



Peace Lutheran Church

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So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter. 2 Thessalonians 2:15

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In my last message about the church and the importance of fellowship, I mentioned something important that I would like to focus on for this month's newsletter. I mentioned that we are a confessional church. What is a confessional church and why do our confessions matter for our lives today?

Firstly, what are the Confessions? Most of the Confessions were written between 1530-1580 and put together in what we call the *Book of Concord* (Concord meaning unity). They are The Three Ecumenical or Universal Creeds, The Augsburg Confession, The Defense of the Augsburg Confession, The Large Catechism, The Small Catechism, The Smalcald Articles, Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, The Epitome of the Formula of Concord, and the Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord.

They are called the Confessions because they are statements of what we believe, teach, and confess, as a Lutheran Church. For example, The Augsburg Confession was written in 1530 and presented to His Imperial Majesty Charles the V because he desired a clear answer as to what Lutherans and Catholics, agreed and disagreed on and why that is so. Because the confessions are drawn from the Word of God, and on that account, we regard their doctrinal content as a true and binding exposition of Holy Scripture and as authoritative for all pastors, congregations and other rostered church workers of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. For example, when I was ordained and installed, I promised that I would hold to the confessions in my preaching and teaching.

The Confessions were written so long ago, 495 years, why do they still matter today? They matter for us today because it is important to know what we believe. If we believe something wrongly, for example that Jesus is not God, or did not rise from the dead, or that we just have to work hard enough and we can earn our salvation, then we fall away from the true faith and can possibly even lose our salvation. Thus why the confessions are important. They keep us grounded in the faith that we may not lose our way due to our own sinfulness and pride.

They also are a means of unity. Because Pastors and congregations subscribe to the confessions, we are bound together by our common confession of faith in Christ. As your pastor, I trust that you would hold me accountable if I preach something that is contrary to the Bible and the Confessions. For example, let's say I have had 4 funerals during Holy Week, my brain is fried and I say "Christ did not rise from the dead." That runs counter to the entirety of Scripture. It is not in line at all with our Confessions. I pray that you would, in forgiveness and love, correct me on it then and there, "Pastor, that's wrong. The Scriptures and Confessions clearly state that Jesus did rise from the dead."

As Saint Paul writes, may we always "stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us" as stated in Holy Scripture and expounded upon in the Confessions, that we may ever grow in our faith and unity together.

Your Servant in Christ,

Rev. Joshua Reinke

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Everyone who helped or participated in any way at VBS! It was a huge success with close to 20 kids most days!

Everyone who has come and helped us care for the church property, the lawn and the flower beds at church.

All of the people who have offered to serve the Lord as officers for Peace Lutheran Church.

Tristin Reinke, Gloria Creek and Val Martin for playing the organ and piano during our worship services.

Elsie Huss for changing the banners and paraments.

Everyone on the Prayer Chain for their time and prayers.

All of the men who volunteer to usher.

Bob Fletcher for cleaning the church and waxing the fellowship hall floors.

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.

Fuddruckers' *Burgers for Benefits* fundraiser for Wee Disciples is the **third Tuesday of each month** from 5 to 9 PM. (The next fundraising evening is on August 19.) No coupon necessary! Just mention Wee Disciples and they will donate 20% of the total ticket to Wee Disciples. **You can use dine-in or takeout.** Thank you for supporting Wee Disciples!

Ladies Bible study

Summer is flying by. Just a few weeks left to get out in Montana's beautiful mountains before school begins. Any of the roads off of Highway 89 will give viewers a delightful vista as the car navigates the curves following a creek that empties into Belt Creek. Head up Jefferson or Carpenter Creek Roads for several miles, where you can stop to get out and stretch. Pick some ripe raspberries while you discover a new area in the Lewis and Clark National Forest. God's creation at its best!

Reading Solomon's words of wisdom in the book of Ecclesiastes has begun for the Friday Ladies Bible Class. They will meet from 1-3pm on August 1st, 8th, and 15th at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Avenue South. There is always a place for you at the table.

