

The Peace Post

Peace Lutheran Church ~ Alma, MI

November, 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!



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From the Desk of Pastor Messer **"The Bride of Christ"**

In Holy Scripture, marriage is employed as the controlling metaphor for God's relationship with man. Already in Gen. 2:24, we get a picture of what St. Paul describes for us in Eph. 5:22-33, namely that the Son of God, the Eternal Word of the Father, unites Himself to His Bride (His Church) in a one-flesh union, which shall never be rent asunder. For just as Eve was made from the rib taken out of the side of Adam and joined to him in the one-flesh union of marriage, so it is that Christ's Bride is made from the water which flows forth from His side on the Cross into the baptismal font. In Holy Baptism, we are made one flesh with our Bridegroom, Christ. This is why St. Paul uses the formula "in Christ" throughout his letters to describe our relationship with Jesus. We are not just friends or acquaintances of Jesus, but one flesh with Him—in Him; His Bride.

It is no mistake that the first sign performed in public by Jesus took place at a wedding in Cana (see John 2). There, as you know, He miraculously turned water into wine. Wedding, water, wine. Sounds Sacramental, doesn't it? It should, because it is. We are brought into a one-flesh marriage with Christ by water (Holy Baptism) and kept in that marriage by wine/Blood (Holy Eucharist).

This becomes clearer when we consider the fact that both water and blood flowed forth from Christ's side when He was pierced on the Cross. Thus, the first sign Jesus performs in public points forward to, and finds its fulfillment in, the Cross. It is upon the Cross that Jesus makes His vows to His Bride: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do," etc. It is upon the Cross that "[Jesus] gave Himself up for [His Bride], that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word, so that he might present the Church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish" (Eph. 5:25-27). The Crucifixion, gruesome sight that it was, is a beautiful Wedding Ceremony in which Jesus pledges His love for His Bride to His Father. It is for this reason that the Eternal Son of God left His Father to come down from heaven and become incarnate in our Flesh, and left His mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, to embark on His Public Ministry—to go to the Cross, that He might take for Himself a Bride, become one flesh with her, and hold fast to her. Indeed, as St. John tells us many times in the Gospel he penned by inspiration of the Holy

Spirit, the Cross is the very “hour” for which Christ came. And, what happened at that very “hour” was not only Him suffering for the sin of the world and winning forgiveness, life, and salvation for all who believe in Him, but Him getting married to His Bride.

When Jesus dies on the Cross, St. John tells us: “When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished,’ and He bowed His head and handed over the Spirit” (John 19:30). Most English translations get the last part of this verse wrong. They have, “. . . and gave up His spirit,” as if this is simply a reference to Jesus’ spirit leaving His body upon death and going to be with His Father in heaven. While that does happen, to be sure, it is not what is written here. The Greek verb translated, “He gave up,” actually means, “He handed over” - it’s the same Greek verb used when Jesus is “handed over” to the authorities at Gethsemane. In addition, there is no pronoun attached to the word, “spirit,” so it is not, “His spirit,” but rather, “the Spirit.” Putting these things together, the proper translation yields, “. . . and handed over the Spirit.” Thus, when Jesus dies, He hands over the Holy Spirit, and then His side is pierced with a spear and out come water and blood. The Holy Spirit, water, and blood. Again, sounds Sacramental, doesn’t it? The Holy Spirit works through the water and the blood which pour forth from Christ’s side on the cross to create and sustain Christ’s Holy Bride, His Church.

This is why St. John places emphasis upon the water and the blood flowing out of Christ’s side, saying, “He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe” (John 19:35). It is through the water and the blood, sanctified by the Holy Spirit, that believers are made and sustained, that is, united to Jesus in the one-flesh union of Holy Marriage. That St. John knows the theological significance of the water and blood flowing from Christ’s side is evident not only by the emphasis he places on it here, but also by what he writes in his first letter: “For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree” (1 Jn. 5:7-8). The Spirit testifies concerning believers that they have had their sins washed away in the water of Holy Baptism where they received the white robes of Christ’s holiness and righteousness, and that their robes are continuously washed clean in the Blood of the Lamb distributed to them in the Holy Supper. “And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life” (1 Jn. 5:11-12). Only when we are “in Christ”—united to Him in the one-flesh union of Holy Marriage—do we have eternal life, for that life is “in the Son.”

Dearly beloved, you are the Bride of Christ, brought into a one-flesh union with Him by the Holy Spirit through water and kept in that union through blood. Your Bridegroom meets you at the altar during Divine Service that He might renew His vows to you, and you to Him. Need I mention, then, how important it is for you to attend the Divine Service regularly? There is where your Bridegroom comes to provide for you, to love you, to care for you, to protect you, to take care of your every need. How could you possibly stay away? How many marriages would last if the husband beckoned his wife to come to where he is, so that he could take care of her every need, and she did not come?

