

April, 2010

The Peace Post

Peace Lutheran Church ~ Alma, MI

From the Desk of Pastor Messer

“Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?”



The 19th century African American spiritual, which has become a fixed ingredient within Good Friday Services almost everywhere today, asks the question, “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” The composer of this hymn (LSB 456) is unknown. I wonder if the writer of this hymn, whoever he/she was, knew the answer to the question. The answer, of course, is, “Yes.” You were there. So was I. So was the unknown composer of this hymn. Every sinful human being who has ever lived was there.

Not only were we all there, but we were the ones crucifying our Lord. We were the ones nailing Him to the tree. We were the ones laying Him in the tomb. As Dr. Luther taught, if you are to meditate upon your Lord’s sufferings and death properly, you must “deeply believe and never doubt in the least that you are the one who thus martyred Christ. For your sins most surely did it.” As hard as it is for us to admit, we are the ones who betrayed Jesus, denied Him, spit on Him, scourged Him, and hammered Him to the tree of the cross. We killed the Author of Life, our Emmanuel, shedding His Holy Blood with our sins.

The discipline of Lent has called upon us to examine ourselves; to look into the mirror of God’s Holy Law and recognize our sinfulness. As we embark upon Holy Week, the call for self-examination is increased; for as we travel the *via delorosa* with our Lord to Calvary, it is only as we see ourselves in the cast of characters responsible for putting Jesus to death that we will be led to true repentance. Then, and only then, can our eyes be opened to see the Good News of that sorrowful Friday long ago, namely that our Lord Jesus Christ willingly took our sins upon Himself and suffered and died for them. He died for us, that we might live in Him. He suffered the wrath and punishment we deserve for our sins, that we might be forgiven and set free. We killed Him with our sins, but He allowed us to do so, that He might bury our sins in the tomb and remember them no more.

“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself,” said our Lord (John 12:32). On the cross, He fulfills this promise. He draws all people—from Adam until those alive when He returns on the Last Day—to Himself on the cross, absorbing the sins of all into His own Holy, Innocent Body to make full atonement. Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Yes, you were. So was I. All people were. In fact, we would do well to turn that question into a confession: I was there when I crucified my Lord. That recognition is what should cause us to tremble, tremble, tremble.

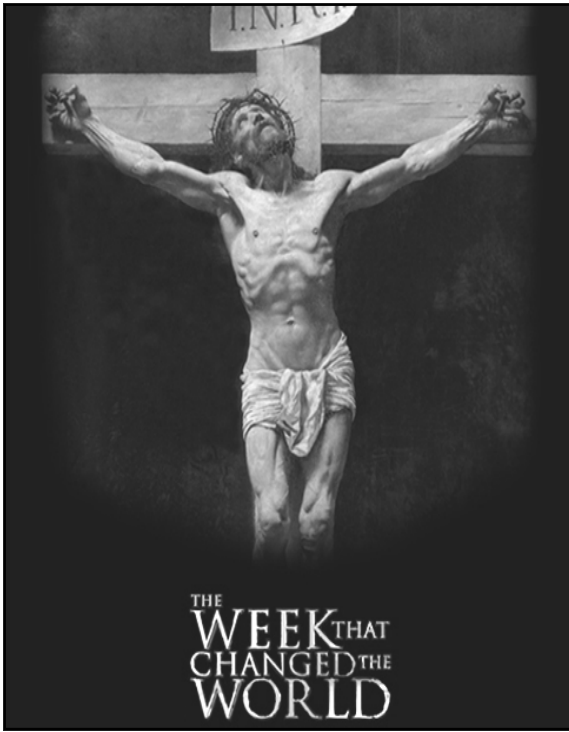
And upon that confession, which causes us to tremble, our Lord comforts us with the sweet message of the Gospel, saying, “Tremble not, my child, for I did it all for you. Trust in Me. You have nothing to fear. I have taken all your sins away. They are gone. You are free. Rejoice, for an eternity in Paradise awaits you!”
Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Messer



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Reminder: Holy Week & Easter at Peace

Holy Monday

7 am—Matins (spoken)
12 pm—Divine Service (spoken)
7 pm—Divine Service (spoken)

Holy Wednesday

7 am—Matins (spoken)
12 pm—Divine Service (spoken)
7 pm—Divine Service (spoken)

Good Friday

7 am—Matins (spoken)
12 pm—Chief Divine Service
3 pm—Devotion at the Sacred Hour
7:30 pm—Tenebrae

Easter Sunday

7 am—Divine Service: Sunrise Service
8:30 am—Easter Breakfast
9:30 am—Divine Service: Festival of the Resurrection of Our Lord

Easter Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday

12 pm—Divine Service

Holy Tuesday

7 am—Matins (spoken)
12 pm—Divine Service (spoken)
7 pm—Divine Service (spoken)

Holy (Maundy) Thursday

7 am—Matins (spoken)
12 pm—Divine Service (spoken)
7 pm—Divine Service

Holy Saturday

7 am—Matins (spoken)
10 am—Divine Service (spoken)
8 pm—Easter Vigil

ST. ROMANOS THE MELODIST “AGAIN TO PARADISE”

Pilate fixed three crosses on Golgotha: two for the thieves, and one for the Giver of life. When Hell saw it, he said to those below, “My ministers and powers, who has fixed a nail in my heart? A wooden lance has suddenly pierced me and I am being torn apart! My insides are in pain, my belly in agony, my senses make my spirit tremble, and I am compelled to disgorge Adam and Adam’s race. All men were given to me by the Garden’s tree—but now a tree is bringing them back again to Paradise.”

