

The Peace Post

Peace Lutheran Church ~ Alma, MI

March, 2011

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



From the Desk of Pastor Messer

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

On Wednesday, March 9, 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.

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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



“Our Father Who Art in Heaven”

Lenten Sermon Series & Bible Study

This series will focus on the prayer our Lord Jesus Christ gave His disciples to pray, the “Our Father,” or “Lord’s Prayer.” Special insights regarding this Prayer of prayers will be gleaned from the excellent book written by Pr. Burnell F. Eckardt, Jr., titled, “The New Testament in His Blood,” where we learn how and why this Prayer stands at the heart not only of the individual Christian’s prayer life, but also at the heart of the Church’s liturgical life. There is much more to the “Our Father” than meets the eye, and this series will seek to plumb the rich depths of this beloved Prayer for our mutual edification. I 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 Prayer our Lord gave us to pray in study, fellowship, and worship.



“Our Father Who Art in Heaven”

Schedule

Ash Wednesday—March 9

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

7:00 p.m.—Divine Service

Theme: “*Our Father Who Art in Heaven, Hallowed Be Thy Name*”

Invocabit Midweek—Wednesday, March 16

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

7:00 p.m.—Divine Service

Theme: “*Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done on Earth as It Is in Heaven*”

Reminiscere Midweek—Wednesday, March 23

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

7:00 p.m.—Divine Service

Theme: “*Give Us This Day our Daily Bread*”

Oculi Midweek—Wednesday, March 30

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

7:00 p.m.—Divine Service

Theme: “*Forgive Us Our Trespasses as We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us*”

Laetare Midweek—Wednesday, April 6

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

7:00 p.m.—Divine Service

Theme: “*Lead Us Not Into Temptation, but Deliver Us from Evil*”

Judica Midweek—Wednesday, April 13

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

7:00 p.m.—Divine Service

Theme: “*For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory Forever and Ever*”

“Our Father, Who from Heaven Above” (LSB 766)



1 Our Fa - ther, who from heav'n a - bove Bids all of us to
2 Your name be hal - lowed. Help us, Lord, In pu - ri - ty to
3 Your king - dom come. Guard Your do - main And Your e - ter - nal
4 Your gra - cious will on earth be done As it is done be -



live in love As mem - bers of one fam - i - ly
keep Your Word, That to the glo - ry of Your name
right - eous reign. The Ho - ly Ghost en - rich our day
fore Your throne, That pa - tient - ly we may o - bey



And pray to You in u - ni - ty, Teach us no
We walk be - fore You free from blame. Let no false
With gifts at - ten - dant on our way. Break Sa - tan's
Through - out our lives all that You say. Curb flesh and



thought - less words to say But from our in - most hearts to pray.
teach - ing us per - vert; All poor de - lud - ed souls con - vert.
pow'r, de - feat his rage; Pre - serve Your Church from age to age.
blood and ev - 'ry ill That sets it - self a - gainst Your will.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5 Give us this day our daily bread,
And let us all be clothed and fed.
Save us from hardship, war, and strife;
In plague and famine, spare our life,
That we in honest peace may live,
To care and greed no entrance give. | 7 Lead not into temptation, Lord,
Where our grim foe and all his horde
Would vex our souls on ev'ry hand.
Help us resist, help us to stand
Firm in the faith, a mighty host,
Through comfort of the Holy Ghost. |
| 6 Forgive our sins, Lord, we implore,
That they may trouble us no more;
We, too, will gladly those forgive
Who hurt us by the way they live.
Help us in our community
To serve each other willingly. | 8 From evil, Lord, deliver us;
The times and days are perilous.
Redeem us from eternal death,
And, when we yield our dying breath,
Console us, grant us calm release,
And take our souls to You in peace. |
| 9 Amen, that is, so shall it be.
Make strong our faith in You, that we
May doubt not but with trust believe
That what we ask we shall receive.
Thus in Your name and at Your Word
We say, “Amen, O hear us, Lord!” | |

Lenten Discipline

What follows here is an expansion on some thoughts shared by Pr. William Weedon on his blog regarding Lenten discipline. 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, and that these blessed gifts and tools will provide us with, as Pr. Weedon states so beautifully, "training for all our days of battling the old man in the power of the Holy Spirit and with the joyful concurrence of the new man."

