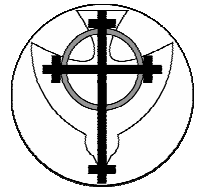
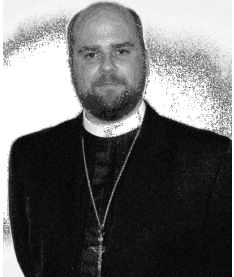


The Peace Post



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



FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MESSER

"What is the Great Commission?"

"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age'" (Matt. 28:18-20).

I taught what follows during our Tuesday morning Bible Study and also during the opening devotion of our latest S.A.L.T. meeting. The suggestion was made by some that I make this teaching available to all our members via our newsletter. So, here it is.

When most Christians hear the above Scripture passage, which concludes the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, they immediately recognize it as the Great Commission. But, ask most Christians what the Great Commission is and you will most likely get an over simplified answer, which fails to grasp its full meaning.

This is because, in our day and age, most Christians make the mistake of reducing the Great Commission to simple witnessing. They have been led to believe that they are fulfilling the Great Commission when they share the Gospel of Jesus

Christ with others.

But, the Great Commission is about much more than simple witnessing. Jesus does not commission the eleven disciples here to go out into the world and simply tell people about Him. No, He commissions them to "make disciples of all nations." How? By "baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," and by "teaching them to observe all that He has commanded them."

There are two important things to note here, which, all too often, are sadly overlooked: 1) The Great Commission is not given to *all* Christians, but to those men who are called and ordained into the Office of the Holy Ministry, for Jesus does not commission all of His disciples here, but only the Eleven; 2) The Great Commission is fulfilled when people are *made disciples* through God's Holy Word and Sacraments, not simply when they hear about Jesus.

Thus, the Great Commission is not fulfilled when Joey tells Jimmy about Jesus, but rather when, after Joey tells Jimmy about Jesus, Jimmy is brought to Joey's pastor to be baptized and properly catechized into the Christian faith. The goal of the Great Commission is to make Jimmy a disciple of Jesus Christ through the means of grace supplied by Christ Himself—His Holy Word and Sacraments.

It is for this reason that we do not simply welcome people, who have never been properly catechized, into our fellowship by having them sign a piece of paper.

Instead, we require them to meet with the pastor to be baptized, if need be, and to be properly catechized, that is, to be taught "all that Christ commanded," so that they can be prepared to receive the gifts Christ, who is "with us always," desires to give during Divine Service—His Holy Word and His Holy Body and Blood in the Holy Supper. Then, after they have been properly catechized, we, with great joy, extend to them the right hand of fellowship and welcome them as new members of our congregation. That, my friends, is the Great Commission at work.

Continued on page 5

It is finished!



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PEACE LUTHERAN LIBRARY



Donations are always welcomed:

If you are thinking about donating one or more books to our library and are not sure what to be looking for, we have a "wish" list of suggestions in the church office. Prices and books can also be found in the CPH catalog, also in the church office.

NEW BOOKS:

"Jesus - CEO" by Laurie Beth Jones

"Romans - Peoples Bible commentary" by Armin J. Panning

"Every Christian Should Know" by 123 Amazing Believers

"That Shook the World & Transformed the Church" by 123 Incredible Events

"Prayers of the Godly Woman" by Jim Gallery

"When I'm on My Knees" by Anita Corrine Donihue

"The Singer" By Calvin Miller



We would like to encourage people to use our Church Library more often. If you have read a book from our library that you enjoyed, or that inspired you, and you would like to share it, please contact Beth Brostrom or Coaline Lupton.

PYG NEWS

June Events

Fellowship - Sundays - All Year Long!

Greetings in Christ,

Although the academic year is drawing to a close and summer vacation is beginning, I hope to see everyone throughout the summer. Let us share our Christian fellowship with one another after Sunday services and prepare for other get-togethers and the National Convention.

All youth going into the 6th grade next fall are welcome to join us as are our recent graduates.

Please contact me with fellowship and service project ideas.

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

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

Alexandria Henry, Alma High
School

Joshua Schafer, Shepherd High
School



Synopsis of May 1, 2007 Church Council Minutes

Date: May 1, 2007

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Call To Order & Opening Prayer - President Jakolat called the meeting to order at 7:06pm. Pastor Messer conducted the opening prayer. The following members were present: Vern Jakolat, Megan Brown, Carol Zeile, Don Reithel (Board of Elders), Sharyn Greening, Andrea Elliott, Dick Kohler. Members absent: Miguel Ortiz, Coaline Luplow, Bill Brostrom. Non-voting members present: Pastor Messer

Approval of Agenda – The agenda was accepted as presented.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – It was moved by Councilmember Kohler, supported by Councilmember Greening to approve the minutes from the meeting of April 10, 2007 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Report(s) – The following reports were presented and received into record: Pastor, Treasurer, Boards of Elders, Trustees, Christian Education Evangelism and Stewardship, Budget & Finance.

