

# The Peace Post

Peace Lutheran Church ~ Alma, MI

Vol. 8, No. 4 April 2012

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



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## From the Desk of Pastor Messer "It's Okay to Feel"

It's okay to feel the emotional highs and lows during the Sacred Services of Holy Week. Liturgical Lutherans (are there any other kind?) are often accused of being anti-feeling and anti-emotional when it comes to worship. This is because they are quick to point out that we should never rely upon our feelings to determine whether or not we "got something out of the Service," since our Lord delivers His Gifts to us regardless of how we feel. This is also because Liturgical Lutherans reject the mentality that says that we need to make worship fun and entertaining, since that mentality leads to nothing more than emotional manipulation and ignores the fact that God Himself tells us in His Word that worship is to be a holy and reverent encounter with Him. But, this doesn't mean that Liturgical Lutherans are anti-feeling and anti-emotional.

The Divine Service is always a moving experience when one truly understands what is taking place, namely that our Lord is Present in our midst to hear our confession of sin, absolve us, feed us with Word and Sacrament, and bless us as we depart His Holy House. It is anything but boring and rote, as opponents of the liturgy claim. So, don't ever be afraid to feel and experience the Holy Encounter you have with your Lord during Divine Service. But, the feelings and emotions we experience during the Sacred Services of this Most Holy Week are heightened, and rightly so. In fact, the liturgy and hymnody in the immediate days ahead purposely invites and invokes certain emotional responses from us more than at any other time of the Church Year.

The conclusion of the Holy (Maundy) Thursday Mass, as the altar is stripped and the eerie music is played in the background while Psalm 22 is being reverently read (or chanted, in some places) cannot help but evoke emotion. The symbolism is powerful and moving - it gets me every time! And Good Friday, both the Chief Service (at Noon, here) and Tenebrae (in the evening, here), with the seven words of Christ, the procession of the Sacred Cross, the Reproaches, the reading of St. John's Passion account to the gradual darkening of the church, and the Strepitus (loud sound), at which the church goes completely dark, cannot help but evoke emotion. Powerful symbolism - it, too, gets me every time! And then comes the joy of the Easter Vigil and the Festival of our Lord's Resurrection, with the beautiful decor, the smell of the lilies, the organ and the choir belting out the beautiful and celebratory Easter hymns - the church lets her hair down and celebrates like at no other time during the year - yeah, that gets me every time, too!

There are times in the days ahead to feel and experience the almost unbelievable beauty and awesome depth of all that our Lord did to save us wretched sinners and open to us the way to everlasting life. From somber and meditative to joyous and celebratory - embrace it all, my friends. Oh yes, it's okay to feel and experience the emotional lows and highs of these Sacred Days. I pray that you will!



## The Holiest Week of the Year

*(Based on an article by Pastor Messer  
from yesteryear)*

In less than a week, we will enter the most important week in the Church Year. Holy Week is so named because, well, it is the holiest week of the year. Why? Because, during this week, we commemorate the Passion of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, by which He won salvation for us through His holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death. This is the week when we most fully meditate upon the mysterious and glorious work our Lord did in our place and on our behalf. This is the week when the reason for our celebration at Christmas finds its fulfillment, for the Baby born in Bethlehem came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and became man precisely to do what He does during Holy Week—to suffer and die on the cross to save us, and to rise on the third day to open for us the way to eternal life.

The whole world should stop everything during this week and take time to meditate upon its holy events. But, the whole world won't do that. This will just be another week for the world. Businesses will not close; sports events will not be put on hold; the television will not cease broadcasting its shows, and so on. The world will march through this week without giving its holy nature a second thought.

This is to be expected, of course. The world wants nothing to do with Christ and His salvation. There is nothing holy about this week in the eyes of the unbelieving, dead and dying world.

But, who would expect Christians to allow this week to come and go without embracing its holy nature? Indeed, how could Christians possibly let this week just pass them by? It seems unthinkable, and yet, this is exactly what many Christians do. They pay the holiest week of the year little attention, if any—and that is very, very sad.

I pray fervently that such will not be the case with the saints here at Peace. Do not let this week just pass you by, dear friends. You are Christians, and Holy Week is all about what your Lord and Savior did for you, so that

you may receive the blessings which belong to Christians.

In order to give all of the saints here at Peace an opportunity to embrace this holiest of weeks, we are offering numerous Holy Week Services again this year. Every day of Holy Week (Monday through Saturday) will begin with the praying of Matins at 7:30 a.m., and we have added Vespers this year on Holy Monday through Holy Thursday at 4:30 p.m. On Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, and Holy Wednesday, Divine Service (spoken) will be held at both Noon and 7:00 p.m. (the Divine Services on these days are identical, but are being offered twice to allow everyone the opportunity to attend). On Holy (Maundy) Thursday, we'll have Divine Service at Noon (spoken) and a different, sung Divine Service at 7:00 p.m., featuring the Stripping of the Altar. On Good Friday, we'll gather for the Chief Divine Service at Noon, have a short Devotion at the Sacred Hour at 3:00 p.m., and gather for the Service of Tenebrae at 7:30 p.m. On Holy Saturday, we'll have Divine Service (spoken) at 10:00 a.m. and then gather for Easter Vigil at 7:00 p.m., with a Champagne Reception following. Then, finally, on Easter Sunday we'll sing Matins at 7:30 a.m. and celebrate the Festival of the Resurrection of Our Lord at 9:30 a.m., with Easter breakfast served in between at 8:30 a.m.. You can read more about our Holy Week schedule on the next page.

