

# The Peace Post

Peace Lutheran Church ~ Alma, MI

Vol. 9, No. 1 January 2013

Peace Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We believe, teach, and confess the doctrine of the evangelical, catholic faith as it is taught by Holy Scripture and faithfully confessed in the Book of Concord of 1580. We are committed to the pure preaching of God's Word and the right administration of the Holy Sacraments, catechesis of all people in the Christian faith, and liturgical worship consistent with our Reformation heritage. We are an evangelical, orthodox, and catholic congregation, proclaiming Jesus Christ crucified, risen, and reigning for the salvation of the world!



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## From the Desk of Pastor Messer

### "A New Year of Being Made New"

*"And He who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new!'" (Rev. 21:5)*

Notice the tense of the verb spoken by our Lord Jesus Christ in the verse above. It is not past or future, but present. He doesn't say I have made or will make all things new, but I *am making* all things new!

That is very significant, my friends, for it assures us that our Lord Jesus Christ is no absentee landlord, but an active Savior and very present help in our time of need. It is true that He "*made* all things new" by His death and resurrection and that He "*will make* all things new" on the Last Day when He returns in glory, but it is equally true that He is, even now, "*making* all things new." He is "with us always" just as He promised to be. He continues to do mighty things in our presence, gifting us with forgiveness, life, and salvation through the precious means of grace He Himself established—His Holy Word and Sacraments. As we continue to come into His presence and receive these gifts from His gracious hands, He continues to make us new, preserving us as His beautiful and immaculate Bride, perfectly holy and righteous in His Father's sight.

It is this glorious truth, this beautiful promise, this awesome reality, which allows us to transition into a new earthly year without fear, and full of confidence. We don't know what lies ahead for us in this new year, but we do know that nothing—not financial difficulties, not broken relationships, not illness or injury, not even death—can separate us from the love God has for us who are continuously made new by His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord (cf. Rom. 8:37-39). For that reason, we can rest assured that this new year (like all new years) will be one of extraordinary blessing for us, for it will be a new year of being made new by our Lord.

Thus, let us resolve to heed the exhortation given us in Hebrews and "*consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near*" (Heb. 10:24-25). For it is when we "meet together" in the Divine Service that our Lord washes us clean in His Blood and makes us ever new.

A blessed New Year to all!

Your servant in Christ,  
*Pastor Messer*



# Ceremonial Catechesis

## What's Up With All That Bowing?

In my initial article for this new series last month, I addressed the reason why we practice the elevation and genuflection during the Words of Institution. I also spent a great deal of time addressing the oft-heard accusation against many ancient ceremonies that they are “too (Roman) Catholic.” I won’t spend time here, or in the future, rehashing that, but suffice it to say, what I said last month on that front applies to many of the ceremonies I’ll be discussing in the months ahead, beginning with this month’s topic: Bowing.

*“Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker” (Psalm 95:6).* Many of you may recognize that Psalm verse from the Venite, which is sung during Matins. It sums things up rather nicely, namely that worship and bowing go hand in hand. In fact, the very word we translate “worship” in both the Hebrew of the Old Testament and the Greek of the New Testament means, “to prostrate oneself in reverence.” Thus, a literal translation of that famous Psalm verse is, “*Oh come, let us **prostrate ourselves in reverence** and bow down before the LORD, our Maker.*” Worship and bowing go hand in hand. To worship is to bow. Literally.

For that reason, the ceremonial act of bowing has always been part and parcel of Christian worship. It is the natural reaction we see time and time again in Holy Scripture when sinners come into the presence of our Holy God. We bow because we know that we’re not worthy to be in God’s presence. We bow in fear and submission and humility. We bow in reverence. We bow also in adoration. It’s only natural and proper and right. We bow. We worship. Same thing.

Most of you already know this, and do this, by instinct. When you approach the altar of your Lord, you bow. It comes naturally. No one has to tell you, or remind you, that this is what you should do—you just do it. It just feels right and proper to do so, because, well, it is. You worship your Lord, that is, you bow.

