

The Peace Post

Peace Lutheran Church ~ Alma, MI

September, 2010

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



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From the Desk of Pastor Messer "What Shall I Do?"

"And behold, a lawyer stood up to put [Jesus] to the test, saying, 'Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?'" (Luke 10:25)

What shall I do to inherit eternal life? That's what this lawyer, this expert in the Law, wants to know. It's what people throughout history, right up to the present day, want to know. How can I make it to heaven? What must I do to secure a place in eternal Paradise?

Here is the answer: Love God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself. As Jesus says, "Do this, and you will live."

So, there you go! If you want to inherit eternal life, if you want to make it to heaven, if you want to secure a place in eternal Paradise, all you have to do is love God and neighbor completely and perfectly. All you have to do is love God above all things, always putting Him first, and love everyone, even your enemies, as much as you love yourself, never failing to show compassion and mercy on all people at all times. If you can accomplish that, eternal life is yours!

Oh, and by the way, you do not get any points for giving it your best effort. The Law of God is clear. It does not say that you are to do your best to try to love God and all people as much as you can. No, it says that you are to love God and all people perfectly and completely twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, your whole life long. If you ever fail in any way, eternal life is beyond your grasp. Do not think that you can sell God on the fact that you are trying hard to be a good person. He's not buying that nonsense! There are no loopholes in His Holy Law; it means what it says. Either you fulfill His Law completely and perfectly or you have failed. Period. No ifs, ands, or buts!

So, how are you doing? Have you loved God and all people completely and perfectly? Have you always put God first in your life? Have you always shown compassion and mercy to others, loving all people as you love yourself? If you answer, "Yes," to these questions, then stop reading

this article now, for what follows does not apply to you. But, if you are honest with yourself and answer, "No," then, by all means, read on, for I have Great News for you!

You see, God did not reveal His Law with the expectation that you would fulfill it and earn eternal life with Him. He revealed His Law to show you your sin. When you look into the mirror of God's Holy Law, you see your utter failure to heed its impossible demands. That's good. That's the whole point. That's the purpose of the Law. It cuts you to the heart, so that you would fall to your knees and plead to God for mercy, saying, "God, what you demand is impossible for me to fulfill. I have failed to love You completely and perfectly. I have failed to love my neighbor (all people) as myself. I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. Have mercy on me, a poor, miserable, sinner!"

And, when the Law does its work in you, bringing you to your knees to plead to God for mercy, the awesome, wonderful, Good News is that He does not say, "Try harder, O sinner!" No! Instead, He says, "I know you have failed. But, I sent My Only-begotten Son, Jesus the Christ, into the world to fulfill My Holy Law in your place and to pay the penalty you deserve for all your sins upon the cross. For His sake, I forgive you all your sins. You are free. Go in peace!"

The lawyer who sought to test Jesus condemned himself with his own words, for he spoke the truth, but refused to hear the words he spoke. He quoted God's Law word for word, but failed to realize that he was incapable of fulfilling it. Let it not be so with you. Do not think that you can fulfill the Law of God and earn eternal life. You can't! But, thanks be to God, there is One who can, and did – Jesus Christ. Trust in Him and forgiveness of sin, eternal life, and everlasting salvation are yours!

What can you do to inherit eternal life? Nothing! Eternal life cannot be merited by sinners. With sinful man, eternal life is impossible, but with God, all things are possible. Thus did God the Son become Incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary to live and die in your place; to exchange His sinless perfection with your sinful imperfection; to take all of the wrath and punishment you deserve for your sins upon Himself, that you would go free. Through Jesus, and only through Jesus, you have eternal life, for He alone fulfilled the impossible demands of God's perfect and holy Law, and made full and perfect atonement for all sin with His precious Blood shed on the cross.

And, wonder of wonders, this same Jesus, who rose from the tomb on the third day and ascended into heaven to be your Advocate, deigns to visit you with His Real Presence in the Divine Service, that He might deliver to you the salvation He won for you via His precious means of grace, His Holy Word and Sacraments. It is in the Divine Service, dear friends, where you receive the eternal life Jesus procured for you. It is there that the white robe of Christ's perfect holiness and righteousness in which you were clothed at Holy Baptism is washed clean in the Blood of the Lamb as you receive Holy Absolution, hear the preaching of His Holy Word, and partake of the very Body and Blood of Christ in the Holy Supper.

