

The Peace Post

Peace Lutheran Church ~ Alma, MI

December, 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 "Divine Humility and Love"

(Reproduced from yesteryear)

Not a palace, but a stable. Not a cushioned crib, but a feeding trough for animals (a manger). Not in a rich powerful city, but in lowly Bethlehem. Not to rich, powerful, royal, and influential parents, but to a simple carpenter and lowly maiden. Not with great fanfare, pomp, and circumstance, but while the world slept unaware—the only announcement made by the angels to shepherds in the fields. This is how the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity made His entrance into our flesh in order to bear our sins and be our Savior. It is nothing short of amazing! Hearing the remarkable details of our Lord's birth never gets old, which is why the Church continues to sing, "Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth" ("Savior of the Nations, Come" - LSB 332, st. 1).

Marvel, indeed! God is born a baby! The Eternal Word of the Father, the very Creator of all things, the One who spoke creation into existence, descends from heaven to be born into His creation. In Mary's arms, nursing from her breasts, is God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God. He humbles Himself to assume our human flesh and become dependent upon the milk of His mother and the care of his earthly father, even while He continues to hold the entire universe in His tiny little hands. If this does not cause you to marvel, nothing will!

The Divine Humility of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, is truly a marvelous thing to behold. The holy angels are taken aback by it and long to delve into what they perceive to be the mystery of mysteries. They have seen the One who lies seemingly helpless in a manger in all His glory. They know Who this Baby named Jesus really is, and it amazes them to see Him in this manner. Not only that, but they know the reason God takes on human flesh and is born into this dead and dying world, namely to save sinful humanity, and they cannot help but sing His praises. As they gaze upon Almighty God, their Lord and Master, wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a dirty, feeding trough, they marvel not only at His Divine Humility, but at His Divine Love for sinful mankind, for it is that Divine Love which moved Him to subject Himself to such humility.

The Divine Humility and Love we see on display in Bethlehem on that Holy Night long ago continued to be exemplified in our Lord Jesus throughout His salvific pilgrimage to our sinful world. He did not come seeking honor and fame, but to serve and love God and



neighbor completely and perfectly in our place. He did not come to conquer the world and establish a mighty earthly empire, but to do battle with, and defeat, sin, death, and the devil on our behalf. He did not come to be served, but to serve. The One who chose to be born in such low estate lived in poverty throughout His time here, relying upon His Father to provide for His every need. He had no place to lay His head. He had no accumulation of material possessions. There was nothing about His appearance that would draw people to Him. In short, the Divine Humility we witness at His birth continued throughout His earthly life.

Of course, the ultimate picture of our Lord's Divine Humility and Love is seen in Jerusalem thirty-some years after His ignoble birth. We see it when He washes the feet of His disciples. We see it when He sweats blood while praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, submitting to His Father's will. We see it when He submits to being arrested. We see it when He is spit upon, beaten, mocked, and severely flogged. We see it in His silence before Caiaphas and Pilate. We see it when He carries His own cross to Golgotha outside the city gates. We see it when He allows Simon of Cyrene to assist Him in carrying His cross. We see it when the nails are driven through His hands and feet. We see it when He hangs on that cruel instrument of torture, gasping for air. We hear it in the Words He utters from the cross, and we see it when He takes His last breath and dies.

And it's all amazing; it's all something to most definitely marvel over, for this is God Himself, Incarnate in human flesh, Who is born in such low estate, lives in such poverty, and dies such a heinous death. It becomes all the more amazing (if it's possible to ponder anything more amazing than God living and dying as a Man) when we consider that He did it all for us—for you, for me. He humbled Himself and assumed human flesh to live as your substitute; to hunger and thirst as you hunger and thirst; to be tempted as you are tempted; to experience pain and suffering as you experience pain and suffering; to be mocked and suffer injustice as you are mocked and suffer injustice; to even suffer death as you suffer death. All of it because He loves you with a Divine Love beyond our human comprehension. All of it to rescue you from the eternity you deserve because of your sins. All of it to win for you forgiveness, life, and salvation. All of it because He desires that you spend eternity with Him in perfect peace, comfort, and joy.

Dearly beloved, as we enter the holy season of Advent and make our way to Bethlehem to celebrate our Savior's birth, let us take our cue from the holy angels and ponder the mystery of our Lord's Incarnation. Let us follow the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary and treasure this mystery in our hearts, pondering with great wonder and joy the reason our God humbled Himself to be born into this sinful world in our human flesh. He came to live and die for you, dear friends, each and every one of you. In Divine Humility and Love, He came to save you by living the life you fail to live and by dying the death you deserve to die for your sins. This is the true "reason for the season," the true meaning of Christmas.