Prayer

Can I spend more time intentionally in prayer this Lent? A great question to ask ourselves! The answer, of course, is, "Yes, I can." The follow up question is, "Will I?" There are so many blessed resources available to us these days to help us in our prayer/devotional lives. We can use the hymnals, *Treasury of Daily Prayer*, *Portals of Prayer*, *Higher Things Devotions*, and many other resources to help guide us. But, here are a few simple suggestions: 1) Instead of leaving the used Sunday bulletins at the church, why not take them home during Lent and use them throughout the week? Pray the Introit, Collect of the Day, and Gradual daily. Read the Scripture readings daily. Read through and study the hymns we sang. Ponder the sermon you heard preached and how the prayers, Scriptures, and hymns reinforce that message. 2) Consider using Dr. Luther's simple design for morning and evening devotions (if you're not already doing so), which you can find in the Small Catechism. 3) Consider adding the following prayer (below) to your devotional life throughout Lent, which is a prayer that highlights all that our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us, and pleads with Him to have mercy on us sinners. How blessed would you be if you prayed this prayer daily, bringing to mind all that your Lord has done for you, and reminding you of your great need for His continued mercy? Or, if not daily, how about once a week? Maybe you pray this each Friday, the day one which your Savior bled and died for you.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner
Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal Word of the Father, have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, the Word through whom all things were made,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, foretold by the prophets in signs and words,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, in the fullness of time conceived by the Holy Spirit,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, born of the Holy Virgin, have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, hymned by the angels, have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, adored by the shepherds, have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, worshipped by the Magi, have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, held by St. Simeon, have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, praised by St. Anna, have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, obedient to your parents, have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to a sinner's baptism,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, fasting in the wilderness,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, driving out demons,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, cleansing the lepers,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, giving sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, teaching the precepts of the kingdom,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, raising the dead, have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, walking on water and changing water into wine,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, praised by the little children,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, riding into Your city as the sacrifice appointed,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, giving your body and blood to be eaten and drunk,
have mercy on me, a sinner.

Lord Jesus Christ, praying in the garden,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, bound and mocked,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, stripped and beaten,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, innocently condemned to death,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, opening Your hands upon the cross to embrace the world,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, knowing the loneliness of our exile and our sin,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, trampling down death by death,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, pouring forth water and blood to save the world,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, sanctifying our graves by lying in a tomb,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, harrowing hell and releasing the prisoners,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, rising in victory over death and corruption,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, appearing to the disciples in the broken bread,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, ascending in triumph,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, High Priest who ever lives to intercede for us,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, coming on the clouds of glory to renew all things,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, dread Judge at the Last Day,
have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
have mercy on me, a sinner.

Lenten Discipline

Almsgiving

Can I find ways to increase my giving to the poor and suffering in this world? Can I grow in my experience of the profound truth of our Lord's words: "It is more blessed to give than to receive"? What can I do to concretely bless the poor this Lententide both in my own local community and in the world? SALT is going to be looking for ways we can get more involved in helping the poor and suffering in our community, so keep your eye on that in the future. We will also have the Christian Care Fund bucket out throughout Lent, so that you can make donations as you are able. This is the Fund we use to assist those who come to our congregation for help. We will also be making available a "Together in Mission" box/bucket/receptacle that we will always have out to collect donations throughout the year, and we will use these donations to support such wonderful Mission endeavors as *The Siberian Lutheran Mission Society*, *Lutherans in Africa*, *Lutheran Heritage Foundation*, etc. But, there are numerous charities out there that you can search out and donate toward as you are able (e.g. LCMS World Relief and Human Care is a wonderful organization helping people all over the world). Lent provides you with the opportunity to deliberately focus on this particular discipline, which is a Christian discipline Holy Scripture speaks about time and time again, and should not be ignored by us.