Dear friends in Christ, I sincerely hope and pray that these additional opportunities to be in the Holy House of the Lord during the holiest week of the year will afford all of you the chance to allow Holy Week to have its way with you, bringing you ever closer to your Lord, that you may come to the celebration of the Paschal Feast on Easter in all sincerity and truth. Indeed, let us pray:

*We implore You, O Lord, that Your abundant blessing may be upon Your people who have held the Passion and Death of Your Son in devout remembrance, that we may receive Your pardon and the gift of Your comfort, and may increase in faith and take hold of eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Your Servant in Christ,  
*Pastor Messer*



# Holy Week Schedule



## Palm/Passion Sunday—April 1

9:30 a.m.—Divine Service w/Procession of Palms

*To commemorate our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall and process into the nave together carrying palm branches and singing, "All Glory, Laud, and Honor." Divine Service with Holy Communion, including the responsive reading of the Passion of Our Lord According to St. Matthew, the Evangelist, will follow.*



## Holy Monday—April 2

7:30 a.m.—Matins

12:00 p.m.—Divine Service

4:30 p.m.—Vespers

7:00 p.m.—Divine Service



## Holy Tuesday—April 3

7:30 a.m.—Matins

12:00 p.m.—Divine Service

4:30 p.m.—Vespers

7:00 p.m.—Divine Service



## Holy Wednesday—April 4

7:30 a.m.—Matins

12:00 p.m.—Divine Service

4:30 p.m.—Vespers

7:00 p.m.—Divine Service

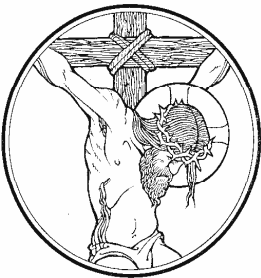
*We will begin each day, throughout Holy Week, with the praying of Matins at 7:30 a.m. Matins will be spoken responsively, using the readings and prayers found in the Treasury of Daily Prayer, and will provide us the opportunity to begin each day during Holy Week prayerfully focused on our Lord and His Passion. Divine Service (spoken liturgy) will be held at both Noon and 7:00 p.m. (same Service) to allow everyone the opportunity to attend and receive the blessings of Word and Sacrament. We will also pray Vespers each day (Monday through Thursday) at 4:30 p.m.*



## Holy (Maundy) Thursday—April 5

7:30 a.m.—Matins 12:00 p.m.—Divine Service 4:30 p.m.—Vespers 7:00 p.m.—Divine Service

*The focus on this Most Holy Day is on the Blessed Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood, which He instituted on the night when He was betrayed. The Divine Service at 7:00 p.m. will be different from the spoken Divine Service at Noon, and will include the "Christian Questions with Their Answers," written by Dr. Luther for those who intend to go to the Sacrament, and will conclude with the Stripping of the Altar while Psalm 22 is being read.*



## Good Friday—April 6

7:30 a.m.—Matins

12:00 p.m.—Divine Service

3:00 p.m.—Devotion at the  
Sacred Hour

7:30 p.m.—Tenebrae

*The Sacred Noonday Good Friday Service will focus on the Seven Words of Christ from the Holy Cross, and will include the Procession of the Sacred Cross and the Distribution of Holy Communion. A short devotion will take place at the Sacred Hour (3:00 p.m.) in which our Lord gave up His Spirit and died. The evening Tenebrae Service will be completely different from the Noon Service. Please note the later start time, which will allow it to be a little darker in the church for the dramatic conclusion to this Most Holy and deeply profound Service.*



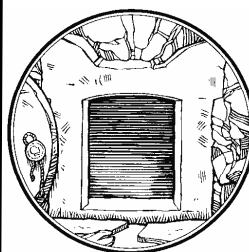
## Holy Saturday—April 7

7:30 a.m.—Matins

10:00 a.m.—Divine Service

7:00 p.m.—Easter Vigil

*After Holy Saturday Divine Service at 10:00 a.m., we will decorate the Church for Easter. Then, we will gather together at 7:00 p.m. for Easter Vigil, one of the most ancient and special Services within the tradition of the Holy Church.*



## Easter Sunday—April 8

7:30 a.m.—Matins

8:30 a.m.—Easter Breakfast

9:30 a.m.—Divine Service

*With the Easter Vigil in place, there will be no Sunrise Service, but we will pray Matins at 7:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m., and the glorious and celebratory Festival of the Resurrection of our Lord will be held at 9:30 a.m.*

**HE IS RISEN!  
HE IS RISEN INDEED!**



# St. Romanos the Melodist

## “Again to Paradise”

Pilate fixed three crosses on Golgotha: two for the thieves, and one for the Giver of life. When Hell saw it, he said to those below, “My ministers and powers, who has fixed a nail in my heart? A wooden lance has suddenly pierced me and I am being torn apart! My insides are in pain, my belly in agony, my senses make my spirit tremble, and I am compelled to disgorge Adam and Adam’s race. All men were given to me by the Garden’s tree—but now a tree is bringing them back again to Paradise.”

When he heard this, Satan, the cunning serpent ran crawling and said, “What is it, hell? Why do you groan for no reason? Why produce these wailings? This Tree, at which you tremble, I carpentered up there for Mary’s Child. I suggested it to his enemies for our advantage, for it is a Cross, to which I have nailed Christ, wishing by a tree to do away with the second Adam, just as I did away with the first one. So do not be afraid. It is dry and barren. It will not harm you. Keep hold of those you have. Of those we rule, not one will escape again to Paradise.”

Hell replied to Satan, “You have lost your senses—you, the cunning snake of old! All your wisdom has been swallowed up by the cross, and you have been caught in your own snare. Lift up your eyes and see that you have fallen into the pit you dug! Behold that Tree, which you call dry and barren, bears fruit: a thief tasted it and has become heir to the good things of Eden. Moses’ rod led the people out of Egypt, but this tree brings mankind back again to Paradise.”

Satan answered, “Wretched hell—cease this cowardly talk! Your words reveal your thoughts. Are you afraid of a cross and of the Crucified? Not one of your words has shaken me, for these deeds are part of my plan. I will also open a grave and entomb Christ, so that you may enjoy your cowardice doubly—from his tomb as well as from his cross. When I see you, I will mock you. For when Christ is buried I will come to you and say, “Who now brings Adam back again to Paradise?”

