



The Peace Messenger

Peace Lutheran Church
2090 Commerce Drive
North Mankato MN 56003

Newsletter
December 2012

Worship Schedule

8/26/12-5/19/13

Sundays 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Bible Class & Sunday School
9:15 a.m.

Serving Peace

Pastor Tim Hartwig

Office – 507-385-1386

Cell – 507-382-6826

Pastorhartwig@gmail.com

Office - Karen Wold

karen@peacemankato.org

Church Council

President:

Eric Woller

Vice President:

Chris Harstad

Secretary:

Matt Riehl

Spiritual Leadership:

Orrin Ausen

Christian Education:

Ted Manthe

Property Management:

Jim Howson

Stewardship:

Brian Koch

Gospel Outreach:

Nick Peters

Jesus' Lambs Preschool

Joslyn Moldstad 385-7752

Crossed - Youth Group

www.peacemankato.org/crossed

crossedyouth@gmail.com

Special Interest Dates

2nd Choir sings 8:00a

5th Advent Supper 5:15p

Advent service 6:30p

8th Christmas for Kids 9:00a

11th Council Meeting 6:30p

12th Advent Supper 5:15p

Advent service 6:30p

16th SS Christmas Pro 10:30a

19th Advent Service/Preschool

Christmas Program 6:30p

24th Christmas Eve 6:30p

25th Christmas Day 9:00a

30th One Worship Service

9:00a

31st New Year's Eve Service

6:30p

Get Ready for Advent

Two weekends ago, I noticed that my neighbor was putting Christmas lights up on her house. I have to admit that as soon as I saw that, I cringed. Christmas is coming and we haven't even celebrated Thanksgiving yet! The world is already getting ready for the celebration of Christmas. Isn't that what the Advent season is about - getting ready for Christmas?

The word *Advent* means coming. The focus of the Advent season is Jesus coming to us. As such, it is not just preparation for Christmas. There are three advents of Jesus: His coming in the flesh as the Babe of Bethlehem; His coming in the Word and Sacraments; and His coming to judge the living and the dead. All three are important.

Certainly, the cutest one is the birth of Jesus. We picture Mary and Joseph travelling on the donkey to Bethlehem and taking shelter in the stable. We see the baby Jesus wrapped in cloths and lying in the manger, with animals standing around the feed trough. As we celebrate this part of Jesus' life, it is easy for us to forget why He was born. He was born because we are sinners. He was born to live a perfect life. He was born to die an innocent death. He was born to save poor wretched sinners, like you and me. That's why He came.

We might be tempted to think that Jesus has come and gone – we are now on our own. We are not alone. Jesus comes to us through the Word and Sacraments. He wants you and everyone to know why He came in the flesh. He wants everyone to believe that He is the Savior from sin. God has

given us His Word and Sacraments so that He can come to us time and again to create, strengthen, and preserve our faith in Jesus. Our life can be difficult. We struggle with illness, heartache, disappointment, and sin. It is so easy to feel alone. Let Jesus take you by the hand. Through His word, He will comfort you and guide you through life's trials. Finally, He will take all those reasons for tears away and lead you through the gates of heaven. There you will see Him face to face.



Jesus is going to take you from this vale of tears in one of two ways. The first is your death, and the second is His final advent. Jesus is coming again to judge the living and the dead. He will not be coming as a meek and lowly child. He will be coming as the mighty King and all people will be gathered before Him. For many, this will be a day of terror. But not for you! It is the day of your salvation. It will be even more precious than seeing the baby in the manger. Jesus will take you, body and soul, to live with Him forever in heaven.

Use Advent to get ready for Christmas. Put up your lights and decorate your trees. However, remember that Advent is about so much more than Christmas. It will prepare you for life, here on earth and hereafter in heaven.

A blessed Advent season to you all,
Pastor Hartwig

Council Meeting Minutes – November 13, 2012

The Mission & Ministry Coordination Council (MMCC) meeting of Peace Lutheran Church was held on **November 13, 2012** at Peace and called to order by President Woller. Council members present were: Pastor Hartwig, Eric Woller – *President*, Chris Harstad – *Vice President*, Orrin Ausen – *Spiritual Leadership*, Ted Manthe – *Christian Education*, Jim Howson – *Property Management*, Brian Koch – *Stewardship*, Nick Peters – *Gospel Outreach*.