Fasting

Can I limit my intake of food during these days? One tradition of the Western fast would encourage you to eat only 1/4 meal at breakfast, a regular lunch, and 1/4 meal in the evening. No one who has a medical condition that would endanger their body (or is pregnant) should fast in this way; but others might find it a very fruitful and useful reminder that "man does not live by bread alone; but by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God." Another tradition you might consider starting during Lent is to fast on Sunday mornings, allowing the Holy Supper of our Lord's Body and Blood to be the first Food you consume on the Lord's Day. This is a tradition many, including myself, follow year round, and it is from this tradition that we get the word "breakfast," as those in the ancient church would only break their fast after they had received the Holy Supper. Again, fasting like this, or however else you decide to fast, should not be done if it would in any way endanger your body, but the sort of self-sacrifice involved with fasting can be a tremendous blessing to those who use it, keeping in mind what was written about fasting and giving things up for Lent in the lead article of this newsletter, of course.

Confession

Before you head into Lent, or during Lent, why not schedule a time with your pastor to confess your sins and receive forgiveness? This wonderful gift is far too underutilized in the Church. Dr. Luther professed that he was so blessed by it, he would never let anyone deprive him of it. Sadly, we've been depriving ourselves of this blessed, Divine Gift far too often. We Lutherans confess: *"Our churches teach that private Absolution should be retained in our churches, although listing all sins is not necessary for Confession. For, according to the Psalm, it is impossible. 'Who can discern his errors?' (Psalm 19:12)" (Augsburg Confession, Article XI).* It is long past time to rediscover this Gift as Lutherans. If you have never used this Gift, Lent would be a wonderful time to do so for the first time. You can find the Service of Individual Confession and Absolution in our hymnal on pp. 292-293 to review ahead of time. Please prayerfully consider receiving this beloved Gift, and should you be moved to do so, please contact me anytime to schedule a time—I am NEVER too busy to hear confession and pronounce Holy Absolution to those who desire it. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to ask. And, if you are not yet ready to use the Gift of individual confession and absolution, please do use the time of silence we observe during General Confession and Absolution in the Divine Service to confess those particular sins which bother you to your Lord. We will also observe Corporate Confession and Absolution again this Ash Wednesday (pp. 290-291 in LSB), where those in attendance will be individually absolved at the altar rail. But, dear friends, do hear me when I say that, while General and Corporate Confession and Absolution are wonderful, Divine Gifts from our Lord, in which you are most definitely forgiven of all your sins, the Gift of Individual Confession and Absolution provides a unique blessing, as anyone who has used that Gift would most readily testify.

Commitment To Be In the Word

Do we put attending Divine Service in the Lord's Holy House, where the Word of God is sung, read, and preached, God's praises are sung, and the Holy Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood is distributed, above all else in our lives? Are we committed to studying the Word whenever the opportunity to do so presents itself? Lent asks you to examine yourselves and to prayerfully consider committing more fervently to being in the Word, offering you extra Wednesday evening Services, and additional Bible Studies to that end. It's a great time to recommit yourself to this very important—MOST IMPORTANT!—Christian discipline.

Service and Support

Lastly, Lent would have you ask yourself whether or not you are doing as much as you can to serve and support the congregation to which you are blessed to belong. How can you get more involved? Could you give more of your time, talents, and treasures to support the Ministry and Mission of the congregation? Could you be more fervent in confessing the faith to others and inviting them to "come and see" Jesus with you in Church? Can you consider spending time with your church family when there are events scheduled to do so? Great questions to prayerfully consider this Lententide. I pray you will.