When he heard this, Satan, the cunning serpent ran crawling and said, “What is it, hell? Why do you groan for no reason? Why produce these wailings? This Tree, at which you tremble, I carpentered up there for Mary’s Child. I suggested it to his enemies for our advantage, for it is a Cross, to which I have nailed Christ, wishing by a tree to do away with the second Adam, just as I did away with the first one. So do not be afraid. It is dry and barren. It will not harm you. Keep hold of those you have. Of those we rule, not one will escape again to Paradise.”

Hell replied to Satan, “You have lost your senses—you, the cunning snake of old! All your wisdom has been swallowed up by the cross, and you have been caught in your own snare. Lift up your eyes and see that you have fallen into the pit you dug! Behold that Tree, which you call dry and barren, bears fruit: a thief tasted it and has become heir to the good things of Eden. Moses’ rod led the people out of Egypt, but this tree brings mankind back again to Paradise.”

Satan answered, “Wretched hell—cease this cowardly talk! Your words reveal your thoughts. Are you afraid of a cross and of the Crucified? Not one of your words has shaken me, for these deeds are part of my plan. I will also open a grave and entomb Christ, so that you may enjoy your cowardice doubly—from his tomb as well as from his cross. When I see you, I will mock you. For when Christ is buried I will come to you and say, “Who now brings Adam back again to Paradise?”

Then hell spoke back, “Now is the moment for you to listen, Satan. Now you will see the power of the Cross and the great authority of the Crucified. For you, the cross is folly. But the world sees it as a throne, on which, as though seated, Jesus is nailed and hears the thief

cry to him, ‘Lord, remember me in your kingdom.’ Listen now as he answers, kingly, ‘Today, poor beggar, you will reign with me. For with me, you will go in again to Paradise.’”

At these words, Satan began to wilt, and what he heard he saw: a thief witnessing to Christ crucified. And so, amazed, he struck his breast and said, “Christ did not answer his accusers, and yet he speaks to a thief? To Pilate he never spoke a word; but now he addresses a murderer, saying, “Come, live in pleasure”? What is this? Who has seen words or deeds done by this thief, by means of which he goes again to Paradise?

Again the devil called out, “Receive me, Hell. I turn to you; I submit to your views, I, who did not believe them. I saw the Tree at which you shuddered, made red with blood and water. And I shuddered, not, I tell you, at the blood, but at the water. For the blood shows Jesus’ slaughter, but the water shows his life, for life has gushed from his side. For it was not the first but the second Adam who carried Eve, the mother of all the living, again to Paradise.”

Now Hell and Satan cried out together, “Let us lament as we see the Tree which we planted transformed into a holy trunk, beneath which thieves, murderers, tax collectors and harlots will find shelter, and reap sweet fruit from what seemed barren. For they cling to the Cross as the Tree of Life. Pressed against it and swimming, through it they escape, and come again as to a harbor, again to Paradise.”

Hell said to Satan, “Swear, tyrant, finally to crucify no one.” And Satan replied, “You take an oath to kill no one.

We have had our experience, let us draw back our hand. Let neither of us ever again tyrannize the race of Adam, for it has been sealed by the Cross, it has been given life, like a treasure of a precious pearl in a fragile pot; life, which a thief, well-suited to his trade, took on the Cross. For stealing he was nailed up to die; and having thieved he was called again to Paradise.”

O most high and glorious, God of fathers and of youths, your willing outrage has become our honor. For in your Cross, we all may boast. To it we have nailed our hearts, that on it we may hang our instruments and sing to you, the Lord of all, from the songs of Zion. The ship from Tarshish once brought gold to Solomon; but to us your Tree gives back, every day and every moment, wealth beyond price. For it brings us all again to Paradise.



"He Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!"

"The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He is risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay'" (Matt. 28:5-6).

Why has Christianity survived throughout the centuries? It shouldn't have, you know. It should have been stomped out early on. It never should have made it out of the first century. But, it did. Not only did it survive, but it thrived; it grew. What began as a small community of Jewish believers in Jesus of Nazareth grew to encompass the world. By the end of the first century, there were Christian communities found in all parts of the known world.

The spread of Christianity is a phenomenon for which no earthly answer can be found. No one can adequately explain, from an earthly point of view, how Christianity continued to grow throughout the tremendous persecutions it faced from the Jewish religious leaders and the Roman Empire. No one can explain, from an earthly point of view, why Christians would allow themselves and their children to be tortured and executed rather than to renounce their faith in Christ. It makes no sense to the world.

Ah, but it makes sense to us. Christianity has survived and grown throughout the centuries because the man named Jesus was no ordinary Jewish man who merely persuaded people to follow him. He is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, who was crucified on Friday afternoon, but rose from the grave on Sunday morning. Not only did He rise from the dead, but He appeared in His resurrected, glorified Body to His disciples, apostles, and over five hundred brothers (cf. 1 Cor. 15:5-7) to show them that He is the Risen Lord; that He is who He claimed to be.

So, why has Christianity survived and grown throughout the centuries to be the leading world religion right up to the present day, claiming approximately 32% of the world's population? Because Christ rose from the dead and appeared to many, whose eyewitness testimony is recorded for us in Holy Scripture. Many people saw the Risen Christ

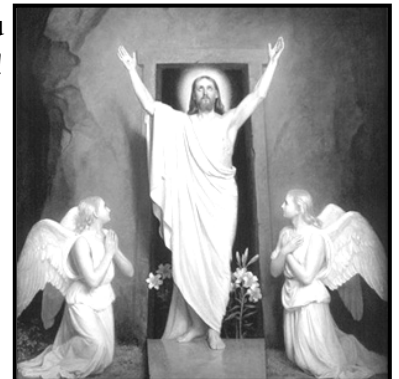
and, after seeing Him, they went around telling everyone who would listen, "He is risen! He is risen indeed!"