Then hell spoke back, “Now is the moment for you to listen, Satan. Now you will see the power of the Cross and the great authority of the Crucified. For you, the cross is folly. But the world sees it as a throne, on which, as though seated, Jesus is nailed and hears the thief cry to him, ‘Lord, remember me in your kingdom.’ Listen now as he answers, kingly, ‘Today, poor beggar, you will reign with me. For with me, you will go in again to Paradise.’”

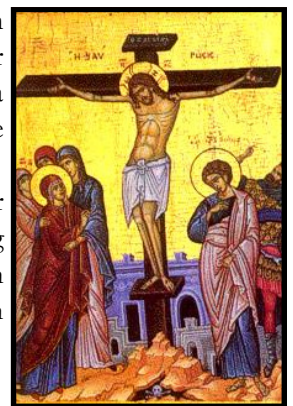
At these words, Satan began to wilt, and what he heard he saw: a thief witnessing to Christ crucified. And so, amazed, he struck his breast and said, “Christ did not answer his accusers, and yet he speaks to a thief? To Pilate he never spoke a word; but now he addresses a murderer, saying, “Come, live in pleasure”? What is this? Who has seen words or deeds done by this thief, by means of which he goes again to Paradise?

Again the devil called out, “Receive me, Hell. I turn to you; I submit to your views, I, who did not believe them. I saw the Tree at which you shuddered, made red with blood and water. And I shuddered, not, I tell you, at the blood, but at the water. For the blood shows Jesus’ slaughter, but the water shows his life, for life has gushed from his side. For it was not the first but the second Adam who carried Eve, the mother of all the living, again to Paradise.”

Now Hell and Satan cried out together, “Let us lament as we see the Tree which we planted transformed into a holy trunk, beneath which thieves, murderers, tax collectors and harlots will find shelter, and reap sweet fruit from what seemed barren. For they cling to the Cross as the Tree of Life. Pressed against it and swimming, through it they escape, and come again as to a harbor, again to Paradise.”

Hell said to Satan, “Swear, tyrant, finally to crucify no one.” And Satan replied, “You take an oath to kill no one. We have had our experience, let us draw back our hand. Let neither of us ever again tyrannize the race of Adam, for it has been sealed by the Cross, it has been given life, like a treasure of a precious pearl in a fragile pot; life, which a thief, well-suited to his trade, took on the Cross. For stealing he was nailed up to die ; and having thieved he was called again to Paradise.”

O most high and glorious, God of fathers and of youths, your willing outrage has become our honor. For in your Cross, we all may boast. To it we have nailed our hearts, that on it we may hang our instruments and sing to you, the Lord of all, from the songs of Zion. The ship from Tarshish once brought gold to Solomon; but to us your Tree gives back, every day and every moment, wealth beyond price. For it brings us all again to Paradise.







# *The Easter Resurrection Homily* *of*

## **St. John Chrysostom, a.k.a. “Golden Mouth”**

***This classic Paschal or Easter Sermon on the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is from Saint John Chrysostom, fifth century early church father and one of the greatest preachers of all time. This homily for Holy Pascha exhorts all, even those who have not kept the Lenten fast, to rejoice and enter into the Easter feast of the resurrection.***

*L*et all Pious men and all lovers of God rejoice in the splendor of this feast; let the wise servants blissfully enter into the joy of their Lord; let those who have borne the burden of Lent now receive their pay, and those who have toiled since the first hour, let them now receive their due reward; let any who came after the third hour be grateful to join in the feast, and those who may have come after the sixth, let them not be afraid of being too late, for the Lord is gracious and He receives the last even as the first. He gives rest to him who comes on the eleventh hour as well as to him who has toiled since the first: yes, He has pity on

the last and He serves the first; He rewards the one and is generous to the other; he repays the deed and praises the effort.

*C*ome you all: enter into the joy of your Lord. You the first and you the last, receive alike your reward; you rich and you poor, dance together; you sober and you weaklings, celebrate the day; you who have kept the fast and you who have not, rejoice today. The table is richly loaded: enjoy its royal banquet. The calf is a fatted one: let no one go away hungry. All of you enjoy the banquet of faith; all of you receive the riches of his goodness.

*L*et no one grieve over his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed; let no one weep over his sins, for pardon has shone from the grave; let no one fear death, for the death of our Savior has set us free: He has destroyed it by enduring it, He has despoiled Hades by going down into its kingdom, He has angered it by allowing it to taste of his flesh.

*W*hen Isaiah foresaw all this, he cried out: "O Hades, you have been angered by encountering Him in the nether world." Hades is angered because frustrated, it is angered because it has been mocked, it is angered because it has been destroyed, it is angered because it has been reduced to naught, it is angered because it is now captive. It seized a body, and lo! it discovered God; it seized earth, and, behold! it encountered heaven; it seized the visible, and was overcome by the invisible.



# PEACE NEWS & NOTES

## HOLY WEEK AND LAMENTATIONS

As noted on our Holy Week schedule, we'll begin each day praying Matins at 7:30 a.m. We started this a few years ago and it has been a real blessing to those who have been able to attend. There is just nothing like beginning each day of Holy Week in the Lord's House in quiet prayer and devotion. And, what makes our Holy Week Matins all the more special is the fact that we work our way through the entire book of Lamentations during the week. The laments recorded by the prophet Jeremiah concerning the destruction of Jerusalem juxtaposed with the events of Holy Week are a spiritual treasure trove and really put things in their proper perspective. I would dearly love to have more of you join us to pray Matins this year, but if you are not able to do so, I encourage you to read through Lamentations during the week. Here is the schedule we follow:

Holy Monday	Lamentations 1:1-22
Holy Tuesday	Lamentations 2:1-22
Holy Wednesday	Lamentations 3:1-33
Holy Thursday	Lamentations 3:34-66
Good Friday	Lamentations 4:1-22
Holy Saturday	Lamentations 5:1-22