Come, then, and receive that which your Lord desires to give. You cannot do anything on your own to inherit eternal life, but Jesus has done everything necessary to make it yours. Come, receive Him, and depart in peace, knowing that an eternity in His Kingdom is yours!

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Messer



Beginning with Repentance

LCMS President Matthew C. Harrison

Rev. Matthew C. Harrison officially assumed the office of LCMS President on September 1. What follows is the first article penned by him as President, which will appear in The Lutheran Witness. It is thoroughly refreshing to have such a wonderful pastor, theologian, and man of mercy at the helm of our synod. As this first of his articles reveals, President Harrison is a Lutheran through and through, and it will benefit our synod greatly to have him direct our attention not to programs and movements of our own doing, but to the clear and compelling Word of God and our Lutheran Confessions, as he does here. (Note: emphasis throughout the article is original)

The greatest eras in the history of the Church have all begun with repentance. Those times when the Gospel of free forgiveness by faith in Jesus Christ has shone brightest in missionary witness and expansion—in a burning desire to care for the weak and needy with Christ’s own mercy, and in zealous and creative endeavors in church life and organization—have all begun with the preaching of repentance.

It’s hardly a coincidence that John the Baptizer’s first recorded words were, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” (Matt. 3:2). It’s no accident that the first words out of Jesus’ mouth when He began His public ministry were likewise, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” (Matt. 4:17). And note that the text says, “from that time [forward] Jesus began to preach repentance.” **Jesus, the greatest preacher ever, was throughout His ministry a preacher of repentance.** After Jesus’ death and resurrection—the grand payment and absolution for all the sins of the world, past, present and future—Peter repented and was restored following his own miserable defection and denial. And then Peter and the rest of the apostles burst upon the world with a glorious preaching of repentance. At Pentecost, Peter preached the thunder of the Law: “‘This Jesus whom you crucified, God has made both Lord and Christ.’ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’” Peter responded with the sweet comfort of the Gospel: “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins” (Acts 2:36-38).

The Reformation began the same way. The very first words of Luther’s Ninety-Five Theses declare: “When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ says, ‘Repent,’ he wills that the entire life of the Christian be one of repentance.” **The Reformation began with a divine call to repentance**—with a confession of sin and a rejection of the delusion that human activity can in any way, whole or in part, bring about salvation of divine favor.

Why have we lacked missionary zeal? Why have we been so divided? Why have we failed to love each other? Why have we struggled financially? Why have we failed to convince both those within and outside our fellowship? Why have we been unable to listen to our brothers and sisters? Why has our preaching so often lacked urgency and biblical depth? Are we preachers therapists, or are we prophets of God with a clear message of Law and Gospel? Are we still the Church that preaches Jesus’ own message of repentance? As I write these things, I am thinking above all of myself, of my own sins.

There is nothing for any of us in the Missouri Synod to be smug about. “For what do you have that you have not been given?” Luther reminded the Germans of his day that the precious Gospel can be and has, in fact, been lost by whole nations:

Buy while the market is at your door; gather in the harvest while there is sunshine and fair weather; make use of God’s grace and word while it is there! **For you should know that God’s word and grace is like a passing shower of rain which does not return where it has once been . . . when it’s gone, it’s gone . . .** And you Germans need not think that you will have it forever, for ingratitude and contempt will not make it stay. Therefore, seize it and hold it fast (Luther’s Works 45:352).

The good news is that the Lord delights in having mercy upon sinners, just like us. In fact, “Christ dwells only in sinners” (Luther). That means that Christ dwells only in a Church made up of sinners—people and pastors just like us. If we won’t be sinners (Repent!), we shall have no Savior.

Jesus has given us an astounding gift. We have the treasure of the Gospel so marvelously and biblically laid before us by Luther’s Small Catechism. May the Lord grant us repentance, all of us, that the Gospel not pass from us and that we poor sinners—yes, the Missouri Synod—might be His own tool to preach repentance, forgiveness, and faith in His name—even now, even today.

