

The Peace Post

Peace Lutheran Church ~ Alma, MI

February 2012

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

"The Holy and Penitential Season of Lent: A Review"

On Wednesday, February 22, we will begin the season of Lent. The season of Lent is a forty day Christian festival beginning on Ash Wednesday and concluding on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. There are actually forty-six days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday, but the six Sundays are not counted in Lent, since every Sunday is a "mini-Easter," a celebration of Jesus' victory over sin, death, and the devil on the cross, which is validated by the empty tomb on Easter morning. This does not mean that the Sundays in Lent are Lent-free, however. They are not. The liturgy during Lent reminds us that we are in a season of repentance and fasting as we fast from the "Alleluias" (already begun in Pre-Lent) and the "Gloria in Excelsis." On Judica Sunday (Lent 5), we begin yet another liturgical fast, omitting the "Gloria Patri" as well. So, while the Sundays in Lent are not counted in Lent, they are still Lenten in nature. Don't get too hung up on this; the Church has never been interested in being consistent in the way she numbers days, seasons, and time.

Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Christian Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for Holy Baptism. Though we are not certain how it developed, by 350 A.D., the forty day season we still observe was already well established in the Church.

The early Christian Church took the season of Lent very seriously. It was observed as a penitential season in which Christians took stock of their sinful lives and recognized their desperate need for Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Lent was a time for fasting and repentance; a time for analyzing one's life in relation to God's commandments, realizing the profundity of one's sin and inability to stand before God on one's own. Thus, Lent was a time for self-awareness, which led to self-denial and sole reliance upon the sinless Son of God, who completely fulfilled the Law of God by living the perfect life sinful human beings are incapable of living and then, graciously and mercifully, submitted Himself to torture and execution on a cross to pay the price for the sins of all people of all time.

The Christian Church today observes the penitential season of Lent for the same reasons. Or, at least she should. Our sinful condition has not changed. We

are, from the moment we are conceived, sinners in desperate need of salvation (cf. Psalm 51:5). Likewise, the way of salvation has not changed. We cannot save ourselves. We are “dead in sin” (Rom. 5:12) and completely incapable of fulfilling God’s Holy Law, which demands perfect obedience to God in thought, word, and deed. Our only hope for salvation is to trust in Jesus Christ, the Holy and Righteous Son of God, who came down from heaven and was Incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary in order to live the perfect life we cannot live and to die on the cross for our sins. There is no other way of salvation. Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6).

So, because our sinful condition has not changed (and will not change) and because faith in Jesus Christ alone will remain the only way of salvation until the Last Day, the penitential season of Lent continues to provide Christians with an opportunity to recognize their sinfulness and to renew their trust in the Savior who takes their sin away. During this holy season, we journey with our Lord to the Cross, where He finishes our salvation by taking all the wrath and punishment of God we deserve for our sins upon Himself, paying for them all with His holy and precious blood. While our focus is on Christ and His Cross year round, it is during the season of Lent that this focus becomes all the more magnified.

But, sadly, many Christians fail to see Lent for what it is. Many do not observe the season at all. Many others see Lent as nothing more than a time for them to give up a personal vice or habit, or to deny themselves of something they love (“I’m giving up chocolate for Lent”). But, the season of Lent, which is not just an old, worn-out tradition the Church used to observe, calls for Christians to give up something far greater than a personal vice or habit. It calls for them to give up themselves and rely solely on Christ. That is not to say that there is anything wrong with giving up some personal vice or habit during Lent. If you want to fast from chocolate or soda or sugar in your coffee or whatever, fine. Go for it. As Dr. Luther says in the Small Catechism, “Fasting and bodily preparation are, indeed, fine outward training.” And, our Lord Jesus Himself expects His disciples to fast (cf. Matt. 6:16). But, such fasting is rather pointless and will do you not a bit of good if it is not accompanied by self-examination and repentance. In fact, fasting done purely for the sake of fasting, as if the act of giving this or that thing up during Lent is what the season is all about, can be very dangerous to your spiritual welfare, for if it is not anchored in self-examination and repentance, your self-denial can lead to self-righteousness, the very thing this holy and penitential season pleads with you to avoid.

