

The Peace Post

Peace Lutheran Church ~ Alma, MI

November, 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!



From the Desk of Pastor Messer

"Confess the Faith and Leave the Rest to God"

"But, they won't come, pastor." I've heard those words spoken to me many times during my time here at Peace. They are spoken in frustration by members who have had family and friends decline their many invitations to come to Church with them. I can sympathize with them. I have family and friends of my own whose ears are deaf to my pleas for them to go to Church. It is not only frustrating, but heartbreaking, for I know what they're missing. But, I learned long ago that I cannot do anything more than confess the faith to them, point them to where Jesus makes His presence among us in the Divine Service, and encourage them to go to where Jesus desires to give them His Divine Gifts. Oh, and I can do one more thing—I can pray for them, and I do. But, that's it. I cannot make them go to Church. I cannot make them understand how important it is for them to be fed and nourished with Christ Himself via the Holy Word and Sacraments. All I can do is confess and plant the seed; the rest is up to the Holy Spirit. He will harvest that seed when and where He pleases.

Of course, realizing this doesn't make it any less frustrating and heartbreaking. We want our family and friends to receive the grace, mercy, and peace we are blessed to receive. We worry about them. We want them to be with us in the Eternal Kingdom of Paradise restored, which will be ushered in when our Lord Jesus returns on the Last Day. And so, this often leads us to question ourselves: Have we done enough? Have we said the right things? Have we confessed the faith faithfully, or are we doing something wrong?

Now, there is certainly nothing at all wrong with examining ourselves to determine whether or not we're making the good confession faithfully. Perhaps we have been a little too overbearing toward our family and friends. Or, perhaps we have not been zealous enough in our approach. It is a difficult task in our day and age to find the right balance between speaking the truth in love and steering clear of pushing people away. Talking about religion, even with family and friends, is a tricky business. It has become a very touchy subject, along with politics. The unwritten rule is that we are welcome to discuss any subject freely and openly, so long as we don't bring up religion or politics. We can gab on and on about sports, the weather, popular television shows, or any number of other subjects, but not religion or politics. Those are viewed as too personal to discuss. And, for this reason, it may be that we're not guilty of being too overbearing or of not being zealous enough, but rather of refusing to confess the faith at all, in order to avoid conflict and maintain peace with those we care about.

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So, yes, it is meet, right, and salutary to examine ourselves. But, we make a grave mistake if our self-examination leads us to conclude that the response of those with whom we confess the faith, whether positive or negative, is dependent upon how well, or poorly, we make our confession. As I said above, all we can do is confess and pray; the rest is up to the Holy Spirit. He works faith in whom He pleases, not us. He uses us to plant the seed, but it is not given to us to harvest that seed.

This is the mistake many pastors and congregations, even those within our own beloved synod, make. Like us, they experience the frustration and heartbreak of having people reject their invitation to come to where Jesus is present to gift them with forgiveness, life, and salvation in the Divine Service. And so, they set about to fix this problem themselves by repackaging the Gospel in a way that will better appeal to the masses. In doing so, they often end up turning the Church into nothing more than a social club, in which people have their “felt needs” met through a variety of programs. They also often end up replacing the means of grace our Lord Himself instituted in order to create and sustain faith in repentant sinners with their own creative and innovative means, which can be easily seen by what happens when they gather together on Sunday mornings. The Holy Liturgy is jettisoned for an hour of entertainment, replete with a “praise band” to entertain, and lead, those gathered in “giving their all for Jesus.” The “worship leader” (i.e. pastor) removes his vestments, preaches “motivational messages,” and goes out of his way to make sure everyone has a good time, being careful not to do or say anything that might offend those gathered. The idea behind making the Church and her worship “fun and exciting” is that we need to do something to get people to come.

