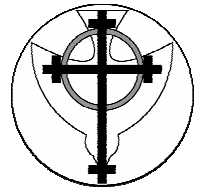


The Peace Post



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



From the Desk of Pastor Messer

"Let's Not Rush Things"

Dear fellow redeemed in Christ,

Contrary to what the secular world believes, the Christmas (or, "Holiday") Season does not begin the day after Thanksgiving. There is a very important penitential season which precedes Christmas in the Christian Church Year called Advent.

Now, I know that most of you are well aware of this fact, but the truth is that we can all use a little reminder about this, especially since the world does everything in its power to draw our attention away from the meditative and preparatory season that precedes Christmas. Let's not fall into the temptation to neglect Advent. Let's not rush things.

Advent is there for a reason. Our fathers in the faith in the early Church were wise to establish the season of Advent in the Church Year. It is a season in which we prepare for the Coming of our Savior; a season in which we take time to recognize the reason our Lord came down from heaven to be conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, namely to rescue and save us from our sins.

Therefore, Advent is a penitential season, much like the season of Lent which precedes Easter. It is a holy season of reflection and meditation; a season in which we take time to examine ourselves against the background of God's Holy Law to determine where we are lacking, and to come to a greater knowledge of our desperate need for a Savior. Advent affords us the time, and gives us the much needed opportunity, to contemplate upon what our Lord's Coming into the world means for us.

Of course, it is hard to slow down and reflect at this time of the year, since we live in a world that is not the least bit interested in the true meaning of Christmas. The world does its very best to turn the penitential season of Advent into a month-long, non-religious "Holiday Season." I know I'm not telling you anything you don't already know. You know very well that the season leading up to Christmas has been hi-jacked by the world—commercialized and secularized. That's just the reality in which we live, and I highly doubt that things are ever going to change in the world. If anything, with each passing year, the season leading

up to Christmas becomes more and more commercialized and secularized in the world. But, it need not be so with us, dear friends in Christ. We know better!

So, as I said at the beginning of this article, let's not fall into the temptation to neglect Advent. Let's not rush things. Let's take time to slow down and reflect and meditate during this Advent season. Let's use this season the way it was intended to be used, as a time to come to a deeper realization of our sinfulness and a growing understanding of our need for the Incarnate Lord who comes to bear our sins and be our Savior.

We can accomplish this, first and foremost, by making sure we are in the Lord's House both on Sundays and on Wednesday evenings during Advent (and on the Feast Days, if possible). There, in His Holy House, the Lord whose Coming we anticipate, already comes to us to prepare our hearts, to forgive our sins, and to strengthen and preserve our faith through His Holy Word and Sacraments. We can also accomplish this by being in daily prayer and by attending the study of God's Word whenever possible. We are not too busy! We do have time!

Thank God for seasons like Advent that are meant to remind us of Who He is, what He did, what He continues to do, and what that means for us today. May this Advent season be a time of penitence and joy for you and your family. May you be lead to pray with all the faithful of all time:

Stir up, we implore you, your power, O Lord, and come, that by your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and be saved by your mighty deliverance; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



God grant you a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas!
In Christ,

Pastor Messer

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Advent Sermon Series

Jesus Comes to be Our Prophet, Priest, and King!

Dec. 3	First Wednesday in Advent	"Jesus Comes to be Our Prophet"
Dec. 10	Second Wednesday in Advent	"Jesus Comes to be Our Priest"
Dec. 17	Third Wednesday in Advent	"Jesus Comes to be Our King"

Installation of Newly Elected Officers

The following members were elected as new officers in our congregation at the Voters' Assembly on October 26, and will begin their terms on January 1, 2009:

Vice President	Ken Hill
Treasurer	Carol Zeile (2nd term)
Secretary	Megan Brown (2nd term)
Board of Elders	Larry Elliott, Dave Zeile, Miguel Ortiz*
Board of Trustees	Art Tennant
Bd. of Christian Ed.	Jennie Harmon

** Miguel Ortiz will be appointed to fill the vacancy left on the Board of Elders due to Don Reithel's resignation*

Congratulations to all of you and thank you for volunteering to serve our congregation!

