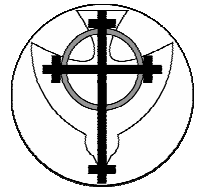


The Peace Post



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



FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MESSER

"Why It Matters!"

Why are some pastors so concerned with maintaining sound doctrine and practice? Shouldn't they be more concerned about filling the pews and saving the lost? Don't they realize that the church must change and become more culturally relevant if it is going to survive? Don't they realize that the only way to grow the church is to make the church more appealing to outsiders? Don't they realize that their stubborn insistence on maintaining pure and sound doctrine and practice stands in the way of reaching the lost?

It used to be that these kinds of questions were asked by Christians belonging to churches of Protestant denominations (or non-denominations), but such is no longer the case. In our day and age, these questions are being asked by Lutherans, and even by those who claim to be conservative, or confessional, Lutherans.

There is a growing trend within our own LCMS to forsake sound doctrine and practice in order to become more "culturally relevant." Those who support this trend argue that our synod must "change with the times" if it is going to survive. They claim that our number one priority should not be maintaining sound doctrine and practice, but reaching the lost for Jesus Christ. In fact, they go one step further and make the claim that those who insist on maintaining sound doctrine and practice

not only have their priorities out of order, but lack the heart for saving lost sinners. After all, if these stubborn pastors (and laypeople) truly had the heart for saving lost sinners, they would be more flexible regarding doctrine and practice.

Our current Synodical President, Rev. Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, has stated publicly time and time again that he believes we need to stop "wasting time" on "incessant internal purification" (which is just a fancy way of saying "maintaining sound doctrine and practice") and start focusing on the lost:

"[The LCMS] cannot afford to waste time on incessant internal purification at the expense of the lost in the world." (<http://www.lutheranchurch.ca/synod2002/fri-greetings.html>).

"We have not the luxury of time and energy spent on incessant internal purification at the expense of the eternal destiny of the souls of men and women for whom Christ died, but who know not His name and have accepted not His saving grace." (http://www.lcms.org/graphics/assets/media/CT/CR/president_greetings.pdf)

"My concern is that we can spend so much time in incessant internal purification that we do so at the expense of the eternal destiny of people who are dying every minute" (<http://www.wfn.org/2002/12/msg00199.html>)

"People, this is not a game. Our incessant internal purification at the expense of the eternal destiny of the souls of men and women for whom Christ died must stop!" (<http://www.jesusfirst.net/2002aug04.htm>)

All of these statements, upon first glance, may sound well and good. And, they are

no doubt motivated by a sincere desire within President Kieschnick to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the lost. But, these statements fall woefully short when analyzed against Holy Scripture, our Lutheran Confessions, and LCMS history, for these statements presuppose that "incessant internal purification" (maintaining sound doctrine and practice) and "reaching the lost" are mutually exclusive, as if the one gets in the way of the other. On the contrary, the exact opposite is true: It is only through sound doctrine and practice that the lost are *truly* reached!

Far from being a "waste of time," the

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It is finished!



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PEACE LUTHERAN LIBRARY



Donations are always welcomed:

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. We will be encouraging people to read books and share a book review with the congregation via the monthly newsletter. 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.



PYG NEWS

May Events:

Church Clean-up Day - Saturday, May 12 - 9:00 am
Survey Due Date - Sunday, May 13
PYG Meeting - Sunday, May 27, 12-2 pm

Greetings in Christ,

We began the active year with an excellent gathering at Pastor Messer's home. Many ideas and plans were suggested for the year. Very few have occurred as hoped. We have had only one quorum meeting since September. We need to improve this. To assist in this, we have set up a survey for all the youth at Peace. These will be in their family mailboxes for all the youth who were unable to make our last meeting. Please have these returned to my mailbox by May 13th.

Please plan on being with the PYG as we support Peace at the annual Spring Cleaning Day on May 12th. Service and fellowship combine for a wonderful day.

Other events may be planned during the month. Watch the Sunday bulletins.

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



PHONE DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

Luplow, Michael - 828-6193

=====
ONLY ONE
=====

Most of all the other beautiful things in life come by twos and threes, by dozens and hundreds. Plenty of roses, stars, sunsets, rainbows, brothers and sisters, aunts and cousins, but only one mother in the whole world.

-Kate Douglas Wiggin



Want something included in "The Peace Post" next month? Email Beth or Pastor Messer (addresses on back page) by May 23 with your item. Also, call or email them anytime with your feedback and/or ideas!