But, we don’t need to “do something”; we need only to be faithful and allow the Lord to do what He has promised to do. What is true of us as individual Christians when we confess the faith to others is also true of the Church at large—she is to confess the faith and pray; the rest is up to the Holy Spirit. When we, as individuals, or the Church at large, believe that it is up to us to come up with ways to bring people to faith and get them to Church, we make the same mistake Abram and Sarai made long ago (cf. Gen. 16ff.). Remember what they did? The Lord promised them that they would have a son, but when they did not see that promise coming to fruition, they took it upon themselves to help the Lord out, so to speak. Sarai gave Abram her maidservant, Hagar, and he lay with her and conceived a son, Ishmael. But, this was not the son the Lord had promised them, and, as we know, this plan to help the Lord out by Sarai and Abram did not bring happy results, but much heartache and suffering. Eventually, the Lord did fulfill His promise and sent them a son, Isaac. He is always faithful to His promises, as Sarai (Sarah) and Abram (Abraham) learned with much difficulty. They should have trusted in the Lord to deliver in His way and in His time rather than taking it upon themselves to help Him out.

The same is true of us, both as individual Christians and as the Church at large. It is not given to us to help the Lord out by coming up with our own creative and innovative means by which to reach people. The Lord simply calls us to be faithful to His Word and to trust in His promises. He doesn’t need our help. He will save those whom He saves, with or without us. And He will do so in His time and in His way.

So, do not be discouraged, my friends. When and where the Holy Spirit gives you opportunity, keep confessing the faith to family and friends and keep inviting them to come to where Jesus is present for them. And, keep praying. That’s all you can do; the rest is up to the Holy Spirit. He may harvest the seed you plant with your confession of the faith in word and deed immediately, many years from now, or not at all. That is not given you to know. You plant, He sows when and where He pleases. That’s how it works. His ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts. That doesn’t ease the frustration and heartbreak we experience when those we love refuse to hear us. Such is life in this sinful world. But, the glorious Good News is that there is coming a Day when we shall never again experience that sort of frustration and heartbreak. Until then, we wait in patient hope and steadfast faith, returning time and time again to His Holy House to be strengthened and preserved in the faith through His Holy Word and Sacraments, that we might be His faithful witnesses in this dead and dying world, and that we might learn ever more to pray: Thy will be done.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Messer



All Saints' Day Homily

Rev. William Weedon

Pastor at St. Paul Lutheran in Hamel, IL

Matt. 5:1-12 (Rev. 7:9-17; 1 John 3:1-3)

In this age, the Church is for the most part hidden. Wherever the Church gathers, you see only the tiniest fraction of her - and this holds even if thousands are gathered in one place for worship! For those thousands, let alone hundreds, are only the visible part of the assembly that butts back into time at that particular spot and moment. But the Church isn't fractions. She's the lot, the whole assembly. And so she appears in Scripture mostly in Revelation, where John is blest to receive the vision of how it will be at the end, as the veil is lifted and everyone sees what truly is.

And so the Church shines in today's first reading: a great multitude, beyond numbering, and from every nation, tribe, people, and language. That's what we mean by saying "catholic" - from everywhere! And they are gathered as one people, standing before the throne of God and of the Lamb, clothed in white garments, palms of victory in their hands, and crying with a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb!" That is, they confess with one voice that THEY didn't get themselves there. They were GOTTEN there by the One on the throne and the Lamb. And the elders and the living critters they all fall flat on their faces and worship God and they say the same: "Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever! Amen!" As John stares open mouthed at the spectacle - a mighty host raised up from the fallen race of mankind - he is suddenly catechized by one of the elders: "Who are these clothed in white? Where have they come from?"

John plays it safe. "Sir, you know." Comes the answer: "these are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. THAT'S why they are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He shelters them with His presence. They don't hunger and thirst anymore - they are satisfied. The sun and the heat can't get to them - for they live in the light of the glory of God. The Lamb in the midst of the throne is their Shepherd; He guides them to springs of living water - they drink the very fountain of deity - and God wipes away all their tears." All of which is to say: Behold, the Church as she truly is. Now hidden, but at last revealed in glory unutterable.

In our assemblies we participate in that one gathering of all the saints around the Throne, but for us it remains a gathering in faith - even though a reality - but in faith because we cannot SEE it yet. For now, we can only believe. But see it, we will.

