



Herald of Peace

November 2007

The Newsletter of Peace Lutheran Church
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Pastor's Page

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

November is upon us. It makes sense that during this month when we celebrate Thanksgiving that we focus on the faith practice of giving.

We begin the month with All Saints' Day which we will celebrate Sunday, November 4th. We will remember and thank God for the many saints who have gone before us, who shared their faith and touched our lives by giving their time, talents and treasures. We will also celebrate the presence among us of the newest saints who have been baptized in the last year. And, we will lift up the saints who are still to follow us.

During the month of November you will hear from seminarian Albert le Blanc who will preach on what it means to give love. I will preach on stewardship and giving our wealth, treasures or possessions as well as on giving thanks. In anticipation of this focus on giving I am reading a book called *Giving to God* by Mark Allan Powell who is a New Testament professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary. Dr. Powell talks about giving or stewardship as an act of worship, an expression of faith and a spiritual discipline.

Through Scripture we learn that God has given us the privilege of being stewards. We did not choose this job nor did we submit an application for it. Rather, we were **chosen** to do it by God. Powell writes, "We own nothing, but manage everything. God trusts us in a way that we are reluctant to trust each other (or ourselves) and places confidence in us beyond anything that our record thus far would seem to warrant." (p.29) It is easy to forget this privilege and take on an attitude of entitlement. When it comes to our finances, it is easy to say, "I worked for every penny and so therefore I am entitled to do what I want with it." We forget that God gave us the **ability** to earn whatever pennies we have.

So, we gather on Sundays to worship God as well as to thank God for blessing us each day of the week by offering with joy and thanksgiving what God has first given us, ourselves our time and our possessions. We do this to express our faith in the God who created us and cares for us. We do this and demonstrate our trust in a God who knows what we need and what is best for us, and who is ready to guide us through life, if we would but let God. We do this trusting in a God who does indeed provide for us.

The Stewardship committee has designated November 18th as "Commitment Sunday." You will be given a form to complete that will ask you to make a commitment of time, talent and treasure. I hope that you will consider prayerfully what it means to be God's steward and make a commitment to give of your time, talent, and treasure. Let us together worship God, express our faith and practice the discipline of giving in order to grow in faith.

When it comes to time and talents, it may mean doing something you have never done before, though you may have the gifts to do it. It may mean increasing your offering by a proportionate amount. Whatever the case, when we take practice seriously it does mean stretching oneself beyond the comfort zone. And for me, one of the hardest parts of exercise is the stretching. But, I know if I do not stretch or push myself beyond the comfort zone, my body pays the price and my ability will not improve. When we don't stretch in our giving, the body of Christ suffers, as do the ministries that you all make possible. Remember, practice helps make a disciple. God has blessed all of us so that we might bless others.

Pastor Hormann

Help!

We need an adult who is willing to coordinate and chaperone youth to the State Gathering in Lansing between Christmas and New Year's.

Contact Pastor Hormann if you are able to do this.

Thanks!

The Paschal Candle

I have learned that people at Peace Lutheran Church are not used to seeing the Paschal Candle all the time. I will quote what is written in the *Manual on the Liturgy for the Lutheran Book of Worship*. "The Paschal Candle burns near the altar (traditionally on
(Continued on page 2)

the Gospel side – (the left side as one faces the altar from the congregation) throughout the Easter Season as a sign of the presence of the risen Christ. It has been the custom to extinguish the candle at the reading of the Gospel on Ascension Day as a sign of the end of the appearances of the risen Jesus at that time. In many places, however, it remains burning through the Day of Pentecost as an indication of the unity of the Easter festival. Then the candle is placed by the font and lighted for baptisms.” (p.26) On another page it says, “Placing the Paschal candle near the font after the ceremonies of Easter witnesses to the connection between Jesus’ death and resurrection and baptismal death and resurrection.”

As you may have noticed the two candles we have been using have been damaged because the heat of summer melted the wax. We are in the process of exploring the purchase of an oil candle.

For Your Listening Pleasure

Please join us on November 4th at 2pm for the **Cherry Hill Brothers Quartet** in concert at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Riverview. There will be fellowship following the concert and a love offering will be collected. It is a wonderful way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Mixed Messages or Confused

Many things define a church, or denomination. To be sure, doctrinal and mission statements are at the heart of this. You can also size up a church by how they enact Jesus’ great commission to spread the Good News to all the nations of the world (Mt. 28:19). But it is also defined by its relationship with other church bodies (Called to Common Mission), how it treats sinners (Statement on Sexuality), its structure (constitution), and who it allows to do what (priesthood of all believers vs. maintaining “good order”).