*Installation of New Officers will be held during Divine Service on **January 4**. Please be there to be installed into office if at all possible!*

Our other congregational officers who will be continuing terms in the new year include:

President	Chris Brown
Financial Secretary	Gary Miller
Board of Elders	Bill Harmon, Terry Luplow
Board of Trustees	Burt Henry, Jon Penzien, Jim Sager
Bd. of Christian Ed.	Sharyn Greening, Marlene Miller, Janice Sager

✠ Midnight Mass ✠

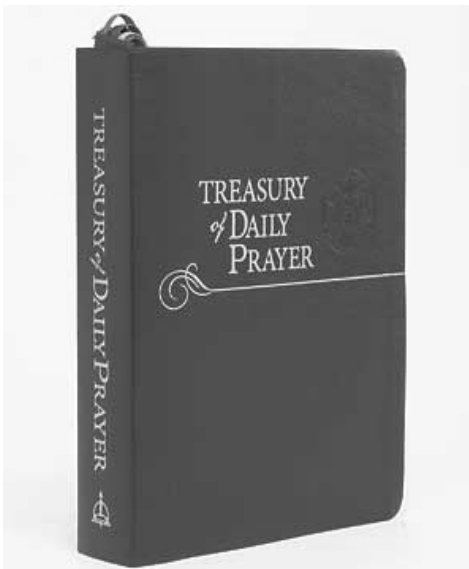
As we discussed at our October Voters' Assembly, we will be bringing back Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve this year at Peace. We will still have our Service of Lessons and Carols at 7:00 p.m., but rather than gathering together for Divine Service on Christmas morning, we will celebrate Midnight Mass at 11:30 p.m. This promises to be a very special Service. There is just something special and unique about being in the Lord's House to celebrate His Nativity and to receive the Holy Sacrament of His Body and Blood as the clock strikes Midnight. We hope that many of you will be able to share this special time with us this Christmas Eve!



TEST YOUR CHRISTMAS KNOWLEDGE

1. *Which Gospel(s) speak of the events surrounding Christ's birth?*
a) Mark and John, b) Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, c) Luke only, d) Matthew and Luke
2. *What was the name of the King of Judea at the time of Christ's birth?*
a) Caesar Augustus, b) Quirinius, c) Herod, d) Nero
3. *How many magi (wise men) visited Christ after His birth, according to the Bible?*
a) An undisclosed number, b) One, c) Three, d) Five
4. *Where is Christ when the magi (wise men) come to visit Him?*
a) In a house, b) In the temple, c) In the manger, d) In the womb
5. *After the magi inquire of Herod where the Christ is to be born, he summons his priests and scribes, who know the location of the birth because of the prophecy of this prophet.*
a) Jonah, b) Micah, c) Amos, d) Joel
6. *What does "Immanuel" mean?*
a) Jesus saves, b) God is born, c) God in flesh, d) God with us
7. *Herod's slaughter of the children two years old and under fulfills a prophecy uttered by what prophet?*
a) Micah, b) Joel, c) Jonah, d) Jeremiah
8. *What was the name of the father of John the Baptist?*
a) Zechariah, b) Joseph, c) Benjamin, d) John
9. *How much younger was Jesus than his cousin John the Baptist?*
a) One year, b) Twelve days, c) Six months, d) Two years
10. *What was the name of the angel who announced to Mary that she would conceive Jesus?*
a) Gabriel, b) Michael, c) Raphael, d) Cherubim
11. *Who speaks words to the pregnant Mary that have become part of the Church's traditional "Hail Mary"?*
a) Simeon, b) Elizabeth, c) Anna, d) Zechariah
12. *What does the name "Jesus" mean?*
a) The Lord saves, b) God with us, c) God is born, d) God in flesh
13. *In which Gospel do we find "The Magnificat"?*
a) Matthew, b) Mark, c) Luke, d) John
14. *Who speaks the words that have become a part of our liturgy known as the Nunc Dimittis?*
a) Zechariah, b) Simeon, c) Mary, d) Elizabeth
15. *Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem, according to the Gospel of Luke?*
a) His adoptive father, Joseph, went home for a census, b) That's where both Mary and Joseph lived, c) His mother went to visit Elizabeth, d) Bethlehem had the best hospitals
16. *When Jesus was born, we are told that He was laid in a manger. What is a manger?*
a) A barn, b) A cave, c) A type of Inn, d) A feeding trough
17. *The Bible tells us that Christ was born in December.*
a) True, b) False
18. *How do the shepherds learn of Christ's birth?*
a) There are no shepherds in the Biblical account, b) They see a new star in the sky, c) An angel appears to them, d) The magi tell them
19. *When was Jesus circumcised?*
a) At birth, b) He wasn't, c) At 13 years old, d) at 8 days old
20. *Who prophesied to Mary that Christ was "destined for the fall and rising of many" and that "a sword would pierce her own soul also"?*
a) Anna, b) Simeon, c) Elizabeth, d) Gabriel

Answers to these questions are given on page 12



TREASURY OF DAILY PRAYER

I am so pleased that many of you have purchased this excellent prayer book. People all over our synod are singing the praises of this resource and bearing witness to how it has greatly aided their daily devotional life. In the genre of daily prayer books, many believe, myself included, that this is the absolutely best thing ever produced! Everything you need for a structured and ordered daily prayer life is contained within this one resource. It is simply awesome!