That's what John spoke of in our epistle today. The reason the world does not know us as the children of God is that it didn't know Jesus as the Child of God, the Only-Son of His Father. Yet that is what we are, and our future glory has not yet even been revealed. We know with the full assurance of faith, that when He appears, when our Lord reveals Himself in glory from heaven at that Last Day, it will not only be HE who is revealed; WE will be revealed as well. We shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is - the Lamb whose blood has washed our robes and clothed us in His own holiness in the baptismal waters and who fed us constantly with

His Gospel promises and the Holy Eucharist. What we have believed and learned to live from here in this age, will be finally visible for all to see. And you will shine as He shines now. For you will be in that visible glory of the Church. To have this hope, this hope of appearing in the very glory of the Son of God, means that we work now on becoming whom He has made us to be. The hope of the glory that awaits, leads even now to a purification of one's self - no, you don't get the glory BEAUSE you purify yourself; you purify yourself BECAUSE you get the glory! So what you do in your body now matters. Because your body matters. It is even now, even from the moment of your Baptism joined to Christ and made His member, a temple of the Holy Spirit, and so in your body you seek to glorify the One who will at that Last Day glorify your body with His own glory.

The Church, then, lives in this now-and-not-yet-ness. Already by faith the coming age and glory are ours. And yet we cannot see them. We cannot see them in the Church's institutional life. We cannot see them in our own lives. We see instead quite a mess and failures galore. But the Church lives by faith. What truly IS, is what God declares and promises. So it is with the holiness of all the saints. It is not first and foremost a visible holiness in this age; it is a hidden holiness which only begins to peep through in this life, but which will shine without interruption in the age to come.

That now and not yetness shows up in the Beatitudes. Abram was promised a Seed who would bring blessing to all the families of the earth. Jesus is that blessed Seed, and as He sits down with His disciples at the beginning of their time with Him, He opens up that blessedness to them. The now of the blessing is the Kingdom of God, His righteous rule over their hearts and lives. It belongs even now to the poor in spirit - to those who know they have no claim on God - and who are persecuted for the righteousness that they hold to by faith. That's the first and last of the beatitudes. But still in the future are the rest of them: comfort for the mourning, inheriting the earth for the meek, being satisfied for those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, mercy for the merciful, the vision of God for the pure in heart, and the final acknowledgment that they are children of God for the peacemakers. Much lies ahead, and yet all is already ours in the Blessed One. We've seen how He has passed from death into eternal life - raised in the very body that bore our sins to death and was raised in incorruption, never to die again and made the source of incorruption for all who trust in Him, who receive His gifts in faith. He is the Guarantor of the Promise, the only Blessed One who bring us from the sufferings of this age into the unspeakable blessedness of the Age to come.

And here stands the Eucharist at the center of it all: here the Lamb in His glory, here the Lamb's blood that washes clean from sin, here the fountain of the waters of life that we drink and not thirst forever. Here the future given to us already in the present to be our life as we journey towards that unveiling. And so here the saints - all those who are wrapped in the white linen that is blood washed. We gather with them around the throne of God and of the Lamb to chant His praises. You can't be nearer to them any place on earth than here. The future world is here. Hidden, but present. But one day you WILL see it in all its splendor - the day YOU shine with the glory of Jesus Christ, to whom with His Father and the all-holy Spirit be honor and blessing, now in this age and unto the ages of ages! Amen.



“Witness: Before God and to the World”

By LCMS President Matthew Harrison in *The Lutheran Witness* (Oct. 2010)

The Lutheran Reformation had been in full swing for nearly six years, but Martin Luther had yet to write his first hymn. A profound event moved his poetic and musical soul. Within a short period following, most of the hymns and liturgies he produced during his lifetime would gush forth in a flood of firm conviction and deep faith in Christ. What was the event?

Two young men, Augustinian brothers like Luther, were burned at the stake in Brussels on July 1, 1523 for preaching the Gospel of free forgiveness in Christ. They were the first “martyrs” of the Lutheran Reformation. Luther wrote a hymn in the popular ballad form of the day, used by the town criers of his day to deliver the latest news from village to village. Luther’s ballad spread the news of these martyrs’ deaths, as well as the precious Gospel for which they died.

