



## Peace Lutheran Church

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March, 2019

### The Joy of Snow

I write this article in the middle of the greatest accumulation of snow that I have seen in the 13 years that we have lived in Great Falls. And you know what? Nobody seems to be too happy about it. Instead I hear a lot of complaints. It's funny how your perception and evaluation of snow changes from the time that you are a child until the time that you're an adult. Remember how much you loved snow as a child? Snow was for playing – building snow forts, snowmen, and snowball fights. Snow was a thing of beauty. Snow changed a dark and dreary landscape into a winter wonderland. You couldn't wait for snow to come. And when snow did come, you sat in front of a window and watched the beauty of the snow envelope you.

However, as an adult our perspective on snow changes dramatically. Now, you look at snow and think how much you hate it. Snow means more work in shoveling and snow blowing. Snow means injuries due to slipping and falling. Snow means slower drives and more accidents. And, in years like this, with so much snow falling, it means accumulation to the point where we don't know what to do with it. All we can see is the negative effect of snow.

As the beginning of Lent 2019 coincides with this great snowstorm and massive accumulation, I would draw a connection between Lent and snow, but from a child's perspective. There is a joyful reminder in snow.

Lent, of course, has to do with ugly things such as sin, guilt, and punishment and what God has done to solve this problem. Sin is more than a few inappropriate choices which can be corrected by an act of the will. Sin is a condition in which we find ourselves ever since Adam and Eve rebelled against God. This "sinful nature" shows itself in sinful actions which violate the 10 Commandments. Sin is the evil which we have done and the good which we have failed to do. Sin is an indelible stain upon us which condemns us to death and hell. Like Montana in late fall with its dead vegetation and dirty ground, sin is dark and dirty.

But Lent also has to do with forgiveness, new life, and salvation. God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to do away with sin and its punishment, namely, death. Lent is about Jesus sacrificing His life on a cross as the payment for all of our sin. Jesus is punished so that we go free. Jesus dies so that we might live. Jesus rises from the dead on Easter morning so that we might live eternally and never die.

King David, after he had committed adultery with Bathsheba, penned Psalm 51. In this penitential Psalm, David expresses confidence in God's salvation and the effects it would have on him. And he uses the "S" word – snow – to understand it. He writes, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." (Psalm 51:7) Jesus' work on our behalf to earn forgiveness and gain salvation for us is remarkable in its effect. Because of Jesus, we are truly spiritually clean. We are whiter than snow on a field at noon with the sun shining on it. We are renewed, refreshed, and ready to stand before God and live in His presence forever.

Although I cannot stop the snow from falling or accumulating, I can give you something better to think about when you see it than simply how troublesome it is. Remember how dark, dirty, and dreary your yard was before the snow came. See how white and pure it looks now. During Lent, reflect on how dark, dirty, and dreary your life is because of sin. Consider how completely you have been cleansed and how purely you have been washed in the blood of Jesus Christ shed on the cross. You are truly clean. You are truly pure.

Believe me, this snow will finally stop and its luster will fade away as the snow melts. But the righteousness (holiness) which Jesus has won for you on the cross and guaranteed by his resurrection from the dead, will never fade away nor will your forgiveness melt. You will be whiter than snow for all eternity.

In Christ,

Pastor Steven R. 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 Paul Rubino's funeral service and reception.  
**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.  
**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 Monday, March 18 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!
- ♥ **We are sponsoring the first 2 soup suppers during Lent.** If you would like to help in any way, please contact Val Martin.
- ♥ **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.
- ♥ **National LWML Mite goal challenge is that each LWML member donate \$5 to mites so that we can make our state and national goals.** Please donate to the mite goal and give to Linda or Elsie.
- ♥ **The Lutheran World Relief Drive will be May 18, 2019.** More details will be available as the time gets closer.

**Ladies Bible study schedule**

After a long winter it's encouraging to know spring is on the horizon. The Lord's marvelous migration of birds has begun! By March 15th the bluebirds are in the mountains guarding their territory from fence posts. At the same time robins are scouting our lawns digging for worms. Along with these harbingers of spring, the church year begins the season of Lent. We have special opportunity to prepare ourselves for Holy Week and the festival of Easter in April. May we take advantage of these enriching midweek services!

Enrichment with Bible study is also available on Friday afternoons several times this month. The FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS continues their study of 1st PETER. Join them from 1-3pm on Friday, March 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd. Join them at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Av So.

Another opportunity to serve the Lord's people comes with the Assisted Living Ministry, which will lead hymn singing and provide a devotion at the following locations. On Tuesday, March 12th at 11 a.m. join the ladies and gentlemen at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave So. The monthly no host lunch will be held at 11:45 a.m. on Friday, March 29th at El Comedor Mexican Restaurant, 1120 15th St So. After lunch many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Av So. Your smile will brighten the day for these residents with the Lord's love!



## March Anniversaries

- Mar. 6 Gary and Tami Creek
- Mar. 10 Peter and Ashley Philippi

## Baptismal Anniversaries

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



### 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

**Rev. Mark Grunst** of Billings who has Lewy Body disease

**Connie Juden**

**Rev. Erich Kaelberer** - ALS

**Wallace Martin**, Mitch's brother under Hospice Care

**Dorothy Neuman**

The family of **Paul Rubino** who died January 19, 2019.

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

## Ushers for March

- March 3 -----Lyle and James Onstad
- March 10----- Arnie Gidlow  
----- Darrell Greenwood
- March 17----- Pat Lewis  
----- Arnie Wirth
- March 24----- Tyler Denning  
----- Greg Franczyk
- March 31----- Mitch Martin  
----- Jared Dudden

## Nominating Committee

Darrell is looking for volunteers for the nominating committee

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

Chairman,

Secretary

Elders: (2 or more)

Trustees: (2 or more)

Education Director

Evangelism Director

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

## Rummage Sale

Members of Christ for the Deaf are sponsoring a rummage sale. The date is yet to be determined, but if you have items to donate, you may bring them to the church and place them in their office. If you are donating electronics, please bring the owner's manual also. It is easier to sell those items when the manual is with them. Thank you! Funds raised will go toward Deaf Camp 2019.

## *The Signs of Salvation*

Signs are very important to us. They direct us past themselves to more information or a final destination. If we pay attention to the signs, then we will get the information we need and arrive at the destination we seek.

God has given us many signs to show us His love and to direct us to His salvation. *The Signs of Salvation* will be the theme for our Wednesday evening Lenten services this year. In the services, we will meditate upon the signs God has given us and strengthen our faith in the salvation to which the signs point to us.

March 6 (Ash Wednesday)	“The Sign of Ashes”	Jeremiah 6:22-26
March 13 (Lent 2)	“The Sign of the Rainbow”	Genesis 9:8-17
March 20 (Lent 3)	“The Sign of a Baby”	Luke 2:1-12
March 27 (Lent 4)	“The Sign of Healing”	John 4:46-54
April 3 (Lent 5)	“The Sign of Celebration”	John 2:11
April 10 (Lent 6)	“The Sign Spoken Against”	Luke 2:34
April 18 (Maundy Thursday)	“The Sign of Blood”	Exodus 12:13
April 19 (Good Friday)	“The Sign of the Cross”	John 19:19-21
April 21 (Easter Sunday)	“The Sign of Nothing”	Luke 24:1-11

The services will have a simplified liturgy and, in lieu of children’s sermon, will provide activities for parents and children to do at home to reinforce the theme of the service. Worship begins at 7 PM. A light supper will be served at 6 PM. Join us as we contemplate “the signs of salvation” this Lenten season.