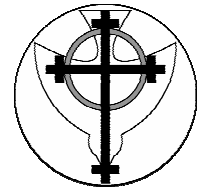
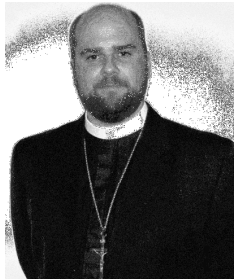


The Peace Post



REFORMATION EDITION

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



FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MESSER

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

*"Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done."
(LSB 655:1)*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings to you as we continue to enjoy the riches of God's grace through Christ, our Lord, and as we prepare for The Festival of Reformation Day, one of the highlights of the Church Year for us Lutherans!

Let us remember that the Reformation is not merely an historic event which occurred nearly five hundred years ago. The Reformation continues to this day. As Dr. Luther himself said on many occasions, "The Holy Christian Church on earth is always in need of reform and renewal in light of the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ." Friends, Dr. Luther speaks the truth.

Of course, one could very easily misunderstand what Dr. Luther means here and conclude that he is saying that the Church needs to constantly look for new and improved ways of sharing the Gospel; that the Church needs to change with the times, and so on. But, anyone who would reach that conclusion has clearly not read Dr. Luther or our Lutheran Confessions.

What Dr. Luther means is that the Church must always diligently see to it that she remains steadfast in the Word of God; that everything she thinks, says, and does, is based upon God's Word and His Word alone. Thus, Dr. Luther's famous hymn, quoted above.

The Holy Christian Church on earth is always in need of reform and renewal in light of the Gospel of Christ, for she is constantly under attack by those "who by deceit or sword would wrest the kingdom from [God's] Son and bring to naught all He has done." The Church must not cave in to popular demand. She must never compromise God's Word. She is commanded by her Lord to "fight the good fight of the faith." She is commanded to suffer persecutions of all kinds, and even to suffer death, rather than forsake the Word of God.

For this reason, the Holy Christian Church on earth is referred to as the Church Militant. She fights. She does battle with those who oppose God's Word. She rebukes false teachers and their false teachings. She constantly analyzes her own doctrine and practice to ensure that it remains pure. Where it has become impure, she diligently works to purify it. She refuses to give in to the world, for she is in the world, but not of the world. She has no concern for being politically correct or popular. She does not seek fortune or fame. She seeks one thing and one thing only—to remain steadfast in the Word of her Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Of course, all of this is seen as unloving and unnecessarily abrasive to the sinful world, and even to many Christians, including many who claim to be Lutherans.

This is because the devil has convinced them that Christianity is a nice, all-inclusive religion which exists only to make people happy. The old evil foe employs the same old tactics to tempt and deceive people into forsaking the Word of the Lord. He is not very original, nor does he need to be, for his "Did God really say?" line works to this day. Like our first parents in the Garden, people still fall for it hook, line, and sinker.

The devil whispers in their ears: "Did God really say that Christianity is an exclusive religion? Surely a loving God would never send anyone to Hell just because they don't believe in Jesus." "Did

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“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” cont’d

God really say that sinful human beings are incapable of believing in Him unless He brings them to faith through His Word and Sacraments? Surely you are smart enough to realize that believing in Christ is an exercise of your own free will.” “Did God really say that the Bible is His inspired, inerrant, infallible Word? Surely you know that it is merely a book written by human beings expressing what they believe about God.” “Did God really say that you must believe everything written in the Bible? Surely He did not mean everything, for He gave you the ability to use rational thought so that you would know which parts to believe and which parts to reject.” “Did God really say that worship must be holy and reverent, focusing on the Crucified Christ who comes via His Holy Word and Sacraments to give you forgiveness, life, and salvation? Surely God would rather have worship be fun and entertaining for you, that it would be a time for you to show Him how much you love Him and how faithful you are.” “Did God really say that you receive the very Body and Blood of Christ in the Lord’s Supper? Surely He meant that the bread and wine merely represent Christ’s Body and Blood, for you know that such things are impossible.” “Did God really say that maintaining sound and pure doctrine and practice is a must? Surely He would rather you adjust your doctrine and practice in a way that is more appealing to the unchurched so that more people will want to join your church.” “Did God really say that you are to correct and rebuke those who believe differently than you do? Surely God would never condone such behavior, for He desires that all His children be one and prefers that they simply agree to disagree on some things in order to keep the peace.”

