



# Herald of Peace

March 2019

Peace Lutheran Church,  
1301 Ave. D, Billings, MT 59102

(406) 252-5504  
peacelutheranbillings.com

## Making Christ Available to All by Rejoicing, Renewing and Reaching Out

Peace Lutheran Church Mission Statement

### Leadership Directory

Pastor: Rev. Will Sappington  
[prsappington@gmail.com](mailto:prsappington@gmail.com)  
office 252-5504 Home 647-8568  
Office Manager: Dean Jenson  
[peaceoffice@bresnan.net](mailto:peaceoffice@bresnan.net)  
252-5504  
Youth Director: Vanessa Stieger  
[peacelcyouth@gmail.com](mailto:peacelcyouth@gmail.com)  
office 252-5504 cell 698-5576  
Intern Pastor: Ann Bjorklund  
[internpeace@gmail.com](mailto:internpeace@gmail.com)  
252-5504

Treasurer	Steve Frank
Organist	Robin Goodheart
Bells of Peace	Julie Draeger
Altar Guild Treasure	Molly Johnson
WELCA Treasurer	Connie Hausauer

### Church Council

Anderson, Dewey	656-1709
Brown, Mike	855-1588
Draeger, Dave	698-1333
Finn, Susan	534-1860
Miller, Holli	656-6847
Pecarina, Tony	679-3880
Peterson, Bryan	671-1301
Sider, Melissa	281-7334
Strosky, Linda	661-2626
Welliever, Dean	652-9365

### Peace Office Hours

8am-12pm & 1pm-4pm  
Mon. Tues. Thurs. & Fri.

### Worship Schedule

**Saturdays: 5:00 pm**  
**Sundays: 10:00 am**  
**Education Hour: 11:00 am**  
**Sunday Channel 7 at 9:00 am**



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



*M̄ci k' \c' g]h' Xck b' ]b' h\ Y' < ] [ \ ; cX' ŋ' dfYgYbVW  
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We are embarking on a journey that starts on March 5th. At 5:30 at Peace we will have our Fat Tuesday event and you are invited. Come for the pancakes and sausage and stay for the fellowship and the music with Jacob and Justin Pierce and me! The next night we gather at 6pm for a simple soup supper that is a bit of a contrast from the previous evening.

March 6th is Ash Wednesday and we begin the season of Lent in worship. I encourage you to make Wednesday nights at part of your Lenten discipline.

We will be praying the Psalms in our mid-week services and inviting you into "Lenten Intentions" each day in Lent. *M̄ci ŋ̄' VY' UW' Y' hc' d]W' i d' h\ Y' \ UbXci hg' Zcf' YUW' k' YY' ]b' h\ Y' [ Uh\ Yf] b [ ' UfYU' UbX' = ŋ̄' dcgh' h\ Ya' ]b' h\ Y' a ]X! k' YY' \_* emails too.

Lent is that time of reflection and repentance. It is a time of return and renewal as well. What are the things  
con't pg. 4



## ***Prayer Concerns of those we prayed for February 2019***

### **We Believe in Prayer For praise and thanksgiving ...**

Elizabeth A. Eaton - Presiding Bishop, ELCA  
Jessica Christ - Bishop - Montana Synod;

### **For people around the world in need ...**

New Members to come to Peace  
Needs of our neighborhood  
Visitors to Peace Food Pantry  
President Donald Trump (requested by Peace member)  
Christine & Scotty Soileau – Quantico, VA. (member of Peace)

### **For illness or injuries .. of members**

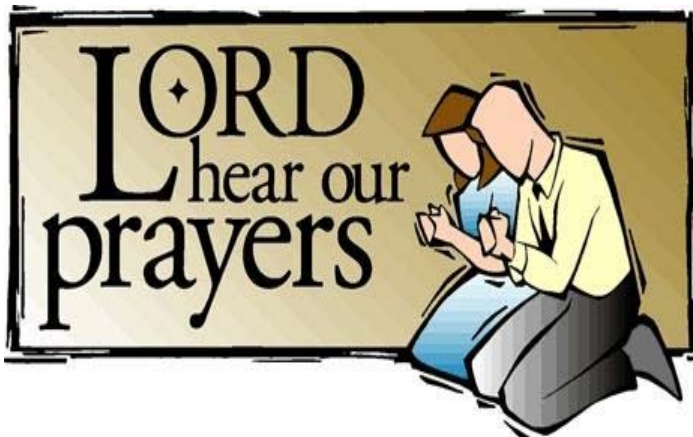
Ron & Karen Johnson - on Karen's surgery  
LaWanda Sherseth - healing  
Annette Reich - Aspen View  
Gary Broeder - healing  
Tina Fritz - healing  
Phyllis McGrath - recovery  
John Modde - recovery  
Kathleen Gregg - healing  
Lisa Grimsley - healing  
Ken, Carol Hoefner and family  
Larry Heiser –

