



## Peace Lutheran Church

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### The Sky Is NOT Falling

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The children's story of Chicken Little tells of a tiny chicken who was walking in the woods one day when an acorn fell on his head. It must have hurt and certainly surprised Chicken Little for he immediately concludes that the sky is falling and he must go and tell the king. We chuckle at this tiny creature for arriving at such an outlandish conclusion based on such tiny, misidentified evidence.

The phrase from this story, "the sky is falling", is often used to refer to people who overreact with fear to some situation they deem to be more serious than it actually is. Sometimes, if they take time to reflect on the entire situation instead of the initial shock and pain, they will find that they DID overreact and the sky is NOT falling.

About a month ago, many Christians in this country seemed to believe that "the sky is falling." The Supreme Court of the United States declared same sex marriage to be the law of the land. Many Christians were wringing their hands and acting as if this world was now coming to an end because of this decision. (Why people were shocked or surprised by this is unclear to me. This is the same institution which has ruled that women have the right to kill their unborn children.)

There is no doubt that this decision is shocking. Not only does it contradict centuries of previous law, but it also goes against all religious, social, and political definitions of marriage which have existed for millennia in all cultures.

There is also no doubt, despite what some liberal Christians might say, that this decision is contrary to the Law of God as given to us in the Holy Scriptures. Not only do the Scriptures prohibit all forms of same sex sexual behavior, but the Scriptures also define in a positive manner of what exactly God's will for marriage is: one man and one woman united in marriage until death separates them.

Despite all of this, the sky is NOT falling. Psalm 2 says,

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, 'Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.' He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, 'As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.'

The problem of earthly authorities opposing and trying to set aside the will of God is not a new problem. Sinful human beings, even those holding earthly power, have always opposed the will of God and tried to overcome it. Yet the Lord is not worried. He does not believe the sky is falling. Instead, it says that He laughs at such people and holds them in derision.

Why? The Lord is still in charge and always will be. No earthly court or legislative body can change the will of God or overcome the Lord or His Anointed (i.e. Christ). Jesus came into this world to "unite all things in him" (Ephesians 1:10) which had been broken by sin. By dying on the cross, Jesus earns forgiveness for all who acknowledge their sin and trust in Him. Those who refuse to acknowledge their sin and trust in their own wisdom will have to face the wrath of God and receive condemnation for all their actions.

Even though it may *look* like the sky is falling, it really is not. Jesus has all power and is in control of all things. No human institution can negate this. Not only that, but He is controlling all things for the sake of the Church. As Paul wrote to the Ephesians, "He put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church." (Ephesians 4:22) Things may get worse in our nation. Our Christian faith may get persecuted more. But take heart! Rejoice! Our merciful and almighty God is in charge. The sky is not falling....and it never will!

In Christ,

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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**Everyone** who helped in any way at the ordination of Andrew Schlund.  
**Everyone** who mowed, watered, wacked and weeded, to help get the church property cleaned up and looking nice for that day.  
**Everyone** who helped with VBS this year.  
**Jennifer Lewis** 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 people** who stay after and clean the kitchen after Bible study.  
**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.

## 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 school supplies for the students grades K through 6 at Chief Joseph Elementary School.** You may purchase some supplies, bring them back to the church and place them in the box provided. We will be taking the items to the school on August 31, 2015. Look for the list of items needed for Chief Joe students at any department store.
- ♥ **Our next meeting and Bible study will be Tuesday, September 15 at 6:30 p.m.** All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to come. Remember your Mite boxes!
- ♥ **The LWML Fall Retreat will be at Camp Utmost on September 18 – 19.** Registration forms are in the summer *Montana Missive* or in the church office. The cost is \$55 per person. Rides will be available. See Elsie Huss or Ruth Denning.
- ♥ **The Central Zone Fall Rally will be held here at Peace on October 10 from 9:45 a.m. to about 3 p.m.** **Helen Lewis** will give a presentation on her experiences as the Central Zone delegate to the LWML Convention in Des Moines!
- ♥ **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.

## Adult Instruction class to begin in the fall.

Pastor Schlund will be teaching an adult instruction class beginning in September of 2015. It could be a good refresher course for those long time Lutherans as well. If you are interested in learning what we, as Lutherans, believe, teach and confess, please contact him.

## 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 11th at 11 a.m. the group will meet at Bee Hive Home #1, 2816 10th Ave. So. for hymn singing and a devotion. On Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup> they will gather for a no host lunch at 11:45 a.m. at Jakers Restaurant, 1500 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!