*The first right fitly John was named,
So rich he in God’s favor;
His brother, Henry—one unblamed,
Whose salt lost not its savor.
From this world they are gone away,
The diadem they’ve gained;
Honest, like God’s good children, they
For his word life disdained,
And have become his martyrs
(Luther’s Works, 53:214).*

The familiar term martyr comes from a Greek New Testament word often translated “witness.” In its simplest (legal) use, a witness is merely one who recounts the facts observed (Matt. 18:16). Thus, it was crucial for the place of Judas among the Twelve to be filled with “a witness of the resurrection” (Acts 1:22), since the apostolic band was told by the risen Christ, “You shall be my witnesses . . . to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). John’s Gospel and letters show a particular interest in such “bearing witness” (martyria)—an understandable fact since John was writing late in the first century as the eyewitnesses to the events surrounding Jesus were quickly passing into eternity.

Of John the Baptizer, the text says, “And there came a man sent from God by the name of John. This one came as a witness (martyrian) . . . that all might believe through him” (John 1:7). The text of John 1 is worth a careful read. What is John’s testimony of Jesus? “This is the witness (martyria) of John . . . He confessed and did not deny, and he confessed, ‘I am not the Christ’” (John 1:19–20). John called for repentance (John 1:23) and then pointed to Jesus with a witness so profound it has been repeated in the liturgy of the Church since at least the seventh century: “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). Finally, like Jesus, John the Baptizer sealed that witness with his own blood. How many faithful Christians have been safely guided to Jesus by John’s witness? Countless millions.

The greatest witness, however, is not John, but Jesus Himself. Paul bids Timothy to “fight the good fight of faith, take hold of the eternal life for which you were called when you confessed the good confession before many witnesses.” For, as Paul continues, “Jesus Christ Himself bore witness to Pontius Pilate in the good confession” (1 Tim. 6:12, 13).

Today the fundamental gift and task of the Lutheran Church is to bear witness to Jesus Christ—to His Gospel and all its facets (AC VII 2; FC EP X 7). This is our task toward each other. This is our task over against those who do not know Jesus. This is also the sacred vocation and ecumenical task of the Missouri Synod to world Christianity. We exist to bear witness—even to the point of suffering and death (and it may well come to that sooner than later here in the West)—to salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, on account of Christ alone. This Gospel is God’s own testimony about Himself. This is the very confession of Christ Himself. This is the witness of the apostolic Church and the Church of all ages. This is the witness sealed by the blood of Jesus, the blood of John the Baptizer, and the burning of John and Henry, confessed and sung by Luther.

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [such as Brothers John and Henry, Luther, John the Baptist, and especially Christ] . . . let us run with endurance the race that is set before us . . .” (Heb. 12:1).

Synopsis of October 5, 2010 Church Council Minutes

Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- Councilmember Elliott called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer. The following members were present: Carol Zeile, Gary Miller, Vern Jakolat, Carolyn Johnson, Larry Elliott, Sharyn Greening, Megan Brown, Bill Harmon and Ken Hill (arrived at 7:15pm.) Pastor Messer was also present.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Councilmember Jakolat, supported by Financial Secretary Miller to approve the September 7 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Report(s)

- **Pastor** – Pastor Messer presented the attached report. The Council received the report into record; **Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Zeile presented the attached report and informed the Council that Thrivent Choice Dollars has been added to her report, \$2000 had been transferred from the Building Fund to cover expenses and there was additional funds in the Memorial Fund that were not shown on the Balances. Treasurer Zeile also informed the Council that \$7000 had been cut from the overall expenses during FY2010; **Financial Secretary** – No report.
- **Boards: Board of Elders** – Councilmember Elliott informed the Council that Elder Zeile had returned and a meeting was to be scheduled; **Board of Trustees** – Councilmember Jakolat informed the Council of various projects needing completion including replacements of exit sign lights and furnace filter check/replacement. It was also reported that the new banner closet was completed; **Board of Christian Education** – No report; **Board of Evangelism** – The next meeting will be October 21 and events will be planned; **Board of Stewardship** – No report.
- **Organization and Committee Reports: Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild** – A new constitution had been adopted that is more aligned to current practices; **Peace Youth Group** – No report.

