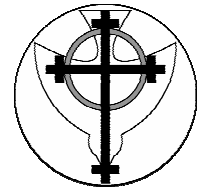
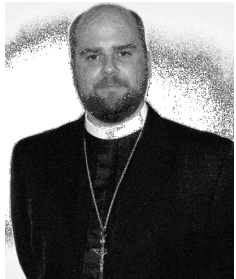


The Peace Post



The peace of the Lord be with you always. Amen!



FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MESSER

"Keeping Our Baptismal Garments Clean"

Dear fellow redeemed in Christ,

Contrary to popular belief, we Lutherans do not believe in the "once saved, always saved" theology of many Protestants. We confess the Scriptural truth that believers can fall from grace and lose the faith once given to them. You do not remain a Christian simply by saying, "I believe in Jesus." Neither is your eternal destination in heaven secure simply because you were baptized, confirmed, and belong to a Christian congregation. Only those believers who continuously have their "baptismal garments" cleansed will have a place reserved for them at the Wedding Feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom, which has no end.

Those of you who have been attending our study of Revelation on Sunday mornings have learned this well. Our Lord makes it very clear in that final book of the Bible how vital it is that Christians remain steadfast in His Word and endure in the true faith until the end. Just take a few minutes and read chapters two and three. Our Lord's words there may shock you, for He is stern and serious as He addresses the people in His churches, constantly urging them to repent and take their faith seriously, warning them over and over that He will not tolerate disobedient and lazy faith, and promising that He will "spit the lukewarm out of His mouth."

These words from our Lord should scare us. They're meant to scare us; to awaken in us a true fear of the Lord, so that we will be led to sincere repentance and faith. If they do not scare you; if you do not think these words apply to you, then something is miss-

ing in you—namely, faith.

The Good News is that when we are brought to a true fear of the Lord, we are not left to despair and hopelessness, but directed to the only rescue we have in the Person and Work of Jesus Christ. The same Lord who thunders away at us with His Holy Law comforts us with the sweet message of His Holy Gospel, but—here's the key—only after the Law has done its work. In other words, the Good News that Jesus has lived the perfect life in our place, died on the cross for our sins, rose from the tomb to open the way to everlasting life, and ascended into heaven to be our prophet, priest, and king, is only beneficial to those who are brought to realize how desperately they need Him.

At your baptism, you were completely forgiven, rescued from sin, death, and the devil, and made a child of God. You were adorned in the "white garment" our Lord refers to in chapters two and three, and indeed throughout the whole book, of Revelation. This means that you were clothed in the holiness and righteousness of Christ, making you perfect in the eyes of your Father in heaven.

But, like any other article of clothing, the "white garment" you received at baptism is in continuous need of cleansing. It will not remain "white" on its own, nor do you possess the power or detergent to clean it on your own. It must be cleansed by the Lamb of God in His own Blood.

In order to flesh out what I have only begun to explain here, I have included two excellent sermons recently preached by two of the finest Lutheran pastors serving our Lord's Church today. I strongly suggest that you take the time to read them and meditate upon them, that you may truly learn how your baptismal garments are kept clean.

May the remainder of your Lenten observance, Holy Week, and Easter be a blessing to you all!

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Messer

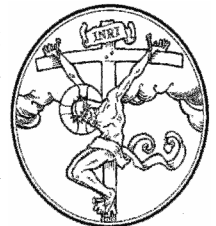
A Sermon by Rev. William Weedon St. Paul Lutheran in Worden, IL Oculi (Lent 3) - Feb. 24, 2008 Luke 11:14-28

Today I'd like to direct your attention to just a portion of the Gospel reading, these words: "When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places, seeking rest; and finding none, it says: I will return to my house from which I came. And when it comes it finds the house swept and put in order. Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first." (Luke 11:24-26)

In these words the Lord Jesus issues to us a most solemn warning, and it is a warning that we Lutherans need to take to heart because of the way we misuse the comforting doctrine of God's Word about Baptism.

We are correct to teach that in Baptism

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Service Schedule through Easter

<u>Day & Date</u>	<u>Sunday/Festival</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Order of Service</u>
Sunday, Mar. 2	Laetare (Fourth Sunday in Lent)	9:30 a.m.	Divine Service 1
Wednesday, Mar. 5	Laetare Midweek	7:00 p.m.	Service of Prayer and Preaching
Sunday, Mar. 9	Judica (Fifth Sunday in Lent)	9:30 a.m.	Divine Service 1
Wednesday, Mar. 12	Judica Midweek	7:00 p.m.	Service of Prayer and Preaching
Sunday, Mar. 16	Palmarum (Palm Sunday)	9:30 a.m.	Div. Serv. 1 (w/Procession of Palms)
Monday, Mar. 17	Monday in Holy Week	12:00 p.m.	Divine Service 3 (spoken)
Tuesday, Mar. 18	Tuesday in Holy Week	12:00 p.m.	Divine Service 3 (spoken)
Wednesday, Mar. 19	Wednesday in Holy Week	12:00 p.m.	Divine Service 3 (spoken)
Thursday, Mar. 20	Holy Thursday	12:00 p.m.	Divine Service 3 (spoken)
		7:00 p.m.	Div. Serv. 1 (w/Stripping of Altar)
Friday, Mar. 21	Good Friday	12:00 p.m.	Sacred Noonday Service
		3:00 p.m.	Short Devotion at the Sacred Hour
		7:30 p.m.	Office of Tenebrae
Saturday, Mar. 22	Holy Saturday	**10:00 a.m.**	Divine Service 3 (spoken)
Sunday, Mar. 23	The Resurrection of Our Lord	9:30 a.m.	Divine Service 1

