

The Peace Post

Peace Lutheran Church ~ Alma, MI

December, 2010

Peace Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We believe, teach, and confess the doctrine of the evangelical, catholic faith as it is taught by Holy Scripture and faithfully confessed in the Book of Concord of 1580. We are committed to the pure preaching of God's Word and the right administration of the Holy Sacraments, catechesis of all people in the Christian faith, and liturgical worship consistent with our Reformation heritage. We are an evangelical, orthodox, and catholic congregation, proclaiming Jesus Christ crucified, risen, and reigning for the salvation of the world!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| "Divine Humility and Love"..... | 1-2 |
| Advent Sermon Series..... | 3 |
| Installation of Officers..... | 3 |
| Christmas Services at Peace..... | 3 |
| Test Christmas Knowledge..... | 4 |
| Midnight Mass Homily..... | 5 |
| Christmas Movie Marathon..... | 6 |
| Supporting the Mission..... | 7 |
| Council Minutes..... | 8 |
| Update from Treasurer..... | 9 |
| Peace News & Notes..... | 10-12 |
| Ladies Guild Info..... | 13 |
| Christian Education..... | 14 |
| Birthdays & Anniversaries..... | 14 |
| Parochial Report..... | 14 |
| December Calendar..... | 15 |
| Serving in December..... | 16 |



From the Desk of Pastor Messer "Divine Humility and Love"

Not a palace, but a stable. Not a cushioned crib, but a feeding trough for animals (a manger). Not in a rich powerful city, but in lowly Bethlehem. Not to rich, powerful, royal, and influential parents, but to a simple carpenter and lowly maiden. Not with great fanfare, pomp, and circumstance, but while the world slept unaware—the only announcement made by the angels to shepherds in the fields. This is how the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity made His entrance into our flesh in order to bear our sins and be our Savior. It is nothing short of amazing! Hearing the remarkable details of our Lord's birth never gets old, which is why the Church continues to sing, "Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth" ("Savior of the Nations, Come" - LSB 332, st. 1).

Marvel, indeed! God is born a baby! The Eternal Word of the Father, the very Creator of all things, the One who spoke creation into existence, descends from heaven to be born into His creation. In Mary's arms, nursing from her breasts, is God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God. He humbles Himself to assume our human flesh and become dependent upon the milk of His mother and the care of his earthly father, even while He continues to hold the entire universe in His tiny little hands. If this does not cause you to marvel, nothing will!

The Divine Humility of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, is truly a marvelous thing to behold. The holy angels are taken aback by it and long to delve into what they perceive to be the mystery of mysteries. They have seen the One who lies seemingly helpless in a manger in all His glory. They know Who this Baby named Jesus really is, and it amazes them to see Him in this manner. Not only that, but they know the reason God takes on human flesh and is born into this dead and dying world, namely to save sinful humanity, and they cannot help but sing His praises. As they gaze upon Almighty God, their Lord and Master, wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a dirty, feeding trough, they marvel not only at His Divine Humility, but at His Divine Love for sinful mankind, for it is that Divine Love which moved Him to subject Himself to such humility.

The Divine Humility and Love we see on display in Bethlehem on that Holy Night long ago continued to be exemplified in our Lord Jesus throughout His salvific pilgrimage to our sinful world. He did not come seeking honor and fame, but to serve and love God and neighbor completely and perfectly in our place. He did not come to



conquer the world and establish a mighty earthly empire, but to do battle with, and defeat, sin, death, and the devil on our behalf. He did not come to be served, but to serve. The One who chose to be born in such low estate lived in poverty throughout His time here, relying upon His Father to provide for His every need. He had no place to lay His head. He had no accumulation of material possessions. There was nothing about His appearance that would draw people to Him. In short, the Divine Humility we witness at His birth continued throughout His earthly life.

Of course, the ultimate picture of our Lord's Divine Humility and Love is seen in Jerusalem thirty-some years after His ignoble birth. We see it when He washes the feet of His disciples. We see it when He sweats blood while praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, submitting to His Father's will. We see it when He submits to being arrested. We see it when He is spit upon, beaten, mocked, and severely flogged. We see it in His silence before Caiaphas and Pilate. We see it when He carries His own cross to Golgotha outside the city gates. We see it when He allows Simon of Cyrene to assist Him in carrying His cross. We see it when the nails are driven through His hands and feet. We see it when He hangs on that cruel instrument of torture, gasping for air. We hear it in the Words He utters from the cross, and we see it when He takes His last breath and dies.

And it's all amazing; it's all something to most definitely marvel over, for this is God Himself, Incarnate in human flesh, Who is born in such low estate, lives in such poverty, and dies such a heinous death. It becomes all the more amazing (if it's possible to ponder anything more amazing than God living and dying as a Man) when we consider that He did it all for us—for you, for me. He humbled Himself and assumed human flesh to live as your substitute; to hunger and thirst as you hunger and thirst; to be tempted as you are tempted; to experience pain and suffering as you experience pain and suffering; to be mocked and suffer injustice as you are mocked and suffer injustice; to even suffer death as you suffer death. All of it because He loves you with a Divine Love beyond our human comprehension. All of it to rescue you from the eternity you deserve because of your sins. All of it to win for you forgiveness, life, and salvation. All of it because He desires that you spend eternity with Him in perfect peace, comfort, and joy.

Dearly beloved, as we enter the holy season of Advent and make our way to Bethlehem to celebrate our Savior's birth, let us take our cue from the holy angels and ponder the mystery of our Lord's Incarnation. Let us follow the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary and treasure this mystery in our hearts, pondering with great wonder and joy the reason our God humbled Himself to be born into this sinful world in our human flesh. He came to live and die for you, dear friends, each and every one of you. In Divine Humility and Love, He came to save you by living the life you fail to live and by dying the death you deserve to die for your sins. This is the true "reason for the season," the true meaning of Christmas.