Let it not be so with you! Come to where your Bridegroom is as often as possible. He loves you and longs to take care of you. He desires to give you a foretaste of the Feast to come—the Marriage Feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom, which has no end. He wants to feed you with the Bread of Heaven, His very Body and Blood, which He gave and shed for you on the Cross, that you might have forgiveness, life, and salvation. Come, dear friends in Christ. The Wedding Hall is ready. The Feast is prepared. Your Bridegroom awaits!

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Messer

Thoughts on the St. Michael's Liturgical Conference

Zion Lutheran Church, Detroit - Monday, September 26, 2011

By Amy Blair

When Gabe and I decided to go to this conference we really had no idea what we were signing up for. We value the traditional worship we've experienced at Peace and were excited at the thought of enriching our knowledge of the Divine Service and its history. Pastor told us that the Holy Mass alone was worth the trip and he wasn't kidding. Not only was I overloaded with great information about the scriptural basis for incense use during worship, but the three Services we were blessed to attend that day were enchanting, to say the least.

As I walked into the church I felt as though I had stepped back in time. I was no longer a part of this modern, demanding world. It was evident to my every sense that I had entered a sanctuary. There were no household chores calling my name or quarrels to mediate. The reverence was intimidating at first; it was obvious I was in a holy place and among "professionals." The subtle smell of incense had a genuine calming effect. I felt more at ease with every breath. The few women that attended wore head coverings, as did I. It was refreshing to simply be a woman in the Lord's house.

If glorious was a sound it would be a pipe organ! With the commanding sounds of the organ, the choir and all of the deep male voices, I could actually sing aloud without offending anyone (I hope!). Everywhere I looked was an incredible work of art; the ceilings, the walls, the pews, the light fixtures. Each and every detail of the church was carefully crafted to honor and praise our Heavenly Father. The carved, wooden depiction of the Last Supper which adorned the front of the altar was most beautiful. During Solemn Vespers the sun beamed through the Chancel window, a splendid depiction of Jesus' Ascension to Heaven, almost illuminating Fr. Braden's homily. Visual worship is so powerful. Honestly, I was so enamored by the intricate beauty of the church I remember little of the morning sermon. However, the intense emotions that stirred inside of me, brought on by the holiness surrounding me, will always be with me.

This conference was enlightening. I knew when I left I was different than when I arrived. I am already looking forward to next year. This is definitely a "bucket list" must for every Lutheran. I would love for my girls to experience a Holy Mass at Zion but I am very grateful that we were brought to worship at Peace. Our Divine Service varies none in content from that at Zion. When it's all said and done, the Body and Blood of my Savior Jesus Christ is exactly the same, regardless of the beauty that surrounds its consecration. His gifts are constant and faithful, they endure time and place. Glory be to God.



The Liturgy of the Divine Service and Life of the Lutheran Church

By Rev. Mark Surburg, Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran in Marion, IN

The Divine Service: God's gifts for us

Every Sunday we gather for worship at church. As we consider what happens on Sunday morning, it is important that think about the service in the way of the Gospel. The focus of Sunday morning is not on what we do (Law). Instead, the focus is on what God is doing for us (Gospel). God comes to us with His gifts of the Means of Grace by which He delivers forgiveness and strengthens us in the faith. The first move is from God to us. Then in turn, as we receive God's gifts, we respond with praise and thanksgiving. As the Apology of the Augsburg Confession states: "Thus the service and worship of the Gospel is to receive good thing from God, while the worship of the law is to offer and present our goods to God ... The greatest possible comfort comes from this doctrine that the highest worship in the Gospel is the desire to receive forgiveness of sins, grace, and righteousness" (IV.310). In order to recognize this fact, Lutherans have called the Sunday service Gottesdienst, which means "Divine Service." This name reminds us that on Sunday, God serves us with His gifts.

The Liturgy of the Divine Service: God's Word built around the Means of Grace

In ancient Greece, the word "liturgy" meant "public service." The early church took this word and used it to describe the fixed orders of service in which God comes to us and serves us with His gifts. The liturgy of the Divine Service is made up of verses and phrases taken from Holy Scripture. The liturgy is made up of Scripture and it has been built around the reading and proclamation of God's Word and the celebration of the Sacrament of the Altar. It highlights and emphasizes the sacramental ways in which God comes to us and is therefore the best and most natural setting for these gifts. The liturgy stresses the sacramental ways that God works, and therefore it also emphasizes the incarnation because the sacraments find their origin in the incarnate One, Jesus Christ.