In these, and many other, ways, the devil comes with his enticing temptations seeking to deceive people into forsaking the Word of the Lord. His goal has always been the same—to convince people that they “can be like God,” determining for themselves what is true or false, right or wrong. He and the legions of fallen angels under his command are relentless in their pursuit, constantly seeking to devour God’s children and populate Hell. And, sadly, they are extremely successful in their endeavors, for sinful human beings are all too willing to buy what they are selling. They want the “have it your way” version of Christianity advertised by the devil and his demons. They want to earn their salvation through their works. They want a nice, peaceful religion that always plays nice with others. They want to make the rules and call the shots. They want church to be fun and entertaining. They want the pastor to make them laugh and tell them how good they are, not to urge them to repentance and steadfast faith in the Word of God. They want to be Christians, but only on their terms. They want to serve the Lord, but only when it doesn’t conflict with the really important things in their lives. They want to support the ministry of the Gospel, but only after they acquire all those things they covet, and only if the ministry is performed to their own personal satisfaction. They want the Word of God to submit to their will, not the other way around. And, to all this, the devil says to them, “Good for you! You are right. Christianity should be the way you desire it to be. That’s what God truly wants. He wants you to be happy. He wants you to get what you want out of your religion. Don’t let anyone tell you any different.”

But the Holy Christian Church on earth does tell those who have fallen prey to Satan’s temptations differently. She fights the devil with the “sword of the Spirit,” that is, with the Word of God, imploring his victims to repent and return in faith to the Lord. She cannot back down, for she is at war and takes the battlefield at the behest of her Commander in Chief, her Lord Jesus. She will not compromise His Word. She will not allow those who have done so to bend her will. She confronts them with the truth of God’s Word in the hope that she may take them captive, so that they cease submitting to their own personal opinions and desires and begin submitting to the Word of God. If she cannot take them captive, she must continue to engage them in battle, for there are no truces in this war. There is no middle ground. Either you are a soldier of the Cross of Christ or you are a soldier of Satan and his legions.

And so it is that the Church Militant is always engaged in conflict, for this is the inevitable result of remaining steadfast in the Word of the Lord. She is always in need of reform and renewal in light of the Holy Gospel because Satan brings the battle to within her realm. She fights not only to keep him out, but to remove him when he has infiltrated her ranks by corrupting her doctrine and practice. This warfare is not easy, to be sure. But, the Lord never said it would be easy. On the contrary, He says over and over in His Holy Word that those who remain steadfast in His Word will experience hatred and persecution, and even, on many occasions, death.

Dear friends in Christ, as we celebrate The Festival of Reformation Day this year, let us remember all those who have gone before us fighting the good fight of the faith, and let us give thanks that the true faith has been preserved to our day. Where we have failed to submit to the Word of the Lord and contend for the true Christian faith, let us repent. And, having received the forgiveness of all our sins through the Blood of Christ shed in our place, let us pray for the Holy Spirit to fill us with the courage and faithful desire to join the battle, that we may truly mean it when we sing and pray, “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word.” May we cling fervently to God’s Word and His Word alone, with the result that we join our confession to that of the apostles, church fathers, and all faithful Christians throughout history, declaring in the words of the Blessed Reformer, Dr. Luther, himself: “Here I stand. I can do no other. So help me God. Amen!”

In Defense of Lutheranism

One of the charges leveled against our Lutheran forefathers by the Roman Catholic Church was that they had abandoned the historic customs and liturgies of the church catholic (universal), which date back to apostolic times. They were accused of introducing informal and irreverent practices in the church. These accusations were completely unfounded and false. Our Lutheran forefathers did not abandon the historic customs and liturgies of the church catholic, nor did they introduce informal and irreverent practices in the church. On the contrary, they retained the historic customs and liturgies and practiced them formally and reverently. But, don't take my word for it, listen to the words of our Lutheran forefathers themselves, preserved for us in our Lutheran Confessions:

"Of Usages in the Church they (Lutherans) teach that those ought to be observed which may be observed without sin, and which are profitable unto tranquility and good order in the Church" (Art. XV, Augsburg Confession).