But, let us not stop at pondering and treasuring up in our hearts this great mystery, as if this was all just some bygone story to be cherished, remembered, and passed on to others. This is no legend or fairy tale or epic saga to warm our hearts and lift our spirits as we roast chestnuts around the fire. This is no "Hallmark Special" to talk about as we sip our eggnog and open presents. Our Lord lives! His Divine Humility and Love is still on full display and still as active today as it was two millennia ago, for the same God who assumed human flesh and was born of the Virgin Mary, the same God who lived to serve and love God and neighbor, the same God who allowed Himself to be treated shamefully and put to death, continues to come to us in Divine Humility and Love as we gather in His Name for Divine Service. It should not surprise us that He makes no flashy appearance in our midst, but instead comes among us humbly and hiddenly, wrapped in the swaddling cloths of His Holy Word and Sacraments. That's His way. And He comes to us in Divine Humility and Love to deliver the forgiveness, life, and salvation He accomplished for us. This, too, is the meaning of Christmas.

"Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth." Yes, marvel away at that! But, marvel, too, that our Lord chooses to continue to meet us in His Church in Divine Humility and Love to deliver to us His Divine Gifts. Marvel and come, at His gracious invitation, to receive His Gifts and to be filled with His Divine Humility and Love!

A Holy, Blessed, and Merry Christmas to you all!

In Christ,

Pastor Messer

Advent Sermon Series

The Holy Mountain of the LORD Is . . .

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Wed, Dec. 1, 7 pm | Ad Te Levavi Midweek Divine Service | “ . . . Established by the Holy Gospel” (Is. 2:1-5) |
| Wed, Dec. 8, 7 pm | Populus Zion Midweek Divine Service | “ . . . The Perfect Kingdom of Christ” (Is. 11:1-10) |
| Wed, Dec. 15, 7 pm | Gaudete Midweek Divine Service | “ . . . The Kingdom Which Has No End” (Is. 35:1-10) |

Installation of Newly Elected Officers

The following members were elected to serve as officers in our congregation at the Voters' Assembly on October 24, and will begin their terms on January 1, 2011:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Vice President | Ken Hill (2nd term) |
| Secretary | Cassie Tennant |
| Board of Elders | Terry Luplow |
| Board of Trustees | Jon Penzien |
| Bd. of Christian Ed. | Sharyn Greening, Marlene Miller |

Congratulations to all of you and thank you for volunteering to serve our congregation!

*Installation of New Officers will be held during Divine Service on **January 2**. Please be there to be installed into office if at all possible!*

✠ Christmas Services at Peace ✠

Children's Christmas Program

Our Sunday School children will share the story of our Lord's Nativity with us through drama and song on Wednesday, December 22 at 7:00 p.m. Please make plans to come out and support our children, who are working hard to prepare!

Service of Lessons and Carols

Our Service of Lessons and Carols will take place on Christmas Eve at 7:00 p.m. This is a beautiful and popular Service which puts before us the account of our Lord's Holy Birth through Holy Scripture and Hymnody (including many beloved Christmas Carols), and the preaching of the Holy Gospel, and includes the lighting of the Christ Candle and the singing of Silent Night and the Christmas Prayer by candlelight.

Midnight Mass

Midnight Mass will be celebrated at 11:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve/Day again this year at Peace. This is one of the most beautiful Services held throughout the year. There is just something special and unique about being in the Lord's House to celebrate His Nativity and to receive the Holy Sacrament of His Body and Blood as the clock strikes Midnight. We hope that many of you will be able to share this special time with us this Christmas Eve!

The Nativity of Our Lord—Christmas Morning

For the last couple of years, we have not held Divine Service on Christmas morning, since we introduced Midnight Mass. However, since a few people have shared with me that they would like to receive Holy Communion at Christmas, but are uncomfortable getting out so late for Midnight Mass, we will have both this year. Divine Service on Christmas morning will be held at 9:30 a.m. It will be a different Service than Midnight Mass, so those who would like to attend both are certainly welcomed and encouraged to do so.

TEST YOUR CHRISTMAS KNOWLEDGE

1. *Which Gospel(s) speak of the events surrounding Christ's birth?*
a) Mark and John, b) Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, c) Luke only, d) Matthew and Luke
2. *What was the name of the King of Judea at the time of Christ's birth?*
a) Caesar Augustus, b) Quirinius, c) Herod, d) Nero
3. *How many magi (wise men) visited Christ after His birth, according to the Bible?*
a) An undisclosed number, b) One, c) Three, d) Five
4. *Where is Christ when the magi (wise men) come to visit Him?*
a) In a house, b) In the temple, c) In the manger, d) In the womb
5. *After the magi inquire of Herod where the Christ is to be born, he summons his priests and scribes, who know the location of the birth because of the prophecy of this prophet.*
a) Jonah, b) Micah, c) Amos, d) Joel
6. *What does "Immanuel" mean?*
a) Jesus saves, b) God is born, c) God in flesh, d) God with us
7. *Herod's slaughter of the children two years old and under fulfills a prophecy uttered by what prophet?*
a) Micah, b) Joel, c) Jonah, d) Jeremiah
8. *What was the name of the father of John the Baptist?*
a) Zechariah, b) Joseph, c) Benjamin, d) John
9. *How much younger was Jesus than his cousin John the Baptist?*
a) One year, b) Twelve days, c) Six months, d) Two years
10. *What was the name of the angel who announced to Mary that she would conceive Jesus?*
a) Gabriel, b) Michael, c) Raphael, d) Cherubim
11. *Who speaks words to the pregnant Mary that have become part of the Church's traditional "Hail Mary"?*
a) Simeon, b) Elizabeth, c) Anna, d) Zechariah
12. *What does the name "Jesus" mean?*
a) The Lord saves, b) God with us, c) God is born, d) God in flesh
13. *In which Gospel do we find "The Magnificat"?*
a) Matthew, b) Mark, c) Luke, d) John
14. *Who speaks the words that have become a part of our liturgy known as the Nunc Dimittis?*
a) Zechariah, b) Simeon, c) Mary, d) Elizabeth
15. *Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem, according to the Gospel of Luke?*
a) His adoptive father, Joseph, went home for a census, b) That's where both Mary and Joseph lived,
c) His mother went to visit Elizabeth, d) Bethlehem had the best hospitals
16. *When Jesus was born, we are told that He was laid in a manger. What is a manger?*
a) A barn, b) A cave, c) A type of Inn, d) A feeding trough
17. *The Bible tells us that Christ was born in December.*
a) True, b) False
18. *How do the shepherds learn of Christ's birth?*
a) There are no shepherds in the Biblical account, b) They see a new star in the sky, c) An angel appears to them, d) The magi tell them
19. *When was Jesus circumcised?*
a) At birth, b) He wasn't, c) At 13 years old, d) at 8 days old
20. *Who prophesied to Mary that Christ was "destined for the fall and rising of many" and that "a sword would pierce her own soul also"?*
a) Anna, b) Simeon, c) Elizabeth, d) Gabriel

