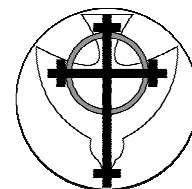
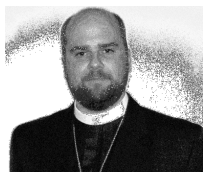


The Peace Post



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



From the Desk of Pastor Messer

"THE RESURRECTION OF 'ISSUES, ETC.'"

Dear fellow redeemed in Christ,

Since Black Tuesday, March 18—the day on which “Issues, Etc.” was cancelled and Rev. Todd Wilken and Mr. Jeff Schwarz were fired without warning—several thousand emails and letters have been written and sent, and thousands of phone calls have been made, to LCMS leaders; over 7,500 people have signed an online petition; several formal resolutions have been adopted and sent in by various districts and circuits in our synod; articles have been written in mainstream media; a peaceful demonstration at LCMS headquarters was held; and countless internet blogs and forums have been brewing with commentary. All of this has been done in the hope that the leaders of the LCMS would see the grave error it made in canceling “Issues, Etc.,” repent of this sin, and return the synod’s best outreach ministry and loudest voice of confessional Lutheranism back to the airwaves.

I would love to be reporting that our leaders have listened to this outcry and have decided to restore “Issues, Etc.” Unfortunately, however, that is not the case. Instead, our leaders have decided to try to sweep this controversy under the rug and hope that it will just eventually go away. This is evident by the fact that neither of our official synodical publications (*The Lutheran Witness* and *Reporter*) have mentioned a word about the cancellation of “Issues, Etc.,” which has been the most controversial occurrence in our synod in years. The few responses that our leaders have graced us with have failed to adequately answer our questions and address our concerns. We have been met with shameful political double-speak, incomplete (if not, dishonest) answers, and even falsely charged with breaking the 4th and 8th Commandments for making our concerns known. Many of us have just been flat out ignored, receiving no response at all from some of the leaders we have contacted. It has become vividly clear that our leaders have no interest in restoring “Issues, Etc.” They have chosen to ignore the outcry and continue on with implementing their vision of a new and “improved” synod where doctrine and practice take a back seat to relevance and worldly appeal. Regardless of what they claim, this is the real reason they tanked “Issues, Etc.”

Anyone who argues that this is not the case need only listen to the

content of “The Afternoon Show,” which is the program that replaced “Issues, Etc.” It is a light and fluffy, “feel good” program with giggling hosts. Instead of “Issues, Etc.,” which was known as “Talk radio for the thinking Christian,” we now have “Giggles, Etc.,” which requires no thinking at all from the listener, and provides the “broader appeal” our leaders desire. It is really a shame!

BUT, this past week, we received GLORIOUS NEWS! “Issues, Etc.” is COMING BACK FROM THE DEAD! During the past couple of months, Pastor Wilken, Jeff Schwarz, and several others have been working hard behind the scenes on getting “Issues, Etc.” back up and running. The new show, which will be independent and free from synodical ties, promises to deliver the same Christ-centered, Cross-focused programming for which it became known around the world. For information about the new program and to hear Pastor Wilken’s exciting introductory comments, go to www.piratechristianradio.com (be sure to have your speakers turned on as the page loads to hear Pastor Wilken).

For those of us who have listened to “Issues, Etc.” faithfully for years, this is tremendous news. For those of you who may have never listened to the show, I hope and pray that you’ll be able to do so when the new show launches. I can promise you that it will be well worth your time, and I guarantee that you will learn a ton.

My friends, the resurrection of “Issues, Etc.” is truly an answer to prayer. Our Lord has heard the cry of His people, even while our leaders have ignored it. He desires that His true Gospel be proclaimed, and this will be accomplished when the new show airs. I fervently hope and pray that our congregation will support this mission not only prayerfully, but financially. For now, you can do so individually by visiting the website listed above and giving a donation via PayPal online, or by sending a check, payable to:

Lutheran Public Radio ~ 806 E. Avenida Pico ~ Suite I - #271 ~
San Clemente, CA 92673

Please do prayerfully consider supporting this important ministry, dear friends in Christ. The Gospel will be well served in doing so!
Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Messer

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

“The Non-Reporter . . .”	2	Ladies & Altar Guild Info	9
Some Liturgical Thoughts	3	Christian Education	10
“What Holds Us Together”	4	Birthdays & Anniversaries	10
Peace News & Notes	5-6	Parochial Report	10
Other News & Notes	7	June Calendar	11
Council Minutes	8	Serving in June	12

The Non-Reporter and Big Brother Ablaze!(tm)

By Rev. Larry L. Beane II

I just got the new [May, 2008 edition of] *Reporter*, the national monthly "official" newspaper of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. A couple of things caught my eye.

