



## Peace Lutheran Church

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July-August, 2016

### The Purpose of Freedom

As I write this, Independence Day is just around the corner. Our nation will, once again, celebrate the freedom we enjoy as Americans. We all learned the story in school of *how* we obtained our freedom. Patriots in the 13 original American colonies rebelled against their British rulers, declared their independence on July 4, 1776, fought a long hard war, gained their independence and established a new nation – the United States of America.

But have you ever considered *why* the colonists obtained their freedom and for what purpose? Somehow, I just can't believe that our forefathers risked everything they had, spilled their blood, and gave up their lives just so we could have 4<sup>th</sup> of July furniture and clothing sales, get a day off work, disturb our neighbors with the loud sound of fireworks, and party until we are drunk.

Freedom has been trivialized. Freedom is not just the right to do whatever you want. It means so much more than that. I believe our forefathers fought so hard for freedom so that we might be able to live together and cooperate to make a great nation free from outside aggression.

Our life with God is much the same. We'd like to think, especially as Americans, that we are pretty free and independent in our spiritual lives. But this is not true. Like people in colonial America who were not politically free, we are not spiritually free. We are bound and oppressed. In fact, we are slaves. Who is our master? Jesus says, "Everyone who sins is a slave of sin." We are, by nature, sinful and that sinful nature shows forth in sinful actions: either doing the evil things which God forbids or failing to do the good things God commands. We cannot break free of sin and stop doing it. Sin controls us and holds our destiny – death and hell. We yearn to be free of the sin that condemns us and the consequences of sin that plague us.

Jesus has freed us from our sin by His death on the cross. His death paid the price for our offenses against the Law of God. We are freed from the punishment that sin earns for us. We are free from the control sin has over us. By His resurrection from the dead, Jesus has earned a life of perfect freedom that begins now, extends through physical death, and lasts an eternity.

That is the *what* of the freedom which Christ has won for us. What about the *why* of that freedom? For what purpose has Christ given us freedom? Many people believe that we, as Christians, are now free to do whatever we want to do, either because the Law of God no longer applies to us or because Jesus will love us and forgive us, no matter what we do.

Paul describes the freedom Christians have in the book of Galatians. He writes, "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." (Galatians 5:1) In other words, we are not freed from the condemnation of sin and the control of sin simply so we can return to the slavery of sin. That makes no sense.

Paul goes on to say, "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." (Galatians 5:13) Freedom is not "an opportunity for the flesh" (a reason to sin), but as a chance for loving and serving other people. Since we are no longer burdened with *having* to obey the Law so that we are good enough before God and we no longer fear the punishment that sin brings, we are free to love and serve God by loving and serving other people because we want to.

When our country celebrates Independence Day, remember the freedom that many died to obtain for you. Value that freedom and don't take it for granted. Don't use that freedom selfishly but in service to fellow citizens. In the same way, when our church celebrates our freedom in and through Christ, remember that He died to obtain it for you. Don't use that freedom as an excuse to sin or selfishly serve yourself. Use your freedom in Christ to love and serve others. THAT is the purpose of freedom.

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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**Alan Brown** for working so diligently in the flower beds pulling weeds and clearing them out.  
**Pat Lewis and Mitch Martin** for preaching and leading worship services and Bible studies while Pastor Schlund was on vacation.

**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 new building and the organization at 1323 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. So.

**Elizabeth Allen and Jennifer Lewis** for organization and 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 taking the items to Helping Hands.

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

**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.

**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 12 at 6:30 p.m. There will be a light potluck meal of salads for those who choose to come at 6 PM and bring a dish to share. This is our annual 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!
- ♥ **The Fall LWML Retreat will be at Camp Utmost, between Lincoln and Missoula, on September 16 and 17. Cost is \$55 per person.** Plan now to attend! Registration forms are in the current issue of *Montana Missive* or in the church office.
- ♥ **LWML Central Zone Fall Rally will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Great Falls on October 1.** They are collecting recycle items of empty ink jet and laser cartridges. They are also collecting these items with their cords and accessories: used cell phones, PDAs, MP3 Players/iPods, digital cameras, DVD video games/players, GPS systems, laptops, scientific/graphing calculators, tablets, e Readers and iPads. The proceeds go to help with the Host Committee expenses for the 2017 LWML National Convention in Albuquerque.