NOTES ON OUR HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

- **Palm Sunday Procession:** 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.
- **Daily Services during Holy Week and Easter:** We will, once again, hold daily Communion Services during Holy Week this year here at Peace. These Services are being scheduled for Noon to give those who work during the day the opportunity to attend during their lunch break (if possible, of course). They will be around 30 minutes in length and the Liturgy will not be sung, but spoken responsively. They will be a blessing to all who can attend.
- **Holy (Maundy) Thursday:** Our focus this evening will be on the Blessed Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood, which He instituted on the night He was betrayed. Divine Service with Holy Communion will include the "Christian Questions with Their Answers" prepared by Dr. Martin Luther for those who intend to go to the Sacrament. The Service will conclude with the Stripping of the Altar while Psalm 22 is being read.
- **Good Friday Noonday Sacred Service:** This Service will be a complete Divine Service with sung liturgy and hymns (unlike the other Daily Holy Week Services). According to Scripture, our Lord hung upon the Cross from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Until recent times, it was a given that the Church would have Service during this Sacred time. The most traditional Service the Church would have is called the *Tre Ore* (three hours) Service, which would begin at Noon and end at 3:00 p.m. and would be a meditation upon the last three hours our Lord spent on the Cross. Our Service this year will be an abbreviated form of the traditional *Tre Ore* Service. It will focus on the Seven Words of Christ from the cross and the Service itself will be around an hour in length.
- **Short Devotion at the Sacred Hour:** At 3:00 p.m. on Good Friday, we will have a short devotion and prayer to commemorate the hour in which our Lord gave up His Spirit on the cross. The devotion will last no more than 15 minutes.
- **Good Friday Office of Tenebrae:** Please note that the time of this Service is different from our normal evening Services (7:30, not 7:00). The reason for this is to allow it to be a little darker in the Church for the dramatic conclusion of the Service. Also, please note that this Service is NOT the same as the Noonday Service. It is completely different. It will be identical to the Service we had the last two years. We hope and pray that it will be just as meaningful for those who attend this year.

God saves us. His Word says so: "Baptism now saves us." (1 Peter 3:21) We are correct to teach that in Baptism God gives us a new birth. His Word says so: "He saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit." (Titus 3:6) We are correct to teach that in Baptism God saves also the little children. His Word says so: "Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children." (Acts 2:38,39)

Where we get into trouble, though, is where Baptism does not lead us to daily contrition and repentance, but into what the theologians call "carnal security." That's the idea that Baptism is a "get out of hell free" card and so we can live our lives however we like and then on the great day of judgment announce: "But I am baptized" and God will automatically order the gates of heaven to swing wide. If we think like that, we are only deceiving ourselves.

What Baptism introduces us into is a life of penitence, a life of sorrow over sin, fighting against it, and by the power of the Holy Spirit conquering it. Not to fight against the sin in our lives, to make peace with it, to even coddle and nurture it, is to resist our Baptism, not to put it to use.

In the Gospel reading, Jesus warned that once a devil is driven out of a person, the devil is in torments and restless. He wanders at a loss, until he thinks: "Maybe I can go back home now. Maybe there's room inside that person's heart for me again." And if the devil comes back and finds the heart swept and put in order, but unoccupied by the Lord, then the devil shouts a big "yippee" and runs and grabs a pile of his friends and they move right back in again, leaving the person worse off than they were before.

Now Baptism clearly shows Satan the door. Not by accident are the words of the Baptismal order: "Do you renounce the devil, and all his works, and all his ways!" Baptism truly does drive the devil out of human hearts and lives. But, and this is a HUGE but, for Satan to be kept out, Baptism itself must be put to use, else just as Jesus said, the evil spirit is tossed out the front only to enter by the back, and with a bunch of his buddies.

Do you see now why the Church asks the parents and sponsors at every Baptism of a child that they are to "pray for them, support them in their ongoing instruction and nurture in the Christian faith, and encourage them toward the faithful reception of the Lord's Supper"? That admonition is not a sweet nothing! It is the Church's earnest charge to parents and sponsors that for Satan to be kept at bay in this little one's life, they must teach them how to USE their baptism against him.

As for the little children, so for all adults. When someone is baptized or received into the Church by confirmation, we always lay the same solemn charge on them: Will you make faithful use of the means of grace? That's not to fulfill some sort of law, but the Church's way of confessing that only by the faithful, continual use of these means can Satan's power be broken over human lives.

And do you know why they are powerful to do this? Because in each of the means of grace, in Baptism, in the preaching of the Word, in the holy Absolution and in the Supper, the Gospel – which is the power of God for salvation – is given. In each one of them sinners are given a Savior who has taken from off their shoulders the horrible burden of all their sins, and carried it Himself. In each of them sinners are given the gifts which that Savior won when He shed His blood on behalf of the human race: forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. In each of them, Jesus doesn't just tell us that such forgiveness, life, and salvation exist; He actually imparts them to us. And Satan flees before such gifts!

Dr. Luther once made the most awesome observation: On Calvary, salvation was won, but it is not there bestowed; in the Supper it is bestowed, but it is not there won. If you want your sins forgiven, then, you don't run to Calvary. You can't get there anyway. It's long ago and far away, and if you were to go there, your Lord is long since gone from it. But if you want your sins forgiven, you go to the Supper. There your Lord will give you what was offered on Calvary: the Body that carried your sins and the judgment that was against you; the Blood that spilled for your pardon and acquittal. It's there. And it's all yours. And He comes with them.

