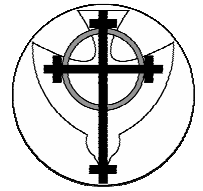
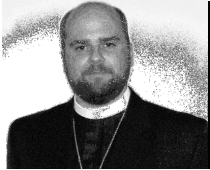


# The Peace Post



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



## *From the Desk of Pastor Messer*

### AN EXCELLENT CONFERENCE

A couple of weeks ago, I had the privilege of attending the very first "Brothers of John the Steadfast" Conference in Naperville, IL. "Brothers of John the Steadfast" is a new Lutheran men's organization, begun June 25, 2008, for the two-fold purpose of 1) Supporting the New Media of the Church (e.g. "Issues, Etc.") and 2) Keeping Men Steadfast in the True Faith. The group is named after John the Steadfast, who was a courageous knight and the ruler of Saxony (1525-32), and who was willing to risk even his life to defend Luther and the cause of the Reformation; he is a model for all laymen today, inspiring them to follow Christ at all costs. A parallel women's organization is in the process of being formed, which will be called "The Society of Katie von Bora" (named in honor of Martin Luther's wife). For more information on these organizations, go to [www.steadfastlutherans.org](http://www.steadfastlutherans.org) or [www.laymenetc.org](http://www.laymenetc.org).



The conference was simply outstanding, from beginning to end. It is no overstatement to say that this was one of the very best conferences I have ever attended. Everything, from the food to the accommodations to the keynote speakers to the Services, was excellent.

Added to the excellence of the conference was the blessing it was for me to be joined by my wife, Dave and Carol Zeile, and Larry and Andrea Elliott. I was so happy to have other members from our flock attending the conference with me. Having their company was a real treat, but the best treat of all was knowing that they were hearing and experiencing the great blessings this conference had to offer. Plus, I have to admit, it was nice to get a way for a few days with Lisa, something she and I haven't been able to do for quite some time.

The conference began on Friday, Feb. 13, in the afternoon. Lisa and I walked into the narthex of Bethany Lutheran and,

before we could finish getting registered, Pastor Tim Rossow, who serves at Bethany, came up and greeted us. He said that he had been waiting for us to arrive because he wanted to ask me if I would be willing to serve as Lector (Reader) at the Vespers Service that evening. I told him I would be honored to do so, and then he stole me away from Lisa and took me back to the sacristy to get me a bulletin, show me the vestments I would be wearing, and give me instructions regarding the Service. It was great to get a personal tour of Bethany's sacristy and sanctuary, although I was a little worried about leaving Lisa all alone in the narthex. But, thankfully, when Pastor Rossow was finished with me and I returned to the narthex, the Zeiles and Elliotts had arrived and Lisa was with them.



After a nice Welcome Reception, Session I of the conference began, which featured Chris Rosebrough, founder/owner of Pirate Christian Radio ([www.piratechristianradio.com](http://www.piratechristianradio.com)). Chris was instrumental in getting "Issues, Etc." back on the air as an independent radio program. He is also an excellent lay-theologian, and hosts his own radio program called, "Fighting for the Faith," which airs online daily following "Issues, Etc."

The title of Chris' first session was, "Set Free from Bondage: A Journey Out of American Evangelicalism." Chris shared his heartfelt, powerful testimony with us, explaining what a joy it was to finally discover the true Gospel in confessional Lutheranism, after spending many years trapped in the Law-focused Nazarene Church. There was no mistaking his sincere sorrow over the fact that many Lutherans within our own synod are coveting the false teachings of American Evangelicalism that left him wanting for so many years. Chris is in a unique position to assess this situation, for not only does his former life as a Nazarene inform him, but he also spent

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

"An Excellent Conference" .. 1-4	Christian Educaiton .....10
Lenten Series .....5	Birthdays & Anniversaries ....10
Council Minutes Summary.....6	Parochial Report .....10
Peace News & Notes ..... 7-8	March Calendar.....11
Ladies & Altar Guild.....9	Serving in March.....12

several years working for the popular Evangelical program, “Focus on the Family,” featuring Dr. James Dobson. Chris shared some of the “behind the scenes” activities that took place there, highlighting the fact that guests for the program were chosen not on the basis of their faithfulness to Holy Scripture, but on the basis of their apparent “success” in the Evangelical community. Chris sees the direction taken by our current synodical leadership as hauntingly similar to what he experienced in his “past life,” as faithfulness to Holy Scripture and our Lutheran Confessions takes a back seat to following the “methods” and “fads” of those who appear to be successful in the world of Americanized Evangelicalism. For someone like Chris, this is nothing short of tragic. He never knew the Gospel until he was led, by God’s grace, to discover confessional Lutheranism and to find confessional Lutheranism flirting with the “Gospel-less” methods and fads of Americanized Evangelicalism is mind-boggling to him. It was a powerful and very eye-opening presentation!

