



Peace Lutheran Church

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October, 2012

Our Job

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I recently watched a very interesting movie by the name of *Elmer Gantry*. It was made in 1960 and starred Burt Lancaster as a failed traveling salesman who decides to become a traveling preacher in order to make money. (He won the Academy Award for Best Actor for his efforts.) The movie was considered to be very controversial in its day and children were warned before the movie began not to watch it.

Why the big controversy? The movie is a scathing critique of tent style revivalism that swept across the country in the 1920's. Movie makers were afraid of offending the religious sensibilities of Americans at the time (something which seems quaint and hard to believe at this time) which is one reason why it took over 30 years for the book to be made into a movie.

In one scene, there is a meeting of local clergy and businessmen in which they are trying to decide if they wanted to invite the tent revival to their town. A few clergymen are not in favor of the revival. They believe the revival is all about emotion and entertainment done in order to attract people to empty churches. Therefore, they think the revival is wrong. One businessman disagrees. He stands up and says, "Our job is to make Christianity successful!"

This movie was interesting, not only because of its critique of religious practices from days gone by, but because it was also prophetic of religious practices in our present day. Many people, in light of dying churches and financial woes, think the job of the Church is to "make Christianity successful" and are willing to use almost any means to draw people in and raise more money.

In October, we celebrate Reformation Day. Some Lutherans seem to celebrate this event in a very triumphant manner, as if Luther's goal in his work was to establish a successful Lutheran Church. Nothing could be further from the truth. The basis of the Reformation was in the bold and clear confession of the truth of God's Word. When Luther was asked to recant, he said he could not because "my conscience is captive to the Word of God." In boldly confessing the Word of God and refusing to recant, Luther would gain no "success". He had, in effect, signed his own death warrant for he was now considered to be an outlaw by both Church and State.

As spiritual heirs of the Reformation, our "job" (if you want to call it that) is not to "make Christianity successful". We are to teach, preach, and confess the Word of God as Luther did. Being faithful to the Word of God may cost us numbers in our church, dollars in our budget, and personal rejection and suffering.

However, it is through the Word of God by which God grows His Kingdom. God says, "It [My Word] will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11). His purpose is the salvation of souls. The Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ is not some inadequate religious strategy of which we need to be ashamed. It is the true power for the Church. St. Paul said, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes." (Rom. 1:16)

So we continue with our "job" (actually, our joyful privilege) of proclaiming the wonderful message of salvation in Christ alone by grace alone through faith alone revealed in Scripture alone and leave the success to God. God will grant growth, both in the number of new believers and in the faith of those who are already believers, where and when He wills. We don't have to worry about it or take responsibility for it. As St. Paul reminded the Christians at Corinth who were arguing about which pastor and which ministerial style would be successful, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow." (1 Corinthians 3:6-7)

In Christ,

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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Dave Snuggs for coming and speaking at our LWML meeting on September 4.
Jill Keil for continuing to lead the choir.
Everyone who participated and helped in any way on Rally Day.
All of the ladies who go to Benefis Extended Care Center, Park Place Nursing Home, Bee Hive Home and Highgate House for hymn singing and devotions every month.
Helen Lewis and Linda Aguiar for setting up the LWML bulletin board display.
Elsie Huss for organizing the food and meals for the retreat at Cane Ridge West in Lincoln.
Everyone who attends Family Night and helps with food preparation and clean up.
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.
Everyone on the Prayer Chain for their time and prayers.
Everyone who has donated treats for our fellowship time.
All of the men who volunteer to usher.
Angelika Fisher and Lorene Gotta for cleaning the church.
All of the ladies who stay after and clean the kitchen after Bible study.
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.

LWML

- ♥ **LWML Sunday will be October 7.** LWML will have a display on the bulletin board with some historic facts and information about where the Mites go and some of the projects and events that we have sponsored locally, nationally and around the world. Thank you to **Linda Aguiar and Helen Lewis** for organizing the display. The LWML worship service will be used for the 9:30 service and altar flowers will be given.
- ♥ **The Central Zone Fall Rally will be at Peace Lutheran on Saturday, October 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. or so.** Pastor Schlund will give a presentation on his trip to the Holy Land and Pastor Mark Schulz will lead Bible study. There will be election of officers for the Central Zone and lunch will be provided. The cost is \$5 per person. We will be collecting composition books for the inmates at the Cascade County Detention Center here in Great Falls. Thank you to everyone who brought some in already!
- ♥ **Mission Festival will be held on Sunday, October 14.** LWML will be providing the meal for the festival. If you would like to help with the meal, please plan to be at the church on Thursday, October 11 at 1 p.m. for a meal preparation time. We are in need of apples for the apple crisp. You may bring your favorite rolling pin and 9 X 13 inch pan.
- ♥ **Montana District LWML** needs young women (between the ages of 18-35) to represent us at the upcoming National Convention in Pittsburg, Pa. The dates are June 27-30, 2013. If you are interested or know someone that you think would be, please call or email Pam Kercher @ 406-259-1820 or pamkerch@msn.com. This is a time to meet other young women from around our country, as well as participate in wonderful bible studies and enjoy lots of opportunities to grow in your faith. I look forward to hearing from you. The deadline to apply is **October 31, 2012.**
- ♥ **Our next meeting and Bible study will be Tuesday, November 13 at 6:30 p.m.** We will have a guest speaker from the Rescue Mission. All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to come.
- ♥ **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.

