



Peace Lutheran Church

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What To Do About Our Government

With the midterm elections coming up soon, the question (complaint?) comes up again: what are we going to do about our government? Many people are dissatisfied with our government and those involved in running it on a local, state, or federal level. These people are not afraid to express their dissatisfaction, their anger, and their desire to change or even take down our government.

The rhetoric has often not been civil, but now is becoming hateful (just read the comments section of any online story about government) and even violent. This reached a new low last week with the sending of pipe bombs in the mail to various political figures. One wonders if this rage over government – more specifically, governmental policies which oppose what I want – is about to blow up (quite literally). What is a Christian to do with regard to government?

Some people believe that Christians should stay out of politics and government altogether. They believe that government is corrupt and evil. Therefore, Christians who are to be “in the world” and not “of the world” should steer clear of such evil influence on their lives. This was a position advocated by some at the time of the Reformation. However, Luther and his colleagues did not condemn government as an institution. In fact, Article XVI on Civil Government in the Augsburg Confession said this, “Christians may without sin occupy civil offices or serve as princes and judges, render decisions and pass sentences according to Imperial and other existing laws, punish evildoers with the sword, engage in just wars, serve as soldiers, buy and sell, take required oaths, possess property, be married, etc.”

Why? Although those who occupy government offices may be corrupt, incompetent, dishonest, or even evil, government as an institution is none of those things. In fact, the Bible says that government in all of its forms and manifestations comes from God. St. Paul writes, “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.” (Romans 13:1) Therefore, Paul goes on to say that rebelling against the government is not an option for Christians. It is the same as rebelling against God.

Since Christians cannot deal with unsatisfactory government by avoiding it or rebelling against it and since angry posts on Facebook and other social media are ineffective, what are we to do? We do exactly what the Word of God tells us to do: pray. St. Paul writes in his letter to Timothy, “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.” (1 Timothy 2:1-2) In the Fourth Petition of the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus commands us to pray, “Give us this day our daily bread.” This petition sums up all of our earthly needs which Luther says in his explanation includes, “devout and faithful rulers, good government.”

None of this means that Christians may not disagree with government or government policies or that Christians need to sit back and just “take it” from the government. Within our form of government, we have the opportunity to participate in changing things in a legal and civil way. We have the right to participate in government by holding office. We have the privilege of shaping government by voting. We have the obligation of decrying evil and error in our government.

The midterm elections will soon be over. Gone will be the campaign literature in our mailboxes and signs in our yards. Finished will be all of the phone calls asking for our opinions or to take part in various surveys. What remains? Our biblically commanded duty to pray for our government and all involved in it. That’s what you can do with this government.

In Christ,

Pastor Schlund

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TO

Linda Aguiar for putting up the LWML display in the hallway.

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

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

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

Matt Schlund 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.

Ladies Bible Study Schedule

How thankful we are for the many blessings God showers upon us daily! Blessings too numerous to count. Join the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS in making a list of perhaps 30 of ones that are dear to your heart, and pray a prayer of thanksgiving for one of them each day of November.

Continuing their study of 1 PETER, sessions will be held on November 2nd, 16th, and 30th. Join the ladies on these dates from 1-3pm at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave So. There's always a chair waiting for you!

Living the thankful life is what we see in assisted living residents every time we visit them. Join the Assisted Living Ministry as they bring hymns of joy and thanksgiving and a devotion to the residents at the following locations. Ladies and gentlemen will be at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave So, on Tuesday, November 13th at 11 o'clock. The no host lunch will be early this month. Join this congenial group for lunch on Friday, November 9th at 11:45 a.m. at 5 Loaves Bakery, 4117 2nd Ave North. After lunch many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Enjoy sharing some of your time with the residents of these homes!

Voters Meeting Set

The next Voters meeting for members of Peace will be **Sunday, November 4**. There will be a potluck meal before the meeting. The meeting should begin around 12:30 p.m. We will be voting on the 2019 budget and talking about other important issues. Copies of the budget can be picked up from the usher's stand for your review.