The liturgy teaches the correct faith

What we believe, shapes and forms the way we worship. For example, churches who believe that Christ gives us His very body and blood in Lord's Supper place the Sacrament of the Altar at the center of their worship service every Sunday, while churches who believe that it is only a symbol do not usually celebrate the Lord's Supper very often. The liturgy of the Divine Service reflects exactly the faith of the catholic and apostolic Church that we believe.

At the same time, the opposite is also true. The way we worship shapes and forms what we believe. The things we do, say and hear every Sunday determine what we believe. What a church really believes can be learned from how they worship on Sunday morning. The weekly use of the liturgy helps to form and shape us in the one true catholic and apostolic faith.

The Bible done right: again and again

The liturgy of the Divine Service is drawn from the Bible. However, it is possible to misunderstand the Bible. Because the liturgy reflects the faith of the catholic and apostolic Church, it is the Bible believed and understood correctly. In the liturgy, Law and Gospel are properly distinguished as we admit our sins and receive Christ's forgiveness in the Means of Grace. The liturgy places Jesus Christ at the center and in doing so teaches it us that the Christian faith is Christocentric – it is focused on the incarnation of Jesus Christ. The liturgy repeatedly points us towards the return of Jesus Christ on the Last Day (it is eschatological), even as it assures us that we already now begin to experience a foretaste of God's final salvation.

The liturgy teaches us these things, and it does so by exposing us to these truths every week. There is an old saying that "repetition is the mother of learning." The repetition of hearing and singing the words of the liturgy each week teaches us the catholic and apostolic faith, and shapes and forms the way we think about the faith. This is a process that begins with the smallest child and continues all throughout our life. It is not a process that ever ends or is finished because the words and phrases, movements and actions invite ever deeper understanding as we grow and mature as Christians.

The liturgy: prayers that teach

The liturgy contains prayers that teach. In the liturgy we use the inspired prayers of the Psalms. We also encounter prayers that use the language of the Bible and have been crafted by two thousand years of Christian experience living the faith. These prayers teach us the Christian faith. They also teach us how to pray by leading us beyond those things that we would say and focus upon. They lead us beyond ourselves and support our prayer when don't want to pray or don't know what to pray.

The liturgy preserves the faith (it keeps us catholic)

The liturgy teaches the correct faith. It also preserves the catholic and apostolic faith as it is handed on from one generation to the next. The eternal and timeless truth of God's Word is preserved in the liturgy and this helps the Church to resist the spirit of the world in each time period (the tyranny of "today"). As such, the liturgy of the Divine Service unites us with the saints of the centuries before us who have sung and spoken the words of the liturgy (the communion of saints). The liturgy binds us together with one another, and with the Christians who have gone before us.

Lutherans are evangelical catholics. Lutherans are centered on the Gospel as we share in what the universal church has believed and practiced. The liturgy confesses the truth of the Gospel as it teaches and preserves the catholic faith. For this reason, the Lutheran church is a liturgical church – it uses the liturgy of the Divine Service. As the Apology of the Augsburg Confession states: "So in our churches we willingly observe the order of the Mass [the medieval name for the Divine Service], the Lord's day, and the other more important feast days. With a very thankful spirit we cherish the useful and ancient ordinances, especially when they contain a discipline that serves to educate and instruct the people and the inexperienced" (VII/VIII.33-34).

The reverence of the liturgy as we stand before God

The liturgy shapes worship with a profound reverence as we stand in God's presence. The biblical texts used; the use of song and chant; the fixed movements by pastor and congregation (such as standing and bowing) help us to enter into God's presence with reverence. They remind us that in the Divine Service we stand before the holy God.

In the liturgy we experience the real world: the new creation

We live as Christians in the "now and the not yet." While we look forward to Christ's return on the Last Day, we already now have received God's reign in Christ and have received salvation. In the liturgy we experience something different from the rest of the week. Yet as God comes to us in His Means of Grace, what we are experiencing is the world as it really is. We encounter God's reign that has made us to be a new creation in Christ. We are joined together with all the saints and the heavenly host as we experience heaven on earth. The liturgy emphasizes the "now" of salvation, even as it points us forward to the return of Jesus Christ on the Last Day.

The liturgy is part of the Church's culture that sets it apart from the world

Christ has called the Church out of the world and made her His own. The Church is present when the Means of Grace are being administered. The Church is most herself when she is in worship, and therefore she looks very different from the world when this is occurring.

