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MAY 2014

## PASTOR'S PEN

### "A Month of Celebrations"



As I look over the upcoming May calendar I see a number of celebrations that will take place. There will be high school and college graduations, Mother's Day, Confirmation Sunday, and Memorial Day celebrations to name a few. During the month of May we will welcome a large group of members to our congregation and will usher in the summer with our worship time change on Sunday, May 25 at 9:30 AM. We will also celebrate the baptisms of two of our youth, Hunter and Halle Spring.

What an exciting month we have before us! Celebration is at the heart of the Christian life. There are some who assume the Christian life is dull and boring, but it is anything but that. Christians have always had reason to celebrate as Christians gathered on the first day of each week to celebrate the Risen Christ. The Apostle Paul encouraged those who gathered in the early church to speak "to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5: 19-20).

I hope you will take part in the celebrations that await us. On Mother's Day (Sunday, May 11) we will be honoring all of the women in attendance with a free carnation. We give thanks to our mothers who have provided care and nurture throughout our lives.

Join us on Sunday, May 18 as we welcome seven youth into the membership of our church. These youth have met with me weekly for the past eight months learning about the Christian faith and how it is relevant in our lives. During this service, these youth will be sharing excerpts from their Statements of Faith, their personal expression of what the Christian life means to them. We will also be recognizing our graduating seniors on this day with cake and refreshments following church.

On Sunday, May 25 we will welcome in a nice class of new members. It is encouraging to see the church growing with new people and with that new ideas and personalities. We are grateful for the contributions that all of our members make within the life of our church family.

Are you ready to party? I am!  
Pastor Dave

### COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Church Clean-Up Day: Saturday, May 3 from 8:30-11:30 AM  
New Members Class Continues on Sunday, May 4 at 9:15 AM in Fireside Room  
Free flowers on Mothers Day: Sunday, May 11 following worship  
Confirmation/Youth Sunday to be celebrated on Sunday, May 18  
Summer worship time change begins on Sunday, May 25 at 9:30 AM  
Vacation Bible School will be held June 9-13 from 9:00—12:15 each day  
Youth Mission Trip to Denver: June 21-26. Talk to Orrin if interested

## MEMORY JOGGERS FOR MAY

<b>The 4th</b> <b>Preaching</b> Dave Thompson <b>Key Elder</b> Michelle Reed <b>Greeters</b> Jim Hummel Paige Spalding Eleanor Reinecke <b>Ushers</b> Jean Ross Doris Backus Diane Noddings Peg Ostlund <b>Liturgist</b> Carol Harr <b>Care Board</b> Ken & Ann Chase <b>Van Driver</b> Chuck Leggate <b>Sound Booth</b> David Bauer  <b>Communion</b> Don & Michelle Reed Sharon Lincoln Kathy Baskett Jeff Gruizenga	<b>The 11th</b> <b>Preaching</b> Jack Bell <b>Key Elder</b> Kathy Baskett <b>Greeters</b> Carl & Vickie Johnson Chris Eriksen <b>Ushers</b> Gary & Judy Lohnbakken Howard & Sharon Klovstad <b>Liturgist</b> Don Harr <b>Care Board</b> Sharon Lincoln <b>Sound Booth</b> Chuck Leggate	<b>The 18th</b> <b>Preaching</b> Dave Thompson <b>Key Elder</b> Marvin Brown <b>Greeters</b> Bob & Barbara Muir Jody Mercer Wallace <b>Ushers</b> Marlene Spencer Sharon Brady Marian Shehein Betty Ann Nesmith <b>Liturgists</b> Heather McLean <b>Van Driver</b> Kate Mitchell <b>Sound Booth</b> Jeff Gruizenga	<b>The 25th</b> <b>9:30 Worship Schedule Begins</b> <b>Preaching</b> Dave Thompson <b>Key Elder</b> Sharon Lincoln <b>Greeters</b> Marie & John Reamy Jo Albin <b>Ushers</b> Jim & Biff Hogue Ken & Barb Eichenberger <b>Liturgist</b> Jane Myrhe <b>Care Board</b> Phyllis Brown <b>Van Driver</b> Don Harr <b>Sound Booth</b> Bob Culbertson	<b>Substitute Ushers:</b> Pat Clark Kay Doss Tom & Ruth Drummond Ginger Green Tom & Ginny Helmer Earl & Sharon Henderson Biff Hogue Bob & Barbara Muir Jane Myhre (if no choir) Ray & Jean Noble Diane Noddings Charlie Reed Don Reed George Schuman Bill Woolston	<b>Substitute Greeters:</b> Ann & Ken Chase Kay Doss Tom & Ruth Drummond Ruth Ewen Bob & Linda Fedric Ginger Green Jeanie Hekkel Tom & Ginny Helmer Earl & Sharon Henderson Biff Hogue Midge Jarrett JoAnn Jones Walt & Priscilla Laird Bob & Barbara Muir Marge Myhra Jane Myhra (if no choir) Ralph Myhra (if no choir) Betty Ann Nesmith Ray & Jean Noble June Pierce John & Marie Reamy Charlie Reed Bob & Shirley Shirley Jerry Swanson Lucile Weisbeck Bill Woolston
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**Office Hours:**  
Mon—Thurs 8:30 am— 4 PM  
406-252-3434  
mainoffice@fpcbillings.org  
www.fpcbillings.org  
Sunday School @ 9:15 AM  
Worship Celebration @ 10:30