There are different kinds or forms of bowing: Bowing of the head, bowing at the waist, genuflecting (bowing and placing your right knee on the ground), or full blown prostration (bowing all the way to the ground and lying flat on your face). During the Divine Service, there are several times when it is appropriate and customary to bow in the different ways mentioned (with the exception of prostration, which is rarely done), and you have undoubtedly noticed the elder and I, and other members, doing so. What follows is a summary of all the usual times during the Divine Service when the ceremonial act of bowing is appropriate and customary. But, let me make this clear before proceeding: This is not Law! Our Lord is not going to strike you down if you do not bow at this or that time during the Divine Service. While bowing at the usual times listed below is appropriate and customary, Jesus is not keeping track of who bows and who doesn’t (and neither should you!). The purpose of ceremonies is not to demand lockstep uniformity in bodily actions by all attendant worshipers. The purpose of ceremonies, as was indicated last month, is to teach the faithful what they need to know about Christ. Bowing is just another in a long list of ancient ceremonies that serves to do that teaching. Bowing teaches the faithful that they are in our Lord’s Holy House of Prayer, where He is Present among them to serve them. Bowing is a recognition of that awesome reality and teaches the faithful that their humility, reverence, and adoration are in order. Bowing also teaches the faithful that it is appropriate and customary to revere their Lord not only with their lips, but with their bodies. But, to be sure, this is not Law. You are invited in Gospel freedom to bow at the appropriate and customary times, but certainly not demanded to do so. With that caveat out of the way, here are the times during the Divine Service when bowing is appropriate and customary:

***Upon entering or leaving the pew:*** Many Lutherans will either bow their heads or bow at their waists, and some will even genuflect, toward the altar upon entering or leaving the pew. They do so in recognition that they have entered the Holy Place where their Lord will soon be (or has been) Present among them upon the Holy Altar and they wish to show Him reverence. Any of the various forms of bowing are appropriate and customary here.

***During the Processional or Recessional:*** When the Processional Crucifix passes your pew, either during the processional or recessional, it is appropriate and customary to bow your head in reverence to your Lord, whose work of your salvation is symbolized by the Crucifix (it is also appropriate and customary to make the sign of the cross at this time, too, but I'll discuss that ceremony in a future article).

***At the Gloria Patri:*** The Gloria Patri means "Glory be to the Father" and is shorthand for any time we say or sing, "Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit (Ghost)." Whenever we say or sing glory to the full Name of our Triune God (during the Introit, the Nunc Dimittis, or any other time), it is appropriate and customary to bow at the waist out of reverence and adoration for His Name. That bowing should begin at the word "Glory" and be maintained all the way through the word "Spirit" ( or "Ghost"), after which you cease bowing and stand (or sit) upright again.

***At the Name of Jesus:*** St. Paul says in Philippians 2:9-10, "*Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*" Ultimately, this will be fulfilled on the Last Day when every human being ever created will stand before Jesus for judgment. On that Day, everyone will bow before Him and confess Him as Lord, believers and unbelievers alike. But, Christians already do this. Thus, from the very earliest days in the Church, Christians began the custom of bowing their heads each and every time the Name of Jesus was spoken or sung during the Divine Service, except during the sermon, when they fixed their eyes on the pastor who was preaching Jesus to them. In bowing the head at the Name of Jesus, Christians are affirming that His Name is indeed above all names and that He is indeed worthy of our eternal reverence and adoration. Speaking from experience, once you begin this practice, it becomes second nature fairly quickly, so that your head will bow when your ears hear the Name of Jesus without you even thinking about it, and that really is a beautiful thing if you take the time to ponder it.