We are, by definition and by our constitution, an ELCA church. At the history event on the afternoon of the 21st, there were strong signals indicating that some if not many care little about the ELCA. And yet, on Wednesday evenings, where we are studying the topics in the parentheses above, I am seeing between seven and nine interested parties. This tells me that

over 90% of the people of Peace are either happy with our current affiliation, or don’t care.

However, since some are concerned about our affiliation with the ELCA we offer these opportunities to learn more about what it means to be an ELCA congregation. It seems that ultimately we should either affirm that affiliation or take an alternative action.

A decision made in ignorance is often a bad decision. I urge you to come to the classes that are being offered and learn more.

Classes resume on November 7th. We will begin a month-long study on sexuality, with a focus on the issues surrounding homosexuals in the church. December will be devoted to constitutional matters and to who has the authority to celebrate the sacraments. They start promptly at 6:00, and last one hour. Please try to attend.

Don Silsbe

Veterans Day

November 11th is Veterans Day, and this year it falls on a Sunday. We are planning several activities related to this holiday, many of which are still in the planning stages as this newsletter goes to print.

We are gathering the names of veterans who are members of this congregation. We would like to know what branch of the service you were in and when you served. So far, thirteen have come forward. If you haven’t already, please add your name to the list that is in the parlor.

In our Worship Service that Sunday, we will remember our veterans in our prayers, as well as those currently serving our country. Outside of divine worship, we will recognize and thank those who served and their spouses.

As part of this year’s observance, we will prepare “goodie boxes” and letters for our troops who are currently serving overseas.

A short presentation and details regarding all of this will be given on November 4th, fifteen minutes before the beginning of our worship service.



Board of Christian Outreach

Giving Tree – The “Giving Tree” will arrive on Sunday, November 11, 2007. There will be approximately 50 ornaments available. This year we are working with Blessed Hope on their “Love Boxes” project. The box is a simple shoebox that you fill with specific and suggested items and then you add something of your choosing to make it special. The approximate cost of each box will be \$10.00 to \$15.00. We will have ornaments for men, women, children and infants. You will have until December 2nd to return your ornament and items in a wrapped box (top and bottom separate), an unwrapped box or a bag. The items include basic necessities like 3 pairs of socks and 1 pair of gloves. While these items are not what we traditionally think of as Christmas Gifts they will be greatly appreciated by those who receive your gifts.

Soup and Bread – On Sunday, November 18, 2007 we will be sharing “Soup and Bread” after service. By sharing a simple meal of soup and bread we are reminded that for many this meal could be their only meal of the day. Please plan on joining us and consider a free will offering representing what you would have spent on lunch in your favorite restaurant. You are encouraged to contribute one of your favorite soups or breads by using the sign-up sheet in the parlor. All are invited to enjoy great soup or soups and good fellowship. Your free will offering will benefit our youth and their efforts to attend confirmation camp. We ask that you bring at least one non-perishable food item that will be donated to Blessed Hope. Blessed Hope serves meals and also distributes food to those in need on an ongoing basis so the needs of the mission are great.

I'd Rather Be Reading Group

The “IRBR” Group encourages and welcomes you to join in our bi-monthly get-togethers. Our next selection is **Middlesex** by J. Eugenides and our discussion will be held on November 13th at 7pm at Karen McNeil's home, 22446 Silver Creek Dr., Woodhaven. Refreshments will be served. The January selection will be **The Christmas Train** by David Baldacci.

Rummage Sale Thanks

Thanks you all who donated and worked on our rummage/bake/plant sale. And thanks for those who came and purchased! We made our goal of \$1000 plus. And that is before we find out the results of a couple of treasures we are offering on e-bay. Wish us luck!! Our sincere thanks!

The Mary Martha Guild

Futures Built Through Adoption

November is National Adoption Awareness Month and Adoption Associates, Inc. is hosting a special meeting to celebrate! Come and learn about international adoption on Tuesday, November 13th at 7pm at Adoption Associates, Inc. in Farmington Hills. We will have an informal presentation about international adoption programs in China, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Russia, and Ukraine. For more information or to RSVP, please call Adoption Associates, Inc. at 248-474-0990. Attendance at this meeting will waive your \$350 international formal application fee. A domestic infant and international information meeting will be held on December 11th at 7pm at the same location.

