

The Peace Post

Peace Lutheran Church ~ Alma, MI

July-August, 2011

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



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From the Desk of Pastor Messer **"A Miniature Paradise"**

Dearly Beloved in the Lord,

This is the time of the year when many men who have been theologically trained and examined, and who have received Divine Calls to serve congregations as pastors, are being Ordained into the Office of the Holy Ministry. In fact, this past Sunday, I had the privilege of participating in the Ordination Service of Candidate (now, Pastor) Aaron Schian over at Immanuel Lutheran in Frankentrost, where I did my Vicarage, as most of you know. Every Ordination is a reminder that our Lord is faithful to His promises, for He promised to send laborers to work in His Vineyard, shepherds to care for His sheep, preachers to proclaim His Word and administer His Sacraments, servants to teach the faithful and minister to the sick and shut-in, and when we see a man Ordained into Christ's Office, we see Him fulfilling His promises.

It is always at this time of the year, as I hear about Ordinations happening throughout our synod, or as I have the opportunity to participate in them, as I did this year, that I recall my own Ordination and Installation here at Peace, which took place on July 24, 2005. It is also at this time that I recall one of my favorite passages from C.F.W. Walther's, "The Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel." For any not familiar with this classic (and if you're not, get familiar with it soon), this book contains evening lectures given by Dr. Walther to seminarians, during which he presents to them (and to us) a series of Theses on how to rightly divide the Word of Truth by properly distinguishing between the Law and the Gospel. The following passage, which, as I said, is one of my favorites, comes from the 20th Evening Lecture:

When a place has been assigned to a Lutheran candidate of theology where he is to discharge the office of a Lutheran minister, that place ought to be to him the dearest, most beautiful, and most precious spot on earth. He should be unwilling to exchange it for a kingdom. Whether it is in a metropolis or in a small town, on a bleak prairie or in a clearing in the forest, in a flourishing settlement or in a desert, to him it should be a

miniature paradise. Do not the blessed angels descend from heaven with great joy whenever the Father in heaven sends them to minister to those who are to be heirs of salvation? Why, then, should we poor sinners be unwilling to hurry after them with great joy to any place where we can lead other men, our fellow-sinners, to salvation?

Such beautiful and important words from Dr. Walther. A new pastor should consider the congregation to which he is being sent to be “the dearest, most beautiful, and most precious spot on earth . . . a miniature paradise.” It doesn’t matter where that congregation is located, what it looks like, how many members it has, and so forth; it should be heaven on earth for the new pastor. Why? Because this is a place (again, regardless of location, looks, size, etc.) where sinners are led to salvation. This is a place where our Lord Jesus Christ is Present in His Holy Word and Sacraments to forgive sins and give eternal life and salvation to those who receive Him. Where He is, there is His kingdom, and where His kingdom is, there is Paradise.

In a few weeks, I will celebrate my sixth anniversary as pastor of the “miniature paradise” known as Peace Lutheran Church in Alma, MI. To be honest, it has not always seemed like a “miniature paradise.” Like every congregation still within the Church Militant here on earth, this congregation has not been immune to conflict, strife, and struggles. And, even now, as we have been blessed with a wonderful and noticeable peace and unity these last few years, we’re all well aware of the financial struggles we face. We’ll soon be forced to make some tough decisions on how we’re going to engage these struggles and try to resolve them. It will not be easy. There will inevitably be disagreements among us on how to proceed. But, through it all—through the conflict and strife of the past or any conflict and strife that may arise in the future—our Lord Jesus Christ remains true to His Promises. He gathers us in His Holy House and feeds and sustains us, that we might be and remain His forever. And where that happens, dear friends—even in a little, seemingly insignificant congregation like ours—it is most assuredly a “miniature paradise.”

As Dr. Walther says, pastors should hurry after the angels to any place where they can lead fellow sinners to salvation. But, this is not only true of pastors. All sinners redeemed by the Blood of Christ should hurry to any place where they can be led to salvation and join the holy angels and saints of all time in singing praises to our Triune God for the salvation He has procured for us. Where this Divine Service takes place is a “miniature paradise,” a foretaste of the Feast to come, and all Christians, both clergy and laity alike, should view it as such.

As I soon embark on my seventh year of service as pastor here at Peace, my prayer is that we would all cherish our congregation as the “miniature paradise” it is, give thanks to God for gathering us together into this wonderful fellowship, and pray that our Lord would bless and keep our congregation now and into the future. I remain eternally grateful to our Lord for sending me to serve here and wouldn’t exchange this “miniature paradise” for a kingdom!

