



Herald of Peace

December 2006

The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church
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Words from those who lead us

When I was a scoutmaster in the Boy Scouts, I helped to teach the incoming Scouts the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. As part of the Scout Oath, Scouts promise to obey the Scout Law. Generations of Boy Scouts throughout the world have learned this law. It is as follows: "A scout is trustworthy, loyal, friendly, helpful, courteous, kind, obedient, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent." This is a tall order for an eleven year old, don't you think? Is this a realistic thing to foist on these boys? Will they succeed, or are they doomed to failure? Yet, there it is. Maybe they are a list of



"stretch goals" or set of expectations for young people; a good set of values to live a life by. And to this day boys, young men, and adults vow to abide by these ideals.

When it comes to our church's pastor, we also have a set of expectations. We are looking for a spiritual leader who will be a role model for our own faith walk. We want our pastor to lead us in worship and bible study. We are looking for a dynamic speaker—good, uplifting sermons are important! It would be nice if they were a good singer, too. They should have excellent bedside manner, and be prepared to put that trait to use when making hospital visits and calling on shut-ins. It would also be nice if they were interested in our youth, and would get them off to a good start on their faith journey. They should always be in the office during business hours, so we can drop in and talk to them, if we are in the neighborhood. A good pastor also should also plan to attend our church meetings, of course. This is important for being involved, and keeping us all on track with their goals for the church. We really don't want a weak leader, either. I can't imagine a shepherd of the flock having weak leadership skills, can you? And above all, our pastor should have a good demeanor, and do all these things cheerfully.

Is it realistic, to expect one person to live up to all of this? Can any pastor succeed in achieving all of these, or are they doomed to failure? I believe that as we look forward in our search for an interim pastor and ultimately to our permanent pastor that we should consider these a list of stretch goals for both pastor and congregation. By working side-by-side with our church leadership, we build the body of Christ upon the strengths of us all. In this way, the weaknesses of individuals are insignificant.

Don Silsbe, Chairman

FYI

In case you haven't received a newsletter lately, or haven't read some of the letters that Peace has been sending out, the following is a brief synopsis of the past six months.

- As a result of increasing financial difficulties, the position of Minister of Music and Congregational Life was terminated. It was replaced by a part-time choir director position. This change was voted upon by the congregation on July 23 at a special voters' assembly. It took effect on October 1, 2006.
- Larry Rockensuess was offered the part-time choir director's position, but was not physically able to fill the position.
- Bonnie Schippling was hired in October, as our Interim Choir director. This will provide our choir with musical direction temporarily, until we can conduct a thorough search for a permanent choir director.
- On October 1st, Pastor Mary Duerksen accepted a call to another church. Her last day was November 3rd.
- The leadership of Peace Lutheran Church has been engaged in a dialogue with our Synod. We are in the process of selecting an Intentional Interim pastor who will assist us through a process to prepare us for calling a permanent pastor.
- In the meantime, we are all stepping up to fill the shoes of our pastor. Worship is being lead by Albert LeBlanc, Rob Montie and Don Silsbe, with occasional visits by ordained clergy. Many other members of the congregation have also increased their commitment level, to maintain a continuity of service to our members and to the Lord.



If you have concerns, questions or comments regarding any of this, please contact an Elder, our vice chairman Todd Pushman, or our chairman Don Silsbe. We also ask you to do two things. First of all, pray for our church and our leadership. God is most certainly guiding us on this journey, but He wants to hear from you! Secondly, please consider ways that you might use your spiritual gifts to help during this time.

Special Guest Speaker – Dec 17

There are two good reasons to come to church on December 17th. Not only will the children have their Bethlehem Village Christmas program at 9:30am, but Reverend Cherlyne Beck will be our celebrant and guest speaker at the 11:00 o'clock service. Pastor Beck is the Assistant to the Bishop, for Christian Vocation. In other words, she is in charge of the process to help us select an Intentional Interim and a permanent pastor. We will celebrate the Holy Eucharist together with her. Don Silsbe will also assist as cantor. Please plan on coming to this service, and give Pastor Beck a warm Peace Church welcome!