But, let us not stop at pondering and treasuring up in our hearts this great mystery, as if this was all just some bygone story to be cherished, remembered, and passed on to others. This is no legend or fairy tale or epic saga to warm our hearts and lift our spirits as we roast chestnuts around the fire. This is no "Hallmark Special" to talk about as we sip our eggnog and open presents. Our Lord lives! His Divine Humility and Love is still on full display and still as active today as it was two millennia ago, for the same God who assumed human flesh and was born of the Virgin Mary, the same God who lived to serve and love God and neighbor, the same God who allowed Himself to be treated shamefully and put to death, continues to come to us in Divine Humility and Love as we gather in His Name for Divine Service. It should not surprise us that He makes no flashy appearance in our midst, but instead comes among us humbly and hiddenly, wrapped in the swaddling cloths of His Holy Word and Sacraments. That's His way. And He comes to us in Divine Humility and Love to deliver the forgiveness, life, and salvation He accomplished for us. This, too, is the meaning of Christmas.

"Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth." Yes, marvel away at that! But, marvel, too, that our Lord chooses to continue to meet us in His Church in Divine Humility and Love to deliver to us His Divine Gifts. Marvel and come, at His gracious invitation, to receive His Gifts and to be filled with His Divine Humility and Love!

A Holy, Blessed, and Merry Christmas to you all!

In Christ,

Pastor Messer

✠ Christmas Services at Peace ✠

Children's Christmas Program

Our Sunday School children will share the story of our Lord's Nativity with us through drama and song on Wednesday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m. Please make plans to come out and support our children, who are working hard to prepare!

Service of Lessons and Carols

Our Service of Lessons and Carols will take place on Christmas Eve at 7:00 p.m. This is a beautiful and popular Service which puts before us the account of our Lord's Holy Birth through Holy Scripture and Hymnody (including many beloved Christmas Carols), and the preaching of the Holy Gospel, and includes the lighting of the Christ Candle and the singing of Silent Night and the Christmas Prayer by candlelight.

Midnight Mass



Midnight Mass will be celebrated at 11:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve/Day again this year at Peace. This is one of the most beautiful Services held throughout the year. The Mass begins by candlelight, with the reading of the ancient Christmas Martyrology and Procession of the Christ Candle, and 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 right around when the clock strikes Midnight. We hope that many of you will be able to attend this most solemn and blessed Mass with us this year!

The Nativity of Our Lord—Christmas Morning

The Divine Service on Christmas morning will be held on Christmas Morning at 9:30 a.m. The Holy Gospel for this Divine Service is the glorious Prologue to the Gospel According to St. John, where we are blessed to hear and meditate upon the fact that the Eternal Word of the Father became Flesh and Tabernacled among us. It is a different Divine Service than Midnight Mass, so those who would like to attend both are certainly welcomed and encouraged to do so.

Installation of Newly Elected Officers

The following members were elected to serve as officers in our congregation at the Voters' Assembly on October 23, and will begin their terms on January 1, 2012:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| President | David Zeile |
| Treasurer* | Amy Blair (*Appointed) |
| Financial Secretary | Carol Zeile |
| Board of Elders | Gabe Blair, Larry Elliott |
| Board of Trustees | Gary Miller, Art Tennant |
| Bd. of Christian Ed. | Jennie Harmon |

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 1, 2012**. Please be there to be installed into office if at all possible!*

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 14



A Homily Upon Midnight Mass
Rev. Larry L. Beane II
Salem Lutheran (Gretna, LA)
24 December Anno + Domini 2010
Text: Luke 2:1-20 (Isa 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14)

In the name of + Jesus. Amen.

A prominent Jewish celebrity once quipped: “Jews know two things, suffering, and where to get great Chinese food.” He is right about suffering, anyway. For God’s people have suffered greatly ever since the fall in the garden of Eden. All mankind has suffered because of sin, that of our ancestors, and that of our own. Sin has brought suffering and death upon our world. Sin has put us at enmity with the very God who created us. And sin stands in the way of ever restoring peace and life and wholeness.

The Old Testament people of God have suffered even more. For in addition to their own sinful flesh, the children of Israel have had to contend with the attacks of the devil. For God made Satan an offer he could not refuse: the promise of a Savior of mankind who would destroy the devil, the “Seed of the woman” who is God in the flesh Himself come to put things right.

And as a result of that threat that is also a promise, Satan has attacked and harassed the children of Israel. For the Seed was carried within the bodies of this chosen people from the very first giving of the continuation of that promise to our father Abraham.

As the holy prophet preached to suffering Israel: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.” Satan has fought from the very beginning to keep us all in darkness and to prevent even the flicker of the light of hope from being kindled.

But darkness is not to win the day, dear friends, and suffering and persecution are defeated by joy and vindication. “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” The darkness of the Judean night on that most extraordinary day in history was rent in two by the glory shining in the heavens, the angelic hosts singing with us in our liturgy: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased.”

For God is pleased with us, dear friends, not in our sins, but in our confession, in our repentance, in our forgiveness – for this is a gift of God – the Savior, born to us and to the people of Israel; “Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.” He is pleased with us, His children, because He is pleased with Jesus, His Son.

In spite of the devil’s attempts to destroy the Son, the Seed, by destroying the people in whom the Seed dwelt, in spite of the suffering of the children of Israel, in spite of the sins we have all committed and the punishment we all deserve, God has not abandoned us, the devil has not defeated us, death does not get the last word, and hell itself is defeated and turned away.