Mary Martha Guild News

IT'S APPLE PIE TIME AGAIN! Apple Pies, prepared by Mary Martha Guild members and helpers, will be for sale soon. They will be assembled on Saturday, November 17th and the pies can be picked up on Sunday, November 18th. The price is \$7.00 each. We will also have pies made with Splenda available for the same price.

Please sign up for your pies on the sheet in the parlor. Baking instructions will be included to use immediately, or the pies can be frozen and baked for Thanksgiving.

We can use apple peelers and helpers on the 17th beginning at 9:30 a.m. It's a fun time - join us!!

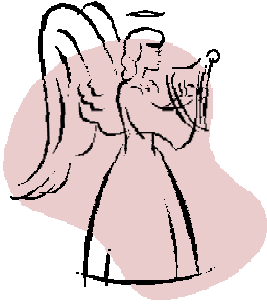
Peace Players Regroup!!

Get ready for another performance by the Peace Players. This time it is, "Christmas in Cricket County" to be performed Wednesday, December 19 along with a meal. Just a bit of info: Four city cousins come to Cricket County for the reading of their Uncle Zeke's will on Christmas Eve. They find the life-style of their 5 country cousins quite different from theirs.

There is much laughter throughout and a delightful surprise twist at the end of the play. Please spread the word to friends and family. We sure would love a full house. A sign-up sheet will be out soon so we will know how many to plan on for dinner.

Most of the parts will be played by the teens in the congregation. The younger members of Sunday School will also have a part, so this will take the place of our usual Sunday School Christmas Program. You'all come, ya hear!

Advent By Candlelight



The Advent by Candlelight Tea will be held at 6:30 pm on Monday, December 3rd. It is an event for women of Peace, their family, friends and neighbors. Traditionally it is an evening in early Advent spent in a lovely setting of tea tables and tea settings. The program will

consist of a poignant Advent meditation, some delightful musical entertainment, and time for tea, dessert, and socializing before the event wraps up at 9:00 p.m. The tea is held in our easy access parlor. There is no charge, but that evening, a "love gift" offering is collected to go to a local outreach program and in the past, as this offering is matched by Thrivent, has resulted in a significant gift from the women of our church. We always appreciate our volunteer hostesses who agree to decorate a table with fine china and silver brought from their home, or purchased disposable items; all are beautiful. Hostesses also provide a dessert for 8 guests of the event. If you would enjoy being one of this year's hostesses (and many women do!) we would love to have you. All information a hostess needs is on the Hostess Sheet on the sign up table in the parlor. Bobbjean Snell is in charge of hostess recruitment and guest assignment this year. Because each guest is assigned to a table, reservations are necessary. The event is free, but you must have reserved on the sheet in the parlor and we expect a call if you have to cancel. Many tell us that this is the event that properly ushers in their whole holiday season! Do come! Come!

Advent by Candlelight
December 3rd, 6:30 p.m.

Roof Update

We still owe \$11,400 to pay off the loan we secured to finish the new roof. Please consider making a donation to help retire this debt. Thank you for your generosity.

Blessed Hope

Look for the shopping carts in the long hallway where you can place your donations for Blessed Hope. They are in particular need of canned meats, vegetables, fruits, shampoo, bar soap, toilet paper and paper towels.

Happy Birthday To You!

The Stewardship team would like to recognize everyone's birthday on a monthly basis. Beginning with the November 4th service, we will sing Happy Birthday to everyone with a November birthday. This will be followed by cake for everyone, in the parlor, and meet and greet your neighbor. Take a minute to say hello to someone new.

We are looking for folks interested in hosting a birthday month. Please contact Kaye Davies at 285-7284.

