



Peace Lutheran Church

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November, 2023

www.peacelutherangreatfalls.org

*I will give to the LORD the thanks due to his righteousness,
and I will sing praise to the name of the LORD, the Most High. Psalm 7:17*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Many people think that they have nothing to be thankful for. Their life is in shambles. Their spouse hates them yet still wants to be married to them. Their boss keeps piling on impossible deadlines and tasks to do. They are deep in debt with no hope of recovery, and they just got news that their mother or father has died. Everything that can go wrong does go wrong, constantly. What do we say to this type of person? What reason do they have to be thankful?

Thankfulness does not always equal happiness. In our culture and society, the two often get confused as we think that a happy person is always thankful and vice versa. Yet that is not the case. Happiness is an emotion that can come and go. Thankfulness is a state of being. It is recognizing Who God is and what He has done. Thankfulness is knowing that no matter what happens in our lives, God is eternally faithful and eternally righteous.

It is knowing that in His righteousness, God sends His Son, Jesus, to do what we cannot. To live a perfect life in our place. To defeat all the enemies arrayed against us by the power of the Cross. That Satan, this sin-filled world, our sinful nature, they have no true power. They have been crushed beneath our Savior's nail scarred feet forever. He alone rules and reigns as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

That is what we can say to a person when it seems as though they have nothing to be thankful for. It is not merely an empty platitude such as "Try harder. Buck up, you can do it." Rather, it is reminding them, "God loves you. Jesus died for you and has won you the victory. Live in His hope and grace. Rely upon Him for your daily strength. He loves you and cares for you by giving you every moment of every day. I know it is hard. I know you do not feel happy, and that is okay. How can I help you?" In helping others, we are being little Christ's to those around us, sharing in their suffering. While suffering with them, we are bearing one another's burdens in love and reminding each other of the great love and forgiveness won for us by our Lord's death and resurrection from the dead.

Your Servant in Christ,

Rev. Joshua Reinke

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Wreath sale

Echoz Pregnancy Center is having their annual wreath sale. Information with prices and order forms are on the bulletin board in the hallway. Orders are due to them by **November 2nd**. **Wreaths can be picked up on December 5th**. There is also information about how to order online and have them delivered. Thank you for supporting this awesome service! Echoz is in need of boy clothes size newborn to 18 months. Any gently used or new clothes is greatly appreciated. You may bring them to the church and we will be sure Echoz gets them, or you may take them to Echoz at 1323 9th Avenue South. Thank you!

Ladies Bible Study

What a long lingering beautiful autumn we enjoyed this year! Gardens of flowers and vegetables have been put to bed for the winter. November ushers in the holiday season with festive plans for worship and family gatherings at Thanksgiving. Kitchens have delectable aromas wafting from them. Traditionalists try to ignore all the commercialization of Christmas to give Thanksgiving its rightful space and honor.

The Friday ladies Bible Class will be in recess for the month of November.

Assisted Living Ministry will include hymn singing and a short devotion. They will be at The Lodge, 1801 9th Street South, on Friday, November 3rd from 10-10:45am. Friends will gather for the no host lunch at 11:45a.m. on Friday, November 17th at El Comedor, 1120 25th Street South. Afterward many will go to Highgate Senior Living, 3000 11th Avenue South to lead the residents in the familiar Thanksgiving hymns. Pastor Reinke will lead a worship service at The Lodge on Wednesday, November 8th at 2:30 p.m. Worship at Highgate will be on Monday, November 20th at 1:30 p.m. There are so many opportunities to share God's love in worship, song, and fellowship. Bring your smile along!

Thanksgiving Day Worship Service at Peace

We will once again have a **Thanksgiving Day Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.** on November 23. It is the Order of Matins without Communion. During the service there will be a non-perishable food offering that will be taken to the Great Falls Rescue Mission. Following the service, we will have a time of fun, games and fellowship while we await the meal. There is a sign-up sheet posted and a tentative menu. Please sign your name and the number of people in your family and indicate what you will be bringing to add to the meal. We all have sooo much for which to give thanks!

LWML

- ♥ **Our next meeting and Bible study will be Saturday, November 11 at 10:00 a.m. NOTE THE DATE AND TIME CHANGE!** We will have a guest speaker from Family Promise and also an ingathering of their October wish list items, such as:
Food/Groceries • Coffee go cups Creamer & sugar packs for coffee • Diapers all sizes • Kleenex • Hand sanitizer • Office supplies • Dollar store cards • Uber Cards • Post it notes all sizes • 8 ½" Notepads or notebooks • Cleaning Supplies • Bathroom cleaning supplies (plunger, liquid toilet cleaner & brush) • Mops, brooms & dust pans • Fly swatters • Clothes/Bedding • Light gloves all sizes Pillows
- ♥ **On Saturday, December 2, at 11:00 AM,** we will be decorating the church for the Christmas season. People young and old are asked to come and help for as long as their schedule will allow.
- ♥ **Advent potluck meals begin on Wednesday, November 29.** Please bring a dish to share. Please plan now to attend!
- ♥ **We will have a baking day on Saturday, December 16.** We will be baking things for the shut-ins that we go caroling to on Sunday, December 17.