Dearly beloved, I pray that you will allow the upcoming Lenten season to have its way with you. Heed its call to examine yourselves and recognize your sinfulness. As crazy as it sounds, this is the way to true Christian growth, for the more you realize how sinful you are, the more you will come to rely upon the One who took on your human flesh to live and die in your place, for your salvation. To that end, I leave you with the Ash Wednesday Address and Prayer, which will be the first words we hear as we embark upon the holy season of Lent:

Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.



Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Messer

Lenten Discipline

The holy and penitential season of Lent provides Christians the opportunity to refocus, rededicate, and recommit themselves to Gospel-motivated holy living. There are six particular areas of discipline Christians can concentrate on during this holy season for self-examination and improvement: 1) Prayer, 2) Almsgiving, 3) Fasting, 4) Confession, 5) Commitment to be in the Word, 6) Service and Support. These disciplines are not given as works to be performed to merit God's favor or as a checklist Christians can check off so that they can feel better about themselves. God forbid! Rather, they are given as gifts Christians can unwrap to examine themselves and strive for improvement. I pray that each of us will prayerfully consider embracing these disciplines this Lententide.

To that end, there will be additional opportunities provided to the saints at Peace this year to exercise these disciplines. On Ash Wednesday, I am adding a Divine Service at Noon. This will be the same Divine Service offered in the evening, which includes the Ash Wednesday Address, the Litany, the Imposition of Ashes, and Corporate Confession and Absolution. The only difference will be that the Noon Divine Service will be spoken, while the Divine Service in the evening will be sung. This additional Ash Wednesday Divine Service is being offered for those who may not wish to get out in the evening, although anyone wishing to attend both is certainly welcomed to do so.

The remainder of the Wednesdays in Lent will be full days set aside for Lenten Discipline. Each Wednesday will begin with the praying of Matins at 7:30 a.m. Following Matins, I will be available for Private Confession and Absolution from 8-10 a.m. (and at other times, by appointment). Lent would be the perfect time to avail yourself of this Blessed Sacrament if you have never before been inclined to do so. Our Wednesdays will continue with the praying of Sext at Noon, followed by the praying of Vespers at 4:30 p.m. Youth Confirmation Class will take place at 5 p.m., followed by our Lenten Soup & Salad Dinners at 6 p.m. Then, we'll conclude each Wednesday with Divine Service at 7 p.m. Matins, Sext, and Vespers on these Wednesdays will be short, spoken, Prayer Services. The Divine Service each Wednesday evening will be sung.

We'll also observe several Feast Days during Lent with Divine Services on Thursdays at Noon. When we get to Holy Week, we'll follow the same schedule we've observed the past couple of years, the only difference being the addition of Vespers each afternoon (full Holy Week Schedule will appear in next month's edition of *The Peace Post*).

I pray that these additional opportunities to be in our Lord's Holy House to pray, give, fast, confess, be in the Word, serve and support, and receive our Lord's Gifts, will be a blessing to many of you!

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Messer

PEACE NEWS & NOTES



NEWS

February

Event	Date	Start	End	Location
Monthly Meeting	2/19	5:00 PM	7:00 PM	Fellowship Hall
Fellowship	Sundays	10:45 AM	11:15 AM	Youth Classroom

Greetings in Christ

We have a busy year ahead of us. We currently have 9 Youth scheduled to attend the Higher Things conference this summer. We will be setting up additional fund raising events to assist with the travel costs.

February activities include hosting the Ash Wednesday Lenten Dinner. The Youth have gone with their favorite of a Mexican menu. Finalization of menu items and tasks will be worked out during weekly fellowship after Services.

