



Peace Lutheran Church

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October, 2013

“Trick or Treat?”

October 2013

While good Lutherans remember that October 31st is Reformation Day, most people in our culture (including some Lutherans) see that day as only Halloween. (The fact that Halloween has its roots in a church holiday will remain a subject for another article.) This is a time for children to run from house to house, ringing doorbells, and shouting, “Trick or treat!” I wonder if most kids know why this phrase is said and what it means. I know that when I was a kid and went “trick or treating” (it can be a verb, too), I didn’t know what it meant or why I said it. All I knew was the result: lots of free candy.

The custom of trick or treating dates back only to the 1950’s in America. In the phrase, the “trick” is a (usually idle) threat to perform mischief on the homeowners or their property if no treat is given to them. Unless your experience has been different from mine, no tricks are done and the children always get the treats.

I wonder if some people approach God with their requests, much in the same way that kids approach a lighted house on Halloween, saying to God, “Trick or treat?” Some may think they have to “trick” God into giving them what they want or need. They won’t try to use mischief to do this. But through obedience, piety, or some form of bargaining, they hope to be able to convince God to answer their prayers.

Some may view the question, “Trick or treat?” as referring to the two answers they may receive from God in answer to their prayers. In other words, God may sometimes give them the “treat” of what they asked for and, at other times, give them the “trick”. He may not give them what they ask for or He may give them something that seems bad to them.

Nothing could be further from the truth. This is the way of thinking for worshipers of idols who approach their god in fear and have to earn his favor. This is not the way that the Lord God who created the heavens and the earth responds to His people. Although we were born in this world as sinful and separated from God and deserving nothing from Him, Jesus changed all that. He took our sin from us on the cross and gave us His holiness. He suffered loss and punishment in our place on the cross so that we might have blessing and peace. He rose from the dead to give us a new life with God in our baptisms, not as slaves of a mighty dictator deity, but as children of a loving Heavenly Father. As St. Paul wrote to the Galatians, “for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.” (Gal. 3:26)

With God as our Heavenly Father, we need not hesitate to bring our requests to Him or have to convince Him to answer our prayers. In fact, He encourages us to bring our prayers to Him and He promises to answer them. Jesus teaches us to pray, “Our Father who art in heaven” to reinforce this. Luther explains these words in the Small Catechism, “With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.”

We don’t have to worry about God answering us with good things. Jesus said, “What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:11-13) Even we imperfect sinners know how to give good gifts. Our perfect and loving Heavenly Father does even a better job of giving us what we need and what is best for us.

So, why worry? God knows our needs. Why fear? God will always answer our prayers in the way best for us, even if it doesn’t seem to be so at the time. There is no “Trick or treat!” with our Heavenly Father. Trusting in Him and accepting His will for our lives, there are no “tricks”, only “treats”.

In Christ, our Lord,

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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Everyone who donated composition books for inmates at the Cascade County Detention Center.
Everyone who donated and helped with the fund raiser for Seminarian Andy Schlund.
Jill Keil for continuing to lead the choir.
Everyone who sings in 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 Jennifer Lewis 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 6.** 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 St. Paul Lutheran on Saturday, October 5 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. or so.** **Gloria Creek** will give her presentation on her experiences at the national convention in Pittsburgh and there will be a speaker from The Lutheran Center in Billings. Rev. Eric Stinnett will lead the Bible study. The cost is \$5 per person. The ladies at St Paul have chosen the Havre Food Bank as their ingathering so plan to bring a can or 2 of food as well. We will be carpooling, so if you need a ride, contact Ruth at 727-9007.
- ♥ **Montana District LWML Board** will meet at Peace in Great Falls on October 25 and 26. We are in need of housing for some of the ladies just for the 1 night. Meals will be served at the church so they don't need to be fed, they just need a bed. If you have a spare bed available for that night, please let Ruth Denning or Gloria Creek know. Thank you to **Elise Huss and Helen Lewis** for offering to prepare the meals for this meeting.
- ♥ **Our next meeting and Bible study will be Tuesday, November 12 at 6:30 p.m.** Our guest speaker is to be announced. 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.

Offering Counters needed

We are in need of people willing to count the offering each Sunday for a month at a time. There needs to be 2 people counting together, so if you and someone you know are interested in serving the Lord in this fashion, please contact Gloria Creek at 454-3081.

