



Peace Lutheran Church

3340 Eleventh Avenue South,
Great Falls, Montana 59405

761-7343

Rev. Wade Harr, Vacancy Pastor

Office: 761-7343

Home: 952-1790

www.peacelutherangreatfalls.org

Vacancy Pastor Wade Harr: hireq@bresnan.net

Peace's secretary: Peacesecretary@bresnan.net

May, 2020

Godbweye

In proofing this article for publication in the church's newsletter, the church secretary has probably concluded that my dictation software for my computer is malfunctioning again and that she has to correct the spelling. Although the program has been a great help for me since my typing skills have diminished, it can occasionally come up with some very strange words that have never existed before. One might think the title of this devotion is such a word.

But it's not. "Godbweye" is actually the old English spelling of a word which I don't want to use now and you don't want to hear. It is a word which often conveys sadness and separation. It is a word which can bring forth tears. It is a word which we try to avoid saying and which we try to avoid hearing when it is said to us. The word is "goodbye."

I have served as your pastor for fourteen years and now it is time for me to leave. Saying goodbye is difficult. We have heard the Word of God together, knelt to receive the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ together, prayed together, and sang our praises together. We had been through a lot together. We have shared the joy of baptisms, confirmations, and weddings. We have shared the grief of hospitalizations, death beds, and funerals. I have visited you, prayed with you, and been with you during important times in your lives. In turn, you have been loving and supportive of my family and me. You have encouraged me when I've done well and have been patient and forgiving with me when I didn't.

That's what makes saying goodbye so difficult. The word emphasizes the ending of a relationship due to physical separation. There is the feeling of finality in this new arrangement.

But that's only if you use the word in its present form. "Goodbye" is actually an old English contraction of the phrase, "God be with you." The emphasis of the phrase is not from whom you are separated but with whom you remain joined. In sending out His disciples to go all over the world with the Gospel, Jesus reminds them, "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20) Our Lord is with us, as He was with them, when he scatters us to the ends of the earth (even Indiana).

That's not all. Our baptisms not only unite us with Jesus Christ, but with one another. The Word of God says, "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:27-28) To be "in Christ" means we are always united with Christ and always united with one another. Distance does not change that. Death does not prevent that. We remain with each other, even when physically separated or dead.

Having said all of that and believed all of that, it still will be very emotional and very difficult for my family and I to leave Great Falls. However, the joy and the hope that we have means that it doesn't have to remain emotional and difficult. We rejoice that we remain with Christ always. We find comfort that "in Christ" we remain always with one another in the "holy Christian church; the communion of saints." And we look forward eagerly to the time when our presence together will be like it is now, either here on earth or hereafter in heaven.

Godbweye,

Pastor Steven R. Schlund

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Val Martin for playing organ during our worship services.

All those people who volunteer to serve as officers in our congregation.

Matt Schlund for changing the banners and paraments and handling the camera during our live streamed services.

Everyone on the Prayer Chain for their time and prayers.

Angelika Fisher for keeping the church clean each week.

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

- ♥ **Our next meeting will be Monday, May 18 at 6:30 p.m. with a Bible study.** We will have elections of officers and a brief meeting. All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to come and join us! Remember your Mite Boxes!
- ♥ **During the month of June, we will be collecting items to give to the Helping Hands store at First English Lutheran Church here in Great Falls.** Be watching for their Wish List!
- ♥ **We are no longer collecting soap.** Lutheran World Relief is no longer accepting soap so we will no longer collect it. Thank you for your continued support.
- ♥ **Our annual planning meeting will be on Monday, July 20, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.** This is the meeting that we plan the coming year's activities, events and projects. All ladies of Peace are invited and encouraged to come and help with the planning for the coming year.
- ♥ **The Lutheran World Relief drive will be on July 11, this year.** Sylvia Adams will be taking the items to Billings. Please have items in boxes, weighed, marked, and at Peace so they can all be loaded and driven to Billings.
- ♥ **The LWML Montana District Convention** has been rescheduled for July 17-19, 2020! See the full page in this newsletter for more information. Registration forms are in the church office and the latest issue of the *Montana Missive*.

Ladies Bible Study Schedule

After sheltering in place for the past six weeks, it is difficult to project plans for May. The LADIES FRIDAY BIBLE CLASS will not be meeting. However, should the directives be lifted by our governor and we are once again allowed to gather for worship, look for May activities in the Sunday church bulletin for Bible study, assisted living gatherings, and lunches.

The disruption of people's activities has not disrupted the Lord's flower garden from bursting into bloom in the nearby mountains. Take a drive into the Little Belts to view the spectacular display of meadows blooming with bluebells, violets, hare bells, lupines, leather flower, and rose plumed avens. Higher meadows along the Viller's Creek Road array a multitude of glacier lilies. In shaded areas look for calypso orchids, leopard lilies, and wood nymphs. Treat yourself to a drive to marvel at the beauty the Lord spreads before us in springtime flowers.



2020 Montana District Convention

**Rescheduled to
July 17 -19, 2020**

Trinity Lutheran Church, Billings

Theme: “Victory through Christ”

*But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1
Corinthians 15:57)*

Please plan on joining your fellow sisters in Christ from all over Montana as we rally around God’s Word, worship together, welcome Keynote Speaker Author Donna Pyle, hear about LWML Gifts of Love from LWML Gift Planning Counselor Carol von Soosten, learn about LWML from LWML Meeting Manager Arlene Naasz, collect Gifts from the Heart, do servant activities, enjoy fellowship and good food with friends, have activities for young women, discover how our mites are used, and grow in the grace of our loving Lord.



May Anniversaries

- May 1 Leonard and Eva Sivumaki
- May 10 Mitch and Val Martin
- May 10 Mike and Cheri Magnuson
- May 20 Earl and Nancy Garnes
- May 25 – Greg and Kaye Franczyk

Baptismal Anniversaries

- May 7 Gary Link
- 10 Cindy Greenwood
- 16 Thomas Croskrey Jr.
- 21 Madeline Creek
- 21 Shannon Birkholz
- 31 Ann Nimmick



INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

- Michael Drummond** – Lupus
- Rev. Mark Grunst** of Billings who has Lewy Body disease
- Connie Juden**
- Rev. Erich Kaelberer** – ALS
- Gary Lindstrand**
- Jane Nicolaus**, cancer
- Ed and Sarah Ostlund**, in assisted living in Billings
- Becky Schlund**, MS
- Steven Schlund**, Parkinsons
- Christine Wallace**, former LWML Montana District president, final stages of cancer

We pray for the family of **Wallace Martin**, Mitch's brother, who died March 28.

One member who is away serving in the military is **Michael Lewis**.

Ushers for May

- May 3----- Kevin Aguiar
- Gary Link
- May 10----- Tyler Denning
- Pat Lewis
- May 17----- Greg Franczyk
- Dennis Nivens
- May 24----- Mitch Martin
- Eric Fletcher
- May 31----- Gary Link
- Darrell Greenwood

Voters meeting set

Mark your calendars now for the next congregational voters meeting and potluck on Sunday, May 17 at 12 noon. We will have elections of officers for the following positions. Please consider being a nominee for the following offices of Peace Lutheran Church:

Chairman (1 person); Congregational Secretary (1 person); Elders (2 or more people); Trustee (2 or more people); Director of Education (1 person); Directors of Evangelism (1 person). Contact Mitch Martin or Greg Franczyk if you are interested. Thank you for your participation. We will also make some decision about the call process for a pastor.



