

March, 2010

The Peace Post

Peace Lutheran Church ~ Alma, MI

From the Desk of Pastor Messer “You ARE Being Fed!”



“I’m just not being fed.” That is the complaint many people utter when they become dissatisfied with their church, for one reason or another. Usually, people who complain about “not being fed” really mean to say that the church is not meeting their expectations or “felt needs.” It rarely has anything to do with them being fed or not.

This is especially obvious when people lodge this complaint from within a traditional, liturgical, Lutheran congregation where the Holy Word and Sacraments are delivered faithfully and reverently on a continual basis. It is not that they are not being fed; it is, rather, that they long for a different Meal. This can only be due to the fact that they do not understand what actually takes place in the Divine Service.

In the Divine Service, our Lord comes into our presence, as He promised, to Feed His flock with the richest of Foods. He first serves us with His Holy Absolution upon the confession of our sins, assuring us that our sins are forgiven and forgotten. Simply delicious! In response, we sing the Introit (Psalm) and plead for the Lord to continue to have mercy upon us in the Kyrie, to which our appetite is further quenched with the glorious song of the angels wherein we hear that we have received the mercy we seek in the Incarnate Son, born into our flesh to bear our sins and be our Savior (Gloria in Excelsis). Scrumptious! Next we petition our Lord in the Collect of the Day to strengthen our faith and He responds by filling us with the sweet honey of His Holy Word (Old Testament, Epistle, Gradual, Holy Gospel, Sermon). Tasty! Already, our hunger is more than quenched. But with the Lord there is always more! So, He prepares a Table for us and invites us to dine on the Fruits of His Cross, which is our Tree of Life, serving us with His very Body and Blood, the Manna from heaven which sustains us as we make our way through the wilderness of this sinful world. No gourmet meal in this world can compare with this rich Feast! But, again, there is always more with our Lord. Having received the Holy Meal of His Holy Word and Sacrament, He sends us on our way with His peace and with His blessing, assuring us that He is with us as we go back out into the world. If we are not stuffed full with the delicious Food our Lord provides in the Divine Service by the time we hear the Benediction, we must have an eating disorder, for there is surely nothing wrong with the Menu or the Waiter. You cannot possibly faithfully receive the rich Food our Lord serves up in the Divine Service and “not be fed.” If you still feel hungry, something is amiss with your faith, as you must be longing for a different sort of “food.”

Dear friends in Christ, the beauty of the Divine liturgy is that it guarantees that you are fed by your Lord. Even if the pastor’s sermon is especially bland that day, or the organist goofs up, or the choir doesn’t sound the greatest, or you don’t feel especially “inspired,” you can rest assured that your Lord has fed you—and fed you well! He always shows up to serve you with His gifts. He is always faithful. He always feeds His flock. You are never, ever “not fed” in the Divine Service!

In Christ,

Pastor Messer

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The Holiest Week of the Year

*(Based on an article by Pastor
Messer from yesteryear)*

In a few weeks, we will enter the most important week in the Church Year. Holy Week is so named because, well, it is the holiest week of the year. Why? Because, during this week, we commemorate the Passion of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, by which He won salvation for us through His holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death. This is the week when we most fully meditate upon the mysterious and glorious work our Lord did in our place and on our behalf. This is the week when the reason for our celebration at Christmas finds its fulfillment, for the Baby born in Bethlehem came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and became man precisely to do what He does during Holy Week—to suffer and die on the cross to save us, and to rise on the third day to open for us the way to eternal life.

The whole world should stop everything during this week and take time to meditate upon its holy events. But, the whole world won't do that. This will just be another week for the world. Businesses will not close; sports events will not be put on hold; the television will not cease broadcasting its shows, and so on. The world will march through this week without giving its holy nature a second thought.

This is to be expected, of course. The world wants nothing to do with Christ and His salvation. There is nothing holy about this week in the eyes of the unbelieving, dead, and dying world.

But, who would expect Christians to allow this week to come and go without embracing its holy nature? Indeed, how could Christians possibly let this week just pass them by? It seems unthinkable, and yet, this is exactly what many Christians do. They pay the holiest week of the year little attention, if any—and that is very, very sad.

