

The Peace Post

Peace Lutheran Church ~ Alma, MI

Vol. 9, No. 11, November 2013

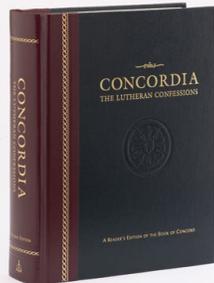
Peace Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We believe, teach, and confess the doctrine of the evangelical, catholic faith as it is taught by Holy Scripture and faithfully confessed in the Book of Concord of 1580. We are committed to the pure preaching of God’s 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!



Fifty Years of God’s Grace

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From the Desk of Pastor Messer “The Lutheran Confessions Define What it Means to Be Lutheran”

In October, I was blessed to attend the annual Oktoberfest and Liturgical Seminar, held at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Kewanee, IL. I look forward to spending time at that conference each year, as I am always greatly edified by the time spent in prayer, worship, and study with the brothers and sisters who assemble there. This year was certainly no exception, as Pr. Todd Wilken, Host of *Issues, Etc.*, was the Keynote Speaker. I also had the added blessing of having Gabe and Amy Blair attend the conference with me.

Pr. Wilken’s Keynote Presentation was titled, “What’s So Special About Being Lutheran?” He answered that question by directing us to our Lutheran Confessions, pointing out what an awesome treasure and genuine gift we have in them, for they truly are a correct and faithful exposition of Holy Scripture.

The chief Confession among Lutherans, the Augsburg Confession, is described by the writers of the Formula of Concord, the last of our Confessions in the Book of Concord, in this way: “We regard this [Augsburg] Confession as a pure Christian symbol . . . this [Augsburg] Confession ought to be found alongside of God’s Word among true Christians, which pious hearts ought to receive next to the matchless authority of God’s Word.”

That’s quite a bold statement, isn’t it? It shows how seriously and with what reverence the second generation of our Lutheran fathers understood and clung to our chief Lutheran Confession of the faith. The Augsburg Confession (along with its Apology, or Defense) was such a pure Christian symbol that they believed that it could rightly stand alongside the three Ecumenical Creeds (Apostles’, Nicene, and Athanasian) as something all true Christians should readily confess. In fact, it was with that understanding that the Augsburg Confession was composed, namely to be a catholic (universal) confession of the faith to be embraced by the whole church. It wasn’t written as something that only Lutherans confessed, but as something that all true Christians should readily confess. The sincere hope of the first generation of our Lutheran fathers was that Rome would realize that they were not proposing anything new or foreign to what has been handed down to them in the church, but rather simply confessing the truth of the Christian faith that has always been confessed in the church, and correcting some of the errors that had crept into the church in that day. They also hoped that Rome would understand that they were not in league with some of the other reformers and radicals that had arisen by then, but actually joined Rome in rejecting them and condemning their new and unscriptural teachings.

But, unfortunately, that hope was not realized. The Roman Catholic theologians called upon to respond to the Augsburg Confession issued what they called, *The Confutation*, which prompted the Lutherans to write the Apology of the Augsburg Confession. The Roman Catholic theologians who issued *The Confutation* did recognize that much of what was confessed in the Augsburg Confession was true, but they also took issue with

several parts of that Confession. Thus, the reconciliation our first generation of Lutheran fathers hoped would be achieved with Rome did not come to pass. Rome was set in her ways, committed to her works-righteous system of salvation, and unwilling to correct some of the obvious abuses that had crept into the church.

But, back to the writers of the Formula of Concord and how they viewed the Augsburg Confession. They go on to write in the introduction to the Formula, *“We intend also, by the Almighty’s grace, to abide faithfully by this Christian Confession until our death, just as it was delivered in the year 1530 to Emperor Charles V. Whether in this writing or in any other, it is our plan not to withdraw in the least from that oft-cited Confession, nor to propose another or new Confession.”*

Pr. Wilken rightly pointed out in his presentation that the “We” used in this and all other statements made in the Formula (and anywhere else in the Lutheran Confessions) does not simply refer to the writers of the Formula (or other Confessions) themselves, but also to every generation of Lutherans that would follow in their wake. He said, “To be a Lutheran is to confess about the Lutheran Confessions what the Lutheran Confessions confess about themselves.” He’s right. The Lutheran Confessions define what it means to be Lutheran. Nothing else does.