There is still time to purchase your copy of TDP at the introductory prices. A sign-up sheet is on the SALT bulletin board. Please consider doing so. You won't be disappointed!

What follows is a testimonial from one of our synod's District Presidents, Rev. Herbert Mueller. I commend him for exhorting the pastors in his district to get this resource and to tell their people about it, and I echo his sentiments throughout.
In Christ, Pastor Messer

My brothers and sisters in Christ, I must make a confession to you. I struggle at being faithful at my own personal daily devotions. Does that surprise you? I could perhaps make excuses referencing my schedule and the daily pressures – but those are actually all the more reason I need to be in the Word of God and prayer even more. Actually, the only reason for my struggle is my own fault, my own sinful flesh, for the flesh is always lazy, weak, and constantly ignores my need for the Word of God and prayer.

But now Concordia Publishing House has provided me (and all of us) with a wonderful resource to help in this daily battle against the flesh. It's called *Treasury of Daily Prayer*. Since I received my copy, it has become a great tool for me in my struggle against the flesh (see also the editor's preface). I leave my copy open on my desk so that the first thing I do is use it when I come in each morning. It is always open to each day's readings and prayers. When I travel, I also have a copy on my laptop right there on the Windows desktop.

How is *Treasury of Daily Prayer* such a great tool? Under one cover you have Old Testament and New Testament readings, and a reading from Luther, one of the church fathers, or other orthodox theologians. Psalms, prayers, brief explanations of festivals and saints days round out the daily fare. At the center of the book, you will find all the prayer offices of the church, ready for use. The book includes the whole Psalter (all the Psalms), the Small Catechism, confessional readings and a whole lot more. Under one cover, then, you have all you need for a daily regimen of Scripture and prayer. In the short time I have used it, I have grown to appreciate it more and more.

I say all this after a number of years using the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau's four volume set, *For All the Saints*, a resource I found mostly good and helpful, but occasionally the writings are less than helpful. In the case of *Treasury of Daily Prayer*, the writings included have been researched by LCMS pastors, edited by Scot Kinnaman (who started as a pastor in the SID) and his staff at CPH. Thus far, I have found the writing very helpful, connected to the lessons of the day, and centered in Christ and His Gospel. In short, Scot Kinnaman and CPH have done a great service to the church. Look it up on CPH's web site, www.cph.org. Use it! Try it! I think you'll enjoy it.

Is this just for pastors? NO! Anyone who can read will benefit! Fathers and mothers leading their families in devotions will profit. Students and anyone who will benefit from a structured approach to prayer and the devotional life can use this great resource. Tell your people about it – let them try it.

Rev. Herbert C. Mueller, Jr
District President
Southern Illinois District

Synopsis of October 26, 2008 Voters Assembly Minutes

Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- President Brown called the meeting to order at 11:11am. 33 voting members were present. Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer.

Approval of Agenda

- Motion made by Vice President Ortiz, supported by Financial Secretary Miller, supported by Bill Harmon to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Financial Secretary Miller, supported by Bill Harmon, supported by Bill Harmon to approve the minutes from July 20, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

Report(s)

- **Pastor** – Pastor Messer presented the Pastor's report which informed the assembly of: new members, changes to the number of services for the upcoming church year and the possibility of holding midnight mass on Christmas Eve instead of morning service on Christmas Day.
- **Treasurer** – Treasurer Zeile presented the attached report. It was received in to record.
- **Financial Secretary**—Financial Secretary Miller informed the Assembly that the quarterly statements were in mailboxes and asked that special donations be labeled appropriately for record-keeping.

Boards

- **Board of Elders** – Larry Elliott informed the assembly that Connie Saxton has asked to be removed from membership and that Elder Reithel has resigned effective December 31 and a new elder will be appointed.
- **Board of Trustees** – No report.
- **Board of Christian Education** – Sharyn Greening informed the Assembly of the Sunday School curriculum and plans for the Christmas Program.
- **Board of Evangelism** – Andrea Elliott informed the Assembly of events that were held and those being planned.
- **Board of Stewardship** – No report.

Organization and Committee Reports

- **Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild** – No report.
- **Peace Youth Group** – No report.

Business

- **Elections** – There were no nominations from the floor. Motion made by Larry Elliott, supported by Vice President Ortiz to elect the slate of officers as presented:
Vice President – Ken Hill
Treasurer – Carol Zeile
Secretary – Megan Brown
Elder – Larry Elliott and Dave Zeile
Member, Board of Christian Education – Jennie Harmon
Member, Board of Trustees – Art Tennant
Motion carried unanimously.
- **Keys to Building** – For insurance purposes and good organization practice, there should be a record and procedure for distributing keys. Motion made by Financial Secretary Miller, supported by Yvonne Ellenbaas that all locks be changed on the two major doors, keys are re-issued with an accurate list and the back doors are secured. Following a discussion, motion carried 30-3.