After Session I, there was a short break and then we gathered for Vespers. It was a wonderful Service. Cantor Phillip Magness, who serves as organist and choir director at Bethany, played beautifully. Rev. Jacob Ehrhard of Emmanuel Lutheran in Dwight, IL served as Liturgist; Rev. Dan Gilbert, District President for the Northern Illinois District, proclaimed the Gospel to us in the sermon; and yours truly was privileged to read the lessons.



After Vespers, we gathered in Bethany’s gymnasium for dinner, which was billed as, “The Great Pizza Debate: Chicago, New York, or St. Louis Style?” All three styles were delicious, but the clear winner was “New York Style.” I know others disagree, but they’re just plain wrong. ☺

The first day of the conference concluded with various “No Pietists Allowed” parties. Everyone had the option of choosing which party to attend. Our group opted for a night at one of the local Irish Pubs, where we enjoyed good conversation with other attendees over a few “Lutheran beverages.” Lots of fun!



Day two of the conference began with “A Man’s Breakfast,” which was delicious. Our group was privileged to have Chris Rosebrough join us at our table. You talk about a layman who knows his theology! Chris knows his stuff, and his passion for defending and promoting the true Gospel is contagious. It was a real treat to have him sit and chat with us over breakfast.

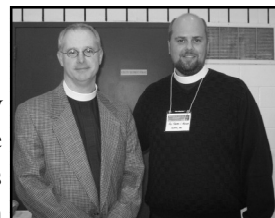
After breakfast came Session II, which featured Chris again. This time, his presentation was titled, “Starting a Lutheran Radio Station,” and he shared how Pirate Christian Radio was made a reality, and how “Issues, Etc.” was brought back as an independent radio program. Chris talked a lot about the differences between the Old Media of terrestrial radio and the New Media of online radio. The differences in the cost are simply shocking. To start a terrestrial radio station costs millions. In contrast, he was able to get Pirate Christian Radio up and running for a few thousand dollars. But, as big as that difference is, it doesn’t compare with the difference in potential audience. A terrestrial radio station is limited to the surrounding geographical area, as far as the power of its bandwidth will take it. Online radio has no limitations. Indeed, Chris shared with us that people from over 50 different countries in the world have listened to Pirate Christian Radio. The times, they are a’changin’, indeed! On Demand viewing and listening is the future for media in the world.

We took a short break after Chris’ second session and then came Session III, led by Rev. Todd Wilken, host of “Issues, Etc.” This was the third time I was privileged to hear Rev. Wilken speak in person, and he has never disappointed. He is, quite simply, worth the price of admission every time. He began his presentation by quoting our current Synodical President Rev. Gerald Kieschnick’s oft-repeated words, “People, this is not a game! Our incessant internal purification at the expense of the eternal destiny of the souls of men and women for whom Christ died must stop!”



Rev. Wilken used a couple of thoughtful analogies to reveal the fallacy of President Kieschnick’s statement. First, he asked what we would think of a mayor of a city who called for the cessation of “incessant water purification.” Such a mayor would say things like, “People are thirsty out there! We don’t have time for incessant water purification.” Would you drink the water in that city? Would you re-elect such a mayor? His second analogy involved a restaurant, where the head chef, seeing the crowd of people coming in, would say, “We haven’t the time to wash the dishes or make sure the chicken is done!

There's people out there to feed!" Would you eat in such a restaurant?



By these analogies, it should be easy to see how President Kieschnick's statements, no matter how well-intentioned they may be, are absurd. If our doctrine and practice are not pure, how can we possibly reach the lost with the pure Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ? God shows in His Holy Word that He's a big fan of pure doctrine and practice. This is a theme He reveals to us from Genesis to Revelation. You cannot possibly miss it—unless, of course, you bring your own pre-conceived notions about doctrine and practice to the text. Likewise, God shows over and over again just how He feels about compromising our doctrine and practice with the methods and principles of this sinful world. Suffice it to say, He doesn't like it at all. The idea that we can forsake making sure our doctrine and practice are pure and go out and reach the lost for Jesus is simply ridiculous, when compared against Holy Scripture and our Lutheran Confessions.