So the point of the Lord's words about the demons trying to come home are words we Lutheran Christians need to take to heart, lest our rejoicing in Baptism be perverted to a rejoicing in the delusion that we are free to sin without consequence and thus our Baptism become a judgment upon us instead of salvation. Our Jesus would not only drive the devil out through Baptism, but in His Word and Absolution and the Supper would keep him out by Jesus Himself taking up residence within us, constantly forgiving us our sins, and freeing us from their dominion. To whom be glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**A Sermon by Rev. Larry Beane, Pastor of Salem Lutheran in Gretna, LA
Oculi (Lent 3) - Feb. 24, 2008 - Luke 11:14-28 (Jer. 26:1-15; Eph. 5:1-9)**

There is a big difference between license and forgiveness. "License" means permission. It means that something is lawful. It means you can do it with no fear of punishment or negative consequence.

Forgiveness is something else entirely. To be forgiven means one doesn't have permission. In this sense, it is the opposite of license. For if you need forgiveness, it means you acted without license. You did something unlawful, something that breaks the law.

And yet, to be forgiven means to be released from the punishment. It doesn't mean you have permission to sin, in fact it's the opposite. To admit the need for forgiveness is to admit wrongdoing, to admit guilt, to admit being deserving of punishment.

The Gospel is the good news that because of the life, passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus, forgiveness is offered to every person. The sins we have accumulated, the laws we have shattered, the messes we have made, the hurts that we have inflicted, the selfishness we have displayed, and the evil we have entertained have all been atoned for by the very blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

on the cross.

The Gospel is forgiveness, not license.

But dear friends, be on guard. For your sinful flesh will tempt you to see the Gospel as license. Your Old Man will try to convince you that since Jesus died on the cross, since you have been baptized, since you are a church member, since you can accurately repeat the doctrine of the church –you therefore have license to sin in thought, word, and deed. Your fallen human nature will try to convince you that a little dalliance with sin here, a little overindulgence there, just a peccadillo that everyone else is doing – is no problem. It's all good.

Thanks be to God that our Lord is merciful enough to send us prophets, to give us Holy Scripture, and to take on flesh as the Son of Man to cast out this demon of defiance we trifle with.

For our Lord Himself says: "Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it." And while it is true that our Lord Himself keeps the law for us, it is equally true that treating that reality as license to sin is nothing less than the repudiation of the faith and a forfeiture of salvation.

Sin is never a trifle. It is always a big deal.

This is why our Lord warns us that a demon, once expelled, will return, and if given the opportunity, will bring seven of his friends, and will do so with a vengeance. Don't ever forget this, dear brothers and sisters.

The first president of the Missouri Synod, the Reverend C.F.W. Walther, made the following statements that some Lutherans today might even consider false doctrine:

He wrote: "While it is impossible to obtain salvation by holiness, it is entirely possible for a person to lose his salvation again by the neglect of his holiness," and furthermore: "A Christian who will not continually fight against sin, earnestly strive after the virtues that please God, faithfully watch over his heart and life, and always pray for new power and grace soon ceases to be a Christian."

You cannot save yourself by your good works, as Walther writes us, as Luther reminds us, as St. Paul preaches to us, and as the Holy Spirit reveals to us, but don't let your sinful flesh take that ball and run with it by drawing the conclusion that you are free to neglect prayer, treat the divine service as a low priority, spurn confession and absolution, gossip, not practice godly stewardship, be unforgiving of others, be a glutton, commit sexual sins, be uncompassionate, display greed, turn away from self-discipline, and make all sorts of excuses for your sins – and that your baptism gives you license to do these things. That may be a popular religion, but it is not the Christian faith.

St. Paul, the apostle whose letters articulate the Gospel with such clarity and grace, has this to say to the saints at Ephesus, the baptized children of God in the Church: "But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks."

This isn't just a suggestion or a helpful hint, dear brothers and sisters. For St. Paul continues (and please listen very carefully to this): "For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God."

We Lutherans are very quick to weasel out of this by saying something along the lines that since we're baptized, we don't have to worry. Is that what St. Paul is saying? Is Paul giving us license to do whatever we want? Is repentance simply being able to quote the Book of Concord and remember your baptism with the sign of the cross?

Listen to the rest of the holy apostle's warning: "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth)."

St. Paul is not telling you to give in to temptation and just play the baptism card. He's telling you to fight back! This is your eternal salvation we're talking about. This is no time to be flippant. The enemy is inside your house, and he wants to destroy you and your children. Your options are simple: fight or give up. The Christian life is nothing other than warfare. We are to punch, kick, scrap, spit, pull hair, gouge eyes, and grab any weapon at hand. And look at the weaponry the Lord has provided us with! Look at the opportunities you have week in and week out to arm yourselves and your children for battle.

Now, you will lose battles. You will sin. You will allow the Old Man his way. That's precisely when you need the power of the Holy Spirit to gird your loins for battle, to get back up, and fight again.

Listen to the prophet Jeremiah (whose message was so unpopular that everybody wanted to kill him): "Amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the Lord your God, then the Lord will relent concerning the doom that He has pronounced against you."

