



Peace Lutheran Church

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June-July, 2018

My Dead Lawn

My lawn has died. It had gone dormant during past winters and turned into an ugly brownish yellow color, but this is different. Now, significant patches are bare ground or have a few grayish clumps of grass, thus making it an eyesore in the neighborhood. How did it get this way? I didn't kill the lawn intentionally. I'm pretty sure that no one else killed it either. However, we were one of the few homes which didn't water the grass regularly last year. Therefore, the lawn died of neglect.

What can I do? I suppose I could ignore it and hope that it will change into a lush green lawn by itself. But there's no reason to think that will happen if I keep doing the same old thing. I could pretend that I still have a nice lawn and try to convince others that I do because grass was once planted there years ago. However, who is going to believe that? They can see the dead patches with their own eyes. They can see there is no evidence of a healthy lawn there and no reason to think there ever will be a healthy vibrant lawn there (like those of my neighbors up and down the street).

My son, Matt, has been busy working to correct the situation. He's been throwing out new seed and watering furiously with the hope that the lawn will come back with lush green grass again. We are finding that it would've been easier to have taken care of the lawn in the first place, rather than trying to bring the lawn back. Regular watering and fertilizing would've been much easier than the major project we are facing now.

Why do I tell you all my woes? This reminds me of our faith relationship with God. There are many Christians whose faith has died, yet they refuse to admit or notice it. These people did not decide to turn away from the faith, nor did anyone destroy their faith. I'm convinced that the faith of many people dies simply out of neglect.

If you ask such people about their faith, they would say it is just fine. They will say, "I believe in God!" However, I can believe in grass, too, but it doesn't mean I have a lawn. Simply having an intellectual acknowledgment of the existence of God doesn't mean you have faith. James says, "You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!" (James 2:19) Talking about faith is not the same as having faith.

Besides, it often is as easy to see a dead faith as it is to see a dead lawn. People with dead faiths have little or no interest in coming to hear their Heavenly Father speak to them through the read and preached Word of God, nor to speak to Him in prayer. They consistently refuse the invitation of Jesus to dine with Him at their Lord's Supper. Their moral choices and lifestyles may have more in common with the world than with the Word of God.

How is your faith? Is it lush and alive? Is it dormant on the verge of death? The worst a dead lawn can do to me is lower the amount of money I get when I sell the house. However, a dead faith dooms you to hell and eternal damnation. For the sake of money, I will take this problem seriously and do something about it. For the sake of your soul, will you take the problem seriously and do something about it?

A dormant or dead faith is not the will of God for your lives. Peter writes, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 3:18) God wants you to have a living and vibrant faith that is constantly growing in the grace and the knowledge of Jesus. How does this come about? Like a patch of ground needs grass seed on it in order to have a lawn, you have need of the Divine Seed – the Word of God – in you in order to have faith. Like grass seed needs constant watering in order to grow, so the seed of the Word of God needs to be watered by reading, teaching, preaching, hearing, and meditating.

It is easier to keep a lush lawn green and alive through regular watering, fertilizing, and care than it is to restore a dead lawn. (Believe me. I know.) In the same way, it is easier to keep a faith alive through regular worship, devotion, and Bible study than it is to resurrect a dead faith with the same tools. So, in the summer time which can be deadly for both grass and faith, continue to hear the Word of God, read the Word of God, study the Word of God, taste the Word of God in Holy Communion, and share in worship with other Christians where you are able to do all of these things together.

May the Lord keep your faith in Christ living and vibrant so that it might sustain you now and bring you to everlasting life. As for my lawn? Talk to me in September.

In Christ,
Pastor Schlund

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Everyone who came and helped with the Special Olympics meal.
All those who participate and help with the worship service at Highgate House on the first Sunday of each month.
Everyone who came and helped during the LifeTouch pictures being taken.
Everyone who baked or brought goodies for those waiting for pictures to be taken.
All of the people who have offered to serve the Lord as officers for Peace Lutheran Church.
Val and Mitch Martin for driving the Lutheran World Relief items down to Billings.
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.
Matt Schlund 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.

Thank you!

Thursday, May 17, 2018, we hosted dinner for the Purple Hornets, one of the Great Falls, Special Olympic teams. Thank you to all of you who were here or who brought items to the church to make this dinner event such a success.

You may not have thought you had done much but by being here you did a lot. Thank you, Ted Barnes, for getting businesses to donate pop and nacho chips and salsa.

Maybe you were not here to help, but you did help by offering us the use of your Mexican decorations. Thank you to all of you who came to decorate and set up prior to the dinner, making the fellowship hall very festive.

Thank you to those who came and fellowshiped with the Olympians, you made them feel welcome. You cooked, you chopped, and you served. All of you did so much and didn't even realize what a great help you were. You baked and shared your goodies with the Olympians.