**STAFF**  
Pastor: Dave Thompson  
Office Manager: Jeanne Thompson-Raney  
Music Director: Denise Finn  
Student Intern for Youth Ministry: Orrin Feddes  
Choir Director: Janie Sutton  
Music Accompanist: Bev Wornom  
Custodian: Kent Fellingham

**SESSION MEMBERS**  
Clerk of Session:  
Marlene Spencer 252-5027

**Class of 2015**  
Kathy Baskett 544-9857  
Sharon Brady 655-9046  
Marv Brown 256-0257  
Jeff Gruizenga 850-3697

**Class of 2016**  
Samantha Cormier 245-9497  
Heidi Duncan 252-2373  
Jenice Fugere 252-9641  
Michelle Reed 252-5316

**Class of 2017**  
David Bauer 371-5075  
Ken Eichenberger 248-8563  
Sharon Lincoln 656-9014  
Sharon Mathews 696-5559

**FOOD BANK SUNDAY REMINDER**  
Our church was one of the first churches in Billings to designate a monthly Food Bank Sunday. We continue to promote it today as a way to raise awareness and food for the Billings Food Bank. We invite you to bring some non-perishable food items with you on the first Sunday of each month as we help local people in need.

**SESSION NOTES:**  
The session met on April 8<sup>th</sup>. All committees are busy with projects to ensure the smooth day to day operations and spiritual health of the church. Services are now held at the Ponderosa Pines home and Butterfly Nest home on a regular basis. Pastor Dave was given permission to lead the worship service at West Park Village once a month during the summer.  
Confirmation Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Approval was given for the baptisms of Hunter and Halle Spring, children of Joel and Lila Spring, during worship on that Sunday.

**FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT**

2014	INCOME	EXPENSE	NET
APRIL	\$ 130,682	\$ 25,068	\$ 105,614
YTD	\$ 243,726	\$ 136,300	\$ 107,426


**Our April income included a large donation from a family in our church. We appreciate the generosity of all who enable us to carry out the ministry of our congregation. Thanks!**

APRIL	2014
6TH	229
13TH	245
20TH (EASTER)	383
27TH	195
2014 MARCH AVERAGE	262
2013 MARCH AVERAGE	207

**UPCOMING CHURCH WOMEN UNITED GATHERING**  
**WHEN: MAY 2, 2014**  
**TIME: 12:00 PM**  
**EVANGELICAL UNITED METHODIST**  
**345 BROADWATER AVENUE**  
**406-259-6914**

**THE CHURCH MICE**

The church mice would like to recognize Margaret Converse this month. Margaret has been a long time member of our church and is so full of life and joy. She brightens each day with her warm smile and colorful hats. Margaret is active in our Presbyterian Women’s group and enjoys attending Church and Society class and worship. Margaret has been a wonderful ambassador to our church family and we are so grateful to have you as part of our fellowship!



