



Peace Lutheran Church

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March, 2026

"Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such a woman. So what do you say?" John 8:5

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we continue this Lenten season, reflecting over our sins, the telling by the Apostle John of the encounter of the Pharisees and our Lord concerning a woman caught in adultery is fitting.

This woman was caught in the act of sinning. She was committing adultery, probably by having an affair with someone who was not her husband. It is interesting to note that even though she was in the act, the man with her was not brought forward, thus the Pharisees are breaking the Law by only bringing one of the parties forward. The Old Testament Law commands that both the woman and the man should be killed.

In Deuteronomy 22, the Lord commands "If a man is found lying with a married woman, then both of them shall die - the man that lay with the woman, and the woman; so you shall purge the evil from Israel. If a young woman who is a virgin is betrothed to a husband, and a man finds her in the town and lies with her, then you shall bring both of them out to the gate of that town, and you shall stone them with stones to death, the young woman because she did not cry out in the town, and the man because he humbled the wife of his neighbor; so you shall put away the evil from among you."

We know why the Pharisees did this act. They sought to trap our Lord and condemn Him as a false teacher. If He does not approve of stoning the woman, then He is guilty of breaking the Jewish Law. If Jesus does approve of the stoning, then He is breaking the Roman Law prohibiting the Jews from carrying out capital punishment.

Jesus' response is interesting. He begins to write in the sand. As He does so, one by one, the Pharisees go away, until none stand before to accuse. Our Lord lovingly tells the woman that He does not accuse her either and to "go and sin no more."

How beautiful is our Lord's reply to one caught in the very act of sinning, one who feels the full weight of sin and death! It is to forgive abundantly by His death and resurrection from the dead so that the woman, and us, may have abundant eternal life.

As we continue to reflect over our sins this Lenten season, let us also reflect upon our Lord's great love. As Luther writes on this verse: "If you have tasted the Law and sin, and if you know the ache of sin, then look here, and see how sweet, in comparison, the grace of God is, the grace which is offered to us in the Gospel. This is the absolution which the adulteress receives here from the Lord Christ."

Your Servant in Christ,
Rev. Joshua Reinke

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TO**

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 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.

LWML

- ♥ **The 6th Annual Parade of Tables will be Saturday, March 14 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 Mary Hoy from Grace Haven Women's Veterans Home. Tickets are on sale now and are \$10 each. Please see **Ruth Denning, or Toni Nivens** to get tickets and be placed at a table.
- ♥ **The LWML Montana District Convention will be held April 24 through 26, 2026 in Lewistown at the Yogo Inn.** Registration forms are in the latest *Missive* or in the church office. Cost is \$85 per person before April 1. Please plan now to attend!!
- ♥ **Our next meeting will be Monday, May 9 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!

Deaf having Rummage Sale

The members of Christ for the Deaf will again have their yearly rummage sale on **May 15 and 16, 2026**. Donations can be brought to the church anytime and placed in the front classroom near the church office. Ruth is in the church office Monday through Thursday from 9 AM to 1 PM. Those are good hours to stop by and drop stuff off. If you have larger items that you may need help with, please contact Tim VanderMolen and he can arrange to help with that. Proceeds will go toward the cost of Camp 2026.





Happy Anniversary!

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
- 25 Hannah Fennell
- 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 1-----Arnie Gidlow
- Jayden McPartlin
- March 8-----Tyler Denning
- Ernest Kietzman
- March 15 ----- Dennis Nivens
- Arnie Gidlow
- March 22 ----- Mitch and Taylor Martin
- March 29 ----- Pat Lewis
- Jeff Blomgren



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 - 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

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



Camp Dates Set

Camp dates are set as **August 13-16-2026**. Plan now to join us for some fun in the sun at Trinity Camp in Bigfork, Montana!! More details will come later.