### **For illness or injuries .. of family and friends.**

Loretta - Marge Peterson's sister in the hospital  
Malcom - 6 yrs. old with a brain tumor  
Butch - Intern Ann's father - healing  
Rako Zech & family, Ron's Zech son - cancer diagnosis  
Lisa Miller - Bonnie Clausen's friend reoccurrence cancer  
Warren Peterson - healing  
Gary Fink - healing  
Ann Strecker - friend of Rick & Barb Olson - healing  
Joan and Jerrie - Jackie Fayram sisters, memory loss  
Laura Fisher (Jodi Peterson's cousin) cancer  
Micah Hilario, son-in-law of Linda & Gary Branae, (Lois Gorseth friends) has been diagnosed with ALS  
Shawn Hanser  
Greg Goodheart  
Bonnie & Kevin - healing and strength  
Emily - prayers for strength  
Bob Miller - Rod Miller's father. stroke, surgery and recovery  
Kari - healing and strength  
Bud Leuthold - friend of Joy Lindberg leukemia

**P**rayer Concerns is a published list of those on the prayer chain, who have given permission to publish their names. If you are interested in praying for these, as well as others, please join the prayer chain. They have leaders who call or email. Please call lone Bloom at 652-2441 or Lisa Grimsley (698-4121).

**J**oin us for midweek Lenten services starting March 6th at 7pm. Each Wednesday this Lent we'll be looking at a different Psalm through the "The Message" translation.



*Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*

Psalm 51:10

## Congregational News

### A Day in the Life of the Intern

1 Thessalonians 1:1b-3 (NRSV) says, "Grace to you and peace. 2 We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly 3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

My heart is overflowing as I think of your generosity, your love for your neighbors, your welcome to strangers. Just as Paul prayed for those he was working with in sharing the gospel, I do the same.

Wow! The last 6 months have flown by, and I'm filled with mixed emotions already...joy and gratitude to be in a learning setting with so many loving, caring, gracious people, and sadness as I think that these next months will fly by as well, and I'll be saying goodbyes before I even realize what happened.

I have already learned so much from Pastor Will and all of you, and hold these things close, and continue to discover new things about myself, people, and the ways God continually works in me and those around me.

I look forward to learning more from each of you...about you, your desires for Peace, the church at large, our community, and the ways God is working and moving in our lives. Thank you for sharing yourselves and the Peace community with me!

With joy and gratitude,  
Intern Pastor Ann

### Do You Have a Death Wish?

Join Intern Pastor Ann in 3 consecutive discussions about what it means to die well. Topics will include funeral planning, life-saving measures, wills, obituaries, assisted living, and nursing care. You will be provided with a workbook to use as a guide, so please RSVP so we know how many to print.

Saturdays at 3:45pm

March 9

March 16

March 23

Sundays at 11:15am

March 10

March 17

March 24



## Daylight Savings

Remember, Daylight Savings time change!

Mark your Calendar for Saturday March 9th and set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed.

*Spring must be right around the corner...*

## Congregational News

you would like to put down so that you can pick up a new way of walking?

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per with these 4 questions:

1. Am I driven by my love for Jesus?
2. Do I really love my family?
3. Do we love our people? Do we make time to be together?

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break mine?

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and take a little time to reflect on them. 7 years ago I taped these questions up in my of-  
Z]W'" =`cc\_`Uh'h\Ya 'Yj YfmXUm'H\j'g'g]a d'Y' dfUWjW'\Y'dg [ fci bX'a Y']b'; cXfj`cj Y'h\Uh'jg'  
ever present.

Join me in laying down old things that no longer work and picking up new practices that  
hi bY'ci f'\YUfhg'hc'; cXfj`cj Y'UbX`YUX]b[ "'@Ybh'jg'U'gYf]ci g'h]a Y'UbX'h]jg'U'gc'U'h]a Y'cZ'byk`  
life and great joy. Will you join me on this journey?

DYUWz

Will +

### Lenten Worship Schedule

The season of Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday service on March 6<sup>th</sup> this year. This service reminds us of our human frailty with the imposition of ashes with the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

During the season of Lent we will gather each Wednesday evening for soup supper at 6:00 pm. Worship will begin at 7:00 pm.

