

The Peace Post

Peace Lutheran Church ~ Alma, MI

Vol. 8, No. 7 July/August 2012

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



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From the Desk of Pastor Messer "We're All Lutheran, Even If We're Not"

(Or, My Review of the Michigan District Convention)



The theme for the 100th Regular Michigan District Convention was "Imagine Living as God's Forgiven and Forgiving Family." I'm not sure why we must imagine such a thing. If we are part of God's family, we're forgiven and forgiving. That kind of goes with the turf when adopted into the Divine Family. No need to imagine this at all. Baptized into Christ, we're forgiven. Fed upon the sweet honey of God's

Word via Holy Absolution, Holy Preaching, and the Holy Supper, we're continuously washed anew in the Blood of the Lamb - forgiven and made clean. So, we need not imagine living as God's forgiven family; God's family only and always lives in forgiveness. And the same goes for living as God's forgiving family. We do. There can be no other way. We have been forgiven, and so we forgive. It's what God's family does. No need to invoke the imagination here at all.

What we should try doing is imagining living together as Lutherans, who take our confession of the faith seriously. Now, that would be something worth imagining indeed! Imagine if we didn't just say we were Lutherans, but actually lived and talked and breathed and believed and acted like Lutherans. Imagine if Lutheran pastors didn't just pay lip service to our Lutheran Confessions, but actually performed the duties of their Office in accordance with those Confessions, which they vowed to do at their Ordinations. Imagine if Lutheran laypeople took seriously the vow they made at Confirmation to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it. Imagine if we all took being Lutheran seriously. Imagine if being Lutheran meant more than belonging to a Lutheran congregation. Imagine if being Lutheran meant more than being the Sola Scriptura people, which, for many Lutherans today, pastors and layfolk alike, has come to mean, "Just me and my Bible." Imagine if Lutheran pastors actually kept their copies of the Book of Concord handy and read and studied it regularly. Imagine if they treated it like their guide to understanding the Scriptures and performing their pastoral duties, rather than as just another reference work they place on some shelf to collect dust and rarely consult.

Imagine if Lutheran laypeople actually read and studied the Book of Concord, too, or at least wore the heck out of their personal copies of Luther's Small Catechism. Or, how about this: Imagine if we were half as united in being Lutheran in doctrine and practice as we are in our stance against the social evils that plague us today. Imagine if we took being Lutheran seriously - that's something worth imagining!

It seems to me that we have things backwards here: We want to imagine something that is already a reality (living as God's forgiven and forgiving family), but do not want to imagine something that is not a reality (being united as actual Lutherans).

There is a reason for this. It's a dirty, little secret among us that we want to keep hush-hush. It is this: Being Lutheran is not a distinct confession of the faith or a way of life for us; it is, rather, an assumption. We do not need to imagine being united as actual Lutherans because we already are, even if we're not. I know, it sounds screwy, but it's the way things work in the LCMS, which includes the Michigan District, the largest of the thirty-five districts.

This is why we don't need to actually bring theological matters to the floor of our conventions. We don't have any theological problems. That's impossible. We all believe the same thing. We're all Lutherans. It says so on our ordination certificates, on our church signs (well, most, anyway), and on our name badges. Being Lutheran is assumed - it's a given, something that we take for granted. We're all members of the LCMS, so we all believe the same thing, even if we don't. All of our worship is Christ-centered, even if it's not. Thus, the congregation that removes the altar and builds a stage for the praise band to be front and center in order to entertain the congregation during worship is, in our goofy way of thinking, just as Christ-centered as the congregation that retains the altar and comes to kneel before it as they receive the very Body and Blood of Jesus in the Holy Supper. Everything we do, through and through, drips with Lutheranism, even if it doesn't, because we're all Lutherans, even if we're not.

Thus, what we're left to work on, what the business of conventions becomes among us, is loving one another better, trusting each other more, and rooting each other on, as we go about spreading our perfectly united Lutheranism out into our extremely diverse cultural circumstances (because we all know that life is drastically different from place to place, even if only separated by a few miles) in creative, imaginative, and innovative ways. What we need are programs and ideas and techniques (you know, ministries) that will enable and empower us to conquer our own little kingdoms with our own unique versions of Lutheranism, all of which, no matter how unique, are equally Lutheran, of course.

I'm not being sarcastic. This is the reality, folks. I heard it, read it, lived it, witnessed it, and was amazed by it this past week. We're just not at all interested in dealing with the reality that we have serious divisions and disunity among us, since, well, those divisions and that disunity simply cannot really exist among us. If there are divisions, if there is disunity, it is not because we do not share a common confession of the faith; it is, rather, because some of us (myself included) refuse to accept the fact that we are all perfectly united Lutherans. The only real problem we have is that some (again, myself included) actually believe that we have problems.

It's all very frustrating and more than a little disheartening to this Lutheran. Perhaps this has much to do with the fact that I wasn't "born and raised" a Lutheran, but was brought into Lutheranism as a teenager by God's grace. I spent my childhood and early teenage years church hopping, going from place to place with friends and family, and when our Lord finally lead me to Lutheranism, it was like a breath of fresh air. The Gospel - what a concept! Before that, it was all Law, all the time - and, cheesy Law (sissified moralism), not the Law of God preached in its full sternness exhorting sinners to repent. Being a Christian meant believing in Jesus, of course, but it also meant living right, being good, and avoiding sin. Jesus has done His part, but now it's up to us to do our part, etc. The worship and preaching I endured during my early years was geared toward "getting to heaven," and "getting to heaven" was dependent upon me. I remember constantly thinking to myself,

"Am I good enough? Am I really saved? Will God let me into heaven?" And, then, the Gospel. Lutheranism. Wow. Awesome. The preaching and the worship was all about Jesus and what He has done, and continues to do, for me. What a relief! What Good News! I loved it; I still do - a LOT! And so, no one shall ever make me understand how it is that many Lutherans are so eager to abandon their confession of the faith in order to mimic the confession of the faith adhered to by other Christians. The Council of Presidents can put together as many "Theses on Worship" as they wish in the attempt to convince us that we're free to worship in many and various ways, even if those ways come straight from the methobapticostal playbook, but I shall never comprehend how many Lutherans so easily follow in Esau's steps, selling their birthright for the bread and lentil stew of man-centered preaching and worship found among most Protestants.