That's why those early Christians refused to renounce their faith in Christ and willingly went to their deaths—they knew and believed Jesus the Christ rose from the dead! Some of them knew because they themselves saw Him. Others knew because they had the reliable testimony of those who had seen Him. It is faith in the Crucified and Risen Christ that accounts for the survival and growth of Christianity throughout the centuries, right up to the present day. It is the faith that is worked in us by the Holy Spirit when we hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ handed down to us by the apostles of the Lord, who were eyewitnesses of His death and resurrection. We believe, dear friends in Christ, because the Holy Spirit has given us the faith to believe the testimony of the Lord's apostles.

The resurrection of Jesus the Christ is the foundation of true Christian faith. As St. Paul says, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins" (1 Cor. 15:17). But, Christ did rise from the grave and, because He did, your sins have indeed been taken away. The resurrection of Christ provides the validation that God the Father accepted the perfect sacrifice of His Son on the cross. The resurrection of Christ is the Father's stamp of approval of the Son's atoning work on Calvary. And, because you have that stamp of approval, you can be one hundred percent certain that all of your sins have been completely forgiven and that you, like the Lord Jesus in whom you believe, will also rise from the dead on the Last Day to spend eternity with Him in Paradise. Rejoice in this awesome Good News and tell everyone you know, "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!"

Happy Easter!

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Messer





The Easter Resurrection Homily **of**

St. John Chrysostom, a.k.a. "Golden Mouth"

This classic Paschal or Easter Sermon on the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is from Saint John Chrysostom, fifth century early church father and one of the greatest preachers of all time. This homily for Holy Pascha exhorts all, even those who have not kept the Lenten fast, to rejoice and enter into the Easter feast of the resurrection.

Let all Pious men and all lovers of God rejoice in the splendor of this feast; let the wise servants blissfully enter into the joy of their Lord; let those who have borne the burden of Lent now receive their pay, and those who have toiled since the first hour, let them now receive their due reward; let any who came after the third hour be grateful to join in the feast, and those who may have come after the sixth, let them not be afraid of being too late, for the Lord is gracious and He receives the last even as the first. He gives rest to him who comes on the eleventh hour as well as to him who has toiled since the first: yes, He has pity on the last and He serves the first; He rewards the one and is generous to the other; he repays the deed and praises the effort.

Come you all: enter into the joy of your Lord. You the first and you the last, receive alike your reward; you rich and you poor, dance together; you sober and you weaklings, celebrate the day; you who have kept the fast and you who have not, rejoice today. The table is richly loaded: enjoy its royal banquet. The calf is a fatted one: let no one go away hungry. All of you enjoy the banquet of faith; all of you receive the riches of his goodness.

Let no one grieve over his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed; let no one weep over his sins, for pardon has shone from the grave; let no one fear death, for the death of our Savior has set us free: He has destroyed it by enduring it, He has despoiled Hades by going down into its kingdom, He has angered it by allowing it to taste of his flesh.

When Isaiah foresaw all this, he cried out: "O Hades, you have been angered by encountering Him in the nether world." Hades is angered because frustrated, it is angered because it has been mocked, it is angered because it has been destroyed, it is angered because it has been reduced to naught, it is angered because it is now captive. It seized a body, and lo! it discovered God; it seized earth, and, behold! it encountered heaven; it seized the visible, and was overcome by the invisible.

O death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? Christ is risen and life is freed, Christ is risen and the tomb is emptied of the dead: for Christ, being risen from the dead, has become the Leader and Reviver of those who had fallen asleep. To Him be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.



Synopsis of January 24 , 2010 Voters' Assembly

Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- President Chris Brown called the meeting to order at 11:01am. 31 voting members were present. Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer.

Approval of Agenda

- Motion made by Chris Brown, supported by Jon Penzein to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Chris Brown, supported by Gary Miller to approve the minutes of October 25. Motion carried unanimously.

Report(s)

- **Pastor** – No report.
- **Treasurer** – Carol Zeile presented the proposed budget for FY 2010. There was discussion but no action taken at this point in the meeting.
- **Financial Secretary** – Gary Miller informed the Assembly that the 20009 reports would be made available by the end of the month.
- **Boards**
 - **Board of Elders**
 - Larry Elliott informed the Assembly that the Elders were working on contacting inactive members and provided information regarding the new practice of the Elders holding the chalice during communion.
 - **Board of Trustees** – Vern Jakolat thanked James Sager for serving and welcomed Daren Johnson to the Board. Vern also informed the Assembly of projects to be completed when the weather is better.
 - **Board of Christian Education** – No report.
 - **Board of Evangelism** – Carolyn Johnson informed the Assembly of upcoming SALT events.
 - **Board of Stewardship** – No report. A Chairperson is still needed.
 - **Organization and Committee Reports**
 - **Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild** – Coaline Luplow thanked the Assembly for cookies for the annual cookie walk and informed the Assembly that the Christmas decorations would be coming down February 6 and that Lenten dinners would be beginning in the upcoming weeks.
 - **Peace Youth Group** – No report.

Business

- **2010 Budget** – Based on previous discussion, motion made by Larry Elliott, supported by Gary Miller to approve the proposed 2010 budget with an increase of five thousand dollars to the Pastoral Expense: Benefit Package making the total amount budgeted \$113,565. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Nominations for Synodical President and Vice-Presidents** – Motion made by Gary Miller, supported by Larry Elliott to submit the following nominations to the praesidium of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod: President – Rev. Matt Harrison of St. Louis, Missouri; First Vice-President – Rev. Herbert Mueller of Waterloo, Illinois; 2nd through 5th Vice-Presidents – Rev. Dr. John Wholrabe of Geneseo, Illinois; Rev. Daniel Preus of St. Louis, Missouri; Rev. Dr. David Adams of St. Louis, Missouri; Rev. Dr. Scott Murray of Houston, Texas; and Rev. Dr. Carl Fickenscher of Fort Wayne, Indiana (alternate). Motion carried unanimously.
- **Release of Members** – Motion made by Yvonne Elenbaas, supported by Miguel Ortiz that the following people be released from membership at Peace Lutheran Church for self-exclusion: Dale and Trina Palmer and three children and Susan Riethel. Motion carried unanimously.

