

The Peace Post

Peace Lutheran Church ~ Alma, MI

October, 2011

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



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast".....	1-2
About Reformation Day.....	3
Krauth on Reformation Day.....	4
Who Lutherans Are.....	5
Reformation Day Sermon.....	6-7
Pastor Appreciation.....	8
Reformation Celebration!.....	9
Council & VA Minutes.....	10
Peace News & Notes.....	11-12
Ladies Guild Info.....	13
Christian Education.....	14
Birthdays & Anniversaries.....	14
Parochial Report.....	14
October Calendar.....	15
Serving in October.....	16



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 we learn to cherish it as Dr. Luther did, realizing that the saving Gospel of our Lord Jesus opens up for us sinners the way to eternal life in the Paradise of His Kingdom, which shall have no end. May we be moved and empowered by the Holy Spirit not only to cherish the Holy Gospel, but to defend it, and to support it with our time, talents, and treasures, so that it may continue to be preached, taught, and delivered here at Peace Lutheran Church in Alma, MI until our Lord Jesus Christ returns in great glory on the Last Day! Amen.

A Blessed Reformation Celebration to You All!

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Messer

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

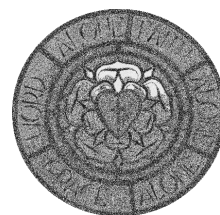
Wittenberg, as a manger, where in his lowly glory the Son of God was born again. Blessed forever be the day! On it, through all time, men shall gather, bringing their offerings of praise; remembering, treasuring, and keeping untarnished, the holy faith whose restoration was thus begun.

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

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.

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

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. William Weedon

25 October 2009

St. Paul Lutheran - Hamel, IL

Text: John 8:31-36 (Rom. 3:19-29)

In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Do you have to change for God to regard you kindly, or does God's kind regard of you have the power to change you? Think about that for a minute. The Reformation comes down to this question. Natively, we all think the first way. You spend your life in this world doing what you hope is enough good to bring about that kind regard that means God won't send you to hell - which is where you end up when you lack that kind regard. The problem with that whole way of thinking is that it leaves selfishness intact at the deepest level: for then your doing good to others is simply USING them so that you can stack up the requisite amount of brownie points to assure that God will be kind to you.

The other way of looking at the question - the place from which the Reformation took root and grew - was the joyous "a-ha!" that God's kind regard has already been given to us and to all of us in His Son, and that believing this kind regard is a power - the only power that changes a person from the inside out. When you know and believe that you have this kind regard (and it is a struggle to believe it!), when you rejoice that for the sake of Christ Jesus, your heavenly Father looks on you with tender mercy and eternal love, you are set free from all pathetic attempts to win that love and mercy, and you actually become

some use to our neighbor. You see why? Because you are not using them as objects to do your good works on; instead, you want only to serve them, for if you have been kindly regarded, so have they. Loved with an eternal love in Christ Jesus. Purchased by the self-same blood that won you. And so they are to be honored as fellow-redeemed - even when they don't know a thing about it yet. Every time we celebrate the Eucharist we proclaim this: God has loved *the world* in the gift of His Son. His love doesn't have to be earned or deserved; it's a free gift! This isn't some big theological theory; it's bedrock reality. And it's the difference between living as a son or living as a slave.

In today's Gospel our Lord highlights the dreadful uncertainty of the slave in the household. "The slave does not remain in the house forever." That is, the slave lives always in fear, always worried about when they're going to get the boot. Will they have a place in that household? And especially when they majorly blow it. Do they not have to fear that the Master will say: "Enough is enough! I've had it up to here with you and your disasters. GET OUT!"?

In utter contrast is the place in the household occupied by "the Son." The Son's place is absolutely secure and certain. It's his HOME. What's to fear? There is only One Son whose place in the Father's house was so secure, and yet He came among us to free us slaves from sin and fear. He came to break the shackles of sin, for you know the truth of His words that everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. You've tasted the slavery. You know how the evil one seduces you into it - "just once; just try it" and you know how you end up losing your

freedom because of it, and being unable on your own to ever break loose again. You have tasted that bitterness in your life. And you've known in your heart of hearts the fear that because you are sin's slave, there is no way that God can regard you kindly, no matter how many good works you pile up to load onto the divine scales, you KNOW the heart out of which they flow and in whose bondage it lies. And so there is fear. Not even "have I done enough" but in your most honest moments, the despair: "I cannot do enough." As old Job cried out in anguish: Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? There is not one.

