



Peace Lutheran Church

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March, 2018

Stop the Violence! March 2018

America has, once again, experienced a horrific mass shooting. This time, the victims were seventeen students and staff members at a high school in Parkland, Florida. As the nation mourns this violent and senseless act, the cry goes up, "Stop the violence!" High school students across the country have staged walkouts and protests, calling for safety in the schools. The media in our country have clucked their collective tongues and issued editorials, decrying the status quo and calling for change.

Where exactly is this change to occur? It usually boils down to the law – creating more laws, making existing laws stricter, and strictly enforcing all laws better in order to stop the violence and make our schools safer again; prohibit the ownership of guns; have more armed policemen in our schools (or, according to our president, arm the teachers); have more security checkpoints in our schools. If only we could do those things, many people say, that our schools and our society will be safer. This usually produces many heated discussions/arguments with nothing being accomplished.

What is the solution to violence in America? The problem in discussing this situation lies in the fact that most people underestimate (if possible) the nature and seriousness of the problem. First of all, there will never be an end to violence in America, this side of heaven. No law, no program, no protest march will ever be able to end violence. Violence is the result of sin. Sin has broken God's good creation and cannot possibly be repaired by man. This world will be set free from sin and violence, but only when Jesus returns to initiate a new heavens and the new earth.

Secondly, the problem of violence cannot be reduced as long as we believe that it is from outside of ourselves. It seems as if people believe that everyone is basically good until some outward force corrupts them: violent movies, violent video games, the easy availability of weapons, and so on. If only we could reduce those outside forces, it is believed, then we can reduce violence. The Bible presents a different picture. Sin and the violence that it produces comes, not from the outside, but from within ourselves. The Word of God says, "And [Jesus] said, 'What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.'" (Mk 7:20-23)

Thirdly, behavior, ultimately, can never be controlled by the law. All the new laws in the world will not ultimately change behavior as long as the old hearts remain. Therefore, any solution that seeks only to control behavior cannot succeed. The hearts, from which the violence flows, must be changed. Only God can do that. The Bible says, "And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." (Ezekiel 36:26) God changes our hearts when we are baptized into Christ and receive a new identity. As baptized children of God, we have forgiveness for all of our sins and the power to live new lives.

Does this mean we wash our hands of any legal reform to be done? No, not at all. As Luther's Small Catechism reminds us, one of the three uses of the law is as a curb. The Law of God can curb violence and should be used to do so. However, the law cannot rid us of violence. So, while we do use the Law to change behavior, our main emphasis should be on the changing of hearts. This is done by bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people so that they might hear, especially during this Lenten season, of Jesus' horrific suffering and violent death on a cross to forgive their sins and to free them from the horror of violence for all eternity.

So, pray for all victims of violence. Work for legislation that will effectively curb violent behavior. Continue to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with all who do not know or do not believe. And God will stop the violence.

In Christ,
Pastor Schlund

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Everyone who helps prepare, setup, and clean up after Sunday school and Bible study each Sunday
Everyone who helped, prepare and set up for Laura Brandt's funeral service and reception.
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.
Matt Schlund 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 13 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 sooooo 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.
- ♥ **Montana District Convention** will be in Missoula at First Lutheran Church, April 20-22. Registration forms are in the church office or the latest *Missive*. Cost is \$75 per person if paid before April 1. The cost after April 1, is \$85. Ridesharing maybe available.
- ♥ **The Lutheran World Relief Drive will be May 12, 2018.** More details will be available as the time gets closer.

Ladies Bible study schedule

The bluebirds will be in the mountains and the first robins will be in our yards by the 15th of March. Woo hoo! Can spring be far behind! The return of migratory birds, the reawakening of the earth are welcome signs of God's changing seasons. With the seasonal change from winter to spring, we travel in March through Lent and Holy Week. What a blessing these worship services are as they focus on our Lord's passion.

The **FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS** will meet only once this month for Bible study. Join them Friday, March 23rd from 1-3pm to enjoy the PSALMS at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Av So.

Assisted Living Ministry with a devotion and hymn singing will meet at the following locations. On Tuesday, March 13th at 11 a.m. they will meet at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Av So. There will be a no host lunch at 11:45 a.m. on Friday, March 16th at Maple Garden, 5401 9th Av So. After lunch many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Av So. It's been a long and confining winter for some of the assisted living residents. Come and brighten their day with God's love!

Lenten schedule

2 Soup suppers still available – There are only 2 Lenten soup suppers left that need hosts! March 14 and 21 are the last 2 suppers and are in need of someone to sponsor them. If you or your group would like to do that, please sign up on the calendar in the Fellowship Hall. Suppers are on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM followed by Lenten Worship Services at 7:00 PM. Thank You!

“Questions From The Passion”

Do you ever have questions about God? How does he work? Why does he do things the way he does? There were many questions that were asked during Jesus’ Passion. These questions are often asked by us today. Their answers have meaning for our lives as well. During each of our special Wednesday evening Lenten Service we will examine one of these questions. Join us as we consider “Questions From The Passion.” There will be a soup supper each Wednesday evening at 6 PM with worship beginning at 7 PM. All the worship services will be interpreted for the deaf.

Date	Question	Text
March 7	“What Is It You Have Done?”	John 18:35
March 14	“Which Do You Want Me to Release to You?”	Matthew 27:17
March 21	“Aren’t You The Christ?”	Luke 23:39
March 25 (Palm Sunday)	“Who Is This?”	Matthew 21:10-11
March 29 (Maundy Thursday)	“Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”	John 13:6
March 31 (Good Friday)	“My God, My God, Why Have You Forgotten Me?”	Mark 15:34

1st.



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:

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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
Kathy Politz
Jean Radke

The family of **Laura Brandt** who died February 12, 2018.

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

Ushers for March

March 4-----Al Beute
 -----Arnie Wirth
 March 11 -----Ed Ostlund
 -----Greg Franczyk
 March 18 -----Matt Schund
 -----Kevin Aguiar
 March 25 -----Arnie Gidlow
 -----Darrell Greenwood

Nominating Committee

Darrell is looking for volunteers for the 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.

Finances

JANUARY 1, TO JANUARY 31, 2018		
CHURCH INCOME	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Regular Offerings	\$13,514.75	\$11,791.67
Interest Income	\$56.74	\$100.00
Total Income	\$13,571.49	\$11,891.67
Church Expenses		
Personnel/Benefits	\$7,785.82	\$8,136.55
Administrative	\$477.31	\$625.83
Buildings & Grounds	\$5,152.43	\$1,892.50
Missions	\$970.59	\$958.33
Christian Education	\$589.18	\$458.34
Total Expenses	\$14,975.33	\$12,071.55
Net Church Income	(\$1,403.84)	(\$179.88)

2018 Picture Directory

Preserve Your Memories

Be a part of our upcoming photography event!

Life Touch will be taking pictures of our members on **April 3, 4, and 5, 2018!**

Be Yourself. Classic, casual, musical, sporty, fun – it's up to you!

Make it special. Bring meaningful items and special people too!

Share your story with family and friends.

Each family receives a complimentary 8 x 10 photograph and a free directory for participating! You will have the opportunity to purchase additional photographs for yourself, family and friends.

If you would like to help in anyway with this endeavor, please contact Ruth in the church office. We will need help scheduling people for pictures, calling people, and organizing the event.