



THE PEACE POST

September, 2005

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, unto life everlasting.

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MESSER

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, these are exciting times at Peace Lutheran Church. As you read in last month's newsletter, we are experiencing a "New Beginning" here at Peace. Hopefully, you can already see some of the effects of that new beginning taking place with this first issue of *The Peace Post*, our new monthly newsletter, our new website, which you can read about on page 2, and our "Plans for Peace" gatherings taking place at our home. These are just a few of the things which have blessed our new beginning. You will soon be hearing about many other happenings in the weeks and months to come. I sincerely

hope and pray that you will join me in getting excited about the future of this blessed congregation. May God richly bless our endeavors to fulfill our mission here at Peace.

With all of that said, I would like to invite you to attend the new Adult Bible Study I will be teaching, *From Genesis to Revelation: An Overview of the Bible*, beginning **September 11** at 11:00 a.m. In this study, we will explore God's Holy Word as it is revealed to us in the sacred pages of Scripture, beginning with Genesis and ending with Revelation. We will not be doing a detailed study of each of the sixty-six books of the Bible, but, instead, we will focus on how each of the books of the Bible are woven together to reveal God's will and His plan of redemption through Jesus Christ. This study will answer such questions as: "How do we know the Bible is God's Word?"; "What is the purpose of the Bible?"; "Who wrote the books of the Bible?"; "How does the Old Testament relate to the New Testament?"; "How does the Bible inform our theology and

worship?"; "What are some interpretive principles we need to keep in mind when studying the Bible on our own?"; "Why do we Lutherans believe as we do, and why do other Christians believe differently?" and so on. Along the way, you will receive many handouts which you can keep for your own personal files. Also, there will be some time set aside during each session for you to ask the questions you have always wanted to ask about the Bible, which, I am sure will lead to some very interesting discussion.

I do hope you will join me for this important and informative study. As Christians, it is crucial for us to understand the makeup and principles of our holy book. I am confident that you will learn much along the way and that this study will be a blessing to all of us. It will definitely prepare us for future, in-depth studies of specific books and/or themes of the Bible. Please attend.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Messer

Inside this issue:

Peace Lutheran is on the Web!	2
"Plans for Peace" Gatherings	2
Upcoming Coffee Hostesses	2
Adult Information Class	2
Youth Confirmation Class	3
Youth Group Meeting	3
Women in the Word	3
Ladies' & Altar Guild Info	3
Ask the Pastor	4
Birthdays & Anniversaries	4
September Calendar	5
Serving in September	6
In Our Prayers	6

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SEPTEMBER 11

Our Sunday School program for children from Kindergarten through Grade 12 begins Sunday, September 11 at 11:00 a.m. Our volunteer Sunday School teachers are excited about the new materials

from CPH and look forward to sharing the love of Jesus with your children throughout the year. To begin, we will have three classes (K-1st Grade; 2nd-5th; 6th-12th). If we are blessed with more children

as the year progresses, we will split them up further by adding an additional class or two. If you have any questions, see Mike Harrison, our Sunday School Superintendent, or, as always, talk to pastor.



PEACE LUTHERAN IS ON THE WEB!

We are very excited to announce that we now have our very own website! Our website address is **www.peacealma.org**. We want to extend a huge thank you to Larry Elliott for all the hard work he has done building our website and getting it up and running. Larry is also hosting our website at no charge to the church, and has done a phenomenal job of making it easy for pastor and Beth to create and edit the pages you see on the site. Thank you, Larry!

As you explore our new website, please understand that we are just getting started and many pages may be incomplete for a while. Much more will be added to the site in the future. Eventually, we will have a "members only" link, which will have information accessible only to members of Peace. So, enjoy what we have done already and look forward to the things to come.

We want all of the members of Peace to know that this is *your* website. We welcome your

comments, questions, or concerns, and we are always looking for ideas on how we can improve the site. Please provide us with your feedback as you explore this new blessing for our congregation. We would love to hear what you think about it.

Larry's email addresses:
webmaster@peacealma.org
Beth's email address:
contact@peacealma.org
Pastor Messer's email address:
pastor@peacealma.org

Happy exploring!



"PLANS FOR PEACE" GATHERINGS

As of the writing of this newsletter, we have held two of the four "Plans for Peace" gatherings at our home. Lisa, the kids, and I have thoroughly enjoyed the two gatherings we have had and we look forward to the two remaining gatherings. If you have not yet signed up for one of the remaining gatherings, there is still time to

do so. For those of you who were at church and received your newsletter today, August 28, there is a gathering planned for this afternoon at 2 p.m. You can sign up before leaving church, or just call us and let us know that you're coming. For those of you who were unable to make it to church and have not yet attended a gathering,

please plan on joining us September 18 at 2 p.m. It has truly been a blessing for us to spend time with and get to know some of the members of Peace, and we look forward to spending time with and getting to know you at one of the remaining gatherings. See you there!