***During the Singing of the Gloria in Excelsis:*** There are a few places during the singing of the Gloria in Excelsis where it is appropriate and customary to bow the head (or at the waist). At the words ". . . we worship Thee . . . for Thy great glory . . . have mercy upon us . . . receive our prayer . . . have mercy upon us." And, as already mentioned, at the Name of Jesus, it is appropriate and customary to bow your head. The first couple of times mentioned here ("we worship Thee" and "for Thy great glory") are worthy of our bows because we are singing about worshiping our Lord specifically for His Holy Incarnation, i.e. His becoming Flesh to live and die for us. That's what "Thy great glory" refers to here—His Incarnation. Definitely worthy of our reverence. And, besides, worship and bowing go hand in hand, as mentioned above, so it is only naturally to bow when we're singing about worshiping our Lord. The other times mentioned here ("have mercy upon us" [twice] and "receive our prayer") are worthy of our bows because we're petitioning the Lamb of God who takest away the sin of the world to have mercy upon us and receive our prayer, and certainly bowing is an appropriate posture for that.

***At the Salutation:*** The Salutation is when the pastor says, "The Lord be with you," and you respond, "And with your spirit" (or, "And also with you"). This happens three times in the Divine Service. It is appropriate and customary to bow at your waist as the pastor extends his arms toward you and says his part, and for the pastor to bow at his waist as you extend your arms toward him and say your part. Why? Because this is not a simple greeting taking place here, but a confession of the reality in which we've all entered. When the pastor says, "The Lord be with you," he's not saying, "Good morning," or "How y'all doing today?" or "Gee, I hope the Lord will be with you today," etc. No, he's making a confession that the Lord is, in fact, with you. He is in our midst. He is here—with us. And that is worthy of your reverence. Likewise, when you respond to the pastor, you're not saying, "And a good morning backatya, pastor," or "Gee, I hope the Lord will be with you today, too, pastor," etc. No, you're confessing back to the pastor that what he has confessed is true. You're saying, "Yes, pastor, the Lord is with us, for He speaks to us through you, His called and ordained servant." What you're really doing is reaffirming the ordination of the pastor, recognizing that the Office he is fulfilling is Christ's Office, that your pastor stands before you *in persona Christi*, in the person of Christ. That's why the Salutation has often been referred to as a "Mini-Ordination Rite." And that is certainly worthy of the pastor's reverence. So, you bow; then, I bow. We worship our Lord Jesus, who is with us.

***During the Nicene Creed:*** Again, at the Name of Jesus, it is appropriate and customary to bow your head. You may have also noticed a couple of other bows done by the elder and I while reciting the Creed. We genuflect during the words, ". . . and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man," making the sign of the cross at the words "and was made man." This practice goes way, way back in the Church, as Christians have always given the Holy Incarnation of our Lord Jesus their highest reverence and adoration. While our nave is not conducive to everyone genuflecting at that point in the Creed, it is

certainly appropriate and customary for congregants to bow at the waist as they recite those most blessed words, and to make the sign of the cross at the words “and was made man.” It is also appropriate and customary to bow at the waist later in the Creed at the words, “. . . is worshiped and glorified,” again, the reason being that worship and bowing go hand in hand. We not only indicate that our Triune God is worshiped and glorified with our lips, but we worship and glorify Him by bowing.

***During the Prayer of the Church and the Lord’s Prayer (and all other prayers):*** It is appropriate and customary to bow your heads while the Prayer of the Church, the Lord’s Prayer, and all other prayers (collects) are prayed, which most of you already do out of instinct. Bowing of the head is always an appropriate posture while praying to our Triune God.

***During the Sanctus:*** It is appropriate and customary to bow at the waist during the words, “Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav’n and earth are full of Thy glory” or “Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory” (at the word “glory,” you stand upright again, although I know some people who like to bow for the entire Sanctus, which is fine, too—there are no hard and fast rules to any of this). Why bow here? Because what we are confessing here is that we, like Isaiah, have entered the Heavenly Throne Room, where our Lord Jesus Christ is seated at the right hand of God. His very Body and Blood will soon be upon the Holy Altar for us to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins and strengthening of our faith (just as Isaiah had his lips touched by the burning coal of the heavenly altar for his forgiveness—see Isaiah 6 for the whole scene). Here, at the Holy Altar, is where heaven and earth come together as one. Here is where our highest worship and reverence and adoration is due. So, we bow. We worship. Same thing.