LIFE TOGETHER: WHAT IS IT WE ACTUALLY SHARE?

LCMS President Matthew Harrison
(*The Lutheran Witness*—February, 2011)

So, what is this “life together” in the Church? What does it mean that we in the Missouri Synod are “in this together”? And what finally holds us together anyway?

The answer to these questions would appear to be quite simple. We are like-minded religiously or at least enough to participate in a local congregation. We are comfortable together in this or that congregation. We are free to associate as we wish in this country and have freely decided to join our local LCMS church. Though we have many differences across the Synod, we share certain goals, and as free individuals and congregations, we freely decide to associate for worthy religious and charitable ends.

As much truth as there is in these answers, they certainly don’t get at what the Bible says holds us together as Christian and truly Lutheran.

In the new three-fold emphasis—WITNESS, MERCY, LIFE TOGETHER—this third aspect of LIFE TOGETHER is how we’ve rendered the New Testament word *koinonia*. The word means “participation,” “having something in common,” or “a sharing in something.” Quite often in the writings of St. Paul, when he mentions this sharing, he also notes what is shared. Thus, “God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship [*koinonia*] of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord” (1 Cor. 1:9). In other words, those “called into fellowship” share Jesus.

Now note who the actor is: “*God* is faithful.” He’s the One acting. He’s doing the primary sharing too! What Jesus says to His apostles applies also to us: “You did not choose Me, but I chose you” (John 15:16). “You were called [passive] into the fellowship of His Son.” Because of God’s action, God’s doing, God’s calling, we have been brought into a “fellowship,” a “communion,” a “sharing.” As Paul notes, we share in “His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

This life in Christ—the vertical *koinonia* or sharing in Christ, created by *Him*—also creates a “life together” with others in Christ—the horizontal *koinonia*. Even with Christians with whom we do not share official church fellowship, we believe *koinonia* exists, though hidden. For we believe, with our Lutheran Confessions, that wherever Jesus is with His Word and Sacrament, there are believers (Preface to the Book of Concord), also far and wide outside the orthodox Lutheran Church, if only the Gospel is not totally eclipsed.

The great importance of *koinonia* as LIFE TOGETHER is marvelously displayed by St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 10–12, his great teaching chapters on the Lord’s Supper and the Church. Paul writes, “The bread that we break, is it not a participation [*koinonia*] in the body of Christ?” In the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, we share Christ’s body and blood, so Paul continues: “Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread” (1 Cor. 10:17). From our sharing in Christ’s body come very deep ethical ramifications. Because we are one body in Christ, “If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together” (1 Cor. 12:26; cf. Acts 2:42, 45; 4:32).

Luther wrote a splendid tract on this topic. In one of my favorite passages, he stated,

This fellowship consists in this, that all the spiritual possession of Christ and his saints [i.e., believers] are shared with and become the common property of him who receives this sacrament. Again all sufferings and sins also become common property; and thus love engenders love in return and [mutual love] unites (LW 35:51).

What do we share? What finally brings us together and holds us together? Jesus. And so we have a LIFE TOGETHER that includes a great array of important aspects and tasks (circuits, pastor and teacher conferences, Concordia Plan Services, seminaries and universities, reconciliation, CTCR, and many others).

Our life together is a gift (“spiritual possession of Christ”) and a gift to be tended (“love engenders love . . . and unites”).

Pastor Matthew Harrison
“*Let’s go!*” Mark 1:38



Synopsis of February 8, 2011 Council Meeting Minutes

Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- Elder Elliott called the meeting to order at 7:12pm. Elder Elliott conducted the opening prayer. The following members were present: Carol Zeile, Gary Miller, Chris Brown, Bill Harmon, Cassie Tennant, Sharyn Greening, Carolyn Johnson, and Larry Elliott. Pastor Messer was also present.

