



Peace Lutheran Church

3340 Eleventh Avenue South,
Great Falls, Montana 59405

406-761-7343

The Rev. Joshua Reinke, Pastor

Fax: 406-452-3884

www.peacelutherangreatfalls.org

Pastor Reinke: Pastor@peacelutherangreatfalls.org

Peace's secretary:

Secretary@peacelutherangreatfalls.org

March, 2025

“²⁹ And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. ³⁰ And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, ³¹ who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure,^[b] which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.” Luke 9:29-31

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In just a few days, we will begin the season of Lent. It is indeed a somber and solemn time as we reflect upon our sinful nature. As we mourn all of our sins of thought, word, and deed. As we mourn the great pain and suffering that they caused our Lord.

As we do so let us keep in mind the Feast of the Transfiguration and Easter. Just before Ash Wednesday in the Three-Year Lectionary, we celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration. We celebrate when Jesus was upon the mountain, while He was praying, He was transfigured. Jesus was changed before Peter, James, and John. Everything becomes dazzling white and Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus. I love what they talked about. They talked about Jesus' departure; the Greek word is Exodus. They discussed everything that Jesus was going to do in Jerusalem.

The One who was going to suffer, bleed, and die was going to do it for us. He is God in the flesh for our salvation. The same as Moses led the people of Israel out of slavery from Egypt so our Lord leads us out of slavery. Jesus has freed us from sin by shedding His precious blood. He has freed us from the power of the devil by crushing his head beneath His nail-scarred feet. He has freed us from death by rising again from the dead.

As we reflect upon our sins, as we come to Good Friday and Easter with contrition in our hearts, let us give thanks with Joy. Thanks, that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ paid all of our debt for us and frees us that we may live with Him forever and ever.

Your Servant in Christ,
Rev. Joshua Reinke

J H A N K S JO

Everyone who helps prepare, setup, and clean up after Sunday school and Bible study each Sunday

Everyone who donated items to Denise Combs for her infant layettes.

All of the ladies who came and made fleece blankets for Denise Combs.

Everyone who helps prepare, setup, and clean up after Wednesday Lenten potluck suppers.

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

All those who volunteer to teach Sunday school and Bible class on Sundays.

Elsie Huss for changing the banners and paraments.

Bob Fletcher for cleaning the church.

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.

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.

Ladies Bible study

March. Robins. Lenten services. Bluebirds. All of these come together and spell Spring! Lenten services are "late" this year as Ash Wednesday is in March rather than February. What a joy to prepare for Easter as we contemplate our Lord's passion. Be sure to make time for these enriching services preceded by a congregational meal. Look for bluebirds on the back roads in the Highwoods and Little Belts, where they arrive by the Ides of March to begin nesting. Keep a sharp eye out in Great Falls for the robins to arrive by March 15th.

Friday Ladies Bible Class continues to be in recess.

The Assisted Living Ministry with hymn singing and a devotion will meet Friday, March 28th at Highgate Senior Living, 3000 11th Avenue South, at 1:30pm. People will gather for the no host lunch that day at 11:45am at Maple Garden, 5401 9th Avenue South for fellowship and good food. Pastor Reinke will conduct a worship service at 1:30pm on Wednesday, March 12th at The Lodge, 1801 9th Street South. On Monday, March 17th at 1:30pm he will perform a worship service at Highgate Senior Living. Please make time in your busy schedules for some of these activities which encourage others.

