



## Peace Lutheran Church

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<sup>19</sup> So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. Romans 14:19

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The leaves are changing. The mornings are getting colder. Fall is here. As we enter into October, what springs to your minds when you think of this month? For us Lutherans, I am sure our minds jump to the beginnings of the Reformation. For most people though, it is probably Halloween.

Many Christian's struggle with Halloween. They wonder, is it okay to dress up and get candy? To see all these superheroes or ghouls and ghosts. What is going on? Is it okay? It surely cannot be that simple. One thing to remember is what Saint Paul writes, that we have freedom as Christians, yet a freedom bound by the consciences of our weaker brethren around us. Can we celebrate Halloween? Yes. Do we have to? No.

After all, where does Halloween come from? It comes from the ancient Church. The word means Hallow-eve. Hallow? A word we say in the Lord's Prayer, "Hallowed be Thy name." Hallowed means holy. Eve is short for evening. So the word means, "Holy Evening." It is the evening before All Saints Day, a Christian holy day on which Christians honored the saints (the "hallowed" ones), the heroes and martyrs of the faith. For Lutherans, All Hallow's Eve is also Reformation Day, the day Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses for debate on the door of the Castle Church at Wittenberg.

During the celebration, people believed that the demons were especially active on the eve of All Hallow's. People carved gourds with ugly faces and set them out to guard their homes. This was similar to the practice of carving grotesque gargoyles on the drain spouts of cathedrals to ward off devils. People paraded in the streets dressed up in costumes and masks to confuse the demons and confound their schemes. Something mimicked in modern society with children dressing up as all kinds of characters. As people of old prepared to celebrate the hallowed ones, they mocked the devil and death in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of the death granted by our Lord Jesus Christ and His death and resurrection.

Can a Christian do this? All depends. Of course, I don't expect baptized believers in Jesus Christ to be dancing in the woods around bonfires while chanting pagan prayers to the mother goddess or sacrificing black cats. On the other hand, the devil's chief work is to draw us away from Christ's death and resurrection and have us focus on our works, prayers, and piety. He seems to be doing a pretty decent job of that. Generally speaking, the cultural silliness associated with Halloween has about as much to do with the devil as Christmas has to do with the incarnation of the Son of God.

How do we decide? Let love for the neighbor dominate. What will your neighbor, your family, your children, your brother or sister in Christ think of your Halloween celebration? Will it help or hinder their faith in Jesus? Does your Halloween fun witness to the victory and freedom of Jesus' death and resurrection, or does it lift up the powers of darkness and death? Does it draw undue attention to the dark and demonic, or does it poke fun at those things that already stand defeated? Are you able to talk frankly about the reality of death and the devil with your children and tell them of the victory of Jesus?

As Christians, let us always pursue that which makes for peace and our mutual upbuilding as we confess the victory of Jesus Christ over sin, death, and the power of the devil.

Your Servant in Christ,

Rev. Joshua Reinke

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**Everyone** who cleaned, watered and cared for the flower beds all summer.

**Everyone** who came and fixed, repaired, replaced, and took care of the Lord's house during the summer months.

**Everyone** who attends Family Night and helps with food preparation and clean up.

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

**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.

**Bob Fletcher** for cleaning the church.

**All of the ladies** who stay after and clean the kitchen after Bible study.

**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 Friday Bible Study

October has the expanded church schedule with activities in full swing! Hot summer days are a fond memory, replaced by crisp autumn days. Gardening winds down as an abundance of fall activities take our attention and time. So many activities from which to choose. It seems there is never enough time...

Ladies Friday Bible Class is a time to relax from busy schedules and enjoy fellowship with others as they continue their study of the Book of Mark. Join them on October 6th, 13th, and 20th from 1-3pm at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Avenue South. Please think about visiting this study group some Friday. There is always room for one more!

Assisted Living Ministry with hymn singing and a devotion will be at the following locations. On Friday, October 6th from 10:00-10:45am they will be at The Lodge, 1801 9th Street South. The no host lunch will be held on Friday, October 27th at 11:45am at the Black Bear restaurant, 1420 Market Place Drive. After lunch many will go to Highgate Senior Living, 3000 11th Avenue South. Make time in your busy schedule for the fellowship of these activities.

## Trunk or Treat anyone?

The youth of Peace Lutheran are planning to do Trunk or Treat again this year! It will be on **Saturday, October 28 from 5 to 7 PM**. You may decorate your trunk and hand out candy to all of the kids who come trick or treating. The youth will also be selling calendars and notepads for the year of 2024. Be watching for more details!

## Community Garden Meeting

A meeting has been set to discuss the community garden that we have been contemplating putting in on our empty west lot. It will be **Monday, October 9 at 7 PM** at the church. Those who have interest in the garden or have questions about it are invited and welcome to come.

