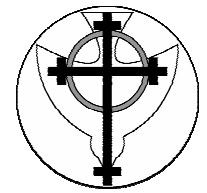


The Peace Post



The peace of the Lord be with you always. Amen!



FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MESSER

“A New Year’s Resolution You Can Count On”

Romans 8:31-39

(Adapted from the New Year’s Eve sermon I preached here at Peace in 2005)

Dear fellow redeemed in Christ,

Well, it’s happened. Another year has come and gone. It doesn’t seem possible that another year could’ve passed by so quickly, does it? I’m learning that the older you get, the days, months, and years seem to go by faster and faster. Where does the time go?

It’s hard for me to believe that it’s already been over 2 1/2 years since I began as pastor here at Peace. You know, the old cliché, “Life is short,” isn’t just an old cliché - it’s a fact. Life *is* short. The years that we’re given to live on this earth just race right by, don’t they? It seems like we were just ushering in 2007, and here we are already welcoming 2008. It’s quite sobering, when you think about. It’s quite sobering when you realize that our earthly lives, when compared to eternity, are but a grain of sand upon the seashore.

Be that as it may, this is a special time for us—a time when we look back upon the year that’s about to end and look forward to the year that’s about to begin. It’s a time for us to take stock of our lives and the lives of those around us; a time for us to count and be thankful for the many blessings we’ve received in the past year. Maybe 2007 was a banner year for you. Maybe it was a year that will produce nothing but good memories for you

for years to come. Or, maybe it was a year that can’t come to an end fast enough; a year that you would like to erase from your memory bank.

But, whatever the case, whether 2007 is a year you would like to remember or forget, the beginning of a new year brings hopes and dreams, anxious anticipation, and wishful thinking: “Maybe 2008 will be *my* year. Maybe this will be the year things turn around for me. Maybe great things are in store for me in the coming year.”

We all have those hopes and dreams, don’t we? We are excited to begin a new year because we are hopeful that things will be better this year. Even those who are struggling and suffering, having a bad time of it right now, can escape their misery for a few moments during this time of the year to hope and dream, to wish for things to get better in the new year.

But, as we begin a new year, we don’t just leave our fate to hopes and dreams, do we? We make resolutions. We’ll change things ourselves, this year, won’t we? Good intentions are at an all time high and will power is exalted to a place of invincibility. We resolve to make changes in our lives this year. This will be the year we get healthy. We’re going to quit smoking, quit drinking so much, and start exercising. We’re going to quit eating so much junk food, eliminate frivolous snacking, and go on a healthy diet.

But, those are only the resolutions we make concerning our physical well-being. There are other kinds of resolutions being made. Some are resolving to be a little kinder, a little more patient, a little less angry. This will be the year we make our relationships better. We’ll show more love to our loved ones this year; we’ll be more forgiving and understanding; we’ll have more compassion on the poor and less fortunate; we’ll visit our loved ones more often; we’ll heal broken relationships. We’re going to be a little nicer this year. In the words of the popular country

song, *Live Like You Were Dying*, we’re going to “love deeper, speak sweeter, and give forgiveness we’ve been denying.”

And finally, in addition to the resolutions concerning our physical well-being and our personalities and relationships, there is another set of resolutions that often get made tonight - those concerning our spiritual well-being. Many who’ve been away from the church for a while will resolve to go back to their church or to find a church home this year. For those of us who have a church home and attend regularly, we’ll resolve to not miss a service this year, to start attending Bible Study, to begin daily devotions at home, to read the Bible and to pray every day, to get more involved in the church, giving more of our time, talents, and money to support the Gospel.

We’re going to grow in the Word and increase our faith this year! Not only that, but this is going to be the year



Continued on page 2

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“A New Year’s Resolution You Can Count On” Cont’d

when we muster up the courage to be faithful witnesses. We’re going to spread the message of the Good News of Jesus to our family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. We’re going to be better Christians, better and more faithful witnesses for our Lord.

In response to all of the resolutions we make as we usher in a new year, I have good news and bad news for you. I’ll start with the bad news.

