



Peace Lutheran Church

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“I Do It Myself”

My wife and I were pleased to recently spend two weeks of vacation visiting our son, Tom, his wife, Beth, and our granddaughter, Abby. As with all grandparents, we naturally think that Abby is the cutest granddaughter there ever was. She is two years old and has been exerting her independence in a very forceful way. Every time I would try to help her do something, she would say, “I do it myself.” (A video of one such encounter between her and me is gladly available for your viewing from me upon request.) She wanted to do everything herself without assistance and was insulted and upset if you try to offer her any help.

Some might call this the “terrible twos”. However, I think this is nothing other than an example of our sinful human nature which is present in all of us and causes us to be self-centered. Each of us wants to “do it myself” in many areas of life, either to gain recognition for a task accomplished or to experience the satisfaction of having accomplished something good. This is true also in our relationship with God. This exhibition of spiritual independence consists, in its most blatant form, of hoping to be saved because we were good enough people and did enough good things. In a more subtle example of this, we may acknowledge that we cannot be good enough to be saved, but we want to be able to claim having made the decision to “invite Jesus into my heart.”

However, this is impossible. The Word of God says, “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9) This means that our entire salvation is all God’s work and none of ours. It comes as a result of grace – His undeserved love for us in Jesus Christ. Jesus lived the perfect life that was required of us. He died the death which we deserved as payment for our sin. He rose from the dead to life again that we might live forever. God has forgiven us, saved us, and given us eternal life, none of which is a result of our good works, but wholly the result of Jesus’ work. Even the faith necessary to receive these good gifts is not of our own doing but is also a gift of God.

Yet we want to claim some of the credit for our salvation. I have spoken with people who were proud that they had “made the decision for Jesus”. I’ve also spoken to people who became upset when told this was not possible. Instead of rejoicing at God’s grace and being thankful to our Savior, Jesus Christ, I fully expect them to scrunch up their face, like my granddaughter, and say, “I do it myself.”

But why? You can’t do it! The requirement of the Law of God is perfection and none of us are remotely close to that. Besides, why would you even want to try and earn your salvation when God wants to give it to you free? If someone were to offer you \$1 million for free, would you refuse it and insist that you will earn the money yourself?

Even the ability to do good and right is a gift of God as Paul continues to write in the letter to the Ephesians, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10) God has created us to do good works. God has prepared the good works which He wants us to do beforehand. By the power of the Holy Spirit in us through baptism, we are able to live out this life of good works.

Our granddaughter is certainly cute in her insistence on saying, “I do it myself!” However, she will eventually grow out of this and realize that she cannot do it all. Then she can receive the help that she needs to do whatever task is at hand. In the same way, when you realize that, in your relationship with God, you cannot keep His Law perfectly, cannot work out your own salvation, and are not able even to invite Jesus into your heart, then you will be able to receive forgiveness for all of your sins, the ability to do good works as God commands, and obtain eternal salvation solely because of His grace. Make use of the Means of Grace – the Word of God, your Baptism, and the Lords Supper – and all of these things will happen. Then, no longer will it be, “I do it myself! Rather, it will be, “Jesus do it Himself for me!”

In Christ,

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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Everyone who came and helped or cleaned or fixed or mowed or trimmed or did any work around the church.

Everyone who came to Deaf Camp and helped in anyway.

Everyone who brought food and helped with set up and clean up for Dorothy Neuman's service.

Everyone who donated composition books to Cascade County Detention Center.

Pat Lewis, Mitch Martin and Arnie Gidlow for leading worship here at Peace while Pastor Schlund was on vacation and 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 16 at 6:30 p.m.** All ladies of Peace are invited to join us! Remember your Mite Boxes!
- ♥ **The LWML Fall Retreat will be at Trinity Lutheran Camp in Bigfork on September 20 through 22.** Based on Ecclesiastes 3:1 "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." as the theme for the retreat! We will meet on Friday afternoon at 4:00 PM and will depart for home after the Sunday morning Worship Service. 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!
- ♥ **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

Summer has a way of passing quickly --. Just ask the school kids... and the teachers! As September begins with all the school activities, so begins the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS. Ladies will gather around God's Word to continue their study of the book of 2nd PETER on September 6th and 20th from 1-3pm at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave So. Marge will be gone on the 13th so we will not meet that Friday. There is plenty of room for more people around the dining room table. Know that you are always welcome!

Ladies and gentlemen are invited to share in the Assisted Living Ministry with hymn singing and a devotion on the following dates. They will gather on Tuesday, September 10th at 11 a.m. at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave So. On Friday, September 27th they will enjoy their monthly no host lunch at 11:45 a.m. at Boston's, 1101 7th St So. After lunch many go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Our lunch is so popular as a fellowship time together. Try to work it into your schedule! The Lord blesses all of these activities with enrichment!

Adult Inquirer's Class begins

Adult Inquirers' Class will begin on Sunday, September 15 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, teaches, and confesses; 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 cost and 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 this course, talk to Pastor Schlund.



September Anniversaries

Sept. 3 Darrell and Cindy Greenwood
 Sept. 8 Ernie and Judy VanVleet
 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



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
- 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 **Dorothy Neuman** who died on August 16.

Choir practice begins...

The choir will begin practice **on Tuesday, October 1 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 1 ----- Arnie Gidlow
 ----- Matt Schlund
 Sept 8 ----- Greg Franczyk
 ----- Arnie Wirth
 Sept 15 ----- Lyle Onstad
 ----- James Onstad
 Sept 22 ----- Jared Dudden
 ----- Mitch Martin
 Sept 29 ----- Darrell Greenwood
 ----- Dennis Nivens

Family Night Adult Bible Study

“Out of Nothing” is a video study on the origin of the universe which we will be taking up in our Family Night Adult Bible Study. In addition to studying what the Bible says about the six day creation, we will also study the relationship between faith and knowledge, human authority versus divine authority, and how the account of creation can be a springboard for evangelism. Join us for this interesting and timely study. The first class is on September 11 at 6:30 PM.

Family Night resumes

Family Night will begin on Wednesday, September 11. 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 this week's meal is Italian food. At 6:30 PM, there will be preconfirmation classes. The Adult Bible Study will be taking up the video study, *Out of Nothing*. 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.

