



## Peace Lutheran Church

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September, 2016

### Exercise Your Faith

September 2016

As many of you know, I enjoy going to a local fitness center to exercise on a regular basis. I'm in an exercise class with hearty souls my age and enjoy it immensely. However, if you talked to people who knew me twenty years ago, they would never believe I'd be doing something like this.

Why? I wasn't opposed to exercising. I just didn't want to do it – at least not on a regular basis. I had bought into the myths about exercise. I didn't think I had enough time to exercise. I believed that exercising would make me feel worse – tired and worn out. I thought exercising would be too hard and wouldn't do me any good anyway.

When we moved to Great Falls, I found out how wrong I had been. In joining a fitness center, I had a place to exercise. In joining a class, I had structure to my exercising that would maximize the benefit I got from my exercising. Plus, it was nice to have the encouragement and comradery from other class members. Do I like every workout? No, but I benefit from every one. Exercising made me feel better, not worse. I feel more awake and energetic than I ever had before. Because of these great benefits, I always find time to exercise. And, on those rare occasions when I have a scheduling conflict, I'm genuinely disappointed not to be able to exercise.

With the beginning of September comes Rally Day and the start of new Sunday School classes for children and new Bible Classes for adults. Like exercise builds up the body and brings great benefits, Bible Study builds up the soul and brings great benefits for our faith. Jude, the brother of our Lord, writes, "But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life." (Jude 20-21)

Unfortunately, many people treat Bible Study like exercise. They think it's a good idea and are not opposed to it. They just don't want to do it. They buy into the myths about Bible Study. They feel they don't have time for Bible Study. Bible Study will be too hard and won't do them any good anyway. Bible Study will be dull and boring.

But those are just myths. You have great blessings here. In joining a church, you have a place to study the Word of God Himself. In joining a Bible Class, you have structure in your study of God's Word to help you get all you can from it. Plus, you have the encouragement and comradery from other class members. Will you enjoy every topic? Probably not, but you will benefit every time you have contact with the Word of God. Jesus says, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32)

To be set free from guilt, fear, anxiety, and all the other consequences of sin in this world is a great thing. Jesus promises that to all who abide in His Word. So check out the opportunities for Bible Study this fall at Peace. But I'll warn you: like with exercise, once you start, you may not want to miss.

See you in Bible Class,

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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**Everyone** who came to Camp and helped in anyway.  
**Everyone** who donated items to Mountain View school.  
**Jennifer, Kaylee, Donnalene, Jayden and Cole** for delivering the school items to Mountain View.  
**Everyone** who donated composition books to Cascade County Detention Center.  
**Arnie Gidlow** for leading worship here at Peace while Pastor Schlund was at camp.  
**Everyone** who worked at the fair booth.  
**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 12 at 6:30 p.m.** Please note the day change!! All ladies of Peace are invited to join us! Remember your Mite Boxes!
- ♥ **The Central Zone Fall Rally will be held at Trinity Lutheran in Great Falls on October 1 from 10 a.m. to about 2 p.m.** There will be election of zone officers and the guest speaker will be Susan Rivera Johnson from the National Association of Mental Health. Plan now to come!
- ♥ **The Fall LWML Retreat will be at Camp Utmost this year on September 16 & 17.** The cost is \$55 per person and is now due. 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.
- ♥ **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.
- ♥ **The LWML Montana District Convention will be held at Peace Lutheran in Great Falls next year April 29, 30 and May 1.** We are in the planning stages and could use your help! **Ruth Denning and Val Martin** are the co-chairs of the convention. Please contact one of them if you are interested in helping in anyway.

**Family Night Kickoff**

Family Night is an opportunity to share a meal with the family of God in this place, study the Word of God, and close with a short time of worship. Family Night is every Wednesday evening. It begins with a themed potluck at 6:00 PM. Bible Study is from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. Family Night begins on September 14<sup>th</sup>. The first potluck theme is Italian. In preparation of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation 2017, the Adult Study will feature a video study about the life and times of Martin Luther called *A Man Named Martin – Part 1: The Man*. All are welcome to join us for Family Night.

**Ladies Bible Study Schedule**

Save that 2016 Summer LUTHERAN WOMAN'S QUARTERLY magazine! The FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS will be going through the 8 page Bible study as they resume gathering to study God's Word. Ladies will meet on Sept 9th, 23rd, and 30th from 1-3 p.m. at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave So. Do come to one or all of these Bible study sessions. The Lord will bless your time spent in His Word!

Assisted Living Ministry with hymn singing and a devotion will meet at the following locations. At 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 13th ladies and gentlemen will be at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave So. On Friday, September 16th at 11:45 a.m. the group will meet at JB's Restaurant, 1322 10th Ave So for a no host lunch. Afterward many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave So. Treat yourself and bring a friend to lunch at JB's for some Christian fellowship!