Old Business

Council Involvement with Pastor's 2007 Taxes - This item was tabled to the next meeting.

Purchase of White Boards for Classrooms - White boards have not yet been purchased. The Board of Trustees has been directed to carry out this item.

Purchase of Small Catechisms - Catechisms are currently being purchased through funds generated by the sale of new ESV Bibles.

Memorials Funds for Jon Greening - This item was tabled to the next meeting.

Saginaw Valley Lutheran Hour Fund - Information is still being gathered on this subject.

Refinancing for Pastor Messer - Pastor requested that this item be removed from further agendas.

CD with Church Extension Fund - President Jakolat provided the Council with the attached information regarding CD rates with the Church Extension Fund. The Council discussed converting funds from the Building Fund into a high interest CD.

New Business

Securing Entry Closet – It was moved by Secretary Brown, supported by Treasurer Zeile to direct the Board of Trustees to install a lock on the entry closet. The motion carried unanimously.

General Comment

Bob Wendt made a comment regarding the unprofessional manner in which incoming money is handled.

Adjournment & Closing Prayer – It was moved by Secretary Brown, supported by Councilmember Greening to adjourn at 8:35pm. Pastor Messer conducted the closing prayer.

Proposed minutes respectfully submitted,

Megan Brown, Secretary

LADIES & ALTAR GUILD INFO

- **LADIES GUILD MEETING:** Guild meets the first Monday of each month from October to May (except for September, which will be the Second Monday). All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend our guild meetings; if you are a confirmed female member of Peace, you can be a member of the guild. We would sincerely encourage you to participate and be an active member of the guild.
- **LADIES GUILD PRAYER CHAIN:** The Ladies Guild has a prayer chain in place. If you wish to be included in the prayer chain as a caller, see Marlene Wiltshire. If you wish to add yourself or someone else to the prayers, call Marlene Wiltshire (463-4101).
- **ALTAR GUILD DUTY:** June - Marilyn Oswald; July - Beth Brostrom; August - Carol Zeile
- **ALTAR FLOWERS:** There is a flower calendar for 2007 posted on the fellowship bulletin board. If you wish to place flowers on the altar some time during the year, fill in your name and/or contact Beth Brostrom or Cheryl Henry. A bouquet usually lasts about one (1) month and the cost is about \$25.



UPCOMING COFFEE HOSTESSES:



June

3 - Mary Jakolat
10 - Gretchen Harrison
17 - Arlene Hale/Janet Isom
24 - Joyce Kohler

July

1 - Dorothy Trgina
8 - Marilyn Oswald
15 - Beth Brostrom
22 - Sara Cummins
29 - Sharyn Greening/
Megan Brown

August

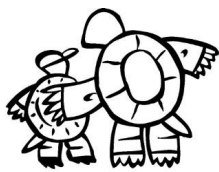
5 - Jenny Baughman
12 - Lois Ramsey
19 - Carol Zeile
26 - Coaline Luplow

THE BEGINNING OF FATHER'S DAY

One Sunday in 1909, a young woman named Sonora Smart Dodd sat in a pew listening to a sermon honoring mothers. Her mother had died some years before, so her father had raised her by himself. She began to wonder why there wasn't a day to honor fathers.

Sonora decided to arrange for a tribute to be paid to her father at a church in her hometown of Spokane, Washington. The date was June 19, 1910. Many believe that this was the beginning of Father's Day.

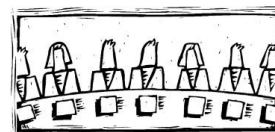
Another view is that Dr. Robert Webb, pastor of Central church, in Fairmont, West Virginia held a service giving tribute to fathers in 1908. Regardless of which story is the correct one, it is certain that President Calvin Coolidge was the first president to choose a special day to honor fathers. He proclaimed the third Sunday in June as Father's Day in 1924.



Happy Father's Day

TRUSTEES NEWS

The trustees would like to acknowledge and thank Handyman Extraordinaire for donating carpet and floor cleaning materials and services in May.



BOARD of TRUSTEES

“What is the Great Commission?” continued from page 1

Of course, strictly speaking, the Great Commission is never completely fulfilled this side of heaven. It is always in the process of being fulfilled, but never fulfilled to the point of completion. After all, we Christians can never learn “to observe *all* that Christ commands” of us in this life. We could memorize the entire Bible and all of our Lutheran Confessions and, still, there would be much to learn. It is for this reason that we need to attend Divine Service regularly where the Word of God is taught, proclaimed, and delivered to us. And, we need to regularly be “in the Word,” so that we can mark, learn, and inwardly digest the Word of God and grow in our fear and knowledge of the Lord.