"For it is a false and malicious charge that all the ceremonies, all the things instituted of old, are abolished in our churches" (Art. XXI, Augsburg Confession).

"Falsely are our churches accused of abolishing the Mass; for the Mass is retained among us, and celebrated with the highest reverence. Nearly all the usual ceremonies are also preserved" (Art. XXIV, Augsburg Confession).

"Forasmuch, therefore, as the Mass with us has the example of the Church, taken from the Scripture and the Fathers, we are confident that it cannot be disapproved, especially since public ceremonies, for the most part like those hitherto in use, are retained" (Art. XXIV, Augsburg Confession).

"Only those things have been recounted whereof we thought that it was necessary to speak, in order that it might be understood that in doctrine and ceremonies nothing has been received on our part against Scripture or the Church Catholic" (Conclusion of the Augsburg Confession).

"From this condition of the churches it may be judged that we diligently maintain church discipline and goodly ceremonies and good church-customs" (Art. XV, Apology of the Augsburg Confession).

"At the outset we must again make the preliminary statement that we do not abolish the Mass, but religiously maintain and defend it. For among us Masses are celebrated every Lord's Day and on other festivals in which the Sacrament is offered to those who wish to use it, after they have been examined and absolved. And the usual public ceremonies are observed, the series of lessons, of prayers, vestments, and other like things" (Art. XXIV, Apology of the Augsburg Confession).

"... ceremonies ought to be observed both to teach men Scripture, and that those admonished by the Word may conceive faith and fear of God, and obtain comfort, and thus also may pray, for these are the designs of ceremonies" (Art. XXIV, Apology of the Augsburg Confession).

These are just a few statements pulled from our Lutheran Confessions to illustrate the fact that our Lutheran forefathers were adamant in their defense against the false accusations hurled at them that they were abolishing the historic customs and liturgies of the church catholic and introducing new, informal, and irreverent practices.

There were radical reformers which arose in the 16th century who were, indeed, guilty of these accusations. These radical reformers employed the principal that all things done by the Roman Catholic Church must be abolished. What they failed to realize was that by abolishing all things Roman Catholic, they were abolishing many of the historic customs which belong to the church catholic and pre-date the rise of Roman Catholicism, going back to apostolic times. Not only that, but by abolishing all things Roman Catholic, these radical reformers were guilty of abolishing many sacred truths which had been retained in the Roman Catholic Church amidst the many abuses which had crept in. In other words, these radical reformers, in their zeal to oppose Roman Catholicism, ended up opposing Scripture itself. They introduced a new theology, which gave birth to a new version of Christianity, and which had no basis in Holy Scripture. They denied such things as infant baptism and the Real Presence of Christ's very Body and Blood in the Holy Supper. They introduced informal and irreverent styles of worship which were man-centered, instead of Christ-centered. They taught that faith is a decision of the free will instead of the gift of God delivered through His Holy Word and Sacraments. In short, these radical reformers changed everything and, in so doing, removed themselves from the historic Christian faith handed down to us from the apostles themselves.

Our Lutheran forefathers made it vividly clear that they were not in agreement with these radical reformers whatsoever. In fact, our Lutheran forefathers joined the Roman Catholic Church in condemning these radical reformers. Our Lutheran Confessions do not only address the abuses which had crept into the Roman Catholic Church, but also address and condemn the new and false theology that was being introduced by these radical reformers.

Thus, it is an odd thing, indeed, when modern Lutherans abandon the historic customs and liturgies of the church catholic. It is an

Continued on next page

even odder thing when they do so in favor of following the informal and irreverent practices of modern protestants, especially since these modern protestants are the descendants of the radical reformers of the 16th century. There are only a couple of possible explanations for this. Either they have not read and do not understand our Lutheran Confessions, or they have read and do understand our Lutheran Confessions, but disagree with them. If the first explanation is true, then they must be implored to read and study our Lutheran Confessions so that they can learn what confessional Lutherans believe and judge for themselves whether or not they believe as Lutherans believe. If the second explanation is true, then they must cease referring to themselves as Lutherans, for a Lutheran cannot possibly disagree with the Lutheran Confessions, since these Confessions define what it means to be Lutheran.