Pr. Wilken also stated, “The Lutheran Confessions do not belong to us; we belong to the Lutheran Confessions.” He’s right on that score, too, and it is a very important point to consider. The Lutheran Confessions are not ours to do with as we please. Lutherans do not get to cherry-pick from our Lutheran Confessions and decide which parts they wish to embrace and which parts they wish to reject. To do that is to give up being Lutheran, for Lutherans belong to the Lutheran Confessions. Lutherans unconditionally subscribe to the Lutheran Confessions as a true and faithful exposition of Holy Scripture. To do so does no damage to Holy Scripture as the sole source and norm of all Christian doctrine, for the Lutheran Confessions make that confession about Holy Scripture time and time again. Holy Scripture is the judge; the Lutheran Confessions sit in the witness stand and confess the truth as faithful witnesses to the judge.

Sadly, in our day and age, there are many who call themselves Lutheran, but refuse to subscribe unconditionally to the Lutheran Confessions, which, again, define what it means to be Lutheran. Many of those who do so make the pious claim that they adhere to Scripture alone, but what they really mean by that is that they wish to approach Scripture without the lens or guide of the Lutheran Confessions. They claim that having to approach Scripture through the lens or guide of the Lutheran Confessions is to turn the Lutheran Confessions into a Law, but as Pr. Wilken rightly pointed out, “The Lutheran Confessions are not our Law, but our Gospel.” Those who wish to bypass our Lutheran Confessions and approach Scripture without them as a lens or guide are certainly free to do so, but they cannot at the same time claim to be Lutherans. And, one wonders why any Lutheran would want to do this, since our Lutheran Confessions so richly confess the truth of Scripture, highlighting the beauty of the unadulterated Gospel throughout. In other words, why would anyone wish to go by the name Lutheran if he wished to ignore, or put aside, the very Confessions that define what being a Lutheran means? It makes no sense.

Unless, of course, those who do this have never actually read and studied the Lutheran Confessions. Sadly, I think this is exactly why so many today—even many pastors—so readily and eagerly make the claim that they adhere to Scripture alone and do not need the lens or guide of the Lutheran Confessions to interpret Scripture. In fact, some of them are so bold as to claim that relying upon the Lutheran Confessions when approaching Holy Scripture is a mark of laziness, as if the Lutheran Confessions are an unnecessary crutch or something. Again, those who make such outrageous claims can only really do so if they have not read and studied the Lutheran Confessions themselves, for no Lutheran who has done so would ever utter such absurdities.

This is not to say that the Lutheran Confessions are necessary to interpret Holy Scripture, as if the truths revealed in Holy Scripture could not possibly be understood apart from the Lutheran Confessions. Neither is this to say that the Lutheran Confessions are completely exhaustive and cover every single doctrine or truth revealed in Holy Scripture, as if they interpret every passage in Scripture from Genesis through Revelation. Our Lutheran Confessions are not a new “Pope” and do not make the claim that they alone possess the key to unlock the truths of Scripture. Neither are our Lutheran Confessions a verse-by-verse commentary on the entire Bible. Rather, the Lutheran Confessions are a faithful witness to the truths revealed in Holy Scripture, and they faithfully and correctly put forth for Christians all that is necessary to understand the chief articles of the Christian faith and how to interpret Holy Scripture rightly. In other words, if anyone comes to understand the truths revealed in Holy Scripture, they will find those very same truths confessed in the Lutheran Confessions. That some Lutherans today would suggest otherwise is quite disheartening.

Thus, what is really needed among Lutherans today is a Confessional Revival, of sorts. The word revival here is not to be understood in the way that Americanized Evangelicals use the word, as some sort of emotional and ecstatic experience or awakening of the “spirit,” or something. Not at all. It is to be understood simply as getting back to reading and studying the Lutheran Confessions, not merely to acquire their content, but also to gain an understanding of what

they really are, and what they confess themselves to be.

The hope and prayer of all Lutherans should be that all of the first person pronouns used in the Lutheran Confessions—all the I's and We's and Our's—include us. I make this Confession. We believe this Confession. Our churches subscribe unconditionally to this Confession. This is our doctrine and our practice, because we belong to this Confession. The hope and prayer of all Lutherans should be that the churches described in the Lutheran Confessions would be the churches to which we belong and serve today. That hope and prayer will only be answered when Lutherans read and study, and come to understand, the Lutheran Confessions, which define who Lutherans are and what they believe, teach, confess, and practice.

