



Peace Lutheran Church

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June-July, 2015

Total Rest

As we enter the summer months, many people are seeking some rest and relaxation after a long hard winter. Is this a good thing or a bad thing? Is this a right thing or a wrong thing? Are you surprised that I'm even asking these questions?

There was a time, a couple of generations ago, when seeking rest and relaxation was almost considered to be wrong. Resting and relaxing were considered to be a waste of time. Time should be used for more productive things like work. If you were not working, either at your job or around the house and yard, then you could be susceptible to doing something bad. As the old saying went, "Idle hands are the devil's workshop."

However, now we've almost gone in the opposite direction in our modern culture. Some people want to rest and have fun all the time. We frantically participate in so many fun and relaxing activities that we wear ourselves out relaxing and get no fun from our fun activities.

What does God say about rest and relaxation? He's in favor of it! He knew that, left to our own devices, we would work ourselves to death. So, the Lord included one commandment (the 3rd Commandment) among the Ten Commandments which commanded rest. The Word of God says, "Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work." (Leviticus 23:3). This is not a time to exchange the hectic work of our vocation for the frantic work of our leisure time. It is a time of "solemn rest." Our "rest" should not wear us out. We are to put aside our normal work and choose activities that will rest and refresh our bodies.

But that's not all. Much of our weariness can result from a burdened spirit and not just a tired body. Guilt, worry, fear, anguish, and a multitude of other spiritual conditions can make us very tired. God has a solution for that, as well. Jesus said, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Matthew 11:28-29)

Rest for our souls is found in Jesus. Jesus is found in His Word. Some people think that coming to church is just one more job which we have to do and which will wear us out. That's a misunderstanding. Divine Worship is a time for us to find rest for our souls by hearing the Word of God and receiving all of His promises. So worship is not something from which we need a break, but a break from the misery and heartache so that we might be spiritually at rest.

In your zeal to get some rest and relaxation for your body, don't miss out on the rest and relaxation which public worship provides for your soul. If you are far away from a church, make use of a resource which your church provides you: *Summer Worship For Travelers*. This pamphlet provides a short Service of the Word along with a list of the readings for all the Sundays of the summer. Using this with a Bible and a *Portals of Prayer* means you can always find rest for your soul no matter where you are.

Enjoy your summer. But don't overdue your work or your play. Find time to rest your body in the good gifts that God gives you. Find time to rest your soul in the Word of God. That's total rest – a very good thing.

In Christ,

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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Everyone who came and helped clean the church on Cleaning Day.

All those who participate and help with the worship service at Highgate House on the first Sunday of each month.

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

All of the people who have offered to serve the Lord as officers for Peace Lutheran Church.

Kevin Aguiar, Matt Schlund and Garry Denning for mowing the church lawn and vacant lot.

Everyone who donated items for the rummage sale sponsored by the members of Christ for the Deaf.

Gloria Creek and Val Martin 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 people 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, bath soap, lotion, toilet paper, liquid dish soap, disposable razors, peanut butter, and cans of tuna fish. 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 7 at 6:00 p.m.** It was decided to have a potluck salad meal at 6 p.m. followed by the planning meeting at 6:30 p.m. 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!
- ♥ 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.

VBS dates set

Vacation Bible School will be on June 15th – 19th from 8:45 to 12:15 p.m., with lunch provided. The theme is *Te Deum* and focuses on the true worship of God in receiving His gifts and in coming to Him in prayer. The "Te Deum" is the ancient hymn of the Christian church, "We praise You, O God!" Our goal is to strengthen our little ones in the faith of Christ that we confess in the *Te Deum* and teach them to call upon that True God for all our needs of body and soul. There will be worship, Bible Study, crafts, games, and much more. Call the church office at 761-7343 to sign up today!

Ladies Bible study schedule

Just like the public schools, the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS will continue studies into part of June. Ladies will meet to study I CORINTHIANS on June 5th and 12th from 1 - 3 p.m. at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave So. Come and join us before the summer company rush starts!