## September Anniversaries

Sept. 3 Darrell and Cindy Greenwood  
 Sept. 8 Ernie and Judy VanVleet  
 Sept. 10 Karen Schaefer and Dave Snuggs  
 Sept. 10 James and Susan Knoll  
 Sept. 19 Richard & Charlene Schotthey  
 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  
 7 Jessamy Blomgren  
 9 Joe Furr I  
 13 Jayden McPartlin  
 13 Cole McPartlin  
 19 Elsie Huss  
 20 Kate Creek  
 24 Paul Rubino  
 26 Ted Barnes  
 29 Karin Steinke  
 30 Paul James Rubino



**INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

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The following people are experiencing health problems:

**Tami Birkholz**, John's sister-in-law who is battling a rare skin tissue disorder

**Jane Hering**

**Connie Juden**

**Bill and Dorothy Neuman**

**David Norman**

We pray for the family of **Bill Lowden** who died August 19, 2016.

Our members who are away serving in the military are **Kurt Mueller** and **Michael Lewis**.

## Choir practice begins...

The choir will begin practice **on Tuesday, September 20 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.

## Rally Day

Rally Day will be on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> as we begin Sunday School and Midweek Bible School for the fall. There will be Divine Service at 9:30 AM. Afterwards, students will meet their teachers and have their first lesson. At noon, lunch will be provided and there will be fun and games for all ages. The church is providing the food. Plan now to join us for this fun day!

## Finances

JANUARY 1 - JUNE 30, 2016		
CHURCH INCOME	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Regular Offerings	\$65,375.20	\$ 70,159.98
Other Income	\$1,051.30	\$ 90.00
Total Income	\$66,426.50	\$70,249.98
Church Expenses		
Personnel/Benefits	\$41,614.77	\$ 41,367.42
Administrative	\$ 3,841.58	\$ 4,185.00
Buildings & Grounds	\$11,199.93	\$12,400.08
Missions	\$ 5,670.78	\$ 5,749.98
Christian Education	\$ 2,162.87	\$ 2,500.02
Total Expenses	\$64,489.93	\$ 66,202.50
Net Church Income	\$ 1,936.57	\$ 4,047.48

JANUARY 1 - JULY 31, 2016		
CHURCH INCOME	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET
Regular Offerings	\$77,039.20	\$81,853.31
Other Income	\$ 4,396.99	\$ 105.00
Interest Income	\$ 278.03	\$ -
Total Income	\$81,714.22	\$ 81,958.31
Church Expenses		
Personnel/Benefits	\$48,094.63	\$ 48,261.99
Administrative	\$ 4,401.06	\$ 4,882.50
Buildings & Grounds	\$12,540.98	\$ 14,466.76
Missions	\$ 9,800.47	\$ 6,708.31
Christian Education	\$ 2,868.11	\$ 2,916.59
Total Expenses	\$ 7,705.25	\$ 77,236.15
Net Church Income	\$ 4,008.97	\$ 4,722.16

## Applying Bible Principles

Here's a little true or false test. Be forewarned that the question is somewhat tricky. True or false: A Christian can expect to have all of his or her needs supplied by God.

On the surface, that would seem to be true. After all, Philippians 4:19 says, "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." But what many people fail to realize is that this promise is a conditional promise. The reason God will supply all of our needs is based on Philippians 4:18 where the Apostle Paul describes how his needs were met by the Christians at Philippi through the sacrificial offering which they had sent to him.

In other words, although those first-century Christians gave to Paul with the desire of assisting him in his ministry to the early church, because of their giving, they earned the "right" to expect that God would fully meet all of their needs. Because of their willingness to share their resources with Paul, as he indicated in Philippians 4:17, fruit would abound to their account. They could then look to God to supply all of their needs. Although they did not "give to get," they would "get" because they gave.

That same principle holds true today. As one person expressed it so well, "We do not give to get, but when we give, we get." That's what the Lord Jesus said in Luke 6:38. He indicated that by whatever measure we give, we will in turn receive.

Jack Hartman, a Christian businessman, said it this way: ". . . the more we give to God, the more this opens the channel for Him to see that we receive abundantly in return. If we withhold our giving, we are actually withholding the blessing that God wants to give us."

Someone described non-essentials in life as ". . . playing Scrabble on the *Hindenburg* or rearranging deck chairs on the *Titanic*." Maybe that's a picture of how you view giving — as a non-essential, something not very important in the totality of life. Could it be that is why your needs are not being met in full?

Think about this: What would happen if you began to place a rightful priority on your giving, even to the point of giving sacrificially? You see, you would then have the "right" to claim Philippians 4:19 with the expectation that in response to your giving, God would meet all of your needs. Your obedience to God's direction in your life to give would then result in having Him meet your needs, even with the same "measure" that you give to Him.