

May 2010

PIECES FROM PEACE

The Newsletter of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church
16791 Cleveland Road, Granger, Indiana, 46530 (574) 272-0339

SERVICE TIMES:
SUNDAY WORSHIP
9:00 A.M.

FAMILY BIBLE HOUR
10:15 A.M.

A Message From Pastor

"Shout for joy to God, all the earth! Sing to the glory of his name; make his name glorious!" Psalm 66:1-2

From the Psalms, the Old Testament "hymnal," believers heard the Lord's call to praise him together for his grace and mercy. As Martin Luther worked under the Holy Spirit's guiding hand to restore the Word proclaimed in its truth and purity, he wrote many hymns and encouraged God's people of his day to sing in praise of our Triune God who saves us by his grace. The present Easter season offers us ample opportunity to gather around the Means of Grace, the gospel in Word and sacrament, to worship and praise our risen and victorious Savior.

Lutheran worship, for as long as we can remember, has included a hymnal with liturgies or orders for worship and the hymns and songs we love to sing. Our present hymnal, *Christian Worship: a Lutheran Hymnal*, has served us well for seventeen years. A hymnal's "life" has been estimated to be about 30-40 years. So our once "new" hymnal is approaching middle age. A number of years ago our WELS Commission on Worship authorized the preparation of a supplement to our hymnal. *Christian Worship Supplement* was published in 2008. It is intended to be an extension of our

hymnal, offering more orders for worship, psalm settings and hymns. Instead of purchasing these books at a large cost to us, an electronic version along with copyright privilege was obtained, allowing us to print the portions of this supplement chosen for worship. Another WELS publication, *Let All the People Praise You*, was produced at the time of *Christian*

The intent is to simplify our path of worship...

Worship and reprinted in the year 2000. It provides additional songs for worship. Again, instead of buying multiple copies, we have obtained a copyright privilege to print these songs as we use them in worship. As we seek to follow the Lord's call to praise him, variety in worship will always be a matter of personal preference. New songs and liturgies will remain a greater challenge to some than to others. Let's remember that the old and familiar of our present hymnal was once new to us also!

In an effort to have our worship service be a blessing to all, we are printing out a complete order of

worship in our weekly bulletin. Rest assured we're still using the liturgies of *Christian Worship* and singing the hymns directly from our hymnal. The liturgies and hymns of *Christian Worship Supplement* and the songs from *Let All the People Praise You* are printed for our benefit in the bulletin. The intent is to simplify our path of worship as a blessing especially to our first time and newer worshipers. Many members of our Peace family have said that they appreciate the work being done for their benefit as well.

Your Worship Committee, under the oversight of the Elders, will continue to work to make worship a blessing to all. In this month of May, please note that familiar liturgies are being repeated from Sunday to Sunday, and that brand new hymns are being introduced by a group of singers from the congregation.

Let our worship be joy and glorify our Lord!

Steven M. Mischke, Pastor

Our Elders:

Shawn Harrington-Chairman, Russ Beery, Steve Buzzard, Doug Cruise, Alan Ihrke, Bruce Lockwitz, John Russell.

Our Church Council:

President-Fritz Potthast, Vice President-Dallon Martens, Treasurer-Dan Fuchs, Financial Secretary-Alan Steinke, Chairman, Board of Elders-Shawn Harrington, Chairman, Board of Education-Zach Steinke, Trustee-David Koester, Secretary-John Froehlich.

What's Going On At School?

On Saturday, April 10, we held an open house for the public in our school building. One prospective school family attended. On Wednesday, April 14, we held a visitors' day here at school. Parents and visitors spent time in our classrooms for a part of the day. Thank you to those who could come and visit. We hope you found your experience enjoyable and interesting.

On Sunday, May 30, three students will be graduating from Peace Lutheran School. *Catherine Quick, Nathan Sack, and Paul Wunderlich* will be receiving their diplomas on that day. May the Lord go with them as they graduate to the next level of their education.