General Comment

- None.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

The meeting was adjourned at 12:33pm. Pastor Messer closed with the Lord's Prayer and Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Brown, Secretary

Synopsis of March 2 , 2010 Church Council Minutes

Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- President Brown called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer. The following members were present: Chris Brown, Bill Harmon, Vern Jakolat, Carolyn Johnson, Gary Miller, Sharyn Greening and Megan Brown. Pastor Messer was also present.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Councilmember Johnson, supported by President Brown to approve the minutes from February 2 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Report(s)

- **Pastor** – Pastor Messer presented the attached report. The Council received the report into record.
- **Treasurer's Report** – The attached report was presented. The Council received the report into record.
- **Financial Secretary** – No report.
- **Boards**
 - **Board of Elders** – Councilmember Elliott informed the Council of the activities of the Board including clean-up of the membership roster, first/early communion and Larry Elliott was appointed Chairperson.
 - **Board of Trustees** – Councilmember Jakolat informed the Council that the Board met with the Ladies Guild regarding the banner closet and other projects that will be completed during spring/early summer.
 - **Board of Christian Education** – Councilmember Greening informed the Council that she was appointed Chairperson, Sunday School will be completed by May 23 and VBS is scheduled for the week of June 14.
 - **Board of Evangelism** – Councilmember Johnson informed the Council that the Mexican Dinner went very well.
 - **Board of Stewardship** – Councilmember Harmon informed the Council that the organizational meeting is scheduled for March 9 and mission offerings are being collected for the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society.
 - **Organization and Committee Reports**
 - **Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild** – No report.
 - **Peace Youth Group** – No report.

Business

None

General Comment

Ladies Guild will be hosting a reception after the Easter Vigil Service on April 3.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm. Pastor Messer closed with the Lord's Prayer and the Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Brown, Secretary

Message from the Stewardship Committee

Chairman: Bill Harmon

Committee Members: Pastor Messer, Vern Jakolat, Carol Zeile, Sharyn Greening, Gary Miller, Larry Elliott

(All members of Peace are welcomed and encouraged to become members of the Stewardship Committee; simply come to the next meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m. and you are in! No membership dues; no swearing in ceremony; no age requirement; all that is needed is your attendance and participation! So, please, come join us.)

The Peace Stewardship Committee has been reactivated and held its first meeting on Tuesday, March 9. The Committee discussed a number of ways it could serve to remind the members of our congregation about the importance of Christian stewardship, which is highlighted in Article 5.3 of our congregation's Constitution:

Members of this congregation shall conform their entire lives to the authority of the Word of God and to that end shall make diligent use of the means of grace by attending Divine Services frequently, exercise faithful stewardship of their God-given time, talents, and treasures, impart and accept fraternal admonition as the need of such admonition becomes apparent, and be readily available for service in the kingdom of Christ within and beyond this congregation. Membership in organizations whose principles and conduct conflict with the Word of God is prohibited.

One of the first things the Committee would like to accomplish is to make certain that all members of Peace know our current service opportunities. Perhaps there are some of you who would like to help but do not know what needs to be done. The kinds of service within the congregation listed below is not required of Christians, but is encouraged and can be a bigger blessing to the person doing the serving than to the recipients.

Following is an extensive, but not exhaustive, list (in alphabetical order) of the kinds of activities that happen regularly and at special times of year in our congregation. We are blessed with many dedicated members who work to accomplish most of what is listed here. More help from anyone in the congregation would be greatly appreciated. There are no age limitations for volunteers. Young and old are welcome. While it is true that some of these duties require special talents or skills, many of them only require the desire to spend time with your brothers and sisters and to serve the Peace community and/or the community at large. Consider this as nothing more than an invitation to serve when and where you are willing and able. We simply want to make all our members aware of the opportunities which exist in our congregation to put their God-given time and talents to use.

Each section of opportunities includes a contact person. See him or her if you would like to volunteer. Thanks for your consideration.

Altar Guild

Contact: Carol Zeile

A subcommittee of the Ladies' Guild, the Altar Guild is charged with all duties related to preparing the Altar area and the Communion for each Service. Serving on the Altar Guild is a wonderful privilege and can uniquely enhance the Divine Service for those who want to be involved. New volunteers to the Altar Guild would be fully trained and could choose to serve with an experienced woman, or on their own. Generally, Altar Guild duty is assigned on a monthly basis, but someone who could help out now and then would also be most appreciated.

Board of Education

Contact: Sharyn Greening

Opportunities exist for members to volunteer to serve in the following ways: Sunday School teacher; Sunday School teacher substitute; VBS helper/teacher; Provide craft materials for VBS; Provide snacks for VBS; Donate copies of Sunday School materials (by providing the copies or donating the paper and/or print cartridges or money to buy those items); Donate copies of VBS materials (same as above); Help with meals for children during Christmas program practices; Help with costumes for Christmas program.

Board of Elders

Contact: Larry Elliott

The elders would love to have volunteers who would be willing to visit and/or send cards to our shut-in and hospitalized members, to supplement the visits they, and Pastor Messer, make.

