

July, 2010

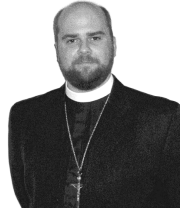
The Peace Post

Peace Lutheran Church ~ Alma, MI

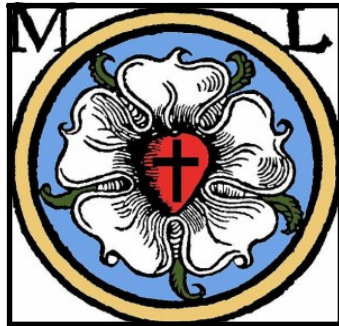
From the Desk of Pastor Messer

“Does Being and Remaining Lutheran Still Matter?”

An article by Rev. Paul T. McCain, Publisher and Executive Director of the Editorial Department at CPH. This article appeared on Rev. McCain’s blog, www.cyberbrethren.com.



NOTE: My intention was to use this space to complete my three-part series, “Five Years at Peace,” but my attention being needed elsewhere did not permit me to finish that in time for this month’s edition of The Peace Post. So, I’ll include that conclusion in next month’s edition. Anyway, I ran across the following excellent article by Pr. McCain on his blog and, since June 25, 2010 marks the 480th anniversary of the presentation of the Augsburg Confession, and since we are on the brink of an historic Synodical Convention which could very well determine whether or not our beloved synod desires to be and remain Lutheran, I thought it prudent to include it here for your edification. Please take the time to read this important article.



Today is the 480th anniversary of the presentation of the Augsburg Confession, in 1530. It is also the 430th anniversary of the publication of the Book of Concord, in 1580. Both events are special days in the history of the Lutheran Church. These documents define what it means to be, and to remain, a Lutheran. Are they historical relics of the past, or the living confession of Christians today who call themselves Lutheran? Does being Lutheran still matter?

There seem to be three types of responses to the question, “Does being Lutheran still matter?” One is, “Are you kidding me? You better believe that it matters. Let me tell you why.” Another response is a sort of “mental shrug” to the question, “Well, of course we want to be and remain Lutheran, that goes without saying, there’s no real need to talk much about it though.” And then, sadly, there is this response, “It doesn’t matter. All that matters is being a Christian. We need to focus on what unites us rather than what divides us.” As I watch and analyze events and trends in Christianity and Lutheranism, both in this country and around the world, I am increasingly convinced of two things: first, being and remaining genuinely Lutheran matters more than ever, and second, the reasons why this is true are unclear at best to many people, including many Lutherans.

To be Lutheran is to be a person who says, “This is what God’s Word, the Bible, teaches. This and nothing else is true and correct. The Lutheran understanding, teaching, and confession of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the most accurate and most faithful to God’s Word. Nothing more, and nothing less, will do, for this is the truth.” In our day and age these sorts of bold assertions are often met with angry responses, such as, “How dare you insist that Lutheranism is actually the true teaching of God’s Word. How can you think you have the truth? All that matters is if a person is sincere about their faith in God.” We live in a time when truth is viewed as something relative, impossible to know for sure. The attitude common today is reflected when we hear things like this, “I have my truth. You have your truth. As long as we respect our differences, that is all that matters.” It seems today that the most important “truth” for many people is their profound doubt that truth can be known, and the conviction that those who claim to know the truth are wrong.

Before we go further we need to clear up a common misconception. While insisting on the truth of Lutheranism, we can never allow ourselves to do so in an arrogant, haughty or self-

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righteous manner. People who are passionate about the truth of Biblical Lutheranism know that the Bible teaches often and clearly that we are all sinful human beings in need of God's constant mercy, which He so lavishly gives in Christ. To be truly Lutheran is to receive the gifts of God with humility, repentantly recognizing our great need. It is tempting for Lutherans to be proud and arrogant of their great heritage, but this is a terrible evil! To be Lutheran is to be always mindful of our great sin and our great need for a Savior. To be a Lutheran is to be a sinner calling out to fellow sinners, "Come and see!" Furthermore, we would never want anyone to think that we Lutherans are saying, "We, and we alone, are the only ones who will be in heaven. In fact, you can't be a Christian unless you are a Lutheran." Not so! Not at all. We realize that the Word of God is powerful and active, wherever and whenever it is heard, read or meditated on. There are many Christians in other denominations and churches. They are not Christians because of the errors in their churches, but in spite of those errors. Let's then have none say, "You Lutherans think you alone are Christians." We have never said that, we have never believed it, and we never will. The reason we insist on Lutheranism for everyone who will listen is because we believe so passionately that it truly is the most correct and most accurate understanding of the Word of God.

