



Peace Lutheran Church

3340 Eleventh Avenue South,
Great Falls, Montana 59405

761-7343

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

December, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This Advent and Christmas season we are going to hear a story. It's a love story. But don't worry, it's not a mushy love story, it is a true love story. It's the story of how much God loves you. The story is called "God's Love at Christmas."

Once upon a time, actually, at the beginning of time, when God made the world, there was a man named Adam and a woman named Eve. God loved them dearly. He made them. He gave them food, animals, a beautiful garden, and each other. They loved God.

One day Satan, slithered into the garden. He did not love Adam and Eve. He did not love God. He did not want Adam and Eve to love God either. So, he tricked them into disobeying God. They took a bite from fruit that God told them not to eat. They acted like they didn't love God.

But God still loved them dearly, and He had a plan. Adam and Eve were in trouble. They sinned. They were going to die. Their sons and daughters would die. Their sons' and daughters' sons and daughters would die. Their sons' and daughters' sons and daughters' sons and daughters would die . . . all the way down to you and me, and my sons and daughters, and someday your sons and daughters.

But God loves us dearly too. God did not want us to die. God's love was working to make us free. Free from sin and free from death. God sent forth Jesus, His only Son, whom He loves dearly.

On Christmas Eve, the children of our congregation will tell us this story in word and song, using the well-loved children's Christmas hymn "God Loves Me Dearly." (*LSB* #392). Originally written in 1852 by a pastor who was working with homeless and disadvantaged children, this hymn delights in the personal nature of our heavenly Father's love—"He loves *even me*." Because of our inherited sin and our own sinful choices, we were "in slavery, sin, death, and darkness" but "God's love was working To make me free."

St. John wrote, "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him" (1 John 4:9). Jesus was born to "save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). Jesus "paid all I owed" through His birth, suffering, death and resurrection and so "set me free." Because of Jesus, God's Son, coming to save us, everyone can joyfully say, "God loves me dearly, Loves even me."

In God's love through Christ,

Pastor Schlund

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TO**

Everyone who donated food for the FISH program here in Great Falls.
Harold Spilde for coming and speaking about the FISH program.
Gloria Creek and Karen Schaefer for playing the organ 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.
Everyone who has beautified our worship service by placing flowers on the altar.
Jerry and Jodi Geist 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.
Everyone who counts the offering.
Cheri Magnuson and Alice Schuman for cleaning the Communion linens.
Cindy Greenwood for decorating the bulletin boards.
John and Karen Birkholz and Kelli Wiseman for collating and folding bulletins and newsletters each month.

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.

Advent Worship Services

The theme for our Midweek Advent worship services is “God’s Love At Christmas”. Take some time from your busy holiday schedule to contemplate “the reason for the season”. Each Wednesday will begin with a soup supper at 6:00 PM. Worship begins at 7:00 PM. (There is no worship on Wednesday, December 22nd.)

- Wednesday, December 1, 2010 “God’s Love Covers Me with Christ” – Jeremiah 23:5-8
Wednesday, December 8, 2010 “God’s Saving Love Stirs up My Heart – Malachi 4:1-6
Wednesday, December 15, 2010 “God’s Saving Love Speaks Comfort and Joy” – Isaiah 40:1-11

Christmas Worship Services

Children’s Christmas Service will be on Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24th at 7:00 PM. The theme is “God’s Love at Christmas.” Children of our congregation will tell us this story in word and song, using the well-loved children’s Christmas hymn “God Loves Me Dearly.” (*LSB* #392).

A Service of Carols, Communion, and Candlelight will be on Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24th at 11:00 PM. This will be a special service. We will sing familiar Christmas carols. The choir will enhance our worship with special music. We will share in Holy Communion. We will bask in candlelight as we contemplate the birth of our Savior.

A Service of Carols and Readings will be on Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25th at 10:00 AM. We will sing lots and lots of the familiar Christmas hymns and carols and listen to the story of Jesus’ birth from the Word of God.

Join us for these joyous opportunities to hear of “God’s Love at Christmas!”

New Year’s Eve Worship Service

Join us as we “ring out the old year” and “ring in the new year” with a special New Year’s Eve service on New Year’s Eve, Friday, December 31st. Worship with Holy Communion will begin at 7:00 PM. Bring snacks and games and stay after the service. We will have a safe and wholesome New Year’s Eve party. All are welcome.

Ladies Bible study schedule

Advent – the Lord Jesus is coming! Let us prepare ourselves as we attend Advent services, soup suppers, and other Christ centered activities. This includes LADIES BIBLE CLASS and assisted living ministry, also. As you are able, join us during this Advent tide! The Friday ladies Bible class is enjoying their study of the Gospel of Luke. They will meet for Bible study on December 3rd and 10th from 1 -3pm at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave So.

Assisted living ministry with hymn singing and devotions will be held on Tuesday, December 14th at 11 a.m. at Bee Hive Home #4 at 2320 15th Avenue South. On Friday, December 17th the ladies will meet for a no host lunch at 11:45 a.m. JB's Family Restaurant at 1322 10th Ave So. After lunch the group will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Avenue South, for an hour of hymn singing and a devotion. How those residents love to hear and sing Christmas hymns! Come and join us!

Finances

The year to date budgeted amount through October 31, 2010 is **\$130,647.88**. What was given through October 31, 2010 is **\$116,148.98**. **We are short \$14,498.90**. Our Mission Commitment to the District is short by \$1,050.00. The amount in **Lutheran Church Extension Fund** as of October 31, 2010 is **\$26,689.23**. **LCEF loan balance as of October 31, 2010 is \$158,380.24**.