Dear friends, as we prepare to celebrate The Festival of Reformation Day this month, let us honor our Lutheran forefathers by clinging to our Lutheran heritage. May we be able to claim with the same conviction as they: *"Falsely are our churches accused of abolishing the Mass (i.e., Divine Service); for the Mass is retained among us, and celebrated with the highest reverence. Nearly all the usual ceremonies are also preserved."* May we continue to retain the historic customs and liturgies of the church catholic, and where any have fallen into disuse, may we fervently seek to restore them, for, contrary to popular belief, that is the Lutheran way!

In Christ,

Pastor Messer

The Place of Ceremony in the Church

by the Rev. Dr. Burnell Eckardt, Pastor of Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Kewanee, Illinois

In the course of human events there come various occasions during which the use of ceremony, that is, formality in proceedings, is called for. Great ceremony attends the President's annual State of the Union address, for example. He is announced with great pomp: "Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States!" And everyone rises and applauds, as he moves toward the podium for his address. This always takes a few minutes, because he must shake hands with the people in the aisles. Then, when he finally arrives at the podium, the applause finally fades, and the Vice President, who is presiding at this joint session of Congress, speaks first, saying something like: "It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you the President of the United States!"--or something very similar, in fact, to the words of the person who had shouted out the president's first introduction moments earlier. And then everyone begins to applaud all over again, and sometimes for a very long time.

One might wonder why all this has to happen every time the president gives this address. After all, everybody in the world knows who he is. Yet there he is introduced twice. The reason for all this, then? Ceremony, of course. Ceremony dictates that certain occasions need great formality, either because of who is present, or because of the moment of the occasion, or both. People tend instinctively to understand the necessity for ceremony at times.

Strangely, however, of late there has arisen a startling lack of ceremony in Christian churches everywhere. This is troubling, for it belies a lack of understanding not only of ceremony's place, but of the reality present in the Divine Service. Certainly, if we understand the need for ceremony when the President is present to speak to the nation, how much more ought we to understand the need for it when Christ Himself is present to speak to His holy Church! Could it be that those who wish to make the Divine Service less formal and ceremonial fail to realize that worship in Spirit and truth is indeed an occasion in which Christ enters the holy place, opens His holy mouth, and speaks? Not only so, but He really sits among us, on the altar, in the Sacrament.

Consider for a moment, which kinds of churches have great ceremony, and which tend to have less: those whose worship would be considered very formal and ornamented--Romans Catholics, High Anglicans, Greek Orthodox, and some Lutherans--all hold something very much in common, in spite of the differences between them: they all share a profound belief that the Sacrament is no symbol or representation, but really and truly is the body and blood of Christ. But the churches which of late have preferred a more folksy style, or even a style full of the trappings of entertainment (clowns, balloons, rock bands, flashy Gospel choirs, costumes, etc.) tend to be Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, and sadly, some Lutherans. In these churches there is, not surprisingly, also a shared belief that the Sacrament is nothing but an extra, a symbol of some kind, or simply an ordinance of God, whose motions we must go through for no other reason than that He said we should. Even in the Lutheran churches where such tomfoolery is found, there is always upon investigation, a woefully weak understanding of just what is meant by "This is my body."

If anyone does not share this belief with us, he can easily find a church where the Sacrament is given a much lower place, or even omitted altogether. We force no one to believe as we do, certainly; but neither will we be forced to believe anything other than what our Lord says: "This IS my body."

So let us give heed to the admonition of St. Paul in the matter: "Christ, our Passover, is sacrificed; therefore let us keep the Feast" (I Cor. 5:7-8). For it does not matter what anyone else may say or believe; we know that Christ here gives us His true body and blood; that Christ Himself is truly present here to give us His divine grace; and that, accordingly, if ever there was a time for ceremony, it is first of all in the Divine Service.



PEACE LUTHERAN LIBRARY



Donations are always welcome!

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

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

QUARTERLY VOTERS ASSEMBLY

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2007
11:00 AM**



**QUARTERLY
VOTERS
ASSEMBLY**

PYG NEWS

October Events:

Monthly meeting—10/21, noon - 2:00 pm
Honey Day - 10/28 - during fellowship

Greetings in Christ.

