



## Peace Lutheran Church

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### The Secret

You knew it was coming. After a long and cold winter during which we complained about the cold and after a slowly arriving spring and summer during which we complained about the cold hanging on, we finally got summer in July. So, what do we do now? We complain about how hot it is. We will likely continue this practice until fall and winter when we will resume complaining about how cold it is once again. With the weather, as with many other things in our lives, we complain and are not satisfied. Furthermore, we believe that we can achieve satisfaction and be content if only our circumstances changed and we had what we wanted.

Aren't you tired of complaining? Aren't you tired of not being satisfied? If you could write a book on the secret of being content (as many, I'm sure, have), you could make a fortune. People would love to be content and satisfied. There is a secret to being content and St. Paul has found it and shares it with us.

Discontent and dissatisfaction have been around since the very beginning. Adam and Eve sinned because they were not content and were not satisfied with all that God had given them and ate the fruit which was forbidden to them. So, discontentment and the expression of dissatisfaction are sins which need to be repented of and forgiven. After that, lives of contentment and satisfaction are to be lived.

But how? It seems so difficult. Yet, there is a way to be content. There is a way to be satisfied. What is the secret to contentment which St. Paul has found? In Philippians 4:11b – 13, he writes, "I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

Paul's "secret" is composed of two parts, First, true and unchanging contentment are not dependent upon circumstances. This is a myth that we buy into. We believe that, if we just could improve our circumstances, then we would be content. That rarely works. Usually, when we have some, we want more and, thus, are not ever satisfied. Or, we actually get what we ask for, thinking it will satisfy us, but just doesn't. As the old adage goes, "Be careful what you ask for. You just might get it."

Second, the contentment which Saint Paul speaks of is available in any and every circumstance, bad or good. So, what is this big secret which can satisfy us in every circumstance and which gives us contentment no matter what the circumstances? Paul says, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." The secret to satisfaction is not the absence of suffering, pain, and problems in our lives, but the presence of Christ in our lives. The secret to being content is not to have all of the things of this world, but to have the eternal gifts which Christ brings to us.

The presence of Christ in our lives provides us with the strength to endure all suffering, pain, and problems. St. Paul wrote to the Galatians, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20) So, whether our circumstances are good or bad, we experience great satisfaction, knowing that Christ lives in us and through us.

The presence of Christ also provides us with great contentment. By His holy life, His sacrificial death, and His glorious resurrection from the dead, we have all that we need to face this life in preparation for the life which is to come. We have His forgiveness for all of our sins. We have a peace that passes all understanding now. And we have the hope and assurance of everlasting life. Lack of worldly goods cannot diminish this. An abundance of worldly goods cannot improve this.

So, the secret to constant contentment and sufficient satisfaction is like the answer to any good children's sermon question. The answer is "Jesus!" Whether the weather is cold or hot; whether we are rich or poor; whether you are sick or healthy, the secret to contentment is always the same. In Jesus, we find satisfaction. In Jesus, we are content.

In Christ,

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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**Everyone** who comes each Wednesday and helps mow, edge, clean, repair, mend, replace, everything that needs to be done around the Lord's House.

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

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

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

**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 clean the kitchen each Sunday.

**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!
- ♥ **Our next meeting and Bible study will be Monday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m.** All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to come. Remember your Mite boxes!
- ♥ **During the month of August we will be collecting composition books for 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, which are now on sale during the Back to School sales, **cannot have any staples, metal spiral or other sharp parts.** Please bring them to the church and we will be sure the staff from CCDC come and get them.
- ♥ **The LWML Fall Retreat will be at Trinity Lutheran Camp in Bigfork on September 20 through 22.** "God's gift of time" based on Ecclesiastes 3:1 is the theme for the retreat! We will meet on Friday afternoon at 4:00 PM and will depart for home after the Sunday morning Worship Service. Registration fee for lodging and food for both days is \$85 per person and forms are in the latest issue of *Montana Missive*, in the church office, or online at [www.mtdistrictlwml.org](http://www.mtdistrictlwml.org). Plan now to come and join us! Rides are available, contact Ruth Denning.
- ♥ **Central Zone Fall Rally** – We will meet on **Saturday, October 12 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Great Falls, from 9am -3pm.** We are looking forward to hearing God's word through Bible Study, Worship and Devotions. The guest speakers will be **Sherry VanVleet**, Central Zone delegate to the Mobile Alabama convention and one of our Young Women Representatives, **Laura Nusbaum**, from Chinook. They will talk about their experiences at the convention and give us updates on the things they did and learned!
- ♥ **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.

## Ladies Bible Study Schedule

In August the **Assisted Living Ministry** with hymn singing and a devotion will be meeting at the following locations. On Tuesday, August 13th ladies and gentlemen will meet at 11:00 am at Bee Hive Home #2 (Clover), 2816 15th Ave S. A no host lunch will be held Friday, August 16th at 11:45 am at Cattlemen's Cut, 1400 Market Place Dr. After lunch many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave S. Come and share in the joy of this ministry of God's word and song!



## August Anniversaries

August 5 - Michel and Nancy Wayman  
 August 16 - Shannon and Tara Birkholz  
 August 17 - Kevin and Linda Aguiar  
 August 20 - Jake and Natasha Meierhoff  
 August 30 - Carl and Carol Kangas

## Baptismal Anniversaries

August	11	Kevin Jacobsen
	12	Ed Ostlund
	14	Susan Knoll
	16	Ken Brandt
	17	Zachary Greenwood
	25	Loretta Walker
	29	Charlene Schottey
	29	Brook Gerard



### INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

- 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**
- Jane Nicolaus**, cancer

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

## Ushers for August

August 4	-----	Arnie Wirth
	-----	Tyler Denning
August 11	-----	Jared Dudden
	-----	Pat Lewis
August 18	-----	Kevin Aguiar
	-----	Tom Maaske
August 25	-----	Gary Link
	-----	Darrell Greenwood

## St. Paul in Havre celebrates 100th Anniversary

The congregation of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Havre is celebrating their 100th anniversary on **Sunday, August 18, 2019 at 4:00 pm.** Pastor Forke will be the guest preacher and there will be a dinner following the service. Please RSVP by August 6th if you plan to attend the dinner.

## Book available by Rev. Dr. Mark Nicolaus

Rev. Dr. Mark Nicolaus has written and published his third book in the Puppity Pup series. We have some copies of the book titled "*Puppity Pup Goes to the Woods*" available for sale for \$10 each. If you want to purchase one, please contact the church office.

## "Life Quotes" from Lutherans For Life

"[L]et us consider how we can encourage one another, how we can help one another in these times in which we are overcome, how we can spur one another on to love and to good works, how we can gather together, not neglecting one another in meeting together but instead gathering in the presence of God, encouraging one another as we wait for that Day to finally appear." *Rev. Dr. Tony Cook, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)*



