



## Peace Lutheran Church

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October, 2014

### Why Isn't This Working?

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"Why isn't this working?", the young woman asked as she opened up her super sized Big Mac meal and began eating. Her friend said, "Why isn't WHAT working?" "My efforts at losing weight", she replied as she stuffed a bunch of French fries into her mouth. "Maybe you should try dieting and eating sensibly," her friend suggested. "I do diet," she replied. "Every couple of months, I try eating a sensible diet of the right food in the right portions. But it only lasts a couple of days until I try again in a couple of months." Her friend gave her a strange look and asked, "And you are surprised you are not losing weight? You have to be consistent in your dieting." The young woman got defensive and said, "Well, at least I ordered a Diet Coke today with my meal!"

"Why isn't this working?", the young man asked his friend as they sat on the couch and watched football all weekend while munching on potato chips and drinking beer. "What do you mean?" his friend asked. "I'm trying to get into shape, but I just can't seem to do it," he said as he popped open another beer. His friend asked, "Do you ever actually exercise or workout?" The young man said, "Well, I bought a membership at the gym and have belonged there since I was in middle school. Let's see.....last time I was there was once during April and once at the end of December. There must be something wrong with that gym. I don't feel any more in shape now than when I started." The young man readjusted his place on the couch and went back to watching football.

One wonders what these people are thinking. If you want to lose weight, you have to develop the discipline of dieting in which you eat the right food in the right portions consistently. If you only "diet" a couple of days each month, it's not going to work. You won't lose weight. The same is true for getting in shape. If you want to get into shape, you need to develop the discipline of physically exercising regularly. Merely having a gym membership and working out twice a year won't work. You won't get into shape.

Sometimes people ask, "Why isn't this working?" when it comes to their spiritual lives. God feels far away. Church seems irrelevant. What's the problem? Often times, people are reading the Word of God occasionally but then binging on the secular junk food found on their televisions, computers, and the internet. They may belong to a church, but attend Divine Service irregularly or only at Christmas and Easter. It's no wonder that their spiritual lives aren't "working."

A diet rich in the Word of God is what feeds our spiritual lives. The Bible says, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." (Colossians 3:16) When the Word of God dwells in us frequently and we cut down on secular junk food, our spiritual lives will thrive. We also will "lose weight" as the author to the Hebrews says, "Let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely." (Heb. 12:1)

This is precisely what the Church did after Jesus' ascension. The Bible says, "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42) This is why the early Church thrived. They met together and were devoted to teaching (Bible Study), fellowship (worship), breaking of bread (Lord's Supper) and the prayers (liturgy). When we are together regularly in Divine Service to hear the Word of God and receive His gifts, the Word of God will shape our lives and we will be "in shape."

Following a diet or a plan of exercise is difficult to do. There are so many temptations to eat wrongly and so many excuses not to exercise. But the more disciplined you become and these occasional activities become habits, the easier they are to do. And the benefits of a lower weight and a healthier body, while coming slowly at first, make it all worthwhile.

Being involved in the Word of God frequently and public worship regularly is also difficult to do. There are many temptations and excuses. But the more disciplined you become by the power of the Holy Spirit, the easier it all becomes to read God's Word daily and come to Divine Service every Sunday. The benefits of a stronger faith, a closer walk with God, and a changed outlook on life will come slowly, but they will make it all worthwhile.

May God help and encourage you in your frequent reading and hearing of His Word. Then that which we call our spiritual lives WILL be working!

In Christ,  
Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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**Everyone** who donated composition books for inmates at the Cascade County Detention Center.

**Everyone** who attended the LWML Fall Rally in Power.

**Everyone** who participated and helped in any way on Rally Day.

**All of the ladies and gentlemen** 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** for setting up the LWML bulletin board display.

**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** 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.

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

- ♥ **The Fall LWML Retreat will be at Camp Utmost this year on October 3 and 4.** The cost is \$55 per person. Elsie Huss and Ruth Denning will be going. If you want a ride, please let one of them know. Registration forms are in the church office or in the latest *Montana Missive*.
- ♥ **LWML Sunday will be October 5.** 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 **Helen Lewis** for organizing the display. The LWML worship service will be used for the 9:30 service and altar flowers will be given.
- ♥ **Our next meeting and Bible study will be Tuesday, November 11 at 6:30 p.m.** We will have a business meeting and Bible study. 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

“We are not the ones to determine if a life has value or not, if it is a burden or not, if it should be lived or not. To live is Christ and to die is gain. God, through His creation, through the incarnation of Jesus, through His redemptive death, and His resurrection from the dead has proven again and again that His Word in the face of death is life. When the world says ‘no,’ God says ‘yes,’ no matter how helpless or desperate the situation. For that, all we can say is, ‘Thanks be to God!’” *Evan S. McClanahan, pastor of First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas* – A “Life Quote” from Lutherans For Life · [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

## Mission Festival on October 12

Our annual mission festival will be on Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Mark Schultz of Havre will be our guest speaker. In addition to preaching, Pastor Schultz will speak during the Bible Class hour about his service as a missionary in Thailand. A meal of roast pork with sauerkraut, hot German potato salad, mixed vegetables, and flat apple pie will be served by the ladies of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League. A special Mission offering will be taken. Mission Envelopes are available now. Everyone is invited and encouraged to come and be a part of this exciting day!



