



Peace Lutheran Church

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May, 2015

Granddaughters and the Gospel

May 2015

You may not have known this, but my wife and I recently became grandparents. I say, "you may not know this" because it has been so difficult to get us to talk about it. When people are interested in hearing about our granddaughter, we just clam up. We just don't feel comfortable talking about her. We are not sure that we know the right things to say. If people say nothing about our granddaughter, we don't either. We are afraid to say anything. We don't want to offend anyone who might not have grandchildren or might be opposed to grandchildren.

Yeah, right!

The birth of a child (especially a grandchild) is an occasion for great joy. When one experiences great joy like that, it is only natural to share that joy. No one clams up when asked about a new grandchild. Giddy grandparents never think twice about talking about their grandchildren. They just do it. There is no worry about saying the right thing or offending people. Grandparents don't talk about grandchildren because they have to or because there is a rule requiring it. It just comes naturally. New life brings forth joy. And joy brings forth a response.

We recently celebrated the greatest and most important giving of new life on Easter. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who had been crucified and died on a cross to satisfy God's wrath against us and to earn forgiveness for all our sins was raised to life in the tomb. He came forth out of the tomb alive and victorious over sin, death, and the power of the devil. This new life brought forth joy in our sanctuary as we heard the Easter Good News and sang the uplifting Easter hymns.

Now this joy brings forth a response. Jesus explains what that response is when He said, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem." (Luke 24:46-47)

Too often, Christians are "guilted" into thinking they *must* tell this Easter story because they *have* to. That would be like grandparents thinking they *must* talk about their grandchildren because they *have* to. In doing this, joy is replaced by guilt. We share the Easter story with those who have never heard and those who have heard and forgotten precisely because of the joy of the Easter story. The joy is not simply that Jesus has come back from the dead, but what that resurrection means for us.

It means, of course, that we will rise bodily from our graves to live forever in the presence of the Lord Jesus in a place that is beyond our wildest dreams (1 Corinthians 2:9). But it is more than just that. We can live our lives with confidence and hope now, knowing that nothing can overcome us. Sin can't overcome us because it was dealt with on the cross. As a result of that, the troubles in this world caused by sin cannot overcome us because they are only temporary while we are eternal. Even death can't overcome us for Jesus' resurrection has destroyed death and its power to frighten us or hold on to us. (Hebrews 2:14-15)

Remember that Easter joy and talk about it like you talk about grandchildren. Don't worry about what you will say or how you will say it. Don't worry about offending anyone. Share the joy that the resurrected Jesus has brought into your life with the lost, the hurting, and the despairing people you encounter. Remember that while you are doing this, Jesus promises, "I will be with you always." (Matthew 28:20)

By the way, did I tell you I have pictures of my granddaughter?

In Christ, our risen and living Lord,

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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

The adults who organized the youth breakfast and stayed with them during the lock-in.

The adult choir for enhancing our Worship Services.

Val Martin for directing the adult choir.

Elizabeth Allen for accompanying the adult choir.

David and Darrell Greenwood for replacing the switch and router boxes to fix the internet at the church.

Val Martin and Elsie Huss for driving the ladies to Lewistown for the LWML Rally.

All those people who volunteer to serve as officers in our congregation.

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 and Val Martin 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.

Angelika Fisher for keeping the church clean each week.

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, May 12 at 6:30 p.m. with a Bible study.** We will have elections of officers and a brief meeting. All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to come and join us! Remember 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 7, 2015 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 16, 2015 this year.** Be watching for more details!

Ladies Bible Study Schedule

Oh, the month of May! The Lord's perennial garden of wildflowers are blooming in profusion in the foothills of the Highwood, the Little Belt, and the Rocky Mountains! Early in May on sunny slopes look for lavender Pasque flower, yellow bell, and white spring beauty. Later in the month find pink geranium, deep purple leather flower, coral rose plume aven, blue bells, white shepherd's eye, yellow glacier lilies, and numerous other varieties. On the shaded mossy north slopes of the mountains find the magenta calypso orchid. Tourists drive a thousand miles to view these gorgeous blooms later in the summer at higher elevations in Yellowstone and Glacier Parks. It's an hour's drive for you! Look for a sampling of these flowers on your church secretary's desk. Is there a wildflower fanatic in the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS? Yes...

Continuing with their study of 1 CORINTHIANS the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS will meet from 1 - 3pm on May 1st, 8th, and 29th. Join the group at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave So. There's always an extra chair waiting for you, where you can enjoy fellowship as God's Word is studied.

Assisted Living Ministry with hymn singing and a devotion will meet at the following locations. Tuesday, May 12th at 11 a.m. they will be at Bee Hive Home #1, 2824 15th Ave So. On Friday, May 15th at 11:45 a.m. ladies and gentlemen will gather for a no host lunch at Buffalo Wild Wings, 117 Northwest Bypass. Later many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Do feel welcome at all these activities!