- Mar. 6<sup>th</sup>** Ash Wednesday service **Psalm 51**  
**Soup Host:** Congregational Life Committee  
Offering - Lutheran World Relief
- Mar. 13<sup>th</sup>** **Psalm 91** **Soup Host:** Various Circles  
Offering - Habitat for Humanity
- Mar. 20<sup>th</sup>** **Psalm 27** **Soup Host:** Church Council  
Offering - Peace Food Pantry
- Mar. 27<sup>th</sup>** **Psalm 63** **Soup Host:** Youth/Education  
Offering - Christikon
- Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup>** **Psalm 32** **Soup Host:** Mission and Service  
Offering - Amani for Africa
- Apr. 10<sup>th</sup>** **Psalm 126** **Soup Host:** Men's Breakfast  
Offering - Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry



## Worship News

### February Worship Themes

The season of Lent brings us some challenging teachings from Jesus. Let us put down all those things that separate us from our sisters and brothers and help us see them through Jesus' eyes.

*(Sermon focus texts are in bold.)*

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>** Transfiguration of Our Lord *Transfiguration*

**Readings:** Psalm 41:7-10 **Matthew 16:24-17:8**

*The Transfiguration: How does Jesus change? Maybe the better question is, "How does Jesus change us?"*

**March 6<sup>th</sup>** Ash Wednesday *The Greatest*

**Readings:** Psalm 51:1-17; **Matthew 18:1-9**

We love to argue about things that really do not matter. We fall into the grand tradition of disciples who can't clearly see what is right in front of us in the person of Jesus. When we seek to make ourselves great we diminish the cross.

**March 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>** First Weekend in Lent *Forgive*

**Readings:** Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; **Matthew 18:15-35**

*How often are we supposed to forgive? Is there a limit to God's forgiveness? Why can't I hold a grudge against that really terrible person? Jesus, why do you have to be so loving?*

**March 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>** Second Weekend in Lent *Fair and Just*

**Readings:** Psalm 27; **Matthew 20:1-16**

*I have often heard a complaint that someone has not "paid their dues." We often judge others by what we think they ought to do or have done already to deserve what we have. Does God look at us the same way?*

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>** Third Weekend in Lent *Hospitality*

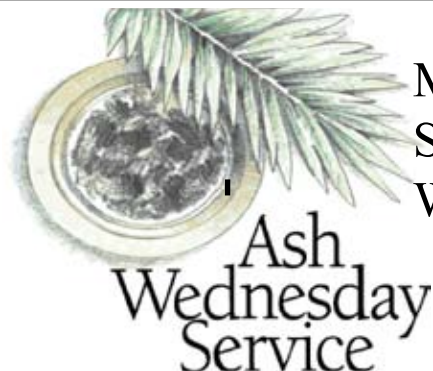
**Readings:** Psalm 63:1-8; **Matthew 22:1-14**

*I love celebrations. Birthdays, weddings, anniversary parties, baptisms, and any opportunity to gather with people to share joy. This week we hear about a celebration that didn't go as planned. Come and share the joy!*

**March 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>** Fourth Weekend in Lent *What are you waiting for?*

**Readings:** Psalm 43:3-4 **Matthew 25:1-30**

*What happens when things don't take place as we expect? What about the expectations of Jesus? We'll explore what Jesus expects.*



March 6<sup>th</sup>  
Soup supper 6:00 pm  
Worship 7:00 pm

The Lord is my light  
and my salvation  
whom shall I fear?

Psalm 27:1



## Mission and Service News

### Upcoming Mission & Service Opportunities to Watch For

The Mission and Service committee continues to offer many opportunities to serve others. Please consider praying for where you can personally be doing God's work with your hands, and pray for those who will actively participate.

Here are the upcoming Mission and Service opportunities.

→ **Lenten Offerings-** Lutheran World Relief, Habitat for Humanity, Peace Food Pantry, Christikon, Amani for Africa, Prison Ministry.



→ **World Water Day-** watch for more information on this March 22nd event.

→ **All Congregation Day of Service/Family Promise set-up-** Join us April 14th for our next round of sandwich making and setting up for the families from Family Promise.

→ **Spring Opportunities-** Watch for upcoming opportunities to support the Lutheran World Relief Quilt offering and Buck-a-Chick.

As a friendly reminder, all committees could always use new volunteers. Consider exploring the numerous committee opportunities available at Peace Lutheran.

**F**at Tuesday is March 5<sup>th</sup>! Join us from 5:30-7pm for pancakes, great fun, and great music. Invite your friends to this Peace tradition. There is no cost, but a free will offering will be received.



### SOUP SUPPERS ARE COMING

Do you have a favorite soup recipe or want to try out a new recipe?

