



Peace Lutheran Church

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Dead or Alive

What is a good way to tell if someone or something is dead or alive? Check to see if that person, animal, or plant is still growing. A baby living within the womb of her mother continues to develop and grow. If that same baby suddenly stops growing, the doctor and mother will fear that he is dead.. If you plant a flower or fruit tree in your garden and it stops growing, you probably conclude it is dead. However, when the plant or tree grows big and tall and produces beautiful flowers or delicious fruit, you can conclude that it is truly alive. An organism that is growing is alive. An organism that has stopped growing is dead. The same can be said about our faith.

I believe that there are many people who think that faith is a static item. In other words, you are given faith in your baptism, confess that faith at your confirmation, and are good to go for the rest of your life. Your faith never changes and you always have enough.

However, faith is a living and active gift from God. So, as Christians, how can we tell if our faith is dead or alive? The answer is the same as it is for any other organism. Any faith that continues to grow is a living faith which saves us and brings us to heaven. However, any faith which fails to grow is dead and cannot save us. There are people, I'm sure, who have deceived themselves into thinking that they have a living faith when, in fact, their faith has died or they never had faith to begin with.

In his second epistle, St. Peter encourages not to let our faith die, but to keep it alive. He writes, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 3:18) To keep a living and active faith, Peter says that we are to grow in two areas: grace and knowledge.

Grace is the unmerited love of God shown to us in His Son Jesus Christ through whom we gain the forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. Grace is something of which we can never have enough. Therefore, we meet together every week in order to receive that grace in Divine Service. Here, we receive God's grace in many ways: in Confession and Absolution, through the preaching of the Gospel, and in His body and blood given to us in bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins. We grow in grace and keep that faith alive, not by our own efforts at goodness, but by receiving God's gift of grace over and over again.

Knowledge is not simply the accumulation of facts about everything. In his epistle, St. Peter is talking about the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Since we will never know Jesus Christ fully and completely, we always have room to grow in this area. Therefore, we meet together on Sundays and on Wednesdays to increase our knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in Sunday School and Bible Classes. We grow in knowledge and keep that faith alive, not by our fervent study, but by Jesus revealing Himself to us in His Holy Word.

How is your faith? Is it alive or has it died? If it is growing, it is alive. If it has remained the same since your confirmation day, then I would be concerned. As we return to our fall schedule and reboot the Sunday School and other Christian education programs in our congregation, take advantage of the gifts God has given you in these activities. Continue to grow in the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by regularly being where that grace is distributed and received in worship. Continue to grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by regularly being where that knowledge is revealed in Bible Class.

In doing that, God will give you all that you need to ensure an active living faith which will sustain you throughout your life and bring you to life eternal in heaven.

In Christ,
Pastor Schlund

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Everyone who came to Deaf Camp and helped in anyway.
Everyone who has donated items to Children's Receiving Home.
Everyone who brought food and helped with set up and clean up for the 2 memorial services in August.
Ruth Denning and Marge Johnsten for driving to Chinook for the LWML Rally.
Ken Meske for painting the mail box and putting new numbers on it.
Everyone who donated composition books to Cascade County Detention Center.
Pat Lewis for leading worship here at Peace while Pastor Schlund was at camp.
All of the people 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 Monday, September 17 at 6:30 p.m.** Please note the day change!! All ladies of Peace are invited to join us! Remember your Mite Boxes!
- ♥ **From September 9 through October 7**, we will be collecting items for the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Native Americans, where Rev. Dan Jacobs and Rev. Dennis Bauer serve. Items being collected, so far, are **blankets**. Please bring them to the church and Val will be taking them to Billings on Friday, October 12.
- ♥ **The LWML Fall Retreat will be at Trinity Lutheran Camp in Big Fork on September 21 through 23.** "As Far As the East Is From the West" based on Psalm 103:12 is the theme for the retreat! For the first time ever, it will be a 2 day retreat! We will meet on Friday afternoon at 4:00 PM and will depart for home after the Sunday morning Worship Service. Women from all over the state of Montana will gather. Registration fee for lodging and food for both days is \$85 per person and forms are in the latest issue of *Montana Missive* or in the church office. Plan now to come and join us! Rides are available, contact Ruth Denning.
- ♥ **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.

Ladies Bible Study Schedule

There's something about those summer months that seem to fly by; just ask the school kids who are sitting in a September hot classroom. As school commences, so FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS resumes with a new study this fall. Come and join the ladies as they begin the enriching study of 1 Peter. Meeting from 1-3 pm on Friday, September 7th, 14th, and 21st, they will be at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave So.

Assisted Living Ministry will lead residents in hymn singing and a devotion at the following locations. Ladies and gentlemen will gather on Tuesday, September 11th at 11:00 a.m. at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave So. On Friday, September 28th at 11:45 a.m. there will be a no host lunch at Boston's Pizza, 1101 7th Ave So. After lunch many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Treat yourself to this fellowship time with others, who will be blessed by your presence!

