



Peace Lutheran Church

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February, 2014

The Gospel and Jesus

February 2014

Poor Andy! He had become a believer in Jesus Christ as His Savior. He wanted to witness to Jesus, but who was he to do so? He was a blue collar worker without any theological training. Suppose he was asked questions to which he didn't know the answers. Suppose people didn't listen to him or, worse yet, rejected his witness. What was he to do?

Can you relate to Andy? I think most of us Christians who believe in Jesus Christ want other people to know Him, too. We want other people to know the peace we have that comes from having our sins forgiven. We want other people to have the confidence we have in knowing that God is in charge and will always take care of us. We want other people to have the hope of eternal life which we have.

But most of us have no formal theological training past confirmation class. What if people ask us hard questions and we don't know the answers? What if people refuse to listen to our testimony or reject us? I think Andy would agree with us that it would be much easier to witness if we were apostles or something.

Well, the "Andy" that I'm talking about here is usually known as St. Andrew and WAS one of Jesus' apostles. But his experience in witnessing was like described above and is recorded for us in the Gospel reading for the 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany in John 1:29-41.

Andrew was a sinful human being just like all of us. Like us, Andrew became a believer in Jesus Christ through the preaching of the Word of God by John the Baptist. But he was a fisherman in the working class and had no formal theological training. Yet he still wanted to witness so he went and found his brother. He didn't try to convince his brother, give him all the answers, or preach at his brother. He simply spoke the Gospel. He said, "We have found the Messiah (which means Christ)." (John 1:41) Then Andrew brought his brother to Jesus. How did it all work out? Andrew's brother was Simon Peter. Peter's profound influence on Christianity and the spread of the Gospel happened because his little brother told him about Jesus and led him to Jesus.

Andrew does not have an advantage over us. He had at his disposal the exact same things we have at our disposal: the Gospel and Jesus. Andrew spoke the Gospel to Peter. We can speak the Gospel to our family and friends. It is the Word of God which has the power to change people, not our presentation of it. Andrew led Peter to Jesus. We can lead our family and friends to where Jesus has promised to be present now: in the Word and the Sacraments of the Divine Service. Jesus, in His Word and Sacraments, deliver all of God's gifts to people. We don't have to.

This is not all there is to witnessing, but bringing the Gospel to people and bringing people to Jesus is enough to make people Christians. To learn more, come to the Witness Workshop on Saturday, February 22nd here at Peace. (More information about this workshop is available elsewhere in this newsletter.) In the meantime, Andy's witnessing method is a pretty good one for us to know and use.

In Christ, the Messiah,

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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Everyone who donated baby items for the layettes that are taken to the hospital by Denice Combs.

Everyone who made fleece blankets for Denice Combs' layettes.

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

Mitch Martin for preaching while Pastor Schlund was in Fort Wayne.

All those who volunteer to teach Sunday school, Bible class, and midweek classes on Sundays and Wednesdays.

All those people who offer their time and talents to be the elected leaders in our congregation.

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.

Cheri Magnuson for cleaning the Communion linens.

All of the ladies and gentlemen who provide devotions and hymn singing for the people at Park Place, Benefis Extended Care, Highgate House and Bee Hive Homes.

All of the quilters for the beautiful quilts you make all year.

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

FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS will not meet for Bible study during the month of February.

Assisted Living Ministry continues no matter what the wintery weather doles out! In fact, during confining weather it's even more important to bring God's Word to those who are shut-in. Opportunities for hymn singing and a devotion are at the following locations. Tuesday, February 11th at 11:00 a.m. ladies and gentlemen will be at Bee Hive Home #1, 2816 15th Ave So. On Friday, February 28th at 11:45 a.m. the group will meet at Boston's, 1101 7th Ave So. for a no host lunch. Afterward they will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Join in these activities that bring the joy and comfort of the Gospel message in song and word!

LWML

- ♥ **Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 11 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 layettes that Denice Combs takes to the hospital to be given to mothers who don't have clothes to put their newborn babies in to take them home.** Thank you, **Val Martin**, for showing us how to make the blankets.
- ♥ **We will be hosting the Ash Wednesday soup supper at Peace on March 5 at 6 p.m.** Elsie Huss, Jennifer Lewis, Linda Aguiar and Becky Schlund will be making soup. Ruth Denning, Laura Brandt and Val Martin will bring some crackers and bread. Due to the penitential time of Lent we will not be making desserts.
- ♥ **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.
- ♥ **Remember that Purple Pockets are due to Elsie Huss at the end of March.** This money goes to mission work both locally and afar. Thanks for your continued support.
- ♥ **The Montana District Convention is in Miles City on May 2 – 4, 2104.** Registration information will be in the next *Montana Missive*.
- ♥ **The Lutheran World Relief Drive will be May 17, 2014.** More details will be available as the time gets closer.



