



Peace Lutheran Church

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Rejecting Fear

If you have been reading the newspaper or watching the television newscasts recently, you would get the impression that our nation is gripped by fear. Is it fear of war or nuclear holocaust? Is it fear of an incurable disease spreading across our land? Is it fear of a stock market crash and impending poverty sweeping through our nation?

No. It's none of these. It is fear of an election. Some people are absolutely terrified because of who was elected president of the United States. They foresee all sorts of gloom and doom coming for our nation and for our world because of the man occupying the Oval Office. Lest we are too critical of these people and refer to them as "snowflakes" (as some in the media have), I seem to recall a lot of people on the other side of the political aisle who were very afraid of the woman running against him and what would happen if she had been elected.

Why do we fear? It's not what God would have us do. Fear is a result of sin. Before they fell into sin, Adam and Eve had an intimate relationship with God, free from fear. After they fell into sin, the relationship was full of fear. Adam said to the Lord, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." (Genesis 3:10) People became afraid of God because sin means we are guilty before Him and that results in condemnation and punishment.

We look to those in power and those who have authority to save us from our fears. We hope that if the right man or right woman is elected to be President, Senator, or Representative, then they will save us and free us from our fears. Conversely, if the wrong person is elected, we fear that all hope is lost, our country (or world) will fall apart, and we will be doomed to great suffering. Our trust in human government is often wasted. Those in government often cannot or do not save us from our troubles or free us from our fear.

The Word of God admonishes us, "Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation. When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish." (Psalm 146:3-4) We are not to put our trust in human government. Those in government are mortal. They are sons and daughters of human parents and will not last. Their plans will ultimately perish.

Instead, we put our trust in the Son of Man – Jesus Christ. He came to free us from fear by taking on the source of fear – sin. He died on a cross to forgive you all of your sins. He returned to the earth – was buried – when He died, but did not stay dead. His breath returned as He rose to life again. His plans did not perish but succeeded. You are free from sin and are right with God. Therefore, you are free from fear. Nothing in all creation – no problem, no disease, no sin, not even death – will be able to be in charge of you. God is in control and always will be.

Instead of trusting in government or fearing government, trust in the Lord and fear nothing. Instead of complaining about bad government or getting overly excited about good government, pray for ALL government. St. Paul writes, "I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way." (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

The hymn verse sums it up well:

*Trust not in rulers; they are but mortal;
Earthborn they are and soon decay.
Vain are their counsels at life's last portal,
When the dark grave engulfs its prey.
Since mortals can no help afford,
Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia!*

("Praise the Almighty" – LSB #297, stanza 2)

In Christ, our King,
Pastor Schlund
Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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TO**

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 and Gloria Creek for playing the organ during our worship services.
Pat Lewis 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

Days are cold and snowy in February. But the atmosphere is warm and friendly in Ann Nimmick's home, where the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS continues their study of the BOOK of MATTHEW. They will meet for Bible study from 1-3pm on February 3rd, 10th, and 24th at Ann's home, 2327 15th Ave So. Hot tea, coffee, and a warm welcome are waiting for you!

Assisted Living Ministry with hymn singing and a devotion continues during these frosty weeks of February. Join the ladies and gentlemen at the following locations. They will meet at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave So, on Tuesday, February 14th at 11 a.m. On Friday, February 17th at 11:45 a.m. friends will meet for a no host lunch at El Comedor Restaurant, 1120 25th St So. Afterward many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Come and share God's love with these wonderful residents!

LWML

- ♥ **Through February 12**, 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 no sew fleece blankets that will be given to Denice Combs.
- ♥ **Due to illness and poor weather, our last meeting was not well attended, so we have rescheduled to Saturday, February 11 at 10 a.m. with a Bible study.** We will be making no sew fleece blankets for the layettes that Denice Combs makes for the hospital. If you want to make a fleece blanket, bring 1 and ¼ yards of any print fleece and we will show you how to make the blankets. There will also be Bible study and a business meeting and we will be planning the Ash Wednesday soup supper. All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to join us. Remember your Mite Boxes!
- ♥ **Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, March 13 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. Remember 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.
- ♥ **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 Linda Aguiar at the end of March.** This money goes to mission work both locally and afar. Thanks for your continued support.



Baptismal Anniversaries

February 4 Rebecca Gerard
 8 Jamie Franczyk
 9 Connie Juden
 20 Barbara Clark



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**.