Matthew Harrison
“Let’s go!” Mark 1:38
president@lcms.org

You Are Cordially Invited
to a
SERVICE OF INSTALLATION
for
Rev. Matthew Carl Harrison, President
The Praesidium,
and Other Officers, Boards and Commissions of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Saturday, September 11, 2010, 10 a.m.

The Chapel of Saint Timothy and Saint Titus
on the campus of Concordia Seminary
801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105

Reception immediately following on the seminary campus.

Clergy are invited to process; please bring vestments (red stole) and RSVP by September 1 to burresonk@csil.edu

A HUGE THANK YOU . . .

to all of you who donated to the collection gathered to make it possible for me to attend the Installation of President Harrison, The Praesidium, and Other Officers, etc. in St. Louis. I am absolutely thrilled that I will be able to attend, and participate in, this most joyous event. To join the procession of clergy at this Service will be an honor I know that I will surely never forget. So, thanks again; I appreciate this wonderful gift more than words could possibly say!

You can tune in to watch the Service of Installation via live internet streaming at the synod’s website that morning:

www.lcms.org/live

In Christ,
Pastor Messer

The Thirteenth Annual

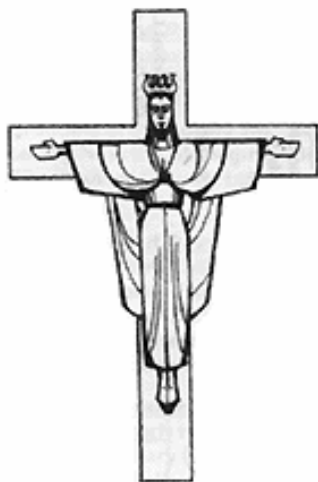
**St. Michael
Liturgical
Conference**

THEME: “With the Highest Reverence”

“Falsely are our churches accused of abolishing the Mass; for the Mass is retained among us, and celebrated with the highest reverence” (*Augustana XXIV*) The conference will examine the Mass in the Lutheran Confessions and the writings of Luther, stressing the practical contemporary application of our Confession “The Mass is celebrated among us with the highest reverence.”

**Keynote Address: “The Mass in the Lutheran Confessions”
Reverend Professor Roland Ziegler**

Workshops will be led by Fr. Burnell Eckardt, Dr. Daniel Reuning, Fr. Mark Braden, and Deacon David Muehlenbruch



Schedule:

- 8:15 a.m. Registration
- 9:00 a.m. Holy Communion
- 10:45 a.m. Keynote Address
- Noon Sext (Noonday Prayer Service)
- 12:15 p.m. Luncheon w/greeting from English District Bishop David Stechholz
- 1:15 p.m. Workshop
- 2:30 p.m. Break
- 2:45 p.m. Workshop
- 4:00 p.m. Vespers
- till 7:00 p.m. Gemütlichkeit at the Rectory

**Monday, September 27
2010 A.D.**

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Detroit, Michigan**

If you would like to attend this excellent conference, see Pastor Messer for a registration form (or visit www.ziondetroit.org to download a form). The registration fee is \$35 before September 15; \$45 after September 15. The beauty of the Divine Service (Mass) at this conference alone is worth more than the registration fee, as those who have attended in the past will tell you.

Feasting with Our Lord: The Day of Atonement

(This is the third in a four-part series of articles Pastor Messer is writing for Higher Things Magazine on some of the Old Testament Feasts)

We turn our attention now to one of the most important Feasts on the Old Testament liturgical calendar, one that ranks right up there with the Feast of Passover and Unleavened Bread – the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). The importance of this Feast Day is seen by the fact that a whole chapter is devoted to this Day in the book of Leviticus (ch. 16). Also, it is worth noting that a proper understanding of the structure of Leviticus reveals that this is the central chapter of the book, so that the Day of Atonement stands at the heart of Leviticus. Pretty cool, especially when one further notes that Leviticus is the central book of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible), which means that not only does the Day of Atonement stand at the heart of Leviticus, but at the heart of the Pentateuch. Yes, pretty cool, indeed!