General Comment

- Mary Jakolat asked that volunteers help take down tables and chairs following Sunday School and Bible Study on November 2 in anticipation of the upcoming election.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

- Motion made by Bill Harmon, supported by Financial Secretary Miller to adjourn at 11:51am. Motion carried unanimously. Pastor Messer closed with the Benediction.

**Respectfully submitted,
Megan Brown, Secretary**

Note: Complete minutes with all attachments are available in the church office for review by church members.

Synopsis of November 11, 2008 Church Council Minutes

Call To Order & Opening Prayer

- President Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Councilmember L. Elliott conducted the opening prayer. The following members were present: Chris Brown, Carol Zeile, Andrea Elliott, Larry Elliott, Marlene Miller, Gary Miller and Megan Brown.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Treasurer Zeile, supported by Financial Secretary Miller to approve the minutes from October 7 as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Report(s)

- **Pastor** - The attached report was presented and received into record.
- **Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Zeile presented the attached report. She informed the Council that \$2000 had been transferred from the Building Fund to cover expenses, spending is only over the budget by approximately \$550. It was noted that income is not at the level it needs to be to meet budgeted needs.
- **Financial Secretary** – Financial Secretary informed the Council that 2009 offering envelopes will be distributed soon.

Boards

- **Board of Elders** – Councilmember L. Elliott presented the Board of Elders Report. He reminded the Council that Elder Reithel will be vacating his position and a new elder will be appointed.
- **Board of Trustees** – No report. Members of the Council expressed their concerns that there is not regular attendance at meetings by a member of the Board of Trustees.
- **Board of Christian Education** – The attached report was presented and received into record.
- **Board of Evangelism** – Councilmember A. Elliott presented the Board of Evangelism report. She informed the Council that the Board allocated \$1000 to Issues, Etc., Peace apparel order forms will be available soon and other events are being planned for next year.
- **Board of Stewardship** – No report.

Organization and Committee Reports

- **Peace Lutheran Ladies Guild** – No report.
- **Peace Youth Group** – No report.

Business

- **2009 Budget** – Treasurer Zeile presented the attached proposal for the 2009 budget. A discussion was held regarding the changes made from previous budgets. Motion made by Financial Secretary Miller, supported by Councilmember A. Elliott to discuss the proposal at the next meeting and do a special mailing to notify the congregation of the proposed budget prior to action being taken at the January Voters' Assembly meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Storage Shed** – Motion made by Financial Secretary Miller, supported by Councilmember L. Elliott to table this item until the next meeting and request that a representative from Ladies' Guild be present. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Change Locks/New Keys** – The Council discussed the need to obtain bids for this service. No action was taken.

General Comment

- Treasurer Zeile shared concerns she had from the October Voters' Assembly. A discussion was held.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

- Motion made by Councilmember L. Elliott, supported by Financial Secretary Miller to adjourn at 8:17pm. Motion carried unanimously. Councilmember L. Elliott led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Brown, Secretary

PEACE NEWS & NOTES



THANK YOU to all who helped decorate the church for Christmas. Also, **THANK YOU** to all who supplied the food for lunch. It was all much appreciated!

PYG NEWS

December Events

Bazaar - December 6 from 8am-5pm

Monthly Meeting - December 14 - 1:15-3:00 pm

Caroling with S.A.L.T. - Monday, December 21 - 3:30

Greetings in Christ, and may the joyful recollection of the birth of our Savior bring you joy and strength this Christmas season.

We will begin planning for 2 major events for the 2009 year—The 2nd annual Spring Bazaar and Higher Things.

The Spring Bazaar was a very good fundraiser for the Youth Group last year. We need to get rolling on it early and make it an even better event for everyone involved.

Higher Things will be in Grand Rapids, Michigan this summer and we hope to have as many youth attend as we can. We will be setting up a signup and deposit plan at the December monthly meeting. We are targeting registration by January 15, 2009.

Thanks again to everyone for your support of the youth with your donations and participation with our pop can drive and Spartan label collection. The signup sheet for ordering poinsettias is on the bulletin board. Cost is \$18 this year, which includes wrapping and ribbon. The "fundraiser" profit for the youth group is \$5. The last Sunday to order is December 14. Checks should be made payable to Peace Youth Group and given to me or Beth Brostrom.



Merry Christmas!

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

LADIES GUILD ANNUAL COOKIE WALK AND CRAFT SHOW

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6
9:00 AM—4:00 PM**

Ladies, please have cookies at the church by Friday, if at all possible. Choose from a variety of homemade cookies and candies; shop for uniquely crafted items and enter to win a 55x65 fleece tie blanket and matching pillow.