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Toni Nivens for the getting the flowers for the altar for LWML Sunday.
Everyone who donated treats for our fellowship time for LWML Sunday.
Linda Aguiar for putting up the LWML bulletin board.
Val Martin for getting a Thrivent Action Team card to pay for most of the food and supplies for the LWML Fall Rally.
Everyone who donated items to the Foothills Christian School during the LWML Fall Rally.
Everyone who participated in Trunk or Treat.
All those who volunteer to teach Sunday school and Bible studies throughout the week.
Tristin Reinke, Val Martin and Gloria Creek for playing the organ and piano during our worship services.
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.
Everyone who cleans the kitchen after Bible study on Sundays and Wednesdays.
All of the men who volunteer to usher.
Everyone who counts the offering.
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.



Baptismal Anniversaries

November	4	Val Martin
	9	Brenna Johnson
	15	Kaylee Lewis
	22	Katherine Onstad
	22	August Birkholz
	22	Josie Ryster
	24	Betsy Wirth
	26	Alan Brown

Next Voters meeting will be **Sunday, November 5 at 12 noon**. There will be a potluck meal right at noon and the meeting will follow. We will be discussing the budget and some other very important issues and hope that you plan to come and be a part of the decision process. Copies of the budget are available on the usher stand at the back of the sanctuary. Feel free to take one and look it over before the meeting. Come with any questions, comments or concerns.

November ushers:

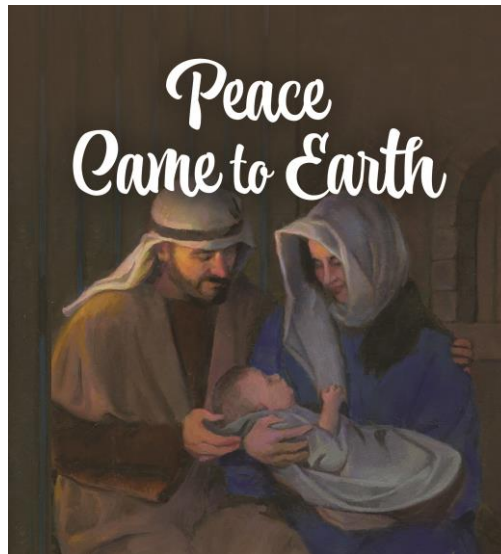
5 – Arnie Gidlow and Darrell Greenwood
 12 – Tyler Denning and Kevin Aguiar
 19– Gary Link and Peter Doscher
 25 – Lyle Onstad and Greg Franczyk



INCLUDE THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:
 The following people are experiencing health problems:

Ben Aagaard – 10 year old with liver cancer
Marylan Dallum, Fort Benton
Jody Decker – Fort Benton
Michael Drummond – Lupus
Rev. Mark Grunst of Billings who has Lewy Body disease
Connie Juden
Rev. Erich Kaelberer – ALS
Bruce Kempf – health issues
Becky Schlund, MS
Steven Schlund, Parkinsons
Richard Schottey, shut-in
Van Oman family – Fort Benton

We pray for the family of **Pam Schaaf** who died October 15, 2023.



Advent is Coming!!
Join us for 3 Wednesdays beginning
December 6 for
Advent potluck meals at 6 PM followed by
worship at 7 PM.

Peace is our common pursuit. As Advent leads us to Christmas, we are especially seeking a distinct season of peace. We need a quiet place to rest during this restless time. Year after year, with each Advent season, we wonder if this year will bring a peace that endures. We crave the reassurance that God knows all our needs and will provide for them, not just for these short weeks but for every season. Often, we grow impatient as we seek peace.

Despite knowing the promises of God to provide for us, we might try to find peace on our own. We then define peace according to the ways we seek it. We might imagine that peace comes when we finally have enough of all the things we plan to buy. Or we might look for the perfect place where peace is an undisturbed solitude, the cabin beside a still lake. We might seek peace by escaping memories of the past. Or peace might be an elusive future where everyone does exactly what they should. These are our many ways of defining peace, but sadly, each of these directions could go on and on without ever being fulfilled. To illustrate both our pursuit of peace and God's

plan for us, our Advent series this year uses a five-point star for each sermon and children's message. Each message will emphasize a different point of the star. Overall, the star reminds us of the Christmas star of Matthew 2 and that wonderful light that guided the Wise Men to find Jesus. Their long journey ended with the blessing of a lasting peace. Just as the Wise Men followed the star, so we will go to each point in this Advent star. This won't be a useless journey that never ends. We will find that God meets us at each point of the star, knowing our needs and bringing us the peace we are seeking. Since the five-point star will guide our journey, picture yourself drawing such a star. Start in the bottom left corner and draw up to the top center point. Stop and draw downward to the bottom right corner, then upward to the middle of the left side. Draw across to the right, and back to the bottom left corner, eventually reaching each point. Every point goes a certain distance but then is stopped. In the same way,

each of our paths to peace could go on and on, never being fulfilled. There won't be enough possessions or perfectly calm places to give us lasting peace. But as we seek peace in these many ways, God intersects us with a peace that both passes our understanding and yet meets our needs. God knows the many ways and directions by which we seek peace. As we journey, God meets us, halts our endless pursuits, and gives us a new understanding of His gift of peace. That peace comes always through the birth of Jesus, the Word become flesh who steps into the world and fulfills our desire for peace. General Introduction Peace Came to Earth © 2023 Concordia Publishing House. Scripture: ESV®. Permission granted to purchaser to reproduce this page for use in congregational setting. All other rights reserved. - 4 - In the end, we find our lasting peace and treasure. God's peace doesn't send us on an impossible search. God's peace is not an invisible needle buried in a haystack. God's peace is a treasure laid in the straw of the manger. God's peace is the priceless Son of God, born in the stable and laid in plain view for us all.

He is the diamond found in the manger's straw. As the Prince of Peace, He is the peace that we seek.