



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, 2018

What Child IS This?

Outdoor Christmas light displays have gotten out of control. It's not just that they are put up earlier and earlier every year so that they soon will be a part of our Labor Day weekend activities. It's not just that they have increased in size to the point that you can land an airplane at the local airport by the light of these displays. My complaint is that many people have mistaken quantity for quality and have tried to throw up as many lights and displays as they possibly can. This leads to a number of characters shoved together which cannot be distinguished from each other. In one display, you will have Santa Claus, a candy cane, a snowman, a baby, a reindeer, elves, and so on. Being so closely displayed together, the impression is given that all of these displays are equal in importance and in meaning.

What Child Is This is a beloved Christmas hymn written in 1865 by William Chatterton Dix, an insurance agent in Great Britain. It is also the theme for our special Advent and Christmas worship services this year. While we may love this hymn because of its beauty and tradition, a more important consideration is the question that asks. What child IS this, "who, laid to rest. On Mary's lap is sleeping?" Angels greet this child. Shepherds guard this child. This child must be someone important, more important than a reindeer, a snowman, or in overweight jolly old man in a red suit.

If this baby is a mere human being, then he is no more helpful to us than Rudolph, Frosty, or Santa Claus and is just taking up space in a holiday display. However, the hymn answers its own question by saying, "This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing." This tiny Baby is the promised Messiah, the eternal Son of God. He should not have to share the stage in Christmas decorations. He is far more important than elves, farm animals, and snowmen.

This leads to the next question. If this child in a manger is truly the Messiah and the Son of God, "why lies He in such mean a state Where oxen and ass are feeding?" This stable is hardly the palace of a king. This manger is hardly a throne for royalty. But this Child does not come to rule in power and glory, wealth and might. Rather, he comes in deep humility. He does not come to kill His enemies and establish an earthly kingdom. He comes to save His enemies by offering up His life for them. How shall this be? "Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you... The King of Kings salvation brings."

This Baby, Jesus Christ, born in a manger in Bethlehem is the entire reason for the season. He has come on Christmas to be born in all humility from a young virgin girl named Mary. He lived the life of the servant to the point of sacrificing His life on the cross as payment for all of our sins. He came back from the dead to life again in order to give us life that never ends with Him in heaven.

This provokes a reaction of thanks and praise in those who recognize who Jesus is and what he came to do. As the hymn says, "So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, King, to own him... Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!" This is the true and lasting joy of Advent in anticipating Jesus' birth and in Christmas in celebrating that birth. The joy is not to be seen in the massive light displays on houses, received in brightly wrapped gifts under a tree, or experienced in Christmas dinners and parties filled with fattening food and alcohol.

Take time out from your busy schedule at this time of year and gather together with your brothers and sisters in Christ on Wednesday evenings during Advent as we meditate upon the question, "What Child Is This" and rejoice in its right answer. This is our Savior, our Lord, and our God come to save us and bring us to everlasting life.

In Christ, our newborn King,
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 stuffed animals or blankets for the Montana Highway Patrol.

Everyone who came and helped decorate the church for the holidays.

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.

Matt Schlund 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

“What Child Is this?” - Christmas is the celebration of Jesus’ birth and Advent is the time of preparation for this celebration.

It is easy to forget that with our culture’s emphasis on Christmas being a time for partying, purchasing, and indulging ourselves. Who is this Child and why do we celebrate His birth?

What Child Is This will be the theme for our Wednesday evening Advent worship services on December 5, 12, and 19 at 7 PM.

December 5 - *“The Child Who is Zechariah’s Hope”* based on Isaiah 40:1-5 and Luke 1:15-25.

December 12 - *“The Child Who is a Virgin’s Great Son”* based on Judges 13:2-7 and Luke 1:26-38.

December 19 - *“The Child Who Is John’s Joy”* based on 2 Samuel 6:12-23 and Luke 1:39-45

Take some time out the busy holiday season to recall the reason for the season. A soup supper is at 6:00 PM with worship at 7 PM.

Christmas Schedule

December 16 : 7:00 PM - Christmas Cantata at Peace at 7:00 PM with refreshments to follow

Christmas Eve: 7:00 PM – Family Candlelight Service

Christmas Day: 10:00 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. Bring treats and games.

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 23rd from 2:00 – 5:00 PM. The address is 2504 6th St. NE. Come and join the pastor and his family for food, fun, and fellowship as we celebrate the joy of Christ’s birth!

