

The Peace Post

Peace Lutheran Church ~ Alma, MI

January 2012

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!



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"A New Year of Being Made New"

NOTE: I have been working on my Annual Report and was hoping to have it ready to publish in this month's newsletter, but it will have to wait until next month. In the meantime, here is an article from yesteryear:

"And He who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new!'" (Rev. 21:5)

Notice the tense of the verb spoken by our Lord Jesus Christ in the verse above. It is not past or future, but present. He doesn't say I have made or will make all things new, but I *am making* all things new!

That is very significant, my friends, for it assures us that our Lord Jesus Christ is no absentee landlord, but an active Savior and very present help in our time of need. It is true that He "*made* all things new" by His death and resurrection and that He "*will make* all things new" on the Last Day when He returns in glory, but it is equally true that He is, even now, "*making* all things new." He is "with us always" just as He promised to be. He continues to do mighty things in our presence, gifting us with forgiveness, life, and salvation through the precious means of grace He Himself established—His Holy Word and Sacraments. As we continue to come into His presence and receive these gifts from His gracious hands, He continues to make us new, preserving us as His beautiful and immaculate Bride, perfectly holy and righteous in His Father's sight.

It is this glorious truth, this beautiful promise, this awesome reality, which allows us to transition into a new earthly year without fear, and full of confidence. We don't know what lies ahead for us in this new year, but we do know that nothing—not financial difficulties, not broken relationships, not illness or injury, not even death—can separate us from the love God has for us who are continuously made new by His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord (cf. Rom. 8:37-39). For that reason, we can rest assured that this new year (like all new years) will be one of extraordinary blessing for us, for it will be a new year of being made new by our Lord.

Thus, let us resolve to heed the exhortation given us in Hebrews and "*consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near*" (Heb. 10:24-25). For it is when we "meet together" in the Divine Service that our Lord washes us clean in His Blood and makes us ever new.

A blessed New Year to all!

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Messer

PEACE NEWS & NOTES



NEWS

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Location</u>
Monthly Meeting	1/15	5:00 pm	7:00pm	Fellowship Hall
Fellowship	Sundays	10:45 am	11:26 am	Youth Classroom

Greetings in Christ,

Welcome to 2012. May the Lord bless and keep you throughout the coming year.

We are going to be busy this year. A group of Youth will be attending the Higher Things 2012 conference in North Carolina this June. Registration has been covered through the Spindler Trust Fund. Thanks to them and everyone who supports our youth. We will be continuing to raise money to help with transportation and meal costs. Watch the PYG Board for more updates.

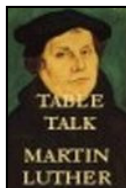
Our first monthly meeting will be January 15th. We will have a fellowship period from 5 to 6 pm. Our Bible study/meeting will be from 6 to 7 pm. All youth who are in the 6th grade or higher are members of the Youth Group. Please join us for our meetings and activities.

Our ongoing pop can drive brought in over \$300 in 2011. This has helped with various activity costs and will help with transportation costs for the Youth this summer. Thanks to everyone for your continued support of the Youth at Peace.

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

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! All are invited to our next Table Talk, which will take place **Thursday, January 19 at 7:00 p.m. at the Church.** We hope you're able to join us!



SALT NEWS

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, January 12 at 6:30 p.m.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Please see our Meeting Minutes on the SALT Bulletin Board

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).

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Thank you all you who volunteered to provide lunches for the Sunday School students and adults before the Christmas Program rehearsals. This made scheduling much easier and still enabled the children to attend Sunday School classes prior to program practices. Thanks for your help!

Ladies Lunch Bunch

We will meet for lunch this month on **Monday, January 16 at 1:30 p.m.** at JJ Ruby's. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the fellowship hall. All ladies of Peace are welcome and also may invite a guest - the more, the merrier! Hope to see you there!

PEACE MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, January 27

6:30 pm - Pizza

7:00 pm - Movie

*Movie yet to be determined
(Look for details in bulletin soon)*

**Bring comfy chairs and snacks if you wish!
Freewill Offering collected for pizza.**

Hope you'll join us!

