



Peace Lutheran Church

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Authentic Christianity

Many people today are searching for meaning and authenticity in their lives. This is especially true of those people labeled as millennials, people who came to young adulthood at the beginning of the 21st century. They want an experience that is "real" and "authentic." They have often rejected the concept of absolute truth and have not joined the church (or have fallen away from it). They speak of being "spiritual", but not "religious". R

This gives them the option and the right (they think) to pick and choose beliefs and practices from various faiths, churches, and philosophies which they can forge into their own spirituality. They see no need to attend or belong to a church. They view doctrine with suspicion and church practices (liturgy, Sacraments, etc.) as being unimportant or meaningless. Has this happened in your family with your children or grandchildren? Does this concern you?

Jesus said, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32) Jesus makes three claims which will challenge millennials (and others). First, Jesus claims that there is absolute truth which is found in His Word. Secondly, Jesus claims that truth can be known. Thirdly, Jesus claims that, by the truth He came to bring, people can be set free from all evil, including death.

How can we help young people (really, all people) to know the truth and be set free? In the old days, we could simply rattle off Bible passages and hope people would understand and believe. Without denigrating the Word of God or disputing its power, I would say we have to find a new way to communicate the truth of God's Word which rejects institutions like the church and denies the existence of truth. But how do we do that? How can we help people to find the authenticity they are searching for without changing or denying God's Word?

On February 17, our Sunday morning Adult Bible Class will begin studying a book called *Authentic Christianity*. The back cover of this book says:

Burned-out believers and spiritual secularists have given up any hope that an engaging and meaningful spirituality can be found in a single Christian denomination. So rather than attending worship at a local church, they attend to their spiritual needs elsewhere. While these disaffected believers have not rejected the existence of God, they have strongly rejected whatever it is they think the church today has to offer.

To counter this trend, churches across America are constantly updating their culture to accord with the culture outside the church. But is this the best framework for recovering authentic Christian spirituality?

Authentic Christianity offers another idea—that the Lutheran tradition embodies a framework of Christianity that uniquely addresses the postmodern condition. It does so not by being "emergent" or by making up a new approach to church or to the Christian life. Rather, it does so in an unexpected way: by being confessional, sacramental, and vocational.

So, join us on February 17 at 11 AM in the Fellowship Hall as we take up this crucial topic that will help us speak the gospel to those in the world outside the church as well as to encourage the faith of those within the church. The cost for the book is \$15. You can sign up and pay at the church office.

In Christ,

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 brought food, set up, and cleaned up for Paul Rubino's funeral service.
Val Martin and Gloria Creek for playing the organ during our worship services.
Pastor Bueltmann for filling in 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 with its wintry winds makes us dream of spring. God's plan of four seasons assures us that as the days get longer, we know the dormant winter wheat and all other sleeping plants will burst forth with invigorating growth. Like the farmers, we must be patient and carry on with the activities that need our attention, giving thanks for His divine plan of four seasons.

The FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS will resume their study of 1st PETER on February 8th and 22nd. Join them from 1-3 pm at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave So. Would you like to attend, but need a ride? Please call 788-0180.

Assisted Living Ministry with hymn singing and a devotion will meet at the following locations. On Tuesday, February 12th at 11 a.m. ladies and gentlemen will be at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave So. The monthly no host lunch will be held Friday, February 15th at 11:45 a.m. at JB's Restaurant, 1322 10th Ave So. Following the lunch many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Come and share in the joy of this ministry of God's word and song!

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 in which to take them home. She is very thankful for our help and continued support of her endeavor.
- ♥ **Our next meeting will be Saturday, February 16 at 10:30 a.m. to plan the Ash Wednesday soup supper.** All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged 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!
- ♥ **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
	4	Harrison Philippi
	8	Jamie Franczyk
	9	Connie Juden
	29	Kim Bibler

Deacons for February is

Pat Lewis

Ushers for February

3	Jared Dudden Tyler Denning
10	Kevin Aguiar Greg Franczyk
17	Dylon Bilskemper Arnie Gidlow
24	Mitch Martin Darrell Greenwood

Lent Begins in March

Lent will begin with Ash Wednesday soup supper sponsored by LWML on **March 6** 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 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!



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

Rev. Mark Grunst of Billings who has Lewy Body disease

Connie Juden

Rev. Erich Kaelberer - ALS

Wallace Martin, Mitch's brother under Hospice Care

Dorothy Neuman

The family of **Paul Rubino** who died January 19, 2019.

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

Deaf sponsor Rummage Sale

CLCD will have a rummage sale again in the spring. They will pick a date later. If you are donating any electronics or anything that has an owner's manual, please include the manual with the donated item. It is easier to sell an item with the manual. Proceeds will go toward the cost of camp.

Deaf Camp dates

The members of CLCD will host camp this year. The dates are **August 21 thru 25, 2019**. Plan now to come and join us for a wonderful time on Flathead Lake!

Wee Disciples Fund Raiser

Every third Tuesday of the month, you can help raise funds for Wee Disciples by eating at Fuddruckers! You must have the coupon that is the on table in the hallway. Present the coupon between 5 and 9 PM, and Fuddruckers will give 20% of your total ticket to Wee Disciples!