You see, to be a “disciple” of Christ is to be a “student” (or “learner”) of Christ. To be “made a disciple” is to be “made a student,” that is, to be made to realize that your Christian education is never complete and you are in continuous need of catechesis. Thus, a disciple of Christ is one who desires to learn, and remains in the continuous process of learning, His Word. That, dear friends in Christ, is what the Great Commission is all about—making disciples of Christ, not merely sharing the Gospel.

But, please do not misunderstand all this. All Christians are, indeed, called to share the Gospel of Christ with others. We are “the salt of the earth” and we are to “let our lights shine” and “proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light.” We are called to confess our faith to the world around us at all times through our words and deeds in whatever vocation we find ourselves. This is an integral part of the Great Commission. But, the point here is that this is only a part, not the whole thing. We share our faith with the hope and prayer that the Holy Spirit will work in those with whom we share it and bring them to the Church where they can be made disciples through the Holy Word and Sacraments. Thus, while all Christians are not given the Great Commission, all Christians are involved in its fulfillment, for all Christians, laity and clergy alike, join together to see to it that the Great Commission of their Lord is being fulfilled. And, they can only do so when they understand what the Great Commission truly is. It is my sincere hope and prayer that what has been written here will lead all of us to a proper understanding of the Great Commission, with the result that we will work together here at Peace to make sure that it is being fulfilled among us. In Jesus’ Holy and Precious Name. Amen.

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Messer

“IN THE BEGINNING . . .”

Our *Together in the Word* Tuesday morning Bible Study recently completed our study of the Gospel of John. Now, we shall turn our attention to Genesis, the first book of the Bible. Genesis is an extremely important book, for it sets the stage for all that comes after it in Holy Scripture. As always, everyone who is available on Tuesday mornings is invited and encouraged to join us for Bible Study. I include this special announcement only to make you aware that we are beginning the study of a new book of the Bible, which would be a great time for you to begin joining us regularly, if it hasn’t been your custom to do so before. Our study of Genesis will begin on **Tuesday, June 12 at 9:30 a.m.** Hope to see you there!

In Christ,
Pastor Messer



STARS AND STRIPES

Since the early 1800's various groups have observed a day to display the American flag. Presidents Woodrow Wilson (in 1916) and Calvin Coolidge (in 1927) issued proclamations marking June 14 as National Flag Day. But it wasn't until August 3, 1949, that Congress approved June 14 as a day of national observance. President Harry Truman signed it into law.

The American flag has changed designs more than any other flag in the world. In fact, the United States didn't have a standardized flag until 1912! And even after standardization, the flag changed three more times with the addition of new stars representing new states.



S.A.L.T. NEWS & NOTES

*S.A.L.T. is our Evangelism Committee here at Peace. Its mission is to **Share with All the Love and Truth** of Jesus Christ!*

1. **Looking for more S.A.L.T. members:** We are in the process of revitalizing our committee and becoming more organized and focused on fulfilling our mission. We have many things we would like to accomplish, but need more help to do so. Please consider joining our group. There are no membership dues or contracts to sign! All that is needed is a heart to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ within our congregation and without our community. You need not sign up nor tell anyone of your intention to join our committee. All you need to do is show up at our next meeting on **Tuesday, June 12 at 7:00 p.m.** Please come join us and help us make this very important committee more effective!

2. **Relay for Life:** Last year, Peace Lutheran Church entered their first team in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life at St. Louis High School. But, 2007 promises to be an even more successful event! This year, the 24 hours of entertainment, celebration, and reflection will be held at Ithaca High School, beginning at **3:00 p.m. on Friday, August 10.** Bring your friends and family members, join our team, and have fun camping out, visiting the PLC campsite for as long as you like, or walk around the track once or twice with other Peace members or friends. See Don Reithel after Service in the weeks to come to become a part of our Peace Lutheran team. Our efforts in this campaign are dedicated to the glory of God and to those who have lost their battle with cancer or continue to fight this dreaded disease.



3. **Ladies Lunch Bunch:** Ladies Lunch Bunch will continue to meet during the summer months, but are planning some fun times a little different from the usual monthly lunches. In June, we will meet at **J J Ruby's on June 12 at 1:30** for a planning luncheon. In July, we plan to drive to Bay City and take a boat tour on the Saginaw River. The date has not yet been confirmed. The tour begins at 10:00 and lasts about 2 hours. Then we will have lunch in Bay City. After lunch, Jo Wendt has invited is to her lakefront home for the afternoon. We will discuss what we might like to do in August and are open for suggestions. Loafer's Glory in Blanchard, and lunch at Maxfield's in Edmore have been suggested. We look forward to some good times and invite all of our ladies, young and old, to join us. Watch the S.A.L.T. bulletin board for announcements, dates and sign-up sheets. Contact Mary Jakolat, 463-3067, with comments or suggestions.