I pray fervently that such will not be the case with the

saints here at Peace. Do not let this week just pass you by, dear friends. You are Christians, and Holy Week is all about what your Lord and Savior did for you, so that you may be receive the blessings which belong to Christians.

In order to give all of the saints here at Peace an opportunity to embrace this holiest of weeks, we are offering numerous Holy Week Services again this year. Every day of Holy Week (Monday through Saturday) will begin with the praying of Matins at 7:00 a.m. On Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, and Holy Wednesday, Divine Service (spoken) will be held at both Noon and 7:00 p.m. (the Divine Service on these days are identical, but are being offered twice to allow everyone the opportunity to attend). On Holy (Maundy) Thursday, we'll have Divine Service at Noon (spoken) and a different, sung Divine Service at 7:00 p.m., featuring the Stripping of the Altar. On Good Friday, we'll gather for the Chief Divine Service at Noon, have a short Devotion at the Sacred Hour at 3:00 p.m., and gather for the Service of Tenebrae at 7:30 p.m. On Holy Saturday, we'll have Divine Service (spoken) at 10:00 a.m. and then gather for Easter Vigil at 8:00 p.m., which is new to our calendar this year (see p. 9 for more details). On Easter Sunday, we'll have two Divine Services: Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m. and the Festival of the Resurrection of Our Lord at 9:30 a.m. (Easter breakfast served between Services). Finally, we'll also have Divine Service at Noon on Easter Monday, Easter Tuesday, and Easter Wednesday the week following. More information about our Holy Week schedule can be found on the next page.

I sincerely hope and pray that these additional opportunities to be in the Holy House of the Lord during the holiest week of the year will afford all of you the chance to allow Holy Week to have its way with you, bringing you ever closer to your Lord, that you may come to the celebration of the Paschal Feast on Easter in all sincerity and truth.

In Christ,
Pastor Messer



Holy Week Schedule



Palm/Passion Sunday—March 28

9:30 a.m.—Divine Service w/Procession of Palms

To commemorate our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall and process into the nave together carrying palm branches and singing, "All Glory, Laud, and Honor." Divine Service with Holy Communion, including the responsive reading of the Passion of Our Lord According to St. Matthew, the Evangelist, will follow.



Holy Monday—March 29

7:00 a.m.—Matins

12:00 p.m.—Divine Service

7:00 p.m.—Divine Service



Holy Tuesday—March 30

7:00 a.m.—Matins

12:00 p.m.—Divine Service

7:00 p.m.—Divine Service



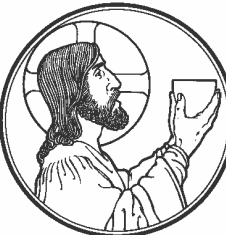
Holy Wednesday—March 31

7:00 a.m.—Matins

12:00 p.m.—Divine Service

7:00 p.m.—Divine Service

We will begin each day, throughout Holy Week, with the praying of Matins at 7:00 a.m. Matins will be spoken responsively, using the readings and prayers found in the Treasury of Daily Prayer, and will provide us the opportunity to begin each day during Holy Week prayerfully focused on our Lord and His Passion. Divine Service (spoken liturgy) will be held at both Noon and 7:00 p.m. (same Service) to allow everyone the opportunity to attend and receive the blessings of Word and Sacrament.



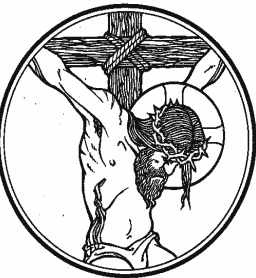
Holy (Maundy) Thursday—April 1

7:00 a.m.—Matins

12:00 p.m.—Divine Service

7:00 p.m.—Divine Service (strip altar)

The focus on this Most Holy Day is on the Blessed Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood, which He instituted on the night when He was betrayed. The Divine Service at 7:00 p.m. will be different from the spoken Divine Service at Noon, and will include the "Christian Questions with Their Answers," written by Dr. Luther for those who intend to go to the Sacrament, and will conclude with the Stripping of the Altar while Psalm 22 is being read.