Business

- **2011 Budget** – The Council began discussing the 2011 budget. No action was taken.
- **Officer Elections – Treasurer** – Pastor Messer informed the Council that there was not yet a volunteer for this office. The Council discussed appointing the current Treasurer to the position if no volunteers were found. A volunteer was also needed to serve as Secretary.
- **Fundraising Concerns** – The Council discussed concerns raised by members regarding fundraising by children. No action was taken.

General Comment

- **November/December meeting dates** – The dates for the November and December meetings will be held on the 9th and 14th respectively due to elections and Advent Tea.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

- Motion made by Financial Secretary Miller, supported by Councilmember Elliott to adjourn at 8:10pm. Motion carried unanimously. Pastor Messer closed with the Lord's Prayer and Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Brown, Secretary

(Complete Minutes are available in the Church Office)

UPDATE FROM THE TREASURER

For those of you who were unable to attend, following is a summary of the report presented at the Voters' Assembly on October 24, 2010. You will notice that this is a comparison between September 2010 and September 2009 income and expenses. If you have questions, please let me know.

In Christ,
Carol Zeile

PLC Income and Expenses

	As of 9/30/10		As of 9/30/09	
	Total Actual	Total Budgeted	Total Actual	Total Budgeted
<u>Income</u>				
Offering	\$73,199.16	\$112,005.00	\$76,164.98	\$114,655.00
Rental Income : City	\$0.00	\$0.00	00.00	\$0.00
Rental Income : Weight Watchers	\$1,080.00	\$1,560.00	\$1020.00	\$1,560.00
Total Income	\$74,279.16	\$113,565.00	\$77,184.98	\$116,215.00
<u>Expense</u>				
Church and Worship : Altar and Worship	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,089.66	\$1,500.00
Church and Worship : Christian Education	\$498.97	\$800.00	\$598.52	\$800.00
Church and Worship : Evangelism			\$0.00	\$500.00
Church and Worship : Music	\$1,103.59	\$2,000.00	\$1,336.34	\$2,000.00
Church and Worship : Stewardship			\$0.00	\$100.00
Church and Worship : Youth Group			\$500.00	\$500.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	0.00	\$849.51	\$0.00
Missions : Issues, Etc.	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Operating Expense: Administrative Assistant	\$3,900.00	\$5,200.00	\$3,900.00	\$5,200.00
Operating Expense : Advertising			\$131.31	\$200.00
Operating Expense : Building Maintenance	\$1,005.49	\$1,000.00	\$1,412.92	\$1,000.00
Operating Expense : Insurance	\$1,596.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,799.00	\$2,800.00
Operating Expense : Snow Removal			\$1,080.00	\$1,000.00
Operating Expense : Maintenance Supplies			\$475.95	\$250.00
Operating Expense : Office Expense	\$1591.55	\$3,000.00	\$3,089.12	\$2,400.00
Operating Expense : Telephone/Internet	\$1,711.19	\$2,100.00	\$1,546.45	\$2,000.00
Operating Expense : Utilities	\$3,574.85	\$5,000.00	\$4,480.42	\$5,500.00
Pastoral Expense : Benefit Package	\$15,819.43	\$23,000.00	\$16,603.17	\$22,000.00
Pastoral Expense : Conferences and Training	\$331.03	\$1,000.00	\$945.78	\$1,000.00
Pastoral Expense : Down Payment Loan	\$1,665.00	\$2,220.00	\$1,665.00	\$2,220.00
Pastoral Expense : Guest Pastors	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Pastoral Expense : Mileage	\$1,342.55	\$2,000.00	\$1,341.32	\$2,000.00
Pastoral Expense : Book Allowance	\$227.24	\$500.00	\$398.01	\$500.00
Pastoral Expense : Salary	\$46,632.00	\$62,045.00	\$46,251.56	\$62,045.00
Total Expenses	\$82,698.89	\$113,565.00	\$89,994.04	\$116,215.00
Total:	-\$8,419.73	\$0.00	-\$12,809.06	\$0.00

