



Peace Lutheran Church

3340 Eleventh Avenue South,
Great Falls, Montana 59405

761-7343

The Rev. Joshua Reinke, Pastor

Fax: 452-3884

www.peaceluthrangreatfalls.org

Pastor Reinke: Peacepastor@bresnan.net

Peace's secretary: Peacesecretary@bresnan.net

February, 2024

"For dust you are and to dust you shall return." Genesis 3:19b

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

No one enjoys dust. Many hours are spent frantically cleaning before company comes over. Every child moans when mom says that it is time to do spring cleaning. Many people sneeze when the duster makes an appearance.

All of us forget that we are dust. We are made from the dust of the earth, formed by God's hand just as Adam was. Eventually all of us will return to that same dust that we were created from. Why? Because we sin. As sinners, God has decreed that we all face death. We all face becoming dust once again.

This is not because of God. God created Adam and Eve perfect. He created everything to live forever. Yet, because Eve ate the fruit, in clear violation of God's Law, and Adam gave up his authority as the Head, even though he should have spoken up. Because of that, God decreed that man shall die.

God does not leave us in the dust of our sins. In love, He promised that there would come one from the seed of the woman. This one would undo the fall, restore all creation, and crush the head of the serpent. Who is this one? None other than Jesus Christ.

In His perfect life, Jesus restores all creation back to perfection. He lives a perfect life in our place. Bearing our sins, He goes to the cross. There, He suffers, bleeds, and dies for you. He completely undoes the fall by erasing your punishment. By dying, Jesus destroys the power of death. It has no more authority over you. Jesus lives! The Victory's won!

Because of Jesus, you too will live forever. Your dust is dust redeemed by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. On the Last Day, He will raise your body and it shall put on immortality forever.

As we reflect upon everything our Lord has done for us this Lententide, may we do so reflecting upon our own mortality, that we are but dust and to dust we shall return. Dust redeemed by Christ.

Your Servant in Christ,
Rev. Joshua Reinke

J
H
A
N
K
S

TO

Everyone who donated baby items for the layettes that are taken to the hospital by Denise Combs.
Everyone who made fleece blankets for Denise Combs' layettes.
Everyone who helped with the funeral service for Lois Foster.
Val Martin, Tristin Reinke, and Gloria Creek for playing the organ and piano during our worship services.
Kevin Aguiar for overseeing the recording of our services each Sunday.
All those who volunteer to teach Sunday school and Bible class on Sundays.
Elsie Huss 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.
Cheri Magnuson for cleaning the Communion linens.
All of the quilters for the beautiful quilts you make all year.

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

- ♥ **WOW!! Thank you to everyone who donated items** for the Baby Shower for Denise Combs who gives baby layettes to the mothers at Benefis who deliver babies but have no clothes in which to take them home. What a great number of gifts that were given! She is very thankful for our help and continued support of her endeavor!
- ♥ **The Parade of Tables is set for Saturday, March 9 from 11 AM to 1 PM.** It is a benefit for 1000 in Action and we will have an ingathering also. If you want to host a table or help in anyway, please see Val Martin.
- ♥ **Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, May 20 at 6:30 p.m. with a Bible study.** We need to establish a nominating committee for the elections at this meeting in May. Remember your Mite Boxes!
- ♥ **Remember that Purple Pockets are due to Elsie Huss at the end of March.** This money goes to our missionary Rev. Eric Stinnett in Ethiopia. Thanks for your continued support.

Ash Wednesday and Lent Services

Ash Wednesday is February 14, 2024! Each Wednesday we will have potluck meals at 6 PM, followed by Lenten services at 7 PM. These services will be live streamed and interrupted. The theme is the hymn "Throughout These 40 Days of Lent". Lent devotion booklets will be available to enhance your Lenten meditations.

Wee Disciples Fund Raiser

Every third Tuesday of the month, you can help raise funds for Wee Disciples by eating at Fuddruckers! Mention the coupon when you order and they will be sure Wee Disciples gets credit. Hours for the fund raiser are between **5 and 9 PM on February 20**, and Fuddruckers will give 20% of your total ticket to Wee Disciples!



