



Peace Lutheran Church

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So, What's New?

"What's new?" That's what's on everyone's mind as we celebrate New Year's Eve and head into the New Year of 2017.

Many people in our society today like new things. In fact, for many people, anything new is automatically good while anything old is automatically bad. It's no wonder then that people approach the dawn of a new year with excitement and anticipation. It is a new time for new things.

However, one of the reasons that people are depressed on New Year's Eve is that, while they hope for new and exciting things in the coming new year, they have come to expect the same old and bad things to happen as in previous years. Even the inauguration of a new president (which excites some but frightens others) cannot change this.

To some extent, this pessimism is justified. Even though we begin a new time on the calendar, we continue with the same old condition in humanity, namely, sin. That means some things will never change. Because there is sin in the world, there will continue to be conflicts among people: animosity, fighting, terrorism, wars, and so on. Because there is sin in people, we will still sin against each other and hurt one another. Because the wages of sin still are death, our friends, our families, and even ourselves will continue to age, grow sick, and eventually die. There is nothing new about any of that.

Yet there is still hope and reason for optimism. There will be something new and exciting. Where do we find such hope and optimism? The optimism is not to be found in who we are or can become. The hope is not based on our ability to keep New Year's resolutions and improve the situation here. Our optimism is in God. Our hope is in what He has done and will continue to do.

The Old Testament book of Lamentations is a series of mournful songs ("laments") about the sorry state of the people of God. The prophet, Jeremiah, writes about the Lord's anger against their sin and his severe punishment for that sin by allowing Babylon to come and destroy Jerusalem. Yet the Lord offers optimism to His people and a reason to have hope. The Prophet writes, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning." (Lamentations 3:22-23) As much as the people had sinned and as angry as the Lord had been, His love never ceased and his mercy never came to an end. His mercies were new every morning.

The same is true for us. Even though we sin greatly and experience many evil consequences of our sins, the Lord's steadfast love for us never ceases. His mercy is new for us every morning. Even though we commit the same old sins and experience the same old guilt time and time again, we experience the Lord's mercy new every morning. Our Savior, Jesus Christ, whose birth we just celebrated, has shown God's love toward us by coming to this earth and has extended God's mercy to us by His miserable death on the cross and His glorious resurrection from the dead. We have God's love despite our sin and His mercy to forgive us for our sin.

So, what will be new in 2017? Despite the same old sin, the same old suffering, and the same old evil in the world in the coming year, we have the steadfast love of the Lord and the mercy of the Lord new every morning. Every morning, we receive new forgiveness for our sins, new optimism in our suffering, and new hope for the future as we press on toward glory in heaven.

And that's what's new!

In Christ,
Pastor Schlund

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Everyone who helped decorate the church for the Christmas season.
Everyone who went caroling.
Everyone who donated items for the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Native Americans.
Val Martin, Helen Lewis and Linda Aguiar for packaging and shipping all of the items that were collected.
Members of Christ for the Deaf, LWML, and the youth group for sponsoring the soup suppers during Advent.
The children for their Children's Service on December 18.
Val Martin and Jennifer Lewis for organizing and leading the Children's Service.
The adult choirs of Peace and Trinity and Trinity's bell choir for a lovely concert.
Val Martin and Judy Boyce for leading the adult choirs.
Val Martin, and Gloria Creek for playing the organ and piano during all of our worship services.
All those who volunteer to teach Sunday school and Bible class on Sundays.
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.
Everyone who counts the offering.
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

Happy 2017! Busy activities during the holidays have quieted down, giving everyone a little more time for ourselves. Perhaps you have time to join the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS this month. You will be most welcome! Bible study will be held January 6th, 13th, and 27th from 1-3pm at the home of Ann Nimmick, 2327 15th Ave So.

Assisted Living Ministry will also welcome your participation! Ladies and gentlemen will meet at the the following locations for hymn singing and a devotion. On Tuesday, January 10th at 11 a.m. they will go to Bee Hive Home #2, 2815 15th Ave So. Friday, January 20th at 11:45 a.m. the group will gather for a no host lunch at Boston Pizza, 1101 7th St So. After lunch many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Rejoice with these assisted living residents who have greeted many'a New Year! God's blessings as we all begin another year in God's grace!

