

# The Peace Post

Peace Lutheran Church ~ Alma, MI

Vol. 9, No. 9, September 2013

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 "Subject to None, yet Subject to All"

If you have never read Martin Luther's *On the Freedom of a Christian*, I highly recommend that you instantly stop what you're doing, get a copy, and read it. Okay, so maybe that's a bit much to ask, but you really should give this little treatise by Dr. Luther a read, since he does a masterful job of handling that timeless struggle endured by

all Lutherans, who, on the one hand, rightly confess that good works profit nothing toward our salvation, but, on the other hand, rightly confess that good works are necessary all the same.

Dr. Luther begins his treatise by stating:

*A Christian is the freest lord of all, subject to none.*

*A Christian is the most dutiful servant of all, subject to all.*

On the surface, these two statements seem contradictory. How can a Christian be simultaneously subject to none and subject to all? The answer to that question, according to Dr. Luther, flows from the understanding of another apparent contradiction regarding the nature of the Christian, namely that a Christians is *simul iustus et peccator*, that is, simultaneously just (righteous; a saint) and sinful (unrighteous; a sinner). Or, as you learned it in Dr. Luther's *Small Catechism*, Christians are made up of an Old Adam (sinful flesh) and a New Man (regenerated spirit). For as long as Christians dwell in this sinful world, the Old Adam remains in them, waging war against the New Man they've been given through Holy Spirit-wrought faith in Christ. This makes the Christian life a constant struggle. Far from being a blessed, happy life, free from trials and tribulations, which many a false prophet on the scene today teaches, the Christian life is an ongoing war, which is fought internally, as the Old Adam and New Man daily duke it out for control of the Christian.

That's all well and good, you say. You've heard all that before. But, there is a danger here, O Christian, and that danger is in treating all of this as though it were nothing more than abstract, theological mumbo-jumbo; as if none of it really means anything concrete to you as you live your life in this vale of tears. That's why I heartily recommend that you give Dr. Luther's treatise a read, since he will show you how all of this should have a significant impact on how you live your life in this world as a Christian.

A Christian is the freest lord of all, subject to none, according to the New Man, which is given to the Christian purely by grace when the Holy Spirit works faith in Jesus Christ, through the Word of God. The New Man in the Christian is perfect, 100% righteous, in need of absolutely no improvement. The New Man in the Christian is perfectly holy and in perfect communion with the will of God. The New Man in the Christian always and only wants to do, and does, the will of God. The

New Man in the Christian is perfectly obedient to God. Thus, the New Man in the Christian is the freest lord of all, for he lives and reigns with Christ Himself. The New Man in the Christian is subject to none; the Law does not apply to the New Man, for the New Man is perfect. And, because the New Man is perfect, he need not be exhorted to do a single good work, for all that the New Man does is good.

Dr. Luther concludes this section of his treatise by saying, *“Let this be said concerning the inward man, concerning his liberty, and concerning the chief righteousness of faith, which has need of neither laws nor good works. They are even harmful to it, if anyone presumes to be justified by them.”*

But, then he goes on to write this to introduce the second part of his treatise, which is vitally important, so pay attention, dear Christian:

*“Now let us turn to the second part, to the outward man. For here we shall give an answer to all those who take offense at the Word of faith. At what has been said, they say, ‘If faith does everything and is enough for righteousness on its own, then why are good works commanded? We therefore shall remain idle and do no works, being content with faith.’ I reply: Not so, godless men, not so. That would really be the case, to be sure, if we were thoroughly and completely inward and spiritual. That will not happen until the last day of the resurrection of the dead. As long as we live in the flesh, we are doing nothing but beginning and making progress in that which shall be completed in the life to come. On account of that, the apostle in Romans 8:23 calls what we have in this life the firstfruits of the Spirit. For we shall have the tithes and the fullness of the Spirit in the future. To this part relates what has been stated above, that the Christian is the servant of all and subject to all. **For in that part in which he is free, he does no works. But in that part in which he is a servant, he does all works**” (emphases mine).*

Everything that was summarized about the New Man above is the complete opposite of what pertains to the Old Adam. The Old Adam in the Christian is sinful, 100% unrighteous, in need of constant chastisement. The Old Adam in the Christian never wants to do, and never does, the will of God. The Old Adam in the Christian is not in communion with God, but with the devil. The Old Adam in the Christian is greedy and selfish, caring only for his own wants and desires. Thus, the Old Adam in the Christian is in constant need of the Law and the exhortation to do good works.