Synopsis of April 10, 2007 Church Council Minutes

Date: April 10, 2007

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Call To Order & Opening Prayer - President Jakolat called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Dave Zeile conducted the opening prayer in the absence of Pastor Messer. The following members were present: Vern Jakolat, Miguel Ortiz, Megan Brown, Carol Zeile, Dave Zeile, Bill Brostrom, Sharyn Greening, Larry Elliott and Dick Kohler. Members absent: Coaline Luplow, Pastor Messer.

Approval of Agenda - The following items were added to the agenda: Addition of Budget & Finance Committee under Organization and Committee Reports, Addition of Saginaw Valley Lutheran Hour Fund under Old Business, Addition of Piano Tuning and General Comment under New Business

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes - It was moved by Treasurer Zeile, supported by Councilmember Kohler to approve the minutes from the meetings of March 6 and March 20. Motion carried unanimously.

Report(s)- The following reports were presented and received into record: Pastor, Treasurer, Board of Elders, Board of Trustees, Board of Christian Education, Board of Evangelism, Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild.

Board of Stewardship - After discussion, it was moved by Councilmember Brostrom, supported by President Jakolat to purchase the Congregational Stewardship Workbook from LCMS. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Purchase of Small Catechism Books - This item was tabled to the next meeting.

Memorial Funds for Jon Greening - The Council will continue discussions at the next meeting.

Saginaw Valley Lutheran Hour Fund - Treasurer Zeile will review any pledges made and report back to the Council at the next meeting.

New Business

Refinancing for Pastor Messer - This item was tabled to the next meeting.

Repayment Method for 2006 Property Taxes - An anonymous person donated the funds needed for the repayment of the 2006 property taxes.

April Voters' Assembly "Packet" - Secretary Brown announced that the packet will be posted for the April 22 Voters' Assembly meeting and all reports be submitted by April 20.

Piano Tuning - After discussion, it was motioned by Councilmember Brostrom, supported by Vice President Ortiz to have both pianos tuned. Motion carried unanimously.

General Comment - President Jakolat stated that he had a discussion with a representative from the Church Extension Fund regarding rolling existing funds into a high-interest CD. Councilmember Elliott reminded the Council of the roles and responsibilities of the members and the importance of maintaining closed sessions.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 9:03pm. Closing prayer was conducted.

Proposed minutes respectfully submitted,

Megan Brown, Secretary

April 22, 2007 - Quarterly Voters Assembly - Peace Lutheran

Date: April 22, 2007
Time: 11:00 a.m.

Call To Order & Opening Prayer - President Jakolat called the meeting to order at 11:09am. 41 voting members of the Voters' Assembly were present. Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer.

Approval of Agenda - The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes - It was moved by Sharyn Greening, supported by Coaline Luplow to approve the minutes from the meetings of January 28 and March 4. Motion carried unanimously.

Report(s)

Pastor - Pastor Messer presented the Pastor's Report and it was received into record.

Treasurer - The attached Treasurer's Report was presented and received into record. Comments were made regarding the decrease in giving and the difference between actual and budgeted spending. President Jakolat announced that the next Church Council meeting would be held openly and all members of the congregation with ideas related to the budget are welcome to attend.

Financial Secretary - No report was given.

Boards

Board of Elders - Dave Zeile presented the Elder's Report and it was received into record. After discussion, it was moved by Jon Penzien, supported by Vice President Ortiz that Samantha Hoffman and Val Warner and her children be released from the congregation. Motion carried unanimously. The Voters Assembly also discussed the use of individual cups.

Board of Trustees - Bill Brostrom presented the Trustee's Report and it was received into record. A spring clean-up day has been scheduled for May 12 with May 19 reserved for a rain day.

Board of Christian Education - Sharyn Greening presented the attached Christian Education Report and it was received into record.

Board of Evangelism - Larry Elliott presented the Evangelism Report and it was received into record.

Board of Stewardship - Dick Kohler presented the attached Stewardship Report and it was received into record.

Organization and Committee Reports

Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild - The attached Ladies Guild Report was presented and received into record.

Peace Youth Group - Jon Penzien presented the Youth Group Report and it was received into record.

Budget & Finance Committee - The report was presented and received into record.

Constitution & Bylaws Committee - Pastor Messer informed the Assembly that the proposed Constitution has just been submitted to the District review committee and could possibly be placed on the May meeting agenda.

Old Business - There was no old business to discuss.

New Business - There was no new business to discuss.

Other Business - There was no other business to discuss.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer - It was moved by Secretary Brown, supported by Terry Luplow to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 12:09pm. Pastor Messer closed the meeting with the Benediction.