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious to us. The Lord lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace. Amen.

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Messer



PREACHING IS ALL ABOUT “YOU”

President Matthew Harrison’s article in the June, 2011 edition of “The Lutheran Witness”

“We need to preach more about the Gospel!” a well meaning pastor admonished his brothers at a pastoral conference. As he continued his speech, a little old man shuffled up to the microphone. It’s hard to believe that this old pastor, barely over five feet tall, had been among the very first in all the German churches to reject publicly the Nazi Party platform and then struggled against Hitler for the rest of the war. He declared to his brother pastors: “For more than 50 years I have *never* preached *about* the Gospel. I have only *preached* the Gospel!”

Hermann Sasse put his finger on a perennial weakness in our preaching. The sermon is not mere information. The preacher must dare to speak the biblical “you!” in both Law and Gospel. “*You* killed the Lord of glory!” “*Your* righteous deeds are as filthy rags.” “*You* are the man!” (Nathan to David).

And the Gospel is proclaimed the same way: “Today is born *for you* a Savior.” “*Your* sins are forgiven.” “*You* are raised with Him in Baptism.” “The blood of Christ, shed *for you*.”

Preaching is a finger-pointing business. It takes courage to stand in the pulpit and let fly, accusing full-on with all the force of the damning Law. “The Law is to be preached in its full severity” (Walther). It takes even more skill to preach the full and sweet Gospel to sinners accused. Yet the Bible is packed to the brim with Christ’s full and free forgiveness, ready to be dished up and delivered by the lips of the preacher. “By killing he makes alive,” Luther emphasized again and again. And so our preaching must kill the old man, damn him thoroughly to hell and raise him up again with Christ and His free forgiveness.

Preachers, let’s sit at the feet of the apostles. Notice how many times “you” appears in Peter’s sermon:

“Men of Israel . . . The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His servant Jesus, whom *you* delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. But *you* denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to *you*, and *you* killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. . . . And now, brothers, I know that *you* acted in ignorance, as did also *your* rulers. But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He thus fulfilled. [*You*] repent therefore, and turn again, that *your* sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send the Christ appointed for *you*, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets long ago. Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for *you* a prophet like me from *your* brothers. *You* shall listen to Him in whatever He tells *you*. And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.’ And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. *You* are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with *your* fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And in *your* offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.’ God, having raised up His servant, sent Him to *you* first, to bless *you* by turning every one of *you* from *your* wickedness” (Acts 3:12a, 13–15, 17–26 ESV).

I love a bit of humor in a sermon, a rhetorical surprise. A story is great, even the occasional personal story. I’m a fan of all sorts of styles, of changing things up and “finding a new string to thump” on occasion (Luther). But through it all, let’s *stop* preaching limply and merely only *about* the Law and the Gospel. Let’s preach the Law in all its condemnation and the Gospel in all its sweetness.

Pastor Matthew Harrison

“*Let’s go!*” Mark 1:38



THE HOLY TRINITY AND LIFE TOGETHER

*An article by Rev. Christopher Hall (Pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church
in Enid, OK) in the June, 2011 edition of "The Lutheran Witness"*

The Athanasian Creed confesses the Church's belief in the Trinity. What is the relationship between the three Persons of the Trinity, and what does that mean for our Life Together?

At many LCMS churches on the Sunday after Pentecost, the congregation will sit for the creed instead of standing. Instead of turning to the Nicene Creed or loosely holding their bulletin, they will turn to a page in the hymnal used only once a year. As they speak of their faith in the Holy Trinity, pastors and people alike will not close their eyes or look at the altar; everyone will be reading the words. They will be reading the words because the creed they are speaking is used so infrequently and is so lengthy that few (if any) have it memorized. It's the Athanasian Creed.

And it is a doozy—repetitive, long, intricate and so confusing that often words of explanation are offered in the bulletins or before the creed is recited. But it's thorough, detailing who the Holy Trinity is and what He isn't, and that is why it's used.

But using it may give the impression that the doctrine of the Holy Trinity is an intellectual puzzle, an academic exercise in logic and definitions. It can give the impression that the Holy Trinity can only be understood by intellectual giants, that most of us are so bewildered by Him that we don't even want to think about it.

Yet God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34) and does not reveal Himself in ways that only geniuses can understand. While there are specific ways we can refer to our triune God, while there are facts to know and memorize, God is more than something mentally to be grasped and understood. There is another way of understanding the Holy Trinity who speaks to us and relates to us in a fundamental way.