The Church has her own culture – her own ways of speaking and acting – that separates the Church from the world and marks her off as God's people. The liturgy of the Divine Service is a very important part of this culture that marks off the Church as God's own people who have been called out of the world. As visitors encounter the liturgy, they will often experience something that they find to be different and foreign to them. This is not surprising because they are encountering a different way of doing the world – God's way. However in this recognition there is an invitation to learn more about God's way of doing the world and to join the culture of God's people.

The ceremony of the liturgy communicates in many ways

The ceremony of the liturgy – the movements by the pastor, the way the communionware is handled, the vestments, paraments, candles, etc. – is part of the church's culture. The ceremony of the liturgy adorns the Means of Grace and sets them before us. It communicates the truth of God's Word to us in a variety of ways and embraces our bodily, physical existence in this time and place.

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Stewardship in our congregation involves using your time, talents, and treasures. Emphasis has been placed recently on our budget and the need to increase our giving. The Stewardship Committee wants to remind members of the congregation of the many opportunities to donate time and talents. Listed below are organizations and boards, contact persons, and some of those activities where your help is needed.

ALTAR GUILD—Carol Zeile

- Prepare altar area and communion for each Service.

BOARD OF EDUCATION—Sharyn Greening

- Substitute teacher
- VBS helper, teacher
- Donate paper/printer ink for copies of Sunday School materials

BOARD OF ELDERS—Dave Zeile

- Visit, send cards to, our shut-ins and hospitalized members
- Assist with recording Services and preparing MP3's for shut-ins

CLEANING—Marlene Miller

- Volunteer to clean all or one of the areas of the Church building each week
- Substitute for someone who has volunteered to clean

LADIES GUILD—Coaline Luplow

- Provide food for special events
- Bake cookies for the Cookie Walk/Bazaar
- Help during the Cookie Walk/Bazaar
- Serve as coffee host/hostess

MUSIC—Mary Jakolat

- Sing in the Choir
- Direct the Choir
- Provide music for Services if you play an instrument

S.A.L.T. (Evangelism Committee)—Carolyn Johnson

- Attend meetings and help plan inreach/outreach activities
- Assist with various events hosted by SALT (Advent Tea, Movie Nights, etc.)
- Donate time, food for fundraising dinners
- Give toward ongoing collections (Food Bank, Military personnel)
- Invite others to SALT events

SPECIAL PROJECTS—Pastor Messer

- Church Historian
- Conversion of past minutes/records to electronic format
- Website updater
- Congregational photo directory
- Church photographer/video technician
- Christian Care chairperson

TRUSTEES—Vern Jakolat

- Volunteer for one-time opportunities as needed (repairs, maintenance inside and outside the building, improvements and renovations)
- Participate in Spring Clean-ups
- Help with yard work

YOUTH GROUP—Jon Penzien

- Support youth group fundraising efforts
- Chaperone/mentor for trips, events, and/or projects as needed

Please prayerfully consider volunteering your time and talents to serve in any of the areas listed above. Also, the Stewardship Committee invites you to join their committee and attend their meetings (check newsletter calendar each month for date and time). You do not have to be elected or appointed to serve on this committee; simply show up and participate—it's that simple. We would LOVE to have more members of our congregation involved!

Synopsis of October 4, 2011 Church Council Minutes

Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- President Brown called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer. The following members were present: Carol Zeile, Chris Brown, Gary Miller, Sharyn Greening, Dave Zeile, Vern Jakolat, 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 Gary Miller, motion carried unanimously

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Gary Miller, supported by Carolyn Johnson to approve the August 16 and September 6 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Report(s)

Pastor – Report attached; **Treasurer's Report** – Report Attached; **Financial Secretary** – Quarterly statements will be distributed October 9th. Members need to make sure the indicate on their special offering envelopes how the funds are to be used; **Boards: Board of Elders** – reviewing delinquent members, continuing the study of the New Testament in my Blood; **Board of Trustees** – Thank you to Gary Miller for cleaning up the trees, thank you to Art for checking and cleaning the furnaces, and also Darin and Chris are continuing to work on roof leaks; **Board of Christian Education** – Sunday School has started; **Board of Evangelism** – Reformation celebration on October 30th, Spaghetti dinner on Nov 11, next meeting is October 20th at 6:30pm; **Board of Stewardship** – monthly meetings are being held, there was not a lot of response to the letter, they are continuing to review Pastor's health insurance; Sharyn is also going to redo and post the list of areas where individuals can volunteer around the church, may be in the November Newsletter. **Organization and Committee Reports: Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild** – Pastor Appreciation Oct 16th; **Peace Youth Group** – No report; **Finance Committee**- committee meeting regularly (twice a month on Thursdays), reviewing the budget line by line for 2012.

