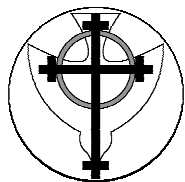


# Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church



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## Welcome

Welcome to the Lord's House this morning for the Funeral Service of Connie J. Cook. Connie was born on February 5, 1948 in Alma, MI. She was born again from above by water and the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on February 5, 1956 at Alma United Methodist Church in Alma, MI, with Pastor Charles Hahn officiating. Her mother, Lucile, was released from Alma United Methodist Church and became a Charter Member of Peace Lutheran in Alma, MI in December of 1962. Connie was Confirmed at Peace on June 25, 1967, with Pastor Ronald Mueller officiating. She loved, and was committed to, her Church Family and remained a faithful member of Peace until she was called home by our Lord this past Friday, December 2, 2011. It goes without saying that Connie will be dearly missed. But, we rejoice this morning, even in the midst of our sorrow, for we know that she now wears the crown of glory and enjoys unspeakable peace, joy, and comfort with the Lord and all His saints and angels in the paradise of heaven. Therefore, our Service this morning is a celebration of the life Connie now lives in heaven; the same life which awaits all who have faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

## A Note About Today's Service

You will not need a hymnal to follow the Service this morning as the entire Service has been printed out in the bulletin for your convenience. However, should you desire to use the hymnal for the hymns, the numbers are provided.

## Committal and Luncheon

Immediately following the Service, all are invited to process to Riverside Cemetery in Alma for the Committal. A luncheon provided by our Ladies' Guild will be provided in our Fellowship Hall upon return from the cemetery. Those not desiring to process to the cemetery are invited to wait in our Fellowship Hall, where beverages will be served, until all return from the cemetery and the luncheon is served.

## Our Mission Statement

The mission of Peace Lutheran Church is to welcome all people into the fellowship of God's love by proclaiming the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ and to nurture our members with God's Holy Word and Sacraments.

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COLORED BULLETIN COVER IS USED]

# The Funeral Service of

Constance Jo Cook (2/5/48—12/2/11)

6 December Anno † Domini 2011

[Jesus said:] *“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”* (John 5:24)

## The Prelude and Ringing of the Bells

*(Please stand at the Ringing of the Bells and face the processional cross. It is customary to continue facing the cross as it is processed in, and to bow your head and make the sign of the cross in reverence and admiration to the Lord as it passes your pew. The same applies for the recessional as Service concludes.)*

## The Processional Hymn: LSB 507 “Holy, Holy, Holy”



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!  
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore Thee,  
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide Thee,  
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our shall rise to Thee;  
Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
Though the eye of sin - ful man Thy glo - ry may not see,  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,  
On - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee,  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
Which wert and art and ev - er - more shalt be.  
Per - fect in pow'r, in love, and pu - ri - ty,  
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

# Comfort from God's Holy Word

*“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal”* (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

*“. . . as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain”* (Philippians 1:20-21).

*“But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep* (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14).

*“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me’”* (John 14:1-6).

# Serving Our Lord Today

## The Presiding Minister

Rev. Thomas C. Messer, Pastor

## The Organist

Mary Jakolat

## The Crucifer

Elder David Zeile

## The Lector

Elder Larry Elliott

## The Ushers

Vern Jakolat

Gary Miller



✝ Rest eternal, grant Connie, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon her! ✝

## The Invocation

The sign of the cross ✝ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## The Remembrance of Baptism

**P** In Holy Baptism, Connie Cook was clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all her sin. St. Paul says: "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?"

**C** We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.

## The Entrance Hymn: LSB 601 "All Who Believe and Are Baptized"



1 All who be - lieve and are bap - tized Shall see the Lord's sal - va - tion;  
2 With one ac - cord, O God, we pray: Grant us Your Ho - ly Spir - it.



Bap - tized in - to the death of Christ, They are a new cre - a - tion.  
Help us in our in - fir - mi - ty Through Je - sus' blood and mer - it.



Through Christ's re - demp - tion they shall stand A - mong the glo - rious,  
Grant us to grow in grace each day That by this sac - ra -



heav'n - ly band Of ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion.  
ment we may E - ter - nal life in - her - it.