LWML

- ♥ **Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Native American people.** Thank you, **Helen Lewis, Val Martin and Linda Aguiar**, for packing and shipping the boxes.
- ♥ **Thank you to everyone who helped in any way at the soup supper.** The funds raised went toward the purchase of winter items and socks for the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Native American people and the shipping of the items.
- ♥ **During the month of January**, 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.
- ♥ **Our next meeting will be Saturday, January 7 at 10 a.m. with a Bible study. Please note the day and time change!!** 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. All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to join us. 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.





January Anniversaries

Jan. 14 Garry and Ruth Denning

Baptismal Anniversaries

January 1 Jane Hering
 3 Mitch Martin
 4 Dan Martin
 4 Dennis Martin
 11 Gary Lux
 15 Bill Neuman
 15 Idell Croskrey
 16 James Onstad
 19 Shirley Smelser
 19 Deloris Brown
 26 Ken Meske
 26 Mikaela Grove
 28 Kaye Franczyk



Deacon for January is Kevin Aguiar

Ushers for January

1 Tyler Denning
 Matt Schlund
 8 Mitch Martin
 Eric Fletcher
 15 Jeff Blomgren
 Arnie Gidlow
 22 Pat Lewis
 Darrell Greenwood
 29 Greg Franczyk
 Arnie Wirth

Family Night resumes

Family Night will start up again on January 4th. We will have a sandwich bar themed potluck at 6:00 PM. Bible Study for all ages will follow at 6:30 PM. Join us for food, fun, and spiritual growth!



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**.

2017 Offering envelopes

Offering envelopes have been placed in your mailboxes for this year. Please let Arnie Wirth know if you want envelopes and haven't gotten them in the past, or if you received them but don't want them anymore.

JANUARY 1 - NOVEMBER 30, 2016		
CHURCH INCOME	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Regular Offerings	\$120,554.45	\$128,626.63
Other Income	\$ 5,273.20	\$ 165.00
Interest Income	\$ 622.03	
Total Income	\$126,449.68	\$128,791.63
Church Expenses		
Personnel/Benefits	\$ 75,404.72	\$75,840.27
Administrative	\$ 6,717.03	\$ 7,672.50
Buildings & Grounds	\$ 18,260.87	\$ 22,733.48
Missions	\$ 13,739.42	\$ 10,541.63
Christian Education	\$ 4,146.53	\$ 4,583.37
Total Expenses	\$ 118,268.57	\$121,371.25
Net Church Income	\$ 8,181.11	\$ 7,420.38

Applying Bible Principles

Have you ever asked yourself why you should give to God? After all, if God owns everything as the Scriptures claim, surely He doesn't need our help to pay His bills. Why, then, should the Christian faith place such a great emphasis on giving?

There are many reasons why we give, but one of the best motivators is that we should give as an act of worship, out of love and adoration for our blessed Lord who has given so much to us. Hearts that have been touched by God's love and by His sacrifice will naturally want to respond by giving. Such giving is an integral part of worship. In fact, it is worship, just as much as praying or singing or preaching. Or as one contemporary author expressed it, "Grace and gratitude belong together like heaven and earth. Grace evokes gratitude like the voice an echo. Gratitude follows grace as thunder follows lightning."

When we give in that spirit, out of gratitude for God's grace shown to us, our giving takes on a whole new dimension. Like Cornelius, one who "... gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly," our prayers and gifts will "come up as a memorial offering before God" (Acts 10:4). Thus, as we give to the Lord through our worship, we evidence the grace of God in our lives.

On the wall of President Lyndon Johnson's White House office hung a framed letter written by General Sam Houston to Johnson's great-grandfather Baines more than a hundred years earlier. Sam Houston's signature makes the letter valuable, but the story behind it is much more significant. Baines had led Sam Houston to Christ, and Houston was a changed man.

The day came for Sam Houston to be baptized — an incredible event in the eyes of those who knew his previous life-style. After his baptism, Houston stated that he would like to pay half the salary for the minister. When someone asked why, his simple response was, "My pocketbook was baptized, too."

Like other followers of Christ throughout the centuries, Sam Houston demonstrated the reality of God's grace in his life by reciprocating that grace in the form of financial giving. Sam Houston worshipped God through his giving, and his gifts gave fresh evidence of the grace of God at work in his life.

As you give to the Peace Lutheran Church ministry, will you do so out of love and devotion as part of your worshipful praise? Will you thereby allow your prayers and gifts — like those of Cornelius — to "come up as a memorial offering before God"?

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.