



## 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](http://www.peacelutherangreatfalls.org)

Pastor Schlund: [Peacepastor@bresnan.net](mailto:Peacepastor@bresnan.net)

Peace's secretary: [Peacesecretary@bresnan.net](mailto:Peacesecretary@bresnan.net)

January, 2018

### Merry Christmas! January 2018

If you noticed the title of this article, you might have thought your pastor was a bit off his game. Why wish, "Merry Christmas!" in the first week of January when we all know Christmas is in December? Christmas is over with.

Some of you who are theologically astute may think you have it figured out. You may be thinking, "Pastor is trying to fool us. The Eastern Orthodox Church celebrates Christmas on January 6 and pastor is trying to teach us about that by wishing us a Merry Christmas in January."

While it is true that the official date for Christmas is December 25 and also true that the Eastern Orthodox Church celebrates the Nativity of Our Lord on January 6, neither of these things explains the title for this article. The article is so titled and the wishing of the Merry Christmas is encouraged because, as of the writing of this article (January 2), it is still Christmas!

We in the Western Church think of Christmas as a single day. However, in the Early Church, the important celebrations about Jesus were celebrated as "seasons", rather than simply a single "day". The reason for this is that there is too much to be celebrated and one day simply can't hold it all. If there *is* a modern-day season of Christmas, it is one started by the merchants somewhere around Halloween and continuing for the next two months. However, their intent is not to proclaim the Savior's birth but to get people to spend their money.

The reason for celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ is not simply to commemorate an historical event. Nor is it to join in with the secular world's celebration of the winter holiday with family gatherings, festive foods, and the accumulation of material gifts. The reason for celebrating is the joy which Christmas brings. The celebration of Christmas is summed up in the words of the angel proclaimed to the shepherds on that first Christmas night: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)

The joy that comes from Christmas cannot be contained by a single day. Therefore, the Church has set aside twelve days to celebrate the birth of our Lord. (Yes, those days immortalized in the Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas.") These 12 days run from Christmas Day to January 5 (the day before Epiphany on January 6). During this time, we not only celebrate Jesus coming to earth as a child, but, more importantly, what Jesus did as an adult. He came to take our place. He did all that was required of us by God and His righteousness was credited to our accounts. He came to offer His life upon the cross as the punishment for our sin so that we would not have to suffer. He came to give us everlasting life by rising from the grave to life again Himself.

Even though the world is sick of Christmas by December 25, we, in the Christian Church, are just beginning our celebration. We celebrate Christ's incarnation. We celebrate God's love and forgiveness. We celebrate new life now and the hope and promise of life eternal after death. How can we fit that all into just one day? So, at least until January 5, Merry Christmas! Wish it to your friends, family, and loved ones. See if it doesn't shake things up a bit and help you and your loved ones to celebrate Christmas for the right reason AND for the right time span.

In Christ, Our New Born King and Ever Living Savior,  
Pastor Schlund

**T  
H  
A  
N  
K  
S  
  
TO**

**Everyone** who helped decorate the church for the Christmas season.  
**Everyone** who went caroling.  
**LWML ladies, the Board of Trustees, and the Board of Elders** for sponsoring the soup suppers during Advent.  
**The adult choirs** of Peace and Trinity and Trinity's bell choir for a lovely concert.  
**Val Martin, Elizabeth Allen, 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.  
**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.  
**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

Here we are at the first of another new year in God's grace. January is always a time when we reflect on blessings and activities of the past year and make virtuous plans for the new one. May your 2018 plans be achievable!

The FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS has just the activity for those who want to pamper themselves with the blessing of God's Word and the companionship of friends. Join them as they continue their study of the PSALMS on January 5th, 12th, and 26th from 1-3pm at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Av So.

Starting the new year off with a song, join the ladies and gentlemen who are a part of ASSISTED LIVING MINISTRY. They will meet for a devotion and hymn singing on Tuesday, January 9th at 11:00 a.m. at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Av So. On Friday, January 19th at 11:45 a.m. they will meet for a no host lunch at Four Bs Restaurant, 4610 10th Av So. Afterward many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Av So. Remember, you don't have to "sing" to be a part of this group. Just bring your smile!

## LWML



♥ **Thank you to everyone who helped in any way at the soup supper.** The funds raised will go toward the purchase of kitchen items. We are hoping to buy some new coffee cups.

♥ **During the month of January,** we will have a Baby Shower for Denise 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 Denise Combs.

♥ **Our next meeting will be Saturday, January 13 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 Denise 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 Idell Croskrey  
 16 James Onstad  
 19 Shirley Smelser  
 19 Deloris Brown  
 26 Ken Meske  
 28 Kaye Franczyk



### Deacons for January are:

January 7 – Mitch Martin  
 January 14 – Arnie Gidlow  
 January 21 – Mitch Martin

### Ushers for January

7 Pat Lewis  
 Greg Franczyk  
 14 Tyler Denning  
 Arnie Gidlow  
 21 Eric Fletcher  
 Mitch Martin  
 28 Al Beute  
 Lyle Onstad

## Family Night resumes

Family Night will start up again on January 10<sup>th</sup>. We will have a Chinese 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  
**Michael Drummond** – Lupus  
**Joseph Furr II** (Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia).  
**Leonard Gidlow**  
**Dan Hanneman** (Becky's brother battling leukemia)  
**Jane Hering**  
**Connie Juden**  
**Rev. Erich Kaelberer**  
**June Meier**  
**Dorothy Neuman**  
**Kathy Politz**  
**Jean Radke**

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

## 2018 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, TO DECEMBER 31, 2017		
CHURCH INCOME	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Regular Offerings	\$ 135,082.44	\$ 137,000.00
Interest Income	\$ 1,213.43	\$ 1,000.00
Total Income	\$ 136,295.87	\$ 138,000.00
Church Expenses		
Personnel/Benefits	\$ 86,607.28	\$ 87,078.60
Administrative	\$ 7,312.92	\$ 8,210.00
Buildings & Grounds	\$ 23,301.97	\$ 23,800.00
Missions	\$ 11,316.06	\$ 11,500.00
Christian Education	\$ 5,086.13	\$ 5,650.00
Total Expenses	\$133,624.36	\$ 136,238.60
Net Church Income	\$ 2,671.51	\$ 1,761.40

## Meet new members John and Madeline Chalenor

John grew up in the Church of Christ and Madeline in the Episcopal Church. They relocated to Madeline's family home state, Montana, last January, 2017 from El Paso, TX. For the past year they visited many Great Falls churches. They came to Peace Lutheran after doing an on-line survey to find a church denomination that lined up with their core Christian values. John's background is in agricultural sales. He is an avid outdoorsman and looks forward to fishing and hunting, something that El Paso didn't afford. He started cooking more than 30 years ago and finds his creative outlet in many of his healthy and delicious meals. Madeline was in the Army for 30 years. She is a nurse anesthetist in town and teaches part-time for the University of Providence. She loves to ski and ride her horse, Fame. John and Madeline have five grown children all over Texas between the two of them.

## 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.

## Adult Inquirers' Class Begins

A special offering of an Adult Inquirers' Class will run through the winter months and begin on **Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>** and will run for approximately 12 Sunday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 PM. The course covers the basic teachings of Christianity through the use of the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism. Welcome to attend are people who want to know what the Lutheran church and our congregation believes, teaches, and confesses; people who desire to become members of Peace Lutheran Church; and people who want to review what they learned in confirmation class. There is no obligation to become a member after completing the class. If you would like more information or know of someone who might be interested in this course, talk to Pastor Schlund.

---

*Happy New Year*  *Happy New Year*  *Happy New Year* 

---