A warning is an act of mercy. A tornado warning may not be good news in and of itself, but the opportunity to seek shelter is. God's wrath is not to be trifled with. Our sins are serious. Every sin, great and small. Every sin, those committed years ago, and those committed right now. Listen to the prophet! Listen to the apostle! Most of all, listen to our Lord!

God is pleading with us to repudiate the darkness and walk in the light. He is demanding that we give no quarter to evil, show no hospitality to the devil, and certainly don't take the Gospel for granted.

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PEACE LUTHERAN LIBRARY



Donations are always welcome!

If you are thinking about donating one or more books to our library and are not sure what to be looking for, we have a "wish" list of suggestions in the church office. Prices and books can also be found in the CPH catalog, also in the church office.

We would like to encourage people to use our Church Library more often. If you have read a book from our library that you enjoyed, or that inspired you, and you would like to share it, please contact Beth Brostrom or Coaline Luplow.



Next VBS planning meeting:
**THURSDAY,
MARCH 27 - 12:00 P.M.**

Mark your calendar:
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
June 16 - 20, 2008
"Friendship Trek"



LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

We'll have our next Ladies Lunch Bunch on **Tuesday, March 25 at 1:30 p.m.** Watch the bulletin board and future bulletins for location. Please remember that all ladies of Peace Lutheran Church are invited. Should anyone like to invite a guest — someone without a church or someone living alone — please ask them to join us.



Ladies' Lunch Bunch

PYG NEWS

March Events:

March 9 - Monthly meeting—noon to 2:00 p.m.

Easter Fellowship hall Prep. - 3/22 - 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Greetings in Christ.

We are continuing our preparation for going to the "Higher Things - Amen" conference this summer. As I am unable to go this year, Anna Gilbert will be leading the group of 6 youth with Pastor Messer as the other chaperone. Sharyn Greening and Mary Jakolat are accompanying the group, but are covering their own costs.

We had an opportunity for a fund raiser in February of a candle sale. We are continuing plans for a Dealer Bazaar the first weekend in May. More information will be coming throughout the coming weeks. Watch the PYG board for more updates.

Thank you all for your assistance with the on-going can drive. We have raised over \$70 so far. So if you have some bottles or cans you can spare or just don't feel like going through the hassle of processing for deposit, drop them off in the Youth barrel in the cloak room.

PYG will again be selling Easter lilies - please watch the board for information.



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE -

I have enjoyed volunteering to do the church office work for many years, but have decided it is time to step away. Thank you for all your past help and support.
Beth Brostrom



1. Spartan Labels - we continue to collect and count Spartan Label UPC's. There is a box on top of the member mailboxes.

2. Pop Can Drive - We have placed a trash can at the back of the cloak room for cans and bottles.

These are on-going collections by the Peace Youth Group. We appreciate all your support of these programs.

Synopsis of February 5, 2008 Church Council Minutes

Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- President Brown called the meeting to order at 7:06pm. Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer. The following members were present: Chris Brown, Miguel Ortiz, Megan Brown, Carol Zeile, Gary Miller, Don Reithel, James Sager, Sharyn Greening and Andrea Elliott. Pastor Messer was also present.

Approval of Agenda

- Pastor Messer asked to have the Sanctuary Renovation Proposal moved to the end of business. Motion made by Mr. Reithel, Supported by Vice President Ortiz to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

- The following reports needed to be removed from the Consent Agenda: Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Ladies Guild, Peace Youth Group and Budget & Finance Committee. A request was also made by Treasurer Zeile to remove the Board of Trustees Report from the Consent Agenda. Motion made by Mr. Reithel, supported by Financial Secretary Miller to approve the Consent Agenda containing the following items: Previous Meeting Minutes from January 8, 2007, Reports from Pastor, Boards of Elders, Christian Education, Evangelism and Stewardship. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

- **Officers: Treasurer** - Treasurer Zeile presented the Treasurer's Report. The Council received the report into record; **Financial Secretary** - Financial Secretary Miller presented the Financial Secretary's Report. The Council received the report into record.
- **Boards: Board of Trustees** - Councilmember Sager presented the Board of Trustees Report. There was discussion regarding the contract for janitorial services. The Council received the report into record.
- **Organization and Committee Reports: Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild** - No report; **Peace Youth Group** - No report, but Pastor Messer reminded Council about plans to attend Higher Things; **Budget & Finance** - No report.