Again, the danger here for us is to treat all of this as just so much theological mumbo-jumbo. We shouldn’t. It’s not. The other danger here for us is to just throw up our hands and say, “I can’t do anything about this dual reality within me, so why bother trying?” That’s not true, either. As Dr. Luther notes in the quote above, the only way that would be true is “if we were thoroughly and completely inward and spiritual,” which is something that won’t happen “until the last day.” But, here we are, still in the flesh and still in this sinful world, and because of that, we need the Law and the exhortation to do good works. We need to continually strive to discipline ourselves, subdue our bodies, and crucify our flesh with all its sinful desires.

“Good works do not make a good man, but a good man does good works, even as bad works do not make a bad man, but a bad man does bad works.” Without Christ, we can do no good thing. But, we do have Christ. We’ve been baptized into His death and resurrection. We’ve been covered in His blood, declared perfectly holy and righteous for His sake. We are forgiven of all sin each time we confess and receive the Holy Absolution, and each time we partake of Christ’s very body and blood in the Holy Supper. We have Christ, and with Him, we do have the power to subdue our flesh and do good works.

But, you immediately answer: Yes, but we remain sinners, and the ability to subdue our flesh and do good works is severely limited by this fact. Yes, yes, it is. But, this is no reason to throw in the towel, is it? If a drowning man is rescued by another man who throws him a life preserver, how absurd would it be for him to purposely jump back in the water in the hope of being rescued again? No, that man, once safely on the boat, would give ample thanks to the man who rescued him and do his sound best to avoid falling in the water again.

So it should be with the Christian. You have been rescued by Christ. You are saved. You have been safely brought into the Ark of Christ’s Church, whisked out of the drowning waters of this sinful world. Will you purposely and intentionally jump back into those waters? Will you dare Christ to rescue you time and time again? How foolish would that be? No, a Christian must strive to stay safely in the Ark of Christ’s Church.

The Good News—the fantastic and unbelievable, except through Holy Spirit-wrought faith, Good News—is that

Christ always stands at the ready to throw you the life preserver of His Holy and Saving Word and Sacraments, so that when you do inevitably fall into the drowning waters of this sinful world, He is there to rescue you time and time again. But, again, it does not follow from this that you would purposely and intentionally jump into those drowning waters and dare Christ to save you. To do so would be to treat Christ's work of salvation as a mockery; to spit upon Him, scourge Him, and crucify Him anew.

No, dear Christian, while you are the freest lord of all, subject to none, you remain the most dutiful servant of all, subject to all, in this life. You are free in Christ, already made perfect by being clothed in His holiness and righteousness. The Law does not apply to you. It's been fulfilled by Christ. Good works do not apply to you. You have all the good works you need, for you have the perfect works of Jesus credited to you. You cannot improve upon perfection and, in Christ, you are perfect. But, that perfection, already yours through faith in Christ, is not yet realized. You're still in the flesh. Your Old Adam remains, which means you still need to hear the Law. You still need to be exhorted to do good works. You need to fight, to strive, to wage war against your flesh, seeking to give the New Man in you the upper hand in his daily brawl with the Old Adam. So, you pray. You hear the Word. You receive the Sacraments. You are led to repentance by the Holy Spirit through the preaching of the Law, and to faith in Christ by the same Holy Spirit through the preaching of the Gospel, which assures you that all your sins are forgiven, and that you have eternal life and everlasting salvation, through Jesus Christ. And, motivated by that precious Gospel, you love and serve God and neighbor.