We had our first meeting of the 07-08 year on 9/23. we had a fair turnout of 9 youth. We started our study of the Gospel of John. Please join us at our next meeting on 10/21 as we continue our study and discussion of this inspired and inspiring Gospel.

During our business meeting time we brainstormed for goals and events for the coming year; service, fellowship and fundraising. Please continue to pass along any new ideas so we may look at adding them to our plans for the year.

Stewardship of youth was also discussed. One of the most visible forms for the youth is their acolyte duties. All youth in Youth Group are needed to participate in this duty. As we have new youth and some changes of the duties, we will be doing some training during our 10/21 meeting.

Also for our new youth and their families, I will be setting up an estimated calendar of events for the year. I hope to have this completed and distributed by our meeting on the 14th.

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

PHONE DIRECTORY

NEW MAILING ADDRESS:

1. BURCH, Joan
PO Box 442
Breckenridge, MI 48615
2. HEDRICK, Jeffrey
728 Gratiot Ave.
Alma, MI 48801



**Church
directory
changes**

NEW PHONE NUMBER:

1. LUPLOW, Michael
new phone #: 828-6193

NEW MEMBERS:

1. GREENING, Shawanna 576-1282
+Rebekah, +Ashleigh, +Gregorio, +Juan
171 Moyer
Alma, MI 48801

OTHER CHANGES:

1. STRONG, Tanya
The listed address is no longer current, no new one available at this time.

Synopsis of September 4, 2007 Church Council Minutes

Date: September 4, 2007

Time: 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Call To Order & Opening Prayer - President Jakolat called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer.

Roll Call – The following members were present: Vern Jakolat, Megan Brown, Carol Zeile, Bill Brostrom, Sharyn Greening, Dick Kohler. Pastor Messer was also present.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes - Motion made by Councilmember Kohler, supported by Treasurer Zeile to approve the minutes from the meeting of August 7, 2007 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Report(s) – The following reports were presented and received into record: Pastor, Treasurer, Board of Trustees, Board of Christian Education, Board of Evangelism, Board of Stewardship, and Peace Youth Group.

Motion made by Councilmember Brostrom, supported by Councilmember Greening to approve an expenditure of \$368 for Mary Jakolat to attend the Good Shepherd Institute at Concordia – Ft. Wayne November 4-5. Motion carried unanimously.

Business

There was no additional business to discuss.

General Comment

“Bring a Friend to Church Day” will be October 7.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

Synopsis of July 22, 2007 Voters Assembly Minutes

Call To Order & Opening Prayer - President Jakolat called the meeting to order at 11:07am. 36 voting members of the Voters' Assembly were present. Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer.

Approval of Agenda - The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes - It was moved by Dick Kohler, supported by Burt Henry to approve the minutes from the meetings of April 22. Motion carried unanimously.

Report(s)

Pastor - Pastor Messer had nothing to report.

Treasurer - The attached Treasurer's Report was presented and received into record. It was moved by Dick Kohler, supported by Burt Henry to accept the report. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Secretary - No report was given.

Boards

Board of Elders - This Board had nothing to report.

Board of Trustees - Bill Brostrom presented the Trustee's Report and it was received into record.

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

Board of Evangelism - Pastor Messer presented the Evangelism Report and it was received into record.

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

Organization and Committee Reports

Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild - Carol Zeile presented the Ladies Guild Report and it was received into record.

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

Budget & Finance Committee - Burt Henry presented the Budget and Finance Committee Report and it was received into record.

Constitution & Bylaws Committee - Pastor Messer presented the Constitution Committee Report. It was moved by Burt Henry, supported by Miguel Ortiz to amend the constitution with the proposed language (attached). Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

The next meeting of the Voters' Assembly will be held on October 28 at 11:00am.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

LADIES & ALTAR GUILD INFO

- **LADIES GUILD MEETING:** Guild meets the Monday, **October 1 - 7:00 pm.** **Hostess:** Dorothy Trgina. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend our guild meetings; if you are a confirmed female member of Peace, you can be a member of the guild. We would sincerely encourage you to participate and be an active member of the guild.
- **LADIES GUILD PRAYER CHAIN:** The Ladies Guild has a prayer chain in place. If you wish to be included in the prayer chain as a caller, see Marlene Wiltshire. If you wish to add yourself or someone else to the prayers, call Marlene Wiltshire (463-4101).
- **ALTAR GUILD DUTY:** October - Carol Zeile; November - Cheryl Henry/Carol Durst; December - Carol Zeile
- **ALTAR FLOWERS:** There is a flower calendar for 2007 posted on the fellowship bulletin board. If you wish to place flowers on the altar some time during the year, fill in your name and/or contact Beth Brostrom or Cheryl Henry. A bouquet usually lasts about one (1) month and the cost is about \$25.



