



Peace Lutheran Church

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October, 2019

“We Are Fine – And You Are, Too”

Things have been interesting around our house these past few weeks since Becky was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Added to my Parkinson’s disease, this makes two potentially fatal diseases in our household. The sympathy, encouragement, love, and prayers from you have been greatly appreciated by us and most helpful to us. We both thank you. We do have something very important to tell you though:

We are fine

When experiencing a serious disease or other form of great suffering, there is a tendency to feel sorry for one’s self or to think one is being cheated by God. To be perfectly honest, neither Becky nor I think these diseases are great things. Neither of us ever thought or wanted the final chapters in our lives to be written this way. But we don’t feel cheated by God. We live in a world that has been corrupted by sin. God tells us to expect suffering because of that. Jesus calls us to take up our cross and to expect suffering for following Him. We are not being cheated. God is not being unfair either. Job, one of the most prolific sufferers in all of human history recognize this and said, “Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil? The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord.” (Job 2:10, 1:21)

God has blessed all of us richly. There is no disease, no suffering, no problem can ever change that. St. Paul writes, “For I am sure that neither death nor life, neither angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39) Jesus’ death on the cross not only takes away the guilt of sin and gives us forgiveness, but also takes away the curse of sin and all of its effects. His resurrection from the dead is the beginning of the renewal of all things. He will make all things new – as they were intended to be in the Garden of Eden. So, any of the suffering any of us has is only temporary. Things are going to be changing. God’s Word promises, “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” (Revelation 21:4)

As far as the present is concerned, nothing has really changed. Each of us simply now has a name for the troubles that were bothering us. God’s presence and His care have remained constant. As Becky has said often since her diagnosis, “We are still in God’s hands.” As the psalmist reminds us, the Lord never falls asleep at the switch. He always protects us and keeps us safe, something we easily believe when things are going well but sometimes forget when things are not going well. He says, “The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.” (Psalm 121:7-8)

St. Paul is someone you would think would have it made. He preached, established churches, and even wrote over half of the New Testament. Yet, when he experienced his famous “thorn in the flesh” (some think this was a serious disease such as malaria), his prayer for relief from this suffering was denied by the Lord three times. Yet he was not disappointed. The Lord responded to him, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:9) The real and complete healing for us and everyone is not by the removal of all suffering, but in salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. The real power for us and everyone is not in perfect health and strength, but in weakness. For, in weakness, the power of the Lord is displayed in our lives and through our words.

No one has said that suffering is easy, desired, or fun. Yet it is something we can use to glorify God and be a witness to our neighbor. Becky and I both look on this new situation as a way by which we can display the power of God in our weaknesses and, by our words, testify to the grace and mercy of God, even in these circumstances. We invite you to support us in this effort and, when considering the suffering in your lives, do the same.

And remember, no matter what happens, we are fine – and you are, too.

In Christ,
Pastor Schlund

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Everyone who attends the Wee Disciples - Fuddruckers fund raiser on the 3rd Tuesday of each month...It's for the kids!

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 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

- ♥ **LWML Sunday will be October 6.** LWML has an updated 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.
- ♥ **LWML Fall Rally** - Trinity Lutheran Church in Great Falls will host the Fall Rally for LWML on Saturday, October 12. Registration will cost \$5 each and will be from 8:30 to 9:30 AM Pastor Gerald Paul from Trinity will lead the devotions and bible study. The speakers will be Sherry Van Vleet, Central Zone delegate, and Laura Nussbaum, Young Woman Representative, to the 38th Biennial LWML Convention in Mobile, Alabama. An ingathering of nonperishable food items will be taken for Wittier Elementary School food pantry.
- ♥ **Our next meeting and Bible study will be Saturday, November 9 at 10:00 a.m. NOTE THE DATE AND TIME CHANGE!** We will have a guest speaker from St. Vincent DePaul regarding the homeless in Great Falls and how to help them. 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

Rejoice with October! It's our month to celebrate LWML Sunday at its beginning and the Reformation as it ends. We rejoice that autumn has concluded a bountiful harvest for our Montana agricultural community. So many blessings for which to be thankful!

During October the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS will be finishing their study of the book of 2 PETER and begin their study of the book of JUDE. Join them for fellowship and Bible study on October 4th, 11th, and 18th from 1-3pm at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave So. The Lord always blesses our time together.

Join the ladies and gentlemen who are doing Assisted Living Ministry. They will help with hymn singing and a devotion at these locations. On Tuesday, October 8th at 11 a.m. they will gather at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave So. Come and "do lunch" with the group when they go out on Friday, October 25th at 11:45 a.m. at Wheat Montana, 1116 9th St So. (This lunch activity is so popular that some bring their out of town relatives, repeatedly!) After lunch many will go and share God's joy with the residents at Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. So come and join these activities, and bring your relatives!