4. **Support Our Troops:** A huge thank you to all of you who donated toward this important ministry. We are happy to report that we will be sending two shipments of donations to **LCPL. Kenneth Berry**, grandson of Bruce and Donna Bebow, in the next few weeks. Please keep him, and all our troops, in your prayers. We will continue to accept donations for this ministry, so that we can send additional shipments in the future. Please continue to help us support our troops. If you have any family members serving overseas in our military and would like for us to send them a shipment, please see Andrea or Larry Elliott. Thanks again!



5. **Advent Tea:** We are already planning our next Advent Tea, which will take place on **Wednesday, November 28 at 7:00 p.m.** There will 12 tables available for hostesses this year. A sign up sheet is posted on the S.A.L.T. bulletin board. These tables will be first come, first serve, so if you want to host a table, please make sure to sign up as soon as possible! The requirement for hosting a table this year is that it must include the **color red** in it somewhere. The rest is left to your own individual creativity. Of course, it is also the responsibility of each table hostess to invite seven guests to sit at their table. There is an additional sign up sheet on the bulletin board for any of you who desire to attend the Advent Tea, but do not want to host a table. We will share this list with our hostesses to make sure that all who desire to attend are invited. If you have any questions about Advent Tea, please see Lisa Messer.



6. **Food Bank:** Food Bank collection Sunday is the first Sunday of every month. Please help the S.A.L.T. committee give aid to families and seniors of Gratiot County by bringing non-perishable, canned, or packaged foods on **Sunday, June 3.** Suggestions for donations are posted on the S.A.L.T. bulletin board. Place your donations in the **RED COLLECTION TUB** in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks for your help!
7. **Evangelism Walks:** We will be planning some evangelism walks in the near future and hope that you will join us as we share the Good News of Christ with our community and invite them to our Church. Look for info in the coming weeks!



ESSAYS BY OUR 2007 CONFIRMANDS

In addition to their regular study of Scripture and the six chief parts of Christian doctrine in the Small Catechism, our confirmands were required to complete a major project this year. The project was a detailed study of their confirmation verses. The rationale for making them complete this project was threefold: 1) To teach them how to do a detailed study of Scripture using various tools (concordance, cross-reference system, Bible dictionary, commentaries, etc.); 2) To give them a thorough understanding of their confirmation verses, with the hope that their verses will be more meaningful for them and will stick with them long after they are confirmed; 3) To instill in them a desire to share what they have learned with others and to direct them in how to do so. The project consisted of eight parts: 1) Explain why you chose this verse and, in your own words, summarize what it means to you; 2) List the key words in your verse and, using both a regular and a Bible dictionary, provide definitions for these key words; 3) Using the cross-reference system and concordance, list at least five other Scripture verses that are parallel, or relate to, your verse; 4) Determine which chief part of the catechism is most related to your verse and explain why; 5) Explain your verse in relation to its immediate context (what comes before it and what comes after it and how does this shed light on your understanding of your verse?); 6) Explain your verse in relation to the central article of the Christian faith, that we are justified by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone; 7) Using what you have learned in this study, what is the central thought of your verse and explain, in your own words, what it now means to you and how that meaning has changed based on your studies; 8) Using all that you have learned in this study, write an essay explaining your confirmation verse and why it is something that non-Christians need to hear.

All of the confirmands did a fine job completing this project. They put a lot of work into this project and I was very pleased with the results. What follows are the essays they wrote for part 8 of the project. Read and enjoy!

Samantha Messer

Confirmation Verse: “For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.” (Ps. 91:11)

Ever since the 4th grade, Psalm 91:11 has been my favorite Bible verse. It has always made me feel safe, because it tells me that God commands His angels to protect me and all Christians. It is very comforting to know that God’s angels are there to protect me from all harm and danger that can come upon me in this life.

As I did this project, I learned much more about my favorite verse, which has made it even more my favorite. When the verse says, “For he,” the “he” is referring to God, but not just any god, but the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As we learned in the Creed, it is the Triune God who does everything for us. The Father makes us and gives us all things that we need in this life. He also defends us against all danger and evil. He does this out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, even though we don’t deserve it. The Son became one of us so that He could redeem us sinners by dying on the cross. He also lived the perfect, sinless life we are unable to live. He did this to win us from death and the devil so that we could live forever in His kingdom. The Holy Spirit gives us the faith to believe in Jesus Christ so that we can have forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. He keeps us in the faith, too.

When the verse says, “will command his angels concerning you,” it is this Triune God who does the commanding. He is in charge of His angels, or guardians, and they do what He says. Some people think that all angels are good, but really there are some really bad angels, who are now demons. The leader of these angels was named Lucifer. He didn’t want to listen to God or worship Him in the beginning. A lot of other angels followed in his footsteps. Lucifer is now Satan and those angels who followed him are demons. Satan is the enemy of God. He tempts people to turn away from the true God and to turn to other gods. He wants to destroy God’s people and all people. When people give into his temptations and follow him instead of God, they lose God’s protection and are in danger of going to hell. That’s why it’s so important to keep coming to church to stay in the faith so that God can continue to protect us from the devil.

