



August, 2010

The Peace Post

Peace Lutheran Church ~ Alma, MI

From the Desk of Pastor Messer

“Five Years at Peace: Part 3—Where We’ve Been, Where We Are, and Where We’re Heading”

Reminiscing about my call to, and first five years of service at, Peace.



So, where was I? Oh yes, that’s right. My first Sunday of service at Peace (July 31, 2005), and I was talking about Jon Greening’s speech at the Voters’ Assembly that day, during which he emphasized the fact that I was not being called to be the “hired Christian” here at Peace, but a servant alongside of whom everyone in the congregation should be ready and willing to serve. And, I left off with a question: Would the congregation heed Jon’s admonishment?

The answer to that question, at least in my humble opinion, is rather complex. I would answer it, “Yes and No.” I think the congregation that Jon addressed that day, which has changed a bit since then, in more ways than one, consisted of many people who were more than receptive to Jon’s admonishment, but there were also some who seemed to let what Jon had to say go in one ear and out the other. That is to say, when I began my service as pastor here at Peace, it was evident to me early on that there were people who were ready and willing to serve, but others who wanted to sit back and see what the new pastor would do. The “part-time mentality” was spread throughout the congregation, which is to be expected in a congregation that had been part-time for fifteen years, but what concerned me was the attitude I noticed in some who did seem to view me as Peace’s new “hired Christian.” Not only that, but there was also this rather defeatist attitude I sensed in some. I cannot tell you how many times I heard, “That won’t work; we’ve tried that here before,” during my first couple years at Peace.

Nevertheless, I had big plans and high hopes for this congregation and was bound and determined to get things going. I readily admit that I was more than a little naïve in the beginning. I expected everyone and their brother to be just as excited about me being here as I was. And, I expected everyone and their brother to be just as dedicated to getting this sluggish congregation moving forward. I should have known better. After all, I had been serving in the Church for many years in various offices and capacities before being ordained a pastor, and I had learned full well that things don’t always go as planned in a congregation full of sinners.

Anyway, having these big plans and high hopes, I immediately arranged for members to gather together to discuss where this congregation had been, where we were now, and where they wanted to see us go in the future. We held these gatherings (four of them in all—three in August and one in September, 2005) at my home and called them “Plans for Peace.” I’m sure many of you remember these. I thought these gatherings went very well. Not everyone participated, but enough of the congregation did to get a good sense of what members believed to be the strengths and weaknesses of the congregation, and to pinpoint the areas which needed the most focus.

Coming out of these gatherings, there was a noticeable excitement and optimism about our little congregation’s future. At the same time, there was that defeatist attitude I mentioned above going on as well. As a newcomer to the congregation, it was very evident early on that there would be many challenges ahead as we sought to move forward as a congregation. But, I was confident that the Lord would be with us.

And now, looking back on what has happened these past five years, I see that the Lord has indeed been with us. There have been many challenges along the way, and I know there will be many more as we move forward from here, but the Lord has kept our little congregation together through the challenges we have faced, and He will continue to do so in the future.

When describing our congregation to others, I have often said, “We are small in number, but

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mighty in faith.” I think that is an apt description of Peace. I pray, as I know all of you do, that the Lord would bless us with numerical growth as we move forward, but I also thank the Lord for the tremendous spiritual growth I have been blessed to witness in this congregation these past five years. Of these two kinds of growth, it is the latter that is more important to our Lord, who reveals time and time again in His Holy Word that He is interested in faithfulness far more than in numbers. And there is much faithfulness to behold here in our little congregation, which is a testimony to the dedication and desire of God’s people gathered here to be catechized in His Word and to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, our Lord. In a day and age when Bible Study attendance is at an all time low, it warms this pastor’s heart to see so many members attending Bible Study on a regular basis. I have belonged to, and served at, much larger congregations that do not get the turnout for Bible Study that we do here at Peace, and I pray that this trend will continue, and even grow, in the years ahead.

Besides this, I want to highlight the fact that, with the Lord’s help and by His grace, we have accomplished a LOT these past five years. Consider the following (in no particular order):

- The development of a new, wonderful congregational website
- The addition of DSL internet service on site
- The improvement of our congregational newsletter, *The Peace Post*, which continues to garner many compliments from those outside our congregation who read it
- The pleasant transition to a new hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book*
- A noticeable increase in reverence in our Lord’s Holy House of Prayer (many guests over the years have commented to me how much they appreciated the fact that, when they entered our nave for Divine Service, there was a noticeable atmosphere of reverence and prayer)
- Blessed improvements and added reverence regarding our practice of handling, distributing, and cleaning up the Holy Communion of our Lord’s very Body and Blood
- A newly revised and updated congregational Constitution and Bylaws
- Renovations to our sacristy and office areas
- The implementation of a new, paid church secretary position, which has been a tremendous blessing in increasing the efficiency of our congregation’s administrative and organizational tasks (Thanks, Mary!)
- A new heating and cooling system throughout our building
- The resurrection of our evangelism and stewardship committees
- The selling of our parsonage
- Expansion of our Church Library
- The introduction of several new fellowship opportunities, including *Advent Tea*, *Table Talk*, *Peace Movie Nights*, *Secret Pals*, and other events/activities
- The development and adoption of a new church logo, and the opportunity to purchase apparel with that logo
- The installation of beautiful, new stained-glass windows along the west side of our nave
- The blessings of a wonderful adult choir to enhance our worship during the Festival half of the Church Year
- Improvements have been made in keeping better church records
- The purchase of a new copier for our church office
- Renovations to our sanctuary, which have been a true blessing to many
- An increase in the visibility and service of our Board of Elders
- A membership roster which more accurately reflects the current state of our congregation (always a work in progress, but great strides have been continually made in this area)
- The moving away from the “hire everything out” mentality by taking on many tasks in-house (cleaning, mowing, maintenance, renovations, repairs, etc.)
- The addition of several opportunities for Study and Service (*Together in the Word*, *Feast Day Divine Services* throughout the year, *Daily Holy Week Services*, every Wednesday *Study and Service*, etc.)
- Installation of better lighting both inside and outside
- The addition of several new sanctuary appointments, including an altar crucifix, processional crucifix, flower stands, sanctuary lamp, new paraments and vestments for the whole church year, paschal candle and stand, pres dieu (kneeler), several new banners, etc.
- A new projector and big screen for our Adult Bible Study area
- A new storage shed; re-organization of Sunday School classrooms; new banner storage area in progress
- The beautification of our property outside (cutting down of the trees which were hiding our building, new landscaping,

repair and painting of building and playground equipment, painting of new shed, etc.)