Lenten soup suppers are coming beginning March 6th with Ash Wednesday. Look for the purple binder on the table in the narthex to either bring soup

for 30, simple dessert, rolls, or clean up. Many hands make light work. Soup will be served at 6:00 with worship to follow at 7:00. Come fellowship with us and share your food.



**S**ave Your Stamps- Congregational Life committee is asking that if you shop at Albertsons and are not collecting stamps for the Farberware Promotion please consider asking for the stamps with every \$10 purchase. We will then use those stamps for helping families who are moving out of Family Promise in setting up their new household. Please put the stamps in the envelope outside of the church office. Thank You



### FOOD DONATION WEEKEND

March 2nd & 3rd

We will be collecting for the  
**Peace Food Pantry,**

This month there is especially a need for single-serving canned fruit, canned meals with pull top lids, soup, cereal and granola bars.



# Congregational News

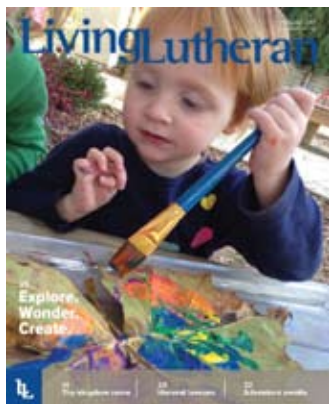
**Doughnuts and Coffee;** What a great time of fellowship we have after Sunday worship with Coffee and Doughnuts. We are looking for sponsors each week to defray the cost of the Doughnuts. The cost is \$32 per week. If you are interested the sign-up sheet is located in the narthex. Thank you!!



**Do you want to dig deeper into the word?** Join us March 13th at 7pm as we begin our study of the Gospel of Matthew. *[No Bible study Ash Wednesday March*

*6th]* Women and men, young and old are welcome! This Bible study will be meeting on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7pm.

**Living Lutheran Magazine** Please check the sign up in the narthex to renew your "Living Lutheran" subscription. New subscribers add your name, address and zip code to the list. The price is \$8.95 for the year. Make checks payable to Peace and either drop in the offering plate or in the office. Please note that it is for your subscription. Thanks



**Everyone is invited** Thursdays at 9 am for our mid-week / mid-morning Bible study. All are welcome to join for this weekly dive into God's word. We have started in the book of Romans. If you have questions contact Will.



## Christikon Clips March 2019

**Bus Attendants** needed for 2019 – Would you or someone you know be willing to ride with youth on their way to Christikon? Yes? Please call Kerry in the office at 406-656-1969 or email at [secretary@christikon.org](mailto:secretary@christikon.org) for details. I pays a daily rate as well.

**Don't miss out on the Early Registration Discount** for youth campers: [Register by March 15](#) and save \$25 in any youth session. If you don't have the camp brochure mailed to you, pick one up at the church, or register online.

Christikon is an extension your congregation's ministry

**Adults and families:** [Check out the special focus](#) for each of the family/adult weekends next summer at Christikon: work projects, faith formation, and Bible study will be woven together with worship, meal fellowship, re-creation, folk dancing, and much more. Family/adult brochures will be mailed by the end of February and are available at churches in early March, or check out camping for adults and families online at [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org).

*It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in Christ—  
exploring God's creation and the adventure of life together.*



# Congregational News

## Church E-mail Addresses



### Pastor Will

[prsappington@gmail.com](mailto:prsappington@gmail.com)

### Church Office

[peaceoffice@bresnan.net](mailto:peaceoffice@bresnan.net)

### Intern Pastor

[internpeace@gmail.com](mailto:internpeace@gmail.com)

### Youth Director

[peacelcyouth@gmail.com](mailto:peacelcyouth@gmail.com)

## Check out the web site:

[peacelutheranbillings.com](http://peacelutheranbillings.com). Web site is updated with, up to date calendar, newsletter in color, Youth page, and photo page.



## Church Council Minutes

The approved church council minutes are available at the bulletin board outside the church office. Thank you

Find us on facebook:  
Peace Lutheran Church, Billings MT

**Simply Giving Program** - Would you find it helpful to have your offerings taken from your bank account as you do other monthly drafts? Thrivent Financial for Lutherans sponsors a program called Simply Giving which offers this service for people who wish to have offerings transferred electronically to Peace Lutheran Church account. For those who travel, this is particularly helpful in keeping up with their intended offerings, and it will keep you from having to make up the difference later. Contact the church office for more details.



