

THE PEACE POST

October, 2006

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



FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MESSER

“The Heart of Christianity”

*Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior,
Jesus Christ!*

*“For we maintain that a man is justified by faith
apart from observing the law” (Romans 3:28).*

This verse from St. Paul’s Epistle to the Romans reveals the heart of Christianity. The doctrine that we are justified (declared righteous or saved) by faith alone is the central and vital organ in the body of Christian theology; the organ that pumps the blood throughout that body to give life to all other Christian

doctrines. The Blessed Reformer, Martin Luther, and our Lutheran forefathers, declared this doctrine to be the central article of the Christian faith, “the article upon which the Church stands or falls.”

Everything in Christian theology hinges upon this central article. If you get this article wrong, you’ll get all other Christian doctrines wrong and you’ll end up with a worldly religion that differs from genuine Christianity. The idea that so many Christians adhere to today, that Jesus has done His part, now it’s up to us to do our part, is a lie straight from the pit of Hell.

The truth is that we are justified, or declared righteous, by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. He alone fulfilled God’s Holy Law to perfection and He alone paid the full price for our sins and the sins of the whole world. When we receive the God-given faith to believe in Christ by means of God’s Holy Word and Sacraments, we are declared righteous by God. This declaration of righteousness is based solely on the righteousness of Christ, which becomes ours through faith. In other words, when God looks at His children of faith, He doesn’t see their sinfulness, but rather Christ’s perfection, holiness, and righteousness which covers them. This is why the Scriptures say that believers are “clothed with Christ,” for His righteousness covers us, just as a robe covers the body.

This is awesome news for sinners like us who cannot possibly live a perfect life and earn our way into heaven. On our own, we are doomed. But, God saved us! He became one of us to do what we

cannot do and accomplish our salvation. That’s the Gospel! That’s the Good News of Christianity! We can’t do it, but Christ has done it for us. That’s what Christianity is all about—trusting in the Incarnate Son of God who accomplished all things on our behalf.

And, my friends, that’s what the Festival of Reformation Day is all about. It’s about having the “heart” of Christianity restored. The truth of the Gospel, which had been hidden under the works-righteous system of salvation of the pope and his church, was revealed by God to an Augustinian monk named Martin Luther. Luther had tried for years to earn favor with God. However, the more he tried, the more he realized what a sinner he was and how futile his efforts were.

But then, a miracle happened for Luther. God revealed the true Gospel to him in His Holy Word. When Luther read the Scriptures and discovered the true Gospel, he said it was like the gate of heaven had been opened to him for the first time. For him, it was like being released from prison. No longer did he fear God’s wrath at his inability to live a perfect life, for he learned that Jesus Christ had finished all the work necessary for his (and the world’s) salvation. What a joy this was for Luther!

And, what a joy this is for us, dear friends in Christ. May the absolute guarantee we find in God’s Word that we are declared righteous through faith in Christ be our joy now and throughout eternity. Amen!

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Messer

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PEACE LUTHERAN LIBRARY



New books in our library:

Donated by Bill Hendrick:

- People's Bible Commentary: Matthew
- People's Bible Commentary: Mark
- People's Bible Commentary: Luke
- People's Bible Commentary: Ecclesiastes/Song of Songs

Donations are always welcomed:

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

A Book Review

“Genesis and the Dinosaur”

By Erich A. von Fange, PH.D.

Dr. von Fange is local and lived and worked in Ann Arbor when the book was written.

If you enjoy the Discovery Channel, History Channel, or National Geographic Channel, you will enjoy this book. It presents new ideas about a young earth, not one that is billions of years old, but one that is much younger.

This book, unlike others that never mention God, reveals what the Bible says in terms of Gods’ curse after the fall of man.

The term “dinosaur” came into existence in the 19th century. The book makes reference to stories and legends from all over the known world of encounters with dragons. From Ireland to China, Denmark to Egypt, are stories of brave warriors fighting dragons. This doesn’t require as much of an imagination as you might believe. After all, what is one

man’s dragon is another man’s dinosaur.

The author talks of great catastrophes, floods, volcanoes, and tidal waves. These things shouldn’t surprise us, for we all know these catastrophic events still happen to this day. They are the result of sin entering God’s once-perfect creation and will remain with us until God restores His creation to perfection once again on the Last Day.

The author explores the modern methods of dating fossils and stones and reveals how the methods used are not consistent and hardly reliable.

The author presents a lot of different information. Some of it is very dry, but most is very interesting. For example, did you know that Michigan was once a shallow sea bottom as is evidenced by coral being found in many parts of the state?