POT LUCK DINNERS

During the season of Advent, there will be potluck dinners held at 6 p.m. before the Vespers Services. Please bring your own table service and a dish to pass. Thank you.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICES

are being held on November 30, December 7 and December 14 and will last until 1:15 p.m. Lunch will be provided after Sunday School for the children with practice following lunch.. Practice will last until approximately 1:15 p.m.



THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM is scheduled for December 21 during the Sunday School hour.

PEACE NEWS & NOTES Cont'd



Issues, Etc.TM
Christ-Centered Cross-Focused Talk Radio

Issues, Etc. CDs Available!

S.A.L.T. has undertaken the project of recording episodes of *Issues, Etc.* onto CDs, so that any member of our congregation may check them out and listen to them at their leisure. Every episode of *Issues, Etc.* since the show returned to the air on June 30, 2008 is now available. Cases with the recorded CDs are located in the Adult Bible Study area, along with instructions on how you can check the CDs out. A log of each show's date, guests, and subjects accompanies the cases of CDs to allow you to choose specific shows you would like to listen to. We hope that providing these CDs will enable more of you to listen to this excellent, Christ-Centered, Cross-Focused broadcast. If you have any questions about this, please see Pastor Messer.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OVERVIEW

I have just completed the Fall Quarter Sunday School program offered by Pax Domini Press, "A.D. The Acceptable Year of the Lord." This program teaches the Gospel for each Sunday in the historic one year lectionary. In other words, the children are studying the Gospel lesson they heard in Divine Service. It also provides a Chapel Service for an opening each Sunday involving the adults as well as the children. This year I decided to teach Sunday School for a couple reasons: 1) A volunteer was needed and 2) I wanted to help prepare students, using a solid, trustworthy program, for their Confirmation studies. I have found with this program the students, though not very proficient with their memory verses, are seeing and recalling the connections between the Gospel lessons. It is very exciting to witness their growing faith which they know very well comes to them through the power of the Holy Spirit. They are also having fun with crafts as well. The other teachers appreciate this curriculum since it gives them a firm foundation in the Word of God as well. I have only two regrets. Some of the children of our congregation have not had the opportunity to take part in this wonderful program. Some of the adults have not been able to participate with the children in the Chapel Opening Service.

- - - Sharyn Greening

GOTTESDIENST

Gottesdienst is an excellent theological periodical published quarterly. Go to www.gottesdienst.org or see Pastor Messer if you are interested in learning more or to subscribe.

ADVENT TEA

The Peace Lutheran Advent Tea will take place on **Tuesday, December 9, 2008.** This is a wonderful opportunity for women to get together and focus their hearts on Christ as the Advent season prepares us for the celebration of Christmas!

S.A.L.T. SINGS! PLEASE JOIN US!

WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE TO DO SOME CHRISTMAS CAROLING FOR OUR SHUT-INS THIS YEAR. WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE ANYONE AND EVERYONE WHO LOVES TO SING CAROLS TO JOIN US ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 22 AT 3:30 PM AT THE CHURCH FOR A FUN AND JOYOUS LIFT WE MAY GIVE TO OUR PEOPLE. WE WILL MEET BACK AT THE CHURCH FOR REFRESHMENTS—HOT CHOCOLATE—HOT CIDER—WHATEVER!



TABLE TALK

Our Table Talks are informal and informative discussions with Pastor Messer on various topics decided by the group in attendance. Our next Table Talk will take place **Thursday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m.** at the church. All are invited to attend!



PEACE NEWS & NOTES Cont'd



Opportunity for Service

At Peace there are many ways in which all of us can use our interests and talents to serve our Lord and our congregation. One such opportunity is service on the Altar Guild. Altar Guild members reverently prepare the Table and the altar area for the Lord's Supper. Active membership in the Ladies' Guild is not required in order to serve on the Altar Guild. All that is necessary is a desire to serve our Lord.

As a member of the Altar Guild, you would help with the care and maintenance of all items used in the altar area, i.e. candles, altar linens and those items used during Communion. The Altar Guild sets up and cleans up the altar area for all Sunday, Feast Day and special Services.

Requirements for Sunday Services include: making sure that the altar cloth and paraments are the proper liturgical color, preparing the Communion tray and chalice, ensuring that the candles are appropriately filled and washing and storing Communion items after the Service. Once you are trained, Sunday morning preparation takes about 30 minutes and clean-up another 30 minutes.

Traditionally the Altar Guild members have been responsible for altar care for a month at a time, however, if you are not able to commit to an entire month, serving for a couple of Sundays in a given month would also be helpful and welcomed. All new members would be thoroughly trained in the routines of the Altar Guild and there would be continuing support and assistance available.