St. Patrick's Day



Lectionary Summaries

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

(1 March 2026)

Genesis 12:1–9

Romans 4:1–8, 13–17

John 3:1–17

The Word of the Gospel Opens the Eyes of Faith and Fixes Them on Christ Jesus

The Lord called Abram (Abraham) to leave his home and go to a land that God would show him. He also promised to make of Abram “a great nation,” to bless him and make his name great as a blessing to “all the families of the earth” (Gen. 12:2–3). “Abram went, as the LORD had told him” (Gen. 12:4), and in Canaan “he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD” (Gen. 12:8). He “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness” (Rom. 4:3). Here the grace of God is manifested, that He “justifies the ungodly” (Rom. 4:5), not by works of the Law, but through faith in His promises. He removes all of our sins and lawless deeds through Jesus Christ, the offspring of Abraham in whom all the Lord’s promises are realized. This forgiveness of sins is the Word of the Gospel, the voice of the Holy Spirit, which “gives life to the dead” (Rom. 4:17). It opens the eyes of faith to behold Christ Jesus, the Son of Man lifted up on the cross, “that whoever believes in him may have eternal life” (John 3:14–15).

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

(8 March 2026)

Exodus 17:1–7

Romans 5:1–8

John 4:5–26 (27–30, 39–42)

We Worship the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Spirit and Truth of His Gospel

Though the Lord had brought them out of Egypt, “all the congregation of the people of Israel” grumbled against Him because “there was no water for the people to drink” (Ex. 17:1). Despite their quarreling, the Lord graciously provided for them. He did not strike the people for their sins, but by the hand of Moses He struck the rock instead and brought forth water for the people. In the same way, living water flows from the pierced side of Christ at “about the sixth hour” (John 4:6; 19:14), when He is lifted up on the cross for the sins of the world. He is “the gift of God” (John 4:10), the well from which the Holy Spirit is poured out and becomes in His people “a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (John 4:14). By this grace in which we stand, being at peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, we “worship the Father in spirit and truth” (John 4:23). “We rejoice in hope of the glory of God” because “God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Rom. 5:2, 5).

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

(15 March 2026)

Isaiah 42:14–21

Ephesians 5:8–14

John 9:1–41 or John 9:1–7, 13–17, 34–39

By His Word of the Gospel, Jesus Calls Us Out of the Darkness into His Marvelous Light

The Lord is grieved by the spiritual blindness of His people, yet in mercy He does not forsake them. He restrains His anger and keeps His peace, until He opens their ears and eyes to hear and see Him. “For his righteousness’ sake,” He magnifies His Word and makes it glorious in the coming of Christ Jesus (Is. 42:21). Jesus turns “the darkness before them into light” (Is. 42:16) because He is “the light of the world” (John 9:5). The incarnate Son of God does the works of His Father and displays the divine glory in His own flesh “while it is day,” until that night “when no one can work” (John 9:4). By the washing of water with His Word, He opens the eyes of the blind and grants rest to the weary. Therefore, though “at one time you were darkness,” now “you are light in the Lord” (Eph. 5:8). By our Baptism into Christ, we live in the eternal day of His resurrection, wherein He shines upon us. As often as we fall back into the darkness of sin, He calls us by the Gospel to “awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead” (Eph. 5:14).

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

(22 March 2026)

Ezekiel 37:1–14

Romans 8:1–11

John 11:1–45 (46–53) or John 11:17–27, 38–53

Jesus Christ Is the Resurrection and the Life

The illness and death of Lazarus happened “that the Son of God may be glorified through it” (John 11:4). Jesus’ miracle of raising Lazarus prompted His arrest and crucifixion, whereby He would die “for the nation” and gather “into one the children of God who are scattered abroad” (John 11:51–52). As He called Lazarus from the tomb and commanded others to “unbind him, and let him go” (John 11:44), Jesus also calls us and releases us from the bondage of sin and death. We would not “submit to God’s law,” nor could we “please God” (Rom. 8:7–8), but “he condemned sin” in His own flesh so “that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us” (Rom. 8:3–4). Now through the Gospel, “the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells” in us (Rom. 8:11). His Word breathes His Spirit into our mortal flesh, animating us with His own life. As His ministers preach according to His divine command, the Lord Jesus calls us from the grave into the good land that He gives us (Ezek. 37:12, 14).