Business

- **Scrip Program** – possible church fundraiser, Pastor Messer will provide information to the SALT committee regarding the program.
- **Voter's Assembly Meeting**- add item to the agenda-Update on selling the land.
- **Property Listing**- best option for a realtor is Century 21, at 7% commission rate, would not allow any exceptions to be listed, for 6 months. New Horizons and Coldwell-banker were also contacted but Century 21 was the best option. Ken Hill made a motion to list the property with Century 21, supported by Gary Miller, passed unanimously. Vern and Chris need to sign the contract and the a sign would be placed within one week.
- **Property Taxes** – Pastor is currently behind on his 2011 taxes and they need to be paid. A motion was made by Gary Miller, supported by Carol Zeile, to pay Pastor's property taxes and assist with filling his propane tank up to a maximum of \$2500. Motion passed unanimously.

General Comments : No General Comments

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

- Motion made by Gary Miller, supported by Carol Zeile, adjourn at 8:20pm. Motion carried unanimously. Pastor Messer closed with the Lord's Prayer and Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassie Tennant, Secretary

UPDATE FROM THE TREASURER

For those of you who were unable to attend, following is the report I presented at the October Voters' Assembly.
Please let me know if you have questions.

In Christ,
Carol Zeile

As of 9/30/11

	Total Actual	Total Budgeted	Difference	YTD Budgeted	Difference
<u>Income</u>					
Offering	\$73,399.15	\$108,005.00	\$34,605.85	\$81,003.75	\$7,604.60
Rental Income : City	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Rental Income : Weight Watchers	\$900.00	\$1,560.00	\$660.00	\$1,170.00	\$270.00
	\$74,299.15	\$109,565.00	\$35,265.85	\$82,173.75	\$7,874.60
<u>Expense</u>					
Church and Worship : Altar & Worship	\$1,518.99	\$1,000.00	(\$518.99)	\$750.00	(\$768.99)
Church and Worship : Christian Ed.	\$411.11	\$400.00	(\$11.11)	\$300.00	(\$111.11)
Church and Worship : Music	\$1,000.00	\$1,300.00	\$300.00	\$975.00	(\$25.00)
Missions : Issues, etc.	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	(\$100.00)
Operating Expense : Admin. Asst.	\$3,900.00	\$5,200.00	\$1,300.00	\$3,900.00	\$0.00
Operating Expense : Building Maintenance	\$536.70	\$1,000.00	\$463.30	\$750.00	\$213.30
Operating Expense : Insurance	\$1,605.50	\$2,000.00	\$394.50	\$1,500.00	(\$105.50)
Operating Expense : Office Expense	\$1,724.42	\$900.00	(\$824.42)	\$675.00	(\$1,049.42)
Operating Expense : Photocopier	\$810.60	\$1,600.00	\$789.40	\$1,200.00	\$389.40
Operating Expense : Telephone	\$942.26	\$1,600.00	\$657.74	\$1,200.00	\$257.74
Operating Expense : Utilities	\$4,072.43	\$5,000.00	\$927.57	\$3,750.00	(\$322.43)
Pastoral Expense : Benefit Package	\$17,989.93	\$23,000.00	\$5,010.07	\$17,250.00	(\$739.93)
Pastoral Expense : Book Allowance	\$499.26	\$500.00	\$0.74	\$375.00	(\$124.26)
Pastoral Expense : Conf. and Training	\$652.81	\$1,000.00	\$347.19	\$750.00	\$97.19
Pastoral Expense : Down Payment Loan	\$1,665.00	\$2,220.00	\$555.00	\$1,665.00	\$0.00
Pastoral Expense : Guest Pastors	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$100.00	\$150.00	\$50.00
Pastoral Expense : Mileage	\$2,195.60	\$2,000.00	(\$195.60)	\$1,500.00	(\$695.60)
Pastoral Expense : Salary	\$45,432.00	\$60,245.00	\$14,813.00	\$45,183.75	(\$248.25)
<u>Total Expenses</u>	\$85,456.61	\$109,565.00	\$24,108.39	\$82,173.75	(\$3,282.86)
Total	(\$11,157.46)	\$0.00	\$11,157.46	\$0.00	\$11,157.46

PEACE NEWS & NOTES



NEWS

<u>October</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Location</u>
	Meeting	11/13	5 pm	7 pm	Fellowship Hall
	Fellowship	Sundays 10:45	11:00		Youth Classroom

Greetings in Christ,

We are continuing to prepare for the Bazaar this month. Helping prepare some boxes for the Ladies Guild and work on some crafts/items for the youth table. Please join us during Fellowship and the Monthly meeting to work on these projects.

