

# The Peace Post



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



*From the Desk of  
Pastor Messer*

## “ISSUES, ETC. CANCELLED BY LCMS”

Dear fellow redeemed in Christ,

Holy Tuesday, March 18, 2008, will be remembered as “Black Tuesday” or “Unholy Tuesday” in the LCMS. That morning, Rev. Todd Wilken (host of “Issues, Etc.”) and Mr. Jeff Schwarz (producer of “Issues, Etc.”) showed up for work at KFVO (LCMS owned radio station) in St. Louis, MO, to broadcast their excellent radio program, “Issues, Etc.” But, when they arrived, they were summoned to the office of Mr. David Strand, Executive Director of the Board for Communication Services (BCS) of the LCMS. When they reported to Mr. Strand’s office, he informed them that “Issues, Etc.” was being discontinued, effective immediately, and that the two of them were being terminated from employment, effective immediately.

Baffled by this, the two men asked for an explanation, but Mr. Strand refused to provide one, simply stating that the decision has been made and it is final. They were then escorted out of the building.

News of this action was first announced by Rev. William Weedon, pastor of St. Paul Lutheran in Hamill, IL, on his internet blog. Pastor Weedon, whose excellent sermons I have included in our newsletter from time to time, is the pastor of Mr. Schwarz. Once reported by Pastor Weedon, the news spread like wildfire all over the internet and the vehement protest against this action began.

That protest continues as I write this article on Friday, March 28. Several thousand people are very upset not only by the sudden cancellation of “Issues, Etc.,” but by the way Rev. Wilken and Mr. Schwarz were treated, and by the way our synodical leaders have handled the matter by keeping things secret and by refusing to answer many questions which arise from this action. The silence from synod has not only been unprofessional and irresponsible, but comes off as un-Christian and vindictive. Secular corporations may behave this way, but Christian church bodies should not. To do this without any warning or explanation to Rev. Wilken and Mr. Schwarz, to their show’s faithful listeners, and to the synod at large, is simply shameful. Then, for Mr. Strand to release an explanation 10 days after the fact, using outdated and incomplete data to attempt to justify this action, is just reprehensible! Again, Christian church bodies are not supposed to behave this way!

For those of you who may be wondering why there is all this fuss

over the cancellation of a radio program, I include the following article from the Wall Street Journal, in which Mrs. Hemingway does an excellent job not only of summarizing the events which have taken place, but also of highlighting the fact that there is more to this story than may initially meet the eye:

## Radio Silence

By MOLLIE ZIEGLER HEMINGWAY

March 28, 2008

*Usually radio hosts have to offend sacred moral sensibilities to be thrown off the air. Opie and Anthony were fired after they encouraged a couple to have sex in St. Patrick’s Cathedral. Don Imus lost his job after using racist and sexist epithets against the Rutgers University women’s basketball team.*

*But when the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod canceled its popular, nationally syndicated radio program “Issues, Etc.,” listeners were baffled. Billed as “talk radio for the thinking Christian,” the show was known for its lively discussions analyzing cultural influences on the American church. It seemed like precisely the thing that the Missouri Synod, a 2.4-million-member denomination whose system of belief is firmly grounded in Scripture and an intellectually rigorous theology, would enthusiastically support.*



What would Martin Luther do?

*Broadcast from the nation’s oldest continuously run religious radio station, KFVO-AM in St. Louis, and syndicated throughout the country, “Issues, Etc.” had an even larger audience world-wide, thanks to its podcast’s devoted following. With 14 hours of fresh programming each week, the show was on the leading edge of what’s happening in culture, politics and broader church life. The Rev. Todd Wilken interviewed the brightest lights from across the theological spectrum on news of the day. Guests included Oxford University’s Dr. Alister*

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McGrath, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Albert Mohler and more postmodern types, like Tony Jones, national coordinator for a church network called Emergent Village.

On its last show, on March 17, listeners learned about the life and faith of St. Patrick; scientific and philosophical arguments in defense of the human embryo; the excommunication of two Roman Catholic women who claimed ordination; and the controversy surrounding the sermons of Barack Obama's pastor, Jeremiah Wright.

Despite the show's popularity, low cost and loyal donor base, Mr. Wilken and Jeff Schwarz, the producer of "Issues, Etc.," were dismissed without explanation on Tuesday of Holy Week. Within hours, the program's Web site -- which provided access to past episodes and issues of its magazine -- had disappeared. Indeed, all evidence that the show ever existed was removed.

So what happened? Initially, the bureaucrats in St. Louis kept a strict silence, claiming that the show had been canceled for "business and programmatic" reasons. Yesterday the synod cited low local ratings in the St. Louis area and the low number of listeners to the live audio stream on the Web site. But the last time the synod tracked the size of the audience was three years ago, and it did not take into account the show's syndicated or podcast following. The synod also claimed that the show lost \$250,000 a year, an assertion that is at odds with those of others familiar with the operating budget of the station.

The Rev. Michael Kumm, who served on three management committees for the station, said that the explanation doesn't add up. " 'Issues, Etc.' is the most listened to, most popular and generates more income than any other program at the station and perhaps even the others combined. This decision is purely political," he said.

He may well be right. The program was in all likelihood a pawn in a larger battle for the soul of the Missouri Synod. The church is divided between, on the one hand, traditional Lutherans known for their emphasis on sacraments, liturgical worship and the church's historic confessions and, on the other, those who have embraced pop-culture Christianity and a market-driven approach to church growth. The divide is well known to all confessional Christian denominations struggling to retain their traditional identity.

The Rev. Gerald Kieschnick, the synod's current president, has pushed church marketing over the Lutherans' historic confession of faith by repeatedly telling the laity, "This is not your grandfather's church."

Since Mr. Kieschnick narrowly won election in 2001, the church has embarked on a program, called Ablaze!, that has the admirable goal of "reaching 100 million unreached and uncommitted people with the Gospel by 2017," the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Histori-

cally the church kept statistics on baptisms. Now, however, it keeps a tally of what it calls "critical events." On March 17 a man reported discussing Jesus with his waitress -- and the Ablaze! count went up by one.