UPCOMING COFFEE HOSTESSES:



October

7 - Cheryl Kuehnlein
14 - Darlene Palmer
21 - Lois Miller/
 Jeannette Bigelow
28 - Janice Langan

November

4 - Dorothy Trgina
11 - Gretchen Harrison
18 - Marlene Wiltshire
25 - Helen Meyers/
 Maxine Isaksson

December

2 - Andrea Elliott
9 - Carol Durst
16 - Trina Palmer
23 - Jo Wendt
30 - Carol Zeile

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (ESV)

The Ladies' Guild is sponsoring a dinner in honor of Pastor Messer and his family on October 28, immediately following the Voter's Assembly. Please join us and help celebrate Pastor Appreciation Month. The Guild will furnish the chicken. The rest of the meal will be potluck. Please bring a dish to pass (salads, potatoes, vegetables, desserts). Coffee, tea, soft drinks, plates and utensils will be provided. There will be a basket in the fellowship hall for cards, should you want to express your appreciation through a written message.



Although we are setting aside this time to specially recognize Pastor Messer and his family, we all need to remember that pastor appreciation is a year-round activity. Following are a few examples of things that all of us can do to show our appreciation throughout the year.

1. Ask him if you can go along on visits to shut-ins.
2. Consider your commitment of time and talents and do something to assist the work of the church.
3. Invite him to share a cup of coffee or a meal and use that time to get to know him.
4. Ask him how you can help him and then do what he asks.
5. Compliment him.
6. Remember him in your prayers, just as he remembers you in his.
7. Tell him when something in his sermon speaks especially to you.
8. Quit complaining and do something to help.
9. Tell him that you love him.
10. Show the same love and appreciation to Lisa. Her support is important to Pastor and to the congregation.

NEWS AND NOTES

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

We will be going to Frankenmuth on Thursday, **October 25, 2007**. A car pool will leave Peace at 10:00 am. Reservations will be made for noon at the **Bavarian Inn**, with a tour of **St. Lorenz Lutheran Church** following lunch. We will meet for car pooling at 9:45 am. Questions? Contact Mary Jakolat at 463-3067.



Ladies' Lunch Bunch



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Have you ever wondered what a prayer looks like? I just finished one that is warm, soft and will wrap around the recipient. It's called a prayer shawl. Prayer shawls are knit, crocheted, woven, sewn, etc., beginning with prayer and adding other prayers as the shawl is made. Often printed prayers are included with the shawl as it is presented to someone. The shawl then serves as a reminder to the recipient of God's love, comfort, compassion and support for them. While often used in time of trials and troubles, prayer shawls can also be given to those rejoicing, for example at a birth, baptism, or to a bride. I am beginning a knitting/crocheting prayer shawl ministry for this area. If you are interested in participating, please contact me, Susan Neitzke, at 842-1490

DONATIONS TO SEMINARY

A HUGE THANK YOU to all who donated clothing, etc, to the Clothing Co-op of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. I was privileged to deliver our congregation's donation on Tuesday September 25. My van was packed full (don't think I could have gotten anything else in it) and the ladies at the Co-op were thrilled to receive such a large donation. They wanted me to express their deep appreciation and thankfulness to our congregation for such a wonderful show of support. So, on behalf of them, and on behalf of all the seminarians who I know from experience will benefit from your donations, thank you, thank you, thank you!



In Christ,

Pastor Messer

CHURCH PICNIC




Thank you to all who made possible and attended our Rally Day Church picnic on September 9. What a joy it is to get together for events like that to enjoy fun and fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ. We are planning on making next year's picnic bigger and better and hope more will join us.