Approval of Agenda

- Motion to approve by Gary Miller, supported by Sharon Greening, motion carried unanimously

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Carolyn Johnson, supported by Financial Secretary Miller to approve the December 14 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously. Request also made that minutes are emailed to Council members prior to next meeting

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. We're underspent for the month, however offerings are still under budget. **Financial Secretary** – no report.
- **Boards:** **Board of Elders** – No report. **Board of Trustees** – No report; **Board of Christian Education** – Sharyn Greening continues as Chair; **Board of Evangelism** – Next meeting February 22nd, planning a Mexican dinner; **Board of Stewardship** – No report
- **Organization and Committee Reports:** **Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild** – \$200 to Issues Etc.; **Peace Youth Group** – No report.

Business: Annual Reports - Pastor will contact members who held office during 2010.

General Comment - None

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

- Motion made by Financial Secretary Miller, supported by Elder Elliott to adjourn at 7:55pm. Motion carried unanimously. Pastor Messer closed with the Lord's Prayer and Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassie Tennant, Secretary

*Thank
You*

To Church Council from Mary Jakolat

Thank you so very much for the Christmas bonus.
It was a most pleasant surprise.

PEACE NEWS & NOTES



PYG NEWS

<u>March</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Location</u>
	Ash Wed Dinner	3/9	6 pm	7:30 pm	Fellowship Hall
	Monthly Meeting	3/13	5 pm	7 pm	Fellowship Hall
	Fellowship	Sundays	10:45 am	11:15 am	Fellowship Hall

Greetings in Christ,

The Youth will be hosting the Ash Wednesday Lenten Dinner as a fundraiser. They have decided to have a Taco Bar. Please come and join us. If you cannot make the meal, we still hope to see you at the Ash Wednesday Divine Service.

At our last meeting, we had one of our largest groups so far. We were able to discuss the Higher Things Gathering with the interested Youth. It was determined that we will not be attending this summer, but will begin planning and preparing for the 2012 gathering. Thank you to everyone for your support and understanding in this decision.

We will be stepping up our Fellowship meetings to organize activities and fundraisers to get our Youth active and growing.

Thanks again to everyone for your continued support of the Youth. Their pop can, cell phone, and Spartan label collections continue. Your time and interaction with the Youth is also valued and appreciated.

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

Ladies Lunch Bunch

Will meet at 1:30 pm on Monday, March 14 at The Hearthstone Oven in Ithaca. All ladies of Peace are welcome and also may invite a guest - someone without a church or someone living alone. Please enter your name on the signup list posted in Fellowship Hall. We have a wonderful time together. Please join us!

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN ED.

Meeting Tuesday, March 8 - 7 pm
To discuss Sunday School and start planning for VBS



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! Our next Table Talk will take place on

Thursday, March 17 at 7 pm at the church. All are invited. We hope you'll be able to join us!

SALT NEWS

MEXICAN MEAL & MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, March 18, beginning at 6 pm
(See ad on p. 10 for details!)

2011 CAMPING

Scheduled for the weekend of July 15.

MEETINGS

Please see the Minutes of our last meeting on the SALT Bulletin Board.

Next meeting—March 22 at 6:30 p.m.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us.

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).

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

It's only March, but it is not too soon to begin planning for Vacation Bible School. The Board of Christian Education will be meeting to decide a program to use and finalize a date for VBS. Please begin considering what you can do to help. Volunteers are needed to teach, do crafts, serve and provide snacks, and assist teachers. We will need donations to cover the cost of printing and craft materials. Contact Sharyn Greening for information.



Still looking for donations to reach our goal of raising \$1,000 to support this worldwide Gospel outreach and maintain our status as a member of the "Issues, Etc. 300." Please see Pastor Messer if you would like to donate. Last month, we received a gift from the guys at Issues, Etc., thanking us for our support last year. The gift was all 24 CDs from the "Issues, Etc. 24" special they did last year, which was 24 continuous hours of Bible Study with some of the best and brightest Lutheran theologians of our day. The CDs are available on the table in the fellowship hall.