One congregation near St. Louis took a \$25,000 Ablaze! grant and used it to put up billboards with kitschy statements purporting to come from the devil (e.g., "Jefferson Hills Church Sucks," signed "Satan"). A Michigan mission congregation replaced the historical message of Lent with a speaker series on sex. Following marketing principles, neither congregation uses the word "Lutheran" in its name or advertising campaign.

While "Issues, Etc." never criticized Mr. Kieschnick or his colleagues, its attacks against shallow church marketing included mention of some approaches embraced by the current leadership. It opposed, for instance, the emergent church -- an attempt to accommodate post-modern culture by blending philosophies and practices from throughout the church's history -- and the Purpose Driven Church movement, which reorients the church's message toward self-help and self-improvement.

This isn't the first time the Missouri Synod has been divided between confessional Lutherans and those enamored with the latest religious fads. In the 1970s, alert confessional laity thwarted a top-down imposition of chic liberal theology in the church's seminaries.

A similar grass-roots movement may now have begun among the radio show's fans. Within days of the cancellation of "Issues, Etc.," public outcry forced the synod to repost the archived broadcasts on KFVO's Web site. A petition calling for the show's return has been signed by thousands of people from 49 states, 27 denominations and 25 countries. Many of the signers explained how "Issues, Etc." introduced them to Lutheranism. Young listeners have started a Facebook group to share information about the fate of the show.

Jim Kruta of Collinsville, Ill., was the 4,056th petition signer. An adult convert, he says that he listened to "Issues, Etc." for engaging discussions grounded in confessional Lutheranism. Mr. Kruta explained that Missouri Synod members should have drawn the line sooner about how much deviation they would tolerate in the church. "Seriously, this has been like waking up in the hospital after surgery only to find that the wrong limb has been amputated and no one will admit who the surgeon was," he said.

As synod bureaucrats support congregations that hide their Lutheran identity while terminating the strong witness of "Issues, Etc.," members of the denomination are asking if they can have their grandfather's church back.

**Mrs. Hemingway, a writer in Washington, is a former member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's Board for Communication Services.**

## “A Fight for the Soul of Our Synod”

In Ms. Hemingway’s article, she included a quote from Rev. Michael Kumm in which he stated that the decision to cancel “Issues, Etc.” was “purely political.” I agree with his assessment.

You see, “Issues, Etc.” did not apologize for the Lutheran faith and was steadfastly unwilling to compromise it in any way. Pastor Wilken spoke out against the watered-down, unbiblical principles of the modern “church growth movement,” which posits that the church must “change with the times” and make herself more appealing to the masses by making worship “fun and entertaining,” etc. He pointed out the heresies of modern American Evangelicals, and confronted the popular false teachers of our day, like Joyce Meyer, Rick Warren, Joel Osteen, and many others. He took on the issues of our day, not only within the church, but outside, always directing the focus back to Christ and His Cross.

Frequent guests on the program were often our own LCMS clergy, professors, and personalities, who stood firm with Pastor Wilken on defending confessional Lutheranism. But, it was also very common to have guests from other denominations on the program, and interviews were often done with people who are proponents of the popular, contemporary form of “Christianity” with which we are surrounded in our day and age. Pastor Wilken held their feet to the fire, always confronting them with Scripture and revealing their teachings to be contrary to the inspired, inerrant Word of God.

“Issues, Etc.” was THE voice of confessional Lutheranism in our country and its voice was heard throughout the world. It took a stand on the theological issues of our day, defending the doctrine and practice of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church, of which we Lutherans claim to belong. It spoke out against the “liberal” theology of our day in a clear, honest, bold, and courageous way. It confronted some of the most controversial issues, like women’s ordination and homosexuality, defending the Biblical view which is clearly against both. It was surely a show of which our Lutheran forefathers would be proud. Luther himself would no doubt praise the show, which was “Christ-centered and Cross-focused” in every aspect.

When you compare the teachings found on “Issues, Etc.” with the “vision” our current synodical leadership has for the future of our synod, it makes sense that this show had to go. You simply cannot have such a powerful voice promoting and defending confessional Lutheranism when you are trying to take the synod in a “contemporary, Americanized Evangelical” direction. That would be rather counter-productive.

Lest you think I am out of line or over-exaggerating, consider just a few of the “Ablaze!” congregations which are being set before us as “perfect examples” of the “vision” our synodical leaders have for the “future” of our synod: Lakepointe Church in Hot Springs, Arkansas ([www.lakepointefamily.com](http://www.lakepointefamily.com)); Water’s Edge in Frisco, Texas ([www.watersedgefrisco.com](http://www.watersedgefrisco.com)); Jefferson Hills in Imperial and Fenton, Missouri ([www.satanhates.com](http://www.satanhates.com)).

I could list many others, but these three have recently been promoted by our synodical leaders. I included the website addresses so that you could go and check out for yourselves what these con-

gregations are doing. What you will find is that they look and sound no different than the “Evangelical” churches you find on television. They have aligned themselves with the pop-Christian, people-pleasing “Christianity” found everywhere today. They follow the philosophy of popular “pastor” Rick Warren, whose motto is, “Our church is a church for people who don’t like church.” The Divine Service is replaced by the “Sunday worship experience.” The altar is removed to make room for the Christian rock band to perform. The pastors dress casually and preach “pep-talks” to the people. Everyone is welcome to receive Communion, although you might be required to quickly undergo a “spontaneous baptism” before doing so. The only good thing about these congregations is that they do not include “Lutheran” in their name. However, these are the congregations the synodical leaders of The LUTHERAN Church—Missouri Synod are not only promoting, but supporting with “Ablaze!” grant money!

Thus, I do not believe that it was mere coincidence, nor a matter of finances, that “Issues, Etc.” was abruptly cancelled, since Rev. Wilken and many other pastors, theologians, and laypeople who joined him on the program, spoke out vehemently against these kinds of congregations (see Rev. Wilken’s article, “The Fad-Driven Church,” on pp. 4-6).

The question is: Will we stand for this? Will we wallow in the mire of complacency and pretend like these things are not happening, or will we stand up and fight for the truth?