Please consider serving on the Altar Guild during 2009. If you have interest in learning more, contact Carol Zeile.

PEACE CHURCH TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

We will be publishing an updated directory in January and would like to include email addresses as well.

Please send an email to the church (contact@peacealma.org) and we will be able to use your message for our addresses.

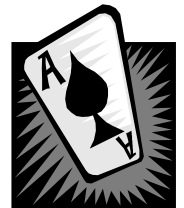
Also, if you have had any changes in your home address or telephone number (including cell phones), please include that in your email message to the church.

- - - Thank you, Mary

BLOOPERS

A Senior Moment—Where is my Paper? The irate customer, calling the newspaper offices, loudly demanded to know where her Sunday edition was. "Ma'am," said the employee, "today is Saturday. The Sunday paper is not delivered 'til Sunday." There was quite a pause on the other end of the phone, followed by a ray of recognition. "So that's why no one was in church today."

**EUCHRE
NIGHT**
**Taking a vacation.
Back in January!**



Come join us on the Trail!

The Wittenberg Trail is the online community for people exploring and confessing the Lutheran faith. To join the community, go to:

www.wittenbergtrail.ning.com



To join our Peace Lutheran group on the Trail, go to:

www.wittenbergtrail.ning.com/group/peacechurchalmamichigan

To everyone who
got
A BIG THANK YOU
t h e i r
newsletters articles in by
the suggested deadline date. I really and
truly appreciate it!

Gratefully, Mary Jakolat

Ladies & Altar Guild

Ladies Guild Meeting

Our Ladies Guild next meets on Monday, **December 1 at 7:00 p.m.** Hostesses are Cheryl Henry and Carol Durst. **This is our Christmas Party Meeting. Please bring a gift to exchange (not to exceed \$10).** 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

If you wish to be added to the prayer chain as a caller, see Carol Durst or Beth Brostrom. If you wish to have yourself or someone else "sent through the chain," call Carol Durst at 463-2270.



Altar Flowers

There is a Flower Calendar for 2009 posted on the fellowship hall bulletin board. If you wish to place flowers on the altar sometime during the year, please fill your name in on the calendar and contact the church office with any information that you wish to have included in the bulletin. A bouquet costs \$25 and usually lasts about one (1) month. **We would like to encourage 2 persons (families) to purchase flowers each month, one for each plant stand.** If paying the church for the flowers, checks should be made payable to Peace Lutheran, Church with a separate sizeable note marked "Flower Fund," attached and placed in the Financial Secretary's envelope in the church office. Thank you for helping to beautify our chancel. Questions? See Beth Brostrom, Cheryl Henry or Marilyn Oswald.

Altar Guild Duty

December

Cheryl Henry

January

Carol Zeile

February

Beth Brostrom



Coffee Hostesses

December

7 Jo Wendt
14 Carol Durst
21 Sue Ortiz
28 Carol Zeile

January

4 Carolyn Johnson
11 Tina Schafer
18 Peace Youth Group
25 M. Miller/C. Dargie

February

1 Cheryl Henry
8 Lois Ramsey
15 S. Greening/M. Brown
22 Jennie Harmon



Ladies Lunch Bunch

Peace Lutheran Ladies Lunch Bunch visited Loafer's Glory in Blanchard at their luncheon on Tuesday, November 18. It was a wonderful visit into yesteryear. An 1800's hardware store uniquely restored with expressions from the past and shop after shop filled with a wonderful collection of collectable and home furnishings.

We enjoyed a delicious lunch in the unique Wild Flower Tea Room and visited the Sunflower Bakery and Aunties House next door.

We will not meet in December, but will look forward to lunch again in January, date and place to be announced. All ladies of Peace are welcome and also may invite a guest—someone without a church or someone living alone. Please join us when we meet again in January!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT PEACE

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

- Sunday School meets at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday. There are four Sunday School Classes (Pre-K-2nd Grade; 3rd-5th Grade; 6th-8th Grade; 9th-12th Grade).
- Adult Bible Class is offered **every Sunday at 11:00 a.m.** for all adult members of Peace and guests. We are currently studying the **Book of Concord**, which contains our Lutheran Confessions. This is an excellent opportunity for you to come and learn what we Lutherans truly confess and believe. So, come and learn!
- A make-up class is offered on **Tuesday mornings** for those who were unable to attend the Sunday Adult Bible Class. They are scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month at 10:00 a.m. Please call the church office for location of class.
- "Life with God" Adult Information Class for prospective new members and all members who want a refresher on Lutheran doctrine and practice class is offered on **THURSDAY evenings at 6:00 p.m. (NOTE: See Calendar for a couple of schedule changes)** Members are encouraged to invite anyone who may be interested in learning what we Lutherans believe.

