

# The Peace Post

Peace Lutheran Church ~ Alma, MI

October, 2010

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

### "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word"

*Our Lord Jesus said: "If you abide in My Word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32).*

Abiding in the Word, dear friends in Christ, is what the Reformation was all about. It was the Holy Spirit who guided our beloved Dr. Luther, the Blessed Reformer, in his study of God's Holy Word, and allowed him to rediscover the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, which had been all but forgotten during the Middle Ages. When Dr. Luther was brought to realize that we are justified not by our own works, but by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, it was as if heaven itself had been opened to him and he could hear the choirs of angels and saints singing praises to the Lord. He had long been haunted by the image of Jesus Christ as a ruthless judge who demanded the impossible, and then punished those who did not achieve it. But now, as he discovered the Holy Gospel in the pages of Holy Scripture, He came to know Jesus Christ not as that ruthless judge, but as his loving Savior—the One who lived the perfect life he couldn't live, and died on the cross to pay the full price for all of his sins. What joy filled Dr. Luther's heart!

That same joy should fill our hearts as well, my friends, for we still have the glorious Good News of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, taught and preached in our midst. That is not as common as you might think. We live in a day and age when the Holy Gospel is every bit as hidden away and obscured as it was in Dr. Luther's day. Tune in to those claiming to be Christian teachers on the television or radio and you will likely hear Jesus being promoted as a mere example to follow, or as a "life-coach" cheering you on to better living and greater blessings. Visit many Protestant congregations (and even, sadly, many "Lutheran" congregations) and you will hear the same sort of teaching coming from the pulpits (or stages). You will be motivated to "Live Your Best Life Now" or "Become a Better You" or to live a "Purpose-Driven Life," and so forth, the focus being completely on what you need to do and how you need to live as a Christian. Rather than Law and Gospel sermons based on a lectionary, you will be subjected to messages on such topics as money management, good parenting, healthy eating, relationship building, and even on how to have good sex. The Good News about what Jesus has done, and continues to do, for you is rarely heard (if ever!), the idea being that Jesus did His part, but now it's up to you to do your part.

Oh yes, dear friends, the same joy that filled Dr. Luther's heart should fill ours, for against the rising trend to forsake the Gospel in favor of the Law-focused, Me-centered agenda which has been adopted by many—an agenda that lures many away from the truth by promoting itself as new and hip and relevant and useful, etc.—we still have the Holy Gospel preached to us in its purity and the Holy Sacraments administered to us according to Christ's institution.

Let us never take this for granted, but heed our Savior's exhortation to abide in His Word. To abide in His Word means that we never outgrow, or move beyond, the Holy Gospel. As long as we breathe in this vale of tears, we remain in desperate need of the salvation won for us by the perfect life and death of Jesus. We never stop being sinners this side of heaven, so we never stop needing a Savior. We abide in His Word when we cling to Him in faith as our only hope. We abide in His Word when we return regularly to where He promises to be for us—in the Divine Service, where He delivers to us the forgiveness, life, and salvation we need by means of His Holy Word and Sacraments. In short, we abide in His Word by placing ourselves in His continuous care, for our Lord Himself accomplishes for us, and in us, what He demands. He feeds and nourishes us, strengthens and preserves us, and keeps us in the faith—and all this by the very same Word in which He would have us abide.

Thus, do we Lutherans ever pray, in the words of Dr. Luther's famous hymn, "Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word." For the Good News is not only that our Lord Jesus has done everything necessary for our salvation, but that He continues to keep us in the one, true faith through His gracious and merciful Service to us here and now. He promised to be with us always, and so He is—with us in His written, preached, and taught Word, and with us most intimately in His very Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist.

Let us give hearty thanks to God as we approach our annual celebration of Reformation Day for preserving among us the true and saving Gospel. May it be preached, taught, and delivered in our midst until our Lord Jesus Christ returns in great glory on the Last Day! Amen.

### "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

(Text: Rev. Thomas C. Messer; Tune: Erhalt Uns Herr—Reformation Day 2010)



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Lead us to  
 2 We know that we are sin - ners sure, And of our-  
 3 Bap - tized in - to Christ's death are we, Thus, from us  
 4 Now clothed in Je - sus' right - eous - ness, Our Fa - ther

5 And now Lord do You bid us, "Come!" In - to Your  
 6 Let us come to this Ho - ly Feast, From first to  
 7 These Bless - ed Gifts which we re - ceive Do fill us  
 Δ 8 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, And Ho - ly



where it can be heard: With - in Your Ho - ly Church that  
 selves we have no cure; On - ly the Blood of Je - sus  
 does the de - vil flee; Set free from him and world - ly  
 does not see the mess Of our sins we com - mit each

Ho - ly House, our home That our Bap - tis - mal gowns You  
 last, from great to least, To sup' on His Bo - dy and  
 with peace as we leave, And give us strength that as we  
 Spir - it, Three in One! Let all in heav'n and here on



we May hear how Christ has set us free.  
 will Bring health to we who were so ill.  
 strife, In Je - sus Christ we have new life.  
 day But on - ly Je - sus' per - fect way.

may Cleanse with Your Blood a - gain to - day.  
 Blood, Which is for us the great - est Food.  
 go, We tell how Christ o'er - came our woe.  
 earth Give praise to Him Who gives New Birth!