*"This Book [Lamentations] shows us the consequence of ignoring the confession of our sins and daily repentance. Likewise, it firmly proclaims that the Lord's steadfast love never ceases, even amid the worst sufferings." (TLSB, p. 1295)*

## INDIANA JONES MOVIE MARATHON!

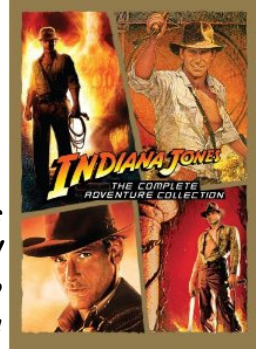
**FRIDAY, APRIL 20**

*Come and join us as we dive into the adventurous world of Indiana Jones! Pastor Messer came up with the idea to have an Indiana Jones Movie Marathon when he learned that none of the confirmands in his Confirmation Class had ever watched any of these movies, which he considers a downright travesty. 😊 So, we will watch ALL FOUR Indiana Jones movies back-to-back! YOUTH are invited to bring sleeping bags and pillows and spend the night (Pastor Messer and one or two other adults will be staying as well), as the last movie will not end until after 3 a.m. But, EVERYONE is welcome to come and watch as many movies as they wish. We'll have pizza, popcorn, and lots of snacks and beverages for everyone to enjoy—all provided by SALT.*

*Here's a rough schedule of the movies:*

6:30 pm—Pizza served  
7:00 pm—"Raiders of the Lost Ark"  
9:10 pm—"The Temple of Doom"  
11:20 pm—"The Last Crusade"  
1:30 am—"The Kingdom of the Crystal Skull"

*Hope You'll Join Us!*



## 3RD ANNUAL CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION

### Immediately following our Easter Vigil

Champagne (Sparkling "Wine" for kids), other beverages, hor d'oeuvres, and delicious desserts will be served as we celebrate our Lord's Glorious Resurrection! Come for the

Easter Vigil at 7:00 pm and stay for this wonderful reception, hosted by our Ladies' Guild, which gets better and better each year!

## EASTER BREAKFAST

**8:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday**  
(See note on the Ladies' Guild page)

**PLEASE JOIN US!**



# PEACE NEWS & NOTES Cont'd



## NEWS

April

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Location</u>
Decoration	4/7	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Fellowship Hall
Assist Ladies' Guild	4/8	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	Fellowship Hall
Monthly Meeting	4/15	5:00 PM	7:00 PM	Fellowship Hall
Fellowship	Sundays	10:45 AM	11:15 AM	Youth Classroom

Greetings in Christ

He is Risen Indeed.

Our bake sale was a great success and we were able to raise over \$350 dollars to help with the Higher Things convention expenses [plus any matching funds]. As successful as it was in raising funds, I feel that the biggest success we achieved was the increased participation and involvement of the Youth. I want to thank everyone for your support, especially Jenny Baughman and Amy Blair for their direct support and guidance to the Youth in the planning, preparation and completion of the sale.

We will be adding our recycling collection container shortly. Feel free to drop items off in the pop can barrel in the meantime. More lists of collectable items will be made available on the Youth Board for you to take home for reference.

With the beautiful weather we have been having, thoughts of spring are here. Keep an eye on the Youth Board for coming events and activities. Any ideas are always welcome.

Thanks again to everyone for your continued support of the youth at Peace.

May the Spirit of the Lord be with you.

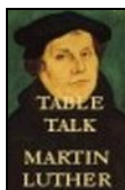
Jonathan Penzien

## LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

Our ladies will meet at the Fireside Grill of the Maple Creek Golf Club on Monday, April 16 at 1:30 pm. If you would like to carpool, please meet at the church at 1:00. All ladies of Peace are welcome, guests are invited as well. Their menu is available on at [http://www.maplecreekgolf-shepherd.com/bar\\_grill.htm](http://www.maplecreekgolf-shepherd.com/bar_grill.htm).

## TABLE TALK

Our Table Talks are informal and informative discussions with Pastor Messer on various topics decided by the group in attendance. Table Talk is a great time to take advantage of the opportunity to ask any questions you may have. Plus, THEY'RE FUN! All are invited to our next Table Talk, which will take place **Thursday, April 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the Church.** We hope you're able to join us!



## SALT NEWS

### NEXT MEETING

**Thursday, April 19 at 6:30 p.m.**

We welcome anyone who would like to join us.

*Please see our Meeting Minutes on the SALT Bulletin Board*

The Ladies Guild and SALT Committee will be having a **Second Time Around Sale**. The dates are **July 27th and 28th, 2012**. All Peace members and others, please start collecting/saving your items for this sale.

### 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](mailto:ckj1969@yahoo.com)).

## PEACE BOOK CLUB

Our Peace Book Club met in March to discuss our latest book, Stephen King's **"11/22/63."** This offering from King was much different from the suspense-filled and



horror-drenched books for which he is famous. Different, but good. There is plenty of suspense and many twists and turns, but it's more historical fiction than anything else. 11/22/63 is the date of Kennedy's assassination, of course, and King suggests that this was a pivotal, world-changing event, and leads the reader to wonder what the world would be like had Kennedy lived.

Everyone enjoyed the book very much, even though we also agreed that it was probably about 300 pages too long! Even so, it was well worth the read. Our group always gives the books we read a rating between 1-5, and this one, after rounding up, received a 4. It really was a fun and thought-provoking read. If you have a block of time on your hands, check it out for yourself. (See Pastor's blog for a more detailed discussion and the article on the next page for the book we will take up in April.)



# PEACE NEWS & NOTES Cont'd

## Another New Member at Peace

On Sunday, March 11, we were blessed to welcome Gabriel Blair II, into our fellowship via the Rite of Confirmation. Gabriel was baptized at Peace as a baby, but was away from the Church until he started attending with his parents last year. He studied with Pastor Messer and was eager to learn all that he could. Following are some photographs to commemorate the day.