Answers to these questions are given on page 14



A Homily Upon Midnight Mass
Rev. Larry L. Beane II
Salem Lutheran (Gretna, LA)
24 December Anno + Domini 2009
Text: Luke 2:1-20 (Is. 9:2-7; Tit. 2:11-14)

In the name of + Jesus. Amen.

In these last days, we take light for granted. With the flip of a switch, our formerly dark world is bathed in light. And in that light, we can carry on at night as though it were day. And we don't even think anything of it.

In this sense, the world of the 8th century BC prophet Isaiah was different than ours. He wrote of "walking in darkness," and people knew exactly what that meant. Walking in the darkness could be annoying, or even dangerous. Darkness hides obstacles that we can trip on, or even bandits and robbers who can do us violence. Darkness symbolizes ignorance, fear, sin, and death itself.

The first thing God created was light, and light is mentioned in the last chapter of the Bible as well – as that new and perfect world will be so glorious and filled with light that there will be no need for sun or moon.

But caught in the middle of the two paradises: the golden age of the past, and the glorious age of the future – we do have to contend with darkness – in this world and in our hearts.

"The people who walked in darkness," prophesies Isaiah, "have seen a great light. Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined."

The darkness of sin and of a broken world has been interrupted and conquered by the coming of the Light of the World, our Lord Jesus Christ, born under the light of a star that was a sign to the far-flung peoples of this dark world, the Word of God made flesh, whose Word that ordered "Let there be light" brought all things into being.

While the shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem went about their routine work in the dark, protecting their sheep from predators and watching over them lest they wander away into the gloom, a light shined on them as well: "An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear." But this angel, bathed in light, bid them: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

The darkness was obliterated and cast aside by the luminous glory of the Lord. And the angel's good news was nothing other than this: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." And the hosts of heaven gloriously appeared in this heavenly light, singing even with us twenty centuries later, as we join them in their heavenly liturgy: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

The coming of Jesus dispelled the darkness of sin and of ignorance, making the glory of the Lord a light to be shared with men and by men, a lamp to be put on a stand, so that all may see and give glory to God! The light of the Gospel enlightens our darkened hearts and dimly burning wicks of faith by bathing us in the glorious

light of the good news of the forgiveness of sins, of peace with God, of the restoration of man before His Lord, of God's image glowing in the face of Jesus, of the coming of the Creator into the fallen world in order to create a new and greater world! And this, dear friends, is all for you – for as the holy prophet proclaims: "For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given," and the angel quotes this Word of God to the shepherds: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

The darkness of the Old Testament's waiting for the Savior has been chased away by the light of the New Testament in the blood of this very fleshly Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

*This is the Christ, our God most high,
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free.*

For this Light of the world doesn't merely illuminate our lives so that business as usual can go on after hours. Jesus is not simply a light that keeps us from stubbing our toes in the middle of the night. He is the Light that illuminates our sins so that we can repent, whose Light then shines on us the warm glow of the love of God, whose mercy enlightens us and fills us with the Holy Spirit, praying for us and with us, calling us and empowering us to holiness, and using us to share this light with "them that sit in darkness and the shadow of death."

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people," says the holy apostle, "training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ."

The Light of Christ is the very source of all light, the Word that first uttered: "Let there be light." And it is He who implores us to let our light shine before men, that they too might be illuminated by the Gospel. And even as Christians around the world this holy night ignite candles off of the lit candles of their neighbors, whose flame originates from the Christ candle stationed near the baptismal font, we thank and praise God for providing the true Light to us, as a free gift, as an act of mercy and grace.

For to us a child is born, "who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works."

Dear Christians, you are no longer terrorized by darkness. You are no longer held hostage to evil that lurks in the darkness. For on that silent night, that holy night, God Himself took flesh to redeem you, forgive your sins, enlighten your darkness, and lead you to a bright and shining eternal future.

*Silent night. Holy night.
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.*

*In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

ALL DAY
CHRISTMAS MOVIE MARATHON
SPONSORED BY S.A.L.T.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

- 10:00 a.m. Medley of children's movies (Nestor the Long-Eared Donkey; Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer; The Tangerine Bear; How the Grinch Stole Christmas)
- Noon The Polar Express
- 2:00 p.m. White Christmas
- 4:00 p.m. It's a Wonderful Life
- 6-6:45 p.m. Pizza
- 7:00 p.m. The Nativity Story

Feel free to bring your comfy chairs, blankets, etc. and enjoy a Christmas movie (or two, or three . . .) with your church family; feel free also to bring a friend or two along. If you wish to come for multiple movies, or for the entire day, be sure to bring a sack lunch and your own snacks. The pizza at 6:00 will be provided, and hot chocolate and cookies will be available throughout the day. We look forward to a fun day together and hope you'll join!