Assisted Living Ministry with hymn singing and a devotion will meet at Bee Hive Home #1, 2824 15th Ave So on Tuesday, June 9th and July 14 at 11 a.m. Later in June and July the group will gather at 11:45 a.m. on Friday, June 26th and for a no host lunch at Maple Garden, 5401 9th Ave So. On Friday, July 24, lunch will be at Prime Cut. Afterward ladies and gentlemen will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Join the group for lunch and/or singing. There's always room for one more!



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 17 Andrew and Kelsey Schlund

Baptismal Anniversaries

- June 7 Cheri Hirst
- 11 Jennifer Lewis
- 12 Linda Aguiar
- 14 Angela Fletcher
- 16 Alicia Fletcher
- 16 Kris Smelser
- 16 Bernie Schaaf
- 18 Phyllis Schaaf
- 20 Will Inscore
- 23 Meagan Croskrey
- 24 Dawn Grove
- 27 Marge Johnsten
- 28 Becky Schlund



July Anniversaries

- July 5 Pat and Helen Lewis
- July 12 Bill and Ruth Lowden
- July 14 Ken and Lyla Meske
- July 16 Bruce and Barbara Clark
- July 15 Arnie and Betsy Wirth
- 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
- 7 Richard Schotthey
- 8 Nolan Croskrey
- 11 Helen Lewis
- 11 Saville McDaniel
- 16 Darlene Brandt
- 16 Matthew Schlund
- 19 Eric Fletcher
- 19 Jan Neiffer
- 20 Elizabeth Allen
- 20 Pat Lewis
- 23 Beate Neumann
- 25 Faith Guderjahn



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

John Birkholz

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

June Foard, June Meier's daughter

Jane Hering

Pat Link, recovering from surgery and health problems

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

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!!

Finances

The following is a rundown of our giving for the year 2015 so far:

First Quarter (January – March)

January – Given: \$9,221.75

Expenses: \$13,381.28

February – Given: \$11,707.40

Expenses: \$9,096.64

March – Given: \$12,569.45

Expenses: \$10,080.66

Second Quarter (April – June)

April – Given: \$11,882.50

Expenses: \$10,153.22

Trinity Lutheran Camp registrations are online

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 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.



Deaf Camp 2015

Members of Christ for the Deaf Lutheran Church are sponsoring a camp from **August 13 through 16, 2015** at Trinity Lutheran Camp in Bigfork, Montana. The cost

for the camp is \$75 per person or \$125 per family, if paid by August 1, 2015. Registration forms are in the church office. Plan now to come and join the fun!!

Ushers for June

June 7 -----Arnie Gidlow
-----Tyler Denning
June 14-----Bruce Clark
-----Greg Franczyk
June 21-----Kevin Aguiar
-----Jeff Blomgren
June 28-----Ed Ostlund
-----Matt Schlund



Block Party at Peace

Join us for the 6th annual Peace Lutheran Church Block Party on June 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 church 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!

Ordination of Andrew Schlund here at Peace

Save Sunday, July 19th on your calendars! On that day, Seminarian Andrew Schlund will be ordained into the Office of the Holy Ministry in a special service at 4:00 PM here at Peace. Andrew, a member of Peace Lutheran Church, has accepted a call into the foreign mission field in Mexico City.

Witness Opportunities

Summer is approaching and this means that two wonderful opportunities to grow in faith and point to Jesus are here! The Great Falls Farmers Market on Saturday mornings is a wonderful way to engage people with the Gospel message. It is held in the Civic Center parking lot from 7:45 AM till noon. Set up and take down of the exhibit is quick and easy. I am currently looking for someone to take on this great privilege in August and September for one Saturday. Our theme is **Who is Jesus?**. Our means of sharing the Good News is a packet of the Gospel of John and for the youth, hematite crosses. The gospel of John has often been described as the strongest of the Gospels in establishing the identity of Jesus Christ. The cross is the most recognizable and most significant symbol to Christians and of course symbolizes the atoning sacrifice Christ made for us, to reconcile us with God and with the promise of forgiveness of our sins and life everlasting with Him.

The second event is the booth at the Montana State Fair. from July 24th-August 1st. Trinity is occupying the booth from July 25th-July 28th and Peace will be in the booth from July 24th and July 29th-August 1st. Rather than wait for someone to ask you to take times, step forward and make a commitment to pick a time and date and let the other events in your life work around your service to your Lord. For questions or to get involved contact Arnie Gidlow at 406-468-9385 or mobows@mcn.net.