The first thing to note about the Day of Atonement is that it took place annually on the tenth day of the seventh month. In the Bible, ten is God's number for completeness, while seven is God's number for perfection. So, that this Feast takes place on the tenth day of the seventh month means that something complete and perfect is taking place, and that something is the ritual cleansing of the sanctuary and all its appointments, the tent of meeting, the priests, the entire congregation, which accomplished the atonement of all sin in the Israelite community. This is the special Day set apart on the liturgical calendar to cleanse everything and everybody!

This is also the only Day in the whole year that the high priest was permitted to enter the Holy of Holies (or, Most Holy Place), located behind the veil (or, curtain), where the ark of the covenant and its mercy seat was located, and where the LORD Himself appeared. Only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies and only on this Day appointed by the LORD. So holy was the Holy of Holies that anyone who entered without authorization was killed. Legend has it that it was customary to tie a rope to the ankle of the high priest on this Day, so that, if he did something displeasing to the LORD and was struck dead, the other priests could pull his body out without having to enter in and risk being killed themselves. Yeah, it was a very holy place!

Before the high priest entered the Holy of Holies on this Day, he cleansed himself and then put on the holy garments commanded by the LORD. He gathered from the congregation a bull, two rams, and two goats, and took some coal from the altar and two handfuls of incense. He entered behind the veil with blood and incense to perform the ritual cleansing and accomplish the atonement for all the holy things and all the people on that sacred Day. He sprinkled blood from the bull and from one of the goats seven times (there's that number "seven" again!) on the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies and on the altar in the Holy Place. The two rams were employed as burnt offerings, one for the high priest himself, and the other for the congregation.

But, what about the other goat? Ever hear of the word, "scapegoat"? This is where we get that word. The high priest cast lots to determine which goat would be sacrificed and which goat would be used as the scapegoat. He placed both hands on the scapegoat and confessed over it all the iniquities, transgressions, and sins of the Israelites, and sent the scapegoat away into the wilderness, bearing all the iniquities of the Israelites and, thus, removing them from the community.

Everything done on the Day of Atonement pointed forward to the atoning work of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He begins His earthly ministry by being baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. He does not enter the Jordan to be cleansed of sin, for He Himself has no sin. Instead, like the scapegoat on the Day of Atonement, He enters the Jordan to take the sins of the entire community (in this case, the whole world) upon Himself. It is no coincidence that our Lord comes out of the Jordan and immediately proceeds into the wilderness. He is showing Himself to be the fulfillment of the scapegoat, and He continues to bear the sins of all people upon Himself as He marches through the wilderness of this sinful world all the way to the Cross on Good Friday.

Good Friday is the culmination of the Day of Atonement. There, on the cross, Jesus sheds His blood to atone for the sin of all people of all time. He is the "mercy seat," the place of atonement and God's gracious presence for us (see Rom. 3:25). He is both the High Priest and the Sacrifice at one and the same time. He goes to Mt. Calvary willingly to sprinkle His own blood on the altar of the Holy Cross and bring salvation to all. And, forty days after He rises from the tomb alive, He enters the heavenly sanctuary with His own blood, ascending into heaven to be our Great High Priest and to give us access into the Holy of Holies and the Divine Presence (see Hebrews 9). To symbolize this, the veil (or, curtain) in the Temple was supernaturally torn in two, from top to bottom, as Jesus breathed His last breath on the Cross (see Matt. 27:51).

Each time we gather together for Divine Service, we are celebrating the fulfillment of the Day of Atonement by Jesus on Good Friday. We are blessed and privileged to enter into the Holy of Holies, where our Lord dwells among us with His Divine Gifts. We do not travel back in time to Good Friday, but rather our Lord brings to us the fruits of His perfect life and sacrificial death via His Holy Word and Sacraments and we receive forgiveness, life, and salvation. In the Divine Service, our Lord is truly Present among us to apply to us the atonement He accomplished for us. He does so in the preaching of the Holy Gospel, the pronouncement of Holy Absolution, and the distribution of His very Body and Blood in the Holy Supper. Thus are we sinners ritually cleansed in the Blood of the Lamb. And, thus do we pray: "Lord, I love the habitation of Your House and the Place where Your Glory dwells!" Amen!