Text and Music: Public Domain



## The Kyrie

- P** Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**C** Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

## The Salutation and Collect of the Day:

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with your spirit.

- P** Let us pray:

O God of grace and mercy, we give thanks for Your loving-kindness shown to Connie and to all Your servants who, having finished their course in faith, now rest from their labors. Grant that we also may be faithful unto death and receive the crown of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

*Sit*

## The Old Testament Reading

*Job 19:21-27*

<sup>21</sup>“Have mercy on me, have mercy on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me! <sup>22</sup>Why do you, like God, pursue me? Why are you not satisfied with my flesh?”

<sup>23</sup>“Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book! <sup>24</sup>Oh that with an iron pen and lead they were engraved in the rock forever! <sup>25</sup>For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. <sup>26</sup>And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, <sup>27</sup>whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!”

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.

- C** Thanks be to God.

## The Psalm

*Psalm 23*

- A** We pray the 23rd Psalm together:

- C** **The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Amen.**

## The Recessional Hymn: LSB 677 “For All the Saints”



1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;  
3 Oh, may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,  
4 Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!  
5 And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,  
6 The golden evening brightens in the west;  
7 But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day: The  
8 From earth’s wide bounds, from ocean’s farthest coast, Through



Who Thee by faith be-fore the world confessed, Thy  
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;  
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old And  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine; Yet  
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song, And  
Soon, soon to faithful warriors com-eth rest;  
saints triumphant rise in bright array; The  
gates of pearl streams in the countless host,



name, O Je-sus, be for-ev-er blest.  
Thou, in the dark-ness drear, their one true light.  
win with them the vic-tor’s crown of gold!  
all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.  
hearts are brave a-gain, and arms are strong.  
Sweet is the calm of par-a-dise the blest.  
King of Glo-ry pass-es on His way.  
Sing-ing to Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost:



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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## The Postlude

*Soli Deo Gloria!*

## The Reading of the Obituary/Announcements

### The Obituary of Constance Jo Cook

Miss Constance Jo Cook was born on Thursday, February 5, 1948 at Smith Memorial Hospital in Alma, Michigan, the third of four children of Harold J. and Lucile M. Cook. On Friday, December 2, 2011, she passed away at The Laurels of Mt. Pleasant, MI and left this earthly life to join and celebrate with the angels in Heaven and her Creator.

Connie was a warm and engaging person who loved people. Working for years for her parents at Cook's Office Supplies on Gratiot, then at Cook's Office Products on Superior Street, was one of her delights as she mingled and worked alongside family and longtime friends as co-workers. She graduated from Alma High School in June of 1966. She later graduated from Lansing Business University in Lansing, MI. She joined a sorority while at LBU, one of the greatest highlights of her life. Also, Connie was an active member of the Alma Business and Professional Women's Club and had a lifelong commitment to her Church and Church Family at Peace Lutheran Church.

Connie worked for several years at JC Penney's, and lived in the Heather Court apartments as long as she was healthy enough to live on her own. Heather Court gave her more independence and greater self-confidence; she was totally thrilled with her little apartment and her feline companion!

Connie loved her pets with a great passion, over the years, both dogs and cats. She loved and cared for them as a loving parent cares for their children. She also had many hobbies, which kept her busy when she was not working. She enjoyed sewing, needlework and knitting. Connie was a cheerful, giving person all of her life, sharing what little she had with others. At Christmas time, she delighted in surprising friends with her homemade candies in dishes that she decorated herself. She loved craft projects and word puzzles. She was a happy person and delighted in the simple things in life.

Connie is survived by her brother Dave Cook of Escanaba, MI, nephew Chad Cook of Houghton, MI, brother Rob (Dr. Maria Bruno) Cook of Alma, MI, nephew, Will Cook of Brookline, MA, sister, Nancy Kay Stringer of Alma, MI, niece and nephew Heather and Sean Stringer of Atlanta and Chicago respectively. Connie was predeceased by her parents.