Thanks again to everyone for their continuing support of the youth at Peace.

May the Spirit of the Lord be with you.

Jonathan Penzien

Ladies Lunch Bunch

We will meet for lunch this month on **Monday, February 13 at 1:30 p.m.** at Francesco's. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the fellowship hall. All ladies of Peace are welcome and also may invite a guest - the more, the merrier! Hope to see you there!

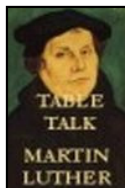
BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 @ 7:00 P.M.

PEACE MOVIE NIGHT

Will Return in March!

TABLE TALK

Our Table Talks are informal and informative discussions with Pastor Messer on various topics decided by the group in attendance. Plus, **THEY'RE FUN!** All are invited to our next Table Talk, which will take place **Thursday, February 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the Church.** We hope you're able to join us!



SALT NEWS

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, February 16 at 6:30 p.m.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Please see our Meeting Minutes on the SALT Bulletin Board

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Friday, February 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Come join us for a night of Family Fun! Games and snacks will be provided. Hope to see you there!

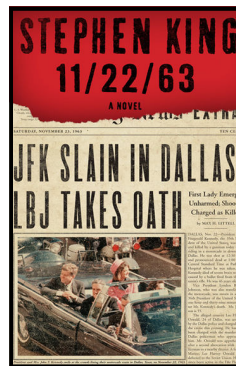
SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

This is an ongoing outreach for the SALT Committee. If you know of a person in the armed forces who is serving abroad, please contact Carolyn Johnson (email ckj1969@yahoo.com or telephone 463-3052).

PEACE BOOK CLUB

Our Peace Book Club met for the third time on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at the Zeiles' home and had a good discussion of "**Heaven Is For Real**" by Todd Burpo. We decided that the next book we will tackle is the best seller "**11/22/63**" by Stephen King. Based on the assassination of President John Kennedy, which took place on November 22, 1963, this book is a fictional account of the goings on around that historic event. "**11/22/63**"

is quite a long book (849 pages), so we decided to give ourselves extra time to read it. We will meet next on **Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 7 pm** at the home of Yvonne Elenbaas. All of you have time to get a copy and read it before then! If you remember where you were the day John Kennedy was shot, you will enjoy this exciting read. And, if you're too young to have such memories, "**11/22/63**" brings the account to life, along with providing some interesting ethical dilemmas that will be fun to discuss. Please join us!



PEACE NEWS & NOTES Cont'd

BAPTIZED AND CONFIRMED

During Divine Service on Sunday, January 15, we were blessed to witness the Holy Baptism and Confirmation of Lexie Calhoun. What joy to see our Lord's salvific work applied to Lexie in the water and Word of Holy Baptism, and to hear her confess the faith worked in her by the Holy Spirit. Please keep Lexie in your prayers, as she has since moved to Texas to go to school. A few pics:



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. (NOTE: *Marlene Wiltshire and Joan Burch have moved; updated addresses below*)

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

Vivian Strom
Masonic Pathways
1200 Wright Avenue
Alma, MI 48801

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

Marion Greening
1025 Vassar Street
Alma, MI 48801

Joyce Kohler
2700 Marfitt Road, Apt. 213
East Lansing, MI 48823

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.

OFFICE SUPPLIES

We will gladly and thankfully accept donations for any of the following office supplies:

- ♦ 8.5 x 11 copy paper (at least 20 lb. weight; white, canary, pink, light green, light blue)
- ♦ 11 x 17 copy paper (at least 20 lb. weight; white)
- ♦ Filing labels (Avery #8478—1/3 cut—30 labels/sheet; Avery #8163—2 x 4—10 labels/sheet; Staples #479880—1 x 2 5/8—30 labels/sheet)
- ♦ File Folders (Manilla, 1/3 cut)
- ♦ Postage stamps
- ♦ Scotch Tape (3/4" refill role, 1" core)
- ♦ Standard Staples (Swingline)
- ♦ Paper Clips (regular and jumbo sizes)
- ♦ Adding Machine Tape (2")
- ♦ Pens and Pencils
- ♦ Rubber Bands
- ♦ Post-It Notes
- ♦ Business Envelopes (#10)

Ladies Guild

Ladies Guild Meeting

Our Ladies Guild will meet on **Monday, February 6, at 12 pm.** Hostess will be Marlene Miller. 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 2012 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 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 or Amy Blair. Thank you for helping to beautify our chancel.