The bad news is that while nearly everyone makes resolutions at the onset of a new year, very few keep them. While intentions are good, the flesh is weak. Many will not smoke their last cigarette tonight. Many will not drink too much for the last time tonight. Many will not follow through with a healthy diet and daily exercise. Many will fail to be the new and improved, nicer and more loving version of themselves. Many will not follow through on their resolution to attend church and Bible Study every week, to read the Bible and pray every day, and to be the soldiers for Christ they intend to be. Some will accomplish the resolutions they make this year, but most won’t. The great majority of resolution-makers will fail to live up to their good intentions. They may make it for a few days, weeks, even a month or two, but eventually the weakness of their flesh will win out and they will fail to live up to their expectations.

That’s not to say that we shouldn’t make resolutions. Good intentions are just that - good. Not only should we make resolutions, but we should try our best to keep them. It would be very good for us to get healthy, to be more loving, and to grow in our faith. We should desire these things. We should resolve to do our best to bring these things about. But, the simple fact of the matter is that we’re weak. We’re sinful human beings. We’re imperfect. We’re failures. We know that. We know it because our sinful nature rears its ugly head every day. We know it because we often can’t even make it home from church without committing sin.

But, I have good news for you as well. The good news is that there is One who makes resolutions and keeps them. God resolved to save us from our sins by sending His Son into the world to fulfill the law we can’t fulfill and to pay the price we owe for our sins on the cross. God is faithful to His resolutions - He sent His Son, Jesus the Christ, who accomplished everything necessary for our salvation. Our Lord is a resolution-maker and a resolution-keeper. He makes promises and is completely, one hundred percent, faithful to them. He knows your pitiful condition. He knows how incapable you are of keeping the resolutions you make. He knows that your weak flesh is more often than not stronger than your good intentions. And yet, He loves you anyway, and He resolves to shower you with His forgiveness, life, and salvation—to keep you in the one, true faith that you may be His forever. This is the remarkable Good News I have for you as you begin this new year.

In the words of St. Paul from Romans 8: *“What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all -- how will he not also, along with him, gra-*

viously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died -- more than that, who was raised to life -- is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: ‘For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:31-39).

This is one of the most beautiful passages in all of Scripture. You would be hard-pressed to find a more wonderful and appropriate passage to consider as we usher in a new year. It assures us that nothing that has happened in the past year, whether good or bad, nor anything that will happen in the year that is about to begin, whether good or bad, could ever separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. That’s the Good News, the Gospel, and it far outweighs the bad.

As you look back on 2007 and look forward to 2008, here’s a New Year’s resolution you can count on: Your Lord Jesus is with you at all times. He is with you through the good and the bad. He is with you when you mourn, suffer, and grieve. He is with you when you’re sick, when you’re diagnosed with a fatal disease, when you’re on your deathbed. He is with you through financial difficulties and broken relationships. He is with you when you celebrate the birth of a child, when you experience the joy of marriage, when you’re healthy and experience wonderful blessings in your life. He is with you at all times. That’s His resolution and He keeps it.

Even though you’re a sinner and don’t deserve His love, don’t deserve His blessings, don’t deserve for Him to be with you, He is there. He has always been there, ever since He placed His Name upon you and sealed you with the Holy Spirit at your baptism. He comes to you in the Divine Service through His Word and Sacrament. He gives you His very Body and Blood to strengthen and preserve you in the true faith. He resolves to continue to be with you throughout the coming year. He will continue to meet you here, in His Holy House, to forgive you of your sins, to feed you with His Life-giving Word and Holy Supper, and to bolster your faith. He resolves to love you completely and He has kept, and always will keep, His resolution to you. Know and believe this and continue to come to this Holy Place where He promises to meet you, and 2008 will be a year of tremendous blessing for you, no matter what comes your way. In Jesus’ Holy and Precious Name. Amen.