Message from the Stewardship Committee Cont'd

Budget/Finance Committee

Contact: Chris Brown or Pastor Messer

Article 18.3 of our Constitution and Bylaws reads: "A Budget/Finance Committee, consisting of at least three volunteer members to assist the treasurer and financial secretary in overseeing the finances of the congregation." Currently, this Committee is non-existent; volunteers to serve on this Committee would be greatly appreciated.

Cleaning of the Building

Contact: Marlene Miller

Cleaning duties are divided up so that no one has to clean the entire building at one time. Most duties need to be completed weekly (unless otherwise indicated). Volunteers to clean any one of the following areas would be very much appreciated: Bathrooms, Kitchen, Empty Trash, Glass Doors, Dusting (every other week), Vacuuming, Cleaning under Pews (once a month). Substitutes also would be very helpful, in case one of the assigned people needs a break. NOTE: We currently have a SPECIAL NEED for someone to volunteer to vacuum the church and fellowship hall every week. Larry and Andrea Elliott have been performing this duty exceedingly well, but they are going to be a little busy in the coming months and would like a break. So, please, if anyone would be willing to take this duty on, either on a full-time or part-time basis, let Marlene know as soon as possible.

Ladies' Guild

Contact: Coaline Luplow

The largest opportunity to serve with the Ladies' Guild is to provide food for many different events throughout the year. If you are willing/able to serve in this way, please contact Coaline and she will put you on a list to call when needed. Additional opportunities for volunteer service include: Provide cookies for the annual Cookie Walk and Bazaar; Provide food for dinners throughout the year (funeral lunches, Advent & Lenten dinners, Easter breakfast, etc.); Serve as coffee hostess on Sundays.; Assist in decorating and removing decorations for Christmas Season.

Music

Contact: Mary Jakolat

Opportunities for service include: Play the piano for Sunday School; Choir director; Voices for the choir; Special music (for anyone who plays an instrument).

S.A.L.T. (Evangelism Committee)

Contact: Carolyn Johnson

Opportunities for service include: Attend monthly meetings and brainstorm on inreach and outreach ideas; help plan and/or host a table at our Advent Tea; help plan and/or serve during our Second Time Around Sale; assist with, and participate in, the various events S.A.L.T. hosts/will host in the future (e.g. Movie Nights, Evangelism Walks, Bowling nights, Zoo trips, Baseball games, etc.); donate time, food, and/or money when S.A.L.T. hosts fundraising dinners from time to time; give toward the ongoing collections (Food Bank, Military personnel); invite family and friends to Church and to the fellowship opportunities hosted by S.A.L.T.

Special Projects

Contact: Pastor Messer

Church Historian (someone who would be willing to track our congregation's history, update it on an ongoing basis, and provide reports to the congregation); Conversion of past minutes/records to electronic format; Website updater; Congregational Photo Directory; Church Photographer/Video technician; Christian Care Chairperson.

Trustees

Contact: Vern Jakolat

Volunteers for any of the following projects would be greatly appreciated. Most of these opportunities are one-time, instead of ongoing: Build new storage area for banners; Paint outside storage building; Install shelves in storage building; Install shelves in the storage area at rear of church building; Repair ceiling lights in hallway by classroom area; Replace some bulbs in church; Participate in Spring cleanup in April or May; Do yard work, tree trimming; Paint outside and inside of church building; Repair eaves and downspouts; Clean and fill cracks and seal coat blacktop in parking lot; Clean up weeded lot in the back of the church grounds.

Youth Group

Contact: Jon Penzien

Opportunities for service include: Chaperone/mentor for trips, events, or projects as needed.

PEACE NEWS & NOTES

PYG NEWS

April Events

EASTER DECORATIONS

SATURDAY, April 3 - 11am-Noon - Fellowship Hall

ASSISTING WITH EASTER BREAKFAST

Sunday, April 4 - 8am-9am - Fellowship Hall

MONTHLY MEETING

Sunday, April 18 - 5pm-7pm Fellowship Hall

He is risen indeed!

In our planning meeting in March, we decided to have a spring bake sale the beginning of May. Final date still needs to be determined. Please keep an eye on the bulletins for more news. We will be asking for support in baked goods for this event. The proceeds will in part be put toward the 2011 Higher Things Conference.

If you are aware of any service activities in the next few months, please let me know so we can look into PYG participation.

Thanks again to everyone for your support of the youth - not only in our fundraisers (like our continuing pop can drive, Spartan label collection, and used cell phone recycling), but with your time and attention.

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



CHURCH WEBSITE

You may view current newsletters and service bulletins prior to the service dates on our Peace website at www.peacealma.org. Keep up to date at your convenience.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 14-18

9:00-12:00

AGE 4 THROUGH GRADE 7



Teachers are needed for the daily Bible lesson. This is a 1/2 hour block of time during VBS. There will be further information in the May newsletter for donations needed for printing student materials, craft supplies and snack items.

SALT NEWS

**Check the SALT bulletin board for
Meeting Minutes and Announcements
about future activities!**

LADIES GUILD SELLS RADA CUTLERY

On the 3rd Sunday of each month, Ladies Guild will have a display of RADA Cutlery available for purchase. The cutlery will be on display in the fellowship hall during the coffee hour.

Made in the U.S.A., the cutlery is high quality, affordable, and long-lasting. 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.

The Guild has had the cutlery for several years, bringing it out once a year to sell at the annual Cookie Walk and Bazaar. It tended to be forgotten the rest of the year. The RADA Manufacturing Company is located in Waverly, Iowa.

PEACE NEWS & NOTES Cont'd

PEACE MOVIE NIGHT

FRIDAY, APRIL 30
PIZZA @ 6:00 P.M.
MOVIE @ 6:30 P.M.