When the verse says, “to guard you in all your ways,” it means that the Triune God loves us and will guard us in all things, from the devil and from all evils and from all bad things that can happen to us in our lives. God will guard us with His angels just as He guarded Jesus with His angels during Jesus’ life on earth. That’s one of the coolest things I learned in my studies of this verse. I never knew it before, but this verse is actually a prophecy about the Messiah, Jesus. When Jesus was tempted by the devil for 40 days in the wilderness, one of the temptations the devil used was to try to get Jesus to throw Himself down from the top of the Temple. The devil even quoted this verse to tempt Jesus. He said, “If you are the Son of God, throw Yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command His angels concerning You’” (Matt. 4:6). But Jesus would not fall for the devil’s temptation, for He said, “You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.” Later, after Jesus wins against the devil’s temptations, the angels come and minister to Him and guard Him. They were there guarding Him all of the days of His

earthly life. In the Garden of Gethsemane, they were there, and many other times. What this verse means for us Christians is that God's angels will guard us just like they did Jesus, because we believe in Him and belong to Him.

This verse would be very good to use when speaking with a non-Christian, because I could point out to that non-Christian that if they believe in the Triune God, He will guard them throughout their lives with His angels. I could tell them that they need this protection, because the devil wants to tempt them and hurt them, and so do many other people in this world who follow the devil. I could tell them that if they have this protection, it means that they believe in Jesus and they are forgiven of all their sins and will live forever in heaven. I am thankful for this verse and I will always pray that God will send His holy angels to be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Heather Palmer

Confirmation Verse: *“Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Rom. 10:9)*

Throughout my study of Romans 10:9, I have learned what the verse means and how it applies to me. In this paper, I will cover Romans 10:9 and some of its immediate context. Through this review, I hope you will learn from this verse about the Christian faith.

The book of Romans was written by Paul in about A.D. 57 in the city of Corinth. He writes to the Romans to assure them that the faith they have in Jesus Christ is right. Many people were telling the Christians in Rome that their faith was wrong, but Paul writes to tell them that their faith is right. That's what my verse is all about, for Paul tells the Romans and all Christians that if you have faith in Jesus, you will be saved. From the immediate context surrounding this verse, we learn that faith in Christ means that “the Word of God is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart.” This means that faith in Jesus is more than just knowing about Him, but believing in your very heart. What Romans 10:9 also assures us of is that if we do not have faith in Jesus (believe in Him with our whole heart), we will not be saved.

Some keywords in this Bible passage are: Faith, Heart, Confess, Believe, and Jesus. The word faith means to believe and trust in God; knowing that God is real, even though no one can see Him. The heart is the center of a person's life, one's innermost being. Confess is to say what you believe, or to admit your sins to someone. Believe means to accept as true, to trust, and to have faith. And Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior of the world, the Messiah, through whom people are saved when they believe in Him. Each of these words provides additional explanation for the understanding of this passage.

When I apply the keywords from Romans 10:9 to additional texts of the Bible, they lead me to a better understanding of the Apostles' Creed in Luther's Small Catechism. I believe that the Creed is a very important part of the Christian faith. As you confess the Creed, you say, “I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.” This means that you trust God will protect you from all evil and guard you from all danger. As you continue to confess, “And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate . . . From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead,” this means Jesus has redeemed me, a lost and condemned sinner, that I may be His own and live under Him and serve Him in everlasting righteousness just as He has risen from the dead and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Because a Creed is a statement of what one believes, it is the chief part of the Catechism that applies most to my confirmation verse, because my verse is about confessing our faith in Jesus. I know that “I” must believe for myself in order to be saved, just as the verse states that “I” must confess with my mouth. The third article of the Creed assures me that it is the Holy Spirit that gives me the ability to believe in Jesus and confess Him as Lord. Each time I recite the Creed, I am declaring my beliefs, just as my verse says.

The Christian faith is about believing in the Triune God. The central theme of the Book of Romans is about believing in God and His Son Jesus Christ and that, by believing and proclaiming your faith, you will be saved. Later in Romans 10, Paul tells us that “faith comes by hearing,” so we are brought to faith by hearing the Gospel. Another important way that we are brought to faith is Holy Baptism. In Baptism, we are reborn, through the water and the Word, by the Holy Spirit. When you are baptized as an infant, your parents and sponsors take an oath to keep you in the Christian faith until you are old enough to learn about the Christian faith and be confirmed in the Church. They do this by taking you to Church regularly so that you can hear the Word of God and stay in the faith. Now that I am old enough and have learned the Christian faith for myself, I know that I will be kept in the faith by going to Church regularly to hear the Word of God and to receive the Sacrament of the Altar.

Many people do not believe in God's grace and mercy. They believe in man's works. They believe that they need to earn God's love by being “good enough” and by doing “good things.” Romans 10:9-10 declares that salvation is from God, by

grace, through faith. Therefore, it is not by good works, but by faith in Jesus Christ that we are saved.