Good Friday—April 2

7:00 a.m.—Matins

12:00 p.m.—Divine Service

3:00 p.m.—Devotion at the
Sacred Hour

7:30 p.m.—Tenebrae

The Sacred Noonday Good Friday Service will focus on the Seven Words of Christ from the Holy Cross, and will include the Procession of the Sacred Cross and the Distribution of Holy Communion. A short devotion will take place at the Sacred Hour (3:00 p.m.) in which our Lord gave up His Spirit and died. The evening Tenebrae Service will be completely different from the Noon Service. Please note the later start time, which will allow it to be a little darker in the church for the dramatic conclusion to this Most Holy and deeply profound Service.



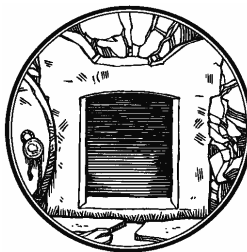
Holy Saturday—April 3

7:00 a.m.—Matins

10:00 a.m.—Divine Service

8:00 p.m.—Easter Vigil

We are restoring the very ancient custom of holding Easter Vigil this year. This is a very special Service which brings a conclusion to the sacred Triduum (see p. 9).



Easter Sunday—The Resurrection of Our Lord—April 4

7:00 a.m.—Sunrise Service

9:30 a.m.—Festival Service

The Sunrise Service will be different from the Festival Service. Both will be festive in nature, and both will include the Holy Sacrament, but they will have different readings, hymns, and sermons. So, you are welcome to attend both, and, if you do, you are most welcome to receive the Sacrament at both. Easter Breakfast will be served in between the Sacrament at both. Services at 8:30 a.m.

**HE IS RISEN!
HE IS RISEN INDEED!**

Synopsis of February 2 , 2010 Church Council Minutes

Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- President Brown called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer. The following members were present: Carol Zeile, Carolyn Johnson, Larry Elliott, Vern Jakolat, Sharyn Greening, Megan Brown and Chris Brown. Pastor Messer was also present.

Approval of Agenda

- Treasurer Zeile requested that the agenda be amended to include a proposal from Ladies Guild under New Business. Councilmember Jakolat also requested to add updated signatories for Youth Group accounts under New Business. Motion made by President Brown, supported by Councilmember Johnson to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Treasurer Zeile, supported by Councilmember Johnson to approve the minutes from January 5. Motion carried unanimously.

Report(s)

- **Pastor** – Pastor Messer presented the attached report. The Council received the report into record.
- **Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Zeile presented the attached report. The Council received the report into record.
- **Financial Secretary** – No report.
- **Boards**
 - **Board of Elders** – Councilmember Elliott is working with the Board to set up a meeting. Councilmember Elliott also reported on his progress to negotiate a better contract for the copier lease.
 - **Board of Trustees** – Councilmember Jakolat reported that a new circuit breaker had been installed for the flood lights and he is setting up a meeting with the Board.
 - **Board of Christian Education** – Councilmember Greening reported that there will be a Board meeting on February 16.
 - **Board of Evangelism** – Councilmember Johnson reported on various events being planned: Mexican Dinner Night, attendance at a Lugnuts Game and bowling night.
 - **Board of Stewardship** – President Brown reported that Bill Harmon has volunteered to chair the Board and has been appointed.
 - **Organization and Committee Reports**
 - **Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild** – No report.
 - **Peace Youth Group** – No report.

Business

- **Ladies Guild Proposal** – Treasurer Zeile informed the Council that the Ladies Guild would like help from the Board of Trustees to expand the area currently being used for banner storage. There is currently not enough room and the Guild would cover the cost for materials. Councilmember Jakolat will discuss the project with the Board of Trustees and work with the Ladies Guild on additional details.
- **Update Signatories on Youth Group Accounts** – Motion made by Councilmember Elliott, supported by President Brown to remove Elizabeth Brostrom from all Peace Youth Group bank accounts and to add Sharyn Greening and Mary Jakolat to all Peace Youth Group bank accounts. Motion carried unanimously.

General Comment

- None.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm. Pastor Messer led the Lord's Prayer and closed with the Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Brown, Secretary

PEACE NEWS & NOTES

PYG NEWS

March Events

PLANNING MEETING

Sunday, March 14 - Fellowship Hour

MONTHLY MEETING

Sunday, March 21 - 5pm-7pm Fellowship Hall

EASTER DECORATIONS

Saturday, April 3 - 11 am-Noon

EASTER BREAKFAST (assist)

Sunday, April 4 - 8-9 am

Greetings in Christ,

I wish to thank everyone for your support and efforts for the PYG's Lenten Dinner Night. It was a wonderful time with all of you.