LADIES GUILD ON THE WEB

Ladies Guild coffee hostesses, Altar Guild assignments and Ladies Guild events appear on the Peace website. See www.peacealma.org and click Ladies Guild.

PEACE LUTHERAN LADIES GUILD



the Ladies Guild is collecting the following items for Layettes to send to the 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.

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. Questions, ask a member of the Guild.

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.



February

M. Miller/C. Dargie

March

Altar Care

Carolyn Johnson

Coffee Hostesses

- 4 Andrea Elliott
- 11 Jo Wendt
- 18 Lisa Messer
- 25 Jenny Baughman

April

Carol Zeile



- 5 Jennie Harmon
- 12 Y. Elenbaas/M. Girard
- 19 S. Greening/M. Brown
- 26 Carolyn Johnson

- 1 Carol Zeile
- 8 Easter (no coffee)
- 15 Peace Youth Group
- 22 M. Miller/C. Dargie
- 29 Tina Schafer

**REGULAR MEETING
PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL
DECEMBER 6, 2011
MINUTES**

Note: As noted under General Comments below, only approved minutes will be appearing in the monthly newsletter from now on, which means that there will be a month's delay before they appear in the newsletter. As always, complete minutes, with all attachments, are available to any member upon request.

Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- President Brown called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer. The following members were present: Chris Brown, Carol Zeile, Gary Miller, Sharyn Greening, Dave Zeile, Carolyn Johnson, Larry Elliott, Vern Jakolat, Ken Hill, and Cassie Tennant. Gretchen Harrison and Pastor Messer were also present.

Approval of Agenda

- Motion made by President Brown, supported by Gary Miller to approve amended agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Correction to previously stated minutes under Budget 2012, 3rd bullet point: Pastor Messer's gross pay remains the same; however, at his request, there are additional withholdings making his net pay lower. Motion to approve corrected minutes by Carol Zeile, supported by Gary Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Special Guest

- President Brown acknowledged Gretchen Harrison, who had requested to attend the council meeting in order to address the council regarding some questions and concerns she had about the 2012 Budget. Council thanked her for her comments, and then she left, and the regular council meeting continued.

Report(s)

- **Pastor** – Report attached; **Treasurer's Report** – Full report attached; CEF CD has been closed and funds have been placed in the building fund; large gift was received into the memorial fund from Georgia Spindler's trust; Motion to create a new savings account for the Thrivent Choice Dollars by Carolyn Johnson, supported by Larry Elliott. The signors on the account will be Carol Zeile and Chris S. Brown. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Larry Elliott to support the youth group to attend the Higher Things Conference and pay up to \$2400 for registration out of the Memorial Fund, supported by Gary Miller. Motion passed unanimously; **Financial Secretary** – Yearly reports will be produced in January; **Board of Elders** – No report; **Board of Trustees** – Daren Johnson and others will be taking care of snowplowing again this year; **Board of Christian Education** – Christmas program Dec 21 at 7pm; **Board of Evangelism** – Scrip program has generated \$336.90 so far. Carolyn will use some of the proceeds to order cards ahead of time and keep commonly used cards as inventory; **Board of Stewardship** – No report.

Business

- **Real Estate Report** – Commercial property is starting to move, as 40 acres directly behind us is now up for sale, too.

