



Peace Lutheran Church

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Camping and the 3rd Commandment

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We have begun the unofficial season in the calendar year called “camping season.” Many of you will be enjoying the beauty of God’s creation in the next few months by loading up your truck, camper, or RV and heading out.

There is one potential problem though. Most people work Monday through Friday. Therefore, camping usually happens on the weekends. Since many campgrounds are located some distance from a church, many people will miss out on worship when they go camping. How are Christians to reconcile this common practice with the 3rd Commandment which says, “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy”?

Such a question will usually provoke one of two responses from Christians. Some people will feel guilty for missing church while on vacation. I suspect that many people will think that missing worship is no big deal or actually view camping as a welcomed relief from worship. What is right in this situation?

First, we must remember that, while the Israelites to whom this commandment was originally given were obligated to worship on a particular day - the Sabbath day (Saturday), we are not (Colossians 2:16-17). Sunday is not the “Christian Sabbath Day”. It is the day which the Church has freely chosen to have Divine Service in honor of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead on Easter Sunday. Christians are free in the Gospel to worship on any day of the week.

Secondly, we must remember that the 3rd Commandment is not primarily about a day. It is about what occurs on that day. Luther’s explanation clearly explains the main point of the commandment: “We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.” We disobey God’s command, not when we are not in a certain building on a certain day, but when we despise preaching and His Word. When we don’t want to hear the Word of God or avoid doing so, then we are sinning. That’s something that can happen whether we are camping or staying home.

We obey this commandment when we hold preaching and the Word of God to be sacred. In other words, we do right when we value the Word of God and its exposition as the most important thing in our lives so that we gladly hear and learn it. As St. Paul wrote in the book of Colossians, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” (Colossians 3:16) Worshiping and hearing the word of God is something which Christians highly value and joyfully do. They are not things which are less important than other activities or which we do only when we must.

So, what can Christians do while camping or traveling on vacation so that they can hear the Word of God? Since we are not bound to attend Divine Service on a certain day of the week, some churches (including Trinity, our sister congregation in Great Falls) have services during the week. Consider attending Divine Service *before* you go camping or on a weekend trip. You will have had the opportunity to hear preaching and God’s Word for the week and can enjoy your time in God’s creation without guilt.

What can you do if you are out camping and far away from civilization? Since the focus of the 3rd Commandment is the Word of God, take the Word of God with you when you go camping. I have prepared a brochure called *Summer Worship for Travelers*. (You can get it on the table in the hall way at church.) This brochure has a brief order of worship adapted from *Lutheran Service Book* and a listing of all the Sunday Scripture readings for the summer months. Combine that with a devotional book like *Portals of Prayer* and you can lead your family in a worship service on a Sunday morning at your camp site. You can invite other campers to join you as well.

So, you see, there does not have to be any conflict between camping (or vacationing in general) and the 3rd Commandment. While gathering together with other Christians in a church building has its benefits, the reading and preaching of the Word of God is not limited to any particular place. So, hear the Word of God this summer – in church when you are in town and in your place of camping or relaxation when you are out of town. You will be physically AND spiritually refreshed.

In Christ,
Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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Pat Lewis for preaching for Pastor Schlund while he was on vacation.
Val Martin for taking the Lutheran World Relief items down to Billings.
All of the people who have offered to serve the Lord as officers for Peace Lutheran Church.
Garry Denning for mowing the church lawn and vacant lot.
Ken and Lyla Meske for taking such good care of the flower beds around the church.
Everyone who donated items for the rummage sale sponsored by the members of Christ for the Deaf.
Loretta Walker and Val Martin for setting up and decorating for the confirmation reception and **Val** for the cake.
Gloria Creek, Val Martin, and Karen Schaefer for playing the organ during our worship services.
All those who volunteer to teach Sunday school, Bible class, and midweek classes on Sundays and Wednesdays.
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.
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

- ♥ **During the month of June we will be collecting items to be given to Helping Hands down at First English Lutheran Church.** Their wish list includes **toothbrushes, tooth paste, shampoo, soap, razors, dish detergent, lotion, deodorant, peanut butter, and Ziploc quart and sandwich size bags.** Please bring any of these items and we will be sure they are taken to Helping Hands at the end of June. Thank you, **Val and Loretta,** for organizing this project.
- ♥ **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!
- ♥ **Thank you, Val Martin, for taking the Lutheran World Relief items to Billings.**
- ♥ **LWML members can purchase Arch books, plus other items in advance of the convention, for the special price of \$2.** Email your order to Debbie Bochenek by June 10th and they will process the orders and bring them to the convention in June. **Gloria Creek,** who is our Central Zone delegate, will then stop by the CPH display at convention and pick them up to deliver them to the Gifts From the Heart booth. For more information, please see Ruth in the church office.
- ♥ **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

Our giving in April, 2013 is \$9,572.29 and our expenses for April were \$10,933.15. **The amount that Peace's checking account is in the red at the end of April is \$14,603.17.** The **Lutheran Church Extension Fund** loan balance as of April 30, 2013 is **\$51,441.82.**

Vacation Bible School planned

Vacation Bible School will be from June 17th through the 20th. The theme for this year is "From Above--Higher Things". VBS will be Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 9:00 to 11:30 and on Thursday from 9:30 to 2:30. The last half hour Thursday will be for a closing program. We invite all children and their friends to come and have fun as we learn about the Tower of Babel, The Bronze Serpent, The Philippian Jailor, the Church in Jerusalem and Zacchaeus. If you would like to teach or help in any way, please contact Val Martin at 761-0499. We are also in need of toilet paper rolls for one of our art projects. Thank you!