## August Anniversaries

August 5 Michel and Nancy Wayman  
 August 6 John and Karen Birkholz  
 August 7 Ken and Laura Brandt  
 August 16 – Dan and Jessica Martin  
 August 16 – Shannon and Tara Birkholz  
 August 17 Kevin and Linda Aguiar  
 August 17 Don and Deloris Brown  
 August 29 – Nathan and Bernie Hough  
 August 30 – Carl and Carol Kangas

## Baptismal Anniversaries

August 3 Nathan Hough  
 4 Roberta Beute  
 11 Kevin Jacobsen  
 12 Ed Ostlund  
 12 Bruce Clark  
 14 Susan Knoll  
 16 Ken Brandt  
 17 Zachary Greenwood  
 19 Cameron Hough  
 25 Loretta Walker  
 29 Charlene Schotthey  
 29 Brook Gerard



### INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

**John Birkholz**

**Tami Birkholz**, John's sister-in-law who is battling a rare skin tissue disorder

**June Foard**, June Meier's daughter

**Jane Hering**

**Dorothy Neuman**

We pray for the family of **Hank Politz** who died July 19, 2015.

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 this quarter:

Second Quarter (April – June)

**April** – Given: \$11,882.50

Expenses: \$10,153.22

**May** Given: \$11,453.00

Expenses: \$9,296.48

**June:** Given: \$9,123.25

Expenses: \$10,957.41

## “Life Quotes” from Lutherans For Life

“Should there be a line that determines when humans have value? Some say it's at viability, others say when there's a heartbeat, and others say at birth. Some even argue that the ability to reason should be the dividing line, which would making killing infants ok, too. These lines we draw are so arbitrary, meaningless. My seven-year-old sister gets that. Human beings are valuable because we are human beings. And it's as plain and simple as that.” *Micaiah Bilger, education director of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation – A “Life Quote” from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)*

“Parental love is vital. In homes where children are not adored by at least one parent (or a parent-figure), they wither like a plant without food.” *The New Dare to Discipline – A “Life Quote” from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)*

## Deaf Camp 2015



Members of Peace Lutheran are invited to Deaf Camp 2015 from August 13 through 16, 2015 at Trinity Lutheran Camp in Bigfork, Montana. The cost for the camp is \$75 per person or \$125 per family, if paid by

August 5. Registration forms are in the church office. Come and join the fun!

## Applying Biblical Teachings

“Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits. These were his instructions: ‘Take nothing for the journey except a staff — no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra tunic’” (Mark 6:7-9).

The invitation was to come and “see this great thing which has come to pass.” Come — hear the words of the Messiah. With not so much as a beggar’s bag to hold out in front of them to collect alms as they stood in the center of towns and cities and proclaimed their message, the disciples went forth. Divinely enabled by Christ, they were trusting in their Master’s promise that through the power of the Word the hearts of people would be moved and all their needs would be provided.

The Gospel message has not changed: The Word is enough! It provides every Christian with everything needed to proclaim the Gospel message, the message of a loving Savior who shed His blood for the forgiveness of sins. Gimmicks and slogans are not required. A slick marketing strategy need not be developed. Professional fund-raisers need not apply. God’s Word is enough! In fact, He said that His Word “. . . will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it” (Isa. 55:11).

God has called each of us into an intimate relationship with Him through the working of the Holy Spirit through Holy Baptism and the Word. Through faith, our hearts trust God for and in all things as the Holy Spirit draws us into a closer walk with Jesus. He motivates us to become more and more an extension of His mission as we share the Gospel message with those with whom we come in contact.

So what does this have to do with giving to the Lord? Good question.

Although the disciples were fully trusting in the Lord, His plan was that they would be dependent on those they served. The power of the Word worked in their behalf as people opened their homes and provided for their needs. Others who heard the good news of the Gospel gave of themselves, their possessions and their wealth to provide for the needs of the disciples.

Just as God called people and sent them forth, He does the same today. And as His children — redeemed by our loving Savior — we are moved by the Holy Spirit through the Word, and we give to support those who preach and teach the Gospel.

As we read, study and learn His Word, pray that the Holy Spirit will move our hearts to proclaim the message that Jesus is the Savior of the world. Pray that we will respond by faithfully giving to the work of the Lord that the Gospel may continue to be preached and taught. And pray that God will provide through us and others for those He has called as His messengers.