



## Peace Lutheran Church

3340 Eleventh Avenue South,  
Great Falls, Montana 59405

761-7343

The Rev. Steven Schlund, Pastor

Office: 761-7343

Home: 952-4567

[www.peacelutherangreatfalls.org](http://www.peacelutherangreatfalls.org)

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### I'm Christian, But I'm Not....

There's a popular video going around the internet called "I'm Christian, But I'm Not..." (You can find it on Youtube). The video tries to present a view of Christianity which can appeal to people who are not Christians or are opposed to Christianity. It's not a bad idea, I suppose, but how it's carried out is troublesome.

The video tries to respond to various stereotypes that people have of Christianity which are wrong. Society often thinks that Christians are unloving, judgmental, uneducated, and opposed to science. Characters in the video profess to be Christians while NOT being any of those other things. I think we would share those concerns and agree with them.

But then the video goes off the tracks. The video claims that people can be Christian while rejecting doctrines clearly taught in Holy Scriptures, most having to do with sexual behavior. This is typical of a way of thinking, both inside and outside of Christian churches these days, that you can be a Christian while rejecting what Christ and the Word of God clearly teaches. You can cherry pick the Bible for things which you like, reject what you don't like, and still be a good Christian. This makes Christianity into anything any individual wants it to be.

Jesus does not say, "If you say really nice things which lots of people like and offend no one, then you are a Christian." Rather, Jesus says, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." It is abiding in the Word of God which makes us Christians and disciples of Jesus Christ. His Word of Law helps us to know the truth of God's will. His Law judges us and condemns us for our violation of God's will. When we speak the Word of Law, we are not being "judgmental". We are simply relaying the judgment of God to warn people. His Word of Good News sets us free from sin, free from death, and free from hell. When we speak the Word of Good News, we are not being insensitive or intolerant. We are simply relaying good news about God's love and all the good things He wants all people to have.

And that brings us to the worst part of this video. After saying what Christianity is NOT, the people interviewed are asked what Christianity is all about, they respond with such answers as, "Open mindedness, love, acceptance, tolerance" and so on. There is not one word spoken about Jesus Christ or what He has done in their definition of Christianity. How sad that is!

As we enter October when we remember the Reformation of the Christian Church which God accomplished through Martin Luther and others, we remember that Christianity is ALL about Jesus Christ. It is not about a religious system for earning salvation as it was in Luther's time. It is not about a "pick and choose" ethical system for making us into likeable people as it is in this video. Christianity is all about Jesus, the Son of God, becoming man; taking our sin and punishment on Himself on the cross; dying in our place to earn forgiveness for all our sins; and rising to live from the grave to give us eternal life after our own deaths.

I'm a Christian, but I'm not...that way because of my attitudes and good deeds. We are all Christians through God's attitude of grace and because of the deeds of Jesus Christ on our behalf. We find that grace and receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation, not by looking into ourselves, but by looking into the Word of God. Let us continue to abide in His Word and truly be His disciples. We shall know the truth and the truth will set us free from guilt, fear, death, and hell. Maybe we could make a video about that.

In Christ,

Pastor Schlund

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TO

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

- ♥ **Thank you to all of the ladies who attended the Fall LWML Retreat at Camp Utmost!** A good time was had by all!
- ♥ **LWML Sunday will be October 4.** 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.
- ♥ **Ladies from Peace's LWML are invited to Trinity's LWML meeting to hear a speaker about mental health on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.** Call Trinity at 452-2121 for more information.
- ♥ **Our next meeting and Bible study will be Tuesday, November 10 at 6:30 p.m.** Our guest speaker will be from My Neighbor In Need. Everyone is invited to come and listen and see what's new with this very important part of our community and how we can better serve our neighbors in need.
- ♥ **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

“Luther looked back to the days of the apostles and saw the same thing that happened to them happening in his day: Christians standing up for the truth getting blamed for everything. We can see history repeating itself again. Conservative Christians today are being blamed for being ‘secessionists’ and intolerant of abortion, homosexuality, living together outside of marriage, etc. Throughout the history of the world, the minority is often set apart and blamed for the ills of the land or time. God has truly set us apart; He has called us to be holy to humbly proclaim His Word of truth and the Gospel that has redeemed the world from its sin! ... May we ever repeat history in being willing to speak our faith with all boldness and confidence in Christ Jesus our risen Lord and Savior!” *Daily Devotions email from [www.redeemerclc.info/devotional.html](http://www.redeemerclc.info/devotional.html) – A “Life Quote” from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)*

## Mission Festival on November 8

Our annual mission festival will be on Sunday, November 8. Pastor Dan Jacobs from the Crow Indian Reservation will be our guest speaker. In addition to preaching, Pastor Jacobs will speak during the Bible Class hour about the mission on the reservation. A meal will be served by the ladies of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. A special Mission offering will be taken. Mission Envelopes will be available soon. Everyone is invited and encouraged to come and be a part of this exciting day!