Another point that confuses people is the fact that there are so many different churches to choose from. It is an awful mess, so it seems. Yes, it can be confusing, but it really is not as complicated as some would think, or want to maintain. Up until the year 1054 there was basically one unified Christian church, distinct from a number of non-Christian or anti-Christian heretical groups. In 1054 the church divided into Eastern and Western Christianity. By the time of the late Middle Ages, the Western Church, which had come to be known as the Roman Catholic Church, had reached a point of deep corruption, most importantly in what it believed, but also in the morals and life of the clergy and church leadership. In 1517 there began what we know today as the Reformation, when Martin Luther, a professor and monk in Wittenberg, Germany posted a series of "talking points" on the practice of selling "indulgences" by which people were led to believe they could buy forgiveness of sins for their dead relatives in purgatory. A person has to decide if the Lutheran view of Christianity is correct, or the Roman Catholic view is correct.

After the Reformation, many groups developed from the teachings of persons other than Martin Luther, most notably, two men: Ulrich Zwingli and John Calvin, who did much of his work in Geneva. These two men and their writings gave rise to many churches that can be traced back to and grouped under the general category of "Reformed" churches. In America in the 19th and 20th century there arose many splinter groups from Reformed churches. These would include "Charismatic" and "Pentecostal" groups, along with groups that rejected all denominations and became, in effect, a denomination of their own, the so-called "non-denominational" churches. A decision must be made about which branch of the Reformation is correct.

But there is an additional challenge unique to our century and more so the past half-century. Today, despite all their denominational differences and historic confessions, the vast majority of Christian churches in Protestantism have been nearly overwhelmed by the rise of liberal Christianity. This unites them more so than any other feature of their confession of faith. Historic differences are no longer regarded as divisive since these divisions were based on one group's understanding of the Biblical text as opposed to another group's understanding of the Bible. For example, the difference between Lutheran and Reformed views of the Lord's Supper are very important and based on very serious and clear differences in how the words Jesus spoke at the Last Supper are understood. Liberalism however regards the words of Jesus in the Bible as unreliable. It teaches that we cannot be sure that what is recorded in the Bible is true and accurate, therefore, there is no point in being "dogmatic" about much of anything having to do with the Bible. Modern liberalism has swept through all Christian denominations, Lutheran, Reformed, Protestant, and Roman Catholic.

This impacts our question, "Does being Lutheran matter?" for we have to realize that there are many churches in the world today that claim to be Lutheran but have been nearly entirely overcome by liberal views of the Bible. Therefore, they have compromised away the distinct doctrinal position of Lutheranism. They may still be fond of historic Lutheranism, but no longer insist that it, and it alone, is true and that other views of the Bible are in error. When we ask the question, "Does being Lutheran matter?" it is a question that must be asked first of those who still use the name Lutheran, but no longer insist on the exclusive truth claims of historic, genuine, authentic Lutheranism. Let's examine the world's largest Lutheran organization, the Lutheran World Federation.