LWML

- ♥ **Thank you** to everyone who donated food and money for the FISH program here in Great Falls.
- ♥ **The Gift of Love Tree is up!** Please feel free to take a tag, buy a gift, wrap it and bring it back, with the tag, by December 19th. Thank you, **Elsie Huss**, for organizing the tree.
- ♥ **The ladies of LWML are sponsoring the Advent Soup Supper on Wednesday, December 1 at 6 p.m.** If you would like to help in any way, please contact Janet Kempf at 452-9259.
- ♥ **During the month of January, we will have a Baby Shower for Life Way Pregnancy Services here in Great Falls.** You may bring new or clean, gently used baby items and place them in the box provided.
- ♥ **Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 11 at 6:30 p.m. with a Bible study.** All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to come and join us! Don't forget your Mite boxes!
- ♥ **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.



Christmas Decorating

All members of Peace are invited to join us as we decorate our church for the Christmas holiday! On Saturday, December 4th we will gather at 10 a.m. to set up the Christmas tree, decorate it and the entire church. Many hands make light work! The more the merrier! Come one, come all, to help us decorate for the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

“Life Quotes” from Lutherans for Life

“There are many of you in this congregation who think to yourselves: ‘If only I had been there! How quick I would have been to help the baby! I would have washed His linen! How happy I would have been to go with the shepherds to see the Lord in the manger!’ Yes you would! You say that because you know how great Christ is, but if you had been there at that time you would have done no better than the people of Bethlehem. Childish and silly thoughts are these! Why don't you do it now? You have Christ in your neighbor. You ought to serve Him, for what you do to your neighbor in need you do the Lord Christ Himself.” *Martin Luther*

www.lutheransforlife.org / 888-364-LIFE

Wee Disciples



Christmas Stroll time is here – December 3rd beginning at 5 PM. We will have a warm meal at Trinity before the stroll – either to enjoy at Trinity or take to go. Children will sing at the stroll – please watch the bulletin for further information.

Wee Disciples is going to have the Christmas program on Dec. 13th at 6:30 p.m. This year's program is entitled God's Love at Christmas. Everyone is invited to attend!

Wee Disciples will be closed on Dec. 24th for Christmas so staff can enjoy the holidays with their families. School aged children are invited to join us over break between Dec. 20th-31st.

We pray God's blessings as you celebrate our Savior's birth.



December Anniversaries

- Dec. 14 John and Terri Sivumaki
- Dec. 18 Ed and Sarah Ostlund
- Dec. 26 Brandi and John Holefelder
- Dec. 28 Richard & Sharon Panask
- Dec. 30 Emich and Sieglinde Steinke

Baptismal Anniversaries

- December 2 Bill Southard
- 4 Garry Denning
- 4 Jacob Meierhoff
- 6 David Greenwood
- 8 Terri Sivumaki
- 9 Brandon Anderson
- 10 Fran Davidson
- 14 Bill Lowden
- 16 Brandon Arensmeyer
- 17 Darren Bahlmann
- 19 Kristen Jacobsen
- 23 Donnalene McPartlin
- 24 Andrea Holzheimer
- 25 Vern Pankratz
- 26 Cianna Schofield
- 26 Tanner Rubino
- 27 Rustin Kraenzel Sr.
- 29 Ernie VanVleet
- 29 Reilly Jacobsen

Youth Events

Kids of all ages are invited to come and make ornaments on 5 December from 11-12:30 at the church. Youth meeting for grades 7-12 will immediately follow the ornament making. Youth will also be sponsoring the soup supper on December 16. If you can help in any way, please contact Brook Gerard at 750-1838.

Do you still want to receive this newsletter?

You are receiving this publication from Peace Lutheran Church because you are a member of the congregation or have some interest in it. **If you want to continue getting this publication, please contact us and let us know.** If we don't hear from you during the month of December, we will discontinue sending it to you. You may reach us by mail at Peace Lutheran Church, 3340 11th Avenue South, Great Falls, MT 59405, by phone at 406-761-7343, or by e-mail at peacesecretary@bresnan.net or online at www.peacelutherangreatfalls.org. If you would like to receive this publication via e-mail, please give us your e-mail address and we can send it that way.



PRAYER CHAIN

INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:
The following people are experiencing health problems:

- John Birkholz
- Colleen Carr
- Jo Flom
- Patsy Zvara

Our members who are away serving in the military are **Kurt Mueller, Justin Talley, Michael Lewis, and Jacob Meierhoff.**

Justin Mann, grandson of Bruce and Janet Kempf, is in Afghanistan.

Christmas Open House

Pastor and Becky Schlund invite all members of Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf and Peace Lutheran Church to a Christmas Open House at the parsonage on **Friday, December 17th from 7:00 – 10:00 PM.** Join the pastor and his family for food, fun, and fellowship as we celebrate the joy of Christ's birth!

Poinsettias

Would you like to sponsor a poinsettia? Ladies of the LWML are ordering some poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary for the holiday season. The cost per plant is \$15. Please make check payable to LWML and give to Elsie Huss. You may contact Val Martin or Janet Kempf with any questions.

Caroling

Any one interested in going caroling is asked to meet at the church at 3 PM on Sunday, December 19. We will go caroling and then meet back at the church for a potluck meal and fellowship after caroling. Bring a

dish to share and your best singing voice and come and join us!

Gift Giving Opportunities

As the Christmas season approaches, the people of the Montana Developmental Center ask for our help in supplying their residents with much needed items. If you are interested in helping in this way, please see their wish list in the church office and how you can help! Locally, there are wish lists for the Great Falls Rescue Mission and the Children's Receiving Home in the church office also.