They came in and were so excited to be here! They loved the taco bar, nacho bar, and dessert bar. In fact, one proclaimed, "Oh, can I have one of each?" Their excitement was infectious!

When it came to clean up ... Wow! Is all I can say!

Our kitchen and fellowship hall were cleaned so fast!

I also thank Thrivent for providing the Thrivent Action Team card which paid for all of the items needed for this dinner. If you want to know more about getting a Thrivent Action Team card, talk to me.

Thank you ever so much for such a wonderful event and, above all, for all of your help!

Valerie Martin

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, and disposable razors.** 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 Wednesday, July 11 at 5:30 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.



June Anniversaries

- June 9 Paul and Janet Rubino
- June 12 William and Ruth Rozokat
- June 14 Tom and Connie Croskrey
- June 17 Andrew and Kelsey Schlund
- June 23 – Gary and Carol Lindstrand

Baptismal Anniversaries

- June 3 Maverick Meierhoff
- 11 Jennifer Lewis
- 12 Linda Aguiar
- 14 Angela Fletcher
- 16 Alicia Fletcher
- 16 Bernie Schaaf
- 18 Phyllis Schaaf
- 23 Meagan Croskrey
- 27 Marge Johnsten
- 28 Becky Schlund



July Anniversaries

- July 5 Pat and Helen Lewis
- July 15 Arnie and Betsy Wirth
- July 19 Ben and Shirley Coe
- July 23 Lyle and Tara Onstad
- July 29 John and Madeline Chalenor
- July 31 Steve & Becky Schlund

Baptismal Anniversaries

- July 1 Andrew Onstad
- 2 Shirley Coe
- 3 Mason LaPlante
- 7 Richard Schotthey
- 8 Nolan Croskrey
- 10 Natasha Meierhoff
- 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**, Karen's sister-in-law who is battling a rare skin tissue disorder
- Michael Drummond** – Lupus
- Joseph Furr II** (Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia).
- Leonard Gidlow**
- Daniel Hanneman** (Becky's brother battling leukemia)
- Jane Hering**
- Connie Juden**
- Rev. Erich Kaelberer**
- Dorothy Neuman**
- Jean Radke**

One member who is away serving in the military is **Michael Lewis**.

Finances

JANUARY 1, TO APRIL 30, 2018		
	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
CHURCH INCOME		
Regular Offerings	\$44,977.15	\$47,166.68
Interest Income	\$412.37	\$400.00
Total Income	\$45,389.52	\$47,566.68
Church Expenses		
Personnel/Benefits	\$30,860.07	\$31,652.84
Administrative	\$2,564.31	\$2,528.32
Buildings & Grounds	\$10,790.01	\$9,920.00
Missions	\$3,726.84	\$3,833.32
Worship	\$294.08	\$383.32
Christian Education	\$998.54	\$889.36
Evangelism	\$335.50	\$766.68
Total Expenses	\$49,569.35	\$49,973.84
Net Church Income	(\$4,179.83)	(\$2,407.16)

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.

Peace Camp 2018



Members of Peace Lutheran Church are hosting camp from **August 9 through 12, 2018** at Trinity Lutheran Camp in Bigfork, Montana. The cost for the camp is \$50 per person 18 and older, children are \$30 and children under 5 are free.

Registration forms are in the church office. Please register and pay by August 1, 2018. Plan now to come and join the fun!!

Ushers for June

June 3 -----Arnie Gidlow
-----Arnie Wirth
June 10-----Ed Ostlund
-----Greg Franczyk
June 17-----Matt Schlund
-----Kevin Aguiar
June 24-----Tyler Denning
-----Darrell Greenwood

VBS dates set

Vacation Bible School will be on June 4th – 8th from 8:30 to 12:00 p.m., with snack provided. The theme is *Splash Canyon*. There will be worship, Bible Study, crafts, games, and much more. Call Arnie Gidlow at 468-9385 if you want to help in any way!

Echoz Baby Bottles Campaign

“Life is Precious. Fill a bottle for Life. Pick up a bottle, fill it with change, bills or a check. Bring it back to the church on Father’s Day – **June 17**. A little change makes a big difference.” Bottles are available from the table in the hallway.

Ladies Bible study schedule

The FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS is in summer recess. In September they will begin a new study.

Assisted Living Ministry with hymn singing and a devotion continues at the following locations. On Tuesday, June 12 ladies and gentlemen will gather at 11 a.m. at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave So. The group will meet on Friday, June 22 at 11:45 a.m. for a no host lunch at Rikki's, 1220 9th St So. Afterward many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Take a break from lawn care. Treat yourself to lunch with the group or singing, or all of the above. You will enjoy the fellowship, and your presence will be a blessing to those with you!

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. Let's continue to beautify this neighborhood by taking care of our property keeping it looking loved!!