**FYI:** Christ for the Deaf have Worship at Peace Lutheran on Saturdays at 3 PM. This change was made to accommodate the deaf for the winter months so they can drive in the daylight hours.



## October Anniversaries

- Oct. 10 Kevin and Kristen Jacobsen
- Oct. 10 Steven and Trisha Hasselstrom
- Oct. 15 Bill and Elsie Huss
- Oct. 25 Henry and Val Schnackenberg

## Baptismal Anniversaries

- October 1 Lyle Onstad
- 2 Gloria Creek
- 3 Molly Whitesitt
- 16 Ly Doscher
- 16 Leila Doscher
- 25 Logan Rubino
- 27 Lee Henselin
- 28 Ruth Denning

## October ushers:

- 1 – Gary Link and Pat Lewis
- 8 – Pat Lewis and Kevin Aguiar
- 15 –Greg Franczyk and Tyler Denning
- 22 – Arnie Gidlow and Peter Doscher
- 29 – Lyle Onstad and Mitch Martin



### 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
- Pam Schaaf**, Ovarian cancer
- Becky Schlund**, MS
- Steven Schlund**, Parkinsons
- Richard Schottey**, shut-in
- Van Oman family** – Fort Benton

## LFL Life Quotes

“These two choices are vastly different: to give birth to a child or to abort it. But one thing is the same: to choose Jesus is to choose life. For Jesus holds every life—even the tiniest—in the nail-scarred palm of His hand.” *Rev. Gary Blobaum, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Oregon, Illinois – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

“For all who have been damaged by the sin of abortion—and for all who have been complicit by not speaking up in defense of innocent babies—repent, and then hear the sweet and comforting words of Jesus: ‘Come to me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest’ (Matthew 11:28). God give us courage to engage in the battle For Life!” *Pastor Paul Clark, President of Lutherans For Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

## 40 Days For Life

40 Days For Life event began on September 26 and will run until Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion! Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days For Life has inspired 1,000,000+ volunteers! With God’s help, here are the proven results in 30 coordinated campaigns:

- 23,525 babies saved from abortion**
- 251 abortion workers converted**
- 144 abortion centers closed**

Here’s how to take part in the 40 Days For Life in Great Falls:


**Vigil location:** 211 9<sup>th</sup> Street South (sidewalks in front of Planned Parenthood). Please park on the side street not in parking lot

**Vigil Hours:** 8 AM to 6 PM Monday thru Saturday

**Local contact:** Jennifer Wade (559-246-4723)

Learn more...get involved...and sign up for prayer times by visiting our campaign at [40daysforlife.com/GreatFalls](http://40daysforlife.com/GreatFalls)

# LWML

- ♥ **LWML Sunday will be October 1.** LWML has an updated display on the bulletin board with some historic facts and information about where the Mites go and some of the projects and events that we have sponsored locally, nationally and around the world. Thank you to **Linda Aguiar** and **Helen Lewis** for organizing the display. The LWML worship service will be used for the 10:00 service and altar flowers will be provided.
- ♥ **Honey Sunday** is a simple way for us to support Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. It is paid for and ordered here at the church, but is sent from the Ranch. Honey will be sold for \$10 per bottle. Peace's LWML will keep 30% of the proceeds and the Ranch gets 70%. Please make checks payable to Peace LWML. 
- ♥ **Fall Rally is Saturday, October 7 beginning at 9 AM.** Cost is \$6. Speaker will be Ruth Denning as the Delegate to the Milwaukee Convention in June. Rev. Jonathon Schultz from Trinity in Great Falls will lead the Bible study. The ingathering is school items for Foothills Christian School in Great Falls. Their wish list is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. A short business meeting will follow lunch.
- ♥ **LWML Purple Pockets** – The Purple Pocket concept goes back many years and was started at the Montana District level by then President Pam Kercher. The idea is to put a penny in, and each month for a year, double what you put in. So the first month = 1 cent, then 2 cents, then 4 cents, then 8 cents, then 16, then 32, then 64 then \$1.28, then \$2.56, then \$5.12, then \$10.24, then \$20.48. At the end of the year the total is \$40.95. These funds are very important because they go toward our missions. We send them to Stinnetts in Ethiopia and Mekane Yesus Seminary in Ethiopia. If you don't have a Purple Pocket, please see Elsie Huss and she will get one for you. Thank you for your support!
- ♥ **Our next meeting is November 11 – Saturday at 10:00 AM.** We will have a guest speaker from Family Promise here in Great Falls. Come and hear about their accomplishments in helping local families stay out of homeless situations and how you can help. We will also have an ingathering for them. Be watching for the list when the time gets closer!