**FLOWER SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Our flower sign-up sheet is located on the back table in the narthex. We invite you to sign up for a particular Sunday to sponsor the flowers either in honor or memory of someone or a special event such as an anniversary, birthday, etc. Suggested donation is \$25.  
Special thanks to those who donated flowers during the month of April. They included Bob & Cathy Culbertson (in celebration of David’s 20th birthday), the children of Sarah Repka (in celebration of Sarah’s 91st birthday), and all who donated our beautiful Easter lilies.

It’s Spring is here, or so it seems. The purpose is all about getting to know others in the congregation. Make it easy on everyone, whether it’s in the home of an outing, but make it easy.

If you find that you cannot host, give someone on your team to do the hosting. Do not let this time fall through There are times that you just cannot host an event, but someone else may be happy to do it, give them a chance. The **Host(s) (first name(s) in cell)** picks a couple of dates during the subject Month that is convenient for you and calls your guests. If you are short of guests (someone may not be able to come), fill in the spaces with new faces with substitutes listed below or anyone not involved in dinners of eight (don’t forget new members or older members). Let your guests know when and where to come and what side dish or beverage to bring if any. (If you do not hear from your host call them, they may have forgotten.)

This is a very flexible program. Any activities to accompany or follow your dinner are up to you. Even the dinner format can be modified to a brunch or whatever creative ideas you come up with including eating out.  
**Enjoy your dinners! It is not necessary to have 8 people for dinner, any number is OK. DO NOT MAKE IT HARD OR STRESS OVER IT. This is a fun time.**

If there are any questions or problems, etc., please notify Pat Hastings immediately at 696-0281 or [pathast@msn.com](mailto:pathast@msn.com) (be sure to title it Dinners of Eight). Please note any new names on the list or changes.  
Also, if you have a change in your email please let me know. I am getting some back.

**APRIL/MAY/JUNE**

Myhre	Ralph	Jane	652-9172	Ershine	Tom	656-0469
Lohnbakken	Gary	Judy	656-2046	Brown	Phyllis	652-3727
Lafko	Jody		651-8060	Repka	Sarah	238-0092
Wilson	Peggy		254-6726	Spring	BeBe	252-7898
Ascherman	Jason	Meghan	259-1336	Mercer-Wallace	Jody	656-4150
				Hogue	Jim	Biff 259-9114

Eichenberger	Ken	Barbara	248-8563	Fugere	Jenice	252-9641
Muir	Bob	Barbara	256-6099	Swanson	Jerry	Colleen 656-8104
Hastings	Pat		656-0072	Kline	Russ	Janet 652-6374
Hammermeister	Lewis		252-8963	Gore	Pam	694-6381
Albin	Jo		656-5600	Lorentz	Bill	Colleen 656-8163
Riggs	Thelma		652-0898			

Basket,	Kathy	Basingthwaite	544-9857	Drummond	Tom	Ruth	656-5977
Culbertson	Bob	Cathy	655-7826	Reed	Don	Michelle	252-5316
Brown	Marvin	Janet	256-0257	Morrow	Beth		656-2292
Montville	Chris	Michelle	281-4466	Brady	Sharon		655-9046
				Carlson	Edna		534-6211
				Pierce	June		245-7989
				Lorentz	Megan		855-5427

Substitutes							
Reineche	Eleanor		248-8293	Thompson	Dave	Vicki	252-2562
Leggate	Chuck	Cindy	896-0686	Jones	JoAnn		652-3185
Spencer	Marlene		252-5027	Dayton	Bob	Shari	256-3130
				Taubert	Carlene	Mark Parker	698-2205





We would like to that everyone who came to our 80<sup>th</sup> annual Praise Luncheon. It couldn't have been put on without the help of all of our PW members. Thank you so much. Your hard work and wonderful cooking is truly appreciated.

Items needed at the Gateway House include personal hygiene items such as shampoo, feminine products, deodorant and soap. There is a red and green box in the coat closet by the office for these donated items.