- The participation of our youth in *Higher Things*; the participation of our congregation in the *Issues, Etc. 300* and in supporting *The Lutheran Siberian Mission Society*
- A growing faithfulness in financial stewardship among our members, which has allowed us to close the gap between our income and expenses
- The implementation of *Pax Domini Press* Sunday School and VBS resources, which have been a blessing toward the ongoing catechesis of our youth
- The addition of several new pieces of art and Christian symbolism around our building
- An increased understanding, and greater appreciation, of the Divine Service

As you can see, we have been blessed by our Lord to accomplish much during these past five years, including many of the short-term goals we set at those “Plans for Peace” meetings early on. I’m sure I’m probably even leaving a few things out which could be mentioned. The point is that we have made great strides in many areas, and we should pause for a moment, reflect on these things, and give thanks to our Lord who has richly blessed us so. And we should also be thankfully mindful of the fact that many of these accomplishments were made possible only as the Lord moved many among us to be generous with their time, talents, and treasures. I have been blown away, time and time again, by the loving generosity I have witnessed here at Peace.

At the same time, as mentioned above, we have had our challenges along the way. We have lost members who didn’t agree with some of the decisions the congregation has made, and that is always tough to deal with, especially when people refuse to sit down and try to work out whatever issues they have. Nevertheless, we wish those former members well and pray that they continue to receive the Lord’s Gifts via His Holy Word and Sacraments elsewhere. And, we give thanks to our Lord who has blessed us with many new members these past five years, many of whom are very active in, and wonderfully supportive of, our congregation. In short, we have had our share of bad times and good times, which is par for the course in the Church Militant, filled with sinners as it is, the chief of which just happens to be serving as your pastor. I have made many mistakes these past five years. I know without a doubt that I’ll make many more in the future. I pray that you will continue to bear with me, and with one another, that, together, we would all be anxious to forgive and to love one another, and be eager to work together in faithfulness to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

So, that’s where we have been, in a nutshell. As I contemplate where we are now, I have to admit that I am nearly speechless. Right now, we are enjoying the kind of peace and unity that is very rare for congregations this side of heaven. I have never before belonged to a congregation as free from conflict and turmoil as we are right now. I almost don’t know what to make of it. It’s a little eerie, to be honest. But, I’m thoroughly enjoying it all the same, as I know you are as well. There is a danger in this, though, that we should all be aware of—the temptation to become complacent. Thus, while we enjoy this time of peace and unity, we need also to be about the work our Lord has given us to do in this part of His vineyard. We can never be completely satisfied with where we are as a congregation, but must always be striving 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,” per our adopted mission statement.

I think we are heading in the right direction. I believe that, by the Lord’s grace and with His help, we have built a solid foundation upon which to build these past five years. But, it is time to build. It is time to get more involved with our surrounding community, to concentrate on reaching out to the lost around us, to strengthen our internal boards and committees, and to continue to look for ways to foster the wonderful fellowship we have as the family of God gathered together around His Holy Word and Sacraments in this place, at this time. It is time to build; time to get to work! We have much to offer. We are blessed to belong to a congregation where the Gospel is preached in its purity and the Sacraments are administered according to Christ’s institution, where catechesis is taken seriously, where proper respect and reverence are displayed toward our Lord, and where the faithful cherish all these things. I pray that the Lord will bless us with the vigor, dedication, and commitment to get busy building in the days ahead.

Lastly, I want to say how very blessed I feel to be serving here at Peace. I mean that with all my heart. I thank God daily for placing me here among such loving and faithful people, and pray that He will bless me with many more years of service here. I have no intention of going anywhere. I say that because I know there is still some worry out there that I might take another call, especially if we are not able to improve our financial situation in the future. Unless the Lord makes it so vividly obvious that I must leave to serve elsewhere (you know, like send the angel Gabriel down to tell me, or something), I am here for the long haul, come what may. So, you’ll just have to keep putting up with me. Sorry! ☺

Thank you so much for your love and support these past five years. May the Lord continue to bless us and keep us, make His face shine upon us and be gracious to us, look upon us with favor, and grant us peace. Amen!

Your Thankful Servant in Christ,

Pastor Messer



Rev. Matthew C. Harrison Elected LCMS President!

The afternoon of Tuesday, July 13, will be an afternoon remembered by many for the rest of their lives. It was a great moment in the life of our synod, as the delegates at the 64th National Convention of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod elected Pastor Matt Harrison to serve as our Synodical President on the first ballot. Pastor Harrison received 54% of the votes, unseating incumbent Rev. Gerald Kieschnick, who received 45%. It was an historic moment, as this was the first time in our synod’s history that an incumbent president was defeated on the first ballot, and only the second time in our synod’s history that an incumbent president was defeated at all.

Why is this a great moment in the life of our synod? Because Pastor Harrison is unmistakably Lutheran in belief, teaching, confession, and practice. He is a caring pastor, an excellent theologian, and a wonderful man of mercy, and he believes that being and remaining Lutheran, not just in name, but in doctrine and practice, is not just a good idea, but essential in the life and confession of our synod. He stands on the shoulders of the great pastors and theologians who have led our synod in the past, directing our attention not to our own efforts or our own man-made programs and endeavors, but to Holy Scripture and our Lutheran Confessions.