General Comments

- Only approved minutes will be appearing in the newsletter from now on.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

- Motion made by Gary Miller, supported by Dave Zeile, to adjourn at 8:49pm. Motion carried unanimously. Pastor Messer closed with the Lord's Prayer and Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassie Tennant, Secretary

Notes From the Treasurer

As I near the end of my first month of official “treasurer business,” I have a much deeper appreciation and respect for the position that Carol has faithfully held for the last five years. Thankfully, she has been patient through the transition, and I am looking forward to compiling my first Treasurer’s Report for the Church Council in February.

Here is the 2012 final budget that was passed unanimously at the January 22, 2012 Voters’ Assembly:

Peace Lutheran Church Budget	2011 Budget	2012 Budget	Difference
<u>Expense</u>			
Church and Worship : Altar and Worship	\$1,000	\$1,400	\$400
Church and Worship : Christian Education	\$400	\$500	\$100
Church and Worship : Music	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$0
Missions : Issues, Etc.	\$400	\$1,000	\$600
Operating Expense: Administrative Assistant	\$5,200	\$5,200	\$0
Operating Expense : Building Maintenance	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
Operating Expense : Insurance	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
Operating Expense : Office Expense	\$900	\$1,800	\$900
Operating Expense : Photocopier	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$0
Operating Expense : Telephone/Internet	\$1,600	\$1,244	-\$356
Operating Expense : Utilities	\$5,000	\$5,580	\$580
Pastoral Expense : Benefit Package	\$23,000	\$19,249	-\$3,751
Pastoral Expense : Conferences and Training	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
Pastoral Expense : Down Payment Loan	\$2,220	\$2,220	\$0
Pastoral Expense : Guest Pastors	\$200	\$200	\$0
Pastoral Expense : Mileage	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$1,000
Pastoral Expense : Book Allowance	\$500	\$500	\$0
Pastoral Expense : Salary	\$60,245	\$62,415	\$2,170
Pastoral Expense : Miscellaneous	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$109,565</u>	<u>\$113,208</u>	<u>\$3,643</u>

Also, in response to the motion passed at the January 22, 2012 Voters’ Assembly, I am providing here a summary of the various expenses that fall within each of the line items in the above budget:

Church and Worship

Altar and Worship: Expenses paid under this line item include wine, hosts, candle oil, Portals of Prayer, software subscriptions for bulletins, and gifts for baptisms, confirmands, and new members. We were able to reduce the budgeted amount for altar and worship by eliminating one software subscription, producing our own fellowship pads, and removing altar flowers. In regards to the altar flowers, the Budget & Finance Committee decided that if the flowers were not sponsored by congregation members we will not use them. Our hope is that two people/families per month will volunteer to pay for the arrangements. They cost \$25 each. In the past, any monies for flowers that were not collected were paid by the church and charged to this line item.

Christian Education: The budgeted amount for this line item will be used for books/materials for youth and adult confirmation, First Communion classes, and pastoral distribution to potential members and/or guests from time to time. Materials for VBS and Sunday School are donated and not included in this budgeted line item.

Music: The budgeted amount for this line item consists of paying Mary Jakolat \$25 per week for 52 weeks. In those weeks when Mary plays more than one Service, she graciously volunteers to do so and is not paid for those additional Services. There was no money allotted for guest organists, who should be paid at least \$50 per Service, since it was decided by the Budget and Finance Committee that, if Mary is unable to play, *The Concordia Organist* would be used.

Missions

Issues, Etc.: The total amount budgeted for missions has been allocated for Issues, Etc. Any other gifts/donations for missions throughout the year will be raised.

Operating Expense

Administrative Assistant: This amount stayed the same as the 2011 budgeted amount for this line item and will be paid for the office work provided by Mary.

Building Maintenance: This line item includes expenses for HVAC maintenance, pest control, trash removal, and all general upkeep of the church building and grounds. Housekeeping, snow removal, and lawn care are not included in the budget, as these services are graciously donated by members of the congregation.

