



Peace Lutheran Church

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November, 2012

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Christians and Government

November 2012

It's almost over. I'm not talking about the church year or the calendar year. I'm not even talking about the end of the world. I'm talking about this election cycle. It's almost over. With all of the harsh rhetoric and negative campaigning, I think many people will be glad when it is over. As Christians, what should we do during this election season and, more importantly, what should we do when it is over?

Some people think that government has become so corrupt or evil that Christians should not be a part of it. This is not a new idea. A group called the Anabaptists forbade Christian participation in government at the time of the Reformation. The Lutheran reformers rejected that idea. The Augsburg Confession says, "Our churches teach that lawful civil regulations are good works of God. They teach that it is right for Christians to hold political office, to serve as judges, to judge matters by Imperial laws and other existing laws, to impose just punishments, to engage in just wars, to serve as soldiers, to make legal contracts, to hold property, to take oaths when required by the magistrates, for a man to marry a wife, or a woman to be given in marriage." (AC XVI)

Some people say that Christians have a duty to vote while others, upset with the political system in America, say we should not vote because it only perpetuates a broken system. Voting is a right and privilege which is neither commanded nor forbidden by God. Therefore, Christians have freedom to disagree on what to do in this area.

What happens if your candidate doesn't get elected this time? Some people think that they have a right to ignore, disrespect, or rebel against a government with which they disagree. The Word of God speaks against this. "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves." (Romans 13:1-2) Of course, if the government demands that we do something contrary to the Word of God, Peter's words to the Jewish ruling council apply to us: "We must obey God rather than men!" (Acts 5:29)

After the election, I think many people will take the opportunity, either to crow over the election of their candidate or complain and bad-mouth the opposing candidate who got elected. The Bible gives us a different strategy to use, not only after the election, but before the election and throughout the year: pray. St. Paul writes to Timothy, "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

Maybe that's the best way for Christians to be involved in the political process. Pray for the people running for office. Pray for those who are elected to office. Pray for our government and all who are a part of it. Pray that God's will would be done and that we might "live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

Happy Election Day!

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

J H A N K S TO

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

Elsie Huss and Lorene Gotta for decorating, preparing and serving the food for the Central Zone fall rally.

Gloria Creek, Val Martin and Ruth Denning for volunteering to serve the Lord with gladness as the officers for the Central Zone LWML.

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

Val Martin, Lorene Gotta, Linda Aguiar, Loretta Walker, Elsie Huss, Helen Lewis, Ruth Denning and everyone who helped with the meal preparation, set-up and clean-up for our Mission Sunday celebration.

Rev. Ray Larson for coming and speaking during our Mission Sunday celebration.

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

All of the youth who went to the Corn Maze.

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 helped with the Reformation celebration.

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.

Cindy Greenwood for decorating the bulletin boards.

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, 2012 was \$11,343.34 and our expenses for September are \$11,116.19. **The amount that Peace's checking account is in the red at the end of September is \$11,040.88.** The **Lutheran Church Extension Fund** loan balance as of September 30, 2012, is **\$70,480.03.**

Ladies Bible study schedule

November sees the LADIES FRIDAY BIBLE CLASS finishing their study of JEREMIAH and LAMENTATIONS. It has been great! The new study they have chosen is the BOOK of REVELATIONS. Bible study will be held from 1:15 - 3:15 pm on November 2nd, 9th, and 16th at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave So. Take time during this busy month to join them as they study God's Word.

As the holidays approach join the Assisted Living Ministry where hymn singing and a devotion will be held at the following residences. Tuesday, November 13th at 11 am the group will meet at Bee Hive Home #1 at 2824 15th Ave So. On Friday, November 30th at 11:45 am the group will meet for a no host lunch at 5 Loaves Coffee House and Bakery at 4117 2nd Ave No. Later they will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Come and join in as residents enjoy singing Thanksgiving hymns along with other favorites!

Voters meeting set

The next Voters meeting for members of Peace will be **Sunday, November 11.** There will be a pancake and sausage/bacon meal fund raiser for our Seminarian Andrew Schlund beginning at 12 noon. There will be a free will offering for the meal and a dessert auction while we eat. The meeting should begin around 1 p.m. We will be voting on the 2012 budget and other important issues. Copies of the budget can be picked up from the usher's stand for your review.

LWML

- ♥ **Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 13 at 6:30 p.m. with a guest speaker from the Rescue Mission, 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 Val Martin, Lorene Gotta, Linda Aguiar, Loretta Walker, Elsie Huss, Helen Lewis, Ruth Denning and everyone** who helped in any way with the meal preparation, set-up and clean-up for the Mission Sunday celebration. Your hard work and dedication are very much appreciated!
- ♥ **During the month of November we will be collecting non-perishable food items.** 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 the ladies of LWML will be sponsoring the first Advent Soup Supper on December 5. If you would like to help in anyway, please contact Marge Johnsten or Diane Steffens.
- ♥ **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
Kathy McIntosh
Michel Wayman
Patsy Zvara

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

55 Years and counting!!

Peace Lutheran Church had its first service in the new building on October 26, 1958 with Rev. Arnold F. Boehnke as pastor. In attendance were 170 worshippers. I am reminded of the hymn "Built on the Rock" page 645 in the Lutheran Service Book, verse 3 reads:

"We are God's house of living stones, built for His own habitation.

He through baptismal grace us owns.

Heirs of His wondrous salvation.

Were we but two His name to tell,

Yet He would deign with us to dwell with all His grace and His favor."

I pray that we all will remember our humble beginnings as we start our 56th year in Christ's name, Amen.

Submitted by Laura Brandt

Peace Lutheran church Archivist/Historian





"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 with families of Peace

We will once again have a Thanksgiving Day meal for families of Peace who want to come and join us. We will have a **Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.** followed by food, fun and fellowship for the afternoon. 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!



Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a fraternal organization. Fraternal means we are tax exempt and our members are directly involved, through our election process, with the operation of the company. In an effort to retain that status, it's VERY important that the members vote, both locally and nationally! The national Thrivent election ballots came in the mail to your house and can be filled out and sent back, or you may also vote online at www.thrivent.com. Cascade County Board of Directors elections will happen at Peace Lutheran Church on Sunday, November 18th before and after our 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. Donuts will be provided by Thrivent and all Thrivent members are encouraged to vote. If you have any questions you may contact one of our Congregational Advocates, Amy Dorr, Diann Stevens or Ruth Denning.

"Life Quotes" from Lutherans for Life

"[W]e make a grave mistake if we think just electing leaders whom we label 'pro-life' is somehow a pro-life mandate that will bring sweeping changes protecting the unborn from the daily slaughter of abortion. That did not even happen when all three branches of our government were 'pro-life.' We don't need just pro-life politicians. We need pro-life champions who will promote the priority of protecting innocent children even over the priority of protecting pocketbooks." *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, executive director of Lutherans For Life* – A "Life Quote" from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org

"God only has one 'natural' child. He adopted all the rest." *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, executive director of Lutherans For Life* – A "Life Quote" from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org

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.