The Assisted Living Ministry will bring hymn singing and a devotion to Highgate Senior Living, 3000 11th Avenue South, on Friday, August 22 from 1:30-2:30pm. Before the Highgate activity there will be a no host lunch held at Jaker's, 1500 10th Avenue South. Join the good fellowship and food.

Pastor Reinke will hold a worship service at Highgate on Monday, August 11th at 1:30pm. The worship service at The Lodge, 1801 9th Street South, will be Monday, August 18th at 1:30. Take the opportunity to attend one of these services and be with several of our members who live in these residences.



August Anniversaries

August 5 - Michel and Nancy Wayman
 August 6 – Collin and Molly Whitesitt
 August 10 – Pastor Joshua and Tristin Reinke
 August 11 – Steve and Peggy Gannon
 August 11 – Jared and Lark Dudden
 August 16 - Shannon and Tara Birkholz
 August 17 - Kevin and Linda Aguiar
 August 20 – Jacob and Natasha Meierhoff
 August 26 – Roland and Ruth Lass

Baptismal Anniversaries

August	6	Ernest Keitzman
	11	Kevin Jacobsen
	17	Zachary Greenwood
	18	Paxton Meierhoff
	25	Loretta Walker
	25	Val Schnackenberg
	29	Brook Gerard



INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

Ben Aagaard – 12 year old with liver cancer
Marylan Dallum – health issues - Fort Benton
Jody Decker – health issues - Fort Benton
Michael Drummond – Lupus
Rev. Mark Grunst of Billings who has Lewy Body disease
Mary Ann Haugen – health issues
Connie Juden – health issues
Rev. Erich Kaelberer – ALS
Bruce Kempf – health issues
Eloise Morehead – health issues
Becky Schlund - MS
Steven Schlund - Parkinsons

LWML

- ♥ **Our next meeting and Bible study will be Saturday, September 13 at 11a.m.** All ladies of Peace are invited to join us! Remember your Mite Boxes!
- ♥ **During the month of August we will be collecting school supplies for the students at Foothills.** See the list as the last page of this newsletter. Please bring items and place them in the box **before August 25** so they can be taken to the school before classes start on September 2, 2025. Thank you!
- ♥ The LWML Fall Retreats will be here soon! The dates are **September 19-21, 2025**. There are 2 places to choose from: one at **Trinity Camp in Bigfork** and another at **Mountain Top Retreat near Bozeman**. The cost is \$125 per person and includes all meals and lodging. Registration forms are in the church office and are due by **September 1, 2025**. Plan now to go and join us for Bible study, food, fellowship and fun!
- ♥ **Central Zone Fall Rally is at Trinity in Great Falls** beginning at 9:30 AM on Saturday, October 4. The cost is \$6 per person. ALL ladies of Peace, First and Christ for the Deaf are welcome to come and join us!

Foothills school items wish list

PK – 5th Grades:

#2 pencils by the box
24 ct colored pencils
24 ct crayons
4 pack yellow highlighters
Black Fine Tip dry Erase Markers
Clipboard
8 ct colored markers – thin tipped
Composition notebooks
Elmer's Glue Stick
Elmer's 8 oz. plain white glue
Pencil Box Snap shut plastic
Pink Pencil Eraser – Large
2-Pocket folders with prongs
2-Pocket folders without prongs
Ruler – inch and centimeter
Scissors – Fiskars rounded
Sharpie – Black Fine Tip
Spiral Notebook/wide ruled
8 count water colors
Wide ruled/loose-leaf paper
1 inch and 3 inch binders

6th through 12th grades

#2 wooden or mechanical pencils
1 to 1 1/2 inch and 3 inch 3-Ring binders
24 ct colored pencils
Red, Black or blue ink pens
Book covers
CLEAR Ruler – inch and Centimeter
Composition notebooks
Graphing paper
Protractor
Wide or college rules notebook paper

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Proper 13C)

(3 August 2025)