PEACE NEWS & NOTES Cont'd

PEACE PICK 'EM - NFL

(Peace Pick 'Em is just for fun. Everyone is welcome to play. Sheets with each week's games are provided on Sunday mornings; simply circle the team you think is going to win each game and give them to Pastor Messer)

Week 1 Best Record: 9-6

Pastor Messer, Dave Zeile

Week 2 Best Record: 13-3

Carol Zeile

Week 3 Best Record: 11-5

Pastor Messer, Lisa Messer, Sam Messer, Carol Zeile

Week 4 Best Record: 14-2

Terry Luplow

Week 5 Best Record: 11-2

Andrea Elliott

Week 6 Best Record: 11-2

Carolyn Johnson

Week 7 Best Record: 9-4

Sharyn Greening

Week 8 Best Record: 8-5

Carol Zeile, Dave Zeile

Week 9 Best Record: 11-3

Sharyn Greening

Week 10 Best Record: 11-4

Andrea Elliott

Week 11 Best Record: 11-2

Larry Elliott

Week 12 Best Record: 13-3

Pastor Messer, Carol Zeile

Week 13 Best Record: 12-3

Pastor Messer

Week 14 Best Record: 13-2

Dave Zeile, Larry Elliott

Week 15 Best Record: 12-3

Coaline Luplow

Week 16 Best Record: 12-3

Andrea Elliott, Carol Z. (12-4)

Week 17 Best Record: 12-4

Andrea Elliott

Final Standings

(Based on at least ten weeks of picks)

<u>Picker</u>	<u>Weeks</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Win%</u>
Pastor Messer	17	161-89	.644
Terry Luplow	12	105-59	.640
Carol Zeile	15	140-79	.639
Larry Elliott	17	158-92	.632
Dave Zeile	17	148-88	.627
Andrea Elliott	17	152-97	.610
Carolyn Johnson	14	108-94	.535
Coaline Luplow	13	98-90	.521
Sharyn Greening	16	120-11	.520

Others

Amy Blair	4	38-22	.633
Sam Messer	4	38-23	.623
Miguel Ortiz	5	40-29	.580
Ed Norton	4	36-27	.571
Lexie Blair	4	35-28	.556
Morgan Johnson	4	32-26	.552
Jennie Harmon	2	16-13	.552
Lisa Messer	6	47-41	.534
Sarah Messer	3	22-22	.500
Savannah Blair	2	14-14	.500
Aaron Messer	3	21-24	.467
Paige Harwager	8	53-61	.465
Farrah Blair	2	13-15	.464
Kelsey Gensler	2	10-18	.364

REMEMBERING OUR SHUT-INS

We all love to receive greetings from people who care for us. What better way to remember our shut-ins (when it is difficult for us to make a personal visit) than to send a note or a card periodically to let them know we are thinking of them and to give them something to look forward to in the mail, and especially at this time of the year! Please consider dropping a few lines to our shut-ins during the course of each month.

Marlene Wiltshire

Masonic Pathways

1200 Wright Avenue

Alma, MI 48801

Vivian Strom

Masonic Pathways

1200 Wright Avenue

Alma, MI 48801

Joan Burch

PO Box 442

Breckenridge, MI 48615

Marion Greening

1025 Vassar Street

Alma, MI 48801

Joyce Kohler

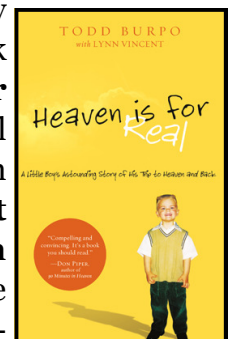
2700 Marfitt Road, Apt. 213

East Lansing, MI 48823

Also, while correspondence is not requested for him, please remember our dear brother in Christ, Dick Wisner, who is at Pine River in St. Louis, in your prayers.

PEACE BOOK CLUB

Our Peace Book Club met for the second time on Tuesday, November 22 at the home of Yvonne Elenbaas, and we had a wonderful time discussing the classic novel by C.S. Lewis, "The Screwtape letters." It was decided by the group that our next book would be "Heaven Is For Real" by Todd Burpo. We'll meet to discuss this book on **Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at the Zeiles' home at 7:00 pm** (129 Essex, St. Louis). Everyone is welcome. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Messer.



Ladies Guild

Ladies Guild Meeting

Our Ladies Guild will meet on **Monday, January 9, at 12 pm.** Hostess will be Marlene Miller. 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 current list is posted on the Ladies' Guild Bulletin Board. All participants should have 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 2011 is 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.

NEEDED: BOOKSHELF

We would like to add a bookshelf with 4-5 shelves to expand our Church Library. See Pastor or Coaline if you can donate.

LADIES GUILD ON THE WEB

Ladies Guild coffee hostesses, Altar Guild assignments and Ladies Guild events appear on the Peace website. See www.peacealma.org and click Ladies Guild.

PEACE LUTHERAN LADIES GUILD



the Ladies Guild is collecting the following items for Layettes to send to the Lutheran World Relief:

- 2 receiving blankets
- 2 shirts
- 2 gowns or sleepers
- 4 cloth diapers
- 1 sweater
- 2 washcloths
- 1 bath-size bar of soap
- 2 diaper pins

Wrap the items in one of the receiving blankets and secure with diaper pins.