**Help  
Wanted**

**Volunteers needed to help clean the church weekly!** Any chore is greatly appreciated. We particularly need help with vacuuming. This work could be done by one person, a family or a group of members. Please give serious consideration to this request and contact Marlene Miller with questions or to volunteer. **THANKS!!**

## REMEMBERING OUR SHUT-INS

We all love to receive greetings from people who care for us. What better way to remember our shut-ins (when it is difficult for us to make a personal visit) than to send a note or a card periodically to let them know we are thinking of them and to give them something to look forward to in the mail, and especially at this time of the year! Please consider dropping a few lines to our shut-ins during the course of each month.

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

Vivian Strom  
Masonic Pathways  
1200 Wright Avenue  
Alma, MI 48801

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

Marion Greening  
1025 Vassar Street  
Alma, MI 48801

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

Also, while correspondence is not requested for him, please remember our dear brother in Christ, Dick Wiser, who is at Pine River in St. Louis, in your prayers.

## PEACE BOOK CLUB

Our choice for the April Book Club meeting is "The Litigators", by John Grisham. Grisham, a lawyer and frequent author of law-related fiction, weaves a tale centering around a small law firm whose lawyers want to get involved in the lucrative mass torts business. They latch on to any scheme that is popular in the media, for example, suing pharmaceutical companies when their drugs are found to cause death, birth defects, etc. You've all seen the ads on TV for these law firms. "The Litigators" promises to be an intriguing read, full of ethical dilemmas that will be both thought-provoking and good topics of conversation. Please consider reading the book and joining in the conversation. We will meet on **Monday, April 16 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Sharyn Greening.





# Ladies Guild

## Ladies Guild Meeting

Our Ladies Guild will meet on **Monday, April 9, at 6:30 pm.** Hostess will be Sharyn Greening. All Ladies of the congregation are invited to attend our Guild meetings. If you are a confirmed female member of Peace, you are a member of Guild. We would sincerely encourage you to participate and be an active member of the Guild.

## PLC Women's Prayer Chain

The current list is posted on the Ladies' Guild Bulletin Board. All participants should have a copy. If you wish to be added to the prayer chain as a caller, or if you wish to have yourself or someone else "sent through the chain," please see or call Marlene Miller at 463-3710.

## Altar Flowers

There is a flower calendar for 2012 is posted on the fellowship hall bulletin board. We are now working toward ordering altar flower arrangements that coordinate with and enhance the liturgical colors of each Season of the Church year. Depending on the dates, flowers may not always be displayed for a calendar month. Some Seasons of the Church year cross calendar months. If you wish to place flowers on the altar sometime during the year, please put your name on the calendar and contact the church office with any information that you wish to have included in the bulletin. If there is a specific date in the month that commemorates an occasion, please also enter that date. A bouquet costs \$25. We encourage two persons (families) to purchase flowers each month, one for each plant stand. Please make checks payable to Peace Lutheran Church, attach a note marked "Altar Flowers" and place in the Financial Secretary's envelope in the church office. Any questions may be directed to Carol Zeile or Amy Blair.

## Fundraising Dinner

The Ladies' Guild will provide a **lasagna dinner** following the Voters' Assembly on Sunday, April 22. This dinner is a fundraiser to replace funds borrowed from the Memorial Fund and given to one of our families during a difficult time this past winter. The menu will include: a variety of lasagnas, salad, garlic bread and dessert. A freewill offering will be gathered and all proceeds deposited into the Memorial Fund.

## PEACE LUTHERAN LADIES GUILD



The Ladies' Guild is collecting the following items for Personal Care Kits to send to the Lutheran World Relief:

- 1 Bath sized towel (approx. 52" x 27"), dark color preferred
- 1 Bath-sized bar of Soap (4-5 oz.)
- 1 Adult-size toothbrush
- 1 Sturdy comb
- 1 Metal nail clipper

COLLECTION DATES: April 1 - June 30

## Easter Breakfast

Again this year the Ladies' Guild and Youth Group will work together to provide a breakfast at 8:30 am on Easter morning, between Matins and the Divine Service. The menu includes: strata, french toast, sausage, scrambled eggs, fruit, coffee cake, juice and coffee. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. A freewill offering will be collected.



## PEACE LADIES GUILD COOKBOOK

Cookbooks are on sale for \$10 through April 30, 2012. They make great bridal shower or graduation gifts. Stock up now! See Coaline Luplow with questions or to make a purchase.

## LADIES GUILD SELLS CUTLERY

Rada cutlery is on display the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



## April

Carol Zeile

## May

### Altar Care

Coaline Luplow

## June

Amy Blair

### Coffee Hostesses

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

- 6 Coaline Luplow
- 13 Gretchen Harrison
- 20 M. Isaksson/H. Meyers
- 27 Amy Blair

- 3 Carolyn Johnson
- 10 Peace Youth Group
- 17 Lois Ramsey
- 24 S. Greening/M. Brown



**REGULAR MEETING  
PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Date:** February 7, 2012  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Peace Lutheran Church  
325 Warwick Dr.  
Alma, MI 48801

**MINUTES**

**Call To Order & Opening Prayer**

- President Zeile called the meeting to order at 6:33pm. Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer. The following members were present: Carol Zeile, Gary Miller, Sharyn Greening, Dave Zeile, Carolyn Johnson, Larry Elliott, Amy Blair, Terry Luplow and Cassie Tennant. Pastor Messer was also present.