Regarding our Organists



Update from the elders: You may have heard some rumors circulating about Diane Candea, one of our organists. Just so you know, here are the facts:

- ▶ Diane has a friend (fellow organist) who is in need of part-time employment, and would be available on Sundays AND on Thursday nights to accompany choir practices (Diane is NOT available for Thursday nights).
- ▶ Diane thought this might be a win-win situation, and that maybe the Lord's plan was for her friend to replace Diane as part-time organist at Peace.
- ▶ Diane presented her friend's name to the Board of Elders, and the Music Committee is in the process of contacting her for an interview.
- ▶ In the meantime, Diane will continue to serve as organist at Peace with Mary Tollefson for as long as we need her. She enjoys serving Peace and only wants the Lord's will to be done.

Please keep this situation in your prayers, that we may understand and fulfill God's plan for our organists.

Just Reading the Bible

Where we are so far - 1 Kings 16
This is a group that meets in the church office at 9:45 on Sunday mornings. Join them anytime.

Choir Schedule

Senior Choir will be singing on December 3rd and 17th and at one of the Christmas Eve services.

The Children's Choir will sing on December 10th and on the 24th at 11:00am.

December Services:

12/3 (11:00 AM) – Advent I – Holy Communion
Celebrant: Rob Montie.

12/24 (11:00 AM) – Advent IV – Service of Word and Prayer

Worship Leader: Albert Le Blanc
12/10 (11:00 AM) – Advent II – Service of Word and Prayer
Worship Leader: Albert Le Blanc, Lay Minister
Sermon Topic: "It's an Advent-ure"

12/17 (11:00 AM) – Advent III – Holy Communion
Celebrant: Pr. Cherlyne Beck, Assistant to the Bishop for Vocation.

, Lay Minister

Sermon Topic: "Did Anything Exciting Happen Today?"

Christmas at Peace

Christmas Eve – 7:00 PM and 11:00 PM
Holy Communion - Candlelight
Celebrant: Albert Le Blanc, Lay Minister
Sermon Topic: "The Light of Christmas"



This year we will be having a true candlelight experience at both of our evening services on Christmas Eve. The sanctuary will be aglow with candles and only some dim lighting. Please bring your family and friends and come and join us for this beautiful service. As always, we will have our traditional candlelight singing of Silent Night.

Christmas Day - 11:00 AM - Holy Communion
Celebrant: Albert Le Blanc, Lay Minister
Sermon Topic: "What Did You Get?"

Bethlehem Village Christmas Program

Our Christmas program "Bethlehem Village--"Where A Savior is Born" will be held on **December 17th at 9:30am**. We invite everyone to join us for this wonderful program centered on all that we have learned these past weeks. Following the program refreshments will be served in the "Village". A sign up sheet for donations of refreshments will be available in the parlor.

Christmas program practice – Saturday, December 9th from 1:00pm-4:00pm. We ask that all Sunday school children attend. We will be practicing our program, but we will also take some breaks to have a pizza lunch, and do a special craft project. Parents are welcome to attend or can drop kids off and have a little Christmas prep time for themselves. You can even make a day of it by coming early to help decorate the church! Please let me know if your child CANNOT attend at either kbogusz@comcast.net or 734-283-8827.

Who Do I Call or Contact

During or current pastoral vacancy, the elders and your chairpersons thought it would be helpful to post key numbers for communicating pastoral needs and church concerns. There is a business size card available in the Narthex for you to carry out in your wallet with this vital information.

Pastoral & Church Needs

For all church and pastoral matters, please call an elder. If the elder you called does not pick up, please try other elders until you can physically speak to someone. Of course, you can leave messages, but you may encounter a delay in your response.