One thing I know for sure is that we will NOT get our grandfather’s synod back if the laity do not get involved and let their voices be heard. The history of our synod proves that effective change has only ever come about when the laity got involved. Therefore, I urge you, first of all, to pray for our synodical leaders, that the Holy Spirit would reveal the error of their ways to them and guide them to walk in the truth of God’s Word. I also ask you to pray for Rev. Wilken, Mr. Schwarz, and their families at this trying time. And, lastly, I urge you to join the fight for the soul of our synod. Let your voices be heard. You can do so by joining the protest against the cancellation of “Issues, Etc.”:

Sign the online petition:

<http://www.petitiononline.com/Issues/petition.html>

Call, email, or write:

Mr. David L. Strand, Executive Director  
Board for Communication Services  
(314) 996-1200  
[david.strand@lcms.org](mailto:david.strand@lcms.org)

The Rev. Dr. Gerald Kieschnick  
(314) 996-1402  
[president@lcms.org](mailto:president@lcms.org)

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
1333 S. Kirkwood Road  
St. Louis, MO 63122-7295  
(888) 843-5267  
[infocenter@lcms.org](mailto:infocenter@lcms.org)

In Christ,  
*Pastor Messer*



# The Fad-Driven Church

By Rev. Todd Wilken

(Former Host of "Issues, Etc.")

. . . The dictionary defines a fad as "a practice or interest followed for a time with exaggerated zeal." This could just as well be a description of congregational life of many Christian churches today.

There is a new book, a new program or a new emphasis every year or so. It's all anyone can talk about; it's all the preacher preaches about - for a while. Then, as quickly as it came, it's gone. As eagerly as it was received, it's abandoned and forgotten.

Welcome to the Fad-Driven church.

At first this might not sound like a problem. Some Christians can remember when the Church didn't jump from bandwagon to bandwagon every year or two. But for others, this is all they have ever known. For them, it is hard to imagine what the Church would be like without the constant ebb and flow of church fads. For them, the long list of church fads represents their personal history as a Christian: Spiritual Gift inventories, Spiritual Warfare, Promise Keepers, Weigh Down Workshop, *The Prayer of Jabez, the Left Behind Series, Becoming a Contagious Christian*, a long succession of evangelism and stewardship programs, and most recently, *The Purpose-Driven Life* and *40 Days of Purpose*. There are many Christians for whom this list (give or take one or two) is Christianity. Some church fads come and go, some come and stay. A few are genuinely harmless; most contain serious theological error. All are popular - while they last. In the fad-driven-church, "exaggerated zeal" has replaced "the faith once for all delivered to the saints." (1)

In the course of hosting **Issues, Etc.**, I've examined most if not all of the recent church fads. I am always surprised - not by the fads themselves, but by something else.. I am always surprised by how uncritically churches accept a fad, how enthusiastically churches embrace a fad and how carelessly churches abandon a fad. That is why this article isn't about the fads themselves, but about the kind of churches that accept, embrace and abandon fads.

## The Life Cycle of a Church Fad

Every fad has a life cycle. The fad is first accepted, then embraced and finally abandoned. For the fad-driven church, this life cycle is a way life.

The cycle begins with acceptance. The fad-driven church is practiced at this. Too close an examination of the fad at the outset might raise too many questions. "After all, this book is a best-seller!" "Thousands of churches are doing it, how can we go wrong?" Accept first, examine later, if at all. This acceptance may come through the pastor's active promotion or through grassroots popularity. Either way, the fad spreads like wildfire in the congregation.

The cycle continues with enthusiastic embrace. By "enthusiastic" I don't mean excitement or emotion, although those things may be involved. What I mean is that the fad-driven church embraces its latest fad with creedal intensity. While the fad has currency, it is an article of faith. Belief in the fad becomes a mark of loyalty to the church. During this phase of the fad's life cycle, critics of the fad may be dismissed as unloving, judgmental or unconcerned for saving souls. At the very least, they are viewed as troublemakers and obstacles to the church's mission. During this phase, in some cases, the fad may dictate what is preached, the content of bible study or even the focus of congregational life.

The life cycle ends with the abandonment of the fad. Some fads have a built-in expiration date... most simply linger until something better comes along. The fad-driven church may cling with a martyr's fervor to the fad while it lasts, but everyone knows that its days are numbered. Sooner or later it will have to be abandoned. Accept the fad, embrace the fad and abandon the fad: This is the life of a fad-driven church. There are exceptions to this life cycle. In a few cases a fad doesn't die; it grows into something bigger than a fad. It grows into a movement... I have often been critical of church fads at the height of their popularity. After several encounters with fad defenders, I noticed something. The seasoned member of the fad-driven church will defend his fad today. But he will happily abandon the same fad six months from now. I realized that the fad itself is inconsequential; everyone knows that it will be forgotten sooner or later. Christians caught in the cycle of church fads must defend a particular fad, because by doing so, they are defending their willingness to accept, embrace and abandon fads in general. They are defending their fad-driven-ness.

## A Lack of Discernment

The need of discernment in the Church is one of the most frequent admonitions in Scripture.(2) Paul's warning to the Ephesians is typical: *We are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming, but speaking the truth in love we are to grow up in all aspects unto Him, who is the head, even Christ.*(3)

The church is supposed to stand immovable against "every wind of doctrine." By contrast the fad-driven church is a windsock. If you want to know which way the wind is blowing, the latest teachings, the newest programs or the most current methods, just look

*Continued on next page*

at the fad-driven church, If you want to know what the fad-driven church will be doing next, just walk through your local Christian bookstore or page through a Christian publisher's catalogue.

In the fad-driven church, books, programs and seminars are evaluated primarily by their sales, popularity and attendance record rather than on their theological merit. "False teaching? Why would so many churches be reading this book if it contained false teaching?"...Can millions of Christians be wrong? Yes, they can.

Ironically, the fad-driven church often excuses its lack of discernment in the name of saving souls. It justifies its appetite for fads in the name of evangelism. "Whatever it takes" is the creed of the fad-driven church. "Whatever it takes to reach the lost" is supposed to be a courageous new strategy for evangelism. But "Whatever it takes" is not a strategy. "Whatever it takes" is an admission that you have no strategy. Sinners aren't saved by "whatever." Sinners are saved by what Jesus did at the Cross. "Whatever it takes" is just another way of saying, "Whatever people want," or "Whatever everyone else is doing." Rather than seeking the lost, the fad-driven church is just seeking its next fix.