Another reason why this is a great moment in the life of our synod is because we have elected a man who has been thoroughly honest about acknowledging the fact that we are a synod deeply divided on many issues, and believes that we need to finally address these issues and work toward resolutions based on Holy Scripture and our Lutheran Confessions. For the past decade, our synod has become all the more divided under the guidance of the outgoing administration, largely due to the fact that, rather than address those issues which divide us, they have tried to trumpet the idea that we are a united synod which simply disagrees about a few matters, and that those disagreements do not infringe upon the unity we share. Pastor Harrison disagrees and has a plan to address the divisive issues among us and work toward true unity, and that plan has met with resounding support from many around our synod.

Still another reason why this is a great moment in the life of our synod is the fact that the delegates elected a solid slate of candidates to serve our synod across the board (from the Vice Presidents down to the various Boards of Regents), who will be a great asset to our newly elected president as he begins his service on September 1. The Praesidium, which consists of the President and Vice Presidents of our synod, elected by the delegates at this convention is the most solid Praesidium our synod has been blessed with in a long time—1st Vice President Rev. Herbert C. Mueller, Jr.; 2nd Vice President Rev. John C. Wohlrabe, Jr.; 3rd Vice President Rev. Paul L. Maier; 4th Vice President Rev. Daniel Preus; 5th Vice President Rev. Scott R. Murray.

Of course, none of this means that all our synod’s woes and divisions will simply go away now. It just means that we have elected leaders who are committed to working toward that end. This will take time. It took many years for our synod to get itself into the mess it’s in (and, if you’re asking, “What mess?,” well, that’s a big part of the problem—many haven’t been paying close enough attention to what’s been going on in our synod), and it will take many years to get us back on track. But, for the first time in a long time, there is something for those of us who believe that being and remaining Lutheran is important to be hopeful about regarding our synod.

During his acceptance speech (which you can read in full on the next page), Pastor Harrison asked us to pray daily for him. Please do so. He will need our prayers in the days ahead, as will the many other leaders we have elected. And so, we give thanks to our Lord for blessing us with this great moment in the life of our synod, and we pray that He will be with Pastor Harrison and all our newly elected leaders in the days, months, and years to come. Amen!

PRESIDENT-ELECT HARRISON'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

If one member suffers, all suffer together. If one rejoices, all rejoice together. Right now there are many rejoicing and there are many suffering. Luther says when you're walking along and you strike your little toe on a chair or a table, a table leg, what happens is the whole body bends over, the face grimaces and grabs that little toe. And there's no use saying "that's just a little toe," because the whole body suffers.

This I realize is a tumultuous change in the life of our Synod. I wish to thank President Kieschnick for his heart for evangelism, and his deep desire to move this Synod forward. Many are suffering, and it will be very challenging times to work together.

I wish to inform you that you have kept your perfect record of electing sinners as presidents of the Missouri Synod. [applause] I guarantee you I will sin and fail. I will fall short. I will sin against you. I wish also to say, that right now I forgive all who have in any way have sinned against me or anybody else, and plead your forgiveness for anything that I said or did that offended you. I beg of you your prayers, I beg of you your daily prayers and intercession. These are challenging times. I promise you that I will be as straight with you as I possibly can, to the best of my ability, guided by the Spirit of God. I pledge to you that I will not coerce you. I will do my best by the Word of Christ to lead with the generous Gospel of Jesus Christ, which forgives us all of our sins, and motivates us to love and care for our neighbor in mercy and compassion. And I will work as hard as I possibly can for unity around the clear and compelling Word of God and nothing else.

I wish to just introduce my dear wife to you, Kathy. Please Kathy, would you stand. [applause]

I'm so impressed by you at this convention, how you have borne with one another, been patient, asked for forgiveness. This is the greatest privilege and honor of one's life to stand before this body in this fashion. I could never imagine it. And I pray the Lord will bless you in the days to come to work for unity and love and compassion, that the Gospel of Christ may go forth from all of us, in every single place, everywhere around the world, that many may know, many, many more may know, the Gospel of Jesus for eternal life. The Lord be with you. ["And also with you." Applause.]

Issues, Etc.



Christ-Centered Cross-
Focused Talk Radio

An "Issues, Etc. Revolution"?

(I wrote the following on my blog on Thursday, July 15, while the elections were still unfolding)

That's what Mollie Hemingway is calling the remarkable "changing of the guard" we're witnessing at the LCMS National Convention. I, like so many others I know, have been blown away by what I've been watching unfold these last few days, especially in regard to the elections that have taken place - from the Praesidium down to the various boards of regents, there has been a noticeable trend to elect candidates who fall on the conservative (or "confessional") side of the spectrum. It really has been quite shocking for those of us who have been following LCMS politics for a while.

Anyway, whence this "Issues, Etc. Revolution," to which Mollie refers? First of all, I really do think that the sudden cancellation of "Issues, Etc." and firings of Pr. Wilken and Jeff Schwarz during Holy Week a little over two years ago opened the eyes of a lot of people, who began to realize that they really should be paying attention to what's going on in our synod. Secondly, the popularity of "Issues, Etc." soared when it came back on the air after a couple of months of hiatus and continues to grow to this day, and the promotion of Rev. Matthew Harrison, who has been, and hopefully will remain, a frequent guest, gave a lot of listeners out there a sneak preview of what our synod could be like under his faithful leadership. Thirdly, the catechesis (teaching) done by Pr. Wilken and the many faithful pastors, seminary professors, etc. has had an enormous, positive impact on our synod. Both clergy and laypeople learn much from this outstanding program and pass that learning on to others in their parishes. Fourthly, "Issues, Etc." has been a tremendous uniting factor among the more conservative (or, "confessional") side of our synod, especially these last couple of years. Having been closely monitoring synodical politics for over a decade, I cannot think of a time when there was anywhere near the unity among the "confessionals" we're witnessing now, and "Issues, Etc." has a lot to do with that, along with the Brothers of John the Steadfast, which came into being shortly after the cancellation of the show a couple of years ago. So, yeah, I can see why Mollie would consider the happenings at the convention an "Issues, Etc. Revolution."

