



Peace Lutheran Church

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July, 2013

Come, Join the Parade

July 2013

One of the great traditions associated with our Independence Day celebration is the good old-fashioned 4th of July parade. There seems to be great joy for those watching such a parade and even more joy for those marching in the parade as we celebrate our national day of independence. Who wouldn't want to be in a parade when there is such joy?

However, life doesn't seem to be much of a parade, does it? There is often much sadness, disappointment, and suffering. There seems to be too little joy too much of the time. We try to fix that problem by trying to create joy. We try to overcome sadness by acquiring and have more "stuff". Some clergy try to overcome disappointment by preaching a "gospel" which promises success to those who have faith. Politicians try to overcome suffering by creating new programs and spending more of our money.

Where is the joy? We do experience some happiness, but it doesn't seem to last. We find the old adage, "money can't buy happiness", to be true. People who attend churches which promise outward visible success often find even more disappointment. They not only do not receive the promised success, but they have to deal with guilt for not having enough faith. I probably don't even have to comment on the ability of governmental programs to relieve suffering.

There are two problems here. First, we don't understand or fully accept the reason for the lack of joy in our world. We think it is lack of stuff, lack of faith, or lack of programs. It's none of those. The problem is not the lack of anything. It is the presence of sin. While that sounds like a pat answer, it is true. When God finished creating the world, He pronounced it to be very good. It was full of joy. Sin brought sadness, suffering, and death.

Secondly, we don't understand or fully accept the source of true and lasting joy. Permanent joy is not to be found in anything connected to this world. The source of joy is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ gives us joy, not by always solving our earthly problems or giving us more stuff, but by overcoming the cause of all our sadness, pain, and suffering – sin. By His death on the cross, Jesus has forgiven our sin and overcome its power to cause us sadness. By His resurrection from the dead, Jesus has given us a life full of joy in the midst of pain and suffering.

So, let's have a parade to celebrate. There is good news: the parade has already started. Adam and Eve led the parade after the first promise of the coming of the Savior (Genesis 3:15). People from every nation and ethnic group have been added to the parade throughout the centuries. The parade has detoured from the designated route from time to time throughout the ages but God has always brought it back on course. There is joy as the parade heads toward its final destination which St. John describes in the Bible: "After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'" (Revelation 7:9-11)

You, I, and all who trust in Jesus Christ are in that parade now. Although we do experience suffering, pain, and sadness, we are still filled with joy. We experience a foretaste of that joy in the Divine Service at the table of our Lord to sustain us in our march. Soon, the parade will be over and we will experience nothing but joy for all eternity.

A favorite hymn of mine is "Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng" (LSB #813). Stanza 6 expresses well how we, as weary parade marchers, keep faithfully marching on as we look for the joy at the end of the parade route.

At last the march shall end;

The wearied ones shall rest;

The pilgrims find their home at last,

Jerusalem the blest.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks and sing!

Come, join the parade, and rejoice!

In Christ,

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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TO

Loretta Walker and Charlene Schotney for taking over the Historian position for Peace Lutheran Church.

Laura Brandt for being the Historian for Peace Lutheran Church for many years.

Everyone who donated to the Baby Bottle Campaign for Echoz Pregnancy Center. People at Echoz love giving tours and explaining everything if anyone is interested in taking a look at the building and the organization.

Val Martin for directing Vacation Bible School.

Everyone who donated items to be given to Helping Hands down at First English Lutheran Church.

Val Martin and Loretta Walker for organizing this project.

Everyone who helped, taught, sang or did crafts for Vacation Bible School.

Mitch Martin and Pat Lewis for preaching and leading worship while Pastor Schlund was on vacation.

All of the people who go to Benefis Skilled Nursing Center, Park Place Nursing Home, Bee Hive Home and Highgate House for hymn singing and devotions every month.

Gloria Creek and Val Martin for playing the organ during our worship services.

Even though we are currently not meeting our budget and are several thousand dollars in the red, Gloria Creek, our Financial Director, thanks everyone for their continued contributions, help, and support during these difficult financial times.

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.

Angelika Fisher for cleaning the church.