In Christ,
Pastor Messer

Synopsis of August 10, 2010 Church Council Minutes

Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- Councilmember Elliott called the meeting to order at 7:06pm. Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer. The following members were present: Carol Zeile, Vern Jakolat, Megan Brown, Carolyn Johnson, Bill Harmon and Larry Elliott. Pastor Messer was also present.

Approval of Agenda

- Motion made by Councilmember Elliott, supported by Treasurer Zeile to amend the agenda to add two items under Business: Church Directory Software and Stipend for Pastor Bakker. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Treasurer Zeile, supported by Councilmember Elliott to approve the minutes from July 6 and July 18. Motion carried unanimously.

Report(s)

- **Pastor** – Pastor Messer presented the attached report. He also reminded the Council that there will be no Wednesday services during his absence. The Council received the report into record.
- **Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Zeile presented the attached report. The Council received the report into record.
- **Financial Secretary** – No report.
- **Boards**
 - **Board of Elders** – Councilmember Elliott informed the Council that the Elders would be serving during Pastor's absence in August and September. He also announced that the Board approved the early communion policy by unanimous vote. The Council received the report into record.
 - **Board of Trustees** – Councilmember Jakolat provided a status update on the banner storage area in the back classroom and other projects. The Council received the report into record.
 - **Board of Christian Education** – The attached report was presented. The Council received the report into record.
 - **Board of Evangelism** – Councilmember Johnson reported that the next meeting will be September 16 at 6:30pm. She also reported on various events. The Council received the report into record.
 - **Board of Stewardship** – Councilmember Harmon reported on the receipt of the 10% envelopes project that began at the previous Voters' Assembly meeting. The Council received the report into record.
- **Organization and Committee Reports**
 - **Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild** – No report.
 - **Peace Youth Group** – No report.

Business

- **Thrivent Choice Dollars** – Treasurer Zeile informed the Council regarding the changes to this program from the previous method of reimbursing congregations. She also placed an article in the August newsletter. The Council agreed that when money is received, it should be placed in an account to accumulate.
- **Church Directory Software** – Pastor Messer presented the attached information. After discussion, motion made by Councilmember Elliott, supported by Councilmember Jakolat to table the item. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Stipend for Pastor Bakker** – Motion made by Councilmember Elliott, supported by Treasurer Zeile to approve a \$100 stipend for Pastor Bakker. Motion carried unanimously.

General Comment

- None.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

- Motion made by Councilmember Elliott, supported by Secretary Brown to adjourn at 8:04pm. Motion carried unanimously. Pastor Messer closed with the Lord's Prayer and Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Brown, Secretary

(Note: Complete minutes with all attachments are available in the church office for review.)

PEACE NEWS & NOTES



PYG NEWS

<u>September</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Location</u>
	Meeting	9/19	5 pm	7 pm	Fellowship Hall
	Fellowship	Sundays	10:45	11:45	Fellowship Hall

Greetings in Christ,

We will begin our monthly meetings on the 19th. We will continue to have our relaxation and fellowship before our Bible Study and discussions. Fellowship starts at 5, Bible Study starts at 6. Guests are welcome. If you are in need of rides to or from, please get a hold of me after church or call me at [989] 682-3485 (please leave a message). We will be working out a snack schedule for the meetings, please contact me also if you are interested in assisting with this.

Two main items for this month are planning activities for the year and planning for attending the 2011 Higher Things Coram Deo conference in Bloomington, IL (Illinois State University) on July 12-15. An information packet will be available at the meeting for interested youth.

As always, I want to thank the Lord and everyone at Peace for your support of the Youth at Peace with your time, attention, and contributions to our collection projects (pop cans, Spartan labels, and cell phones).

Remember that all Youth who are in the sixth (6th) grade or higher are members of the Peace Youth Group. Please join us with our activities, meetings, and projects.

May the Spirit of the Lord be with you.

Jonathan Penzien

Ladies Lunch Bunch

For our trip away this year, we will once again visit Loafers Glory in Blanchard. We will meet at church on Tuesday, September 14 at noon to carpool. Loafers Glory is not open on Mondays.

Come visit a village of yesteryear. An 1800's hardware store uniquely restored with expressions from the past. Explore shop after shop filled with a wonderful collection of collectable and home furnishings. Lunch in the Wild Flower Tea Room, reserved for 1:30 pm, and visit the Sunflower Bakery and Aunties House next door.