Information on this summer's Higher Things "Twelve" Conference will be sent out soon and an interest and planning meeting with the parents and Youth during fellowship. The two possible locations for us to attend are Maryville, MO or St. Catharines, ON.

Thanks to everyone for your continued support of the Youth.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Rehearsal Schedule

Sunday school students will begin rehearsing for their Christmas Program on Sunday, November 13. Lunch will be served at 12:15 followed by rehearsal until approximately 1:30. Following are the rehearsal dates and volunteers for providing lunch:

- 11/13 - Marlene Miller
- 11/20 - Amy Blair
- 12/4 - Lisa Messer
- 12/11 - Carolyn Johnson, Jenny Baughman
- 12/18 - Coaline Luplow

MORE HELP IS NEEDED FOR LUNCHES

If you can help any of the volunteers with lunch, please contact that person. Thank you!

SALT NEWS

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, December 1, 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).

SPAGHETTI DINNER

A Spaghetti Dinner will be held on Friday, November 11 at 6 pm to raise funds for SALT. The dinner will be followed by Peace Movie Night (see p. 11).

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 llmessenger4@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 will have lunch this month on **November 14 at 1:30 p.m.** at the China Garden in Mt. Pleasant. If you wish to carpool, please meet at church at 1:00. 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 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

Week 5 Best Record: 11-2

Andrea Elliott

Week 6 Best Record: 11-2

Carolyn Johnson

Week 7 Best Record: 9-4

Sharyn Greening

Overall Standings (through Week 7)

(Based on at least four 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>Weeks</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Win%</u>
Carol Zeile	5	48-23	.676
Dave Zeile	7	65-37	.637
Amy Blair	4	38-22	.633
Pastor Messer	7	64-38	.627
Larry Elliott	7	64-38	.627
Sam Messer	4	38-23	.623
Lisa Messer	5	43-31	.606
Andrea Elliott	7	59-43	.578
Carolyn Johnson	5	40-30	.571
Ed Norton	4	36-27	.571
Lexie Blair	4	35-28	.556
Sharyn Greening	6	47-39	.547
Coaline Luplow	4	30-25	.545
Paige Harwager	5	33-40	.452

Others

Terry Luplow	3	27-15	.643
Miguel Ortiz	3	24-18	.571
Jennie Harmon	2	16-13	.552
Sarah Messer	3	22-22	.500
Aaron Messer	3	21-24	.467
Kelsey Gensler	2	10-18	.364

Only One Week Played

Brenda Lancaster	1	9-4	.692
Jon Penzien	1	9-4	.692
Zane Luplow	1	6-9	.400

REMEMBERING OUR SHUT-INS

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

Joan Burch
PO Box 442
Breckenridge, MI 48615

Vivian Strom
Masonic Pathways
1200 Wright Avenue
Alma, MI 4880a

Connie Cook
The Laurels of Mt. Pleasant
400 S. Crapo Street
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Marlene Wiltshire
Masonic Pathways
1200 Wright Avenue
Alma, MI 48801

Marion Greening
1025 Vassar Street
Alma, MI 48801

Dick Wiser
7 Pine Point Drive
St. Louis, MI 48880

Joyce Kohler
8820 S. Federal Hwy
Shepherd, MI 48883

(Note: One of our shut-ins has expressed interest in Birds and Bloom magazines and anything relating to dogs. If you have some old issues you would like to share, please drop them off in the church office. Thank you.)

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES

New Address:

Reichardt, William.....463-4026
519 Fairlane Drive
Alma, MI 48801
email wreich3085@aol.com

Change Address:

Pease, Thomas and Sally.....989-293-9893
7434 Howard City-Edmore
Vestaburg, MI 48891

Email change:

Johnson, Daren
skidmore67@gmail.com

As you learn of changes, please notify the church office so that it may be published in our next newsletter. Thank you.

PEACE NEWS & NOTES Cont'd

SPAGHETTI DINNER & PEACE MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, November 11

6 pm - Spaghetti Dinner

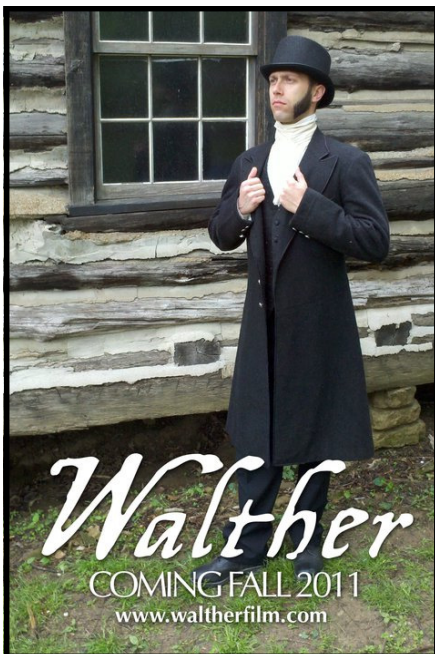
\$8.00/person; \$4.00/12-and-under



Movie ("Walther") will follow dinner
Come for dinner only,
or stay for the movie, too!