June Anniversaries

June 9	Paul and Janet Rubino
June 12	William and Ruth Rozokat
June 14	Tom and Connie Croskrey
June 16	Gerald and Jill Keil
June 16	Gene and Fran Davidson
June 16	Gordon and Barbara Swaby
June 17	Andrew and Kelsey Schlund
June 21	Mike and Carol Dawson

Baptismal Anniversaries

June	2	Cathy Schoenthal
	7	Joseph Furr II
	7	Cheri Hirst
	9	Alexis Geist
	11	Katie Heidrich
	12	Linda Aguiar
	14	Angela Fletcher
	16	Alicia Fletcher
	16	Bernie Schaaf
	18	Phyllis Schaaf
	18	Jeremy Davidson
	20	Will Inscore
	23	Meagan Croskrey
	24	Dawn Grove
	25	Erin Heidrich
	27	Marge Johnsten
	28	Becky Schlund
	29	Lisa Rubino
	30	Aleshia Arensmeyer



INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

John Birkholz
Jane Hering
Kathy McIntosh
Vicky Neiffer
Michel Wayman

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

Pastor on vacation

Pastor Schlund and his family will be on vacation from May 31 through June 15. If there are any pastoral emergencies, please contact the church office, your elder or Pastor Paul at Trinity at 452-2121.

Ladies Bible study schedule

Summer is here! The FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS will pause with their weekly Bible study.

However, Assisted Living Ministry with hymn singing and devotions continues. On Tuesday, June 11th at 11 a.m. the group will be at Bee Hive Home #1 at 2816 15th Ave So. On Friday, June 28th at 11:45 they will meet for a no host lunch at Maple Garden Restaurant, 5401 9th Ave So. Afterward men and women will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Take a break from gardening and share the joy of God's Word in song with the residents of these homes!

Trinity Lutheran Camp registrations are available

Posters are on the bulletin board listing all of the camps offered at Trinity Lutheran Camp in Bigfork on the Flathead Lake. Registration forms and more information are in the church office or online at camptrinity@gmail.com.

Summer Worship For Travelers

Are you going to be traveling this summer and far from a church on a Sunday morning? Pastor Schlund has prepared a brochure called *Summer Worship For Travelers* which you can take along with you on your trip. It has a brief order of worship from *Lutheran Service Book* and a listing of all the Bible Readings for the summer months. Take one with you for the times you can't be in church this summer. Copies are on the table outside the Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf office.

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 keeping it looking loved!!

Peace's church office closed on Fridays

In an effort to save the church a little bit of money, we are closing the church office on Fridays beginning June 7, just for the summer months and on a trial basis. The office will continue to be open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Pillowcase dresses for Africa

We have set 2 Saturday morning dates for people of all ages and sewing abilities to come and help assemble some pillowcase dresses to be sent to Africa. **June 8 and July 13** from 9 a.m. to 12 noon we will meet at the church and ask that people come and help cut and finish dresses. Some material will be provided or you may bring your own donated new material about the size of a pillowcase.

Homes for Foreign Exchange Students needed in Great Falls and surrounding areas

Do you have a heart to show an international student what's wonderful about America? Sophia Sparklin with ICES Great Falls is looking for families to host international high school students for a year. Exchange students can become "big sister", "little brother", or "single child". They have full insurance and personal spending money, and will attend local schools. Sophia works closely with interested families to find the best match for everyone. If you have any questions, or wish to host a student, please contact Sophia at: 231-5442 or ssparklin@icesusa.org

Mission at Big Timber and Livingston need Help

The theme for 2012 – 2015 in Montana is from Mark 16:15: "Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation." One of the ways that we are paying attention to this text is by planting congregations in the communities of Big Timber and Livingston. A candidate from Fort Wayne Seminary has been assigned and will begin work beginning July 1, 2013. We need help to prepare for this important work. We would like to be able to hand Missionary Chad Schopp a lengthy list of people that might be interested in the development of an LCMS congregation in either one of those two communities. If you know of a friend, a relative, or an acquaintance who might be interested, please send the name, and as much contact information as you can gather to the District Office. Please talk about this request with members of your congregation so that it is well known. Please send information to office@mtdistlcms.org or to: Montana District Office, 30 Broadwater Ave., Billings, MT 59101.

Lutheran Hour Rally At Trinity

Trinity Lutheran Church, 1226 1st Avenue North, in Great Falls is sponsoring a Lutheran Hour Rally on Sunday, June 30 at 4 p.m. The speaker of the Lutheran Hour, Pastor Gregory Seltz, will be here to speak. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend! For more information call Trinity at 452-2121.

YOU CAN HELP PREVENT A FUMBLE

Did you know that a constant refrain of campus and campus-area pastors is, "If only I'd known..."? Often getting connected with preaching and the Lord's Supper in a new location gets lost in the excitement of a new school year, and our LCMS campus pastors usually have no way of knowing that our students are there to be "tracked down." You can help prevent a "fumble!" Do you have a member, son or daughter, grandson or granddaughter, a friend or neighbor, going off to college? Please let the LCMS pastor in their campus location know, so he can make contact early and hopefully establish a nurturing connection through the college years. The Montana District Education Committee has a web form that stands ready to help you notify campus pastors of new arrivals (or old): <http://www.mtdistlcms.org/district-committees/campus-ministry/> Or feel free to call or email Pastor Sias, Mt. Calvary, Colstrip, 406-748-2516, pastor@mtcalvary-colstrip.org, about this or any other campus ministry thoughts or concerns.