Created to be together

God made human beings to have relationships with one another. When Adam had no mate, God said, "It is not good for man to be alone" (Gen. 2:18). He created the woman so that man would have a relationship with another, so that he would have someone to love and serve. He created that couple, and every couple since, to have a relationship with others as well.

In fact, our existence is established with others. God created the womb to be the perfect environment for growing a new life. But life beginning inside the mother also reveals something profound: We are created to be together, to live together, to have life together, so much so that God forms us and gives us life inside of another human being. The couple—the husband and wife—were not created to be alone but to bear children when God allows it. Once the child is born, he or she remains in a community, broadened to parents and siblings and extended family.

Relationships with others continue in every way throughout our lives, and it is within those relationships that our faith expresses itself, where it is put to the test. It is only with others that our love can be expressed and used, that we can be forgiven and strengthened. Love demands another to love.

God creates a community because He is a community. He creates us with others because He is with others. He is not alone. He is One but also Three: the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

The relationship of the Trinity

In all three creeds we recite—the Apostles', the Nicene and the Athanasian—we confess that the Son of God is

begotten of the Father. This does not mean that the Father reproduced Himself to form the Son in a biological way, like a father begets a son in our lives, but the First Person of the Trinity's relationship with the Second is like that of Father and Son. And it always has been that way, because the Son is eternally present.

The Nicene Creed confesses it this way: that the Son of God was "begotten before all worlds." In other words, the Son has existed with the Father since eternity. That is hard to imagine—impossible, really—but the fact remains that before the beginning of time there was Father and Son, together one God, yet in a relationship to one another like that of Father and Son.

The creeds also express the relationship between the Father and Son together and the Holy Spirit. But in this relationship, the Nicene Creed confesses that the Spirit "proceeds from the Father and the Son." Again, it is impossible for us to imagine what this means or looks like. But it does affirm that there is a relationship between each of the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity.

God is love

Scripture testifies to this "inner relationship" of the Trinity. We can see this relationship that is at the heart of the Godhead when St. John writes, "God is love" (1 John 4:8). This is more than a warm and wooly feeling, more than a vague and emotional statement. It is at the heart of who God is. In order to love, there must be someone to love. St. Paul refers to this in the famous passage from 1 Corinthians, "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful" (1 Cor. 13:4–5)

In other words, love is always directed at another person. It is always a denial of oneself in favor of the other, their interests and their life and being. In this sense, self-love is an oxymoron, like saying "married bachelor." We cannot love ourselves if we truly understand what love is. Love is always about the other.

If God is love itself, then God must have another to love. It is not enough to say that He loves His creation. He does, but if that is the only "other" that He loved, then before creation, God would not have been love. No, if God is love in its perfect and biblical definition, then love also describes His relationship with Himself. The Father loves the Son and the Spirit. The Son loves the Father and the Spirit. The Spirit loves the Father and the Son. In other words, God is One, but since God is love, He loves within Himself, in the way of the Holy Trinity.

When we confess the Athanasian Creed, we also see that God is never alone. God Himself is a community, a relationship. He is One but also Three and always One in Three and Three in One. This love of God passes to us who have been created in His own image, who were also created in a community with Him and given a community with one another. We, too, are created to express our love not by ourselves, not by looking in a mirror, but in community with spouse and children, friends and neighbors.

Uncreated, infinite, eternal

The doctrine of the Holy Trinity is more than an academic principle, more than just a set of facts to be memorized and recited. It is more than something strange and odd and hard to understand. God is the foundation and source of life and being and creation. And God is relationship—one God, three persons, each relating to and loving one another . . . and loving us.

Even when the Son of God became a man, He reflects and teaches this inner life of God—this community of God, the relationship He has with the Father—and relates it to us. He says that He is One with the Father, that we may be One with Him (John 17:22). He says the Word He speaks is not His own but was given by His Father (John 14:10). Jesus' ministry was centered on glorifying His Father in allowing Himself to do what the Father sent Him for. But it is double-sided: All that Jesus said and did was for us and our salvation.

Jesus does the Father's will and speaks the Father's Word completely and faithfully and obediently and lovingly. And what He speaks is life-giving and eternal. What the Father has, the Son gives, and it is eternal life. You could even say He gives Himself. He is life and love, and He gives Himself to those who hear, to those He calls, to those who listen to His Word.