Gail Andrews –(734)-785-4404
Albert LeBlanc (734) 552-8863
Rob Montie (313) 929-1512
Barb Pushman (734) 658-7454
Terri Silsbe (248) 798-4425
Wendy Tinsler (734) 818-0310
Jeri Wicklander (734) 283-4214



Office Matters

The church office will not be staffed on a regular basis until our Interim Pastor has been identified and a clearer path is laid out on our needs. For office matters, please feel free to call an elder, or you can call Kris Jaskula directly. Todd Pushman will be helping Kris.

Kris Jaskula - (734) 671-8726 (home) (734)775-7886 (cell)
Todd Pushman - (734) 658-7453

And finally, for the record, you can always call our Chairperson: Don Silsbe (248) 798-4426
don4peace@comcast.net

A 50th Anniversary

Last week's altar flowers were in honor of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Mary & Melvyn Ziesmer.

Pr. Mary's installation . . .

at Gloria Dei will take place on December 10th at 3:00pm. All are cordially welcome to attend.

Decorating the Church Nave

The Christmas Decorating of the church nave is scheduled for December 9 - 10:00 a.m. All hands are needed, and strong backs too, as we haul up and assemble our beautiful Christmas tree, and decorate the nave for Christmas. Do come, and bring the children so that they, too, can experience the pride, and beauty of decorating their church home for the wonderful celebrations of Christ's birth. We would like to have recorded music of past Peace Christmases playing in the background as we do this. Bring any recordings that you have.

Shut In Basket Assembly – Dec 12

The regular MMG meeting this month will consist of assembling Christmas gift bags for our shut ins. All are welcome to donate items for these bags, and all are welcomed to come to help put them together. And all are welcome to help in the best part of all, the poignant visits to deliver, and visit with members of our Peace family no longer able to attend church regularly. Please consider "cranking your involvement up a notch" and treat yourself to the joy of giving your time to make a short visit to brighten the day of these dear people. Maybe it is someone you haven't seen for a long time, maybe it is someone you have yet to meet. All will be meaningful. Call Dorothy Pushman if you would be willing to deliver a basket or two in your neighborhood.

Christmas Boutique – December 10

This is a major MMG fund raiser, and always a popular event. Look for tables overflowing with cookies, gift items, "nearly new" Christmas décor, religious items, plants, and crafts from our generous Peace community. It will be held before and after the 11:00 service this day. Set up and early delivery of items will be December 9 1:30 to 2:30. Counter help always welcomed on sale day. Thanks for your donations, and thanks for your patronage!

Bottle and Can Drive Results

GRAND TOTAL: \$603.00

A letter from our founding pastor

Dear Don,

When the Nov. Peace Newsletter arrived we were compelled to respond. Please share this email:

To the People in Christ at Peace Ev. Lutheran Church of Southgate:

Dear Friends,

Alice and I read the November Herald of Peace with joy and spiritual emotion. Its pages and articles expressed unity as you face the present challenge. The article "Words from those who lead us" revealed a communion and fellowship which the first churches of Asia Minor (Phillipi, Colossae) had in Christ.

In prayer Alice and I also recall the blessings which Our Father bestowed upon the leadership in the challenging years of my ministry. May the Holy Spirit rest upon all the people at Peace, Southgate, especially its leadership

In Christ's name we pray,
Pastor Robert S. Miller

Wednesdays Unplugged

The Wednesdays "unplugged" service will be replaced for the month of December with formal Wednesday Advent Vesper Services with Don Silsbe leading worship. Wednesdays Unplugged will resume on January 3rd.

Giving Tree

Our "Helping Hands" tree was a huge success and totals of your sharing and caring will be in the January newsletter. That same tree is now a "Giving Tree" for the children of the refugee families being helped by Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. We will be providing an item or outfit of clothing and a toy to each child on the tree. You can select a specific child (ornament) and shop or contribute cash and the Christmas elves would love to shop for you. Please see Bev Helms or Dawn Bernard after church on December 3rd to participate through a cash donation. Our efforts to welcome refugee children to their new home are truly appreciated.

