



Peace Lutheran Church

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February, 2011

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Valentine's Day will soon be upon us. It is a day to celebrate love, especially romantic love between a man and a woman. It is a day to show love by sending special cards and giving special gifts. One of the traditional gifts associated with Valentine's Day is chocolate. Why chocolate?

Since the discovery of chocolate, it has been so valuable as to be considered divine in some cultures. The Aztecs believed chocolate was a source of spiritual wisdom. Even the scientific name for the tree from which chocolate is derived, *Theobroma cacao*, translated from Greek, means "food of the gods". No wonder this became the ultimate gift for lovers. Chocolate is divine, the very food of the gods.

As Christians, we do not have to wait for February 14th to roll around every year in order to celebrate the love of God. We have the opportunity to celebrate the love of God every Sunday in Divine Service. But what are we celebrating and how are we celebrating it?

That phrase, "love of God", can be understood in two different things: the love we have for God or the love God has for us. There's not much to celebrate about our love for God. It is often non-existent or, if it does exist, very self-serving. We love God if He blesses us or when we need something from Him. Other than that, we are too busy loving ourselves.

The love of God is all about God's love for us. The Scripture says, "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." (1 John 4:10). God loved us deeply, passionately, and fully, despite our sin and lack of love for Him. His love was more than flowery words and mushy sentiments. His love moved Him to action. He gave His most valuable possession for us who had no value at all. He gave His Son as a sacrifice to atone for our sin.

How does He give His love to us? It's not unlike chocolate which is given on Valentine's Day to one's lover that he/she might eat and enjoy this sign of love. God gives us divine food – the body and blood of His Son, Jesus Christ, hidden under bread and wine – to eat and drink and enjoy the sign of His love. By consuming this "food of God", we receive all that Christ won for us on the cross: God's love, God's forgiveness, God's strength and support during this life and God's promise of perfect life forever after this life.

If you get chocolate on Valentine's Day this year in a red box shaped like a big red heart, remember the ancient understanding of the divine nature of chocolate as the "food of the gods" and enjoy the love of the one who gave it to you. As you approach the communion rail in Divine Service, remember the truly divine nature of the gift you receive – the very body and blood of Jesus in and with the bread and the wine. Enjoy the "food of God" as a token of God's love and delivery device for all the benefits of God's love.

Happy Valentine's Day! Happy Divine Service!

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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TO

Everyone who donated baby items for the baby shower for Life Way Pregnancy Services in Great Falls.

Everyone who made fleece blankets for the baby shower for Life Way.

Everyone who cooked, baked, donated and bid at the fund raiser for **John and Karen Birkholz, Val and Mitch Martin, Elsie Huss, and Amy Dorr** for UN decorating the church after Christmas.

Elsie Huss and Lorene Gotta for your help in the kitchen while hosting the Quad Circuit Pastor's Conference at Peace.

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 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.

Alice Schuman and Cheri Magnuson for cleaning the Communion linens.

Cindy Greenwood for decorating the bulletin boards.

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.

Ladies Bible study schedule

February finds the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS well into their study of the BOOK of LUKE. Join the group for Bible study, a hot cup of tea or coffee, and warm friendship at the home of Ann Nimmick, 2327 15th Ave So from 1 - 3 pm on February 4th, 11th, and 18th.

During February Assisted Living Ministry will be held on the following dates. Tuesday, February 8th at 11 am ladies will be at the Bee Hive Home at 2328 15th Ave So for hymn singing and a devotion. Friday, February 25th at 11:45 am the group will meet for a no host lunch at Fuddrucker's, 3315 10th Ave So. Afterward they will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave South for an hour of hymn singing and a short devotion. Warm up your faith and your voice with some of these activities on a wintry day! You are always welcome!

Adult choir takes a break

The adult choir will take a break for a while. They will resume practice on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at 5:15 p.m. at the church. Mark your calendars!

Wee Disciples



Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

Matthew 7:7-8

What a blessing this scripture is to each of us –

We take people at their word most easily when we know them well, when we are familiar with their word, when we can predict to some extent their response to different situations. Prayer is the way we get to know God better and better, so that we might become more and more familiar with His voice in our lives. Prayer is less about us pouring our hearts out to him and more about God revealing Himself to us. "Reprinted with permission of LCMS Children's and Family Ministry."

Each day at Wee Disciples we must ask, seek and knock ourselves, then encourage the children to do the same. We ask that you would pray with us – that we may know God better and better and then share His love.

LWML

- ♥ **Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 8 at 6:30 p.m. with a Bible study.** All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to come and join us! We will establish a nominating committee for the elections in May. Don't forget your Mite boxes!
- ♥ **Thank you to everyone who made fleece blankets or donated items for the baby shower for Life Way.** Thank you, **Janet Kempf**, for organizing the event.
- ♥ **The LWML will be sponsoring a Tupperware Party for Children's Receiving Home sometime in February.** Please plan to attend!
- ♥ **We will be hosting the Ash Wednesday soup supper at Peace on March 9th at 6 p.m.** Contact Amy Dorr if you would like to help in any way.
- ♥ **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.



February Anniversaries

Feb. 4 Bernie and Phyllis Schaaf
Feb 11 Tim and Cindy Heidrich

Baptismal Anniversaries

February 1 Gene Davidson
1 Brooke Bibler
4 Rebecca Gerard
4 Glen Marten
9 Connie Juden
14 Amanda House
16 Megan Brien
21 Judy Klein
22 Brandi Holefelder
26 Jerry Geist
27 Henry Schuman



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, Michael Lewis, and Jacob Meierhoff.**

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

Finances

Because our Treasurer, Ken Meske, was out of town at the end of December and most of January, there are no updated figures at this time.

New Directories are out

There are new membership directories available in your mail boxes. If you want additional copies or did not get one, please see Ruth in the church office. Also, if the information is incorrect, please let Ruth know for the next version.

“Life Quotes” from Lutherans for Life

“Christians must see children as gifts from God, not as projects. We should see marriage and parenthood as a stewardship and privilege, not as a mere lifestyle choice. We must resist the cultural seductions and raise children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and understand family life as a crucible for holiness, not an experiment in happiness.” *Albert R. Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary* – A “Life Quote” from **Lutherans For Life** – www.lutheransforlife.org

Valentine Dinner

Are you looking for that special place to take your sweetheart out for dinner to celebrate Valentine's Day? Do you want to celebrate Valentine's Day as a family? Then come to the Valentine's Dinner sponsored by Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf in the Peace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall on Friday, February 11th at 6:00 PM. Tickets can be purchased in advance in the church office or from David & Doris Wise. All proceeds will go to support Lutheran Deaf Camp 2011.

