



Peace Lutheran Church

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Where Do We Get It?

September 2014

I saw a cartoon which showed worshipers shaking the hand of a pastor after church. While the pastor had a dismayed look on his face, the parishioners' faces were smiling and beaming brightly. One man said to the pastor, "Pastor, we are sure glad that you told us you didn't know where you were going to get the money to carry on the church's ministry. For a second there, we thought you were going to ask us!"

The cartoon expresses in a humorous way an important question which is often a problem in many congregations: where do we get the resources to do our congregation's ministry? Often we do just what the cartoon says: we look to somewhere other than ourselves for the resources.

We all like to have a nice church building with lights, heat, hymnals, bread & wine for Holy Communion, and a pastor preaching. But when it comes time to donate the money to pay for all these items, we look to others to contribute the money. We all like to have Sunday School for our children. But when it comes time to volunteer to teach, we look to other people to do that job. We all like to have skilled leaders to manage our money, care for our building and grounds, and assist the pastor in caring for the spiritual lives of our members. But when it comes time to let our names stand for election, we look to other people to be elected.

To even address this subject can bring about a lot of rationalizations, justifications, and finger pointing. That is neither helpful nor my intent. Instead, let us consider a Biblical way of obtaining the resources we need to do our ministry here.

Our chief difficulty seems to be that we consider our time, talents, and material goods to be our personal possessions to do with as we please. This is not true. The Bible says, "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters." (Psalm 24:1-2) Everything belongs to the Lord because He made it. He has not relinquished ownership of it. We own nothing.

That may seem like bad news, but it's not. The Lord is a loving and gracious God who gives us many gifts. When St. Paul describes the Church, he tells us that the Lord provides all the necessary resources for the Church to do her ministry. However, He doesn't give them to an organization or an institution, but to individuals. St. Paul writes, "But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says, 'When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.'" Paul then lists those gifts. He also lists gifts in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 14.

These gifts are given to us, not to own, but to manage. We are to manage them, not according to our will and for ourselves, but according to the will of God and the good of our neighbor. St. Peter writes, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." (1 Peter 4:10)

Does this mean we are never to use any of God's gifts for ourselves? Not at all. God gives us gifts to care for our own needs. There is nothing wrong with that. Does this mean that we use all of our gifts for the needs of our local congregation? Not at all. We are to serve the needs of all our neighbors, not just church members or our congregation.

I believe that many problems in the church are not necessarily a lack of resources, but a misuse of the resources we already have. Perhaps we do not need to pray for more resources for our congregation, but for wisdom to use the resources we have in a way that pleases God and serves our neighbor – including our "neighbors" here at church by bringing them the Word of God. St. Paul writes, "This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:3-4)

Continue to pray that the resources which God has given us to use for the ministry here may be used by us for that. May God give you a joy to use His gifts to serve Him by serving your neighbor! May He give you wisdom to know how best to use your time, talents, and material resources here at church so that our ministry may continue to thrive!

In Christ,

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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Val Martin, Shirley Coe, Angie, Bob, Eric and Alicia Fletcher and Kenna for all of your hard work cooking, cleaning and organizing at Peace's Congregational Camp.

Jennifer Lewis and Ganetta Ryster for organizing the children's events at camp.

Arnie Gidlow for leading worship here at Peace while Pastor Schlund was at camp.

Everyone who worked at the fair booth.

All of the ladies who go to Benefis Skilled Nursing Center, Park Place Nursing Home, Bee Hive Home and Highgate House for hymn singing and devotions every month.

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 people 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

- ♥ **Our next meeting and Bible study will be Tuesday, September 9 at 6:30 p.m.** All ladies of Peace are invited to join us!
- ♥ **The Central Zone Fall Rally will be held at Zion Lutheran in Power on September 20 from 10 a.m. to about 2 p.m.** The guest speaker will be Bonnie Mitchell from Echoz Pregnancy Care Center. Please bring a box of disposable diapers to be donated to Echoz. Opening and closing devotions will be done by Rev. Noah Fremer and the Bible study will be led by Rev. Eric Stinnett. Registration cost is \$6 each and lunch is provided. We will car pool so if you want a ride please let Ruth in the church office know.
- ♥ **The Fall LWML Retreat will be at Camp Utmost this year on October 3 and 4.** The cost is \$55 per person and due by September 8. 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*.
- ♥ **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.

We have been contacted by the Cascade County Detention Center asking if we could collect composition books for them again this year. If you would like to donate composition books, which are now on sale during the back to school sales, please bring them to the church and we will be sure they get to the Cascade County Detention Center. The Mental Health staff hands out about 1 journal per month to the inmates that request them. The inmates use these books to do their Bible studies, process and clarify their thoughts and feelings, reduce stress, problem solve, and work on their legal issues. **The books cannot have any staples, metal spiral or other sharp parts.**

Ladies Bible Study Schedule

"Do you, or someone you know, live with chronic pain?" Many can say, "Yes," to this question. Highlighted in the Lutheran Women's Summer Quarterly, "Living with Pain -- Strength and Survival," is the new topic for the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS. Bible study will be held Sept 5th, 12th, and 26th from 1:15 - 3:15 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. Tuesday, September 9th at 11:00 a.m. they will be at Bee Hive Home #1, 2816 15th Ave So. On Sept 19th at 11:45 a.m. ladies and gentlemen will gather for a no host lunch at the Montana Club, 907 Smelter Ave NE. Afterward many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Come and join in spreading the joy of God's Word!