The worst part about this is that many do not even seem to know what they've done. How can they? They've bought into the LCMS Exceptionalism that assures them that we are all Lutherans, even if we're not. Thus, when you confront them theologically, they get a deer-in-the-headlights look on their faces, since they just cannot fathom the possibility that we might have some serious theological divisions among us. It's not that they're stupid or naive. They do know that there are real differences among us, it's just that they don't think those differences are theological. For them, we are as theologically united as any group of Christians could possibly be, and the differences we have among us are nothing more than stylistic and strategic in nature. All differences among us, then, are seen as belonging to the realm of adiaphora. We are perfectly united doctrinally, we just differ in how we put our doctrine into practice, and that is perfectly fine for them, because practice is only and always viewed as adiaphora and does not affect or change or disturb in any way our doctrine.

I left for the Convention early enough on Sunday to make it to Ann Arbor by 3:00 p.m., so that I could attend the Open Hearing of Floor Committee #1 - Theology, Relations, and Practice. After going around the room and introducing ourselves, the Chairman opened things up for us to express concerns and ask questions. I raised my hand and expressed concerns about Resolution 1-02 "To Rejoice in our God-given Unity and Celebrate our Christ-centered Diversity" (to read more about this, visit my blog and read what I posted a few weeks back). I told the committee that I was upset and disappointed by the fact that they had completely ignored the four overtures referenced in this resolution (one of which was submitted by our congregation), which had called for the district to encourage the establishment of liturgical mission starts, and had seemingly written their own resolution from scratch, which had not a single overture as its basis. To their credit, the committee confessed that this was exactly what they had done, and were even a little apologetic about it. They understood my frustration and disappointment. But, they also made it vividly clear that they had the right to do what they did. After much discussion, all of which was pretty cordial, they asked those of us who had concerns about this (after I ran my mouth for a while, others thankfully chimed in, supporting me) what we wanted them to do. They asked what they could add to their resolution to make it more acceptable to us. I, and others, responded by saying that we wanted them to take one of the original overtures and work on it, not tweak their own "written-from-scratch" resolution. They said they would take everything into advisement and see what they could do.

We also talked a lot about Resolution 1-03 "To Reaffirm Deacon Ministry." Our congregation had submitted an overture asking us to restore faithfulness to AC XIV, which states, "No one should publicly preach or administer the sacraments unless he is rightly called." So, in this case, the committee had to decide between two contradicting overtures. Naturally, they went with the overture that would not require any theological reflection or discussion, but would simply call for the convention to "high-five" one another for the great work being done via the Deacon Program. Before I could chime in on this one, Pr. Edward Steeh of St. John Lutheran in Ray, MI spoke up, urging the committee to go with the overture my congregation had submitted, rather than the one the committee had chosen. This led to a very interesting, and most telling, discussion, during which most of the members of the committee readily admitted that something seems to be wrong with the Lay Deacon Program (Ya think?!), but that they were confident that they had gone a long way toward fixing the problem by asking the District President's Office to study the feasibility of circuit riders or other means of providing pastors to administer the Sacrament of the Altar where Lay Deacons currently serve. Why? Because it's okay for Lay

Deacons to do everything else a pastor does without being rightly called, but people get a little itchy when it comes to them consecrating the elements and administering the Holy Supper. Yeah. You heard me right. This is the depth of theological thinking we have going on among us. I told the committee that this didn't make a bit of sense. If it's not okay for Lay Deacons to administer the Sacrament, it's not okay for them to preach, since, well, AC XIV forbids both. Thus, the committee's grand solution was no solution at all, but just added more confusion into the mix. They responded by saying that the jury is still out for them on this whole subject and that there were theologians among us who didn't see anything wrong with Lay Ministry, to which I responded by pointing out that the Systematic Theology Departments from both of our seminaries had released a Joint Statement about this, a quote from which was included in the overture our congregation had submitted. It went back and forth for a while, but it was clear that the committee wasn't going to budge on this one. They were not going to allow an actual theological discussion about this to hit the convention floor.

Anyway, those were the two big ones that we talked about during the Open Hearing. As I said above, the discussion was pretty cordial. I thanked the committee for hearing my concerns and they thanked me (and the others) for raising them, again assuring us that they would take everything into consideration.

After that, I went to register, visited with several friends, and waited for my Gabe and Amy to arrive (NOTE: Gabe served as our lay delegate, as he was our original choice; we did vote to send Amy in his place when it was thought that he would not be able to attend, but since his schedule changed, he was able to go and serve, as originally planned). When they got there, we attended the orientation for delegates, went and grabbed a quick bite to eat in the Ministry Tent (great subs provided by Lutheran Benefits Group), and then it was off to Divine Service in the Chapel, which was absolutely beautiful - Divine Service 3, everything chanted, Pres. Harrison preached an awesome sermon, and one gorgeous hymn after another. Outstanding! A brass choir was employed during the Service and the organ was playing loudly, but the singing of the liturgy and hymnody rose far above the music. What a difference between this Service and the other Services held at the convention, where contemporary Christian praise music was sung. In this Divine Service, everyone knew the liturgy and the hymns and sang with gusto; in the Contemporary Services, very few knew the songs and had trouble singing along, since those songs do not lend themselves to congregational singing, which is one of the problems with them. They're written to be performed by a soloist and a band, not to be sung by a congregation. They're purpose is to entertain, not confess the faith. And, besides all that, they're very weak doctrinally, since, again, they're not meant to confess the faith, but to express the feelings of the individual, which makes them shallow and emotionally manipulative, instead of strong and confessional in nature. Why Lutherans want to sing these songs is beyond me, but many do, and when we're all Lutheran, even if we're not, you have to try to please everyone. Anyway, after Divine Service, Gabe, Amy, and I went out for a couple of Lutheran beverages and some eats. They then headed back to their hotel, while I trekked it down to my parents' house, where I stayed each night during the convention.