The book presents a new way of looking at information from which your high school text books would steer you away. Personally, I enjoyed the book and found it very interesting.

Sincerely,
Terry Luplow

Look for a review from another member of our church next month! We would like to encourage people to use our Church Library more often. We will be encouraging people to read books and share a book review with the congregation via the monthly newsletter. If you have read a book from our library that you enjoyed, or that inspired you, and you would like to share it, please contact Beth Brostrom or Coaline Luplow.



WEBSITE ADDITIONS

You can now listen to Pastor Messer’s sermons on the website by clicking on the audio icon next to links for the sermons. We will be adding audio links for Adult Bible Study as well in the near future. Check it out!

NEW PROCESSIONAL CRUCIFIX

A few weeks ago, a beautiful new processional crucifix appeared in our sanctuary. We are very thankful to the anonymous donor who gifted us with this blessing. We will dedicate it during Divine Service on October 8.

PEACE HAS STAFFED NURSERY!

Our nursery has been staffed by volunteers for the past few weeks during Divine Service. We are excited to provide this service to the parents of young children in our congregation. If you are interested in being involved in this important ministry, please place your name on the line for the Sunday(s) you would be willing to be in the nursery during Divine Service if need be. Thank you in advance for your participation!

Summary of Church Council Minutes

Summary Minutes, Church Council Meeting, September 11, 2006

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the August 8 meeting were approved as presented.

Pastor's Report:

1. There is a new curriculum for Sunday School.
2. We had one baptism since the last meeting.
3. Confirmation will begin at the beginning of October with four confirmands.
4. Pastor, Mary Jakolat and Beth Brostrom would like to go to the Good Shepherd Institute at the Seminary in Fort Wayne in November.

Elder's Report:

1. The Elders had a meeting last Saturday. They are working on getting our membership records in order and contacting inactive members.

S.A.L.T. Report:

1. The evangelism walk was successful. They handed out 500 flyers.
2. Support of Troops – will be sending goodie bags to troops from our area.
3. Clothing drive for Seminary in Fort Wayne.
4. Relay for Life – with supplemental funds from Thrivent we earned \$4200.
5. Planning an Advent Tea for the ladies of the congregation.
6. Planning an Ongoing Food and Clothing Bank

Trustees Report: None.

Board of Christian Education Report:

1. Purchased reusable textbooks for the Sunday School program. They may go over budget this year, but will save money in the long run.

Treasurer's Report:

1. Shepherd's Staff annual maintenance fee is \$400. There was a discussion of whether or not to pay that fee. Larry Elliott offered to find out what we are getting for this fee.

Old Business

1. Stained glass windows are installed and paid for and Beth is working on finding all of the memorial information so that plaques can be made.
2. Constitution Committee: new version of constitution and bylaws and job descriptions and procedures are almost complete.
3. Budget and Finance Committee: There was a discussion of who should be on the Budget and Finance Committee.

New Business:

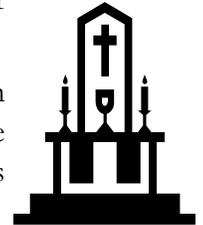
1. Beth reported about Life Line Screenings and that would like to use our church building on November 16, 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Jon Greening suggested calling another church that had participated to see what their experience was
2. Concordia Historical Institute is asking for donations from the congregation.
3. Beth reported on a mailing that she received about making your own church directory with digital pictures. There was some discussion about doing this.
4. There was a discussion about the time and day of the Council Meetings. We agreed to change the meeting day to the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Zeile, Council Secretary

Want something included in "The Peace Post" next month? Email Beth or Pastor Messer (addresses on back page) by October 25 with your item. Also, call or email them anytime with your feedback and/or ideas!

LADIES & ALTAR GUILD INFO

- **LADIES GUILD MEETING:** Guild will meet Monday, October 2 at 7:00 pm. Hostess: Beth Brostrom. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend our guild meetings; if you are a confirmed female member of Peace, you can be a member of the guild. We would sincerely encourage you to participate and be an active member of the guild.
- **LADIES GUILD PRAYER CHAIN:** The Ladies Guild has a prayer chain in place. If you wish to be included in the prayer chain as a caller, see Marlene Wiltshire. If you wish to add yourself or someone else to the prayers, the chain starts with either Georgia Spindler (466-4352) or Marlene Wiltshire (463-4101).
- **ALTAR GUILD DUTY:** October - Beth Brostrom; November - Marilyn Oswald; December - Cheryl Henry/Carol Durst.
- **ALTAR FLOWERS:** There is a flower calendar for 2006 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.