ELECTION RESULTS

At the Voters' Assembly on October 24, the following members were elected to serve as congregational officers: Ken Hill (Vice President—2nd term); Terry Luplow (Board of Elders); Jon Penzien (Board of Trustees); Sharyn Greening and Marlene Miller (Board of Christian Education); Cassie Tennant (Secretary—1st term). Lacking a nominee for Treasurer, it was also decided to allow Chris Brown (President) to appoint Carol Zeile, whose 2nd term ends this year, to continue serving in this office until someone else desires to do so or until she may be officially re-elected to do so. We thank all of these members for their willingness to serve our congregation. They officially begin their new terms in office on January 1, 2011. They will be installed during Divine Service on Sunday, January 2.

PEACE NEWS & NOTES



PYG NEWS

<u>November Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Location</u>
Meeting	11/14	5 pm	7 pm	Fellowship Hall
Fellowship Sundays	10:45	11:00		Fellowship Hall

Greetings in Christ,

We are kicking off our preparation and planning for the 2011 Higher Things gathering. We are planning on attending the event in Bloomington, Illinois (Illinois State University) from July 12 to July 15. We will be discussing more at the monthly Meeting. Please be there if you are interested. If you cannot make it, please get with me after church during our Fellowship time for more details and discussion.

We will be having a table at the Ladies Guild Annual Cookie Walk and Bazaar as our initial focused fundraiser for the trip. This will also be prepared for in our meetings and discussions.

Thanks again to everyone for your support of the youth here at Peace. Our pop can and Spartan label collections continue; as does the cell phone recycling. We will be stepping this up through the first of the year. So far this year we have raised over \$250 with these programs. Any other ideas are welcome.

May the Spirit of the Lord be with you,
Jonathan Penzien

Ladies Lunch Bunch

For our November time together, we will meet at Mancino's in Alma at 1:30 pm on Monday, November 15.

All ladies of Peace are welcome and also may invite a guest—someone without a church or someone living alone. Please enter your name on the signup list posted in Fellowship Hall and join us!

PEACE MOVIE NIGHT

There will be no Peace Movie Night in November, but we are planning to hold a *Christmas Movie Marathon* in December. Look for details in next month's edition of The Peace Post!

SALT NEWS

ADVENT TEA

Planning for our Advent Tea is underway! The date has been set for **Tuesday, December 7 from 7-9 pm.** If interested in hosting a table this year, please contact Lisa Messer at 463-3093 or lisamesser@aol.com. The color theme for this year is BLUE, and we are looking forward to seeing how our hostesses work this into their decorating. Look for more information in upcoming bulletins and on the SALT bulletin board soon! If you have any questions about our Advent Tea, please see a member of our Advent Tea Committee: Gretchen Harrison, Lisa Messer, Lois Ramsey, and Dorothy Trgina.

FUTURE EVENTS

Adopt-a-Family, Bowling,
Family Movie Night, Christmas Caroling
Please see the Minutes of our last meeting
on the SALT Bulletin Board

NEXT MEETING

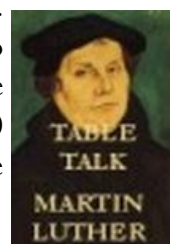
Thursday, November 18, 6:30 pm
We welcome anyone who would like to join us.

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).

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 **Thursday, November 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the Church.** We hope you're able to join us!



PEACE NEWS & NOTES Cont'd



ANNUAL COOKIE WALK AND CRAFT SHOW SATURDAY DECEMBER 4, 2009 9 AM—4 PM

The Ladies' Guild is asking all the ladies of Peace (who are willing and able) to bake 25-30 dozen small, fancy cookies for our cookie walk. Please have them at the church by Friday evening, December 3, if at all possible.

Setup will be on Wednesday evening, December 1 after the Advent Service.

Also, if you are willing to help during the bazaar, please contact Coaline Luplow (763-1016). We appreciate all the help we can get!!

Ladies' Guild will be making personal calls to everyone this year to determine the number of participating people and cookies.

Thanks so much for your help!

THANK YOU!