“Life Quotes” from Lutherans For Life

“God created human life. He, therefore, gets to set the rules. And no matter how many times man redefines human life, God’s truth doesn’t change. The Bible should be the foundation for our thinking in every area.” *Dr. Elizabeth Mitchell, Answers in Genesis* – A “Life Quote” from Lutherans For Life · www.lutheransforlife.org
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October Anniversaries

Oct. 3	Ralph and Lorene Gotta
Oct. 10	Kevin and Kristen Jacobsen
Oct. 12	Conn and Naomi McKelvey
Oct. 15	Bill and Elsie Huss
Oct. 16	Bill and Jill Southard
Oct. 17	Vern and Ruthi Pankratz
Oct. 30	Ken and Amy Steinke

Baptismal Anniversaries

October	1	Jonathan Keyser
	1	Lyle Onstad
	1	Tom Croskrey Sr.
	2	Gloria Creek
	3	Molly Jacobsen
	4	Sarah Ostlund
	7	Joan Sivumaki
	9	Don Smith
	10	Rick Johnsten
	14	Ruthi Pankratz
	14	Josh Talley
	17	A.J. Hirst
	19	Chris Magnuson
	19	Sarah Eby
	20	Connie Croskrey
	21	Lisa Deffinbaugh
	21	Lucas Wayman
	23	Karen Schaefer
	23	Shari Blomgren
	27	Lee Henselin
	28	Ruth Denning
	31	Ruth Rozokat

National Life Chain Sunday

We are encouraged to build a Life Chain on **Sunday, October 7 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.** Meet at the east end of Holiday Village Mall to pick up a sign. One hundred people standing 100 feet apart on the north and south sides of 10th Avenue will build over a mile long witness for God, and the sanctity of human life! For more information call Jim and Barb Going at 761-2716 or 727-4878.

Thanksgiving Day meal with families Peace

We will once again have a Thanksgiving Day meal for families of Peace who want to come and join us. We will have **worship 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!



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

John Birkholz
Jane Hering
Val Martin
Kathy McIntosh
Patsy Zvara

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

Peace's choir resumes on Tuesdays

The men and women who make up Peace's choir have resumed meeting on **Tuesdays at 5:15 PM** at the church. Anyone interested in singing in this choir is invited to come and join them. Thank you to Jill Keil, Karen Schaefer, and Val Martin for volunteering to lead the choir. You may contact any of them for more information.

Central Circuit Reformation Service at Peace Lutheran

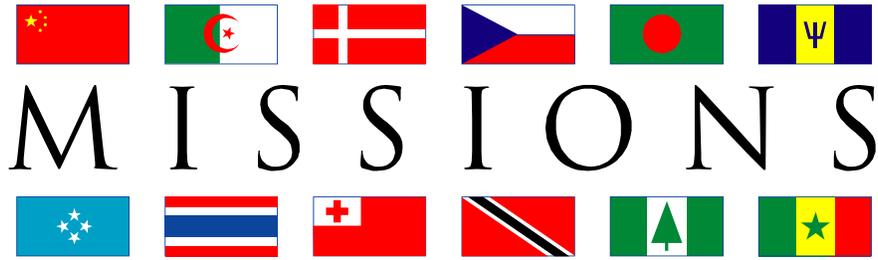
The congregations of the Central Circuit of the Montana District will be gathering to celebrate Reformation Day on Sunday, October 28th at Peace Lutheran Church in Great Falls at 4 p.m. The offering will go the Lutheran Malaria Initiative. After an inspiring worship service, there will be a potluck dinner. All are invited to bring food to share. Join us on October 28th for a time of worship, food and fellowship.

Pancake supper fund raiser

There will be a pancake brunch fund raiser for our seminarian Andrew Schlund on **Sunday, November 11th in conjunction with our fall voters meeting beginning at 12 noon.** There will be a free will offering for the pancake and sausage meal, and a dessert auction. Please bring any items for auction and your appetite with you the day of the event!

Finances

Our giving in August, 2012 was \$9,660.00 and our expenses for August were \$11,665.11. **The amount that Peace's checking account is in the red at the end of August is \$11,268.03.** The **Lutheran Church Extension Fund** loan balance as of August 31, 2012 is **\$71,562.58.**



Mission Festival
Peace Lutheran Church
Sunday, October 14, 2012

Special Speaker: Rev. Ray Larson
Operation Barnabas

Rev. Larson, retired military chaplain from Stevensville, Montana, will preach during the worship service at 9:30 AM and speak during the adult Bible study hour at 11:00 AM.

A meal of beef pasties, coleslaw and apple crisp will be served by the ladies of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

(If you would like to help with the meal, please plan to be at the church on Thursday, October 11 at 1 p.m. for a meal preparation time. We are in need of apples for the apple crisp. You may bring your favorite rolling pin and 9 X 13 inch pan.)

A special Mission offering will be taken.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to come and be a part of this exciting day!

Ladies Bible Study Schedule

Autumn, what a beautiful time of the year! Season changes remind us of God's faithfulness and order in our world of nature. Jeremiah's faithfulness in delivering God's message to His people has been a major theme in the BOOKS of JEREMIAH and LAMENTATIONS, which the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS is studying. They will meet for Bible study on October 5th, 12th, and 19th from 1:15 - 3:15 pm at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave So.

Assisted Living Ministry with hymn singing and a devotion will be held at the following locations. Tuesday, October 9th at 11 am the group will be at Bee Hive Home #1, 2824 15th Ave So. On Friday, October 26th a no host lunch at 11:45 am will be held at Cafe Rio, 900 10th Ave So. Afterward the group will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Come and share the joy, singing God's praises with these elderly Children of God!