UPCOMING COFFEE HOSTESSES:

<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
1 - Sharyn Greening	5 - Beth Brostrom	3 - Carol Durst
8 - Darlene Palmer	12 - Gretchen Harrison	10 - Trina Palmer
15 - Marlene Wiltshire	19 - Lois Ramsey	17 - Jo Wendt
22 - Cheryl Henry	26 - Helen Meyers	24 - Carol Zeile
29 - Coaline Luplow		



COOKIE WALK/CRAFT SHOW

The annual COOKIE WALK/CRAFT SHOW is scheduled for Saturday, December 2, 2006, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.

We need:

- more coffee cans of all sizes.
- cookie tins in excellent shape.
- cookie bakers (20 - 25 dozen cookies); expect a phone call for a commitment.
- volunteers to set up (Friday afternoon or evening)/work/clean up (after 4:00 pm); expect a phone call for a commitment.

NEW STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

Our new stained glass windows have been in for a few weeks now and they are beautiful. If you haven't checked them out by now, be sure to do so soon. We were able to purchase these windows with memorial monies given to our church in memory of Dick & Janet Maule, Pat Hendrick, Nina Anderson, Eldon Wiltshire, and Emil Spindler. May these windows serve as a constant reminder for us of these saints, and of all the saints, who have gone before us to Paradise. We will dedicate our new windows during Divine Service on October 8.

PYG NEWS

PYG met on Sunday, September 17 at Pastor Messer's house. A fun time was had by all who attended. We held our meeting while enjoying hot dogs and snacks and then we had fun playing games (horseshoes, volleyball, croquet, bocce ball, and board games).

We decided to attend the *Higher Things* conference next summer in place of the National Youth Gathering. Look for more information in the near future as we prepare to register for this event. Also, if you are interested, you can go to www.higherthings.org to check out the website.

We also set up a couple of activities, one of which was a "bowling night" held on Friday, Sept. 22. About 20 people were in attendance and fun was had by all. We will be having a "**Movie Night**" on **Friday, Oct. 13**. It will take place at the church, beginning at 10:00 p.m. All PYG members are invited and encouraged to attend and to invite friends to come along as well.

We are dedicated to making PYG a more active group in our congregation and will be organizing many events during the year. Pastor Messer is working with the pastors at Zion, Mt. Pleasant and the pastor at St. Luke, Harrison to organize some joint youth events to take place in the near future.

We hope and pray that all of our youth will become more actively involved in our group. We are asking the parents of our youth to support us in this endeavor by encouraging their children to participate. It is only as we all participate and work together that our PYG will grow and thrive!

Our next **PYG MEETING** will take place on **SUNDAY, OCT. 15 at 12:00 p.m.** Please be there as we continue to plan future events and formulate our mission statement.

SECRET PALS

On Saturday, September 23, we held our Secret Pals Luncheon and had fun learning who our secret pals were last year. If you couldn't attend the luncheon, there is a list posted on the S.A.L.T. bulletin board revealing who your secret pal was last year. Now, it's time to begin another year of Secret Pals. We have extended the deadline to get into the program to **Sunday, October 8**. If you want to participate in this program, please fill out a Secret Pals Information Sheet located on the desk near the mailboxes and insert that sheet into the box on the desk. Pastor Messer will take those sheets home with him on the 8th, randomly match us up, and send us the info sheets on our new Secret Pals for the coming year. I hope many ladies will participate in this fun and exciting program. Please remember that this program is not one that requires a large financial commitment on your part. The idea is to simply let your secret pal know that you are thinking about and praying for her throughout the year. Small gifts and cards are all that are needed to accomplish this. If you have the means and want to do more at times, that's fine, but please do not feel obligated. If you have any questions about the program, please see Lisa or Pastor Messer. Thank you.

SEMINARY COLLECTION DELIVERED

A huge thank you to all who donated clothing and other items towards our collection for Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne. The donations filled my van and I dropped them off at the seminary on Tuesday, September 26. The people at the clothing co-op were thrilled to see such a large donation. In fact, they said it was "a blessing from God" because their sorting room was empty and our donation filled the room. Thanks again to all who donated. I can tell you from experience that your donations will be a true blessing to the students and families at the seminary.

Pastor Messer

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT PEACE

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

- Sunday School is offered each week for grades K-8.
- Adult Bible Class is offered **every Sunday at 11:00 a.m.** for all confirmed members of Peace and adult guests. We are currently engaged in a detailed study of **Revelation**.