Clear-headed analysis of what is happening in world Lutheranism reveals that the greatest threat to being and remaining genuinely Lutheran comes from groups that call themselves Lutheran! Let's think about the Lutheran World Federation, for instance. No organization in the world has done more in the past fifty years to deconstruct genuine Lutheranism than the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). It has tolerated, even encouraged, a loose and unfaithful understanding of the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, all the while ostensibly claiming a certain identity with them. The predecessor bodies that formed the LWF would not reject and throw out false

teachers such as Rudolph Bultmann who worked to “demythologize” the New Testament, casting doubt on the words and deeds of Jesus. To this day the LWF pays mere lip service to the ancient Christian creeds, but tolerates in its midst churches whose pastors and theologians who doubt, and even brazenly deny, the most fundamental tenets of the Christian faith, casting doubt on the miracles of Jesus, His virgin birth, His bodily resurrection, and so forth! A number of LWF member churches have embraced the anti-Apostolic and anti-Scriptural practice of the ordination of women, abortion, and homosexuality. The LWF, despite its claim that it is Lutheran, cannot even insist on faithfulness to the most basic of all the Lutheran confessions, Martin Luther’s Small Catechism. The LWF, and most of its member churches, compromised and walked away from the Lutheran insistence on the Lord’s Supper when it entered into all manners of “full communion” with Reformed churches that continue to this day to deny that the bread and wine in the Holy Communion are in fact the body and blood of Christ. The LWF leadership structure has embraced a compromise of the very heart of the Gospel itself with Rome, when it accepted the “Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification” in which it allowed Rome to continue its formal anathema of the Biblical doctrine that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, apart from any works. In our own country, we have seen the devastating consequences of this compromising view of Lutheranism in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). It is in full communion fellowship with the most notoriously liberal of one of the most outrageously liberal protestant churches in the world, the United Church of Christ (UCC). The UCC does not even insist that its member pastors confess their belief in the doctrine of the Holy Trinity! And, most recently, we have witnessed the ELCA scuttling even the most basic Biblical teaching concerning human sexuality, gender, family, and marriage, all in the name of love, understanding and progress, so-called. Lord, have mercy!

Within our own Synod there is the constant temptation to want to bury our head in the sand and hope and pretend these situations are not taking place or that somehow, perhaps by magic, they will just all go away or that we can ignore these realities and go on with business as usual. These pressures and theological trends also are at work in conservative Lutheran church bodies. And while it may be the case that the overt liberalism of mainline Protestantism appears to be less of a threat to more conservative Lutheran churches here in the USA, it has been correctly noted that conservative Lutherans tend to be tempted more toward generic Evangelical Protestantism, than the kind of liberalism we see in the mainline protestant denominations. We face the temptation to adopt the methods, forms and appearance of the “big box” non-denominationalism that has little regard or place for the Sacraments, that continually throws people back on to their emotional reactions with God as the certainty of faith, that would shift the focus of the Christian life away from a strong focus on the objective reality of Christ’s saving work, and on to a life that is more about my feelings, and my “decisions” for Christ. Doctrine is downplayed and revivalism and emotionalism become the most prominent parts of church life. A clear confession that God has instituted and ordained an office of the ministry is watered down in favor of a form of American democracy at work in the Church’s ministry. These are very real and present dangers for conservative Lutherans. The assertion of an inerrant Bible and a belief in the miracles recorded therein is no substitute for a firm adherence to the Confessions of the Lutheran Church, not merely in a polite nod toward them, but actually implementing what they teach about Lutheran doctrine and Lutheran practice among us. Replacing the historic liturgical worship of the Lutheran Church with entertainment-worship styles, that is, suggesting we can take up the style of Evangelicalism, without threatening the substance of Lutheranism among us, is a false and misleading dream.

Does being Lutheran matter? Many would suggest that to insist on being and remaining Lutheran is to insist on what divides us from other Christians rather than on what unites us with them. “I’m more interested in people being Christian, rather than Lutheran” is a comment one actually hears these days quite often, sadly and tragically, even from Lutheran pastors. Clearly this is something we must be on our guard to avoid. Being Lutheran is not a matter of culture, tradition or habit, at least it should not be simply that. No, being Lutheran is about being passionate about the truth, the full truth, and nothing but the truth as revealed by God in Holy Scripture. As much as we care about the truth of God’s Holy Word and the proclamation of a pure and unadulterated exposition of the Scriptures, being Lutheran matters. Martin Luther was concerned that people would be using his name, but then he realized that using the name “Lutheran” was a way to identify with what he stood for, to identify with his confession of the Gospel. In other words, to clearly identify oneself as a person who holds to a specific confession of Christ and none other. There are so many competing points of view of what Christianity is. Being Lutheran therefore is a way to distinguish and teach and confess and bear witness to the Christian faith in a very specific and faithful way.