November Birthdays

11/2 Mary Jacobs
11/3 Jean Geiser, Dawn Bernard, Amy LeBeau
11/4 Alyssa Wayt
11/5 Ruth Tonks
11/7 Charlotte Bates, Britnie Ford
11/11 David Taylor, Jr.
11/13 Diane Wright, Sherry Balogh
11/14 Dorothy Louria
11/16 Cindy Fields, Heidi Weston, John Balger III
11/17 Carrie Yakowich, Mariah Moore
11/19 Rosa Fox
11/20 Lonnie Fredricks
11/21 Joann Balogh
11/24 Nancy Harvey
11/26 Jean Stull, Kelerin Jerden
11/28 Elaine Miller
11/29 Andrew Campbell

Special Anniversaries

11/29 David & Jennifer Watters 5 years

Peace Church -- New Email Address

Don't forget to change our church office e-mail address in your computer address book.
New E-mail address: office@peacesouthgate.org.

Thrivent Matching Funds- Care in Community

Please see Dawn Bernard for any questions or to obtain an application to submit to the Chapter Board for fundraising events that you wish to obtain Thrivent matching funds.

Peace Lutheran Church

Church Office: 734-284-1922 (office@peacesouthgate.org)

November 2007

Fax: 734-281-0412

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Office Hours: 9am-11am 10:00: Bible Study 7:30pm: Sr. Choir	2	3
Pr. Hormann's Office Hours are Mondays - Thursdays, 10-12 and by appointment						
All Saints' Sunday 4 9:00: Just Reading the Bible 9:00: "No Experience Necessary" 9:00: Sunday School 10:30: COMMUNION NO Jr. Choir 2pm Concert at Immanuel Lutheran	5 Office Hours: 10am-12pm 7:00: Elders Meeting	6 Office Hours: 10am-2pm 7:00: Interim Task Force	7 Office Hours: 9am-12pm 6:00: Adult Study Group 6:30pm: Confirmation 7:30: Wed. Unplugged	8 Office Hours: 9am-11am 10:00: Bible Study 6:30: Finance Mtg. 7:30: Sr. Choir	9	10 
Veteran's Day 11 9:00: Just Reading the Bible 9:00: "No Experience Necessary" 9:00: Sunday School 10:30: COMMUNION Jr. Choir after Service VOTERS' ASSEMBLY	12 Office Hours: 10am-12pm	13 Office Hours: 10am-2pm 7:00: "I'd Rather Be Reading" Group at Karen McNeil's	14 Office Hours: 9am-12pm 6:00: Adult Study Group 6:30pm: Confirmation 7:30: Wed. Unplugged	15 Office Hours: 9am-11am 10:00: Bible Study 7:30: Sr. Choir	16 7:30pm: Annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Remembrance Service – sponsored by Czopek's w/ Pr. Hormann participating. (See flyers posted)	17 9:30am: Apple Pie Assembly
18 9:00: Just Reading the Bible 9:00: "No Experience Necessary" 9:00: Sunday School 10:30: COMMUNION Jr. Choir after Service Soup & Bread Meal after service 2pm: Interim Task Force	19 Office Hours: 10am-12pm	20 Office Hours: 10am-2pm	21 Office Hours: 9am-12pm 6:00: Adult Study Group 6:30pm: Confirmation 7:30: Thanksgiving Eve COMMUNION	22 Thanksgiving 	23	24
25 9:00: Just Reading the Bible 9:00: "No Experience Necessary" 9:00: Sunday School 10:30: COMMUNION Jr. Choir after Service	26 Office Hours: 10am-12pm	27 Office Hours: 10am-2pm	28 Office Hours: 9am-12pm 6:00: Adult Study Group 6:30pm: Confirmation 7:30: Wed. Unplugged	29 Office Hours: 9am-11am 10:00: Bible Study 7:30: Sr. Choir	30	Kris can be reached at 734-671-8726 (home) or 734-775-7886 (cell). Kris is in the office Wednesdays from 9-12.

Pr. Hormann: pastorhormann@peacesouthgate.org

Peace Website: www.peacesouthgate.org

Those Who Serve...