Proposed minutes respectfully submitted,

Megan Brown, Secretary

“Why It Matters” continued from page 1

Christian Church must constantly engage in “incessant internal purification.” This is the very charge given to the Church by our Lord throughout Scripture. You will not find one example anywhere in Scripture which supports the notion that flexibility in doctrine and practice is needed to reach the lost. Instead, Scripture, from beginning to end, consistently exhorts the people of God to “stand firm on His Word” (cf. Ex. 14:13; Ps. 20:8; Prov. 10:25; Matt. 10:22, 24:13; Luke 21:19; 1 Cor. 15:58, 16:13; 2 Cor. 1:21, 24; Gal. 5:1; Eph. 6:14; Php. 1:27, 4:1; Col. 4:12; 1 Th. 3:8; 2 Th. 2:15; Ja. 5:8; 1 Pet. 5:9; Rev. 2-3).

The very history of the Israelites and of the early church recorded for us in Scripture should eliminate any suggestion that calls for us to compromise our doctrine and practice in order to make it more appealing to the sinful world. How could we possibly miss this lesson? When is it that the Israelites get in trouble with God? Whenever they abandon His Word and His Way and conform to the pagan world around them. This happens over and over again. God calls them to be His chosen people, gives them His salvation, and commands them to stand firm in His Word. For a while, they do. Everything is great. But, then, when they get comfortable, they begin to go astray by conforming to the surrounding pagan culture. Does God ever say, “Well done, O Israelites! I’m so glad you are no longer concerned with incessant internal purification. What a joy it is to see you conforming to the world around you!”? Never! Instead, God sends prophets into their midst to call them to repentance. The message of all the prophets is the same: “Stop conforming to the sinful world around you! Repent and return to the Lord lest you receive the judgment of God upon your sin!” But, just like today, only a small remnant among the Israelites heeded the call of the prophets to repent and return to the Lord. The vast majority did not. Instead, they ridiculed and mocked, persecuted, and even killed the prophets. “You silly prophets! You’re so wrapped up in incessant internal purification that you don’t realize the great success we have had in making our religion more culturally relevant! Just look at how our religion has grown. We have learned how to incorporate the rituals and customs of our neighbors into our religion while still remaining true to Yahweh. Either learn how to adapt as we have or leave us alone!” And, when the prophets didn’t leave them alone, what did they do? They banished or killed them.

We learn the same lesson from the early church established by our Lord through His apostles. The majority of the New Testament is made up of letters (or epistles) written by the apostles (mostly by St. Paul) to specific congregations urging them to return to the doctrine and practice they were taught by the apostles when they were established. Just like the Israelites, these congregations began on solid ground, being called and established by the Lord through His Word as it was preached to them by the apostles. But, over time, they began to conform to the sinful world around them. So, the Holy Spirit inspires the apostles to write them letters warning them to repent and return to the Lord. Far from allowing for flexibility in doctrine and practice, the message is clear throughout: “Steer clear of worldly influence and false teachers and cling to the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ!”

Our Lutheran Confessions, which are nothing more than faithful expositions of the doctrines taught in Holy Scripture, were written in the spirit of Luther’s famous refusal to recant at the Diet of Worms: “Here I stand! I can do no other. So help me God. Amen!” As with Holy Scripture, they do not allow for flexibility of doctrine and practice for the purpose of making it more appealing to the world. They are clear, bold, and firm statements of faith. They declare: “This is what Scripture teaches and what we believe! Period!” They even go further by declaring what Scripture does not teach and what we do not believe by condemning the teachings of other Christians. How anyone could possibly read our Confessions and conclude that it is okay for us to borrow doctrines and practices from those Christians our Confessions condemn is completely beyond me!

Given the clear teaching of Holy Scripture which we boldly confess in our Lutheran Confessions, it truly is an amazing thing that there is such an outcry in our synod today for changing our doctrine and practice in order to make it more appealing to the world. This was not always the case. Our synod used to stand firm on the Word of God and our Lutheran Confessions. We used to say very clearly and boldly to the world around us, “Here we stand! We can do no other. So help us God. Amen!” It used to be simply unthinkable that we would allow the doctrines and practices of other Christians into our midst. We used to be wholly committed to maintaining sound doctrine and practice and the idea that doing so would prevent us from reaching the lost was simply absurd. If you think I’m overstating the case, simply compare the following statements of C.F.W. Walther, the first LCMS President, with the statements of our current President quoted earlier:

“Many say, ‘Instead of disputing over doctrine so much, we should much rather be concerned with souls and with leading them to Christ.’ But all who speak in this way do not really know what they are saying or what they are doing. As foolish as it would be to scold a farmer for being concerned about sowing good seed and to demand of him simply to be concerned about a good harvest, so foolish it is to scold those who are concerned first and foremost with the doctrine, and to demand of them that they should