## Bible Studies

### The Regular schedule for Women's Circles returns:

**Ruth** Circle meets on the second Tuesday at 11:30 am at Hardees on 24th

**Martha** Circle meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall

**Deborah/Katie Circle** meets Second Saturday at 10:30 am at Peace

## Congregational Life Committee

The Congregational Life Committee is responsible to touch the lives of the people of Peace Lutheran Church by involving them in the life and ministry of the church. One of the most visible responsibilities is fellowship following worship services. We moved from asking service committee members to bring cookies, etc., to providing doughnuts from the IGA. So, the duties have been reduced and only one or two people are needed for each Sunday. We will continue to assign monthly service committees as we have done in the past. If we have a potluck or other congregational function during the month, the committee may be asked to help. A committee chairperson will be assigned each month and will ask committee members to help with the fellowship/coffee following Sunday worship.

## March Serving group

Bernie Mason, chair  
Steve Frank  
Gertie/Leroy Gross  
Paula/John Jackson  
Fern Schock  
Sandy Johnson  
Jacki Fayram  
Jerilyn Dukart  
Erica/Andrew Hayshida  
Luella/LeRoy Ketterling  
Donna Boeck



# Congregational News

**2018 Circles & Bible Studies:**

Everyone is welcome!

**Martha Circle**

Meets Third Wednesday, at 10:00 am  
in the Fellowship hall

**Deborah-Katie Circle**

Meets 2nd Saturday at 10:30 am  
at Peace

**Ruth Circle**

Meets second Tuesday at 11:30 am  
at Hardees on 24th

**Peace Lutheran Church Council**

President - Dewey Miller

Vice President - Dean Welliever

Secretary - Linda Strosky

Dewey Anderson - Abundant Life, Property

Mike Brown - Abundant Life, Property

Dave Draeger - Worship

Susan Finn - Congregational Life

Holli Miller - Congregational Life, Executive

Tony Peccarino -

Bryan Peterson- Mission & Service

Melissa Sider - Youth/Education, Executive

Linda Strosky- Mission & Service, Executive

Dean Welliever -

**Men's Breakfast and Bible Study**

Meets every

Wednesday at 6:30 am in the  
Fellowship Hall. New-comers  
and one-timers are  
always welcome



**Boards/Committees**

**St John's Ministries**

Rich Robbins

Rhonda Sappington

**Christikon**

Vanessa Steiger

Kaia Sappington

Mike Brown

**Lutheran Center**

Rhonda Hanson

Debbie Sider

**Shepherd Cluster**

Joan Brown

Bonnie Hovik Calusen

**Endowment Trustee**

Ed Popp Molly Johnson

Bernie Mason Rhonda Hanson

Dean Welliever

**Nominating Committee**

Dewey Anderson

Melissa Sider

Paul Strosky

Erl Barsness

Dave Draeger

**Questions about Council Activities?** If

you have any questions or comments  
regarding any council action - pending or  
complete - please contact

President Dewey Anderson

Vice-President Dean Welliever

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

**TURN IN  
YOUR ARTICLES  
EARLY!**

RE M I N D E R :

**DEADLINE FOR  
NEWSLETTER  
ARTICLES IS**

**March 21<sup>st</sup>**

Catch  
Worship  
Service  
Broad-  
cast on  
Community  
Channel 7  
Sunday Mornings  
at 9:00 am



# Education and Youth News

Vacation Bible School is right around the corner! The date is **Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**. Registration will go live on Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. Keep an eye on the Youth Office bulletin board.



## Attention Easter Egg Hunters:

Join us for our Easter Egg grab after both services on Easter Sunday! There will be plenty of eggs for everyone filled with candy and toys.

As well as our Easter Egg grab, we will be doing an eye-spy during worship time. Find Vanessa to get an eye-spy sheet, complete it, and return it to her for a prize! See you soon!

**Easter Sunday is April 21<sup>st</sup>**



### Fat Tuesday

March 5<sup>th</sup>

Join us from 5:30-7:00 p.m. for pancakes, great fun, and great music! Invite your friends to this Peace Lutheran tradition. There is no cost, but a free will offering will be received. All are welcome!



DYUW Mēi hāng  
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A note from Vanessa:

Thank you, thank you, thank you for all your support at the Youth Fundraiser this year. Through your donations and contributions to the silent auction baskets, dessert auction, and dinner, you helped Peace Youth raise \$2519.44 for our youth!

This money will help our youth go on a Mission Trip to Seattle this coming August. It will also help a few confirmation kids go to Christikon this summer.

Without the support of this congregation, this fundraiser would not have been possible. Thank you to those who helped make it possible.

A round of applause goes to your servers and their parents for helping clean and set up the day of. You all rock!

Thank You,  
Vanessa

## REFUEL MEALS

Lenten Soup Suppers will start March 6<sup>th</sup> and will run through Easter. Dinner will begin at 6:00 PM. Worship starts at 7:00 PM.

