



Peace Lutheran Church

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May, 2013

Confirmation and Confession

May 2013

In a previous congregation, we practiced the tradition of “confirmation examination”. (Some of you who are older may remember participating in such a tradition.) On that evening, our confirmands were to answer questions about what they learned and believed. Before we began, I said that any question the confirmands were unable to answer would be asked of the parents. You’ve never seen so many parents tense up and become afraid. (Fortunately, the confirmands did well and only one question had to be asked of the congregation. The person who responded got it right.)

I think the reason the parents were so shocked is that we view the activities of Confirmation Day as being a one time event limited to junior high school kids. These adults didn’t think they needed to be involved in confirmation because, once you’ve endured Confirmation, you never have to go through it again. It’s no wonder we experience the “graduation syndrome” with many confirmands. They’ve completed a course of study, learned the material, been tested on the material, and passed. We even have a ceremony that looks a lot like a graduation ceremony. Now (these young people think) they don’t have to do any more studying of the Bible and confessing of the faith. (Some even think they don’t need to attend worship any more.)

Obviously, the point of Confirmation is misunderstood. If we think confirmation completes or confirms what happened in baptism, we are wrong. Baptism is complete in and of itself. If we think confirmation makes these young people “real” or “full” members of the Church, we are also wrong. All people who have been baptized are full members of Christ’s Church. Nothing they do on Confirmation Day causes or validates that.

On Confirmation Day, we celebrate not what these young people are doing for God, but what God has done and is doing in them and for them. Through confession and absolution and the preaching and teaching of His Word, God strengthens and confirms the faith which He gave these young people in their baptisms. They respond by publicly confessing the faith which was confessed for them on their baptism days. In those congregations that still have confirmation examination, these young people have the opportunity to profess the content of that faith in a public setting.

The parents in my previous congregation who were shocked (and a bit afraid) to be a part of the confirmation activities long after their individual confirmation days shouldn’t have been. Confirmation is not a single event but an ongoing process. Every Sunday, through confession and absolution and the preaching and teaching of God’s Word, God confirms your faith. You respond by confessing that faith in Divine Service and professing the content of that faith during the week in your vocations. St. Peter encourages us to do just that when he writes “but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.” (1 Peter 3:16)

Parents of young people who have been confirmed under me know that I prefer the more ancient term, *catechesis*, to the term *confirmation* for this process. *Catechesis* is much broader than simply the “book learning” which confirmation traditionally implies. Catechesis is training in how to live as a Christian. It involves the study of God’s Word in class, the worship of God in Divine Service, and the meditating on God’s Word during the week. Catechesis may rightly be celebrated by a special day we call “Confirmation Day”, but it is something that does not end there. Catechesis - with all that God gives us and all that God does in us - is something for every Christian from birth until death. Join with us on May 5th in celebrating God’s work in Tommy Croskrey, Molly Jacobsen, and Katherine Onstad. Allow God to continue His work in you through continual catechesis.

Happy Confirmation Day To Everyone!

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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TO

Everyone who donated lilies to enhance our Easter Worship Services.

Youth for all of your hard work on the Easter breakfast.

Tom and Connie Croskrey, Kristen Jacobsen, and Brook Gerard for organizing the Easter breakfast.

Tom and Connie Croskrey, Kristen Jacobsen, Lyle Onstad, and Brook Gerard for organizing the lock-in over the Easter weekend!

The adult choir for enhancing our Worship Services.

Jill Keil for directing the adult choir.

Karen Schaefer for accompanying the adult choir.

All of the people who go to Park Place, Benefis Skilled Nursing Center and Highgate House to sing hymns and read devotions and minister to the shut-ins.

Gloria Creek, Val Martin and Karen Schaefer 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.

Idell Croskrey 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.

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.

Confirmation Day for 3

We celebrate with three youth of Peace Lutheran who will confirm their faith on **Sunday, May 5 at the 9:30 a.m.** Worship Service. They are **Tommy Croskrey, Molly Jacobsen, and Katherine Onstad.**

Thomas Wayne Croskrey Jr. is the son Tom and Connie Croskrey and was born on April 24, 1999.