This Confessional Revival should not be limited to Lutheran clergy, but should include Lutheran laity as well. In fact, it wasn't the Lutheran clergy who presented the Augsburg Confession to Charles V on June 25, 1530, but the German princes, who were Lutheran laity. They are the ones who knelt before the Emperor and courageously told him that they would rather offer their heads to the executioner's sword than to recant their Confession of the faith. These courageous laymen did not offer their heads because they were "born Lutheran" or because "their parents were Lutheran" or because "they liked their churches," but because the Augsburg Confession was their confession of the faith, which means that they read, studied, learned, and understood that Confession, and made it their own.

The Book of Concord is not some abstract, theological treatise written only for clergy to understand, but a simple confession of the faith meant for all Lutherans (and, really, for all Christians) to read, study, learn, understand, and make their own. C.F.W. Walther, the first President of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, wrote:

*The Book of Concord should be in every Lutheran home. For that reason our church should provide a good, inexpensive copy, and pastors should see to it that every home has one. If a person isn't familiar with this book, he'll think, "That old book is just for pastors. I don't have to preach. After working all day, I can't sit down and study in the evening. If I read my morning and evening devotions, that's enough." No, that is not enough! The Lord doesn't want us to remain children, who are blown to and fro by every wind of doctrine; instead of that, He wants us to grow in knowledge so that we can teach others. (C.F.W. Walther, *Essays for the Church*, Vol. II, pg. 51).*

Fortunately, we have a publishing house in CPH that has provided "a good, inexpensive copy" of the Book of Concord, which really should be in every home. *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions—A Reader's Edition of the Book of Concord (Second Edition)*, which is pictured at the beginning of this article, was put together especially with laity in mind. It not only provides the entire text of the Book of Concord in updated and easy-to-understand language, but it also provides explanations and introductions to our Confessions throughout. And, it is very reasonably priced, as you can order a copy of a regular, hardback edition for only \$19.99 (other, more expensive editions are also available). If you don't already have a copy, you really should go to www.cph.org and order a copy to have in your home for you and your family. And, you should read it!

This would be an excellent time to commit yourself to getting a copy of this edition of the Book of Concord and reading it. We begin a new Church Year on Sunday, December 1. Each year, I do my best to follow the one-year reading plan located at the beginning of this edition of the Book of Concord. If I miss a day or two, I catch up. Sometimes, if I miss too much, I just let those missed sections go and resume wherever the plan is when I get back to it. But, the important thing is that I'm regularly in our Lutheran Confessions, and the more I read and study them, the more Lutheran I find myself to be. It is a plan that calls for reading a section of the Book of Concord each day, Monday through Friday, and is something that can be accomplished each day before you finish your first or second cup of coffee. I encourage you to join me in this. If the Lutheran Confessions define what it means to be Lutheran, then Lutherans really should know what is confessed in them. The practice of teaching the Small Catechism, one of the Confessions found in the Book of Concord, to both youth and adults in confirmation classes is an excellent practice and one that should be maintained with all vigor. But, the expectation is that Lutherans, who come to know and confess the six chief articles of the faith found in the Small Catechism, would move beyond the Small Catechism to the Large Catechism and, eventually, to the other Confessions found in the Book of Concord. At the very least, all Lutherans should know both of Dr. Luther's Catechisms, all three Ecumenical Creeds, and the Augsburg Confession and its Apology. But, it would be a grand thing, indeed, if those who profess themselves to be Lutherans would read and study the whole Book of Concord.

So, again, I encourage you to join me in this, beginning on Monday, December 2. I am convinced that Lutherans would only come to embrace and love their confession of the faith all the more if they read and studied the Book of Concord.

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Messer



Stewardship: Making Every Day Thanksgiving Day

By Pastor Jeffrey Ries (Zion Lutheran Church in Tacoma, WA)

Preface: Pastor Ries is a friend and faithful brother. I thought that including his excellent article here, which he wrote for the newsletter where he serves, was fitting, given that we find ourselves over \$13K behind at the end of October in our YTD budget. We began 2013 better than any previous year and maintained that good beginning through the first quarter of the year, but now find ourselves in worse financial shape at the end of October than in many previous years. I'm not sure why that is, but it is troubling. Pr. Ries' article serves as a good reminder to all of us that our thanksgiving to God for all that He has done, and continues to do, for us, both in the physical and spiritual realms, should continuously flow back to Him in our stewardship of our time, talents, and treasures.