Some advocates of church fads take the "Eat the meat, spit out the bones" approach to false teaching. They claim that practicing discernment means spitting the "bones" of error while eating the "meat" of truth. There are several problems with this approach. First, it assumes that a church fad contains only isolated false teachings, like so many bones in a fish. But many church fads don't just contain false teaching; they are based on false teaching... Second, the "bone spitting" approach assumes that the errors of the latest church fad will be obvious to everyone. Often they are not. In the 2nd century, Irenaeus battled the fad of Gnosticism. He observed: *Error, indeed, is never set forth in its naked deformity, lest, being thus exposed, it should at once be detected. But it is craftily decked out in an attractive dress, so as, by its outward form, to make it appear to the inexperienced (ridiculous as the expression may seem) more true than the truth itself.*(4)

The "inexperienced" are still infants in the faith. Would you give an infant a fish to eat knowing that there were bones in it?

Finally, the "bone spitting" approach fails to recognize that a continuous stream of fads will erode the church's ability to discern truth from error. With every new fad, the fad-driven church grows less able to recognize the truth. In time, the fad-driven church is unable to discern the true Gospel. Paul found this to be the case among the Corinthians: *If one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received or a different gospel which you have not accepted; you hear this beautifully.*(5)

This is the bottom line. A church willing to tolerate some false teaching will eventually tolerate any false teaching - even a false gospel, a false spirit and a false Jesus. For this reason, when it comes to: false teaching, Scripture's command isn't to "bone-spit," but to avoid it altogether.(6)

### **Desperation**

...Os Guinness has written recently about the "idol of relevance" and accurately described the mentality of the fad-driven church: *And of course, whatever is next must be a great deal better still... The past is beside the point, outdated, reactionary, and stagnant. In a word that is today's supreme term of dismissal, the past is irrelevant, Everything Christian from worship to evangelism must be fresh, new, up-to-date, attuned, appealing, seeker- sensitive, audience-friendly, and relentlessly relevant... "All new," "must-read; "the sequel that is more than equal" - the mentality is rampant and the effect is corrosive.*(7)

Rather than making the church more relevant, this mentality only makes the fad-driven church more susceptible to fads and more desperate: *Relevance without truth encourages what Nietzsche called the "herd" mentality and Kierkegaard "age of the crowd." Further compounded by accelerated change, which itself is compounded by the fashion-driven dictates of consumerism, relevance becomes overheated and vaporizes into trendiness.*(8)

Guinness' final observation is an uncanny paraphrase of Jeremiah's lament: *Feverishness is the condition of an institution that has ceased to be faithful to its origins. It is then caught up in "a restless, cosmopolitan hunting after new and ever newer things."*(9)

*They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water [Jeremiah 2:11-13].* This explains the short life span of so many church fads. It is the result of desperation. The fad-driven church's new cisterns are broken. They can't hold water. Even while the last drops drain from the old cistern, the fad-driven church must desperately dig a new one. But the new cistern is as leaky as the old one, so the digging must go on.

### **Nothing to Offer; Nothing to Say**

William Inge said, "Whoever marries the spirit of this age will find himself a widower in the next." Take away the fads, and what of the Church is left in the fad-driven church? In some cases, what's left isn't the church at all, but a collection of principles, practices and ideas that don't add up to anything resembling the Christian faith. Rather than "the pattern of sound words"(10) there are only the remnants of past fads.

In the name of saving the lost, the fad-driven is trading the saving message of the Gospel for the newest gimmick. If such a church does reach the lost, will it have anything to say that can save them? ... Will the fad-driven church give Christians Jesus or Jabez, lasting forgiveness or the latest fashion?

And for the member of the fad-driven church who has known nothing but fads, will these fads leave her a Christian on her deathbed (or will she be left wondering what that whirlwind of best-sellers, seminars, video sermons and three-ring binders was all about?)

The church that wraps its identity and mission around the evanescent desires of finicky consumers, will run the risk of creating a church as ephemeral as those desires.(11) Will the fad-driven church remain the Church? In its "exaggerated zeal for all things new, will it hold fast to the unchanging message of the Cross?"

### Fad or Faith

We live in an age of pious distractions. We live in an age of church fads. The fad-driven church has structured its life around the trends and innovations of the day. Christian publishers and the mega-church gurus are ready to provide something new as often as the masses demand it. But St. Paul encourages and warns the Church: *In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead; and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage - with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.*(12)

The Church has something better than any fad. The time has come. Ears are itching. Ears are turning. The Church must take up Paul's charge. Now more than ever the Church must preach the Word and ignore the fads.

Many in the fad-driven church believe that preaching the Word is impractical: "If just preaching the Word worked, people would be lining up at the door." Others in the fad-driven church believe that preaching the Word is outdated: "It may have worked 50 years ago, but not today." Others believe that preaching the word is just too simple, Rick Warren has said as much, *We've all heard speakers claim, "If you'll pray more, preach the word; and be dedicated; then your church will grow." Well, that's just not true. I can show you thousands of churches where pastors are doctrinally sound; they love the Lord; they're committed and spirit-filled and yet their churches are dying on the vine.*(13)

This is nonsense. How can a church that is preaching the Word, of God be "dying on the vine?" Paul tells the Church to preach the Word not because it is the most practical way, or the most current way, or the simplest way. Paul tells us to preach the Word because it is the only way. *For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know God. God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified; to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*(14)

G.K. Chesterton said, "The Church always seems to be behind the times, when it is really beyond the times; it is waiting till the last fad shall have seen its last summer. It keeps the key of a permanent virtue." That key is the Gospel, the message of the forgiveness of sins purchased at the Cross, with the blood of Jesus.

That key is the Gospel proclaimed to every sinner every Sunday... Yes, this Gospel is popularly believed to be impractical, outdated, and simplistic. But it isn't. Rather, this Gospel is "the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes."(15)

Without this Gospel, the Church is at the mercy of every new fad. However, with this Gospel, the Church really is beyond the times.