If you would like to sign up to bring soup, you can contact the Peace office, Will, or Vanessa. There is also a sign-up sheet located in the library.

@ There will be no Wednesday night youth activities on April 17<sup>th</sup>\*

# Community News

## Words from the Bishop:

### Youth going to Our Saviour's Rocky Boy

This weekend, led by Pastor Jason Asselstine, youth from around the Synod will be coming together for a mid-winter youth gathering at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church on the Rocky Boys Reservation. Our Saviour's is actually one of the oldest congregations in the Montana Synod, and it is one of the oldest Native American ministries in the ELCA. As a kid growing up in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, I knew about Our Saviour's in Rocky Boy because our congregation supported it. We had a mosaic map of the world in our narthex, with brightly colored squares where there were missionaries that we supported as a congregation. There were missionaries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America—and a single one in the United States-- Our Saviour's Rocky Boy. Little did I know that I would grow up, move to Montana, and become very well acquainted with Our Saviour's Rocky Boy.

The ministry at Rocky Boy has changed over the decades. The Rocky Boys Reservation was the last reservation to be set up in Montana—after much advocacy by people like the artist Charlie Russell and others. Eventually the Chippewa and Cree peoples were granted a reservation in the Bears Paw Mountains, north of Great Falls and south of Havre. When the Lutherans first came to the reservation there were few social services offered by the government. So the Lutherans provided services. In those days, if you had a need,



Montana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

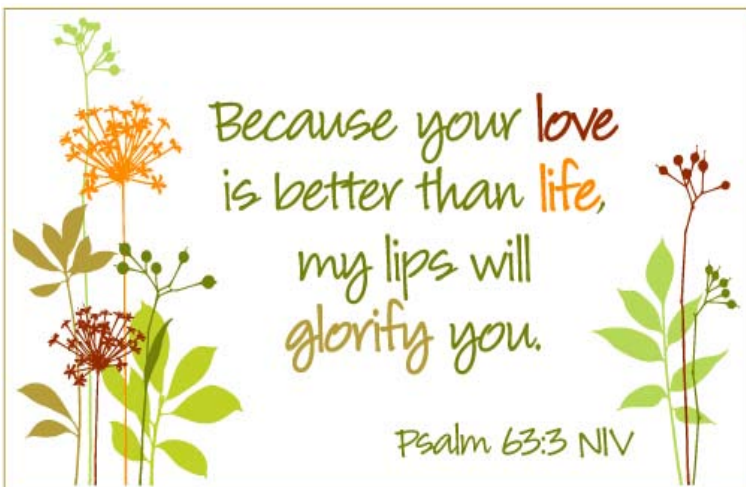
you went to "the mission" to get it filled. "The mission" also offered worship, Christian education and many of the activities that congregations everywhere offer.

Over the years the tribal government was able to provide more and more services that had previously been provided by the churches—both Lutheran and Catholic. Our Saviour's still provides layettes for newborns, a thrift shop, and other forms of outreach to the community. One year, when a flood destroyed buildings including the new health center, Our Saviour's was the FEMA distribution point. The "Big Church" is often used by the community for wakes and events, and the pastor is invited to teach in the tribal college.

Grants help programming—from a sewing group to a girls group, from food distribution to Vacation Bible School and camp scholarships.

Our Saviour's also serves the wider church, hosting immersion events and seminars for seminarians and congregations, and hosting servant groups. The Montana Synod youth going to Rocky Boy this weekend will get to learn about the Chippewa and Cree, and will also participate in a service project for a needy family. This can be a transformative experience. Keep our synod youth and their chaperones, Pastor Linda Webster and Pastor Jason Asselstine in your prayers. And consider making a visit to Rocky Boy yourself.

Jessica Crist, Bishop



## Congregational News

### **O**ur letters from Council Members continue: From Dewey Anderson

Do you know the God who knows and loves you?

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, in the Church of Peace Lutheran. I Dewey Anderson, A born sinner, like the apostle Paul, am the worst, bring you greetings from God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, my Savior and Lord.



I said I am a sinner, the bible says, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God", Romans 3:23, and it is written, "there is no one righteous, not even one." Romans 3:10.

I write to you with love, from what's on my heart with concern, with encouragement, and a personal story to ask the question, do you know and love the God who knows and loves you?

God knows you better than your parents, your brothers or sisters, your friends, your wife or husband, your children or your grandchildren.

God is the one who made you. God is the one who formed you in your mother's womb. God knows everything about you, even the number of hairs on your head.

You are no accident. You are no biological fluke. Jeremiah 1:5 says, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, before you were born I set you apart."