Being and remaining truly Lutheran takes courage and determination. It is not easy. Faithfulness to the Word of God is never easy, or convenient, or popular. This places unique demands on our pastors and congregations and our church body, since we are determined to be and remain truly Lutheran. Dr. C.F.W. Walther, the first president of

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, offers important insight in his masterful study of Lutheranism titled, *“The True Visible Church on Earth”*:

Contrary to our detractors, the Lutheran Church has never claimed to be the only church outside of which there is no salvation. No, not at all. We do believe that the teachings of the confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Book of Concord of 1580, are in fact the pure, divine truth, because they agree with the written Word of God on all points. It is for this reason that the Lutheran church, and consequently our Synod, demands of all members, especially of our ministers, that they acknowledge the Lutheran Confessions without reservation and show their willingness to be obligated to them. And it is precisely because we so value and honor the purity of the Gospel given as a gift to us that we stand with Scripture (1 Cor. 1:10; Rom. 16:17) and our Confessions (AC VII; FC SD X) in rejecting every fraternal and ecclesiastical fellowship that rejects the truth of the Lutheran Confessions, either in whole or in part.

This is why we say that being and remaining Lutheran *does* matter. We Lutherans therefore have no choice but to keep on standing up and calling for true, orthodox, confessional Lutheranism. We want no poor imitations, but the real thing. We will continue to call for complete faithfulness to God’s Word and the Lutheran Confessions, recognizing the blessing that such faithfulness has been since the time of the Lutheran Reformation. Our desire is always to be maximally faithful, not merely minimally so.

With this call for faithfulness comes the Lord’s call for outreach. In no way must we ever permit ourselves to pit faithfulness against outreach. Faithfulness to the Word results in outreach with the Gospel. Faithful outreach is based entirely on a faithful proclamation of the Word. The constant hallmark of a genuinely Lutheran Synod, and a genuinely Lutheran congregation, is this two-fold emphasis: faithfulness to Scripture and the Confessions, and outreach with the Gospel.

God forbid that we would ever apologize for wanting to be, and remain, a truly Lutheran church, or that we would ever hesitate clearly to speak up when we notice others walking away from the truths of the Word and the Lutheran Confessions for the sake of unity, which is no unity at all, since it is not based on agreement in the teachings of the Word, but only on an agreement to disagree! Thus, we pray that the Lord would continue to strengthen and embolden us to be a true, faithful and courageous Lutheran church body, to the glory of His holy name and the extension of His kingdom.

It is particularly interesting and encouraging to me to notice how many younger people are keenly interested in Lutheranism. They want substance in worship and in Bible study and in every aspect of their church life. They want authenticity, not the showy and manipulative hype that their parents and maybe now even grandparents found so alluring in the past several decades. They have been raised in a culture that at every turn is trying to manipulate them into buying something. They have had enough of that. They see how shallow it is and they want instead substance and content and rich depth of meaning. This is where Lutheranism excels, for we rejoice in the depths of God’s truths, not resting content with a simply “once over lightly.”

We wonder why, when people have a choice, they leave the Lutheran church. Why bother to remain Lutheran if there is nothing worth remaining for? If the differences that distinguish Lutheran from any other option in Christendom are never mentioned, or made to appear no more important than picking amongst various ice cream flavors, is it any wonder why people leave our congregations to find “greener pastures” in other churches? That is why the constant challenge we face is gently, pastorally, warmly and winsomely to be working hard at reinforcing good understandings and encouraging careful thinking and reflection, helping our people to see the issues of our day, and thereby recognizing and appreciating the fact that Lutheranism is the best option for anyone who wants to remain genuinely faithful to God’s Word.

