



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

January, 2020

A Really New Year!

Last year, in my column in the January 2019 newsletter entitled, "A *New Year?*," I wondered why we got all excited about a so-called "new" year. What is "new" about a New Year? Having lived through this past year, was there anything really new at all? Or was it the same old thing? Looking ahead to 2020, do we really think that the next 365 days will be much different than the past 365 days? Will the New Year really be new or will it be more of the same old stuff?

Obviously, many things will remain the same and not change. Sin will still be in this world in 2020. As a result, there will still be natural disasters, violence, and evil just like before. There will still be sins committed by us and there will still be sins committed against us. Since there will be sin and the wages of sin is death, there will be death in 2020. There are likely friends, family, and acquaintances whom you know and love who will die in 2020 and will not be with you next year at this time. You may die.

However, not everything will remain the same. The year 2020 will be a really new year in the lives of some people. For example, although death is something that is old and will not change, experiencing death in your life in particular would be really new for you. The coming year will be a really new year for myself and my family. If the Lord wills, by this time next year, I will no longer be your pastor and my family and myself will no longer live here in Montana. You also may change jobs, change houses, or change places of residence. 2020 may be a really new year for you in other ways.

Our reluctance to embrace new things and to fear change is illustrated by the following joke. Question: How many Lutherans does it take to change a lightbulb? Answer: Change? What change? Many people (not just Lutherans) do not like change. Something new is unfamiliar to us and that feels uncomfortable. New things may not be as good as the old things. We just can't be sure.

The Word of God tells us of something very important which is new and which is good. The prophet Jeremiah writes in the book of Lamentations these words, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23) The first part of this passage indicates something old and which never changes, namely, God's love and mercy toward us. Objectively speaking, God's love for you will never stop. God's mercy to you will never come to an end. That is good.

How, then, can we say that God's attitude (love) and kindly action toward us (mercy) is new? It is not new in terms of how God gives us these things, but it is new in the way that we receive these things. Every day, His mercy is extended to us, fresh and new. We experience his care for us, fresh and new every day. We receive forgiveness for all of our sins from Him, fresh and new every day. We are renewed in our hope of eternal life from Him, fresh and new every day. We don't receive yesterday's care, stale love, or used forgiveness. Every day, we receive God's new mercies.

We neither have to become bored with that which remains the same nor fear that which is new. God's unchanging love and His continual forgiveness are good things. New circumstances in our lives do not threaten us or make us afraid. We rely upon God's consistent love and mercy and know they will never change. We rejoice that we receive His love and mercy new every morning.

We are also new people for these new circumstances. By living in our Baptisms with repentance and faith, we are new people every single day of the year. We begin with a fresh slate every day. Each of us is a new person in righteousness and purity every day. Each day is a new experience of God's love and mercy. In that way, 2020 will be a really new year and it will be a really good year, rooted in God's love and reliant upon His mercy. And so, we say, "Happy New Year" and really mean it because we know it is really true.

Wishing you a happy and blessed New Year in Christ,

Pastor Schlund

J
H
A
N
K
S

TO

Everyone who helped decorate the church for the Christmas season.

LWML ladies, the youth, and Arnie Gidlow and Donna McPartlin for sponsoring the soup suppers during Advent.

Everyone who donated items for the Angel Center at St. Vincent de Paul.

Val Martin and Toni Nivens for leading the adult choir.

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.

Thank you to all the people who attended our Open House, as well as those who remembered our family with cards and gifts at Christmas time. We appreciate your love, kindness, and generosity. We are so happy and blessed to be living and serving among you.

In Christ, our Newborn King,
Pastor & Becky Schlund and family.

Ladies Bible study schedule

New year, new decade! 2020! That used to sound so futuristic, but now here it is! What a comfort to know that the Lord is with us each new year that comes our way. With God's guidance we can meet new challenges with confidence.

The FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS is beginning a new Bible study. They will examine the Book of Ephesians on January 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th. Ann Nimmick will host this study from 1-3 PM in her home at 2327 15th Ave So. Stop by her cozy home and enjoy the fellowship that surrounds this group. There's always a chair waiting for you!

Assisted Living Ministry will embrace the new decade with singing and a devotion at the following locations.

Ladies and gentlemen will go on Tuesday, January 14th at 11 AM to Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave So.

The monthly no host lunch will be held Friday, January 31st at 11:45 AM at JB's, 1322 10th Ave So. After lunch many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave. So. to enjoy sharing God's word with the residents. Many of these residents cannot go to church during wintry months to sing beloved hymns, so come and join the singing at their home. As God has promised, you will be enriched!

LWML

♥ **Thank you to everyone who helped in any way at the soup supper.**

♥ **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 11 at 10 a.m. with a Bible study.** 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	Gary Lindstrand
	3	Mitch Martin
	4	Dan Martin
	11	Gary Lux
	16	James Onstad
	19	Shirley Smelser
	19	Deloris Brown
	26	Ken Meske
	28	Kaye Franczyk



Deacon for January is Pat Lewis

Ushers for January

5	Matt Schlund
	Kevin Aguiar
12	Greg Franczyk
	Arnie Gidlow
19	Mitch Martin
	Eric Fletcher
26	Lyle and James Onstad

Camp Dates

Camp Dates for our annual camp at Trinity Camp in Bigfork have been canceled as we will not have a pastor to organize and lead us at camp by the time summer comes. If anything changes, we will let you know.

Family Night resumes

Family Night resumes on Wednesday January 8th. The potluck dinner will be at 6:00 with the theme being Chinese food. At 6:30, preconfirmation classes for students in grades 3 through 6 will meet. The new Adult Bible Study will be *Christianity: The First Three Centuries* and will cover how the Christian faith began in a tiny backwoods country and eventually conquered the Roman Empire. We close with a short devotion at 7:30 PM. Join us for this time of fellowship and fun. If you have any questions, please talk with Pastor Schlund.



INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

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
Jane Nicolaus, cancer
Ed and Sarah Ostlund, in assisted living in Billings
Becky Schlund, MS
Steven Schlund, Parkinsons
Christine Wallace, former LWML Montana District president, final stages of cancer

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

2020 Offering envelopes

Only those who donate with cash will need offering envelopes. Those who donate with a check don't need envelopes. If you need envelopes, please let Arnie Wirth know.