**Approval of Agenda**

- Motion made by Gary Miller, supported by Larry Elliott to approve amended agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes –**

- Motion made by Carol Zeile, supported by Gary Miller, to approve minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously

**Report(s)**

- **Pastor –** Report Attached
- **Treasurer's Report –** Full report attached. Motion made by Carol Zeile, supported by Gary Miller, to establish a savings account for the withholdings out of Pastor Messer's paychecks for his property taxes and payroll taxes. Signers on the account will be President David Zeile, Treasurer Amy Blair, and Pastor Messer. Motion carried unanimously
- **Financial Secretary –** Full report attached, at the end of January we were behind only \$641.25
- **Board of Elders –** Terry Luplow was appointed as chair, continuing to visit shut-ins
- **Board of Trustees –** Gary Miller was appointed as chair. Gary will be contacting Chris Brown and Daren Johnson regarding the temporary fix on the roof. Ladies' Guild needs more banner storage space. Gary will contact Art Tennant about moving forward with remodeling the bathrooms to make them handicapped accessible.
- **Board of Christian Education –** meeting on Tuesday, 14th
- **Board of Evangelism –** meeting on 16<sup>th</sup>,
- **Board of Stewardship –** meeting in February

**Business**

- **Thrivent Choice Dollars Procedures –** Carol Zeile and Sharon Greening presented the Council with procedures for use of the Thrivent Choice Dollars. There was much discussion after which it was decided that the procedures should be redrafted.
- **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Church –** Motion by Gary Miller, supported by Larry Elliott, for President Zeile to appoint an ad hoc committee to plan the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the church. There will be an initial meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup> to organize the committee. Anniversary date is November 11, which is a Sunday this year.

**General Comment**

- Council meeting time has been changed to 6:30pm
- April Council will be held Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, a week later than normal since Holy Week is the first week of April.

**Adjournment & Closing Prayer**

- Motion made by Gary Miller, supported by Terry Luplow, adjourn at 8:25pm. Motion carried unanimously. Pastor Messer closed with Prayer and Benediction

**Respectfully submitted,  
Cassie Tennant, Secretary**

**REGULAR MEETING  
PEACE LUTHERAN VOTERS' ASSEMBLY**

**Date:** January 22, 2012  
**Time:** 11:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Peace Lutheran Church  
325 E. Warwick Dr.  
Alma, MI 48801

**Minutes**

**Call To Order & Opening Prayer**

- President Zeile called the meeting to order at 11:19am, Pastor led us with the opening prayer. 33 members were present

**Approval of Agenda**

- Motion made by Gretchen Harrison, supported by Coaline Luplow, to approve the amended agenda. Motion passed unanimously

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – regular meeting October 23, 2011**

- Motion made by Mary Girard, supported by Jon Penizen, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously

**Report(s)**

- **Pastor** – Annual report will be published in February Newsletter, full report attached
- **Treasurer** – Motion made by Carolyn Johnson, supported by Terry Luplow to table budget discussion until business, motion passed unanimously, full report is attached
- **Financial Secretary**- reports will be available soon
- **Board of Elders** – Terry Luplow was elected chair, Motion by Terry Luplow, supported by Larry Elliott to release Jeff Cumins (per his request of release). Motion passed unanimously.
- **Board of Trustees**- No Report
- **Board of Christian Education** – meeting in February to review Sunday School and VBS
- **Board of Evangelism** – Meeting in February, Scrip Pro program is going well. Profit of \$476.58 already since November
- **Board of Stewardship** – looking for members to serve on committee
- **Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild** – Lent is coming up, full report attached
- **Peace Youth Group** – 9 youth attending Higher Things Conference

**Business**

- **Thrivent Choice Dollars** – received \$130 in January, Carol Zeile and Sharon Greening are putting together a program for use of Thrivent Choice Dollars to support fundraising efforts
- **Elect Lay Delegate to Circuit Forum and Michigan District Convention** – June 24-27 in Ann Arbor at Concordia. Anyone interested in volunteering to serve as delegate should contact Pastor Messer
- **2012 Budget** – definition of expense categories will be provided in the next newsletter, all questions should be directed to our new Treasurer, Amy Blair. Motion made by Gary Miller, supported by Jon Penizen, to pass the proposed budget of \$113,208. Motion passed unanimously

**General Comments**

- Nov 2012 is 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of church, plan an anniversary celebration
- Mary's hours will be Tuesday and Friday 10-2pm and Thursday 11:30-12:30pm
- Carol Zeile is our new Peace Post Editor. All newsletter articles should be sent to Carol Zeile

**Adjournment & Closing Prayer**

- Motion made by Jon Penizen, supported by Gary Miller to adjourn at 12:55pm. Motion passed unanimously. Pastor closed with prayer and benediction

**Respectively submitted,**

**Cassie Tennant, Secretary**



**SPECIAL VOTER'S ASSEMBLY MEETING  
PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Date:** February 19, 2012  
**Time:** 11:00 am  
**Location:** Peace Lutheran Church  
325 Warwick Dr.  
Alma, MI 48801

**Call To Order & Opening Prayer**

- Meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by President Zeile. Pastor led us in prayer.

**Special Business**

- Consider and vote on several resolutions (overtures) to send to the Convention for consideration.
  - 1) to encourage liturgical mission starts  
Megan Brown moved to accept. Jon Penzien seconded. Motion carried.
  - 2) to eliminate the position of Congregational Ministry Facilitator.  
Sharyn Greening moved to accept. Coaline Luplow seconded. Motion carried.
  - 3) to review, confirm and memorialize the baptismal formula  
Megan Brown moved to accept. Gary Miller seconded. Motion carried.
  - 4) to review and clarify the Specific Ministry Pastor Program  
Jon Penzien moved to accept. Megan Brown seconded. Motion carried.
  - 5) to clarify use of proceeds from sale of congregational properties  
Megan Brown moved to accept. Coaline Luplow seconded. Motion carried.
  - 6) to revise district convention format  
Yvonne Elenbaas moved to accept. Jon Penzien seconded. Motion carried.
  - 7) to ensure that every man who pastors is a pastor  
Megan Brown moved to accept. Larry Elliott seconded. Motion carried.
- Elect a lay delegate to the Michigan District Convention, which will be held at Concordia University, Ann Arbor, from June 24-27.  
Nominee: Gabe Blair. Roger Humphrey moved to elect. Jon Penzien seconded. Motion carried.
- Select nominees for District President and North & East Regional Vice President.  
Nominee for District President: Rev. David Fleming – Our Savior, Grand Rapids  
Nominee for District Vice President: Rev. Stephen Starke – St. John Amelith, Bay City

**General Comments**

- Missions: Cans made available for people to collect coins for missions.
- Ash Wednesday and Lenten Services schedule was reviewed by Pastor Messer
- Announcement of meeting of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration committee – February 26 after Bible Study
- Thanks to Pastor Messer for his faithfulness.