Synopsis of May 1, 2011 Voters' Assembly

Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- President Brown called the meeting to order at 11:11am. Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer. There were 32 members in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

- Motion made by Trustee Jakolat, supported by President Brown to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by President Brown, supported by Elder Zeile to approve the January 23 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Report(s)

- **Pastor** – services are being recorded for shut-ins, need members to help distribute the MP3 players. **Treasurer** – Treasurer Zeile presented the attached report and it was received into record. Budget is getting too tight. **Financial Secretary** – No report
- **Boards:** **Board of Elders** – Elder Zeile was elected chair. **Board of Trustees** – Thank you to Daren Johnson for snowplowing, spring cleaning day coming up, along with yard work. Elder Elliott is doing investigating as far as costs of materials and supplies to repair parking lot. Need some warmer weather to repair the roof and the banner closet needs more room **Board of Christian Education** – VBS is the week of June 20, list of items needed provided in the newsletter **Board of Evangelism** – May 6th next meeting, bowling, baseball game and camping are upcoming events **Board of Stewardship** – Larry Elliott has been elected as chair, brainstorming ways for young people to get involved
- **Organization and Committee Reports:** **Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild** – report attached; **Peace Youth Group** – No report

General Comments

- Keep Marion Greening in our prayers
- May 22nd is confirmation day
- Baby Bottle Drive for Pregnancy Center available for pick up and to be returned on June 19th, Father's Day

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

- Motion made by Trustee Jakolat, supported by President Brown to adjourn at 11:41am. Motion carried unanimously. Pastor Messer closed with the Benediction and prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Tennant, Secretary

Synopsis of June 7, 2011 Council Meeting Minutes

Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- President Brown called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer. The following members were present: Carol Zeile, Chris Brown, Gary Miller, Sharyn Greening, Vern Jakolat, Larry Elliott, Ken Hill, Cassie Tennant, and Pastor Messer

Approval of Agenda

- Motion to approve by President Brown, supported by Treasurer Zeile motion carried unanimously

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Treasurer Zeile supported by Gary Miller to approve the May 3 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Report(s)

- **Pastor** – Report attached; **Treasurer's Report** – report attached; **Financial Secretary** – No Report

Boards: **Board of Elders** – No report; **Board of Trustees** – Furnace and air conditioner cleaned, spring cleaning was done on June 4th. Art washed all the windows; **Board of Christian Education** – VBS scheduled for June 20-24th; **Board of Evangelism** – No report; **Board of Stewardship** – No report, next meeting set for last Tuesday of June.

- **Organization and Committee Reports:** **Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild** – No report; **Peace Youth Group** – No report.

Business

- **Land-** email letter to congregation members before special voter's assembly meeting on Sunday, June 12th. Motion by Carolyn, supported by Gary Miller to appoint Larry as the spokesman for the council members regarding the information contained and presented in the letter.

General Comments - No General Comments

- Flowers and bushes were donated by members of the congregation.

Continued on next page

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

- Motion made by Elder Elliott, supported by Gary Miller, adjourn at 8:46 pm. Motion carried unanimously. Pastor Messer closed with the Lord's Prayer and Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassie Tennant, Secretary

Synopsis of June 12, 2011 Special Meeting of Church Council

Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- President Brown called the meeting to order at 8:03am. Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer. The following members were present: Carol Zeile, Dave Zeile, Chris Brown, Gary Miller, Sharyn Greening, Vern Jakolat, Larry Elliott, Ken Hill, and Cassie Tennant. Pastor Messer was also present.

Special Business

- Larry contacted the Gratiot Hospital to see if they had any interest in purchasing our land. Larry met with them on Friday and they are definitely interested. They want to pay for an appraisal of the land using an appraiser of our choice at no obligation to us. Present this new information at our Special Voter's Assembly and ask for a approval to have the hospital perform the appraisal.

General Comments - No comments

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

- Motion made by Gary Miller, supported by Elder Elliott, adjourn at 8:57am. Motion carried unanimously. Pastor Messer closed with the Lord's Prayer and Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassie Tennant, Secretary

Synopsis of June 12, 2011 Special Voters' Assembly

Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- President Brown called the meeting to order at 11:13. Pastor Messer read Eph 4:1-7 then said the opening prayer. We had 30 members present.

