

THE PEACE POST

November, 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

“Give Thanks to the LORD”

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

“Give thanks to the LORD, call on His Name; make known among the nations what He has done” (Psalm 105:1).

“Give thanks to the LORD” is a constant refrain heard throughout Scripture. God’s chosen people should live their lives in constant thankfulness to Him. He is, after all, their sole source of all blessings. It is only from His gracious and loving hand that they have anything, including the

breath of life that allows them to live in this world.

The meaning of the First Article of the Creed faithfully expresses why God’s people should constantly give Him thanks:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean? I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.

All this He does out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

That we should give thanks and praise to the LORD for all that He has done, and continues to do for us is, as Luther says, “most certainly true,” and not one of God’s people would disagree. The “why” we should give thanks to the LORD is obvious. But, what about the “how” we give thanks?

How do we give thanks to the LORD? That’s the question. The answer is found in Luther’s explanation above, that we “serve and obey Him.” But, what does that mean?

It means more than what you may think. It means more than attending Divine Service and Bible Study regularly. It means more than praying to the LORD in both good

and bad times. It means more than the gift you offer in the offering plate for the work of the Gospel to be done among us. All of those things are indeed faithful expressions of our thankfulness, service, and obedience to the LORD. However, there is more to it than that.

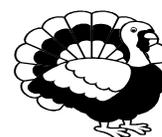
The last part of Psalm 105:1 above teaches us that we give full expression to our thankfulness when we “make known among the nations what He has done.”

We make known what God has done by pointing people to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who lived a perfect, sinless life in our place and died on the cross for our sins. We show our thankfulness to the LORD when we serve Him by obeying His call to share the Gospel with others.

This Thanksgiving, as you gather with family and friends and enjoy the wonderful blessings the LORD has bestowed upon you, take time to give thanks to Him for everything He has provided you, especially for the salvation He has won for you through Jesus Christ. But, don’t stop there. Give thanks to the LORD also by sharing the Gospel with family and friends who do not yet know Jesus as Savior. That, my friends in Christ, is how you give full expression to your thankfulness to the LORD.

May the LORD empower you to be His faithful witnesses in this sinful world, that you may make known to others what He has done in Jesus Christ. Amen!

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Messer



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Inside this issue:

Peace Lutheran Library	2
Website Addition	2
S.A.L.T. Information	2
Peace Has Staffed Nursery	2
Lutheran Service Book Info.	2
Church Council Minutes	3
Ladies & Altar Guild Info	4
Advent Tea	4
PYG News	5
Christmas Program/Sunday Sch.	5
Christian Education at Peace	6
Nov. Birthdays & Anniversaries	6
Euchre; Voters’; Par. Report	6
November Calendar	7
Serving in November	8



PEACE LUTHERAN LIBRARY



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.



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.

S.A.L.T.

HELPING HANDS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

We are collecting non-perishable food items to be donated to families in need this holiday season. Please deposit your donations in the buckets located in the Fellowship Hall. We would love to see the buckets filled! Thanks for your participation.



LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK (personal edition)

Interested in owning your own personal edition of the Lutheran Service Book or purchasing one as a gift? They are available for order now. There is a poster w/order forms in the fellowship hall of the church. Turn completed forms in to the church office along with payment (checks made out to “Peace Lutheran Church”).

ORDERS WILL BE SENT IN ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2006

Pew Edition - Cost is \$18.50 plus \$1.50 s/h.

Personal/Gift Edition

Replicates the exact contents of the Pew Edition and is bound with a soft bonded leather cover complete with gilded edges. This book is slightly smaller and is an ideal gift for any individual who treasures the worship song of the church. Classic burgundy genuine soft bonded leather with 2 ribbons. 5”x7.5”. Cost is \$40.00 plus \$1.50 s/h.

Imprinting is available for an additional cost. See the order forms.

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!

ALSO - Pastor has started posting his Morning Sun articles on the website. Enjoy!!

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!