SUPPORTING THE MISSION



LCMS Church Relations

Posing for a group photo outside the Lutheran Center at Novosibirsk, in Siberia, Russia, are representatives of the Missouri Synod and the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELC), during discussions they held there Oct. 29. They are, from left, Dr. Timothy Quill of the LCMS; Rev. Pavel Khromev of the SELC; SELC Bishop Vsevolod Lytkin; Dr. Albert B. Collver, LCMS; Rev. Alexei Streltsov, SELC; and Dr. Joel Lehenbauer, LCMS.

LCMS AND SELC TO BE IN FULL FELLOWSHIP

Many of us have been praying for the LCMS and the SELC (Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church) to enter into altar and pulpit fellowship with one another. It seems that prayer is very close to being answered. A delegation from the LCMS, led by Rev. Dr. Albert Collver, Director of Church Relations - Assistant to the President, recently met with leaders of the SELC at Novosibirsk, in Siberia, Russia, for theological discussions. It was determined that the two Church Bodies are in doctrinal agreement and that steps should be taken immediately to officially declare them to be in full fellowship with one another. Those steps will hopefully be completed this month and, thanks to the adoption of Res. 3-04A at the 2010 LCMS National Convention, upon completion of these steps, the LCMS and the SELC will be in fellowship, and that fellowship will be presented to the 2013 LCMS National Convention for ratification. This is outstanding news, and you can read more about it at Dr. Collver's blog (<http://abc3miscellany.blogspot.com/2010/11/lcms-selc-conduct-fellowship.html>). As I said above, this will be the answer to the prayers of many of us who have longed for the day when the fellowship we share with our Lutheran brothers and sisters in Russia would be officially recognized and declared. Thanks be to God!



As you know, we have chosen to support The Siberian Lutheran Mission Society (TSLMS), which is the society that was formed to support and assist our Lutheran brothers and sisters in Russia, who belong to the SELC. For the past several months, we have had mission cans available in the fellowship hall. Hopefully, many of you have taken them and filled them up. We will be collecting the cans on **Sunday, December 12**, so please bring them with you that day. If you haven't taken any cans, you can still find some in the fellowship hall and fill them up in the next week or so. And, as always, you are more than welcome to make a donation by cash or check (make checks payable to Peace). 100% of all financial donations to TSLMS goes directly to the field to support the work of our Siberian Lutheran brothers and sisters. No funds are used for administration or overhead of TSLMS. Many of you remember watching the video about the work our Siberian Lutheran brothers and sisters are doing in very trying circumstances. They continue to need our support and we hope and pray that you will prayerfully consider giving as much as you can to this worthy endeavor. What a blessed opportunity we have to share our blessings with them, especially as we near the celebration of our Lord's Birth!



Please consider supporting this Christ-centered, Cross-focused Worldwide Outreach. You can send a donation at any time by making a check payable to:

Lutheran Public Radio

P.O. Box 912

Collinsville, IL 62234

You can also donate online via PayPal by going to www.issuesetc.org and clicking on "Donate."

Also, we are asking for donations again this year to match the \$500.00 we have budgeted for Issues, Etc. Our congregation has been a proud member of the "Issues, Etc. 300" for three straight years, which means that we have sent them a donation of \$1000.00 each of those years. Please consider helping us to achieve that goal again this year. We would like to raise the \$500.00 we need by the end of January, so that we can send them our check in February. Please see Pastor Messer if you wish to assist us in this important mission effort. Thanks in advance for your help!

Synopsis of November 9, 2010 Council Meeting Minutes

Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- President Brown called the meeting to order at 7:55pm. Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer. The following members were present: Carol Zeile, Bill Harmon, Sharyn Greening, Megan Brown, Vern Jakolat and Chris Brown. Pastor Messer was also present.

Approval of Agenda

- Councilmember Jakolat made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was withdrawn. Councilmember Harmon made a motion to approve the agenda with the Budget Discussion tabled, supported by President Brown. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Treasurer Zeile to approve the September 7 meeting minutes, supported by President Brown. Motion carried unanimously.

Report(s): Pastor – Pastor Messer presented the attached report. The Council received the report into record; **Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Zeile presented the attached report. The Council received the report into record; **Financial Secretary** – No report.

- **Boards: Board of Elders** – No report; **Board of Trustees** – Councilmember Jakolat informed the Council of various projects completed around the property; **Board of Christian Education** – Councilmember Greening informed the Council that the rehearsals for the Christmas Program will begin on November 14. She also received a letter from a mission in Belize; **Board of Evangelism** – The Reformation Day celebration went very well and the next meeting is November 18; **Board of Stewardship** – No report.
- **Organization and Committee Reports: Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild** – No report; **Peace Youth Group** – No report.

Business

- **2011 Budget** – Tabled. The Council will hold a special meeting on November 16 at 8:00pm to continue discussion of the 2011 Budget.
- **Good Shepherd Institute** – Mary Jakolat attended the Good Shepherd Institute and is requesting reimbursement in the amount of \$260.00. Motion made by Councilmember Harmon, supported Treasurer Zeile to reimburse Mary in full from the Church and Worship: Music line of the budget.

General Comment – None.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

- Motion made by Councilmember Harmon, supported by President Brown to adjourn at 8:11pm. Motion carried unanimously. Pastor Messer closed with the Lord's Prayer and Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Brown, Secretary

Synopsis of November 16, 2010 Special Council Meeting Minutes

Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- President Brown called the meeting to order at 8:04pm. Councilmember Elliott conducted the opening prayer. The following members were present: Larry Elliott, Carol Zeile, Sharyn Greening, Gary Miller, Vern Jakolat, Carolyn Johnson, Chris Brown and Megan Brown.

Business

- **2011 Budget** – The Council reviewed and discussed the proposed budget prepared by Treasurer Zeile. Motion made by Councilmember Johnson, supported by Councilmember Elliott to present the draft budget to the congregation at the January Voters' Assembly. Motion carried unanimously.