Pastor Messer

Want something included in "The Peace Post" next month? Email Beth or Pastor Messer (addresses on back page) by September 15 with your item. Also, call or email them anytime with your feedback and/or ideas! We'd love to hear from

UPCOMING COFFEE HOSTESSES

SEPTEMBER

- 4 Marilyn Oswald
- 11 Marlene Wiltshire
- 18 Sharyn Greening
- 25 Mary Jakolat

OCTOBER

- 2 Beth Brostrom
 - 9 Tammy Oswald
- YOUTH GROUP**
- 23 Cheryl Henry
 - 30 Helen Meyers

ADULT INFORMATION/CONFIRMATION CLASS FORMING SOON

Do you know someone who might be interested in learning more about, or possibly even joining, our church? Then, invite them to attend the short, informational meeting which will take place immediately after church on **September 18**. This Fall, Pastor Messer will be offering an adult information class,

which will lead to adult confirmation and membership at Peace for those interested. The purpose of the short meeting on September 18 is to get an idea of how many are interested in attending the class, and to decide upon a day and time for the class that would agree with everyone's schedule. The class will

also be open to any members of Peace who would like a refresher course on what our church believes and teaches. If you have any questions about the class, or know of someone who might be interested, but cannot make the meeting on September 18, please contact Pastor Messer.

YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASS

Youth Confirmation Class will begin sometime during the week of September 25. This will give the kids a few weeks to get adjusted to attending school again. I say "sometime during the week of September 25" because I would like to meet with the kids and their parents to determine the best day and time to have class. Therefore, there will be a meeting for all 6th-8th grade kids and their parents on **Sunday, September 18 at noon**, following Sun-

day School and Adult Bible Class. I will be sharing my plans for confirmation class—what we'll be studying and my expectations of both parents and confirmands—so it is vital that you attend. If, for some reason, you will be unable to attend, please contact me so that I can get your input as to what days would work best for you to have class, and so that I can get the information I want to relay into your hands. Also, if you know of any 6th-8th

grade children who are currently without a church home and whose parents may be interested in having them confirmed, please let them know about the meeting, or have them contact me. If you have any questions, please do not ever hesitate to contact me. Thanks.

In Christ,

Pastor Messer



PEACE YOUTH GROUP

The Peace Youth Group will kick-off the year by holding its first meeting on **September 11 at noon**. All 5th-12th grade children of Peace are strongly encouraged to attend this informational meeting, as we discuss some of the activities/events we would like to do this year. We are looking forward to an exciting and fun-filled year with the Peace Youth Group. If you have any questions, or cannot make this meeting, please see Jon Penzien or Pastor Messer.

WOMEN IN THE WORD



You asked for it ladies, so here it is—your very own Bible Study. We will meet at the Church on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m., beginning **Tuesday, September 20**. Coffee, juice, and light snacks will be available, but we will conclude each week between 11:00 and 11:30 a.m., so that our study does not interfere with lunch. For our first study, Pastor Messer will lead us through a detailed study of the **Gospel of John**. Subsequent studies will be decided upon by the group. All women of Peace who

are available on Tuesday mornings are encouraged to join us as we delve into the Word of God. Also, feel free to bring any female family, friends, or neighbors who would be interested in joining us. The more the merrier! Bring your Bibles and, if you wish, a pad of paper and a writing utensil to take notes. Otherwise, just bring your smiles and your desire to learn what God teaches us in the Bible. We hope to see you there for our new "Women in the Word" Bible studies.

LADIES' & ALTAR GUILD INFO

- **LADIES' GUILD MEETING:** The first meeting of the Fall will take place on **Tuesday, September 6**. Sharyn Greening will be the hostess (October - Tammy Oswald; November - Marlene Wiltshire; December - Cheryl Henry/Carol Durst).
- **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, the chain starts with either Georgia Spindler (466-4352) or Marlene Wiltshire (463-4101).
- **ALTAR GUILD DUTY:** September - Carol Zeile; October - Beth Brostrom
- **ALTAR FLOWERS:** There is a flower calendar for 2005 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 Marilyn Oswald. A bouquet usually lasts about one (1) month and the cost is about \$25.



ASK THE PASTOR

Each month, this space will be used to answer a question I was asked by one or more of our members. If you have a question you would like answered in a future newsletter, please contact me and let me know. No names will ever be mentioned, so feel free to ask away!

Q: Is making the sign of the cross a Roman Catholic thing?

A: Sadly, many Christians, including Lutherans, have come to believe that making the sign of the cross is a practice used only

"Making the sign of the cross is an excellent reminder of who we are as baptized Christians."

by Roman Catholics and should not be practiced by Christians from Protestant denominations. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Making the sign of the cross is an ancient custom, which was being practiced in the Christian Church long before Roman Catholics came on the scene. At the time of the Reformation, our Lutheran forefathers continued to practice this ancient custom because it was a good practice begun by our earliest brothers and sisters in the faith. In the Small Catechism, Martin Luther advises us to make the sign of the cross before our morning and evening prayers.

When we are baptized, the sign of the cross is made upon our foreheads and

upon our hearts to mark us as children of God redeemed by Christ the crucified. Making the sign of the cross is an excellent reminder of who we are as baptized Christians. It is a wonderful practice which helps us to recall the forgiveness, faith, and salvation God lovingly bestowed upon us when we were baptized into His family.