Business

- **2008 Michigan District Mission Commitment** - Treasurer Zeile presented the Council with a request for commitment from the Michigan District. She explained that we committed and paid \$1,000 to District in 2007. Motion made by Financial Secretary Miller, supported by Councilmember Elliott to commit \$1,000 to District for 2008. Motion carried 8-1 (Vice President Ortiz dissented.)
- **Clarification of Commitments From Previous Meetings** - Treasurer Zeile informed the Council that there was a discrepancy in the commitments from previous meetings. The Council approved a commitment of \$250 in November 2007 to the Saginaw Valley Lutheran Hour. The Council also approved a commitment of \$240 for Issues, Etc. in January 2008. Treasurer Zeile clarified that only \$180 was needed for Issues, Etc. due to a calculation error. These commitments were made from the same budget line item. The commitment for Issues, Etc. has already been paid and the commitment for the Saginaw Valley Lutheran Hour is still outstanding. This budget line item is now short \$170. Motion made by Financial Secretary Miller, supported by Secretary Brown to table this item until the next meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Account Signatories/New Account at FirstBank** - Treasurer Zeile informed the Council of the signatories that updated for the accounts with the Church Extension Fund and FirstBank. Treasurer Zeile also explained that a new savings account will need to be opened for the Christian Care Fund. Motion made by Vice President Ortiz, supported by Financial Secretary Miller to open a new savings account at FirstBank and update the account signatories as follows:
 - **Church Extension Fund:** Remove Vern Jakolat, add Christopher S. Brown. **FirstBank:** Checking Account (140951901) - Remove Vern Jakolat, add Christopher S. Brown; Statement Savings Account (140951920) - Remove Vern Jakolat, add Christopher S. Brown; Interest Fund (1710261254) - Remove Vern Jakolat, add Christopher S. Brown; Safe Deposit Box - Remove Jon Greening and William Brostrom, add Christopher S. Brown and Carol Zeile; Night Deposit Bag Pickup (1864) - Remove Vern Jakolat and Coaline Luplow, add Christopher S. Brown and Gary Miller; New Statement Savings - account signatories are to be Christopher S. Brown and Carol Zeile. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Cash Flow in Checking Account** - Treasurer Zeile informed Council of possible shortages in the checking account due to higher bills during the winter months and less offering income. Motion made by Financial Secretary Miller, supported by Vice President Ortiz to transfer \$5,000 from the Building Fund to the checking account. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Development of Trustees Procedures** - The Council discussed the creation and implementation of procedures for the Board of Trustees regarding work that needs to be completed in or around the Church. Pastor shared a procedure from another LCMS church that could be adapted to the needs of Peace. No action was taken by the Council.
- **Helping a Member In Need - Report from Pastor Messer** - Pastor Messer expressed his appreciation for the generosity that was given for the assistance of a member in need. Pastor Messer informed the Council that over \$4,000 was donated for this cause.
- **Sanctuary Renovation Proposal** - Pastor Messer invited the Council into the sanctuary to explain ideas he has for improvements to the altar area. Pastor Messer will provide a more detailed proposal at the next meeting. No action was taken by the Council.
- **General Comment** - There were no comments.
- **Adjournment & Closing Prayer** - Motion made by Mr. Reithel, supported by Financial Secretary Miller to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously and meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m., Pastor Messer dismissing Council with the Benediction.

Proposed minutes respectfully submitted,
Megan Brown, Secretary

LADIES & ALTAR GUILD INFO

- **LADIES GUILD MEETING:** Guild meets the Monday, **March 3 - 7:00 pm.** **Hostess:** Beth Brostrom. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend our guild meetings; if you are a confirmed female member of Peace, you can be a member of the guild. We would sincerely encourage you to participate and be an active member of the guild.
- **LADIES GUILD PRAYER CHAIN:** The Ladies Guild has a prayer chain in place. If you wish to be included in the prayer chain as a caller, see Marlene Wiltshire. If you wish to add yourself or someone else to the prayers, call Carol Durst (463-2270) or Marlene Wiltshire (463-4101).
- **ALTAR GUILD DUTY:** March - Carol Zeile; April - Carol Zeile; May - Beth Brostrom
- **ALTAR FLOWERS:** There is a flower calendar for 2008 posted on the fellowship bulletin board. If you wish to place flowers on the altar some time during the year, fill in your name and/or contact Beth Brostrom or Cheryl Henry. A bouquet usually lasts about one (1) month and the cost is about \$25.



UPCOMING COFFEE HOSTESSES:



March

2 - D. Palmer/T. Palmer
9 - Jo Wendt
16 - Cheryl Kuehnlein
23 - EASTER (Ladies' Guild)
30 - Carol Durst

April

6 - Janice Sager
13 - Jenny Baughman
20 - Youth Group
27 - Lisa Messer

May

4 - Coaline Luplow
11 - Tammy Oswald
18 - M. Isaksson/H. Meyers
25 - Mary Jakolat

Easter Breakfast - Sunday, March 23 - 8:30 am



Come Join Us for Easter Breakfast!

Once again this year the Ladies' Guild members will prepare an Easter breakfast for our Peace family. Breakfast begins at 8:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday, March 23, and includes strata, fresh fruit, coffeecake, milk, juice and coffee. This is a great way to start the day and spend some time in fellowship with your church family before the Divine Service. All members of Peace are welcome and encouraged to join us. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Zeile.

Church Office Vacancy

On February 10, the majority of our congregational officers, Pastor Messer, and Mary Jakolat, received a letter from Beth Brostrom in which she indicated her decision to step away from her duties as church secretary (see her note on page 5). We thank Beth for her many years of service in the church office. Church Council is currently discussing various options on how best to fill the vacancy Beth's departure leaves in the church office and will present its recommendations to the Voters' Assembly soon. In the interim, Mary Jakolat has volunteered to assist Pastor Messer in the church office. For helping out, she will receive the same \$25/week Beth was receiving. So, please note that, as of March 1, Mary will receive all email sent to contact@peacealma.org. Please communicate all bulletin, newsletter, scheduling information, etc., to her, or to Pastor Messer. Mary may be reached at the email address stated, the church phone, or at home - 463-3067. Thank you.

Christian Care Fund



At the January Ladies' Guild meeting it was decided to begin fundraising to establish a Christian Care Fund. The Fund will be used to help members of our congregation with emergency needs. As a part of the fundraising efforts the ladies began accepting donations at the Lenten dinners and on Sundays during Lent. As of February 24, we have collected a total of \$149. We applied for \$200 of supplemental funds from Thrivent to increase the amount that we will be able to contribute to start this Fund. As you attend the remaining midweek Services during Lent, please consider making a donation to this important fundraising effort. Contributions given through March 12, will count towards the Lenten total. If you are unable to attend the midweek dinners and would like to contribute, please contact Carol Zeile.



