



## 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](http://www.peacelutherangreatfalls.org)

Pastor Schlund: [Peacepastor@bresnan.net](mailto:Peacepastor@bresnan.net)

Peace's secretary: [Peacesecretary@bresnan.net](mailto:Peacesecretary@bresnan.net)

**December, 2016**

### The Sounds of Christmas

December 2016

There are many things which enhance our celebration of Christmas. Probably the most beloved of these is music. We enjoy hearing and singing Christmas hymns, Christmas carols, and Christmas songs. But what makes them so special? I think many people have an emotional attachment to the melodies of familiar Christmas carols. Just hearing these familiar songs brings us back in our minds to Christmases of the past. We remember gifts, celebrations, and beloved members of our families, some of whom are no longer with us. It is an emotional experience like no other. It's no wonder that some people want to sing Christmas carols all through the year.

But there's more to Christmas hymns, carols, and songs than simply the melodies and pleasant memories. There are the texts and messages of the Christmas hymns, carols, and songs. And that is the reason for including music in our worship in general. Music serves the Gospel proclamation. An emotional experience brought on by the melody is a good thing, but music can do so much more than simply evoke our feelings. Good music can and should proclaim the gospel.

The word of God says, "I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations." (Psalm 89:1) Notice the intent of the psalmist here. He sings, not simply to make beautiful music, but to proclaim a message. Through his singing, he desires to proclaim the steadfast love of the Lord and to make known the Lord's faithfulness to all generations.

Christmas music can do the same thing. By singing the familiar Christmas carols, we not only produce beautiful music and enjoy an emotional response, but we proclaim God's love to all generations. We proclaim who this Baby, born in a manger, is. *This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.* But He is no ordinary king. He is God in the flesh. *Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity! Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!* We declare what this baby came to bring: *peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!* We make known HOW this reconciliation was achieved: *nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you.* This Baby, born in Bethlehem, grew up, took our sins upon Himself, and receive the punishment for our sin by dying on the cross. Now, we have new life – eternal life – through Him: *Mild He lays his glory by, Born that man no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.* The examples of Gospel preaching through Christmas singing could go on and on.

As we get into the holiday season (Advent and Christmas) with many holiday services and many holiday hymns and carols, remember exactly what is happening here. You are doing more than singing. You are proclaiming the Word of God to other worshipers and to yourself. You are receiving more than a pleasurable feeling. You are receiving the Gospel of Jesus Christ for yourself and for others. Sing it loudly. Listen closely. Receive it joyfully.

In Christ,

Pastor Schlund

T

H

A

N

K

S

TO

**Everyone** who donated food during the Thanksgiving Day Worship Service for the Great Falls Rescue Mission.

**Everyone** who donated hats, socks and gloves/mittens for the people on the reservations.

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

**The choir** for enhancing our worship services.

**Val Martin and Elizabeth Allen** for organizing and leading the choir at Peace.

**Everyone who helped** with the preparation of the food for the Thanksgiving Day meal here at Peace.

**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.

**Everyone** who counts the offering.

**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.

## Advent Worship Services

*The Canticles of Christmas* will be the theme for our Advent worship services this year beginning on Wednesday, November 30th. Music plays such an important part of our celebration of Christ's first coming. In our special Wednesday Advent worship services, we will meditate upon three songs from the Bible that surround Christ's birth: The Song of Mary, the Song of the Angels, and the Song of Simeon. A soup supper will be served every Wednesday at 6:00 PM. The first soup supper will be sponsored by LWML, the second supper will be sponsored by the deaf and third sponsored by the youth. The services will be interpreted for the deaf. Worship will be at 7:00 PM. All services will be interpreted for the deaf.

## Christmas Schedule

**December 18** – Children's Christmas Service (interpreted for the deaf)

**Christmas Eve:** 7:00 PM - Candlelight Service

**Christmas Day:** 9:30 AM – Communion Service

**New Year's Eve:** 7:00 PM Worship with Holy Communion. There will be a New Year's Eve Celebration in the Fellowship Hall immediately after worship until midnight with food, fun, and fellowship.