We will be holding a short (10-20 minute) planning meeting during fellowship on the 14th. All Youth are encouraged to join us as we plan activities and goals for the remainder of the year, but primarily for the second quarter of the year.

We also need to look at the possibility of attending Higher Things in 2011. All Youth who will be confirmed by the summer of 2011 are encouraged to attend the planning meeting so that we can get a tentative group size.

With Easter Sunday occurring on the first Sunday in April, I want to remind the Youth of our tradition of decorating the Fellowship Hall and assisting the Ladies' Guild with the Easter morning breakfast.

Order form for Easter lilies is on the announcement board in Fellowship Hall.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support of the Youth here at Peace and with our fundraisers and activities - especially your time and interaction with them.

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



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.

Ladies Lunch Bunch

We will meet at Alma's Pizza Hut for lunch on Monday, March 15 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!

PLAN AHEAD - - -

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will be held the week of June 14-18. There will be a planning meeting on March 15 at 7 pm for anyone interested in helping. Volunteers are needed for teaching, snacks, crafts, recreation, and advertising.



PEACE NEWS & NOTES Cont'd



A HUGE THANK YOU to all of you who donated toward our Issues, Etc. 300 collection. We raised the \$500 necessary to match the \$500 we had budgeted and sent in our donation a couple of weeks ago. What a blessing it is to be numbered among those congregations that support this Christ-centered, Cross-focused Worldwide Outreach! Thanks again!

SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING

Throughout the season of Lent, we will be taking up a collection for a special mission offering to support *The Siberian Lutheran Mission Society*. Everyone is encouraged to pick up an offering can in the fellowship hall and fill it with your spare change (folding money is okay, too!) throughout Lent, and to bring them back to the church on Easter Sunday. If you would like to make a donation via check, please make it payable to Peace. You can fold the check and put it in the can or give it directly to Pastor Messer. For more information on *The Siberian Lutheran Mission Society*, see page 10. Thanks in advance for your generous support!

TABLE TALK

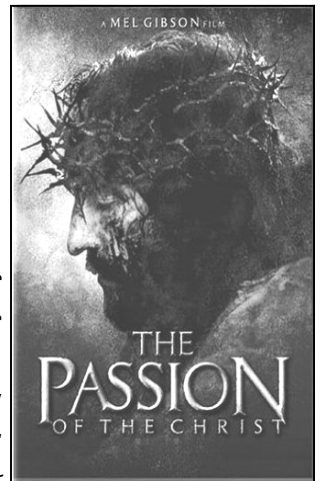
Our Table Talks are informal and informative discussions with Pastor Messer on various topics decided by the group in attendance. Plus, THEY'RE FUN! Our next Table Talk will take place on **Thursday, March 4 at 7 p.m.** at the church. All are invited. We hope you're able to join us!



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.

PEACE MOVIE NIGHT FRIDAY, MARCH 26 "The Passion of the Christ"

We will watch this movie once again as we prepare to enter the Holiest Week of the Church Year. No matter how many times you watch this movie, every viewing is edifying, so please plan on joining us!



6:00 pm - Pizza and beverages

6:30 pm—INTRODUCTION & DEVOTION BY
PASTOR MESSER

6:50 pm—THE MOVIE (Length: 2 hours, 6 minutes)

9:00 pm—DISCUSSION LED BY PASTOR MESSER

Bring your own comfy chairs if you wish
A freewill offering will be collected to support
future movie nights. Hope to see you there!

NOTE: This movie is rated R for sequences of graphic violence (children under 17 must be accompanied by an adult or parents must speak with Pastor Messer to give their consent)

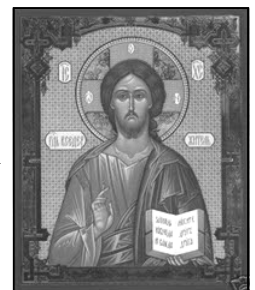
SALT NEWS

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

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, March 1 at 7 pm.** 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.