Christian Care Fund

S.A.L.T. NEWS & NOTES

*S.A.L.T. is our Evangelism Committee here at Peace. Its mission is to **Share with All the Love and Truth** of Jesus Christ!*

1. **Next S.A.L.T. Meeting will be held Thursday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m.** We're still in need of more people to join us, so please attend if you can.
2. **Support Our Troops:** Please continue to support this ministry by donating any items you can (list on S.A.L.T. bulletin board). If you have any family members serving overseas in our military and would like for us to send them a shipment, please see Andrea or Larry Elliott. Thank you! 
3. **Food Bank:** Food Bank collection Sunday is the first Sunday of every month. Please help the S.A.L.T. committee give aid to families and seniors of Gratiot County by bringing in non-perishable, canned, or packaged foods. Suggestions for donations are posted on the S.A.L.T. bulletin board. Place your donations in the **RED COLLECTION TUB** in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks for your help! 
4. **PEACE APPAREL IS COMING SOON:** We will be taking orders once again for Peace Lutheran **T-shirts, polos, and sweatshirts**. We will be offering a bigger variety this time. We had hoped to be able to have this together before Christmas, but it didn't work out. So, look for details on this soon! We promise! :)
5. **Peace Camping Weekend:** Preparations are under way! See S.A.L.T. bulletin board for more info!
6. **Easter Egg Hunt:** Due to Easter falling so early this year, we have decided against holding an Easter Egg Hunt (it might be a little hard for the kids to find the eggs in the snow!). We will be discussing other possible options of a big event to hold later this year.

PEACE MOVIE NIGHT

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

"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—FELLOWSHIP & FOOD

(Pizza, popcorn, chips, candy, and soft drinks will be provided)

6:30 pm—INTRODUCTION & DEVOTION BY PASTOR MESSER

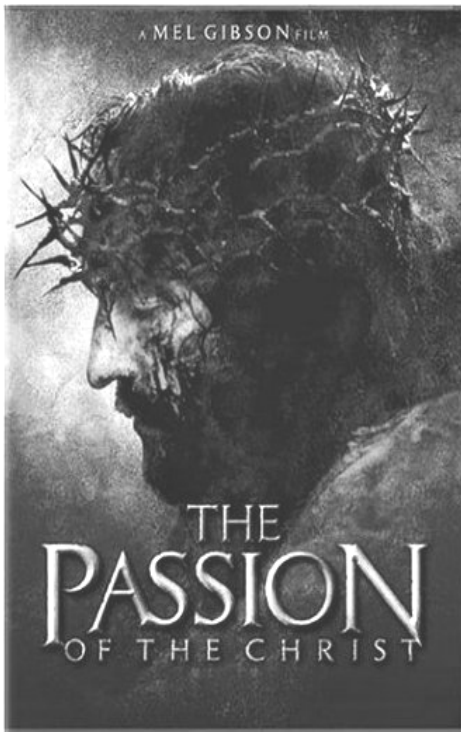
6:50 pm—THE MOVIE (Length: 2 hours, 6 minutes)

9:00 pm—DISCUSSION LED BY PASTOR MESSER

Bring your own comfy chairs if you wish

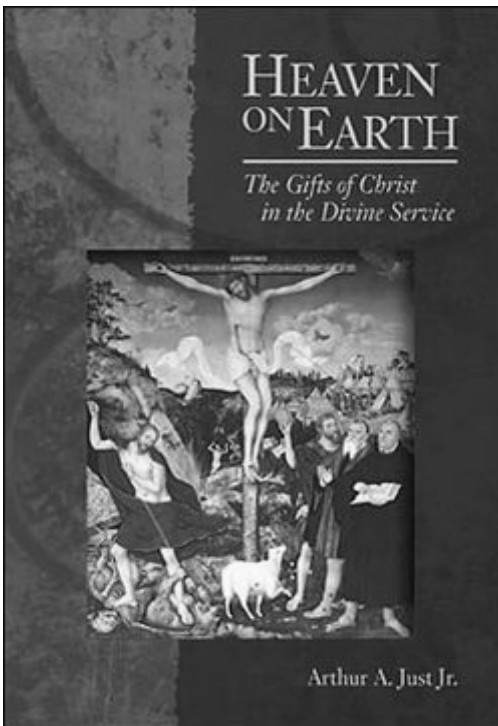
A freewill offering will be collected to support future movie nights. Hope to see you there!

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)



AN EXCELLENT NEW BOOK!

Just released by Concordia Publishing House, *Heaven on Earth: The Gifts of Christ in the Divine Service*, written by Dr. Arthur A. Just, Jr., is simply a must read for all Lutherans, especially in our day and age when more and more Lutherans are abandoning the historic liturgy and replacing it with contemporary “styles” of worship. As you read the deeply moving history



of the development, use, and meaning of the Lutheran liturgy you will find a renewed sense of purpose, understanding, and appreciation for why we do what we do in the Lutheran Divine Service. Dr. Just covers the following topics:

- Preface/Introduction: The Historic Liturgy
- The Theology of Worship
- The Structure of the Historic Liturgy
- Jewish Origins of Christian Worship
- The Table Fellowship of Jesus
- The Historic Liturgy and the New Creation
- The Psalms in Worship
- The Christian Concept of Time
- Baptism: Entrance into the Divine Service
- The Historic Liturgy as Divine Service: Liturgy of the Word
- The Liturgy of the Lord's Supper
- Conclusion: Lutheran Liturgy in the Postmodern World
- Appendix: Seasonal Proper Prefaces from Lutheran Service Book.