The joy we had after Sunday's Opening Divine Service was quickly snuffed out Monday morning, as the Service that morning was filled with contemporary Christian praise music and a motivational message in place of the sermon (something about how we can outwit Satan). I didn't actually go, but got there early enough to sit and watch the Service playing on the big screen in the Gym. Gabe and Amy went, but left after the readings, as they simply could not endure the informality and nonchalance they were witnessing, and the touchy-feely music (complete with many arms raised and swaying in the pews), in what was supposed to be the Lord's Holy House of Prayer. I had warned them that it was going to be like that, but they thought that, after the awesome Divine Service the night before, it couldn't be that bad. But, when they heard the pastor leading the Service say, "Who needs Starbucks, we have Jesus! Amen?!", at the beginning, they knew they were in trouble.

The Official Opening of the Convention began shortly after that Service and, after several introductory matters, our District President gave his address, the highlight of which was the standing ovation given to Pres. Harrison for his

testimony before the House Committee earlier this year. The rest of the address was about "making progress with our walk with Jesus" and how "our relationship with Him is going nowhere unless it is lived out in relationship with others" and how "it is up to us to demonstrate Jesus' Presence until He returns on the Last Day" and how the world is changing so much and the church must change with it (this, of course, after making it clear that our Lord never changes - Gabe said to me during the break later, "Pastor, I don't understand how he could say that our Lord never changes, but then go on and on about how the Church must change," to which I responded by saying that I don't understand it either). Pres. Maier's address reminded me of the many times I had heard former LCMS Pres. Kieschnick speak - lots of stats about how much things have changed and how unChristian our nation has become to drive home the main point that we need to get outside our comfort zones and start thinking outside the box and be willing to change and take risks to reach the lost, because there will soon be Hell to pay if we don't, etc. But, evidently, it was just what many wanted to hear, as he was reelected on the first ballot with 78.6% of the vote.

Later in the afternoon, Pres. Harrison gave his presentation and Bible Study. Very nice. I had heard him give essentially the same Bible Study on "Witness, Mercy, Life Together" before, but it was great to hear it again, and I think a great many people were very impressed with him.



Then, it was finally on to business, as Floor Committee I took the stage to begin putting their resolutions to the floor (the full texts of all the resolutions acted upon during the Convention can be found on the Michigan District website [here](#), although the final versions are still not posted for some reason). When they brought their first resolution to the floor - Res. 1-01 "To Encourage 'Life Together' Through Use of the Word of God and Prayer" - I wanted to go to the mic and ask why the Confessions were not mentioned in this resolution, but knew that I would be going to the mic when they got to 1-02, so decided to stay put. But, I do think that this resolution reveals a major issue among us that rarely gets talked about, namely the whole "Just Me and My Bible" mentality that many confuse for Sola Scriptura. The idea that we need to read Holy Scripture through the lens of our Confessions is simply lost on most. We end up being no different than other "Bible-believing Christians," as we approach the Scriptures on our own. No wonder much confusion and heterodoxy ensues. I also think that this "Word sans Our Confessions" approach has lead many to think of the Holy Supper as being far less significant than it is supposed to be among Lutherans, but that is the subject for another article, so I'll move on.

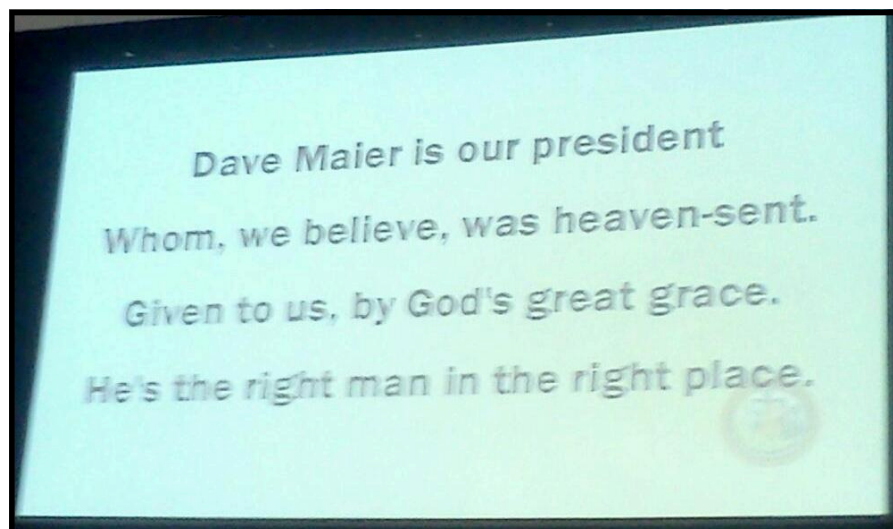
After the convention passed 1-01 by a grand majority, it was on to 1-02(a). I went to the mic and proposed a substitute resolution, asking that one of the original overtures this resolution was supposed to be based upon be considered by the

convention, rather than the resolution the floor committee had written from scratch. After our lengthy discussion during the Open Hearing the day before, the floor committee changed the title and added a Whereas to their resolution, rather than tweak one of the original overtures as we had asked them. My substitute failed 65%-35%. Oh well. Expected, really. So, 1-02(a) as proposed by the floor committee was back on the floor. I went to the mic again and asked the floor committee to explain their rationale for referencing Rom. 14:5 in the third Whereas, which stated that Scripture grants Christians a certain freedom in determining how they worship the Lord. I still don't know what happened with that. The committee could not answer this question and the explanation they did try to give made no sense, which I stated, but then things just moved on. 1-02(a) passed by 70.8%. I suppose we could consider it a little victory that the Whereas the committee added, based on our discussion the day before, at least admitted that "there is a perception that the Michigan District has moved away from the strategy of starting liturgical mission congregations," but, given the fact that the meaning, purpose, and intent of the resolution we passed was still so far removed from the meaning, purpose, and intent of the original overtures, that little victory is more than a little hollow.

1-03 was brought to the floor next, which is the one about Reaffirming Deacon Ministry. I really wanted to go back to the mic again and propose another substitute, asking that the overture my congregation had submitted be taken up rather than this one, but, having just gone to the mic a couple of times, I decided that I would stay put unless someone else got up to speak against the resolution. No one did. It passed by 81.9%.