As this year comes to an end we are thankful for our time together and look forward to next year. Next year our study is called Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians. All women are welcome.



***Basket Auction Appreciation!!***



Thanks to all who made our youth basket auction on Sunday, April 6 a great success. \$6,500 was raised for our youth ministry programs that provide scholarships for retreats, mission trips, and special events. Over 40 baskets were donated this year, many being made by the youth from our congregation. We appreciate those who brought and bought baskets. With the success of our fundraising we have decided not to do the flower sales or the Travel Partner fundraisers this spring.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		2014		1 9-11 BSF 1 Mission Comm 5:30 Eagle Mount 6:30 PEO Marlene 7:00 CE Meeting	2 Church Office Closed  7 PM RMC Baccalaureate	3 8:30 Church Clean up 7-10 Gluten Intolerance Pancake Breakfast
4 9:15 Sun School New Members' Class 10:30 Worship Communion 11 WP Worship	5 6:30 Men's group 4 Deacons Mtg. 6 BCCA	6 8:15 Habitat house 8:45 Staff meeting 9:30 Women's Bible Study	7 9-11 BSF Ldrs 9:30 PW Board 10 Grief Group 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Rehearsal Pastor Dave on study leave through May 11	8 9-11 Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) 11 Fellowship Committee 4:30 Stephen Ministry Supervis Pastor Dave gone	9 Church Office closed  Pastor Dave gone	10 8:15 Habitat House build at 534 New-man Lane  Pastor Dave gone
11 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship Free flowers for Mother's Day 11:00 West Park	12 6:30 Men's Bible Study 10 Worship Committee	13 8:45 Staff Meeting 9:30 Women's Bible Study 12 Finance Comm 7 Session Meeting	14 9:30 PW Board 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Practice	15 Pastor Dave at COM meeting in Bozeman 8:15 Habitat house build	16 Church Office Closed	17 8:15 Habitat House build at 534 New-man Lane
18 9:15 Sun School 10:30 Worship Confirmation/graduation Sunday celebrated	19 6:30 Men's Bible Study	20 8:15 Habitat build 8:45 Staff Meeting 9:30 Women's Bible Study	21 PW Circles meet throughout the day 6 Youth Group 7 Choir Practice	22 Newsletter Submission Deadline 4:30 Steph. Min 3:30 Butterfly Home service	23 Church office closed	24 8:15 Habitat House build at 534 New-man Lane
25 Summer Worship Hours Begins 9:30 Worship New members' received	26 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	27 8:15 Habitat House 8:45 Staff Meeting  4 PM Ponderosa Pines Nursing Home	28	29	30 Church Office Closed	31 8:15 Habitat House build at 534 New-man Lane

***Youth News***

Our first annual Easter Eggtravaganza was a hug success with our Easter egg hunt and bike give away. Lots of kids came to find over 300 Easter eggs. Congratulations to Mara Duncan who won the gift card for a new bike.



We are proud to recognize our graduating high school seniors. They are Tristen Nagel (Senior High School), Boden Lafko (West), Jacob Schoenberger (West), Tamara Lucht (West), and Ethan Bailly (Skyview). We also recognize Catherine Kinney (RMC) and Leah Wright (MSU) who are graduating from college. If we have missed any graduates, we apologize.

On Sunday, May 18 we will welcome the following confirmation youth into the membership of our congregation. They are: Haley Kouba, Bryen Martinez, Coryn Martinez, Emma McLean, Jacob Nagel, Hunter Spring, and John Thompson. Hunter and his sister Halle will be baptized on this special day as well.

VBS is coming June 9-13 from 9-12:15 each day All preschool through 5th graders are invited us for a fun and exciting week at Vacation Bible School. Watch for registration forms at the church and also on-line.

The Youth Mission Trip is scheduled for June 21-26. All 9-12 grade youth are invited to join us for our summer trip to Denver. We will be working with The Door, an inner city mission agency. If you are interested in going with us, please contact Orrin.