Molly Katherine Jacobsen is the daughter of Kevin and Kristen Jacobsen and was born September 3, 1999.

Katherine Rose Onstad is the daughter of Lyle and Tara Onstad and was born November 9, 1998.

We join them in thanking and praising God for the gift of faith that He has bestowed on these young people and pray that Jesus would continue to lead and guide them as they continue their walk of faith in Him as their Savior.

High school graduate

We celebrate with **Tyler John Denning** who will graduate from Great Falls High School on May 31. Tyler was born March 6, 1995 and is the son of Garry and Ruth Denning. He was baptized on March 26, 1995 and confirmed on May 17, 2009 at Peace Lutheran Church. He plans to work this summer and may either join the Air Force or go to a college to get his pilot's license. We join in thanking and praising God for Tyler's continued faith and pray for God's continued guidance as he enters this new chapter of his life.

LWML

- ♥ **Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 14 at 6:30 p.m. with a Bible study.** Our guest speaker will be Wendy Smith who is the Admissions Nurse for Peace Hospice. All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to come and join us! We will be having election of officers. Don't forget your Mite Boxes!
- ♥ **During the month of June we will be collecting items to give to the Helping Hands store at First English Lutheran Church here in Great Falls.** Be watching for their Wish List which will be on the table in the hallway!
- ♥ **The next planning meeting will be Tuesday, July 9, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.** This is the meeting that we plan the coming year's activities, events and projects. All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to come and help with the planning for the coming year.
- ♥ **The Lutheran World Relief drive will be on May 18, 2013 this year.** Be watching for more details!



May Anniversaries

May 1 Leonard and Eva Sivumaki
 May 2 Lucas and Andrea Holzheimer
 May 9 Robert and Ellen Marten
 May 10 Mitch and Val Martin
 May 10 Mike and Cheri Magnuson
 May 14 Dan and Kim Schaaf
 May 14 Bill and Rose Bristol
 May 19 Dan and Dawn Grove
 May 20 Earl and Nancy Garnes
 May 21 Mike and Saville McDaniel
 May 22 Tom and Melissa Weaver
 May 24 Leah and Gregory Taylor
 May 25 – Greg and Kaye Franczyk



INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

John Birkholz
Martha Faber
Jane Hering
Kathy McIntosh
Vicky Neiffer
Beate Neumann
Shirley Smesler
Michel Wayman

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

Finances

Our giving in March, 2013 is \$14,539.90 and our expenses for March were \$13,815.62. **The amount that Peace's checking account is in the red at the end of March is \$13,242.31.** The **Lutheran Church Extension Fund** loan balance as of March 31, 2013 is **\$52,634.78.**

“Life Quotes” from Lutherans For Life

“So, how do we as a church reclaim holding out for marriage? ... We pray. We repent. We spend lots of time in God's Word. We receive the Sacrament regularly. We talk about it. We talk about it with our kids when they're young. We don't fall prey to the 'Well, they're going to have sex anyway, so I may at least tell them how to be protected.' No. We tell our young women about their worth and their value. We tell our young men what it means to be a man. We lift up the values of waiting. And we wait with them.” *Adriane Dorr, editor of "The Lutheran Witness"* – A “Life Quote” from Lutherans For Life · www.lutheransforlife.org

Baptismal Anniversaries

May	2	Tari Flom
	3	Benjamin Schuman
	5	Candice Schaaf
	8	Logan Geist
	10	Cindy Greenwood
	12	Laura Brandt
	16	Thomas Croskrey Jr.
	17	Kristen Hirst
	17	Lyla Meske
	18	Erica Brown
	21	Madeline Creek
	27	Meredeth Swaby
	28	Nora McKelvey
	29	Courtney Johnson
	31	Ann Nimmick

Pastor Schlund Gone

Pastor and Becky Schlund will be gone from May 31 through June 14. Pastor Schlund will be back in the office on Monday, June 17. If you are in need of pastoral ministry during his absence, contact your elder or Pastor Gerald Paul at Trinity Lutheran Church 452-2121.