PEACE LUTHERAN LADIES GUILD

AND



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

- 2 - receiving blankets
- 2—shirts
- 2 - gowns or sleepers
- 4 - cloth diapers
- 1 - sweater
- 2 - washcloths
- 1 - bath-size bar of soap
- 2 - diaper pins

Wrap the items in one of the receiving blankets and secure with diaper pins.

Any of the above items may be donated separately from the kit.

Collections Accepted until March 31, 2010

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.

Altar Care



March

Carol Zeile

April

Carol Zeile

May

Megan Brown

Coffee Hostesses

March

- 7 Andrea Elliott
- 14 Jo Wendt
- 21 Cassie Tennant
- 28 Jenny Baughman

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



Ladies' Guild Minutes

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH LADIES' GUILD MINUTES

FEBRUARY 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, Gretchen Harrison and Pastor Messer. The devotion, presented by Coaline, was "*Calling Considered*" the Portals of Prayer reading for the day. Mites were collected.

Secretary Report: The Secretary Report was approved as presented.

Treasurer Report: An additional \$20 for table rental was received, making the final tally for the 2009 Cookie Walk and Craft Show, \$2,034.24 (Receipts, \$1683.70, less expenses, \$69.46, plus \$420 Thrivent Funds). Mites collected in 2009 totaled \$193 and went toward the \$50.00 monthly support of our seminary student, Tim Lorenz. The current account balances are: Checking, \$660.05 and Savings, \$2,356.05.

Committee Reports:

- **Altar:** Carol Zeile. Carol continued with readings from the LCMS Altar Guild Manual; the next season of the church year is the Season of Lent. It is a penitential time of prayer and growing in faith, remembering our baptism, and remembering the Passion of Christ. The season is a time to focus on preparation for Easter. The observance of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and the placing of ashes on the forehead is a sign of penitence. The Altar and Chancel are the most restrained during this part of the church year. The liturgical colors in Lent are Violet (sorrowful) and Black, with Black being used on Ash Wednesday. Flowers are not suitable during Lenten Season. Discussion followed. The reading did not mention the candelabras, which were removed from the chancel during Advent. Pastor explained the purpose for removing the candelabras during Advent is because the Church is waiting for the Light. The Messiah has come and we are celebrating the Incarnation. Consensus is that beginning with Ash Wednesday to have no altar flowers until Maundy Thursday. During Lent, the flower stands will be placed in the fellowship hall and floral arrangements may be placed on them. Lenten Banners will be hung in the chancel area and in the nave.
- **Banner:** Gretchen Harrison. Gretchen plans to update the Banner Book and include more information on individual banners.
- **Kitchen:** Coaline Luplow and Lois Ramsey. Lois reported that \$43 was received in coffee fund donations during January and \$40.79 was spent for supplies, leaving a balance on Feb. 1 of \$42.94.
- **Library:** Coaline Luplow. No new books have been added to the library
- **Sunshine:** Marlene Miller. Marlene mentioned, for the ladies to think about and to discuss at the March meeting, about sending on-line e-cards to members who have e-mail addresses. This could be a cost-saving factor for Guild. The initial response was that she could begin doing this; however, in discussion that followed, comment was made that some folks didn't check e-mail regularly and some people preferred to receive a card in the mail. A survey will be done among members with e-mail addresses to determine those who would enjoy receiving an e-mail card.
- **Special Events:** Coaline Luplow and Lois Ramsey. Lenten Suppers begin on Ash Wednesday.
- **Charitable Donations:** Dorothy Trgina. A box is needed for the LWR donations.
- **Comments by Pastor:** Pastor did not present comments, but gave suggestions and input throughout the meeting.
- **Seminary Student Report:** There has been no recent letter from our Seminary Student Tim Lorenz, who will be graduating this year.
- **Projects:** Display boxes for the RADA Cutlery have been purchased. Consensus is to have the cutlery on display in the fellowship hall and available for sale on the 3rd Sunday of each month. RADA catalogues will be available. A notice will be placed in the Sunday bulletins for the next two Sundays and an article will appear in the Peace Post.

