



## Peace Lutheran Church

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July – August, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Happy Independence Day! For many people, this is simply a midsummer holiday characterized by cookouts, camping, parades, and firework displays. But what do you think it meant for the Founding Fathers who declared their independence from England on July 4, 1776? Do you think any of the colonists thought that the Declaration of Independence meant that they now didn't have to pay taxes or obey the law of the land? Do you think they thought they could do whatever they wanted to do now simply because they were "independent"? I doubt it.

The document that declared independence and the war fought to gain independence meant that the citizens of this fledgling country were free from the control, laws, and punishment of England. But the effect of independence didn't stop there. It didn't mean they were free to do nothing and sponge off the government, nor did it mean they were free to break the law. Now they were free to live as responsible citizens of a new country without the interference or condemnation of another nation.

Sometimes we misunderstand spiritual freedom within the Christian Church. The Bible describes all people as slaves with sin as our master. Jesus said, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin." (John 8:34). Sin controls our behavior because of our sinful nature. Sin brings us God's anger and condemnation to hell. As slaves under a cruel master, we are unable to break free.

But Christ has set us free from slavery to sin. His death frees us from the guilt of sin and God's wrath against sin. His resurrection frees us from the consequence of sin – death and damnation. We are truly free.

Many Christians think that this means we are free now to do whatever we want. We don't have to do any good works because we are saved by grace and, besides, Jesus has already fulfilled the Law of God for us. Some will even say that we are free to sin since God loves us and forgives us all our sins for Jesus' sake. To have this attitude puts our souls and our salvation in great peril. Paul warned the Galatians, "The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God." (Gal. 5:19-21)

Nothing could be further from the truth! God still wants us to obey His Law. God still expects us to do good works. Our freedom in Christ doesn't change that. Our freedom simply means that we are free to do what God created us to do without fear of God's wrath and punishment which have been taken by Christ. We are free to serve our neighbor in love. As Paul says to the Galatians, "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love." (Gal. 5:13-14)

Will we still fail and sin? Yes, we will. But we do not despair, nor do we give up on doing good things. Instead, we continually cling to the Word of God: in Holy Baptism where we are reassured that we are still God's children; in Holy Absolution where we receive forgiveness for all our failures; in Holy Communion to be strengthened in our relationship with Jesus Christ through His body and blood. Then, we leave with joy to do good deeds in our vocation that serve our neighbor which God will provide for us to do (Eph. 2:10).

So, on this Independence Day, thank God for your freedom by living as a good citizen of this country. Thank God also for your freedom in Christ by living to serve your neighbor without the force of the Law or the threat of sin's punishment. "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free!" (Gal. 5:1)

In Christ's Freedom,

Pastor Schlund

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All of the ladies who go to Benefis Skilled Nursing Center, Park Place Nursing Home, Bee Hive Home #3 and Highgate House for hymn singing and devotions every month.

Everyone who came and helped take down the dividers in the fellowship hall.

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

Everyone who came and helped Lee and Evelyn Henselin move their belongings to higher ground on June 8.

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.

Jerry and Jody Geist and Angelika Fisher for cleaning the church.

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

Alice Schuman and 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 12 at 6:30 p.m. It will be a planning meeting. We are still in need of ladies who would be willing to serve as president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer of our society here at Peace Lutheran. If you are interested in serving the Lord and the members of Peace's LWML society in this fashion, please contact Becky Schlund or Helen Lewis. 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!
- ♥ We are collecting items to send to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Cullman, Alabama. They were hit by a tornado on April 27 and are in need of school supplies and Wal-mart gift cards in any increments. We will be collecting these items during the month of July and part of August. We will ship the items to them on about August 15 so they can have them before school starts again. For safe keeping, Wal-mart gift cards can be placed in the offering plate. Please bring items purchased and leave them in the box provided on the table in the hallway. Thank you for your continued support of LWML and the needy souls of this sister congregation.
- ♥ The Fall LWML Retreat will be at Cane Ridge West in Lincoln on September 23 and 24. 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.

## Finances

The year to date budgeted amount through May 31, 2011 is \$667480.26. What was given through May 31, 2011 is \$59,616.20. We are short \$6,864.06. Our Mission Commitment to the District is 4 months behind in the amount of \$4,200.00. The amount in Lutheran Church Extension Fund as of May 31, 2011 is \$31,239.81. LCEF loan balance as of May 31, 2011 is \$93,026.03.

## 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 Tuesdays at 11am. They will meet at the Bee Hive July 12th, and August 9th.