And, if there was any doubt about this, that was removed today when Jeff Schwarz, the long-time Producer of "Issues, Etc" was elected to the board of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR). This, after Rev. Michael Kumm, who just happens to be the Senior Pastor where Pr. Todd Wilken serves, was elected yesterday to the LCMS Board of Directors.

An "Issues, Etc. Revolution"? Yeah, I think so. So, a hearty thanks to "Issues, Etc." for rallying us to pay a little more attention to what's happening in our synod, but especially for delivering Cross-focused, Christ-centered programming to our ears, which makes your show the absolute best in Christian radio!

It should also be noted that, just minutes after his acceptance speech, President-Elect Harrison took the time to be interviewed for the first time in his new position on Issues, Etc.



CHOICE DOLLARS An Additional Way to Provide More Funds to Peace

If you are a member of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and own certain qualifying products, like insurance policies or annuities, you may be eligible to participate in the new Choice Dollars program. If you are eligible, you should have already received a letter in the mail outlining the ways that you can direct your Choice Dollars to Lutheran organizations.

In order to be eligible to receive funds, organizations (including congregations) had to register earlier this year. Peace Lutheran Church, Alma, Michigan is registered and in the list of recipients. Each eligible Thrivent member must make his/her own decision about how to allocate funds and must contact Thrivent to make that decision known.

If you have access to a computer, the easiest way to make your selection is by logging in on the Thrivent web page, <http://www.thrivent.com/choicedollars>. If you are not already registered, click on “Register” in the upper right hand corner and set up your user name and password. Once you do that you will be able to see how many choice dollars you have to direct and be able to indicate Peace, or any other eligible organization, as your choice. You may also do so by calling Thrivent at 800-847-4836 and selecting “Thrivent Choice”.

This is an easy way for all Peace members, who are also Thrivent participants, to provide Peace with extra funds. If you have family members or friends who are also members of Thrivent and who may not already have an organization they wish to support, please also encourage them to designate their funds to Peace Lutheran Church in Alma, Michigan. (Believe it or not, there is a Peace Lutheran Church in Alma, NE!)

The funds from Thrivent will be sent to recipients on a monthly basis. The Peace Church Council will be discussing possible ways that we could decide how best to use these funds. Stay tuned for further news about that.

In addition to Choice Dollars, Thrivent also has a program they are calling Thrivent Choice Voting Events. All Thrivent members 16 and older can vote during these specific Voting Events to help determine where Thrivent Financial distributes \$1 million among Lutheran and non-Lutheran charitable organizations. In the first Voting Event, April 19 – May 21, 2010, LCMS World Relief and Human Care received the most votes and \$192,122 of the \$1 million distributed.

If you have questions or would like help making your selection through the Thrivent web site, please feel free to contact Carol Zeile.



Let the Little Children Come to Me Peace Adopts New First Communion Policy

After nearly a year of focused study, research, conversation, and discussion, I am very pleased to announce that we have adopted a new First Communion Policy here at Peace. This policy, the final version of which you can read on the next page, was adopted unanimously by our Board of Elders at our meeting on July 26. It is my fervent hope and prayer that this new policy will serve to strengthen the faith of our younger members, about whom our Lord bids: “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 19:14).

Per the policy, parents and children who desire to initiate the process of preparation leading to First Communion may now contact me anytime to arrange for this preparation to take place. I have been asked if multiple children can undergo preparation at the same time, since the policy mentions that preparation is done on “an individual basis.” Yes, the possibility is there for multiple children to undergo preparation at the same time, but each child’s preparedness will be judged on an individual basis, recognizing that children learn and mature at different levels, as the policy notes.

I’ve also been asked how this policy impacts Youth Confirmation. Confirmation will remain the same here at Peace—two years of catechesis, normally beginning in the 7th grade. It is important to note that the catechesis during Confirmation is much more intense and involves digging much deeper than does the preparation for First Communion. In other words, the preparation for First Communion is in no way, shape, or form meant to take the place of the catechesis done during Confirmation classes. If anything, I expect that those who have gone through First Communion preparation will be all the more prepared when it comes time for Confirmation classes and, thus, will get much more out of them. In any event, one of the greatest benefits of separating First Communion from Confirmation is to do away with the notion that the Lord’s Supper is something to be earned by going through Confirmation. It is, rather, a Divine Gift which we should make available to our children as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns about our new First Communion policy, please don’t hesitate to contact me!

In Christ,

Pastor Messer

First Communion

Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church ~ Alma, MI

First Communion

Children shall be admitted to Holy Communion when the pastor, the child, the parents (or, guardians), and the Board of Elders all concur that the child is prepared to receive Christ's Body and Blood in the Holy Supper. Preparation shall include, but not be limited to, a clear confession of faith in the Gospel by means of reciting by heart the Ten Commandments, the Apostle's Creed, and the Lord's Prayer, by being examined and absolved by the pastor, and by verbally expressing the desire to receive Christ's Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins. Preparation shall be done by the pastor and the parents (or, guardians), who will remain in consultation with each other throughout the process, on an individual basis. It shall be the responsibility of the parents and children who desire this preparation to initiate the process by contacting the pastor and arranging with him a schedule for this preparation to take place. Recognizing that children learn and mature at different levels, there shall be no set time frame to complete this preparation. Neither shall there be any specific age requirement to commence this preparation.