October Anniversaries

- Oct 3 Larry and Jillian Homen
- 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: Mitch Martin

October ushers:

- 6 – Matt Schlund and Gary Link
- 13 – Dennis Nivens and Arnie Gidlow
- 20 – Pat Lewis and Darrell Greenwood
- 27 – Lyle and James Onstad



INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

- Michael Drummond** – Lupus
- Rev. Mark Grunst** of Billings who has Lewy Body disease
- Connie Juden**
- Rev. Erich Kaelberer** - ALS
- Wallace Martin**, Mitch's brother under Hospice Care
- Jane Nicolaus**, cancer

One member who is away serving in the military is **Michael Lewis**.

We pray for the family of **Gloria Creek** whose brother Leo Somerfeld died in a farm accident on September 22.

Echoz Fall Banquet

The Guest Speaker for the Echoz Fall Banquet is **Melissa Ohden**. She is an abortion survivor and founder of the Abortion Survivor Network (ASN). She has been featured on The 700 Club, EWTN, Fox News, Focus on the Family, American Family Radio, The Mike Huckabee Show, The Guardian, and BBC. For more information contact Helen Lewis at 750-5874. She is hosting a table at the banquet. Or you can go to www.echoz.org or call (406) 727-1850.

National Life Chain Sunday

We are encouraged to build a Life Chain on **Sunday, October 6 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.** Meet at the east end of Holiday Village parking lot at 10th Avenue South and 13th Street South. Arrive by 1:45 PM to obtain a sign and find a spot on the north or south side of 10th Avenue South. We position ourselves 25 feet apart and hold signs so that on-coming cars can easily read them. We stand as a silent witness to the sanctity of life. If needed, bring chairs, umbrellas, and water for your comfort. For more information call Jim and Barb Going at 727-4878.

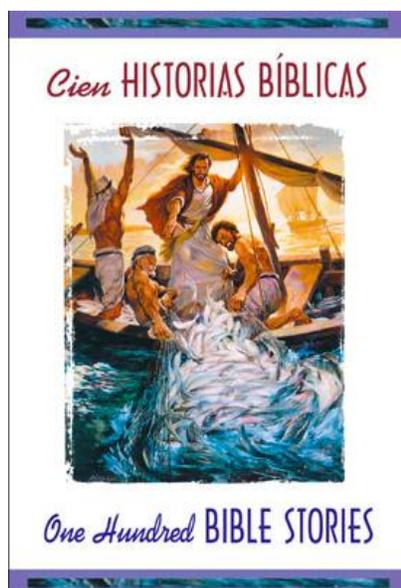
Montana District Pastors Conference in Laurel

Pastor Schlund will be attending the Montana District Pastors Conference October 1 – 3, 2019 at St. John Lutheran in Laurel. We will continue with our Bible study during Family Night on Wednesday, October 2.

Email addresses needed

Members who would like their year-end giving statements sent to them via email are asked to send an email to the treasurer at plctreasurer@charter.net. We are no longer supposed to put them in mailboxes. They are to be mailed or emailed. This saves the church some stamps. Also, if you want offering envelopes, please let Arnie know so he can order the correct number. People who write checks do not need envelopes. We only need to order envelopes for those who give cash. Thank you for your help! If you have any questions, feel free to contact Treasurer Arnie Wirth.

Our Sunday School Mission goal for 2019 – 2020 will be to collect money to buy these Bilingual Spanish/English Bible Story Books for **Missionary Andrew Schlund** to hand out to kids in Mexico City. We will order books and get them to him as we collect enough money to purchase them.



Missionary Andrew says “We could use *100 Bible Stories* to give to families with young children. The idea would be to give these books so that they could be used for family devotions. These would be a great blessing for the churches of Mexico City and would help in our church planting efforts.”

(The cost per book varies from \$16.99 to \$13.60 per book depending on how many we order.)

See Through the Scriptures

Grasping the big story that runs through the biblical narrative can be daunting. How does the average person make sense of it all – and put all the pieces together? What relevance do all those genealogies and descriptions of ancient battles have to our world today? Do Christians really even need to bother with the Old Testament when the “good news” of the Gospel is all there is in the New Testament? *See Through the Scriptures* provides the framework you need to understand the grand, complex narrative that unfolds between Genesis and Revelation. Join us in October as we take up the *See Through the Scriptures* in our Adult Bible Study on Sunday morning.