Do you see it? A Christian is not idle. Christianity is not a mere belief system; it is a way of life. It is no coincidence that Christianity was first referred to as "The Way." As Dr. Luther famously put it, "We are saved by faith alone, but faith is never alone. Faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing." Faith works. Faith strives. Faith does. Faith does not sit idly by and bask in itself. Faith lives and breathes and loves and works. Faith doesn't ask, "Do I have to do good works?" Faith just does them. Good works flow from living and active faith.

So, there is an order. First, faith. Then, love. Finally, works. Always in that order. Faith must come first, for without faith, there can be no God-pleasing love or works. And, the love and works that flow from faith have nothing to do with your salvation, for your salvation is already secured. Neither are they directed toward God, for He doesn't need them. The love and works that flow from faith are for your neighbors, the people our Lord puts into your path as you live out your various vocations in this world.

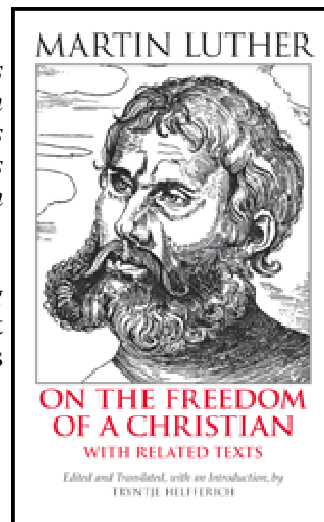
And that faith, dear friends, needs to be fed and nourished and exercised and disciplined. For without such, it can easily wither up and die. Thus, the need in all of this for the continual refreshment that comes from the Holy Word and Sacraments. "Your Word is a lamp to my feet, [O Lord], and a light to my path" (Ps. 119:105). Christians live to and from the Word of God; to and from the baptismal font; to and from the pulpit; to and from the holy altar, where they receive the very Body and Blood of the Word of God Himself, and are strengthened and preserved in the faith—the faith that lives and breathes and loves and works.

As I said at the onset, if you haven't read Dr. Luther's *On the Freedom of a Christian*, you really should. He has much more to say than what I've summarized here. His treatise is every bit as applicable today as when he penned it, and will help you to understand that all this talk about faith and works, the New Man and Old Adam, being subject to none and subject to all at the same time, is not just so much theological mumbo-jumbo, but the way of life for Christians. I'll let Dr. Luther have the last word:

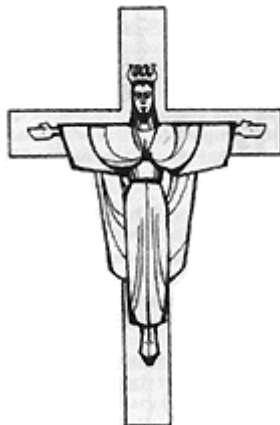
*"And so we conclude that a Christian does not live in himself, but in Christ and in his neighbor, or else he is not a Christian: in Christ through faith, in his neighbor through love. Through faith, he is caught up above himself into God. Through love, he sinks back down below himself into his neighbor, though always remaining in God and His love, as Christ says in John 1:51, 'Amen, I say to you, from now on you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'"*

[CPH has a wonderful new edition of this, titled, *Christian Freedom: Faith Working through Love—A Reader's Edition*, which you can find at [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org). But, if you can't wait, just Google "Luther On the Freedom of a Christian" and you will find copies of this printed online. Seriously, give it a read!]

Your Servant in Christ,  
*Pastor Messer*



# **The Sixteenth Annual St. Michael Liturgical Conference**



**Monday, September 30  
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Detroit, Michigan**

## **Registration**

The registration fee is \$40 before September 15. After September 15, the registration fee is \$50. The registration fee includes the cost of the conference, distribution materials, and lunch. Lodging, if applicable, is separate.