Rev. Wilken went on to share another fallacious concept held by our current synodical leaders, namely the idea that "you cannot teach laypeople theology." While it may be true that some laypeople are not interested in learning theology, it is not true that you cannot teach them. To claim that "you cannot teach laypeople theology" is to throw in the towel and refuse to do that which Christ our Lord has commanded us to do: "Go therefore and *make disciples* of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, *teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you*" (Matt. 28:19-20a). Not only can we teach laypeople theology, but we *must* do so, if we are to be faithful to our Lord's charge. Instead, our current synodical leaders would rather "dumb things down" and avoid the catechetical task set before us. Of course, such is to be expected of a leadership that doesn't have time for "incessant internal purification."

Rev. Wilken concluded his address with an appropriate reminder to all of us that "the Gospel is always small time." The Gospel will never play Carnegie Hall. It will never make the "big time" here on earth. Our Lord doesn't work that way. He works in "small time" ways—through His Holy Word and Sacraments, which seem very insignificant to the dead and dying world around us. Simple Words, plain water, ordinary bread and wine—that's it? Yes, that's it! The danger comes in when people try to take the "small time" Gospel and make it "big time." These are people who wrap their arms around the poor, little Gospel and tell it, "We're gonna make you a star!" The problem is that, in trying to make the Gospel "big time," they change the Gospel, so that it's no longer the Gospel at all. None of this is to say that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is "small time," even though He appeared to be very "small time" throughout His earthly ministry. On the Last Day, we'll find out just how "big time" Jesus is. Until then, He continues to work in "small time" ways through His "small time" Gospel, saving one sinner at a time.

The only downfall about Rev. Wilken's presentation was that it had to eventually come to an end. Thankfully, we get to hear him as often as we like on "Issues, Etc." (are you listening?) where he never fails to point us to Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose again for us, and who must always remain at the heart and center of the Christian Church.

After Rev. Wilken's presentation, we broke for lunch, which, again, was delicious. The ladies at Bethany did a superb job of feeding us during the conference, which, in my book, is one of the determining factors for whether or not the conference is a success! Seriously, the food and the service were both outstanding, and this is not always the case at conferences I attend, so it was an added blessing.



Finally, the conference concluded with perhaps the biggest blessing of all, as we gathered together for Divine Service, and were fed on our Lord's Holy Word and Most Holy Sacrament. Pastor Rossow served as Liturgist; Pastor Tony Sikora, from Hope Lutheran in DeWitt, MI, served as Lector; and Pastor Charles Henrickson, from St. Matthew Lutheran in Bonne Terre, MO, proclaimed the Gospel to us in the sermon. The beauty of the Service was greatly enhanced by the talents of Cantor Magness and the Bethany Choir and Musicians. "Lord, I love the habitation of Your House, and the Place where Your Glory dwells!"

It was a most excellent conference! We'll be advertising the conference next year and I hope more of you will be able to go!  
In Christ,

*Pastor Messer*

**Brothers of John the Steadfast Conference**  
**Bethany Lutheran Church, Naperville, IL, February 13-14, 2009**  
*by Carol Zeile*

*I had the privilege of attending this conference with Dave, Larry and Andrea Elliott, and Pastor and Lisa. It was a blessing to have the opportunity to spend a little time away from Alma with these brothers and sisters and it certainly was time well spent.*

*The weekend began with a Vespers Service on Friday and ended with a Divine Service. Pastor Messer served as lector for the Vespers Service, which was an honor for him. For the Divine Service he sat in the pew with us. This is the first time that I have had the occasion to worship with my pastor beside me. What a blessing indeed!*

*The two main speakers at the Conference were Chris Rosebrough, founder of Pirate Christian Radio and Pastor Todd Wilkin, host of the radio program Issues, Etc. Both men gave witty, compelling and heart-felt accounts of spreading the true gospel through their radio programs. These two men give their lives to produce their "Christ-Centered, Cross-Focused" programming and reach a multitude of listeners each week. It was an honor to be able to hear them both speak in person. All of the conference presentations are available here <http://steadfastlutherans.org/blog/?cat=25> if you would like to learn more.*

*The congregation members of Bethany were great hosts and hostesses. Pastor Rossow was an incredible leader and kept everything moving and on time. The day school teachers helped to prepare and serve food and there was always someone around to ask for guidance. The food was wonderful!*

*The church facilities were also incredible. The pipe organ was amazing and the choirs and cantor impressive. It was an honor to worship with so many "steadfast Lutherans".*

*On Sunday morning, after the conference, Dave, Pastor and I attended Divine Service at St. John Lutheran Church in Wheaton, IL. It is a very large church building with a large congregation. They have three pastors who conduct four Divine Services each weekend, one on Saturday and three on Sunday. The liturgy is traditional and reverent and the music and choir is wonderful, especially the young cellist. The Lord's Supper is served in an efficient and reverent manner to many communicants. From this outsider's eyes, this congregation could easily dispel the notion that large congregations are not friendly. They were outwardly friendly to us as visitors, to each other and to their pastors.*