February Anniversaries

Feb. 1 Ted and Nancy Barnes
 Feb. 4 Bernie and Phyllis Schaaf

Lent Begins

Lent will begin with Ash Wednesday soup supper sponsored by LWML **on March 1** at 6:00 PM, There will also be an Ash Wednesday Worship Service that evening at 7:00 PM. Lent lasts about 6 weeks. If your group would like to sponsor one of the soup suppers, please sign up on the calendar in the Fellowship Hall. Be watching for the theme of our services and devotions booklets that can be used to help us prepare ourselves for the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. You won't want to miss it!

Finances

JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2016		
CHURCH INCOME	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Regular Offerings	\$133,747.29	\$140,320.60
Other Income	\$ 5,295.20	\$ 180.00
Interest Income	\$ 715.61	
Total Income	\$139,758.10	\$140,500.60
Church Expenses		
Personnel/Benefits	\$ 82,347.40	\$ 82,735.00
Administrative	\$ 7,579.26	\$ 8,370.00
Buildings & Grounds	\$ 21,231.65	\$ 24,800.00
Missions	\$ 14,589.42	\$ 11,500.00
Christian Education	\$ 4,315.93	\$ 5,000.00
Total Expenses	\$130,063.66	\$132,405.00
Net Church Income	\$ 9,694.44	\$ 8,095.60

Every One His Witness

Witness and Outreach Ministry of the LCMS Office of National Mission presents this evangelism workshop for the Montana District of the LCMS at Peace Lutheran Church **on Saturday, February 25, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.** The "Everyone One His Witness" workshop is designed to equip individual believers to be more effective witnesses of Jesus in their everyday lives. Learn how to LASSIE: Listen, Ask, Seek, Share, Invite Encourage! There is no cost to participate. Registration is appreciated to order materials. Call Ruth in the church office 761-7343 during business hours or email her at peacesecretary@bresnan.net.

Defending Life in the Post-Obama Era
 The Montana Lutherans for Life State Gathering will be held

Friday, February 17 and Saturday, February 18
 at **PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH,**
3340 11th Ave. S., Great Falls

hosted by **Cascade County Lutherans For Life**

Our speaker will be Col. **John Eidsmoe**, a retired Air Force Lt. Colonel, a Chaplain and a Professor of Law at Oak Brook College of Law and Government Policy.

For more information on Col. Eidsmoe or the Gathering, contact Jim or Barb Going, via email jim@iamgoing.com, or call 406-727-4878. **There is no charge for this educational event.**

Applying Bible Principles

“Strategic planning” is a two-word term that can best be described as a “buzz word.” It’s in vogue. It’s trendy for businesses (and churches) to talk about and engage in strategic planning.

Frequently, when quizzed about why they should engage in strategic planning, business owners and managers will respond with a host of reasons and yet miss the basic benefit that comes from planning: Businesses which plan are more profitable than those which do not. In other words, those who aim at something are more likely to hit it than those who aim at nothing.

Similarly, when it comes to giving, Christians are to develop a “strategic plan.” We are instructed to set aside funds systematically, regularly, for support of the Lord’s work. In that way, when we come to worship each week, we’ll be prepared to give. We will have “planned” our giving under the divine leadership of the Holy Spirit. Then, by giving that which we have set aside, we will put our plan to work as the offering is received.

Yes, the Holy Spirit can and sometimes does lead us to give gifts in a spontaneous manner without planning. But as a rule, spontaneous, unplanned giving is the exception. Most of the time, God wants His people to give systematically and to respond to His direction in their lives by careful planning.

Speaking of consistent givers (the kind who generally plan their giving), Randy Alcorn described them as the “backbone of the church.” Such people do not miss giving to the Lord’s work, even when they are unable to attend. Just because they are not physically present when the offering plate is passed does not mean that they skip a Sunday or two in supporting the life and ministry of the church.

Be ready to give as the Spirit of God leads, even on a moment’s notice. Be ready to give when a special need arises. But most of all, develop a “strategic plan” to give by seeking God’s direction concerning your giving and by putting aside funds in preparation for giving. Then “work your plan” by giving those funds as you gather at Peace Lutheran Church with other Christians each Lord’s Day. And when you can’t be present for worship, plan carefully to be sure that your giving follows your plan. Remember, the work and ministry of Peace Lutheran Church goes on week after week, even when you are unable to be present.