

The Peace Post

Peace Lutheran Church ~ Alma, MI

Vol. 10, No. 1 January 2014

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!



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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

“A New Year . . .”	1
Peace News & Notes.....	2
Ladies’ Guild Info	3
Christian Education.....	4
Parochial Report.....	4
Thank You	4
October VA Minutes.....	5
Proposed 2014 Budget.....	6
January Calendar	7
Serving in January	8

PEACE NEWS & NOTES



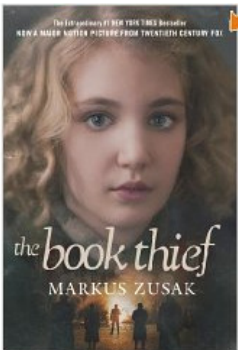
JANUARY

Happy Birthday

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

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

PEACE BOOK CLUB



Our Book Club will next meet on Tuesday, January 21 at 7:30 p.m. (please note the time change) at the Zeiles' home to discuss "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak. Following is a brief description: "It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death

has never been busier, and will become busier still. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl who scratches out a meager existence by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist: books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids, as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement. In superbly crafted writing that burns with intensity, award-winning author Markus Zusak, author of *I Am the Messenger*, has given us one of the most enduring stories of our time."

Our conversations are always entertaining. All are welcome! Please join us!

SALT NEWS

Next SALT meeting will be held January 14, 2014, 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).

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

We will meet on Tuesday, January 21 at 1:30 pm at J.J. Ruby's on State Road. Please join us. The more the merrier!

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. Please consider dropping a few lines to our shut-ins during the course of each month.

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

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

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

Ladies' Guild

Ladies Guild Meeting

Our Ladies Guild will meet on **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8 at 12:00 pm.** with Coaline Luplow 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 2014 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 3rd Sunday of each month in the fellowship hall during the coffee hour. We have seven different items in stock: Paring Knife, Large Slicer Knife, Tomato Slicer, Serrated Steak Knife, Spatula, Pie Server, and Veggie Peeler. A product catalogue is available for viewing and orders may also be placed through the catalog.



January

Coaline Luplow

- 5 Carol Zeile
- 12 Tina Schafer
- 19 Coaline Luplow
- 26 Janice Sager

February

Altar Care
Marlene Miller

Coffee Hostesses

- 2 S.Greening/M.Brown
- 9 Lois Ramsey
- 16 M.Miller/C.Dargie
- 23 Carolyn Johnson

March

Carol Zeile

- 2 Jenny Baughman
- 9 Lisa Messer
- 16 Jo Wendt
- 23 Peace Youth Group
- 30 Amy Blair



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT PEACE

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

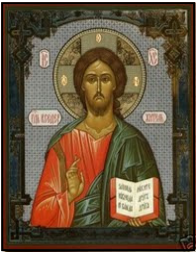
- Sunday School and Adult Bible Class (currently studying *Revelation*) is offered on **Sundays at 11 a.m.**

Wednesday Bible Studies

- At our **10:00 a.m. Bible Study**, we are currently studying *Lamentations*. When we finish *Lamentations*, we will study *Ezra*.
- At our **6:00 p.m. Bible Study**, we are studying *Isaiah*.

First Communion and Confirmation Classes

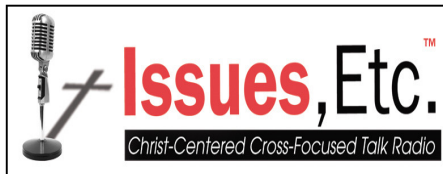
- First Communion Classes take place as arranged (see Pastor Messer if interested); No Youth Confirmation Class this year.



PASTOR MESSER IS BLOGGING!

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

PAROCHIAL REPORT (as of 12/31/13)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 135; Confirmed - 112

Membership gains: 0

Membership losses: 1

LeRoy Isaaksson called home by our Lord on 12/03/13

Financial Report as of 12/31/2013

YTD Budgeted.....\$113,110.00

YTD Receipts.....\$113,121.21

Difference.....+\$11.21

Sunday School Christmas Program

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



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

By the Grace of God and through the generosity of our members, we met our budgeted offering amount again this year! Thanks be to God and to all of our members. We are greatly blessed!

Quarterly Voters' Assembly
Sunday, January 26
11:00 a.m.

**REGULAR MEETING
PEACE LUTHERAN VOTERS' ASSEMBLY**

Date: October 20, 2013
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Location: Peace Lutheran Church
325 E. Warwick Dr.
Alma, MI 48801