So, how does one remain Lutheran? Fond hopes, fervent wishes, pious prayer? Yes, all that, but more. The old Benedictine motto: “Ora et labora” applies! *Pray and work* and then, pray and work some more. Teaching is key. We must disciple people into the truth. This involves long, hard work. Passion, energy, excitement, dedication, enthusiastic desire to pass along the truth—these are keys to being and remaining Lutheran. Nothing is more exciting than the truth, and if that is so, shouldn’t our attitude toward it be equally one of excitement and energy and conviction? If Lutheranism appears to be dreary, dull, and plodding, whose fault is that but ours? High-quality intensive teaching is the key to the future of Lutheranism. We sing, “Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word” and then we work to make it so among us, for our sake and for the sake of those who will come after us.

Does being Lutheran matter? Yes, it matters. It matters as much as being and remaining true to Christ and His Word and Sacraments matters, as outreach with the Gospel matters, and as loving our neighbor matters. May God bless our efforts, and may He guide our work together in this high calling and noble task of being, and remaining, genuinely and faithfully Lutheran.

Synopsis of April 25, 2010 Voters' Assembly

Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- President Brown called the meeting to order at 11:12am. 29 voting members were present. Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer.

Approval of Agenda

- Motion made by Chris Brown, supported by the agenda as amended with the addition of "Release of Members" under Business. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Chris Brown, supported by Carolyn Johnson to approve the minutes from January 24, 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

Report(s)

- **Pastor** – Pastor Messer expressed his thanks for all the help during Holy Week and for the donations towards the special mission offering. He also asked for fervent prayers for the delegates attending the Synodical Convention in July.
- **Treasurer** – Carol Zeile presented the attached report.
- **Financial Secretary** – No report.
- **Boards**
 - **Board of Elders** – No report.
 - **Board of Trustees** – Vern Jakolat informed the Assembly of projects, snowplowing was completed at no cost to the church, lawn care will be performed by Gary Miller and Chris Brown again this year and repairs are to be made to the swing set by Jon Penzien and Daren Johnson.
 - **Board of Christian Education** – Sharyn Greening informed the Assembly that Vacation Bible School will be held the week of June 14 and volunteers are needed for teaching and donating supplies.
 - **Board of Evangelism** – Carolyn Johnson informed the Council of various events that were held and upcoming events including: Baseball game in Lansing on July 25, camping weekend July 9-11 and Relay for Life in August.
 - **Board of Stewardship** – Bill Harmon informed the Assembly that a newsletter article will appear each month relating to stewardship.

Organization and Committee Reports

- **Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild** – Coaline Luplow informed the Assembly that cleaning day will take place on May 22 and expressed thanks for help during Holy Week. She also provided information on the banner closet project, new refrigerator for altar flowers and the recipe book.
- **Peace Youth Group** – Jon Penzien informed the Assembly of the bake sale at Walmart on May 1.

Business

- **Release of Members** – Motion made by Sharyn Greening, supported by Jon Penzien to release Kurt, Tammy, Jessica and CJ Oswald by self-exclusion. Following a discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

- Motion made by Jon Penzien, supported by Chris Brown to adjourn at 12:00pm. Motion carried unanimously. Pastor Messer concluded with the Lord's Prayer and Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Brown, Secretary

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

Synopsis of June 1, 2010 Church Council Minutes

Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- Vice President Hill called the meeting to order at 7:08pm. Councilmember Harmon conducted the opening prayer. The following members were present: Gary Miller, Vern Jakolat, Sharyn Greening, Carolyn Johnson, Megan Brown, Bill Harmon and Ken Hill.

Approval of Agenda

- Motion made by Councilmember Jakolat, supported by Councilmember Johnson 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 minutes of May 4, 2010 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Report(s)

- **Pastor** – No report.
- **Treasurer's Report** - Secretary Brown presented the attached report on behalf of Treasurer Zeile. The Council received the report into record and discussed the current state of the budget.
- **Financial Secretary** - Financial Secretary Miller informed the Council that the first quarter financial statements had been distributed and any corrections need to be made by the end of June.
- **Boards**
 - **Board of Elders** - No report.
 - **Board of Trustees** - Councilmember Jakolat informed the Council of the projects around the church including the banner closet and parking lot repairs. The Council received the report into record.
 - **Board of Christian Education** - Councilmember Greening reminded the Council that Vacation Bible School will be held the week of June 14. The Council received the report into record.
 - **Board of Evangelism** - Councilmember Johnson informed the Council that the Board will not be meeting over the summer. Bowling night was very successful, Lansing Lugnuts game scheduled for July 25 and continuing efforts for fundraising. The Council received the report into record.
 - **Board of Stewardship** - Councilmember Harmon reported that there will be a newsletter article appearing each month relating to stewardship. The Council received the report into record.