General Comment – None.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

- Motion made by Financial Secretary Miller, supported by President Brown to adjourn at 9:08pm. Motion carried unanimously. The Council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Brown, Secretary

(Complete Minutes are available in the Church Office)

UPDATE FROM THE TREASURER

CAROL ZEILE

Again this year, the Council members agree that we should propose a budget that is as closely in line as possible with the amount of income that we expect for 2011. Reducing a budget that is already very lean is a difficult process. The draft budget that appears below represents the Council's efforts thus far. There is still opportunity for revision, based on end of year figures for 2010 or any other factors deemed appropriate.

At this time, I will make just a few comments on the changes reflected in this draft. If you have questions, please let me know or talk with any of the other Council members.

- A line for photocopier expense has been added to the budget so that we can differentiate between the copier and other office expenses.
- The music line was decreased so that the total will cover only the cost of our organist for Sunday Services. All other Services are being played as a donation by the organist. There is nothing in this budget for sheet music or conference expenses.
- We are exploring ways to decrease our telephone expenses.
- Pastor's salary is decreased by \$1800. We propose forgiving his loan payment for one year to offset this decrease.

We will be discussing the proposed budget at the Voter's Assembly meeting in January and strongly encourage all members of Peace to attend and express their opinions on the proposal.

| | 2010 budget | draft 2011 budget |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Church and Worship: Altar & Worship | \$1,000 | \$1,000 |
| Church and Worship: Christian Ed. | \$800 | \$500 |
| Church and Worship: Music | \$2,000 | \$1,300 |
| Missions: Issues, etc. | \$500 | \$500 |
| Operating Expense: Admin. Asst. | \$5,200 | \$5,200 |
| Operating Expense: Building Main. | \$1,000 | \$1,000 |
| Operating Expense: Insurance | \$2,000 | \$2,000 |
| Operating Expense: Office Expense | \$3,000 | \$900 |
| Operating Expense: Photocopier | | \$1,600 |
| Operating Expense: Telephone | \$2,100 | \$1,600 |
| Operating Expense: Utilities | \$5,000 | \$5,000 |
| Pastoral Expense: Benefits | \$23,000 | \$23,000 |
| Pastoral Expense: Book Allowance | \$500 | \$500 |
| Pastoral Expense: Conf. and Training | \$1,000 | \$1,000 |
| Pastoral Expense: Down Payment | \$2,220 | \$2,220 |
| Pastoral Expense: Guest Pastors | \$200 | |
| Pastoral Expense: Mileage | \$2,000 | \$2,000 |
| Pastoral Expense: Salary | \$62,045 | \$60,245 |
| Total: | \$113,565 | \$109,565 |

PEACE NEWS & NOTES



PYG NEWS

| <u>December</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Start</u> | <u>End</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-----------------|
| | Bazaar | 12/4 | 8 am | 4 pm | Fellowship Hall |
| | Meeting | 12/19 | 5 pm | 7 pm | Fellowship Hall |
| | Fellowship Sundays | | 11 am-11:15 | | Fellowship Hall |

Greetings in Christ,

We start the month of December with the Ladies' Guild Cookie Walk and Bazaar. We will be selling fudge and reindeer again this year. Youth coverage will be set up prior to that.

Please check the Youth Board for our Poinsettia signup sheet if you are interested in purchasing a Poinsettia for the Christmas services.

We are still accepting Youth signup for the Higher Things Gathering in July 2011. Please see me for more information.

Thanks for the fundraising suggestions and support. We are investigating ink cartridge recycling and discount cards at this time. Keep an eye on the Youth board for more information on these, and our on-going pop can, Spartan labels, and cell phone collections. Thank you again for your continued support of the Youth at Peace.

May the Spirit of the Lord be with you,
Jonathan Penzien

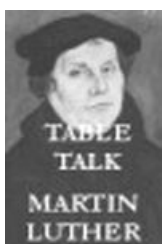
Ladies Lunch Bunch . . .

. . . will meet at 1:30 pm on Monday, December 13 at Tacho's Mexican in St. Louis.

All ladies of Peace are welcome and also may invite a guest - someone without a church or someone living alone. Please enter your name on the signup list posted in Fellowship Hall and join us!

TABLE TALK

Our Table Talks are informal and informative discussions with Pastor Messer on various topics decided by the group in attendance. Plus, THEY'RE FUN! Our next Table Talk will be held in January. Be sure to check out the January edition of *The Peace Post* for details! We hope you'll be able to join us!



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Wednesday, December 22, 7 pm

Rehearsals for the program will take place on the following Sundays:

December 5, 12 and 19

Lunch will be provided at 12:15 (immediately following Sunday School). Rehearsals will begin after lunch and conclude at 1:30 pm. If you have any questions, please see Sharyn Greening.

SALT NEWS

ADVENT TEA

Tuesday, December 7 from 7-9 pm

If you have any questions about our Advent Tea, please see a member of our Advent Tea Committee: Gretchen Harrison, Lisa Messer, Lois Ramsey, and Dorothy Trgina.

ALL DAY CHRISTMAS MOVIE MARATHON

Saturday, December 18 - 10 am to ?

See p. 6 for details!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING FOR SHUT-INS

Monday, December 20

Times to be announced

ADOPT A FAMILY

We will be helping a family outside of our congregation this year. Watch for the tree with tags for donations.

FOOD BANK

Please consider donating canned/boxed goods for our Food Bank to be used for our Adopt A Family project.

MEETINGS

Please see the Minutes of our last meeting on the SALT Bulletin Board

Next meeting is in January 2011

We welcome anyone who would like to join us.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

This is an ongoing outreach for the SALT Committee. If you know of a person in the armed forces who is serving abroad, please contact Carolyn Johnson (email ckj1969@yahoo.com or telephone 463-3052).

PEACE NEWS & NOTES Cont'd



ANNUAL COOKIE WALK AND CRAFT SHOW SATURDAY DECEMBER 4, 2010 9 AM—4 PM

The Ladies' Guild is asking all the ladies of Peace (who are willing and able) to bake 20-25 dozen small, fancy cookies for our cookie walk. Please have them at the church by Friday evening, December 3, if at all possible between 6-9 pm.