MINUTES

- I. Call To Order & Opening Prayer** – President Zeile called the meeting to order at 11:13am and opening prayer was conducted. 26 members were present.
- II. Approval of Agenda** – Motion made by Larry Elliott, supported by Miguel Ortiz to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes** – Motion made by Larry Elliott, supported by Gary Miller to approve the minutes from July 28 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. Report(s)**
- Pastor** – Pastor Messer reminded the Assembly of the Service and events planned for Reformation Day the following week.
- Treasurer** – Treasurer Zeile presented the attached report and informed the Assembly that the costs of the roof repair had been paid in full.
- Financial Secretary** – No report.
- Boards**
- Board of Elders** – No report.
- Board of Trustees** – Gary Miller reported that the roof repairs and carpet stretching were complete. He also reported that the flat portion of the roof is in need of repair and will cost between \$900 and \$1400. Cost of replacing the entire membrane would be over \$15,000. More information will be gathered.
- Board of Christian Education** – No report.
- Board of Evangelism** – Carolyn Johnson reported on upcoming events including Reformation Day and Advent Tea. The Scrip program has been very successful since beginning two years ago and has earned over \$2500. Revenues have been used for a variety of projects and services.
- Board of Stewardship** – Larry Elliott reported that a letter would be mailed to members regarding the budget.
- Organization and Committee Reports**
- Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild** – No report.
- Peace Youth Group** – No report.
- Business**
- Purchase of Lawn Mower** – The Council is looking to spend \$2000-\$3000 for a zero-turn riding lawnmower to keep on the property. Fundraising will be used to cover the cost.
- Election of Officers** – The following names were presented to be elected to office beginning January 1, 2014:
- President: David Zeile (2 year term)
Financial Secretary: Marlene Miller (2 year term)
Board of Elders: Terry Luplow (3 year term)
Board of Trustees: Jon Penzien (3 year term)
Board of Christian Education: Sharyn Greening (3 year term)
- Motion made by Jon Penzien, supported by Gary Miller to close the nominations.
Motion carried unanimously. Motion made by Larry Elliott, supported by Gary Miller to accept the entire ballot as presented and elect the officers. Motion carried unanimously..
- General Comment** – None.
- Adjournment & Closing Prayer** – Motion made by Gary Miller, supported by Megan Brown to adjourn at 11:49am. Motion carried unanimously. The Assembly closed with the Lord's Prayer and the Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Brown, Secretary

PEACE LUTHERAN 2014 PROPOSED BUDGET

Following is the proposed budget for 2014, 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 26 Voters' Assembly. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact a Council member.

Expense	2013	2014	Difference
Church and Worship: Altar & Worship	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	
Church and Worship: Christian Education	\$500.00	\$300.00	-\$200.00
Church and Worship: Music	\$3,300.00	\$3,300.00	
Missions: Issues, Etc.	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
Synod Convention	\$500.00	\$0.00	-\$500.00
Operating Expense: Building Maintenance	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
Operating Expense: Insurance	\$2,150.00	\$2,290.00	+\$140.00
Operating Expense: Office Expense	\$1,800.00	\$1,500.00	-\$300.00
Operating Expense: Photocopier	\$1,600.00	\$1,350.00	-\$250.00
Operating Expense: Telephone & Internet	\$1,945.00	\$1,550.00	-\$395.00
Operating Expense: Utilities	\$5,580.00	\$5,475.00	-\$105.00
Pastoral Expense: Benefit Package	\$20,500.00	\$22,000.00	+\$1,500.00
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	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	
Pastoral Expense: Salary	\$62,415.00	\$62,415.00	
Pastoral Expense: Miscellaneous	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	
Total Expenses	\$113,110.00	\$113,000.00	-\$110.00

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

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

January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 The Epiphany of Our Lord 8:30 am - Choir Practice 9:30 am - Divine Service 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - SS & BC 	6	7 7:00 pm - Council	8 9:30 am - Matins 10:00 am - Bible Study 12 pm - Ladies' Guild 4:30 pm - Vespers 6 pm - Bible Study 7 pm - DS St. Peter	9	10	11
12 The Baptism of Our Lord 8:30 am - Choir Practice 9:30 am - Divine Service 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - SS & BC 	13	14 6:30 pm - SALT meeting	15 9:30 am - Matins 10:00 am - Bible Study 4:30 pm - Vespers 6 pm - Bible Study 7 pm - Divine Service St. Timothy (Obs.)	16	17	18
19 Epiphany 2 8:30 am - Choir Practice 9:30 am - Divine Service 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - SS & BC 	20	21 1:30 am - Ladies' Lunch Bunch 7:30 pm - Book Club at the Zeiles	22 9:30 am - Matins 10:00 am - Bible Study 4:30 pm - Vespers 6 pm - Bible Study 7 pm - Divine Service Conversion of St. Paul	23	24	25
26 St. Titus, Pastor (Obs.) 8:30 am - Choir Practice 9:30 am - Divine Service 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:00 am - Voters' Assembly 	27	28 7:00 pm - Stewardship Committee meeting	29 9:30 am - Matins 10:00 am - Bible Study 4:30 pm - Vespers 6 pm - Bible Study 7 pm - Divine Service St. Polycarp (Obs.)	30	31	February 1
2 Purification of Mary & Presentation of our Lord (Obs.) 8:30 am - Choir Practice 9:30 am - Divine Service 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - SS & BC 	3	4 7:00 pm - Council	5 9:30 am - Matins 10:00 am - Bible Study 12 pm - Ladies' Guild 4:30 pm - Vespers 6 pm - Bible Study 7 pm - DS St. Jacob	6	7	8

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 January

	ELDERS	ACOLYTES	USHERS	GREETERS
January				
5 - 9:30 am <i>Epiphany of Our Lord</i>	Gabriel Blair	Paige Harwager Sierra Luplow	Tyrel Harwager James Sager	James & Janice Sager
12 - 9:30 am <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i>	Larry Elliott	Farrah Blair Myka Luplow	Gary Miller John Lemmermann	Bob & Jo Wendt
19 - 9:30 am <i>Epiphany 2</i>	Terry Luplow	Natalie Penzien Aaron Cross	Aaron Messer Vern Jakolat	Jenny Baughman
26 - 9:30 am <i>St. Titus, Pastor (Obs.)</i>	Miguel Ortiz	Zane Luplow Savannah Blair	Terry Luplow Jon Penzien	Charlotte Dargie Marlene Miller
February				
2 - 9:30 am <i>Purification of Mary</i>	Gabriel Blair	Morgan Johnson Noah Cross	Daren Johnson Miguel Ortiz	Elliott Family

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