He was mostly right, but not entirely. We can't, but there is One who can. And He has. Along comes the One who IS free, the Son of His Father's house, the Son over whom sin has ZERO power because it can't get its claws into Him at all. And He comes to you, bound in your iniquity, to shatter the shackles and lift you up to the joy of being children of the household alongside Him. He takes away the fears by teaching you that the love that is in Him is the Father's love for you from before time began. A love that is eternal, free, and unmerited. You could never earn it or deserve it. It's just gift. "Surprise, surprise, surprise!" as Gomer Pyle might have said: You have been loved with a love eternal, vast, divine.

As you continue in Jesus' words, this is the truth that is brought home to you. And so the shackles of sin are cracked open wide. The lies of Satan exposed. How different the whole world becomes when the realization sinks down into the depths of your being: I do not have to change for God to kindly regard me; it is His kind regard that changes me, sets me free.

This is what St. Paul is glorying in in today's Epistle. The Law demands our lives be wholly love, it shuts our mouths and strips us of every excuse - it forces us to see the plain truth of our bondage to sin. It can show us that bondage, but it can never free us. But then God in unfathomable grace manifests a righteousness, a justice, that is apart from the Law. It's a justice, a righteousness for all who believe. There's no difference - every last one of us has sinned and fallen short of God's glory. And there's no difference - every last one of us has been justified - kindly regarded - by His grace as a GIFT through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Jesus is the Wiping out of Sin by His blood. He is the gift into our flesh of eternal love, a kind regard that lifts us from slavery and exalts us to be sons in the house of His Father. All gift and a gift for all. No one excluded. That suffering and death of His were for you and you and you. No boasting allowed. No one can say: God owes me. What God owes you is that eternal death you fear. What God freely gives you is pardon, forgiveness and eternal life in His Son.

THIS is the heart of the Reformation and this is what He gives us to proclaim through the length and breadth of this world: People of the earth, hearken! You who are slaves to the bitterness of sin, listen up! In Jesus, in His bloody death, in His glorious resurrection, YOU have been freed. God looks on you in love and mercy and calls you to the grace of sonship. Rise, people! You have a home waiting where with the angels and saints you will give glory forever to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit unto the ages of ages! Amen.

Pastor Weedon's blog: www.weedon.blogspot.com

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 16**, 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.

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.

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. Following is an expression of thanks to Pastor Messer and a prayer from all of us.

Dear Pastor,

It is seldom that we get the opportunity to thank someone in advance for the good he is going to do. Today, though, we want to take this opportunity to thank you in advance. There are already many things for which we could thank you, the time you take preparing your weekly sermons, Services and classes, to name just a few. There are also the myriad of other things you have already done for our church family. Some have been noticed, but most have gone unnoticed. Many will never even be known to anyone but you and God.

But, we wanted to take this time to thank you in advance. In the future, Pastor, it is most certain that you will celebrate some joy with us: the birth of a child, a prayer request answered, a child going off to college, a son or daughter returning home from military service, loved ones marrying. We feel sure, too, that in the future, you will stand with us in trying times. You will weep over our sorrows with us, and you will hold our hands to offer comfort and encouragement. You will pray for us that God will give us peace and strength to handle whatever this world brings. We may be too busy or preoccupied with life to even notice or to take the time to say, "Thank you, Pastor". So, we wanted to say it now, in advance. For now, because we may forget later, we offer this prayer up on your behalf:

Dear Lord,

Thank you for our pastor. Help us to always remember that You sent this pastor to shepherd us and to mentor us, to teach us and to correct us, to comfort and guide us and to be Your representative among us. Our pastor makes many sacrifices of which we are completely unaware. But, Lord, You know his needs. Help us to be more aware of them also. When our pastor and his family need prayer, remind us to approach You on their behalf. Help us to be more loving toward our pastor and his family by being less critical, more sensitive to his needs, speaking words of encouragement to and about him, and remembering to say thank you. Thank you for our pastor and his family and for sending them to us. Lord, please bless, keep, and protect them always. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Reformation Celebration!