“Why It Matters” continued from page 4

rather seek to rescue souls. For just as the farmer who wants a good crop must first of all be concerned about good seed, so the church must above all be concerned about right doctrine if it would save souls.” (<http://www.concordtx.org/vision.htm>)

“Whether our Synod gains friends or makes enemies, wins honor or invites disgrace, grows or declines in numbers, brings peace or incites enmity, all this must be unimportant to us—just so our Synod may keep the jewel of purity of doctrine and knowledge. However, should our Synod ever grow indifferent toward purity of doctrine, through ingratitude forget this prize, or betray or barter it away to the false church, then let our church body perish and the name ‘Missourian’ decay in disgrace.” (<http://www.ctsfw.edu/library/files/pb/1517>)

“Oh my dear friends of the Lutheran faith, confession, and conflict, do not be misled when today those are everywhere accused of lovelessness who still do not give up the battle for pure doctrine in our Church. . . . Oh my dear friends, let us indeed sorrow and lament over this: that false teachers constantly assail the pure doctrine in our Church and thus are at fault for the conflict and strife in the Church. However, let us never lament but rather extol and praise God that he always awakens men who fight against those false teachers . . . This conflict is one commanded us by God and is therefore certainly one blessed in time and in eternity. . . . Oh, therefore, let us never listen to those who praise and extol the conflict of the Reformation for the pure Gospel but want to know nothing of a similar conflict in our days.” (<http://scotchisforlutherans.blogspot.com/2004/05/from-cat41.html>)

For Walther, there was nothing more important than to “battle for pure doctrine in our Church.” Why? Because he knew the Scriptures and he subscribed unconditionally to our Lutheran Confessions. He knew the truth, that it is only through sound doctrine and practice that sinners are brought to, and sustained in, the one true faith. To claim that “incessant internal purification” is a “waste of time” and gets in the way of “reaching the lost” was “foolish” to him. “All who speak in this way do not really know what they are saying or what they are doing.” Walther knew that people who make such claims think they are “reaching the lost” when they repackage the Gospel in a way that is more appealing to the world so that people will “join the church,” but they are not. They may be adding to their church membership, but they are not making *disciples* of Christ. Instead, by watering down their doctrine and practice, they are making “watered-down” Christians who fail to realize that Christianity is about much more than saying, “I believe in Jesus,” and attending church once in a while. Christianity is a *way of life*. Yes, it is true that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, but faith is, in the words of Luther, “*a living, active thing*.” That “living, active” faith is delivered as a precious gift into the hearts of sinners by the Holy Spirit through the *pure* preaching of the Gospel (not some watered-down, compromising, worldly, culturally-relevant Gospel) and the right administration of the Holy Sacraments *according to Christ’s institution* (not according to the institution of those false Christians who promote their empty, powerless, and meaningless non-sacraments). That is why there is nothing more important for the Christian Church than to maintain sound doctrine and practice. The Christian Church must defend sound doctrine and practice at all costs, defending it to the death if need be!

Pastors are especially charged with this task. Three of St. Paul’s epistles are known as “The Pastoral Epistles” (1 & 2 Timothy, Titus), since they are written primarily to, and for, pastors. The main theme throughout these epistles is that pastors must “fight the good fight of the faith” (1 Tim. 6:12a) by always teaching “what is in accord with sound doctrine” (Tit. 2:1). St. Paul makes it vividly clear that pastors must never grow indifferent regarding doctrine and practice, but must constantly be on guard for “deceiving spirits and things taught by demons” (1 Tim. 4:1). A pastor must always “preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction” (2 Tim. 4:2). Why? Because “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” (2 Tim. 4:3-4).

That “time” St. Paul warns about has arrived full force, my friends. We live in a time when many Christians could care less about sound doctrine. It just simply doesn’t matter to them. They view the Christian Church as nothing more than a social club. They are not concerned with what a Church believes and confesses, but rather with what kind of “worship style” and what kinds of “programs” the Church offers. They want a Church that “suits their own desires” and “teachers who say what their itching ears want to hear.” They want a “fun and exciting” Church, one that is not bogged down in the past, but is “new and innovative,” providing them with an “entertaining worship experience.” They want pastors who make them “feel good” about themselves with uplifting, “motivational messages,” not one who preaches Law and Gospel sermons. In short, they want to have their Christianity their way, according to their wants and desires. Sound doctrine and practice means nothing to them. Just give them their “fast food” version of Christianity and they are perfectly content!

Continued on next page

For this reason, because this kind of “have-it-your-way” Christianity surrounds us today, now, more than ever, we in the LCMS must “battle for pure doctrine,” as Walther says. But, sadly, instead, many in our synod have taken an “if you can’t beat ’em, join ’em” approach. The thought process is this: People no longer care about sound doctrine and practice. The only way we can reach them is by changing our doctrine and practice so that it is more appealing to them. Therefore, we must change to “meet people where they are” and to fulfill their “felt needs” because, after all, it doesn’t matter “how” we reach the lost as long as we reach them.