The "Leisure Timers" – Dec 15

We are trying out a new relational group in our church. During the week before Christmas will be the first outing of the "Leisure Timers" – adults that would like to get together during daytime hours to enjoy enriching and enjoyable events and the company of other Peace members. The first outing is being sponsored by Dorothy Pushman and Mary Jacobs. Friday, December 15, 2:00. It will be a visit to the beautiful Wyandotte Historical museum in all its Christmas glory, and rich area history. This will be followed by a stop at Tim Horton's for coffee or tea before we part. Do you get the idea of this club – easy, easy, no meetings, no officers, just interested members who now and then make suggestions and the easy arrangements for the next outing. Call Mary to get on the "list" for this month, and let her know if you need a ride. Meet at the museum on Biddle, at 2:00 p.m.



Thrivent Matching Funds- Care in Community

If you or any group/board is planning to do any community fundraising in 2007 and would like to apply for Thrivent matching funds, please plan to apply early. The Chapter Board will allocate the budgeted funds on a first come first serve basis which means the funds are usually allocated by the end of January/February for 2007. Please see Dawn Bernard for any questions and to obtain an application to submit to the Chapter Board.

Shop Meijer

Blessed Hope has been selected as the recipient of Southgate Meijer's Food Pantry Donation Card this year. Look for the display at Meijer. Purchase the card for \$10. You will receive a \$5 coupon and Blessed Hope will receive \$10 worth of groceries. What a wonderfully easy way to help others!

Peace Lutheran Church

December 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 10:00: Decorating of Parlor
Advent 1 9:45: Sunday Sch. 11:00: COMMUNION w/ Advent Potluck immediately following in Parlor	3	4	5 Office Hours: 10am-2pm 7:00pm: Church Council Mtg.	6 5:30: Youth Choir 6:30: Confirmation 7:30: Advent Vespers	7 Office Hours: 10am-1pm 10:00: G.O.A.L. 7:30: Sr. Choir	8 9 10:00: Decorating of Church 1-4pm: Sunday School Program Practice
Advent 2 9:45: Sunday School Program 11:00: Worship MMG Christmas Boutique & Bake Sale	10	11 7:00pm: Elders Mtg.	12 Office Hours: 10am-2pm 7:00pm - Mary Martha Guild – Shut In Baskets	13 5:30: Youth Choir 6:30: Confirmation 7:30: Advent Vespers	14 Office Hours: 10am-1pm 10:00: G.O.A.L. 6:30 Finance Mtg 7:30: Sr. Choir	15 16
Advent 3 9:30: Sunday Sch. 11:00: COMMUNION	17	18	19 Office Hours: 10am-2pm	20 5:30: Youth Choir 6:30: Confirmation 7:30: Advent Vespers	21 Office Hours: 10am-1pm 10:00: G.O.A.L. 7:30: Sr. Choir	22 23
Advent 4 No Sunday School 11:00: Worship Christmas Eve 7:00 & 11:00pm: Christmas Candlelight Communion	24 Christmas Day 11:00: Christmas Communion	25	26	27 No Choir No Confirmation No Vespers	28 10:00: G.O.A.L. 7:30: Sr. Choir	29 30
31 9:45: Sunday School Party 11:00: Communion No New Year's Eve Service						CalendarsThatWork.com

Those Who Serve...

