



## Peace Lutheran Church

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Rev. Joshua Reinke, Pastor

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May, 2021

“Ephatha! (Be Opened)” Mark 7:34

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Be opened! With these words, our Lord heals a man born deaf and mute. Jesus restored back to him perfect health in both his ears and his tongue. Jesus does this among the Gentile cities to prove that He is God in their midst by healing this man, something that only God can do. Jesus charged the crowds to tell no one what He had done, because He came not only as a mere miracle worker, but the more He charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed the wonderful thing that Jesus had done.

In opening the man's ears and mouth, Jesus is foreshadowing His call for all mankind to hear the Word and respond in faith. Faith responds to the great thing that Jesus is going to do in Jerusalem. Jesus was going to die. Jesus went to Jerusalem, was betrayed by sinful men, suffered, bled, and died upon the cross in order to forgive you of your sins. Jesus rose from the dead as proof that His sacrifice was acceptable to God the Father. All this He did for you, for your eternal life and salvation. This great message of Christ for you is one that the Church has been proclaiming with both voice and hands for many years. In fact, this month celebrates the 125<sup>th</sup> year of Synod's decision to begin mission work among the Deaf within their communities. Specifically it was started in May 6<sup>th</sup>, 1896 in Fort Wayne Indiana. This is a great mission that the Lord has granted to His church, one that Peace, Trinity, and Christ have shared together for many years.

Even today, ears and mouths are being opened by the Holy Spirit as He uses the Word to create and sustain faith in people. At the time of this writing, both Seminaries in Fort Wayne and St. Louis are sending out new pastors out into the harvest field so that more and more can hear the Word. The Lord is sending out more and more with this great task. He gives to us the strength, mercy, and grace to do it, for both hearing and Deaf. May the Lord continue to guard and strengthen His church, until the day when we see Him face to face.

Your servant in Christ,

Rev. Joshua Reinke

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**The youth** for making breakfast on Easter.

**Brook Gerard and Kaye Franczyk** for organizing the lock-in for the youth and the Easter breakfast.

**Kevin Aguiar and Pat Lewis** for serving as elders for many years.

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

**Ruth Denning** for signing for the deaf while they worshipped with us.

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

**Elsie Huss** for changing the banners and paraments.

**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.

**Toni Nivens** for making by hand all of the anniversary and birthday cards for the congregational members for the past year. They were all very beautiful and very much appreciated!

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 Lutheran World Relief drive will be on May 8.** Sherry Van Vleet from Trinity will be taking items to Missoula on Thursday, May 6. She will come and pick up boxes if we have some.
- ♥ **Our next meeting will be Monday, May 17 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!
- ♥ **Our annual planning meeting will be on Monday, July 19, 2021 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.

## Ladies Bible Study Schedule

Once the snow and rain stopped in April, the Lord's flower garden has burst into bloom in the foothills with a glorious abundance of May wildflowers! Take a drive up the Evans Riceville Road this month to see for yourself the countless blossoms waiting for your viewing. You won't be disappointed!

As special as spring wildflowers, is the feeling of being able to be back at Bible study on Friday afternoons. Those who have had their vaccine are welcome to join the group. The members miss the wisdom and presence of Eloise Morehead, but know she has a better living situation in Washington, and is a blessing to her family there. Continuing with the study of Ephesians, ladies will meet on May 7th, 14th, and 21st from 1-3pm at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave S.

At this writing Assisted Living Ministry at Highgate House and the Bee Hive Home have not started yet.

## Vacation Bible School dates set

The dates for VBS have been set for **June 14-18, 2021 from 9 AM to 12 noon.** The theme is God's Wonder Lab. A science lab is full of fascinating things that help explain how things are possible. In Jesus' ministry, He did things that cannot be explained. He turned water into wine, walked on water, and His greatest miracle of all was dying on the cross and rising from the dead for our salvation. Come and join us as we discover that Jesus does the impossible for us in God's Wonder Lab! If you would like to help in any way, please contact Linda Aguiar at 406-454-0870.