# About Reformation Day



*On October 31, 1517, an Augustinian monk posted ninety-five statements for discussion on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Dr. Martin Luther hoped that posting his theses would bring about an academic debate regarding repentance, the sale of indulgences, and other matters of concern within the Roman Catholic Church. However, Rome eventually excommunicated Luther, judging him to be a heretic. Luther's reforms, centered on the teaching that a believer is justified by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, sparked religious reforms not only in the German states but also in many European countries. In 1667, Elector John George II of Saxony standardized the custom of observing Luther's October 31 posting of the Ninety-five Theses.*

*—Treasury of Daily Prayer, p. 868*

May you ever cherish and treasure this thought. Christ is made a servant of sin, yea, a bearer of sin, and the lowliest and most despised person. He destroys all sin by Himself and says: "I came not to be served, but to serve" (Matt. 20:28). There is no greater bondage than that of sin; and there is no greater service than that displayed by the Son of God, who becomes the servant of all, no matter how poor, wretched, or despised they may be, and bears their sins. It would be spectacular and amazing, prompting all the world to open ears and eyes, mouth and nose in uncomprehending wonderment, if some king's son were to appear in a beggar's home to nurse him in his illness, wash off his filth, and do everything else the beggar would have to do. Would this not be profound humility? Any spectator or any beneficiary of this honor would feel impelled to admit that he had seen or experienced something unusual and extraordinary, something magnificent. But what is a king or an emperor compared with the Son of God? Furthermore, what is a beggar's filth or stench compared with the filth of sin which is ours by nature, stinking a hundred thousand times worse and looking infinitely more repulsive to God than any foul matter found in a hospital? And yet the love of the Son of God for us is of such magnitude that the greater the filth and stench of our sins, the more He befriends us, the more He cleanses us, relieving us of all our misery and of the burden of all our sins and placing them upon His own back. All the holiness of the monks stinks in comparison with this service of Christ, the fact that the beloved Lamb, the great Man, yes, the Son of the Exalted Majesty, descends from heaven to serve me.

*—From a sermon by the Blessed Reformer, Dr. Martin Luther*

## Luther's Response at the Diet of Worms

*"Unless I am convicted by the testimony of Scripture or by evident reason - for I trust neither in popes nor in councils alone, since it is obvious that they have often erred and contradicted themselves - I am convicted by the Scripture which I have mentioned and my conscience is captive by the Word of God. Therefore I cannot and will not recant, since it is difficult, unprofitable and dangerous indeed to do anything against one's conscience. Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen."*

## Thesis 1 of 95

**"Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, when He said, 'Repent,' willed that the whole life of believers should be repentance."**





## Thoughts on Reformation Day

Charles Porterfield Krauth

*C. P. Krauth was a Lutheran pastor and theologian in the 19th century, who contended for orthodox Lutheranism at a time when many Lutherans were abandoning the Lutheran Confessions and following after the Americanized Protestants in America. What follows are some thoughts he expressed concerning our observance of Reformation Day—thoughts still every bit as applicable today as they were when he penned them.*

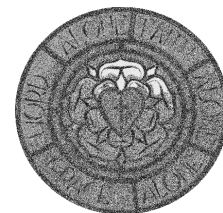
It is from the nailing up of the 95 Theses the Reformation takes its date (October 31, 1517). That act became, in the providence of God, the starting-point of the work which still goes on, and shall forever go on, that glorious work in which the truth was raised to its original purity, and civil and religious liberty were restored to men. That the Reformation is the spring of modern freedom is no wild assertion of its friends. One of the greatest Roman Catholic writers of recent times, Michelet, in the Introduction to his Life of Luther, says: "It is not incorrect to say, that Luther has been the restorer of liberty in modern times. If he did not create, he at least courageously affixed his signature to that great revolution which rendered the right of examination lawful in Europe. And, if we exercise, in all its plenitude at this day, this first and highest privilege of human intelligence, it is to him we are most indebted for it; nor can we think, speak, or write, without being made conscious, at every step, of the immense benefit of this little intellectual enfranchisement;" and he concludes with the remark: "To whom do I owe the power of publishing what I am now inditing, except to this liberator of modern thought?" Our Church, as clearly, in one sense, the mother of the Reformation, as, in another, she is its offspring, the first, and for a time, the exclusive possessor of the name Protestantism, its source and its mightiest bulwark, our Church has wisely set apart a day in each year to commemorate this great deliverance, and wisely has kept her great Jubilees. There are other ways of noting time, besides by its loss. The Church Festivals note it by its gains, the Church Year marks the time which has been redeemed for ever. An old writer describes the Church of All-Saints at

Wittenberg, as a manger, where in his lowly glory the Son of God was born again. Blessed forever be the day! On it, through all time, men shall gather, bringing their offerings of praise; remembering, treasuring, and keeping untarnished, the holy faith whose restoration was thus begun.