Setup will be on Wednesday evening, December 1 after the Advent Service.

Also, if you are willing to help during the bazaar, please contact Coaline Luplow (763-1016). We appreciate all the help we can get!!

Thanks so much for your help!

WEDNESDAY ADVENT DINNERS

December 1 - 8 - 15 - 22
6:00 pm

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR SOUP, SALAD BREAD, DESSERTS OR BEVERAGES

If we do not have enough people signed up for soup and salad, we will consider going with potluck.

**Invite a friend or neighbor
brother or sister to join us**

Questions
Call Coaline at
989-763-1016

Sponsored by the Ladies Guild

Church Decorating

At our November meeting, the Ladies' Guild members discussed preparation of the nave and sanctuary for the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons. As you may recall, last year we consulted *The Altar Guild Manual* by Lee A. Maxwell, Lutheran Service Book edition, to guide our decision. This manual, published by Concordia Publishing House, is authorized by the Commission on Worship of the LCMS.

One section of the *Altar Guild Manual* is devoted to the seasons of the church year. The primary theme for the Advent Season is penitential, much like the season of Lent. In addition, during Advent, there also is an emphasis on the anticipation of the birth of our Savior.

For the Advent Season, we will continue this year with our use of violet, the traditional color for altar paraments and vestments. Violet symbolizes the penitential nature of the season. In addition, we will keep our decorating very simple by removing the candelabra from the chancel, using seasonal greenery with minimal flowers instead of fancy floral arrangements and minimizing decorations in the nave. The only real decoration for the Advent Season will be the Advent Wreath.

The remainder of the decorating will be done after the Divine Service on December 19, 2010, the last Sunday in Advent. At that time we will put up the Christmas tree and the nativity set, hang the Christmas banners, bring back the candelabra and adorn the nave with wreaths and candles. The minimal decorating for Advent will be transformed into the more elaborate adornments of the Christmas Season, thus making a distinction between penitential/anticipatory Advent and joyous Christmas.

It is the sincere desire of the Ladies' Guild members to enhance the season of Advent and improve our preparation for the most joyous occasion of the birth of our Lord and Savior. **We invite and encourage all of the adults to join us on December 19, 2010, following the Divine Service, to decorate for Christmas.** There will be no Adult Bible Class that day, but the children will have Sunday School as usual. When Sunday School is complete, the **Ladies' Guild will provide a pizza lunch for everyone**, followed by the dress rehearsal of the children's Christmas program



PEACE NEWS & NOTES Cont'd

**THOUGHTS RECEIVED FROM
THE GOOD SHEPHERD INSTITUTE
11TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 7-9
SING WITH ALL THE SAINTS IN GLORY
*The Theology of the Christian's Death in Rite
and Song*
CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA**

Our life is a journey of dying. At our baptism we die and are buried with Christ. We are dead and our lives become a journey to the day of our return to dust. We live as though we are dying and die as though we are living. We can face death confidently as a restful sleep, since Christ is with us in body and soul all the way.

At our baptism, we are covered with a white garment. The white garment of Christ covers us throughout our life and then at the time of death, the white garment is placed over the casket (funeral pall), a remembrance of our baptismal garment that we have worn throughout our journey.

**THE ART OF DYING
WITH A LUTHERAN ACCENT
MY FRIEND WHEN I AM DYING**

Our hymnal speaks throughout the year from Advent through the Last Sunday of the Church Year on the Art of Dying. Thumbing through the hymnal with the following suggested hymns speaks of how well our hymns prepare us for the journey.

Lent – Christ's death. Be my life in death – (421, 439, 442, 448). Death passing over - (458, 460, 461)

Easter – (464, 468, 483, 484)

Pentecost - The Holy Spirit helps take us to Christ in the hour of death (497, 655, 758)

End of Church Year – (508)

Preparing for Death – (490, 693, 450 stanzas 5-6)

At the Deathbed – (571, 756)

Into Your Hands I Commit My Spirit – (693, 877, 878, 882)

A Blessed End is a Departure in Faith – (731)

Lord's Supper Hymns – (633, 642)

Strongest – (938-941)

Dr. Arthur A. Just, Director of Deaconess Studies, and Deaconess Student Pamela Boehle-Silva gave a presentation on how pastors and deaconesses prepare the saints for their journey to their eternal Jerusalem home. They explained the various steps from the time a person is determined to have an incurable illness to the time of their death - a time of visitation, prayers, comfort, and preparing for separation, transition and committal. (Rev. 14:13) They not only focus on the person, but on their families as well - all done with the utmost love and compassion. It was a good witness of some of the duties of a deaconess.

Dr. Just shared his experience of the first funeral he conducted as a pastor of a young man who was killed in a motorcycle accident. After the service, Dr. Just was at the back of the church with a Methodist minister and a Catholic priest when he said that he was now going to remove his vestments. The Catholic priest (who was aware of this being his first funeral service and felt a need to tutor him in the Christian way of conducting a funeral) said, "Oh, no you are not. You must keep your vestments on and remain with the body until it is finally laid to rest in the ground, you being the last person to leave the cemetery." Dr. Just went on to explain that the body is very important both before and after death, and that the pastor (I believe he meant that the pastor was representing Christ) was to remain with the body until burial.

Several of the speakers referred us to a book written by Thomas Long, entitled "Accompany Them with Singing" about conducting Christian funerals from the perspective of a pastor and a Christian. I will receive my copy soon.

Music for the Christian Funeral was presented by Kantor Richard Resch and Associate Kantor Kevin Hildebrand and we came home with some very good suggestions for proper Christian music of arrangements from our own LSB hymnal.

There were several other speakers who were truly inspirational, the services and organ recital, the Choral Vespers, and Hymn Festival were simply stupendous.

Many thanks for the opportunity to attend this awe-inspiring conference.