*All in all, the weekend was a marvelous experience. I encourage all of you to consider attending next year. They promise to make the conference bigger and better, although I'm not sure how they could possibly make it better.*

*In Christ,  
Carol Zeile*



*Larry and Andrea conversing with  
steadfast Lutheran, Rev. Dr. Fred Baue*



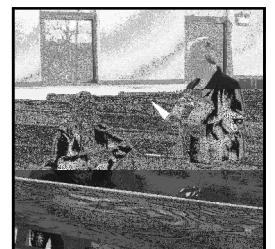
*Pastor Tim Rossow, who  
hosted the conference*

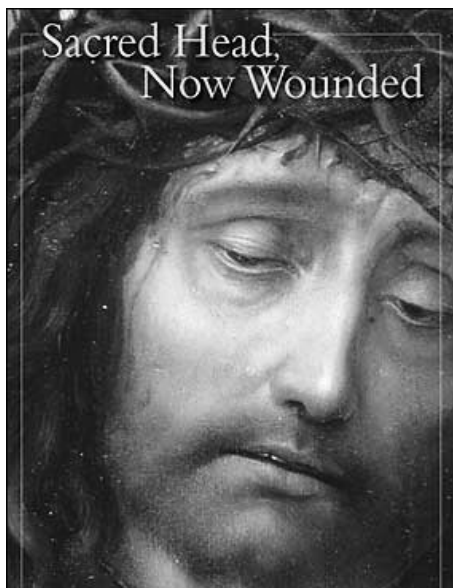


*Pastor Messer with steadfast  
Lutheran, Mr. Scott Diekmann,  
whose excellent blogsite is:  
[www.stand-firm.blogspot.com](http://www.stand-firm.blogspot.com)*



*Vespers Procession*





## **“Sacred Head, Now Wounded”**

### **Lenten Sermon Series & Bible Studies**

*Based on the hymn by Bernard of Clairvaux, this series will explore the wounds we inflict upon our Lord through our acts of betrayal, apathy, denial, mockery, and abandonment. Yet the ultimate message is one of healing and joy as the sermons and Bible Studies declare the Good News that in Jesus' wounds we have forgiveness, life, and salvation.*

*Each Wednesday, beginning with Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25, we will have Bible Study at 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m., and Midweek Service at 7:00 p.m. We hope that you will consider making your Lenten journey to the cross and to the empty tomb more meaningful this year by joining us as we meditate upon the Passion of our Lord in study, fellowship, and worship.*

### **“Sacred Head, Now Wounded” Schedule**

#### Ash Wednesday—February 25

5:00 p.m.—Bible Study; 6:00 p.m.—Dinner; 7:00 p.m.—Service

Bible Study/Sermon Title: *“A Wounded Savior for a Wounded People”* (Joel 2:12-19)

#### Invocabit Midweek—Wednesday, March 4

5:00 p.m.—Bible Study; 6:00 p.m.—Dinner; 7:00 p.m.—Service

Bible Study/Sermon Title: *“The Wound of Betrayal”* (Matt. 26:20-25)

#### Reminiscere Midweek—Wednesday, March 11

5:00 p.m.—Bible Study; 6:00 p.m.—Dinner; 7:00 p.m.—Service

Bible Study/Sermon Title: *“The Wound of Apathy”* (Matt. 26:36-45)

#### Oculi Midweek—Wednesday, March 18

5:00 p.m.—Bible Study; 6:00 p.m.—Dinner; 7:00 p.m.—Service

Bible Study/Sermon Title: *“The Wound of Denial”* (Matt. 26:29-75)

#### Laetare Midweek—Wednesday, March 25

5:00 p.m.—Bible Study; 6:00 p.m.—Dinner; 7:00 p.m.—Service

Bible Study/Sermon Title: *“The Wound of Mockery”* (Matt. 27:27-31)

#### Judica Midweek—Wednesday, April 1

5:00 p.m.—Bible Study; 6:00 p.m.—Dinner; 7:00 p.m.—Service

Bible Study/Sermon Title: *“The Wound of Abandonment”* (Matt. 27:45-48)

#### Holy Thursday—April 9

7:00 p.m.—Divine Service w/Stripping of the Altar

Sermon Title: *“A Meal for the Wounded”* (Exodus 24:3-11)