Organization and Committee Reports

- **Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild** - No report.
- **Peace Youth Group** - No report.

Business

- No business was brought before the Council.

General Comment

- **Copier Lease** – A new lease has been negotiated for the copier by Larry Elliott. The new lease allows for more copies and saves approximately \$90 per quarter.
- **Landscaping** – The Council expression their appreciation of the newly completed landscaping.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

- The Council meeting adjourned at 8:10pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Brown, Secretary

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

PEACE NEWS & NOTES



PYG NEWS

Greetings in Christ,

The Lord has given us some beautiful weather so far this summer. I hope every one has had an opportunity to enjoy some of it. Remember to take the Lord with you, each and every day.

We have no planned activities for July, but who knows what we may come up with during fellowship on Sundays. Join us and put your ideas in the mixing bowl.

Thanks to everyone for your continued support of the Youth.

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



PEACE LUTHERAN LIBRARY

I picked up a small book from our Peace Library to read while I was in the hospital during my husband's surgery. Poetry does not interest me, but the beautiful pictures this author drew with words was amazing, captivating and so very creative. How he incorporates our Savior, the Father, and Satan into this picturesque language is a real joy. It is somewhat of a brain teaser and puzzle in identifying the biblical intonations of his story. It is just a small book and can be read in a half hour, but oh so well worth the few minutes it takes to read.

"*The Singer*" is a narrative in the tradition of C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien - a retelling of an age-old story whose significance is unmatched in human history. This author, Calvin Miller, sees with a single eye: His book is full of life, a powerful extended metaphor of incarnation and redemption.

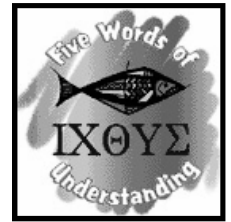
There are two sequels to "*The Singer*" - "*The Song*" and "*The Final*" that I most certainly intend to read.

Mary Jakolat



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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



A total of 15 children attended this year's Vacation Bible School. Each day they attended worship services, had a Bible lesson based on the daily theme, saw a puppet show, did crafts, attended music class, had recreation, ate a snack, and donated to Lutheran Public Radio which was the mission project. On Friday we concluded with flower planting in the children's garden and a picnic lunch.

A HUGE thank you to the following people who donated their time to make all this possible:

Lois Ramsey—printing all the teacher guides and daily student activity materials; Pastor Messer—worship services and teacher-grades 5-7; Mary Jakolat—music; Jon Penzien—recreation; Jenny Baughman—crafts; Marlene Miller and Charlotte Dargie—snacks and picnic lunch; Sarah Messer—teacher-preschool; Carol Zeile—teacher-grades 3-4; Helen Meyers—craft assistant; Andrea Elliott—assistant-wherever needed; Sarah Messer, Aaron Messer—puppeteers; Natalie Penzien and Tyrel Harwager—assistant in crafts, music and recreation; David Zeile—grillmaster; Gary Miller—grill preparation.

HUGE thanks also for the money that was donated to help with expenses!

RELAY FOR LIFE

The 2010 Relay for Life is scheduled for August 13 and 14, 2010, at the Saint Louis High School Field.

A Bake Sale is scheduled for Saturday, July 17, 2010 at Glen's Market in Alma.

A Grant Request has been submitted to Thrivent Financial for supplemental funds. However, the Chapter Board will be meeting this Saturday, the 26th to decide on the Grant Request.

Questions, see Dorothy Trgina

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

We will meet **July 20 at 7:00 pm.** We will be planning our Sunday School program for the coming school year.