- Meeting opened with devotion and prayer.
- Agenda – Agenda was approved with one addition.
- Minutes of Previous Meeting – Approved as submitted.
- Pastor's Report (Pastor Hartwig)
 - Currently 4 people classes. Three others have said they want to start classes and still four others Pastor considers to be very good prospects.
 - Engaging Others with Jesus Retreat this weekend.
 - Thanksgiving Eve service, Wednesday, November 21, at 6:30 P.M.
 - Advent Services starting December 5th. The ladies are organizing meals.
 - Preschool Christmas Program December 19th
 - Vacations: November 24th and December 26th–January 3rd.
 - Engage Others with Jesus Retreat, Board for Home Outreach meeting and Home Missionary Conference in Florida January 25th-30th, 2013;
 - By the numbers this month: 344 Souls (13 gains, 20 loses), 253 Communicants, 112 Voters, 2 Baptized, 3 Adults Confirmed.
- Spiritual Leadership (Coordinator ~ Orrin Ausen)
 - To be discussed under New Business.
- Gospel Outreach (Coordinator ~ Nick Peters)
 - The sign was updated to read "Give Thanks to the Lord, Wed. November 21 6:30PM". In the future we will try to display messages that capture themes for upcoming bible studies or sermons.
 - We looked into advertising with the MSU Reporter (school newspaper). They are currently full, but may have openings next year.
 - Looked into advertising with South Central College. They don't have a newspaper but do have message boards to hang free advertisements. We will try to get fliers made up and try this in the next month.
 - Looking at adding more outdoor services summer 2013: June 16th, July 14th, & August 18th.
- Christian Education (Coordinator ~ Ted Manthe)
 - Sunday School (Doyle Holbird): **Already practicing for the Christmas Service. For the month of October attendance for the 4 Sundays was: 31, not taken, 38, & 35.**
 - Preschool (Greg Miller): **Preschool will sing in church Nov 4th and also for the last Advent service Dec 19th at 6:30pm. Many thanks to the women for helping with the light supper afterward; Parent/Teacher Consultations are Thursday, Nov 8th and Friday, Nov. 9th; In order to comply with insurance requirements it was recommended to the Church Council that we install windows in the doors of the Sunday School Room (Preschool Room).**
 - Youth Group – No report.
- Stewardship (Coordinator ~ Brian Koch)
 - Brian signed up for on-line training through Servant Keeper, our offering accounting software, to see if there are more efficient ways to count our offering with their software.
- Property Management (Coordinator ~ Jim Howson)
 - Working on replacing a light bulb in our large sign and replacing a missing piece.
 - Coordinating snow removal for this winter.
- MMSP to approve the coordinator's reports.
- Old Business
 - **Brother printer** – Tabled until next month.

- **Preschool/Kitchen storage** – Find out from Joslyn what can be moved down to the basement to open room in kitchen for upcoming food service during Advent. The council will organize the basement to make room for materials to be moved down. Jim will look into increasing basement shelf space.

➤ New Business

- **Membership changes** as proposed by the Spiritual Leadership Board. MMSP to approve new members listed; MMSP to removal for inactivity those listed; MMSP to release to another church: Chuck Nyberg & Conner Jordan.
- **Pilot - proposed worship schedule time change** (from SL board): Pilot schedule Jan 1-March 27 8:30am 1st service, 10:45am 2nd service. By having a ½ hr later 1st service the hope is that some 2nd service goers will attend 1st service and relieve over-capacity during 2nd services. The plan is to start advertising after Thanksgiving with a special bulletin insert. Plan to put out a survey middle to end of February to garner feedback on the pilot schedule. MMSP to approve 2013 Pilot schedule.
- Talked about how to usher communion more efficiently.
- **Ask Paul Fries** to research a multimedia package (from SL board) – MMSP to approve recommendation. Orin will work with Paul to research this as soon as possible.
- **Preschool door** windows (form Christian Education board) – Tabled until we get further specifications from our insurance company.
- **Furnishings committee creation** – MMSP to have Property formulate a Furnishings Committee as an advisory board to Property Management. 1st task will be to address storage issues at Peace.
- **Bookshelves** in cry room – Referred to newly formed Furnishings Committee.
- **Council Christmas party** – Orin will look into it.