Youth Confirmation Class

- Youth Confirmation Class meets **Thursdays at 5:00 p.m.**

Together in the Word

- Our *Together in the Word* Bible Study meets on **Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m.** All men and women of Peace who are available at that time are encouraged to join us. Guests are always welcome as well. We are currently studying the book of **Exodus**. Please plan on joining us soon.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to:

1 Sarah Cummins	18 Kelsey Gensler
3 Heather Palmer	19 James Sager
5 Phyllis Hill	20 Sarah Messer
6 Linda Oswald	23 Michael Gilbert
7 Marilyn Oswald	26 Carol Durst
12 Arlene Hale	28 Tammy Oswald
14 Cassie Tennant	30 Dick Wiser
16 Karen Strong	30 Amber Brown

Happy Anniversary to:

5 LeRoy and Maxine Isaksson
17 William and Jenny Harmon



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

PAROCHIAL REPORT

(as of 11/23/08)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 152; Confirmed - 134

Membership gains: 2

Carolyn & Morgan Johnson by transfer

Membership losses: 0

Financial Report

YTD Receipts: \$92,677.22

YTD Budgeted Needs: \$105,045.00

PEACE OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday 9 am-1 pm

Pastor Messer's Office Hours

Tuesday and Wednesday 9 am-12 pm & 1-3 pm

Thursday 1-3 pm

Other times by appointment

Please note: These are the hours Pastor Messer will regularly be available in his office at the church, but please check the monthly calendar to ensure that he is not tied up elsewhere (wink, conference, etc.). Feel free to pop in on him during these hours, but please know that his duties may call him away from the office from time to time (hospital call, lunch meeting, member visitation, etc.), so if you want to make sure he is there before you come for a visit, call ahead of time. Lastly, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Messer at any time should you desire or need to speak or meet with him beyond these posted office hours.



Collecting *Christmas Cards and Donations* for the Troops up until December 8, 2008.

- Fill out a **Holiday card** or create and submit your own
- Make it a children's activity!
- envelope or **postage not required**
- Donations pay for postage**; excess will be donated to the *American Red Cross Service to Armed Forces*.

*Dear Service Member,
Thank you for protecting our country and freedoms... we haven't forgotten you.
Please stay safe until the day you all come home. ~John Doe of ANYTOWN, MI USA*



Support Provided by:
Until the day they all come home...



American Legion
Post 525 (Smiths Creek, MI)
Post 88 (Alma-St. Louis, MI)



Alpha Phi Omega,
Omicron Tau (Alma, MI)



Veterans of Foreign
Wars Post 1454 (Alma, MI)

Thank you. What you make and write to the troops comes from home and from your heart.
This is a needed moral boost for those separated from their loved ones, especially during Christmas.
The American National Red Cross®, Alpha Phi Omega®, The American Legion®, and
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States®. All rights reserved.

Alpha
Phi
Omega

Answers to "Test Your Christmas Knowledge" from page 3:

1. d 2. c 3. a 4. a 5. b 6. d 7. d 8. a 9. c 10. a 11. b
12. a 13. c 14. b 15. a 16. d 17. b 18. c 19. d 20. b

Our Request: To gather Christmas holiday cards and donations to send in bulk to the Red Cross sorters. They will get them to the troops and their loved ones.

Donations will be used to pay for boxing and postage; excess will be donated to the *American Red Cross Service to Armed Forces*.

Red Cross Goal: To send one million cards to service members and their families

Deadline: by December 8, 2008 so they can be picked up, sorted and distributed

Fact:

600,000 cards were sorted and delivered by the Red Cross in 2007.

186,000 troops are deployed overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan and will be away from their loved ones. (Wall Street Journal, 11/7/08)

What you give to the troops comes from home and your heart. This is a needed moral boost for those separated from their loved ones. *Ask a veteran.*

Guidelines:

Each card does not need its own envelope or postage. Alpha Phi Omega will get them to the post office!

Use generic salutations such as

"Dear Service Member "

"Dear Armed Forces Member"

"Dear Brother or Sister in Arms"

Please send cards as opposed to long letters; keep messages short but meaningful for screening purposes.

Give them your *best wishes*

Tell them *thank you for protecting our freedom*

Tell them *that they haven't been forgotten*

Please sign all cards.

Write your *name*

Write your *hometown, state, USA*






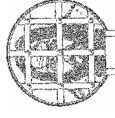





Please do not include inserts of any kind, including photos, as these items will be removed during the reviewing process.

Follow these guidelines and the cards will make it to the troops ASAP!