It is well, then, to have added to the grand order of the Church Year, the Festival of the Reformation, and to the revolution of the centuries, its Jubilee. Whether as the child or as the parent of the Reformation, whether she would awake her heart to gratitude as its daughter, or arouse herself to an earnest sense of responsibility as its mother, our Church can claim it, as pre-eminently her privilege, and acknowledge it as pre-eminently her duty so to do. When the Festival of the Reformation shall come and shall wake no throb of joy in her bosom, her life will have fled. For if the Reformation lives through her, she also lives by it. It has to her the mysterious relation of Christ to David; if it is her offspring, it is also her root. If she watched the ark of the Lord, the ark of the Lord protected and blessed her, and when it passes from her keeping, her glory will have departed. Let her speak to her children then, and tell them the meaning of the day. In the pulpit, and the school, and the circle of the home, let

*When the Festival of the Reformation shall come and shall wake no throb of joy in [the Church's] bosom, her life will have fled.*

these great memories of men of God, of their self-sacrifice, of their overcoming faith, and of their glorious work, be the theme of thought, and of word, and of thanksgiving. The Festival of the Reformation is at once a day of Christmas and of Easter and of Pentecost, in our Church Year; a day of birth, a day of resurrection, a day of the outpouring of the Holy Ghost. Let its return renew that life, and make our Church press on with fresh vigor in the steps of her risen Lord, as one begotten again, and born from the dead, by the quickening power of the Spirit of her God. Let every day be a Festival of the Reformation, and every year a Jubilee.



# Who Lutherans Are and What We Believe



## **We are a Catholic, Evangelical, Orthodox, and Lutheran Community of disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ:**

- We are catholic. That is, we believe and teach what has been taught and believed by the Church of Jesus Christ throughout the ages.
- We are evangelical. That is, we are centered in the Gospel of Christ. The focal point of our beliefs is the amazing work that God has done on behalf of His people in order to rescue them from sin and all its consequences.
- We are orthodox. That is, we are zealous for the right teaching and proclamation of the treasure that Jesus has entrusted to His Church. In this way, we are able to give God the right glory that He so richly deserves.
- We are Lutheran. That is, we are identified with the Spirit-led reformer of the 16th century who initiated the rediscovery of the Gospel which had been obscured by centuries of false teaching and traditions.

## **Our basic beliefs:**

- We believe, teach and confess that there is one God—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Apart from this Triune God (One God in three distinct persons) there is no other. Rejected is the error that the True God is any other than the Triune God, or the error that all religions essentially lead to the True God.
- We believe, teach and confess that the Second Person of the Trinity, the Lord Jesus Christ is True God, begotten of the Father from eternity and True Man, born of the virgin Mary, by the working of the Holy Spirit. He alone is the Savior of all, whom the Father sent to restore all things. Rejected is the error that Jesus is not God or that He did not accomplish all things necessary for man's salvation.
- We believe, teach and confess that at the fall into sin, man's nature became so totally and thoroughly corrupted that he is by nature turned away from God and, from the time of conception, is under God's just condemnation. Rejected is the error that man is somehow morally neutral or that in some regard, he has retained certain powers which may aid him in returning to God.
- We believe, teach and confess that salvation is by God's grace alone through faith in the atoning work which the Son accomplished on behalf of all men. Rejected is the error that man may/must somehow aid or cooperate in some way in order to obtain salvation.
- We believe, teach and confess that this Christian faith is solely the work of the Holy Spirit, bringing light into man's sin-darkened heart, bringing life to that which was dead, making those who were enemies of God into God's dearly loved children. Rejected is the error that man must open himself, call upon the Lord or invite Him into his heart.
- We believe, teach and confess that the Holy Spirit, using His chosen means, namely the Word and the Sacraments, converts, saves, forgives sins and brings to everlasting life. Rejected is the error that the Spirit works apart from means or that man should expect the Spirit in other than His chosen means.
- We believe, teach and confess that Jesus has established His Holy Christian Church to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments, so that all might become disciples of the Lord. Rejected is the error that Jesus established His Church with powers other than the preaching of the Gospel and making disciples of all nations.
- We believe, teach and confess that the good works that man does is a result of the good that the Holy Spirit has placed within him. They are the fruit of a living faith. Rejected is the error that man may somehow do good works apart from faith or that they contribute toward faith, or in aiding to gaining salvation.
- We believe, teach and confess that at the Last Day, all men will rise again, and that those who are believers in Jesus will receive everlasting life, and that those who reject Jesus will receive everlasting condemnation. Rejected is the error that those who do not have faith in Jesus can somehow receive eternal life or that there is no everlasting condemnation for the evil.



Reformation Day Sermon  
Rev. Larry L. Beane II  
25 October 2009  
Salem Lutheran Church, Gretna, LA  
Text: Rom. 3:29-28

*In the name of + Jesus. Amen.*

Some things are just not for sale, nor should they be. Love is one such thing.

Can you imagine having to pay your mother to love you? Can you imagine having to perform a checklist of tasks to merit your father's love?

It's easy to forget that this is the very issue that sparked the Reformation that we call to mind on this day.

Today commemorates the anniversary of an event that set in motion a series of happenings that nobody saw coming. Martin Luther's ordinary notice posted on the church door – the 16th century equivalent of the blog post – resulted in an extraordinary playing out of history: heated discussions that led to accusations flying in both directions, mutual excommunications, a restoration of the preaching of the Gospel, death and bloodshed, a renewed emphasis on God's Word, people being burned at the stake, worship in the language of the people, military conquest and oppression, a renewal of Christian family life, and a western Christian Church that has become Humpty Dumpty never to be put together again.