➤ Next council meeting – Scheduled for December 11th, 6:30pm.

➤ The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Chris Harstad, Vice President

MM = Motion Made
MMS = Motion Made Seconded
MMSP = Motion Made Seconded Passed
MMCC = Mission and Ministry Coordinating Council



Logan Aaron & Lynken Alexander, sons of Jake and Trista Lanz, were baptized on November 11, 2012. May God bless Logan and Lynken, and strengthen them in their baptismal grace forever.



Along with sermons available on the Peace website, we are able to make CD's of full worship services or multiple sermons. If you miss church due to sickness or travel, and would like a CD, please contact the church office and tell us the date of the service you would like. A CD will be made for you, to be mailed out or picked up in the church office.

The following was taken from
'Martin Luther's Little Instruction Book':



OVERCOMING CIRCUMSTANCES

“If I really recognize my blessings, my heart laughs; and if He sends me misfortune, trouble, and danger, I take to thanking Him and say: God be forever praised for chastising me in this way.”



“I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.”

Philippians 4:12



Prayer Requests

Pastor Hartwig is happy to receive prayer requests. Please contact him at 507-382-6826 or e-mail him at pastorhartwig@gmail.com

Serving the month of December

Altar/Communion preparation

9th Leslee & Orrin Ausen
 23rd Amanda Madson & Ione Geistfeld

Communion Assistants

	8:00am	10:30am
9 th	Orrin Ausen	Phil Lepak
23 rd	Doyle Holbird	Eric Woller

Ushers

	8:00am	10:30am
2 nd	Nick Peters	Derek Harstad
5 th	6:30p	Tom Schulz
9 th	Keith Wiederhoeft Paul Wold	Scott Johnston Derick Lyngholm
12 th	6:30p	Tom Schulz
16 th	Orrin Ausen	Ben Moldstad
19 th	6:30p	Joel Brude
23 rd	Jason Loe Tim Loe	John Moldstad Matt Riehl
24 th	6:30p	Mark Meyer
25 th	9:00a	Terry Field
30 th	9:00a – one service	Al Clennon
31 st	6:30p	Adie Harstad Chris Harstad

Counters

12/02/12: Brian Koch & Matt Riehl
 12/09/12: Karen or Paul Wold & Brian Koch
 12/16/12: Brian Koch & Todd Olsen
 12/23/12: Danielle Geistfeld & Chris Harstad
 12/30/12: Marnie Werner & Brad Wosmek

Happy Birthday!



Sarah Henry	12/01	14 years old
Chase Simmons	12/09	13 years old
Carl Kom	12/12	6 years old
Jenna Sikel	12/15	9 years old
Audryona Johnston	12/17	10 years old
Dakota Miller	12/17	4 years old
Anthony Lowe	12/18	10 years old
Hannah Fries	12/30	15 years old

Also – Joel Brude, Todd Olsen,
 Chris Thompson, James Huckaby,
 Erik Hermanson, Josh Moldstad, Phil Lepak,
 Lyle Hoverson, Naomi Petersen, Jami DeVos,
 Angie Jahr, Danielle Geistfeld, Julie Kjeer,
 Derek Harstad, Rob Pipal, Kaye Loe,
 Chris Merritt, Mark Meyer, Robert Geving,
 Janet Moldstad

*May the Lord bless you,
 today and always.*



October Anniversaries:

Ted & Cristen Manthe	12/01/02	10 years
Nick & Hillary Chopp	12/13/08	4 years
Lyle & Debra Hoverson	12/16/73	39 years
Eric & Denice Woller	12/19/98	14 years
Jeff & Tina Kotulski	12/30/86	26 years
Nathan & Stephanie Howe	12/31/11	1 year

*Congratulations! May the Lord continue to bless
 you and may your Christian marriage serve as an
 inspiration to others.*

New New 2 You Family Thrift

338 Commerce Drive, N. Mankato
 Phone Number: 385-1455

Monday: 9:30am to 7:00pm
 Tuesday through Friday: 9:30am to 5:00pm
 Saturday: 10:00am to 3:00pm

Donation Drop Off times

Monday through Friday: 9:30am to 4:30pm
 Saturday: 10:00am to 2:30pm

Part-time volunteer hours available

Committees or groups wishing to have information printed in the newsletter, please e-mail your detailed information to

karen@peacemankato.org

no later than the 15th of the month.

