



Peace Lutheran Church

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An Ongoing Celebration

On November 2, 2016, the Chicago Cubs defeated the Cleveland Indians 8-7 to win the World Series, a feat not achieved by the Cubs in over 108 years. As you may know, I am a die-hard Cubs' and have been for 47 years (beginning my fandom in the ill-fated summer of 1969, a year in which the Cubs royally choked). As many of you witnessed, I was thrilled beyond measure at the Cubs' victory, something I never thought I'd see in my life time. We celebrated with champagne and visits with my sons in Iowa and Mexico via Facetime. It was the very best thing I ever experienced in sports.

What about the next day? Did I say, "Well, that was nice. What football game is on now?" No. Did I think, "Well, now that I've experienced that thrilling victory, I don't have to think about it anymore. I'm good to go."? No, no, no, and no! I have not stopped thinking about the Cubs' World Series victory since the night they achieved it. Thanks to YouTube, I am able to relive the victory, especially the thrilling final out, any time I want. And I want it a lot. I've watched those videos again and again and again. Even though I know the outcome and have seen the videos countless times, I never grow tired of seeing them. And I look forward to the next victory, hopefully, in November of 2017.

Why do I tell this story, other than to have the chance to talk about the Cubs with you one more time? I thought about it as we finished our recent Easter celebration. Many Christians enthusiastically celebrated Easter and the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. But, for many Christians, that celebration ended on April 16th. Many probably said, "Well, that was nice. What shall we do this summer?" Or, "Well, that was exciting but I'm sure glad that's over. It was SO busy."

But if we fans of the Cubs (or insert your favorite sports team here) get so excited about grown men playing a children's game and winning, how much more should we be excited about the victory Jesus achieved by rising from the dead on Easter? The Scriptures tell us that, if Jesus didn't rise from the dead to live again, we were doomed. Paul writes, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied." (1 Corinthians 15:17-19 In other words, if Easter never happened, then our faith is worthless, we still have our sins, and we and all our family will die and stay dead forever. If we still follow Jesus after all that disappointment, people should feel sorry for us.

But Easter changed all of that. Paul writes, "But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep." (1 Corinthians 15:20) Jesus HAS been raised from the dead and lives forever. He is the first one to do so but many more will rise from their graves to live forever. That includes you, me, and all who have faith in Jesus Christ.

Don't you think that's worthy of more celebration than even a Cubs' World Series victory? The early church did. The early church began celebrating Easter Day very early in the fourth century so that the resurrection of Jesus Christ would be celebrated annually. In developing the liturgical calendar, the early church set aside 50 days as the Easter season, an extended time for celebrating Jesus' resurrection even longer. The early church even changed their worship day from Saturday (the Jewish sabbath day) to Sunday in order that the resurrection of Jesus Christ would be celebrated every single week.

You don't have to become a Chicago Cubs' fan (although we would certainly welcome you on the bandwagon), but try acting like a Cubs' fan when it comes to the Lord's resurrection. Celebrate the day of resurrection on Easter with great joy and excitement. Continue that celebration with the same joy and excitement for the Great 50 Days of Easter! And never grow tired of assembling together every Sunday as we joyfully celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead every week and excitedly look forward to our own resurrection and eternal life with God in heaven. Nothing can top that – not even the Cubs!

In Christ Jesus, our living Lord,
Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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TO

Angie Fletcher and Youth for all of your hard work for setting up, decorating and preparing Easter Breakfast.

Everyone who came and helped on cleaning day.

The adult choir for enhancing our Worship Services.

Val Martin for directing 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 9 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 11, 2017 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 13, this year.** Sylvia Adams will be taking the items down to Billings and will pick them up on Thursday, May 11 Please have items in boxes, weighed and marked by then.

Ladies Bible Study Schedule

May is truly a banner month for wildflowers! April leads up to it with the early blooms, but May brings a carpet of special posies. Head for the Little Belt Mountains or take that drive up the Riceville/Evans Road that starts south of Centerville and ends at Riceville Hill near the Sluice Boxes trailhead. Few people travel this road, so if you drive 10 miles an hour, you are not in anyone's way! Look for bluebells, violets, harebells, lupines, leather flower, and rose plumed havens dancing in the sunshine. In the shade of the forest you may find beautiful calypso orchids, leopard lilies, and woodnymph. Can you tell the writer of this article is a wildflower enthusiast --?

Enthusiasm is something you will find at the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS, but you won't have to drive as far! Yes, studying God's Word in the company of friends can be as rewarding as finding a special wildflower for the first time. Join the ladies who will meet from 1-3 pm on May 5th and 19th at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave So, where they continue study the Book of Matthew. You may find some of the Lord's delicate wildflowers on the table.

