



Peace Lutheran Church

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March, 2013

In Like a Lion...Out Like A Lamb

Every year when the month of March rolls around, people look at the weather at the beginning of the month and use an old wives' tale to predict what the weather at the end of the month will be like. You've probably heard it. If the weather is nice and warm on March 1st, people will say "In like a lamb...out like a lion" and mean the weather which is good now will become bad by March 31st. Conversely, if the weather is cold and snowy on March 1st, people will say, "In like a lion...out like a lamb" and mean the weather which is bad now will become good by March 31st.

Rarely are old wives' tales accurate all the time, but perhaps this one could be used as a reminder of the ministry of Jesus and our lives as Christians, especially this year with the way the liturgical calendar worked out. March 1st finds us in the middle of Lent. March 31st is the Resurrection of our Lord – better known as Easter.

St. Peter says, "Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:8) The devil is like a mighty lion who, failing in a rebellion against God, wants to destroy God's most precious creation: mankind. He defeated Adam and Eve when he convinced them to doubt God's love and disobey God's will. Even though that doomed humanity, the devil wasn't finished yet. He works to destroy every human being in the same way. He even took on the Son of God who came to rescue us. We can truly say that March "came in like a lion" because the story of Lent is about a lion - the devil trying to ruin humanity once and for all by bringing down the Savior.

However, John the Baptist said of his cousin, Jesus, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29) Jesus was the lamb – the perfect and all sufficient sacrifice for the sin of the world. Through His sacrifice, sin has been forgiven and God has reconciled the world to Himself. By His death, death has been defeated and eternal life has been obtained. All of that has been ratified and guaranteed by Jesus rising from the dead to live again and never die. We can truly say that March "goes out like a lamb" because, on Easter Day – March 31st, we celebrate the Lamb returning to life to crush the devil, defeat death, and pave the way to everlasting life. It is as we often sing, "Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God."

Our lives until that eternal Easter can be lived according to this old wives' tale. For those who expect their lives to "come in like a lamb" so that they enjoy all the pleasures of this life while forsaking God and His way, their lives will certainly "go out like a lion" as they are tormented for all eternity by the devouring lion which is the devil. However, for us Christians who trust in Jesus for forgiveness and eternal life while being faithful to Him and following His way in this way, our lives may indeed "come in like a lion". Satan refuses to give up the fight and lose. He will be constantly trying to lead us away from Jesus through doubting God's Word, being rejected by some Christians, and persecuted by non-Christians. However, enduring to the end, our lives "go out like a lamb" as we join the saints around the throne of the Lamb, worshiping and praising Him for all eternity.

"In like a lion....out like a lamb"...maybe these old wives knew something!

Yours for good weather and good news,

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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Everyone who helped with the soup suppers during Lent.
Everyone who attended and helped at the Fat Tuesday party.
Everyone who helps prepare, setup, and clean up after Sunday school and Bible study each Sunday.
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, Gloria Creek and Karen Schaefer for playing the organ and piano during our worship services.
The adult choir for enhancing 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.
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.

Finances

We began the new year of 2013 with a deficit in the checking account of \$9,707.78. Our giving in January, 2013 is \$9,970.64 and our expenses for January were \$11,944.93. The amount NOT in our checking account at the end of January is \$11,682.07. The **Lutheran Church Extension Fund** loan balance as of January 31, 2013 is **\$55,000.00.**

LWML

- ♥ **Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 12 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. Don't forget your Mite Boxes!
- ♥ **We, along with members of Christ for the Deaf, will be hosting the last Lenten soup supper on Wednesday, March 20 at 6 p.m.** We will plan this more at our meeting on the 12.
- ♥ **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.
- ♥ **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 National Convention is in Pittsburgh June 27 – 30, 2013.** Registration information is in the latest *Quarterly*.
- ♥ **The Lutheran World Relief Drive will be May 18, 2013.** More details will be available as the time gets closer.

Ladies Bible study schedule

March is a special month this year. We continue our Lenten Walk with Wednesday evening services. Then on March 31st we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord! The BOOK of REVELATION study goes so well with the Lenten season themes of true repentance, eternal life for believers with our Savior, and joyous celebration with believers in heaven. Come and join the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS as they study God's Word together. They will meet for Bible study March 1st, 8th, and 15th from 1:15 - 3:15 pm at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave So.

Assisted Living Ministry with Lenten hymn singing and a devotion will be at the following locations. Tuesday, March 12th at 11 am the group will be at Bee Hive Home #1 at 2824 15th Ave So. On Friday, March 22nd at 11:45 am a no host lunch will be held at Jaker's, 1500 10th Ave So. After lunch ladies and gentlemen go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Bring a friend and enjoy participating in these activities!