In Christ, Mary Jakolat

Ladies Guild

Ladies Guild Meeting

Our Ladies Guild will meet on **Monday, December 6, at 1 pm.** Hostess will be Coaline Luplow. After a brief meeting, we will hold our Christmas party. Please bring a gift of \$5.00-\$7.50 to exchange. A luncheon with sandwiches, veggies and dip, and an assortment of goodies will be served. Hope to see you there. All Ladies of the congregation are invited to attend our Guild meetings. If you are a confirmed female member of Peace, you are a member of Guild. We would sincerely encourage you to participate and be an active member of the Guild.

PLC Women's Prayer Chain

The updated list is posted on the Ladies' Guild Bulletin Board. All participants should have received a copy. If you wish to be added to the prayer chain as a caller, or if you wish to have yourself or someone else "sent through the chain," please see or call Marlene Miller at 463-3710.

Altar Flowers

There is a flower calendar for 2010 posted on the fellowship hall bulletin board. We are now working toward ordering altar flower arrangements that coordinate with and enhance the liturgical colors of each Season of the Church year. Depending on the dates, flowers may not always be displayed for a calendar month. Some Seasons of the Church year cross calendar months. If you wish to place flowers on the altar sometime during the year, please put your name on the calendar and contact the church office with any information that you wish to have included in the bulletin. If there is a specific date in the month that commemorates an occasion, please also enter that date. A bouquet costs \$25. We encourage two persons (families) to purchase flowers each month, one for each plant stand. Please make checks payable to Peace Lutheran Church, attach a note marked "Altar Flowers" and place in the Financial Secretary's envelope in the church office. Any questions may be directed to Carol Zeile. Thank you for helping to beautify our chancel.

LADIES GUILD ON THE WEB

The Ladies Guild information on the Peace website has been updated. This is a place to check for items such as: coffee hostesses, Altar Guild assignments and upcoming Ladies Guild events. See www.peacealma.org and click Ladies Guild at left.

PEACE LUTHERAN LADIES GUILD COOKBOOK

The cookbook is well on its way to being shipped. The shipping date is December 7, but could be sooner. The price of the cookbook is \$13.00 and can be ordered at the bazaar or during fellowship from any member of Guild

PEACE LUTHERAN LADIES GUILD LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

The next collection of the Ladies Guild to send to Lutheran World Relief consists of the following:

- 3 yards 44" or 45" cotton or cotton blend fabric
- 1 Package sewing needles (for hand sewing)
- 1 Spool matching thread
- 1 Card buttons

Collection Dates: Current to December 31, 2010

Also, during the year, ladies are welcome to make quilts. The size of the quilts is 60" by 80" finished. This would be 12 squares, 22 inches each. The quilts should be tied with heavy thread, such as crochet cotton.

Thank you for your participation

LADIES GUILD SELLS CUTLERY

Rada cutlery is on display the 3rd Sunday of each month in the fellowship hall during the coffee hour. We have seven different items in stock: Paring Knife, Large Slicer Knife, Tomato Slicer, Serrated Steak Knife, Spatula, Pie Server, and Veggie Peeler. A product catalogue is available for viewing and orders may also be placed through the catalog.



December

Carol Zeile

January

Altar Care

Marlene Miller/Charlotte Dargie

February

Carolyn Johnson

Coffee Hostesses



- 5 Jo Wendt
- 12 Andrea Elliott
- 19 Cassie Tennant
- 26 Coaline Luplow

- 2 Carol Zeile
- 9 Tina Schafer
- 16 Peace Youth Group
- 23 M. Miller/C. Dargie
- 30 Janice Sager

- 6 Jennie Harmon
- 13 Y.Elenbaas/M.Girard
- 20 S.Greening/M.Brown
- 27 Carolyn Johnson

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT PEACE

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

- Sunday School and Adult Bible Class is offered on **Sundays at 11 a.m.**

Together in the Word

- We meet every **Thursday at 10:00 a.m.** We are currently studying *Joshua*. All are welcome to join us!

Christian History 101

- Weekly Wednesday classes meet at 6 pm, followed by Divine Service at 7 pm (during Advent, class is at 5 pm).

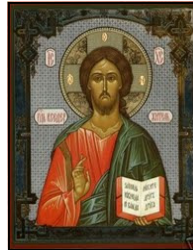
First Communion and Confirmation Classes

- First Communion Classes take place as arranged (see Pastor Messer if interested); Confirmation Class for our 2nd-year confirmands (Sierra Luplow and Aaron Messer) will meet on Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. (no 1st-year confirmands this year).

Answers to "Test Your Christmas Knowledge":

1. d 2. c 3. a 4. a 5. b 6. d 7. d 8. a 9. c 10. a 11. b
12. a 13. c 14. b 15. a 16. d 17. b 18. c 19. d 20. b

*O Come, O Come
Emmanuel
And Ransom Captive
Israel!*



PASTOR MESSER IS BLOGGING!

www.abideinmyword.blogspot.com

*Check in from time to time
to see what's on his mind.*

TALK RADIO FOR THE THINKING CHRISTIAN!

Listen to what you want, when you want, at:

www.issuesetc.org



DECEMBER

Happy Birthday

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 5 Phyllis Hill | 18 Kelsey Gensler |
| 6 Linda Oswald | 19 James Sager |
| 14 Cassie Tennant | 20 Sarah Messer |
| 17 Thomas Pease | 30 Amber Brown |
| | 30 Richard Wiser |

Happy Anniversary

5 LeRoy and Maxine Isaksson
17 Bill and Jennie Harmon

*If we ever miss your birthday or anniversary, please
let us know so that we can update our records.*



Don't forget to take and fill "mission cans" for our ongoing collection in support of *The Siberian Lutheran Mission Society*! We'll collect the cans (and any donations by cash or check) on **Sunday, Dec. 12!**

PAROCHIAL REPORT

(as of 11/21/10)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 139; Confirmed - 117

