



Peace Lutheran Church

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February, 2013

Love and Lent

February 2013

February is the month containing the one holiday dedicated to love – Valentine's Day on February 14th. When we think of this holiday, we think of romantic greeting cards, flowers, candy, and other tokens of what passes for love in our society today. When we receive these things, then we feel like we have experienced love. This holiday is a very positive and happy time.

This year, by virtue of a quirk in the liturgical calendar, another holiday season begins on the day before Valentine's Day – Lent with Ash Wednesday being on February 13th. When we think of this holiday, we think of much different things compared with Valentine's Day. We think of blood, suffering, torture, pain, crucifixion, death, and other things connected with the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. In contrast with Valentine's Day, Lent seems to be a real downer. When we meditate on the things of Lent, we may feel sorrow, sadness, or even revulsion. But love? Really?

Yes, really. Lent is all about love – even more than Valentine's Day is. Valentine's Day is usually about the upside of love – all the warm and romantic feelings. Lent is about the hard part of love which is often forgotten in our narcissistic society. Lent is about the hard work, the commitment and the action of love.

Because we are born sinful and because we do sinful actions in violation of the Ten Commandments, we are separated from the one true and holy God. We are due to stand before our Creator and Judge to be held accountable for our sin and punished for it. The appropriate Biblical judgment on sin and punishment for sin is death and hell.

Yet God is a loving God who does not wish His creatures to perish. But God did more than speak of His love for us. God's love moved Him to action. His action consisted of more than sending us sentimental greeting cards, flowers, or chocolates. Even if these tokens were of the heavenly variety, we would still be stuck in our sin and doomed to die eternally.

God's love moved Him to offer the ultimate sacrifice to show His love for us. He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to rescue us from the devil's control, sin's judgment, and hell's punishment. To resolve this situation would be messy. Jesus would stand in our place, endure God's judgment against our sin and suffer the punishment which our sin deserves. It would not be an easy love. It would be shown through blood, suffering, torture, pain, crucifixion, and death. It is as Isaiah had prophesied about Jesus: *But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)*

We are healed by Jesus' painful suffering and grisly death. Our sin is forgiven and we are given Christ's holiness in our baptism. Our death changes from being a punishment for sin to a gateway to life. Hell has been removed and we have been given heaven.

Enjoy Valentine's Day and the tokens of love which go with it. But remember Lent, as well, and all of the tokens of God's love which go with it. Although it may not be as romantic as Valentine's Day, Lent's message of the suffering and death of God's Son, Jesus Christ, for us is the one and only true and enduring love which we will ever know.

In Christ, our perfect Sacrifice,

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.

Everyone who UN decorated the church after Christmas.

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.

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 --- ? How did that happen! There wasn't even time to get the January blahs... Ash Wednesday is early this year. Midmonth soup suppers begin followed by soul enriching Lenten worship services. Make it a priority to attend them all! Need a ride? Call the church office in the morning.

FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS continues their study of the BOOK of REVELATION. Bible study will meet from 1:15 - 3:15 pm on February 1st, 8th, and 15th at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave So. There's always room for more friends at the table. Always know you are welcome!

Assisted Living Ministry with hymn singing and a devotion will be at the following locations. Tuesday, February 12th at 11 am the group will be at Bee Hive Home #1 at 2824 15th Ave So. On Friday, February 22nd at 11:45 am a no host lunch will be held at the Taco Treat Amigo Lounge, 1200 7th Ave So. Afterward ladies and gentlemen will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Join the group for any of these activities. You will brighten the day for others --- and yourself as well.

LWML

- ♥ **Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 12 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 organizing the event.
- ♥ **We will be hosting the Ash Wednesday soup supper at Peace on February 13 at 6 p.m.** Elsie Huss, Lorene Gotta, Ruth Denning and Helen Lewis and Jennifer Lewis will be making soup, Becky Schlund, Val Martin, Diane Steffens will be bringing crackers and breads. 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 Linda Aguiar at the end of March.** This money goes to mission work both locally and afar. Thanks for your continued support.
- ♥ **The National Convention is in Pittsburgh June 27 – 30, 2013.** Registration information is in the latest *Quarterly*.
- ♥ **The Lutheran World Relief Drive will be May 18, 2012.** 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	Brandi Holefelder
	26	Jerry Geist



INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

John Birkholz
Jane Hering
Kathy McIntosh
Vicky Neiffer
Michel Wayman
Patsy Zvara

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

Finances

Our giving in December, 2012 was \$15,738.23 and our expenses for December were \$10,781.80.