PEACE NEWS & NOTES Cont'd

SALT NEWS

CAMPING WEEKEND

JULY 9-10-11

WILSON STATE PARK - HARRISON MI

ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME FOR THE DAY ON SATURDAY JULY 10

**Bring lawn chairs and your own drinks
Day parking available - Day Pass \$5
Potluck at 6pm**

Church Service at Campsite

Bring a dish to pass

dinnerware will be provided

Hot dogs and hamburgers will be furnished,

Donations to defray the cost

would be welcomed

Any Questions? Please see Andrea Elliott

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).

Regular SALT meetings will not be held during July and August. Should you have issues or concerns, please contact Carolyn Johnson or Pastor Messer.

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

www.issuesetc.org



Ladies Lunch Bunch

We will meet for lunch at 1:30 pm on Monday, July 19 at Braveheart's Pub in Alma.

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 LUTHERAN LADIES GUILD



For the next portion of the Lutheran World Relief project, the Ladies Guild is asking for your help in gathering the following school supplies:

Pads of ruled notebook paper (8 1/2" x 11") containing 150-200 sheets

One - blunt scissors

One - 30 centimeter ruler (or ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other)

One - pencil sharpener

6 - new pencils w/erasers

One - eraser (approximately 2 1/2" long)

12 - sheets construction paper in assorted colors

One box - 8, 16, or 24 crayons

One -cloth bag (approximately 12" x 14" with handles)

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

Collection will be received July 1 to September 30.



Freda M. Hill

✠ 4/21/1921—6/22/2010 ✠

A Funeral Service for our dearly departed sister was held on Friday, June 25 at Peace. Freda went quickly and peacefully to her faith's reward early in the morning of Tuesday, June 22. She will be greatly missed, but we rejoice in knowing that she now wears the crown of glory and enjoys the unspeakable peace, joy, and comfort of heavenly bliss!

Rest eternal, grant Freda, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon her! Amen!

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 around the campfire at Pastor Messer's house. Date to be announced. We hope you're able to join us!



Ladies Guild

Ladies Guild Meeting

Our Ladies' Guild is on hiatus for the months of July and August. Our next meeting will be **Monday, September 13, 2010 at 7pm.** Hostess will be Lois Ramsey. All Ladies of the congregation are invited to attend our Guild meetings. If you are a confirmed female member of Peace, you are a member of Guild. We would sincerely encourage you to participate and be an active member of the Guild.

PLC Women's Prayer Chain

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

Altar Flowers

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

LADIES GUILD SELLS CUTLERY

Rada cutlery is on display the 3rd Sunday of each month in the fellowship hall during the coffee hour. We have seven different items in stock: Paring Knife, Large Slicer Knife, Tomato Slicer, Serrated Steak Knife, Spatula, Pie Server, and Veggie Peeler. A product catalogue is available for viewing and orders may also be placed through the catalog.

COOKBOOK

Ladies, gentlemen and kids who love to cook, Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild are collecting your favorite recipes to put into a cookbook. It can be the simplest of drinks to complicated desserts and casseroles. Please write them, type them or make a copy of them and give them to Coaline Luplow or Mary Jakolat in the office.

You can also e-mail them to the office or to Coaline at luplow2@hotmail.com

Altar Care

July

Lois Ramsey

August

Andrea Elliott

September

Carol Zeile

Coffee Hostesses

July

4 Carol Zeile
11 Andrea Elliott
18 Dorothy Trgina
25 Coaline Luplow

August

1 Jenny Baughman
8 Gretchen Harrison
15 Cassie Tenant
22 M.Miller/C.Dargie
29 Y.Elenbaas/M.Girard

September

5 Jennie Harmon
12 Janice Sager
19 Peace Youth Group
26 Carolyn Johnson



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT PEACE

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

- Sunday School will reconvene on Sunday, September 13, 2010. Join us for a Rally Day potluck!
- Adult Bible Class is offered **every Sunday at 11 am.** for all adult members of Peace and guests.

Together in the Word

- Our Thursday morning *Together in the Word* Bible Study will reconvene in September.