The Reformation was, in short, a mixed blessing of nobody's intention. And yet it was a necessary blessing for the sake of the Church and of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

But in the midst of all the doctrinal disputes, the history, the debates, the personalities, the political tug-of-war, and all the hype on both sides, the issue boils down to the question of whether or not love is for sale.

Before he was Dr. Luther the famous theologian, he was Father Martin, the obscure monk and priest who found no love, neither from His heavenly Father nor from his churchly mother. The God to whom he devoted himself required the impossible to be done,

and Luther's failure to do so resulted in what seemed to be unrequited love. Such a view of the Christian life is dreary and depressing, anything but good news. Furthermore, the Church into whose bosom Luther fled for comfort and refuge, demanded money up front before any love, any grace, any mercy, any comfort, any kindness – would be dispensed. The man we now know as Blessed Martin Luther, doctor and confessor of the Church, was tempest-tossed in a loveless and dysfunctional family of sorts.

His notice on the church door involved the sale of indulgences. This practice was so horrific because it made a mockery of the very concept of love. It turned the Church, the Bride of Christ, into a harlot, and portrayed our merciful God as an evil and brutish tyrant, an abusive Father.

But having found the love of God through Scripture, and having discovered the love of the Church through rightly administered sacraments and a Gospel properly preached – Luther discovered love. He proclaimed that same love from the pulpit, distributed it at the altar, poured it out at the font, and defended it on the church door. Dr. Luther would preach and teach this Gospel in the classroom and in the sanctuary until the day he was buried in the floor of that same church sanctuary, where he waits to this very day for his body to be roused by his loving Savior on the day when love will be triumphant and eternal.

And it was in this very passage from St. Paul's letter to the Romans that the Lord shared with us today that Dr. Luther discovered the unconditional love of his heavenly Father and the faithful and nurturing love of his churchly mother.

For just as our earthly parents love us in spite of our imperfections, even as our mothers wipe away our tears even when our wounds are self-inflicted, and as our fathers embrace us with strong arms when we have brought trouble upon ourselves, so too does our compassionate God grant us the gift of His righteousness, even when our works deserve otherwise. For "now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it."

Our heavenly Father and our churchly mother offer us a gift of love: “the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.” And this is the Gospel proclaimed by the Church and reclaimed by the reformers: Jesus Christ is the “propitiation by His blood to be received by faith.” In other words, Jesus is the one sin-forgiving sacrifice offered for us, not for a fee, not earned by works, but granted as a free gift, gratis, purely by grace – and we receive it all through faith.

For instead of God the angry judge, Luther found the “forbearance” of the Father. Instead of despair at his own unjust works, he found the Son Jesus Christ the “just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

And this is all free, dear Christians!

We who have come to be called “Lutherans” did not abolish the Mass, but rather abolished the price tag. Masses are not for sale, but are given away for free – for they are offerings of love from your Savior to you in His Word and in His body and blood. We Lutherans never abolished private confession and absolution, but rather abolished the works of satisfaction mandated by a penance. Absolution cannot be earned, because it has been bought and paid for by the sacrifice of your Savior on the cross, He who loves you and gave Himself up for you.

Nor did we Lutherans abolish good works, but rather abolished the notion that you merit salvation by doing them. You get no payment for your good deeds, your prayers, your gifts and offerings, your loving gifts of your time and talents to your church. For what loving child expects to be paid for saying “thank you” to his dear Father and nurturing mother? Good works are a freewill offering to your Lord. And they are most certainly required. For our good works demonstrate a living faith, the kind of faith that is a free gift of God.

In our culture and age, nearly everything can be bought for a price. But even in our materialistic and cynical culture, love is still not for sale. For the moment that money changes hands, or when a work is offered as a payment, it ceases to be love, and becomes a sad imitation.

Thanks be to our merciful God that in His

righteousness, He gives us that righteousness as a gift – because he loves us.

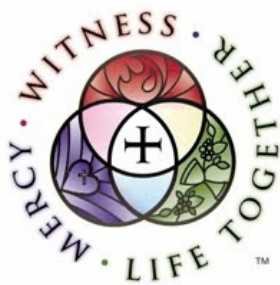
Praise be to our loving God we confess a holy catholic and apostolic church that lavishly pours out on us the gracious waters of Holy Baptism, generously pronounces the loving words of Holy Absolution, sumptuously puts before us the faith-bearing and sin-forgiving miraculous meal of Holy Communion, and continues to preach and teach the eternal-life-giving proclamation of the Holy Gospel. Our mother does not charge us for her comfort, nor does our Father expect payment for His mercy through our deeds. The Christian life is rather the good news that we who confess our sins and remain in our mother’s arms are loved and cherished in spite of our sins and errors, and are given forgiveness and eternal life as a free gift.

And lest we be tempted to brag about having the correct doctrine or to boast in that which we deserve no credit, let us remember the words of St. Paul that led to the Reformation in the first place: “Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.”