***During the Consecration:*** I touched upon this last month while discussing the elevation and genuflection, but I thought I’d flesh this out a little more here. Again, at the Name of Jesus, it is appropriate and customary to bow your head. It is also appropriate and customary to bow at the waist (or your head) when the actual words of Jesus are spoken over the bread and the wine. You stand upright until the words “. . . and said . . .,” then you bow while Jesus’ words are recited. Then, you look up at the Body and the Blood when they are elevated, bowing at the waist (or your head) when the pastor and elder genuflect, rising upright again when they rise. When the pastor holds the Body and Blood before you and recites the Pax Domini (“The Peace of the Lord be with you always”), it is appropriate and customary to fix your eyes upon Jesus, the author and perfecter of your faith, rather than bow. Also, during the singing of the Agnus Dei (“O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world . . .”), you can bow your head at the words, “have mercy upon us” and “grant us Thy peace,” but the custom is to fix your eyes upon the Holy Altar during the rest of the song. You will bow again when you approach the altar and kneel to receive Jesus in the Sacrament.

***During the Benediction:*** Some people prefer to bow their heads during the whole Benediction, while others prefer to look at the pastor and bow their heads (and make the sign of the cross) at the words, “. . . and give you peace.” There is ancient precedence for either of these practices.

***At the Altar:*** Anytime anyone ever approaches, passes by, or departs from the Holy Altar, they should bow their heads (or at the waist) in reverence. The pastor and elders are trained to do this, as are the wonderful ladies who serve on our altar guild, as are our acolytes. All congregants should do this, too, when they come up to receive the Sacrament, and when they leave. But, this practice applies even beyond the Divine Service. If you’re decorating or cleaning or just coming up to pray—anytime you approach, pass by, or depart from the Holy Altar—bowing is called for. The reason for this is obvious. This is the Holy of Holies, the very place where the very Body and Blood of Jesus, which He gave and shed in His once-for-all Sacrifice for our sins on the Cross, takes up residence among us. Reverence for the Holy Altar is simply not optional.

So, there you go. That’s what’s up with all that bowing. Again, I want to make it vividly clear that none of this is Law. Your salvation does not depend upon whether or not you bow at all the appropriate and customary places. At the same time, worship and bowing go hand in hand, which is why Christians of all generations, including the hundreds of generations that predate Roman Catholicism (just in case anyone is tempted to think that all this talk of bowing is “too Roman Catholic”), have practiced the ceremonial act of bowing during the Divine Service at the places I’ve mentioned above. Whether or not you choose to adopt some, all, or none of these practices is left to your personal piety. It is my goal here simply to make you aware of why we do what we do when it comes to all that bowing, as I’ve had several members ask me to do so for some time now.

Your servant in Christ,

*Pastor Messer*



# PEACE NEWS & NOTES

## PEACE WELCOMES CROSS FAMILY INTO FELLOWSHIP

Troy, Miriam, Aaron, and Noah Cross began attending Peace in September and were officially transferred into our fellowship from Immanuel, Wheeler in December. We are overjoyed to have them join our Peace family!



## Altar Guild

*The Altar Guild is in need of new members. Typically, Guild members serve for one month at a time. During that month they prepare the Altar for any Divine Services and make sure that the Altar area is clean and tidy. If you are interested in serving in this way, but have never prepared the Altar in the past, don't worry. There are written instructions to guide you through and you will also receive plenty of one-on-one instruction before you are expected to serve alone. There are some Guild members who are not able to serve at midweek Services. That's fine too. There always are others available to fill in when necessary. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve our Lord and congregation. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Carol Zeile. Thank you!*

## SALT NEWS

**Next SALT meeting will be held January 22, 2013, 6:30 p.m. at the church.** We welcome anyone who would like to join us.