## 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

- 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 Sarah Eby
- 20 Connie Croskrey
- 23 Karen Schaefer
- 23 Shari Blomgren
- 27 Lee Henselin
- 28 Ruth Denning
- 31 Ruth Rozokat

**Deacon for October: Mitch Martin**

### October ushers:

- 5 – Lee Henselin and Kevin Aguiar
- 12 – Pat Lewis and Bruce Clark
- 19 – Arnie Gidlow and Darrell Greenwood
- 26 – Mitch Martin and Eric Fletcher

## National Life Chain Sunday

We are encouraged to build a Life Chain on **Sunday, October 5 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.** Meet at the northeast corner in front of Holiday Village Mall to pick up a sign. For more information call Jim and Barb Going at 727-4878.

## Early Childhood Conference

The Early Childhood Conference in Great Falls is October 4th at Trinity Lutheran Church with a welcome reception Friday October 3rd at 7:00 P.M. at the MidTown Mt. View Room. The theme is Equip, Empower & Send. The main presenter is Mr. Mark Schoepp, a national speaker for Wheat Ridge Ministries and is the Director of Congregation Engagement. Inquires may be directed to Patricia Stricker at [mrsred39@juno.com](mailto:mrsred39@juno.com). (406-652-1704)



### INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

**John Birkholz**

**Bill Bristol**

**June Foard**, June Meier's daughter

**Jane Hering**

**Pamela Schaaf**, Bernie and Phyllis Schaaf's daughter battling ovarian cancer

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 will resume meeting on **Tuesday, October 7 at 5:45 PM** at the church. Thank you to **Val Martin** for volunteering to direct the choir. Anyone interested in singing with us is invited to come and join us!

## Central Circuit Reformation Service at Peace Lutheran

The annual Central Circuit Reformation Service will be on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at Peace Lutheran Church in Great Falls, beginning at 4:00 PM. Pastor Schultz from St. Paul Lutheran in Havre and Zion Lutheran in Chinook, will be the preacher. Pastor Schlund will be the liturgist. Circuit pastors will participate in the service. The offering will go to support the new missionary to Spain, Rev. David Warner and his wife Shelee, who left Sidney, Montana. A dinner of roast pork with sauerkraut, hot German potato salad, mixed vegetables, and flat apple pie will be served by the ladies of the LWML.

## Finances

The following is a rundown of our giving for the year 2014:

First Quarter (January – March)	
Given: \$30,540.09	Expenses: \$36,091.68
Second Quarter (April – June)	
Given: \$31,331.02	Expenses: \$32,088.53
So far Third Quarter (July and August)	
Given: \$18,790.10	Expenses: \$20,937.94

Bottom line is that we are not keeping up with our expenses!

## Friday Ladies Bible Study

"Living with Pain - Strength and Survival" by Roxanne M. Smith is an enriching Bible study. Even those who do not have problems with chronic pain, gain insight and better understanding of those who suffer. During October FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS will meet only once for Bible study. They will meet on October 31st from 1 - 3 p.m. 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 14th at 11:00 a.m. ladies and gentlemen will meet at Bee Hive Home #1 at 2816 15th Ave. So. On Friday, October 24th the group will gather at Maple Garden Restaurant, 5401 9th Ave. So. Always feel welcome to join in these activities! It's a joy to share the blessings of God's Word and hymns with these residents!

## Applying Biblical Teachings

Have you seen a miracle lately? Have you looked in a mirror today? In his *Popular Commentary of the Bible*, Paul Kretzmann wrote, “. . . every Christian is a miracle in his own eyes: the creation of the new man is finished, and he is gaining every day in strength and power.”

Kretzmann's statement amplifies what the Apostle Paul wrote in his second letter to the Corinthians, “. . . if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come” (2 Cor. 5:17). Jesus vanquished the old sinful Adam through His death and resurrection. The old Adam has been drowned in the water of Baptism. We are God's new creation! We are God's miracle, “. . . God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Eph. 2:10).