**CHURCH AND SOCIETY SCHEDULE FOR MAY**

Our Church and Society guests for the coming month will be:

May 4: Jerry Traylor, International Inspirational Speaker and Author. Born with cerebral palsy, Jerry has completed 35 marathons, climbed Pikes Peak, and jogged across the United States, all on his crutches. Having spoken to over 1 million people in 4,000 presentations, he will tell of his spiritual journey. In his talks he inspires people to achieve difficult goals and help better the workplace and community, rather than try to change permanent physical disabilities.

May 11: Reno Charette, Director of the American Indian Outreach Office at MSUB, will talk about "Accepting Change." Ms. Charette will discuss ways in which American Indians can succeed by accepting change. Formerly the Coordinator of Indian Affairs for Montana during the Sweitzer administration, she has a long work history in higher education. She is a member of Ties-in-Bundle clan of Crow Nation and is a descendent of the Pembina band of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa.

May 18: Nikki Schaubel, Chief Development Director for the Center for Children and Families. The Center is a Behavioral Health and Child Well-Being Agency, serving vulnerable families and children. Nikki will discuss how they work with children with emotional disturbances, severe behavioral problems, and parent-child bonding concerns. The Center also provides programs including chemical dependency treatment and services for incarcerated parents and their families, in addition to advocating for systems improvements that benefit children and families.

**Summer worship schedule changes on Sunday, May 25**

Our summer worship schedule will begin on Sunday, May 25 with worship at 9:30 AM. This schedule will continue through Labor Day weekend. Hope you will join us for worship during the summer months when you are in town.





MISSION NEWS

We would like to thank everyone who helped with our last Meet and Eat. We made meals for the Habitat House crew, sandwiches for the Salvation Army, and started knitting and crocheting hats for cold heads. There is a plastic box in the coat closet near the office for hats. Sue will try to keep some yarn and patterns in the box. You are welcome to take what is in there without asking. Then please put your finished hats back into the box. Thank you.

We will be conducting a chapel service at the Ponderosa Pines Home every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday or the month at 4:00 PM. We welcome and encourage you to join us.

We will soon have a food drive at our church to provide items for the food pantry at the Peace Lutheran Church. Peace Lutheran houses a “School Break Food Pantry.” They give food to whoever needs it, especially children who are not getting school lunches during the summer. We will be helping them stock their shelves.

The foods that are most requested are things with pop-tops that don’t need can openers. Things that are nutritious and include different food groups are great. Canned vegetables, soups, meat, and pastas are very welcome. Instant and dehydrated foods such as tuna helper, mashed potatoes, mac and cheese are good. Also things like peanut butter, jam (in plastic squeeze bottles), crackers, fruit cups, granola bars, and packets of hot coco are great. We have a complete list on the mission bulletin board.



Kids help weigh the 223 pounds of coins that was received on Easter Sunday for the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Thanks to all who gave!

Our annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering brought in a whopping 223 pounds of coins and a total dollar amount of \$2,374. Thanks to all who contributed by collecting coins in their fish boxes and by donating “silent money” as well. These funds go to support the less fortunate.

Work continues on the house that we are sponsoring to build for Michelle O’Neal and her family. Michelle was in church with us on Sunday, April 27 and received the blankets made by those in our church and youth group. Michelle is very grateful for the house sponsorship and blankets. The house dedication is planned for June 30 at the residence on Newman Lane. We are excited to complete this house and turn the keys over to Michelle. If you would like to help with the build, please contact Pastor Dave.

Our youth group has been leading monthly worship services at the Montana Rescue Mission. If you would like to help with any of these services (held the last Wednesday of each month from 6:15-7:00 PM please contact Pastor Dave.

**SCHOOL BREAK FOOD PANTRY**

Availability Hours:  
Sunday: 9:00 am - 11:30 am  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday Friday:  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Saturday: 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Directions To Pantry:  
Take the stairs up to the Food Pantry  
Please fill a grocery bag with food.