*Please see our Meeting Minutes on the SALT Bulletin Board*

## SUPPORT FOR OUR TROOPS

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

## LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

**We will meet on Monday, January 14 at 1:30 pm at J.J. Ruby's on State Road. Please join us. The more the merrier!**

## ✠ MARION GREENING CALLED HOME ✠ 9/3/23—12/31/12



*Our dear sister in Christ, Marion, was called home by our Lord on December 31, 2012, shortly after 5:00 p.m. She was a Charter Member of Peace and very active in our congregation for many years, and she will be dearly missed. But, we rejoice in knowing that she now wears the crown of glory and enjoys unspeakable peace, joy, and comfort with our Lord and all His saints and angels in heaven.*

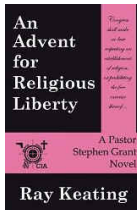
*✠ Rest eternal grant Marion, O Lord,  
and let light perpetual shine upon her! ✠*

# PEACE NEWS & NOTES Cont'd

## PEACE BOOK CLUB

The Book Club took a break in December and will reconvene on January 15, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Yvonne Elenbaas. At that time we will discuss two books: *An Advent for Religious Liberty: A Stephen Grant Novel* by Ray Keating and *Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter* by Seth Grahame-Smith. Both of these authors are familiar to the Book Club members and we look forward to exploring two more works by them.

The Club members read the first two Pastor Grant novels during 2012. *An Advent for Religious Liberty* takes place during Advent and focuses on religious freedom, namely politicians who argue against it. It is a very pertinent topic for today's society and is certain to generate lively conversation.

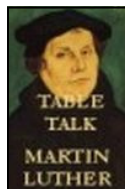


We learned of the historical revisionism of Grahame-Smith in his *Unholy Night* depiction of events surrounding the birth of Christ. *Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter* alters the history of the life of our 16th president. Much as this might sound like a gruesome topic, and there are points where it is, Grahame-Smith's style is intriguing and the book is hard to put down. The only way to truly understand the author's appeal is to read his work.

January 15, 2013 will be a fun night! Please join us.

## Table Talk

Our Table Talks are informal and informative discussions with Pastor Messer on various topics decided by the group in attendance. Table Talk is a great time to take advantage of the opportunity to ask any questions you may have. Our next Table Talk will be held on **Thursday, January 17 at 7:30 p.m.** Hope to see you there!



## Cleaning Supplies!

We are always in need of cleaning supplies for the church. Toilet paper, rolls of paper towels and facial tissues are among the high priority, but anything used to clean bathrooms and kitchens is also very welcome. If you have questions, please contact Marlene Miller.

## REMEMBERING OUR SHUT-INS

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

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

Vivian Strom  
Masonic Pathways  
1200 Wright Ave.  
Alma, MI 48801

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

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



## JANUARY

### Happy Birthday

6 Dorothy Trgina	14 Rebekah Tennant
10 Kylie Stahl	18 Amy Blair
11 Mary Jakolat	24 David Meyers
12 Georgie Bebow	25 Joan Burch

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

# Ladies' Guild

## Ladies Guild Meeting

Our Ladies Guild will meet on **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9 at 12:00 pm.** with Marlene Miller as hostess. All Ladies of the congregation are invited to attend our Guild meetings. If you are a confirmed female member of Peace, you are a member of Guild. We would sincerely encourage you to participate and be an active member of the Guild.

## PLC Women's Prayer Chain

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

## Altar Flowers

There is a flower calendar for 2013 is posted on the fellowship hall bulletin board. We are now working toward ordering altar flower arrangements that coordinate with and enhance the liturgical colors of each Season of the Church year. Depending on the dates, flowers may not always be displayed for a calendar month. Some Seasons of the Church year cross calendar months. If you wish to place flowers on the altar sometime during the year, please put your name on the calendar. A bouquet costs \$25. We encourage two persons (families) to purchase flowers each month, one for each plant stand. Please make checks payable to Peace Lutheran Church, attach a note marked "Altar Flowers" and place in the Financial Secretary's envelope in the church office. Any questions may be directed to Carol Zeile or Coaline Luplow. Thank you for helping to beautify our church.