In the autumn of 1621, the new settlers to our country gathered with some Native Americans for a three-day thanksgiving feast to celebrate a good harvest. This is probably why pilgrims and turkeys have become inseparably connected to Thanksgiving Day. This event in 1621 was not thought of as a holiday, but simply a gathering to express thankfulness and share in the Lord's bounty. Thanksgiving as a holiday did not come about until 1863 when President Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday of November to be a national holiday on which Americans were encouraged *to give thanks to God for His provision*. Since then, Thanksgiving Day has remained a national holiday.

As Christians, we rightly rejoice that our nation observes a national day of thanksgiving. However, as Christians, we also might find ourselves concerned that the original purpose of the holiday has been lost among many Americans. I have heard people express concern that Thanksgiving Day, for some people, is no longer a day to pause and give thanks to God for His provision, but has been reduced to little more than an excuse to "pig out" and then laze around on the sofa watching football. There is certainly at least some truth to that. Indeed, given our fallen nature, humanity has succeeded in corrupting every holiday that has ever been celebrated. For that matter, it should come as no surprise to us that holidays meant to honor God, our Creator and Redeemer, are not going to be respected as such by a society that is becoming increasingly secularized.

Rather than focus on that problem, I'd like to ask the question of whether we Christians have allowed the true purpose of Thanksgiving Day to fall by the wayside, in a different and far more critical way. Has Thanksgiving Day, for Christians, become nothing more than the one day each year that we pause to give thanks to God for all that He gives, and then get right back to our usual routines again for the next 364 days? Or, is Thanksgiving for us a day we set aside to give thanks to God AND to remind us that we ought to be living EVERY day in thanksgiving to God for his gracious and bountiful gifts? If we take seriously our God-given role as stewards of His creation, then I pray that our purpose for Thanksgiving Day is the latter.

As members of the one, holy, catholic (Christian), and apostolic Church, we confess that the first article of the Creed teaches:

"God made me and all creatures. He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my limbs, my reason, and all my senses, and still preserves them. He also has given me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all that I have. He provides me richly and daily with all that I need to support this body and life. He protects me from all danger and guards me and preserves me from all evil. He does all this out of pure, fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any

merit or worthiness in me. For all this I ought to thank Him, praise Him, serve Him, and obey Him. This is most certainly true."

Additionally, Jesus taught us to pray in the Our Father, *"give us this day our daily bread."* Luther, in his explanation of this petition, teaches that daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, and that we, as God's people, receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

Since we hold to this confession, it is only natural that we should (to steal and adapt a phrase from Charles Dickens) keep Thanksgiving Day the whole year through. This is the attitude that motivates and undergirds proper Christian stewardship. Keeping this attitude alive is done by starting, developing, and nurturing certain habits.

One very important such habit is to be regular and consistent in our prayers when we awake, at mealtimes, and when we retire for the night. Luther provides prayers for these occasions in his Small Catechism, or you might find other suitable prayers, or even Psalms. Truly our Lord is good and His mercy endures forever. Saying prayers like this helps us remember that thanksgiving is a daily activity of God's people. Praying regularly each day (not only in thanks, but also bringing before God our needs and those of others) helps us practice thanksgiving as a daily way of life. It is a life of both repentance and thanksgiving that trusts God as the Giver of all good gifts.

Indeed, it is only in trusting God as the Giver of all good gifts that allows us in faith to develop another important habit – our regular offering to God of our time, talents, and treasures. When determining how to parcel up our time or where to employ our talents, both of which are gifts from our God, it is easy to get wrapped up in the busyness of our lives and leave no time to serve God and His Church. Although, if we're truly honest with ourselves, we don't seem to have a problem carving out time to do those things that bring us pleasure, whether that's vegging out in front of the TV or spending hours on Facebook or going out to eat or to a movie, and so forth. And, when developing our budgets, as we list our necessary expenses for house, food, clothing, etc . . . it is easy to save our offering to the Church until last, giving only what is "leftover," and often only what is "leftover" after we spend the money with which God blesses us on things we don't even need, but merely want. We should examine ourselves often—even daily—to determine if we are being good stewards of the time, talents, and treasures with which our loving God gifts us.