Christian History 101

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



JULY

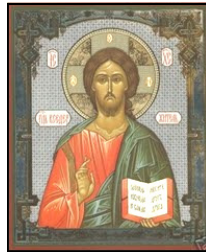
Happy Birthday

1 Ella Shaw	22 Gretchen Harrison
9 Brandon Brown	24 Sharyn Greening
22 Linda Sellke	25 Chris Brown
22 Shawna Greening	25 Pastor Messer
	25 Hanna Tennant

Happy Anniversary

7 Mary and David Girard
15 Richard and Joyce Kohler
20 Jonathan and Debra Penzien
22 John and Amanda Row
26 Bruce and Donna Bebow
31 Art and Cassie Tennant

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



PASTOR MESSER IS BLOGGING!

www.abideinmyword.blogspot.com

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

LCMS NATIONAL CONVENTION JULY 10-17 IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

Please keep all delegates to the convention in your prayers, especially our own Larry Elliott, who will be serving as our circuit's lay delegate, and Pastor Reed (Grace, Auburn), our circuit's pastoral delegate. You can keep track of the convention, and even watch gavel-to-gavel coverage, at the LCMS website: www.lcms.org.

PAROCHIAL REPORT

(as of 6/20/2010)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 139; Confirmed - 118

Membership gains: 0

Membership losses: 1

Freda Hill—Called home by our Lord on 6/22/10







Financial Report

YTD Budgeted.....	\$ 54,600.00
YTD Receipts.....	\$ 49,891.46
Difference.....	\$ 4,708.54

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

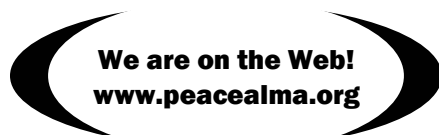
July 2010

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 5 pm - Weight Watchers	2	3
4 <i>Fifth Sunday after Trinity</i> 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - Bible Study <i>Independence Day</i> 	5 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	6 7 pm - Church Council	7 6 pm - "Christian History" 7 pm - Divine Service <i>The Visitation</i> 	8 5 pm - Weight Watchers	9 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"><i>Camping July 9-10-11</i></div>	10
11 <i>Sixth Sunday after Trinity</i> 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - Bible Study 	12	13	14 6 pm - "Christian History" 7 pm - Evening Prayer	15 5 pm - Weight Watchers	16	17 2-4 pm - Baby Shower For Megan Brown
18 <i>Seventh Sunday after Trinity</i> 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - Bible Study 	19 1:30 pm - Lunch Bunch	20 7 pm—Christian Ed. & Sunday School Teachers Meeting	21 11 am—Elders Meeting 6 pm - "Christian History" 7 pm - Divine Service <i>St. Mary Magdalene</i> 	22 5 pm - Weight Watchers	23	24
25 <i>St. James, the Elder, Apostle</i> 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - Quarterly Voters' Assembly <i>Ball Game - Lansing Lighthits</i> 	26 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"><i>Newsletter articles due</i></div>	27	28 6 pm - "Christian History" 7 pm - Evening Prayer	29 5 pm - Weight Watchers	30	31

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 July

	ELDERS	ACOLYTES	USHERS	GREETERS
July				
4 - 9:30 am <i>(Trinity 5)</i>	David Zeile	Paige Harwager Sarah Messer	Vern Jakolat Phillip Schafer	Jon Penzien and Family
11 - 9:30 am <i>(Trinity 6)</i>	Larry Elliott	Melanie Penzien Sierra Luplow	Jonathan Penzien Chris Brown	Terry and Coaline Luplow
18 - 9:30 am <i>(Trinity 7)</i>	Terry Luplow	Samantha Messer Myka Luplow	Gary Miller Jim Sager	Larry and Andrea Elliott
25 - 7:00 pm <i>(St. James the Elder)</i>	Miguel Ortiz	Morgan Johnson Tyrel Harwager	Kevin Sellke Vern Jakolat	Lillian Manns and Lois Ramsey
August				
1 - 9:30 am <i>(Trinity 9)</i>	David Zeile	Natalie Penzien Aaron Messer	Vern Jakolat Phillip Schafer	Jenny Baughman

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