It is unfortunate that wonderful customs like this one have fallen into disuse among Christians for fear that it is a "Catholic" thing. What is even sadder is that we Lutherans have allowed other Christians to influence us into discontinuing practices such as this one. It is true that we have very serious disagreements with Roman Catholics, but we also have serious disagreements with most Protestant denominations as well. But, those disagreements are doctrinal, or theological, and not over external customs in the church, such as making the sign of the cross, wearing vestments, kneeling for prayer, using the historic liturgy, etc. It has never been our practice, at least not officially, to stop using the ancient customs of the church just because other churches use them. We have always believed that our theology and practice is consistent with the theology and practice passed on to us by the apostles and the early church.

With all of that said, the practice of mak-

ing the sign of the cross is, ultimately, up to each individual Christian. There is no Scriptural mandate that requires us to do so, and doing so will not make one a better or "more faithful" Christian.

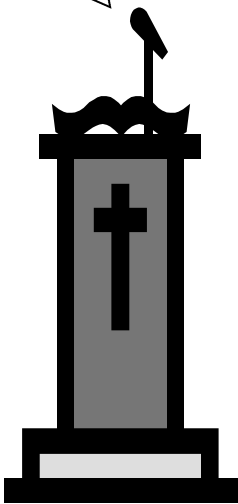
However, you may want to give this ancient custom a try. If it was found to be a worthwhile practice for the earliest Christians and for our Lutheran forefathers, you may find it to be worthwhile as well.

Traditionally, the sign of the cross is made during the Divine Service at specific points in the liturgy: At the Invocation; at the Absolution; at the last phrase of the Creed; upon receiving Communion; at the Benediction. The traditional way in which Lutherans have made the sign of the cross is to bring together the thumb and first two fingers (to symbolize the Holy Trinity), then touch the forehead lightly, then move down to the middle of the chest, then touch the left shoulder and finally the right shoulder.

I pray that what is written here adequately answers the question and provides some good "food for thought" for all of you who have ever wondered about making the sign of the cross.

In Christ,

Pastor Messer



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 3 - Marion Greening | 17 - Sue Reithel |
| - John Isaksson | 18 - Edward Rosalez |
| 7 - Annette Palmer | 20 - Brenda Stroven |
| 11 - Maxine Isaksson | 21 - Lydia Rosalez |
| 13 - Vern Jakolat | 23 - Timothy Gustavison |
| 15 - Kim Penzien | |

Happy Anniversary to:

- | |
|------------------------------|
| 4 - Joan & Robert Wendt |
| 8 - Mary & Vern Jakolat |
| 9 - Delores & Ken Luplow |
| 10 - Lori & Paul Jerome |
| 11 - Joanne & George Facaros |
| 12 - Brenda & Brian Stroven |

September 2005

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2	3
					5:00 pm— <i>WW</i>		
4 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship	5 <i>OFFICE CLOSED/ LABOR DAY</i>	6 7:00 pm—Ladies' Guild Hostess: S. Greening	7 9:00 am— <i>WW</i>	8 5:00 pm— <i>WW</i>	9	10	
11 9:30—Divine Service/ Rally Day 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—SS/Adult BC 12:00—YG mtg.	12 6:45 pm—Board/Council Meeting	13	14 9:00 am— <i>WW</i>	15 5:00 pm— <i>WW</i>	16	17	
18 8:00—Elders Mtg. 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship/ Adult info class mtg. 11:00—SS/Adult BC 12:00—Conf. Class mtg. 2:00—"Plans for Peace"	19	20 9:30 am—Women in the Word	21 9:00 am— <i>WW</i>	22 5:00 pm— <i>WW</i>	23	24	
25 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—SS/Adult BC	26	27 9:30 am—Women in the Word	28 9:00 am— <i>WW</i>	29 5:00 pm— <i>WW</i>	30	October 1	

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We're on the Web!
www.peacealma.org

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 SEPTEMBER

	<u>ACOLYTES</u>	<u>ORGANIST</u>	<u>ELDER</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
SEPTEMBER					
4—9:30 am	Jared Kuehnlein Melanie Penzien	Mary Jakolat	Bill Hendrick	Leland Oswald Don Reithel	Jon Penzein & Family
11—9:30 am	Alex Henry Jessica Oswald	Beth Brostrom	Curt Oswald	James Sager Burt Henry	Dave & Carol Zeile
18—9:30 am	Kim Penzien Jordan Henry	Mary Jakolat	Terry Luplow	Bill Brostrom Jon Penzien	Bonnie Mier / Vivian Strom
25—9:30 am	Lauren Penzien Melanie Penzien	Beth Brostrom	Dave Zeile	Miguel Ortiz Richard Palmer	James & Janice Sager
OCTOBER					
2—9:30 am	Alex Henry CJ Oswald	Mary Jakolat	Bill Hendrick	Vern Jakolat Jon Greening	Marlene Wiltshire / Carol Durst

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