A blessed new year to you!
Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Messer

Service Schedule through Easter

<u>Day & Date</u>	<u>Sunday/Festival</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Order of Service</u>
Sunday, Jan. 6	The Epiphany of Our Lord	9:30 a.m.	Divine Service 3
Sunday, Jan. 13	The Transfiguration of Our Lord	9:30 a.m.	Divine Service 3
Friday, Jan. 18	The Confession of St. Peter	12:00 p.m.	Divine Service 3
Sunday, Jan. 20	Septuagesima	9:30 a.m.	Divine Service 3
Thursday, Jan. 24	The Feast of St. Timothy	12:00 p.m.	Divine Service 3
Friday, Jan. 25	The Conversion of St. Paul	12:00 p.m.	Divine Service 3
Saturday, Jan. 26	The Feast of St. Titus	**10:00 a.m.**	Divine Service 3
Sunday, Jan. 27	Sexagesima	9:30 a.m.	Divine Service 3
Saturday, Feb. 2	Purification of Mary/Pres. of Jesus Presentation of Jesus	**10:00 a.m.**	Divine Service 3
Sunday, Feb. 3	Quinquagesima	9:30 a.m.	Divine Service 3
Wednesday, Feb. 6	Ash Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Div. Serv. 1 (w/Imposition of ashes)
Sunday, Feb. 10	Invocabit (First Sunday in Lent)	9:30 a.m.	Divine Service 1
Wednesday, Feb. 13	Invocabit Midweek	7:00 p.m.	Service of Prayer and Preaching
Sunday, Feb. 17	Reminiscere (Second Sunday in Lent)	9:30 a.m.	Divine Service 1
Wednesday, Feb. 20	Reminiscere Midweek	7:00 p.m.	Service of Prayer and Preaching
Sunday, Feb. 24	The Feast of St. Matthias (Lent 3)	9:30 a.m.	Divine Service 1
Wednesday, Feb. 27	Oculi Midweek	7:00 p.m.	Service of Prayer and Preaching
Sunday, Mar. 2	Laetare (Fourth Sunday in Lent)	9:30 a.m.	Divine Service 1
Wednesday, Mar. 5	Laetare Midweek	7:00 p.m.	Service of Prayer and Preaching
Sunday, Mar. 9	Judica (Fifth Sunday in Lent)	9:30 a.m.	Divine Service 1
Wednesday, Mar. 12	Judica Midweek	7:00 p.m.	Service of Prayer and Preaching
Sunday, Mar. 16	Palmarum (Palm Sunday)	9:30 a.m.	Div. Serv. 1 (w/Procession of Palms)
Monday, Mar. 17	Monday in Holy Week	12:00 p.m.	Divine Service 3 (spoken)
Tuesday, Mar. 18	Tuesday in Holy Week	12:00 p.m.	Divine Service 3 (spoken)
Wednesday, Mar. 19	Wednesday in Holy Week	12:00 p.m.	Divine Service 3 (spoken)
Thursday, Mar. 20	Holy Thursday	12:00 p.m.	Divine Service 3 (spoken)
		7:00 p.m.	Div. Serv. 1 (w/Stripping of Altar)
Friday, Mar. 21	Good Friday	12:00 p.m.	Sacred Noonday Service
		7:30 p.m.	Office of Tenebrae
Saturday, Mar. 22	Holy Saturday	**10:00 a.m.**	Divine Service 3 (spoken)
Sunday, Mar. 23	The Resurrection of Our Lord	9:30 a.m.	Divine Service 1

NOTES ON SERVICE SCHEDULE:

- **Lent is already on its way:** The earliest date upon which Easter can fall is March 22. This year it falls on March 23, which means that the season of Epiphany is shortened dramatically and Lent will be here before we know it (Ash Wednesday is February 6!).
- **The Season of Pre-Lent (Septuagesima, Sexagesima, Quinquagesima):** The season of Pre-Lent is meant to be a short pause in the church year before entering into the long journey of Lent. So, if Easter is the destination and Lent is the journey, then Pre-Lent is something like a dock where you wait to get on a boat so that you can travel to your final location. Pre-Lent starts at about 70 days out from Easter to parallel the 70 years of the Babylonian captivity of the ancient Israelites. This parallel reminds us that we are each called by God and taken on a journey from the exile and captivity of sin to our promised home in the New Jerusalem come down from heaven on the Last Day. The Sundays in Pre-Lent are named after the time out from Easter they *signify* (they do not correspond to the exact times): Septuagesima means “seventieth”; Sexagesima means “sixtieth”; Quinquagesima means “fiftieth.”
- **Special times of Services:** Please note the special times of the Services marked by asterisks above. Whenever we celebrate a Feast Day on Saturday, we will do so at 10:00 a.m., not at the normal 12:00 p.m. time (Holy Saturday as well). The reason for the 7:30 p.m. time for the Office of Tenebrae on Good Friday evening is to ensure that the sanctuary is dark for the dramatic conclusion of the Service.
- **Feast Day Services:** The liturgy for the Feast Day Services we celebrate throughout the year will be sung, not spoken as announced previously (unless Mary and Beth are both unavailable to play). This is so that they, which are supposed to be more celebratory in nature, can properly contrast with our Daily Holy Week Services, which will be spoken, since they are more meditative in nature.



PEACE LUTHERAN LIBRARY



Donations are always welcome!

If you are thinking about donating one or more books to our library and are not sure what to be looking for, we have a “wish” list of suggestions in the church office. Prices and books can also be found in the CPH catalog, also in the church office.

We would like to encourage people to use our Church Library more often. If you have read a book from our library that you enjoyed, or that inspired you, and you would like to share it, please contact Beth Brostrom or Coaline Luplow.

A Thank You from Pastor Messer

I want to extend a sincere, heart-felt thank you to all of you who gave towards the collection gathered for me this Christmas. I was deeply touched when Elder Dave Zeile presented me with the card in the Fellowship Hall on Christmas morning. What an absolute blessing it is for me to be serving the Lord’s flock here at Peace. Thank you so much for your generosity! I also want to thank all of you who sent our family Christmas cards and who presented me and my family with other Christmas gifts and goodies. Thanks again to all of you. It means more than you could possibly know!

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

Our next luncheon will be Thursday, January 17 at the Kristopher’s in Ithaca at 1:30. Please remember that all ladies of Peace Lutheran Church are invited. Should anyone like to invite a guest – someone without a church or someone living alone – please ask them to join us.



Ladies' Lunch Bunch

PYG NEWS

January Events:

Monthly meeting - Jan. 20 - noon to 2:00 pm

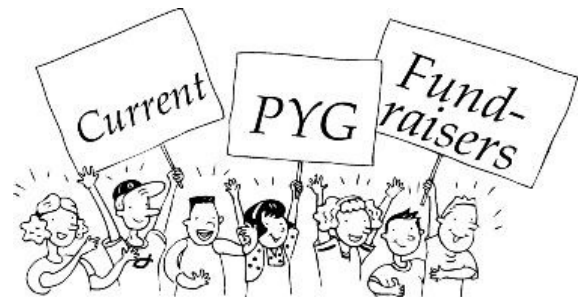
Greetings in Christ.

We begin the new year with hope of increased fellowship and service with the Youth of Peace. Please plan time to attend and participate in our monthly meeting.

We are targeting completion of registration for Jan. 15 to attend the “Higher Things - ‘Amen’” gathering in the Pocono's this June. Registration and medical release forms are available from me at church. I will need these completed forms back as soon as possible. The latest would be the 13th, to meet the 15th deadline.

Remember, if you are in 6th grade through 12th grade, you are a member of Peace Youth Group. Please become an active member with your participation in our meetings and duties. If you have any ideas for service projects, fun-raisers or fellowship opportunities, please talk with me at church or drop me a note in my mailbox. I you have email, you can drop me one at penzdragon@charter.net.

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



1. Spartan Labels - we continue to collect and count Spartan Label UPC’s. There is a box on top of the member mailboxes.

2. Pop Can Drive - We have placed a trash can at the back of the cloak room for cans and bottles.

These are on-going collections by the Peace Youth Group. We appreciate all your support of these programs.