Date	Worship Leader	Elder	Acolytes	Greeters	Ushers	Sound Tech	Trustee	Altar Guild	Reader(s)	Organist
11/4	Celebrant: Pr. Phyllis Hormann	Nancy Yakowich	Andrew Campbell, Laura Campbell, Mike Neifert, Alex Wayt	Bill Racklyeft	G. Elsner, B. Elsner, M. Ziesmer, M. Catalano, B. Gnadt , R. Wilson, N. Knaggs	Sean Morse	Dale LeBeau	Jan Scherbarth	Jennifer Stroehmann	Jennifer Rosati
11/7	Pr. Phyllis Hormann									
11/11	Celebrant: Pr. Phyllis Hormann	Rob Montie	C.J. Morse, Kyle Winton, Connor Winton, Kevin Bogusz	Al & Karen McNeil	G. Elsner, B. Elsner, M. Ziesmer, M. Catalano, B. Gnadt , R. Wilson, N. Knaggs	Dorothy Pushman	Peter Montie	Mary Ziesmer	Bill Racklyeft	Mary Tollefson
11/14	Pr. Phyllis Hormann									
11/18	Celebrant: Pr. Phyllis Hormann	Terri Silsbe	Blake Menzel, Shelby Morse, Stephania Andrews, Britnie Ford	Mike & Bev Helms	G. Elsner, B. Elsner, M. Ziesmer, M. Catalano, B. Gnadt , R. Wilson, N. Knaggs	Tonya Cade	Robert Bernard	Lise Corby	Jan Scherbarth	Mary Tollefson
11/21	Pr. Phyllis Hormann	Barb Pushman	Thanksgiving Eve					Nancy Harvey		Jennifer Rosati
11/25	Celebrant: Pr. Phyllis Hormann	Gail Andrews	Kevin Mulligan, Amanda Mulligan, Stacy Catalano, David Kaulbars	Fred & Debra Harmon	G. Elsner, B. Elsner, M. Ziesmer, M. Catalano, B. Gnadt , R. Wilson, N. Knaggs	Janet LeBeau	Dale LeBeau	Jan Scherbarth	Jan LeBeau	Jennifer Rosati
11/28	Pr. Phyllis Hormann									

Bread Baker for November is JULIE CATALANO

We could use more readers – if you would like to read on Sundays please contact the church office.

Stop and Greet Your Neighbor

The 1st Sunday of the month we're asking everyone to wear a nametag. When the service is finished, stop and greet 3 to 5 people you haven't met before. Over a cup of coffee, get to know them a little. Continue to greet each other in the following weeks. Be surprised at how much you have in common.

Kaye Davies

Want our newsletter via e-mail?

To have this happen send your e-mail address to office@peacesouthgate.org. If you want to receive e-mail at more than one address that is fine too - also members of your family can each receive their own e-mailed copy. All other members, non-computer users, will of course, receive newsletters by mail if they haven't been in church that Sunday to pick up their copy.

Bottle and Can Returns

We have been able to collect a total of **\$1,118+** from your generous donation of bottles and cans. Since you're coming to church anyway, why not just bring the bottles and cans along and drop them in any of the three boxes provided. Thank you to all who have participated in this project. If this sounds like something that you would like to help with, please contact Gwen Montie.



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 experiencing a crisis in their lives and need our prayers.

"Prayer changes things"

Bob Gnadt, Ruth Gierke, Vera Wilson, Jean Koons, John & Nancy Demyon, Jerry Gnadt, Barb Albert, Don Pushman, Shirley Balger, Bev Brewer, Kaye Davies (Prayers of thanksgiving), Laraine Hustler, Isaac Anderson, Richard Wilson, Ron Davis, Janet Sage, Mary Ann Buchau, Dave & Ruth Taylor, Mike Ziesmer, Robert Vallade, Jennifer Stroehmann, Lainey Miller, Betty Townsend, Ruth Tonks, Gail Andrews, Barb Byrd, Julie Rettke, Norman Kaminski, Dolores Kaminski, Terry Koons, Betty Rehbein, Elnora Ebendick, Rosa Fox, Jeff Thomas, Al Varga, Wilma Looker, John Balger, Blessed Hope and Peace Lutheran Church.

Richard Wright, Lottie, Adele, Doug, Oli, Steven St. Amant, Sonny Harper, Eileen Balger, Virginia Belanger, Tony Bonsall, Abbi Balger. Michelle LeBlanc, Jennifer, Mike Balger, Cindy, Walter Wilson, Mary Jacob (Marilyn Jacob's daughter), The Jack Vassallo Family, and Don Weber.

Members are in **Bold**

Telephone Prayer Chain Contact:
Mary Jacobs, 734-283-7792
E-prayer chain: Todd Pushman at
tpushman@yahoo.com

People will be put in the prayers for three weeks. Please contact the church office to update for those who can thankfully be removed or are in need of ongoing prayer.

The Herald of Peace

Peace Lutheran Church
12250 Fort Street
Southgate, MI 48195