The results of this “if you can’t beat ’em, join ’em” approach is seen throughout our synod today. You never know what you’re going to find when visiting an LCMS congregation anymore. In many, you will find the altar pushed to the side of the chancel area to make room for the “Praise Band” which leads the congregation in singing contemporary “Christian praise songs” which endorse and teach false doctrines. In many, the historic liturgy has been abandoned in favor of more contemporary “worship formats” which omit such things as Confession and Absolution, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, etc. Many congregations practice open Communion, inviting any and all baptized Christians to the Holy Supper, regardless of denominational affiliation. Many have women elders, lectors (readers), and Communion Assistants. Many have pastors who lead the Service in plain clothing, and on and on. Surely, anything goes in today’s LCMS. You can even preach a Lenten Sermon Series on “How to Have Great Sex” or sing the Words of Institution to the tune of “Yankee Doodle Dandy.” And, all of this, we are told by our current leadership and by many others in the LCMS, is to be seen as “blessed diversity.”

This is not “blessed diversity!” It is blatant proof that our synod has grown “indifferent toward purity of doctrine” and has, in many ways, “betrayed and bartered it away to the false church,” and, sadly, the name “Missourian” is slowly “decaying in disgrace.” Walther wouldn’t make it in today’s LCMS. Neither would Luther. In the spirit of St. Paul, they would preach, “You foolish Lutherans! Who has bewitched you? You were running a good race! Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth? That kind of persuasion does not come from Him who called you. Have you forgotten that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? Repent! Return to the pure Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by which you were called!” (cf. Galatians). But, I dare say that they would be treated like the prophets of old. Many in our synod would (and do) respond to such preaching like the majority of the Israelites did back then: “You silly preachers! You’re so wrapped up in incessant internal purification that you don’t realize the great success we have had in making our synod more culturally relevant! Just look at how some of our ‘leading’ congregations are growing. We have learned how to incorporate the principles of the Church Growth Movement taught and promoted by our neighbors, the Protestant Americanized Evangelicals, while still remaining true to our Lutheran faith. Either learn how to adapt as we have or leave us alone!” And, when Walther and Luther would not leave them alone (and, believe me, they would not leave them alone!), they would be promptly removed from the LCMS clergy roster (as many faithful LCMS pastors have been).

Dear friends in Christ, I began this lengthy article with a series of questions, the first of which was, “Why are some pastors so concerned with maintaining sound doctrine and practice?” I am writing this to you because I know some of you have asked similar questions about me, especially in the last few months as we have been discussing our practice of using individual cups in the Distribution of our Lord’s Holy Blood during the Holy Supper. Some of you have said that you just can’t understand why I would even bring this up. I’ve heard things like, “What’s the big deal? Why does this matter?” These are legitimate questions that should be asked. The fact that they are asked does not upset me in the least and I am more than happy to answer these questions. But, the question I have for some of you is, “Are you asking these questions honestly desiring an answer?” or “Are these questions really nothing more than statements of your own personal belief?” In other words, are you really *asking*, “What’s the big deal? Why does this matter?” or are you really *stating* what you personally believe, “This should not be a big deal! This shouldn’t matter!”

In either case, my answer is the same: This DOES matter. We should ALWAYS be at the business of analyzing our doctrine and practice to make sure that it is sound; that it conforms to Scripture and our Lutheran Confessions, not to the “yeast” of worldly appeal or popular demand. This is what defines us as Confessional Lutherans. It’s what differentiates us from the “have-it-your-way” Protestant Americanized Evangelical “Christianity” that permeates our society today.

I hope and pray that what I have written here at least begins to explain why this particular pastor is so “stubborn” when it comes to our doctrine and practice here at Peace. It is solely because I believe with the prophets and apostles, with Luther and Walther, and with a great many faithful Confessional Lutheran pastors in our day, that our Lord calls pastors and laity alike to “remain steadfast in His Word” and to avoid worldly influence and false teachers; that it is only through sound, biblically-correct (not politically-correct) doctrine and practice that lost sinners are brought to, and sustained in, the one true faith that delivers forgiveness, life, and salvation in the Name of our great God and Savior, Jesus the Christ!

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Messer

LADIES & ALTAR GUILD INFO

- **LADIES GUILD MEETING:** Guild will meet Monday, May 7 at 7:00 pm. Hostess: Marilyn Oswald. 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 Marlene Wiltshire (463-4101).
- **ALTAR GUILD DUTY:** May - Gretchen Harrison/Marlene Wiltshire; May - Marilyn Oswald; June - Marilyn Oswald
- **ALTAR FLOWERS:** There is a flower calendar for 2007 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. A bouquet usually lasts about one (1) month and the cost is about \$25.