Thus our boast is in Christ alone, by grace alone, through faith alone, and under the infallible authority of Scripture alone. And it is all through the love of God alone. This is why for five centuries, Lutherans around the world have prayed this prayer together after sharing the Holy Eucharist, a prayer penned by Dr. Luther himself, a prayer which captures the very essence of the Reformation and of the Gospel by giving thanks for the Lord’s salutary gift of mercy, rooted in faith, and lived out in fervent love for each other:

*“We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.”*

*In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*



## (NEW) EMPHASIS FOR OUR CHURCH BODY

Actions of the 64th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod produced a number of changes for our beloved Synod, not least of which were the election of President Matthew C. Harrison and the adoption of a number of resolutions brought forward by the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance. While delegates at the convention made dramatic decisions that will affect the future of the LCMS, its congregational principle and scriptural foundations remain unchanged. And as President Harrison assumed his new responsibilities for leadership of the church and began pondering how to fulfill the responsibility of implementing the restructuring approved by convention, he wanted to start by focusing on the church's work and the emphasis of:

### Witness, Mercy, Life Together.

These phrases illustrate how the church lives and works together to proclaim the Gospel and to provide for our brothers and sisters in Christ in our congregations, communities and throughout the world. And in all we do, Christ is at the center, leading us, sustaining us, keeping us focused on our mission. This will never change.



#### **Martyria (marturi/a) = Witness**

"For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree."  
— 1 John 5:7-8



#### **Diakonia (diakoni/a) = Mercy**

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."  
— Mark 10:45



#### **Koinōnia (koinwni/a) = Life Together**

"God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."  
— 1 Corinthians 1:9

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod: Witness, Mercy, Life Together ✝ In Christ, for the Church and the World.



*Lutheranism 101* examines Lutheran beliefs and heritage in a fresh way. If you are a lifelong Lutheran searching for more information or new to Lutheranism looking to understand what we believe, this book will be your guide. It is written in an easy-to-read conversational style with short articles, side-bar features, and some humor. *Lutheranism 101* helps create a solid foundation of reference upon which a lifetime of sound teaching can be built.

Explore the basics of Lutheran theology by digging into the history of Lutheranism and making connections between what Lutherans believe and what Lutherans do.

What you'll learn about:

- God and His Son
- Faith and Belief
- Heaven and Hell
- Church and Fellowship
- Sin and Forgiveness
- and much more!

**Order before Reformation  
Day (Oct. 31) and get  
*Lutheranism 101* for only  
**\$14.99!****

You can order *Lutheranism 101* at [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org)

Or, look for the sign-up sheet posted in the fellowship hall!

## PEACE MOVIE NIGHT

**Friday, October 29**

**6:30 p.m.—Pizza**

**7:00 p.m.—Movie**

**In honor of Reformation Day, we'll  
watch "Luther" again this year.**

**Hope you'll join us!**



# Reformation Celebration!

Reformation Day

Sunday, October 31

Festival of Reformation Day at 9:30 a.m.

*Reformation Celebration* Immediately Following

Come join us as we enjoy:  
Brats & Other German Food!  
Games for Adults and Children!

(With Prizes!)

Relaxing Fellowship and Conversation!

“Lutheran” Beverages!

(Bring your own beer and wine—and coolers; no hard liquor, please)

Desserts and Coffee!

And More!

Don't miss out!

Come and Celebrate Our Lutheran Heritage  
with Us; Friends and Family Welcome, Too!

*Sponsored together by S.A.L.T. and our Ladies' Guild!*

## Synopsis of September 7, 2010 Church Council Minutes

### Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- Vice President Hill called the meeting to order at 7:07pm. Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer. The following members were present: Carol Zeile, Sharyn Greening, Megan Brown, Ken Hill, Bill Harmon and Larry Elliott. Pastor Messer was also present.

### Approval of Agenda

- Motion by Councilmember Elliott, supported by Treasurer Zeile to approve the agenda with the following additions: Thrivent Choice Dollars, Hallway Clean-Up and Dishwasher. Motion carried unanimously.

### Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Treasurer Zeile, supported by Vice President Hill to approve the August 10 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### Report(s)

- **Pastor** – Pastor Messer presented the attached report. The Council received the report into record; **Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Zeile presented the attached report. The Council received the report into record; **Financial Secretary** – No report.
- **Boards:** **Board of Elders** – The Elders will be conducting a Service of Prayer and Preaching on September 12 due to Pastor attending the installation of President Harrison; **Board of Trustees** – No report; **Board of Christian Education** – September 12 is Sunday School Rally Day; **Board of Evangelism** – No report; **Board of Stewardship** – Councilmember Harmon provided an update on the tithing survey.
- **Organization and Committee Reports:** **Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild** – No report; **Peace Youth Group** – No report.

### Business

- **Thrivent Choice Dollars** – Treasurer Zeile reminded the Council of this program and the need to remind congregation members; **Hallway Clean-Up** – Councilmember Elliott discussed the need to clean up the hallway by the classrooms for better utilization and safety; **Dishwasher** – Councilmember Greening would like to donate a fairly new dishwasher to the church.

**General Comment:** None.

### Adjournment & Closing Prayer

- Motion made by Councilmember Elliott, supported by Councilmember Harmon to adjourn at 7:46pm. Motion carried unanimously. Pastor Messer led the Lord's Prayer and conducted the Benediction.

## Synopsis of August 1, 2010 Voters' Assembly Minutes

### Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- The meeting was called to order at 11:14am. 19 members were present. Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer.

