



Peace Lutheran Church

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July, 2012

If God Took A Vacation

July 2012

It's vacation time! People are off traveling to vacation hot spots, visiting relatives, and taking camping trips. A vacation means that we take a break from our duties and responsibilities. We get away from jobs, from meetings, and from our household responsibilities. Some see the summer vacation time as a time to get away from worship and even from God Himself.

Have you ever wondered what would happen if God took a vacation from His duties and responsibilities? Although we profess a belief in a personal God, I think many people live as functional deists. *Deism* is the philosophical system which believes in a god who created the universe but then left the universe to run on its own without ever intervening in it. Under such a system, not only could God take a vacation without it ever affecting us, He already has.

But the god of deism is not the God of the Bible. The God of the Bible is intimately involved in the care of His creation and His creatures. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says, "[Your Heavenly Father] causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." (Matthew 5:45) If God took a break from His responsibilities, there would be no sun rising and no rain falling since He causes these and all other events in nature. Because of that, there would be no food and, thus, no life. In short, we would be dead if God ever took a vacation.

That wouldn't be the end of it. Although it seems as if Satan is in charge of this world, he is not. God is constantly at work to restrain Satan's power and protect us from all evil. If God took a vacation, we would be defenseless against Satan. In his explanation of the 7th Petition of the Lord's Prayer in the Large Catechism, Martin Luther says, "Since the devil is not only a liar but also a murderer (John 8:44), he incessantly seeks our life....Therefore there is nothing for us to do on earth but to pray constantly against this arch-enemy. For if God did not support us, we would not be safe from him for a single hour." In short, we would be in hell if God ever took a vacation.

In Psalm 121, the psalmist expresses the confidence we have in a God who is our ever present Helper and Protector. Never is God unaware of or inattentive to our situation. In the midst of all of our needs, God never falls asleep at the switch. The psalmist writes, "[The Lord] will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep."

God is always there to care for us in our physical needs. The psalmist writes, "The LORD watches over you—the LORD is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night."

Through His Son, Jesus Christ, God has rescued us from our greatest danger – eternal damnation in hell – by means of the forgiveness of sins which Jesus obtained for us on the cross. Nothing on earth and not even Satan himself can harm us now or ever. God is always there to protect us. The psalmist writes, "The LORD will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."

No matter how many times we have taken a vacation from God, God never takes a vacation from us. No matter how often we have ignored God's gifts to us in His Word and Sacraments, God continues to offer forgiveness, life, and salvation through them every week in Divine Service. No matter how often we worried about our needs or feared for our safety, God is always there to care for us and protect us. Wherever you go on vacation this summer, rest assured in the God who never takes a vacation and the gifts which are always available to you!

In Christ,

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

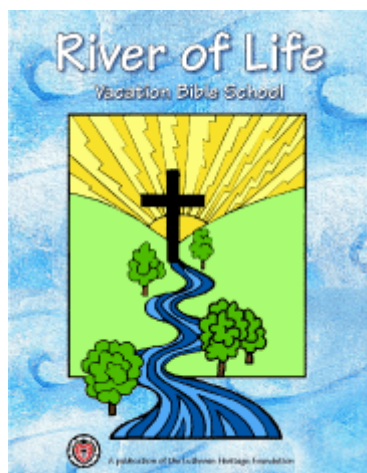
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Everyone who donated items for the rummage sale sponsored by the deaf.
Everyone who came and helped at the Shredathon sponsored by Cascade County Chapter of Thrivent.
Elsie Huss for driving the items to Billings for the Lutheran World Relief Drive in May.
Everyone who helped, cooked, floated or stayed with the kids during the youth retreat in May.
Everyone who helped clean the church on cleaning day in May.
All of the ladies who go to Benefis Skilled Nursing Center, Park Place Nursing Home, Bee Hive Home and Highgate House for hymn singing and devotions every month.
Everyone who helped during confirmation and the reception.
Gloria Creek and Val Martin for playing the organ during our worship services.
Val Martin for making the cake and mints for confirmation.
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.
Angelika Fisher for cleaning the church.
All of the ladies who stay after and clean the kitchen after Bible study.
Cheri Magnuson for cleaning the Communion linens.
Cindy Greenwood for decorating the bulletin boards.
 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 10 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!
- ♥ **The Fall LWML Retreat will be at Cane Ridge West in Lincoln on September 28 and 29.** Plan now to attend! Registration forms will be in the summer issue of *Montana Missive*.
- ♥ **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.



Vacation Bible School coming soon!!

Water, water everywhere. . .and through it are lessons about God's plan for salvation. *River of Life* is the theme for this year's Vacation Bible School. It features five favorite Bible stories about water. While learning about water and God's plan for salvation through water, *River of Life* takes the students around the world to witness how Christ the Living Water is being proclaimed to people in lands thirsty for the Gospel. Children will visit the Caribbean, the Baltics, Russia, Africa and Asia in only five days! Passports, postcards and "art"ifacts bring this worldwide travel experience to life. Vacation Bible School will meet July 9th to July 13th from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM. For registration information, contact the church office or register online at www.peacelutherangreatfalls.org

Finances

Our giving in May, 2012 was \$10,583.00 and our expenses for May were \$11,002.35. **The amount that Peace's checking account is in the red at the end of May is \$8,991.08.** The **Lutheran Church Extension Fund** loan balance as of May 31, 2012 is **\$74,772.71.**