Let us be clear: No one ought to give out of guilty obligation, but out of a faith which trusts in God as the provider of all we need to live in this life He has given us to live. However, we must also be clear that giving in faith is giving not from our "leftovers," but honoring the Lord with *"your wealth and the firstfruits of all your yield."* (Proverbs 3:9). We also give to support our Lord's Ministry and Mission among us, that His Word and Sacraments would continue to be distributed in the congregation for us, and for all whom He brings here.

Christian stewards are people who live each day as a day of thanksgiving; who in faith acknowledge God's created gifts AND his redemptive gifts in Christ Jesus, and in thankfulness receive them both for themselves and for sharing with their neighbor. Let us pause, as we gather this November 28 and as we give thanks, to pray that it would be a reminder of our God's daily gracious and abundant gifts, and a prompting in us of a daily response for all that He so richly provides. Therefore, let us pray: *Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings, but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.*

PEACE NEWS & NOTES



NOVEMBER Happy Birthday

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 4 Brian Stroven | 22 Jayden Row |
| 13 Lillian Manns | 23 Joyce Kohler |
| 13 Jessica Penzien | |

Happy Anniversary

- 9 Pastor and Lisa Messer

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

Ladies' Lunch Bunch

The ladies will meet for lunch on November 19, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. at the Olive Garden in Mt. Pleasant. All women of Peace and their guests are welcome. Please join us!

Advent Tea

Ladies, you won't want to miss this year's Advent Candlelight Tea on Tuesday, December 10 from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Our fellowship hall will be elegantly decorated for this event. Please plan to join us for an evening of visiting, beautiful music and delicious dessert. All women of Peace Lutheran Church are invited and are encouraged to invite their friends to prepare their hearts for Advent. There is no charge for this special evening. Invitations have been specially designed for the 2013 Advent Tea and will be mailed on November 1. Reservations are encouraged by November 25.

SALT NEWS

SALT will not have a formal meeting until January. Check the January Peace Post for more information.

Please see our Meeting Minutes on the SALT Bulletin Board

SUPPORT FOR OUR TROOPS

This is an ongoing outreach for the SALT Committee. Please get in touch with Carolyn if you know of a person in the armed forces who is serving abroad. (email ckj1969@yahoo.com).

REMEMBERING OUR SHUT-INS

We all love to receive greetings from people who care for us. What better way to remember our shut-ins (when it is difficult for us to make a personal visit) than to send a note or a card periodically to let them know we are thinking of them and to give them something to look forward to in the mail, and especially at this time of the year! Please consider dropping a few lines to our shut-ins during the course of each month.

Marlene Wiltshire
Warwick Living Center
842 W. Warwick Dr.
Alma, MI 48801

Joan Burch
Schnepp Health Care Center
427 E. Washington
St. Louis, MI 48880

Also, while correspondence is not requested for him, please remember our dear brother in Christ, Dick Wisner, who is at Pine River in St. Louis, in your prayers.

Weight Watchers Meeting Has Closed

The longstanding Alma Weight Watchers meeting that was most recently held Thursdays at Peace has closed due to poor attendance. Unfortunately this means Peace will no longer receive rental income for the use of our church for the meeting. On a positive note, the fellowship hall is now available on Thursday afternoons and early evening for meetings and events. Also the Ladies' Guild will have use of the closet in the coat room area. Their supplies will be more conveniently located to the kitchen area. If you have any questions please see Sharyn Greening.

PEACE NEWS & NOTES Cont'd



SCRIP PRO AT PEACE

As most of you know, Peace has been participating in the Scrip Program since October, 2011. During that time we have earned over \$2600 solely by members buying gift cards that they then use for normal everyday purchases or as gifts. Cards can be used just as you use cash or a debit card at any participating merchants. They also can be used online at many of the merchants' online ordering sites. The Peace Council authorized purchase of gift cards that are then used to buy church office supplies and the Ladies' Guild has purchased cards for kitchen supplies. Sounds easy, doesn't it? Members contribute to their congregation by continuing their normal buying patterns. And it really is that simple.

