



Peace Lutheran Church

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October, 2018

501

Remember last year at this time? We Lutherans, along with people of other Christian denominations and even some secular groups, were excitedly preparing to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. It was quite an event. However, I don't think that, "Happy 501st Anniversary!", has the same ring to it. Even though the reason for celebrating hasn't changed, it doesn't seem to be as important without the spectacular event to accompany it.

We are good at that in our modern culture – spending time, energy, and attention to celebrate an important event – but failing to emphasize and benefit from the meaning of the event. One example of that is confirmation. We spend lots of time and energy in studying the Scriptures, memorizing the Catechism, and learning the doctrine to celebrate an event (Confirmation Day). However, after the event, we lose many of our young people who fail to put into practice the meaning of the event in worship, the study of God's Word, and service in His kingdom which was the point of the studying, memorizing and learning in the first place.

Marriage is another good example. Couples spend enormous amounts of time and money in order to have the perfect wedding (an event). However, after the wedding day, many couples these days failed to show the selfless love and service for one another which the wedding service proclaimed. Many pastors have said that, if people spend as much time, effort, and money on their marriage as they did on their wedding day, there would be no divorce.

We do this in our celebration of church holidays, for example, Christmas, Good Friday and Easter. We celebrate these days as special events with various traditions which give us joy, sorrow, and hope. However, to gain the blessings which God has won for us at these events, we do not return to the events themselves. For the assurance of a Savior who is God and Man, we don't return to the manger in Bethlehem and Christmas. We go to the Word of God for the many promises and assurances that are there. Forgiveness and peace which Jesus won on the cross by his suffering and death, we do not go back to the cross and Good Friday. Instead, we go to the continuous dispensing of this gift in Divine Service through the Holy Absolution and the preaching of the Word of God. For the life which is both new and eternal which Jesus won for us by exiting the tomb alive on Easter morning, we do not go back to the tomb and Easter. Instead, we go to the continuous dispensing of that life in the Sacraments – Holy Baptism and Holy Communion.

We are in danger of doing the same with the Reformation of the Christian Church by Luther and others. We devote much time and effort to celebrating the event of Reformation Day (especially its 500th anniversary), but then fail to emphasize and benefit from the meaning behind the Reformation - the ongoing proclamation of salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, for the sake of Christ alone, which is revealed in Scripture alone.

So, as we come upon Reformation Day this month and as we begin the Festival Half of the church year which takes us through the life death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, let us celebrate these events, but pay attention closely to the ongoing meaning and benefit of these events. We have a Savior who is God and man, Jesus Christ, our Lord who is with us always because of the event called Christmas. We have forgiveness for all of our sin which we receive on a daily basis because of the suffering and death of that Savior Jesus Christ on a cross on Good Friday. We have eternal life because of the resurrection from the dead of that Savior Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

We celebrate the events, but we gain the benefit from that ongoing proclamation of salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, for the sake of Christ alone, which is revealed in Scripture alone. Enjoy the day, but continually seek and receive the benefits. That's the reason for celebrating.

In Christ,

Pastor Schlund

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Everyone who donated composition books for inmates at the Cascade County Detention Center.
Everyone who donated items to the Children’s Receiving Home.
All of the ladies and gentlemen who go to Benefis Extended Care Center, Park Place Nursing Home, Bee Hive Home and Highgate Senior Living for hymn singing and devotions every month.
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.
Val Martin for playing the piano for the choir.
Elizabeth Allen for directing the choir.
Becky Schlund and everyone who helped with the Rally Day activities.

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.** There will be a guest speaker after the service about Toby’s House Crisis Nursery. This will be a nursery available at all hours for people to drop off their children, ages 0 – 6 years old, in any case of crisis or emergency. It is currently in the beginning stages and they are aggressively seeking donations. We will have special treats during the fellowship time and will take a door offering for Toby’s House after the service. LWML will also 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** and **Linda Aguiar** for organizing the display. The LWML worship service will be used for the 9:30 service and altar flowers will be provided.
- ♥ **During the month of October,** the ladies of LWML will be collecting **socks, hats, scarves, gloves and/or mittens** for men who are homeless veterans that stay at the Grace Home here in Great Falls.
- ♥ **Through October 7,** we will be collecting new or clean used blankets for the Crow Native Americans, where Rev. Dan Jacobs serves. Val will be taking them to Billings on Friday, October 12.
- ♥ **Our next meeting and Bible study will be Monday, November 19 at 6:30 p.m.** We may have a guest speaker from the Montana Highway Patrol. All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to come and join us!! Remember your Mite Box!
- ♥ **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.

Friday Ladies Bible Study

The cool, crisp days of October have arrived. Time to put the garden to bed and engage in other activities. Perhaps you have a free afternoon to stop in for a session with the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS. The study of 1 Peter is enrichment you will enjoy. They will meet from 1-3pm on October 5th and 12th 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. Ladies and gentlemen will gather at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, October 9th at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave So. The group's monthly no host lunch will be held Friday, October 26th at 11:45 a.m. at El Comedor Mexican Restaurant, 1120 25th St So. After lunch many of the group will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Come and join in some of these fellowship activities!



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
 20 Connie Croskrey
 27 Lee Henselin
 28 Ruth Denning
 31 Ruth Rozokat

Deacon for October: Pat Lewis

October ushers:

7 – Tyler Denning and Greg Franczyk
 14 – Mitch Martin and Eric Fletcher
 21 – James and Lyle Onstad
 28 – Kevin Aguiar and Arnie Gidlow



INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

Tami Birkholz, Karen's sister-in-law who is battling a rare skin tissue disorder
Michael Drummond – Lupus
Leonard Gidlow under Hospice Care
Rev. Mark Grunst of Billings who has a neurological condition
Connie Juden
Rev. Erich Kaelberer
Dorothy Neuman

We pray for the family of **Jane Hering** who died on September 11, 2018.
 One member who is away serving in the military is **Michael Lewis**.

National Life Chain Sunday

We are encouraged to build a Life Chain on **Sunday, October 7 from 2 to 3:30 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.

Montana District Pastors Conference in Bigfork

Pastor Schlund will be attending the Montana District Pastors Conference October 23 – 25, 2018 at Trinity Camp in Bigfork. We will continue with our Bible study during Family Night on Wednesday, October 24.

Finances

JANUARY 1, TO AUGUST 31 2018		
CHURCH INCOME	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Regular Offerings	\$83,185.17	\$94,333.36
Interest Income	\$985.43	\$800.00
Total Income	\$84,170.60	\$95,133.36
Church Expenses		
Personnel/Benefits	\$60,872.33	\$62,265.68
Administrative	\$4,361.89	\$5,643.64
Buildings & Grounds	\$17,973.11	\$16,920.00
Missions	\$7,126.84	\$7,666.64
Worship	\$376.58	\$766.64
Christian Education	\$1,937.88	\$2,084.72
Evangelism	\$683.34	\$2,220.86
Total Expenses	\$93,331.97	\$97,568.18
Net Church Income	(\$9,161.37)	(\$2,434.82)

Cleaning Day set

Cleaning Day has been set for **Saturday, October 6** beginning at 9 a.m. Everyone please come and help us clean the Lord's house and prepare for colder weather. Come for as long as your schedule will allow. Lunch will be provided.

Beginning in January of 2019,

we will only be supplying printed copies of the monthly *Peace Talks* newsletter to those who request them. We will be posting it on our webpage at www.peaelutherangreatfalls.org for those who can read it online. If you want to receive the newsletter in its printed version, please let Ruth in the church office know.