



## Peace Lutheran Church

3340 Eleventh Avenue South,

Great Falls, Montana 59405

761-7343

The Rev. Steven Schlund, Pastor

Office: 761-7343

Home: 952-4567

May, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Confirmation Day will soon be upon us. As Lutherans, we tend to look forward to this special day and celebrate the young people involved. But what does it really mean? What is Confirmation Day for?

Is this the day that young people become “real” members of the Church? No. These young people have been full-fledged members of the Church since the day they were baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Is this the day that young people get a “special blessing” of the Holy Spirit? No. The Holy Spirit entered their lives at their baptism (Acts 2:38)

Is this the day when young people confirm their baptisms? No. Our baptisms and all the blessings they bring are complete. Baptisms do not need to be confirmed.

Is this the day when young people, who have learned the Scriptures, now graduate from Church? No, although our rite of confirmation may unfortunately give that impression by mimicking high school graduation ceremonies with robes, processions, and certificates (diplomas?) instruction is a life-long endeavor for all Christians. We don't “graduate” from it until we get to heaven.

Then what IS Confirmation all about? It's not about church membership, special blessings, or graduating. It is about confessing. On Confirmation Day, these young people who have been instructed in the Scriptures, will, by the power of the Holy Spirit, confess the Christian faith which had been confessed for them at their baptisms.

While this simple act of confession may not seem as glamorous or important as some other options, it is eternally essential. Faith and confession go together. As the Scriptures says, “if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.” (Romans 10:9-10)

You may say, “By simply confessing the Apostles' Creed on Confirmation Day, those young people are just doing what we do every Sunday.” You would be right. Every Sunday is a “confirmation day” for all of us as we confess the Christian faith in the words of the Creeds to our God. Every day is a “confirmation day” as we confess the Christian faith in the performance of loving deeds of service to our neighbor.

May God bless Jessamy Blomgren, Kandace Faller, and Mikaela Grove on their formal “Confirmation Day” on May 16<sup>th</sup>! May God guide each of us to see every day as a “confirmation day”!

Confessing Christ With You,

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

# THANKS TO

**Everyone** who donated items for health kits for Lutheran World Relief.

**Youth** for all of your hard work on the Easter breakfast.

**Donnalene McPartlin and Brook Gerard** for organizing the Easter breakfast.

**Tom and Diann Stevens** for driving the Lutheran World Relief items to Billings.

**John Birkholz** for your help with folding bulletins and newsletters.

**The adult choir** for enhancing our worship services.

**Karen Schaefer** for accompanying the adult choir.

**Gloria Creek and Karen Schaefer** for playing the organ during our worship services.

**All those who volunteer to teach Sunday school, Bible class, and midweek classes** on Sundays and Wednesdays.

**Idell Croskrey** for changing the banners and paraments.

**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.

**Alice Schuman and Cheri Magnuson** for cleaning the Communion linens.

**Cindy Greenwood** for decorating the bulletin boards.

**John Birkholz** for editing our worship service tapes each week for the service to air on Cable 7.

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.

Thank you for praying for my health and thank God from Whom all blessings flow. I am pleased to report that the cataract operation went well and my vision has reverted to nearly as good as when I was much, much younger.

*A. John Birkholz*

## Constitutional Amendment CI 102

Members of Peace Lutheran Church are encouraged to sign the pro-life petition, Constitutional Amendment CI 102. It offers Christians a special opportunity to talk about moral truth about a God who created every person for a purpose. If 10% (50,000 signatures) of the voters in each of 40 legislative districts sign this petition, this constitutional amendment will appear on the November 2, 2010 general election ballot.

“C102 amends the due process section of the Montana Constitution to define ‘person’ as used in that section to include every human being regardless of age, health function, physical or mental dependency, or method of reproduction from the beginning of the biological development of that human being. It directs the legislature to implement this definition by appropriate legislation.” If you want to sign the Amendment, please contact Alice Schuman at 761-6657.

## LWML

- ♥ **Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m. with a Bible study.** All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to come and join us! We will be having elections. Don't forget your Mite boxes!
- ♥ **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.

## Finances

The year to date budgeted amount through March 31, 2010 is **\$38,601.00**. What was given through March 31, 2010 is **\$34,495.97**. **We are short \$4,105.03**. Our Mission Commitment to the District is still short for March in the amount of \$1,050.00. The amount in **Lutheran Church Extension Fund** as of March 31, 2010 is **\$28,709.90**. **LCEF loan balance as of March 31, 2010 is \$168,980.38**.