LWML

- ♥ **The 4th Annual Parade of Tables will be Saturday, March 8 from 11 AM to 1 PM.** If you would like to host a table or just come and enjoy the time, please contact President Ruth Denning or Toni Nivens. Our guest speaker will be from Echoz Pregnancy Center. Tickets are on sale now and are \$8 each. Please see **Ruth Denning, Val Martin, or Toni Nivens** to get tickets and be placed at a table.
- ♥ **The LWML Convention will be held June 26-29, 2025 in Omaha Nebraska.** Registration is open on March 1. Please plan now to attend!!
- ♥ **Remember that Purple Pockets are due to Elsie Huss at the end of March.** This money goes to our missionary **Rev. Eric Stinnett** and the seminary there in Ethiopia. If you need a purple pocket, please see Elsie. Thanks for your continued support.
- ♥ **Our next meeting will be Monday, May 3 at 11 AM with a Bible study.** All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to come and join us! We will have the election of officers at the May meeting. Remember your Mite Boxes!



March Anniversaries

Mar. 6	Gary and Tami Creek
Mar 23	Brant and Donna Hasbrouck
Mar 24	Jim and Brenda Lee
Mar 29	Buck and Ann Goldhahn

Baptismal Anniversaries

March	3	Belinda Aguiar
	3	Stephanie Blomgren
	10	Arnie Wirth
	14	Tristin Reinke
	17	Kevin Aguiar
	20	Michael Drummond
	20	Cheri Magnuson
	23	Hailey McPartlin
	23	Natalie Gill
	24	Sophia Staples
	25	Alix Johnson
	25	Judy VanVleet
	26	Tyler Denning
	27	Jared Dudden
	27	Janet Rubino
	28	Joshua Reinke
	29	Patrice MacDonald
	30	Stacie Jensen

**Designate Your Thrivent Choice Dollars
by March 31st!!**

Ushers for March

March 2-----	Arnie Gidlow
-----	Dennis Nivens
March 9-----	Tyler Denning
-----	Jeff Blomgren
March 16-----	Greg Franczyk
-----	Kevin Aguiar
March 23-----	Mitch and Taylor Martin
March 30-----	Lyle and Andrew Onstad



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 - Lewy Body disease
Marge Johnsten - cancer
Connie Juden – health issues
Rev. Erich Kaelberer – ALS
Bruce Kempf – health issues
Eloise Morehead – health issues
Becky Schlund - MS
Steven Schlund – Parkinsons
Rev. John Vallie – Alzheimer's Disease

Wee Disciples Fund Raiser

Every third Tuesday of the month, you can help raise funds for Wee Disciples by eating at Fuddruckers! Just tell them that you want to be included in the fund raiser for Wee Disciples between **5 and 9 PM on March 19**, and Fuddruckers will give 20% of your total ticket to Wee Disciples!

Change of time for Deaf Worship

The members of Christ for the Deaf have changed their time of worship on Saturdays to 1 PM.



THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD - (2 March 2025)

Deuteronomy 34:1–12; Hebrews 3:1–6; Luke 9:28–36

The Glory of God Is Manifested in the Body of Christ - “Moses was faithful in all God’s house as a servant,” but Christ Jesus “has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses” (Heb. 3:3, 5). A beloved and well-pleasing Son, faithful even to the point of death, Jesus’ own body was raised up on the third day as the house of God, and He has brought us into that house through the waters of Holy Baptism (Heb. 3:6). Thus, it was not Moses, the lawgiver, but his successor, Joshua (the Hebrew name for Jesus), who led the people into the Promised Land (Deut. 34:1–4, 9). Now, on the Mount of Transfiguration, the New

Testament Joshua appears in the glory that He is about to manifest by His “departure” (exodus) in Jerusalem (Luke 9:31). Having entered the waters of the Jordan in His Baptism, He passed through those waters and entered into glory by His cross and Passion. What He thereby accomplished in His own flesh and blood, crucified and risen, He reveals and gives to His Body, the Church, by the means of His Word.

Therefore, the Father declares from heaven, “Listen to him!” (Luke 9:35).