The only other time I went to the mic was on Tuesday, when 3-03(a) was brought to the floor "To Commend the Affiliation of Concordia University Ann Arbor and Concordia University Wisconsin." I didn't oppose the resolution at all, but I simply couldn't stomach the first Whereas, which read, "Whereas, the Lord God has miraculously parted the waters again - this time, Lake Michigan - that Concordia University Wisconsin and Concordia University Ann Arbor might pursue educational ministry together." Really? As wonderful as it is that these two Universities were able to come together and save my alma mater, I don't think we should be comparing that with the actual parting of the Red Sea. I proposed a substitute Whereas, which was accepted by the floor committee as friendly, but as I was walking back to my seat, the chairman of floor committee 3 made a snarky remark, saying, "We were just trying to be cute and creative, but I guess that isn't welcomed by some at this convention," or something to that effect. He's right. Some of us would just prefer not to get cute and creative with Holy Scripture, comparing a metaphor with an actual Biblical event. But, when theology is assumed and really doesn't matter, that's what you get - cute and creative.

We were treated to more cuteness and creativity after lunch on Tuesday, as Rev. Mark Brandt thought it funny to share a new "hymn" he had written in honor of DP Maier, to the tune of "I Know That My Redeemer Lives":



This was NOT an actual hymn and was NOT sung during any kind of Service, but was a joke and was sung by many in the Gym (Convention Floor) to giggles and glee. DP Maier knew nothing about it. Rev. Brandt sprung it on him and the convention as a joke in response to earlier comments about how wonderful a hymn-writer Pr. Steve Starke is (Amen to that!). Rev. Brandt was jokingly saying that he could write hymns, too. The problem is that it's representative of how little we think theologically. It just didn't dawn on Rev. Brandt or others that singing praises to our DP to the tune of "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" might not be the best idea. It's a good indicator of how the whole convention went - just giggles and glee, patting each other on the back, praising God that we're all perfectly united as Lutherans, even though we're not, and very little in the way of theology or actual business. In fact, one of the things we learned at this convention was that overtures and amendments to resolutions can be declined because there is already "District policy in place." No duh! The reason for the overtures and amendments is to CHANGE DISTRICT POLICY - what part of that do some not understand? But, this "we already have District policy in place" strategy is very effective on the delegates, most of whom swallow it hook, line, and sinker. Funny, there was a resolution or two put forth by the District BoD to CHANGE DISTRICT POLICY and the floor committees conveniently forgot to invoke the "we already have District policy in place" line. It's all so arrogant and condescending, but the tragedy is that many fail to see the arrogance and condescension, as they are effectively distracted by the giggles and glee.

I was proud of my brother in Christ, Pr. Larry Wright (Our Savior, Midland), who went to the mic when Res. 2-08 was brought to the floor "To Respectfully Decline Overtures." The overtures the floor committee were asking to be declined were overtures submitted by our Midland Circuit and by Pr. Wright's congregation and ours. The overtures resolved to have the Michigan District be directed to use the funds received from the sale of congregational or district properties to only fund ministries which clearly stipulate that the Word and Sacraments shall be an integral and inseparable part of the ministry and mission receiving said funds. In other words, when a congregation closes, we want the District to use the funds it receives from the sale of that property to support or help establish an existing or new congregation where the Word of God is preached and the Holy Sacraments administered, rather than giving those funds to help start coffee houses or other so-called "ministries," as has been happening, where Word and Sacrament Ministry is not integral to the supposed "mission" being done. Pr. Wright made the good confession by giving an impassioned and clear testimony about the centrality and utter importance of Word and Sacrament Ministry among Lutherans, but his substitute failed (go figure!) and the convention ended up passing 2-08 by 78.3%. This, after Rev. David Davis, chairman of floor committee 2, invoked the "we already have District policy in place" line in response to Pr. Wright.

We did pass several good resolutions at this convention, including 1-04(a) "To Have the CTCR Address Questions Raised Concerning the SMP Program," 1-05 "To Review and Confirm the Baptismal Formula and Request Guidelines for the Acceptance of Members," 3-07 "To Encourage and Support Public University Campus Ministry" (presented by Christ the King, where my friend, Pr. Jon Bakker serves), and 1-09 "To Commend the Roman Catholic Church for its Stance on Religious Freedoms and Defense of the Rights of the Unborn," as well as many others, which were no-brainers. But, the tragedy is that we did not take up a single resolution that facilitated actual theological discussion about the divisions among us, since, again, those divisions can't actually exist. We all believe the same thing, even if we don't.

I think Gabe and Amy summed things up pretty well, as they indicated that their impression of the convention was that we were not there to actually work on our differences and discuss theology, but to ignore our differences and cheer one another on. They noted that they were disappointed that so many of the delegates there actually seemed a little disgusted when some of us went to the mic and tried to convince the convention to take up the theological matters that divide us. They said that it seemed like the vast majority of the delegates just wanted to move on and get to the "fluff-fluff" stuff. What all of this really means is that I'll have to beg and plead for someone else to serve as our congregation's lay delegate when, Lord willing, I attend my fourth District Convention as a pastoral delegate in 2015, since none of the lay delegates I bring with me ever want to go back. I can't blame them. It really is a shock to the system to see the vast differences that

exist among us in our district (which were on full display throughout the convention, but especially during the worship services) and to not have any desire to work on them.

Additionally, this was the first convention in which our congregation sent in overtures to be considered. We sent in six overtures and only two made it to the floor (1-04a and 1-05). Two were ignored completely, one was "respectfully declined," and one was so completely altered as to lose entirely its meaning, purpose, and intent (1-02a). I've already had some of you ask me, "Why bother participating if they're just going to ignore most of what we send in for consideration?" I understand that sentiment, but, hey, 33% is better than nothing, right? :)

I was thankful to be able to sit by Pr. Tony Sikora and his lay delegate, Dennis Peskey, during the convention, and it was nice to be able to reconnect and visit with many friends and colleagues. I also had the pleasure of meeting several brothers in person, whom I had only previously known via Facebook and other sites online, and enjoyed the theological discussions I had with many of them. So, that's something.