## **Schedule**

8:15 a.m.	Registration
9:00 a.m.	Holy Communion
10:45 a.m.	Keynote Address
12:00 p.m.	Sext (Service of Prayer)
12:15 p.m.	Luncheon (Greetings from Bp. Stecholz)
1:15 p.m.	Workshop
2:30 p.m.	Break
2:45 p.m.	Workshop
4:00 p.m.	Vespers
till 7:00 p.m.	Gemütlichkeit (Fellowship time)

## **“That We May Obtain This Faith”**

“That we may obtain this faith, the Ministry of preaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments was instituted.” The Confessors assert that the faith described in the Chief Article (Augsburg Confession IV) is obtained through the Preaching Office. Fr. David Petersen (Redeemer Lutheran, Fort Wayne, IN) will be this year’s keynote speaker and will examine the incarnational nature of the Preaching Office as that Office through which saving faith is brought to the Christian.

*This conference is for all clergy and laypersons who are interested in learning more about the historic liturgy of the Church. If that means you, you are more than welcome to attend! Registration forms can be found on the table in the fellowship hall. If you have questions about this conference, feel free to talk to me. I have been blessed to attend this most excellent conference 10 times and could not recommend it more highly. The beauty of the Divine Service and other Prayer Offices is simply heavenly, and the information shared in the Keynote Address and Workshops comes from expert theologians. It would be wonderful to have some of you attend with me!*

*In Christ,  
Pastor Messer*

## **My Personal Relationship with Jesus (or, Why I Don't Need to Go to Church)**

I've heard this reasoning given so many times by people who consider themselves Christians, but who don't go to church: "I have my own personal relationship with Jesus. I don't need to go to church."

Really? Can you point me to where that is taught in Holy Scripture? I mean, if this is true, then there's a whole lot of us wasting our time. If I can have my own personal relationship with Jesus, which frees me from having to join, or attend, a church, there's lots of other stuff I could do on Sunday mornings. Golf, for one. Yard work, for another. Or, just plain old sleeping in. That'd be cool. Please, point me to where this teaching is in Holy Scripture, that I might rid myself of this time-wasting activity of going to church.

What? You can't point me to where this is taught in Scripture? This is just what you believe, and you have no other basis for that belief other than your own personal opinion on the matter? Oh, well, in that case, I think I'll just keep going to church then. I mean, Jesus established His church, so He obviously seems to think it's pretty important. Not only that, but Jesus promises to be Present in His church. Not only that, but there is not a single promise given by Jesus to save sinners, or keep them saved, which is not connected to His church. Not only that, but Jesus, in fact, teaches against this "personal relationship" stuff, stating unequivocally that Christians belong to a communion, or fellowship. Not only that . . .

"Oh, really, smart guy! Why don't you show me in Holy Scripture where all of that is taught!"

Well, I wasn't finished. There's lots more I could say. But, since you asked, here's a few Scripture passages on the matter, in no particular order, off the top of my head: Heb. 10:24-25; Matt. 18:20; Prov. 27:17; Exod. 20:8; Heb. 13:17; Rom. 10:17; Acts 2:42; Ps. 133:1-3; Heb. 3:13; 1 Cor. 12:12; Rom. 12:1; Ps. 84:10; Ps. 11:1-7; 2 Tim. 3:16; Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 12:27; Matt. 18:19; Ps. 23; Matt. 28:18-20. Actually, I could simply respond by saying that the entire Bible, both Old and New Testaments, teaches the importance of being gathered together in the sacred assembly (congregation, church), where God Himself visits His people to teach them His Word, lead them to repentance and faith, and feed them upon His grace, mercy, and love. In fact, there's not a single instance anywhere in Scripture where God teaches, or condones, this idea of having a personal relationship with Him apart from the communion of saints, for our God is a God who locates Himself, and . . .

"See, now I know you're wrong! God is omnipresent. He is everywhere!"