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT - (9 March 2025)

Deuteronomy 26:1–11; Romans 10:8b–13; Luke 4:1–13

Jesus Christ Is Our Champion Against the Devil - Jesus Christ, our champion against the devil, endures and overcomes “every temptation” (Luke 4:13) on our behalf. He worships the Lord, His God, and serves

Him only by trusting the Word of His Father: “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased” (Luke 3:22). Jesus’ victory is now ours through His gracious Word, which is not far away but near us — in our mouth and in our heart, in the proclamation of repentance and faith. For “with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved” (Rom. 10:10). Our confession of Christ includes the prayer of faith, which is not disappointed, “for ‘everyone who calls on the name of the

Lord will be saved” (Rom. 10:13). The Lord is not oblivious to “our affliction, our toil, and our oppression” (Deut. 26:7), but has mercy upon us. He has brought us out of bondage through the “signs and wonders” of Holy Baptism, “with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm” (Deut. 26:8), and now He leads us by His Spirit even in the wilderness.

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT - (16 March 2026)

Jeremiah 26:8–15; Philippians 3:17–4:1; Luke 13:31–35

Jesus Rescues Us from Death and Brings Us into Heaven - The prophet Jeremiah faithfully preached “all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people” (Jer. 26:8). He called the people to repentance, lest the Lord’s judgment come upon them. The violence that Jeremiah suffered for this preaching foreshadowed the cross and Passion of Christ Jesus, who suffered the judgment of God for the redemption of all people. For Jesus “comes in the name of the Lord” (Luke 13:35) in order to lay down His life for the sins of the world. Earthly Jerusalem was blind to His gracious visitation, and it put Him to death like the prophets before Him. Yet, His sacrifice upon the cross became the cornerstone of the new Jerusalem, His Church. He visits us today in mercy with His preaching of forgiveness, to gather us to Himself within that holy city, “as a hen gathers her brood under her wings” (Luke 13:34), for “our citizenship is in heaven” (Phil. 3:20).

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT - (23 March 2025)

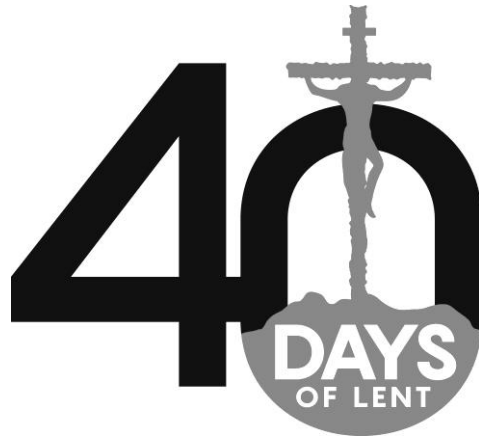
Ezekiel 33:7–20; 1 Corinthians 10:1–13; Luke 13:1–9

Jesus Calls You to Repentance - “Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3, 5). By this warning, the Lord would turn us away from wickedness and bring us to life in Himself. For He is patient with us, that we would not be cut down in our sin but live and bear fruit in Him. As He lives, the Lord has “no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live” (Ezek. 33:11). So the Scriptures have been “written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come” (1 Cor. 10:11), that we should not desire evil but trust in Christ. He alone is faithful, the Rock who feeds us with His “spiritual food” and pours out His “spiritual drink” (1 Cor. 10:3–4).

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT - (30 March 2025)

Isaiah 12:1–6; 2 Corinthians 5:16–21; Luke 15:1–3, 11–32

Jesus Christ Has Reconciled Us to the Father - God the Father has opened His heart to us in love. While we were “still a long way off,” He saw us and “felt compassion” (Luke 15:20). Therefore, He gave His only begotten Son for us, making “him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Cor. 5:21). By the ministry of reconciliation, He runs to us, embraces us in mercy and clothes us with His glory as beloved sons in Christ Jesus. And so we give thanks unto the Lord our God, who has taken away our sins and turned His anger from us (Is. 12:1). Because He has become our salvation, our strength and our song, we “will trust, and will not be afraid” (Is. 12:2).



Lent Worship Schedule

Wednesday, March 5, 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.