Highgate House located at 3000 11th Ave So will have the group on Fridays from 1:30 - 2:30 pm. Highgate activities are preceded by no host lunches. The group will meet at 11:45am on July 22nd at Rikki's Pizza & Pasta at 1220 9th St So; and on August 26th at Amy's Morning Perk at 910 9th St NW. These luncheons are becoming popular with spouses, out of town house guests, and children. Come along and join in the fellowship!



## 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 Aaron and Megan (Grove) Brien
- August 13 Tom and Diann Stevens
- August 15 Karl and Amy Dorr
- August 17 Kevin and Linda Aguiar
- August 17 Don and Deloris Brown
- August 18 Kirk and Debbie Davey
- August 18 Kevin and Jennifer VanVleet
- August 30 Scott and Ann Schuman
- August 31 Scott and Aleshia Arensmeyer

## Baptismal Anniversaries

- |        |    |                   |
|--------|----|-------------------|
| August | 1  | Joe Marten        |
|        | 9  | Diane Stevens     |
|        | 10 | Daniel Schaaf     |
|        | 11 | Kevin Jacobsen    |
|        | 12 | Brayden Jensen    |
|        | 12 | Janet Kempf       |
|        | 12 | Ed Ostlund        |
|        | 13 | Ron Steffens      |
|        | 14 | Susan Knoll       |
|        | 16 | Ken Brandt        |
|        | 17 | Zachary Greenwood |
|        | 19 | Tina Brown        |
|        | 22 | Cody Erickson     |
|        | 24 | Don Meierhoff     |
|        | 24 | Brett Meierhoff   |
|        | 25 | Loretta Walker    |
|        | 28 | Jason Scanlon     |
|        | 29 | Charlene Schottey |
|        | 29 | Brook Gerard      |



INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:  
The following people are experiencing health problems:

- John Birkholz
- Jo Flom
- Patsy Zvara

Our members who are away serving in the military are Michael Lewis and Jacob Meierhoff.



## 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 16 Dennis and Gloria Creek
- 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

- |      |    |                  |
|------|----|------------------|
| 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     |

## Dr. Paul Maier Seminar in Laurel

The LCMS congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church in Laurel invite you to a seminar entitled "Christianity and the Competition" with guest speaker Dr. Paul L. Maier on Saturday, August 27 from 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. The cost is \$20 if you register by July 31 and includes refreshments during coffee breaks and your noon lunch. Registration forms are in the church office.

## VBS planned

Vacation Bible School dates are July 18 through 22, 2011. The theme is “From Raindrops to Rainbows” and will have classes for ages 3 years old (with a parent) up to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We are still in need of helpers and teachers. Please contact Donnalene McPartlin at 452-1602 if you can help in anyway.

## Block Party

Join us for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Peace Lutheran Church Block Party on Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup> 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 church will supply hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks. Bring a dish to share, 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.

## “Life Quotes” from Lutherans For Life

“Jesus cares for life at all stages; we are called to do the same.” *Rev. Kevin Kritzer, Bethany Lutheran Church, Long Beach, California* – A “Life Quote” from Lutherans For Life – [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

“In our sinful world, conception has become only a biological process that we think we can control. We think adding children to a family is up to us—or is the result of an accident. If we are to be truly pro-life, we must witness to the fact that every conception is a gift from God.” *Karen Frohwein, president of LFL of Iowa* – A “Life Quote” from Lutherans For Life – [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

## Fair Booth Orientation

The State Fair will soon be upon us (July 29<sup>th</sup> to August 6<sup>th</sup>). Once again, Peace Lutheran Church will be sponsoring a booth to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and represent the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations in Montana. The theme for our booth this year is “Running On Empty”. We will be having a Fair Booth Orientation on Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. Topics to be discussed are: the location of the booth, the contents of the booth, and how to talk to fair goers about Christ. All people (including those from Trinity) who will be working at the booth are welcome to attend. Supper will be served. It should be a fun time as we get ready for this great Gospel outreach into the community. If you have any questions, talk to Pastor Schlund or Arnie Gidlow.

## Deaf Camp 2011

Members of Peace Lutheran are cordially invited to attend Lutheran Deaf Camp 2011 on August 11 through 14, 2011 at Trinity Lutheran Camp in Bigfork, Montana. The cost for all 4 days is \$75 per person. This includes meals and lodging. More information and registration forms are in the church office. Payment and registration must be sent in by August 4.