## PEACE LUTHERAN LADIES GUILD



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

### BABY CARE KIT

- 2- LIGHTWEIGHT COTTON T-SHIRTS
- 2 -LONG OR SHORT-SLEEVED GOWNS OR SLEEPERS (without feet)
- 2 -RECEIVING BLANKETS
- 4- CLOTH DIAPERS
- 1- JACKET, SWEATER OR SWEATSHIRT WITH A HOOD
- 2- PAIRS OF SOCKS
- 1- HAND TOWEL
- 2- BATH-SIZE BARS OF GENTLE SOAP
- 2- DIAPER PINS OR LG. SAFETY PINS

### COLLECTION DATES:

January 1 - March 31

## PEACE LADIES GUILD COOKBOOK

Cookbooks are available for \$13.00 and can be purchased during fellowship time from any member of the Guild. Please see Coaline Luplow with any questions.

## LADIES GUILD SELLS CUTLERY

Rada cutlery is on display the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



### January

Marlene Miller



- 6 Jenny Baughman
- 13 Tina Schafer
- 20 Peace Youth Group
- 27 Janice Sager

### February

#### Altar Care

Carolyn Johnson

#### Coffee Hostesses

- 3 S. Greening/M. Brown
- 10 Dorothy Trgina
- 17 M. Miller/C. Dargie
- 24 Carolyn Johnson

### March

Carol Zeile

- 3 Jenny Baughman
- 10 Lisa Messer
- 17 Jo Wendt
- 24 Coaline Luplow
- 31 Easter



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT PEACE

## Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

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

### Together in the Word

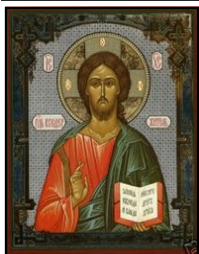
- We meet every **Thursday at 10:00 a.m.** We are currently studying *1 Kings*. All are welcome to join us!

### Wednesday Bible Study

- Meets every Wednesday at 6 pm for a study of *Acts*.

## First Communion and Confirmation Classes

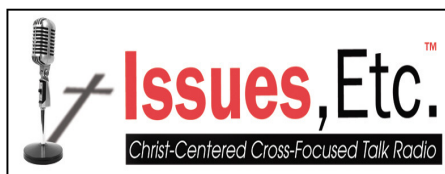
- First Communion Classes take place as arranged (see Pastor Messer if interested); Confirmation Class meets Thursdays, 6:00-7:30 p.m.



### PASTOR MESSER IS BLOGGING!

[www.abideinmyword.blogspot.com](http://www.abideinmyword.blogspot.com)

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



### TALK RADIO FOR THE THINKING CHRISTIAN!

Listen to what you want, when you want, at:  
[www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org)

## PAROCHIAL REPORT

(as of 12/31/12)

### Membership at Peace

Baptized - 141; Confirmed - 118

### Membership gains: 4

*Troy, Miriam, Aaron, and Noah Cross - Transferred from  
Immanuel Lutheran in Wheeler, MI*

### Membership losses: 3

*Kevin and Linda Sellke - Transferred to Prince of Peace  
Lutheran in Clare, MI*

*Marion Greening called home by our Lord on 12/31/12*

### Financial Report as of 12/31/2012

YTD Budgeted.....\$113,208.00

YTD Receipts.....\$113,433.18

Difference.....+\$225.18

## Sunday School Christmas Program

Thank you to all who provided lunch for the Christmas program rehearsals. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Because of the illness of several children and adults, we decided to postpone the program until **Wednesday, January 9 at 7:00 p.m.** Please plan on attending to support the children and enjoy this new program of Evening Prayer and the Christmas story.

## Thank You!

*A sincere and heartfelt thank you to all of you who donated toward the Christmas collection gathered for us this year, and to all who sent us cards, gifts, and goodies. It is such a tremendous blessing to belong to such a loving and generous church family, and we are extremely grateful to our Lord for placing us here at Peace.*

*With love,*

*Pastor and Lisa Messer*

## Quarterly Voters' Assembly

**Sunday, January 27**

**11:00 a.m.**



# PEACE LUTHERAN VOTERS' ASSEMBLY MINUTES

## OCTOBER 21, 2012

### Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- President Zeile called the meeting to order at 11:06am. Pastor Messer led us in prayer. There were 33 members present.