According to page 11, there was a conference put on by the Women's Leadership Institute to promote women's leadership in the church, including: "technology, getting youth involved in ministry [*sic*], vocation, worship styles, spirituality, and outreach." Interesting, especially when juxtaposed with page 2 of the *Ablaze!(tm)* update insert highlighting the work of 4 long term missionaries (*sic*) in England, Germany, and Hungary. None of them are ordained, and, in fact, all of them are women. This, when pastors are being recalled from missionary fields.

Also interesting, on page 3 of the *Ablaze!(tm)* insert, there is a new congregation in the LCMS called "theAlley" (lower-case "t", no space, and upper-case "A") in which the benediction at the end of the service (*sic*) closes with "...Amen. Now hit the streets." The self-importance of this congregation is such that even the mighty English language must bow to its quirks. There are several sentences in the *Reporter* that begin with a lowercase "t" to accommodate the iconoclastic appellation of this heavily featured and funded operation. Page 4 of the insert highlights another "church plant" (*sic*) that, like theAlley, avoids any mention of being Lutheran. It's called "Mosaic" and is touted as a "worshiping community" that holds "celebration events."

Under the headline "Acts 1:8 offers outreach tips" (which made me want to respond: "well, that's mighty nice of the Bible, isn't it?"), we're given an example of a church marketing strategy: give out free postage stamps on tax day. Of course, Acts 1:8 says nothing about gimmicks and giveaways, but rather testifies of our Lord giving the Eleven the authority to preach by virtue of the promised Holy Spirit, and telling them they are to be "witnesses" (Greek: "martyrs") to the whole world. And there is no gimmick or giveaway that corresponds to martyrdom. But hey, people need postage stamps *and* eternal salvation. So why not offer it as a bundle? I sold a lot of candy and goodies at Hollywood Video using this technique, so why should the Christian faith be any different than convincing people to buy microwave snacks?

But what I find extraordinary is not so much what the *Reporter* says, but what it *doesn't* say.

The most significant news event in the life of our church body over recent weeks has been the *Issues, Etc.* affair, in which a popular syndicated radio program (and podcast) of that name was suddenly canceled, five days before Easter, and two full-time employees (one a called pastor, and the other whose wife has serious health issues) were sacked. They were not told why, and they were urged to sign a gag order about the whole matter.

The response of the people of our churches has been phenomenal. More than 7,000 signatures were added to an online petition in some three weeks. People in every state and many countries around the world were outraged. Pastors, laypeople, and even prominent theologians from outside the Lutheran tradition weighed in. Blogsites and facebook groups were spawned. Freewill offerings in the thousands of dollars were raised for the two men who were fired.

David Strand, of the synod's Board for Communications Services, who carried out the firings, was swamped with e-mails. His response was a lot of bureaucratic doublespeak and a great deal of legal-ese and business-ese argot coming from the church headquarters. The president of the synod claimed no input of, but rather knowledge of, the decision, while the rest of the Board was not told the firings were coming at all.

An op-ed in the *Wall Street Journal* by LCMS congregation member and popular religion writer Mollie Hemingway showcased the conflict and brewing disunity in the LCMS. The president of the synod, Rev. Jerry Kieschnick, replied by denying that there is disunity in synod - which ran along with other responses which clearly showed the extant level of disunity that the president denies. The whole thing has a surreal, Orwellian feel to it.

The Board for Communications Services ran an ad seeking a replacement for the talk-show host who had been sacked, only to revoke it after a day of receiving outraged calls and e-mails, claiming the posting was a "mistake."

There was even a first-ever protest at the International Center of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, as some 80 peaceful demonstrators carried signs (while employees were told not to speak to the media, to avoid the protesters, and barriers were even put up in the building). Pictures were taken of the demonstrators by synodical employees. For Lutherans, particularly conservative Missouri Synod Lutherans, to demonstrate is nothing short of extraordinary, as any casual listener of *A Prairie Home Companion* would be inclined to infer.

So, what does the *Reporter* have to say about all of this?

[cue the sound effect of crickets chirping]

No reporting in the *Reporter*. Not even in the letters to the editor - and I find it hard to believe that the editor suffered from a paucity of letters this month! Our church's newspaper should be called the *Non-Reporter* this month. Is this, as the evolutionists would have us believe, purely by accident, or was this by some top-down design?

Now, to be fair, there is an oblique reference to the situation on page three under the headline: "Kieschnick addresses unity, division in synod". And, as the title would indicate, the president is saying two things at the same time. As Father Duddleswell once remarked about fence-sitting, it's no wonder the human backside looks like it does.

So, it looks like the *Reporter* is destined to face the same decline as the mainstream media, especially the big newspapers, as technology makes it more and more difficult to control the flow of information via a central bureaucracy, whereby things that happened can be written out of existence and where things that are untrue can be given an official endorsement, along the lines of 1984.