It's true that some budgeting and planning is required by members. Carolyn Johnson ably administers the Program for Peace and orders cards every few weeks on Sunday. She receives the cards by Tuesday or Wednesday and distributes them promptly. Think about what you normally purchase — gasoline, food, prescription drugs, an occasional gift for a family member... Check the Scrip Pro merchants list to see the wide variety of cards available. Carolyn can supply you with a list or you can see it online at <http://www.scrippro.com>. If you have not tried this Program yet, please consider making a small order of one card and giving the Program a try. And, if you are using it, consider additional ways that you could participate. Since Christmas is quickly approaching, perhaps you could purchase a gift card for someone on your list for whom you never know what to buy. With gas prices as they are, a gas card would be a welcome gift for anyone who drives. It's a wonderful way to contribute to Peace without having to take any additional funds from your personal budget.

ANNUAL COOKIE WALK AND CRAFT SHOW

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 7, 2013
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 6, if at all possible.

Setup will be on Wednesday evening,

December 4, after the Divine 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!

Ladies' Guild

Ladies Guild Meeting

Our Ladies Guild will break for the summer. Next meeting is **WEDNESDAY, November 6 at 12:00 pm.** with Dorothy Trgina as hostess. 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 current list is posted on the Ladies' Guild Bulletin Board. All participants should have 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 2013 is 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. 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 or Coaline Luplow. Thank you for helping to beautify our chancel.

PEACE LUTHERAN LADIES GUILD



The Ladies' Guild is collecting the following items to send to Lutheran World Relief:

FABRIC KIT

2 PIECES OF COTTON OR COTTON-BLEND FABRIC:

2 1/4 YARDS OF 60" WIDE FABRIC or
3 YARDS OF 44" WIDE FABRIC or
4 YARDS OF 36" WIDE FABRIC

2 SPOOLS OF MATCHING GENERAL PURPOSE THREAD-250-300 YARDS EACH

FOLD THREAD AND ONE PIECE OF FABRIC INSIDE SECOND FABRIC AND TIE WITH YARN, STRING, RIBBON OR FABRIC.

COLLECTION DATES: Oct. 1—December 31

PEACE LADIES GUILD COOKBOOK

Cookbooks are available for \$10.00 and can be purchased during fellowship time from any member of the Guild. Please see Coaline Luplow with any questions.

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



Coaline Luplow

- 3 Andrea Elliott
- 10 Gretchen Harrison
- 17 M.Isakkson/H.Meyers
- 24 Katie Logan-Dinco

December

Altar Care

Carol Zeile

Coffee Hostesses

- 1 Cassie Tennant
- 8 Jo Wendt
- 15 Shawna Greening
- 22 Miriam Cross
- 29 Peace Youth Group



UPDATE FROM THE TREASURER

For those of you who were unable to attend the October Voters' Assembly, I want to alert you to a couple of items that were addressed there. We have two current financial needs, a new roof for the Fellowship/Classroom wing and a lawn mower to keep at the church. It was recommended that we begin to save for both projects so that we will have some funds to draw upon when we need to make the expenditures. Since the mowing season is over, we will not be purchasing a lawn mower until spring, at the earliest. The Trustees are studying the roof situation and will have a recommendation for time of year to do the work and its cost. If anyone would like to contribute to either the roof or the lawn mower, please indicate that clearly on your donation, preferably by putting it in a Special Offering envelope. I will keep track of all donations and will report on the totals received.

Following is a summary of the report I presented at the October Voters' Assembly. Please let me know if you have questions.

In Christ,
Carol Zeile

As of 9/30/13

	Total Actual	Total Budgeted	Difference	YTD Budgeted	Difference
<u>Income</u>					
Offering	\$72,073.91	\$111,550.00	\$39,476.09	\$83,662.50	\$11,588.59
Rental Income : City	\$300.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$300.00)
Rental Income : WW	\$1170.00	\$1,560.00	\$390.00	1,170.00	\$0.00
	\$73,543.91	\$113,110.00	\$39,566.09	\$84,834.50	\$11,288.59
<u>Total Expenses</u>	\$86,037.76	\$113,110.00	\$27,072.24	\$84832.50	(\$1,205.26)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT PEACE

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

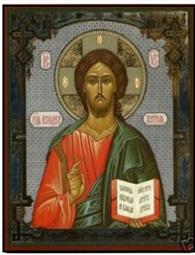
- Sunday School and Adult Bible Class (currently studying *Revelation*) is offered on **Sundays at 11:15 a.m.**

Wednesday Bible Studies

- Per our new “Wednesdays at Peace” schedule, we will have two Bible Studies, the first at 10:00 am (*2 Kings*), and the second at 6:00 pm (*Isaiah*).