Date	Worship Leader	Elder	Acolytes	Trustee	Ushers	Sound Tech	Altar Guild	Readers	Organist
Dec. 3	Rob Montie Cantor: Don Silsbe	Barb Pushman	Mike Wansa & Shelby Morse	Peter Montie	M. Ziesmer, G. Elsner, M. Catalano, B. Gnadt & N. Yakowich	Sean Morse	Nancy Harvey	Ruth Schmidt, Bobbijeane Snell & Carolyn Racklyeft	Diane Candea
Dec. 6	Don Silsbe	TBA							Mary Tollefson
Dec. 10	Albert LeBlanc, Jr.	Jeri Wicklander	Jack Bogusz & Britnie Ford	Bob Snell	M. Ziesmer, G. Elsner, M. Catalano, J. Thomas & R. Wilson	Tonya Cade	Jan Scherbarth	Mary Jacobs & Jeri Wicklander	Mary Tollefson
Dec. 13	Don Silsbe	TBA							Mary Tollefson
Dec. 17	Pr. Cherlyne Beck Cantor: Don Silsbe	Gail Andrews	Kevin Bogusz & Connor Winton	Peter Montie	M. Ziesmer, G. Elsner, M. Catalano, R. Wilson & N. Yakowich	Jerry Gnadt	Mary Ziesmer	Rob Montie, Brigitte DuFour & Dorothy Pushman	Mary Tollefson
Dec. 20	Don Silsbe	TBA							Mary Tollefson
Dec. 24 11:00am	Albert LeBlanc, Jr.	Wendy Tinsler	Andrew Campbell & Laura Campbell	Bob Snell	M. Ziesmer, G. Elsner, M. Catalano, B. Gnadt & J. Thomas	John Cade	Elinor Durand	Gerre Menzel & Don Pushman	Diane Candea
Dec. 24 7:00pm	Albert LeBlanc, Jr. Cantor: Don Silsbe	Gail Andrews	Kyle Winton & Blake Menzel		TBA	Sean Morse	Lise Corby	Barb Pushman	Diane Candea
Dec. 24 11:00pm	Albert LeBlanc, Jr. Cantor: Don Silsbe	Barb Pushman	C.J. Morse & Stephania Andrews		TBA	Janet Larsen	Nancy Harvey	Janet LeBeau & Don Silsbe	Diane Candea
Dec. 25 11:00am	Albert LeBlanc, Jr. Cantor: Don Silsbe	Terri Silsbe	Mike Wansa & Alex Wayt		M. Ziesmer, G. Elsner, M. Catalano, R. Wilson & N. Yakowich	Brigitte DuFour	Jan Scherbarth	TBA	Mary Tollefson
Dec. 27	NO SERVICE								
Dec. 31 11:00am No New Year's Eve Service	Al LeBlanc, Jr. Cantor: Don Silsbe	Jeri Wicklander	Kevin Mulligan & Amanda Mulligan	Peter Montie	M. Ziesmer, G. Elsner, M. Catalano, B. Gnadt & J. Thomas	Dale LeBeau	Mary Ziesmer	Jeri Wicklander, Dianne Reichel, & Karen Wright	TBA

Bread Baker for December: Marilyn Acker

St. Anne's Altar Guild

The members of St. Anne's Altar Guild make many necessary preparations for our Communion services. It is a humbling experience to serve our Lord in this way whether it is to fill the silver flagon with wine, launder the linens, dust the altar or arrange for the beautiful flowers placed upon it. All are done with reverence for God in His house.

Duties of Chairman:

1. Schedule and conduct Altar Guild meetings
2. Recruit new members and assist them in learning routines and duties
3. Make out cleaning and Communion schedules
4. Order Altar Guild needs, such as, linens, communion ware, etc.
5. Notify the pastor when communion wine and wafers need to be reordered
6. Add new purchases to Altar Guild inventory and notify the church office to add to their inventory also.
7. Write occasional articles for the church newsletter
8. Be available to set up extra Communion services for weddings and other special services
9. Attend Church Council meetings.

In future newsletters I will describe the duties of other members of the Altar Guild.

Reminder:

Please place money for flowers and/or memorial gifts to St. Anne's in the offering plate or give to our treasurer, Gerre Menzel. Checks should be made out to St. Anne's Altar Guild. Always include information that will enable us to properly acknowledge payments or gifts.