Insurance: The budgeted amount for this line item remained the same as last year and is allocated to providing insurance for our church building and property.

Office Expenses: Expenses paid within this line item include greeting cards, offering envelopes, paper, postage, printer ink, and miscellaneous office supplies. This was increased by \$900 due to the fact that we have not had enough budgeted for this line item in previous years.

Photocopier: This line item is for the maintenance contract we have with Ikon, which includes toner, copies made, and all maintenance on our copier.

Telephone/Internet: This line item includes expenses for our land line and internet service at the church, as well as pastor's cell phone.

Utilities: This line item was increased to allow for inflation. It includes expenses for city water, gas, and electric.

Pastoral Expense

Benefit Package: The benefit package includes expenses for disability, retirement and health insurance (which now includes an HSA contribution from the congregation). We were able to reduce the amount in this line item by switching pastor's health insurance provider. The HSA contribution allows for no out of pocket expense for pastor and family.

Conferences and Training: This line item includes expenses (registration, lodging, food) for pastor to attend conferences throughout the year and receive ongoing training. Mileage for conferences is charged to the mileage line item below.

Down Payment Loan: The budgeted amount for this line item is paid to the Church Extension Fund for repayment of the down payment loan for pastor's house.

Guest Pastors: The amount budgeted in this line item is to cover two guest pastors being paid a stipend of \$100 per Sunday.

Mileage: This line item includes mileage for congregational duties, as well as travel to meetings and conferences. The Standard IRS rate of .55/mile is used. There was a need to increase this budgeted amount by \$1000 this year, as there wasn't enough budgeted before.

Book Allowance: This line item is included to allow for ongoing pastoral education.

Salary: This line item covers the salary we pay our pastor, which includes a COLA increase for 2012.

Miscellaneous: This line item has been added this year for pastor to use for personal expenses, as needed.

I hope that this satisfies the desire of the motion passed at the January 22, 2012 Voters' Assembly. I attended the Budget and Finance Committee meetings, as well as the January Council meeting, that produced the proposed budget that was unanimously approved by the voters. So, if there are any questions, or if further explanation of anything within our budget is desired, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,
In Christ,
Amy Blair, Treasurer

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 *2 Samuel*. All are welcome to join us!

Christian History Class

- Wednesday classes meet at 6 pm (currently studying *Mormonism*), followed by Divine Service at 7 pm.

First Communion and Confirmation Classes

- First Communion Classes take place as arranged (see Pastor Messer if interested); Confirmation Class for our 1st-year Confirmands takes place on Wednesdays at 5 pm (no 2nd-year confirmands this year).

TALK RADIO FOR THE THINKING CHRISTIAN!

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

www.issuesetc.org



FEBRUARY

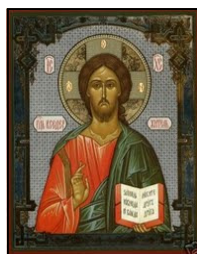
Happy Birthday

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Sierra Luplow | 24 Sally Pease |
| 6 Dorothy Wiser | 24 Melanie Penzien |
| 12 Yvonne Elenbaas | 24 Jeffrey Sager |
| 15 Gabriel Blair | 25 Craig Bebow |
| 21 Eric Lovejoy | 28 Rebekah Rodriguez |
| 21 Coaline Luplow | |

Happy Anniversary

- 19 Barbara and Ernest Komar
28 Wanda and Chad Bebow

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



PASTOR MESSER IS BLOGGING!

www.abideinmyword.blogspot.com

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

WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

- | | |
|------------|--------------------------|
| 7:30 a.m. | Matins (Prayer Service) |
| 8-10 a.m. | Private Conf. & Abs. |
| 12:00 p.m. | Sext (Prayer Service) |
| 4:30 p.m. | Vespers (Prayer Service) |
| 5:00 p.m. | Confirmation Class |
| 6:00 p.m. | Soup and Salad Dinner* |
| 7:00 p.m. | Divine Service |

**On Ash Wednesday, PYG will host Mexican Dinner*

The Lord Bless Our Lententide!