The amount that Peace's checking account is in the red at the end of December is \$9,707.78.

The **Lutheran Church Extension Fund** loan balance as of December 31, 2012, is **\$60,000.00.**

Sweetheart 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 Sweetheart Dinner sponsored by Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf in the Peace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall on Friday, February 8th at 6:00 PM. The menu includes spaghetti with or without meatballs, tossed salad, garlic bread, desserts, coffee, tea, and punch. Admission price \$5.00 per person. To reserve your spot, sign up on the sheet in the back of the church. All proceeds will go to support Lutheran Deaf Camp 2013.

Bring Palm branches back

Palm branches from last year can be brought back to the church to be burned and used as ash for Ash Wednesday this month. Please bring them to the church office at your convenience.

“Life Quotes” from Lutherans for Life

“Our Savior started where we did. Our Savior became a holy, one-celled human being and passed through all the stages of our development as part of the price for our redemption. What value His journey gives to all who make this journey from conception to birth and beyond. The path to the cross did not start in a manger, but in a fallopian tube!” *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, executive director of Lutherans For Life* – A “Life Quote” from Lutherans For Life · www.lutheransforlife.org

“Winds of Montana” concert

The highly acclaimed “Winds of Montana” was first organized in 1985 to give amateur and professional musicians the opportunity to perform excellent, challenging, and audience appealing symphonic band literature. Musicians range in age from 18 to 80 and come from all corners of the state. Some are professional musicians and teachers but the group also gives doctors, attorneys, military personnel, teachers, florists, and others who just love to play good music the opportunity to perform. All of the participants donate their time and cover their own expenses. They will be having an All State band concert under the direction of Dennis Granlie being held at Great Falls High School Auditorium, 1900 2nd Avenue South on February 3, at 1:30. Admission is free.

Church Basement Ladies - A Second Helping

The Great Falls Community Concert Association is sponsoring this production on **Saturday, February 9 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Mansfield Theater at the Civic Center. There are some free tickets available sponsored by Karl Dorr, and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. If you plan to attend and want tickets, please see Ruth in the church office.

The Objects of Lent

is the theme for our 2013 Wednesday Evening Lent Services. Inanimate objects associated with the story of our Lord's passion will be the focus of our meditations.

February 13 th : (Ash Wednesday)	“Sword”
February 20 th :	“Rope”
February 27 th :	“Cloth”
March 6 th :	“Thorns”
March 13 th :	“Wood”
March 20 th :	“Silver”
March 28 th (Maundy Thursday):	“Bread”
March 29 th (Good Friday):	“Dice”
March 31 st (Easter):	“Seeds”

A soup supper will be served every Wednesday evening during Lent at 6:00 PM. Worship begins at 7:00 PM.

“Forty Days for Life” February 13 to March 24

It is hard for some people to come to terms with the fact that Planned Parenthood is the largest abortion provider in America. In 2011 Planned Parenthood had a record high 333,964 abortions. Planned Parenthood Federation of America's new directive mandated that as of January 2013 all affiliates must provide abortions. (NationalReviewonline)

Several years ago, in Kalispell, Montana, an abortion facility was closed because of the presence of “40 Days for Life” participants. Lutherans have taken several days each year and our presence has always made an impact. This year our days are **Friday, February 15, Wednesday, February 27, and Friday, March 8.**

We stand in front of Planned Parenthood and pray from 7 AM to 7 PM, usually in shifts of two hours with at least four people at all times. It would be great to have more people stand with us as numbers seem to make a bigger statement. I will be out there for the largest part of each day, never leaving anyone to stand alone.

Our prayer is that the hearts and minds of those passing or entering will be changed by the faithful presence of people who are praying for all who need a change of heart.

Barbara Going, Coordinator for Lutheran involvement

Youth events in February

The youth will meet for crafts, visiting with members and a special treat on Sunday February 10 from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. On Sunday February 24 they will meet at the church at 1:30 p.m. to go roller skating. For more information contact Kaye Franczyk at 750-0658 or Brook Gerard at 750-1838.

Free scrapbook day & potluck at Peace

Free scrapbook day & potluck at Peace on Saturday, February 16th 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.