## Deaf Sponsoring Rummage Sale

Members of Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf are sponsoring a rummage sale on Friday and Saturday, **May 14 and 15** at the parsonage, 2922 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North. The hours on Friday are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you have items that you want to donate, bring them to the church or contact David Wise to make arrangements to pick them up.

# Ladies Bible Study Schedule

May is a busy month! Pentecost, Mother's Day, graduations, and summer company starts coming to Montana with the Memorial Day weekend. FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS hope you will join them for some of the following activities of enrichment!

Ladies will meet for Bible study May 7th and 14th from 1 - 3pm at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave S.

Tuesday, May 11th from 11 - 11:30am the group will meet at Bee Hive Home #3, 2300 15th Ave S, where Candice Schaaf is a resident, for hymn singing and a devotion. May 21st ladies will meet at 11:45am at Rikki's Pizza & Pasta, 1220 9th St. S. for a no host lunch, then go to Highgate House for hymn singing and a devotion.

During the months of June, July, and August home Bible study will be in recess. However, ministry to the two assisted living residences will continue through the summer. Residents of these homes enjoy participating in singing God's Word immensely. Take time to join in the fun!

followed by hymn singing and a devotion at Highgate House. Come and share the Easter joy!



## May Anniversaries

May 1 Leonard and Eva Sivumaki  
 May 2 Lucas and Andrea Holzheimer  
 May 9 Robert and Ellen Marten  
 May 10 Mitch and Val Martin  
 May 10 Mike and Cheri Magnuson  
 May 14 Dan and Kim Schaaf  
 May 14 Bill and Rose Bristol  
 May 19 Dan and Dawn Grove  
 May 20 Earl and Nancy Garnes  
 May 22 Tom and Melissa Weaver  
 May 24 Leah and Gregory Taylor

## Baptismal Anniversaries

May	2	Tari Flom
	3	Benjamin Schuman
	4	Doug E. Braulick
	5	Candice Schaaf
	8	Logan Geist
	9	Kevin Schottey
	10	Cindy Greenwood
	12	Laura Brandt
	12	Felecia Eby
	12	Katlynn Lindsay
	13	Dan Higgins
	13	Bruce Kempf
	16	Thomas Croksrey Jr.
	17	Kristen Hirst
	17	Lyla Meske
	18	Erica Brown
	20	Bill Hering
	21	Shannon Birkholz
	21	Madeline Creek
	25	Shane Keil
	27	Meredeth Swaby
	28	Nora McKelvey
	29	Courtney Johnson
	31	Michael Widenhofer
	31	Ann Nimmick



### INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

**John Birkholz**  
**Colleen Carr**  
**Jo Flom**  
**Bill and Jane Hering**  
**Eva Lou Knorr**  
**Patsy Zvara**

Our members who are away serving in the military are **Brandon Anderson, Stephanie Blomgren, Michael Lewis, and Jacob Meierhoff.**

**Justin Talley** is in Jalalabad, Afghanistan. **Kurt Mueller** is redeployed to Iraq, near Baghdad.

## Confirmation

There are 3 young women of Peace who will confess their faith and be confirmed at the 9:30 AM worship service on Sunday, May 16. They are **Jessamy Blomgren, Kandace Faller, and Mikaela Grove.** There will be a reception in their honor sponsored by the youth group. We thank and praise God for these young ladies and pray that God would continue to lead and guide them in their walk of faith. This service will be interpreted for the deaf as this will be the Sunday that members of the deaf church will worship with members from Peace.

# Wee Disciples



Graduation is coming soon for many – we are excited for this event at Wee Disciples. Our school children are completing the studies for their year and looking forward to new adventures – some children continuing the next step at Wee Disciples, some in public schools – returning for their time after school and some to continue their learning in other areas. We pray we have been faithful to utilize the opportunities God has given us to plant the seeds of God’s Word in their hearts. It is a time to reflect on how God would further strengthen our ministry to the children and their families as well. We are registering for summer and our coming school year as well.

Malmstrom AFB donated several computers to Wee Disciples which is a huge blessing. We will use most of them for educational software for children.

Thank you to everyone who donated egg cartons, supplies and help for our Easter devotions. They were enjoyed by many!