## Ladies Bible study schedule

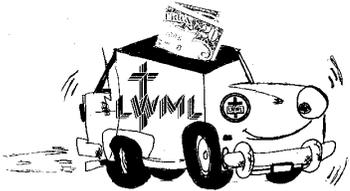
What a blessing to have the advantage of advent services to help us keep our focus on the Christ Child during this holiday season! May we share the joy of these special worship services.

Those in the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS are discovering more about the kingdom of God, one of the themes of the book of MATTHEW. They will meet for Bible study December 2nd and 16th from 1-3 pm at the home of Ann Nimmick, 2327 15th Ave. So. Always feel welcome to join them!

Assisted Living Ministry with hymn singing and a devotion will meet at the following locations. Tuesday, December 13th at 11:00 a.m. ladies and gentlemen will be at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave. So. On Friday, December 9th They will gather at JB's Restaurant, 1322 10th Ave. So. at 11:45 a.m. for a no host lunch. Later the group will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave. So. These assisted living residents often cannot get to a church to sing Christmas hymns. Come and share with them the joy of the Christ Child!

# LWML

- ♥ **We are not having the Gift of Love Tree this year.** Instead, we are collecting items for the people on the reservations, such as warm socks, winter hats, mittens, and gloves. We will collect these items until December 15 and then will send them to them before Christmas.
- ♥ **The ladies of LWML are sponsoring the first Advent Soup Supper on November 30.** If you would like to help in anyway, please contact Val Martin.
- ♥ **During the month of January,** we will have a Baby Shower for Denice Combs who gives baby layettes to the mothers at Benefis who have babies but have no clothes to put on them. You may bring new or clean, gently used baby items and place them in the box provided. We will also be making fleece blankets that will be given to Denice Combs.
- ♥ **Our next meeting will be Saturday, January 7 at 10 a.m. with a Bible study. Please note the day and time change!!** If you want to make a no sew fleece blanket during our meeting, please bring a 1 ¼ yards of any fleece material with you and we will show you how! 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.



## December Anniversaries

Dec. 18 Ed and Sarah Ostlund  
Dec. 30 Emich and Sieglinde Steinke

## Baptismal Anniversaries

December 4 Garry Denning  
6 David Greenwood  
19 Kristen Jacobsen  
22 Ganetta Ryster  
23 Donnalene McPartlin  
26 Mackenzie Smelser  
27 Joddie Naeseth  
27 Chisholm Naeseth  
29 Ernie VanVleet  
29 Reilly Jacobsen  
30 Nicholas Birkholz

**Deacons for December are Arnie Gidlow and Mitch Martin**

### Ushers for December

4 Matt Schlund  
Bruce Clark  
11 Lyle Onstad  
Jeff Blomgren  
18 Darrell Greenwood  
Bruce Clark  
25 Arnie Gidlow  
Mitch Martin



**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  
**Leonard Gidlow**  
**Jane Hering**  
**Connie Juden**  
**Rev. Erich Kaelberer**  
**Bill and Dorothy Neuman**  
**David Norman**

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

## Caroling

Anyone interested in going caroling is asked to meet at the church at 3 PM on Sunday, December 18. We will go caroling to some of the area nursing homes and member's homes. Come and join us!



## Finances

| JANUARY 1 - OCTOBER 31, 2016 |               |              |
|------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| CHURCH INCOME                | YTD ACTUAL    | YTD BUDGET   |
| Regular Offerings            | \$ 109,523.58 | \$116,933.30 |
| Other Income                 | \$ 5,258.20   | \$ 150.00    |
| Interest Income              | \$ 524.07     |              |
| Total Income                 | \$ 115,305.85 | \$117,083.30 |
| Church Expenses              |               |              |
| Personnel/Benefits           | \$ 68,399.03  | \$ 68,945.70 |
| Administrative               | \$ 6,226.23   | \$ 6,975.00  |
| Buildings & Grounds          | \$ 16,893.93  | \$ 20,666.80 |
| Missions                     | \$ 12,536.12  | \$ 9,583.30  |
| Christian Education          | \$ 3,728.23   | \$ 4,166.70  |
| Total Expenses               | \$ 107,783.54 | \$110,337.50 |
| Net Church Income            | \$ 7,522.31   | \$ 6,745.80  |



## Christmas Open House

Pastor and Becky Schlund invite all members Peace Lutheran Church and Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf to a Christmas Open House at their home on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 5:00 PM. The address is 2504 6<sup>th</sup> St. NE. Come before the Children's Christmas Service and join the pastor and his family for food, fun, and fellowship as we celebrate the joy of Christ's birth!