March Anniversaries

- Mar. 2 Rick and Lori Symonsbergen
- Mar. 3 Hank and Kathy Politz
- Mar. 6 Gary and Tami Creek
- Mar. 24 Charlie and Cheri Hirst

Baptismal Anniversaries

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|-------|----|-------------------------|
| March | 2 | Charlie Fisher |
| | 3 | Stephanie Blomgren |
| | 4 | Elizabeth Becker |
| | 4 | Elizabeth Paul |
| | 4 | Amber Schoenthal |
| | 5 | Mitch Grove |
| | 13 | Val Kraenzel |
| | 13 | Richard Brandt |
| | 17 | Kevin Aguiar |
| | 20 | Michael Drummond |
| | 20 | Leah (Huttinger) Taylor |
| | 20 | Cheri Magnuson |
| | 21 | Joshua Schule |
| | 22 | Clarissa Shaffer |
| | 23 | Cheri (Bricks) Peterson |
| | 23 | Hailey McPartlin |
| | 23 | Kandace Faller |
| | 23 | Natalie Gerard |
| | 25 | Aedan Lewis |
| | 25 | Lucile Back |
| | 25 | Judy VanVleet |
| | 26 | Tyler Denning |
| | 27 | Janet Rubino |



INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

- John Birkholz**
- Jane Hering**
- Kathy McIntosh**
- Vicky Neiffer**
- Michel Wayman**

We pray for comfort for the family of **Patsy Zvara** who died suddenly on Thursday, February 28.

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

Free scrapbook day & potluck at Peace

Free scrapbook day & potluck at Peace on Saturday, March 23 starting at 12 noon. Please come and join us and spend the day or just part of the day with us making new friends, enjoying each other's company, working on projects that you've been wanting to finish, whether it be a scrapbook, making a card for someone, or some other craft project. We will have a soup themes potluck and I will provide coffee, tea, lemonade or juice. Let's have some fun, see you there! Please RSVP to Angelika Fisher at 231-1115. Thank you and God bless.

Members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans voting on extending our "Common Bond"

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a fraternal benefit society. So if you have Thrivent product, you are considered as part owner of the company. We also have a common bond, which will be voted on extending from Lutheran to all Christians. While almost all our members came as Lutherans, many are still active Christians but no longer attend Lutheran churches. (Information taken from *Thrivent* magazine Summer 2012; written by Bradford Hewitt, President and CEO of Thrivent.)

Between the dates of March 1 through April 30, 2013, if you are a Thrivent member, you will be able to vote on whether or not Thrivent should change their common bond to be Christian instead of Lutheran. Be watching for more details! Also, don't forget to designate your 2012 Choice Dollars by March 31, 2013! If you have questions or need help with designating your money, please contact one of our Congregational Advocates: Ruth Denning, 899-3147; or Amy Dorr, 899-4050. We are also in need of another Congregational Advocate. If you are willing to volunteer in this fashion, please contact Ruth or Amy.

Youth of Trinity fund raiser

The youth of Trinity Lutheran Great Falls are raising money to go to the Higher Things Conference in Tacoma, Washington this July. One of their fund raisers is a "Trip to Italy" dinner on Sunday, **March 3 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church**. You are invited to go and help them with this endeavor. There will be a variety of fine Italian cuisine and excellent house "wines" in a relaxing Italian atmosphere. The cost is \$5 for individuals, \$10 for couples and \$20 for families.

The Objects of Lent

is the theme for our 2013 Wednesday Evening Lent Services. Inanimate objects associated with the story of our Lord's passion will be the focus of our meditations.

March 6 th :	“Thorns”
March 13 th :	“Wood”
March 20 th :	“Silver”
March 28 th (Maundy Thursday):	“Bread”
March 29 th (Good Friday):	“Dice”
March 31 st (Easter):	“Seeds”

A soup supper will be served every Wednesday evening during Lent at 6:00 PM. Worship begins at 7:00 PM.

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“Forty Days for Life” February 13 to March 24

It is hard for some people to come to terms with the fact that Planned Parenthood is the largest abortion provider in America. In 2011 Planned Parenthood had a record high 333,964 abortions. Planned Parenthood Federation of America's new directive mandated that as of January 2013 all affiliates must provide abortions. (NationalReviewonline)

Several years ago, in Kalispell, Montana, an abortion facility was closed because of the presence of “40 Days for Life” participants. Lutherans have taken several days each year and our presence has always made an impact. Our last day is **Friday, March 8.**

We stand in front of Planned Parenthood and pray from 7 AM to 7 PM, usually in shifts of two hours with at least four people at all times. It would be great to have more people stand with us as numbers seem to make a bigger statement. I will be out there for the largest part of each day, never leaving anyone to stand alone.

Our prayer is that the hearts and minds of those passing or entering will be changed by the faithful presence of people who are praying for all who need a change of heart.

Barbara Going, Coordinator for Lutheran involvement