Movie—To be determined (Any ideas, please contact Pastor Messer); look for info to be posted sometime in the next couple of weeks!

Ladies Lunch Bunch

We will meet at Mancino's in Alma for lunch on Monday, April 19 at 1:30 pm.

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!

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! Our next Table Talk will take place on

Thursday, April 22 at 7 p.m. All are invited. Location will be announced. We hope you're able to join us!



DID YOU KNOW that the hospital does not always notify us when one of our members has been hospitalized? Please call the church office at 463-5754 or Pastor Messer at 989-388-2037 (cell) when a member of Peace has been admitted to the hospital.



Issues, Etc.TM
Christ-Centered Cross-Focused Talk Radio

Dear Issues, Etc. listener,

Greetings in the name of Jesus, Who bore our sins in his body on the tree.

We have some great programming for you during Holy Week:

- "The Palm Sunday Hymn 'Ride on Ride on in Majesty'" with Pastor Wil Weedon
 - "The Penitential Psalms: Psalms 130 & 143" with Pastor Todd Peperkorn
 - "The Hymn 'What is this Bread?'" with Dr. Arthur Just
 - "Martin Luther on the Passion of Christ" with Pastor Paul McCain
 - "The Words of Christ from the Cross" with Pastor Bill Cwirla
- "The Passion of Christ According to Luke" with Dr. Arthur Just

You can listen to these shows live or on-demand at www.issuesetc.org.

Have a blessed Holy Week and Easter!

Wir sind alle Bettler,
Todd Wilken, host
Issues, Etc.

SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING: THE SIBERIAN LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY

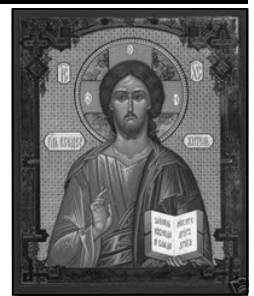
Don't forget to bring your offering banks in on Easter Sunday! As those of you who were able to watch the DVD we showed a few weeks back saw, this is a society well worth supporting. Having talked recently with a good friend of mine, who is involved in the society, I can assure you that every penny we give will go directly to the support of our Lutheran brothers and sisters in Christ who are sharing the Gospel in Russia. As I've mentioned many times, cash and checks will be accepted in addition to the change collected in the offering banks. Make checks payable to Peace.

Pastor Messer

PASTOR MESSER IS BLOGGING!

www.abideinmyword.blogspot.com

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



Abide In My Word!

Ladies Guild

Ladies Guild Meeting

Our next meeting will be **Monday, April 5 at 7 pm.** Hostess will be Charlotte Dargie. 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



For the next portion of the Lutheran World Relief project, the Ladies Guild is asking for your help in supplying the following personal care items:

hand towels
wash cloths
toothbrushes
combs (wide tooth)
metal nail files
nail clippers (w/file attached)
band aids (1/2 to 2/4 ")
soap (bath size bar)

Collection period: April 1 to June 30

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 Coaline at luplow2@hotmail.com



April

Carol Zeile

Altar Care

May

Megan Brown

June

Coaline Luplow/Jennie Harmon

Coffee Hostesses

April

4 Easter - NO COFFEE
11 M. Miller/C. Dargie
18 Peace Youth Group
25 Carol Zeile

May

2 Coaline Luplow
9 Gretchen Harrison
16 M.Isaksson/H.Meyers
23 Mary Jakolat
30 Lisa Messer

June

6 Tina Schafer
13 Peace Youth Group
20 Lois Ramsey
27 S.Greening/M.Brown



Ladies Guild Meeting Minutes

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH LADIES' GUILD MINUTES

MARCH 1, 2010

Officers and Committee Chairpersons

President: Coaline Luplow – Vice-President: Carol Zeile – Secretary: Lois Ramsey –
Treasurer: Sharyn Greening – Banner Committee: Gretchen Harrison –
Altar Committee: Carol Zeile – Kitchen Committee: Coaline Luplow and Lois Ramsey –
Sunshine Committee: Marlene Miller – Library Committee: Coaline Luplow –
Special Events Committee: Coaline Luplow and Lois Ramsey –
Charitable Donations Committee: Dorothy Trgina

Call to Order: President Coaline Luplow gave the call to order at 7:05 p.m. Pastor Messer offered the opening prayer. Those attending were Coaline Luplow, Carol Zeile, Lois Ramsey, Sharyn Greening, Charlotte Dargie, Marlene Miller, Mary Jakolat, and Pastor Messer. Vern Jakolat attended part of the meeting. The devotion, presented by Coaline, was “*Jesus Through Moses*” the Portals of Prayer reading for the day. Mites were collected.

Secretary Report: The Secretary Report was approved as presented.

Treasurer Report: Fund Balances: Checking, \$317.20; Savings, \$2,356.56.

Committee Reports:

- **Altar:** Carol Zeile. Carol continued with readings from the LCMS Altar Guild Manual addressing Holy Week, the most dramatic and significant time of the Church Year. The focus is triumph to tragedy. The paraments colors for the week are scarlet, signifying royalty and passion. The alternate color is violet. The Palm Sunday Service begins with a procession of palms. On Maundy Thursday, the altar is stripped at the end of the Divine Service in remembrance of Christ’s humiliation at the hands of the Roman soldiers. The paraments change to Black for Good Friday. Easter is the high point of the Church Year. The paraments color is white; gold is the alternate color. The sanctuary is decorated with flowers and the Christ Candle is replaced with the Paschal Candle. An ancient custom is the Vigil of Easter, on Holy Saturday night. It is a simple Service with Scripture readings and a candle-light procession. The main service is on Easter Sunday. Consensus is to incorporate gold paper and white bows for the Easter lily plants. Carol will talk with Jon Penzien.
- **Banner:** Gretchen Harrison. The third banner book has been located and has been placed in the church office. The invoice for the standard banners for the church year is \$562.66. Some donations were received for this project, and Ladies Guild will pay the difference of \$262.66.
- **Sunshine:** Marlene Miller. Many people indicated they would like to receive on-line greeting cards from Ladies Guild. Some e-cards were sent in February.
- **Kitchen:** Coaline Luplow and Lois Ramsey. The RADA Cutlery was on display during the February 21 coffee hour; \$7.75 was received for sales of product on hand. Several ladies placed orders from the catalogue.
- **Library:** Coaline Luplow. No new books have been added to the library
- **Special Events:** Coaline Luplow and Lois Ramsey. Cake will be served during fellowship hour on March 7 in recognition of Kylie Stahl’s baptism.
- **Charitable Donations:** Dorothy Trgina. A box for LWR donations has been placed in the fellowship hall.

Comments by Pastor: Pastor explained the ancient service of Easter Vigil, which will be added at Peace this year. Easter Vigil is a time of celebration, to celebrate that our Lord is passing from death to life. Following custom, and in keeping with the celebratory spirit, a short reception including a champagne toast and light hors d’oeuvres is held after the Vigil. Motion by Lois, support by Charlotte, that Ladies Guild organize and host a reception following the Vigil of Easter. Carol Zeile will organize the event.

Seminary Student Report: A recent letter from our Seminary Student Tim Lorenz is posted on the bulletin board.

Projects: Vern Jakolat, Board of Trustees Chairman, addressed the proposed banner closet. The Trustees evaluated the request and recommend that a banner storage area be constructed in the classroom now used for storage. The Youth Group considered using it as a meeting room, but has decided against it. The shelved area on the north wall of the room,

Ladies Guild Minutes Cont'd

which is now used for Ladies Guild storage, would be the ideal size for the banners. Heavy curtains can be hung instead of doors. The storage shelves can be placed on the south wall of the room, leaving sufficient space so that, if needed, the room could be used as a classroom. If Ladies Guild agrees, Vern will take the proposal to the Church Council. Motion by Carol, support by Marlene, to put the banner closet in the classroom storage area. Approved.

Old Business:

- **Kneeling Bench.** The kneeling bench arrived and is in use. Pastor Messer thanked the Guild for it.
- **Robes for acolytes.** The acolyte robes have been fitted to the children, washed, repaired, and the names affixed to the individual robes. The basic repair consisted of replacing the Velcro. Iron-on Velcro was used.
- **Constitution.** Megan Brown has critiqued the proposed constitution and bylaw changes and the committee needs to meet again.
- **E-Mail cards** are well-received.
- **Lent Dinners.** Coaline reported that the sign-up list is now complete.
- **Recipe books.** The deadline for submitting recipes is September 30th. Recipes may be put in Coaline's mailbox or they may be e-mailed to her. None have been submitted yet.
- **RADA Cutlery:** Five catalogue orders will be placed this week.

New Business:

- **Church anniversary of acceptance to synod:** Peace Lutheran became member of the Missouri Synod on 3/17/63. In observance of the date, cake will be served during the fellowship hour on 3/21.
- **Maundy Thursday:** Carol Zeile will organize the stripping of the Altar.
- **Easter Sunday Breakfast:** Coaline passed around a sign up sheet. Menu will again be Strata, French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Coffee Cake, Fruit, Orange Juice, Tomato Juice, Milk and Coffee.

Thank you to Lois Ramsey for serving as hostesses for tonight's meeting. The next meeting will be April 5, with Charlotte Dargie as hostess.

The meeting closed at 8:45. The Lord's Prayer was prayed in unison after which Pastor Messer gave The Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Ramsey, Secretary

CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION

Immediately following our Easter Vigil

Champagne (Sparkling "Wine" for kids) & hor d'oeuvres to be served as we celebrate our Lord's glorious resurrection!

EASTER BREAKFAST

8:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday

Strata, French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Coffee Cake, Fruit, Orange Juice, Tomato Juice, Milk, and Coffee to be served!

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THESE WONDERFUL
OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP AND
REFRESHMENT!**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT PEACE

Youth Confirmation Classes

- First Year Confirmands meet for instruction on at 10 am, followed by Second Year Confirmands at 11 am.

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

- Sunday School and Adult Bible Class is offered **every Sunday at 11 am** for all children, adult members of Peace, and guests. We are currently using **“A New Song Unto the Lord”**.

Together in the Word

- Our *Together in the Word* Bible Study meets on **Thursday mornings at 10 am**. All men and women of Peace who are available at that time are encouraged to join us. Guests are always welcome as well. We are currently studying the book of **Romans**.

Christian History 101

- Weekly Wednesday classes resume on April 7 at 6 pm, to continue the study of “Christian History 101.”



Happy Birthday to:

1 Freda Hill	20 Carol Zeile
1 Roger Humphrey	21 Jack Langan
1 John Row III	22 Kyle Stahl
10 Lauren Penzien	25 Janice Langan
15 Jenny Baughman	28 Mike Byers
20 Kevin Sellke	30 Samantha Messer

Happy Anniversary to:

8 Chris and Megan Brown
22 Dave and Carol Zeile

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

Christians, to the Paschal Victim! (LSB 460)

Christians, to the Paschal Victim Offer your thankful praises! The Lamb the sheep has ransomed: Christ, who only is sinless, Reconciling sinners to the Father. Death and life have contended In that combat stupendous: The Prince of life, who died, Reigns immortal.