Again, you didn't let me finish. Yes, God is omnipresent. He is everywhere, but He is not everywhere "for you." He is not everywhere to save you. He is not everywhere to teach you and guide you. He is not everywhere to feed you and sustain you. He is not everywhere to bestow upon you His grace, mercy, and love. He is not everywhere to forgive you. He is not everywhere to give you life and salvation. He is not . . .

"So, you put your God in a box? My god is bigger than that! My god is everywhere to save me."

Well, I don't know your god. I'm talking about the God who reveals Himself in Scripture; the God who put Himself in the "box" of our human flesh to live, die, and rise again for us; the God who continues to put Himself in the "box" of His Holy Word and Sacraments, revealing to us exactly where He is Present among us to save us; the God who locates Himself . . .

"I know what you're going to say. He locates Himself in His church, but I don't buy it. I have my own personal relationship with Jesus, and I don't need to go to church!"

Can you show me where that is taught in Scripture? . . .

# Wednesdays at Peace

We are going to a different midweek schedule here at Peace, beginning on Wednesday, September 18. There will be no Wednesday or Thursday activities on September 4-5 and 11-12, as I will be spending time with my mom (and family) prior to, and following, her surgery on September 5 (I will be here for Divine Service on Sunday, September 8, if all goes well with her surgery). As of Wednesday, September 18, we will go to the following schedule, which involves moving our Thursday Bible Study ("Together in the Word") to Wednesdays as well:

9:30 am—Matins  
10:00 am—Bible Study  
11:45 am—Sext  
5:30 pm—Vespers  
6:00 pm—Bible Study  
7:00 pm—Divine Service  
10:00 pm—Compline

This is a very similar schedule to what we have used during Advent and Lent the past couple of years, and the Services throughout the day will be very similar, too—all of them being short, spoken Services. There is absolutely no expectation on my part that members will be able to regularly attend all of these Services, but they will be there for those who can, and wish to, attend any of them. And, I already pray some of these daily Prayer Services on my own at home, so it won't bother me if I find myself alone at the church for any of them.

The schedule I'm working on for these Services will follow the Daily Lectionary, which is in our LSB hymnal (p. 299ff.), for Matins and Vespers each Wednesday. So, on Wednesday, September 18, the readings for Matins will be Gen. 1:1-19 and Mark 1:1-3, and we'll pick them up again at Vespers, reading Gen. 1:20-2:3 and Mark 1:14-28. Each Wednesday, we'll pick up where we left off the previous week.

Also, we are going to pray the entire Psalter (all 150 Psalms) in a year, as we're going to pray the Psalms in consecutive order during all four Prayer Services each Wednesday (e.g. September 18—Matins: Ps. 1; Sext: Ps. 2; Vespers: Ps. 3; Compline: Ps. 4). We'll divide up some of the longer Psalms along the way, but we'll make sure to pray them all each year. Each month, I'll publish the schedule of readings and psalms for the current and next month here in the newsletter, so that, even if you can't make it to the Services on Wednesdays, you can still pray along with us on your own.

Anyway, that's the plan. Wednesdays at Peace will be fully devoted to prayer and study, and you are invited to join in whenever your schedule permits.

*Pastor Messer*



# PEACE NEWS & NOTES

## Advent Tea

It's never too early to mark your calendar for an important event! The S.A.L.T. committee of Peace Lutheran Church will host the Ladies Advent Tea for ladies of the congregation, their adult female family members, friends and neighbors on Tuesday, December 10, 2013, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. There is no charge for this event. This is a wonderful evening of the Word, music, and fellowship to help you prepare your hearts for the Advent season before the holidays get into full swing!

Want to ensure you have a seat at this year's Candlelight Advent Tea? Volunteer to be a table hostess and we will reserve a chair for you! Hostesses provide table settings, holiday decorations, candles and a dessert for a table of 8 ladies. Many partner with another lady to host a table. It is lots of fun, and requires only a few hours of your time for planning, baking (or buying) and decorating. If you want to host a table this year (or need more information before committing), please talk with Lisa Messer, Gretchen Harrison, Dorothy Trgina, or Lois Ramsey.