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for

all people.” The covenant with the children of Israel has been extended and offered to all people. The Lord, the Seed, the Christ child, is born to us, and He is our Savior, our Champion, our Redeemer, “who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession.” He is the one who overcomes darkness and defeats the devil – and God has done this through His chosen people Israel for the sake of His chosen people, the Church.

Unlike Mary and Joseph and the shepherds witnessing this “thing that has happened,” we have two millennia of hindsight. We know exactly what happened to this Christ child. We confess the truth of history and of the Church that He “was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day, He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.” We see Jesus suffering for and with Israel, and we see Jesus suffering for and with us, for our vindication and for our salvation.

He suffers for us by taking our sins to the cross, and He suffers with us taking flesh in our fallen world. He suffers that which we have earned and deserve, and we glory in that which He is and gives. And even knowing all of this, we nevertheless join the Blessed Virgin Mary in treasuring up all these things and pondering them in our hearts.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, dear fellow saved and redeemed and beloved of the Lord, let us not only treasure and ponder, but let us also rejoice and live in the hope that is ours by means of the gift of the Christ child.

And let us not marvel when Satan continues to attack us. For even as Mary bore the Seed within her and was persecuted by Satan, and even as the children of Israel were attacked and harassed by the devil over the course of thousands of years, so too does the church face diabolical attacks. She is attacked for the sake of Christ. She carries Christ within her in her very core of being – not in the form of the Christ child in the womb as did Blessed Mary, but in a similar way of carrying our Lord in our hearts and in our bodies through the preaching of the Word and our participation in the sacraments.

And though the devil will indeed harass us, let that encourage you, dear friends, for it means that the Christ dwells in you as well. For hear anew the promise, dear brothers and sisters: “The rod of His oppressor you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For unto us a child is born, to us a Son is given.”

And that is not just a promise given, but a promise delivered: at the manger, on the cross, in the font, from the pulpit, and at the altar. It is a promise that gives everlasting life and salvation, delivered to Jew and Gentile alike, and it is a promise that all suffering will cease. And it is in that promise that we “are waiting for the blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.” Amen.

Christmas blessings to each of you, “from this time forth and forevermore!” Amen.

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



A sincere thank you to all of you who donated toward our “Pancakes for ULC” fundraiser. We raised \$406.00 and sent that to the “Save ULC” fund, which has been established to help the saints at ULC raise the funds necessary to build a new chapel in the future. Below is a copy of the letter Pastor Kind sent to us, thanking us for our donation.



UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHAPEL

1101 University Avenue SE, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414

(612)331-2747 www.ulcmn.org

Rev. David A. Kind, Pastor

November 22, 2011

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

Dear Members,

Grace and peace be yours from our Lord Jesus Christ!

Thank you very much for your gift of \$406.00 to University Lutheran Chapel’s Save ULC/Building Fund, your willingness to host a “Pancakes for ULC” breakfast, and your thoughtful letter. Your gift and support will aid us as we deal with the issues surrounding the sale of the chapel property and possible displacement of our church from its current location, so that we can continue our work at the U of M, a place where the Gospel is desperately needed.

We are very grateful to you and others who are committed to maintaining a strong Lutheran presence on campus, a presence that is characterized by clear preaching of law and gospel, reverent liturgical worship, and careful catechesis in Scripture and Catechism.

God’s blessing be upon you.

In Christ Jesus,

The Reverend David A. Kind
Campus Pastor

Believing Christians Meditate at Christmas on the Birth of Jesus Christ

Exhortation

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive adoption as sons” (Galatians 4:4-5).

If the birth of a royal prince causes comforting reflections and joy in the entire kingdom, the birth of Jesus Christ cannot fail to be a cause of joy to all people. The angels rejoice in the heavens above and proclaim to all tidings of great joy; how then could the children of God not rejoice? They rejoice over the love and mercy of God, who spared not His Son but delivered Him up for us all. They rejoice over the loving-kindness of Jesus, who though He is God and the Son of God, does not refuse to take on Himself the nature of man in a lowly virgin and to become a little child.

In quiet moments of devotion, believers marvel at the wonderful counsel of God for our salvation, which no human and no angel could ever have conceived—that the Son of God was to suffer in the place of humanity and thus reconcile all to God. They marvel at the unmerited grace that God offers to human beings who were His enemies (Rom. 5:10), and for which they did not pray, no matter how much they needed it. Therefore, they return all the more fervent thanks to Him once the counsel of God for our salvation has been revealed to them. They enter gladly into the order of salvation by clinging to Jesus in faith and by following Him in a godly and pious life. And thus the holy Christmas days become to them days of prayer, rejoicing, and thanksgiving.

Prayer

This is the day the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it! Save us, we pray, O Lord! O Lord, we pray, give us success! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Arise my soul. Use this festival for the glory of God and for your edification and say: O Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, would that every drop of my blood were a tongue, that I might praise Your love, grace, and mercy!