God knows and loves us so much and he has an eternal purpose for you and also for me. His purpose is that we trust Jesus Christ for our salvation from sin. In John 14:6-7 Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me you would know my Father as well."

How does God love you? There are so many ways that they all cannot be written down, but I know that there are hundreds of passages in the bible that tell us that. Here are two. John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." Romans 5:8 reads, "God demonstrates his own love for us in this, while we were still sinners Christ died for us."

Brothers and sisters, there are so many who go to their church or house of worship frequently and others sporadically. They go on Saturday nights and Sunday mornings. They sing the hymns, they go through the ritual of the liturgy, they recite the creeds, they pray the Lord's Prayer, with their mouths they honor God, but their hearts are far from him. Their hearts, their real selves are taken up with things of the world. Most in private have little time for God. They spend far more time watching television than they do reading the bible. They spend far more time looking at their iPhones, doing Facebook, Facetime and texting than they do in prayer. In fact most don't have time for God and they don't know the God that knows and loves them. Because they are caught up in all the other idols of the world as well.

## Congregational News

Brothers and sisters, if you don't know the God who knows and loves you, if you want to know God better and have a personal relationship with him, I encourage you to enroll yourself in God's classroom, the Bible. Nothing helps us or prepares us to know our loving God better than meeting with our Lord and listening to his voice in scripture. I also recommend you do the following: schedule a devotional time to do daily devotions. Choose your tools. A bible, a devotional book, like Christ In Your Home, pray, join a bible study group, and attend worship regularly. Use your tools. Start reading the bible. Read God's word until you get it. Verse by verse several times until you understand it.

Communicate with God through prayer. Attend church regularly to worship and honor God. Hear God's word spoken to you and sing praises to him.

Brothers and sisters, if you do what I encourage you to do I know that you will come to know the God that knows and loves you much better than you do now.

I know this will work from personal experience. There was a time that I did not know the God who knows and loves me. I went to church most every Sunday. I sang, I repeated the liturgy, I recited the Apostle's Creed, I prayed the Lord's Prayer, I knew John 3:16, and I said my nightly prayers. I honored God with my mouth. Other than that, I had little time for God. My heart was far from knowing and loving him. I was taken up with things of the world. I did not do devotions. I did not read God's word. I was too busy. That changed and so did my life many years ago when I started doing daily devotions, reading my bible, communicating with God through prayer, and attending bible studies. Now when I go to church, I go not to just be in attendance I go to hear God speak to me through his word. I sing praises to him. I go to see the cross as it is a reminder that God sent my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to suffer and die on the cross in my place, for my sins. I go to worship and honor the God who knows and loves me and the God that I know and love much better than I once did. I still am a work in progress as I daily learn more about our awesome loving God.

We are all valued. God knows all of his creation. God knows everything. No one needs to fill him in on our faults. Our sinful hearts overflow with evil, but the heart of God, our Savior, overflows with love for the worlds and each and every one of us. He sent his son to redeem us and Jesus suffered the penalty of death we deserved. Jesus was raised from the grave, from death, to give us life.

Remember God knows you. God loves you unconditionally. God always has and always will.

I Dewey Anderson, write this letter in my own hand. It is written with love, from my heart and it's an encouragement for all to get to know the God that knows and loves all of us much better.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.





## March 2019

1 Continue to remember, pray for and care for people who need warmth, shelter and nourishment, not just during the worst of the winter but throughout the year.

2 Pray that we lift our eyes to, recognize and respond to our neighbors in need, and follow with faith Jesus' teachings and admonitions to be attentive to others, compassionate, loving and just.

3 Lent is approaching, and our attention is being turned to Jesus' suffering, sacrifice, death and resurrection. Lift up humble, grateful prayers for God's mercy, love and forgiveness, which were fulfilled in Jesus Christ, son of God – our hope and salvation.

4 Lutheran Schools Week Give thanks for the life-changing impact of Lutheran schools, early-childhood programs, teachers, staff, administrators and sponsoring congregations committed to faith-based education across our church and communities. Pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association's work of supporting educators, schools and congregations as well as advocating for exceptional faith-based education.

5 Remember in prayer those college and university students who are participating in service, learning and mission experiences during spring break, especially through ELCA campus ministries.

6 Ash Wednesday Speak to God about the personal significance of the smudge of ash on your forehead, remembering our frailty and mortality and, at the same time, the gift of forgiveness and new life we have through Jesus Christ.

7 Pray for mercy, trusting in God's steadfast love and ability to cleanse us thoroughly – inside and out – from our sin, immorality and human failings.