**Adjournment & Closing Prayer**

- Gary Miller moved to adjourn at 12:07 p.m. We closed with the Lord's Prayer and Benediction.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Carol Zeile for Cassie Tennant, Secretary**



## Scrip Program at Peace

As most of you know, Peace has been participating in the Scrip Program since last October. During those six months we have earned over \$600 solely by members buying gift cards that they then use for normal everyday purchases or as gifts. Cards can be used just as you use cash or a debit card at any participating merchants. They also can be used online at many of the merchants' online ordering sites. The Peace Council authorized purchase of gift cards that are then used to buy church office supplies and the Ladies' Guild has purchased cards for kitchen supplies. Sounds easy, doesn't it? Members contribute to their congregation by continuing their normal buying patterns. And it really is that simple.

It's true that some budgeting and planning is required by members. Carolyn Johnson ably administers the Program for Peace and orders cards every few weeks on Sunday. She receives the cards by Tuesday or Wednesday and distributes them promptly. Think about what you normally purchase — gasoline, food, prescription drugs, an occasional gift for a family member... Check the Scrip Pro merchants list either by asking Carolyn or online at <http://www.scrippro.com>. If you have not tried this Program yet, please consider making a small order of one card and giving the Program a try. It's a wonderful way to contribute to Peace without having to take any additional funds from your personal budget.

## Peace 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee



The 50th Anniversary Committee is hard at work making plans to celebrate this blessed event. If you know any past members of Peace or others who you know would like to attend the celebration, please contact Jo Wendt or Mary Jakolat. They are working along with Marion Greening to prepare as complete a guest list as possible.

In order to make the Anniversary Event a fitting tribute to 50 years of our life together, the Committee is asking for contributions to help defray the cost. If you are willing/able to contribute, please contact Carol Zeile or Pastor Messer as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your participation.

The next meeting of this group is **Thursday, April 26, at 7 p.m.** at the church. Please join us to help plan to commemorate this important event in the life of our congregation. If you are not able to attend this meeting, but are interested in helping, contact Pastor Messer.

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT PEACE

## Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

- Sunday School and Adult Bible Class is offered on **Sundays at 11 a.m.**

### Together in the Word

- We meet every **Thursday at 10:00 a.m.** We are currently studying *2 Samuel*. All are welcome to join us!

### Wednesday Bible Study

- Meets every Wednesday at 6 pm. We'll begin a study of *Acts* on Wednesday, April 11.

### First Communion and Confirmation Classes

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

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Spring is here (maybe) so Summer and Vacation Bible School will be here soon! The Board of Christian Education has chosen the program "In The Name" provided by Pax Domini Press.

VBS will take place June 18-22 from 9:00-12:00 for preschool through age 12. We will need volunteers in the following areas:

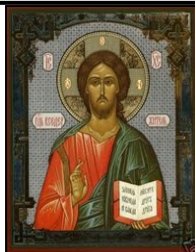
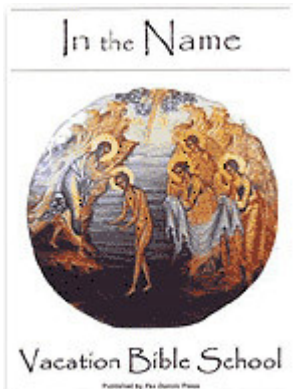
- Teachers
- Teacher assistants
- Decorating
- Printing student materials
- Providing snacks or menu items for the closing lunch

- Providing craft materials

- Donations to help defray costs

Please be thinking of children in your family/extended family, friends or children in your neighborhood you could encourage to attend VBS in June.

See Sharyn Greening for any questions you may have or to volunteer.



### PASTOR MESSER IS BLOGGING!

[www.abideinmyword.blogspot.com](http://www.abideinmyword.blogspot.com)

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



## APRIL

### Happy Birthday

1 Roger Humphrey	21 Jack Langan
1 John Row III	22 Mabel Elliott
10 Lauren Penzien	22 Kyle Stahl
15 Jenny Baughman	25 Janice Langan
20 Kevin Sellke	28 Mike Byers
20 Carol Zeile	30 Samantha Messer

### Happy Anniversary

8 Chris & Megan Brown
22 Dave & Carol Zeile

*If we ever miss your birthday or anniversary, please let us know*

### PAROCHIAL REPORT

(as of 3/25/12)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 140; Confirmed - 120

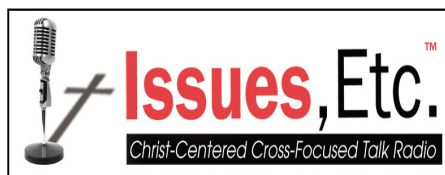
Membership gains: 1

Gabriel Blair II by Rite of Confirmation, March 11, 2012

Membership losses: 0

Financial Report as of 3/25/2012

YTD Budgeted.....	\$ 28,301.00
YTD Receipts.....	\$ 24,427.50
Difference.....	\$ -3,873.50



### TALK RADIO FOR THE THINKING CHRISTIAN!

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








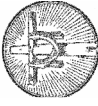





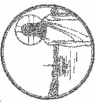



[www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org)