All of the ladies and gentlemen who stay after and clean the kitchen after Bible study.

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.

LWML

- ♥ **Our next meeting will be Tuesday, July 9 at 6:30 p.m. It will be a planning meeting.** All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to come and participate in the planning of the coming year's activities and servant event projects. Many new and exciting ideas will be talked about and planned!
- ♥ **On Saturday, July 20 (NOTE change of day!) we will meet again to make some pillowcase dresses to be sent to Africa.** We will meet from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. at Peace Lutheran Church. People with no sewing abilities or any and all sewing abilities are invited to join us as there is cutting, sewing and finishing to be done! Thank you to the ladies who came and participated in June!
- ♥ **The Fall LWML Retreat will be at Cane Ridge West in Lincoln on September 27 and 28. Cost is \$55 per person.** Plan now to attend! Registration forms are in the summer issue of *Montana Missive* or in the church office.

Youth Activities

We are having a Youth BBQ at **Greg and Kaye Franczyk's house, 510 Kinglet Court**, on July 11 from 6:30-9ish. Please bring a salad or side to share. There will be games and planning for this fall.

Please let Brook Gerard (750-1838) know if you are interested in going to Columbia Falls waterpark August 17. If you are going to Deaf Camp you can still join us as we plan on stopping by there on our way to and from. I need to know a headcount so we can plan for purchasing tickets. Cost information to follow when I get numbers for those attending.

Finances

Our giving in May, 2013 was \$8,606.85 and our expenses for May were \$10,721.24. **The amount that Peace's checking account is in the red at the end of May is \$16,717.56.** The **Lutheran Church Extension Fund** loan balance as of May 31, 2013 is **\$50,241.90.** Even though we are currently not meeting our budget for 2013 and our checking account is several thousand dollars in the red, **Gloria Creek, our Financial Director**, extends her thanks for your continued contributions, help and support during these difficult financial times. Thanks and praise be to God for His many blessings to Peace Lutheran Church!



July Anniversaries

July 2	Jerry and Jodi Geist
July 5	Pat and Helen Lewis
July 7	Karl and Angel Mueller
July 12	Bill and Ruth Lowden
July 14	Ken and Lyla Meske
July 16	Bruce and Barbara Clark
July 17	Gary and Cathy Schoenthal
July 18	Rick and Marge Johnsten
July 18	Richard and Darlene Brandt
July 19	Ben and Shirley Coe
July 23	Lyle and Tara Onstad
July 31	Steve & Becky Schlund

Baptismal Anniversaries

July	1	Andrew Onstad
	2	Shirley Coe
	3	Mason LaPlante
	4	Kurt Mueller
	5	Sharon Panasuk
	7	Richard Schotthey
	8	Nolan Croskrey
	8	Patty Harrison
	11	Helen Lewis
	11	Saville McDaniel
	16	Darlene Brandt
	16	Matthew Schlund
	19	Eric Fletcher
	19	Jan Neiffer
	20	Pat Lewis
	22	Ann Clutter
	23	Beate Neumann
	25	Faith Guderjahn
	28	Carol Dawson



Prayer Chain

INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

John Birkholz
Jane Hering
Kathy McIntosh
Vicky Neiffer
Beate Neumann

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

August Anniversaries

August 5	Michel and Nancy Wayman
August 6	Jim and Jeanette Talley
August 6	John and Karen Birkholz
August 7	Ken and Laura Brandt
August 9	Joseph II and Ruth Furr
August 13	Tom and Diann Stevens
August 15	Karl and Amy Dorr
August 16	Dan and Jessica Martin
August 17	Kevin and Linda Aguiar
August 17	Don and Deloris Brown
August 18	Kirk and Debbie Davey
August 29	Nathan and Bernie Hough
August 30	Scott and Ann Schuman
August 30	Carl and Carol Kangas
August 31	Scott and Aleshia Arensmeyer

Baptismal Anniversaries

August	1	Lori Symonsbergen
	1	Joe Marten
	3	Nathan Hough
	9	Diane Stevens
	10	Daniel Schaaf
	11	Kevin Jacobsen
	12	Ed Ostlund
	12	Bruce Clark
	13	Ron Steffens
	14	Susan Knoll
	16	Ken Brandt
	17	Zachary Greenwood
	19	Cameron Hough
	19	Tina Brown
	22	Cody Erickson
	24	Don Meierhoff
	25	Loretta Walker
	29	Charlene Schotthey
	29	Brook Gerard

State Fair and Farmers Market Out Reach

A committee to help with the evangelism outreach at the State Fair and the Farmers Market is being formed. If you are interested in serving in this fashion, please contact Arnie Gidlow at mobows@mcn.net or 406-468-9385.