It is our wish to have an informative newsletter of all the happenings of our church to be shared with all members.

Whatever you think the smallest bit interesting and informative, please submit. All submissions will be published upon Pastor Hartwig's approval.

CROSSED DATES & EVENTS

Times - 6:15 – 8:30PM
unless otherwise noted

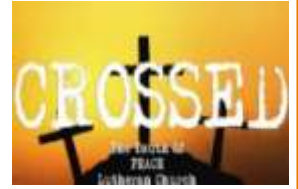
December 2nd – *CROSSED* @ Peace

December 9th – *CROSSED* @ Peace

December 16th – *CROSSED* @ Peace

December 23rd – **NO CROSSED**

December 30th – **NO CROSSED**



Crossed has enjoyed another month of God's blessings and Christian fellowship. We have officially finished our study of the Armor of God and are now looking forward to the Advent season where we anticipate the coming of our Savior into the world.

Upcoming in the month of December will be the Crossed Christmas party on the 16th. We will also not be meeting on the Sundays of the 23rd or the 30th. We wish all a blessed Christmas Season!

All youth in 7th through 12th grade are invited to attend CROSSED! Any questions, call Josh Mayer at 402-517-5468 or Anthony Miller at 507-317-2097.



Thank you to Jeanne Lorensberg, who donated the three wall hangings that are in the multi-purpose room. They are in memory of Jeanne's mother, Mildred Maas of Sleepy Eye, who passed away this past summer.



Women of Peace

The Women of Peace normally meets the first Wednesday of each month in the multi-purpose room from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. All women age 18 and over are encouraged to come, enrich your understanding in Bible study (led by Pastor Hartwig), learn of ways you can serve within our congregation, and how that service can extend beyond our walls.

Babysitters are available for those with small children and you are invited to bring your lunch along if rushed for time to eat. We are currently studying the Book of Ruth, busily planning Advent menus, and coordinating the Echo Food Shelf drive.

Because of the Christmas season, **we will NOT be meeting in December**. Due to the New Year's holiday our next meeting will be **moved to the second Wednesday of January, January 9th, 2013**, 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Mark your calendars. Hope to see you there.

President of Women of Peace, Debra Howson

We hope that you will join us on January 9th, at 5:30PM.



Preschool News

Jesus' Lambs at Peace Preschoolers are learning the stories of Moses in preschool. We learned that God took care of his people through Moses and rescued the Israelites from the hand of Pharaoh. We concentrated on that Passover Lamb which the Israelites ate the night they marched out of Egypt.

The Passover Lamb is a symbol of the Holy Lamb of God, Jesus, God's Son, who would be born of a virgin, much later, in a little town of Bethlehem at Christmas. God's people sacrificed many lambs and animals for the sins of the people, but only the true Lamb of God, Jesus, could take away all sin from all people. Jesus did just that when he died on a cross and rose again at Easter time for our sins and for the sins of all people. Jesus has died and rose again, so there are no more sacrifices of animals to be done, but our very lives are to be a sacrifice to God as we live a life of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, telling others about Jesus their Savior, using God's help to say no to sin and believing that only through Jesus' death and resurrection are we saved from hell and will be with God one day in heavenly glory.

Many thanks to all the parents that were able to come for our parent/teacher consultation last week. We had almost 100% of parents in attendance. It is my great privilege to share with you how God allows your little children to learn and grow in the way they do. They each are special in their own way and God has given them so many talents to serve Him!

Thanks also to all parents who helped chaperone our trip to Pet Expo. The children were very well behaved and enjoyed petting the animals, watching a few dogs receive a good trim and listen to our presenter Leah, explain each animal.