Synopsis of December 4, 2007 Church Council Minutes

Call To Order & Opening Prayer – President Jakolat called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer.

Roll Call – The following members were present: Vern Jakolat, Megan Brown, Carol Zeile, Dave Zeile, James Sager, Sharyn Greening, Dick Kohler. Also present: Pastor Messer, Gary Miller, Chris Brown.

Approval of Agenda – The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes - Motion by Treasurer Zeile, supported by Councilmember Kohler to approve the minutes from the November 6, 2007 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Report(s)

Pastor – Pastor Messer presented the attached Pastor’s Report. The Council received the report into record.

Treasurer – Treasurer Zeile presented the attached Treasurer’s Report. The Council received the report into record.

Financial Secretary – No report was presented.

Boards

Board of Elders – Councilmember Zeile presented the Board of Elders Report. The Council received the report into record.

Board of Trustees – James Sager presented the Board of Trustees Report. The Council received the report into Record.

Board of Christian Education – Councilmember Greening presented the attached Board of Christian Education Report. The Council received the report into record.

Board of Evangelism – Pastor Messer presented the Board of Evangelism Report. The Council received the report into record.

Board of Stewardship – Councilmember Kohler presented the attached Board of Stewardship Report. The Council received the report into record.

Organization and Committee Reports

Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild – Treasurer Zeile presented the attached Ladies Guild Report. The Council received the report into record.

Peace Youth Group – Pastor Messer presented the Youth Group Report. The Council received the report into record.

Constitution & Bylaws – Pastor Messer presented the Constitution & Bylaws Report. The Council received the report into record.

Budget & Finance – No report presented.

Business

CEF Extension Plus Account (tabled from last meeting) – After discussion, the Council tabled this item until the next meeting.

General Comment – The next will be moved from January 1 to January 8 to accommodate the New Year holiday.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer – Motion by Secretary Brown, supported by Councilmember Kohler to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:34pm. Pastor Messer conducted the closing prayer

Proposed minutes respectfully submitted,

Megan Brown, Secretary

Synopsis of October 28, 2007 Quarterly Voters Assembly

Call To Order & Opening Prayer – President Jakolat called the meeting to order at 11:10am. There were 43 voting members present. Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer.

Approval of Agenda – Motion by Vice President Miguel Ortiz, supported by Bill Harmon to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – Motion by Sharyn Greening, supported by Chris Brown to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2007 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Report(s)

Pastor – No report was presented.

Treasurer – Treasurer Zeile presented the Treasurer's Report. Following discussion, motion by Larry Elliott, supported by Vice President Miguel Ortiz to approve the report. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Secretary- – No report was presented.

Boards

Board of Elders – Dave Zeile presented the Board of Elders Report. Following discussion, motion by Vice President Miguel Ortiz, supported by Gary Miller to receive the report into record. Motion carried unanimously.

Board of Trustees – Bill Brostrom presented the Board of Trustees Report. Motion by Vice President Miguel Ortiz, supported by Gary Miller to receive the report into record. Motion carried unanimously.

Board of Christian Education – Sharyn Greening presented the Board of Christian Education Report. Motion by Larry Elliott, supported by Gary Miller to receive the report into record. Motion carried unanimously.

Board of Evangelism – Andrea Elliott presented the Board of Evangelism Report. Motion by Vice President Miguel Ortiz, supported by Marlene Miller to receive the report into record. Motion carried unanimously.

Board of Stewardship – The Assembly was instructed to refer to the current newsletter for information regarding the Board of Stewardship. No report presented.

Organization and Committee Reports

Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild – Treasurer Zeile presented the Ladies Guild Report.

Peace Youth Group – Jon Penzien presented the Youth Group Report. Motion by Marlene Miller, supported by Charlotte Dargie to receive the report into record. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget & Finance – No report presented.

Constitution & Bylaws – Pastor Messer informed the Assembly that copies of the new Constitution had been provided to each member and the Personnel Manual is close to completion and will be available in the church office.