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

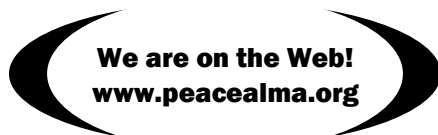
Peace Lutheran Church
325 E. Warwick Drive
Alma, MI 48801
(989) 463-5754
contact@peacealma.org

December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Nov. 30 <i>Ad Te Levavi (Advent 1)</i> 8:30—Choir 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BC, SS 12:00—SS Practice	1  12 pm—Divine Service <i>Feast of St. Andrew</i> 7 pm—Ladies Guild	2 <i>Pastor Messer at Winkler</i> 7 pm—Church Council	3  6 pm—Potluck Dinner 7 pm—Advent Service	4 10 am—Together in Word 5 pm—Confirmation Class 5 pm—Weight Watchers 6 pm—Adult Info Class 7:30 pm—Table Talk	5 Peace Movie Night 6 pm <i>Expelled</i> At the Brown's house 7-9 pm Crafters Setup	6  9 am—4 pm Ladies Guild Cookie Walk & Crafts
7 <i>Populus Zion (Advent 2)</i> 8:30—Choir 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BC, SS 12:00—SS Practice	8 	9 10 am—Elders Meeting 7 pm—Advent Tea	10  6 pm—Potluck Dinner 7 pm—Advent Service	11 10 am—Together in Word 5 pm—Confirmation Class 5 pm—Weight Watchers 6 pm—Adult Info Class 7:30 pm—S.A.L.T. Meeting	12	13
14 <i>Gaudete (Advent 3)</i> 8:30—Choir 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BC, SS 12:00—SS Practice 1:15-3:00—PYG	15 	16	17  6 pm—Potluck Dinner 7 pm—Advent Service	18 10 am—Together in Word 5 pm—Confirmation Class 5 pm—Weight Watchers 6 pm—Adult Info Class	19	20
21 <i>Rorate Coeli (Advent 4)</i> 8:30—Choir 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:15—Children's Christmas Program	22 <i>Newsletter articles due</i> 12 pm—Divine Service <i>Feast of St. Thomas</i> 3:30 pm—Christmas Caroling for shut-ins	23 10 am—Sunday Bible Study Make-up 5 pm—Weight Watchers	24 7 pm—Service of Lessons & Carols 11:30 pm Midnight Mass 	25  The Nativity of Our Lord <i>Merry Christmas!</i>	26	27
28 <i>1st Sunday after Christmas</i> 8:30—Choir 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BC, SS	29  12 pm—Divine Service <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	30 5 pm Weight Watchers	31 12 pm—Divine Service <i>Circumcision/Name of Jesus</i> 	Jan. 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	Jan. 2	Jan. 3

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 December

December	ELDER	ACOLYTES	ORGANIST	USHERS	GREETERS
3- 7:00 pm <i>(Advent 1 Midweek)</i>		Jordan Henry	Mary Jakolat	Burt Henry Vern Jakolat	
7- 9:30 am <i>(2nd Sunday in Advent)</i>	Larry Elliott	Tyrel Harwager CJ Oswald	Beth Brostrom	Bill Brostrom Curt Oswald	Sharyn Greening
10 - 7:00 pm <i>(Advent 2 Midweek)</i>		Rebekah Rodriguez	Beth Brostrom	Michael Gilbert Vern Jakolat	
14 - 9:30 am <i>(3rd Sunday in Advent)</i>	Terry Luplow	Melanie Penzien Sierra Luplow	Mary Jakolat	Chris Brown Gary Miller	Bob and Jo Wendt
17 - 7:00 pm <i>(Advent 3 Midweek)</i>		Aaron Messer	Mary Jakolat	Chris Brown Gary Miller	
21 - 9:30 am <i>(4th Sunday in Advent)</i>	Don Reithel	Samantha Messer Ashleigh Rodriguez	Beth Brostrom	Miguel Ortiz James Sager	Vern and Mary Jakolat
24 - 7:00 pm <i>(Lessons & Carols)</i>		Aaron Messer BJ Henry	Mary Jakolat	Miguel Ortiz James Sager	
24 - 11:30 pm <i>(Midnight Mass)</i>	Dave Zeile	Sarah Messer	Beth Brostrom	Vern Jakolat	
28 - 9:30 am <i>(Christmas 1)</i>	Bill Harmon	Jordan Henry Natalie Penzien	Beth Brostrom	Jonathan Penzien Bill Hendrick	Helen Meyers
January					
4- 9:30 am <i>(Christmas 2)</i>	Larry Elliott	Rebekah Rodriguez Phillip Schafer	Mary Jakolat	Bill Brostrom Curt Oswald	Miguel and Sue Ortiz

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