



## Peace Lutheran Church

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February, 2018

### A Day of Love

This year, in a very odd coincidence, Ash Wednesday falls on February 14, otherwise known as Valentine's Day. Some might think that the mood, feeling, and meaning of these two days couldn't be more different than in this situation. On one hand, Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, a forty-day period of time in which we focus in on the great suffering and horrific death of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. Valentine's Day, on the other hand, is a happy day to celebrate love.

But are they really that different? If we correctly understand the meaning of both of these days, then the answer is no.

The first difficulty in arriving at a correct understanding of these days happens when our commemoration of Lent focuses only on the content and amount of Jesus' suffering and not the meaning and purpose of Jesus' suffering. Jesus did not suffer and die as an innocent victim for whom we should feel shock and sorrow. Jesus died as an act of love. We were sinful rebels against the God who had created us. We had earned a sentence of death and were doomed to an eternity of hell because of that sin. Yet God, out of His great love for us, decided to do something in order to rescue us, rather than just abandon us to our just punishment. St. John writes in his first epistle, "In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 John 4:10) God the Father loved us and sent His Son to save us. God the Son loved us and obeyed His Father's command. Jesus willingly became the propitiation, that is, the sacrifice, for our sins when He died on the cross. Through this love, shown in action, we have forgiveness for our sins, peace with God now, and life everlasting with Him in heaven.

The second difficulty in arriving at a correct understanding of these days happens when our celebration of Valentine's Day focuses only on the trappings of love and not the meaning of true love. For many, Valentine's Day is simply a day to send cards to friends, acquaintances, and family members as a sign of some sort of emotional attachment. For some, there may be gifts of candy, flowers, jewelry and so on which are given as a sign of romantic love. However, even with the most expensive of gifts, what passes for love in our society today is nothing close to the love which God has for us. Today's version of love for many people is a pleasant feeling for another who can give us something in return. God's love for us is a commitment to another which is not based on what they can do for us and which is self-less and self-sacrificing even to the point of death. Lest you think this kind of love is reserved only for God to have, St. John goes on to say, "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." (1 John 4:11) By having the love of God poured into our hearts in our baptisms, through the preaching and teaching of the Gospel, and by the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in Holy Communion, we are able to exhibit a love which is both self-less and self-sacrificing in our relationship with our neighbor.

So, you see, these two special days, Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day, are more alike than different. Ash Wednesday signifies the beginning of a season emphasizing the most profound love of all. God the Father hands over His Beloved Son to death so that we, His rebellious creatures, who deserve death and hell, may have forgiveness and life. Valentine's Day is a day emphasizing the demonstration of love on which we, as Christians, can do more than send cards and candy, but love our neighbor with the love God has shown us, a love that is both selfless and sacrificial.

There is no need for confusion on February 14 this year. We commemorate Ash Wednesday. We celebrate Valentine's Day. Each is a "Day of Love".

In Christ,

Pastor 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 brought food, set up, and cleaned up for June Meier's memorial service.  
**Val Martin and Gloria Creek** for playing the organ during our worship services.  
**Pat Lewis** for preaching and leading Bible study while Pastor Schlund was in Fort Wayne.  
**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.  
**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

February at last! Winter can't last much longer. The robins and bluebirds will be back in six weeks! No thumb twiddling while we wait for them! Lenten services will begin mid-month preceded by friendly soup suppers. Put them on your calendar as a top priority!

Another friendly gathering you will enjoy is the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS. They will continue their study of the different types of PSALMS. Know that you are always invited to join them whenever you have opportunity. The class meets from 1-3pm on February 2nd, 9th, and 23rd at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave So.

Yet another congenial group is involved in the Assisted Living Ministry. Ladies and gentlemen will provide a devotion and will lead hymn singing at the following locations. On Tuesday, February 13th at 11 a.m. they will meet at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave So. They will gather for a no host lunch at 11:45 a.m. on Friday, February 16th at JB's Restaurant, 1322 10th Ave So. Afterward many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Av So. It's always a warm family atmosphere at these various gatherings. Treat yourself to these activities that strengthen the faith and fellowship of all involved!

## LWML

- ♥ **Thank you to everyone who donated items for the 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. She is very thankful for our help and continued support of her endeavor.
- ♥ **Ladies of LWML are hosting the Ash Wednesday Soup Supper on February 14 at 6:00 PM.** Plan now to come and join us!
- ♥ **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!
- ♥ **The Montana District Convention will be held at First Lutheran Church in Missoula from April 20 -22, 2018.** Registration cost is \$75 per person before April 1, and forms are in the latest *Missive* or in the church office. We will be carpooling, so if you want a ride or more information, please contact Val Martin or Ruth Denning.
- ♥ **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 nationally. Thanks for your continued support.



## Baptismal Anniversaries

February	4	Rebecca Gerard
	8	Jamie Franczyk
	9	Connie Juden
	29	Kim Bibler



## February Anniversaries

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



### 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
- Joseph Furr II** (Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia).
- Leonard Gidlow**
- Daniel Hanneman** (Becky's brother battling leukemia)
- Jane Hering**
- Connie Juden**
- Rev. Erich Kaelberer**
- Dorothy Neuman**
- Kathy Politz**
- Jean Radke**

The family of **June Meier** who died January 12, 2018.

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

## Deacons for February is

**Mitch Martin**

## Ushers for February

4	Jeff Blomgren
	Kevin Aguiar
11	Matt Schlund
	Eric Fletcher
18	Pat Lewis
	Tyler Denning
25	Arnie Gidlow
	Jeff Blomgren

## Lent Begins

Lent will begin with Ash Wednesday soup supper sponsored by LWML on **February 14** 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. The list of services is on the back of this page. Be watching for devotion 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!

## 2018 Picture Directory

Preserve Your Memories

Be a part of our upcoming photography event! Life Touch will be taking pictures of our members on

**April 3, 4, and 5, 2018!**

Be Yourself. Classic, casual, musical, sporty, fun – it's up to you!

Make it special. Bring meaningful items and special people too!

Share your story with family and friends.

Each family receives a complimentary 8 x 10 photograph and a free directory for participating! You will have the opportunity to purchase additional photographs for yourself, family and friends.

If you would like to help in anyway with this endeavor, please contact Ruth in the church office. We will need help scheduling people for pictures, calling people, and organizing the event.

# Lent 2018

## “Questions From The Passion”

Do you ever have questions about God? How does he work? Why does he do things the way he does? There were many questions that were asked during Jesus' Passion. These questions are often asked by us today. Their answers have meaning for our lives as well. During each of our special Wednesday evening Latin Service we will examine one of these questions. . Join us as we consider “Questions From The Passion.” There will be a soup supper each Wednesday evening at 6 PM with worship beginning at 7 PM. All the worship services will be interpreted for the deaf.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Text</b>
February 14 (Ash Wednesday)	“Lord, Where Are You Going?”	John 13:36
February 21	“Are You Still Sleeping and Resting?”	Matthew 26:45
February 28	“Are You The Christ, the Son of God?”	Mark 14:61b
March 7	“What Is It You Have Done?”	John 18:35
March 14	“Which Do You Want Me to Release to You?”	Matthew 27:17
March 21	“Aren't You The Christ?”	Luke 23:39
March 25 (Palm Sunday)	“Who Is This?”	Matthew 21:10-11
March 29 (Maundy Thursday)	“Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”	John 13:6
March 31 (Good Friday)	“My God, My God, Why Have You Forgotten Me?”	Mark 15:34
April 1 (Easter Sunday)	“Who Will Roll the Stone Away?”	Mark 16:3b