Lastly, I'm sure there will be some who read this little report and come to the conclusion that I'm just being one of those stubborn, ultra-confessional jerks who plague our perfect synod. Maybe I am, but let me make one thing vividly clear. I do not hate our district leadership or the many pastors and laypeople who obviously adhere to a very different understanding of what Lutheranism is and how it is to be confessed and practiced among us. I really don't. In fact, I am certain that they have nothing but the best of intentions and that most of them are sincere in their convictions. Many of them are just downright nice people, who love Jesus and want to serve Him. God bless them for that! But, this is precisely the problem in our district and synod: We believe that loving one another and being nice and getting along and agreeing to disagree and all the other well-meaning sentiments should serve as the basis of our unity and our "walking together." I wholeheartedly disagree. I know a few pastors of other denominations who are some of the nicest guys you will ever be blessed to meet this side of heaven. I can get along with them just fine. I can be friends with them. I can even thank God for the many things about which we can completely agree. But, what I cannot do is pretend like the very real theological differences that exist between us don't matter or are unimportant. I cannot "walk together" with them in unity. The same holds true for those within my own church body, with whom I have very real theological differences. Those differences need to be discussed and worked out, not ignored. The basis of our unity is not loving one another and being nice and getting along and agreeing to disagree, etc., but our common confession of the faith, as expressed in our Lutheran Confessions. And that unity is not achieved simply because we all have vowed to subscribe unconditionally to those Confessions, but only if we live out those Confessions in word and deed. This, unfortunately, is not happening, and so what we really have is pretend unity, which is no unity at all. At the end of the day, the idea that we're all Lutherans, even if we're not, is a lie, and unless and until we admit that, the Word of God and its correct exposition in our Lutheran Confessions will not be permitted to do its work among us and move us toward a greater degree of unity in our district and synod. May our Lord lead us to admit this, so that our conventions can again one day become places where we discuss our theological differences and work toward resolving them on the basis of Holy Scripture and our Lutheran Confessions, as our forefathers in our synod used to do, rather than the mere opportunities to pat each other on the back and cheer one another on, while intentionally ignoring our serious differences, they have become today.

A guy can ~~dream~~ imagine, can't he?

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Messer

The Devil and ULC

By Pastor Hans Fiene

On Sunday, June 24, Pr. David Kind and the saints at ULC held their final Divine Service in the morning. In the afternoon, they held a Deconsecration Service, at the end of which they removed all of the holy items from the Chapel and locked the doors, having been evicted from their Chapel by the Minnesota South Board of Directors. It was a very sad day, and even though the Minnesota South District Convention passed a resolution to give \$2 million of the \$3.25 million the district will receive from the sale, against the wishes of the Minnesota South Board of Directors, who wanted to give ULC \$250,000, the fact is that these beloved saints have lost their church home, and for no good reason. What follows is an excellent blog post, written by Pr. Hans Fiene, that tells the real story:



This is the sanctuary of University Lutheran Chapel. This is the place where the Bridegroom cleansed and sanctified His bride. This is the place where the Lamb of God took away the sin of the world. This is the place where the Good Shepherd fed His sheep with salvation.

And those things will no longer happen in this place because the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's Minnesota South District took this place away from the pastor who was feeding with that salvation and the congregation who was feasting on that salvation in order to pay for a program that, no matter how well intentioned, is not the Church, not the forgiveness of sins, not salvation.

So the devil rejoices in this picture. He rejoices because he now has another little chunk of this world where the preaching of the Gospel will not pierce his eardrums. He rejoices because he was able to deceive those elected to lead a collection of believers that they were somehow serving Christ and His Christians by taking away the place where Christ made and sustained Christians. The devil rejoices in this picture because he has never once triumphed over the Spirit, the Water, and the Blood, but his bedroom wall is covered with the busts of programs and movements and methodologies that he slaughtered without breaking a sweat.

The devil rejoices in this picture.

But the devil is already defeated, already a gory, twitching mess lying on the ground, his skull shattered beneath the weight of Christ's cross.

And because of this Christ and His cross, because of the Bridegroom's union with His bride, because of the Good Shepherd's love for His sheep, University Lutheran Chapel will go on. She will continue to receive Christ's salvation, continue being brought back to life through His word, continue being washed in His waters, continue feasting on His body and blood.

No matter how long she wanders in the wilderness without a home, no matter where she eventually settles, and no matter how hard the devil rages against her, Christ will continue crushing the head of the serpent with His once dead but now living foot.

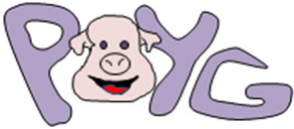
I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

So says our Lord in the Gospel of John, the sixteenth chapter.

And so, to Pastor David Kind, and to all my brothers and sisters at University Lutheran Chapel, rejoice. In the midst of your tears, rejoice that you have been counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name of Christ. Rejoice that your faithfulness was great enough to capture the full attention of the devil. And rejoice that the wicked foe will never defeat you because Jesus Christ your Lord will never stop defending you, never stop loving you, never stop feeding you with His forgiveness, life and salvation.

Amen!

PEACE NEWS & NOTES



NEWS

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Location</u>
Higher Things Fellowship	7/16-20	Sundays 10:45 AM	11:15 AM	St. Catherine's Fellowship Hall

Greetings in Christ,

The time has arrived for our Youth to attend the Higher Things' 'Twelve' conference in St. Catherine's Ontario. This is during the week of July 16th. Thanks to everyone who has supported us in preparing for this wonderful opportunity for our Youth. We have a total 9 Youth and 2 chaperones going. Please keep them all in your prayers as they travel that week.

Our second bake sale was successful and we were able to raise over \$300 toward travel costs for the trip this month. Thanks to Jenny and Amy and everyone who assisted the Youth.

There will be no meeting this month, but we hope to see you all during fellowship after services.

Thanks to everyone for your continuing support of the pop can drive, Spartan labels and the Green recycling project.

May the Spirit of the Lord be with you.

Jonathan Penzien

SALT/Ladies' Guild Second Time Around Sale!!

Our Second Time Around Sale will take place on **Friday, July 20th, 8:00 am - 6:00 pm** and **Saturday, July 21st, 8:00 am - 3:00 pm.**

All and any donations will be excepted. Please start bringing sale items and put them in the middle classroom on the west side of the Fellowship Hall. We will start to price items on July 16, so any items that could be at the church before then will be greatly appreciated.

Also, we need volunteers to help the days of the Sale and to assist in pricing beforehand. If you are available to help in either endeavor, please contact either Dorothy Trgina or Coaline Luplow. All help will be accepted!

SALT NEWS

SALT will not meet during June, July or August. We will resume meeting in September.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Please see our Meeting Minutes on the SALT Bulletin Board

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

This is an ongoing outreach for the SALT Committee. If you know of a person in the armed forces who is serving abroad, please contact Carolyn Johnson (email ckj1969@yahoo.com).