New Picture Directories

Thank you to everyone who came and had their pictures taken for the new directory! They turned out great!! They are here and have been placed in your mailboxes in the hallway. If you would like additional copies or didn't have your picture taken, or didn't submit a picture, the cost is \$5 each. See Ruth in the church office to purchase them.



September Anniversaries

Sept. 3 Darrell and Cindy Greenwood
 Sept. 8 Ernie and Judy VanVleet
 Sept. 10 James and Susan Knoll
 Sept. 19 Richard & Charlene Schottey
 Sept. 27 Jason and Brook Gerard
 Sept. 29 Robert and Angela Fletcher

Baptismal Anniversaries

September 1 Tara Onstad
 1 Carl Kangas
 7 Jessamy Blomgren
 13 Jayden McPartlin
 13 Cole McPartlin
 19 Elsie Huss
 20 Kate Creek
 24 Paul Rubino
 26 Ted Barnes
 29 Karin Steinke



INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

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- Tami Birkholz**, Karen's sister-in-law who is battling a rare skin tissue disorder
- Michael Drummond** – Lupus
- Leonard Gidlow** under Hospice Care
- Jane Hering** under Hospice Care
- Connie Juden**
- Rev. Erich Kaelberer**
- Dorothy Neuman**

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

Choir practice begins...

The choir will begin practice **on Tuesday, September 18 at 5:45 p.m.** at Peace Lutheran. Anyone interested in joining the choir is welcome to come and give it a try! New voices are always welcome! If you have questions or want further information, please see Val Martin.

Ushers for September

Sept 2 ----- Arnie Gidlow
 ----- Matt Schlund
 Sept 9 ----- Ed Ostlund
 ----- Lyle Onstad
 Sept 16 ----- Pat Lewis
 ----- Arnie Wirth
 Sept 23 ----- Tyler Denning
 ----- Darrell Greenwood
 Sept 30 ----- Mitch Martin
 ----- Eric Fletcher

Family Night Begins!

We will begin Family Night again on Wednesday, September 12th. This is a time for brothers and sisters in Christ to be together, share a meal, and study the Word of God. We begin with a potluck dinner at 6 PM. The theme for our first meeting is Italian. At 6:30 PM, there will be a preconfirmation class for the fifth and sixth grade students of our congregation. The Adult Bible Study will resume its study of "Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up". There is a sign-up sheet posted to sign up for the book. The cost is \$10 each. We close with a short devotion at 7:30 PM. Come and join us for this time to be together as the family of God at Peace Lutheran Church. If you have any questions, please talk with Pastor Schlund.

Finances

JANUARY 1, TO APRIL 30, 2018		
	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
CHURCH INCOME		
Regular Offerings	\$44,977.15	\$47,166.68
Interest Income	\$412.37	\$400.00
Total Income	\$45,389.52	\$47,566.68
Church Expenses		
Personnel/Benefits	\$30,860.07	\$31,652.84
Administrative	\$2,564.31	\$2,528.32
Buildings & Grounds	\$10,790.01	\$9,920.00
Missions	\$3,726.84	\$3,833.32
Worship	\$294.08	\$383.32
Christian Education	\$998.54	\$889.36
Evangelism	\$335.50	\$766.68
Total Expenses	\$49,569.35	\$49,973.84
Net Church Income	(\$4,179.83)	(\$2,407.16)

Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?

Jesus said that, in the final days, many “false Christs” would appear and try to fool people, even believers (Matthew 24:23-24). Who are those “false Christ’s” in our world today? Are they fooling you? Our first study for Family Night this fall will be based on the book, “Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?” The book discusses the religious leaders and movements who are portraying a different Jesus than the one portrayed in Holy Scripture. We will learn what the Bible has to say about their position and how we can avoid being fooled. If you would like to sign up to have a book for the study, you can add your name to the sign up list. The cost is \$10.00. (Although it’s not absolutely necessary to have a copy of the book, you will benefit from having it.) Family Night will begin on Wednesday, September 12.

The Quilters

are gathering items for the Children’s Receiving Home
during September.

Some of the items on their wish list include:

Diapers size 4, 5 6

New or clean used bath towels and washcloths

Twin size sheets and bedding

Liquid hand soaps and body wash (no bars please)

Toilet tissue, Kleenex, paper towels, table napkins

Cleaning supplies – Clorox wipes, disinfectants

**Laundry supplies – Liquid or Pod laundry detergent Fabric softener
(both liquid and sheets)**

Athletic socks and socks for boys and girls of all ages

Board games for all ages

Used luggage in good shape

Toothbrushes and toothpaste

Shampoo

Remember to shop The Dollar Store for good deals!

The quilters will collect these items through the month of September and then call the Home and they will come and pick them up.