Ladies Bible study schedule

December ushers in many activities. It's easy to get caught up in trying to do too much in a short time span. Let us focus on God's great gift to us, the gift of our Savior Jesus Christ. Attending Advent services on Wednesday evenings will help us keep our focus on the real reason for the season. Invite a friend or neighbor to go to the soup suppers and services with you!

FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS continues their study of 1st Peter, an enlightening study of one of the shorter books in the Bible. They will meet on Friday, December 7th and 14th from 1-3pm at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave So.

Assisted Living Ministry will enjoy bringing Advent and Christmas music and devotions to residents at the following locations. On Tuesday, December 11th at 11:00 a.m. ladies and gentlemen will visit Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave So. A no host lunch will be held at 11:45 a.m. on Friday, December 21st at Hardee's, 2615 10th Ave So. After lunch many in the group will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. God's love and peace is so evident in the faces of these residents! Come and hear their joy as they sing the familiar hymns of the season!

LWML

- ♥ **The ladies of LWML are sponsoring the first Advent Soup Supper on December 5.** If you would like to help in anyway, please contact Val Martin.
- ♥ **Thank you to everyone** who donated stuffed animals or blankets for the Montana Highway Patrol.
- ♥ **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 12 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! Remember 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.



Youth Corner

Peace Youth fund raiser – The youth of Peace are selling 2019 calendars. Wall calendars are \$7 and pocket calendars are \$6. See one of the youth at the table in the hallway.

Christmas Decorating – We will be decorating the church for Christmas season this **Saturday, December 1-10:00 AM**. All members of Peace are invited to come and help us decorate. There are many things that people of all ages can help with. Many hands make light work.

Children's Choir Practices every Sunday before Sunday School. Their choir will be singing 3 songs during the **Christmas Eve Service at 7 PM** on December 24. Please arrive at church by 6:30.



December Anniversaries

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

Baptismal Anniversaries

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

Deacons for December are Arnie Gidlow and Kevin Aguiar

Ushers for December

2 Lyle Onstad
 James Onstad
 9 Matt Schlund
 Darrell Greenwood
 16 Pat Lewis
 Arnie Wirth
 23 Tyler Denning
 Arnie Gidlow
 30 Mitch Martin
 Eric Fletcher



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
Leonard Gidlow under Hospice Care
Rev. Mark Grunst of Billings who has a neurological condition
Connie Juden
Rev. Erich Kaelberer
Dorothy Neuman

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

Christmas Cantata

On Sunday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. there will be a joint choir cantata titled "Sing Joy to All the World" with members of Peace and Trinity Lutheran Churches at Peace Lutheran. All are invited to join us for this very special service! Refreshments will be served after.

Great gift idea

Dr. Rev. Mark Nicolaus has written another children's book in the Puppity Pup series and we have copies! "Puppity Pup Goes to the Woods" is his latest book and the cost is \$10 each. Some of that money goes back to Pastor Nicolaus. They make a great Christmas or birthday gift idea! See Ruth in the church office to buy a copy.

Caroling

Anyone interested in going caroling is asked to meet at the church at 1 PM on Sunday, December 23. We will go caroling to some of the area nursing homes and member's homes. Come and join us!

Finances

JANUARY 1, TO OCTOBER 31, 2018		
CHURCH INCOME	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Regular Offerings	\$103,819.42	\$117,916.70
Interest Income	\$1,312.22	\$1,000.00
Total Income	\$105,131.64	\$118,916.70
Church Expenses		
Personnel/Benefits	\$75,159.92	\$76,509.10
Administrative	\$5,558.06	\$6,895.30
Buildings & Grounds	\$21,453.58	\$20,415.00
Missions	\$8,926.84	\$9,583.30
Worship	\$518.67	\$958.30
Christian Education	\$2,276.95	\$2,426.40
Evangelism	\$783.34	\$2,466.70
Total Expenses	\$114,677.36	\$119,254.10
Net Church Income	(\$9,545.72)	(\$337.40)

Beginning in January of 2019,

we will only be supplying printed copies of the monthly *Peace Talks* newsletter to those who request them. We will be posting it on our webpage at www.peaelutherangreatfalls.org

for those who can read it online. If you want to receive the newsletter in its printed version, please let Ruth in the church office know at 406-761-7343.