Reformation Day

Sunday, October 30

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

Reformation Celebration Immediately Following

Come join us as we enjoy:

Delicious German Food!

(Brats, German Potato Salad, Sauerkraut, Kuchens and other desserts, and more)

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 6, 2011 Church Council Minutes

Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- President Brown called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer. The following members were present: Carol Zeile, Chris Brown, Gary Miller, Sharyn Greening, Dave Zeile, Carolyn Johnson, Larry Elliott, Ken Hill, and Cassie Tennant. Pastor Messer was also present.

Approval of Agenda

- Motion to approve amended agenda by Sharyn Greening, supported by Carol Zeile, motion carried unanimously

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Carol Zeile, supported by Gary Miller to approve the August 2 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Report(s)

- **Pastor** – Report attached; **Treasurer's Report** – Report Attached; **Financial Secretary** – No report; **Boards:** **Board of Elders** – No report; **Board of Trustees** – No report; **Board of Christian Education** – Sept 11 Sunday School Rally Day, Theme - Teach them to observe all things; **Board of Evangelism** – Meeting Sept 15 at 6:30pm; **Board of Stewardship** – a letter is being prepared to be sent to the congregation; Larry also gave the following report on the sale of our excess land during his Stewardship report: There have been no outside investors interested in the property; we will now move forward to list the property. Pursue listing the property with Diane Beard for a 3 month contract with a list price of \$450,000 excluding the interested parties contacted by council members (i.e, investment managing company, hospital, local physicians); **Organization and Committee Reports:** **Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild** – No report; **Peace Youth Group** – No report; **Budget/Finance Committee**- meeting Sept 8 at 7:30pm.

Business

- **Meeting with Vern's son, Mike** – this is on hold until further notice.
- **"The Concordia Organist"** – Pastor Messer will post an announcement in the newsletter asking for donations.
- **Health Insurance** – Elder Elliott has been exploring and researching different health insurance plans for Pastor and his family. Budget/Finance committee will discuss further during the Thursday night meeting and then report back to council.
- **Mary's Compensation** – will continue to pay Mary her Administrative Assistant salary, but not for playing the organ, while she is off recovering, as replacement organists (if available) will need to be paid.

General Comments: No General Comments

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

- Motion made by Gary Miller, supported by Larry Elliott, adjourn at 8:21pm. Motion carried unanimously. Pastor Messer closed with the Lord's Prayer and Benediction.

Synopsis of July 24, 2011 Voters' Assembly Minutes

Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- President Brown called the meeting to order at 11:10 am. Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer. There were 24 members in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Gary Miller, supported by Coaline Luplow to approve the May 1 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Report(s)

- **Pastor** – Report attached; **Treasurer** – Report attached; **Financial Secretary** – Quarterly statements have been distributed, please review and note any discrepancies to Gary Miller; **Boards:** **Board of Elders** – continuing to visit shut ins; **Board of Trustees** – No report; **Board of Christian Education** – Sunday school to start September 11 with a Rally day/potluck; **Board of Evangelism** – no report; **Board of Stewardship** – meeting Tuesday July 26th at 7pm; **Organization and Committee Reports:** **Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild** – report attached; **Peace Youth Group** – Thank you from the youth group for support of their bake sale. Planning a second bake sale.

Business/General Comments

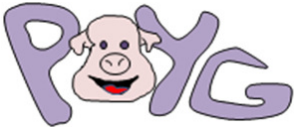
- Appraisal- received the report back, meeting with the hospital this week to discuss.
- Today is 6th anniversary of Pastor's ordination and installation. Thank you to Pastor Messer.
- 2012 will be the 50th Anniversary of our congregation.
- Georgia Spindler's walker was given to the church for use.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

- Motion made by Gary Miller, supported by Sharyn Greening to adjourn at 11:35am. Motion carried unanimously. Pastor Messer closed with prayer and benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassie Tennant, Secretary

PEACE NEWS & NOTES



NEWS

<u>October</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Location</u>
	Meeting	10/16	5 pm	7 pm	Fellowship Hall
	Fellowship Sundays	10:45	11:00		Fellowship Hall

Greetings in Christ,

We started our monthly meetings in September. We had one of the highest turnouts in a long time. But there is still plenty of room for more. We had a good fellowship and then combined the business and Bible Study.