The book also includes extensive charts, graphs, notes, and other helpful illustrations and photos.

The price of the book is a very reasonable \$15.00. For all who are interested in purchasing this book, a sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall for the next three Sundays (3/2, 3/9, 3/16). We will place an order

with CPH on Monday, March 17. For any of our out-of-town members who are interested, simply call or email me and I will place your name on the list. As an added bonus, CPH is offering a special right now: Free shipping for orders over \$50.00. So, if we get at least 4 orders, we will not be charged shipping. I sincerely hope that many of you will consider purchasing and reading this very important book.

In Christ,
Pastor Messer

Conclusion of Rev. Beane's sermon (cont'd from page 4)

The warnings of Isaiah, Paul, and Jesus are as real today as they were when the Holy Spirit inspired them. Those warnings are for us, right here and right now. God is pleading with us to repent, to have a change of heart. To come to grips with just how serious our sins are.

It is only in this context that the Gospel is the Gospel. A life jacket is only an unnoticed prop on a boat until the boat is sinking. When that happens, that dirty orange vest is more beautiful than the fanciest gown worn by an Oscar winner, and worth more than the swankiest tailored suit sported by a king.

The Gospel, the real Gospel – not empty words and slogans – but the real flesh and blood atonement won for you by God in the flesh dying on the cross and offering forgiveness to you, is your only hope. The Lord grants you complete and total forgiveness, not license, but rather grace. He gives you the weapons you need to hurl at the devil. And they are the Word of God and the Sacraments that bear His promises. Use those weapons, dear friends, wield them! Brandish them!

Bible class is not about learning trivia – but rather arming yourself for battle. The Divine Service isn't a time-filler between breakfast and lunch, or a chance to chit chat with friends – but rather preparation and fortification for war. Confession and absolution isn't just for mass murderers and rapists – it's for every person who has ever sinned – and it is also a weapon for you to take aim at the one who wants to drag you into hell.

For the Lord Jesus is here to cast out the demons. Demons are not our playmates, but our mortal enemies. And these enemies are to be defeated and given no terms.

For even in our imperfect flesh, dear brethren, we have been given the power to “walk as children of light” and “walk in love” for “Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us.” These are the words of Scripture. This is the Word of the Lord.

Let us turn from our sins and flee from cheapening the Gospel into mere license. Rather let us embrace the forgiveness of sins that our Lord has won for us, proclaims into our ears, places on our tongues, and instills in our hearts. For only in Him can we be, as St. Paul implores us, “imitators of God as dear children.” Amen.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT PEACE

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

- Sunday School meets at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday. There are four Sunday School Classes this year (Pre-K-2nd Grade; 3rd-5th Grade; 6th-8th Grade; 9th-12th Grade).
- Adult Bible Class is offered **every Sunday at 11:00 a.m.** for all adult members of Peace and guests. We are currently wrapping up our detailed study of **Revelation**. On **Sunday, April 6**, we will begin studying the **Book of Concord**, which contain our Lutheran Confessions.

Youth Confirmation Class

- Youth Confirmation Class meets weekly on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.

Together in the Word

- Our *Together in the Word* Bible Study meets on **Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m.** 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 engaged in a detailed study of **Genesis**. Please plan on joining us soon.

“It’s All Greek to Me”

- *It’s All Greek to Me* meets on Sundays from 12:00-1:30.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to:

1 - Tyrel Harwager	11 - Leland Oswald	28 - Donna Bebow
1 - Zane Luplow	11 - Bob Wendt	29 - Jessica Oswald
2 - Jim Elenbaas	20 - Barb Komar	31 - Cheryl Henry
5 - Tina Schafer	22 - Ken Hill	31 - Christine Figueroa
8 - Ariel Row	27 - Ashleigh Rodriguez	31 - Deb Penzien

Happy Anniversary to:

19 - Mike & Sue Ortiz



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

THANK YOU!

A HUGE THANK YOU to all of you who donated towards helping one of our member families, who found themselves in need, last month. In just 10 days, we were able to raise a little over \$4,000.00 to help this family get back on their feet! I was overwhelmed by the generosity so many of you showed in this effort, and the family you helped is eternally grateful! If you're wondering what I'm talking about and why you didn't get asked to help out, it is only because your brothers and sister in Christ responded so generously that we reached our goal before I got to you. Thanks again to all who gavel!

With love,

Pastor Messer



TABLE TALK

Our Table Talks are informal and informative discussions with Pastor Messer on various topics decided by the group in attendance. Our next Table Talk will take place **Thursday, April 3 at 7:00 p.m.** at the church. All are invited to attend! Hope to see you there!



EUCHRE NIGHT!

Our next Euchre Night will be **Saturday, March 29 at 6:30 p.m.** Everyone is welcome to come and have fun playing the great game of euchre. Please bring a refreshment to pass - and a friend. See you there!