### Approval of Agenda

- Motion by Gary Miller, supported by Jon Penizen, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

### Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes regular meeting January 22, 2012

- Motion by Gary Miller supported by Dorothy Trgina, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

### Report(s)

- **Pastor** – Signup sheet on the bulletin board to order your copy of the Apocrypha.
- **Treasurer**- Full report attached
- **Financial Secretary**- Full report is attached
- **Board of Elders** – continuing to visit shut-ins
- **Board of Trustees** – Thank you to everyone who helped cleaned, wood still needs to be taken
- **Board of Christian Education** – rehearsing for Christmas Program will start in November, sign up being passed around to sign up to provide lunch for the kids
- **Board of Evangelism**- meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm, movie night coming up, scrip program is going great, Reformation Celebration this coming Sunday
- **Board of Stewardship** – attached letter was distributed to all members, see Larry Elliott with any questions or comments
- **Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild** – Full report attached
- **Peace Youth Group**- Jon has resigned as the director of youth, and a new director is needed. Thank you to Jon for his many years of service
- **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** – Nov 11<sup>th</sup> at 3pm, Please RSVP

### Business

- **Election of Officers** – Motion made by Dorothy Trgina, supported by Gary Miller, to elect all the names as presented for the positions on the ballot. Motion passed unanimously.

### General Comment - None.

**Adjournment & Closing Prayer** – Motion by Gary Miller, supported by Megan Brown, to adjourn at 11:38am. Motion passed unanimously. Pastor closed with Lord's Prayer and Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cassie Tennant, Secretary

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## *Advent Tea 2012*

*Our 6th annual Advent Tea was held on Tuesday, December 11. The ladies did a fabulous job decorating their tables, and we were blessed to have Roger Humphrey, Mary Jakolat, and Carol Zeile share their musical talents with us during the program, which was led by Pastor Messer. This year's theme color was purple and the program focused upon repentance and royalty. Next year's theme color will be red, so our wonderful hostesses can already begin brainstorming about how to decorate their tables! Special thanks to our Advent Tea Committee, who did a wonderful job again this year planning the event: Gretchen Harrison, Lisa Messer, Lois Ramsey, and Dorothy Trgina.*



# PEACE LUTHERAN 2013 PROPOSED BUDGET




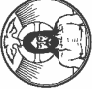
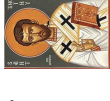






Following is the proposed budget for 2013, which was prepared by the Treasurer in consultation with the Budget and Finance Committee. This proposed budget was reviewed by the Church Council and will be discussed and voted upon at the January 27 Voters' Assembly. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact a Council member.

<b>Expense</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Church and Worship: Altar & Worship	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	
Church and Worship: Christian Education	\$500.00	\$500.00	
Church and Worship: Music	\$1,300.00	\$3,300.00	+\$2,000.00
Missions: Issues, Etc.	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
Synod Convention	\$0.00	\$500.00	+\$500.00
Operating Expense: Admin. Assistant	\$5,200.00	\$0.00	-\$5,200.00
Operating Expense: Building Maintenance	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
Operating Expense: Insurance	\$2,000.00	\$2,150.00	+\$150.00
Operating Expense: Office Expense	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	
Operating Expense: Photocopier	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	
Operating Expense: Telephone & Internet	\$1,244.00	\$1,945.00	+\$701.00
Operating Expense: Utilities	\$5,580.00	\$5,580.00	
Pastoral Expense: Benefit Package	\$19,249.00	\$20,500.00	+\$1,251.00
Pastoral Expense: Book Allowance	\$500.00	\$500.00	
Pastoral Expense: Conferences & Training	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
Pastoral Expense: Down Payment Loan	\$2,220.00	\$2,220.00	
Pastoral Expense: Guest Pastors	\$200.00	\$200.00	
Pastoral Expense: Mileage	\$3,000.00	\$3,500.00	+\$500.00
Pastoral Expense: Salary	\$62,415.00	\$62,415.00	
Pastoral Expense: Miscellaneous	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$113,208.00</b>	<b>\$113,110.00</b>	<b>-\$98.00</b>