Assisted Living Ministry continues -- with enthusiasm -- at the following locations leading hymn singing and a devotion. On Tuesday, May 9th at 11 a.m. ladies and gentlemen will meet at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave So. On Friday, May 12th at 11:45 a.m. they will gather for a no host lunch at the Bar S Supper Club, 5100 N Star Blvd. After lunch, many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Come and celebrate Mother's Day with these residents who love to sing the old familiar hymns!!



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 20 Earl and Nancy Garnes
- May 25 – Greg and Kaye Franczyk



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

Leonard Gidlow

Jane Hering

Connie Juden

Rev. Erich Kaelberer

June Meier

Bill and Dorothy Neuman

David Norman

Kathy Politz

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

Baptismal Anniversaries

- May 5 Candice Schaaf
- 10 Cindy Greenwood
- 12 Laura Brandt
- 16 Thomas Croskrey Jr.
- 21 Madeline Creek
- 21 Shannon Birkholz
- 31 Ann Nimmick

Ushers for May

- May 7 -----Arnie Gidlow
- Tyler Denning
- May 14----- Mitch Martin
- Eric Fletcher
- May 21----- Pat Lewis
- Greg Franczyk
- May 28-----Arnie Gidlow
- Matt Schlund

Finances

JANUARY 1, TO MARCH 31, 2017		
CHURCH INCOME	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Regular Offerings	\$ 33,482.70	\$ 34,250.01
Interest Income	\$ 300.72	\$ 249.99
Total Income	\$ 33,783.42	\$ 34,500.00
Church Expenses		
Personnel/Benefits	\$ 22,338.70	\$ 21,769.65
Administrative	\$ 2,125.81	\$ 2,052.48
Buildings & Grounds	\$ 8,166.10	\$ 8,662.50
Missions	\$ 3,224.79	\$ 2,874.99
Christian Education	\$ 1,599.88	\$ 1,337.49
Total Expenses	\$ 37,455.28	\$ 6,697.11
Net Church Income	\$ (3,671.86)	\$ (2,197.11)

Voters meeting set

Mark your calendars now for the next congregational voters meeting and potluck on **Sunday, May 7 at 12 noon**. Please consider being a nominee for the following offices of Peace Lutheran Church: Vice chairman (1 person); Elder (3 people); Trustee (3 people); Treasurer (1 person); Contact any of the Elders, Pat Lewis, Chairman Darrell Greenwood or Al Beute if you are interested. Thank you for your participation.

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 19 and 20 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.

Graduating Seniors Recognition Reception

After worship service **Sunday, May 21**, there will be a reception recognizing high school seniors from Peace who are graduating. This year the list includes **August Birkholz, Thomas Croskey, Jr., Molly Jacobsen, Katherine Onstad, and Marta Seville**. Congratulations and may God's peace and blessings be with you as you enter this new chapter in your lives.

VBS dates are set – VBS dates have been set for **June 12 – 16, 2017 from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM**. Lunch and a snack will be provided. We are in need of volunteers to help with many different aspects of VBS. The first meeting will be on Sunday, April 23 after Bible study and Sunday School. Please come and join us as we plan

Large Catechism Study

All of us studied and even memorized a large part of Luther's Small Catechism. But how many of you have read or studied Luther's LARGE Catechism? (How many of you even knew there was a Large Catechism?) Beginning on **Wednesday, April 19th**, the Adult Bible Class will begin looking at Luther's Large Catechism. (We will continue studying it in the fall.) If you are interested in being a part of this class and would like to pre-order a copy of Luther's Large Catechism, look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the east hall. The cost is \$12.00 each. If you have any questions, talk to Pastor Schlund.

It's Time to Celebrate!

The LWML is issuing a special invitation to come to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to celebrate 75 years (1942-2017) of God's blessings. Special exhibits and a 75th Anniversary Diamond Dazzle Gala Celebration! event on Saturday night will highlight the past and look toward the future. Bring your fellow LWMLers and let's celebrate this marvelous milestone. **Don't miss it.** Join us next month at the 37th Biennium LWML Convention June 22-25, 2017, at the Albuquerque Convention Center. **Please consider volunteering to help with the convention.** Take advantage of a registration discount for serving at least two 4-hour shifts. Send your Call for Workers form in as soon as possible to receive your assignment and a discount coupon before you register. A packet with a special registration form will be mailed to you; **please do not use the form included in the *Quarterly*.** **Be sure to send in your registration as soon as possible as directed!** For up-to-date convention information, see the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* or visit the website at www.lwml.org/2017-convention. More details can be found on your district LWML website (www.mtdistrictlwml.org)



You are invited to Lutheran Deaf Camp 2017!

Camp dates are August 10 through 13, 2017. Registration forms are in the church office. The cost this year is \$50 per person 13 years of age and up. Make checks out to Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf. (CLCD) Send checks and registration form to:

David Wise,
1141 4th Avenue
Vaughn, MT 59487

You are all welcome to come and join us!