## SECRET PALS LUNCHEON

We will hold our annual Secret Pals Luncheon at Big Boy on Sunday, September 15 at 1:00 pm, where we will reveal who are secret pals were this past year! Hope all who participated are able to join us!

## PEACE PICK 'EM—NFL

We will commence with our "just for fun" Peace Pick 'Em on Sunday, September 8. Sheets to make your picks will be available each week, as in past years. Simply fill them out and get them back to Pr. Messer each week. Happy Picking!

## PEACE MOVIE NIGHT

**Friday, September 27**

**6:30 pm—Pizza**

**7:00 pm—Movie**

**(Bring movies; group will decide what to watch; bring snacks and comfy chairs, if you wish)**

**Hope to see you there!**

### Wednesdays at Peace

#### Schedule of Readings and Psalms

*This schedule of readings follows the Daily Lectionary in LSB (p. 299ff.), which is the same as that used in "Treasury of Daily Prayer." As you will note, some portions of the Old Testament readings are skipped, but the New Testament schedule will contain every verse. We will tweak the schedule in the hymnal in order to continue in a chronological fashion when the time comes (the Daily Lectionary jumps around, according to the season in the Church Year). The reading plan does not involve the Services of Sext and Compline, which have one or two short readings of their own, but they are included in our plan to pray the entire Psalter in a year, as indicated in the schedule.*

Date	Service	Readings	Psalms
9/18	Matins	Gn. 1:1-19; Mk. 1:1-13	1
	Sext		2
	Vespers	Gn. 1:20-2:3; Mk. 1:14-28	3
	Compline		4
9/25	Matins	Gn. 2:4-25; Mk. 1:29-45	5
	Sext		6
	Vespers	Gn. 3:1-24; Mk. 2:1-17	7
	Compline		8
10/2	Matins	Gn. 4:1-26; Mk. 2:18-28	9
	Sext		10
	Vespers	Gn. 6:1-7:5; Mk. 3:1-19	11
	Compline		12
10/9	Matins	Gn. 7:11-8:12; Mk. 3:20-35	13
	Sext		14
	Vespers	Gn. 8:13-9:17; Mk. 4:1-20	15
	Compline		16
10/16	Matins	Gn. 11:27-12:20; Mk. 4:21-41	17
	Sext		18:1-24
	Vespers	Gn. 13:1-18; Mk. 5:1-20	18:12-50
	Compline		19
10/23	Matins	Gn. 15:1-21; Mk. 5:21-43	20
	Sext		21
	Vespers	Gn. 16:1-9, 15-17:22; Mk. 6:1-13	22
	Compline		23
10/30	Matins	Gn. 18:1-15; Mk. 6:14-34	24
	Sext		25
	Vespers	Gn. 21:1-21; Mk. 6:35-56	26
	Compline		27

# PEACE NEWS & NOTES Cont'd



## SEPTEMBER Happy Birthday

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 3 Farah Blair      | 12 Josh Schafer   |
| 3 John Isaksson    | 14 Kim Penzien    |
| 5 Lisa Messer      | 20 Brenda Stroven |
| 11 Maxine Isaksson | 23 Dave Zeile     |
| 12 Abby Brown      |                   |

## Happy Anniversary

- 4 Bob and Jo Wendt  
8 Vern and Mary Jakolat  
12 Brian and Brenda Stroven  
19 Jim and Janice Sager

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

## LADIES' LUNCH BUNCH

For our fall start-up, we plan to go to the Fireside Grill in Shepherd on Monday, September 23, at 1:00 pm. Looking forward to getting together again. All Peace ladies are welcome. We would love to have you join us.

## SALT NEWS

Next SALT meeting will be held September 24, 2013, 6:30 p.m. at the church. We welcome anyone who would like to join us.

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

## SUPPORT FOR OUR TROOPS

This is an ongoing outreach for the SALT Committee. Please get in touch with Carolyn if you know of a person in the armed forces who is serving abroad. (email [ckj1969@yahoo.com](mailto:ckj1969@yahoo.com)).