But of course, Orwell never considered the role of bloggers in the neutralizing of Big Brother's monopoly on information. I don't think a lot of the dino-crats in St. Louis do either.

The Rev. Larry L. Beane II, affectionately known as "Father Hollywood," a nickname he incurred while having to moonlight at Hollywood Video to support his family during his first call, serves as pastor at Salem Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Gretna, LA. He operates an engaging and informative blog, located at www.fatherhollywood.blogspot.com, upon which this article was posted.

SOME LITURGICAL THOUGHTS

Nothing bothers this pastor more than when I hear other Lutheran pastors argue that it does not matter what "style" of worship we employ. That argument suggests that the way we worship is up to our discretion, as if we are free to choose whichever "style" of worship we like best. Really? Where does the Bible teach such a self-absorbed notion of worship? I have read the entire Book many times and I have yet to come across the passage which says, "Thus saith the Lord: Worship Me however you see fit and employ whichever style you like best." Instead, what I find over and over again throughout Holy Scripture is a very consistent "style" of worship, in which God's people gather together in His presence, bow before Him in reverent adoration, plead for His forgiveness, and praise Him upon receiving His gifts. Holy Scripture knows nothing of the various "styles" of worship we see being employed all around us today. Worship in Holy Scripture is always a holy encounter with our Holy God and NEVER a free-for-all, do-as-you-please, emotional, happy-clappy celebration. For this reason, the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church of all ages has employed the same Divine, historic liturgy, with very few variations along the way, whenever she gathers together in the Lord's Holy House of Prayer for Divine Service. Here are a couple of thoughts about the liturgy by a couple of highly respected and faithful LCMS pastors. They are well worth the read!

IS THE LITURGY REALLY "ADIAPHORA"?

By Rev. Randy K. Asbury, Pastor of Hope Lutheran in St. Louis, MO

The current identity crisis in the LCMS, and certainly among American Lutherans in general, focuses on the use, or abandonment, of the Church's historic liturgy. Technically speaking, yes, the liturgy is "adiaphora," that is, it is something neither commanded nor forbidden by God in Holy Scripture. It is quite true that Holy Scripture does not outline a particular form of liturgy (St. Basil, St. John Chrysostom, Western Rite, TLH, LSB, etc.)

However, we live, confess, and serve in a time in which "adiaphora" is mistakenly taken to mean: "God doesn't expressly command it; therefore, I/we don't have to do it." This mistaken notion of "adiaphora" has led us into the "Judges mindset" of everyone doing what's right in his own eyes.

But if we Lutherans take the Augsburg Confession at all seriously, we may want to repent of our mistaken notion of liturgy as "adiaphora" modernly interpreted. No, God has not dictated a specific form of liturgy, but He has indeed seen fit for 20 centuries to have His Church hand down liturgical forms that faithfully confess Jesus Christ and His eternal love of saving sinners by forgiving them and restoring them to life with Himself.

In fact, we might even say that the liturgy, a.k.a. "church ceremonies," is indeed a matter of doctrine. Augsburg Confession, Article XV, makes this bold statement:

Our churches teach that ceremonies ought to be observed that may be observed without sin. also, ceremonies and other practices that are profitable for tranquility and good order in the Church (in particular, holy days, festivals, and the like) ought to be observed (AC XV:1).

This is confessed in the Augustana's "Doctrinal Articles," not in the section of disputed articles on abuses. To say it another way, to be Lutheran *means* to use the ceremonies, such as "holy days, festivals, and the like"--a.k.a. liturgy--handed down by the Church.

So, the Church's liturgy is not, it would seem, a matter of an individual Lutheran pastor's discretion as to whether or not he will use it! Rather, the "church ceremonies" (liturgy) "ought to be observed," that is, the ones that can be "observed without sin." And what is the real issue in which ceremonies "ought to be observed"? Article XV continues:

Yet, the people are taught that consciences are not to be burdened as though observing such things was necessary for salvation. They are also taught that human traditions instituted to make atonement with God, to merit grace, and to make satisfaction for sins are opposed to the Gospel and the doctrine of faith (AC XV:2-3).

What does this mean? Clearly, observing the Church's liturgy does not make one right with God or earn His love and forgiveness. However, observing the Church's liturgy does, most certainly, proclaim that divine love and mercy to us and trains us in the ways of faith and godliness.

So, the point of the liturgy is not "liturgy for the sake of the liturgy." Rather, the point of the liturgy is faithfully to confess the mighty deeds of our Lord's salvation and to keep us centered in them. And for this reason, observing the Church's historic liturgy (as opposed to the forms of American evangelicalism/Pentecostalism) is a fundamental matter of our Lutheran confession of the faith and quite essential to the Christian faith and life, even to the mission of the Church.

PONDERING THE HOLY LITURGY

By Rev. Burnell F. Eckardt, Jr.