## May Anniversaries

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

## Baptismal Anniversaries

May 7 Gary Link  
10 Cindy Greenwood  
21 Madeline Creek  
21 Shannon Birkholz  
31 Ann Nimmick



### INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

The following people are experiencing health problems:

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- Michael Drummond** – Lupus
- Rev. Mark Grunst** of Billings who has Lewy Body disease
- Connie Juden**
- Rev. Erich Kaelberer** – ALS
- Ed and Sarah Ostlund**, in assisted living in Billings
- Becky Schlund**, MS
- Steven Schlund**, Parkinson's
- Christine Wallace**, former LWML Montana District president, under Hospice Care

## Wee Disciples Fund Raiser

Every third Tuesday of the month, you can help raise funds for Wee Disciples by eating at Fuddrucker's! No coupon necessary! Just mention Wee Disciples and they will donate 20% of your meal proceeds to them! Easy! Go between **5 and 9 PM on May 18!**

## Farmers Market this summer

We have secured a spot at the Farmers Market and are looking for volunteers to man the booth. If you would like to help, please contact Arnie Gidlow at 406-468-9385.

## Ushers for May

May 2----- Darrell Greenwood  
----- Arnie Gidlow  
May 9----- Tyler Denning  
----- Pat Lewis  
May 16----- Greg Franczyk  
----- Kevin Aguiar  
May 23----- Lyle Onstad  
----- James Onstad  
May 30----- Peter Doscher  
----- Arnie Gidlow

## Family Night continues through May

Family Night meets every Wednesday at 6 PM with a themed meal followed by Bible study lead by Pastor Reinke at 6:30 PM. The students in midweek classes are joining us for this study.

## Youth Corner - Change in date

High-school Bible study will be **June 10** at 7:00 pm at McKenzie River Pizza. Please bring a friend.

## Offering Counters needed

We are in search of people to help count the offering each Sunday for a month at a time. If you are interested in helping serve the Lord and the members of Peace Lutheran in this fashion, please contact Darrell Greenwood.

## Spring Voters meeting set

The Spring Voters Meeting is **TODAY at 12 noon**. There will be a potluck meal at 12 noon and the meeting will begin around 12:30 PM after we eat.

## Installation of officers

Today at the Voters Meeting we will have the election of officers. Those officers who are elected will be installed on **Sunday, May 16** during our regular worship service.

## Wednesday morning

## Men's Bible Study resumes soon

The Wednesday morning Men's Bible Study will resume soon. Please contact Pastor Reinke to discuss where and when.

## **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (2 May 2021)**

Acts 8:26–40, 1 John 4:1–11 (12–21), John 15:1–8

***Jesus Christ Is the True Vine Who Bears Much Fruit in Us*** - “*God is love,*” and He has manifested Himself to us by sending “*his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him*” (1 John 4:9, 16). By the ministry of the Gospel, “*he has given us of his Spirit,*” so that we also believe and confess “*that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh.*” In this way, we “*abide in him and he in us,*” and we “*love one another*” (1 John 4:2, 7, 13). Such divine love is exemplified in Philip’s preaching of “*the good news about Jesus*” to the Ethiopian eunuch. And when “*they came to some water,*” the eunuch was baptized into the very Gospel that Philip had preached (Acts 8:35–38). That Ethiopian was thereby grafted into “*the true vine,*” Jesus Christ (John 15:1), just as we are. Already we are clean because of the Word that Christ has spoken to us and by the washing of water with His Word. We now abide in Him by faith in His forgiveness. As He abides in us, both body and soul, with His own body and His blood, He “*bears much fruit*” in us (John 15:3–5).