#### Good Friday—April 10

7:30 p.m.—Service of Tenebrae

Sermon Title: *“The Wounds That Heal”* (Isaiah 53:1-6)

#### Easter Sunday—April 11

9:30 a.m.—Divine Service

### **“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (LSB 449)**

*O sacred Head, now wounded,  
With grief and shame weighed down,  
Now scornfully surrounded  
With thorns, Thine only crown.  
O sacred Head, what glory,  
What bliss, till now was Thine!  
Yet, though despised and gory,  
I joy to call Thee mine.*

*What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered  
Was all for sinners' gain;  
Mine, mine was the transgression,  
But Thine the deadly pain.  
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!  
'Tis I deserve Thy place;  
Look on me with Thy favor,  
And grant to me Thy grace.*

*What language shall I borrow  
To thank Thee, dearest Friend,  
For this Thy dying sorrow,  
Thy pity without end?  
O make me Thine forever!  
And should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never,  
Outlive my love for Thee.*

*Be Thou my consolation,  
My shield, when I must die;  
Remind me of Thy passion  
When my last hour draws nigh.  
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee,  
Upon Thy cross shall dwell,  
My heart by faith enfold Thee.  
Who dieth thus does well.*



**Lord Jesus Christ,**

***You endured great shame, were spit upon and mocked, pierced with thorns, nails, and spear all for me, and yet I have often lived as though none of it mattered. Forgive me, Lord, and use this holy season of Lent to enliven my faith and bring me closer to You. In Your Holy and Precious Name. Amen.***

# Synopsis of February 3, 2009 Church Council Minutes

## Call To Order & Opening Prayer

President Brown called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer. The following members were present: Chris Brown, Megan Brown, Gary Miller, Vern Jakolat, Carol Zeile, Sharyn Greening, Andrea Elliott and Larry Elliott. Pastor Messer was also present.

## Approval of Agenda

The agenda was amended to add one item under Business: Loan to Pastor. Motion made by President Brown, supported by Financial Secretary Miller to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

## Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Financial Secretary Miller, supported by Councilmember Jakolat to approve the minutes from January 6, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

## Report(s)

- **Pastor** – Pastor Messer presented the attached report. The Council received the report into record.
- **Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Zeile presented the attached report. The Council received the report into record.
- **Financial Secretary** – Financial Secretary Miller reported that the amount of offerings from the previous Sunday had increased. The Council received the report into record.

## Boards

- **Board of Elders** – Councilmember L. Elliott presented his report. The Council received the report into record.
- **Board of Trustees** – Councilmember Jakolat presented his report. The Council received the report into record.
- **Board of Christian Education** – Councilmember Greening presented her report. The Council received the report into record.
- **Board of Evangelism** – Councilmember A. Elliott presented her report. The Council received the report into record.
- **Board of Stewardship** – The Council discussed different ways to gather pledges from members of the congregation.

## Organization and Committee Reports

- **Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild** – Councilmember Greening provided some information to the Council about activities in which the Ladies Guild is partaking.
- **Peace Youth Group** – No report.

## Business

- **Locks on Doors** – Two bids were received, one from Gilboe's Lock & Safe and one from Alma Glass and Lock. After discussion, motion made by Financial Secretary Miller, supported by Treasurer Zeile to approve the bid from Alma Glass and Lock in the amount of \$420.00 and to use money from the Building Fund. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Debit Card & Online Banking** – Treasurer Zeile reported that she would like to apply for a debit card and use online banking to make managing the Church's funds easier. Motion made by Financial Secretary Miller, supported by Councilmember L. Elliott to approve use of a debit card and online banking with Treasurer Zeile and President Brown as users. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Loan for Pastor** – This item was tabled.

## General Comment

The Council decided to move the April meeting to the 14<sup>th</sup> to avoid holding a meeting during Holy Week. Pastor Messer thanked the Council for their hard work in preparation for the Voters' Assembly meeting.

## Adjournment & Closing Prayer

Motion made by President Brown, supported by Financial Secretary Miller to adjourn at 8:34pm. Motion carried unanimously. Pastor Messer closed with the Lord's Prayer and the Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,  
Megan Brown, Secretary

(Note: Complete minutes with all attachments are available in the church office for review.)

# PEACE NEWS & NOTES

## EMAILS FROM CHURCH OFFICE

We will be using email messages increasingly to contact our members and keep them informed. It might be well to view your inbox regularly for news and events as they occur. Thank you.