Rationale

The reason for this practice is simple: It is of great benefit for all Christians to receive Christ's Body and Blood, and we should be about giving our children Jesus as much as possible, and as soon as possible. Furthermore, the practice of making children wait until after they have been confirmed, normally in their mid-teens, is inconsistent with the history of the Christian Church and with our own Lutheran history, is rooted in pietism and rationalism, and is an innovation begun by Lutherans here in America, who fell prey to the influence of Americanized Protestantism. There is simply no Scriptural or Confessional precedent for keeping our children from the Blessed Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood until they have completed Confirmation in their mid-teens. Our Lord says, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 19:14). In addition, separating First Communion from Confirmation will assist the church in moving away from the faulty notion that reception of the Sacrament is the "reward" or "prize" a child "earns" by completing the catechesis involved in Confirmation preparation. Also, our Lutheran forebears, including Luther himself, believed and taught that children should be communing at seven to eight years old or younger, and the preparation outlined above is based upon the instructions given by Dr. Luther in his Large Catechism. Lastly, by implementing this practice at Peace, we are simply joining many other pastors and congregations in our synod who have already done so, or who soon will be doing so. One estimate states that around 30% of LCMS congregations already practice First Communion prior to, and apart from, Confirmation, and all indications are that this percentage will be growing in the years to come. Noticing this trend, those who worked on the production of *Lutheran Service Book* and all its accompanying resources were wise to include a *Rite for First Communion* in the *LSB Agenda*, which can be found on the back of this page.

Conclusion

It is our prayer that this practice will deepen our love for Christ's Sacrament of the Altar, for teaching our children the faith, and will serve to strengthen the bond between our young people and their congregation. God grant it, for Jesus' sake! Amen.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Adopted by the Board of Elders on July 26, 2010

First Communion Prior to Confirmation

(LSB Agenda, pp. 25-27)

The pastor addresses the congregation:

P Beloved in the Lord, in Holy Baptism these young people were born again as God's children and received into His Church. As a further gift of His love for us, our Lord Jesus Christ has given His Church the Sacrament of the Altar and invites His children to receive this Sacrament in faith for the forgiveness of their sins. The apostle Paul reminds us, "Let a person examine himself and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup," and "as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." These candidates have received instruction and have been examined by the pastor regarding their sin and their understanding of the Sacrament of the Altar.

The pastor addresses the candidates:

P You are about to be admitted to the Lord's Table. Holy Scripture describes the life of the Church and every baptized Christian with these words: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers." You are invited by our Lord to come regularly to hear His Word and receive His Sacrament. You will continue to be instructed and nurtured in the Christian faith and life. You are invited to confess your sins and receive the comfort of Holy Absolution. All this will help you live as the child of God you have been made through Holy Baptism.

In testimony of this faith and confession, I now ask you:

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, and in the Holy Spirit?

R Yes, I believe.

P Do you believe that Jesus Christ, true God and true man, is your Lord?

R Yes, I believe.

P Do you believe that you are a sinner?

R Yes, I believe.

P Do you believe that Jesus Christ died for you and shed His blood for you on the cross for the forgiveness of all your sins?

R Yes, I believe.

P Do you believe that in the Lord's Supper He gives you His true body and blood for the forgiveness of your all your sins and to strengthen your faith in Him and your love toward others?

R Yes, I believe.

P Do you intend to continue to hear and receive the instruction of your Lord, confess your sins, and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully throughout your life?

R Yes, with the help of God.

P I therefore invite you to the Lord's Supper to receive Christ's precious body and blood for the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

The pastor addresses the congregation:

P Parents, (sponsors), and members of the congregation, the whole Church shares with you the responsibility and concern for the ongoing instruction and spiritual care of these young people. I now ask you, will you intercede for them in prayer and, as much as you are able, give them your counsel and aid that, in communion with the Church, they may grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Jesus Christ? Then answer: We will, with the help of God.

C We will, with the help of God.

Stand

P Let us pray: Heavenly Father, whose Son Jesus Christ loved the young and called them to Himself, we ask You to bless these young people. Strengthen them in the faith through the Sacrament of Christ's body and blood so that they may grow spiritually and bring forth the fruits of faith in a life of love toward others to the praise and honor of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P We rejoice with thankful hearts in your confession of faith. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His Holy Supper, He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Peace T be with you.

C Amen.

Synopsis of July 6, 2010 Church Council Minutes

Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm. Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer. The following members were present: Carol Zeile, Gary Miller, Carolyn Johnson, Sharyn Greening, Megan Brown, Vern Jakolat, Bill Harmon, Larry Elliott and Chris Brown (arrived at 7:55pm).

Approval of Agenda

- Motion made by Financial Secretary Miller, supported by Councilmember Harmon to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Councilmember Johnson, supported by Financial Secretary Miller to approve the June 1 minutes are presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Report(s)

- **Pastor** – Pastor Messer presented the attached report for July and the attached report from the June meeting. The Council received the reports into record.
- **Treasurer** – Treasurer Zeile presented the attached report which included a comparison of information from FY2008- present. The Council received the report into record. Treasurer Zeile also presented information about the Conference Assessment that was brought before the Council in May. She recommended sending the full assessment amount (\$570) which covers costs for the synodical conference. Motion made by Financial Secretary Miller, supported by Councilmember Johnson to pay the assessment in the full amount with the funds coming from the Christian Education line of the budget. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Financial Secretary** – Financial Secretary Miller informed the Council that the statements for the second quarter would be available prior to the next Voters' Assembly meeting.
- **Boards**
 - **Board of Elders** – Councilmember Elliott informed the Council that the Board of Elders is still discussing early communion but will be taking action on the issue at their next meeting.
 - **Board of Trustees** – Councilmember Jakolat informed the Council of the projects being completed for maintenance.
 - **Board of Christian Education** – Councilmember Greening informed the Council that VBS was very successful with 15 children in attendance and the Board will be meeting soon to discuss plans for Sunday School.
 - **Board of Evangelism** – Councilmember Johnson reminded the Council of the Lansing Lugnuts baseball game on July 25. Events and meetings will resume in September.
 - **Board of Stewardship** – Councilmember Harmon informed the Council of the next meeting date.
- **Organization and Committee Reports**
 - **Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild** – No report.
 - **Peace Youth Group** – No report.

