



Peace Lutheran Church

3340 Eleventh Avenue South,
Great Falls, Montana 59405

761-7343

The Rev. Steven Schlund, Pastor

Office: 761-7343

Home: 952-4567

www.peacelutherangreatfalls.org

Pastor Schlund: Peacepastor@bresnan.net

Peace's secretary: Peacesecretary@bresnan.net

February, 2015

Can You Make An Apology?

February 2015

We all know what an apology is, right? When you do something wrong and get caught, you have to make an apology which goes something like this, "I'm sorry for what I did. I apologize." While none of us like having to make an apology like that, we all know how to do it and likely have done it many times in our lives.

The Bible uses the word, apology, in a different way. The Greek word, *apologia*, means "a defense." The verbal form of that word means "to defend, to make a defense." The Bible calls us to "make a defense" of our faith. St. Peter writes in his first epistle, "But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect." (1 Peter 3:15)

Some would say that the Word of God and our faith in Christ need no defense. We should simply accept the Bible as the inerrant Word of God and proclaim Christ and Him crucified and that should be enough. Ultimately, that is true. Not only do we not have to defend God and His Word, we can't. People will come to faith only by the working of the Holy Spirit.

However, there are many roadblocks that get in the way of people even hearing the Word of God. You've heard the criticisms that have kept people from even considering Christ. "The Bible is unreliable." "Jesus never rose from the dead!" "Jesus never claimed to be God." How can you say Jesus is the only way to heaven?" "If there is a loving God, why is there evil in the world." I'm sure you've heard others.

What should we, as Christians, do? Shall we ignore these criticisms of our faith and pretend they don't exist? That wouldn't be helpful to anyone asking us about our faith. Shall we simply quote Bible passages as proof for our position? That may not be listened to by those inquiring about Christ.

St. Peter tells us to "make a defense" when anybody asks us for the reason for our hope. We can defend the Christian faith against untrue and unjust criticism. In other words, we can remove some of the roadblocks that impede the work of the Holy Spirit. Then people can hear the true Gospel without bias or prejudice.

Apologetics is the branch of theology which deals with the defense of the faith. It is not arguing people into the faith. Indeed, St. Peter tells us we should make our defense "with gentleness and respect." Rather, we are to make a loving and reasoned defense – an apology – for the criticisms which our faith receives. Are you able to make that kind of an apology?

Our church will be hosting an "Apologetics Workshop" on Saturday, February 14th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM (with registration beginning at 8:30 AM). We will be using the book, "Making the Case for Christianity" edited by Corey D. Maas and Adam S. Francisco. In this workshop, you will learn ways of answering people who doubt the existence of God, the reliability of the Gospels, the deity of Christ, the resurrection of Jesus, the exclusivity of the Christian faith, and others. There is no cost for this workshop and lunch is included free of charge.

Join us on February 14th as we heed St. Peter's words as we become "prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect."

In Christ,

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

T

H

A

N

K

S

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.

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

Frosty February starts our Lenten walk on Wednesday evenings, as we remember the suffering of our Lord. May we make attending these soul enriching Lenten worship services a priority!

Assisted Living Ministry with hymn singing and a devotion will gather at the following locations. Tuesday, February 10th at 11:00 a.m. ladies and gentlemen will meet at Bee Hive Home #1, 2819 15th Ave. So. On Friday, February 20th the group will meet for a no host lunch at 11:45 a.m. at Wheat Montana Bakery and Deli, 1116 9th St. So. Afterward many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave. So. Come and share our Lord's love with these residents on a wintry day!

LWML

- ♥ **Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 10 at 7:00 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.
- ♥ **We will be hosting the Ash Wednesday soup supper at Peace on February 18 at 6 p.m.** Becky and Linda will be making chili and Elsie will be making kale soup. Helen, Ruth and Laura will bring crackers and rolls/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 Lutheran World Relief Drive will be May 16, 2014.** More details will be available as the time gets closer.

Free Scrapbook Day at Peace

Free scrapbook day at Peace on Saturday, February 21st 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.