PAROCHIAL REPORT

(as of 1/31/12)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 139; Confirmed - 119

Membership gains: 1

Lexie Calhoun (Baptized & Confirmed on 1/15/12)

Membership losses: 1

Jeff Cummins (Released by request on 1/22/12)

Financial Report as of 12/31/11

YTD Budgeted \$ 10,885.00




YTD Receipts..... \$ 10,243.75

Difference \$ - 641.25

Rev. Thomas C. Messer
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pastormesser@gmail.com
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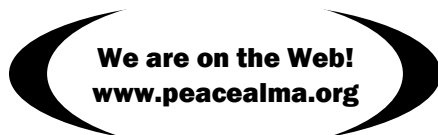
February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 Septuagesima 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC,SS 	6 12 pm - Ladies Guild 	7 <i>Pastor at Winkel</i> 7 pm - Church Council	1 5 pm - Confirmation Class 6 pm - Study of Mormons 7 pm - Div. Serv. <i>Purification of Mary/Presentation of Jesus</i> 	2 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers	3	4 11 am - Remove Christmas Decorations
12 Sexagesima 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Prayer & Preaching 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - SS 5-7 pm - PYG 	13 1:30 pm - Lunch Bunch 	14 7 pm - Board of Christian Education	15 5 pm - Confirmation Class 6 pm - Study of Mormons 7 pm - Div. Serv. <i>St. Martin Luther, Doctor & Reformer</i> 	16 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers 6:30 pm - SALT	17 630 pm - Family Fun Night	18
19 Quinquagesima 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC,SS 	20	21	22 Ash Wednesday (Lent begins) 12 pm - Divine Service 5 pm - Confirmation Class 6 pm - Dinner 7 pm - Divine Service 	23 10 am - Together in Word 12 pm - Divine Service <i>St. Polycarp</i> 5 pm - WW 7 pm - Table Talk 	24	25
26 Invocabit (Lent 1) 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC,SS 	27 Newsletter articles due	28 7 pm - Stewardship	29 7:30 am - Matins 8-10 am - PCA Noon - Sext; 4:30 - Vespers 5 pm - Confirmation Class 6 pm - Soup Dinner 7 pm - Divine Service 	March 1 10 am - Together in Word 12 pm - Divine Service <i>St. Matthias</i> 5 pm - WW 	2	3

Pastor Messer at BJs Conf. in Naperville, IL

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 February

February	ELDERS	ACOLYTES	USHERS	GREETERS
5 - 9:30 am (<i>Septuagesima</i>)	Gabriel Blair	Paige Harwager Savannah Blair	Vern Jakolat John Lemmermann	Blair Family
12 - 9:30 am (<i>Sexagesima</i>)	Larry Elliott	Morgan Johnson Aaron Messer	John Penzien Miguel Ortiz	Bob & Jo Wendt
19 - 9:30 am (<i>Quinquagesima</i>)	Terry Luplow	Samantha Messer Farrah Blair	Gary Miller Tyrel Harwager	Jenny Baughman
22 - 7:00 pm (<i>Ash Wednesday</i>)	Terry Luplow	Samantha Messer Farrah Blair	Gary Miller Tyrel Harwager	
26 - 9:30 am (<i>Invocabit</i>) (<i>Lent 1</i>)	Miguel Ortiz	Natalie Penzien Sierra Luplow	Chris Brown James Sager	Y. Elenbaas/M. Girard
March				
4 - 9:30 am (<i>Reminiscere</i>) (<i>Lent 2</i>)	Gabriel Blair	Savannah Blair Myka Luplow	Terry Luplow Daren Johnson	Sharyn Greening

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