



## Peace Lutheran Church

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February 2026

*"So that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God." <sup>1</sup> 1 Cor. 2:5*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

How deeply we enjoy our rest! It feels wonderful after a long, hard day, when we are physically and emotionally drained, when our head finally hits the pillow, we quickly fall asleep. Scientists estimate that if we live until we are 80 years old, we spend a third of our lives asleep, that's roughly 26-30 years! Better make sure that we have a comfy and long-lasting mattress!

Sometimes, people do not have a comfy mattress, many have to make due with a blanket on cold ground if they have no roof over their heads or with only a tent lying on rocks and roots if out camping. It's not a comfy bed, but our bodies need rest.

Just as we need physical rest after a long day, so too we need spiritual rest. There are many in our world who seek after spiritual rest by following the ways of the world. They rest secure in all of the knowledge that scientists have found. We have plumbed the depths of the sea and are beginning to trek across the stars. We have delved into creation, cells, and atoms. We can't rest, until scientists find something that they cannot explain, like black holes and quantum physics. Then our rest is as one tossing and turning.

Same with human knowledge, some rest securely in everything that they know. They absorb and pour over books like a dehydrated man grasping for water. They can never learn enough, nor should we! Just because we are not in a classroom does not mean that we stop learning. We are constantly learning. However, that is not where we find our true rest. No matter how much we try to learn, there will come a time when our brain will be full, when we will become forgetful with age, or disease.

So, where is our true rest? As Saint Paul reminds us, our true rest is found in the power of God. It's not found in our knowledge, or the knowledge of others. It is found in what God has done for us, in and through Jesus Christ. He died and rose from the dead, bearing all of our sins, He dies our death, that He might destroy the power of sin, death, and the devil. Jesus gives to us everlasting life and eternal rest with Him forever.

Your Servant in Christ,  
Rev. Joshua Reinke

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<sup>1</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2025), 1 Co 2:5.

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**Everyone** who donated baby items for the layettes that are taken to the hospital by Denise Combs.  
**Everyone** who made fleece and flannel blankets for Denise Combs' layettes.  
**Everyone** who helped take down the Christmas tree and decorations.  
**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.  
**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**

- ♥ **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. She is very thankful for our help and continued support of her endeavor!
- ♥ **We will have a follow-up meeting on Sunday, February 15 at 11:15ish** to check on plans for the Parade of Tables. Please come and be a part of this exciting event!
- ♥ **The Parade of Tables is set for Saturday, March 14 from 11 AM to 1 PM.** It is a fund raiser for Grace Haven here in Great Falls, which is a place for homeless women veterans to live until they find secure housing. Mary Hoy is the guest speaker. The theme is spring. If you want to host a table or help in anyway, please see Ruth Denning.
- ♥ **LWML Montana District Convention is April 24 through 26, 2026 at the Yogo Inn in Lewistown.** Central Zone is the host so if you would like to be involved in any way, please see Ruth Denning. Registration cost is \$85 per person before April 1 and forms are in the latest *Missive*.
- ♥ **Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be Saturday, May 9 at 11 a.m. with a Bible study.** We need to establish a nominating committee for the elections at this meeting in May. Remember your Mite Boxes!

**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 17**, and Fuddruckers will give 20% of your total ticket to Wee Disciples!



## Baptismal Anniversaries

February	6	Aubree Mattson
	8	Jamie Franczyk
	28	Charity Mattson
	29	Kim Bibler



### INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

- Ben Aagaard** – 13 year old with health issues
- 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
- Marge Johnsten** - cancer
- Rev. Erich Kaelberer** – ALS
- Bruce Kempf** – health issues
- Eloise Morehead** – health issues
- Becky Schlund** - MS
- Steven Schlund** – Parkinsons
- Rev. John Vallie** – Alzheimer’s Disease

### Ushers for February

- 1 Arnie Gidlow  
Cole McPartlin
- 8 Tyler Denning  
Pat Lewis
- 15 Arnie Gidlow  
Ernest Kietzman
- 22 Lyle and Andrew Onstad

**Missed the Sunday service?** Want to listen to the sermon on the way to work? Pastor has started an audio podcast! At the moment it is an audio version of the previous Sunday's sermon, but he will add to it as he is able. Just search for *Building Stones* on any of your podcast providers.