God is love! This truth my heart and mind perceive on this holy festival. Your love has found a means for bringing grace to humanity, of which neither angels nor human beings would have dreamed to think! Namely, that the Second Person of the Godhead was to become man, to sanctify and cleanse our human nature. O gracious Jesus, everlasting praise and thanks to You for Your incarnation and birth. You became a child of man that we might become children of God. Now our human nature is truly exalted: You have united it with Your divinity and brought it into the council of the Holy Trinity. O love! O grace! As surely as the human nature is united with the divine, so surely everlasting friendship, everlasting reconciliation, everlasting peace, and everlasting love has been established between God and all people. When God beholds us in His Son, He cannot but be gracious to us. For He who spared not His beloved Son but delivered Him for us all, how shall He not with Him freely give us all things—the forgiveness of sins, righteousness, peace, life, and salvation?

Oh, the greatness of the love of Jesus, who chose to be born a tender infant, that He might sanctify our sinful birth! He increased in wisdom and stature that He might sanctify our youth. “Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, Through whom the sinful world is blest! You came to share my misery That You might share Your joy with me” (LSB 358:8). What thanks shall I return to You? O dearest Friend of souls! My Brother! I now have in You a helper in affliction, a deliverer in tribulation, a Savior when my sins terrify me, an aid in need, a support in death. You are my light; enlighten me! You are the Way that leads me to the Father. You are the Truth that teaches me to know that life which gives life. You are my righteousness; You justify and save me. You are my High Priest, who intercedes for me and blesses me. You are the lamb sacrificed for my trespasses, the full ransom for all my transgressions.

O precious Holy Spirit, how great is Your love in having this comfort, this joy, this salvation proclaimed to me again! From my heart I rejoice on this holy festival and say: My Jesus is mine; His heaven is mine. This Child is born for me, yes, truly for me. This Son is given for me, yes, truly for me. He has obtained and given also to me, yes to me, the grace of God, sonship with Him, and the eternal inheritance that is reserved for us in heaven.

O Jesus, whom in spirit I behold and gaze upon in the manger, how lovely, how kind You are! Grant me grace never to forget You, but to keep You ever in my heart, on my lips, and before my eyes. O my salvation, sanctify me! I yield myself to You with all that I am and have. O my Bridegroom, embrace me. For You I will live, You I will serve, from love of You I renounce the world and all the pleasures of this life. Let my heart be Your manger and Your dwelling in time and in eternity. Enfold and keep me in Your love, that I may have rest, peace, comfort, safety, and the salvation of my soul. Now that my Jesus has become man, I am not lost. Since I believe in Him, I will not perish, but have everlasting life. God is my friend because by faith I am in Jesus, and because Jesus is in me. I do not fear death, for in Him I have life. I do not fear the accusation of my conscience on account of my sins, for Jesus, my Advocate, is with me.

“Thou Christian heart, Whoe’er thou art, Be of good cheer and let no sorrow move thee! For God’s own Child, In mercy mild, Joins thee to Him; how greatly God must love thee! Remember thou What glory now The Lord prepared thee for all earthly sadness. The angel host Can never boast Of greater glory, greater bliss or gladness” (LSB 372:4-5). Amen.

—Starck’s Prayer Book: Revised Concordia Edition (CPH © 2009), pp. 56-58.

Synopsis of November 1, 2011 Church Council Minutes

Call To Order & Opening Prayer

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

Approval of Agenda

- Motion to approve amended agenda by Gary Miller, supported by Carol Zeile, motion carried unanimously

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion made by Carol Zeile, supported by Sharyn Greening to approve amended meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Report(s)

- **Pastor** – 1 new member, potential new members, table talk Nov 3rd; **Treasurer's Report** – Nov 17th the CEF CD matures, Carol will withdraw funds and close cd at that time. Seen a significant increase in offerings, receivable balance is actually lower by (150x11) for Pastor's loan. Carol hasn't reflected the loan decrease for this year; **Financial Secretary** – No Report; **Boards:** **Board of Elders** – possible meeting Nov 6th; **Board of Trustees** – no report; **Board of Christian Education** – Christmas program rehearsal starts Nov 13th, Christmas program scheduled for Dec 21st; **Board of Evangelism** – Spaghetti dinner on Nov 11 with a movie to follow, next meeting is December 1 at 6:30pm; **Board of Stewardship** – no report.

Business

- **Scrip Program** – Carolyn Johnson is going to be the Scrip program coordinator, she has signed up with Scrip Pro, need to create a bank account, Motion by Gary Miller supported by Sharyn Greening to allow Carol Zeile to open an account with Firstbank. Motion passed unanimously. Carol Zeile will contact Firstbank and open the account starting with \$500. The authorized signors on the account will be Carolyn K Johnson, Committee Chair, Carol Zeile, Treasurer, and Christopher S Brown, President
- **Thrivent Choice Dollars** – on the 9th of each month Thrivent has been making a direct deposit into our general checking account of the funds earned and designated to Peace Lutheran Church. So far we have received \$922 from Thrivent. There was much discussion about the use of those funds, (missions, church committees (SALT, Youth group, etc) or just general fund. Motion by Gary Miller, supported by Carol Zeile to table the discussion until the January council meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
- **2012 Budget** – The finance and budget committee presented the proposed budget to the council. There was discussion regarding the following items:
 - Administrative Assistant salary is being cut. Assistant will only be working 8 hours per week instead of 20. Maybe have the possibility of needing volunteers to help out
 - Telephone expense section has drastically decreased for two reasons. Pastor's cell has been categorized under Pastoral compensation and benefits and Larry Elliott renegotiated our phone/internet service and was able to reduce our bill
 - Pastoral expenses has been cut, pastor's net salary has been reduced. There was much discussion by council on this reduction. To offset this reduction there is a motion by Gary Miller to present the proposal of forgiving another year on Pastor's loan to the church (\$1800/year) to the congregation at our next Voter's Assembly meeting in January, Motion was supported by Larry Elliott and passed unanimously. Motion by Carol Zeile to increase Pastor's salary by 3%, after much discussion, motion was withdrawn.
 - Motion by Gary Miller, supported by Sharyn Greening to accept the proposed budget from the budget and finance committee and to pass the proposed budget on to the congregation at the January voter's assembly meeting. Motion passed, with one council member abstaining.

