



## Peace Lutheran Church

3340 Eleventh Avenue South,  
Great Falls, Montana 59405

761-7343

The Rev. Steven Schlund, Pastor

Office: 761-7343

Home: 952-4567

[www.peacelutherangreatfalls.org](http://www.peacelutherangreatfalls.org)

Pastor Schlund: [Peacepastor@bresnan.net](mailto:Peacepastor@bresnan.net)

Peace's secretary: [Peacesecretary@bresnan.net](mailto:Peacesecretary@bresnan.net)

March, 2017

### Lenten Service March 2017

It used to be a very popular tradition in almost every LCMS congregation in the country. Most everyone observed it. For many people, there was no question about whether one would participate or not. It would take precedence over sports, homework, and getting to bed at a certain time. Now, more and more churches don't have it. Participation in this tradition is decreasing and is no longer considered to be automatic. There are now a whole host of things which take precedence over this for many families. I fear that, by the next generation, this once popular tradition will die.

I'm talking about the Lenten Service. Usually held on a Wednesday evening and often preceded by a soup supper, the Lenten Service was once a very popular tradition in many Missouri Synod churches. (In talking to friends in other denominations – even Lutherans outside the LCMS - I find that this tradition seems to be almost exclusively LCMS.) Most families attended. Some schools observed “church night” on Wednesday evenings which meant sports teams did not practice and teachers did not give out homework. Even little children attended and strict observance of bed time was relaxed.

What's happened? Why the decline in popularity? Has the quality of the Lenten Service gone down so that it is no longer attractive? That's doubtful. The Lenten Service has basically stayed the same. Can we blame the busier schedules for the adults and lack of “church night” for the children? That's too easy. We seem to be able to rearrange schedules so that we are able to do the things we want to do and are important for us.

Perhaps we have simply forgotten the purpose of the Lenten Service. We act as if the focus of Lent is our service to God. We concentrate on the things we do for God during Lent: put ashes on our foreheads, give up something we really like, and go to extra church services. At the end of the day, we are just too tired to do those things. So, we skip the ashes, don't give up anything, and figure that going to church once a week on Sunday is enough.

But Lenten Service is more than a time of worship and it has nothing to do with us. It has everything to do with Jesus Christ. It has nothing to do with us serving Jesus. It has everything to do with Jesus serving us. Jesus said, “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45) Lent is all about remembering our sin against God, our separation from God, and the damning in hell by God which we deserve. Lent is rejoicing about Jesus giving His life as a ransom – a payment we couldn't make – to reunite us with God through the forgiveness of our sin, to rescue us from death by His death on the cross, and to buy us back from an eternity in hell and purchases everlasting life for us in heaven.

Our Lenten services on Wednesday evenings help us to focus in on the Lenten Service of Jesus Christ for us. Take the time from the busyness of this hectic life to sing, listen, and pray about the joy of eternal life. The familiar Lenten hymn sums it up this way:

*Jesus, I will ponder now On Your holy passion  
With Your Spirit me endow For such meditation.  
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish  
Of Your suffering, pain, and death That I may not perish.*

In Christ, our Lenten Servant,

Pastor Schlund

**J  
H  
A  
N  
K  
S  
TO**

**Everyone** who helps prepare, setup, and clean up after Sunday school and Bible study each Sunday.  
**Everyone** who helps prepare, setup, and clean up after soup suppers each Wednesday.  
**All of the ladies** who came and made fleece blankets for Denise Combs.  
**All of the ladies** who go to Park Place, Benefis Skilled Nursing Center and Highgate House to sing hymns and read devotions and minister to the shut-ins.  
**Val Martin and Gloria Creek** for playing the organ and piano during our worship services.  
**The adult choir** for enhancing our worship services.  
**Val Martin and Elizabeth Allen** for directing and accompanying the choir.  
**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.  
**Angelika Fischer** for cleaning the church.  
**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.  
**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

- ♥ **Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 14 at 6:30 p.m. with a Bible study.** All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to come and join us! We will form a Nominations Committee for the elections that will be held at the May meeting. Remember your Mite Boxes!
- ♥ **Thank you to everyone who donated items and made fleece blankets for Denise Combs layettes.** She is soooo appreciative of us continuing to collect items every year. Thank you all for the many items that were given!
- ♥ **Remember that Purple Pockets are due to Linda Aguiar at the end of March.** This money goes to mission work both locally and afar. Thanks for your continued support.
- ♥ **The Lutheran World Relief Drive will be May 13, 2017.** More details will be available as the time gets closer.

## Ladies Bible study schedule

With March on the calendar we know the bluebirds will be in the mountains and the robins in our yards by the 15th! Oregon grape yellow blossoms will dot the mountainsides and crocuses will brighten our flowerbeds. March is a month that vacillates between winter and spring. Fortunately, these early birds and posies are Montana hearty!

Not quite as hearty are the friends who meet for Bible study on Friday afternoons. They meet in the cozy indoors... Do feel welcome to join them as the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS continues their study of MATTHEW. Ann Nimmick will host the group from 1-3 pm March 3rd, 10th, 17, & 24th at her home at 2327 15th Ave So.

Assisted Living Ministry welcomes your participation, meeting at the following locations for hymn singing and a devotion. On Tuesday, March 14th at 11 a.m. ladies and gentlemen will be at Bee Hive Home #2 2816 15th Ave So. Friday, March 31st they will gather at Eddie's Supper Club, 3725 2nd Ave N, at 11:45 a.m. for a no host lunch. Afterward many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. .