Old Business:

- **Banner Room.** An area to appropriately store the banners was discussed. It needs to be spacious enough for easy access to identify the banners and to allow the banners to hang straight and wrinkle-free. Discussion centered on possible changes and improvements to the current storage area in the large classroom, which has two enclosed closets with a metal file cabinet placed in an alcove between them. A suggestion is to remove the file cabinet and remodel the space into one longer, wider, and deeper closet to accommodate the banners. Consensus is to present the idea to the Church Council and to coordinate with them. Ladies Guild will pay for the project.
- **Robes for acolytes.** The acolyte robe arrived and it was determined that the sizing and cut of the garment runs too small for our children. Consensus reached to inventory the current robes, disposing of the bad ones, repairing the good ones and fitting and matching them to the children. Sharyn volunteered to work with the children in fitting the robes and Carol volunteered to help her. A decision was not made regarding who will do the actual repair work.
- **Constitution.** The committee completed its work and Sharyn distributed copies of the proposed document. Megan Brown has not looked at it yet and no action was taken.
- **Kneeling bench.** A catalogue was passed around with pictures of kneeling benches. Pastor Messer selected the one he liked best. Motion by Marlene, support by Mary, to purchase the kneeling bench from the Autom catalogue for \$150 (plus shipping and handling, etc.). Approved.

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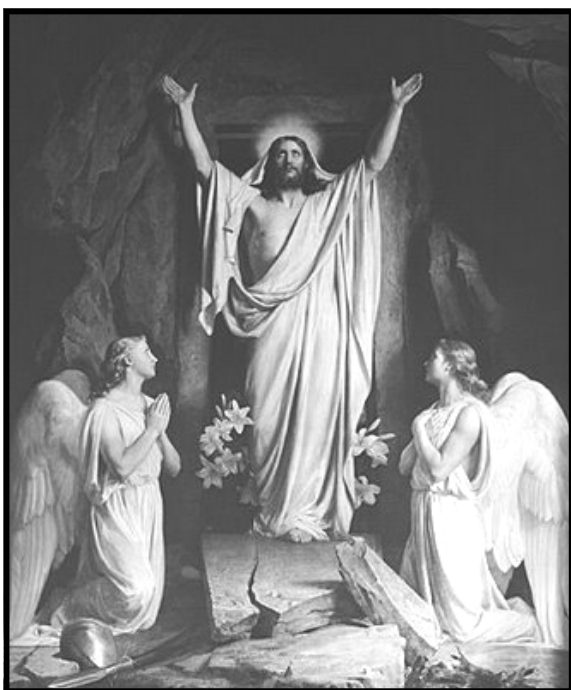
- **Lenten Suppers.** The Youth Group will host the supper on Ash Wednesday, February 17 and the S.A.L.T. Committee will host the supper the following week on February 24. Coaline passed a sign-up sheet for the remaining weeks.
- **Recipe books.** The deadline for submitting recipes is September 30th. Recipes may be put in Coaline's mailbox or they may be e-mailed to her.
- **Christmas decorations.** The decorations will be taken down on Feb. 6. Coaline mentioned that a plastic storage box is needed for the glass ornaments on the little tree. Sharyn will purchase a box.

New Business:

- **Charitable donations:** In keeping with the proposed updated Constitution and By-Laws, we discussed use of the Mite money collected at our regular meetings. Motion by Sharyn, support by Charlotte, that the Mite money collected be donated to the Christian Care Fund. Mites will be collected at each regular meeting and, on a quarterly basis, a check will be written to Peace Lutheran Church for the Christian Care Fund. Approved. The Christian Care Fund allows Pastor Messer to have cash on hand to help people who come to him for assistance.
- **Crucifix for new babies.** Brochures were passed around of two styles of crucifixes. Motion by Charlotte, support by Marlene, to purchase two 7" crucifixes at a cost of about \$30 each (plus shipping and handling, etc.). Approved. The crucifixes are for Kylie Stahl and for the expected Elliott baby.
- **Praying hands.** After discussion, consensus reached that a protective lighted case for the Praying Hands located in the fellowship hall is not needed.
- **Prayer chain etiquette.** A concern was expressed about the prayer chain. It was stressed that the exchanges should be kept simple. All that is required is the name of the person the prayer is requested for and the problem. Ask the person to repeat the prayer request before continuing the chain.