General Comments

- Cassie Tennant has volunteered to be the Christian Care Chairperson

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

- Motion made by Carol Zeile, supported by Gary Miller, adjourn at 9:38pm. Motion carried unanimously. Pastor Messer closed with the Lord's Prayer and Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassie Tennant, Secretary

PEACE NEWS & NOTES



NEWS

December

| <u>Event</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Start</u> | <u>End</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-----------------|
| Fellowship Sundays | 10:45 | 11:00 | | Youth Classroom |

Greetings in Christ,

Merry Christmas to everyone. This is a very busy month for us all. With our many opportunities for worship, service and fellowship, we will not have a monthly meeting. Please be available after worship for planning for next year and fellowship.

We will be selling Poinsettias for use during Christmas Eve, and with Christmas on Sunday this year, Christmas Day services. Please check the Youth Board for the order form. You can choose one to take home after the Christmas Day services.

Thanks again to everyone for your continued support of the youth. Whether through our fundraisers, support of our projects or with your words and time, these are all remembered and greatly appreciated.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Rehearsal Schedule

Sunday school students continue rehearsing for their Christmas Program through Sunday, December 18. Lunch is served at 12:15 followed by rehearsal until approximately 1:30. Following are the remaining rehearsal dates and volunteers for providing lunch:

- 12/4 - Lisa Messer
- 12/11 - Carolyn Johnson, Jenny Baughman
- 12/18 - Coaline Luplow

MORE HELP IS NEEDED FOR LUNCHES

If you can help our volunteers with lunch, please contact that person. Thank you!

SALT NEWS

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, January 12 at 6:30 p.m.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Please see our Meeting Minutes 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

Thank you to all who attended our Spaghetti Dinner on November 11. We were able to raise about \$125.00 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.

SCRIP PROGRAM NOW OFFERED AT PEACE!!!!

Wanted to let everyone know of the Scrip program that is being offered at Peace!!! For those of you who are not familiar, it is a form of fundraising. We take orders for giftcards from the list of hundreds of nationwide merchants and keep the percentage of profit offered by the designated merchant. For example, if you order a \$25 giftcard from Speedway, it is a 4 percent discount. The Church would keep the 4 percent.

Our first order was placed on November 13th and received on November 15th and we made \$249.20!! Pretty good for our first order!! Please keep this in mind as you make your Christmas lists and also for your everyday items, such as food, gas, and clothing. A merchant list is available online at www.scrippro.com under "Merchants". So, tell your friends and family!!!! The next order will be placed on December 4th.

Carolyn Johnson will be taking orders every Sunday during fellowship. Of course, you may place an order at any time by contacting Carolyn at 989-763-8387 or email: ckj1969@yahoo.com

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

Week 8 Best Record: 8-5

Carol Zeile, Dave Zeile

Week 9 Best Record: 11-3

Sharyn Greening

Week 10 Best Record: 11-4

Andrea Elliott

Week 11 Best Record: 11-2

Larry Elliott

Week 12 Best Record: 13-3

Pastor Messer, Carol Zeile

Overall Standings (through Week 12)

(Based on at least seven 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 | 10 | 93-49 | .655 |
| Larry Elliott | 12 | 109-64 | .630 |
| Pastor Messer | 12 | 108-65 | .624 |
| Dave Zeile | 12 | 105-68 | .607 |
| Andrea Elliott | 12 | 102-71 | .590 |
| Sharyn Greening | 11 | 86-71 | .548 |
| Carolyn Johnson | 10 | 75-66 | .532 |
| Coaline Luplow | 9 | 64-62 | .508 |
| Terry Luplow | 8 | 47-46 | .505 |
| Paige Harwager | 7 | 46-53 | .465 |

Others

| | | | |
|----------------|---|-------|------|
| Amy Blair | 4 | 38-22 | .633 |
| Sam Messer | 4 | 38-23 | .623 |
| Miguel Ortiz | 5 | 40-29 | .580 |
| Ed Norton | 4 | 36-27 | .571 |
| Lexie Blair | 4 | 35-28 | .556 |
| Jennie Harmon | 2 | 16-13 | .552 |
| Lisa Messer | 6 | 47-41 | .534 |
| Morgan Johnson | 2 | 15-14 | .517 |
| 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 |
| Savannah Blair | 1 | 5-8 | .385 |
| Farrah Blair | 1 | 4-9 | .308 |

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, and especially at this time of the year! Please consider dropping a few lines to our shut-ins during the course of each month.