Ladies Guild

Ladies Guild Meeting

Our Ladies Guild will meet on **Monday, March 7 at 1 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 2011 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. Thank you for helping to beautify our chancel.

PEACE LADIES GUILD COOKBOOK

Cookbooks are now available; price is \$13.00 and can be purchased during fellowship time from any member of the Guild. There are flyers available in the fellowship hall to be used for posting on bulletin boards at grocery stores, offices, and the like. You may use your phone number for contact information or Coaline's name and number. Questions, ask a member of the Guild.

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 LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

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

ASH WEDNESDAY DINNER

The Ash Wednesday dinner will be held on March 9, hosted by the Youth Group. Lent dinners will be March 16, 23, 30 and April 6 and 13. SALT will host one of these evenings and members of Peace can sign up to bring soup, salad, bread or dessert on the other evenings. A sign-up sheet will be located on the bulletin board. Any questions, please call Coaline.

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.



March

Coaline Luplow

April

Altar Care

Carol Zeile

Coffee Hostesses

3 Carol Zeile
10 M.Miller/C.Dargie
17 Peace Youth Group
24 Easter - No Coffee

May

M.Miller/C.Dargie



6 Andrea Elliott
13 Jo Wendt
20 Cassie Tennant
27 Jenny Baughman

1 Coaline Luplow
8 Gretchen Harrison
15 M.Isaksson/H.Meyers
22 Mary Jakolat

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT PEACE

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

- Sunday School (studying Sunday's Gospel) and Adult Bible Class (currently studying *Galatians*) is offered on **Sundays at 11 am.**

Together in the Word

- We meet every **Thursday at 10:00 am.** We are currently studying *Judges*. All are welcome to join us!

Christian History 101

- Weekly Wednesday classes meet at 6 pm, followed by Divine Service at 7 pm (during Advent and Lent, class is at 5 pm).

First Communion and Confirmation Classes

- First Communion Classes take place as arranged (see Pastor Messer if interested); Confirmation Class for our 2nd-year confirmands (Sierra Luplow and Aaron Messer) will meet on Thursdays at 6 pm. (no 1st-year confirmands this year).

SALT FUNDRAISER

Please support our Evangelism Committee by attending our . . .

AUTHENTIC MEXICAN DINNER & PEACE MOVIE NIGHT



Friday, March 18 Dinner: 6:00 pm—7:00 pm

\$8.00/person; \$4.00/12-and-under

Movie ("Secretariat") will follow the dinner (7:30-ish)

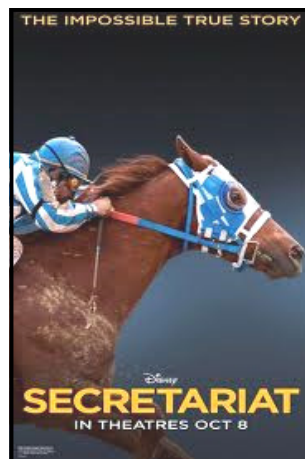
Bring comfy chairs and snacks if you wish

Come for dinner only, or stay for the movie, too!

Bring a guest or two or three . . .

Help us prepare by signing the sign-up sheet located on the SALT bulletin board

Hope to see you there!



Birthdays & Anniversaries

MARCH

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Tyrel Harwager | 20 Morgan Johnson |
| 1 Zane Luplow | 20 Barbara Komar |
| 5 Tina Schafer | 22 Ken Hill |
| 8 Ariel Row | 27 Ashleigh Rodriguez |
| 11 Bob Wendt | 28 Donna Bebow |
| | 31 Debra Penzien |

Happy Anniversary

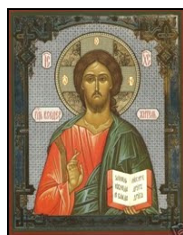
- 19 Miguel and Susan Ortiz

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

TALK RADIO FOR THE THINKING CHRISTIAN!