## Youth Events

On Saturday, December 3, the youth will be helping other members of Peace with the decorating of the church for the holidays. Lunch will be provided. Afterwards, they will be making their annual Christmas ornaments and doing another servant event here at the church. We will also be doing our first practice for the children's Christmas Service. For more information or to help in any way, contact Jennifer Lewis.

## Choir Christmas Concert

On Sunday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. there will be a joint choir concert with members of Peace and Trinity Lutheran Churches along with their bell choir and music from youth musicians and Bible readings at Peace Lutheran. All are invited to join us for this very special service!



## “Life Quotes” from Lutherans for Life

“As to the seasons, it remains the season in which we are Christ’s ‘witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.’ ... The next time you receive Holy Communion, you will be standing in a holy place with ‘the assembly of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven... and Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant’ (Hebrews 12:23-24). He is the Eternal Lord, who is rightly glorified ‘at every season and every hour, in Heaven and on earth.’” *James M. Kushiner, The Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

“Mary and Joseph’s hardships serve as a vivid reminder that as God’s children, we don’t always have it easy either. But because Mary and Joseph followed God’s will, countless generations benefit from the presence of this child’s life in the world. Let’s put that in the context of modern life—a young couple facing an unexpected pregnancy. If they follow God’s will, abortion will be averted, and countless generations will benefit, albeit in a much smaller way, from their child’s presence in the world.” *Bradley Mattes, Executive Director of Life Issues Institute – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

## Applying Bible Principles

Anyone who has ever been personally involved in the construction of a building knows that the foundation is of utmost importance. The finest architectural design and the best construction materials are of little value if the foundation is not built correctly.

The same is true of life itself and of our giving. The Apostle Paul instructed Timothy to “Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God. . . .Command them . . . to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life” (1 Tim. 6:17-19).

Do not misunderstand: Jesus is the foundation. He is the Cornerstone. When it comes to the matter of our salvation, Christ and Christ alone is the “sure foundation.” Nothing we can do — not even giving of our resources — can add one bit to that foundation.

But we can follow the counsel of the Apostle Paul concerning our giving. Through our giving, we can send our treasure on ahead. We can follow the admonition of the Lord Jesus and through our giving, we can “lay up treasure in heaven.” John Bunyan summarized both teachings in this statement: “Whatever good thing you do for Him, if done according to the Word, is laid up for you as treasure in chests and coffers, to be brought out to be rewarded before men and angels, to your eternal comfort.”

Our giving, then, becomes a foundation, not concerning salvation, but rather, concerning our investments. Suppose for a moment that you had invested 100% of your life’s savings in the stock of a company. Would you not be watching with great eagerness how that company was performing? Would you not be checking up on how well it was doing, on management’s goals for the future, and on how it was faring against the competition? In a similar way, our investments in the work of the Lord not only indicate where we are placing our emphasis, but also, they will determine where our interest lies. We will be checking up on them, evaluating their performance, and giving thought to the day when they will yield eternal dividends in our behalf.

One writer expressed it this way: “We can trade temporal possessions that we cannot keep anyway to gain eternal possessions that we cannot lose. This is like a child given a chance to trade bubble gum for a new bicycle, or a man offered ownership of the Coca-Cola company in exchange for a sack of bottle caps. Only a fool would pass up this opportunity. What we keep we will lose. What we give and share and do in Christ’s name will ultimately come back to us in heaven in a far better and permanent form.”

Remember, Jesus Christ is the “sure foundation.” Jesus is the Cornerstone. As we work and as we give, we are building on Him and on what He accomplished on Calvary. What kind of builder are you?