PALM SUNDAY / SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

(29 March 2026)

Isaiah 50:4–9a

Philippians 2:5–11

John 12:12–19 (Procession)

Matthew 26:1—27:66 or Matthew 27:11–66 or John 12:20–43

Now Is the Hour When the Son of Man Is Glorified

“Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming.” He comes in gentle humility, “sitting on a donkey’s colt,” yet also as the King of Israel “in the name of the Lord” (John 12:13, 15). His royal glory is faithful obedience and self-sacrificing service “to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Phil. 2:8). The love of God is manifested in the cross and Passion of His Son for the salvation of sinners. Since He has borne our sins and suffered our death, “God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name” (Phil. 2:9), and He exalts us in His resurrection. Our Lord did not hide His face “from disgrace and spitting” (Is. 50:6), but He trusted His God and Father, who raised Him from death and the grave and exalted Him to His right hand. This same King Jesus now comes to us in gentle humility in His Supper, where He feeds us with His body and cleanses and covers us with His blood, so that “after his resurrection” we also shall rise and enter the holy city (Matt. 27:52–53).

HOLY THURSDAY

(2 April 2026)

Exodus 24:3–11 Exodus 12:1–14

Hebrews 9:11–22 or 1 Corinthians 11:23–32

Matthew 26:17–30 John 13:1–17, 31b–35

Let Us Love One Another, as Christ Jesus Has Loved Us and Loves Us to the End

“The LORD’s Passover” (Ex. 12:11) and “the blood of the covenant” at Mount Sinai (Ex. 24:8) foreshow the Lord’s Supper. The blood of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, now covers us, and we keep His Supper “as a feast to the LORD” (Ex. 12:14). In Him, we see “the God of Israel” (Ex. 24:10), and yet He does not lay His hand on us to punish us, but from His hand we eat and drink in peace. As our High Priest, He “entered once for all into the holy places ... by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption” (Heb. 9:12). He shed His own blood in order to “purify our conscience” and bring us before His God and Father “without blemish” (Heb. 9:14). The holy apostles received this New Testament in His blood from the Lord Jesus “on the night when he was betrayed,” and they delivered the same to His Church, which we also now receive in the name and remembrance of Christ (1 Cor. 11:23–26; Matt. 26:26–28). He has “loved his own who were in the world,” and He loves us “to the end” (John 13:1); therefore, let us also “love one another” (John 13:34).

GOOD FRIDAY

(3 April 2026)

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9

John 18:1—19:42 or John 19:17–30

Behold the Lamb of God, Who Takes Away the Sin of the World

Jesus, the Lamb of God, is led to the slaughter of His cross as the Sacrifice of Atonement for the sin of the world. “Despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief” (Is. 53:3), He is the righteous Servant who justifies many by His innocent suffering and death. He bears our griefs and sorrows; He is wounded for our transgressions; He is crushed for our iniquities; He suffers our chastisement; “and with his wounds we are healed” (Is. 53:4–5). As the Son of God, He fulfills the Law for us in human flesh, and so fulfills the Scriptures (John 19:7, 24). In perfect faith and faithfulness, He shares all our weaknesses and temptations, “yet without sin” (Heb. 4:15). As our merciful High Priest, He brings us to the Father in peace, “makes intercession for the transgressors” (Is. 53:12), and joins our prayers to His own, so that we are heard “because of his reverence” (Heb. 5:7). From His cross, He gives us His Spirit (John 19:30), washes us with water from His side, and covers us with His blood (John 19:34).

EASTER SUNDAY

(5 April 2026)

Acts 10:34–43 or Jeremiah 31:1–6

Colossians 3:1–4

Matthew 28:1–10

The Victory of Christ Crucified Is Given to You in the Preaching of His Resurrection

Every Sunday is the Lord’s day, the day of His resurrection, “after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week” (Matt. 28:1). In the Divine Service, the Church enters upon the eternal “eighth day.” The Lord Jesus, “who was crucified,” who “has risen, as he said” (Matt. 28:5–6), is the firstborn from the dead and the firstfruits of the new creation. Because “you have died” with Him in Holy Baptism, “you have been raised with Christ” and “your life is hidden with Christ in God” (Col. 3:1, 3). The Lord Jesus has become our God, as surely as He is “the God of all the clans of Israel,” and we now belong to His people (Jer. 31:1). In this, He “shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34), but “everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name” (Acts 10:43). As “God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power” and “raised him on the third day,” He also raises us up and pours out His Spirit upon us through the Gospel (Acts 10:38, 40).