UPCOMING COFFEE HOSTESSES:



May

6 - Tammy Oswald
13 - Darlene Palmer
20 - Youth Group
27 - Maxine Isaksson/
Helen Meyers

June

3 - Mary Jakolat
10 - Gretchen Harrison
17 - Arlene Hale/Janet Isom
24 - Joyce Kohler

July

1 - Dorothy Trgina
8 - Marilyn Oswald
15 - Beth Brostrom
22 - Sara Cummins
29 - Sharyn Greening/
Megan Brown

S.A.L.T. NOTES



1. **FOOD BANK COLLECTION SUNDAY** is the first Sunday of every month. Please help the S.A.L.T. committee give aid to families and seniors of Gratiot County by bringing non-perishable, canned or packaged foods on Sunday, March 4. Suggestions are posted on the S.A.L.T. bulletin board. Place your donations in the **RED COLLECTION TUB** in the fellowship hall.
2. **LADIES LUNCH BUNCH** - 15 ladies met in April for lunch. The group decide to get together again on Tuesday, May 15th at Tease at the Embers in Mount Pleasant at 1:00 pm. We invite all ladies of Peace to join us. The sign-up sheet is on the SALT bulletin board. The more the merrier! Questions - see Mary Jakolat or Jo Wendt. If you wish to carpool, we will meet at the church at 12:30.



TRUSTEES

SPRING CLEANING DAY

Saturday, May 12, 2007
9:00 am - ?

Please bring 'tools of the trade' for this day. Gloves, rags, rakes, ladders, etc.

Many hands make light work.
Come help us make our property shine!



We would love to take you on our *Quest for Truth* this summer!

Hello Friends

Our *Quest for Truth* Vacation Bible School needs great volunteers and we are hoping you will help.

Help kids find the real truth about Jesus by serving as a:

**Quest Leader,
Snack Provider,
Publicity Helper, or
Volunteer just for fun!**

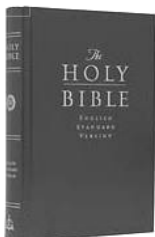
Our VBS will be held June 25-29, 2007

**We provide all the resources you need, as well as *Quest for Truth* volunteer training on:
Wednesday, May 23rd at 7:00 pm.**

**If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 463-3736 or by email -
greening2@verizon.net**

Thanks for taking time to pray and consider this request.

**God's blessings,
Sharyn Greening**



ESV PEW BIBLES FOR SALE

We have 12 ESV Pew Bibles left for sale. The cost is \$8.00 (normally \$16.99). We will use the money we receive from these to replenish our supply of Small Catechisms, since we are currently out of them. If interested, see Pastor Messer.

OUR 2007 CONFIRMANDS:

**SAMANTHA MESSER, HEATHER PALMER,
MELANIE PENZIEN, PHILLIP SCHAFER**

SERVICE OF PUBLIC QUESTIONING:

SATURDAY, MAY 19—3:00 P.M.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

**CONFIRMATION WILL TAKE PLACE
DURING DIVINE SERVICE SUNDAY, MAY 20**

ASCENSION DAY DIVINE SERVICE

THURSDAY, MAY 17—7:00 P.M.



**The Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord
is a High Feast Day in the Church Year.
It behooves all Christians to attend
Divine Service on this day, if at all
possible!**

HOLY WEEK 2007 REPORT

It was truly a profound and remarkable gift to gather together in the Lord's House for Divine Service each day during Holy Week this year. I have to admit that I didn't know what to expect when I first decided to hold these Services this year. I knew a few people would come, but I had no idea that we would have a daily average of 16. What an absolute blessing it was for me to spend this Most Holy of Weeks with all of you who were able to attend. Some of you shared with me that this was the most meaningful Holy Week you've ever had. My sentiments exactly! It was truly awesome to meditate upon our Savior's Passion daily and, for me, it heightened my anticipation of the celebration of His glorious Resurrection on Easter. I am already looking forward to doing this again next year, and I hope and pray that many more will be able to join us.

A huge thank you to Lois Ramsey and Carol Zeile for their faithful service throughout the week. It is appreciated more than you could possibly know!

