



Peace Lutheran Church

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It Will All Slow Down After This

May 2016

“It will all slow down after this.” That’s the running joke in the church office during busy times. When things are busy and we are tempted to become frustrated or give up, we comfort ourselves with the assumption that, once we finish a particular task, things will slow down. THEN we can take it easy and relax after that. Unfortunately, it seems that, when we complete a big task, then another task takes its place – another church holiday, another special worship service, another big conference, another funeral, and so on. So it remains busy with no slowdown – hence, the joke.

Maybe you feel the same about your life. Your schedule is packed. You are mentally and physically drained. You need some rest and rejuvenation. You hope, “It will all slow down after this.” But it never slows down. It only gets busier. You only get more tired. Even your attempts at “rest” and recreation wear you out as you try to pack as much fun as you can into the limited time you set aside for it. You become worn out body and soul.

What’s the solution? Jesus says, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Matthew 11:28-29) Taking the time out to come to Jesus where He has promised to reveal Himself to you in Word and Sacrament will give you rest for your body and rest for your soul. You will receive comfort for your past mistakes through the forgiveness of your sins in Holy Absolution and the Lord’s Supper. You will find assurance for the present and hope for the future in the reading and preaching of the Word of God. Doing this is not easy with so many things trying to draw you away. It requires commitment on your part, but the results will be worth it.

Then there’s the corollary to the statement, “It will all slow down after this,” and that’s “It will all get better after this.” Maybe your situation is more than just weariness. Maybe the situation in your life is one crisis after another: financial problems; job difficulty; serious illness for you, a family member, or dear friend; death of a loved one and so on. Maybe your hope (or wish) is that somehow or some way the crises will stop after the current one and everything will get better. But they don’t. Our faith is tested. We find ourselves burdened in a different way.

What’s the solution? First, remember that faith in Jesus Christ does not equate with a life free of problems. We live in a world totally corrupted by sin and we will suffer, even as Christians. Jesus does not promise an easy life now, but He guarantees hope for the future in Him. Jesus says, “In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33) We share in His victory even before we experience the results. We gather together in worship to encourage one another of that victory during difficult times.

Secondly, we take heart that we will eventually experience the fruits of that victory. Things *will* all get better when God makes all things new and perfect again. We’ve been hearing what that victory will be like in our readings from the book of Revelation during the Easter season. St. John writes about what it will be like: “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” (Revelation 21:3-4)

Maybe it will not “all slow down after this”. But you can find spiritual rest and refreshment to endure the hectic times in our Lord’s Word and Sacrament. Take heart and have hope. Things will definitely “all get better after this.” We look forward to that with faith and anticipation.

In Christ Jesus, our living Lord,

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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TO

Val Martin and Elsie Huss for all of your hard work as co-chairpersons for the LWML District Convention.

Helen Lewis for all of your hard work organizing the servant events for the LWML District Convention.

Cheri Magnuson and Becky Schlund for volunteering to be the delegates to the convention.

Elders for serving the supper on Friday of the convention.

Anyone else who helped, cleaned, organized or attended the convention.

Arnie Gidlow for organizing the witness workshop.

Everyone who came and helped on cleaning day.

Everyone who helped or brought food for Martha Faber's service.

The adult choir for enhancing our Worship Services.

Val Martin for directing the adult choir.

Elizabeth Allen for accompanying the adult choir.

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 10 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!
- ♥ **Our annual planning meeting will be on Tuesday, July 12, 2016 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 14, 2016 this year.** Sylvia Adams will be taking the items down to Billings and will pick them up on Thursday, May 12. Please have items in boxes, weighed and marked by then.

Ladies Bible Study Schedule

April snows and showers have produced an abundance of May wildflowers in the Highwoods and the Little Belt Mountains. Look for glacier lilies, calypso orchids, bluebells, monkey flower, geranium, wild rose, lupines, blue camas, and a host of others! They are blooming just an hour's drive away...May marks the final month of Bible study before summer dismissal for the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS. They will meet to study II CORINTHIANS on May 6th, 13th, and 20th from 1-3 pm at the home of Ann Nimmick, 2327 15th Ave So.