Business

- **Down Payment Assistance Loan** – Treasurer Zeile informed the Council of a letter received from Church Extension Fund regarding the loan. The interest rate is scheduled to balloon on July 31, 2010. The Council reviewed the information presented and a motion was made by Financial Secretary Miller, supported by Councilmember Harmon to move forward with continuing the regular monthly payment (\$185) as long as no additional costs were to be incurred. After discussion of the motion, Financial Secretary Miller rescinded his motion. Motion made by Financial Secretary Miller, supported by Councilmember Jakolat to table the item and meet again on July 18 following Divine Service. Motion carried unanimously.
- **July Voters' Assembly Date** – Due to the Lugnuts game, motion made by Councilmember Elliott, supported by Financial Secretary Miller to move the date of the Voters' Assembly to August 1. Motion carried unanimously.
- **August & November Council Meeting Dates** – Due to use of the fellowship hall for the primary and general elections, motion made by Secretary Brown, supported by Councilmember Elliott to move the August and November Council meeting dates to the 10th and 9th, respectively. Motion carried unanimously.

General Comment

- Councilmember Jakolat presented an idea to Council for a fundraiser. More information is needed and no action was taken.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

- Motion made by Financial Secretary Miller, supported by President Brown to adjourn at 8:26pm. Motion carried unanimously. Pastor Messer closed by leading us in the Lord's Prayer and pronouncing the Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Brown, Secretary (Note: Complete minutes with all attachments are available in the church office)

Update from the Treasurer

For those of you who are not able to attend, following is a summary of the report that will be presented at the Voters' Assembly on August 1, 2010. At the meeting I will give more detail on this report and how our budget/income/expenses for 2010 compare with those from 2009 and 2008. Please let me know if you have questions.

In Christ,
Carol Zeile

PLC Income and Expenses

	As of 6/28/10		As of 6/28/09		As of 6/28/08	
	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted
<u>Income</u>						
Offering	\$50,873.60	\$112,005.00	\$53,368.83	\$114,655.00	\$47,547.08	\$114,655.00
Rental Income : City	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$0.00
Rental Income : Weight Watchers	\$660.00	\$1,560.00	\$630.00	\$1,560.00	\$750.00	\$1,560.00
Total Income	\$51,533.60	\$113,565.00	\$53,998.83	\$116,215.00	\$48,447.08	\$116,215.00
<u>Expense</u>						
Church and Worship : Altar and Worship	\$503.90	\$1,000.00	\$877.20	\$1,500.00	\$604.49	\$1,800.00
Church and Worship : Christian Education	(\$21.03)	\$800.00	\$992.62	\$800.00	\$640.65	\$1,000.00
Church and Worship : Miscellaneous	****	****	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
Church and Worship : Music	\$678.59	\$2,000.00	\$814.90	\$2,000.00	\$704.95	\$2,500.00
Church and Worship : Stewardship	****	****	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Church and Worship : Evangelism	****	****	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Church and Worship : Youth Group	****	****	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$304.88	\$0.00	\$196.30	\$0.00
Missions : Issues, Etc.	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Missions : Local	****	****	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$180.00	\$250.00
Operating Expense: Administrative Assistant	\$2,600.00	\$5,200.00	\$2,600.00	\$5,200.00	\$592.00	\$2,408.00
Operating Expense : Advertising	****	****	\$131.31	\$200.00	\$432.00	\$900.00
Operating Expense : Building Maintenance	\$594.37	\$1,000.00	\$905.98	\$1,000.00	\$1,240.57	\$2,000.00
Operating Expense : Insurance	\$1,176.50	\$2,000.00	\$1,408.00	\$2,800.00	\$1,519.00	\$3,000.00
Operating Expense : Janitorial	****	****	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,716.00	\$3,500.00
Operating Expense : Snow Removal	****	****	\$1,080.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,088.00	\$1,750.00
Operating Expense : Maintenance Supplies	****	****	\$349.22	\$250.00	\$367.56	\$250.00
Operating Expense : Miscellaneous	****	****	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Operating Expense : Office Expense	\$2,200.67	\$3,000.00	\$2,486.35	\$2,400.00	\$1,974.52	\$2,500.00
Operating Expense : Telephone/Internet	\$1,137.19	\$2,100.00	\$998.18	\$2,000.00	\$989.71	\$1,750.00
Operating Expense : Utilities	\$3,410.30	\$5,000.00	\$3,932.89	\$5,500.00	\$3,141.52	\$5,500.00
Pastoral Expense : Benefit Package	\$11,515.54	\$23,000.00	\$11,078.32	\$22,000.00	\$10,029.87	\$19,000.00
Pastoral Expense : Conferences and Train-	\$296.03	\$1,000.00	\$875.78	\$1,000.00	\$180.00	\$1,000.00
Pastoral Expense : Down Payment Loan	\$1,110.00	\$2,220.00	\$1,110.00	\$2,220.00	\$1,110.00	\$2,220.00
Pastoral Expense : Guest Pastors	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
Pastoral Expense : Mileage	\$955.90	\$2,000.00	\$955.22	\$2,000.00	\$798.82	\$2,000.00
Pastoral Expense : Book Allowance	\$194.45	\$500.00	\$365.22	\$500.00	\$191.30	\$500.00
Pastoral Expense : Salary	\$31,188.00	\$62,045.00	\$30,857.04	\$62,045.00	\$31,338.47	\$59,645.00
<u>Total Expenses</u>	\$58,140.41	\$113,565.00	\$63,123.11	\$116,215.00	\$61,035.73	\$116,215.00
Total:	(\$6,606.81)	\$0.00	(\$9,124.28)	\$0.00	(\$12,588.65)	\$0.00



Stewardship: A Total Way of Living

By William Harmon, Chairman of the Stewardship Committee

As Christians we are accountable to God for how we use what He gives us in this life. We are to put the resources He gives us to good use. We are responsible to care for and manage the resources He gives us. We are to use our time, talents, and treasures to not only take care of ourselves, but to help others in need, and, most importantly, to support the Ministry and Mission of the Church. This includes the support of the Lord's Holy House where we are blessed to gather for Divine Service, as well as the support of the called and ordained servant of the Word, our Pastor, who ministers to us in the stead and by the command of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

In the New Testament, we are given no direct instruction on what amount of our income we are to give to support the Lord's House and his Ministers. But, we are given guidance by the Apostle Paul, in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, where he states: *"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* Here, St. Paul warns us against sowing sparingly "from the heart." We should sow bountifully, since our Lord has blessed us bountifully. If we give reluctantly or under compulsion, it will not benefit us. Instead, God loves a cheerful giver, one who gladly gives of his time, talents, and treasures to support the Ministry and Mission of the Church; one who gives as much as he can because he loves the Lord and His Church.