For further family thoughts, please visit Rob's blog (<http://rebeatsblog.blogspot.com>). Connie's family celebrates that she is now whole, at peace, and no longer suffering from her prolonged illness.

Donations may be made in Connie's honor to Peace Lutheran Church.

*Stand*

## The Epistle

*Romans 8:31-39*

<sup>31</sup>What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## The Triple Alleluia



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

## The Holy Gospel

*John 10:11-18*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>11</sup>[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

<sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## The Apostles' Creed

- P** God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ.  
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
- I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life  $\text{✠}$  everlasting. Amen.

*Sit*



## The Nunc Dimittis

- P** “I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord. “He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.”
- C** Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace;  
Your Word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which You have prepared in the sight of every people:  
a light to reveal You to the nations  
and the glory of Your people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- P** “I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord. “He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.”

## The Concluding Collect

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And with your spirit.
- P** Let us pray:  
Lord God, our shepherd, You gather the lambs of Your flock into the arms of Your mercy and bring them home. Comfort us with the certain hope of the resurrection to everlasting life and a joyful reunion with those we love who have died in the faith; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## The Benedicamus and Benediction

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.
- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.
- C** Amen.
- P** Let us go forth in peace,
- C** in the name of the Lord. Amen.

*Sit*

## Hymn: LSB 801 “How Great Thou Art”



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er  
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the  
3 But when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to  
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y  
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; When I look down from loft - y moun - tain  
die, I scarce can take it in— That on the cross my bur - den glad - ly  
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;  
gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;  
bear - ing He bled and died to take a - way my sin;  
ra - tion And there pro - claim: “My God, how great Thou art!”



*Refrain*  
Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee, How great Thou



art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

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*Stand*

## The Lord's Prayer

**P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

**C** **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## Hymn of the Day: LSB 461 “I Know That My Redeemer Lives”



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com - fort  
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -  
3 He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to  
4 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; He lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who  
ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious  
plead for me a - bove; He lives my hun - gry  
guide me with His eye; He lives to com - fort



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.  
in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.  
soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.  
me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.

5 He lives to silence all my fears;  
He lives to wipe away my tears;  
He lives to calm my troubled heart;  
He lives all blessings to impart.

6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;  
He lives and loves me to the end;  
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;  
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

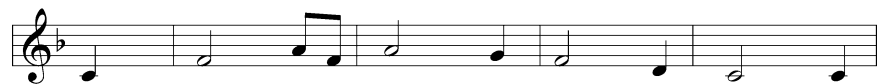
7 He lives and grants me daily breath;  
He lives, and I shall conquer death;  
He lives my mansion to prepare;  
He lives to bring me safely there.

8 He lives, all glory to His name!  
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;  
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:  
I know that my Redeemer lives!

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**The Sermon:** “The Good Shepherd Knows His Sheep” (John 10:11-18)

## The Hymn of Response: LSB 744 “Amazing Grace”



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That  
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but  
 Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and  
 have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me  
 mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall  
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!  
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.  
 safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.  
 then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.  
 sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

Tune: Public domain

*Stand*

### The Prayer of the Church

**P** Let us pray to the Lord, our God and Father, who raised Jesus from the dead: Almighty God, You have knit Your chosen people together into one communion in the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Give to Your whole Church in heaven and on earth Your light and Your peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life and so pass with Him through the gate of death and the grave to our joyful resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Grant that all who have been nourished by the holy body and blood of Your Son may be raised to immortality and incorruption to be seated with Him at Your heavenly banquet. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Give to the family of Connie and to all who mourn comfort in their grief and a sure confidence in Your loving care that, casting all their sorrow on You, they may know the consolation of Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Give courage and faith to the bereaved, that within the communion of Your Church they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the assurance of a holy and certain hope and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love who have departed in the faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and find comfort in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Receive our thanks for Connie and for all the blessings You bestowed on her in this earthly life. Bring us at last to our heavenly home that with her we may see You face to face in the joys of paradise. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** O God of all grace, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give You thanks that by His death He destroyed the power of death and by His resurrection He opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Strengthen us in the confidence that because He lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life nor things present nor things to come will be able to separate us from your love, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