Thank you to those who volunteered their time and effort in cleaning the school this past year. *Eleanor Koester; John, Noah and Tanner Russell; Don and Nathan Sack; and the Quick family* were the regulars. Your efforts have been noticed by us here on earth and our Lord in heaven.

Bradley Pleuss, Principal

Community Outreach

Blood Drive

We will be hosting a blood drive on **Saturday, May 8th** in the **parking lot**. We still need quite a few donors, so please check your calendars and stop by the sign-up sheet above the information table in the fellowship hall.

Peace School Reunion

A Peace School reunion is being planned for July 2011. We are looking for names and addresses of past graduates and attendees of the school. If you have names and addresses for us, let us know! Please don't assume that we have them...we'd rather have the info twice than not at all! You can forward the information to Lisa Koester or Sandy Boldt. Lisa's

email is Koesterdl@sbcglobal.net and her phone is 574-273-1410. Sandy's email is yru4us1@sbcglobal.net and her phone is 574-315-5484 (cell) or 574-299-9325 (home). Thanks for any help you can give us!

Community Fair- Saturday, August 7th

It's that time again! Time to start thinking about the Community Fair. The planning has been going on for months and now we need your help. A large sign-up sheet will be in the fellowship hall in the beginning of June. Please set this date aside on your calendar- a lot of volunteers are needed to make this event a success! The



approximate cost for this event is between \$1,200-1,500.00. Since there is no money set aside in the budget for this event, we depend solely on private donations and a couple of committee donations to fund this event. If you would like to donate funds for this event, you can either designate your offering for the Community Fair or write a check to the Ladies Circle, noting Community Fair in the memo, and place it in Lisa Koester's church mailbox. If you have any questions about our Community Fair, please contact Nicole Welsch at 574-247-0822 or by email Nicolewelsch@sbcglobal.net.

A Month of Festival in Worship

In this month of May we observe the *Rite of Confirmation and First Communion* for four young members of Peace. *Ascension, Pentecost* and *Trinity Sunday* will also be celebrated, each on their own Sunday. On Sunday, May 30, the *Graduation* of our eighth graders will take place along with our *Recognition* of another year of the Lord's blessings in our *Family Bible Hour*. Summer worship on Monday evening will begin June 14.

Asleep in Jesus



The Lord of life and death has taken to his side in heaven the soul of our brother *Paul Huyvaert*. Memorial services were conducted on April 19. *Asleep in Jesus, blessed sleep!*

Going Without Our “Necessities”

What “necessity” could you least go without? Your cell phone... your car... your television (and cable or satellite service)... your kitchen appliances... electricity... indoor plumbing... grocery and retail stores? This is just a small listing of the items and services that we “cannot live without.”

These items make life more convenient and have granted us many more hours of leisure and recreation during our days than that of our parents or grandparents. Think for a moment about the last time you had to “go without” one of these “necessities.” Was it an electrical outage? How long was the power out? 2 hours? 4 hours? How did this power outage inconvenience you? Were you “forced” to go out for dinner instead of baking one in your electric oven or reheating leftovers in the microwave? Were you forced to find that battery powered radio to listen to the news or some music instead of watching your favorite show?

What about your health? Do you consider yourself to be *healthy*? (And, no, I’m not talking about those extra 10lbs. you would like to lose.) Do you have use of both

your arms, hands and fingers... both your legs, feet and toes... do you have good eyesight and hearing... sufficient strength and stamina to do your job, housework, recreational activities? If you had to “do without” one of these functions of your healthy body, which one would it be? Really think about that... could you even make that decision?

Now what about God? What about the saving grace offered freely by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? Could you “go without” God in your life? What would a day (an hour or a minute) without God really be like? Ponder that mind boggling notion for a moment. Chaos... unspeakable evil... unquenchable fire... torment... hell on earth (literally)? What a terrifying thought to be separated from God and his unfailing love for even a minute! Talk about a true “necessity” of life... Jesus’ perfect life, sacrificial death on the cross, resurrection and victory over death, sin and Satan, and the forgiveness of sins given freely through God’s Word and the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion.