July Anniversaries

| | |
|---------|----------------------------|
| July 2 | Jerry and Jodi Geist |
| July 5 | Pat and Helen Lewis |
| July 7 | Karl and Angel Mueller |
| July 8 | Derek and Abbey Wayman |
| July 12 | Bill and Ruth Lowden |
| July 14 | Ken and Lyla Meske |
| 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 22 | Jason and Ashlee Talley |
| July 23 | Lyle and Tara Onstad |
| July 31 | Steve & Becky Schlund |

Baptismal Anniversaries

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|------|----|------------------|
| July | 1 | Andrew Onstad |
| | 2 | Shirley Coe |
| | 3 | Mason LaPlante |
| | 4 | Kurt Mueller |
| | 5 | Jason Talley |
| | 5 | Sharon Panasuk |
| | 7 | Richard Schottey |
| | 8 | Nolan Croskrey |
| | 8 | Patty Harrison |
| | 10 | Ty Hasbrouck |
| | 11 | Helen Lewis |
| | 12 | Nathan Ziobro |
| | 16 | Darlene Brandt |
| | 16 | Matthew Schlund |
| | 17 | Donna Hasbrouck |
| | 19 | Eric Fletcher |
| | 19 | Jan Neiffer |
| | 20 | Pat Lewis |
| | 22 | Ann Clutter |
| | 23 | Beate Neumann |
| | 24 | Shirley Beecher |
| | 25 | Faith Guderjahn |
| | 25 | Whitney Chesnut |
| | 28 | Carol Dawson |



INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

John Birkholz
Don Brown
Margie Gettel
Jane Hering
Kathy McIntosh
Patsy Zvara

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

Confirmation of one

Eric William Fletcher confirmed his baptismal faith on June 17, 2012 at the 9:30 Worship Service. Eric was born on June 17, 1998 to Robert and Angela (Martin) Fletcher. He was baptized on July 19, 1998 and his sponsors are his aunt and uncle Cathi and Kevin Cline. We join Eric and his family in celebrating this "mile marker" in his life and pray for continued direction and guidance by the Holy Spirit as Jesus continues to be the author and perfecter of Eric's faith.

Sign language class to begin in the fall.

Pastor Schlund will be teaching an American Sign Language class beginning in the fall of 2012. If you are interested in learning sign language, please contact him.

Ladies Bible study schedule

Summer has arrived and with it the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS will recess from their in-home Bible study. However, the Assisted Living Ministry continues leading hymn singing and devotions during these warm months. Please take time when you have opportunity to join the ladies at the Bee Hive 2328 5th Ave So on **Tuesday, July 3rd** at 11 AM.

Highgate House located at 3000 11th Ave So will have the group on Friday, July 27th from 1:30 - 2:30 pm. Highgate activities are preceded by no host lunches. The group will meet at 11:45am on July 27th 2nd at Five Loaves at 4117 2nd Avenue North. These luncheons are becoming popular with spouses, out of town house guests, and children. Come along and join in the fellowship!

Trustee meeting in July

The newly elected and out-going trustees are requested to attend an informative meeting on **Monday, July 2 at 7 PM at the church.** It's important that a Head Trustee is elected. Many current and ongoing things need to be discussed so the newly elected trustees have an idea of what has been accomplished and what still needs to be done.

Schlund's vacation

Pastor Schlund and his family will be on vacation from July 16 through July 30, 2012. If you are in need of pastoral ministry during his absence, contact your elder or Pastor Gerald Paul at Trinity Lutheran Church 452-2121.

Fair Booth Orientation

The Montana State Fair signup sheet will be on the bulletin board. The dates for the State Fair are July 27th-August 4th. Members of Trinity Lutheran in Great Falls are taking the first three days, so we will be doing July 31st-August 4th. Signup times are 12-3 PM; 3-6PM and 6-9 PM. **There will be an important organizational meeting on July 19th at 7 PM at Peace for the State Fair.**

Congregational Retreat 2012

Members of Peace Lutheran are sponsoring, for the first time, a congregational retreat on August 9 through 12, 2012 at Trinity Lutheran Camp in Bigfork, Montana. The cost for the camp has been paid for by Thrivent Choice Dollars. The cost for food is \$45 per person or \$90 per family. Registration forms are in the church office. Payment and registration can be given to Pat Lewis by August 4. Plan now to come and join the fun!!



Members of Peace graduate from high school

There were 3 members of Peace who graduated from area high schools in May and June. They are Brenna Hasbrouck, who graduated from Fort Benton High School, A.J. Hirst, who graduated from Valier High School, and Emily Townsend, who graduated from Great Falls High School. Brenna's responses to our questionnaire are as follows:

1. What are your education plans for the future?
To attend MSU Bozeman for 4 to 5 years.
2. What are your career plans?
To major in elementary ed to teach 3rd grade at a B or C school and then minor in art to earn a few extra dollars.
3. What are your plans for continuing your walk with the Lord in the future?
To keep going to church in Bozeman and to find a church group on campus.

“Life Quotes” from Lutherans For Life

“When we call things like abortion or embryonic stem cell research or assisted suicide political issues and avoid talking about them in church, our silence speaks loudly. Our silence allows the destruction of human beings who belong to God. He paid a price for them and won a victory for them. Thus, our silence insults Him. We need to speak for them. We need to speak for Him.” *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, executive director of Lutherans For Life – A “Life Quote” from Lutherans For Life · www.lutheransforlife.org*