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

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're able to 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.

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)

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

Collection will be received until September 30.

SALT NEWS

The SALT Committee will meet on **Thursday, September 16 at 6:30 pm.** Please consider helping our committee to serve our members and our community.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

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

PEACE NEWS & NOTES Cont'd

Adult Choir



Choir practices will begin on Sunday, September 19 at 8:30 a.m. before the Divine Service. We practice for a half hour each Sunday preparing for support to the congregation and supplementing the liturgy with song.

There is only one requirement—that you like to sing. If you like to sing, we invite you to join us. We try to keep our music as easy-going as possible as we “make a joyful noise to the Lord.”

PEACE MOVIE NIGHT

Returns Friday, September 24

6:30 p.m.—Pizza and snacks

7:00 p.m.—Showtime

We'll have several movies from which those in attendance can choose
We hope you'll join us!

Please Keep In Your Prayers

Our Shut-Ins: Georgia Spindler (Masonic Pathways), Marion Greening (Home), Dick Wiser (Pine River), Violet Byers (Warwick Living Center), Vivian Strom (Masonic Pathways), Joan Burch (Home), Connie Cook (The Laurels of Mt. Pleasant), Marlene Wiltshire (Masonic Pathways); Others: Corrine Elenbaas, Tom Elenbaas, Vicky Bowlby, Bruce Bebow, Eric Lovejoy (son/stepson of Barb and Roger Humphrey), Jessica Updegraff (niece of Miguel Ortiz), Joan Martens (high school classmate of Bill Hendrick), Connie Glaser (aunt of Amy Lesinger), Virginia Gorsline, Kim Tulk, (daughter of Mary Girard), Lori Jakolat (daughter-in-law of Vern and Mary Jakolat), Ruby Baughman (grandmother of Jenny Baughman), Phyllis Baughman (mother of Jenny Baughman), Charles Shaw, Dell Miller (brother of Gary Miller), Kristi Truesdell (granddaughter of Lois Ramsey), Marvin Neubecker (uncle of Cassie Tennant), Dallas Neubecker (father of Cassie Tennant), Marlene Wiltshire, Ralph Bolt, Derek Brown, Cassie Tennant, Scott McCullum (nephew of Miguel Ortiz), Jody Sarver (daughter of Gary Miller), and Margaret Duby (Charlotte Dargie's sister-in-law).

Stewardship Committee Report

By Sharyn Greening

At the August 1, 2010 Voter's Assembly the Stewardship Committee asked families of the congregation to anonymously report a tithe amount based on annual income. At that meeting 14 families responded and 30 letters were sent to families not present. We only received 7 responses, giving us a total of 21 responses out of 44 families asked to participate (48%). The amounts on the 21 cards returned totaled \$111,880. Compare that to our current budget of \$114,655.

The goal of this survey was two-fold: 1) To get a picture of where our congregation could be financially if all member families tithed. With less than half of the member families participating, we certainly do not have a clear picture at which to look. But, given the fact that the results show that we would only be \$2,775 shy of our annual budget if just the 48% who participated tithed, it is safe to conclude that we would far exceed our annual budget if 100% of the congregation tithed. 2) We hoped that those families who participated in this survey would evaluate and prayerfully consider their giving based on the tithe they wrote down, determining whether or not they could increase their offerings to the Lord and His Church.

We realize many of the families in our congregation have limited incomes and meeting monthly expenses including a contribution for the work of the church is challenging. If this is the case in your family please continue to find non-monetary ways to contribute. There's always something that needs to be done.

Thank you for your participation and for considering an increase in your weekly, monthly, or annual offering to help meet our budgetary needs.

Ladies Guild

Ladies Guild Meeting

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

Altar Flowers

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

LADIES GUILD 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.

PEACE LUTHERAN COOKBOOK

There are two (2) weeks left to get your recipes turned in. Let's make this a cookbook for everyone to enjoy and use. We have about 150 recipes so far.

Write, type or email your recipes to Coaline at luplow2@hotmail.com or to Mary at contact@peacealma.org.