Each of the “necessities” of technology, convenience and health that we take for granted each minute of every day is a blessing provided by God. These blessings given by a loving and caring Lord and Savior are to be used to help and support the ministry of the Lord, not to be used as distractions, excuses or substitutes. I readily and sadly confess that my “daily necessities” far too often distract me and get more of my time during a typical day than does God. Lord, forgive me when my thoughts, words and actions do not place you first in my life, and when I take for granted the abundant blessings of time, talent, health, and “daily necessities” that you bestow upon me to be used for your glory and your work. Thank you for never abandoning me for even one second to the evils of sin and Satan. In Jesus’ name, I pray that you will continue to strengthen and renew my faith in you through the hearing of your Word in daily devotion, weekly worship and Bible study. Amen.

*Shaun Harrington
Board of Elders, Chairman*

Growing in God’s Word

Sunday Morning

We’re studying the Apostle Paul’s letter to the *Ephesians* each Sunday morning in May following worship. Paul’s epistle provides lessons in how members of a

Christian congregation and family ought to treat each other as we serve the Lord together!

Monday Evening

Join us Monday evenings at 7:00 for a Bible study led by Dallan Martens



on “The Lives of Elijah and Elisha.” Learn how God cared for the Israelites and spread his Word during the time of the kings.

An average of 116 worshiped the Savior together at Peace each week in April, while 9 stayed for Family Bible Hour.

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Sunday School—Qualified

What are your skill sets? Are you qualified for specific tasks? What is your work history? Have you done this type of work before? What education do you have? Do you have any references?

One hopes to have the right answers to these questions in a job interview. A good, clean appearance and resume' are also helpful. The end result is to be employed, providing support for you or your family to live day to day.

We are each commissioned by God to share His Word with others. But what would happen if we were each interviewed by our Heavenly Father beforehand. *What are your skill sets?* "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander." Matthew 15:19 *What is your work history?* "The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the



earth had become and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time."

Genesis 6:5 *What education do you have?* "The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so." Romans 8:7

By ourselves, this is the worst job interview ever. But, why is it we are charged with this important work? *Do you have any references?* "The blood of Jesus, his son, purifies us from all sin." 1 John 1:7 "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men." 1 Timothy 2:5-6 God sought us out with the precious gift of a new self through our Savior Jesus which is strengthened daily by the Holy Spirit.

Because we have been saved by His grace, we have been qualified to spread this wonderful message in words and actions. You may not be the most eloquent speaker, best

leader, or most knowledgeable, but there are opportunities to give glory to Christ for men, women, children, students, confirmands, leaders, followers, young, and old if you only look for them. Everyone is called to serve our Lord, because it is the Lord who creates in us every good work through our faith in Christ. "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6 Since it is with God's hand we bear every good fruit, take to heart the great commission of Christ. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Mathew 28: 18-20

Zach Steinke
Board of Education, Chairman

Peace Ladies Circle News

Thank you to all who have donated diapers for the Pregnancy Counseling Center. The playpen will be still be out for a couple more weeks, so it's not too late if you haven't had a chance to donate! We will be hosting another shower this fall, so if you know of any expecting moms in our church, please let me know.



Please make sure to put **Tuesday, May 4th** on your calendar! We will be having our **quarterly meeting** in the fellowship hall at **6:30 pm**. Please join us as we discuss ideas and plan events for our ladies and Peace family. All ideas are welcome! Light refreshments will be served.

If you have any questions about Peace Ladies Circle or would like to share some ideas, please feel free to contact me via e-mail at Nicolewelsch@sbcglobal.net or by phone at 574-247-0822.