Lisa and I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Ladies' Guild for the wonderful Pastor Appreciation Dinner held on Sunday, October 17, and to everyone who presented us with cards and gifts. What an awesome surprise it was to learn that this was not only a Pastor Appreciation Dinner, but also a 5-Year Anniversary Party. I was blown away to see old friends and several family members in attendance, and it will be a day I will never forget. As I said that day, and often, it is truly a pleasure, and a blessing far beyond what I deserve, to be serving this congregation, and I look forward to many more years together. Again, thanks so much for a most memorable day, and for all your love and generosity!

With much love,

Pastor Messer

SECRET PAL LUNCHEON

Our annual Secret Pal Luncheon is scheduled for **Sunday, November 7, at 1:00 pm.** We will meet at Alma Big Boy to reveal our "secrets."

November 7 is also the deadline for getting your information sheets filled out and turned in for next year. All ladies of Peace are invited to participate in this program. The Secret Pal information sheets (pink forms) are located on the Secret Pal Table. Simply fill one out and turn it in by November 7 and you will be assigned a Secret Pal for the coming year. See the SALT bulletin board for more info. Any questions, speak with Pastor or Lisa Messer.

PEACE LUTHERAN LADIES GUILD AND



The next collection of the Ladies Guild to send to Lutheran World Relief consists of the following:

- 3 yards 44" or 45" cotton or cotton blend fabric
- 1 Package sewing needles (for hand sewing)
- 1 Spool matching thread
- 1 Card buttons

Collection Dates:

Current to December 31, 2010

Also, during the year, ladies are welcome to make quilts. The size of the quilts is 60" by 80" finished. This would be 12 squares, 22 inches each. The quilts should be tied with heavy thread, such as crochet cotton.

Thank you for your participation

Ladies Guild

Ladies Guild Meeting

Our Ladies' Guild will meet on **Monday, November 1, 2010 at 1 pm**. Hostess will be Sharyn Greening. 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.

PEACE LUTHERAN LADIES GUILD COOKBOOK

We ended up with 334 recipes for the cookbook. We really appreciate everyone participating in contributing their recipes. This will be a fantastic way to reach out into our community. We hope and pray that we will receive the cookbook by the end of November in time for the Christmas Bazaar and Cookie Walk.

NEW SEMINARY STUDENT ADOPTED

The Ladies Guild has adopted Justin Hesterman. He is in his second year at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. He is in the M. Div. program and has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Bowling Green State University, Ohio. He also works as a Youth Director in his home congregation in Napoleon, Ohio. Please check the bulletin board in the fellowship hall for information we receive from Justin and keep him in your prayers.

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.



November

Carol Zeile

December

Altar Care

Carol Zeile

January

Marlene Miller/Charlotte Dargie

Coffee Hostesses



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

5 Jo Wendt
12 Andrea Elliott
19 Cassie Tennant
26 Coaline Luplow

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT PEACE

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

- Sunday School and Adult Bible Class is offered on **Sundays at 11 a.m.**

Together in the Word

- We meet every **Thursday at 10:00 a.m.** We are currently studying *Joshua*. All are welcome to join us!

Christian History 101

- Weekly Wednesday classes meet at 6 pm, followed by Divine Service at 7 pm.

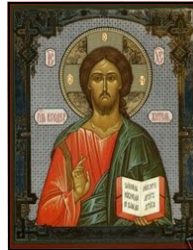
First Communion and Confirmation Classes

- First Communion Classes take place as arranged (see Pastor Messer if interested); Confirmation Class for our 2nd-year confirmands (Sierra Luplow and Aaron Messer) will meet on Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. (no 1st-year confirmands this year).

AN OLD LUTHERAN QUOTE OF THE DAY, PER PASTOR WEEDON'S BLOG

The holy flesh of God which the angelic hosts adore in the unity of the divine nature, before which the archangels bow in lowly reverence, and before which the principalities tremble and stand in awe, is become the spiritual nourishment of our souls! -- Blessed Johann Gerhard, Sacred Meditation XIX

For more quotes like this one, visit Pastor Weedon's blog:
www.weedon.blogspot.com



PASTOR MESSER IS BLOGGING!

www.abideinmyword.blogspot.com

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

TALK RADIO FOR THE THINKING CHRISTIAN!