If you happened to stop at the church on Monday, November 19, or Tuesday, November 20, you may have smelled the Stone Soup that the preschool children made. As we read the book, we called for the vegetables and then the children helped prepare a delicious soup, always wondering about those stones, whether or not they helped make the soup so tasty.

If you would like more information about our Christ-centered preschool, please call Joslyn at 385-7752!



Do you enjoy the treats served after church? Would you be willing to help by bringing a pan of bars or cookies for one Sunday? There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex by the food table. Please take a look at the open dates and see which one works for you. Thank you.



Music Matters

Some noteworthy items:

♪ **“The Signs of Christmas”** is this year's Sunday School Christmas service, scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 16, at 10:30AM. The service will involve the youth of our congregation from preschool through high school, where the age-old Christmas message will once again be told through narration, recitation and song. Specially created banners, on loan from Hope Lutheran, our sister congregation in Portage, Indiana, will depict four signs of Christmas: the tree, the manger, the angel and the star. Please plan to join us in celebration of our Savior's birth through “The Signs of Christmas.”

♪ Sunday School parents are reminded that two practices are scheduled for the Christmas service: the first during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, Dec. 9, the second on Saturday, Dec. 15, from 9:00AM to 11:00AM. It is very important that all children participating in the service be at both practices, so we ask that parents make a special effort to ensure their children's attendance and punctuality. Thank you!

♪ The adult choir, as well as vocal ensembles and instrumentalists, will be adding special music to our Christmas services, both on Christmas Eve (6:30PM) and Christmas Day (9:00AM). Come and experience the joy of hearing and singing many of your favorite Christmas hymns and carols.

To God be the glory!

Susan Lepak



The First Sunday in Advent is December 2nd. Women of Peace will again be hosting **Advent suppers** before the Wednesday evening worship services on December 5th and 12th, and a little snack after the worship service and Preschool Christmas Program on December 19th. There are sign-up sheets for all three dates on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please check them out and see what you can do to help out.



Christmas for Kids will be held on December 8th, from 9:00AM to Noon. Please watch the bulletin for more information regarding this day. If you would like to help, please contact Leslee Ausen at 387-7509.



Sunday School Families--Plans for the Sunday School Christmas service have been finalized and are as follows:

- 1) Practice during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, Dec. 9.
- 2) Practice from 9:00AM to 11:00AM on Saturday, Dec. 15.
- 3) Service at 10:30AM on Sunday, Dec. 16.

Parents, please set aside these important dates on your calendar. If you know that your child(ren) will have to miss one of the rehearsals or won't be present for the service, please let your child's teacher know well in advance. Thanks for your cooperation!



The Preschool Christmas Program will be during the Advent worship service on December 19th.

Holiday Worship Schedule

Midweek Advent Vespers ~ Wednesdays, 6:30pm
"Your King Comes! Go Out to Meet Him!"



December 5th 5:15-6:15PM Advent Supper
 6:30PM Pastor Matt Brooks – Isaiah 40:1-8
"How Shall I Receive Him?"



December 12th 5:15-6:15PM Advent Supper
 6:30PM Pastor John Petersen – Isaiah 62:10-12
"How Shall I Know Him?"



December 16th 8:00am Worship Service
 10:30am The Sunday School Children's Christmas Program



December 19th 6:30PM Pastor Tim Hartwig – Psalm 118:25-29
"How Shall I Greet Him?"



The Preschool Children's Christmas Program is also on 12/19.



Christmas Eve
 Worship Service
 6:30pm



Christmas Day
 Worship Service
 9:00am



New Year's Eve
 Scripture & Song Service
 6:30pm

Worship Schedule Change

**Beginning Sunday
 January 6th, 2013:**

8:30 AM	Divine Service
9:45 AM	Sunday School Bible study
10:45 AM	Divine Service

Reason for the experiment:
 Currently, the 8:00 AM service averages 40-60 people less than the 10:30 AM service. It is hoped that moving the first service to 8:30 AM will enable more people to attend that service. Relieving the demand on the second service will help delay the need for a third service.