagine if I considered Dr. Winn in Wisconsin as my current dentist and pretended that I was still his patient. My teeth and gums would be in very bad shape. Even though I liked Dr. Winn personally, it was good that I cut my ties with him and found a new dentist. Besides, if we retire in Delavan, he can be my dentist again.

If you have friends or children who have permanently moved away from Great Falls (i.e. not college students or members of the military), help us to encourage them to find a new church. If you ever move away, make finding a new church a top priority like a member who recently moved away from here and found the nearest LCMS congregation to her new home online even before she left her old home. Being a member of a church near where you live is a good thing. Being on the roles of a church far away from where you live is not. Your spiritual health depends on it.

Yours for dental and spiritual health,
Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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TO**

Everyone who helped with VBS this year.

Donnalene McPartlin for organizing VBS this year.

Mitch Martin and Pat Lewis for leading worship services and Bible studies while Pastor Schlund was on vacation.

All of the ladies who go to Benefis Skilled Nursing Center, Park Place Nursing Home, Bee Hive Home and Highgate House for hymn singing and devotions every month.

Everyone who volunteered to sit at the State Fair booth and visit with people.

Gloria Creek and Val Martin for playing the organ during our worship services.

All those who volunteer to teach Sunday school, Bible class, and VBS classes.

Idell Croskrey for changing the banners and paraments.

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.

Angelika Fisher for cleaning the church.

All of the ladies who stay after and clean the kitchen after Bible study.

Cheri Magnuson for cleaning the Communion linens.

Cindy Greenwood for decorating the bulletin boards.

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.

LWML

- ♥ **Thank you** to all of the ladies who came and helped us plan the coming year's events and projects!
- ♥ **During the month of August we are collecting household items for the Everything Beautiful Thrift Store in Lane Deer.** They are in need of any items you would have in your house. There is nothing in the store because of the fires that claimed 2 families' houses in the area. If you do go to a garage sale - don't get anything, you would not put in your own home. These people are our brothers and sisters in Christ. New items are best! Thank you, Helen Lewis, for organizing this project.
- ♥ **Our next meeting and Bible study will be Tuesday, September 4 at 6:30 p.m. Please note the date change!!** All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to come. We will have guest speaker **Dave Snuggs** from My Neighbor in Need.
- ♥ **The Central Zone Fall Rally will be held here at Peace on October 13 from 9 a.m. to about 3 p.m.** Pastor Schlund will give a presentation on his trip to the Holy Land last April. Rev. Mark Schultz will lead the Bible study and devotions. We will also have the election of officers for the Central Zone president, vice-president and secretary/treasurer. If you are interested in serving in either of these positions, please talk with Ruth Denning. The cost is \$5 each and lunch will be included. Our ingathering will be composition books for the inmates at the Cascade County Detention Center. The Mental Health staff hands out about 1 journal per month to the inmates that request them. The inmates use these books to do their Bible studies, process and clarify their thoughts and feelings, reduce stress, problem solve, and work on their legal issues. **The books cannot have any staples, metal spiral or other sharp parts.**
- ♥ **The Fall LWML Retreat will be at Cane Ridge West in Lincoln on September 28 and 29.** Registration forms are in the latest *Montana Missive*.
- ♥ **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.

Finances

Our giving in June, 2012 was \$10,754.00 and our expenses for June were \$10,749.78. **The amount that Peace's checking account is in the red at the end of June is \$8,986.86.** The **Lutheran Church Extension Fund** loan balance as of June 30, 2012 is **\$73,708.88.**



August Anniversaries

- August 5 Michel and Nancy Wayman
- August 6 Jim and Jeanette Talley
- August 6 John and Karen Birkholz
- August 7 Ken and Laura Brandt
- August 9 Aaron and Megan (Grove) Brien
- August 13 Tom and Diann Stevens
- August 15 Karl and Amy Dorr
- August 17 Kevin and Linda Aguiar
- August 17 Don and Deloris Brown
- August 18 Kirk and Debbie Davey
- August 18 Kevin and Jennifer VanVleet
- August 30 Scott and Ann Schuman
- August 31 Scott and Aleshia Arensmeyer

Baptismal Anniversaries

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| August | 1 | Joe Marten |
| | 9 | Diane Stevens |
| | 10 | Daniel Schaaf |
| | 11 | Kevin Jacobsen |
| | 12 | Brayden Jensen |
| | 12 | Janet Kempf |
| | 12 | Ed Ostlund |
| | 13 | Ron Steffens |
| | 14 | Susan Knoll |
| | 16 | Ken Brandt |
| | 17 | Zachary Greenwood |
| | 19 | Tina Brown |
| | 22 | Cody Erickson |
| | 24 | Don Meierhoff |
| | 24 | Brett Meierhoff |
| | 25 | Loretta Walker |
| | 28 | Jason Scanlon |
| | 29 | Charlene Schottey |
| | 29 | Brook Gerard |



INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

- John Birkholz**
- Don Brown**
- Margie Gettel**
- Jane Hering**
- Kathy McIntosh**
- Patsy Zvara**

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

Sign language class to begin in the fall.