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

www.issuesetc.org



PASTOR MESSER IS BLOGGING!

www.abideinmyword.blogspot.com

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

PAROCHIAL REPORT

(as of 2/20/11)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 132; Confirmed - 114

Membership gains: 0

Membership losses: 0

Financial Report as of 2/20/2011

YTD Budgeted.....\$16,856.00












YTD Receipts.....\$11,860.50

Difference.....\$-4,995.50

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

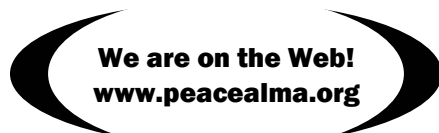
Peace Lutheran Church
 325 E. Warwick Drive
 Alma, MI 48801
 (989) 463-5754
 contact@peacealma.org
 www.peacealma.org

March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>Pastor Messer at Winked</i> 7 pm - Church Council	2 6 pm - "Christian History" 7 pm - Divine Service <i>Sts. Perpetua & Felicitas</i> 	3 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers 6 pm - Confirmation Class	4	5
6 <i>Quinquagesima</i> 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC,SS 	7 1 pm - Ladies Guild	8 7 pm - Bd. of Christ. Ed. 7:30 pm - Elders Meeting	9 <i>Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)</i> 5 pm - Lenten Bible Study 6 pm - Soup Dinner 7 pm - Divine Service 	10 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers 6 pm - Confirmation Class	11	12
13 <i>Invocavit</i> 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC,SS 5-7 pm PYG 	14 1:30 pm - Lunch Bunch	15	16 <i>Invocavit Midweek</i> 5 pm - Lenten Bible Study 6 pm - Soup Dinner 7 pm - Divine Service 	17 10 am - Together in Word 12 pm - Divine Service <i>Feast of St. Joseph</i> 5 pm - WW 6 pm - Conf. Class 7 pm - Table Talk 	18 Mexican Dinner & Peace Movie Night <i>Dinner from 6-7pm</i> <i>Movie ("Secretariat") will start around 7:30pm</i>	19
20 <i>Reminiscere</i> 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC,SS 	21 <i>Newsletter articles due</i>	22 6:30 pm - SALT Meeting	23 <i>Reminiscere Midweek</i> 5 pm - Lenten Bible Study 6 pm - Soup Dinner 7 pm - Divine Service 	24 10 am - Together in Word 12 pm - Divine Service <i>Annunciation of Our Lord</i> 5 pm - WW 6 pm - Conf. Class 	25	26
27 <i>Oculi</i> 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC,SS 	28	29 7 pm - Stewardship	30 <i>Oculi Midweek</i> 5 pm - Lenten Bible Study 6 pm - Soup Dinner 7 pm - Divine Service 	31 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers 6 pm - Confirmation Class	April 1	2

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

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



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

Serving in March

	ELDERS	ACOLYTES	USHERS	GREETERS
March				
6 - 9:30 am <i>(Quinquagesima)</i>	Terry Luplow	Sierra Luplow Morgan Johnson	James Sager Daren Johnson	Lillian Manns Lois Ramsey
13 - 9:30 am <i>(Invocavit)</i>	Miguel Ortiz	Natalie Penzien Samantha Messer	Vern Jakolat Tyrel Harwager	Terry and Coaline Luplow
20 - 9:30 am <i>(Reminiscere)</i>	David Zeile	Myka Luplow Melanie Penzien	Jonathan Penzien Gary Miller	Lisa Messer and Family
27 - 9:30 am <i>(Oculi)</i>	Larry Elliott	Paige Harwager Aaron Messer	Kevin Sellker Miguel Ortiz	Yvonne Elenbaas Mary Girard
April				
3 - 9:30 am <i>(Laetare)</i>	Terry Luplow	Sierra Luplow Morgan Johnson	James Sager Daren Johnson	Bob and Jo Wendt

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