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 19, 2010



September

Carol Zeile

Altar Care

October

Carolyn Johnson

November

Carol Zeile

Coffee Hostesses

September

5 Jennie Harmon
12 Janice Sager
19 Peace Youth Group
26 Carolyn Johnson
29 Y.Elenbaas/M.Girard

October

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

November

7 Dorothy Trgina
14 Lois Ramsey
21 Mary Jakolat
28 Gretchen Harrison



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 16 (NOT September 9, as previously announced)** at 10 am.

Christian History 101

- Weekly Wednesday classes meet at 6 pm. We are currently studying "Christian History 101."



SEPTEMBER

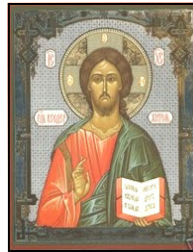
Happy Birthday

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 3 John Isaksson | 12 Joshua Schafer |
| 3 Marion Greening | 14 Kim Penzien |
| 5 Lisa Messer | 20 Brenda Stroven |
| 11 Maxine Isaksson | 23 David Zeile |

Happy Anniversary

- 4 Bob and Jo Wendt
- 8 Vern and Mary Jakolat
- 12 Brian and Brenda Stroven
- 19 James and Janice Sager

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.

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

www.issuesetc.org



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.

PAROCHIAL REPORT

(as of 8/29/2010)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 139; Confirmed - 118

Membership gains: 0

Membership losses: 0

Financial Report as of 8/29/10

YTD Budgeted\$ 76,440.00




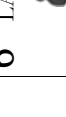
YTD Receipts.....\$ 66,503.46

Difference\$ - 9,936.54

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

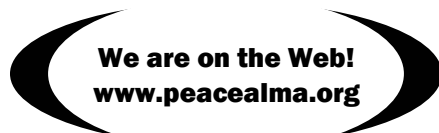
September 2010

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
	August 30	31	September 1	2	3	4
	7 pm - Elders Meeting		6 pm - "Christian History" 7 pm - Resp. Prayer 2	5 pm - Weight Watchers		
5 14th Sunday after Trinity	6 LABOR DAY  Church Office Closed	7	6 pm - "Christian History" 7 pm - Divine Service <i>Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary</i> 	9 No Together in the Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers	10	11
9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - Bible Study						
12 15th Sunday after Trinity	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30 - Prayer and Preaching 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - SS 12:00 - SS Rally Day Potluck		Ladies Lunch Bunch To Loafers Glory	6 pm - "Christian History" 7 pm - Divine Service <i>Holy Cross Day (Obs.)</i> 	10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers 6:30 pm - SALT	7 pm - Table Talk around the campfire at Pastor Messer's house	
19 16th Sunday after Trinity	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC,SS 5-7 pm - PYG			6 pm - "Christian History" 7 pm - Divine Service <i>St. Matthew, Apostle (Obs.)</i> 	10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers	Peace Movie Night 6:30 pm—Pizza 7:00 pm—Showtime	
26 St. Michael & All Angels (Obs.)	27	28	29	30	October 1	2
9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC,SS	<i>Newsletter articles due</i>	7 pm - Stewardship Mtg.	6 pm - "Christian History" 7 pm - Vespers	10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers		
		St. Michael Liturgical Conference at Zion, Detroit				

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 September

	ELDERS	ACOLYTES	USHERS	GREETERS
September				
5 - 9:30 am <i>(Trinity 14)</i>	Terry Luplow	Paige Harwager Aaron Messer	Jonathan Penzien Phillip Schafer	Lisa Messer and Family
12 - 9:30 am <i>(Trinity 15)</i>	Miguel Ortiz	Samantha Messer Myka Luplow	Gary Miller James Sager	Helen Meyers
19 - 9:30 am <i>(Trinity 16)</i>	Larry Elliott	Natalie Penzien Sierra Luplow	Vern Jakolat Tyrel Harwager	James and Janice Sager
26 - 9:30 am <i>(St. Michael and All Angels)</i>	Terry Luplow	Morgan Johnson Paige Harwager	Chris Brown Daren Johnson	Miguel and Sue Ortiz
October				
3 - 9:30 am <i>(Trinity 18)</i>	Miguel Ortiz	Aaron Messer Myka Luplow	James Sager Kevin Sellke	Larry and Andrea Elliott

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