So, my verse would be a great verse to share with a non-Christian, for it teaches the most important thing, that faith in Jesus saves us, and that without faith in Jesus you cannot be saved. A non-Christian needs to know that Jesus has saved us by dying on the cross for our sins so that we can be forgiven. He has done all the work for us. He is our substitute. He died the death we deserved to die, but we don't have to die now because He saved us and has risen from the dead so that we can live forever with Him. If we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe that He is risen, we are saved and have life everlasting. That is truly GOOD NEWS and non-Christians need to hear it.

Melanie Penzien

Confirmation Verse: *“Cast your cares unto the LORD, and he will sustain you. He will never permit the righteous to fall.” (Ps. 55:22)*

Out of the thousands of verses in the Bible, I chose this one for my confirmation verse. There were many other verses that I could have chosen as my verse. However, I chose this one. Not because it was simple. Not because it was easy to memorize. No, I chose this verse because it shows the love the LORD has for us and how He will sustain us and never let us fall. This essay will explain this more clearly.

For starters, Psalm 55:22 can be interpreted in many different ways. For example, one person might read the verse and think that it means to give the LORD your all and He will sustain you. Another person could simply think it means what it says, give the LORD your cares and worries and He will keep and protect you and never let you fall. However, I broke this verse into 3 separate parts and interpreted it. In separating the verse in this way, I was able to define what each section meant much more easily than just interpreting the whole verse. I learned that to cast your cares upon the LORD is not a command or a condition, but a gracious invitation. The next two sections tell me what the LORD does for those who cast their cares upon Him. He sustains them and keeps them in the faith by never letting them fall away. The meaning of this verse is clear, the LORD will protect us and keep us from falling into the temptation of Satan, no matter what, because we are righteous, not on our own, but through faith in Christ, the Righteous One. This is what the Christian faith is all about.

The Christian faith is very much reflected in Psalm 55:22. We can see this when we study the key words in the verse. Some of the words in the Bible are much more different from the words we use in our current day and age. Many Biblical words, such as some of those in Psalm 55:22, have much deeper meanings than how we use them today. They deal with the everlasting love of the LORD. In Psalm 55:22, two such words are “sustain” and “fall.”

While “sustain” in our day and age can simply mean to supply, endure, or last, when it is used in the Bible, it takes on a deeper meaning. When the LORD sustains us, He is protecting us and keeping our faith in Him stronger than anything we could ever imagine. The Christian faith is largely based upon the eternal love that the LORD has for us, so much so that He does the work Himself of sustaining us in the faith. The greatest expression of God's eternal love is the gift of His only Son, Jesus Christ, to this sinful world as a sacrifice for our sins. God sustained Him so that He could win our salvation by His death. He sustains us by keeping us in the faith that believes in Jesus and saves us.

The word “fall” here does not simply mean to lose one's footing and fall to the ground. It means something deeper, to fall into temptation and to fall from the faith, like our first parents, Adam and Eve, did in the Garden of Eden. This is not a physical kind of falling, but a spiritual falling. The Good News in this verse is that not only will God sustain us, but He will keep us from falling away from the faith. He does this by keeping our faith in Jesus, who defeated Satan in a way we could never do. God forever keeps us from falling back to Satan, whom Jesus defeated, because God loves those who believe in His Son and sees them as righteous because they have His Son's righteousness.

Holy Confession and Absolution is one of the six chief parts of the Catechism and it is the chief part most related to Psalm 55:22. Holy Confession is when we talk to the LORD and tell Him all of our sins. “Cast your cares unto the LORD” is the very first part of Psalm 55:22. If this isn't Holy Confession, then I don't know what is. The Christian faith would be nothing without the ability for us to confess our sins to the LORD and ask for forgiveness. When we confess to the LORD, He listens. He is always listening and is always ready to forgive us for Jesus' sake, for even though we don't deserve His forgiveness, Jesus has won that forgiveness for us on the cross.

Psalm 55:22 is surrounded by two other verses that further explain its meaning. Psalm 55:21 tells us that we will have enemies in this life that will attack us. My verse, 55:22, tells us where to turn when we are attacked in this world. Finally, Psalm 55:23 assures us that God Himself will bring down our enemies, those who are fully consumed by Satan and opposed to God. All three of these verses sum up the life of the Christian. We will suffer in this life and be attacked, but God will sustain us through His Holy Word and Sacraments and keep us from falling away, and He will bring justice to those who oppose us, for when they oppose us they oppose Him.

My confirmation verse is an important one to use when talking to unbelievers, for it points them to the LORD, who is the only source of peace and comfort in this sinful world. Without the LORD, no one is righteous, but only sinful and will have to pay for their sins in hell forever. But, with the LORD, they are righteous through faith in Christ and they can cast all their cares upon the LORD, confessing their sins and sharing their troubles with Him, and He will sustain them and keep them from falling away forever. This is what all unbelievers in the world need to hear.