LWML

- ♥ **Our next meeting and Bible study will be Monday, November 19 at 6:30 p.m.** We will have a guest speaker from the Montana Highway Patrol and will collect stuffed animals and blankets for them to have in their cars to hand out to children who are in a car accident or a crisis situation. All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to come and join us! Remember your Mite Boxes!
- ♥ **On Saturday, December 1, at 10:00 AM,** we will be decorating the church for the Christmas season. People young and old are asked to come and help for as long as their schedule will allow.
- ♥ Remember that the ladies of LWML will be sponsoring the first Advent Soup Supper on Wednesday, **December 5**. If you would like to help in anyway, please contact LWML President Val Martin.
- ♥ **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

Baptismal Anniversaries

November 4 Val Martin
 9 Brenna Hasbrouck
 9 Andrew Schlund
 11 Pastor Steve Schlund
 11 Michael Lewis
 15 Kaylee Lewis
 21 Al Beute
 22 Katherine Onstad
 22 August Birkholz
 22 Josie Ryster
 24 Betsy Wirth
 24 – Arianah Bilskemper
 26 Alan Brown



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
Michael Drummond – Lupus
Leonard Gidlow under Hospice Care
Rev. Mark Grunst of Billings who has a neurological condition
Connie Juden
Rev. Erich Kaelberer
Dorothy Neuman

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

Deacon for November: Arnie Gidlow

November ushers:

4 – Darrell Greenwood and Matt Schlund
 11 – Pat Lewis and Greg Franczyk
 18 – Kevin Aguiar and Arnie Wirth
 25 – Eric Fletcher and Mitch Martin

Finances

JANUARY 1, TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2018		
CHURCH INCOME	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Regular Offerings	\$94,589.92	\$106,125.03
Interest Income	\$1,134.49	\$900.00
Total Income	\$95,724.41	\$107,025.03
Church Expenses		
Personnel/Benefits	\$68,067.97	\$69,387.39
Administrative	\$5,094.27	\$6,269.47
Buildings & Grounds	\$19,292.80	\$18,712.50
Missions	\$7,976.84	\$8,624.97
Worship	\$421.58	\$862.47
Christian Education	\$2,174.48	\$2,355.56
Evangelism	\$683.34	\$2,375.03
Total Expenses	\$103,711.28	\$108,587.39
Net Church Income	(\$7,986.87)	(\$1,562.36)

Thanksgiving Day Worship Service at Peace

We will once again have a **Thanksgiving Day Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.** on November 22. It is the Order of Matins without Communion. During the service there will be a non-perishable food offering that will be taken to the Great Falls Rescue Mission. 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!

Beginning in January of 2019,

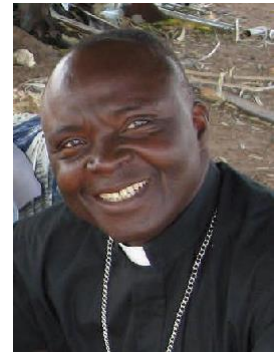
we will only be supplying printed copies of the monthly *Peace Talks* newsletter to those who request them. We will be posting it on our webpage at www.peaeluthergreatfalls.org

for those who can read it online. If you want to receive the newsletter in its printed version, please let Ruth in the church office know at 406-761-7343.



A LUTHERAN MINISTRY IN UPPER EAST GHANA, WEST AFRICA
Ghana Harvest will help establish Christian households, congregations, schools,
and outreach missions by providing needed spiritual, educational, charitable,
and financial resources

Monday, November 5, 2018
7:00 pm
Trinity Lutheran Church
1226 1st Ave N, Great Falls



Join us for a presentation from Pastor Nicholas Salifu as he shares information on
the important mission in Ghana, West Africa.

Refreshments will be served

A freewill offering will be taken to aid Pastor Salifu in his work in Ghana.

Please make all checks out to: Trinity Lutheran Church.

Sponsored by the Trinity LWML



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.