Special Business

- Discussion led by Elder Elliott regarding the letter all members presented. Discussion regarding the hospital's interest in the vacant unused land (approx. 4 acres) and their willingness to perform an appraisal of the property at no cost or obligation to the church. Appraisal would tell us the value of the land, church is under no obligations if the appraisal is done, an appraisal would give the hospital and the church a fair price to both parties. Motion by Elder Elliott, "On behalf of the Church Council, I make a motion to authorize MidMichigan Medical Center-Gratiot to appraise our property with absolutely no obligation for the church." Call to end discussion by Marlene Miller, supported by Gretchen Harrison. Vote taken and motion passed unanimously

General Comments

- If anyone in the congregation has any ideas on how to balance the budget please share those ideas with a council member. Gretchen Harrison presented her thoughts and pros and cons of each idea, the complete report is attached.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

- Motion made by Ken Hill, supported by Gary Miller, adjourned at 12:06pm. Motion carried unanimously. Pastor Messer closed with the Lord's Prayer and Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassie Tennant, Secretary

PEACE NEWS & NOTES



PYG NEWS

<u>July</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Location</u>
	Fellowship	Sundays	10:45 am	11:15 am	Fellowship Hall

Greetings in Christ,

Thanks to everyone for your support of our bake sale. We had a very good turnout of goods, customers and Youth. And the Lord gave us a beautiful day for the sale.

After the sale, we had a good time at the pool-fire pit party at my house. We had another good group of Youth for this also. We will be looking at having another one in August.

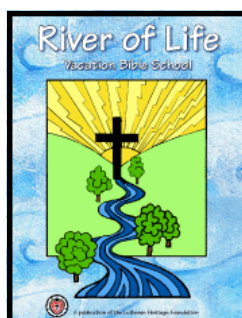
We will continue to make plans for more activities this summer during our Fellowship meetings after church on Sundays. All Youth are encouraged to join us. We need to continue to work at raising funds for the 2012 Higher Things. Please continue to bring your ideas for these and for service ideas.

With the start of the new school year, we will have some new Youth in the group. All Youth of Peace who are in 6th-12th grades are members. All are encouraged to become active members.

Thanks again to everyone for your support of the pop can drive and Spartan label collection. But most of all for your support and prayers for the Youth.

May the Spirit of the Lord be with you.

Jonathan Penzien



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

(See pictures on page 11)

We had a great week at Vacation Bible School. A total of 10 children attended along with 4 student helpers. Thanks to the following people for all their hard work:

- Pastor Messer - Worship services
- Mary Jakolat - Music
- Marlene Miller and Charlotte Dargie - Snacks
- Andrea Elliott, Coaline Luplow, Sarah Messer - Bible Lesson teachers
- Jenny Baughman (aka the Craft Diva) and Helen Meyers - Crafts
- Jonathan Penzien - Recreation
- Gary Miller - Grill master
- Aaron Messer, Sierra Luplow, Emilie Lovejoy, and Natalie Penzien - Student helpers
- Also, thanks to those who provided snacks.

SALT NEWS

CAMPING WEEKEND

July 15-17 Weekend

Wilson State Park in Harrison, MI

Saturday, July 16, is the day people are invited to come up and join us. We will have dinner at 5 pm. Bring a dish to pass, your own chairs, and drinks. Meat, plates, napkins and plastic ware will be provided. Any donations to defray the costs will be appreciated. For questions or directions, contact Andrea Elliott. Thanks!

LUGNUTS BASEBALL GAME

Sunday, August 14, 2:05 pm

Kids Day

See Postings for Information

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS is an ongoing outreach for the SALT Committee. If you know of a person in the armed forces who is serving abroad, please contact Carolyn Johnson (email ckj1969@yahoo.com or telephone 463-3052).

Check the SALT bulletin board for more info and announcements! SALT will meet during the summer as needed, resuming regular monthly meetings in September.

BOARD OF ED. & SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

There will be a Board of Education/Sunday School Teachers meeting on **Thursday, July 21 at 7 pm.** This will be a planning meeting to prepare for the upcoming Sunday School year.

COUPONS FOR TROOPS

Please join us in collecting coupons for our troops. They can use any and all coupons you don't need (even expired ones). There is a manila envelope on the bulletin board titled "Coupons for Troops" in which to place them. Thank you for your help!

PEACE NEWS & NOTES CONT'D

CHURCH DIRECTORY

An updated copy of the church directory will be printed in August. Please provide any changes or additions you may have since the August 2010 directory by noting them in the draft copy for 2011 displayed on the information table in the fellowship hall, or by calling the church office.

Deadline for changes: **SUNDAY, AUGUST 14**



MEN'S GROUP

We would like to know if there is any interest in forming a men's group here at the church. If there is, please contact Gary Miller, or Vern Jakolat.

Ladies Lunch Bunch

Will meet on Monday, July 18 for lunch at 1:30. We thought that July might be a nice time to visit the new Stucchi's in downtown Alma. For August, we will meet on Monday, August 22 at 1:30 at the Hearthstone Oven in Ithaca. All ladies of Peace are welcome and also may invite a guest - someone without a church or someone living alone. Please enter your name on the signup list posted in Fellowship Hall. We have a wonderful time together. Please join us!