When it comes to stewardship, we often get bogged down by the question of how much we should give. The question of "tithing" often comes up. Some of us are not able to give ten percent of our income for various reasons. God knows your heart and your situation. If all that you can give is \$5.00/week, do so with joy! We are not bound by the Law to the tithe anymore. But, it is still a good starting point and a good goal all of us could set for ourselves. After all, the reason the tithe is no longer applicable to us is because the expectation is there in the New Testament that Christians will share all that they have with one another (cf. Acts 2:42-47). The point is that we should give as much as we are able, and that we should do so with a cheerful heart, recognizing that giving is a spiritual act which flows freely from the faith we have been given.

Our Lord Himself teaches us this principle in the following account: *"And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on'"* (Mark 12:41-44). The lesson is clear: In the Lord's eyes, the poor widow gave far more than the rich people, even though they had actually put a lot more money into the offering box. The Lord doesn't look at the amount, but at the proportion of our offerings in relation to His blessings upon us, and, most importantly, at the heart of the giver. This goes all the way back to the beginning, as we see with Cain and Abel (cf. Gen. 4). It wasn't that Abel gave more to the Lord than Cain, but that he gave as much as he could and did so willingly and cheerfully.

Dear friends, all of us have been richly blessed beyond our wildest imaginations. Let us examine ourselves and be good stewards of our Lord's blessings to us. Let us give as much as we can of our time, talents, and treasures, and let us do so willingly and with cheerful hearts. Let us learn that Christian Stewardship is about more than "how much" we put into the offering plate—it is a total way of living that recognizes that all our blessings come from the Lord, and that desires to give back to the Lord as much as we can so that others can be richly blessed as we have been!

William Harmon

President of the Stewardship Committee.

PEACE NEWS & NOTES



PYG NEWS

<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Location</u>
	Fellowship	Sundays	10:45	11:45	Fellowship Hall

It has been a beautiful summer. I hope you have enjoyed the many gifts the Lord has sent us this summer. We will not be kicking off monthly meetings until September. This month we will be discussing ideas and activities for these meetings. Please gather with myself and other Youth if you are interested or have any ideas to share. All Youth who are in sixth grade or higher are members of the Peace Youth Group. Join with us and become an active member.

Thanks to everyone for your continuing support of the Youth.

May the Spirit of the Lord be with you.

Jonathan Penzien

SALT NEWS

We will begin our SALT meetings in September, date to be announced later. Should you have issues or concerns, please contact Carolyn Johnson or Pastor Messer.

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 CHURCH DIRECTORY

Our Peace Members Telephone Directory will be published in August. Please advise the office of any changes, corrections, or additions to the previous directory and add email addresses, cell phone numbers, etc.

Deadline: August 18

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

Friday, September 17 at 7:00 p.m. around the campfire at Pastor Messer's house. We hope you'll join us!



GET READY

FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL!

RALLY DAY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

**Sunday School will begin
for Pre-school through Grade 12**

Following Sunday School will be the Rally Day Potluck. Hamburgers and hot dogs from the grill will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass.

RELAY FOR LIFE

**The 2010 Relay for Life is scheduled for
August 13 and 14, 2010
at the Saint Louis High School Field.**

Snacks will be sold at the Peace camp site. Jonathan Penzien and the Youth Group will be having Bingo at 2 am on Saturday morning during relay.

Hope to see you there

We are currently signing people up to walk during the event. Luminaries are available at \$10 each, and donations will also be accepted. We made \$138 at our recent bake sale. Thanks to everyone who helped. The grant request submitted to Thrivent Financial has been approved and matching funds will be used to supplement what we are able to raise.

Contact Dorothy Trgina or Coaline Luplow.

LOOKING FOR A TREASURER

Anyone interested in serving as our congregational treasurer, please let a member of our nominating committee know (Pastor Messer, Chris Brown, Larry Elliott, Vern Jakolat). Carol Zeile, who has served us wonderfully, will be completing her second term and cannot stand for re-election. Elections will also take place in October for Vice President, Secretary, Elders, Trustees, and Christian Ed., so if you're interested in any of those positions, let the committee know as well. But, we currently have no names on the ballot for treasurer.

Ladies Lunch Bunch

*We will meet for lunch at 1:30 pm on Monday,
August 23 at JJ Ruby's.*

*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!*

Ladies Guild

Ladies Guild Meeting

Our Ladies' Guild will not meet in August. Our next meeting will be **Monday, September 13, 2010 at 7pm.** Hostess will be Lois Ramsey. 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 Prayer Chain list is posted on the Ladies' Guild Bulletin Board. 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. 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. 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. Altar flower arrangements are coordinated with 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. We encourage two persons (families) to purchase flowers each month, one for each plant stand. Any questions may be directed to Carol Zeile. Thank you for helping to beautify our church.