We studied Exodus 20:1-17 and, utilizing the Ten Commandments, we set up a PYG Code of Conduct. This will be reviewed in the October meeting and posted on the board.

The Ladies Bazaar is rapidly approaching and we will be planning and preparing in our weekly fellowship after Service.

We also need to review ideas and plans for service and fellowship activities for the coming year. If you have ideas, please contact me or any of the Youth.

Thanks again to everyone for your continued support of the Youth.

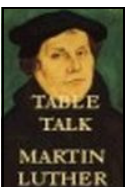
May the Spirit of the Lord be with you.
Jonathan Penzien



Weight Watchers has begun its fourth annual Lose For Good campaign. Through the efforts of members nationwide \$1 million will be donated to two organizations to help combat hunger. The members of WW who meet at Peace have been given the opportunity to donate food to our food bank which is distributed to those in need by our SALT committee. We invite members of the congregation to participate as well by donating non-perishable items **through October 15**. A collection site is set up in the fellowship hall. If you have any questions please see Sharyn Greening.

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 **Friday, November 3 at 7:00 p.m. at the Church**. We hope you're able to join us!



SALT NEWS

REFORMATION CELEBRATION (see p. 9)

A sign-up sheet has been placed on the SALT bulletin board for those interested in making some of the dishes we'd like to have. We'd like to keep all the food German, and will provide recipes for those willing to help.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, October 20, 6:30 p.m.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us.

*Please see the Minutes of our last meeting
on the SALT Bulletin Board*

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

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

SPAGETTI DINNER

A Spaghetti Dinner is being planned for Friday, November 11 (more details to come) to raise funds for SALT.

ADVENT TEA

Planning for our Advent Tea is underway! The date has been set for **Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m.**, and our own **Roger Humphrey will be performing for us**. If interested in hosting a table this year, please contact Lisa Messer at 463-3093 or lmesser4@gmail.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.

Ladies Lunch Bunch

We did not meet in September, but will be meeting this month on **October 10 at 1:30 p.m.** We'll keep it local and have lunch **at JJ Ruby's**. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the fellowship hall. All ladies of Peace are welcome and also may invite a guest—the more, the merrier! See you there!

PEACE NEWS & NOTES Cont'd

PEACE MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, October 28

6:30 p.m.—Pizza

7:00 p.m.—Movie

In honor of Reformation Day, we'll watch "Luther" again this year. Bring your own comfy chairs and snacks if you wish. Hope you'll join us!



PEACE PICK 'EM - NFL

(Peace Pick 'Em is just for fun. Everyone is welcome to play. Sheets with each week's games are provided on Sunday mornings; simply circle the team you think is going to win each game and give them to Pastor Messer)

Week 1 Best Record: 9-6

Pastor Messer, Dave Zeile

Week 2 Best Record: 13-3

Carol Zeile

Week 3 Best Record: 11-5

Pastor Messer, Lisa Messer, Sam Messer, Carol Zeile

Week 4 Best Record: 14-2

Terry Luplow

Overall Standings (through Week 4)

(Based on at least two weeks of picks - to be included in the Final Standings at the end of the year, you have to play a minimum of ten weeks)

<u>Picker</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Win%</u>
Carol Zeile	24-8	.750
Pastor Messer	42-21	.667
Lisa Messer	32-16	.667
Amy Blair	31-16	.660
Dave Zeile	41-22	.651
Sam Messer	31-17	.646
Larry Elliott	40-23	.635
Ed Norton	36-27	.571
Lexie Blair	35-28	.556
Carolyn Johnson	16-15	.516
Andrea Elliott	32-31	.508
Sarah Messer	15-16	.484
Sharyn Greening	22-25	.468
Aaron Messer	14-18	.438
Paige Harwager	20-27	.426

Others

Terry Luplow	14-2	.875
Miguel Ortiz	11-5	.688
Coaline Luplow	10-6	.625
Jennie Harmon	9-7	.563
Zane Luplow	6-9	.400
Kelsey Gensler	4-11	.364

A Pastor, A Pope, An Assassin

Warrior Monk

A Pastor
Stephen Grant
Novel

Ray Keating

"Ray Keating has created a fascinating and unique character in Pastor Grant. The way Keating intertwines politics, national security and faith into a compelling thriller is sheer delight."
- Larry Kudlow
CNBC's "The Kudlow Report"