Pastor Schlund Gone

Pastor Schlund will be gone from July 20 through July 25, 2013 for the National LCMS Convention. If you are in need of pastoral ministry during his absence, contact your elder or Pastor Gerald Paul at Trinity Lutheran Church 452-2121.

Ladies Bible study schedule

What a glorious summer here in Montana! Assisted Living Ministry continues with hymn singing and a devotion during these warm days of July and August at the following locations. Meet at Bee Hive Home #1, 2816 15th Ave So on Tuesdays, July 9th and August 13th at 11:00 am. On Friday, July 19th the group will meet for a no host lunch at 11:45 am at the "new" Five Loaves Too, 300 Smelter N. E. On Friday, August 23rd at 11:45 am the no host lunch will be held at Applebee's, 223 River Drive South. After each of these Friday lunches the group will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So.

Notice the lack of the word "ladies" in the above information. The Assisted Living Ministry was started by the Friday Ladies Bible Class, but some faithful men are a part of this ministry now. Lunches are an invitation to anyone who would like to come, and many men come for the fellowship and food. Always feel welcome to attend any of these activities that you can squeeze into your busy summer! The Lord blesses our time together!



Deaf Camp 2013

Members of Peace Lutheran are invited to join the members of Christ for the Deaf for Deaf Camp **August 15 through 18, 2013** at Trinity Lutheran Camp in Bigfork, Montana. The cost for the camp is \$50 per person or \$100 per family, if paid by August 4, 2013. Registration forms are in the church office. Plan now to come and join the fun!!

“Life Quotes” from Lutherans For Life

“Life has its question marks and scary moments that can cause us anxiety and make us feel insecure. However, we have a wonderful Shepherd who laid down His life for you, rose again, and lives to walk with you. He knows you and wants to hold you close in all circumstances. He promises that no one and nothing will snatch you from His nail-pierced, loving, strong hands.” *Rev. Steven Kramer, speaker on “The Christian Crusaders” radio program – A “Life Quote” from Lutherans For Life · www.lutheransforlife.org*

Help needed

There are many flower plots around the church building that are in need of weeding and tender loving care. Even if you don't have a green thumb, please feel free to come by whenever your schedule allows and spend some time clearing away debris and pulling a few weeds. We hear many compliments from our neighbors and the people walking in the area each year. Let's continue to beautify this neighborhood by taking care of our property and keeping it looking loved!!

Block Party at Peace

Join us for the 4th annual Peace Lutheran Church Block Party on July 14th at noon as we reach out to our neighborhood with the love of God in Jesus Christ. This is a time of fun and fellowship. The Board of Elders will supply hamburgers and hot dogs, buns and drinks. Bring “finger food” (chips, cookies, etc.), lawn chairs and games. We will be inviting the people in our neighborhood to join us so that we might get to know each other. It will be an afternoon of good food, fun and games for all ages. Don't miss it!

Moving Day

Pastor Schlund and family will be moving into their new home on Saturday, July 13th. The fun starts at 9:00 AM at the parsonage. The new house's address is 2504 6th St. NE. If you would like to help, come at any time and stay as long as you can. Hot dogs, hamburgers, and beverages will be provided. Bring a dish to share to initiate the new house with a “potluck”. If any would like to help out on Friday, talk to Pastor Schlund.

SHREDATHON

The Cascade County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is sponsoring an event to help you avoid identity theft. Clean out your old tax records and obsolete or outdated financial account statements containing personal information and bring them to the Shredathon. This service is available to all the members and friends of the Lutheran churches in Cascade County. (Household and church parish records only, please. No business records.) Watch your old records being shredded, and then enjoy some food and fellowship. We will have sandwiches and refreshments available for your enjoyment.