God's mission is to save the world with the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. God accomplishes this with the means of ordinary people, you and I. Presenting the Gospel to the heads of our fellow man so the Holy Spirit can work on the heart of all who hear and see our witness. Romans 10:17, "**Consequently faith come from hearing the message, the message is heard through the word of Christ**".

Applying Biblical Teachings June 2015

“Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s” (Matt. 22:21).

Jesus’ response to this carefully laid trap by the Pharisees was immediately understood by those who heard it. “When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away” (Matt. 22:22). These were the descendants of the same people of Israel who cried out to God, “Give us a king.” God gave them their king, but He warned them that they would neither be satisfied with or appreciate what they were to receive, for true people of God have their King, and no earthly ruler need intervene.

Here, in these few words, Jesus set apart from each other the temporal kingdom and the kingdom of heaven. Jesus the Christ, as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, grants the temporal kingdoms, the ruling governments of this world, authority over people and property. Jesus the Christ, as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, rightfully reigns supreme in the kingdom of heaven, the kingdom of the soul.

Power has been granted to governments for protection from those who would do great harm to others. That’s why Romans 13:4 boldly proclaims, “For he is God’s servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. he is God’s servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.” Indeed, the laws of government over people and property are needed to teach, constrain and encourage people to do what is good and what is right.

Because of Christ’s redemptive act for all and by the working of the Holy Spirit through water and the Word, we have been given the kingdom of heaven. We have been brought into righteousness to glorify God through our words and deeds. We go far beyond just obeying God’s Law, for we put it into action. And this is also the case with the government God has placed over us. Where and when the government does not infringe on the kingdom of heaven, we do more than just obey the law of the land. In Christ, we gladly serve and assist our government, for it benefits our neighbor.

The same Christian generosity which we show to our families, our church and those near to us, we also show to our government. We use the blessings God has given us to support and advance that which God has placed over us. We gladly use our wealth, our time, our talents, and yes, even our lives in the service of our government. By the guidance of the Holy Spirit, working through the Word, we do this for the good of all and for the glory of God.

Applying Biblical Teachings July 2015

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path” (Psalm 119:105).

Great are the blessings of God and most wonderful is the gift of His Word. What a hopeless world this would be without it, for faith and hope come by the hearing of the Word.

In his writings on the 119th Psalm, Martin Luther questioned why God’s Word is not a light to the eyes, so as to be able to see. Can feet be lighted? Can paths see? The writer of “Amazing Grace” knew the answer to these questions and wrote, “. . . was blind, but now I see.”

The psalmist here mentions nothing of the Word giving light to the eyes in order that they may not be blind. There is no doubt that Scripture teaches that the Word as a lamp guides the footsteps of the believer past pitfalls and dangers. There also is no doubt that Scripture teaches that the Word as a light shines as a bright and certain beam on the path for the believer. So how can the Word be a lamp and a light while the believer is yet blind? This is the basis of the true nature of faith!

In the letter to the Hebrews, we read, “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb. 12:2). Having been called by the Gospel, God’s Word, our eyes are fixed on Jesus, and we are blind to all else. We gladly hear the Word of God and through the work of the Holy Spirit are enlightened. The Word becomes the lamp and the light that guides the feet and heart without seeing. As Christians, we hear the Word and do what it says.

Faith does not see where it is going. It just goes. Faith does not see the why. It just does. Faith does not need great knowledge and understanding. It is ready. In faith, the believer hears the Word of God and is guided by it without seeing, trusting where it will lead. In faith, we walk securely in our living and giving, for we are doing what we have heard from the Word.

Through our own understanding, we may feel there is not enough time in our lives to serve the Lord, much less, those around us. We also may feel that our budget just won’t allow much in terms of giving to our Lord and Savior. Yet, God’s Word tells us to fix our eyes on Jesus and, trusting in Him, we simply do what we have heard in faith from the Word. In faith, we give up our own understanding of how things are or how they should be and act, trusting in Him. By the power of the Holy Spirit working through the Word, we do this, glorifying God and serving our neighbor through our living and our giving.