**Church
Picnic**

S.A.L.T. NEWS & NOTES

*S.A.L.T. is our Evangelism Committee here at Peace. Its mission is to **Share with All the Love and Truth** of Jesus Christ!*

1. **Next S.A.L.T. Meeting will be held Thursday, October 18 at 7:00 p.m.** All are welcome to join us!
2. **“Bring a Friend to Church Sunday”** - We have set aside **Sunday, October 7** as “Bring a Friend to Church Sunday.” What is this? It’s just like it sounds. We invite and encourage all Peace members to bring a friend to Church with them on this Sunday. We will have special fellowship time after church to welcome all guests, and we’ll invite any who are interested to stay for a special informational session led by Pastor Messer. We hope all will participate!
3. **Support Our Troops:** On August 20, we sent shipments to Lcpl. Kenneth Berry, grandson of Bruce & Donna Bebow and to PV2 Robert Herlik who has relations to the Brostrom family. This means, of course, that we need to replenish our supplies for future shipments, so please continue to support this ministry by donating any items you can (list on S.A.L.T. bulletin board. If you have any family members serving overseas in our military and would like for us to send them a shipment, please see Andrea or Larry Elliott. Thank you! 
4. **Advent Tea: Wednesday, November 28 at 7:00 p.m.** We are still looking for hostesses for this event. A sign up sheet is posted on the S.A.L.T. bulletin board. The requirement for hosting a table this year is that it must include the **color red** in it somewhere. The rest is left to your own individual creativity. Of course, it is also the responsibility of each table hostess to invite seven guests to sit at their table. **There is an additional sign up sheet** on the bulletin board for any of you who desire to attend the Advent Tea, but do not want to host a table. We will share this list with our hostesses to make sure that all who desire to attend are invited. If you have any questions about Advent Tea, please see Lisa Messer. 
5. **Food Bank:** Food Bank collection Sunday is the first Sunday of every month. Please help the S.A.L.T. committee give aid to families and seniors of Gratiot County by bringing non-perishable, canned, or packaged foods on **Sunday, October 7**. Suggestions for donations are posted on the S.A.L.T. bulletin board. Place your donations in the **RED COLLECTION TUB** in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks for your help! 
6. **SECRET PALS LUNCHEON:** Our luncheon was held on Saturday, September 15. If you could not make it, a list of last year’s secret pal matchups are on the S.A.L.T. bulletin board. Thank you to all who participated in the program and we look forward to another fun year of Secret Pals, which begins this month!
7. **UPCOMING EVENTS:** We will be taking orders once again for Peace Lutheran **T-shirts, polos, and sweatshirts**. We will be offering a bigger variety this time. Look for details on this soon! We are also in the process of putting together a Peace Lutheran **Camping Weekend** for next summer. Again, look for details coming soon!



PEACE MOVIE NIGHT!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27

(New day due to football; back to Fridays in November)

Meet at the church at 6:00 p.m.

In honor of Reformation Day, we will watch

***Luther* (showing at 6:30 p.m.)**

A discussion about the movie will follow.

Pizza, chips, and pop provided courtesy of S.A.L.T.

Bring your own snacks if you wish

Bring your own comfy chairs if you wish

A freewill offering will be collected to support future movie nights. Hope to see you there!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT PEACE

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

- Sunday School meets at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday. There are four Sunday School Classes this year (Pre-K-2nd Grade; 3rd-5th Grade; 6th-8th Grade; 9th-12th Grade).
- Adult Bible Class is offered **every Sunday at 11:00 a.m.** for all adult members of Peace and guests. We are currently engaged in a detailed study of **Revelation**.

Youth Confirmation Class

- Youth Confirmation Class reconvened on Thursday, September 27 and will meet weekly on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.

Together in the Word

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

“It’s All Greek to Me”

- *It’s All Greek to Me* will resume on **Sunday, October 14**. The class will meet each Sunday from 12:00-1:30. If you were not able to join us last year, but are interested in joining this class, please see Pastor Messer.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to:

1 - Marlene Wiltshire
4 - Victoria Gamez
4 - Dick Kohler
7 - Charlotte Dargie
10 - Jeff Hedrick
12 - Brent Meyers
13 - Jordan Henry

15 - Lucille Slick
21 - Maggie Malone
23 - Dale Palmer
24 - Jayce Kuehnlein
27 - Darlene Palmer
28 - Burt Henry
30 - Myka Luplow

Happy Anniversary to:

3 - Michael & Andrea Luplow
14 - Gary & Marlene Miller



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



EUCHRE NIGHT!