## **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (9 May 2021)**

Acts 10:34–48, 1 John 5:1–8, John 15:9–17

***The Lord Jesus Is with His Church in the Apostolic Ministry of the Gospel*** - The crucified and risen Lord Jesus is with His Church through the word of His apostles, who “*are witnesses of all that he did.*” He was anointed by God “*with the Holy Spirit and with power,*” and “*he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil,*” and so He was with those whom He sent “*to preach to the people*” (Acts 10:38–42). The Holy Spirit is bestowed on those who hear that apostolic preaching, who are “*baptized in the name of Jesus Christ,*” so that “*everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name*” (Acts 10:43–44, 48). For as He came by the water of His Baptism, even to the blood of His Passion, so the Spirit testifies to the truth with “*the water and the blood*” in the apostolic ministry of the Gospel (1 John 5:6–7). By these means, Christ Jesus speaks to us, that His joy may be in us and that our “*joy may be full.*” For this purpose, He appointed the apostles to “*go and bear fruit*” in order to make known His divine friendship to us (John 15:11, 15–16).

## **THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD (13 May 2021)**

Acts 1:1–11, Ephesians 1:15–23, Luke 24:44–53

***The Ascended Lord Jesus Is with Us Always in His Church on Earth*** - After He rose from the dead, the Lord Jesus presented Himself alive to the apostles, “*appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God*” (Acts 1:3). When He ascended to the right hand of the Father, He did not orphan His Church, but He fills all things in heaven and on earth and gives gifts to His disciples. Even now, through His Church, He continues “*to do and teach*” (Acts 1:1), preaching “*repentance for the forgiveness of sins*” (Luke 24:47), even “*to the end of the earth*” (Acts 1:8). Though the cloud hid Jesus from the sight of His disciples then, and He remains hidden from sight even now, He remains with His people through His Gospel and Sacraments. He comes to us by the word of His apostles, by the promise of His Father and by the power of the Holy Spirit, whom He pours out upon “*the church, which is his body*” (Eph. 1:22–23). In this Holy Christian Church, we bless God and worship Christ with joy, for in His Church He blesses us with forgiveness, lifts us up in His hands and seats us with Himself “*in the heavenly places*” (Eph. 1:20).

## **THE DAY OF PENTECOST (23 May 2021)**

Ezekiel 37:1–14, Acts 2:1–21, John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15

***The Holy Spirit Brings the Dead to Life by the Righteousness of Christ*** - In returning to His Father by way of the cross and resurrection, Christ Jesus sends “*the Helper*” to His Church, that is, “*the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father.*” The Spirit testifies of Christ and glorifies Him by taking what is His and declaring it to the world in the preaching of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (John 15:26; 16:7, 14). He convicts the world of sin by the word of the Law, He forgives sins and justifies sinners by the Word of the Gospel, and He bestows the faith that says “*Amen*” to this righteousness of God (John 16:8–11). Therefore, the Lord pours out His Spirit on the apostles, that by their preaching, the Spirit should be given to His entire Church. As the multitudes are gathered from all the nations by “*this sound,*” that is, by the preaching of “*the mighty works of God*” in Christ Jesus, so does God the Father pour out the Spirit of His Son “*on all flesh*” (Acts 2:6, 11, 17). The Lord God breathes upon the slain, and so shall they live; for so the Lord has spoken, and He shall do it (Ezek. 37:5–14).

## **THE HOLY TRINITY (30 May 2021)**

Isaiah 6:1–8, Acts 2:14a, 22–36, John 3:1–17

***The Glory of the LORD of Hosts Shines in Mercy, Forgiveness and Salvation*** - When Isaiah “*saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up,*” he cried out and confessed that he was “*a man of unclean lips.*” If even the holy angels cover their faces in the presence of “*the King, the LORD of hosts,*” how can sinful humans stand before Him (Is. 6:1–5)? Yet, the glory of the Lord is saving grace, and with “*a burning coal*” from the altar the angel touched Isaiah’s lips, removing his guilt (Is. 6:6–7). Likewise, from the altar of Christ’s cross, by the ministry of the Gospel, “*the whole earth is full of his glory*” (Is. 6:3). For He was crucified, died and buried, “*according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God,*” and God “*raised him up, loosing the pangs of death*” (Acts 2:23–24). He “*received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit*” (Acts 2:33), and He raises up the fallen world by pouring out His life-giving Spirit upon sinners through His earthly Means of Grace. To give this saving gift, God sent His Son into the world, “*that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life*” (John 3:16–17).