Thank you to Marlene Miller and Charlotte Dargie for serving as hostesses for tonight's meeting. The **next meeting will be March 1 at 7:00 p.m.**, with Lois Ramsey as hostess. The meeting closed at 8:45, with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Ramsey, Secretary



Re-Introducing the Easter Vigil

The Vigil of Easter has, from ancient times, been one of the most important Services of the Church Year. Sadly, many Lutherans have allowed this Service, like many other ancient and salutary traditions, to fall into disuse, mostly due to Protestant influence here in America. But, there is a huge push among Lutherans to restore the Easter Vigil to its rightful place on our liturgical calendar, and the percentage of Lutheran congregations in our synod that celebrate the Vigil has risen dramatically in the last couple of decades, which is very good news. This year, we will join the ranks of those Lutherans who have re-introduced the Easter Vigil. We will celebrate the **Easter Vigil at 8:00 p.m. on Holy Saturday.**

The Easter Vigil serves as the conclusion to the sacred Triduum (the three holy days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday). The Vigil is divided into six parts: 1) The Service of Light, 2) The Service of Readings, 3) The Service of Holy Baptism, 4) The Service of Prayer, 5) The Service of the Word, and 6) The Service of the Sacrament. The Vigil begins outside around a fire, from which the Paschal Candle is lit. From the Paschal Candle, the congregants' individual candles are lit. After the brief liturgy which accompanies the lighting of the candles, the congregation processes into the church for the remainder of the Service, which begins in darkness, but ends in light to celebrate the Light of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ, overcoming the darkness of death with His glorious resurrection. Central to this beautiful Service are the Sacraments, as congregants renew their Baptismal vows and conclude by receiving the very Body and Blood of their crucified and risen Lord. Readings from Holy Scripture fill our ears with the salvation story revealed to us therein, and we respond with appropriate prayers and petitions. If you have ever attended an Easter Vigil, you can attest to the beauty of this wonderful Service. If you haven't, I hope you will consider joining us this year. Immediately follow the Vigil, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a short Reception featuring champagne (sparkling "wine" for the under-aged) and hors d'oeuvres to celebrate the fact that the Lord for whom we have kept the Vigil is Risen Indeed!

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**.

Lenten Bible Study

- Weekly classes are held on **Wednesdays at 5 pm** during Lent. The class is studying the “Our Suffering Savior” series. We will return to the “Christian History 101” study after Lent.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

MARCH

Happy Birthday to:

1 Tyrel Harwager	20 Barbara Komar
1 Zane Luplow	22 Ken Hill
5 Tina Schafer	27 Ashleigh Rodriguez
8 Ariel Row	28 Donna Bebow
11 Bob Wendt	29 Jessica Oswald
20 Morgan Johnson	31 Debra Penzien

Happy Anniversary to:

19 Miguel and Susan Ortiz

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



THE SIBERIAN LUTHERAN
MISSION SOCIETY



The Siberian Lutheran Mission Society (SLMS) encourages, enables and supports the important work of Lutherans and The Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELC) in Siberian regions of Russia.

The growing Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELC) is a place where the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the Holy Sacraments offered to sinners seeking forgiveness and healing of body and soul.

While they may speak a different language, our Siberian brothers and sisters in Christ are baptized in the name of the same Lord and worship the same Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our mission begins and finds its conclusion in the Word and Sacraments properly administered.

For more info, visit our website: www.tslms.org

PAROCHIAL REPORT

(as of 2/21/2010)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 142; Confirmed - 123

Membership gains: 2

John & Tanarae Lemmermann—Transferred from Zion Lutheran Church in Mt. Pleasant, MI

Membership losses: 3

Ryan, Sarah, and Evelyn Cummins—Transferred to Our Savior Lutheran Church in Lansing, MI
















Financial Report

YTD Budgeted.....	\$ 17,472.00
YTD Receipts.....	\$ 13,363.45
Difference.....	\$-4,108.55