## PYG NEWS

### March Events

**Bake Sale (at Wal-Mart) - March 14, 9 am to 1 pm**

**Monthly Meeting - March 15, Noon to 2 pm**

Greetings in Christ,

We are moving forward with our plan of attending the Higher Things-SOLA Conference this July. To assist in covering the costs, we will be having a Bake Sale at the front entrance of the Alma Wal-Mart. The Youth Group will be making items, but we would like to ask for your assistance in baking items for the sale. Please contact me at 681-3481 or during fellowship if you can assist us. Thank you

With the Lord blessing us with an increasing number of small children and babies at our services, the Youth Group will be setting up a sign-up sheet to staff the nursery during services on Sunday mornings. With the youth's acolyte duties, we will need adult assistance with this project. Please consider signing up and serving the Lord in this way.



We are continuing our Spartan labels (with bar code) and pop can collection drives. Thanks to all for your support in these projects. We have collected over \$50 already this year.

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

## VBS planning meeting THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 7:00 P.M.

We will be looking at a program, setting a date, and making general plans for VBS this year. The Board of Education is also invited to join us. If you cannot make this meeting and still wish to help us this year, please see Sharyn Greening at any time.

## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Ladies Guild has made the decision to do the Lutheran World Relief Collection year-round. There are four separate "kits" to be collected as well as quilts and soap. We will be collecting each kit on a rotating basis throughout the year and gathering quilts and soap all year. Directions for quilts were put into mailboxes and posted on the Guild board. Questions - see Beth

Current Kit Collection:

**February 1 - March 28**

### **SEWING KITS**

*Three (3) yards of 44" or 45" cotton or cotton blend fabric (4 yards of 36")*

*1 - package sewing needles (for hand sewing)*

*1 - spool matching thread*

*1 - card buttons*

*Wrap sewing notions inside fabric and tie with string, yarn or strip of fabric*

In Christ,

Dorothy Trgina, Charitable Donations Chair  
Beth Brostrom, Guild President.

## EUCHRE NIGHT



Euchre lovers will next meet on **Friday, March 20 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!

## 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, March 12 at 7:00 p.m.**

**at Chris & Megan Brown's house.** All are invited to attend! Hope to see you there!



# PEACE NEWS & NOTES Cont'd



**Issues, Etc.**<sup>TM</sup>  
Christ-Centered Cross-Focused Talk Radio

## Issues, Etc. CDs Available!

S.A.L.T. has undertaken the project of recording episodes of *Issues, Etc.* onto CDs, so that any member of our congregation may check them out and listen to them at their leisure. Every episode of *Issues, Etc.* since the show returned to the air on June 30, 2008 is now available. Cases with the recorded CDs are located in the Adult Bible Study area, along with instructions on how you can check the CDs out. A log of each show's date, guests, and subjects accompanies the cases of CDs to allow you to choose specific shows you would like to listen to. We hope that providing these CDs will enable more of you to listen to this excellent, Christ-Centered, Cross-Focused broadcast. If you have any questions about this, please see Pastor Messer.

## Peace Telephone Directory

Please note that we have listed the Church Officers, Elders, Trustees, Board of Education, Ladies Guild Officers, Women's Prayer Chain, Thrivent Coordinators, Peace Lutheran Service Schedule 2008-2009, and the Elder Districts by Family in the back of this year's directory.

Email addresses have also been added. If you would like yours included in the next printing, please let Mary in the church office know. Also let her know if there are any changes to your address or telephone number. As changes occur, we will publish them in the upcoming newsletters so you may keep your directory up to date.

Thanks for your help.

## Issues, Etc. Fundraiser

We have still not yet met our goal of raising \$500.00 to support this Christ-centered, Cross-focused radio ministry. Please consider making a donation to this worthy endeavor soon. Give donations to Pastor Messer or Mary Jakolat in the office. Make checks payable to Peace. Thanks!

## GOTTESDIENST

*Gottesdienst* is an excellent theological periodical published quarterly. Go to [www.gottesdienst.org](http://www.gottesdienst.org) or see Pastor Messer if you are interested in learning more or wish to subscribe.

## S.A.L.T.

Sharing with **All** His Love and Truth

## EASTER EGG HUNT

is being postponed to next year.

## SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Please consider continuing donations for this on-going mission of the S.A.L.T. Committee.