### Approval of Agenda

- Motion made by Jon Penzien, supported by Coaline Luplow to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Yvonne Elenbaas, supported by Bill Harmon to approve the minutes from April 25, 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

### Report(s)

- **Pastor** – Pastor Messer informed the Assembly of days when he would be on vacation and provided information and results on the Synodical Convention; **Treasurer** – Treasurer Zeile presented the attached report and informed the Assembly that the Youth Group loan has been paid in full. A three-year comparison was also presented; **Financial Secretary** – No report.
- **Boards:** **Board of Elders** – The Board of Elders has approved the First Communion Policy and it is now in effect; **Board of Trustees** – Thanks to Ken Hill for helping clean up the trees that came down in the storm. Information about the storage room/banner closet and parking lot projects were given; **Board of Christian Education** – Donation from VBS totaled \$81 and was given to Lutheran Public Radio. Sunday School begins on September 12 with Rally Day picnic. The children will be doing more goodwill and missionary projects this year; **Board of Evangelism** – Baseball game on July 25 was a great outing. Meetings and more events will resume in September; **Board of Stewardship** – Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of every month with concentration placed on education and the Three T's. Conducting survey of 10% and tithing.
- **Organization and Committee Reports:** **Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild** – Coaline Luplow presented the attached report containing information about Lutheran World Relief, the cookbook project and an additional refrigerator for flowers; **Peace Youth Group** – No report.

### Business

- No business was brought before the Assembly.

### General Comment

- The collection for the Siberian Mission continues through Advent/Christmas.

### Adjournment & Closing Prayer

- Motion made by Jon Penzien, supported by Coaline Luplow to adjourn at 11:51am. Motion carried unanimously. Pastor Messer closed with the Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,  
Megan Brown, Secretary

*(Complete Minutes are available in the Church Office)*

# PEACE NEWS & NOTES



## PYG NEWS

<u>October</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Location</u>
	Meeting	10/17	5 pm	7 pm	Fellowship Hall
	Fellowship Sundays	10:45	11:00		Fellowship Hall

Greetings in Christ,

We began our monthly meetings in September. Three youth were able to attend for fellowship and Bible study. Remember that all youth who are in the sixth grade or higher are members of the Peace Youth Group. Please join us for our activities and be an active member.

With the start of the Sunday School/Bible Study year, a Senior Youth Classroom has been set up in the back room. All Youth are welcome to relax here during fellowship. Please remember to clean up after yourself and keep the area a welcome and positive place to relax.

We are still working on the Higher Things Conference packets. Details and costs are still not available. I will continue to check for updates and get these out as soon as possible.

I wish to thank all the members of Peace for your continued support of the Youth. Your time and Christian examples are as important as your support of the various fundraisers (pop can, cell phones, and Spartan labels) that we continue collecting. May the Lord bless you all.

May the Spirit of the Lord be with you.

Jonathan Penzien

## WEIGHT WATCHERS

### LOSE FOR GOOD CAMPAIGN

Weight Watchers is in the midst once again of its Lose for Good campaign. Money will be donated by Weight Watchers to two organizations, national and international, which help to combat hunger. Individual meeting locations have the option of collecting food for local food banks. I

have designated our food bank at Peace and ask that you join members of my WW meeting to make donations that the SALT committee will distributed to families in need. Please see Sharyn if you have any questions.



©WeightWatchers

## SALT NEWS

### REFORMATION CELEBRATION

is "in the works" for Sunday, October 31 sponsored by SALT. A festival of song, brats, German food, "Lutheran" beverages - the works! Desserts and coffee will be furnished by the Ladies Guild (see page 9!).

### FUTURE EVENTS

Bowling, Adopt-a-Family, Advent Tea (see below), Family Movie Night, Christmas Caroling  
Please see the Minutes of our last meeting on the SALT Bulletin Board

### NEXT MEETING

Thursday, October 21, 6:30 pm

We welcome anyone who would like to join us.

### 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](mailto:ckj1969@yahoo.com) or telephone 463-3052).

### ADVENT TEA

Planning for our Advent Tea is underway! The date has been set for **Tuesday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m.** If interested in hosting a table this year, please contact Lisa Messer at 463-3093 or [lisamesser@aol.com](mailto:lisamesser@aol.com). The color theme for this year is BLUE, and we are looking forward to seeing how our hostesses work this into their decorating. Look for more information in upcoming bulletins and on the SALT bulletin board soon! If you have any questions about our Advent Tea, please see a member of our Advent Tea Committee: Gretchen Harrison, Lisa Messer, Lois Ramsey, and Dorothy Trgina.

## TABLE TALK

Our Table Talks are informal and informative discussions with Pastor Messer on various topics decided by the group in attendance. Plus, THEY'RE FUN! All are invited to our next Table Talk, which will take place **Thursday, September 28 at 7:00 p.m. at the Church.** We hope you're able to join us!



# PEACE NEWS & NOTES Cont'd

## 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 requests your participation in our celebration of Pastor Appreciation Month. A dinner in honor of Pastor Messer and his family is planned for Sunday, October 17, following Sunday School and Adult Bible Class. Please join us and express your appreciation to Pastor Messer for his work among us. The Guild will furnish the meat. We will be calling members of the congregation to provide the rest of the meal including salads, potatoes, vegetables and desserts. Coffee, tea, soft drinks, plates and utensils will be provided. As a gift to Pastor and Lisa, there will be a basket in the fellowship hall for cards. Our love and support is an integral part of the ability of our pastor to serve us effectively. Please consider showing your appreciation through a written message and/or a monetary gift.