8 International Women's Day Today the world celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women throughout history, across nations and throughout the church. Give thanks for the bold witness, service and leadership of women and girls in our church, and for the ministries of Women of the ELCA, the ELCA Women and Justice program and the International Women Leadership initiative.

9 Our God is great and awesome, and a lover of justice. Pray that our gratitude and what we learn from the word and ways of God are reflected with clarity and brightness in our lives, endeavors and relationships.

10 Forty days of Lent can seem like a long time to ponder our human weaknesses and the things we'd rather forget or deny. Ask God for strength to face daily temptations, the strength that Jesus demonstrated while being tempted and tormented in the wilderness; pray for faith that is confident in the power of the Spirit and God's mercy.

11 Continue to pray for people and communities recovering from disasters here and elsewhere in the world, and remember that rebuilding, economic recovery, and the healing of trauma and grief often take many years.

12 We believe God calls the church – corporately and individually – to care for God's creation, pursue justice, care for people in need and seek peace. Pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire, embolden and guide us in doing God's work in the world.

13 Give thanks for our weekly opportunities to gather together for Lenten meals, worship and reflection, and for how these experiences and disciplines help nourish our faith and strengthen the body of Christ.

14 Thank God for our special relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1997; pray for the church, its members and leaders, and pray that together we find strength and new resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

15 Give thanks and praise to God for offering us refuge and protection, especially those of us who feel weak, vulnerable, fearful or alone.



## March 2019

16 We ask God to work among leaders, nations and factions in conflict throughout the Middle East region, that they will find sure paths to peace, reconciliation, healing and justice for all people. We pray that the Holy Spirit will stir within us empathy, understanding and compassion for those who are caught in the middle of, or have simply fled, the violence, chaos, persecution and uncertainty.

17 Remember throughout Lent the suffering, trials and sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our salvation. Give thanks to God for this profound, boundless, undeserved work of love and mercy for our sake.

18 Praise God for the long-standing companion relationships that 20 ELCA synods maintain with 20 dioceses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania; pray that these communities nurture and strengthen one another for life and ministry through prayer, study, communication, exchange of visitors and sharing of resources.

19 Call on the Holy Spirit to tune our senses to the promises and reassurances of God, especially when we are uncertain, experiencing darkness or feeling ill-equipped for the challenges of life.

20 Give thanks for the beginning of spring, with its newness, hope and increasing light, and reflect with wonder and awe on God's creation.

21 Pray for all who suffer, grieve or lose hope; ask God to grant them relief, comfort and lasting hope through the indwelling of God's spirit; and pledge them our concern, assistance, encouragement and care.

22 Pray for rostered ministers and lay leaders serving ethnic-specific and culturally diverse congregations and ministries throughout the ELCA; ask God to equip, sustain and enthuse them for serving where God is at work in the world.

23 Give thanks and praise to God, who is our light and salvation, the stronghold of our lives and the source of our courage and confidence.

24 Remember in prayer Stephen Deal (ELCA regional representative in Central America), the Lutheran World Federation's Central America program and our companion churches in Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras and Costa Rica as they strive to share God's love and participate in God's mission together.

25 Pray that the Holy Spirit will teach us anew what it means to be humble, loving, hopeful and engaged with the world for the well-being of our neighbor.

26 Pray that, during Lent, our traditions, rituals and practices will be grounded in Scripture and Lutheran theology but also dynamic, connecting thoughtfully across the past, present and future.

27 What does your soul thirst for? Call on the Lord to satisfy your soul and sustain you with unwavering love.

28 Pray for farmers and ranchers, whose work follows the seasons, as spring beckons them to prepare the soil, plant and harvest crops, and tend to herds and orchards. Give recognition and thanks for all who have a hand in bringing food from field to table; pray that our abundant food resources reach those who are hungry and live in poverty; and pray that our agricultural technologies continue to evolve so we can feed the world while also stewarding creation.

29 Reflect on God's words: "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." Pray that, as attentive believers and disciples, we listen to and learn from God, the Spirit working to shape and reshape us throughout our baptismal journey.

30 Pray that, throughout Lent, we stay focused on the cross and Easter for the light, truth and good news of Jesus Christ that propel us forward in our baptismal journey with hope and joy.

31 Recall and give thanks for the experiences and people in daily life that shake us up, leading us to grow in faith and recenter our lives in God's grace.

# Peace Lutheran Church

Non-Profit Organization  
1301 Avenue D  
Billings, MT 59102-3196

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**God's Work.  
Our hands.**



**Lenten Worship Services  
Wednesday Evenings**

**March 6 - April 10**

**6:00 pm Soup Supper**

**7:00 pm Worship**