** (At 11:53am, one member left the meeting, leaving 42 voting members left in attendance.)

Business

Election of Officers – President Jakolat announced that nominations from the floor would be accepted. There were none. Motion by Don Reithel, supported by Gary Miller to approve the slate of officers as presented on the ballot. Motion carried with a vote of 41-1.

** (At 12:07, two members left the meeting, leaving 40 voting members left in attendance.)

Proposed 2008 Budget – President Jakolat opened the floor for discussion on the proposed budget for 2008. Following discussion, motion by Larry Elliott, supported by Gary Miller to ratify the Church Council's approval of the forgiveness of Pastor Messer's down payment loan as long as he remains Pastor of Peace Lutheran Church. Motion carried with a vote of 39-1. Discussion continued related to the proposed budget for 2008. Motion by Ken Hill, supported by Yvonne Ellenbaas to accept the proposed budget for 2008 as presented. Motion carried with a vote of 31-9.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer – Motion by Leland Oswald, supported by Vice President Miguel Ortiz to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 12:43pm. Pastor Messer conducted the closing prayer.

Proposed minutes respectfully submitted,
Megan Brown, Secretary

LADIES & ALTAR GUILD INFO

- **LADIES GUILD MEETING:** Guild meets the Monday, **January 7 - 7:00 pm.** **Hostess:** Lois Ramsey. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend our guild meetings; if you are a confirmed female member of Peace, you can be a member of the guild. We would sincerely encourage you to participate and be an active member of the guild.
- **LADIES GUILD PRAYER CHAIN:** The Ladies Guild has a prayer chain in place. If you wish to be included in the prayer chain as a caller, see Marlene Wiltshire. If you wish to add yourself or someone else to the prayers, call Marlene Wiltshire (463-4101).
- **ALTAR GUILD DUTY:** January - Lois Ramsey; February - Carol Zeile; March - Carol Zeile
- **ALTAR FLOWERS:** There is a flower calendar for 2008 posted on the fellowship bulletin board. If you wish to place flowers on the altar some time during the year, fill in your name and/or contact Beth Brostrom or Cheryl Henry. A bouquet usually lasts about one (1) month and the cost is about \$25.



UPCOMING COFFEE HOSTESSES:

January

6 - Marilyn Oswald
 13 - Andrea Elliott
 20 - Youth Group
 27 - Marlene Miller/
 Charlotte Dargie

February

3 - Cheryl Henry
 10 - Lois Ramsey
 17 - Sharyn Greening/
 Megan Greening
 24 - Jennie Harmon

March

2 - D. Palmer/T. Palmer
 9 - Jo Wendt
 16 - Cheryl Kuehnlein
 23 - EASTER - NO COFFEE
 30 - Carol Durst



A New Year's Resolution from the Church Office



To be more efficient and timely, the office would like to set some dates and timelines for bulletin and newsletter publication. This way if there is anyone who wishes to volunteer to help with any of this, we have a definite day and time to work with. Please see Beth if there are any questions or volunteers.

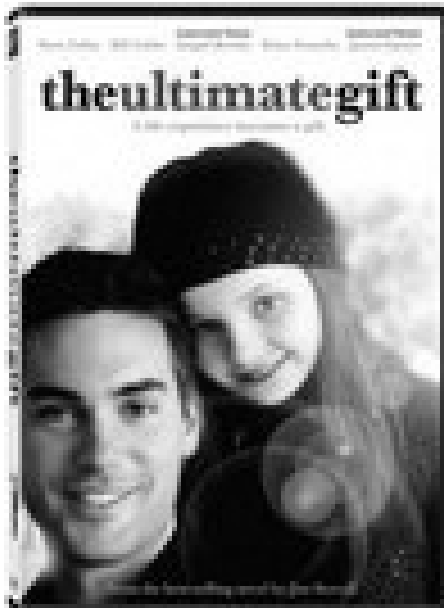
- The bulletin will be printed and folded by 12:00 (noon) on the Friday before Sunday service.
 -Therefore, any announcement items need to be in the office by Friday morning, 10:00 am.
- The Newsletter will be designed and put together on the last Thursday preceding the last Sunday of each month and printed, collated, stapled, and addressed before 2:00 pm on the last Friday preceding the last Sunday.
 -Therefore, any announcements or articles for the Newsletter need to be in the office by Thursday mornings, 10:00 am.
 -Deadline dates for Newsletter publications will be as follows:

January 24	July 24
February 21	August 28
March 27	September 28
April 24	October 23
May 22	November 27
June 26	December 25

S.A.L.T. NEWS & NOTES

S.A.L.T. is our Evangelism Committee here at Peace. Its mission is to Share with All the Love and Truth of Jesus Christ!

1. **Next S.A.L.T. Meeting will be held Thursday, January 17 at 7:00 p.m.** All are welcome to join us!
2. **Support Our Troops:** Please continue to support this ministry by donating any items you can (list on S.A.L.T. bulletin board). If you have any family members serving overseas in our military and would like for us to send them a shipment, please see Andrea or Larry Elliott. Thank you! 
3. **A Forgotten Advent Tea Thank You:** Last month, I thanked all those who were so helpful in planning our Advent Tea, but forgot to include Coaline Luplow. So sorry Coaline! I have no idea how I left you off the list as your name was right there on the handwritten note from which I typed the thank you note. So . . . please accept my apology for the blunder and my sincere thanks for all the help you provided in planning our Advent Tea! Love, Lisa Messer
4. **Food Bank:** Food Bank collection Sunday is the first Sunday of every month. Please help the S.A.L.T. committee give aid to families and seniors of Gratiot County by bringing non-perishable, canned, or packaged foods on **Sunday, January 6**. Suggestions for donations are posted on the S.A.L.T. bulletin board. Place your donations in the **RED COLLECTION TUB** in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks for your help! 
5. **PEACE APPAREL IS COMING SOON:** We will be taking orders once again for Peace Lutheran **T-shirts, polos, and sweatshirts**. We will be offering a bigger variety this time. We had hoped to be able to have this together before Christmas, but it didn't work out. So, look for details on this soon! We promise! :)
6. **Peace Camping Weekend:** Please see the S.A.L.T. bulletin board to sign up to join us for this fun and exciting getaway this summer!



PEACE MOVIE NIGHT RETURNS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

Meet at the church at 6:00 p.m.

The Ultimate Gift (shows at 6:30 p.m.)

A discussion about the movie will follow.

Pizza, chips, and pop provided by S.A.L.T.

Bring your own snacks if you wish

Bring your own comfy chairs if you wish

A freewill offering will be collected to support future movie nights. Hope to see you there!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT PEACE

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

- Sunday School meets at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday. There are four Sunday School Classes this year (Pre-K-2nd Grade; 3rd-5th Grade; 6th-8th Grade; 9th-12th Grade).
- Adult Bible Class is offered **every Sunday at 11:00 a.m.** for all adult members of Peace and guests. We are currently engaged in a detailed study of **Revelation**.

Youth Confirmation Class

- Youth Confirmation Class meets weekly on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.

Together in the Word

- Our *Together in the Word* Bible Study **has changed its day and time**—Beginning this month we will meet on **THURSDAY mornings at 10:00 a.m.** All men and women of Peace who are available at that time are encouraged to join us. Guests are always welcome as well. We are currently engaged in a detailed study of **Genesis**. Please plan on joining us soon.

“It’s All Greek to Me”

- *It’s All Greek to Me* meets on Sundays from 12:00-1:30.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Happy Birthday to:

3 - Ashleigh Strand
6 - Dorothy Trgina
11 - Mary Jakolat
16 - Kristine Strong
20 - Don Reithel

Happy Anniversary to:

15 - Dorothy & Gary Trgina

24 - David Meyers
25 - Joan Burch
30 - Pamela Hyde
30 - Evelyn Cummins

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



EUCHRE NIGHT!