PAROCHIAL REPORT

(As of February 22)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 173 ; Confirmed - 140

Official Acts:

0

Membership gains:

0

Membership losses:

0



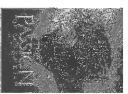
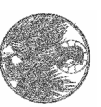









Financial Report

YTD Receipts: \$13,540.56

YTD Budgeted Needs: \$15,645.00

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

March 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 <i>Lactare (Lent 4)</i> 8:30—Choir 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BC, SS 12:00—Greek Class 	3 7:00 p.m.—Ladies Guild <i>Hostess: Barb Brostrom</i>	4 <i>Pastor Messer at Winkel</i> 7:00 p.m.—Council Mtg.	5 6:00 p.m.—Potluck 7:00 p.m.—Lactare Midweek Service	6 10:00 a.m.—Together in the Word <i>5:00 p.m.—WW</i> 5:30 p.m.—Conf. Class	7	1
9 <i>Judica (Lent 5)</i> 8:30—Choir 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BC, SS 12:00—Greek; PYG 	10 10:00 a.m.—Elders Mtg.	11	12 6:00 p.m.—Potluck 7:00 p.m.—Judica Midweek Service	13 10:00 a.m.—Together in the Word <i>5:00 p.m.—WW</i> 5:30 p.m.—Conf. Class 7:00 p.m.—SALT Mtg.	14	15 <i>6:00 pm - Peace Movie Night "The Passion of the Christ"</i> 
16 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 8:30—Choir 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BC, SS 12:00—Greek Class 	17 <i>Monday in Holy Week</i> 12:00—Divine Service 	18 <i>Tuesday in Holy Week</i> 12:00—Divine Service 	19 <i>Wednesday in Holy Week</i> 12:00—Divine Service 	20 Holy Thursday 10:00—Tog. in Word 12:00—Divine Service <i>5:00 p.m.—WW</i> 7:00—Divine Service 	21 Good Friday 12:00—Noonday Service 3:00—Devotion 7:30—Tenebrae Service 	22 Holy Saturday 10:00 a.m.—Div. Ser. 10:30 a.m.—Fellowship Hall Preparations 
23 <i>Resurrection of Our Lord</i> 8:30—Easter Breakfast 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship <i>No BC or SS</i> 	24	25 1:30 p.m.—Ladies Lunch Bunch	26 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <i>April newsletter items due tomorrow!</i> </div>	27 <i>No Together in the Word</i> 12:00 p.m.—VBS Mtg. <i>5:00 p.m.—WW</i>	28	29 6:30 p.m.—Euchre 
30 <i>Quasimodo Geniti (Easter 2)</i> 8:30—Choir 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BC, SS 12:00—Greek Class 	31	Apr. 1 <i>Pastor Messer at Winkel</i>	Apr. 2	Apr. 3 10:00 a.m.—Together in the Word <i>5:00 p.m.—WW</i> 5:30 p.m.—Conf. Class 7:00 p.m.—Table Talk	Apr. 4	Apr. 5
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <i>Pastor Messer at Association of Confessional Lutherans</i> </div>						

SERVING IN MARCH

	<u>ACOLYTES</u>	<u>ORGANIST</u>	<u>ELDER</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
2 - 9:30 am (<i>Laetare - Lent 4</i>)	Melanie Penzien Natalie Penzien	Beth Brostrom	Don Reithel	Bill Hendrick Jon Penzien	Burt & Cheryl Henry
5 - 7:00 pm (<i>Laetare Midweek</i>)	Kelsey Gensler Phillip Schafer	Beth Brostrom	Don Reithel	Bill Brostrom Jon Penzien	<i>None</i>
9 - 9:30 am (<i>Judica - Lent 5</i>)	Tyrel Harwager Jordan Henry	Mary Jakolat	Bill Harmon	Gary Miller James Sager	LeRoy & Maxine Isaksson
12 - 7:00 pm (<i>Judica Midweek</i>)	Sarah Messer Samantha Messer	Mary Jakolat	Bill Harmon	Gary Miller James Sager	<i>None</i>
16 - 9:30 am (<i>Palm Sunday</i>)	CJ Oswald Lauren Penzien	Beth Brostrom	Terry Luplow	Bill Brostrom Burt Henry	Vern & Mary Jakolat
20 - 7:00 pm (<i>Holy Thursday</i>)	Tyrel Harwager Kelsey Gensler	Beth Brostrom	Bill Harmon	Bill Brostrom Burt Henry	<i>None</i>
21 - 12:00 pm (<i>Good Fri. Noon</i>)	<i>None</i>	Mary Jakolat	Terry Luplow	Bill Brostrom Burt Henry	<i>None</i>
21 - 7:30 pm (<i>Good Fri. Tenebrae</i>)	<i>None</i>	Beth Brostrom	Dave Zeile	Chris Brown Bill Hendrick	<i>None</i>
23 - 9:30 am (<i>Easter Sunday</i>)	Phillip Schafer Sarah Messer	Mary Jakolat	Dave Zeile	Chris Brown Bill Hendrick	Terry & Coiline Luplow
30 - 9:30 am (<i>Easter 2</i>)	Melanie Penzien Jordan Henry	Beth Brostrom	Larry Elliott	Mike Gilbert Vern Jakolat	Lisa Messer & family
APRIL					
6 - 9:30 am (<i>Easter 3</i>)	Samantha Messer Lauren Penzien	Mary Jakolat	Don Reithel	Curt Oswald Jon Penzien	Mike & Sue Ortiz

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

Church: 989-463-5754
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Mary's Home: 989-463-3067
Pastor's Home: 989-796-4453
Pastor's Cell: 989-388-2037
E-mail: pastor@peacealma.org



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.