Phillip Schafer

Confirmation Verse: *“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Rom. 5:1)*

What is a Bible verse? A Bible verse is a section of the Bible, which was written by men through inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Many people see a Bible verse as a single phrase telling part of a story. I look at it like each verse tells its own story somewhat, but also helps complete a bigger story.

The Word of God is the best thing to hear in a time of need because it can help you relate to the troubles that people had back then. Job is a good example. He was a wealthy man who believed that God was the reason for his good fortune. But, Satan persuaded the LORD to allow him to test Job’s faith. He said that Job would not be faithful if the LORD allowed all of his possessions to be taken away. But, even though Job had everything taken from him, including his wife and children and all his possession, and he was afflicted with pain and disease, he remained faithful to the LORD. After all this had happened, the LORD spoke to Job saying, “Blessed are you, for even though I took all your possessions away, you did not curse Me because your faith in Me is great.”

Job was able to endure all this suffering because he had faith, which means, according to my verse, that he had peace with God. This is the same for all believers. When we’re sad, lonely, depressed, or going through hard times, we need to continue to go to Church and listen to the Word of God sung and preached, and also pray that our hardships may become better. We go to Church not to get our “church done,” but because it is there that we are strengthened in our faith and have peace with God. It is in Church that we learn that the LORD loves His children and will protect and provide for them.

My Bible verse was written by Paul after the death and resurrection of Jesus. When Christ was on this earth, He went through a stage of humiliation and suffered death on the cross for our sins. But, then He entered into the stage of exaltation and rose from the grave and ascended into heaven to be our Lord forever.

The stories throughout the Bible are fascinating and remind me to be faithful, someone who little kids can look up to, also to be a leader in whatever activities I am involved in. Throughout my life, Church will be a major priority and will be put first over sports and any parties. This way I can be a role model to others, like Job, who can be seen as a role model for people who are experiencing rough times. They can learn from his example to keep the faith and the LORD will be there for them no matter what they are experiencing. If they keep the faith, even though times may be terrible, they will have peace with God.

Church has always been important in my family. As I was growing up, when my family went to Church we would go to my dad’s Church that he has gone to for years with the Moeganborge side of the family. Always, right after Church, my great, great grandparents, Oliver and Zelma Moeganborge, would head straight home to make breakfast for everyone. This is a huge family that comes for breakfast, everyone in the family is there every Sunday, and that is probably the greatest memory that I have that involves Church when I was growing up. This is what I believe to be a perfect Sunday, and you couldn’t ask for anything else. A family going to Church together to be strengthened in their faith and have peace with God and then spending time together after Church is something that I have cherished and will continue when I am older and have my own family.

Throughout my work in confirmation class, I have made friendships closer, and have also made new friends amongst the people of the congregation. The biggest thing I’ve learned is that Church is not a waste of time, but a real blessing. It is in Church where we hear the Word of God proclaimed to us which reminds us of the truth of my Bible verse, that we are justified by faith in Jesus Christ which gives us genuine peace with God. When we go to Church, God strengthens and preserves our faith through His Holy Word and Sacraments so that we can leave able to live faithful lives in the world and be better all around people.

The best thing we can do with what we’re given in Church is to share the Good News of Jesus with others. My Bible verse is the perfect verse to do this. People who don’t have faith in Jesus need to learn that they cannot have true peace with God without it. They need to know that we are all sinners and don’t have the ability to save ourselves. If we were to try to save ourselves, we would fail for sure, because we can’t keep the Laws of God. But, my verse tells the Gospel, that Jesus has done everything for us and that we are justified by faith in Him. To be justified means to be not guilty of any sins, but totally forgiven, to be righteous in God’s eyes. When we have that faith and are justified, even if we suffer as much as Job suffered, we have peace with God, because we know that we’re saved and will live forever in His kingdom.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT PEACE

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class

- Sunday School will reconvene next fall.
- Adult Bible Class is offered **every Sunday at 11:00 a.m.** for all confirmed members of Peace and adult guests. We are currently engaged in a detailed study of **Revelation**.

Youth Confirmation Class

- Youth Confirmation Class will reconvene next fall.

Together in the Word

- Our *Together in the Word* Bible Study takes place **Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m.** All men and women of Peace who are available at that time are encouraged to join us. Guests are always welcome, too. We have completed our study of the Gospel of John and will begin a detailed study of **Genesis** on **Tuesday, June 12**. Please plan on joining us soon.