AUDIO OF DIVINE SERVICES

If you haven't heard by now, we are now recording our Sunday Divine Services. The primary reason for this is to take these recordings to our shut-ins each week, so that they can listen to them and join us from afar. But, we are also posting these recordings on our website so that anyone who wishes can listen to them anytime they want. Special thanks to Larry Elliott for setting this up for us. You can go to our website and click on the link "Worship" in the sidebar to listen. Check it out—pretty cool!

WEDNESDAY SERVICES

As summer has arrived and the opportunity presents itself to get away for a weekend here and there, please keep in mind that we do have Divine Service every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. We celebrate the various Feast Days on our liturgical calendar during these Divine Services, so they're not the same as our Sunday Services, which means that you would be blessed to attend both each week, if possible. But, if you're going to miss on Sunday, our Wednesday Services offer you the opportunity to still hear the Gospel preached and receive the Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood that week. They're shorter Services with spoken liturgy and a short homily, but they are a blessing to those who attend. You should check them out sometime!

TABLE TALK

Our Table Talks are informal and informative discussions with Pastor Messer on various topics decided by the group in attendance. Plus, THEY'RE FUN! Our next Table Talk will take place on **Friday, July 22 at 7:00 p.m.** We will gather around the campfire at Pastor Messer's house. Bring your own snacks and beverages if you wish. We hope you'll be able to join us! If we have a Table Talk in August, it will be announced later.



PEACE NEWS & NOTES CONT'D



FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

There will be a short meeting for children (and parents) interested in going through First Communion Classes on **Sunday, July 17** during fellowship time.

A couple of children have expressed interest and I wanted to make sure that any others who may be interested would have the opportunity to begin classes with them. The purpose of this short meeting will be to briefly explain what we'll be doing in the class and to come up with a schedule that will work for all participating. Classes will begin when I return from vacation in August. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In Christ,

Pastor Messer

**QUARTERLY
VOTERS'
ASSEMBLY
SUNDAY, JULY 24
11:00 A.M.**

PEACE MOVIE NIGHT RETURNS!

Friday, August 19

6:30 pm - Pizza; 7 pm - Movie

Movie yet to be determined; check SALT bulletin board and bulletins for details in the near future

Come join us for a night of fun and fellowship!

A last hoorah before the summer ends!

WELCOME, GABE AND AMY!

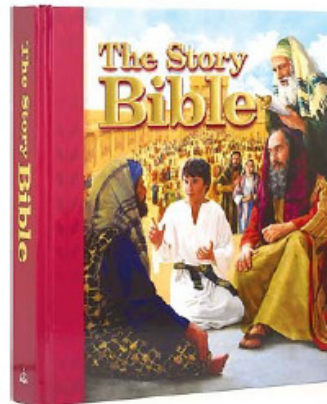
We were blessed to welcome Gabe and Amy Blair into our fellowship through the Rite of Confirmation during Divine Service on Sunday, June 19. They have four children: Gabriel, Lexie, Savannah, and Farrah. We're overjoyed to welcome them into our church family!



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- Discussion questions
- Learning activities
- Prayers
- Presentation page
- Large readable text
- Large 9 x 10 format, lies flat
- Glossary
- User's guide for different age levels

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2011



Ladies Guild

Ladies Guild Meeting

Our Ladies' Guild is on hiatus for the months of July and August. Our next meeting will be **Monday, September 12, at 12:30 pm.** Hostess will be Lois Ramsey. All Ladies of the congregation are invited to attend our Guild meetings. If you are a confirmed female member of Peace, you are a member of Guild. We would sincerely encourage you to participate and be an active member of the Guild.

PLC Women's Prayer Chain

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

Altar Flowers

There is a flower calendar for 2011 is posted on the fellowship hall bulletin board. We are now working toward ordering altar flower arrangements that coordinate with and enhance the liturgical colors of each Season of the Church year. Depending on the dates, flowers may not always be displayed for a calendar month. Some Seasons of the Church year cross calendar months. If you wish to place flowers on the altar sometime during the year, please put your name on the calendar and contact the church office with any information that you wish to have included in the bulletin. If there is a specific date in the month that commemorates an occasion, please also enter that date. A bouquet costs \$25. We encourage two persons (families) to purchase flowers each month, one for each plant stand. Please make checks payable to Peace Lutheran Church, attach a note marked "Altar Flowers" and place in the Financial Secretary's envelope in the church office. Any questions may be directed to Carol Zeile. Thank you for helping to beautify our chancel.