COLLECTION DATES:
January 1 - March 31

PEACE LADIES GUILD COOKBOOK

Cookbooks are available for \$13.00 and can be purchased during fellowship time from any member of the Guild. Questions, ask a member of the Guild.

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.



January

Coaline Luplow

- 1 Carol Zeile
- 8 Tina Schafer
- 15 Peace Youth Group
- 22 M. Miller/C. Dargie
- 29 Janice Sager

February

Altar Care

M. Miller/C. Dargie

Coffee Hostesses

- 5 Jennie Harmon
- 12 Y. Elenbaas/M. Girard
- 19 S.Greening/M.Brown
- 26 Carolyn Johnson

March

Carolyn Johnson

- 4 Andrea Elliott
- 11 Jo Wendt
- 18 Lisa Messer
- 25 Jenny Baughman



PLC 2012 PROPOSED BUDGET

In the fall of 2011, the Budget and Finance Committee met several times with the treasurer of the congregation to assist with the preparation of a proposed budget for 2012. Each line item in the budget was discussed thoroughly and the Committee forwarded a proposed budget to the Council. The Council discussed the proposed budget multiple times at great length. All members of the Council participated in these discussions and many different ideas and perspectives were explored.

At the January 3, 2012 Council meeting, the proposed budget was again discussed in light of the end of year figures. By the Grace of God, Peace finished 2011 in the black and received more in offering than was budgeted for the year. Taking into account this blessing, and also the increased offering promises received by the Stewardship Committee, the Council will present an amended proposed budget at the January 22, 2012 Voters' Assembly. For those of you who prefer to review the proposal in advance of the meeting, you will find it below.

Please know that the Council spent a great deal of time praying, thinking, and talking about this proposal and very much appreciates the time and effort that went into the deliberations of the Budget and Finance Committee. Any questions may be referred to any member of the Council.

Peace Lutheran Church Budget	2011 Budget	2012 Proposed Budget	Difference
<u>Expense</u>			
Church and Worship : Altar and Worship	\$1,000	\$1,400	\$400
Church and Worship : Christian Education	\$400	\$500	\$100
Church and Worship : Music	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$0
Missions : Issues, Etc.	\$400	\$1,000	\$600
Operating Expense: Administrative Assistant	\$5,200	\$5,200	\$0
Operating Expense : Building Maintenance	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
Operating Expense : Insurance	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Operating Expense : Office Expense	\$900	\$1,800	\$900
Operating Expense : Photocopier	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$0
Operating Expense : Telephone/Internet	\$1,600	\$1,244	-\$356
Operating Expense : Utilities	\$5,000	\$5,580	\$580
Pastoral Expense : Benefit Package	\$23,000	\$19,044	-\$3,956
Pastoral Expense : Conferences and Training	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
Pastoral Expense : Down Payment Loan	\$2,220	\$2,220	\$0
Pastoral Expense : Guest Pastors	\$200	\$200	\$0
Pastoral Expense : Mileage	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$1,000
Pastoral Expense : Book Allowance	\$500	\$500	\$0
Pastoral Expense : Salary	\$60,245	\$62,415	\$2,170
Pastoral Expense : Miscellaneous	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000
<u>Total Expenses</u>	\$109,565	\$113,003	\$3,438

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 *1 Samuel*. All are welcome to join us!

Christian History Class

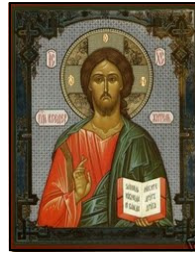
- Wednesday classes meet at 6 pm (currently studying *The Didache*), followed by Divine Service at 7 pm.

First Communion and Confirmation Classes

- First Communion Classes take place as arranged (see Pastor Messer if interested); Confirmation Class for our 1st-year Confirmands takes place on Wednesdays at 5 pm (no 2nd-year confirmands this year).

A HUGE thank you to all of you who gave toward the Christmas collection taken up for my family and me, and to all who presented us with other gifts. It is a tremendous blessing to be serving among you!

*With Love,
Pastor Messer*



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!

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www.issuesetc.org



ANNUAL BJS CONFERENCE

The annual National Conference of The Brothers of John the Steadfast will take place at Bethany Lutheran Church in Naperville, IL on Feb. 11-12. This year's conference will feature presentations by Rev. Jonathan Fisk, Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller, and Rev. Joshua Scheer, along with the reverent Services and wonderful hospitality always enjoyed at Bethany. In addition, Pastor Kind of ULC will be preaching during the Divine Service on Saturday morning, and Pastor Messer has been extended the honor of preaching during Vespers on Friday evening. Several members of Peace have attended this excellent conference in the past and have thoroughly enjoyed it. If you can swing it, you would be greatly edified. For more information and registration details, go to www.steadfastlutherans.org, and if you have any questions, please feel free to speak with Pastor Messer.