“It’s All Greek to Me”

- *It’s All Greek to Me* is a class for those interested in learning elementary Biblical Greek. The day and time when this class meets has changed. It will now meet on **Fridays at 11:00 a.m.** until further notice.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Happy Birthday to:

5 - Marlene Miller	14 - Richard Palmer	21 - Lois Ramsey
8 - Karla Greening	16 - Zachary Quinn	24 - Andrea Elliott
8 - Justin Acosta-Arellano	17 - Georgia Spindler	24 - Jeff Kuehnlein
8 - Larry Elliott	17 - Jo Wendt	29 - Sue Ortiz
9 - Miguel Ortiz	18 - Beth Brostrom	30 - Bruce Bebow
9 - Bill Harmon	18 - Alex Henry	30 - Terry Luplow
12 - Gary Miller	20 - Helen Meyers	30 - Janice Sager
13 - Janet Isom	20 - Vivian Strom	

Happy Anniversary to:

2 - Phyllis & Ken Hill
7 - Gretchen & Mike Harrison
11 - Tammy & Curt Oswald
12 - Beth & Bill Brostrom
18 - Lucille & Gordon Slick
24 - Coaline & Terry Luplow

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



EUCHRE NIGHT!

Euchre has been discontinued for the summer. Thank you to all who came and played this past winter. We will resume again in the fall. Watch for postings when we re-convene

TABLE TALK



Our Table Talks are informal and informative discussions with Pastor Messer on various topics decided by the group in attendance. We will not meet in June. In July and August, we will meet at Pastor Messer's home (dates will be announced in next month's *Peace Post*).

PAROCHIAL REPORT

(As of May 25)

Membership at Peace

Baptized - 183; Confirmed - 148

Official Acts: 4

Confirmation off: Samantha Messer,
Heather Palmer, Melanie Penzien, Phillip
Schafer

Membership gains: 0

Membership losses: 0

Financial Report

YTD Receipts: \$36,412.94

Budgeted YTD: \$39,900.00



2007






VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Uncover the truth about Jesus at *Quest for Truth* on JUNE 25-29 from 9:00 to 12:00. Kids ages 3-12 meet friends, explore Bible stories, do fun activities, sing great songs, make crafts, play games, and eat snacks.

We appreciate your prayers for *Quest for Truth* Vacation Bible School. Ask God to bring children to hear the truth of Jesus, who is the way, and the truth, and the life!



June 2007

<div> <div>Mon</div> <div>Tue</div> <div>Wed</div> <div>Thu</div> <div>Fri</div> <div>Sat</div> </div>						
May 27 <i>The Day of Pentecost</i> 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship	May 28	May 29 <i>NO Together in the Word</i>	May 30 3:30 - Girl Scouts	May 31 5:00 <i>pm—WW</i>	1 11:00 - Greek Class	2
						
3 The Holy Trinity 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BC	4	5 <i>NO Together in the Word</i> 9:00-12:00—Winkel hosted by Peace	6	7 5:00 <i>pm—WW</i>	8 11:00 - Greek Class	9
		7:00 - Council Meeting				
10 1st Sunday after Trinity 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BC 12:15 pm - PYG Mtg	11	12 9:30—Together in the Word 1:30 - Ladies Lunch Bunch: JJ Ruby's 7:00 - S.A.L.T. Meeting	13	14 5:00 <i>pm—WW</i>	15 11:00 - Greek Class	16
						
17 2nd Sunday after Trinity 8:00 am - Elders Meeting 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BC	18	19 9:30—Together in the Word	20	21 5:00 <i>pm—WW</i>	22 11:00 - Greek Class	23
	<i>Newsletter</i>	8:00 - Trustees Meeting <i>information due by June 20</i>				
24 Nativity of John the Baptist 9:30—Divine Service 10:45—Fellowship 11:00—BC	25	26 9:30—NO Together in the Word	27	28 5:00 <i>pm—WW</i>	29 11:00 - Greek Class	30
		VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL -	QUEST FOR TRUTH 9:00 - 12:00			

SERVING IN JUNE

	<u>ACOLYTES</u>	<u>ORGANIST</u>	<u>ELDER</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
JUNE					
3 - 9:30 am	CJ Oswald Samantha Messer	Mary Jakolat	Dave Zeile	Bill Brostrom Burt Henry	Jenny Baughman & family
10 - 9:30 am	Tyrel Harwager Jessica Oswald	Beth Brostrom	Don Reithel	Jon Penzien Miguel Ortiz	Jeannette Bigelow/ Lois Miller
17 - 9:30 am	Alex Henry Phillip Schafer	Mary Jakolat	Larry Elliott	Bill Hendrick Curt Oswald	Bill & Beth Brostrom
24 - 9:30 am	Kelsey Gensler Lauren Penzien	Beth Brostrom	Terry Luplow	Chris Brown James Sager	Charlotte Dargie/ Gary & Marlene Miller
JULY					
1 - 9:30 am	Jordan Henry Sarah Messer	Mary Jakolat	Dave Zeile	Vern Jakolat	Carol Durst/ Marlene Wiltshire

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

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Alma, MI 48801

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Beth's Home: 989-463-1498
E-mail: contact@peacealma.org
Pastor's Home: 989-796-4453
Pastor's Cell: 989-289-3908
E-mail: pastor@peacealma.org



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.