Baptismal Anniversaries

February	4	Rebecca Gerard
	6	Aubree Mattson
	8	Jamie Franczyk
	9	Connie Juden
	28	Charity Mattson
	29	Kim Bibler



INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

- Ben Aagaard** – 10 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
- Connie Juden**
- Rev. Erich Kaelberer** – ALS
- Bruce Kempf** – health issues
- Rachel Manley** – cancer
- Eloise Morehead** – health issues
- Becky Schlund** - MS
- Steven Schlund** - Parkinsons
- Charlene Schotney** – health issues
- Van Oman family** – health issues - Fort Benton

Ushers for February

4	Greg Franczyk
	Arnie Gidlow
11	Mitch Martin
	Taylor Martin
18	Peter Doscher
	Tyler Denning
25	Pat Lewis
	Kevin Aguiar

Ladies Friday Bible study Update

Did you take my invitation of last month? What did you find in the church library to read during the sub-zero days of January? I found a very interesting little paperback titled, Men Who Shaped America by Robert Flood. It tells how the Bible molded the lives of famous men who helped shape early America. I would highly recommend it. Ash Wednesday is on February 14th this year. What better way to spend Valentine's Day than remembering the love our Lord has for us, as we begin pondering His passion. See you there!

Friday Ladies Bible Class is planning to resume in March.

Assisted Living Ministry with hymn singing and a devotion will meet at the following locations. On Friday, February 2 from 10-10:45am they will be at The Lodge, 1801 9th Street South. Join the group at 11:45am on Friday, February 23rd for the no host lunch which will be held at JB's Restaurant, 1322 10th Avenue South. Afterward continue on to Highgate Senior Living at 3000 11th Avenue South for singing.

Pastor Reinke will be holding worship service at The Lodge on Ash Wednesday, February 14th at 2:30pm. On Monday, February 19th he will be at Highgate at 1:30. We have members from our congregations living at these residences. How delighted they would be to have you join them for worship!

Camp Dates

Dates for camp have been set as **August 15 through 18, 2024!** It's a Thursday through Sunday. Since this is an election year, we will be discussing our Lutheran / Christian identity and its role in politics. Pastor Reinke will be leading the discussions. Plan now to come and join us for some fun in the sun!



Lent Worship Schedule

Wednesday, February 14, is Ash Wednesday and begins our Lenten Season.

Why put ashes on ourselves on Ash Wednesday?

The imposition of ashes is an ancient tradition of the church going back to the 6th Century. Typically, the ashes are made from the palms of the previous Palm Sunday.

In the Old Testament God's people rubbed ashes on their bodies, and wore clothing made of sackcloth as a sign of their repentance. Sackcloth, a coarse, burlap-like material, usually made of black goat's hair, made wearing it extremely uncomfortable, while ashes signified desolation and sadness. Quite simply, sackcloth and ashes were used as an outward sign of one's inward condition, making one's change of heart visible for all, and demonstrating their sincerity of one's grief for their sins.

Why such action?

It involved all the senses so that sorrow over sin was not only an internal process. The mind can easily wander, but it's harder to lose focus covered with ashes, and the irritation of sackcloth clothing the body. Ashes also remind us of our mortality, brought about by sin. "You are dust and to dust you shall return." ([Genesis 3:19](#)) Considering humanity's talent for living in denial, and refusing to acknowledge unpleasant thoughts, such a reminder is always in season.

But ashes are not the final word! Christ is. He who is the spotless Lamb of God. The only-begotten Son of the Father. He who put on the ashes of human nature, and embraced the sack cloth of the cross in order to redeem us. He is our focus. We are dust, but we are redeemed dust! Thus, why ashes imposed in the sign of the cross.

And so with sincere sorrow for our wrongs, and full faith and confidence in our Lord Jesus Christ who erases our sins from memory by his Cross, let us receive the ashes with humility, faith and joy.

For our potluck meal, we will have a "comfort food" themed potluck meal at 6:00 PM followed by Ash Wednesday Worship with Communion and the imposition of ashes at 7:00 PM.

Each week after this, on Wednesday evenings, we will have potlucks at 6 PM followed by Lent Worship Services of Evening Prayer at 7 PM without Communion.

The theme for this year's Lenten Time are the verses of a hymn titled "Throughout These 40 Days of Lent" by John and Christine Behnke. Each week we will study a verse of the hymn.

Please join us as we gather during this repentant time of year and spend time in word and music remembering the suffer of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.