Introducing "Peace Book Club"

The idea to start a book club at Peace has been kicked around for some time, but has finally come to fruition, and all are welcomed to join the club. The first book we'll read and discuss is pictured to the left. You can order "Warrior Monk" on amazon.com for around \$17 (or less, if you get one used). If you need help ordering, or if you don't have the means to purchase the book, but want to be a part of the club, see Pr. Messer and he'll arrange to get a copy in your hands. It's a great book and will make for great discussion. That discussion will take place at our first meeting, which will take place on **Tuesday, October 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Elliott's home** (723 N. River Ave. in Alma). This will give everyone ample time to get the book and read it before we meet to discuss it. The group will decide which book to read next that night, and we'll go from there, meeting on a monthly basis to discuss books we've read. If you have any questions, see Pr. Messer. Hope you'll consider joining us!

Ladies Guild

Ladies Guild Meeting

Our Ladies' Guild next meeting will be **Monday, October 3, at 12:00 pm.** Hostess will be Sharyn Greening.. All Ladies of the congregation are invited to attend our Guild meetings. If you are a confirmed female member of Peace, you are a member of Guild. We would sincerely encourage you to participate and be an active member of the Guild.

PLC Women's Prayer Chain

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

Altar Flowers

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

PEACE LADIES GUILD COOKBOOK

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

LADIES GUILD ON THE WEB

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

PEACE LUTHERAN LADIES GUILD



Fabric Kit

2 PIECES OF COTTON OR COTTON-BLEND FABRIC:

2 1/4 YARDS OF 60" WIDE FABRIC or

3 YARDS OF 44" WIDE FABRIC or

4 YARDS OF 36" WIDE FABRIC

2 SPOOLS OF MATCHING GENERAL PURPOSE THREAD
- 250-300 YARDS EACH

FOLD THREAD AND ONE PIECE OF FABRIC INSIDE
SECOND FABRIC AND TIE WITH YARN, STRING,
RIBBON, OR FABRIC.

COLLECTION DATE: OCTOBER 1 – DECEMBER 31

COFFEE HOSTESS SCHEDULE

The coffee hostess list will be made for 2012 in mid-October. If you wish to be added or deleted from the list, please contact Coaline at 989-763-1016 before **October 16**. Thanks.

NEEDED: BOOKSHELF

We would like to add a bookshelf with 4-5 shelves to expand our Church Library. See Pastor or Coaline if you can donate.

LADIES GUILD SELLS CUTLERY

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



October

Lois Ramsey

November

Altar Care

Megan Brown

Coffee Hostesses

6 Dorothy Trgina
13 Lois Ramsey
20 Coaline Luplow
27 Gretchen Harrison

December

Carol Zeile

6 Andrea Elliott
11 Jo Wendt
18 Cassie Tennant
27 Coaline Luplow



2 Jenny Baughman
9 S.Greening/M.Brown
16 Lisa Messer
23 M.Isaksson/H.Meyers
30 Tina Schafer

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 *1 Samuel*. All are welcome to join us!

Christian History Class

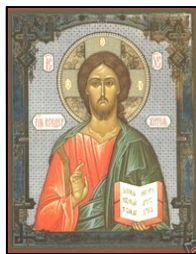
- Wednesday classes meet at 6 pm (currently studying *The Didache*), followed by Divine Service at 7 pm.

First Communion and Confirmation Classes

- First Communion Classes take place as arranged (see Pastor Messer if interested); Confirmation Class for our 1st-year Confirmands takes place on Wednesdays at 5 pm (no 2nd-year confirmands this year).

TALK RADIO FOR THE THINKING CHRISTIAN!

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



PASTOR MESSER IS BLOGGING!

www.abideinmyword.blogspot.com

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

OCTOBER

Happy Birthday

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

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.*

SUPPORTING THE MISSION

As Christians, we are called to support the Mission of Christ's Church at home and abroad. Our tithes and offerings we give each week are used to support the Mission at home, that we may continue to receive our Lord's Holy Word and Sacraments here at Peace. But, we should also be about the business of supporting the Mission abroad. To that end, there will soon be a fitting receptacle located in the fellowship hall labeled "Supporting the Mission," in which you can place donations as you are so moved and able. Every so often, we'll take what has been donated and send it out to a mission endeavor worthy of our support (e.g. Issues, Etc., The Siberian Lutheran Mission Society, Lutherans in Africa, Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries, Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Lutheran World Relief and Human Care, University Lutheran Chapel). So, look for this soon, dear friends, and consider donating from time to time, that our congregation can actively support the Mission not only at home, but abroad!