“Life Quotes” from Lutherans For Life

“We are to obey government except when it tells us to disobey God. Then, we must speak up and resist evil. We must use God’s Word to defend life, marriage, and family—the very foundation for civil society. When we are told to keep God’s Word ‘private’ and not share it in the marketplace of ideas, then we have lost our freedom of religion. How, then, can we be ‘salt and light’ (Matthew 5:13-16)?” *Linda D. Bartlett, www.titus2-4life.org – A “Life Quote” from Lutherans For Life – www.lutheransforlife.org*



October Anniversaries

- 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

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|---------|----|------------------|
| October | 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 |
| | 17 | A.J. Hirst |
| | 19 | Chris Magnuson |
| | 19 | Sarah Eby |
| | 20 | Connie Croskrey |
| | 21 | Lisa Deffinbaugh |
| | 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.

“Teaching Tour” of 7 Churches of Revelation

(Mar 24 – Apr 4, 2014) - In addition to visiting each of the sites of the 7 Churches of Revelation (including a full day in ancient Ephesus) the tour also includes a short cruise to the Island of Patmos, where God led John to write the Book of Revelation, a tour of Western Turkey, where we will see Turkey’s beautiful tulips in full bloom. Rev Darold Reiner, pastor of The Church at Creston – Lutheran, is the tour leader. Contact him at 406-890-1149 or reiner@centurytel.net for full brochure with itinerary and information.

Thanksgiving Day meal 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 worship followed by food, fun and fellowship for the afternoon. More information and a sign-up sheet will be forth coming.



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

- John Birkholz**
- Jane Hering**
- Beate Neumann**

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 Trinity Lutheran

The annual Central Circuit Reformation Service will be on Sunday, October 27th at Trinity Lutheran Church in Great Falls, beginning at 4:00 PM. Pastor Schlund of Peace will be the preacher. Pastor Paul of Trinity will be the liturgist. Circuit pastors will participate in the service. The offering will go to support the new mission at Big Timber and Livingston. A German dinner will be served by the youth of Trinity with a freewill offering being taken. A pie auction will be held after the dinner so people are encouraged to bring pies to be auctioned. The proceeds will go to support the Big Timber/Livingston mission.

Finances

Our giving in August, 2013 was \$8,462.40 and our expenses for August were \$11,024.89. **The amount that Peace’s checking account is in the red at the end of August is \$19,979.68.** The **Lutheran Church Extension Fund** loan balance as of August 31, 2013 is **\$46,599.98.**

Early Childhood Conference

The Early Childhood Conference in Great Falls is October 5th at Trinity Lutheran Church with a welcome reception Friday October 4th at 7:00 P.M. at the MidTown Mt. View Room.

The theme is Healthy in Christ - Body Mind & Spirit. There will be 6 State credit hours offered and the featured speakers are Dr. Judy Williams, Mt. Clemens Michigan, (former resident of Billings, MT), Mr. Steve Gruenwald, Health & Wellness Educator - Concordia Plan Services, St. Louis, MO., and Pres. Terry Forke, MT District President.

Registration fees will be \$20 per attendee and rooms will be booked at the MidTown for Friday & Sat. nights. Inquires may be directed to Patricia Stricker at mrsred39@juno.com. (406-652-1704) Child development and age appropriate activities will be the featured as well as being healthy children of God. Registration and schedule of the Saturday conference will be sent out soon.

Please pass this along to Sunday School teachers and anyone you feel will benefit by attending the conference

Friday Ladies Bible Study

October brings all the brilliant colors of autumn, foliage turning yellow, red, and orange. It is a joy to live where we can experience the four seasons as God's plan for nature! October has a plan for the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS as well. Bible study will meet October 4th, 11th, and 18th from 1:15 - 3:15 p.m. at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave So. Come and join the group! It's so refreshing to relax with others over a cup of tea or coffee and study God's Revelation to John.

Assisted Living Ministry gathers for hymn singing and a devotion at the following locations. Tuesday, October 8th at 11:00 a.m. ladies and gentlemen will be at Bee Hive Home #1, 2816 15th Ave So. On Friday, October 25th at 11:45 a.m. the group will meet at Five Loaves, 4117 2nd Ave No, for a no host lunch. Afterward they will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Come and share God's love with the residents using His Word, hymns, and smiles!

Seminarian fundraiser results

Thank you to everyone who baked, donated and purchased dessert items for the fund raiser for our seminarian Andrew Schlund! The total raised that day was \$724 and funds will be match by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