Ascension Day service planned

Ascension Day will be on Thursday, May 9th. We will have a special worship service to celebrate this joyful occasion on that evening at 7:00 PM. There will refreshments served afterwards. Mark this on your calendar and join us for this special event.

Voters meeting set

Mark your calendars now for the next congregational voters meeting and potluck on Sunday, May 19 at 12 noon. We will have election of officers and discuss some important issues. If you are interested in serving the Lord as an elected official of Peace Lutheran Church, please contact Vice Chairman Rick Symonsbergen at 402-297-1474.

Ladies Bible Study Schedule

May brings many special events -- graduations, confirmation, music recitals, and the rite of spring planting. Enjoy all these activities, even though the calendar gets busy! The FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS will continue the study of the BOOK of REVELATION on May 3rd and May 10th from 1:15 - 3:15 pm at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave So. After these May meetings Bible classes will dismiss until September.

Assisted Living Ministry with hymn singing and devotions continues as usual throughout the summer. On May 14th at 11 am the group will be at Bee Hive Home #1, 2824 15th Ave So. Friday, May 17th they will meet for a no host lunch at 11:45 am at Boston's, 1101 7th St So. After lunch ladies and gentlemen will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Come and join in the singing in May and during the summer!

During the summer months, Bible study will be in recess. However, Assisted Living Ministry will continue with the following schedule:

June 28	Maple Garden
July 19	Five Loaves Too 300 Smelter N E
Aug 23	Appleby's
Sept 20	El Comedor
Oct 25	Five Loaves 4117 2nd Ave N
Nov 22	Prime Cut
Dec 20	JB's

It is that time of the year again....

Summer Sunday School and VBS are around the corner. Plans are being made, dates being set. Guess what we need??? You are right. We need TEACHERS!!!!!! We need teachers for Summer Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. Please find it in your heart to teach the children of Peace this summer.

A planning meeting -date and time and curriculum- for teachers will be forthcoming. VBS will be July 15-19 with the possibility of it being in the evening. Thank you very much for your help and support.

State Fair and Farmers Market Out Reach coming soon

A committee to help with the evangelism outreach at the State Fair and the Farmers Market is being formed. If you are interested in serving in this fashion, please contact Arnie Gidlow at mobows@mcn.net or 406-468-9385.

Christ for the Deaf rummage sale

The annual rummage sale that is sponsored by members of Christ for the Deaf will be May 17 and 18 at the parsonage, 2922 1st Avenue North. If you have items to donate, you may bring them to the church and place them in the office for the deaf. If you items that need to be picked up, please contact David Wise and he will make arrangements to come and get them. Thank you for all of your help and participation in this endeavor.

Save the Date: VBS!!

VBS is coming up-July 15-19. The times are to be announced. The children that attend VBS would appreciate it very much if you, the adults of Peace Lutheran Church, would donate your time as teachers during this time. Teachers are needed for crafts, music, snack/recreation and classroom time. Please consider how you will be helping the young people of the congregation during the week of Vacation Bible School this summer. Thank you very much for your help.



Happy Anniversary!

June Anniversaries

June 9	Paul and Janet Rubino
June 12	William and Ruth Rozokat
June 14	Tom and Connie Croskrey
June 16	Gerald and Jill Keil
June 16	Gene and Fran Davidson
June 16	Gordon and Barbara Swaby
June 17	Andrew and Kelsey Schlund
June 21	Mike and Carol Dawson

Baptismal Anniversaries

June	2	Cathy Schoenthal
	7	Joseph Furr II
	7	Cheri Hirst
	9	Alexis Geist
	11	Katie Heidrich
	12	Linda Aguiar
	14	Angela Fletcher
	16	Alicia Fletcher
	16	Bernie Schaaf
	18	Phyllis Schaaf
	18	Jeremy Davidson
	20	Will Inscore
	23	Meagan Croskrey
	24	Dawn Grove
	25	Erin Heidrich
	27	Marge Johnsten
	28	Becky Schlund
	29	Lisa Rubino
	30	Aleshia Arensmeyer