Bring a guest or two or three . . .

"Walther" was produced by Concordia Seminary, St. Louis in honor of C.F.W. Walther's 200th birthday in November



ANNUAL COOKIE WALK AND CRAFT SHOW

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 3, 2011

9 AM—4 PM

The Ladies' Guild is asking all the ladies of Peace (who are willing and able) to bake 25-30 dozen small, fancy cookies for our cookie walk. Please have them at the church by Friday evening, December 2, if at all possible.

Setup will be on Wednesday evening, November 30 after the Divine Service.

Also, if you are willing to help during the bazaar, please contact Coaline Luplow (763-1016). We appreciate all the help we can get!!

Ladies' Guild will be making personal calls to everyone this year to determine the number of participating people and cookies.

Thanks so much for your help!

A HUGE THANK YOU FROM PASTOR!

A sincere and heartfelt thank you to our Ladies' Guild for hosting the Pastor Appreciation Dinner on Sunday, October 16, and to all who shared cards, gifts, notes, and goodies with my family and me. It is such a blessing to serve the saints here at Peace as pastor and I am eternally grateful for your love and generosity. In the words of St. Paul, "I thank my God always for you!" Please know that you have my love and appreciation in return.

With love, in Christ,

Pastor Messer

PEACE NEWS & NOTES Cont'd

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

We were blessed to extend the right hand of fellowship to Bill Reichardt and welcome him into our Peace family by Affirmation of Faith during Divine Service on October 9.

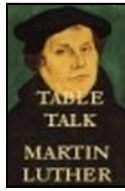
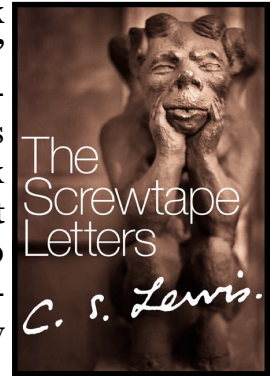


TABLE TALK

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

PEACE BOOK CLUB

Our Peace Book Club met for the first time at the Elliott's home on Tuesday, October 18 and had a wonderful time discussing the book, "Warrior Monk." It was decided by the group that our next book would be **"The Screwtape Letters"** by C.S. Lewis (with the option of reading Lewis' "Mere Christianity" as well). We'll meet to discuss this book on **Tuesday, November 22 at Yvonne Elenbaas' home at 7:00 pm** (123 Meadow Lane, Ithaca). Everyone is welcome. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Messer.



A Pancake Breakfast will be held on **Sunday, November 6 at 8:30 am** to raise funds to send to University Lutheran Chapel (ULC), located on the campus of the University of Minnesota. ULC recently learned that the Minnesota South District of the LCMS has agreed to sell their chapel and property to a local real estate developer against their will. Their beautiful chapel and other buildings will be destroyed and replaced by apartment buildings. Please help us raise funds to support our brothers and sisters in Christ at ULC. If you cannot make the breakfast, but would like to donate to the cause, see Pastor Messer. To learn more about this, visit: www.ulcmn.org/Files/Pages/SaveULC.html.

Ladies Guild

Ladies Guild Meeting

Our Ladies' Guild next meeting will be **Monday, November 7, at 12:00 pm.** Hostess will be Charlotte Dargie. 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 chapel.

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

ANNUAL COOKIE WALK/CRAFT SHOW

Saturday, December 3

9 am—4 pm

(See article on p. 11)

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.



November

Megan Brown

December

Altar Care

Carol Zeile

Coffee Hostesses

6 Andrea Elliott

11 Jo Wendt

18 Cassie Tennant

27 Coaline Luplow

January

Coaline Luplow



6 Dorothy Trgina

13 Lois Ramsey

20 Coaline Luplow

27 Gretchen Harrison

1 Carol Zeile

8 Tina Schafer

15 Peace Youth Group

22 M. Miller/C. Dargie

29 Janice Sager

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

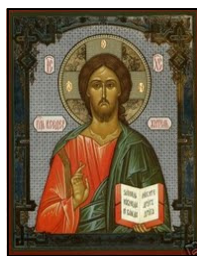
- Wednesday classes meet at 6 pm (currently studying *The Didache*), followed by Divine Service at 7 pm.