## 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!!

## State Fair Booth Outreach

Be watching for more details about the State Fair Outreach booth that we will have July 29 through August 6. If you are interested in working at the booth, please contact Arnie Gidlow at [mobows@mcn.net](mailto:mobows@mcn.net) or 406-468-9385.



## July Anniversaries

July 5	Pat and Helen Lewis
July 12	Bill and Ruth Lowden
July 14	Ken and Lyla Meske
July 15	Arnie and Betsy Wirth
July 16	Bruce and Barbara Clark
July 18	Rick and Marge Johnsten
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
	7	Richard Schottey
	8	Nolan Croskrey
	11	Helen Lewis
	16	Matthew Schlund
	19	Eric Fletcher
	19	Jan Neiffer
	20	Elizabeth Allen
	20	Pat Lewis
	23	Beate Neumann



### INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

**Tami Birkholz**, John's sister-in-law who is battling a rare skin tissue disorder

**Jane Hering**

**Connie Juden**

**Bill Lowden**, recovering from a stroke

**Bill and Dorothy Neuman**

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



## August Anniversaries

August 5	Michel and Nancy Wayman
August 7	Ken and Laura Brandt
August 16	Dan and Jessica Martin
August 16	Shannon and Tara Birkholz
August 17	Kevin and Linda Aguiar
August 17	Don and Deloris Brown
August 30	Carl and Carol Kangas

## Baptismal Anniversaries

August	4	Roberta Beute
	11	Kevin Jacobsen
	12	Ed Ostlund
	12	Bruce Clark
	14	Susan Knoll
	16	Ken Brandt
	17	Zachary Greenwood
	25	Loretta Walker
	29	Charlene Schottey
	29	Brook Gerard

## Finances

JANUARY 1 - MAY 31, 2016

CHURCH	YTD	YTD
INCOME	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Regular Offerings	\$56,248.95	\$58,466.65
Other Income	\$971.30	\$ 75.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$57,220.25</b>	<b>\$ 58,541.65</b>
<b>Church Expenses</b>		
Personnel/Benefits	\$34,680.35	\$34,472.85
Administrative	\$3,388.46	\$3,487.50
Buildings & Grounds	\$9,955.39	\$10,333.40
Missions	\$4,820.78	\$4,791.65
Christian Education	\$1,872.16	\$ 2,083.35
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$54,717.14</b>	<b>\$55,168.75</b>
<b>Net Church Income</b>	<b>\$2,503.11</b>	<b>\$3,372.90</b>

## Ushers for July

July 3-----Tyler Denning  
-----Arnie Gidlow  
July 10 -----Eric Fletcher  
-----Matt Schlund  
July 17 -----Darrell Greenwood  
-----Jeff Blomgren  
July 24 -----Pat Lewis  
-----Bruce Clark  
July 31 -----Lyle Onstad  
-----Ed Ostlund

## Ushers for August

August 7 -----Kevin Aguiar  
-----Greg Franczyk  
August 14-----Matt Schlund  
-----Tyler Denning  
August 21-----Darrell Greenwood  
-----Ed Ostlund  
August 28 -----Eric Fletcher  
-----Mitch Martin

## Ladies Bible study schedule

Are you enjoying this glorious Montana summer? The house guest season is in full swing, a chance to practice the Lord's gift of hospitality, as we witness to our out-of-state family and friends! Joyfully witnessing is also what ASSISTED LIVING MINISTRY is all about! Ladies, gentlemen, and house guests will enjoy witnessing to residents with hymn singing and a devotion, meeting at the following locations. Hmmm... Witness and witnessing in three sentences... Can you tell I attended the Witness Workshop classes this past spring?