In Christ,
Pastor Messer

Holy Week Thoughts

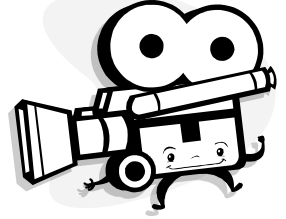
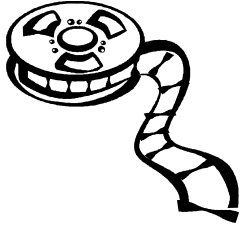
By Carol Zeile

I was raised in a German Lutheran congregation and remember always looking forward to Holy Week. I enjoyed the opportunity to worship more often than just on Sunday. My Maundy Thursday tradition was to go to German service with my grandparents. I did not understand the words, but the tradition was important none the less. Good Friday was an evening service in those days, followed by the glorious resurrection service on Easter Sunday. I sang in the choir and Easter was the only Sunday in the year when the choir sang at both services. I remember those special days and still cannot hear "I Know that My Redeemer Lives" without hearing the trumpet play.

These fond memories of Holy Weeks of my youth are with me still, but Holy Week of 2007 far outweighed them all. This year I had the opportunity to attend a divine service Monday through Saturday of Holy Week. I will admit that, in the beginning, I felt compelled to attend all of the services because April was my month for altar care. I thought of it as my job to attend every service and prepare the altar and the communion. That was going to be a challenge for me since I work full-time five days a week. A fellow Altar Guild member offered to help me and took over the altar care for the first three days of the week. I still had my mind set to attend all of the services and so I did. It took some planning to make this possible, but what a wonderful spiritual experience to allow myself the time to concentrate on and consider the passion of Christ every day. Easter was much more special for me this year after this experience.

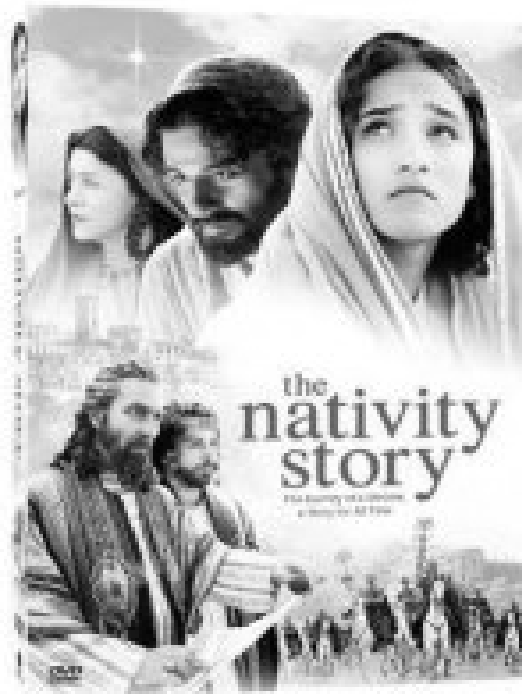
I am truly thankful that God sent His Son to die for all of my sins and for giving me a loving congregation with whom to worship Him and a dedicated and passionate Pastor to lead us.

I pray that we will have the opportunity to worship this way during Holy Week next year and that many members of our congregation will be able to take part.



PEACE MOVIE NIGHT

FRIDAY, MAY 25 ~ 6:00 pm



6:00 pm—FELLOWSHIP & FOOD
(Pizza, popcorn, chips, candy, and soft drinks will be provided)
6:30 pm—INTRODUCTION & DEVOTION BY PASTOR MESSER
6:50 pm—THE MOVIE
DISCUSSION LED BY PASTOR MESSER AFTER THE MOVIE

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT PEACE

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

- Sunday School is offered each week for grades K-8.
- Adult Bible Class is offered **every Sunday at 11:00 a.m.** for all confirmed members of Peace and adult guests. We are currently engaged in a detailed study of **Revelation**.

Youth Confirmation Class

- Youth Confirmation Class takes place each Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

“Life With God” Adult Confirmation/Information Class

- We will schedule a class in the future when the need presents itself. If you ever know of anyone who may be interested in learning about what we believe or joining our congregation, please see Pastor Messer.

Together in the Word

- Our *Together in the Word* Bible Study takes place **Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m.** All men and women of Peace who are available at that time are encouraged to join us. Guests are always welcome, too. We are currently engaged in a detailed study of the **Gospel of John**. Please plan on joining us soon.

“It’s All Greek to Me”

- *It’s All Greek to Me* is a class for those interested in learning elementary Biblical Greek and meets on **Sundays at 12:15-2:30 p.m.** (following Adult Bible Study).

MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to:

2 - Natalie Penzien
4 - LeRoy Isaksson
4 - Anna Brostrom
5 - BJ Henry
9 - Curt Oswald
15 - Jared Kuehnlein

20 - Darren Palmer
21 - Paige Harwager
29 - Gordon Slick
30 - Cheryl Kuehnlein
31 - Aaron Messer

Happy Anniversary to:

10 - Dorothy & Dick Wiser
30 - Darlene & Dick Palmer



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



EUCHRE NIGHT!