Youth Confirmation Class

- Youth Confirmation Class takes place each Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

“Life With God” Adult Confirmation/Information Class

- As announced at church, the “Life With God” class which was scheduled to begin a couple of weeks ago has been cancelled for the time being due to the fact that there were no registrations for the class at this time. We will re-schedule the class in the future when the need presents itself.



Together in the Word

- Our *Together in the Word* Bible Study takes place **Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m.** All men and women of Peace who are available at that time are encouraged to join us. Guests are always welcome, too. We are currently engaged in a detailed study of the **Gospel of John**. Please plan on joining us soon.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 - Marlene Wiltshire | 15 - Lucille Slick |
| 4 - Victoria Gamez | 21 - Maggie Malone |
| 4 - Dick Kohler | 23 - Dale Palmer |
| 7 - Charlotte Dargie | 27 - Darlene Palmer |
| 10 - Jeff Hedrick | 28 - Burt Henry |
| 12 - Brent Meyers | 30 - Myka Luplow |
| 13 - Jordan Henry | |

Happy Anniversary to:

- 3 - Mike & Andrea Luplow
- 14 - Gary & Marlene Miller

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



EUCHRE NIGHT!

We will resume our monthly Euchre nights for the winter. Our first gathering will be **Friday, October 13 at 7:00 pm.** There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome to come and have fun playing the great game of euchre. Please bring a dish to pass. See you there!

VOTERS' ASSEMBLY

**SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 22
11:00 A.M.**

All confirmed members of Peace are encouraged to attend.

PAROCHIAL REPORT

(As of September 30)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 184

Confirmed - 142

Official Acts:

None

Membership gains: 0

Membership losses: 0

Financial Report

YTD Receipts: \$67,227.70

Budgeted YTD: \$79,950.00

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October 2006

Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 <i>17th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—SS/BC	2	3 9:30—Together in the Word 7:00 pm—Council Mtg.	4 6:30 pm—Constitutional Committee mtg.	5 5:00 pm— <i>WW</i> 5:30 pm—Confirmation Class	6	7
8 <i>18th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—SS/BC	9	10 <i>No Together in the Word</i>	11 6:30 pm—Constitutional Committee mtg.	12 5:00 pm— <i>WW</i> 5:30 pm—Confirmation Class	13 7:00 pm— <i>Eachwe Night</i> PYG MOVIE NIGHT— 10:00 p.m. at the church	14
15 <i>19th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 8:00—Elders Mtg. 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—SS/BC 12:00—PYG mtg.	16	17 9:30—Together in the Word	18 6:30 pm—Constitutional Committee mtg.	19 5:00 pm— <i>WW</i> 5:30 pm—Confirmation Class	20	21
22 <i>20th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—VOTERS' AS-SEMBLY	23	24 9:30—Together in the Word	25	26 5:00 pm— <i>WW</i> 5:30 pm—Confirmation Class	27	28
29 <i>Festival of Reformation Day</i> 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—SS/BC	30	31 9:30—Together in the Word REFORMATION DAY	November 1 ALL SAINTS' DAY	November 2 5:00 pm— <i>WW</i> 5:30 pm—Confirmation Class	November 3	November 4

SERVING IN OCTOBER

	<u>ACOLYTES</u>	<u>ORGANIST</u>	<u>ELDER</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
OCTOBER					
1 - 9:30 am	Samantha Messer Jessica Oswald	Mary Jakolat	Bill Hendrick	Jon Penzien Chris Brown	Dave & Carol Zeile
8 - 9:30 am	CJ Oswald Alex Henry	Beth Brostrom	Larry Elliott	Leland Oswald Bill Brostrom	Gary & Marlene Miller & Charlotte Dargie
15 - 9:30 am	Melanie Penzien Sarah Messer	Mary Jakolat	Terry Luplow	Jon Greening Burt Henry	Jon Penzien & Family
22 - 9:30 am	Jordan Henry Jared Kuehnlein	Beth Brostrom	Dave Zeile	Vern Jakolat Miguel Ortiz	Marlene Wiltshire/ Dorothy Trgina
29 - 9:30 am	Samantha Messer Lauren Penzien	Mary Jakolat	Bill Hendrick	Curt Oswald Don Reithel	Lisa Messer & Family
NOVEMBER					
5 - 9:30 am	Alex Henry Tyrel Harwager	Beth Brostrom	Larry Elliott	James Sager Jon Penzien	Vern & Mary Jakolat

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

Peace Lutheran Church
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We are 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.