Marlene Wiltshire

Masonic Pathways

1200 Wright Avenue

Alma, MI 48801

Joan Burch

PO Box 442

Breckenridge, MI 48615

Joyce Kohler

2700 Marfitt Road, Apt. 213

East Lansing, MI 48823

Vivian Strom

Masonic Pathways

1200 Wright Avenue

Alma, MI 48801

Marion Greening

1025 Vassar Street

Alma, MI 48801

Also, while correspondence is not requested for him, please remember our dear brother in Christ, Dick Wiser, who is at Pine River in St. Louis, in your prayers.

Note: Our dear sister in Christ, Connie Cook, was called home by our Lord on December 2. Please keep her family in your prayers. Visitation will take place at Peace from 9-11 am on Tuesday, December 6, with the Funeral Service at 11 am. Committal and Luncheon follow.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES

New Address:

Bebow, Chad and Wanda . . . 989-906-4415

(Georgie, Craig)

217 Giddings Place

St. Louis, MI 48880

Change of Address:

Kohler, Richard and Joyce . . . 517-977-0446

2700 Marfitt Road, Apt. 213 . . . 989-854-9394 (cell)

East Lansing, MI 48823

(no change to email)

Sellke, Kevin and Linda

2053 W. Ludington Drive

Farwell, MI 48622

(no change to cell phones or email)

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

PEACE NEWS & NOTES Cont'd



At our November meeting, the Ladies' Guild members discussed preparation of the nave and sanctuary for the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons. As you may recall, last year we consulted *The Altar Guild Manual* by Lee A. Maxwell, Lutheran Service

Book edition, to guide our decision. This manual, published by Concordia Publishing House, is authorized by the Commission on Worship of the LCMS.

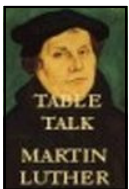
One section of the *Altar Guild Manual* is devoted to the seasons of the church year. The primary theme for the Advent Season is penitential, much like the season of Lent. In addition, during Advent, there also is an emphasis on the anticipation of the birth of our Savior.

For the Advent Season, we will continue this year with our use of violet, the traditional color for altar paraments and vestments. Violet symbolizes the penitential nature of the season. In addition, we will keep our decorating very simple by removing the candelabra from the chancel, using seasonal greenery with minimal flowers instead of fancy floral arrangements and minimizing decorations in the nave. The only real decoration for the Advent Season will be the Advent Wreath. We are blessed to begin the use of a new Advent Wreath this year. This new Wreath, purchased with Memorial funds, is simple and elegant and matches the other brass items in the Sanctuary. It holds five candles, three purple, one pink and the Christ Candle in the center.

The remainder of the **decorating will be done after the Divine Service on December 18, 2011**, the last Sunday in Advent. At that time we will put up the Christmas tree and the nativity set, hang the Christmas banners, bring back the candelabra and adorn the nave with wreaths and candles. The minimal decorating for Advent will be transformed into the more elaborate adornments of the Christmas Season, thus making a distinction between penitential/anticipatory Advent and joyous Christmas.

It is the sincere desire of the Ladies' Guild members to enhance the season of Advent and improve our preparation for the most joyous occasion of the birth of our Lord and Savior. **We invite and encourage all of the adults to join us on December 18, 2011, following the Divine Service, to decorate for Christmas.** There will be no Bible Class that day, but the children will have Sunday School as usual. When Sunday School is complete, the Ladies' Guild will provide a pizza lunch for everyone, followed by the dress rehearsal of the children's Christmas program.

TABLE TALK



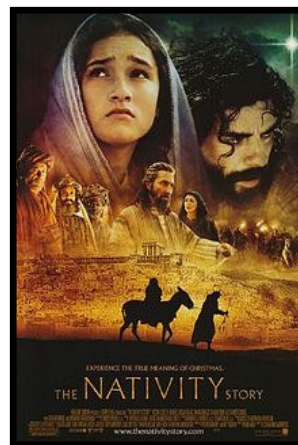
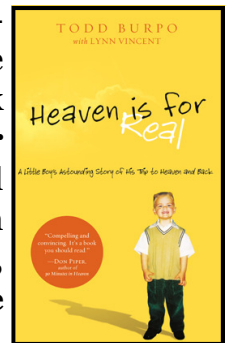
Our Table Talks are informal and informative discussions with Pastor Messer on various topics decided by the group in attendance. Plus, **THEY'RE FUN!** All are invited to our next Table Talk, which will take place **Friday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the Church.** We hope you're able to join us!

Ladies Lunch Bunch

We will meet for lunch this month on **Monday, December 12 at 1:30 p.m.** at **Francesco's on M-46, in St. Louis.** 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! Hope to see you there!