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. Ultimately, pastor appreciation by a congregation is thanking God for sending His servant to us. Loving and appreciating our pastor shows that same love and appreciation to God and reveals more about the congregation than it does about the pastor. Leadership in any organization requires risk. Pastors risk being emotionally hurt when they open up to us and love us unconditionally. Pastors risk being disliked if they make an unpopular decision. Pastors risk criticism for nearly every choice they make, every sermon they preach and every person they love. And, pastor appreciation encourages him to continue to make the difficult choices and to risk loving people who might criticize him in return. There is no way that we can completely understand the trials of our pastor, but we can tell him that we appreciate his dedication to our Lord and to us.

Thanks in advance for your help in making this dinner a success. If you have any questions, please contact Coaline Luplow, Lois Ramsey or Carol Zeile.



The congregation of Peace Lutheran Church, Alma, MI, cordially invites you to attend the Pastor

Appreciation dinner for

*Pastor Thomas C. Messer*

Sunday October 17, 2010 at 1:00 PM

in the church fellowship hall

325 E Warwick, Alma, MI.

Please RSVP by October 10, 2010 to

Sharyn Greening, 989-463-3736 or

greening2@frontier.com

## *Ladies Lunch Bunch*

*One more trip this year. On Monday, October 25, we will be going to Clare, Michigan to the Doherty Hotel for lunch at 1:30 pm. We will leave at noon at Peace to carpool. We could have our dessert at "Cops and Doughnuts" and visit other shops in downtown Clare. And perhaps enjoy a color tour if the fall colors hold for us until then. A sample menu is posted, further information is on their website [www.dohertyhotel.com](http://www.dohertyhotel.com).*

*All ladies of Peace are welcome and also may invite a guest—someone without a church or someone living alone. Please enter your name on the signup list posted in Fellowship Hall and join us!*

## ✠ Baptized into Christ ✠

Abigail Marie Brown - September 26, 2010



# Ladies Guild

## Ladies Guild Meeting

Our Ladies' Guild will meet on **Monday, October 4, 2010 at 1 pm.** We will be voting on the new constitution at this month's meeting. Everyone should have received a copy in their mailbox. Hostess will be Sally Pease. Please note the time change. Meetings will be at 1 pm the first Monday of the month for the upcoming year. 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 updated list is posted on the Ladies' Guild Bulletin Board. All participants should have received 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 2010 posted on the fellowship hall bulletin board. We are now working toward ordering altar flower arrangements that coordinate with and enhance the liturgical colors of each Season of the Church year. Depending on the dates, flowers may not always be displayed for a calendar month. Some Seasons of the Church year cross calendar months. If you wish to place flowers on the altar sometime during the year, please put your name on the calendar and contact the church office with any information that you wish to have included in the bulletin. If there is a specific date in the month that commemorates an occasion, please also enter that date. A bouquet costs \$25. We encourage two persons (families) to purchase flowers each month, one for each plant stand. Please make checks payable to Peace Lutheran Church, attach a note marked "Altar Flowers" and place in the Financial Secretary's envelope in the church office. Any questions may be directed to Carol Zeile. Thank you for helping to beautify our chancel.

## COFFEE HOSTESSES

The Coffee List for 2011 is being prepared. Should you like to be added to serve as a coffee hostess during 2011, or if you wish to be removed from the list, please speak to Coaline Luplow.

## PEACE LUTHERAN LADIES GUILD COOKBOOK

We ended up with 334 recipes for the cookbook. We really appreciate everyone participating in contributing their recipes. This will be a fantastic way to reach out into our community. We hope and pray that we will receive the cookbook by the end of November in time for the Christmas Bazaar and Cookie Walk.

## NEW SEMINARY STUDENT ADOPTED

The Ladies Guild has adopted Justin Hesterman. He is in his second year at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. He is in the M. Div. program and has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Bowling Green State University, Ohio. He also works as a Youth Director in his home congregation in Napoleon, Ohio. Please check the bulletin board in the fellowship hall for information we receive from Justin and keep him in your prayers.

## LADIES GUILD SELLS CUTLERY

Rada cutlery is on display the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## PEACE LUTHERAN LADIES GUILD

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our relief efforts. Many families will benefit from what we have collected.

We will begin in January collecting baby layette items. Watch for further information.



### October

Carolyn Johnson

### November

#### Altar Care

Carol Zeile

### December

Carol Zeile

#### Coffee Hostesses



3 Jenny Baughman  
10 S.Greening/M.Brown  
17 Lisa Messer  
24 M.Isaksson/H.Meyer  
31 Tina Schafer

7 Dorothy Trgina  
14 Lois Ramsey  
21 Mary Jakolat  
28 Gretchen Harrison

5 Jo Wendt  
12 Andrea Elliott  
19 Cassie Tennant  
26 Coaline Luplow

# 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

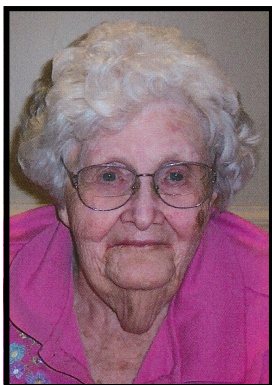
- We meet every **Thursday at 10:00 a.m.** We are currently studying *Joshua*. All are welcome to join us!