## 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 Ave.  
Alma, MI 48801

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

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

## Peace Book Club

Our Peace Book Club was assigned four books to read over the summer: *Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck, *Q Road* by Bonnie Jo Campbell, *The Hit* by David Baldacci, and *Inferno* by Dan Brown. We will meet at Pastor Messer's house on Tuesday, September 17 at 7 pm to discuss those books and pick the next book to read. All are welcome to join us.



# Ladies' Guild

## Ladies Guild Meeting

Our Ladies Guild will break for the summer. Next meeting is **WEDNESDAY, September 4 at 12:00 pm.** with Lois Ramsey as hostess. 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 2013 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. 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 Coaline Luplow. Thank you for helping to beautify our chance!

## PEACE LUTHERAN LADIES GUILD



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

### SCHOOL KIT

- 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 ½ " 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 \$10.00 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.



### September

Carol Zeile



- 1 Carol Zeile
- 8 Jenny Baughman
- 15 S.Greening/M.Brown
- 22 Dorothy Trgina

### October

#### Altar Care

Coaline Luplow

#### Coffee Hostesses

- 6 Amy Blair
- 13 Lois Ramsey
- 20 Y.Elenbaas/M.Girard
- 27 Reformation

### November

Carol Zeile

- 3 Andrea Elliott
- 10 Gretchen Harrison
- 17 M.Isaksson/H.Meyers
- 24 Katie Logan-Dinco

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT PEACE

## Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

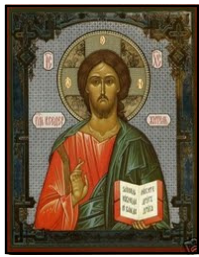
- Sunday School and Adult Bible Class (currently studying *Revelation*) is offered on **Sundays at 11:15 a.m.** Sunday School begins this year on September 8.

## Wednesday Bible Studies

- Per our new “Wednesdays at Peace” schedule, we will have two Bible Studies, the first at 10:00 am (*2 Kings*), and the second at 6:00 pm (just finished *Acts* and will begin a study of *Isaiah* on September 18).

## First Communion and Confirmation Classes

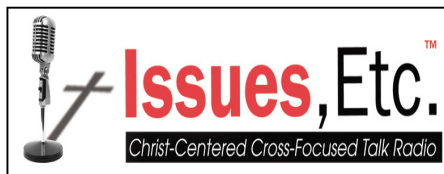
- First Communion Classes take place as arranged (see Pastor Messer if interested); there are currently no first or second year confirmands this year.



### PASTOR MESSER IS BLOGGING!

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

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



### TALK RADIO FOR THE THINKING CHRISTIAN!

Listen to what you want, when you want, at:  
[www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org)

### PAROCHIAL REPORT

(as of 8/31/13)

#### Membership at Peace

Baptized - 141; Confirmed - 116

Membership gains: 0

Membership losses: 2

*Thomas and Sally Pease - Transferred to Faith  
Lutheran in Prescott, MI (8/28)*

#### Financial Report through 8/31/13

YTD Budgeted.....\$73,950.00

YTD Receipts.....\$65,684.26

Difference.....-\$8,265.74

## SUNDAY SCHOOL AND RALLY DAY PICNIC

On September 8 we will begin another Sunday School year. The students will be studying from the Pax Domini Press, A.D. The Acceptable Year of the Lord. This program teaches the Gospels for the day in the historic lectionary. The teachers for this year and their grade levels are as follows:

Andrea Elliott: pre-school - grade 2

Larry Elliott: grades 3-5

Sharyn Greening: grades 6-8

Jon Penzien: grades 9-12

*(Installation of Sunday School Teachers  
during Divine Service on Sept. 8)*






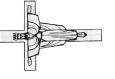
We will have a **Rally Day potluck** following Sunday School on **September 8**. Beverages and table service will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass.