PEACE BOOK CLUB

Our Peace Book Club met for the second time on Tuesday, November 22 at the home of Yvonne Elenbaas, and we had a wonderful time discussing the classic novel by C.S. Lewis, "The Screwtape letters." It was decided by the group that our next book would be **"Heaven Is For Real"** by Todd Burpo. We'll meet to discuss this book on **Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at the Zeiles' home at 7:00 pm** (129 Essex, St. Louis). Everyone is welcome. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Messer.



PEACE MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, December 23
6:30 pm - Pizza
7:00 pm - Movie
"The Nativity Story"
Bring comfy chairs and snacks if you wish!
Freewill Offering collected for pizza.

This is a wonderful movie to watch as we prepare to celebrate our Lord's Nativity!

Hope you'll join us!

PEACE NEWS & NOTES Cont'd

"TABLE TALK" THOUGHTS

NOVEMBER 2011

My family and I have attended a handful of the Table Talk sessions since we became members at Peace. It took a little persuasion on my part to get everyone on board, but it was well worth it! It provides me an opportunity to ask my questions, which usually never pertain to our Bible study topics. It gives Gabe a chance to pick Pastor's brain about scripture and my girls look forward to 'babysitting'. We genuinely enjoy them!

At Table Talk we've discussed the situation at ULC, persecution of Christians in other countries, the scriptural basis for wearing head covers at church, angels and demons, social issues, family life; we've talked about all kinds of different things. It isn't a structured gathering. It is very casual. The group determines the topics depending on what's on their minds. At our November gathering our discussion was mostly about being a "congregation" - what it means to be a part of a congregation and how we can function within a congregation to make it better.

Until that night I had never thought about the true blessing that comes from being a member of a congregation. The idea that resonated with me

the most was that our 'paths' may never cross in the "real world." We come together at this church as God's chosen people, by His will. He gathers us to strengthen us. Being a part of a congregation is a subtle "bonus blessing" the Lord has given us. It's one of those special gifts He sneaks in on us when we aren't paying attention. At informal gatherings like Table Talk, we get a chance to know each other, as people, as fellow Lutherans. The more we gather the stronger we become as a congregation, which I believe is part of God's plan for all of us.

When Gabe and I went through catechism we read Lutheranism 101. In the book they described the world as steak and Christians as the salt that seasons it. This really puts things into perspective for me and it's a concept that my girls can understand. As they trod through the "real world" and try to understand why people do and say the things they do, knowing that most people are steak really helps. I guess my point being, I am very grateful to be salt, and it is comforting to be surrounded by salt.

Hope to see more of you at future Table Talks; I think you would really enjoy them!

In Christ,
Amy Blair

WELCOME TO OUR PEACE FAMILY!

We were blessed to extend the right hand of fellowship to Chad, Wanda, Georgie, and Craig Bebow, and welcome them into our Peace family, via Affirmation of Faith, during Divine Service on Sunday, November 13.

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him
above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son,
and Holy Ghost. Amen.*



Ladies Guild

Ladies Guild Meeting

Our Ladies Guild will meet on **Monday, December 5, at 12 pm.** Hostess will be Coaline Luplow. After a brief meeting, we will hold our Christmas party. Please bring a gift of \$5.00-\$7.50 to exchange. A luncheon with sandwiches, veggies and dip, and an assortment of goodies will be served. Hope to see you there. 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.

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 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

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 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 Dorothy Trgina
13 Lois Ramsey
20 Coaline Luplow
27 Gretchen Harrison

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

January

Coaline Luplow

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

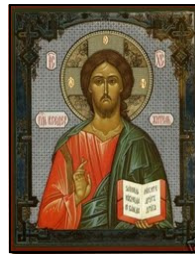
- First Communion Classes take place as arranged (see Pastor Messer if interested); Confirmation Class for our 1st-year Confirmands takes place on Wednesdays at 5 pm (no 2nd-year confirmands this year).

Answers to "Test Your Christmas Knowledge":
 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

TALK RADIO FOR THE THINKING CHRISTIAN!

Listen to what you want, when you want, at:

www.issuesetc.org

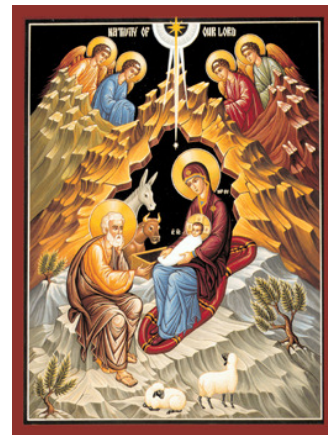


PASTOR MESSER IS BLOGGING!

www.abideinmyword.blogspot.com

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

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel
And Ransom Captive Israel!*



DECEMBER

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 5 Phyllis Hill | 19 James Sager |
| 12 Wanda Bebow | 20 Sarah Messer |
| 14 Cassie Tennant | 30 Amber Brown |
| 17 Thomas Pease | 30 Dick Wiser |
| 18 Kelsey Gensler | |

Happy Anniversary

- | |
|-----------------------------|
| 5 LeRoy and Maxine Isaksson |
| 30 Bill and Jennie Harmon |