February Anniversaries

Feb. 4 Bernie and Phyllis Schaaf



Baptismal Anniversaries

February	1	Gene Davidson
	1	Brooke Bibler
	4	Rebecca Gerard
	8	Jamie Franczyk
	9	Connie Juden
	20	Barbara Clark
	21	Judy Klein
	22	Elsie McDaniel
	22	Brandi Holefelder
	26	Jerry Geist



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

John Birkholz

June Foard, June Meier's daughter

Sandi Graf

Jane Hering

Blake McBride, step grandson of Gloria Creek

William McBride, brother-in-law of Shannon Birkholz

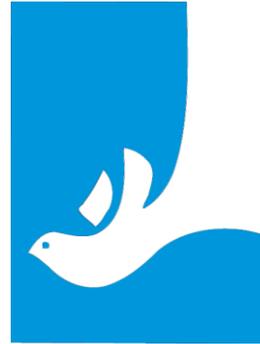
Joyce Sponheim, Carol Thurston's sister

Our members who are away serving in the military are **Kurt Mueller** and **Michael Lewis**.

Free scrapbook day at Peace

Free scrapbook day at Peace on Saturday, February 8th starting at 11 a.m. Please come and join us and spend the day or just part of the day with us making new friends, enjoying each other's company, working on projects that you've been wanting to finish, whether it be a scrapbook, making a card for someone, or some other craft project. Please RSVP to Angelika Fisher at 231-1115. Thank you and God bless.

"Life Quotes" from Lutherans for Life



"All life is not equal" is the lie that upheld slavery for so long in this great land ... is the lie that upholds racism still today ... was the lie that drove the obliteration of six million Jews ... is the lie tyrants still today employ for ethnic cleansing ... is the lie told by the greatest monsters ever to arise from the race of

men ... is the lie that the powerful have more rights than the powerless ... is the lie that one person's convenience trumps another's most basic human right: the right to life." *Rev. Christopher Esget, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Alexandria, Virginia* – A "Life Quote" from Lutherans For Life · www.lutheransforlife.org – A "Life Quote" from Lutherans For Life · www.lutheransforlife.org

Witnessing Workshop at Peace Lutheran

On Saturday, February 22nd from 9 AM to 3 PM a workshop will be held at Peace Lutheran, in Great Falls, MT, that will use as it's basis the book written by Pastor Sias of Colstrip, Montana, titled "5 Things You Can Do To Witness Christ". Five short, concise chapters titled: "Witness Christ Where He Speaks and Works"; "Witness Christ as an Expert Witness: Law and Gospel" and a second under the same heading "Justification by Faith & the Sacraments"; "Witness Christ in Life as Well as Words" and finally "Witness Christ on the Front Lines" will be the topics learned and discussed. . Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, or if you want to register early, contact

Peace Lutheran Church at 406-761-7343 or Arnie Gidlow at mobows@mcn.net. The cost is \$5 per person to cover materials and lunch will be served.

Discover and develop the confidence of being



a witness to the atonement paid by Christ in his death and resurrection for the forgiveness of our sins.

Applying Biblical Teachings

The Psalmist wrote in Psalm 145:16, "You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing." Indeed, God is the great Provider, the One who supplies each of us with what we need to support this body and life.

All that we have materially in this life is a blessing from God. In Deuteronomy 8:17-18, we read, "You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth."

As Christians we are led to realize that God gives us His blessings for our benefit and for us to serve our neighbor. The way we use these blessings glorifies God. "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31).

Through the atoning blood of Christ, we are free to use our God-given blessings to God's glory. Through the working of the Holy Spirit in Word and Sacrament, we "store up" for ourselves "treasures in heaven . . ." for where our treasure is, there our "heart will be also" (Matt. 6:20-21).

Through baptism Christ lives in us, and the life we live in this body is by faith in Him. In Christ, we glorify God by giving generously of ourselves, of our possessions and of our money.

Youth activity and outreach events in February

The youth will go roller skating **Sunday, February 9 from 2:30-4:30 at Hauer's Skating Center**. Youth Group will cover half of the cost of the roller skating and youth members need to bring money for snacks, if desired. Of course the young or young at heart are invited to come show us how to do it.....

The Youth group created the angel ornaments that decorated our Christmas tree and fellowship hall. We would like to share these ornaments with every family that belongs to Peace along with a Bible verse from 1 Peter 5:7 " Give your worries to God, for he cares about you". It will cost 75 cents to mail these to each family. We are asking the congregation to help us mail these ornaments to the families of Peace by donating 25 cents per Angel. There are 85 to be mailed out. Our hope is that folks we don't see on a regular basis know we care and are praying for them. We also hope this will be encouragement for them to join us.