Want something included in “The Peace Post” next month? Email Beth or Pastor Messer (addresses on back page) by November 22 with your item. Also, call or email them anytime with your feedback and/or ideas!

Summary of Church Council Minutes

Summary of Minutes from Church Council Meeting, October 3, 2006

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the September 11, 2006 meeting approved.

Pastor's Report:

1. No official acts since the last Council meeting.
2. Sunday School program has been launched. Need to get the parents more involved in helping children with memory work. Teachers are happy with the program. High School students are attending Adult Bible Class.
3. Adult Bible Class is studying Revelation and the class is going well.
4. Constitutional Committee is pretty much done with the Constitution and By-laws. It will be presented at the October Voter's Assembly. Committee is now working on Personnel Procedures Manual.
5. Working to get PYG going. Trying to do at least one youth function a month. Youth Group will not be going to the National Youth Gathering. They will be going to Higher Things gathering instead.
6. All Pastor's Conference is next week, October 9-11.

Treasurer's Report:

1. All bills are paid up-to-date.

Board of Elder's Report:

1. Elders met on Sept. 9.
2. Confirmation class has four students.
3. Visitation of the home bound. Elders will start visiting in addition to the pastor.
4. Pastor still trying to clear the rolls of people who are not attending. Elders are contacting people to see if they want to stay on the rolls.
5. Next Elders Meeting Sunday, October 8 at 8:00 a.m.

Board of Christian Education Report:

1. Things are going well with Sunday School. Christmas Program has been chosen. December 17, 2006 is the date for the program.

S.A.L.T. Report:

1. Support our Troops program continuing
2. Clothes taken to the Seminary in Fort Wayne
3. Working on food drive and Advent Tea

Old Business:

1. Constitution Committee will continue to meet until after the Voter's Assembly.
2. We will purchase memorial name plates for the stained glass windows.
3. Council voted to give our old hymnals to Gethsemane Evangelical Church in Marion, Ohio. Larry Elliott volunteered to take the hymnals to them.
4. Nominating Committee will be preparing a slate of officers for the election at the October Voter's Assembly.
5. Mary Jakolat, Beth Brostrom and Pastor will be going to Good Shepherd Institute. Larry Elliott and Burt Henry are working on preparing a preliminary budget for the October Voter's Assembly.

New Business

1. Sue Sanderson, Alma Girl Scout leader, would like to use the building on Wednesdays from 3-5:15 p.m. Pastor will talk with her tomorrow and make arrangements.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Zeile, Council Secretary

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2007

A proposed congregational budget for 2007 was presented at our Voters' Assembly on October 22. Over the next three months, we will adjust the budget as necessary and present a finalized version at our January Voters' Assembly for adoption by the congregation. If you have any comments, questions, or concerns regarding the budget, please see our Treasurer, Burt Henry. Thank you.

CONSTITUTION REVIEW

As discussed at our Voters' Assembly on October 22, the proposed Constitution and Bylaws developed by our Constitution Committee is now available to review by all members of our congregation. If you were unable to attend the meeting and do not have a copy, you can read it online via our website or pick up a copy from the Church Office. Please take the time to read it through and direct any comments, questions, or concerns to any member of our Constitution Committee (Jon Greening, Vern Jakolat, Megan Brown, Carol Zeile, and Pastor Messer). The Committee will continue to meet over the next few months to address any concerns that are brought before us and to continue to develop our Personnel/Policy Manual, which will include position descriptions for the officers of our congregation and policies and procedures to follow within our congregation.

LADIES & ALTAR GUILD INFO

- **LADIES GUILD MEETING:** Guild will meet Monday, November 6 at 7:00 pm. Hostess: Carol Durst. 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, call Marlene Wiltshire (463-4101).
- **ALTAR GUILD DUTY:** November - Marilyn Oswald; December - Cheryl Henry/Carol Durst.
- **ALTAR FLOWERS:** There is a flower calendar for 2006 & 2007 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>November</u>	<u>December</u>
5 - Coaline Luplow	3 - Carol Durst
12 - Gretchen Harrison	10 - Trina Palmer
19 - Lois Ramsey	17 - Jo Wendt
26 - Helen Meyers	24 - Carol Zeile



COOKIE WALK/CRAFT SHOW



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), volunteers to set up (Friday afternoon or evening)/work/clean up (after 4:00 pm). Expect a phone call for a commitment.