Euchre night will NOT meet in December. **We will re-sume on Friday, January 18.** There will be a sign-up sheet on the S.A.L.T. bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome to come and have fun playing the great game of euchre. Please bring a refreshment to pass and a friend. See you there!



TABLE TALK

Our Table Talks are informal and informative discussions with Pastor Messer on various topics decided by the group in attendance. Our next Table Talk will take place **Thursday, January 24 at 7:00 p.m.** at the church. All are invited to attend! Hope to see you there!

PAROCHIAL REPORT

(As of December 31)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 188; Confirmed - 149

Official Acts: None

Membership gains: 0

Membership losses: 0

Financial Report

YTD Receipts: \$99,370.07

Budgeted YTD: \$103,740.00

Find Thirty Books of the Bible

There are thirty books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them?


This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new sales record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "the books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus, there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.

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January 2008

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Dec. 30	Dec. 31	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Ist Sunday after Christmas</i> 8:30—Choir 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BC 12:00—Greek Class				10:00—Together in the Word 5:00 pm— <i>WVW</i> 5:30—Confirmation Class		
6 <i>The Epiphany of Our Lord</i> 8:30—Choir 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BC, SS 12:00—Greek Class	7 7:00—Ladies Guild Hostess: Lois Ramsey	8 <i>Pastor Messer at Winkal</i> 7:00—Council Meeting	9	10 10:00—Together in the Word 5:00 pm— <i>WVW</i> 5:30—Confirmation Class	11	12
13 <i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i> 8:30—Choir 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BC, SS 12:00—Greek Class	14 Voting Set-up	15 7:00 am - 8:00 pm - Primary Elections 8:00 - Trustees Meeting	16	17 10:00—Together in the Word 1:00 - Ladies Lunch Bunch 5:00 pm— <i>WVW</i> 5:30—Confirmation Class 7:00—SALT Mtg.	18 12:00—Divine Service <i>The Confession of St. Peter</i>	19
20 <i>Septuagesima</i> 8:30—Choir 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BC, SS 12:00—Greek Class, PYG	21	22	23	24 10:00—Together in Word 12:00—Divine Service <i>Feast of St. Timothy</i> 5:00 pm - <i>WVW</i> 5:30—Confirmation Class 7:00—Table Talk	25 12:00—Divine Service <i>The Conversion of St. Paul</i> 6:00 - MOVIE NIGHT - <i>The Ultimate Gift</i>	26 10:00—Divine Service <i>The Feast of St. Titus</i>
27 <i>Sexagesima</i> 8:30—Choir 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—Quarterly Voters' Assembly	28	29	30	31 10:00—Together in the Word 5:00 pm— <i>WVW</i> 5:30—Confirmation Class	Feb. 1 	Feb. 2 10:00—Divine Service <i>The Purification of Mary and Presentation of Jesus</i>

SERVING IN JANUARY

	<u>ACOLYTES</u>	<u>ORGANIST</u>	<u>ELDER</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
JANUARY					
6 - 9:30 am	Tyrel Harwager Sarah Messer	Beth Brostrom	Terry Luplow	Chris Brown Burt Henry	Dave & Carol Zeile
13 - 9:30 am	Philip Schafer Jordan Henry	Mary Jakolat	Dave Zeile	Vern Jakolat Gary Miller	Jenny Baughman & Family
20 - 9:30 am	Kelsey Gensler CJ Oswald	Beth Brostrom	Don Reithel	Bill Brostrom Mike Gilbert	Jeannette Bigelow/ Lois Miller
27 - 9:30 am	Lauren Penzien Samantha Messer	Mary Jakolat	Larry Elliott	Bill Hendrick Jonathan Penzien	Gary/Marlene Miller/ Charlotte Dargie
FEBRUARY					
3 - 9:30 am	Melanie Penzien Tyrel Harwager	Beth Brostrom	Bill Harmon	James Sager Burt Henry	Marlene Wiltshire/ Carol Durst
6 - 7:00 pm	Kelsey Gensler Sarah Messer	Beth Brostrom	Bill Harmon	James Sager Burt Henry	XXX

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

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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.