First Communion and Confirmation Classes

- First Communion Classes take place as arranged (see Pastor Messer if interested); there are currently no first or second year confirmands this year.



PASTOR MESSER IS BLOGGING!

www.abideinmyword.blogspot.com

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



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PAROCHIAL REPORT

(as of 10/31/13)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 136; Confirmed - 113

Membership gains: 0

Membership losses: 4

*Bill and Barb DeGrandchamp—Transferred to Grace
Lutheran Church in Winter Haven, FL*

*Emilie and Rachel Lovejoy—Released upon request
(members of St. John's Episcopal in Alma)*

Financial Report through 10/31/13

YTD Budgeted.....\$93,525.00

YTD Receipts..... \$80,236.66

Difference.....-\$13,288.34

Sunday School Christmas Program

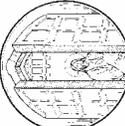
The Sunday School Christmas Program will take place on Wednesday, December 18, at 7:00 p.m. The students will begin rehearsing for the Program on November 17. Rehearsals will take place on November 17, 24, December 8 and 15. Any students who want to participate should attend the November 17 practice in order to receive a part in the program. If anyone would like to be in the program and cannot be at the November 17 practice, please contact Sharyn Greening or Carol Zeile. We will make sure to save a part for him/her.

As in the past, lunch will be provided after class with rehearsal following. Volunteers are needed to provide lunch for the staff and students. Please see Sharyn Greening if you are able to help.

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

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

November 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Festival of All Saints' Day <i>(Obs.)</i> 8:30 am - Choir Practice 9:30 am - Divine Service 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - SS & Adult Bible Study 	4 Election Day	5	6 9:30—Matins 10:00—Bible Study 11:45—Sext Noon—Ladies' Guild 5:30—Vespers 6:00—Bible Study 7:00—DS (St. M.Chemitz)	7	8	9
10 3rd Last Sun. of Church Yr. 9:30 am - Divine Service 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - SS & Adult Bible Study 	11	12 7:00 pm - Council	13 <i>No Bible Studies or Services</i>	14	15	16
17 2nd Last Sun. of Church Yr. 8:30 am - Choir Practice 9:30 am - Divine Service 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - SS 12:15 pm Lunch and SS Christmas Practice 	18	19 1:00 pm - Ladies Lunch Bunch	20 9:30—Matins 10:00—Bible Study 11:45—Sext 5:30—Vespers 6:00—Bible Study 7:00—DS (Pres. of Mary)	21	22	23
24 Last Sunday of Church Yr. 8:30 am - Choir Practice 9:30 am - Divine Service 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - SS & BC 12:15 pm - Lunch and SS Christmas Practice 	25	26 7:00 pm - Stewardship meeting	27 <i>No Bible Studies or Services</i>	28	29	30
December 1 Advent 1 8:30 am - Choir Practice 9:30 am - Divine Service 11:15 am - SS & BC <i>New Church Year Begins!</i> 	2	3	4 9:30—Matins 10:00—Bible Study 11:45—Sext Noon—Ladies' Guild 4:30—Vespers 5:00—Bible Study 6:00—DS (Soup/Salad after) 9:00—Compline	5	6	7 9-4 - Cookie Walk and Craft Bazaar

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				
3 - 9:30 am <i>All Saints' Day</i>	Miguel Ortiz	Morgan Johnson Aaron Messer	John Lemmermann Vern Jakolat	ElliottFamily
10 - 9:30 am <i>3rd Last Sun. of Church Yr.</i>	Gabriel Blair	Farrah Blair Aaron Cross	Gary Miller Troy Cross	Dave and Carol Zeile
17 - 9:30 am <i>2nd. Last Sun. of Church Yr.</i>	Larry Elliott	Paige Harwager Sierra Luplow	Miguel Ortiz John Penzien	Sharyn Greening
24 - 9:30 am <i>Last Sun. of Church Yr.</i>	Terry Luplow	Savannah Blair Natalie Penzien	Gabriel Blair Chris Brown	Lillian Manns Lois Ramsey
December				
1 - 9:30 am <i>Advent 1</i>	Miguel Ortiz	Myka Luplow Aaron Messer	Tyrel Harwager James Sager	Terry & Coaline Luplow

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