Plan ahead! The children's Christmas Program will take place on Wednesday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m.

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

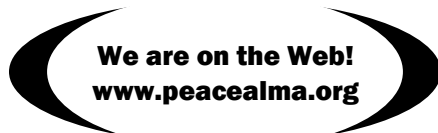
Peace Lutheran Church  
325 E. Warwick Drive  
Alma, MI 48801  
(989) 463-5754  
contact@peacealma.org  
www.peacealma.org

# September 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <i>Trinity 14</i> <b>9:30 am - Divine Service</b> 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - BC 	<b>2</b> 	<b>3</b> 7:00 pm - Council	<b>4</b> Noon - Ladies' Guild <i>No Bible Study or Divine Service</i>	<b>5</b> 5 pm - Weight Watchers	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <i>Trinity 15</i> 8:30 am - Choir Practice <b>9:30 am - Divine Service</b> 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - SS & BC 12:30 Rally Day Potluck 	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <i>No Bible Study or Divine Service</i>	<b>12</b> 5 pm - Weight Watchers	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <i>Trinity 16</i> <b>9:30 am - Divine Service</b> 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - SS & BC 1:00 pm - Secret Pals Luncheon @ Big Boy 	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7:00 pm - Peace Book Club @ Pr. Messer's house	<b>18</b> 9:30—Matins 10:00—Bible Study 11:45—Sext 5:30—Vespers 6:00—Bible Study 7:00—DS (St. Matthew) 10:00—Compline	<b>19</b> 5 pm - Weight Watchers	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <i>Trinity 17</i> 8:30 am - Choir Practice <b>9:30 am - Divine Service</b> 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - SS & BC 	<b>23</b> 1:00 p.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch	<b>24</b> 6:30 pm - SALT Meeting	<b>25</b> 9:30—Matins 10:00—Bible Study 11:45—Sext 5:30—Vespers 6:00—Bible Study 7:00—DS (St. Cleopas) 10:00—Compline	<b>26</b> 5 pm - Weight Watchers	<b>27</b> Peace Movie Night 6:30—Pizza 7:00—Movie	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <i>Trinity 18</i> 8:30 am - Choir Practice <b>9:30 am - Divine Service</b> 10:45 am - Fellowship 11:15 am - SS & BC 	<b>30</b> St. Michael Liturgical Conference in Detroit 	<b>October 1</b> 7:00 pm - Council	<b>2</b> 9:30—Matins 10:00—Bible Study 11:45—Sext 5:30—Vespers 6:00—Bible Study 7:00—DS (St. Hannah) 10:00—Compline	<b>3</b> 5 pm - Weight Watchers	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

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

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



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

## *Serving in September*

	ELDERS	ACOLYTES	USHERS	GREETERS
<b>September</b>				
<b>1 - 9:30 am</b> <i>Trinity 14</i>	Terry Luplow	Natalie Penzien Aaron Messer	Daren Johnson Gabriel Blair	Lillian Manns Lois Ramsey
<b>8 - 9:30 am</b> <i>Trinity 15</i>	Miguel Ortiz	Farrah Blair Myka Luplow	Gabriel Blair Vern Jakolat	Helen Meyers
<b>15 - 9:30 am</b> <i>Trinity 16</i>	Gabriel Blair	Aaron Cross Savannah Blair	Troy Cross Miguel Ortiz	Penzien Family
<b>22 - 9:30 am</b> <i>Trinity 17</i>	Larry Elliott	Sierra Luplow Natalie Penzien	Tyrel Harwager Daren Johnson	Sager Family
<b>29 - 9:30 am</b> <i>Trinity 18</i>	Terry Luplow	Paige Harwager Aaron Messer	John Lemmermann Chris Brown	Dorothy Trgina
<b>October</b>				
<b>6 - 9:30 am</b> <i>Trinity 19</i>	Miguel Ortiz	Morgan Johnson Farrah Blair	Gary Miller Jon Penzien	Blair Family

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