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:



PASTOR MESSER IS BLOGGING!

www.abideinmyword.blogspot.com

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

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 . . ."



NOVEMBER

Happy Birthday

4 Brian Stroven	21 Aaron Reithel
13 Lillian Manns	22 Jayden Row
13 Jessica Penzien	23 Joyce Kohler

Happy Anniversary

9 Pastor and Lisa Messer
25 Don and Susan Reithel

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

PAROCHIAL REPORT

(as of 10/30/11)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 137; Confirmed - 119

Membership gains: 1

Bill Reichardt by Affirmation of Faith - 10/9/11

Membership losses: 0











Financial Report as of 10/30/11

YTD Budgeted.....	\$ 92,708.00
YTD Receipts.....	\$ 87,382.45
Difference.....	\$ - 5,325.55

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

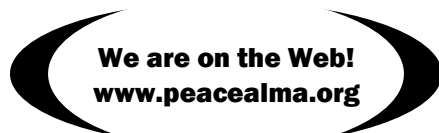
Peace Lutheran Church
325 E. Warwick Drive
Alma, MI 48801
(989) 463-5754
contact@peacealma.org
www.peacealma.org

November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 All Saints Day <i>Pastor at Winkler</i> 7 pm - Church Council	2 5 pm - Confirmation Class 6 pm - "Christian History" 7 pm - Divine Service <i>St. Victorinus of Pettau, Martyr</i> 	3 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers 7 pm - Table Talk	4	5
6 <i>The Festival of All Saints' Day</i> 8:30 - Pancakes for ULC 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC,SS	7 12:00 - Ladies Guild 	8 CITY GENERAL ELECTION <i>Church Office Closed</i>	9 5 pm - Confirmation Class 6 pm - "Christian History" 7 pm - Divine Service <i>St. Martin Chemnitz, Doctor</i> 	10 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers	11 Spaghetti Dinner & Movie Night 6 pm - Spaghetti Dinner Movie "Walther" following dinner.	12
13 <i>21st Sunday after Trinity</i> 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC,SS 12:15 - SS Practice 5-7 pm - PYG 	14 1:30 pm - Lunch Bunch	15	16 <i>No Confirmation Class, Christian History, or Divine Service</i>	17 <i>No Together in Word</i> 5 pm - Weight Watchers 7:30 pm - Budget/Finance	18	19
20 <i>Last Sunday of the Church Year</i> 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Prayer & Preaching 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC,SS 12:15 - SS Practice 	21	22 7 pm - Peace Book Club (at Yvonne Elenbaas' home)	23 5 pm - Confirmation Class 6 pm - Christian History 7 pm - Divine Service <i>Thanksgiving Eve</i> 	24  <i>Church Office Closed</i>	25 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	26
27 <i>Ad Te Levavi (Advent 1)</i> <i>A New Church Year Begins!</i> 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC,SS 12:15 - SS Practice 	28 <div>Newsletter articles due</div>	29 7 pm - Stewardship	30 5 pm - Confirmation Class 6 pm - Advent Dinner 7 pm - Solemn Vespers <i>Ad Te Levavi</i> Midweek 	December 1 10 am - Together in Word 12 pm - Divine Service <i>St. Andrew, Apostle</i> 5 pm - Weight Watchers 6:30 pm - SALT	2	3  9 am - 4 pm <i>Ladies Guild</i> <i>Cookie Walk / Craft Show</i>

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 November

November	ELDERS	ACOLYTES	USHERS	GREETERS
6 - 9:30 am (Festival of All Saints' Day)	Miguel Ortiz	Myka Luplow Natalie Penzien	Terry Luplow Chris Brown	Jenny Baughman
13 - 9:30 am (Trinity 21)	David Zeile	Savannah Blair Paige Harwager	Tyrel Harwager Jonathan Penzien	Marlene Miller Charlotte Dargie
20 - 9:30 am (Last Sunday of Church Yr.)	Larry Elliott	Aaron Messer Morgan Johnson	Vern Jakolat Daren Johnson	Yvonne Elenbaas Mary Girard
23 - 7:00 pm (Thanksgiving Eve)	Larry Elliott			
27 - 9:30 am (Advent 1)	Terry Luplow	Farrah Blair Samantha Messer	Phillip Schafer Miguel Ortiz	Larry and Andrea Elliott
30 - 7:00 pm (Advent 1 Midweek)	Terry Luplow		Vern Jakolat	
December				
4 - 9:30 am (Advent 2)	Miguel Ortiz	Sierra Luplow Natalie Penzien	Gary Miller John Lemmermann	LeRoy and Maxine Isaksson

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