"Therefore, go and make disciples . . ."

PAROCHIAL REPORT

(as of 9/25/11)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 136; Confirmed - 118

Membership gains: 0

Membership losses: 0

Financial Report as of 9/25/11

YTD Budgeted.....\$ 82,173.00

YTD Receipts.....\$ 74,299.50

Difference.....\$ - 7,873.50

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

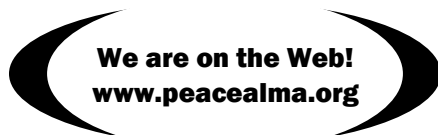
October 2011

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
2 St. Michael and All Angels 8:00 - Elders Meeting 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC,SS 	3 12 pm - Ladies Guild 	4 7 pm - Church Council	5 5 pm - Confirmation Class 6 pm - Divine Service <i>H.M. Mullenberg</i> <i>Pastor (Obs.)</i> 	6 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers	7	8
9 16th Sunday after Trinity 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC,SS 	10 <div> Pastor at Liturgical Seminar in Kewanee, IL </div> 1:30 pm - Lunch Bunch to JJ Ruby's	11	12 5 pm - Confirmation Class 6 pm - "Christian History" 7 pm - Divine Service <i>St. Philip,</i> <i>Deacon (Obs.)</i> 	13 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers 7:30 pm - Budget/Finance	14	15
16 17th Sunday after Trinity 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC,SS 12:15 - Pastor Appreciation Dinner 5-7 pm PYG 	17	18	19 5 pm - Confirmation Class 6 pm - "Christian History" 7 pm - Divine Service <i>St. Luke, Apostle &</i> <i>Evangelist (Obs.)</i> 	20 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers 6:30 pm - SALT	21	22
23 St. James of Jerusalem 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - Quarterly Voters' Assembly 	24 <div> Newsletter articles due </div>	25	26 5 pm - Confirmation Class 6 pm - "Christian History" 7 pm - Divine Service <i>St. Simon &</i> <i>St. Jude (Obs.)</i> 	27 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers 7:30 pm - Budget/Finance	28 Peace Movie Night 6:30 - Pizza 7:00 - Movie ("Luther") "Here I Stand!"	29
30 Festival of Reformation Day 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship Reformation Celebration! 	31 Reformation Day 	November 1 All Saints Day <i>Pastor at Winkel</i> 7 pm - Church Council	2 5 pm - Confirmation Class 6 pm - "Christian History" 7 pm - Divine Service <i>St. Victorinus of</i> <i>Pettau, Martyr</i> 	3 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers 7 pm - Table Talk	4	5

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

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



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

Serving in October

October	ELDERS	ACOLYTES	USHERS	GREETERS
2 - 9:30 am (<i>St. Michael & All Angels</i>)	Terry Luplow	Farrah Blair Samantha Messer	Tyrel Harwager Jonathan Penzien	Jim and Janice Sager
9 - 9:30 am (<i>Trinity 16</i>)	Miguel Ortiz	Natalie Penzien Sierra Luplow	Vern Jakolat Daren Johnson	Jon Penzien and Family
16 - 9:30 am (<i>Trinity 17</i>)	David Zeile	Savannah Blair Paige Harwager	Phillip Schafer Miguel Ortiz	Helen Meyers
23 - 9:30 am (<i>St. James of Jerusalem</i>)	Larry Elliott	Aaron Messer Morgan Johnson	Gary Miller John Lemmermann	Miguel and Sue Ortiz
30 - 9:30 am (<i>Festival of Reformation Day</i>)	Terry Luplow	Farrah Blair Samantha Messer	Vern Jakolat Gabriel Blair	Dorothy Trgina
November				
6 - 9:30 am (<i>Festival of All Saints' Day</i>)	Miguel Ortiz	Myka Luplow Natalie Penzien	Terry Luplow Chris Brown	Jenny Baughman

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