Assisted Living Ministry with hymn singing and a devotion will meet at the following locations. Tuesday, May 10th at 11 a.m. ladies and gentlemen will gather at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave So. On Friday, May 27th at 11:45 a.m. the group will meet for a no host lunch at Maple Garden Restaurant, 5401 9th Ave So. After lunch many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Come and share God's love by your presence and your smile with these residents!



May Anniversaries

May 1 Leonard and Eva Sivumaki
 May 6 Al and Roberta Beute
 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 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)
Martha Faber
Jane Hering
Connie Juden
Bill Lowden

We pray for comfort for the family of **Martha Faber** who died Friday April 29.

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

Baptismal Anniversaries

May 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 1 -----Arnie Gidlow
 -----Ed Ostlund
 May 8 -----Lyle Onstad
 -----Lee Henselin
 May 15-----Bruce Clark
 -----Kevin Aguiar
 May 22-----Arnie Gidlow
 -----Greg Franczyk
 May 29-----Mitch Martin
 -----Eric Fletcher

Finances

JANUARY 1 - MARCH 30, 2016

CHURCH	YTD	YTD
INCOME	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Regular Offerings	\$35,927.00	\$ 35,079.99
Other Income	\$885.00	\$45.00
Total Income	\$36,812.00	\$ 35,124.99
Church Expenses		
Personnel/Benefits	\$21,478.52	\$ 20,683.71
Administrative	\$1,789.41	\$2,092.50
Buildings & Grounds	\$7,437.84	\$6,200.04
Missions	\$3,120.78	\$2,874.99
Christian Education	\$1,444.22	\$1,250.01
Total Expenses	\$35,270.77	\$33,101.25
Net Church Income	\$1,541.23	\$2,023.74

Please keep these confirmands in your prayers:

Andrew David Onstad was born 21st of June 2001 at Martin Army Community Hospital in Fort Benning, Georgia. Andrew was baptized when he was 10 days old at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Columbus, Georgia on July 1, 2001. He was baptized by Reverend Carl L Peterson/Dr. Lewis Hazouri. His baptismal sponsors were Jeff and Vicki Downhour and Naomi Onstad. Andrew was a member of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Wamego Kansas from 2002 to 2005. He has been a member of Peace Lutheran Church since 2005. He will be starting high school at CM Russell High in the fall. He is active in the Boy Scouts, and enjoys skiing, camping, hunting, and computers.

Alicia Anne Fletcher was born on May 23, 2002 at Benefis Hospital in Great Falls. She was baptized, June 16, 2002 at Peace Lutheran Church. Her sponsors were Dennis and Dan Martin. She has been a member of Peace since she was a baby. Her parents are Bob and Angie Fletcher. She will be starting high school this fall at Great Falls High and is an alternate for the Bison Cheer Squad. She plays in the Philharmonic Orchestra at East Junior High and is a member of the Junior Honor Society.

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 13 and 14 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

“But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart’” (1 Sam. 16:7).

When Samuel, by God’s command, was seeking someone to succeed Saul as King of Israel, he examined the sons of Jesse. In that process, he considered their stature and physical characteristics. “When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the Lord’s anointed stands here before the Lord’” (1 Sam. 16:6). But God told Samuel, “Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Sam. 16:7).

The heart is the sum total of a person. The heart is the center for decisions, obedience and devotion. It is the heart where God’s Word is received and put into practice.

And God knows the sum total of a person, for God knows the heart. In this light, the Apostle Paul wrote a powerful warning in his letter to the Colossians, “Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming” (Col. 3:5-6). That which we appear to be to others is secondary, for God knows our hearts.

The same is true concerning our giving to the Lord. When we give, He knows the why of our decisions, the degree of our obedience and the depth of our devotion. God knows if personal greed (in the sense of putting our best image forward) or a contrite heart is the motivation for our giving.

In the midst of pleading with God for mercy over grievous hidden sins, King David wrote, “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise” (Psa. 51:17). That must be the state of our heart — broken and contrite — when we bring our offerings to God. And this is done by the power of the Gospel which breaks the heart from sin and subdues it, bringing it to repentance in the blood of the Lamb.

With a subdued and repentant heart, centered in Christ Jesus, when we give, no matter under what circumstances, we can say with the Apostle Paul with full understanding, “. . . we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal” (2 Cor. 4:16-18).