You are invited to our graduation on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm, to celebrate with the children and families as our school year comes to a close.

If you are interested in any of the programs here at Wee Disciples, please contact us at 771-7882.

Debbie Lee, Director

To: Congregations of the Central Circuit

Re: Circuit Forum to discuss upcoming Synod Convention Proposals

The upcoming LCMS Convention in 2010 appears to be one of the most challenging conventions to come along in quite a while.

The Blue Ribbon Task Force of the Synod is proposing quite a number of changes to our Synod that range from changing the name of “The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod” to changes in the way of gathering funds from congregations to realigning Districts and to creation of regions as well as lowering the number of delegates attending a Synod Convention by 50%. These are just a few of the proposals that will come up at this Convention.

The pastors of the Central Circuit all agree to have a “CIRCUIT FORUM” at which discussion can take place regarding some of these proposals as well as giving a chance to congregational members to express their disagreement or consent to the proposals being generated. In this way both delegates from our Circuit – Mitch Martin from Peace, Great Falls and Rev. Eric Stinnett from Stanford/Denton/Lewistown will hear straight away the thoughts and concerns of members from the Central Circuit.

The CIRCUIT FORUM is being planned for Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at Trinity Lutheran, Great Falls. Rev. Eric Stinnett will give a presentation on the proposals and lead a discussion regarding them. If one would like to have a copy of all the proposals, please ask your pastor to download a copy for your reading.

God’s blessings to all of you during this Lenten and Easter season of the church!

In Christ’s Service,  
Kent C. Stenzel, Pastor  
Circuit Counselor, Central Circuit  
Montana District LCMS

# “Life Quotes” from Lutherans For Life

“Who has more influence on the Church: the Word or the world? Theories of evolution don’t mix with the Truth of creation (Genesis 1:1;27). Arousing love before its time (song of Solomon3:5b) is contrary to love that is patient (1 Corinthians 13:4), pure (1 Thessalonians 4:7; 1 Timothy 4:12), and procreative. Although Satan wanted woman to be the mother of death, God directed man to name his wife Eve because she would become the mother of all the living.” *Linda Bartlett, founder of Titus 2 for Life (www.titus2-4life.org)*

Lutherans For Life – [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

## Ascension Worship Service

Members of Peace Lutheran Church will host a special **Ascension Day Worship service with Holy Communion on Thursday, May 16**. We will have a potluck dinner at 6 p.m. and the service will be at 7 p.m. An invitation has been sent to all LCMS churches of the Central Circuit. Come join us!

## Pastor On Vacation

Pastor Schlund and his family will go to Nebraska from **May 5 to May 10** for Andrew’s graduation from Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska. If there are any pastoral emergencies, please contact the church office, your elder or Pastor Kent Stenzel at 452-2121.

## New Bible Study Topic For Sunday Mornings

*What It Means To Be Lutheran: A Study of the Augsburg Confession* will be the new topic for the Sunday morning Bible Class. There has been a lot of consternation over the decisions of the ELCA. There is also a desire, at times, for us to be like other churches. What is distinctive about the Lutheran confession of the Christian faith? A study of this first and primary document of the Lutheran Reformation will help answer these concerns and raise other points for discussion. Members who possess a Book of Concord are invited to bring them. Printed out copies of the Augsburg Confession will be provided for those who do not have a Book of Concord.



The Thrivent members of Peace Lutheran Church can help raise funds for LCMS global ministries!

Thrivent Financial will distribute \$1 million among 10 nationwide Lutheran and non-Lutheran charities. Among the ministries selected are [LCMS World Mission](#) and [LCMS World Relief and Human Care](#). The amount each charity receives is based on their total number of votes.

Thrivent Financial members are eligible to vote online at [Thrivent.com/choicevote](http://Thrivent.com/choicevote) to help Thrivent distribute \$1 million among 10 nationwide Lutheran and non-Lutheran charities.

We are thrilled to announce that among the ministries selected are LCMS World Mission and LCMS World Relief and Human Care! The amount each charity receives is based on their total number of votes.

Thrivent Financial is waiting to hear from you before May 21, 2010. It’s quick. It’s easy. Record your vote today at [Thrivent.com/choicevote](http://Thrivent.com/choicevote). You must be a Thrivent Financial member to vote.

Thank you for your faithful support of [LCMS World Mission](#) and [LCMS World Relief and Human Care](#).