PEACE LUTHERAN LADIES GUILD

For the next portion of the Lutheran World Relief project, the Ladies Guild is asking for your help in gathering the following school supplies:

- Pads of ruled notebook paper (8 1/2" x 11") containing 150-200 sheets
- One - blunt scissors
- One - 30 centimeter ruler (or ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other)
- One - pencil sharpener
- 6 - new pencils w/erasers
- One - eraser (approximately 2 1/2" long)
- 12 - sheets construction paper in assorted colors
- One box - 8, 16, or 24 crayons
- One -cloth bag (approximately 12" x 14" with handles)

There are directions to make the bags are posted on the Ladies Guild bulletin board.

Collection will be received July 1 to September 30.

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.

COOKBOOK

Ladies, gentlemen and kids who love to cook, Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild are collecting your favorite recipes to put into a cookbook. It can be the simplest of drinks to complicated desserts and casseroles. Please write them, type them or make a copy of them and give them to Coaline Luplow or Mary Jakolat in the office. You can also e-mail them to the office or to Coaline at luplow2@hotmail.com



Altar Care

August

Andrea Elliott

September

Carol Zeile

October

Carolyn Johnson

Coffee Hostesses

August

- 1 Jenny Baughman
- 8 Gretchen Harrison
- 15 Cassie Tenant
- 22 M.Miller/C.Dargie
- 29 Y.Elenbaas/M.Girard

September

- 5 Jennie Harmon
- 12 Janice Sager
- 19 Peace Youth Group
- 26 Carolyn Johnson

October

- 3 Jenny Baughman
- 10 S.Greening/M.Brown
- 17 Lisa Messer
- 24 M.Isaksson/H.Meyer
- 31 Tina Schafer



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT PEACE

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

- Sunday School will reconvene on **Sunday, September 12, 2010**. Join us for a Rally Day potluck!
- Adult Bible Class is offered **every Sunday at 11 am**. for all adult members of Peace and guests.

Together in the Word

- Our Thursday morning *Together in the Word* Bible Study will reconvene on September 9 at 10 am.

Wednesday Study & Service

- Weekly Wednesday classes meet at 6 pm. We are currently studying "Christian History 101." After Class, we gather for Service at 7 pm.



AUGUST

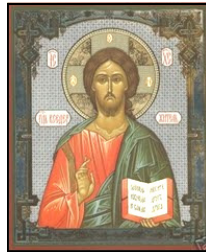
Happy Birthday

5 Phillip Schafer	29 Jeanette Bigelow
7 Bill Hendrick	29 Michael Harrison
10 Jennie Harmon	30 Amy Lesinger
20 Megan Brown	31 Jonathan Penzien

Happy Anniversary

9 Larry and Andrea Elliott
14 Daren and Carolyn Johnson
14 Lois and Phillip Ramsey
18 Tina and Blaine Schafer
23 Jack and Janice Langan

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



PASTOR MESSER IS BLOGGING!

www.abideinmyword.blogspot.com

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



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 later this year.

Talk Radio for the Thinking Christian . . .

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

www.issuesetc.org



PAROCHIAL REPORT

(as of 7/25/2010)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 139; Confirmed - 118

Membership gains: 0

Membership losses: 0








Financial Report as of 7/25/10

YTD Budgeted.....	\$ 65,610.00
YTD Receipts.....	\$ 58,335.46
Difference.....	\$ - 7,274.54

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

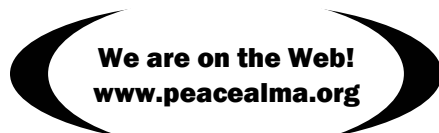
August 2010

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
1 Ninth Sunday after Trinity 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - Voters' Assy. 	2	3 PRIMARY ELECTION <i>(Church Office Closed)</i>	4 6 pm - "Christian History" 7 pm - Evening Prayer	5	6	7
8 Tenth Sunday after Trinity 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - Bible Study 	9	10 7 pm - Church Council	11 6 pm - "Christian History" 7 pm - Divine Service <i>St. Bartholomew, Apostle</i> 	12 5 pm - Weight Watchers	13 <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">Relay for Life</div>	14
15 St. Mary, Mother of Our Lord 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship <i>No Bible Study</i> 	16	17	18 <i>Pastor Messer on Vacation</i>	19	20	21
22 Twelfth Sunday after Trinity 9:30 - Prayer and Preaching 10:45 - Fellowship <i>No Bible Study</i> 	23	24	25 <i>Pastor Messer on Vacation</i>	26	27	28
29 Martyrdom of John the Baptist 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - Bible Study 	30 7 pm - Elders Meeting	31 <i>Newsletter articles due</i>	September 1 6 pm - "Christian History" 7 pm - Resp. Prayer 2	2 5 pm - Weight Watchers	3	4
5 Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - Bible Study 	6 Happy Labor Day! <i>(Church Office Closed)</i>	7 7 pm - Church Council	8 6 pm - "Christian History" 7 pm - Resp. Prayer 2	9 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers	10	11

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 August

	ELDERS	ACOLYTES	USHERS	GREETERS
August				
1 - 9:30 am <i>(Trinity 9)</i>	Larry Elliott	Natalie Penzien Aaron Messer	Vern Jakolat Phillip Schafer	Jenny Baughman
8 - 9:30 am <i>(Trinity 10)</i>	Terry Luplow	Paige Harwager Sierra Luplow	Jonathan Penzien Chris Brown	Marlene Miller Charlotte Dargie
15 - 9:30 am <i>(St. Mary, Mother of Our Lord)</i>	Miguel Ortiz	Samantha Messer Myka Luplow	Gary Miller Jim Sager	Sharyn Greening
22 - 9:30 am <i>(Trinity 12)</i>	David Zeile	Morgan Johnson Tyrel Harwager	Kevin Sellke Vern Jakolat	Yvonne Elenbaas Mary Girard
29 - 9:30 am <i>(Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist)</i>	Larry Elliott	Sarah Messer Natalie Penzien	Daren Johnson Chris Brown	Dorothy Trgina
September				
5 - 9:30 am <i>(Trinity 14)</i>	Terry Luplow	Paige Harwager Aaron Messer	Jonathan Penzien Phillip Schafer	Lisa Messer and Family

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