Every part of the historic liturgy is drawn directly from the Sacred Scriptures. This means that the liturgy is the Word of God in use; it is not something of our making; it is something we have received from God. What we sing and pray in the liturgy, in every part, is something God has given us. This is perhaps the most distinctive feature of traditional, liturgical worship: in keeping the catholic tradition of the Church of all times, it employs a manifestly biblical tradition, one in which we find that every part can easily be referenced to Scripture. The liturgy is Scripture in action; and so, properly understood, it is right to call it the living Word of God.

A couple of weeks ago, a good friend of mine forwarded me the following email. I read it and found it fascinating, although I was a bit skeptical about the email's claims. So, I did a little research and found that what this email claims is factual, which left me even more amazed. This is very, very cool, as the author of this email states, and I thought I would share it with all of you. Read, enjoy, and be amazed! (Note: The inclusion of this email is in no way an endorsement of the theology of Louie Giglio, an evangelical pastor of whom I had never heard before reading this. Also, I simply copied and pasted the email in its original format, so any typos or grammatical mistakes are original). In Christ, Pastor Messer

What Holds Us Together

A couple of days ago I was running (I use that term very loosely) on my treadmill, watching a DVD sermon by Louie Giglio...and I was BLOWN AWAY! I want to share what I learned....but I fear not being able to convey it as well as I want, but I will share anyway.

He (Louie) was talking about how inconceivably BIG our God is...how He spoke the universe into being...how He breathes stars out of His mouth that are huge raging balls of fire...etc. etc. Then he went on to speak of how this star-breathing, universe-creating God ALSO knitted our human bodies together with amazing detail and wonder. At this point I am LOVING it (fascinating from a medical standpoint, you know.)and I was remembering how I was constantly amazed during medical school as I learned more and more about God's handiwork. I remember so many times thinking....'How can ANYONE deny that a Creator did all of this???'

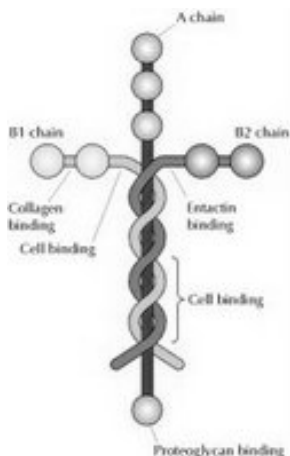
Louie went on to talk about how we can trust that the God who created all this, also has the power to hold it all together when things seem to be falling apart ...how our loving Creator is also our sustainer.

And then I lost my breath. And it wasn't because I was running my treadmill, either!! It was because he started talking about laminin.

I knew about laminin. Here is how wikipedia describes them: 'Laminins are a family of proteins that are an integral part of the structural scaffolding of basement membranes in almost every animal tissue.' You see....laminins are what hold us together....LITERALLY. They are cell adhesion molecules. They are what holds one cell of our bodies to the next cell. Without them, we would literally fall apart. And I knew all this already. But what I didn't know is what laminin LOOKED LIKE.

But now I do. And I have thought about it a thousand times since (already)....

Here is what the structure of laminin looks like...AND THIS IS NOT a 'Christian portrayal' of it....if you look up laminin in any scientific/medical piece of literature, this is what you will see...



Now tell me that our God is not the coolest!!! Amazing! The 'glue' that holds us together....ALL of us....is in the shape of the cross. Immediately Colossians 1:15-17 comes to mind:

'He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created; things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things HOLD TOGETHER.'

Call me crazy. I just think that is very, very, very cool. Thousands of years before the world knew anything about laminin, Paul penned those words. And now we see that from a very LITERAL standpoint, we are held together...one cell to another....by the cross.

You would never in a quadrillion years convince me that this is anything other than the mark of a Creator who knew EXACTLY what laminin 'glue' would look like long before Adam even breathed his first breath!! We praise YOU, Lord!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

PEACE NEWS & NOTES

PEACE LUTHERAN LIBRARY

Donations are always welcome!

If you are thinking about donating one or more books to our library and are not sure what to be looking for, we have a "wish" list of suggestions in the church office. Prices and books can also be found in the CPH catalog, also in the church office.



We would like to encourage people to use our Church Library more often. If you have read a book from our library that you enjoyed, or that inspired you, and you would like to share it, please contact Beth Brostrom or Coeline Luplow.

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

Our next luncheon is planned for Mt. Pleasant. We will enjoy lunch at the **Grand Traverse Pie Company on Tuesday, June 24, 1:30 p.m.** We will meet at Peace at 1:00 for carpooling. All ladies of Peace are welcome and also may invite a guest -- someone without a church or someone living alone. Please join us!



Ladies' Lunch Bunch



Vacation Bible School (VBS)

A planning meeting for all volunteers will be held on **Thursday, June 5 at 7:00 p.m.** to finalize plans for vacation bible school.