JANUARY

Happy Birthday

6 Dorothy Trgina	14 Rebekah Tennant
10 Kylie Stahl	18 Amy Blair
11 Mary Jakolat	24 David Meyers
12 Georgie Bebow	25 Joan Burch

No Anniversaries in January

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

PAROCHIAL REPORT

(as of 12/31/11)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 139; Confirmed - 119

(Note: You may notice that these numbers have decreased by one since last month's report, even though we had no gains or losses in December. This is due to the fact that we ran a July-August edition of the newsletter this year and forgot to reflect the loss of Georgia Spindler, who was called home to heaven in July, in September's newsletter.)

Membership gains: 0

Membership losses: 0













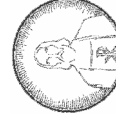

Financial Report as of 12/31/11

YTD Budgeted.....	\$ 109,565.00
YTD Receipts.....	\$ 111,945.24
Difference.....	\$ + 2,380.24

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

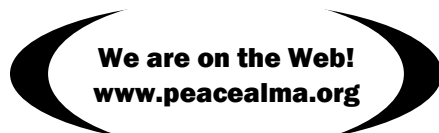
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 Alma, MI 48801
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 contact@peacecalma.org
 www.peacecalma.org

January 2012

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Circumcision & Name of Jesus</i> 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC,SS 	2 12 pm - Divine Service <i>St. Stephen, Martyr</i> 	3 12 pm - Divine Service <i>St. John, Apostle & Evangelist</i> 	4 5 pm - Confirmation Class 6 pm - Study of Didache 7 pm - Div. Serv. <i>Holy Innocents</i> 	5 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers 7 pm - Div. Serv. <i>The Epiphany Of Our Lord</i> 	6	7
8 <i>The Baptism of Our Lord</i> 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC,SS 	9 12 pm - Ladies Guild	10 <i>Pastor at Winkel</i> 7 pm - Peace Book Club	11 5 pm - Confirmation Class 6 pm - Study of Didache 7 pm - Div. Serv. <i>Confession of St. Peter</i> 7:45 pm - Elders 	12 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers 6:30 pm - SALT	13	14
15 <i>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</i> 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC,SS 5-7 pm - PYG 	16 1:30 pm - Lunch Bunch	17	18 5 pm - Confirmation Class 6 pm - Study of Didache 7 pm - Div. Serv. <i>St. Timothy, Pastor & Conf.</i> 	19 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers 7 pm - Table Talk	20	21
22 <i>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</i> 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - Voters' Assembly 	23	24	25 5 pm - Confirmation Class 6 pm - Study of Didache 7 pm - Div. Serv. <i>Conversion of St. Paul</i> 	26 10 am - Together in Word 12 pm - Divine Service <i>St. Titus, Pastor & Conf.</i> 5 pm - W. Watchers 	27 Peace Movie Night 6:30 pm - Pizza 7:00 pm - Movie	28
29 <i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i> 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC,SS 	30 <i>Newsletter articles due</i>	31 7 pm - Stewardship	February 1 5 pm - Confirmation Class 6 pm - Study of Didache 7 pm - Div. Serv. <i>Pur. Of Mary & Presentation of Our Lord</i> 	2	3	4

Peace Lutheran Church
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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 January

January	ELDERS	ACOLYTES	USHERS	GREETERS
1 - 9:30 am <i>(Circumcision/Name of Jesus)</i>	Miguel Ortiz	Myka Luplow Savannah Blair	Gary Miller John Lemmermann	Lisa Messer & Family
8 - 9:30 am <i>(Baptism of our Lord)</i>	Gabriel Blair	Paige Harwager Aaron Messer	Terry Luplow Chris Brown	Helen Meyers
15 - 9:30 am <i>(Epiphany 2)</i>	Larry Elliott	Morgan Johnson Farrah Blair	Tyrel Harwager James Sager	Miguel & Sue Ortiz
22 - 9:30 am <i>(Epiphany 3)</i>	Terry Luplow	Samantha Messer Sierra Luplow	Daren Johnson Phillip Schafer	Jon Penzien & Family
29 - 9:30 am <i>(Transfiguration of Our Lord)</i>	Miguel Ortiz	Natalie Penzien Myka Luplow	Miguel Ortiz Gary Miller	James & Janice Sager
February				
5 - 9:30 am <i>(Septuagesima)</i>	Gabriel Blair	Savannah Blair Paige Harwager	Vern Jakolat John Lemmermann	Blair Family

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