## COMING SOON!

### SECOND-TIME-AROUND SALE

**Please save your "throw-aways" for the sale planned in the Spring. Watch for more information in future bulletins and postings.**

## Come join us on the Trail!

*The Wittenberg Trail is the online community for people exploring and confessing the Lutheran faith. To join the community, go to:*

[www.wittenbergtrail.ning.com](http://www.wittenbergtrail.ning.com)

*To join our Peace Lutheran group on the Trail:*

[www.wittenbergtrail.ning.com/group/peacelutheranalmamichigan](http://www.wittenbergtrail.ning.com/group/peacelutheranalmamichigan)



## Feast Days in March

**Feast of St. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus**

**Thursday, March 19**

**Divine Service at Noon**

**Feast of The Annunciation of Our Lord**

**Wednesday, March 25**

**Divine Service at Noon**

# Ladies & Altar Guild

## Ladies Guild Meeting

Our Ladies Guild next meets on Monday, **March 2 at 7:00 p.m.** Hostess is Charlotte Dargie. 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

If you wish to be added to the prayer chain as a caller, see Carol Durst or Beth Brostrom. If you wish to have yourself or someone else "sent through the chain," call Carol Durst at 463-2270.



## Altar Flowers

There is a Flower Calendar for 2009 posted on the fellowship hall bulletin board. If you wish to place flowers on the altar sometime during the year, please fill your name in on the calendar and contact the church office with any information that you wish to have included in the bulletin. A bouquet costs \$25 and usually lasts about one (1) month. **We would like to encourage 2 persons (families) to purchase flowers each month, one for each plant stand.** If paying the church for the flowers, checks should be made payable to Peace Lutheran, Church with a separate sizeable note marked "Flower Fund," attached and placed in the Financial Secretary's envelope in the church office. Thank you for helping to beautify our chancel. Questions? See Beth Brostrom, Cheryl Henry or Marilyn Oswald.

## Altar Guild Duty

### March

Carol Zeile

### April

Carol Zeile/Jennie Harmon

### May

Megan Brown



## Coffee Hostesses

### March

1 Andrea Elliott  
8 Jo Wendt  
15 Cassie Tennant  
22 Jenny Baughman  
29 Carol Durst

### April

5 Janice Sager  
12 EASTER - NO COFFEE  
19 Peace Youth Group  
26 Carol Zeile

### May

3 Coaline Luplow  
10 Gretchen Harrison  
17 M. Isaksson/H. Meyers  
24 Lois Ramsey



## Ladies Lunch Bunch

Peace Lutheran Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, March 17, at 1:30 p.m. at El Vaguero in Alma. All ladies of Peace are welcome and also may invite a guest—someone without a church or someone living alone. Please join us!



# 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 (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 studying the **Book of Concord**, which contains our Lutheran Confessions. This is an excellent opportunity for you to come and learn what we Lutherans truly confess and believe. So, come and learn!

## Youth Confirmation Class

- Youth Confirmation Class meets **Thursdays at 5:00 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 have just completed our study of **Exodus** and will begin studying **Leviticus on Thursday, Feb. 5**. This would be an excellent time to begin studying with us as we begin a new book. Please plan on joining us soon.



### Happy Birthday to:

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

### Happy Anniversary to:

19 Miguel and Sue Ortiz

## PAROCHIAL REPORT

(as of 2/22/09)

### Membership at Peace

Baptized - 156; Confirmed - 134

Membership gains: 0

Membership losses: 1

*Jim Elenbaas—Called home by the Lord on Jan. 30*

### Financial Report

YTD Receipts: \$17,951.10

YTD Budgeted Needs: \$20,115.00

## PEACE OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday 9 am-1 pm

### **Pastor Messer's Office Hours**

Tuesday and Wednesday 9 am-12 pm & 1-3 pm

Thursday 1-3 pm











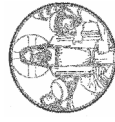

Other times by appointment

*Please note: These are the hours Pastor Messer will regularly be available in his office at the church, but please check the monthly calendar to ensure that he is not tied up elsewhere (wink, conference, etc.). Feel free to pop in on him during these hours, but please know that his duties may call him away from the office from time to time (hospital call, lunch meeting, member visitation, etc.), so if you want to make sure he is there before you come for a visit, call ahead of time. Lastly, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Messer at any time should you desire or need to speak or meet with him beyond these posted office hours.*

Rev. Thomas C. Messer  
 (989) 463-3093—Home  
 (989) 388-2037—Cell  
 pastor@peacealma.org  
 pastormesser@gmail.com

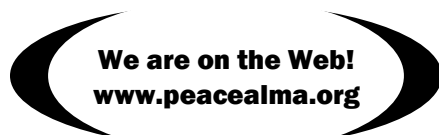
Peace Lutheran Church  
 325 E. Warwick Drive  
 Alma, MI 48801  
 (989) 463-5754  
 contact@peacealma.org