February Anniversaries

Feb. 4 Bernie and Phyllis Schaaf



Baptismal Anniversaries

February	4	Rebecca Gerard
	8	Jamie Franczyk
	9	Connie Juden
	20	Barbara Clark
	21	Judy Klein
	22	Elsie McDaniel



INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

John Birkholz

June Foard, June Meier's daughter

Jane Hering

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

“Life Quotes” from Lutherans for Life

“Be strong and courageous, the Lord goes before you every day. Be strong and courageous, the Lord went before you, even before you were you. His For Life



work through you becomes clearer every day. Hearts and minds are changed. Our life-affirming younger generation inspires us all. More pastors connect the Gospel to the life issues. More educators teach our children to value every life. We have

the most powerful and positive For Life message in the universe and nothing can stand against it! Be strong and courageous!” *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, executive director of Lutherans For Life – A “Life Quote” from Lutherans For Life •*

www.lutheransforlife.org

Apologetic Workshop of the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod

Peace Lutheran Church in Great Falls, MT will be hosting an apologetic workshop on February 14th from 9 AM till 3 PM. The source of the workshop will be a Concordia Publishing book titled “Making the Case for Christianity” and will be led by Pastor Gerald Paul of Trinity Lutheran Church and Pastor Steven Schlund of Peace Lutheran Church. Lunch will be served for attendees and there is no cost for this workshop. It is requested that participants register or indicate their attendance so the appropriate materials can be available and preparations for lunch

be adequate.

Apologetics is a defense of Christian doctrine and beliefs. Topics that may be covered include; the support for a divine Creator (the Holy Father of the Bible), the



deity of Jesus Christ, the accuracy and reliability of the Gospels, the authenticity of Jesus' death and resurrection, and Islamic viewpoints of Jesus among a few. Apologetics is an important skill all Christians should utilize as the people that God puts in contact with us question and attempt to refute the truth of God, Jesus, God's laws and the Good News. Apologetic exposes the weakness of other worldviews and creates a foundation so that Christianity can at least gain a hearing, which is all the Word of God needs to create faith (Romans 10:17).

To register or further information please contact Peace Lutheran at 761-7343, Pastor Schlund at peacepastor@bresnan.net, Pastor Paul at pastor@trinity-mt.org or Arnie Gidlow at mobows@mcn.net

Game Night set

You are invited to Game Night every 3rd Saturday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m. This month it is February 21. You are welcome to bring a snack to share and your favorite game to play! Come and join the fun!

Applying Biblical Teachings

“Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you” (1 Thess. 4:11).

Peace and harmony are the last things Satan wants in a Christian’s life. He constantly tries to stir up our sinful hearts to cause adversity and dissension. He appeals to our sinful human reason to entangle and unsettle us. Satan wants us to follow our own sinful human reason and hearts and not devote ourselves to our duty and calling. He wants us to become involved in much foolishness and to have disturbances surround us.

When we allow strife, contention and division of our own making to surround us, we endanger our faith and are a hindrance to the work of the church. We become meddlers, busy-bodies and roadblocks to the work of the Gospel. We may even show our dissatisfaction with our Lord and our church by withholding our first-fruits offerings.

In his first letter to the Thessalonians, the Apostle Paul told us to strive to live Christian lives of godliness and honesty. We mind our own affairs and work diligently at our calling and in fulfilling our duties. By the working of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel message, we study to be quiet toward others, to be of a calm and quiet temper, and to be of a peaceable disposition. We do not withhold from our Lord what rightfully belongs to Him and His work here at Peace Lutheran Church.

We must always remember that Christ’s suffering and death did not discharge us from our duties and calling in life. Rather, the Holy Spirit guides us to carry out God’s will with great diligence. And through His power, in Christ, our hearts and minds are quieted.

In Christ, we also live this Christian life of quiet diligence as God’s Word tell us to do: So that our daily life may win the respect of outsiders (1 Thess. 4:12) and that they may see our good deeds and praise our Father in heaven (Matt. 5:15).

Lenten schedule

Jesus spoke about the Kingdom of God through special stories called parables. Jesus brought the Kingdom of God to people by His work on the cross. The theme for our Lenten midweek services will be *Parables from the Cross*. Each week, we will connect the words spoken from the cross by our Savior and parables spoken earlier in His ministry. In the parables are hints of the last words and also elaborations and applications for the words from the Lord’s own “story sermons.” These services begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. Worship begins at 7:00 PM with a Soup Supper served before at 6:00 PM.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Word</u>	<u>Parable</u>
February 18 (Ash Wednesday)	Repent, Believe	Respond, Act
February 25	Father, forgive them....	The Lost Sheep
March 4	Today, you will be with me in Paradise	Workers in the Vineyard
March 11	Behold, your son; behold your mother	The Good Samaritan
March 18	I thirst	The Rich Man and Lazarus
March 25	Why have you forsaken me?	The Widow and the Judge
April 2 (Maundy Thursday)	It is finished	The Wedding Feast
April 3 (Good Friday)	Into Your hands, I commend my spirit	The Mustard Seed