Rev. Thomas C. Messer  
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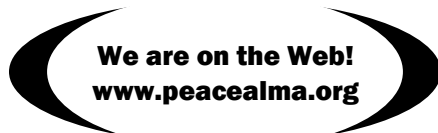
Peace Lutheran Church  
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# January 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>6 The Epiphany of Our Lord</b> 8:30 am - Choir Practice <b>9:30 am - Divine Service</b> 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - SS & BC 	<b>7</b> 	<b>8</b> 7:00 pm - Council	<b>9</b> 12 pm - Ladies' Guild 6 pm - Soup/Salad Dinner <b>7 pm - Evening Prayer</b> w/Children's Program 	<b>10</b> 10 am - Together in Word <b>12 pm - Divine Service</b> <i>Confession of St. Peter</i> 5 pm - WW 6 pm - Conf. Class 	<b>11</b> 	<b>12</b> 
<b>13 The Baptism of Our Lord</b> 8:30 am - Choir Practice <b>9:30 am - Divine Service</b> 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - SS & BC 	<b>14</b> 1:30 am - Ladies' Lunch Bunch	<b>15</b> 7:00 pm - Peace Book Club	<b>16</b> 6 pm - Bible Study (Acts) <b>7 pm - Divine Service</b> <i>St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor</i> 	<b>17</b> 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - WW 6 pm - Confirmation Class 7:30 pm - Table Talk	<b>18</b> 	<b>19</b> 
<b>20 Transfiguration of Our Lord</b> 8:30 am - Choir Practice <b>9:30 am - Divine Service</b> 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - SS & BC 	<b>21</b> 	<b>22</b> 6:30 pm - SALT meeting	<b>23</b> 6 pm - Bible Study (Acts) <b>7 pm - Divine Service</b> <i>Conversion of St. Paul</i> 	<b>24</b> 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - WW 6 pm - Confirmation Class	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b> 
<b>27 Septuagesima</b> 8:30 am - Choir Practice <b>9:30 am - Divine Service</b> 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:00 am - Voters' Assembly 	<b>28</b> 	<b>29</b> 7:00 pm - Stewardship Committee meeting	<b>30</b> 6 pm - Bible Study (Acts) <b>7 pm - Divine Service</b> <i>St. Titus, Pastor &amp; Confessor</i> 	<b>31</b> 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - WW 6 pm - Confirmation Class	<b>February 1</b> 	<b>2</b> 
<b>3 Sexagesima</b> 8:30 am - Choir Practice <b>9:30 am - Divine Service</b> 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - SS & BC 	<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b> 	<b>6</b> 6 pm - Bible Study (Acts) <b>7 pm - Divine Service</b> <i>Purification of Mary &amp; Presentation of Jesus</i> 	<b>7</b> 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - WW 6 pm - Confirmation Class	<b>8</b> 	<b>9</b> 

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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 January*

	ELDERS	ACOLYTES	USHERS	GREETERS
<b>January</b>				
<b>6</b> - 9:30 a.m. <i>(Epiphany of Our Lord)</i>	Gabriel Blair	Aaron Cross Natalie Penzien	Jon Penzien Terry Luplow	Y. Elenbaas/M. Girard
<b>13</b> - 9:30 am <i>(Baptism of Our Lord)</i>	Larry Elliott	Sierra Luplow Morgan Johnson	Gabriel Blair Tyrel Harwager	Bob & Jo Wendt
<b>20</b> - 9:30 am <i>(Transfiguration of our Lord)</i>	Terry Luplow	Aaron Messer Myka Luplow	Daren Johnson Gary Miller	Elliott family
<b>27</b> - 9:30 am <i>(Septuagesima)</i>	Miguel Ortiz	Paige Harwager Savannah Blair	James Sager Vern Jakolat	Sharyn Greening
<b>February</b>				
<b>3</b> - 9:30 am <i>(Sexagesima)</i>	Gabriel Blair	Farah Blair Aaron Cross	Chris Brown John Lemmermann	Terry & Coaline Luplow

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