# March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 Invocabit (Lent 1)</b> 8:30—Choir <b>9:30—Divine Service</b> 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BC, SS 	<b>2</b> 7 pm—Ladies Guild 	<b>3</b> <i>Pastor at Wink</i> 7 pm—Church Council	<b>4</b> 5 pm—Bible Study 6 pm—Potluck <b>7 pm—Lenten Service</b> 	<b>5</b> 10 am—Together in Word 5 pm—Weight Watchers	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10 am—Elders
<b>8 Reminiscere (Lent 2)</b> 8:30—Choir <b>9:30—Divine Service</b> 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BC, SS <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i> 	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 5 pm—Bible Study 6 pm—Potluck <b>7 pm—Lenten Service</b> 	<b>12</b> 10 am—Together in Word 5 pm—Weight Watchers 7 pm—Table Talk	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> PYG BAKE SALE WAL-MART 9 AM TO 1 PM
<b>15 Oculi (Lent 3)</b> 8:30—Choir <b>9:30—Divine Service</b> 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BC, SS 12:00—PYG 	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 1:30 pm—Lunch Bunch	<b>18</b> 5 pm—Bible Study 6 pm—Potluck <b>7 pm—Lenten Service</b> 	<b>19</b> 10 am—Together Word <b>12 pm—Divine Service</b> <i>Feast of St. Joseph</i> 5 pm—Weight Watchers 7 pm—VBS Planning	<b>20</b>  6:30 pm—Euchre	<b>21</b>
<b>22 Laetare (Lent 4)</b> 8:30—Choir <b>9:30—Divine Service</b> 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BC, SS 	<b>23</b> <i>Newsletter articles due</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>12 pm—Divine Service</b> <i>Annunciation of our Lord</i> 5 pm—Bible Study 6 pm—Potluck <b>7 pm—Lenten Service</b> 	<b>26</b> 10 am—Together in Word 5 pm—Weight Watchers	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29 Judica (Lent 5)</b> 8:30—Choir <b>9:30—Divine Service</b> 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BC, SS 	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>April 1</b> 5 pm—Bible Study 6 pm—Potluck <b>7 pm—Lenten Service</b> 	<b>2</b> 10 am—Together in Word 5 pm—Weight Watchers	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

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

Church: 989-463-5754  
E-mail: [contact@peacealma.org](mailto:contact@peacealma.org)  
Mary's Home: 989-463-3067  
Pastor's Home: 989-463-3093  
Pastor's Cell: 989-388-2037



*The mission of Peace Lutheran Church is to welcome all people into the fellowship of God's love by proclaiming the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ and to nurture our members with God's Holy Word and Sacraments.*

## *Serving in March*

<b>March</b>	<b>ELDER</b>	<b>ACOLYTES</b>	<b>ORGANIST</b>	<b>USHERS</b>	<b>GREETERS</b>
1 - 9:30 am ( <i>Invocavit - Lent 1</i> )	Miguel Ortiz	Samantha Messer Phillip Schafer	Mary Jakolat	Jon Penzien Vern Jakolat	Curtis and Tammy Oswald
4 - 7:00 pm ( <i>Invocavit - Midweek</i> )			Mary Jakolat	Vern Jakolat	
8 - 9:30 am ( <i>Reminiscere - Lent 2</i> )	Bill Harmon	Melanie Penzien Aaron Messer	Beth Brostrom	Bill Hendrick Burt Henry	Charlotte Dargie Marlene Miller
11 - 7:00 pm ( <i>Reminiscere - Midweek</i> )			Beth Brostrom		
15 - 9:30 am ( <i>Oculi - Lent 3</i> )	Larry Elliott	Tyrel Harwager Sierra Luplow	Mary Jakolat	Chris Brown Michael Gilbert	LeRoy and Maxine Isaksson
18 - 7:00 pm ( <i>Oculi - Midweek</i> )			Mary Jakolat		
22 - 9:30 am ( <i>Laetare - Lent 4</i> )	Terry Luplow	Jordan Henry Natalie Penzien	Beth Brostrom	James Sager Curt Oswald	Carol Durst Marlene Wiltshire
25 - 7:00 pm ( <i>Laetare - Midweek</i> )			Beth Brostrom		
29 - 9:30 am ( <i>Judica - Lent 5</i> )	Miguel Ortiz	Sarah Messer BJ Henry	Mary Jakolat	Bill Brostrom Gary Miller	Burt and Cheryl Henry
<b>April</b>					
1 - 7:00 pm ( <i>Judica - Midweek</i> )			Mary Jakolat		
5 - 9:30 am ( <i>Palm/Passion Sunday</i> )	Dave Zeile	Samantha Messer Phillip Schafer	Beth Brostrom	Jonathan Penzien Vern Jakolat	James and Janice Sager

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