Through God's gracious work, our hearts and minds are set on Jesus Christ. Our attitudes toward the “things” of this world have radically changed. We “. . . seek first His kingdom and His righteousness” (Matt. 6:33). In Christ, we are no longer of the darkness of the world, but “. . . are the light of the world” (Matt. 5:14). That's why Jesus said, “. . . let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven” (Matt. 5:16).

We let our light shine through the good works we do in Christ. We show mercy and give, in contrast to those who borrow and do not repay (Psa. 37:21). We hold possessions with an open hand and “refresh” others with our bounty (Prov. 11:24-25). We are honest and demonstrate our faith by our work and integrity (1 Thes. 4:12-12). We give to those in need (1 John 3:17). We are generous in all things (2 Cor. 9:11) and demonstrate to a watching world the love of God.

We are truly a miracle, saved from darkness and brought into the Marvelous Light. Through the Lord Jesus, who is the Light of the World, we are a light to the world.

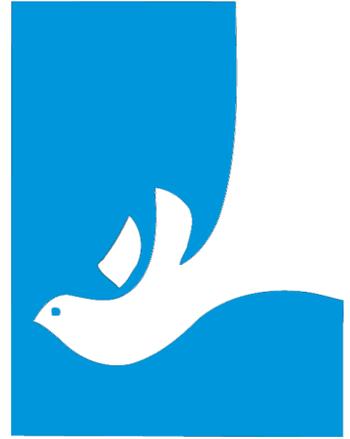
## Montana District Pastors' Convention at Peace

Montana District Pastors' Convention will meet at Peace Lutheran Church from Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. The topic will be “The Blessings of Weekly Communion” and the speaker will be Dr. Kenneth Wieting of Shorewood, Wisconsin. Congregation members are invited to two special events – the opening worship service on Tuesday at 7:00 PM and a presentation by Dr. Wieting for laypeople on Communion on Wednesday at 7:00 PM. (There will be no Family Night on that night.)

# "The Case For Life"

## Montana Lutherans For Life Workshop Schedule of events

Miles City, MT Trinity Lutheran Church  
Mike Spencer Rev. Howard Schreibeis  
Pregnancy Outreach Clinic of Miles City



### Thursday, October 9, 2014

6:30 p.m. Banquet Fundraiser for Pregnancy Outreach Clinic of Miles City at MCC Gymnasium.

Key Note Speaker will be Mike Spencer from Life Training Institute.

**Contact the Pregnancy Outreach Clinic directly at 406 233 3098**

### Friday, October 10, 2014

5:00 p.m. Registration

5:30 p.m. Light meal

6:15 p.m. Opening

6:30 p.m. Presentation by Mike Spencer - "*The Case For Life*"

8:30 p.m. Vespers by Rev. Howard Schreibeis

### Saturday, October 11, 2014

8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast

8:45 a.m. Opening

9:15 - 10:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Presentation by Kristy K. Ogolin -

#### **"The Day To Day Operations of a Pregnancy Center"**

at Pregnancy Outreach Clinic of Miles City, 516 Pleasant Street

12 noon Lunch at Trinity Lutheran Church

**RSVP** - to help us know how many we will be preparing food

**Call** - Maureen Klapmeier at [popnnan@midrivers.com](mailto:popnnan@midrivers.com) or

Helen Lewis at 406 781 8059 or [HLewNK15@yahoo.com](mailto:HLewNK15@yahoo.com)

If registering online, please include "**LFL workshop registration**" in the subject line.

If calling, please leave a message with your name and contact information.

### Speakers

**Mike Spencer** served as a pastor for 23 years before joining the staff of Life Training Institute in 2012. He serves as LTI Midwest Director of Training and travels extensively throughout the United States equipping pro-lifers on high school and university campuses, in churches and serving as the keynote at pro-life banquets and conferences. *Michael Spencer is an outstanding Pro-Life Apologist, combining in his presentation compelling autobiographical details (how he came to be a committed defender of vulnerable unborn babies), indisputable scientific evidence (human life begins at conception), disconcerting analogies (abortion has much in common with slavery and the holocaust in that all three target specific groups of people), and natural law arguments about human equality and dignity. His arguments for the pro-life position are excellent, and presented with the right degrees of objectivity, passion, and compassion. Michael M. Jordan, Professor of English, Faculty Advisor for Students for Life at Hillsdale College*

**Pregnancy Outreach Clinic of Miles City** is a professional medical clinic providing services of pregnancy testing, limited ultrasound, options education, pregnancy and parenting education, and after abortion healing. Their mission is "to encourage and educate those facing unplanned pregnancies and related challenges by offering life-affirming options through the compassion and love of Jesus Christ."