May Anniversaries

- May 1 Leonard and Eva Sivumaki
- May 10 Mitch and Val Martin
- May 10 Mike and Cheri Magnuson
- May 19 Dan and Dawn Grove
- May 20 Earl and Nancy Garnes
- May 21 Mike and Saville McDaniel
- 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**
- Tami Birkholz** (John's sister-in-law)
- June Foard**, June Meier's daughter
- Jane Hering**

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

Baptismal Anniversaries

- May 2 Tari Flom
- 3 Benjamin Schuman
- 5 Candice Schaaf
- 10 Cindy Greenwood
- 12 Laura Brandt
- 16 Thomas Croskrey Jr.
- 17 Kristen Hirst
- 17 Lyla Meske
- 21 Madeline Creek
- 21 Shannon Birkholz
- 31 Ann Nimmick

Ushers for May

- May 3 -----Arnie Gidlow
- Matt Schlund
- May 10-----Kevin Aguiar
- Bruce Clark
- May 17-----Mitch Martin
- Eric Fletcher
- May 24-----Ed Ostlund
- Dan Grove
- May 31-----?
- ?

Finances

The following is a rundown of our giving for the year 2015 so far:

- First Quarter (January – March)
- January** – Given: \$9,221.75
- Expenses: \$13,381.28
- February** – Given: \$11,707.40
- Expenses: \$9,096.64
- March** – Given: \$12,569.45
- Expenses: \$10,080.66

“Life Quotes” from Lutherans For Life

“The Apostle Paul seemed to have thought that giving thanks was front and center in the life of the Christian: Give thanks in all things (1 Timothy 5:18) ... always and for everything giving thanks (Ephesians 5:20) ... in everything by prayer ... with thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6). And be thankful ... with thankfulness in your heart toward God ... do everything ... giving thanks to God the Father (Colossians 3:13-17). Continue steadfastly in prayer, with thanksgiving (Colossians 4:2).” *James M. Kushiner, the Fellowship of St. James* – A “Life Quote” from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org

Confirmation Day

Confirmation Day will be on Sunday, May 3rd. We have two young people to be confirmed this year – **Nolan Croskrey and Mackenzie Smelser**. Please remember them in your prayers and join us for that day of celebration.

Pastor Schlund Gone

Pastor and Becky Schlund will be gone from May 14 through 28. Pastor Schlund will be back in the office on Monday, June 1. 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 Worship Service

There will NOT be a worship service on May 14 for Ascension because Pastor Schlund will be out of town.



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Upcoming event:

Estate Strategy Essentials Seminar sponsored by Karl Dorr-Thrivent Financial

Friday, May 8, 2015 from 2pm to 4pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1326 1st Ave N. More information will follow. Please call Marie at Karl Dorr's office, 727-1151, if you have questions.

Members of Christ for the Deaf sponsor rummage sale

The annual rummage sale that is sponsored by members of Christ for the Deaf will be May 15 and 16 at the church, 3340 11th Avenue South. If you have items to donate, you may bring them to the church and place them in the office for the deaf. If you have 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.

Applying Biblical Teachings

“If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever” (1 Tim. 5:8).

In his first letter to Timothy, the Apostle Paul clearly writes with regard to the natural family, safeguarding the God-given ties and duties of each member to the other. There is to be a relationship between husband and wife, between parents and children, and between grandparents and grandchildren. This relationship is to be in complete harmony within the family of God. One of the obligations within God's family, His household, is that of providing for our immediate families.

We may reason that providing for our family is the good and moral thing to do but we may fall short of grasping this biblical teaching. Faith is exhibited by deeds that flow from Christ's love residing in one's heart. If a believer neglects the needs of family members, then the love that took Christ to the cross can no longer be his. By his actions, according to St. Paul, he has denied the faith. In God's sight, this is worse than similar actions of one who has never heard the Word or believed, for it is, in fact, a renunciation of Christ and His love.

Too, those neglected through no fault of their own must often rely on the charity of others. Thus, Christians who neglect the support of their families pile sin upon sin, for through their neglect, they hinder the work of God's family. Matthew Henry stated it this way in his commentary: “Charity misplaced is a great hindrance to true charity; there should be prudence in the choice of the objects of charity, that it may not be thrown away upon those who are not properly so, that there may be the more for those who are real objects of charity.”

True Christian charity flows from Christ's love in our hearts. True Christian charity begins at home in properly providing for our families as through the power of the Gospel, we exhibit our faith through our deeds. And true Christian charity extends beyond the home as we give to others in need and to the Lord's work here at Peace Lutheran Church.