As I write this, my 12 year-old daughter is convinced that hip-hugger bell-bottoms are the greatest idea in fashion history. I don't have the heart to tell her that I used to think so too. She thinks her father looks old-fashioned and lacks all sense of style. I don't have the heart to tell her that I look back at pictures of my bell-bottom days and laugh. I don't have the heart to tell her that someday she will do the same. The Church is an old man who has been wearing the same clothes in the same style his whole life. He refuses to change with the fashions. He simply lets the fads pass him by. Yes, he seems behind the times. But look again at what he is wearing. He is clothed in Christ.

*This article is an abridgement of the longer article which can be found in **Issues, Etc. Journal, Vol. 3, No.3, pp. 4- 9.** Thanks to Rev. Todd Wilken for permission to share this information.*

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(1) Jude 3; 2 Romans 16:17; 1 Cor. 14:29; 2 Cor. 13:5; Gal. 1:9; Phil. 1:8-11; (2) Thess. 3:6; 1 Tim. 4:6, 16; 6:3-5; 2 Tim. 1:13; 2:15; 4:3-5; Titus 1:7-14; 2:1; 1 John 4:1; Hebrews 5:14; (3) Ephesians 4:14-15; (4) Irenaeus of Lyons, *Adversus Haereses*, 1,2, in *The Ante-Nicene Fathers*, vol. 1, Alexander Roberts and James Donalson, ed., Hendrickson, 1994; (5) 2 Cor.11:4; (6) Gal. 2:4-5; 5:9; 1 Cor. 5:6; Phil. 3:2; 2 Thes. 2:15; 1 Tim. 4:6-7; 6:20-21; 2 Tim. 1:13-3:1-17; 2 Peter 2:1-3; 3:17-18; Rev. 2:14-16; (7) Os Guinness, *Prophetic Untimeliness, A Challenge to the Idol of Relevance*, Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003, pp. 40, 76; (8) Os Guinness, *Dining with the Devil, The Mega-church Movement Flirts with Modernity*, Rapids: Baker, 1993, p. 63; (9) Os Guinness, *Dining with the Devil*, p. 63; (10) 2 Tim. 1:13; (11) Philip Kenneson, James Street, *Selling Out the Church, The Dangers of Church Marketing*, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1997, p. 20; (12) 2 Tim. 4:1-4; (13) Rick Warren, "Rick Warren Interview" at <http://www.pastors.comiportal/new/RickInterview.asp>; (14) 1 Cor. 1:21-25; Also Matt. 24:14; Luke 24:46-47; Romans 10:17; 16:25-27; 2 Cor. 4:5; Col. 1:25-28; (15) Romans 1:16.

# PEACE NEWS & NOTES

## 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.*

## LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

We'll have our next Ladies Lunch Bunch on **Thursday, April 17 at 1:30 p.m. at the Country Inn.** 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



**Vacation Bible School (VBS)** is scheduling a planning meeting for all volunteers on April 24, at 7:00 p.m. Please see Sharyn Greening for more information.

## EUCHRE NIGHT!



Our next Euchre Night will be **Friday, April 18 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!

## PYG NEWS

April Events

**Monthly Meeting - (4/13) - Noon - 2:00 pm**

**Coffee Hour - (4/20) - during fellowship**

Greetings in Christ. April will be a busy month even without a lot of events planned. We are continuing our planning for the Higher Things “Amen” Conference this summer and are preparing for our first [hopefully annual] PYG Spring Bazaar on the first Saturday of May. Thanks to Anna, Jenny and Lisa for stepping up on these events and the planning. We are continuing our on going fund raisers of Spartan coupons and the pop can collection. I want to thank everyone who is supporting us through these projects.

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



1. PYG is collecting Spartan UPC labels and pop cans to help assist with the upcoming *Higher Things* conference this summer. Please drop UPC labels in the box over the church mail boxes. A container for pop cans is in the coat room. Thank you for helping PYG!
2. PYG is planning a PYG Vendor/Craft Bazaar for Saturday, May 3, from 9 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Indoor and outdoor spaces will be available for \$20 each, plus a door prize donation. They are looking for Peace members who have a home-based business or wish to sell craft items who would like to reserve a booth. For more information, contact Jon Penzien or Jenny Baughman.

## SCRAPBOOKING DAY WORKSHOP

Cassie Tennant will be hosting a scrapbooking day workshop on April 19, from 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. here at Peace. The cost is \$10 with a dish to pass. Come for the full day, half day, or just a couple of hours. Price will be discounted if you cannot attend the full day.

You can bring projects you have started or would like to start or just come to learn.

Any questions, please contact Cassie:  
Phone: 989-285-3883  
Email: radar1214@yahoo.com.

There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board to submit your RSVP.

## 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 **this Thursday, April 3 at 7:00 p.m.** at the church. All are invited to attend! Hope to see you there!

# Synopsis of January 28, 2008 Voters' Assembly Minutes

## Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- President Brown called the meeting to order at 11:11 a.m. with 43 voting members present. Pastor Messer led the opening prayer.

## Approval of Agenda

- Motion made by Bill Harmon, supported by Mike Harrison to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

## Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Jon Penzien, supported by Dave Zeile to approve the minutes from the October 28, 2007 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

## Reports

- **Pastor** – Pastor Messer had no report.
- **Treasurer** – Treasurer Zeile presented the attached report.
- **Financial Secretary** – Financial Secretary Miller informed the congregation that offering envelopes were available to be picked up.
- **Boards: Elders** – Larry Elliott will serve as the new Chairman of the Board of Elders. The Elders are continuing to make contacts to inactive members; **Trustees** – James Sager presented information on projects around the church. The congregation asked questions about procedures for bidding services; **Christian Education** – Sharyn Greening will continue to serve as the Chairman of the Board of Christian Education. The Board is getting ready for Vacation Bible School and will be holding an information meeting on February 7. Sunday School attendance is a concern due to low numbers; **Evangelism** – The Board of Evangelism is looking for new members; **Stewardship** – There was no report from the Board of Stewardship.
- **Committees: Ladies Guild** – Treasurer Zeile provided information on a successful Cookie Walk and the upcoming Lenten Potlucks. She also informed the congregation of the newly established Christian Care Fund; **Youth Group** – The Youth Group is making plans to attend the Higher Things conference and is planning a fundraiser in May; **Budget & Finance** – The Budget & Finance Committee had no report.