Pastor Schlund will be teaching an American Sign Language class beginning in the fall of 2012. If you are interested in learning sign language, please contact him.

Miracle on our 34th street:

Last week along with the atrocities that were reported from the news events around the world a miracle happened on "our 34th" street. Due to advances in modern medicine and an angel on my shoulder I was given a new lease on life. My body went from one that had extreme difficulty getting around to one that now responds to routine commands. I had forgotten what it was like to have a body that worked. as I wanted.

Although the expression "My spirit is well" is still appropriate, so my thanks goes out to all of you who prayed for me to bring this miracle about.

John Birkholz

Ladies Bible Study Schedule

The FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS continues their summer schedule during the warm days in August. Join them in Assisted Living Ministry when it fits into your schedule! Tuesday, August 14th at 11 am the group will meet at Bee Hive Home #1, 2816 10th Ave. So. for hymn singing and a devotion. On Friday, August 24th they will gather for a no host lunch at 11:45 am at Prime Cut Restaurant, 3219 10th Ave So. Afterward they will be at Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave. So. for more hymn singing and a devotion. Take a break from gardening and share God's love through song and His Word!

"Life Quotes" from Lutherans For Life

"Rocks beg to be thrown. And the Gospel begs to be shared. And just as a rock thrown into a calm lake causes ripples that keep going and going, when the Gospel is shared, it causes ripples, which spread from person to person, generation to generation." *Rev. Peter Meier, assistant to the president: missions, Minnesota South District (LCMS)* **Lutherans For Life** – www.lutheransforlife.org

Congregational Retreat 2012



Members of Peace Lutheran are sponsoring, for the first time, a congregational retreat on August 9 through 12, 2012 at Trinity Lutheran Camp in Bigfork, Montana. The cost for the camp has been paid for by Thrivent Choice Dollars. The cost for food is \$45 per person or \$90 per family. **Cabins are filling up so please register soon! Don't be left behind, come and join the fun!** Registration forms are in the church office. Payment and registration can be given to Pat Lewis.



Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®

The Cascade County Chapter Board of Directors for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is sponsoring a Baseball Night for the Thrivent members of Great Falls. This fellowship event is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 21, 2012.**

WE'RE GOING TO A



The Great Falls Voyagers staff has reserved a suite for our group to enjoy a meal at 6 PM and then view the game at 7PM. The meal will include hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans, chips, cookies and a Pepsi. This package (food and game ticket) usually cost \$13 for adults and \$7 for children (age 3-12). The Cascade Chapter is making this event available to you for \$5 per adult and \$2 for children. (Peace's youth group will pay for the cost of the tickets for the kids!!) Tickets can be purchased from Ken Meske, 454-3758, or in the church office from Monday through Friday, from 9 AM to 1 PM. Checks should be made out the Cascade Chapter of Thrivent. We look forward to a

wonderful evening of fellowship and the enjoyment of a great baseball game...Play Ball!

Twelfth Annual Central Circuit Golf Tournament Signal Point Golf Course Fort Benton, Montana

August 19th, 2012 at 2:30 in the afternoon marks the twelfth annual Central Circuit Golf Tournament to be held at Signal Point Golf Course in historical Fort Benton, Montana.

This is a fun golf tournament for all ages and all abilities. We go out and enjoy ourselves.

There will be fun, food and prizes. If you don't want to play golf you can enjoy the historical sights and museums of Fort Benton. Worship Services are at 10:00 A.M. at 1st Lutheran Church, if you wish to make a day of it. There will be a potluck dinner beginning around 6:00 P.M., or when everyone finishes their round of golf, whichever is sooner. This will be held on the lawn and the fellowship hall at 1st Lutheran Church in Ft. Benton.

Again, we will begin golf at 2:30 P.M. The game is scramble golf and prizes will be awarded for closest to the pin, and longest drive for both men and women. There will also be a special prize awarded to the first place team. The cost will be \$22.00 green fees for 9 holes of golf. This amount will help us purchase a few prizes. If you wish to rent a cart, it would be an additional \$16.00, or \$8.00 a person based on two people per cart.

Remember this is a fun event for all ages. Please plan on attending. This is a great fellowship event for all Lutherans in the Central Montana Circuit of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

Sign-up sheets are attached to this letter.

Thanks for your participation,

MITCH MARTIN, Peace Lutheran Church
Central Circuit Golf Tourney Co- Chair

THE REV. WADE HARR
Pastor, 1st Lutheran Church, Ft. Benton, MT