Euchre night will resume on **FRIDAY, October 19**. There will be a sign-up sheet on the S.A.L.T. bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome to come and have fun playing the great game of euchre. Please bring a refreshment to pass and a friend. See you there!



TABLE TALK

Our Table Talks are informal and informative discussions with Pastor Messer on various topics decided by the group in attendance. Our next Table Talk will take place **Thursday, October 11 at 7:00 p.m.** at the church. All are invited to attend! Hope to see you there!

PAROCHIAL REPORT

(As of September 28)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 188; Confirmed - 149

Official Acts: None

Membership gains: 0

Membership losses: 0

Financial Report





YTD Receipts: \$68,177.05

Budgeted YTD: \$75,810.00

Rev. Thomas C. Messer
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(989) 289-3908—Cell
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(989) 463-5754
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October 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
September 30 <i>St. Michael & All Angels</i> 8:30—Choir 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BC, SS	1 7:00—Ladies Guild Hostess: Dorothy Trigma	2 NO Together in the Word <i>(Pastor at Work)</i> 7:00—Council Meeting	3	4 5:00 pm—WW 5:30—Confirmation Class	5 7:00 - Home & Garden Party	6
7 <i>18th Sunday after Trinity</i> 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BC, SS	8	9 9:30—Together in the Word	10	11 5:00 pm—WW 5:30—Confirmation Class 7:00—Table Talk 	12	13 6:00 p.m.—Elders Mtg.
14 <i>19th Sunday after Trinity</i> 8:30—Choir 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BC, SS 12:00—Greek Class 2:00—Bridal Shower / A. Bruchm	15	16 9:30—Together in the Word 8:00—Trustees Meeting	17	18 5:00 pm - WW 5:30—Confirmation Class 7:00—S.A.L.T. Mtg.	19 6:30—Euchre 	20
21 <i>20th Sunday after Trinity</i> 8:00—Elders Meeting 8:30—Choir 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BC, SS 12:00—Greek Class; PYG	22	23 9:30—Together in the Word	24 DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER PEACE POST	25 10:00—Ladies Lunch Bunch - to Frankennuth 5:00 pm—WW 5:30—Confirmation Class	26	27 6:00—Peace Movie Night <i>Luther</i> (see info on p. 9) 
28 <i>Festival of Reformation Day</i> 8:30—Choir 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—VOTERS' ASSEMBLY 12:00—Pastor Appreciation Dinner	29	30 9:30—Together in the Word	31 <i>Reformation Day</i> 	November 1 5:00 pm—WW 5:30—Confirmation Class	November 2	November 3

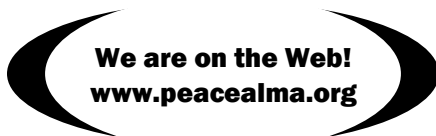
SERVING IN OCTOBER

	<u>ACOLYTES</u>	<u>ORGANIST</u>	<u>ELDER</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
OCTOBER					
7 - 9:30 am	Lauren Penzien Jordan Henry	Mary Jakolat	Larry Elliott	Burt Henry James Sager	Bill & Beth Brostrom
14 - 9:30 am	Sarah Messer Melanie Penzien	Beth Brostrom	Terry Luplow	Bill Hendrick Bill Brostrom	Marlene Wiltshire/ Carol Durst
21 - 9:30 am	Tyrel Harwager Samantha Messer	Mary Jakolat	Dave Zeile	Chris Brown Vern Jakolat	Larry & Andrea Elliott
28 - 9:30 am	Kelsey Gensler Phillip Schafer	Beth Brostrom	Don Reithel	Miguel Ortiz Jon Penzien	Sharyn Greening
NOVEMBER					
4 - 9:30 am	Sarah Messer Lauren Penzien	Beth Brostrom	Larry Elliott	Burt Henry Bill Brostrom	LeRoy & Maxine Isaksson

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

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

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



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