## Lenten schedule

*Sermons From The Cross* - Jesus suffered on the cross for us. Jesus died on the cross for us. Jesus also spoke to us from the cross. In seven short "sermons", Jesus teaches us, forgives us, comforts us, and shows us how to live and how to die. *Sermons From The Cross* will be the theme for our Wednesday evening Lent services this year. Each week, we will hear one of Jesus' "sermons" and meditate on its meaning and application for our lives. Each week, we will begin with a soup supper at 6:00 PM. Worship is at 7:00 PM. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 1<sup>st</sup>.



## March Anniversaries

Mar. 6 Gary and Tami Creek

## Baptismal Anniversaries

March 2 Charlie Fisher  
 3 Stephanie Blomgren  
 10 Arnie Wirth  
 17 Kevin Aguiar  
 20 Michael Drummond  
 20 Leah (Huttinger) Taylor  
 20 Cheri Magnuson  
 23 Hailey McPartlin  
 23 Kandace Faller  
 23 Natalie Gerard  
 25 Aedan Lewis  
 25 Judy VanVleet  
 25 Carol Kangas  
 26 Tyler Denning  
 27 Janet Rubino  
 28 Spencer Smelser



### 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  
**Leonard Gidlow**  
**Jane Hering**  
**Connie Juden**  
**Rev. Erich Kaelberer**  
**Bill and Dorothy Neuman**  
**David Norman**

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

## Ushers for March

March 5----- Greg Franczyk  
 -----Bruce Clark  
 March 12 -----Eric Fletcher  
 -----Jeff Blomgren  
 March 19 -----Darrell Greenwood  
 -----Arnie Wirth  
 March 26 -----Arnie Gidlow  
 -----Bruce Clark

## Finances

| JANUARY 1 TO JANUARY 31, 2017 |              |               |
|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| CHURCH INCOME                 | YTD ACTUAL   | YTD BUDGET    |
| Regular Offerings             | \$ 12,750.00 | \$11,416.67   |
| Interest Income               | \$ 106.52    | \$ 83.33      |
| Total Income                  | \$ 12,856.52 | \$ 11,500.00  |
| Church Expenses               |              |               |
| Personnel/Benefits            | \$ 7,192.26  | \$ 7,256.55   |
| Administrative                |              |               |
|                               | \$ 886.89    | \$ 684.16     |
| Buildings & Grounds           | \$ 1,636.42  | \$ 5,287.50   |
| Missions                      | \$ 850.00    | \$ 958.33     |
| Christian Education           | \$ 740.91    | \$ 445.83     |
| Total Expenses                |              |               |
|                               | \$ 11,306.48 | \$ 14,632.37  |
| Net Church Income             |              |               |
|                               | \$ 1,550.04  | \$ (3,132.37) |

## Soup Suppers begin

This Wednesday, **March 1 is Ash Wednesday**. The ladies of LWML will host the soup supper at 6:00 PM and Worship with imposition of ashes and Holy Communion will begin at 7:00 PM. If your group would like to sponsor a soup supper, please sign your name on the calendar in the Fellowship Hall. There are 4 soup suppers left that need to be sponsored.

## Offering Envelopes

The fifth Sunday Offering Envelopes are located behind December Envelopes in your Offering Set. There are four envelopes there for the months with five Sundays. This is a minor change when we are using generic offering envelopes for this year.

**During the Lent season**, the offering envelopes will be in the bulletins of each evening service. Please put your name on the envelope and it will be credited to your account. If you have any questions, please see Arnie Wirth or Gloria Creek.

## Nominating Committee

Please consider being a nominee for the following offices of Peace Lutheran Church:

Vice chairman (1 person) -  
 Elder (3 people)  
 Trustee (3 people)  
 Treasurer (1 person)

Contact any of the Elders, Pat Lewis, Chairman Darrell Greenwood or Al Beute if you are interested. Thank you for your participation.

**Attention Youth  
Youth Ski and Swim Retreat**

**Who?**

Youth 7-12 graders  
(and younger if accompanied by a parent)

**When?**

March 10-11, 2017

**What?**

**Friday night:** Check in 6:00-8:00p.m. Dinner, Devotions, Fellowship and Games

**Saturday:** Breakfast, skiing at Showdown Ski

**Sunday Morning:** Breakfast, worship & Sunday School

**Where?**

Peace Lutheran Church, 3340 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Great Falls, MT.

**Why?**

Because winter in Montana is an awesome time to experience some of God's amazing handiwork outdoors and share it with fellow Christians!

**Cost?**

\$50 per youth or adult, includes all meals, transportation, equipment, and lift ticket.

\$40 if 12 or under

Subtract \$15 if you have your own equipment.

**What do I need?**

Bring your Bible, your sleeping bag and air mattress, your toothbrush, and a friend! You will want appropriate winter clothing for skiing, long underwear, hats, gloves etc. We will require final registration numbers by March 3, 2017. Please contact us as soon as possible so we can get you information on the rental equipment process.

*Let us know if this is your first or second time skiing and we will arrange a group lesson for you as well.*

Contact Lyle Onstad ([lyleomd@gmail.com](mailto:lyleomd@gmail.com)) for more information.