When: Wednesday, July 17, 2013
From 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Where: PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
3340 11th Avenue South

(Shredding in the parking lot, food & refreshments in fellowship hall)

This event is sponsored by the Cascade County Chapter of Thrivent Financial Board of Directors and Thrivent Financial Representatives Karl Dorr and Don Lee.

BASEBALL GAME

The 3rd Annual Cascade Chapter Thrivent Financial Baseball outing at Centene Stadium, is scheduled for **Sunday August 11, 2013 at 1:00 PM** when the Voyagers take on the Missoula Osprey.

The Great Falls Voyagers staff has reserved a suite for our group to enjoy a meal at 12:15 PM and then view the game starting at 1:00 PM. The meal this year will consist of pulled pork or Bratwurst sandwiches, potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw, cookies and a Pepsi. This package (food and game ticket) usually cost \$17 for adults and \$14 for children (age 3-12). The Cascade Chapter is making this event available to you for \$7 per adult and \$4 for children. **There will be 150 tickets available on a first come, first serve basis.** Tickets will be available starting July 30, 2013. For tickets or for more information contact Marie at Karl Dorr's office, 750 6th Street SW, 727-1151, Monday 10 AM to 2 PM, Wednesday through Friday 9 AM to 1 PM or call Ken Meske at 868-3579. Checks should be made out the Cascade Chapter of Thrivent. We look forward to a wonderful afternoon of fellowship and the enjoyment of a great baseball game...Play Ball!



Lutherans For Life Rummage Sale

The Cascade County LFL Rummage Sale is **July 19 and 20, 2013**. The money raised is going to support the **younger people who do the college campus ministries in September each year and the Life booth at the fair.** If anyone would like to donate or contribute they can call Helen Lewis at 750-5874.

Upholding Marriage: God's Plan and Gift

On Wednesday, June 26th, the Supreme Court issued its ruling, striking down the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and allowing for gay marriage in California by virtue of Proposition 8. Though the ruling is not a surprise, we are saddened for our nation, even as we call our fellow Christians to faithfulness and prayer.

As Christians, we believe and confess that God Himself instituted marriage as the life-long union of one man and one woman. Same-sex unions are contrary to God's will, and gay marriage is, in the eyes of God, no marriage at all. As Christians, we proclaim this truth, no matter what the courts or legislatures may say. We are called not to popularity but to truth. Therefore, we call on our fellow Christians to be faithful first to God's Word, knowing that another court is ultimately supreme.

Marriage is a fundamental building block of society, binding parents to their offspring. Every child benefits from the nurture of a mother and the leadership of a father. While having one mother is a blessing, having two mothers or two fathers is confusing for the child and detrimental to her well-being. The divorce culture has done great harm to the institution of marriage as well, and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has and will continue to respond to that heartache with Christ's comfort while simultaneously working to restore a culture where marriage is upheld.

While this occasion reminds us that Scripture calls homosexuality sinful (see Lev. 18:22; 20:13; Rom. 1:24–27), the Bible also says plainly that those who “hunger and thirst for righteousness,” that is to say, those who repent and show genuine sorrow over their sin, are forgiven and loved by Christ.

And so as Christ's Church, we forgive and love too, following His lead with compassion and humility. We forgive and love because we are all sinners in need of His grace and mercy; because no matter the sin, we have all rebelled against our Creator and fallen prey to unbelief; because He has justified us by grace through faith, freely given and joyfully received (Rom. 3:23–24); because Christ has reconciled us to the Father; because He has declared us righteous and we are.

In love, we will continue to teach marriage according to God's plan and gift. We will continue to proclaim marriage as a picture of Christ's love for His bride, the church. And we will continue to be a place of forgiveness, mercy and healing for all people, even as we will continue to proclaim God's truth in love. As we move forward, we offer up our prayers for the nation and particularly for marriage, family and children.

Rev. Bart Day, executive director
LCMS Office of National Mission



*For this reason, a man shall
leave his father and mother
and be united to his wife...*

Genesis 2:24