Our next gathering will be **FRIDAY, May 18 at 6:30 pm.** There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome to come and have fun playing the great game of euchre. Please bring a dish to pass. See you there!



TABLE TALK

Our next Table Talk will be held on **Thursday, May 17 at 7:00 p.m.** Come and join us for what are always informal and informative discussions with Pastor Messer on various topics decided by the group in attendance. We hope to see you there!

PAROCHIAL REPORT

(As of April 28)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 183; Confirmed - 142

Official Acts:

None

Membership gains: 0

Membership losses: 0

Financial Report







YTD Receipts: \$28,672.26

Budgeted YTD: \$31,920.00

Rev. Thomas C. Messer
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(989) 289-3908—Cell
pastor@peacealma.org

May 2007

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

Mon		Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
April 29 <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i> 8:30 - Choir Rehearsal 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—SS/BC 12:15 pm - Greek Class	April 30 <i>Alleluia!</i> —H-E-I-S-RISEN— <i>Pastor at N.E.</i> 7:00 pm - Ladies Guild Hostess: M. Oswald	1 9:30 am - Together in the Word 7:00 pm Council mtg.	2 3:30 - Girl Scouts	3 <i>5:00 pm—WW</i>	4	5
6 <i>5th Sunday of Easter</i> 8:30 - Choir Rehearsal 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—SS/BC 12:15 pm - Greek Class	7 <i>Alleluia!</i> —H-E-I-S-RISEN— <i>Pastor at N.E.</i>	8 <i>9:30—No Together in the Word</i> <i>Pastoral Conference</i>	9 3:30 - Girl Scouts	10 <i>5:00 pm—WW</i>	11	12
13 <i>6th Sunday of Easter</i> 8:30 - Choir Rehearsal 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—SS/BC 12:15 pm - PYG Mtg/Greek Class <i>Michael's Day</i>	14 <i>Alleluia!</i> —H-E-I-S-RISEN—	15 9:30—Together in the Word 12:30 pm - Ladies Lunch Bunch at Tease in Mount Pleasant 8:00 - Trustees Meeting	16 3:30 - Girl Scouts	17 <i>5:00 pm—WW</i> 5:30 - Confirmation Class 7:00 pm—Ascension Service 	18 <i>6:30 pm - Eucharist</i> 	19 3:00 PM—Service of Public Questioning for our 2007 Confirmands
20 <i>7th Sunday of Easter</i> 8:30 - Choir Rehearsal 9:30—Divine Service/Confirmation 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—SS/BC 12:15 pm - Greek Class	21  <i>Newsletter</i>	22 9:30—Together in the Word	23 3:30 - Girl Scouts 7:00 pm - VBS volunteer meeting	24 <i>5:00 pm—WW</i>	25 6:00 - Peace Movie Night - <i>nativity story</i> 	26 ALMA HIGHLAND FESTIVAL
27 <i>The Day of Pentecost</i> 8:30 - Choir Rehearsal 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—SS/BC 12:15 pm - Greek Class	28  	29 9:30—Together in the Word	30 3:30 - Girl Scouts	31 <i>5:00 pm—WW</i>	June 1	June 2

SERVING IN APRIL

	<u>ACOLYTES</u>	<u>ORGANIST</u>	<u>ELDER</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
MAY					
6 - 9:30 am	Jessica Oswald Samantha Messer	Mary Jakolat	Dave Zeile	Jon Penzien Burt Henry	Bob & Jo Wendt
13 - 9:30 am	Tyrel Harwager Alex Henry	Beth Brostrom	Don Reithel	Miguel Ortiz Bill Hendrick	Curt & Tammy Oswald
17 - 7:00 pm (Ascension Day)	Philip Schafer Sarah Messer	Beth Brostrom	Don Reithel	Miguel Ortiz Bill Hendrick	
20 - 9:30 am	Jordan Henry Kelsey Gensler	Mary Jakolat	Larry Elliott	James Sager Curt Oswald	Dave & Carol Zeile
27 - 9:30 am	Lauren Penzien Melanie Penzien	Beth Brostrom	Terry Luplow	Vern Jakolat Chris Brown	James & Janice Sager
JUNE					
3 - 9:30 am	CJ Oswald Samantha Messer	Mary Jakolat	Dave Zeile	Bill Brostrom Burt Henry	Jenny Baughman & family

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

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

Church: 989-463-5754
Beth's Home: 989-463-1498
E-mail: contact@peacealma.org
Pastor's Home: 989-796-4453
Pastor's Cell: 989-289-3908
E-mail: pastor@peacealma.org



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