You Are Invited To An

ADVENT TEA

Wednesday, November 29, 2006
7:00 - 9:00 pm
Peace Fellowship Hall



Advent Tea

This is the first Advent Tea to be held at Peace. It is for all ladies of the congregation and guests.

There is no charge for this special Ladies Night. What can you expect? A feminine touch that will prepare hearts for the Advent Season as all anxiously anticipate the arrival of the Christ Child.

Each table will have a hostess, who will decorate her table in an Advent theme. Ladies will want to arrive early to enjoy the beauty of each table to bask in the atmosphere.

A special Advent Program is planned, with singing and special music.

Ladies will receive special pampering. The committee is planning surprises that will make each lady feel special.

Committee members will be calling each lady in the congregation with special invitation to attend this event, and to ask if any are willing to be a table hostess. Ladies, this is a great way to use your talents and decorating abilities! Men and boys will have an opportunity to participate in making this evening special for the ladies.

Committee members are: Lisa Messer - 463-5121; Andrea Elliott - 463-2604; Sarah Cummins - 875-2617; Dorothy Trgina - 681-5123; Lois Ramsey - 463-8306.

PYG NEWS

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, November 19 at 12:00 p.m.** Please be there as we continue to plan future events and formulate our mission statement.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

We will be separating practice from Sunday school class time this year. To achieve this we will be holding practices at 12:30 pm on Sunday afternoon. The Board of Education and other parents will be providing lunch for students at 12:00 pm with rehearsal from 12:30 - 1:30 pm. The schedule will be as follows:

- November 5 - talk/walk-through the program
- 12 - practice
- 19 - practice
- 26 - practice (Thanksgiving weekend)
- December 3 - practice
- 10 - Dress Rehearsal
- 16 - 9:30 am - Dress rehearsal, if necessary
- Sunday, December 17 - Program—time to be announced



ADVENT IS COMING



On Sunday, December 3, we will begin the season of Advent. The word “advent” means “coming” and the season of Advent focuses on the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Usually, we associate Advent with Christ’s first coming – His birth. We view this season as a time for us to look upon the precious baby Jesus in the manger; a time to sing Christmas carols, drink egg nog, decorate our homes, go shopping, exchange gifts, and so on; a time to get together with family and friends and celebrate the birth of our Savior. In short, we often view Advent as being all about Christmas.

However, the season of Advent is not only about Christmas. It’s also time for us to focus on Christ’s second coming. In fact, you may not be aware of this, but Advent is really a penitential season, like Lent. It’s a time of personal examination and reflection; a time for us to examine whether or not we’re eagerly waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed, not only as an Infant in the manger, but also as the Glorious King coming on the clouds on the Last Day.

During the season of Advent, we will gather together on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. for Service, beginning Wednesday, December 6. An Advent Supper (potluck) will precede each of our Services at 6:00 p.m. Please join us as we gather together during this important and blessed season.

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

- We will schedule a class in the future when the need presents itself. If you ever know of anyone who may be interested in learning about what we believe or joining our congregation, please see Pastor Messer.

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.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 - Brian Stroven | 21 - Aaron Reithel |
| 7 - Jenna Kuehnlein | 23 - Joyce Kohler |
| 13 - Lillian Manns | |
| 13 - Jessica Penzien | |
| 20 - Brian Palmer | |

Happy Anniversary to:

- 9 - Pastor & Lisa Messer
- 22 - Ryan & Sarah Cummins
- 25 - Don & Sue Reithel
- 28 - Jim & Yvonne Elenbaas

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



EUCHRE NIGHT! NEW TIME!!

Our next gathering will be **Friday, November 10 at 6:30 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!