Rev. Thomas C. Messer  
(989) 463-3093—Home  
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pastor@peacealma.org  
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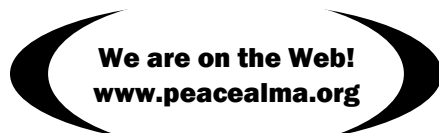
Peace Lutheran Church  
325 E. Warwick Drive  
Alma, MI 48801  
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contact@peacealma.org  
www.peacealma.org

# April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 Palm/Passion Sunday</b> 8:30 - Choir <b>9:30 - Divine Service</b> 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC, SS  <i>Hosanna!</i>	<b>2 Holy Monday</b> 7:30 am - Matins <b>12 pm - Divine Service</b> 4:30 pm - Vespers <b>7 pm - Divine Service</b> 	<b>3 Holy Tuesday</b> 7:30 am - Matins <b>12 pm - Divine Service</b> 4:30 pm - Vespers <b>7 pm - Divine Service</b> 	<b>4 Holy Wednesday</b> 7:30 am - Matins <b>12 pm - Divine Service</b> 4:30 pm - Vespers <b>7 pm - Divine Service</b> 	<b>5 Holy Thursday</b> 7:30 am - Matins <i>NO Together in Word</i> <b>12 pm - Divine Service</b> 4:30 pm - Vespers 5 pm - WW <b>7 pm - Divine Service</b> 	<b>6 Good Friday</b> 7:30 am - Matins <b>12 pm - Divine Service</b> 3:00 pm - Devotion <b>7:30 pm - Tenebrae</b> <i>It Is Finished!</i> 	<b>7 Holy Saturday</b> 7:30 am - Matins <b>10 am - Divine Service</b> <b>7 pm - Easter Vigil</b> <i>Champagne Reception</i> 
<b>8 Resurrection of Our Lord</b> 7:30 - Matins 8:30 - Easter Breakfast <b>9:30 - Divine Service</b> 10:45 - Fellowship  <i>He Is Risen Indeed!</i>	<b>9</b> 6:30 pm - Ladies' Guild	<b>10</b> 6:30 pm - Council	<b>11</b> 5 pm - Confirmation Class 6 pm - Bible Study (Acts) <b>7 pm - Divine Service</b> <i>Easter Monday (Observed)</i> 	<b>12</b> 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers 7 pm - Table Talk	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15 Quasimodo Geniti (Easter 2)</b> 8:30 - Choir <b>9:30 - Divine Service</b> 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC, SS 5-7 pm - PYG 	<b>16</b> 1:30 pm - Ladies' Lunch Bunch 7 pm - Peace Book Club <i>(at the home of Sharyn Greening)</i>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 5 pm - Confirmation Class 6 pm - Bible Study (Acts) <b>7 pm - Divine Service</b> <i>Easter Tuesday (Observed)</i>  7:45 - Elders	<b>19</b> 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers 6:30 pm - SALT	<b>20</b> 6:30 pm - Pizza and Movie Night – Indiana Jones Marathon 	<b>21</b>
<b>22 Misericordias Domini (Easter 3)</b> 8:30 - Choir <b>9:30 - Divine Service</b> 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - Voters' Assembly & fundraising dinner 	<b>23</b> <i>Newletter articles due</i>	<b>24</b> 7 pm - Stewardship	<b>25</b> 5 pm - Confirmation Class 6 pm - Bible Study (Acts) <b>7 pm - Div. Serv.</b> <i>Easter Wed. (Observed)</i> 	<b>26</b> 10 am - Together in Word <b>12 pm - Divine Service</b> <i>St. Mark, Evangelist</i> 5 pm - WW 7 pm - Anniversary Committee 	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29 Jubilate (Easter 4)</b> 8:30 - Choir <b>9:30 - Divine Service</b> 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC, SS 	<b>30</b> <div>Pastor Messer at Gottesdienst Workshop in Chicago, IL</div>	<b>May 1</b>	<b>2</b> NO Confirmation Class, Bible Study, or Divine Service	<b>3</b> 10 am - Together in Word <b>12 pm - Divine Service</b> <i>St. Philip &amp; St. James</i> 5 pm - WW 	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

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

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



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

## *Serving in April*

<b>April</b>	<b>ELDERS</b>	<b>ACOLYTES</b>	<b>USHERS</b>	<b>GREETERS</b>
1 - 9:30 am <i>Palm Sunday</i>	Gabriel Blair	Savannah Blair	Tyrel Harwager	Terry & Coaline Luplow
5 - 7:00 pm <i>Holy Thursday</i>	Terry Luplow	Aaron Messer	James Sager	
6 - 12:00 pm <i>Good Friday</i>	Larry Elliott	Farrah Blair	Bill Hendrick	
6 - 7:30 pm <i>Tenebrae</i>	Miguel Ortiz	Morgan Johnson	Miguel Ortiz	
7 - 7:00 pm <i>Easter Vigil</i>	Gabriel Blair	Gabriel Blair	Terry Luplow	
8 - 9:30 am <i>Resurrection of Our Lord</i>	Larry Elliott	Sierra Luplow	Daren Johnson	Lillian Manns/Lois Ramsey
15 - 9:30 am <i>Quasimodo Geniti (Easter 2)</i>	Terry Luplow	Samantha Messer	Gary Miller	
22 - 9:30 am <i>Misericordias Domini (Easter 3)</i>	Miguel Ortiz	Myka Luplow	John Lemmermann	Messer Family
29 - 9:30 am <i>Jubilate (Easter 4)</i>	Gabriel Blair	Natalie Penzien	Vern Jakolat	Helen Meyers
<b>May</b>		Georgie Bebow	Chris Brown	
6 - 9:30 am	Larry Elliott	Savannah Blair	Jon Penzien	
		Farrah Blair		
		Paige Harwager		
		Morgan Johnson		Miguel & Sue Ortiz
		Aaron Messer		
		Sierra Luplow	Tyrel Harwager	Penzien Family
		Natalie Penzien	Gabriel Blair	

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