September Anniversaries

Sept. 3	Darrell and Cindy Greenwood
Sept. 4	Scott and Lisa Rubino
Sept. 6	Russ and Val Kraenzel
Sept. 8	Ernie and Judy VanVleet
Sept. 10	Karen Schaefer and Dave Snuggs
Sept. 10	James and Susan Knoll
Sept. 18	Ken and Brenda Rubino
Sept. 19	Richard & Charlene Schottey
Sept. 24	Scott and Ann Clutter
Sept. 27	Jason and Brook Gerard
Sept. 29	Robert and Angela Fletcher
Sept. 30	Lyle and Joan Sivumaki

Baptismal Anniversaries

September 1	Tara Onstad
1	Carl Kangas
4	Jill Keil
4	Kris Heppner
7	Jessamy Blomgren
8	Kathlina Carlsen
8	Nancy Crestoni
9	Joe Furr I
16	Karl Mueller
19	Elsie Huss
20	John Sivumaki
20	Ken Steinke
22	Melissa Weaver
24	Paul Rubino
25	Rustin Kraenzel Jr.
29	Scott Rubino
29	Karin Steinke
30	Paul James Rubino



INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

John Birkholz

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**.

Rally Day

Rally Day will be on Sunday, September 7th as we begin Sunday School and Midweek Bible School for the fall. There will be Divine Service at 9:30 AM with the Installation of the Teaching Staff for 2014-2015. Afterwards, students will meet their teachers and have their first lesson. At noon, there will be a potluck with bouncy houses and lots of fun for all. Feel free to bring chips, dessert or a side dish to share. Join us for this fun day!

Confirmation Parents' Meeting - There will be a brief meeting for parents of children involved in Pastor Schlund's confirmation class this year on Rally Day, September 7th sometime after the meal has been completed. If there are any questions, talk to Pastor Schlund.

Family Night Kickoff

Family Night with adult Bible study and midweek classes will begin on Wednesday, September 10. Each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. there will be a potluck meal followed at 6:30 p.m. by adult Bible study and midweek classes. Plan now to attend.

Adult Inquirers' Class

Adult Inquirers' Class will begin on Sunday, September 14th and will run for approximately 12 Sunday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 PM. The course covers the basic teachings of Christianity through the use of the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism. Welcome to attend are people who want to know what the Lutheran church and our congregation believes and practices; people who desire to become members of Peace Lutheran Church; and people who want to review what they learned in confirmation class. There is no obligation to become a member after completing the class. If you would like more information or know of someone who might be interested in receiving an invitation to this course, talk to Pastor Schlund.

Finances

Our giving in June was \$10,838.25 and July was \$8,540.45. Our expenses for June were \$11,222.88 and for July were \$10,671.66. The general fund balance at the end of July is \$9,948.24. As you can see, the need for people to continue giving is very great!

Applying Biblical Teachings

The formula “ e equals mc^2 ” is familiar to many, but is understood by only a few people. Most of us know it had something to do with Einstein and was the formula that led to the release of enormous energy. Similarly, in the operation and ministry of a local church, “ e ” might stand for *effectiveness*, “ m ” for *members*, “ c ” for *commitment*, and the “ 2 ” for the *effort multiplied by itself*. The fruit of that kind of effort is much more powerful than what Einstein discovered.

We here at Peace Lutheran Church have been given the power of the Gospel. We are a congregation blessed with people who have many talents and gifts. Trusting in God, we have great vision, for we know what God has stated about His Word: “. . . It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:11).

Yet, at times our trust is found lacking in the *effectiveness* of the promise. When trust is lacking, we set up for ourselves stumbling blocks that affect our faith. One such stumbling block is the use and giving of our wealth and money.

Jesus Himself gave a warning, “So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?” (Luke 16:11).

We may think we understand the formula for great *effectiveness*. Do we? Let’s look at the formula.

The “ c ” is the *commitment* of Jesus, as Lord and Savior, to the *members*, “ m ,” of His church. The *effort multiplied by itself*, “ 2 ,” is the never tiring work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

God’s work is done *effectively* through us. His *commitment* to His members and His *effort multiplied by itself* many times over equals the *effective* carrying out of His desires.

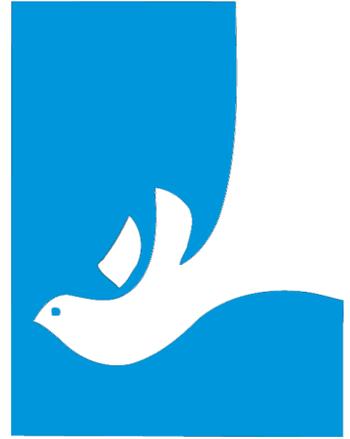
Our faith embraces and keeps the true riches, the heavenly goods, and exhibits itself by doing what God desires. The stumbling block is avoided, for genuine, God-given faith cannot be wrong.

By the power of the Gospel, we are trustworthy and place the proper priorities on the use of our money as we give glory to God and serve our neighbor, especially our fellow believers. We remember the words St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion. . . ” (2 Cor. 9:11).

"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 or

Helen Lewis at 406 781 8059 or 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."