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

We will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, July 16 to carpool to Shepherd and have lunch at 1:30 pm at Fireside Grill at Maple Creek Golf Club in Shepherd. Please see the menu posted with the signup sheet on our bulletin board. 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 the Fellowship Hall. We have a wonderful time together. Please join us!

Table Talk

Our Table Talks are informal and informative discussions with Pastor Messer on various topics decided by the group in attendance. Table Talk is a great time to take advantage of the opportunity to ask any questions you may have. Plus, THEY'RE FUN! Table Talk will take a break for the summer and will resume in September. Be sure to check the September Peace Post for the details.



PEACE NEWS & NOTES Cont'd

PEACE BOOK CLUB

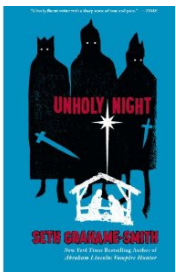
The Book Club met on June 12 and had a lively discussion of *The Knight of Rhodes* by Bo Giertz. At that meeting we decided to choose four books to read during the summer and resume our discussions in September.



The four choices are: *Mrs. Kennedy and Me* by Clint Hill, the Secret Service agent



assigned to Jacqueline Kennedy from 1960-1964; *Once Upon a River* by Bonnie Jo Campbell, an up and coming Michigan author who writes about life on the Kalamazoo River; *The*



Constantine Codex, a thriller by Dr. Paul L. Meier, a much-published Lutheran author and professor of ancient history at Western Michigan University; and *Unholy Night*, a fictional account (historical revisionism) of the lives of The Three Wise Men by Seth Grahame-Smith, the author of the *New York Times* bestselling *Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter*.



As you can see, this is quite an eclectic group of books. There should be something for everyone here! Tentatively, we set the next meeting for **September 18 at 7:00 pm at Pastor Messer's home**. Check the September Peace Post for more information closer to that date.

REMEMBERING OUR SHUT-INS

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

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

Vivian Strom
Masonic Pathways
1200 Wright Avenue
Alma, MI 48801

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

Marion Greening
1025 Vassar Street
Alma, MI 48801

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

PEACE MEMBERS TELEPHONE DIRECTORY UPDATE

We will be publishing a new church directory in August this year. Please review the sample directory that is now on display in the fellowship hall and write on the display directory any updates, additions, corrections, etc. If you would prefer emailing the information, please send to Mary at contact@peacealma.org. Deadline is August 12, 2012.

Thank you.

PEACE NEWS & NOTES Cont'd



Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®
Let's thrive!

Thrivent Choice Dollars

As you have heard at Voters' Assemblies and read in previous newsletters, Peace is now a recipient of Thrivent Choice Dollars. We receive these funds monthly from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. The amount we receive is based on the amount of qualified products owned by our members who also have asked Thrivent to direct their Choice Dollars to Peace.

During 2012 we have been able to match the fundraising efforts of three projects. The Ladies' Guild received \$250 to reimburse the Memorial Fund; PYG, \$500 to match proceeds from bake sales and help fund their Higher Things trip; and The Anniversary Committee, \$500 towards the November 11 celebration. The fund is mostly depleted at this time, but will slowly be growing with monthly deposits from Thrivent.

If you are a Thrivent member and are interested in directing funds to Peace, please contact Carol Zeile. **Also, if you have directed Choice Dollars to Peace in the past, you may need to reapply to do so.** Also check with Carol if you are unsure. There are pamphlets available at Peace that will guide you through this process.



JULY

Happy Birthday

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

AUGUST

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 4 Bill Reichardt | 29 Jeanette Bigelow |
| 5 Phillip Schafer | 29 Michael Harrison |
| 7 Bill Hendrick | 25 Chris Brown |
| 10 Jennie Harmon | 29 Amy Lesinger |
| 20 Megan Brown | 31 Jonathan Penzien |

Happy Anniversary

JULY

- 7 Mary and David Girard
- 13 Gabriel and Amy Blair
- 20 Jonathan and Debra Penzien
- 22 John and Amanda Row
- 31 Art and Cassie Tennant

AUGUST

- 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.

**REGULAR MEETING
PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL**

Date: May 1, 2012
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Peace Lutheran Church
325 Warwick Dr.
Alma, MI 48801

MINUTES

Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- Vice President Hill called the meeting to order at 6:34pm. Pastor Messer opened with prayer. The following members were present: Ken Hill, Carol Zeile, Carolyn Johnson, Larry Elliott, Gabe Blair and Cassie Tennant. Dave Zeile arrived late. Pastor Messer was also present.

Approval of Agenda

- Motion made by Carolyn Johnson, supported by Carol Zeile to approve the amended agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Carol Zeile, supported by Ken Hill, to approve minutes. Motion carried unanimously

Report(s)

- **Pastor** – Full report attached
- **Treasurer's Report** – No report
- **Financial Secretary** – Full report attached
- **Board of Elders** –continuing to visit Shut-ins,
- **Board of Trustees** – No report
- **Board of Christian Education** – No report
- **Board to Evangelism** - last meeting was May 31st
- **Board of Stewardship** – meeting on May 29th, discussed a letter being drafted quarterly to the congregation, the letter will encompass the financial secretary's report

Business

- **Christian Care Fund-** Motion by Carol Zeile to change the savings account of the Christian Care Fund to an esavings to save on the fee and no longer have a minimum. Motion also includes to give Cassie Tennant access to the account for the Christian Care Fund, including online access to the Christian Care Fund only. Motion was supported by Larry Elliott, and passed unanimously.
- **Michigan District Convention-** Expenses for the Michigan convention were not budgeted, but will be incurred this year. Estimate costs for Gabe, Amy, and Pastor will be approximately \$650; \$150 has been donated towards this expense. Expenses will be posted to office expense since the office expenses should be under budget for this year.