In July join them on Tuesday, the 12th, at 11 a.m. at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave So. On Friday, July 22nd at 11:45 a.m. the group will gather for a no host lunch at Boston's Pizza, 1101 7th St. So. Following lunch they will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So.

The August date for Bee Hive Home #2 is Tuesday, the 9th, at 11 a.m. On Friday, August 19th at 11:45 a.m. the no host lunch will be held at the Bar S Supper Club, 5100 Star Blvd. Afterward many in the group will go to Highgate House. Always feel welcome to attend on or all of these gatherings, and bring your house guests!!

## Peace Camp 2016

It is Peace's members' turn to host camp this year! Dates have been set for **August 18 through 21, 2016** at Trinity Lutheran Camp in Bigfork, Montana. The price will be \$35 per adult (member/nonmember) and \$10 per child (member) \$25 (nonmember) under 18. Registration forms are in the church office. Plan now to come and join the fun!



## “Life Quotes” from Lutherans For Life

“The greatest comfort Christians have as they face death is the knowledge that Christ already has died and risen again. The second greatest comfort is like unto it: the knowledge that we, too, have been buried into Christ’s death through baptism so that we may rise again to newness of life with Him (Romans 6:4).” *Ryan C. MacPherson, Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life •*  
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## Applying Biblical Teachings July 2016

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God” (Col. 3:1).

By God’s grace, we have been given the benefit of Christ’s resurrection. Through Word and Sacrament, we have been justified sanctified and shall in this body be glorified. Therefore, we seek those things which are not of this world, but those things which are of heaven, where Jesus the Christ is seated at the right hand of God the Father.

We do not seek the things of this world, for just as we “have been raised with Christ,” we have died also. The Apostle Paul also writes in his letter to the Colossians, “For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God” (Col. 3:3). What does a dead person know of or care about his money, investments and possessions? The answer is, “Nothing.” How can a dead person use his money, investments and possessions? The answer is, “He cannot.” As Solomon explained in Ecclesiastes 2:21, “For a man may do his work with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then he must leave all he owns to someone who has not worked for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune.”

But the apostle’s writing goes further. A dead person cannot fulfill the requirements of the ceremonial law of any form of religion that requires the use of money, possessions, talents, etc. How many times can a dead person be required to attend church? How many Bible verses can a dead person be required to memorize? How much service may a dead person be required to do? How many tithes can a dead person give?

The answer to all of these questions is the same: None! When one sets requirements for any reason by applying human wisdom and understanding, then that person is perverting the Gospel message. That person has failed in understanding the Gospel, for he or she is operating, serving and giving in the realm of the dead. This is the warning the Apostle Paul was giving in his letter to the Colossians.

We are children of the first resurrection. By water and the Word, we have been raised with Christ to a new life, having our hearts set on things above. Though physically we may look the same, we are not. We have been raised to a spiritual life, which in this world is invisible, for it is hidden in Christ. This life already has power and victory over sin, physical death and the power of the devil. This life, with its heart set on things above, operates with the intangible things it has in Christ.

What does this mean? We are a Gospel-led people. We have been given the victory of Christ. We have put on Christ. We are imitators of Christ. In Christ, we are a competent people who need not be told by others what our decisions must be. We do God’s will, for in this victory of the resurrection, we have the freedom to do what God desires.

Thus, when it comes to worship, we say and do as David wrote, “I love the house where you live, O Lord, the place where your glory dwells” (Psalm 26:8). When it comes to the study of God’s Word, we say and do as Luther wrote in that we “hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.” When it comes to serving God and those around us, we say and do as the Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Hebrews and “do not forget to do good and to share with others” (Heb. 13:16). And when it comes to giving, we respond as the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income” (1 Cor. 16:2).