VBS is the week of **June 16 through June 20 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon each day.** On Friday, June 20, all members of the congregation are invited to attend our closing service at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch. We encourage you to invite children of relatives or neighborhood friends to join us. We have a really great time and a lot of fun. Please see Sharyn Greening if you need promotional information.

PYG NEWS

June Events

Monthly Meeting - None in June
Higher Things "Amen" Conference - (6/21-6/28)

Greetings in Christ,

Summer has arrived and everyone seems to get busier, or at least have more things they want to do. This seems even more so for the youth, even with school out. Please be safe, take the Lord with you in your heart and mind with all you do. We hope you will be able to get with Peace Youth Group for our activities too.

June is the time for the Higher Things "Amen" Conference. We have five youth and three adults going this year. Please, keep them in your thoughts and prayers for a safe and rewarding trip. June also has VBS, and youth are encouraged to attend or assist. August has the SALT campout and the Relay for Life. We have two sites for the campout and hope to have them full. Please consider attending the Relay for Life with other members of Peace this year.

More details and ideas to follow. Let's all talk after Sunday services during Fellowship.

Our first annual Spring Bazaar at the beginning of May was low on shoppers but supported well by vendors and members of Peace. It was a learning experience for many of us and we will do better next year. Thanks to all the ladies who made desserts for us, to all who helped, and a special thank to Jenny for leading the vendor recruitment and organization.

Lastly, this month I want to thank everyone who has been dropping off bottles and cans for the Youth. We have raised almost \$80 so far this year. Thanks to everyone.

May the Spirit of the Lord be with you,

Jonathan Penzien

TABLE TALK



Our Table Talks are informal and informative discussions with Pastor Messer on various topics decided by the group in attendance. Our next Table Talk will take place **Thursday, June 12 at 7:00 p.m.** at the church. All are invited to attend! Hope to see you there!

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION FILLED!

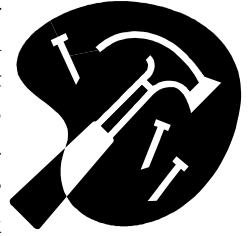
Congratulations to Mary Jakolat! She has been hired as our new Administrative Assistant and will begin her duties on Monday, June 2. Her hours will be Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We are grateful for Mary's willingness to fill in these last couple of months and look forward to her continued service among us! She has been, and will continue to be, a genuine blessing to our congregation.

Mary may be reached at the church during office hours or by email (contact@peacealma.org) anytime.

PEACE NEWS & NOTES Cont'd

SANCTUARY RENOVATION

We will begin our sanctuary renovation on **Sunday, June 8**, immediately following fellowship time (no Bible Study). Our plan on that Sunday is to remove all items from the chancel area (altar, credence table, candelabras, flower stands, pulpit, mini-pew, seats, altar railing, floor trim, carpeting, and anything else in the area). Due to the fact that both of our 2008 High School graduates are having Open Houses that day, that is all we will do, and it should take no longer than an hour or two, depending upon the number of helpers. We will do the restructuring work on Monday and Tuesday, both days beginning at 9:00 a.m. Anyone who is interested in helping is more than welcome to join us and work for as short or as long a time as you like (no time cards to punch!). If you just want to come and check things out or offer moral support, you are more than welcome to do that as well. We will complete the restructuring by Tuesday afternoon (or evening, depending on how things go), and the carpet installers will install the new carpeting on Wednesday. Then, on Thursday or Friday (depending upon the availability of those who can help), we will re-install everything we removed and complete the project. So, join us for this wonderful opportunity for fellowship, fun, and, of course, work, if you are able. Any questions on any of this, please see Pastor Messer, Jim Sager, or Chris Brown.



NEW PEACE OFFICE HOURS

Monday	9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday	9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Thursday	9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Friday	9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

We would like to eventually expand the hours on Mondays and Fridays to 3:00 p.m. by employing volunteer help. If you are interested in volunteering your time on Mondays and Fridays from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., mainly to be available to answer phone calls and welcome any visitors, but also to do a little light office work, please see Pastor Messer.

Pastor Messer's Office Hours

Tuesday	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Thursday	9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Other times by appointment

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

Congrats to our 2008 High School Graduates:

Kelsey Gensler (Alma High School)

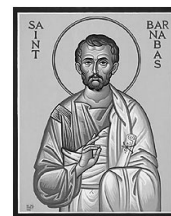
Lauren Penzien (St. Louis High School)

May the Lord richly bless them as they embark on their future endeavors!

ADDITIONAL DIVINE SERVICE

The Feast of St. Barnabas, Apostle

Wednesday, June 11 at 12:00 p.m.



Please note: Due to the sanctuary renovation which will be going on during this week, we will hold this Divine Service in the Adult Bible Study area.