General Comments

- Ikon contract is wrapped up and done. Xerox machine is working great. Canon not posted on Craig's List yet. Will get that done this week

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

- Motion made by Carolyn Johnson, supported by Larry Elliott, adjourn at 8:10pm. Motion carried unanimously. Pastor Messer closed with Prayer and Benediction

**Respectfully submitted,
Cassie Tennant, Secretary**

**REGULAR MEETING
PEACE LUTHERAN VOTERS' ASSEMBLY**

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

MINUTES

Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- President Zeile called the meeting to order at 11:08am. Pastor Messer led us in prayer. There were 35 members present

Approval of Agenda

- Motion by President Zeile, supported by Cassie Tennant to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes regular meeting January 22, 2012

- Motion by Miguel Ortiz supported by Megan Brown to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously

Report(s)

- **Pastor** – Dick and Joyce Kohler transferred, 3 more members starting with the possibility of 2 more transfers
- **Treasurer**- Report is attached, one additional note that we are expecting an \$1100 refund coming from Lutheran Benefits
- **Financial Secretary**- Quarterly reports are in the mailboxes, full report is attached

Boards

- **Board of Elders** – continuing to visit shut-ins, contacting inactive members, and continuing with studies
- **Board of Trustees** – wind damage to the roof to be repaired,
- **Board of Christian Education** – VBS is the week of June 18th, Sunday school ends June 3rd
- **Board of Evangelism**- next meeting is May 31st at 6:30pm, planning a movie night, bonfire night, and a day at the beach instead of camping week-end
- **Board of Stewardship** – next meeting is May 24th at 7pm

Organization and Committee Reports

- **Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild** – Collection of personal care kits through June 30th
- **Peace Youth Group**- Planning and fundraising for Higher Things Conference, Green Recycling fundraiser
- **50th Anniversary Celebration** – Planning the celebration has begun, scheduled for November 11th. Meeting May 26th at 7pm. Any donations for the event should be given to Carol Zeile

Business

- ♦ **Selling the Land** – Motion made by Larry Elliott, supported by Megan Brown to lower the price of the land to \$435,000. Discussion of motion. Motion made by Miguel, supported by Megan, to call to question, all discussion ended. Motion to lower the price to \$435,000 was passed.
- ♦ **Mission Box/Collection Cans** – Collection cans are available in the fellowship hall. Once the can is full, or when you want to bring it in, there is a mission box on the back wall where the coins/donations can be deposited. All funds will go to supporting the missions.

General Comment

- ♦ **Handicap renovation** – want this to be done by November 11th.
- ♦ **Cleaning the church** – we are in need of volunteers to help clean the church, need donations of cleaning supplies too. If you can help out please see Marlene Miller.
- ♦ **Read the newsletter** – Carol Zeile is our new Peace Post Editor. There are a lot of announcements published in the newsletter.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

- ♦ Motion by Jon Penizen, supported by Megan Brown, to adjourn at Noon. Motion passed unanimously. Pastor closed with Prayer and Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Tennant, Secretary

Ladies' Guild

Ladies Guild Meeting

Our Ladies Guild will meet on **Wednesday, September 5, at 12:00 pm.** All Ladies of the congregation are invited to attend our Guild meetings. If you are a confirmed female member of Peace, you are a member of Guild. We would sincerely encourage you to participate and be an active member of the Guild.

PLC Women's Prayer Chain

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

Altar Flowers

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

PEACE LUTHERAN LADIES GUILD

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



- 4- 70 SHEET NOTEBOOKS
- 1- 30 CENTIMETER RULER
- 1- PENCIL SHARPENER
- 1 - BLUNT SCISSORS
- 5- PENCILS
- 5- BALLPOINT PENS
- 1 BOX CRAYONS 16 -24 COUNT
- 1 2 1/2 " ERASER

ONE STURDY DRAWSTRING BACKPACK-STYLE CLOTH BAG APPROXIMATELY 14 X 17 WITH SHOULDER STRAPS

COLLECTION DATES:
JULY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30

PEACE LADIES GUILD COOKBOOK

Cookbooks are available for \$13.00 and can be purchased during fellowship time from any member of the Guild. Please see Coaline Luplow with any questions.

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



- 1 Carol Zeile
- 8 Peace Youth Group
- 15 Dorothy Trgina
- 22 Coaline Luplow
- 29 Amy Blair

August

Altar Care

Carol Zeile

Coffee Hostesses

- 5 Gretchen Harrison
- 12 Cassie Tennant
- 19 M. Miller/C. Dargie
- 26 Y.Elenbaas/M. Girard

September

M. Miller/C. Dargie

- 2 Jennie Harmon
- 9 Janice Sager
- 16 Peace Youth Group
- 23 Carolyn Johnson
- 30 Jenny Baughmann

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT PEACE

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

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

Together in the Word

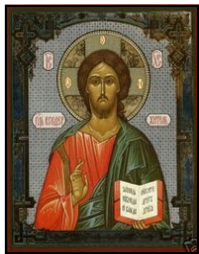
- We meet every **Thursday at 10:00 a.m.** We are currently studying *2 Samuel*. All are welcome to join us!

Wednesday Bible Study

- Meets every Wednesday at 6 pm for a study of *Acts*.

First Communion and Confirmation Classes

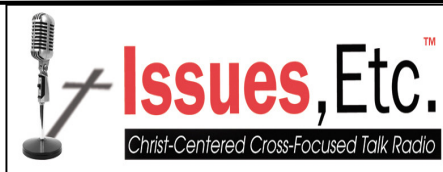
- First Communion Classes take place as arranged (see Pastor Messer if interested); Confirmation Class for our 1st-year Confirmands will resume in September.



PASTOR MESSER IS BLOGGING!

www.abideinmyword.blogspot.com

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



TALK RADIO FOR THE THINKING CHRISTIAN!

Listen to what you want, when you want, at:
www.issuesetc.org

PAROCHIAL REPORT (as of 6/30/12)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 138; Confirmed - 118

Membership gains: 0

Membership losses: 0

Financial Report as of 6/30/2012

YTD Budgeted.....\$56,602

YTD Receipts.....\$51,369

Difference.....- \$5233

Vacation Bible School

13 children attended VBS and all had a great time.

Thanks to the following volunteers:

Pastor--Opening, Closing Worship, teacher

Coaline Luplow--Teacher

Cassie Tennant--Teacher

Sally Pease--Snack helper

Jenny Baughman--Crafts

Mary Jakolat--Music

Jonathan Penzien--Recreation

Tyrel Harwager--Recreation assistant

Sierra Luplow--Puppeteer, teacher assistant

Natalie Penzien--Puppeteer, teacher assistant

Dave Zeile--Grill master

Megan Brown, Lisa Messer, Andrea Elliott, Sally Pease,
Lois Ramsey, Dorothy Wiser, Phyllis Hill--Providers of
cookies, snacks and picnic items



Also, please plan ahead for Sunday School classes to resume on Sept. 9, followed by a Rally Day picnic.