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12–14; 2:18–26

Colossians 3:1–11

Luke 12:13–21

Faith in Christ Is Rich Toward God

To live for earthly things “is vanity and a striving after wind,” and work that is driven by such vanity “is an unhappy business” (Eccl. 1:13–14). The man who lives like that has nothing to show for “all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun ... all his days are full of sorrow” (Eccl. 2:22–23). So, too, your “covetousness, which is idolatry” (Col. 3:5), makes a god out of that which cannot give you life or happiness. For “one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions” (Luke 12:15). But “Christ who is your life” (Col. 3:4), in giving you Himself, gives you all the wealth of heaven. Instead of striving to lay up treasures for yourself, be “rich toward God” in Him (Luke 12:21).

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Proper 14C)

(10 August 2025)

Genesis 15:1–6

Hebrews 11:1–16

Luke 12:22–34 (35–40)

The Lord Is Surely Coming to Give You His Kingdom

The Lord Himself was Abraham’s shield and great reward. For “the word of the LORD came to him” and sustained the patriarch’s faith in the face of death (Gen. 15:4). By divine grace, Abraham “believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness” (Gen. 15:6), on account of the holy Seed, Christ Jesus. To that one old man, the Lord granted “descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore” (Heb. 11:12). The Lord is likewise faithful to you. It is His glad desire “to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32). Therefore, “do not be anxious about your life,” but instead “seek his kingdom” (Luke 12:22, 31). Set your heart on that treasure. “Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning ... for the Son of Man is coming” (Luke 12:35, 40).

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Proper 15C)

(17 August 2025)

Jeremiah 23:16–29

Hebrews 11:17–31 (32–40); 12:1–3

Luke 12:49–53 (54–56)

Christ’s Suffering and Death Bring Division

The Lord Jesus causes fear and trembling and division because His Word is “like fire ... and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces” (Jer. 23:29). His Law puts us all to death, whereas only His Gospel can bring us to life. He has fulfilled that Word for us by His cross and in His resurrection from the dead. He undergoes such a distressing baptism, accomplished by His death, in order to open the way for us through our Holy Baptism into His cross and resurrection. So, then, if we are able “to interpret the appearance of earth and sky” (Luke 12:56), let us mark this sign of His cross — recognizing that this world is subject to death, but knowing that Christ Jesus also has conquered death and obtained life everlasting for us. Let us fix our eyes on “Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,” and “run with endurance the race that is set before us” (Heb. 12:1–2).

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Proper 16C)

(24 August 2025)

Isaiah 66:18–23

Hebrews 12:4–24 (25–29)

Luke 13:22–30

The Cross of Christ Is the Way into the Kingdom of God

With the cross of Christ, the time has come “to gather all nations and tongues” (Is. 66:18). The sign of the cross is set forth in the preaching of the Gospel, the declaration of the Lord’s glory “among the nations” (Is. 66:19). Many “will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God” (Luke 13:29), but only by the narrow way of the cross. Those who refuse to follow Christ crucified will ultimately find only “weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Luke 13:28), whereas Christ’s disciples, called from all the nations, will eat and drink with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of God. They will come into “the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem” (Heb. 12:22).

or

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Proper 17C)

(31 August 2025)

Proverbs 25:2–10

Hebrews 13:1–17

Luke 14:1–14

We Are Humbled and Exalted by the Cross of Christ

“Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,” Jesus proclaims, but “he who humbles himself will be exalted” (Luke 14:11). For your hope is in the name of the Lord, who humbled Himself unto death on the cross and was exalted in His resurrection. So, are you humbled by His cross, and “at the resurrection of the just,” He will say to you, “Friend, move up higher” (Luke 14:10, 13–14)? By His grace, the King will honor you “in the presence of a noble,” where your eyes will gaze upon the Prince, His dearly beloved Son (Prov. 25:7). As He has dealt so graciously with you, “do not neglect to do good and to share what you have” (Heb. 13:16), and “do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers” (Heb. 13:2). Humble yourself and exalt your neighbor.