RELAY FOR LIFE

The Peace Lutheran Church American Cancer Society Relay For Life Team is in the midst of registering members for this year's campaign (August 8 - 9, 2008) which will be held at Alma High School Track and Field. If you would like to join the team, but have not been asked, please contact Don Reithel for registration information by cell phone at 989-289-2274 or by email at dreithel@edzone.net

OTHER NEWS & NOTES

**The Gratiot Exchange Club is holding
the 7th Annual Golf Outing.
Saturday, June 28, 2008
Gratiot County Country Club
On State Rd, Ithaca**

Great door prizes, trophies, food, friends and fun!!

RSVP teams of four to Kent Schulze
989 875-8229 or schulzek1@michigan.gov

9-hole shotgun start – 9 AM, please arrive early
\$40 per person
make checks to: Gratiot County Exchange Club

Proceeds donated to:
Gratiot County Wraparound
Gratiot County CMH (Kids Club)
Gratiot County Collaborative

Wraparound sorts through the many resources within the community and brings them to the children with complex needs and their families. Some of the organizations that are part of Wraparound include Lutheran Child and Family Service of Michigan, DHS and CMH, Childcare Fund, and Family Division of 29th Judicial Court. Golf outing funds are used to provide concrete needs of families that are not covered or met by other resources in the County. This may include home repairs, furniture, food, clothing, rent, utilities, medical supplies and sports fees.

The Collaborative Council seeks to avoid unnecessary duplication of services in the community and to collaborates on projects whenever it is cost effective to do so.

A Thrivent grant has been approved for this activity which will supplement funds raised up to \$1600.

For more information, please contact Don Reithel at cell phone 989-289-2274, or email dreithel@edzone.net.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

The Central Michigan Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is participating in the Habitat for Humanity building project, entitled “Thrivent Builds” and is asking each congregation within its jurisdiction to nominate someone (volunteers welcome) to become the point of contact (Congregational Champion) for this project. A more detailed job description is available upon request from Don Reithel.

If you have interest in this project, please contact Don Reithel at cell phone 989-289-2274, or email dreithel@edzone.net.

Come join us on the Trail!



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

www.wittenbergtrail.ning.com

To join our Peace Lutheran group on the Trail, go to:
www.wittenbergtrail.ning.com/group/peacelutheranalmamichigan

“HEAVEN ON EARTH”

For those of you who ordered the new book, *“Heaven on Earth: The Gifts of Christ in the Divine Service,”* by Dr. Arthur Just, please see Pastor Messer to pick up your copy and make payment (\$15.00—checks payable to Peace). They have finally arrived!

BOOK OF CONCORD

There are still several brand new Tappert editions of the Book of Concord available for purchase at \$10.00. See Pastor Messer to purchase yours!

GOTTESDIENST

Gottesdienst is an excellent theological periodical published quarterly. Go to www.gottesdienst.org or see Pastor Messer if you are interested in learning more or subscribing.

Synopsis of May 6, 2008 Church Council Minutes

Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- President Brown called the meeting to order at 7:03pm/ Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer. The following members were present: Chris Brown, Megan Brown, Carol Zeile, Gary Miller, James Sager, Gretchen Harrison, Sharyn Greening, Larry Elliott. Pastor Messer was also present.

Approval of Agenda

- Motion made by Councilmember Greening, supported by Treasurer Zeile to approve the agenda with the addition of three items: Shepherd Staff Software and Information Back-Up, Long Distance Phone Service for Office and Establishing a Counting Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion by Treasurer Zeile, supported by Councilmember Greening to approve the April 1 minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

- **Pastor and Officers:** **Pastor** – Pastor Messer presented the attached Pastor's Report. The Council received the report into record; **Treasurer** – Treasurer Zeile presented the attached Treasurer's Report. The Council received the report into record; **Financial Secretary** – No report.
- **Boards:** **Board of Elders** – No report; **Board of Trustees** – Councilmember Sager presented the Board of Trustees' Report. The Council received the report into record; **Board of Christian Education** – Councilmember Greening presented the Board of Christian Education Report. The Council received the report into record; **Board of Evangelism** – Councilmember Elliott presented the Board of Evangelism Report. The Council received the report into record; **Board of Stewardship** – As the new Chairperson of the Board, Councilmember Harrison presented the Board of Stewardship Report. The Council received the report into record.
- **Organization and Committee Reports:** **Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild** – The Council reviewed the attached report. The Council received the report into record; **Peace Youth Group** – No report; **Budget & Finance** – No report.