*May God Richly Bless You*

Peace Lutheran Church  
"Make Christ Available to All"

May Birthdays

- 2 Cindy Hessler  
Royal Johnson  
Ralph Myhre
- 5 Joanna Janiak
- 6 Cathy Culbertson  
Marty Wallace
- 7 Linda Fedric  
Christopher Montville
- 9 Heidi Duncan
- 12 Bill Dimich
- 13 Lois Munger

- Bill Castberg
- 18 Vickie Johnson  
Ken Eichenberger
- 19 Jeff Gruizenga
- 20 Matt Lorentz
- 22 Royal Johnson
- 23 Meiriona Anacker
- 24 Dave Nusbaum
- 25 Amanda Webber
- 26 Marian Rudolf
- 29 Ruth Van Fossen
- 30 Mary Rivers

- Alta Dakolios
- Anniversaries**
- 12 Bob & Cathy Culbertson
  - 14 Greg & Deb Wiens
  - 19 Bill & Sharon Dimich  
Carl & Vickie Johnson
  - 22 Ray & Jean Noble
  - 23 Earl & Sharon Henderson
  - 25 Gary & Judy Lohnbakken
  - 30 Bob & Linda Fedric

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Denise Finn continues to recover from a fractured vertebrae. She appreciates the many thoughts and prayers during her recovery.

“A special thank you for your cards, phone calls, flowers, meals, visits and prayers. To Pastor Dave for his hospital visits and to the outstanding doctors and hospital staff who assisted me during my recovery from heart surgery. I feel very blessed. I hope to return to church very soon.” —Ruth Kaufman

Bob and Cathy Culbertson invites the congregation to help them celebrate their 30th Wedding Anniversary on May 11th by joining them for cake after church in the Fellowship Hall.

Orrin Feddes, our church’s Student Intern in Youth Ministry, will graduate from Yellowstone Christian College on Saturday, May 10 at 10 AM. All are invited to the celebration at 1515 South Shiloh Road.

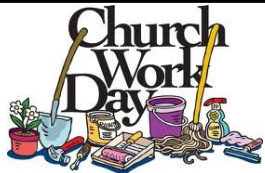
We are excited to welcome a large class of new members. They will be introduced during worship on Sunday, May 25. Join us as we welcome our newest class of members.

Pictorial Directory Update

Our new church pictorial directory should be arriving within the next month. We will keep you posted as to their arrival date and will get the directories out to you as soon as possible. We appreciate your patience as we have had several delays in getting this directory printed.

Church Clean-Up Day is coming Saturday, May 3 from 8:30-11:30 AM

Join us on Saturday, May 3 from 8:30-11:30 AM as we spruce some things up around the church. We will have both inside and outside work to do. Your help would be greatly appreciated, even if you can only give us an hour or two.



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP CONTINUES EVERY MONTH

A grief support group within our church continues to meet the first Wednesday of each month from 10-11 (please note new time!) in the fireside room. This group is open to anyone in the church or community who is experiencing grief. Facilitated by Dr. Don Harr, this group will provide support and help to those facing grief.

Stephen Ministry Update

A dedicated group of Stephen Ministers continue to reach out to people in our church by providing one on one caring relationship. If you could use or know of someone who could benefit from a Stephen Minister, please contact Doris Backus, Michelle Reed, or Pastor Dave. Current Stephen Ministers meet for supervision the second and third Thursdays at 4:30 PM.



Upcoming Events

The Senior Singles are meeting at Perkins on North 27<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM on Saturday, May 17. We have the private room in the northeast corner. Bring a friend. We visit and eat.

Gluten Free Breakfast will be held at our church on Saturday, May 3 from 7:00-10:00 AM. Tickets can be purchased at the church with all proceeds going to the Gluten Free Group. For more information please contact Joan Dannenberg at 259-4907

Global Village will be on display at Valley Federal Credit Union Atrium on Saturday, May 17 from 5:30-7:30 PM. Free trade items will be on sale to help people in 3rd world countries.

A fundraiser for Jolene Georgeson will be held at In Good Glazes (located at 2010 Grand Ave.) on Sunday, May 4 from 12-3 PM. Jolene, an employee of the YMCA, is a friend of several of our church members and is battling cancer. A silent auction will also be held to help raise funds for Jolene’s medical expenses.