Peace 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee



The 50th Anniversary Committee is hard at work making plans to celebrate this blessed event. If you know any past members of Peace or others who you know would like to attend the celebration, please contact Jo Wendt or Mary Jakolat. They are working along with Marion Greening to prepare as complete a guest list as possible. Also, if you have any pictures of past events at Peace and would like to share them for decorating purposes (you will get them back), please date them and give them to Coaline Luplow or Sharyn Greening.

We are still in need of funds to provide this important celebration in the life of our congregation. The Committee is working to prepare a budget so that we will have a better idea of how much is needed. Donations in any amount will be very much appreciated.

At our meeting on May 22, we began the following list of items that would need to be purchased in order to prepare for/implement the celebration. We will add to this list as the plans progress. Hopefully this will give you an idea of where the money will go and that many of you will be willing to contribute to this project:

- Invitations
- Postage
- Special anniversary cake
- Table and room decorations
- Table/linens rental
- Meat for the meal
- Painting
- Restroom renovations to provide accessibility








In addition to funds, we also need volunteers to help with preparations and on the day of the celebration, **November 11, 2012**. If you are willing to help, please contact any of the committee members listed below

The Committee will continue to meet as needed to plan and prepare. We need the help of as many as possible in order to make the celebration great. If you have questions or can help in any way, please contact one of the following Committee members: Amy Blair, Sharyn Greening, Coaline Luplow, Pastor Messer, Dorothy Trgina, Jo Wendt and Carol Zeile.

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

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

July 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Trinity 4</i> 9:30 am - Divine Service 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - BC 	2	3	4	5 <i>NO Together in Word</i> 5 pm - Weight Watchers	6	7
8 <i>Trinity 5</i> 9:30 am - Divine Service 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - BC 	9	10 6:30 pm - Council	11 6 pm - Bible Study (Acts) 7 pm - Divine Service <i>The Visitation</i> 	12 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers	13	14
15 <i>Trinity 6</i> 9:30 am - Divine Service 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - BC 	16 1:00 pm Ladies' Lunch Bunch	17	18	19	20	21 8:00 am - 3:00 pm Second Time Around Sale
22 <i>St. Mary Magdalene</i> 9:30 am - Divine Serv. 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - Voters' Assembly 	23	24 7 pm - Stewardship	25 6 pm - Bible Study (Acts) 7 pm - Divine Service <i>St. James the Elder, Apostle</i> 	26 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers	27	28
29 <i>Trinity 8</i> 9:30 am - Divine Service 10:45 am - Fellowship 	30	31				

Peace Youth Group at Higher Things Conference in St. Catharines, ON

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
 325 E. Warwick Drive
 Alma, MI 48801
 (989) 463-5754
 contact@peacealma.org
 www.peacealma.org

August 2012

Sun

Mon








Tue

Wed

Thu

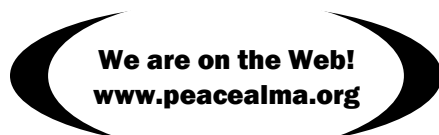
Fri

Sat

			1	2	3	4
<i>Pastor Messer on Vacation</i>						
5 <i>Trinity 9</i> 9:30 am - Divine Service 10:45 am - Fellowship 			8	9	10	11
<i>Pastor Messer on Vacation</i>						
12 <i>Trinity 10</i> 9:30 am - Divine Service 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - BC 		6:30 pm - Council	15 6 pm - Bible Study (Acts) 7 pm - Divine Service <i>St. Mary, Mother of our Lord</i> 	16 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers	17	18
19 <i>Trinity 11</i> 9:30 am - Divine Service 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - BC 	20 <i>Newsletter articles due</i>	21	22 6 pm - Bible Study (Acts) 7 pm - Divine Service <i>St. Bartholomew, Apostle</i> 	23 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers	24	25
26 <i>Trinity 12</i> 9:30 am - Divine Service 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - BC 	27	28 7 pm - Stewardship	29 6 pm - Bible Study (Acts) 7 pm - Divine Service <i>Mart. of St. John the Baptist (Obs.)</i> 	30 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers	31	

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

Church: 989-463-5754
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/August

July	ELDERS	ACOLYTES	USHERS	GREETERS
1 - 9:30 am (Trinity 4)	Larry Elliott	Natalie Penzien Savannah Blair	Tyrel Harwager Jonathan Penzien	Sharyn Greening
8 - 9:30 am (Trinity 5)	Terry Luplow	Sierra Luplow Paige Harwager	Chris Brown James Sager	Lillian Manns Lois Ramsey
15 - 9:30 am (Trinity 6)	Miguel Ortiz	Myka Luplow Aaron Messer	Daren Johnson Gary Miller	Terry & Coaline Luplow
22 - 9:30 am (St. Mary Magdalene)	Gabriel Blair	Morgan Johnson Georgie Bebow	Miguel Ortiz John Lemmermann	Messer Family
29 - 9:30 am (Trinity 8)	Larry Elliott	Farrah Blair Natalie Penzien	Vern Jakolat Gabriel Blair	Helen Meyers
August				
5 - 9:30 am (Trinity 9)	Terry Luplow	Sierra Luplow Savannah Blair	Chris Brown Tyrel Harwager	Miguel & Sue Ortiz
12 - 9:30 am (Trinity 10)	Miguel Ortiz	Myka Luplow Paige Harwager	Terry Luplow Jonathan Penzien	James & Janice Sager
19 - 9:30 am (Trinity 11)	Gabriel Blair	Aaron Messer Morgan Johnson	James Sager Daren Johnson	Dorothy Trgina
26 - 9:30 am (Trinity 12)	Larry Elliott	Farrah Blair Georgie Bebow	Miguel Ortiz Gary Miller	Blair Family
September				
2 - 9:30 am (Trinity 13)	Terry Luplow	Sierra Luplow Natalie Penzien	John Lemmerman Vern Jakolat	Dave & Carol Zeile

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