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

PAROCHIAL REPORT

(as of 12/2/11)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 140; Confirmed - 120

Membership gains: 4

Chad, Wanda, Georgie, and Craig Bebow
by Affirmation of Faith - 11/13/11

Membership losses: 1

Connie Cook called home to heaven - 12/2/11




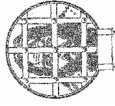












Financial Report as of 11/27/11

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| YTD Budgeted..... | \$ 101,136.00 |
| YTD Receipts..... | \$ 96,091.70 |
| Difference..... | \$ - 5,044.30 |

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

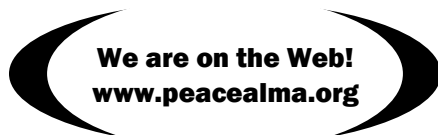
Peace Lutheran Church
325 E. Warwick Drive
Alma, MI 48801
(989) 463-5754
contact@peacealma.org
www.peacealma.org

December 2011

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| 4 Populus Zion (Advent 2) 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC, SS  | 5 12:00 - Ladies Guild Meeting and Christmas Party All ladies are invited | 6 + Connie Cook + 9-11 am - Visitation 11 am - Funeral Service Luncheon to follow 7 pm - Church Council | November 30 5 pm - Confirmation Class 6 pm - Advent Dinner 7 pm - Solemn Vespers  <i>Ad Te Levavi Midweek</i> | 1 10 am - Together in Word 12 pm - Divine Service St. Andrew, Apostle 5 pm - Weight Watchers 6:30 pm - SALT | 2 | 3  9 - 4 pm <i>Ladies Guild</i> <i>Cookie Walk and Crafts</i> |
| 11 Gaudete (Advent 3) 8:00 - Elders; 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC, SS 12:15 - SS Practice  | 12 1:30 pm - Lunch Bunch | 13 7 pm - Advent Tea  | 14 5 pm - Confirmation Class 6 pm - Advent Dinner 7 pm - Solemn Vespers  <i>Gaudete Midweek</i> | 15 10 am - Together in Word 12 pm - Divine Service St. Lucia, Martyr 5 pm - Weight Watchers | 16 | 17 |
| 18 Rorate Coeli (Advent 4) 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - SS/Decorating 12:15 - SS Practice  | 19 | 20 | 21 5 pm - Confirmation Class 6 pm - Advent Dinner 7 pm - Children's Program  | 22 10 am - Together in Word 12 pm - Divine Service St. Thomas, Apostle 5 pm - Weight Watchers | 23 Peace Movie Night 6:30 pm - Pizza 7 pm - Movie "The Nativity Story"  | 24 7 pm - Service of Lessons & Carols 11:30 pm Midnight Mass  |
| 25 Nativity of Our Lord 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship <i>No Bible Study or Sunday School</i>  | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| Church Office Closed; Pastor Messer Away Visiting Family | | | | | | |
| | | 7 pm - Stewardship | | 5 pm - Weight Watchers | | |
| January 1 Circumcision & Name of Jesus 8:30 - Choir 9:30 - Divine Service 10:45 - Fellowship 11:00 - BC, SS  | 2 12 pm - Divine Service St. Stephen, Martyr  <small>Newsletter articles due</small> | 3 12 pm - Divine Service St. John, Apostle & Evangelist  | 4 5 pm - Confirmation Class 6 pm - Study of <i>Didache</i> 7 pm - Div. Serv. Holy Innocents  | 5 10 am - Together in Word 5 pm - Weight Watchers 7 pm - Div. Serv. The Epiphany of Our Lord  | 6 | 7 |

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 | ELDERS | ACOLYTES | USHERS | GREETERS |
|---|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 4 - 9:30 am (Advent 2) | Miguel Ortiz | Sierra Luplow Natalie Penzien | Gary Miller John Lemmermann | LeRoy and Maxine Isaksson |
| 7 - pm (Advent 2 Midweek) | Miguel Ortiz | | Bill Hendrick | |
| 11 - 9:30 am (Advent 3) | David Zeile | Myka Luplow Savannah Blair | Terry Luplow Tyrel Harwager | Terry and Coaline Luplow |
| 14 - pm (Advent 3 Midweek) | David Zeile | | Chris Brown | |
| 18 - 9:30 am (Advent 4) | Larry Elliott | Aaron Messer Paige Harwager | James Sager Daren Johnson | Lillian Manns Lois Ramsey |
| 21 - 7 pm (Children's Christmas Program) | | | Vern Jakolat Gabriel Blair | |
| 24 - 7:00 pm (Service of Lessons and Carols) | Terry Luplow | Morgan Johnson Farrah Blair | Gary Miller Bill Hendrick | |
| 24 - 11:30 pm (Midnight Mass) | David Zeile | Samantha Messer | Vern Jakolat Chris Brown | |
| 25 - 9:30 am (Nativity of Our Lord) | Terry Luplow | Sierra Luplow Natalie Penzien | Vern Jakolat | |
| January | | | | |
| 1 - 9:30 am (Christmas 1) | Miguel Ortiz | Myka Luplow Savannah Blair | Gary Miller John Lemmermann | Lisa Messer & Family |

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