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

www.issuesetc.org



Birthdays & Anniversaries

NOVEMBER

Happy Birthday

13 Lillian Manns 22 Jayden Row
13 Jessica Penzien 23 Joyce Kohler
21 Aaron Reithel

Happy Anniversary

9 Pastor and Lisa Messer
25 Donald and Susan Reithel

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



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 10/24/10)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 139; Confirmed - 117

Membership gains: 0

Membership losses: 0

Financial Report as of 10/24/10

YTD Budgeted \$ 93,612.00







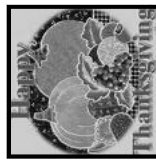




YTD Receipts..... \$ 81,103.57

Difference \$ -12,508.43

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

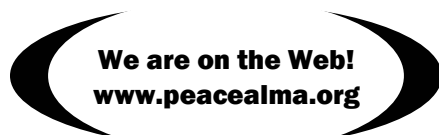
November 2010

Peace Lutheran Church
 325 E. Warwick Drive
 Alma, MI 48801
 (989) 463-5754
 contact@peacealma.org
 www.peacealma.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 1 pm - Ladies Guild	2 <i>Pastor at Winkal</i> CITY GENERAL ELECTION <i>Church Office Closed</i>	3 6 pm - "Christian History" 7 pm - Divine Service <i>St. Simon & St. Jude (Obs.)</i> 	4 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Confirmation Class 5 pm - Weight Watchers	5	6
7 <i>Festival of All Saints' Day</i> 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC, SS 1:00 - Secret Pal Luncheon 	8 7 pm - Church Council	9	10 6 pm - "Christian History" 7 pm - Divine Service <i>Dr. Martin Chemnitz</i> 	11 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Confirmation Class 5 pm - Weight Watchers 7 pm - Table Talk	12	13
14 <i>2nd-Last Sun of Church Year</i> 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC,SS 5-7 pm PYG 	15 1:30 pm - Lunch Bunch	16	17 <i>No Class or Service</i>	18 <i>No Together in the Word</i> 6:30 pm - SALT	19	20
21 <i>Last Sunday of Church Year</i> 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC,SS 	22 <i>Newsletter articles due</i>	23	24 6 pm - "Christian History" 7 pm - Divine Service <i>Thanksgiving Eve</i> 	25  <i>Church Office Closed</i>	26	27
28 <i>1st Sunday in Advent</i> 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC,SS 	29	30 7 pm - Bd. of Stewardship	December 1 5 pm - Advent Bible Study 6 pm - Potluck 7 pm - Advent Service 	2 10 am - Together in Word Noon - Divine Service <i>St. Andrew (Obs.)</i> 5 pm - Conf. Cl. 5 pm - WW 	3	4 9 am —4 pm Ladies Guild Cookie Walk & Crafts 

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 November

	ELDERS	ACOLYTES	USHERS	GREETERS
November				
7 - 9:30 am <i>(Festival of All Saints' Day)</i>	Larry Elliott	Sierra Luplow Samantha Messer	Chris Brown James Sager	Bob and Jo Wendt
14 - 9:30 am <i>(2nd Last Sunday)</i>	Terry Luplow	Morgan Johnson Paige Harwager	Vern Jakolat Kevin Sellke	Dorothy Trgina
21 - 9:30 am <i>(Last Sunday of Ch Yr.)</i>	David Zeile	Natalie Penzien Myka Luplow	Gary Miller Phillip Schafer	Miguel and Sue Ortiz
24 - 7:00 pm <i>(Thanksgiving Eve)</i>	David Zeile		Vern Jakolat	
28 - 9:30 am <i>(Advent 1)</i>	Miguel Ortiz	Samantha Messer Sierra Luplow	Vern Jakolat Tyrel Harwager	Yvonne Elenbaas, Mary Girard
December				
1 - 7:00 pm <i>(Advent 1 Midweek)</i>	Miguel Ortiz		Vern Jakolat	
5 - 9:30 am <i>(Advent 2)</i>	Larry Elliott	Morgan Johnson Natalie Penzien	Gary Miller Daren Johnson	LeRoy & Maxine Isaksson