PEACE LADIES GUILD COOKBOOK

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

LADIES GUILD ON THE WEB

Ladies Guild coffee hostesses, Altar Guild assignments and Ladies Guild events appear on the Peace website. See www.peacealma.org and click Ladies Guild.

PEACE LUTHERAN LADIES GUILD LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

For the next portion of the Lutheran World Relief project, the Ladies Guild is asking for your help in collecting the following school supplies.:

- Pads of ruled notebook paper (8 1/2" x 11") containing 150-200 sheets
- One - blunt scissors
- One - 30 centimeter ruler (or ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other)
- One - pencil sharpener
- 6 - new pencils w/erasers
- One - eraser (approximately 2 1/2" long)
- 12 - sheets construction paper in assorted colors
- One box - 8, 16, or 24 crayons
- One -cloth bag (approximately 12" x 14" with handles)

There are directions to make the bags are posted on the Ladies Guild bulletin board.

Collection will be received July 1 to September 30.

LADIES GUILD SELLS CUTLERY

Rada cutlery is on display the 3rd Sunday of each month in the fellowship hall during the coffee hour. We have seven different items in stock: Paring Knife, Large Slicer Knife, Tomato Slicer, Serrated Steak Knife, Spatula, Pie Server, and Veggie Peeler. A product catalogue is available for viewing and orders may also be placed through the catalog.



July

Lois Ramsey

August

Altar Care

Andrea Elliott

September

Coaline Luplow

Coffee Hostesses

- 3 Carol Zeile
- 10 Andrea Elliott
- 17 Dorothy Trgina
- 24 Amy Blair
- 31 Jenny Baughman

- 7 Gretchen Harrison
- 14 Cassie Tennant
- 21 M.Miller/C.Dargie
- 28 Y.Elenbaas/M.Girard

- 4 Jennie Harmon
- 11 Janice Sager
- 18 Peace Youth Group
- 25 Carolyn Johnson



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT PEACE

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

- Sunday School (resumes in September) and Adult Bible Class (currently studying *Mark*) is offered on **Sundays at 11 am.**

Together in the Word

- We meet every **Thursday at 10:00 am.** We are currently studying *1 Samuel*. All are welcome to join us!

Christian History 101

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

First Communion and Confirmation Classes

- First Communion Classes take place as arranged (see note on page 10); Confirmation Class will resume in September.

TALK RADIO FOR THE THINKING CHRISTIAN!

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

www.issuesetc.org



PASTOR MESSER'S BLOG:

www.abideinmyword.blogspot.com

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

PAROCHIAL REPORT

(as of 6/26/11)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 136; Confirmed - 118

Membership gains: 2

Gabe and Amy Blair were Confirmed on June 19 (Amy was Baptized on June 13)

Membership losses: 0

Financial Report as of 6/26/2011

YTD Budgeted \$ 54,782.00

YTD Receipts..... \$ 46,212.30

Difference\$ - 8,569.70



JULY

Happy Birthday to:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Ella Shaw | 22 Gretchen Harrison |
| 2 Savannah Blair | 24 Sharyn Greening |
| 9 Brandon Brown | 25 Chris Brown |
| 22 Linda Sellke | 25 Pastor Messer |
| 22 Shawna Greening | 25 Hannah Tennant |

Happy Anniversary to:

- | |
|-------------------------------|
| 7 Mary and David Girard |
| 13 Gabriel and Amy Blair |
| 15 Richard and Joyce Kohler |
| 20 Jonathan and Debra Penzien |
| 22 John and Amanda Row |
| 26 Bruce and Donna Bebow |
| 31 Art and Cassie Tennant |

AUGUST

Happy Birthday to:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 5 Phillip Schafer | 29 Jeanette Bigelow |
| 7 Bill Hendrick | 29 Michael Harrison |
| 10 Jennie Harmon | 30 Amy Lesinger |
| 20 Megan Brown | 31 Jonathan Penzien |

Happy Anniversary to:

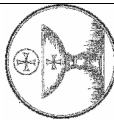







- | |
|------------------------------|
| 9 Larry and Andrea Elliott |
| 14 Daren and Carolyn Johnson |
| 14 Lois and Philip Ramsey |
| 18 Tina and Blaine Schafer |
| 23 Jack and Janice Langan |