### Christian History 101

- Weekly Wednesday classes meet at 6 pm, followed by Divine Service at 7 pm.

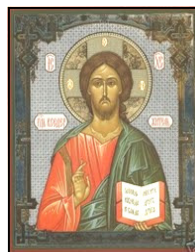
## First Communion and Confirmation Classes

- First Communion Classes take place as arranged (see Pastor Messer if interested); Confirmation Class for our 2nd-year confirmands will begin on **Saturday, October 16 at 11 a.m.** (no 1st-year confirmands this year).



**Violet A. Byers**  
(8/1/1918–9/27/2010)

✠ *Rest eternal, grant  
Violet, O Lord, and let  
light perpetual shine  
upon her!* ✠



## 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)



## OCTOBER

### Happy Birthday

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Marlene Wiltshire | 12 Brent Meyers    |
| 3 Jack Lesinger     | 15 Lucille Slick   |
| 4 Richard Kohler    | 15 Carolyn Johnson |
| 7 Charlotte Dargie  | 30 Myka Luplow     |

### Happy Anniversary

- 14 Gary and Marlene Miller  
14 Kevin and Linda Sellke  
28 Thomas and Sally Pease

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



Don't forget to take and fill "mission cans" for our ongoing collection in support of *The Siberian Lutheran Mission Society!* We'll collect the cans later this year.

## PAROCHIAL REPORT

(as of 9/30/10)

### Membership at Peace

Baptized - 139; Confirmed - 117

### Membership gains: 1

Abigail Marie Brown—Baptized on 9/26/10

### Membership losses: 1

Violet A. Byers—Called home by our Lord on 9/27/10

### Financial Report as of 9/26/10

YTD Budgeted .....\$ 84,876.00










YTD Receipts.....\$ 73,880.02

Difference .....\$ 10,995.98

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

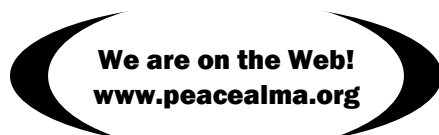
# October 2010

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>3 18th Sunday after Trinity</b> 8:30 - Choir <b>9:30 - Divine Service</b> 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC,SS 	4 1 pm - Ladies Guild 	5 7 pm - Church Council	6 6 pm - "Christian History" <b>7 pm - Divine Service</b> <i>St. Fidelis and Her Companions</i> 	7 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers	8	9
<b>10 19th Sunday after Trinity</b> 8:30 - Choir <b>9:30 - Divine Service</b> 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC,SS 	11	12	13 6 pm - "Christian History" <b>7 pm - Divine Service</b> <i>St. Luke, the Evangelist (Obs.)</i> 	14 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers	15	16 11 am - Conf. Class
<b>17 20th Sunday after Trinity</b> <b>9:30 - Divine Service</b> 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC,SS 1 pm Appreciation Dinner 5-7 pm PYG 	18	19	20 6 pm - "Christian History" <b>7 pm - Divine Service</b> <i>St. James of Jerusalem (Obs.)</i> 	21 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers 6:30 pm - SALT	22	23 11 am - Conf. Class
<b>24 21st Sunday after Trinity</b> 8:30 - Choir <b>9:30 - Divine Service</b> 10:45 - Fellowship <b>11:00 - Quarterly Voters' Assembly</b> 	25 <div>Newsletter articles due</div> 1:30 pm - Lunch Bunch to Clare	26	27 6 pm - "Christian History" <b>7 pm - Divine Service</b> <i>St. Simon &amp; St. Jude (Obs.)</i> 	28 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers 7 pm - Table Talk	29 Peace Movie Night 6:30 - Pizza 7:00 - Movie ("Luther") <b>"Here I Stand!"</b>	30 11 am - Conf. Class
<b>31 Festival of Reformation Day</b> 8:30 - Choir <b>9:30 - Divine Service</b> 10:45 - Fellowship <i>Reformation Celebration!</i> 	<b>November 1</b>	2	3 6 pm - "Christian History" <b>7 pm - Divine Service</b> <i>St. Pirmin, Bishop</i> 	4 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers	5	6 11 am - Conf. Class

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 October*

	ELDERS	ACOLYTES	USHERS	GREETERS
<b>October</b>				
3 - 9:30 am (Trinity 18)	Miguel Ortiz	Paige Harwager Aaron Messer	James Sager, Kevin Sellke	Larry and Andrea Elliott
10 - 9:30 am (Trinity 19)	Terry Luplow	Morgan Johnson Sierra Luplow	Daren Johnson Phillip Schafer	Lillian Manns Lois Ramsey
17 - 9:30 am (Trinity 20)	Miguel Ortiz	Samantha Messer Myka Luplow	Chris Brown Tyrel Harwager	Terry and Coaline Luplow
24 - 9:30 am (Trinity 21)	Terry Luplow	Natalie Penzien Paige Harwager	Gary Miller Vern Jakolat	Jon Penzien and Family
31 - 9:30 am (Festival of Reformation Day)	Larry Elliott	Aaron Messer Morgan Johnson	Vern Jakolat Phillip Schafer	Lisa Messer and Family
<b>November</b>				
7 - 9:30 am (Festival of All Saints' Day)	Larry Elliott	Sierra Luplow Samantha Messer	Chris Brown James Sager	Bob and Jo Wendt

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