“Speak, Mary, declaring What you saw when wayfaring. The tomb of Christ, who is living, The glory of Jesus’ resurrection; Bright angels attesting, The shroud and napkin resting. My Lord, my hope, is arisen: To Galilee He goes before you.”

Christ indeed from death is risen, Our new life obtaining. Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning! Amen. Alleluia.

PAROCHIAL REPORT

(as of 3/21/2010)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 143; Confirmed - 123

Membership gains: 1

Kylie Stahl—Baptized on Sunday, March 7

Membership losses: 0













Financial Report

YTD Budgeted.....	\$ 26,208.00
YTD Receipts.....	\$ 20,987.45
Difference.....	\$ -5,220.55

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

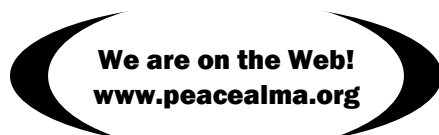
April 2010

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
March 28 Palm/Passion Sunday 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC, SS 	29 <i>Holy Monday</i> 7 am—Matins 12 pm—Divine Service 7 pm—Divine Service 	30 <i>Holy Tuesday</i> 7 am—Matins 12 pm—Divine Service 7 pm—Divine Service 	31 <i>Holy Wednesday</i> 7 am—Matins 12 pm—Divine Service 7 pm—Divine Service 	1 <i>Holy Thursday</i> 7 am - Matins 10 am - Together in Word 12 pm - Divine Service 5 pm - <i>WWatchers</i> 7 pm - Divine Service 	2 <i>Good Friday</i> 7 am - Matins 12 pm - Divine Service 3 pm - Devotion 7:30 - Tenebrae 	3 <i>Holy Saturday</i> 7 am - Matins 10 am - Divine Service  11 am - Decorate Church 8 pm - Easter Vigil
4 <i>Resurrection of Our Lord</i> 7:00—Sunrise Service 8:30—Easter Breakfast 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—Adult Bible Class <i>No Sunday School</i> 	5 <i>Easter Monday</i> 12 pm—Divine Service 7 pm - Ladies Guild	6 <i>Easter Tuesday</i> 12 pm—Divine Service 7 pm - Church Council	7 <i>Easter Wednesday</i> 12 pm—Divine Service 6 pm - “Christian History” 7 pm - Vespers	8 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers	9 10 am - 1st Yr. Conf. 11 am - 2nd Yr. Conf.	10 10 am - 1st Yr. Conf. 11 am - 2nd Yr. Conf.
11 <i>Quasimodo Geniti (Easter 2)</i> 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC, SS 	12 1:30 pm - Lunch Bunch	13 7 pm - Stewardship	14 6 pm - “Christian History” 7 pm - Vespers	15 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers 6:30 pm - SALT Comm.	16 10 am - 1st Yr. Conf. 11 am - 2nd Yr. Conf.	17 10 am - 1st Yr. Conf. 11 am - 2nd Yr. Conf.
18 <i>Misericordias Domini (Easter 3)</i> 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC, SS 5-7 pm - PYG 	19 1:30 pm - Lunch Bunch	20 7 pm - Stewardship	21 6 pm - “Christian History” 7 pm - Vespers	22 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers 7 pm - Table Talk	23 10 am - 1st Yr. Conf. 11 am - 2nd Yr. Conf.	24 10 am - 1st Yr. Conf. 11 am - 2nd Yr. Conf.
25 <i>Jubilate (Easter 4)</i> 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC, SS 11:00—VOTERS’ ASSEMBLY 	26 Newsletter articles due	27 6 pm - “Christian History” 7 pm - Divine service <i>Feast of St. Mark</i> 	28 6 pm - “Christian History” 7 pm - Divine service <i>Feast of St. Mark</i>	29 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers 7 pm - Table Talk	30 6 pm - Peace Movie Night	May 1 10 am - 1st Yr. Conf. 11 am - 2nd Yr. Conf.

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 April

March	ELDER	ACOLYTES	USHERS	GREETERS
28 - 9:30 am (Palm/Passion Sunday)	Larry Elliott	Aaron Messer Natalie Penzien	Vern Jakolat Kevin Sellke	Bob and Jo Wendt
April				
1 - 7:00 pm (Holy Thursday)	Miguel Ortiz	Sarah Messer Paige Harwager	Bill Hendrick Daren Johnson	NA
2 - 12:00 pm (Good Friday Noon)	Terry Luplow	NA	Vern Jakolat Daren Johnson	NA
2 - 7:30 pm (Good Friday Tenebrae)	Larry Elliott	NA	Vern Jakolat Chris Brown	NA
3 - 8:00 pm (Easter Vigil)	Miguel Ortiz	Aaron Messer Samantha Messer	Vern Jakolat	NA
4 - 7:00 am (Easter Sunrise)	Terry Luplow	NA	Vern Jakolat Gary Miller	NA
4 - 9:30 am (Feast of Resurrection)	Miguel Ortiz	Melanie Penzien Sierra Luplow	Gary Miller Jonathan Penzien	LeRoy and Maxine Isaksson
11 - 9:30 am (Easter 2)	Larry Elliott	Samantha Messer Myka Luplow	Chris Brown James Sager	Lisa Messer and Family
18 - 9:30 am (Easter 3)	Terry Luplow	Morgan Johnson Tyrel Harwager	Daren Johnson Vern Jakolat	Jenny Baughman
25 - 9:30 am (Easter 4)	Miguel Ortiz	Aaron Messer Natalie Penzien	Vern Jakolat Phillip Schafer	Jon Penzien and Family
May				
2 - 9:30 am (Easter 5)	Larry Elliott	Sarah Messer Paige Harwager	Vern Jakolat Kevin Sellke	Charlotte Dargie Marlene Miller

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