TABLE TALK TO RESUME

Table Talk is a time for members of Peace to get together with Pastor Messer for an informal discussion on whatever topics. Those who participated in *Table Talk* last year enjoyed the informal setting and the many interesting and informative discussions we had. We hope that more of you will get involved this year. Our first *Table Talk* will be held on **Thursday, November 9, 7:00 pm.** We hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please see Pastor Messer.



PAROCHIAL REPORT

(As of October 26)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 183

Confirmed - 141

Official Acts:

None

Membership gains: 0

Membership losses: 1

Tracy Williams - asked to be released.

Financial Report

YTD Receipts: \$73,186.14

Budgeted YTD: \$86,100.00

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November 2006

Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

October 29	October 30	October 31	1	2	3	4
Festival of Reformation Day 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—SS/BC		9:30—Together in the Word REFORMATION DAY	3:30—Girl Scouts 6:30 pm—Constitutional Committee mtg. ALL SAINTS DAY	5:00 pm— <i>WW</i> 5:30 pm—Confirmation Class		
5 All Saints Day (Observed) 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—SPECIAL VOTERS ASSEMBLY 11:00—SS/BC 12:00 - SS Rehearsal	6 7:00 pm—Ladies Guild	7 7:00 am—8:00 pm—ELECTION DAY <i>No Together in the Word</i> 7:00 pm Council Mtg.	8 3:30—Girl Scouts 6:30 pm—Constitutional Committee mtg.	9 5:00 pm— <i>WW</i> 5:30 pm—Confirmation Class	10 NEW TIME !!! 6:30 pm—Euchre Night 	11
12 3rd-Last Sun. in Church Yr. 8:00—Elders Mtg. 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—SS/BC 12:00 - SS Rehearsal	13	14 9:30—Together in the Word	15 3:30—Girl Scouts 6:30 pm—Constitutional Committee mtg.	16 5:00 pm— <i>WW</i> No Confirmation Class	17	18
19 2nd-Last Sun. in Church Yr. 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—SS/BC 12:00 - PGY mtg. 12:00 - SS Rehearsal	20	21 9:30—Together in the Word	22 3:30—Girl Scouts 7:00 pm - Thanksgiving Eve Service	23 THANKSGIVING DAY 	24	25
26 Last Sunday in Church Year 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - SS/BC 12:00 - SS Rehearsal	27	28 9:30—Together in the Word	29 Advent Tea 7:00 - 9:00 pm - Advent Tea 	30 5:00 pm— <i>WW</i> 5:30 pm—Confirmation Class	December 1	December 2 9:00 - 4:00 COOKIE WALK/ CRAFT SHOW 

SERVING IN NOVEMBER

	<u>ACOLYTES</u>	<u>ORGANIST</u>	<u>ELDER</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
NOVEMBER					
5 - 9:30 am	Alex Henry Tyrel Harwager	Beth Brostrom	Larry Elliott	James Sager Jon Penzien	Vern & Mary Jakolat
12 - 9:30 am	Jessica Oswald Sarah Messer	Mary Jakolat	Terry Luplow	Chris Brown Burt Henry	Bill & Bill Brostrom
19 - 9:30 am	Kelsey Gensler Jordan Henry	Beth Brostrom	Dave Zeile	Bill Brostrom Leland Oswald	Burt & Cheryl Henry
22 - 7:00 pm (Thanksgiving Eve)	Samantha Messer CJ Oswald	Beth Brostrom	Dave Zeile	Bill Brostrom Leland Oswald	
26 - 9:30 am	Jared Kuehnlein Lauren Penzien	Mary Jakolat	Bill Hendrick	Vern Jakolat Curt Oswald	Helen Meyers/ Lois Ramsey
DECEMBER					
3 - 9:30 am	Melanie Penzien Alex Henry	Beth Brostrom	Larry Elliott	Don Reithel Miguel Ortiz	James & Janice Sager
6 - 7:00 pm	Kelsey Gensler	Beth Brostrom	Larry Elliott	Don Reithel Jon Penzien	

“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.