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

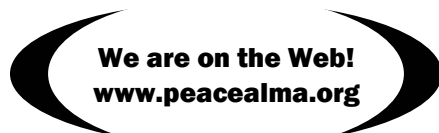
Peace Lutheran Church
325 E. Warwick Drive
Alma, MI 48801
(989) 463-5754
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March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	
	7 pm - Ladies Guild	<i>Pastor Messer @ Winkler</i> 7 pm - Church Council	Reminiscere Midweek 5 pm - Lenten Bible Study 6 pm - Soup Supper 7 pm - Divine Service 	10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers 7 pm - Table Talk		10 am - 1st Yr. Conf. 11 am - 2nd Yr. Conf.
7 Oculi (Lent 3) 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC, SS 	8	9	10 Oculi Midweek 5 pm - Lenten Bible Study 6 pm - Soup Supper 7 pm - Divine Service 	11 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers	12 10 am - 1st Yr. Conf. 11 am - 2nd Yr. Conf.	13 10 am - 1st Yr. Conf. 11 am - 2nd Yr. Conf.
14 Laetare (Lent 4) 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 10:45 - PYG Planning 11:00 - BC, SS 	15 1:30 pm - Lunch Bunch 7 pm - Board of Christian Education VBS Planning	16	17 Laetare Midweek 5 pm - Lenten Bible Study 6 pm - Soup Supper 7 pm - Divine Service 	18 10 am - Together in Word 12 pm - Div. Service <i>Feast of St. Joseph</i> 5 pm - Weight Watchers 6:30 pm - SALT Mtg.	19 10 am - 1st Yr. Conf. 11 am - 2nd Yr. Conf.	20 10 am - 1st Yr. Conf. 11 am - 2nd Yr. Conf.
21 Judica (Lent 5) 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC, SS 5-7 pm - PYG 	22 <i>Newsletter articles due</i>	23	24 Judica Midweek 11 am - Elders Mtg. 5 pm - Lenten Bible Study 6 pm - Soup Supper 7 pm - Div. Serv. 	25 10 am - Together in Word 12 pm - Divine Service <i>Annunciation of Our Lord</i> 5 pm - WW	26 6 pm - Peace Movie Night <i>"The Passion of the Christ"</i> 	27 10 am - 1st Yr. Conf. 11 am - 2nd Yr. Conf.
28 Palm/Passion Sunday 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC, SS 	29 Holy Monday 7 am - Matins 12 pm - Divine Service 7 pm - Divine Service 	30 Holy Tuesday 7 am - Matins 12 pm - Divine Service 7 pm - Divine Service 	31 Holy Wednesday 7 am - Matins 12 pm - Divine Service 7 pm - Divine Service 	April 1 Holy Thursday 7 am - Matins 10 am - Together in Word 12 pm - Divine Service 5 pm - WW 7 pm - Div. Serv. 	2 Good Friday 7 am - Matins 12 pm - Divine Service 3 pm - Devotion 7:30 - Tenebrae 	3 Holy Saturday 7 am - Matins 10 am - Divine Service 11 am - Decorate Church 8 pm - Easter Vigil 

Peace Lutheran Church
325 E. Warwick Dr.
Alma, MI 48801

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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 March

March	ELDER	ACOLYTES	USHERS	GREETERS
3 - 7:00 pm (Reminiscere Midweek)				
7 - 9:30 am (Oculi - Lent 3)	Dave Zeile	Melanie Penzien Sierra Luplow	Vern Jakolat Phillip Schafer	Larry and Andrea Elliott
10 - 7:00 pm (Oculi Midweek)				
14 - 9:30 am (Laetare - Lent 4)	Terry Luplow	Samantha Messer Myka Luplow	Bill Hendrick Jonathan Penzien	Terry and Coaline Luplow
17 - 7:00 pm (Laetare Midweek)				
21 - 9:30 am (Judica - Lent 5)	Miguel Ortiz	Morgan Johnson Tyrel Harwager	Chris Brown Daren Johnson	Lillian Manns Lois Ramsey
24 - 7:00 pm (Judica Midweek)				
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 Elliott	Sarah Messer Paige Harwager		
2 - 12:00 pm (Good Friday Noon)	Terry Luplow	NA	Vern Jakolat	
2 - 7:30 pm (Good Friday Tenebrae)	Larry Elliott	NA	Vern Jakolat Chris Brown	

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