Lucille Hrivnak, Chairman

In Our Church Library

Book suggestions for this month:

"The Wonders of Christmas"

The shopping, wrapping and decorating are done. So put up your feet and take a literary journey into Christmas celebrations past. This evocative collection more than sixty stories, poems, songs, and recipes recaptures the spirit and feeling of the traditional yuletide.

"Shepherds Abiding" by Jan Karon

The eighth novel in the best selling Mitford Years series is a meditation on the best of all presents – the gift of one's heart. Lovingly written and beautifully illustrated, it seeks to restore the true Christmas spirit and gives everyone a seat at Mitford's holiday table. Other books of the series are available in the fiction section.

And for Children:

"The Time of Christmas" by Suzanne Richterkesing and ***"Simon and the Baby Jesus"*** by Evelyn Marxhausen

Office Hours

Tuesdays: 10:00am – 2:00pm

Thursdays: 10:00am – 1:00pm

If you need to talk to Kris you may call her at home at 734-671-8726 or on her cell phone 734-775-7886.



"Prayer changes things"

This is an area made for you to "tear out". Keep it near to you, even in your devotional book, or Bible, or wallet.

These are the people from our church and their friends and acquaintances that are having crisis' in their lives and need our prayers.

John Demyon, Ruth Taylor, Norman Kaminski, Elnora Ebendick, Barb Byrd, Rosa Fox, Jeff Thomas, Al Varga, Dorothy Rosentreter, Wilma Looker, Terri Silsbe, Betty Rehbein, Elinor Durand, John Balger, Our Newly Trained Acolytes, and Peace Church.

Bonnie Atkinson, Earl Douglas, Agnes, Kathy, Lori, Jeff, Lisa, Rita, Donna, David, Harrold, Sharon, Jim, Courtney Eaton, Craig, Alan Moody, Eddie, Diane, Beth, Louise, Robert Napper, Steve, Jean, Karen, Nick, Dale Sorenson, John Culp, Sandy, Tim, Todd Brewers, Norm, Mildred, Diane Poronpo, Shirley, Pastor Armstead, Carrie, Barb, Jake Williams, Stephanie, Betty, Bernice Bellinger, Mark, Keith, Kristen, Steve, Norm, Jaime, Deaetta, Diane & Diane's mother, Zachary (prayer of thanks), Alice, Deb & Leo Adami, and Algis.

Members are in **Bold**

Please pray for the family of Lee Roberts (father of Jeff Roberts) who entered into Eternal Rest.

Telephone Prayer Chain Contact: Mary Jacobs, 734-283-7792 -

E-prayer chain: Todd Pushman at tpushman@yahoo.com

ELCA Workshop

ELCA is coming out with a new core worship resource (hymnal) entitled Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

Upcoming dates have been set for introducing the new resource:

- Saturday, Jan. 20 @ Christ the Redeemer, 1232 W. Maumee, Adrian

- Sunday, Jan. 21 @ Christ of the Lakes, 9101 W. Highland Rd, White Lake
Cost of the workshops/Church Days is \$20 and you can register at the site or call the Synod office: 313-821-1055. Each person attending will receive a copy of the new hymnal with their registration- what a deal! Contact Don Silsbe if you are interested in attending.

First Week of Advent "Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be constantly on the watch! Stay awake!...You do not know when the Master of the house is coming.'" Mark. 13:33 First Sunday of Advent

O Jesus, your voice sounds through the house of my world: Be on your guard! Stay awake! Yet I hardly hear you. Busy with so much, I go about the things I do like a servant trapped in household routine, hardly giving a thought to what my life is about. My spirit within has grown tired and you, my God, seem far away. How can I hear your voice today?

Speak to my heart during this season of grace, as you spoke to your prophets and saints. Remind me again of the journey you call me to make and the work you would have me do. I am your servant, O Lord. Speak to me in this holy season and turn my eyes to watch for your coming.

O Emmanuel, Jesus Christ,
desire of every nation, Savior of all peoples,
come and dwell among us.

The Herald of Peace

Peace Lutheran Church
12250 Fort Street
Southgate, MI 48195