



Peace Lutheran Church

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www.peacelutherangreatfalls.org

“How To Judge”

Do you know what the biggest social blunder you can commit these days? I don't believe it is insulting someone, making fun of someone, or bullying someone. From what I see in the media, on the internet, and other places, the worst thing you could possibly do is judge someone.

In various disagreements over behaviors, beliefs, and so on, the trump card to end all discussion is the phrase, “Don't judge me!” In various compliments about relationships, friendships, and so on, the highest compliment that can be paid is, “I like him because he doesn't judge me.” Christians who employ such phrases can even quote the Bible to support their position. A Christian will say “Don't judge me. After all, Jesus says, “Judge not, that you not be judged.” (Matthew 7:1)

Is this right? Should we, as Christians, never judge anyone? It all depends on what kind of judging we are doing and for what purpose we are judging.

People don't like judging because it refers to making a distinction between right and wrong. If the person judging concludes that the other person's belief or behavior was good, I don't think anyone would say, “Don't judge me!” It's only when the person judging concludes that the other person's belief or behavior is wrong that brings for the cry, “Don't judge me!” In other words, we don't like to be told that we are wrong.

As Christians, we are not only permitted to judge, but we are called to judge. We are called to judge behavior. Paul tells the Christians to judge and condemn a man living with his father's wife (1 Corinthians 5:12-13). We are called to judge doctrine. John tells people not to believe every teaching, but to test every teaching to see if it is from God. (1 John 4:1-3)

However, we are not given free reign to simply bash people in our judging. There are a few caveats. First, our judging must have the right content. We are speaking God's judgment as revealed to us in the Bible, not our own opinions, feelings, or wishes.

Second, our judging must be done in the right way. Jesus' words in Matthew 7 are not condemning all judgment, but hypocritical judgment. He goes on to say, “Why do you see the speck in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?... You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.” Any judgment we make must be made humbly and with realization that we are sinners as well.

Third, our judging must be done for the right reason. When we speak the Law of God to one another or it is preached or taught in church, that is a form of judgment. We condemn and reject wrong behaviors and beliefs. No one likes to hear that they are wrong, but the Law is spoken to show the need for and lead people to the Gospel in which there is forgiveness and acceptance by God for the sake of Christ's suffering and death on the cross.

As we approach the end of another church year and begin a new church year in Advent, we will hear a lot about judging as we consider texts and sermons about the end of the world. This time in the church is not designed just to make us feel bad. The Last Sunday in the Church Year and the season of Advent warn us to repent of our sin now, before Judgment Day, and turn in faith to Jesus Christ that we might be forgiven and have eternal life. When you have to speak words of judgment, do not simply be judgmental. Speak the Law of God (not your personal opinions) out of love that a person might see their sin, repent, and, by faith, receive forgiveness and everlasting life through the speaking of the Gospel. That's good judging and something all of us should do.

In Christ,

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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Val Martin, Gloria Creek and Karen Schaefer for playing the organ during our worship services.

Brook Gerard and Kaye Franczyk for planning and organizing the youth event at the Corn Maize.

Everyone who donated to or attended the fund raiser for Wee Disciples.

Everyone who attended the Reformation Service at Trinity and participated in the Oktoberfest meal and pie auction.

All of the youth who went to the Corn Maize.

Linda Aguiar and Helen Lewis for putting up the LWML display on the bulletin board.

All those who volunteer to teach Sunday school, Bible class, and midweek classes on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Everyone who came and cleaned the Lord's house on cleaning day.

Elsie Huss and Helen Lewis for organizing and preparing the meals for the LWML Montana District Board meetings.

The families who opened their homes to some of the ladies here for the LWML Montana District Board meeting.

Idell Croskrey for changing the banners and paraments.

Angelika Fisher for cleaning the church.

Everyone on the Prayer Chain for their time and prayers.

Everyone who has donated treats for our fellowship time.

Everyone who cleans the kitchen after Bible study on Sundays and Wednesdays.

All of the men who volunteer to usher.

Everyone who counts the offering.

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.

Finances

Our giving in September, 2013 was \$9,733.35 and our expenses for September are \$12,209.76. **The amount that Peace's checking account is in the red at the end of September is \$22,456.09.** The **Lutheran Church Extension Fund** loan balance as of September 30, 2013, is **\$45,371.81.**

Ladies Bible study schedule

November has arrived with the festive church harvest dinners, craft, and bake sales. Homes are filled with the spicy aromas of baking fruitcakes, cookies, and pumpkin pies. Take some time out of these busy activities to join the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS as they continue their study of John's BOOK of REVELATION. Bible study will be held November 1st and 8th from 1:15 - 3:15 pm at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave So. November 22nd Bible study will be at Ann Nimmick's home, 2327 15th Ave South at the above time.

Ladies and gentlemen participating in Assisted Living Ministry will meet for hymn singing and a devotion at the following locations. Tuesday, November 12th at 11:00 a.m. they will be at Bee Hive Home #1, 2816 15th Ave So. On Friday, November 15th at 11:45 a.m. the group will enjoy a no host lunch at Prime Cut, 3219 10th Ave So. Afterward many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. How these dear assisted living residents love to sing the joyful Thanksgiving hymns! Come and join in sharing God's Word in song!



Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®

During the Thrivent Choice Double Direction Church Campaign, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is giving up to \$15 million to churches across the country through Thrivent Choice and doubling all Choice Dollars directions made to churches – including Peace Lutheran Church – until November 30, 2013, or until the \$15 million has been awarded, whichever comes first! Make your direction today by going to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice, or calling 1-800-thrivent (800-847-4836) and say “Thrivent Choice”. If you need help or have any questions, speak to Ruth Denning or Amy Dorr.

LWML

- ♥ **Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 12 at 6:30 p.m. with Bible study and a business meeting.** All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to come and join us! Don't forget your Mite Boxes!
- ♥ **Thank you to Elsie Huss and Helen Lewis** who helped with the meal preparation, set-up and clean-up for the LWML District Board meeting at Peace Your hard work and dedication are very much appreciated!
- ♥ **During the Thanksgiving Day Worship Service** we will have a food offering brought to the altar and all of the food will be given to Great Falls Rescue Mission.
- ♥ **Be watching for the Gift of Love Tree at the end of November!**
- ♥ Remember that we will be gathering on **Black Friday, November 29 at 10:30 a.m.** to do some baking for the **Cookie Walk** set for **Saturday, December 14!** Bring whatever ingredients you need to bake your favorite cookies and do your baking here with your church lady friends!
- ♥ Remember that the ladies of LWML will be sponsoring the first Advent Soup Supper on December 4. If you would like to help in anyway, please contact Ruth Denning or Helen Lewis.
- ♥ **Remember to bring your new soap for Soap Sunday on the second Sunday of each month.** Soap collected will go to Lutheran World Relief. Thanks for your continued support.



November Anniversaries

Nov. 1	Vic and Carol Scheuffele
Nov. 6	Michael and Crystal Lewis
Nov. 17	Charlie and Angelika Fisher
Nov. 27	Steve and Sharon Mueller

Baptismal Anniversaries

November	1	Erik Scanlon
	4	Val Martin
	5	Hazel Merkel
	8	Carla Lux
	9	Brenna Hasbrouck
	9	Andrew Schlund
	10	Rick Symonsbergen
	10	Diane Steffens
	11	Pastor Steve Schlund
	11	Emily Townsend
	11	Michael Lewis
	12	Scott Schuman
	13	Dan Grove
	14	Breann Bibler
	16	Nathaniel Guderjahn
	18	Sharon Mueller
	21	Jill Southard
	21	Amanda Southard
	22	Katherine Onstad
	25	Scott Arensmeyer
	26	Alan Brown



INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:
The following people are experiencing health problems:

John Birkholz
Jane Hering
Beate Neumann
Judy VanVleet

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



Voters meeting set

The next Voters meeting for members of Peace will be **Sunday, November 17**. There will be a potluck meal before the meeting. The meeting should begin around 12:30 p.m. We will be voting on the 2014 budget and talking about the sale of the parsonage and other important issues. Copies of the budget can be picked up from the usher's stand for your review.





"Blessing and glory and
wisdom and thanksgiving and
honor and power and might
be to our God
forever and ever! Amen."
Revelation 7:12, NRSV

Thanksgiving Day Worship Service at Peace

We will once again have a **Thanksgiving Day Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.** on November 28. It is the Order of Matins without Communion. Following the service, we will also have a meal for families of Peace who want to come and join us. There is a sign-up sheet posted and a tentative menu. Please sign your name and the number of people in your family and indicate what you will be bringing to add to the meal. We all have sooo much for which to give thanks!

"Life Quotes" from Lutherans for Life

"It has always been evident to us, scientifically, morally, and logically, that life begins at conception. For the last word on the matter, we consult our Creator's guidebook. The Psalmist wrote, 'For You formed my inward parts; you wove me in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13 NASB⁰). He then noted, 'Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Your book were written all the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them' (Psalm 139:16 NASB⁰)." *Patriot Post* – A "Life Quote" from Lutherans For Life ·

www.lutheransforlife.org



Youth events

The youth of Peace Lutheran had a great time at the Corn Maize outside of Vaughn on October 20. Thank you to everyone who participated and to Brook and Kaye for planning and organizing the event. Their next outing will be **Sunday, December 1** for a hayride beginning at Zion Lutheran in Power at 2:30 p.m. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board with more information on what to expect and details of the event. Plan now to attend and bring a friend!

Nursing Home Ministry needs your help!



A ministry providing devotions and hymn singing has been provided weekly over a number of years for residents both at Benefis Extended Care Center and Park Place Nursing Home. Currently, there is a need for volunteers to help with this service. The weekly schedule is as follows:

**Benefis Skilled Nursing Center –
Tuesday 10:15 to 10:45 a.m.
Park Place Nursing Home –
Thursday 10:00 to 10:45 a.m.**

If you would like to help in this ministry of love, please contact Alice Schuman at 761-6657.