## Business

- **Establishment of Christian Care Fund** – Pastor Messer provided additional explanation of the Christian Care Fund.
- **Adjournment & Closing Prayer** – Motion made by Financial Secretary Miller, supported by Coaline Luplow to adjourn at 11:54 a.m. Pastor Messer closed with the Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,  
Megan Brown, Secretary

# Synopsis of March 25, 2008 Special Council Meeting Minutes

## Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- President Brown called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The following members were present: Chris Brown, Megan Brown, Carol Zeile, Sharyn Greening, Miguel Ortiz, Gary Miller and James Sager. Pastor Messer was also present and conducted the opening prayer.

## Business

- **Funding for Higher Things Conference – Youth Group** – The Youth Group has requested \$2,000 for the Higher Things conference. \$1,500 was requested for registration and \$500 for transportation. Treasurer Zeile offered to check with Jon Penzien regarding the actual amount needed for registration fees because some attendees will be paying the fees themselves. Motion made by Financial Secretary Miller, supported by Treasurer Zeile to give the Youth Group what they need for registration. Motion carried unanimously. Motion made by Vice President Ortiz, supported by Treasurer Zeile to transfer money from Church Extension Savings account to cover the registration costs. Motion carried unanimously.

## General Comment

- Pastor Messer provided the Council with more information about the sudden cancellation of Issues, Etc.

**Adjournment & Closing Prayer** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m. Pastor Messer closed with the Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,  
Megan Brown, Secretary

# Synopsis of March 5, 2008 Council Meeting Minutes

**\*\*NOTE: THIS MEETING WAS RESCHEDULED FROM MARCH 4, 2008 DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM.**

## Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- President Brown called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m. The following members were present: Chris Brown, Megan Brown, Sharyn Greening, Dave Zeile, Carol Zeile and James Sager. Pastor Messer was also present and conducted the opening prayer.

## Approval of Agenda

- Motion made by Dave Zeile, supported by Treasurer Zeile to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

## Approval of Consent Agenda

- Motion made by Secretary Brown, supported by Councilmember Greening to approve the consent agenda containing the items listed below. Motion carried unanimously.

## Reports

- **Officers: Treasurer** – Treasurer Zeile presented the attached report and the Council received it into record. Treasurer Zeile noted that the account has been established at the bank for the Christian Care Fund.
- **Boards: Board of Trustees** – No report; **Board of Stewardship** – No report.
- **Organization and Committee Reports: Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild** – No report; **Peace Youth Group** – No report; **Budget & Finance** – No report.

## Business

- **Church Secretary Proposal** – Pastor Messer presented a proposal and description for the Church Secretary position. Motion made by Councilmember Greening, supported by Secretary Brown to call a special meeting of the Voters' Assembly on March 30, 2008 to present the proposal to the congregation. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Sanctuary Renovation Proposal** – Pastor Messer presented a proposal for a renovation to the church sanctuary. Motion made by Councilmember Greening, supported by Treasurer Zeile to add the Sanctuary Renovation proposal to the agenda at the special meeting of the Voters' Assembly on March 30, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

## General Comment

- **Trumpeter for Easter Divine Service** – Treasurer Zeile informed the Council that we will have a trumpet player for Easter Divine Service. He will be paid \$25.
- **Update on Account Signatories** – Treasurer Zeile informed the Council that all account signatories are up to date.
- **Use of Fellowship Hall for Elections** – Secretary Brown informed the Council that the City of Alma has requested use of the fellowship hall for the August and November elections.

**Adjournment & Closing Prayer** – Motion made by Dave Zeile, supported by President Brown to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. Pastor Messer closed with the Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,  
Megan Brown, Secretary.

## LADIES & ALTAR GUILD INFO

- **LADIES GUILD MEETING:** Our Ladies Guild next meets on **Monday, April 7 at 7:00 pm.** **Hostess: Carol Zeile.** 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:** April - Carol Zeile; May - Beth Brostrom; June - Carol Zeile
- **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:

<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
6 - Janice Sager	4 - Coaline Luplow	1 - Gretchen Harrison
13 - Jenny Baughman	11 - Tammy Oswald	8 - Arlene Hale/Janet Isom
20 - Youth Group	18 - M. Isaksson/H. Meyers	15 - Joyce Kohler
27 - Lisa Messer	25 - Mary Jakolat	22 - Shawwna Greening
		29 - L. Miller/J. Bigelow



### Easter Breakfast Thank You!

*Thanks to everyone who helped to make the Easter Breakfast a great success. The food was wonderful and the service outstanding! Many hands helped to make the meal pleasant for all.*

*Thanks again!*

## Christian Care Fund

During Lent, the Ladies' Guild collected \$240.03 for our newly created Christian Care Fund. Thanks to all of you who donated to this effort! We also applied for supplemental funds from Thrivent in the amount of \$200. This Fund will be used to help members of our congregation who are in need. The fundraising effort is an ongoing project. You may make contributions to the Fund at any time. Just make sure to indicate the purpose of your donation so that it will be recorded properly. If you have any questions, please see Carol Zeile or Gary Miller.



# 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!*

The last four S.A.L.T. meetings have been cancelled due to non-attendance. For that reason, Pastor Messer will be meeting with Larry and Andrea Elliott, the co-chairpersons, and with several other members who have served on the committee in the past, to determine how we can recruit people to serve on, and revitalize, this very important committee. Details will be forthcoming. The ongoing S.A.L.T. activities will continue during this transitional period (see the S.A.L.T. bulletin board for details).