## October Anniversaries

- Oct. 10 Kevin and Kristen Jacobsen  
 Oct. 15 Bill and Elsie Huss

## 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  
 17 A.J. Hirst  
 20 Connie Croskrey  
 23 Karen Schaefer  
 27 Lee Henselin  
 28 Ruth Denning  
 31 Ruth Rozokat

**Deacon for October: Pat Lewis**

### October ushers:

- 4 – Kevin Aguiar and Lee Henselin  
 11 – Mitch Martin and Eric Fletcher  
 18 – Lyle Onstad and Ed Ostlund  
 25 – Matt Schlund and Greg Franczyk

## National Life Chain Sunday

We are encouraged to build a Life Chain on **Sunday, October 4 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.



### INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

- Tami Birkholz**, John's sister-in-law who is battling a rare skin tissue disorder  
**June Foard**, June Meier's daughter  
**Jane Hering**  
**Bill and Dorothy Neuman**

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

## Central Circuit Reformation Service at Trinity Lutheran

The annual Central Circuit Reformation Service will be on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at Trinity Lutheran Church in Great Falls, beginning at 4:00 PM. Pastor Weishoff from congregations in Stanford, Denton and Lewistown, will be the preacher. Pastor Paul will be the liturgist. Circuit pastors will participate in the service. The offering will go to support the missionary to Ethiopia, Rev. Eric Stinnett and his wife Johanna. A reception will follow as Trinity's kitchen is under construction, there will not be a full meal.

## Finances

JANUARY 1 - AUGUST 31, 2015		
CHURCH INCOME	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Regular Offerings	\$85,894.75	\$88,880.00
Other Income	\$5,009.01	\$720.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$90,903.76</b>	<b>\$89,600.00</b>
<b>Church Expenses</b>		
Personnel/Benefits	\$54,167.27	\$53,626.64
Administrative	\$5,089.35	\$5,740.00
Buildings & Grounds	\$15,142.59	\$16,100.08
Missions	\$7,364.45	\$7,666.64
Christian Education	\$2,789.91	\$3,500.08
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$84,553.57</b>	<b>\$86,633.44</b>
<b>Net Church Income</b>	<b>\$6,350.19</b>	<b>\$2,966.56</b>

## Montana District Professional Church Worker's Conference in Kalispell

Pastor Schlund will be attending the Montana District Professional Church Worker's Conference October 14 – 15, 2015 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalispell. We will continue with our Bible study during Family Night on Wednesday, October 14.

## Hayride and Bonfire planned

October 17th is the hayride and bonfire at Brook's house. Hotdogs and s'mores will be provided. Please bring a jacket, blanket, and side dish to share. Come and join the fun!

## Friday Ladies Bible Study

October's crisp days have arrived. Students are settled in their busy schedules. The garden has been put to bed for the winter. Maybe it's time to treat yourself to a Friday afternoon with the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS, as they continue studying I CORINTHIANS. Your hot cup of coffee or tea is waiting for you! Ladies will meet October 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd 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 meet at the following locations. On Tuesday, October 13th ladies and gentlemen will meet at 11 a.m. at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave. So. Friday, October 30th at 11:45 a.m. a large group will gather for a no host lunch at the Bar S Restaurant, 5100 North Star Blvd. Later some will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave. So. Notice "a large group" goes to the Bar S, and "some" go to Highgate House. There are many who just come for lunch. The fellowship is great -- the more the merrier! Socializing with brothers and sisters in Christ is part of God's plan for us. Always know that you are welcome!

## Applying Biblical Teachings

“ . . . remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (Acts 20:35).

To simply take this passage and comment that it is a good moral saying by which we should all try to live would be wrong. To take these words simply by themselves, as something Dr. Luke alone recorded for posterity would be to miss the point.

First, we must come to the realization that by nature, we are sinful and unclean. There is no goodness or worthiness in us. We must confess that we are poor miserable sinners who would by nature not give anything to anyone unless it benefitted us. This benefit may be self-adulation, public adoration, or the hope of receiving a better position or rewards in this life or the life hereafter. But whatever the case, these reasons are born of selfishness and sin. They are what Isaiah described as “filthy rags” in God’s sight.

It should not surprise us, then, that the Holy Spirit inspired these words to be recorded by Dr. Luke at the end of a persuasive dissertation by St. Paul of the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And it should not surprise us that the words which immediately follow this text are, “When he [Paul] had said this, he knelt down with all of them and prayed” (Acts 20:36). Dr. Martin Franzmann best captures what is underlying these recorded words of Jesus when he refers to this passage of Scripture as “the power of the Word of the Lord made perfect in weakness.”

True Christian love, the love that emulates Christ, the all-giving Servant, does not come by our own reason or strength, for we as sinners are weak and cannot do any good work. True Christian love was born of the cross of Jesus Christ and is worked in us by the power of the Word and Sacrament. The perfect power of God’s Word works in our weakness. By the power of the Gospel we show true Christian love, a love that does not chase selfishly after that which is good to enjoy. Rather, it seeks to provide for those in need with no expectation of anything in return in this life or of special considerations in the next.

Jesus is the model. He continues to give His unselfish devotion and service to all, even though many reject Him. St. Paul, by the power of the Gospel, lived and preached the model of the suffering servant which is ours to live and preach as well. It is only in the role of the servant, a role of unquestioned devotion and service to the glory of God and for the benefit of man, that our faith will find its proper expression and application.

Yes, “It is more blessed to give than to receive,” for in Christ, to give is to be like Christ.