God's blessings,
Nicole Welsch
President- Ladies Circle

Would you like to support the programs and efforts of Peace Ladies Circle, but just don't know what to do? Volunteering your time and talents, along with participating, help to make the events we plan possible. If you haven't had a chance to turn in your servant survey, please do so! It's not too late. Names and numbers can always be added to the list year round. Not able to volunteer time, but you'd

Updates From Our Church Council and Voters

The financial reports show that our giving to the operating fund (through our white envelopes) is well below what it was in 2009. Overall, our income from offerings, non-member school tuition, interest from the Roeder memorial, and gifts to designated funds is nearly identical to 2009. In addition to our normal income, large gifts through memorials have significantly increased the funds available for special, designated projects to enrich and sustain our ministries. In total that leaves our Operating Fund balance at a negative \$19,238, while the designated funds have grown nearly \$27,000. Some of our Lenten offerings this year were designated, for the first time in many years, to ministries outside of the Operating Fund; Michigan Lutheran (\$1,160), Synod Deficit (\$581), and Educational Assistance (\$427).

Included in the items of discussion were:

- A recommendation to the voters to request a female, 5-year graduate be called to lead the middle grades. The individual should have training to lead the development of a preschool. *The voters approved this recommendation at their quarterly meeting.*
- Approval to purchase new white paraments from the available, undesignated memorial funds, at a cost of \$1,499.40.
- Review of estimates on the parking lot repairs and resurfacing project. The recommendation to the voters was to approve the spending of up to \$4,500 for this project. Donations have already met this need.
- Review of the assistance available to the Financial Secretary for counting the offerings.
- Evangelism plans for Soccer Camp, Summer VBS, Community Fair, and the outdoor service & picnic.
- The Elders have decided that Ascension will be celebrated on the Sunday following Ascension Day.
- *Voters approved the purchase of new microphones, speakers and a video mixer at a cost of \$2400 using gifts from our Memorial Fund.*
- *Voters passed a motion to begin a preschool in 2012 provided we have a teacher/director in place and proper facilities.*

Our Peace Family is Changing



We ask the Lord's blessing on *Richard Schadler*, who transferred to Immanuel in Elgin, North Dakota.

Items From Our Elders

At our most recent Family Forum it was suggested that many non-elders would be willing to help with calling our Peace members who are not in worship regularly. If you would be willing to help with making these phone calls, please email or call Shawn Harrington (sharr1@comcast.net or 243-9374).

The following items in regard to our worship services were discussed at last month's Elders meet-

ing. The Elders and Pastor Mischke discussed the idea of adding one late Sunday morning service per month. We also discussed the idea of adding an "early" service on Easter Sunday, as well as the idea of consolidating our mid-week Lenten and Advent services to the 6:30 p.m. service time. These were all very preliminary discussions regarding changes in worship service offerings. Pastor Mischke and the Elders would like

to hear your thoughts with regard to these or other worship service items. Please contact one of the Elders with your thoughts or comments.

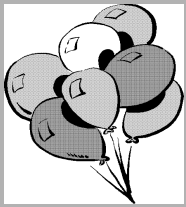
Look for more information to come relating to Peace Youth Soccer Camp June 14-18, VBS August 2-6, Peace Community Fair August 7, and the outdoor worship service and church picnic August 8.

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Granger, IN 46530



May Anniversaries

02 Brian & Kim DeQuis
17 Richard & Elaine Petzke
25 Kurt & Shirley Guse
25 Shawn & Jenna Harrington
31 Dan & Linda Fuchs



May Birthdays

01 Jennifer Boldt	22 Ken Wunderlich
01 Chad Grayckowski	23 Ryan Reed
03 Michael Babler	27 Helen Nurenberg
08 Vincent Loosemore	27 Kim Russell
11 Stephanie Sack	28 Trenton Stoner
12 Brad Pleuss	29 Tanner Russell
13 Sherrie Losee	30 Cody Hafer
13 Mary Ellen Mundt	31 Harold Moldenhauer
22 Jacob Moore	