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## *Come join us on The Wittenberg Trail!*



*The Wittenberg Trail is “the online community for people exploring & confessing the Lutheran faith.” It is “a growing, international community, collecting and connecting the Church Militant.”*

*The many discussions which take place on the site are engaging, informative, and very interesting. The design of the site is fantastic and it is very user-friendly. The site includes many educational (catechetical) and various other informative and entertaining videos and articles, as well as beautiful photos from Lutheran congregations all over the world, and many more resources. Several of the most respected Lutheran theologians (pastors, professors, and others) are members and offer their faithful insight. It is a wonderful place for you to learn more about our Lutheran faith! This will become (already is!) a tremendous evangelism tool for us, as we can invite family and friends to explore our Lutheran faith on the Trail.*

*Several of our own Peace members are already on the Trail, and we have even started our own Peace Lutheran—Alma, MI Group. We would love to see our group grow!*

*How do you begin walking on The Wittenberg Trail? Go to: <http://wittenbergtrail.ning.com/> and click on the button asking you to join. Or, you can send me an email and I'll send you an invitation with a link to join. Once you are on the Trail, you can join our group (just search through the groups until you see ours - you'll recognize our congregation's logo), click on it, and click on “join this group.” Or, you can go directly to our group. Our group's URL is:*

*<http://wittenbergtrail.ning.com/group/peacelutheranalmamichigan>*

*If you have any questions, or need help, let me know. Hope to see you on the Trail soon!*

*In Christ,*

*Pastor Messer*

# HOLY WEEK THOUGHTS

By Carol Zeile

*During Holy Week I had the privilege to be able to attend all of the Services offered by Pastor Messer. How one man can have the strength, energy, and intellect to plan and deliver all of those Services and sermons is awe-inspiring in itself. He would say, and rightly so, that our Lord deserves all the glory and praise. In addition, his single-minded devotion to serving our Lord is a light to us all. Each and every one of the Services was moving and inspiring and brought the Passion of our Lord to life for those of us who were able to attend. For me, Friday was the pinnacle of Holy Week. Both Good Friday Services, each in its own way, illustrated the immeasurable gift of Christ's death on the cross. The somber bells, the seven words from the cross, the walk with the "rugged" cross, and the incredible Good Friday evening sermon all brought to life the pain and suffering Christ endured for our sins. Easter morning dawned with the certainty that "He is risen". The trumpet, singing, rejoicing (and breakfast!) helped us all to celebrate Christ's victory, won for us, over the grave.*

*It was an amazing week, filled with events within and outside our walls. The world moved on with news of political campaigns, Supreme Court deliberations, tornadoes, floods, economic woes and controversy within our own synod. At Peace, we experienced something even more meaningful - the return of one of our sisters to our fellowship. There could be no greater gift during Holy Week or at any time. God is good! The Holy Spirit works through our little congregation of believers to spread the pure Gospel. Thanks be to God and to Pastor Messer and to all of us for making this possible.*

*I pray that we will all be inspired by this Lenten season to give of our God-given time, talents and treasures so that Peace can continue to prosper in this place. I am so fortunate to be a part of this faithful congregation. My faith has grown exponentially during the time spent with you, my brothers and sisters in Christ.*

By Bill Harmon

This past Holy Week was the first Holy Week I have ever attended every day. I was in awe. I had many emotions—sorrow over my sins and joy over my Savior's sacrifice. The sure knowledge that the God-Man, Jesus Christ, experienced many emotions in His human flesh, including fear and anguish over what He was about to do, sank in for me more than ever before. He asked three times for the cup of His Father's wrath to be removed from Him, for He knew what was in store for Him. The Sacrificial Lamb of God knew fear better than I ever have. At each of the three petitions in the Garden, He stated, "Not my will, but your will be done." This Simple prayer of Christ in perfect subjection to the Father's will sunk in for me this year more than ever before. The lesson of Holy Week for me was, "Yet not my will, but yours be done." We could never do what Jesus did for us, but His willingness to suffer and die in our place should cause us to look in the mirror to see our own reflection. Many of us need to face the fact—we are not bending our knees to His will. Are we just "Sunday Lutherans" or are we learning to live those words, "Yet not my will, but yours be done"? This entire Holy Week taught me about bending my stiff neck, bending my sinful knee, and giving thanks always for His sacrifice. I am ever thankful to have a pastor and friend in Pastor Messer to preach this truth to me so powerfully! This was the best Holy Week ever for me!

# HOLY WEEK THOUGHTS

*By Lisa Messer*

*Holy Week was very moving for me this year. I especially liked the Good Friday Services. Both of them were moving. The Noon Service was moving when Pastor came in with the Cross on his back. That brought back the memories of "The Passion of the Christ" I saw for the first time this year where Christ struggled to carry it; struggled to carry our sins. Then the Evening Service was moving for me when Pastor gave his message. It brought tears to my eyes, and hit home. The whole week was awesome! Thank you to my Pastor and husband who put so much time, thought, and caring into each Service!*

*By Chris Brown*

The most compelling part of Holy Week for me this year was Maundy Thursday. Sitting there in the pew by myself (since Megan was helping clear the altar) really does put things in perspective. I'm sitting there thinking what a piece of crap sinner I am and how much I don't deserve forgiveness, but knowing that I have been and will continue to be, because of Jesus' sacrifice. Awesome!

*By Megan Brown*

*I first want to thank Pastor Messer for a wonderful Holy Week. I know it's a lot of work, but it was beautiful!! My favorite part is always Maundy Thursday. I love our ceremony of stripping the altar and I was glad to be a part of it. Easter Sunday always stays with me long after the day is over. I'm still humming "Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!"*

*By Pastor Messer*

Even in the midst of the turmoil experienced in our synod, Holy Week was awesome for me this year! What a blessing it was to gather together at Noon every day for Divine Service. While I would love to see more of our brothers and sisters at Peace gather with us for those Services, the intimate nature of having 10-20 people there is every bit a blessing to me as having the pews full. I LOVE those Services!

If I had to choose a particular part of the Holy Week Services that was especially compelling for me, it would have to be the end of the Holy (Maundy) Thursday Service. And, no, I'm not referring to being thankful that the longest Service in the Church Year is coming to an end, but rather to the Office of the Stripping of the Altar. That little ceremony always gets to me. The eerie music (thanks to Beth Brostrom for playing that beautifully again this year) and the reading of Psalm 22 (thanks to Bill Hendrick) in the background, and the gradual stripping away of all items in the chancel, really brings home for me the abandonment of our Lord on that Sacred Night long ago. As I reverently remove the items and hand them down, I can't help but think about our Lord being forsaken not only by His disciples, but by His Father in heaven. It really puts things in perspective - that He endured this abandonment willingly for us - and sets the mood for Good Friday, when the cup of His Father's wrath, which He began to drink on Holy Thursday, is drained as He dies on the cross for our sins.