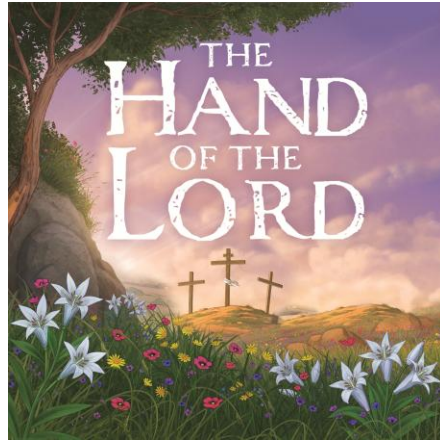
And so with sincere sorrow for our wrongs, and full faith and confidence in our Lord Jesus Christ who erases our sins from memory by his Cross, let us receive the ashes with humility, faith and joy.

Our potluck meal is 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.

Lent devotion booklets will be available to enhance your Lenten meditations.

The theme for this year's Lenten Time is as follows:



THE HAND OF THE LORD

Whether tightening a bolt, crocheting, or typing on a computer, there is so much that we do with our hands. The Greek physician Galen called them *the instrument of instruments*. Indeed, hands are instruments that can do a great deal of things. Hands can be used to heal or hurt, work or wreck, build or break, seize or surrender, and on and on. Hands are so often central to the ways we interact with the world that they have also become figurative symbols of power, control, craftsmanship, and possession. We daily speak of hands in many phrases, such as “Lend a hand,” “Things are out of hand,” “Working together hand in glove,” and “Close at hand.” Moreover, in our modern era of robotic, machine, and computer processing, adding “hand” as a prefix to many words can often communicate something that is personal and intentional. Labeling something as handpicked, handwritten, or handmade adds a personal touch and significance. Our Creator has bestowed on us these amazing instruments.

It is no surprise that mentions of hands appear all over the Bible as God’s Word speaks to us in ways that we can understand. All things are the work of the hand of the Lord (Psalm 102:25). The Lord’s hand is referred to over two hundred times in the Old Testament. The Lord’s hand is active in creation, power, control over happenings of the world, judgment, and salvation. The hand of the Lord was upon Ezekiel when He gave him a vision (Ezekiel 3:22), and the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines in the days of Samuel (1 Samuel 7:13). The hand of the Lord is both Law and Gospel.

Perhaps surprisingly, specific references to the “hand of the Lord” are not all that frequent in the New Testament. However, it is precisely in the New Testament where the hand of the Lord takes on literal meaning. The One through whom all things were created took on real, literal hands in His incarnation (John 1:1–14). We have several examples throughout Scripture that speak of the way that Christ used His hands alongside His life-giving words to bring forgiveness, life, and salvation. The work of Christ’s hands helps us to see the merciful and personal way that He has condescended to us. He has given us something to grasp, even as He holds us. Jesus used His hands to save drowning Peter, to feed the multitudes, to touch those who were unclean, to stop a funeral procession in its tracks, to lift up Jairus’s daughter, and to bless the children. The hand of the Lord has come to us in Jesus.

On the other hand, the literal and figurative actions of mere human hands in the Bible are often the means of our own sin. After all, our own Lord was “delivered into the hands of men” (Luke 9:44). However, on a greater level, we know that it was the hand of the Lord at work all along, most especially in His crucifixion. Christ laid down His life of His own authority as He allowed Himself to be delivered into the hands of sinful men (John 10:18). His hands were pierced for the sins of the world. His hands rested on Holy Saturday. Yet, on the third day, He rose again. He now holds us in His hands, and no one can snatch us from His hand (John 10:28). Our Lord has hands, real hands. Jesus has accomplished all that we need. Amazingly, He takes our manipulative, distorted, self-serving hands and restores them into useful hands for His purposes, both to literally use them in service and to make our whole lives into His instruments of witness, service, and praise.