Business

- **Sanctuary Renovation Proposal** – The Council discussed how to proceed with the renovation. Motion made by Councilmember Greening, supported by Councilmember Harrison to approve the following timeline: June 1: Project begins; June 3: Completion of work by PLC volunteers; June 4: Carpet installed; June 7: Total project completion.*** Motion carried unanimously. President Brown and Councilmember Sager will obtain additional prices/bids for carpet. Motion made by Financial Secretary Miller, supported by Councilmember Elliott to authorize Board of Trustees to coordinate carpet installation logistics. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Accessible Restroom Addition** – The Ladies Guild has discussed this project and would like to explore the possibility further. The item was deferred to the Board of Trustees for further research.
- **Shepherd's Staff Software and Information Back-up** – There is currently not an efficient way to k-up data on the office computer. The Council discussed purchasing a new computer for the office. This was tabled until the next meeting. Motion made by Financial Secretary Miller, supported by Councilmember Greening to purchase an external hard drive at a reasonable cost. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Long Distance Phone Service for Office** – This item was tabled until the next meeting.
- **Counting Committee** – At the request of Financial Secretary Miller, the Council discussed the need to revise the procedures for counting and recording income. Motion made by Councilmember Sager, supported by Councilmember Elliott to allow Financial Secretary Miller to establish a counting committee. Motion carried unanimously.

General Comment – None.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer – Motion made by Financial Secretary Miller, supported by Treasurer Zeile to adjourn at 8:52pm. Motion carried unanimously. Pastor Messer closed with the Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Brown, Secretary

*** NOTE: The timeline approved above has changed (see article on page 6)

LADIES & ALTAR GUILD INFO

Ladies Guild Officers 2008-2009

At our May meeting, the Ladies' Guild elected new officers who will begin their terms in September, 2008. The new officers are: Beth Brostrom, president; Coaline Luplow, vice-president; Cheryl Henry, secretary; and Sharyn Greening, treasurer. Thanks to all of the past, present, and future officers for their devotion to service to our Lord and congregation.

Ladies Guild Meeting

Our Ladies Guild next meets on Monday, September 8, at 7:00 p.m. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend our Guild meetings. If you are a confirmed female member of Peace, you are a member of Guild. We would sincerely encourage you to participate and be an active member of the Guild.

PLC Women's Prayer Chain

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



Altar Flowers

There is a Flower Calendar for 2008 posted on the fellowship hall bulletin board. If you wish to place flowers on the altar sometime during the year, please fill your name in on the calendar and contact the church office with any information that you wish to have included in the bulletin. A bouquet usually lasts about one (1) month. **We now have 2 plant stands for flowers and would like to encourage 2 persons (families) to purchase flowers each month.** Checks may be made payable to Peace Lutheran, marked "Flower Fund," and placed in the offering plate or in the Financial Secretary's inbox in the church office. Thank you for helping to beautify our chancel. Questions? See Beth Brostrom, Cheryl Henry, or Marilyn Oswald.

Christian Care Fund

At our April meeting, the Ladies' Guild decided that we will continue taking donations for our Christian Care Fund. Some of the funds we collected have already been used to help members of our congregation. Your donations are very much appreciated and are helping to show our love to our brothers and sisters in Christ. We will have the collection can out the first Sunday morning of each month. Please bring in loose change or whatever you would like to contribute. Thank you for your continued support of this effort.

ALTAR GUILD DUTY

June
Carol Zeile

July
Carol Zeile

August
Phyllis Hill



UPCOMING COFFEE HOSTESSES



June
1 Gretchen Harrison
8 Arlene Hale/Janet Isom
15 Joyce Kohler
22 Shawna Greening
29 Cassie Tennant

July
6 Carol Zeile
13 Andrea Elliott
20 Dorothy Trgina
27 Janice Langan

August
3 Marlene Wiltshire
10 Marilyn Oswald
17 Beth Brostrom
24 Marlene Miller/Charlotte Dargie
31 Lois Ramsey

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT PEACE

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

- Sunday School will re-convene in September.
- Adult Bible Class is offered **every Sunday at 11:00 a.m.** for all adult members of Peace and guests. We are currently studying the **Book of Concord**, which contain our Lutheran Confessions. This is an excellent opportunity for you to come and learn what we Lutherans truly confess to believe. So, come and learn!

Youth Confirmation Class

- Youth Confirmation Class will re-convene in September.

Together in the Word

- Our *Together in the Word* Bible Study meets on **Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m.** All men and women of Peace who are available at that time are encouraged to join us. Guests are always welcome as well. We have completed our study of Genesis, and began a detailed study of the book of **Exodus** on Thursday, May 29. Please plan on joining us soon. (PLEASE NOTE: We will not be meeting on June 19, June 26, or July 3)

"It's All Greek to Me"

- *It's All Greek to Me* is on summer break and will re-convene in September.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to:

5 Marlene Miller	14 Dick Palmer	20 Vivian Strom
8 Larry Elliott	14 Art Tennant	21 Lois Ramsey
8 Karla Greening	16 Zack Quinn	24 Andrea Elliott
8 Justin Acosta-Arellano	17 Georgia Spindler	24 Jeff Kuehnlein
9 Bill Harmon	17 Jo Wendt	29 Sue Ortiz
9 Miguel Ortiz	18 Beth Brostrom	30 Bruce Bebow
12 Gary Miller	18 Alex Henry	30 Terry Luplow
13 Janet Isom	20 Helen Meyers	30 Janice Sager

Happy Anniversary to:

2 Ken and Phyllis Hill
7 Mike and Gretchen Harrison
11 Curt and Tammy Oswald
12 Bill and Beth Brostrom
18 Gordon and Lucille Slick
24 Terry and Coaline Luplow



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

PAROCHIAL REPORT

(As of May 25)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 148 ; Confirmed - 132

Official Acts: 3

Confirmation of Tyrel Harwager, C.J. Oswald, and
Rebekah Rodriguez (May 18)

Membership gains: 0

Membership losses: 0

Financial Report

YTD Receipts: \$40,630.08
YTD Budgeted Needs: \$46,935.00

Note from Gary Miller, Financial Secretary






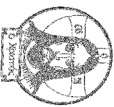
Quarterly Statements have been distributed showing the giving of each individual through March 30. Anything beyond March 30 will be included in the next quarterly statement. Please review your statement and if there are any corrections to be made, please let me know. Thank you.

Rev. Thomas C. Messer
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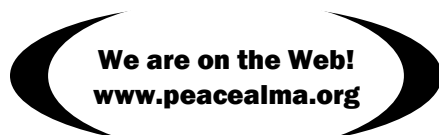
June 2008

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 <i>Second Sunday after Trinity</i> 8:30—Choir 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—Bible Study 	2	3 9:00 a.m.—Midland Circut Winkler, hosted by Peace 7:00 p.m.—Council Mtg.	4	5 10:00 a.m.—Together in the Word 5:00 p.m.—WW 7:00 p.m.—VBS Planning Mtg.	6	7
8 <i>Third Sunday after Trinity</i> 8:30—Choir 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—Sanctuary Renovation begins 	9	10 7:00 p.m.—Council Mtg.	11 12:00—Divine Service <i>St. Barnabas, Apostle</i> 	12 10:00 a.m.—Together in the Word 5:00 p.m.—WW 7:00 p.m.—Table Talk	13	14
15 <i>Fourth Sunday after Trinity</i> 8:30—Choir 9:30—Service of Prayer and Preaching 10:45—Fellowship 	16	17 7:00 p.m.—Trustees Mtg.	18	19 5:00 p.m.—WW	20	21
22 <i>Fifth Sunday after Trinity</i> 8:30—Choir 9:30—Service of Prayer and Preaching 10:45—Fellowship 	23	24 1:30 p.m.—Ladies Lunch Bunch	25 <div>July newsletter items due tomorrow!</div>	26 5:00 p.m.—WW	27	28
	<i>Peace Youth Group at "Amen" Higher Things Conference in Scranton, Pennsylvania</i>					
29 <i>Festival of St. Peter and St. Paul</i> 8:30—Choir 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—Bible Study 	30	<i>July 1</i>	<i>July 2</i>	<i>July 3</i> 5:00 p.m.—WW	<i>July 4</i>	<i>July 5</i>

Peace Lutheran Church
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Mary's Home: 989-463-3067
Pastor's Home: 989-463-3093
Pastor's Cell: 989-388-2037
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.

SERVING IN JUNE

	<u>ACOLYTES</u>	<u>ORGANIST</u>	<u>ELDER</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
JUNE					
1 - 7:00 pm (2nd Sunday after Trinity)	Sarah Messer Natalie Penzien	Mary Jakolat	Dave Zeile	Curt Oswald Gary Miller	Gary and Marlene Miller
8 - 9:30 am (3rd Sunday after Trinity)	Jordan Henry CJ Oswald	Beth Brostrom	Larry Elliott	Michael Gilbert Bill Brostrom	Sharyn Greening
15 - 9:30 am (4th Sunday after Trinity)	Samantha Messer Tyrel Harwager	Beth Brostrom	Don Reithel	Vern Jakolat Art Tennant	Larry and Andrea Elliott
22 - 9:30 am (5th Sunday after Trinity)	Lauren Penzien Phillip Schaefer	Beth Brostrom	Bill Harmon	Chris Brown Jon Penzien	Art and Cassie Tennant
29 - 9:30 am (6th Sunday after Trinity)	Melanie Penzien Jessica Oswald	Mary Jakolat	Terry Luplow	Bill Hendrick James Sager	Bill and Beth Brostrom
JULY					
6 - 9:30 am (7th Sunday after Trinity)	Sarah Messer Ashleigh Rodriguez	Beth Brostrom	Dave Zeile	Burt Henry Gary Miller	Leroy and Maxine Isaksson

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