I love Holy Week! I'm already looking forward to next year! I offer my sincere thanks to everyone who served to make it a special, truly Holy week, especially to Carol Zeile, Lois Ramsey, and Vern Jakolat for being there every day to help, to Mary and Beth for playing beautifully, to all the ladies who helped strip the altar, to our elders for their service, and to all of you who sang beautifully in the choir, as well as Jordan Fulco, who did a wonderful job playing the trumpet Easter morning. In the words of St. Paul, "I thank my God always for you." In Jesus' Name. 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 27**, we will begin studying the **Book of Concord**, which contain our Lutheran Confessions. This will be an excellent opportunity for you to come and learn what we Lutherans truly confess to believe. I hope everyone will consider joining us for this important study!

## 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.

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## APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### Happy Birthday to:

- |                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Freda Hill           | 15 - Jenny Baughman  |
| 1 - Roger Humphrey       | 16 - Greg Rodriguez  |
| 1 - John Row III         | 17 - Danielle Hinton |
| 6 - John Rodriguez       | 20 - Carol Zeile     |
| 7 - CJ Oswald            | 21 - Jack Langan     |
| 10 - Lauren Penzien      | 25 - Janice Langan   |
| 13 - Joshua Gustavison   | 28 - Mike Byers      |
| 14 - Tim Gustavison, Jr. | 30 - Samantha Messer |

### Happy Anniversary to:

- 8 - Chris and Megan Brown  
22 - Dave and Carol Zeile



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

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## PAROCHIAL REPORT

(As of March 28)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 172 ; Confirmed - 139

Official Acts: 0

Membership gains: 0

Membership losses: 1

John Brostrom (joined a Presbyterian congregation)

Financial Report

YTD Receipts: \$22,215.13

YTD Budgeted Needs: \$26,820.00

## ADDITIONAL DIVINE SERVICES

Friday, April 25 at 12:00 p.m.

Feast of St. Mark, Evangelist

Thursday, May 1 at 12:00 p.m.

Feast of St. Philip and St. James, Apostles

Thursday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m.

High Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord

Rev. Thomas C. Messer  
 (989) 796-4453—Home  
 (989) 388-2037—Cell  
 pastor@peacealma.org

# April 2008

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>March 30</b> <i>Quasimodo Geniti (Easter 2)</i> 8:30—Choir 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—VOTERS' ASSEMBLY 12:00—Greek Class 	<b>March 31</b>	<b>1</b> 7:00 p.m.—Council Mtg.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10:00 a.m.—Together in the Word 5:00 p.m.— <i>WW</i> 7:00 p.m.—Table Talk	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <i>Misericordias Domini (Easter 3)</i> 8:30—Choir 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BG, SS 12:00—Greek Class 	<b>7</b> 7:00 p.m.—Ladies Guild <i>Hostess: Carol Zelle</i>	<b>8</b> <i>Pastor Messer at Winked</i> 7:00 p.m.—Trustees Mtg.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10:00 a.m.—Together in the Word 5:00 p.m.— <i>WW</i> 5:30 p.m.—Conf. Class	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <i>Jubilate (Easter 4)</i> 8:30—Choir 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BG, SS 12:00—Greek Class; PYG Mtg. 	<b>14</b> 10:00 a.m.—Elders Mtg.	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10:00 a.m.—Together in the Word 5:00 p.m.— <i>WW</i> 5:30 p.m.—Conf. Class	<b>18</b> 6:30 p.m.—Euchre 	<b>19</b> 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Scrapbooking Day Workshop: Hosted by Cassie Tennant
<b>20</b> <i>Cantate (Easter 5)</i> 8:30—Easter Breakfast 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BG, SS 12:00—Greek Class 	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <i>May newsletter items due tomorrow!</i> </div>	<b>24</b> 10:00 a.m.—Together in the Word 5:00 p.m.— <i>WW</i> 5:30 p.m.—Conf. Class 7:00 p.m.—VBS Mtg.	<b>25</b> 12:00 p.m.—Div. Service <i>St. Mark, Evangelist</i> 	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <i>Rogate (Easter 6)</i> 8:30—Choir 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BG, SS 12:00—Greek Class 	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>May 1</b> 10:00 a.m.—Tog. in Word 12:00 p.m.—Div. Service <i>St. Philip and St. James</i> 5:00 p.m.— <i>WW</i> 5:30 p.m.—Conf. Class 7:00 p.m.—Div. Service <i>Ascension of Our Lord</i>	<b>May 2</b>	<b>May 3</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: 989-796-4453  
Pastor's Cell: 989-388-2037  
E-mail: [pastor@peacealma.org](mailto: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.*

### SERVING IN APRIL

	<u>ACOLYTES</u>	<u>ORGANIST</u>	<u>ELDER</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
APRIL					
6 - 9:30 am <i>(Easter 3)</i>	Samantha Messer Lauren Penzien	Beth Brostrom	Larry Elliott	Bill Brostrom Burt Henry	Mike and Sue Ortiz
13 - 9:30 am <i>(Easter 4)</i>	Jordan Henry Natalie Penzien	Mary Jakolat	Don Reithel	James Sager Gary Miller	Helen Meyers, Lois Ramsey
20 - 9:30 am <i>(Easter 5)</i>	Sarah Messer Ashleigh Rodreguiz	Mary Jakolat	Terry Luplow	Chris Brown Bill Hendrick	Don and Sue Reithel
27 - 9:30 am <i>(Easter 6)</i>	CJ Oswald Melanie Penzien	Beth Brostrom	Dave Zeile	Curt Oswald Jon Penzien	Bob and Jo Wendt
MAY					
1 - 7:00 pm <i>(Ascension Day)</i>	Samantha Messer	Beth Brostrom	Dave Zeile	Curt Oswald Vern Jakolat	<i>None</i>
4 - 9:30 am <i>(Easter 7)</i>	Tyrel Harwager Phillip Schafer	Mary Jakolat	Larry Elliott	Michael Gilbert Vern Jakolat	Jon Penzien and Family

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