Membership gains: 0

Membership losses: 0

Financial Report as of 11/21/10

YTD Budgeted\$ 100,464.00





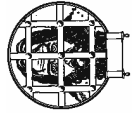












YTD Receipts.....\$ 88,585.07

Difference.....\$ - 11,878.93

December 2010

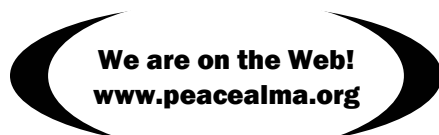
Rev. Thomas C. Messer
 (989) 463-3093—Home
 (989) 388-2037—Cell
 pastor@peacealma.org
 pastormesser@gmail.com
 www.abideinmyword.blogspot.com

Peace Lutheran Church
 325 E. Warwick Drive
 Alma, MI 48801
 (989) 463-5754
 contact@peacealma.org
 www.peacealma.org

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| <p>5 Populus Zion (Advent 2) 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC, SS 12:15 - SS Practice</p>  | <p>6 1 pm - Ladies Guild</p> | <p>7 <i>Pastor at Winkel</i> 7 pm - Advent Tea</p> | <p>1 5 pm - Study 6 pm - Advent Dinner 7 pm - Advent Service</p>  | <p>2 10 am - Together in Word Noon - Divine Service <i>St. Andrew (Obs.)</i> 5 pm - Conf. Cl. 5 pm - WW</p>  | <p>3</p> | <p>4 9 am - 4 pm Ladies Guild Cookie Walk & Crafts</p>  |
| <p>12 Gaudete (Advent 3) 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC, SS 12:15 - SS Practice</p>  | <p>13 1:30 pm - Lunch Bunch</p> | <p>14 7 pm - Church Council</p> | <p>15 5 pm - Study 6 pm - Advent Dinner 7 pm - Advent Service</p>  | <p>16 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Confirmation Class 5 pm - Weight Watchers</p> | <p>17</p> | <p>18 SALT ALL DAY CHRISTMAS MOVIE MARATHON 10 AM - ? <i>(See page 6)</i></p> |
| <p>19 Rorate Coeli (Advent 4) 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - SS - Church Dec. 12:15 - SS Practice PYG</p>  | <p>20 SALT CHRISTMAS CAROLING FOR OUR SHUT-INS</p> | <p>21</p> | <p>22 5 pm - Study 6 pm - Advent Dinner 7 pm - Children's Program</p>  | <p>23 10 am - Together in Word 12 pm - Divine Service <i>St. Thomas (Obs.)</i> 5 pm - Conf. Cl. 5 pm - WW</p>  | <p>24 7 pm - Service of Lessons & Carols 11:30 pm Midnight Mass</p>  | <p>25 Nativity of Our Lord 9:30 - Divine Service  <i>Merry Christmas!</i></p> |
| <p>26 1st Sunday after Christmas 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Prayer and Preaching 10:45 - Fellowship <i>No Adult Bible Study or Sunday School</i></p>  | <p>27 Newsletter articles due</p> | <p>28 7 pm - Bd. of Stewardship</p> | <p>29 6 pm - "Christian History" 7 pm - Divine Service <i>Feast of St. Stephen (Obs.)</i></p>  | <p>30 10 am—Together in Word 12 pm - Divine Service <i>Feast of St. John (Obs.)</i></p>  | <p>31 12 pm - Divine Service <i>Feast of Holy Innocents</i></p>  | <p>January 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR</p> |
| <p>2 Circumcision/Name of Jesus <i>(Observed)</i> 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship</p>  | <p>3</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>5 6 pm - "Christian History" 7 pm - Divine Serv. <i>The Epiphany of Our Lord (Obs.)</i></p>  | <p>6 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Confirmation Class 5 pm - Weight Watchers</p> | <p>7</p> | <p>8</p> |

Peace Lutheran Church
 325 E. Warwick Dr.
 Alma, MI 48801

Church: 989-463-5754
 E-mail: contact@peacealma.org
 Mary's Home: 989-463-3067
 Pastor's Home: 989-463-3093
 Pastor's Cell: 989-388-2037



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.

Serving in December

| | ELDERS | ACOLYTES | USHERS | GREETERS |
|--|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| December | | | | |
| 1 - 7:00 pm <i>(Advent 1 Midweek)</i> | Miguel Ortiz | | Vern Jakolat | |
| 5 - 9:30 am <i>(Advent 2)</i> | Larry Elliott | Morgan Johnson Natalie Penzien | Gary Miller Daren Johnson | LeRoy & Maxine Isaksson |
| 8 - 7:00 pm <i>(Advent 2 Midweek)</i> | Larry Elliott | | Vern Jakolat | |
| 12 - 9:30 am <i>(Advent 3)</i> | Terry Luplow | Sierra Luplow Aaron Messer | Vern Jakolat Kevin Sellke | Helen Meyers |
| 15 - 7:00 pm <i>(Advent 3 Midweek)</i> | Terry Luplow | | Vern Jakolat | |
| 19 - 9:30 am <i>(Advent 4)</i> | Dave Zeile | Samantha Messer Paige Harwager | Chris Brown James Sager | Miguel and Sue Ortiz |
| 22 - 7:00 pm <i>(Children's Christmas Program)</i> | | | Vern Jakolat | |
| 24 - 7:00 pm <i>(Service of Lessons and Carols)</i> | Terry Luplow | Myka Luplow Morgan Johnson | Vern Jakolat | |
| 24 - 11:30 pm <i>(Midnight Mass)</i> | Dave Zeile | Samantha Messer Aaron Messer | Vern Jakolat | |
| 26 - 9:30 am <i>(Christmas 1)</i> | Miguel Ortiz | Natalie Penzien Sierra Luplow | Vern Jakolat Phillip Schafer | James and Janice Sager |
| January | | | | |
| 2 - 9:30 am <i>(Circumcision/Name of Jesus)</i> | Larry Elliott | Aaron Messer Samantha Messer | Gary Miller Chris Brown | Jenny Baughman |

“Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men” (Eph. 6:7)