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

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

Peace Lutheran Church
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 Alma, MI 48801
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July 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 <i>Second Sunday after Trinity</i>	4	5	6	7	1/8	2/9
Pastor on Vacation						
9:30 - Prayer and Preaching 10:45 - Fellowship 	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	7 pm - Church Council		5 pm - Weight Watchers		
10 Third Sunday after Trinity 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - Bible Study 	11	12	13 6 pm - Christian History 7 pm - Divine Service <i>The Visitation (Obs.)</i> 	14 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers	15	16
17 Fourth Sunday after Trinity 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 10:45 - First Communion Meeting 11:00 - Bible Study 	18 1:30 pm - Lunch Bunch	19	20 6 pm - Christian History 7 pm - Divine Service <i>St. Mary Magdalene (Obs.)</i> 	21 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers 7 pm - Board of Ed/SS Teachers Meeting	22	23
24 Fifth Sunday after Trinity	25	26	27	28	29	30
Mary on Vacation - Office Closed						
9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - VOTERS' ASSEMBLY 		7 pm - Stewardship	6 pm - Christian History 7 pm - Div. Svc. <i>St. James the Elder, Apostle (Obs.)</i> 	10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers		
31 Sixth Sunday after Trinity 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship <i>No Bible Study</i> 	AUGUST 1	2	3	4	5	6
Pastor on Vacation						
Mary on Vacation - Office Closed		7 pm - Church Council		5 pm - Weight Watchers		

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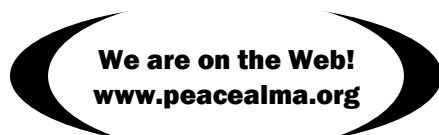
Peace Lutheran Church
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August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7 <i>Seventh Sunday after Trinity</i>	8	9	10	11	12	13
<i>Pastor on Vacation</i>						
9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship <i>No Bible Study</i> 				5 pm - Weight Watchers		
14 <i>Eighth Sunday after Trinity</i> 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - Bible Study 	15	16	17 6 pm - Christian History 7 pm - Divine Service <i>St. Mary, Mother of Our Lord (Obs.)</i> 	18 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers	19 6:30 pm - Peace Movie Night <i>(see note on p. 11)</i>	20
21 <i>Ninth Sunday after Trinity</i> 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - Bible Study 	22 1:30 pm - Lunch Bunch	23	24 6 pm - Christian History 7 pm - Divine Service <i>St. Bartholomew, Apostle</i> 	25 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers	26	27
28 <i>Tenth Sunday after Trinity</i> 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - Bible Study 	29 <div>Newsletter articles due</div>	30 7 pm - Stewardship	31 6 pm - Christian History 7 pm - Divine Service <i>Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist (Obs.)</i> 	September 1 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers	2	3
4 <i>Eleventh Sunday after Trinity</i> 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - Bible Study 	5	6	7 6 pm - Christian History 7 pm - Divine Service <i>Zacharias and Elizabeth (Obs.)</i> 	8 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers	9	10

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

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



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

Serving in July and August

	ELDERS	ACOLYTES	USHERS	GREETERS
July				
3 - 9:30 am (Trinity 2)	Larry Elliott	Aaron Messer Morgan Johnson	John Lemmermann Vern Jakolat	Lisa Messer and Family
10 - 9:30 am (Trinity 3)	Terry Luplow	Samantha Messer Sierra Luplow	Chris Brown Tyrel Harwager	Helen Meyers
17 - 9:30 am (Trinity 4)	Miguel Ortiz	Natalie Penzien Myka Luplow	Jonathan Penzien Daren Johnson	Charlotte Dargie Marlene Miller
24 - 9:30 am (Trinity 5)	David Zeile	Paige Harwager Aaron Messer	Kevin Sellke Phillip Schafer	Miguel and Sue Ortiz
31 - 9:30 am (Trinity 6)	Larry Elliott	Morgan Johnson Samantha Messer	Miguel Ortiz Gary Miller	Jon Penzien and Family
August				
7 - 9:30 am (Trinity 7)	Terry Luplow	Sierra Luplow Natalie Penzien	Vern Jakolat Gabriel Blair	Jenny Baughman
14 - 9:30 am (Trinity 4)	Miguel Ortiz	Myka Luplow Savannah Blair	Terry Luplow Chris Brown	Charlotte Dargie Marlene Miller
21 - 9:30 am (Trinity 5)	David Zeile	Paige Harwager Aaron Messer	Tyrel Harwager Jonathan Penzien	Yvonne Elenbaas Mary Girard
28 - 9:30 am (Trinity 6)	Larry Elliott	Morgan Johnson Farrah Blair	James Sager Daren Johnson	Sharyn Greening
September				
4 - 9:30 am (Trinity 7)	Terry Luplow	Samantha Messer Sierra Luplow	Kevin Sellke Phillip Schafer	LeRoy and Maxine Isaksson

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