## Life Quotes from Lutherans For Life

**February 1** “You may have a messy story. Your family may have a dysfunctional past. Your past (or present) may be filled with greed, sexual immorality, or other idols. But Jesus won’t let that stop Him from reaching out to you with the message of His unconditional love. You might be far from good, but you are not too far gone for God.” *Pastor Mike Novotny, Time of Grace – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

**February 8** “God loves you in your vulnerability so much that He subjected Himself to conform to a vulnerable human body. So today ... remember that Jesus, in whom all things hold together, loves you, individually. He is fully present with you just as He was in His mother’s arms. God’s peace be with you this day, this night.” *Andrea Delwiche – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

**February 15** “The message of Jesus’ transfiguration—the fact that Jesus is God and Savior—has the power to transfigure you, to give you metamorphosis, to transform you from a bug to a butterfly! That’s what metamorphosis means. So, this week—and forever!—live a new life, one worthy of Christ, in whose sunshine and light, in whose transfiguration, you now bask.” *Rev. Paul Marggraf – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

**February 22** “God created us anew in Baptism. We are the work of His hands, and He will not forsake us. Guided by the Spirit through the wisdom of His Word, we learn to walk in His ways, even when we must ‘walk in the midst of trouble.’” *Dr. Carol Geisler, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

For God so loVed the world  
thAt he gave his  
onLy  
begottEn  
SoN,  
thaT whoever  
belIeves  
iN him should not perish  
but havE everlasting life.

(John 3:16, NKJV)



## Ash Wednesday and Lent Services

**Ash Wednesday is February 18.** This Ash Wednesday, we introduce our Lent sermon series, which is based on the ancient hymn “O Love, How Deep” (*LSB* 544). This hymn, written in the fifteenth century, contemplates the love of God in becoming man, taking on our life, dying our death, and rising again, all *for us*. But for us to understand and appreciate this love, we must first examine ourselves and our lives to see how we have failed in thought, word, and deed. While we may try to get credit for our so-called good works, we all still die with nothing to show for them. But God’s love is not like our love. Our love is self-centered and fickle. God’s love is steady, deep, and beyond all understanding (Ephesians 3:14–19). This love of God will have no end. Each Wednesday we will have potluck meals at 6 PM, followed by Lenten services at 7 PM. These services will be live streamed and interpreted.

### **FOR US is the theme of our Lenten Series.**

“For us” is not simply a pithy line to use because it is easy to repeat. It is a confession of who God is and what He brings in giving us His Son. It helps us understand why God would send His Son to die for us. The phrase “for us” also captures much of the Reformation’s theological emphasis—and Luther’s understanding of Scripture in particular. Luther went from searching for a righteous God and finding only stern rebuke to seeing God in the form of a little baby and as the one who became one of us for us so that we might become like Him. Our Lenten preaching series hymn “O Love, How Deep” (*LSB* 544) was originally a twenty-three-stanza poem written in the fifteenth century by an unknown author. In the nineteenth century, an Anglican cleric named Benjamin Webb translated the hymn into English and then chose six stanzas for use in English hymnody. The doxological stanza was added later. Some hymns tell a story, others teach, and still others create pictures in our minds of the great works of God. Some hymns do all three, weaving together a tapestry that is beautiful yet simple, wondrous yet easy to understand. “O Love, How Deep” is that kind of hymn. Although it does not appear in the first stanza, the most pointed and beautiful language in the hymn is expressed in the phrase “for us.” The phrase is reminiscent of the language of the Nicene Creed: “Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven.”

## FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

(1 February 2026)

Micah 6:1–8

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

Matthew 5:1–12

### God Manifests His Glory in the Humility and Weakness of Christ Crucified

The Lord tells His people, “I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery” (Micah 6:4). By the sacrifice of His beloved Son, He has redeemed us from our slavery of sin and death; He has forgiven our transgressions by the shedding of His blood. His great mercy and salvation lead us “to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly” with our God (Micah 6:8). We boast only in the incarnate and crucified Lord Jesus. He is “the power of

God and the wisdom of God” (1 Cor. 1:24). He is our life and salvation, our “wisdom” and “righteousness and sanctification and redemption” (1 Cor. 1:30). Now He opens His mouth and teaches us His wisdom. By His cross and Passion, the kingdom of heaven is ours. We receive mercy and are satisfied; we see God and are called sons of God in Christ. “Blessed are you,” therefore, “when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely” on account of Christ (Matt. 5:11).

## FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

(8 February 2026)

Isaiah 58:3–9a

1 Corinthians 2:1–12 (13–16)

Matthew 5:13–20

### The Righteousness of Christ

Jesus warns that “unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:20), but He also calls His imperfect people “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world” (Matt. 5:13, 14). That’s because the Lord Jesus came not to abolish the Law or the prophets, “but to fulfill them” (Matt. 5:17) in perfect faith and love. Since He does and teaches all of God’s commandments, He is “called great in the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:19). God manifests His “demonstration of the Spirit and of power” in “Jesus Christ and him crucified” (1 Cor. 2:2–4), and through the preaching of the Gospel He gives His “secret and hidden wisdom” (1 Cor. 2:7). Christ gives this perfect righteousness to His people, and it leads them to true fasting, which is “to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free” (Is. 58:6) and “to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house” (Is. 58:7).

## THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

(15 February 2026)

Exodus 24:8–18

2 Peter 1:16–21

Matthew 17:1–9

### God Manifests His Glory in the Body of Christ Jesus, Transfigured for Us by His Cross

The Transfiguration confirms “the prophetic word ... to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place” (2 Peter 1:19). The divine glory of Jesus is manifested in the word of His apostles, who were “eyewitnesses of his majesty” (2 Peter 1:16). “He was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun” (Matt. 17:2). Moses and Elijah witnessed the fulfillment of the Old Testament in this Lord Jesus, and the Father testified concerning Him: “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Matt. 17:5). By His own blood, shed on the cross, Jesus makes and seals the new covenant with us. Hence, “the appearance of the glory of the LORD” is no longer “like a devouring fire” (Ex. 24:17), but it is graciously revealed in His own body. As “Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel” went up the mountain with Moses and “beheld God, and ate and drank” (Ex. 24:9, 11), we also behold the Lord our God in Christ Jesus, and we abide with Him as we eat and drink His body and blood at the altar.

## ASH WEDNESDAY

(18 February 2026)

Joel 2:12–19

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

Return to the Lord Your God with All Your Heart, for He Has Reconciled You to Himself

On Ash Wednesday, we come down from the mountain with Jesus and set our face toward His cross and Passion in Jerusalem. We make our pilgrimage with Him by way of repentance, and thus we return to our dying and rising in Holy Baptism. Christ Jesus, “who knew no sin,” became our sin, so that by His death we are released from sin and in His resurrection we “become the righteousness of God” (2 Cor. 5:21). As God has thereby reconciled the world to Himself in Christ, “now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:2). He has provided the sacrificial Lamb, and He has left “a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering” (Joel 2:14) in the Eucharist. He summons us to return to Him with all our heart because He is “gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love” (Joel 2:13). We do so with faith and confidence in Him, and so we pray to Him as our Father, give to the needy from a heart of love, and fast for the sake of repentance (Matt. 6:3–4, 6, 17–18).

## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

(22 February 2026)

Genesis 3:1–21

Romans 5:12–19

Matthew 4:1–11

Jesus’ Righteous Obedience to the Father Leads to the Justification of All

Following His Baptism, Jesus is “led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil” (Matt. 4:1). As He takes upon Himself the curse of our sin and sets Himself against our enemy, He trusts His Father’s voice and waits upon His Father’s hand for all things. The devil questions His sonship, but the beloved and well-pleasing Son remains faithful and lives “by every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matt. 4:4). Jesus patiently suffers hunger in His mortal flesh and returns to the dust whence man was taken, and by His pain He brings forth food for all the children of men (Gen. 3:18–19). By the sweat of His brow, we eat the fruit of His cross, even as our nakedness is covered by His righteousness. Although all people live in bondage to death through the trespass of the first man, Adam, all the more “have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many” (Rom. 5:15). His righteous obedience “leads to justification and life for all men” (Rom. 5:18).