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# Messages of Peace

## A Message from Pastor Mark:

My letter this month is going to be about the same topics as last month – two learning opportunities coming up in 2011. Again, these are also opportunities for us to invite in friends and community members to join us in learning.

Learning is one of the key ways we follow Jesus. Learning, witnessing, healing, forgiving, repenting, sharing meals, prayers, and goods – these are all among the fundamental acts of being Christian. So these are both opportunities to exercise our ‘Christian muscles’, to put it in a silly way! The first will be on the Sundays of January, beginning this Sunday. We will study Islam and the Qur’an in a very introductory way. The topics will include Islam’s beginnings; a comparison of Jesus and Muhammad; the special role of Abraham in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam; and contemporary political, economic, and religious issues. I’ll provide copies of parts of the Qur’an.

The second class will begin Sunday Feb. 6. (WELCA will start out the Wednesday before.) This is the New Testament Challenge, to read the whole New Testament in a year. The blogsite for this is <http://peaceholland.wordpress.com/>. You can go there to get online resources, the calendar of readings, and to ask your questions and get feedback from me and Mark DeLand. We’ll also have print resources available for those among us who don’t

live on the internet.

The order of readings will be: 1 Thessalonians, Galatians, Philippians, 1 Corinthians, Philemon, 2 Corinthians, Romans, Mark, 2 Thessalonians, Matthew, James, Luke, Acts, Hebrews, John, Colossians, 1 Peter, Jude, Ephesians, 2 Peter, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Revelation. (This order is the official one. It’s a bit different than what I suggested last month.)

Again, in case this sounds like a lot of reading, it only comes out to around 270 pages. It’s doable. But while it’s not a huge amount of reading, we also should keep in mind that it’s the New Testament, which means that it may also be life-changing. See you in church (and online) in 2011!

Pastor Mark

## Synod News

The Executive Committee and the Synod Council held regularly scheduled meetings early in December. There were many items to discuss and act on, including a review of the current financial situation in our synod. Unfortunately, severe cuts have been needed during the 2010 fiscal year because of the decline in Mission Support from our congregations. This matter has been mentioned in earlier messages to you. We realize the poor economic conditions facing all of us in Michigan - and how the lack of congregational income directly impacts our synod and our churchwide organization.

It has been extremely difficult to make cuts in grants to our church-related institutions including Capital and Wittenberg Universities, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Lutheran Social Services of Michigan, Living Water Ministries and Michigan Lutheran



**January Birthdays!**

<b>Mark Haltenhoff</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Adam Hatch</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Janine Oberstadt</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Megan Hunt</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Andrew Anderson</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>John Campbell</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Cynthia Price</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Marsha Bly</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Ashton MacLennan</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Pat Bergeron</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Katarina Serrell</b>	<b>26</b>

Campus Ministry. Our churchwide organization continues to receive fifty percent of all Mission Support; however, the actual dollar amount has declined. Synod committees have used restraint in expending money and all have received budget cuts under a contingency plan put into effect earlier this year. Reductions in grants mean there is ministry work that cannot be accomplished, as it has been in the past. As you know, the synod office has relocated its offices to St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Lansing, in order to reduce overhead and lease expenses.

In addition, our support staff and some rostered staff have faced reduced working hours and reduced salaries. Bishop John Schleicher offered to take a five percent reduction in compensation for fiscal year 2011, after having taken a five percent reduction earlier in the current fiscal year. We bring these matters to your attention because we want pastors and congregations to know and realize the financial status we are currently facing. These cuts also take a toll on the effectiveness of a variety of ministries throughout the synod, as well as the response time by staff, when requests for services come in from our congregations.

We are hopeful that God will bless our synod ministries, enabling us to continue serving according to our prayerful discernment of what God would have us do in this time of transition. It is "God's Work and Our Hands." Your Mission Support is needed for our work together.  
 On Behalf of the Synod Council,  
 Carolyn M. Mann, Vice President  
 Gena Hyde, Treasurer

**Michi-Lu-Ca and Stony Lake Receive ACA Accreditation**

Living Water Ministries is proud to announce that both Michi-Lu-Ca Conference Center and Camp, and Stony Lake Lutheran Camp are now American Camping Association (ACA) accredited! Becoming ACA accredited means that these camps have achieved a level of professionalism and safety that is recognized on a national level.

ACA Accreditation means that Michi-Lu-Ca and Stony Lake submitted to a thorough (up to 300 standards) review of its operation by the American Camp Association (ACA), from staff qualifications and training to emergency management. American Camp Association collaborates with experts from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Red Cross, and other youth-serving agencies to assure that current practices at camps reflect the most up-to-date, research-based standards in camp operation. Michi-Lu-Ca, Stony Lake and ACA form a partnership that promotes summers of growth and fun in an environment committed to safety.

- ACA helps all accredited camps provide:
- Healthy, developmentally-appropriate activities and learning experiences
- Discovery through experiential education
- Caring, competent role models
- Service to the community and the environment
- Opportunities for leadership and personal growth

For more information about Michi-Lu-Ca and Stony Lake, visit [www.elcalivingwater.com](http://www.elcalivingwater.com). Registration for camp opens January 15, 2011.

**Missions Minute**

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who contributed a gift or personal care items for our Christmas family this year.

Thank you to everyone who contributed money for the Thanksgiving Turkeys through Community Action House. They were able to provide families with 833 baskets this past Thanksgiving. Community Action House estimates that over 2500 of our neighbors enjoyed a Thanksgiving meal due to the generosity of corporations, churches and private donations.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed food, personal care products, cleaning products and paper products for Community Action House this past year. Many families in our community depend on our generosity to help them through difficult times.

Thank you to everyone who donated money to the ELCA Good Gifts Community Garden in December. As of December 19, we had collected a total of \$225. This will enable us to purchase one garden and one set of gardening tools. Any additional money will allow us to purchase fruit trees or more gardening tools. This project will make a difference in the life of a community somewhere else in the world.

**Benevolence of the Month**

Every year several families in our congregation send their children to either elementary camp or Confirmation camp at

Camp Michi-LuCa. For the past few years, we have collected money through a Benevolence of the Month to provide scholarships to some of the children attending camp. This year we are collecting the money in January. Camp is a wonderful experience for the kids and helps them to grown in their faith development. Laura Duckworth is our resident expert on Camp Michi-LuCa and can answer any of your questions about the camp itself or the programs they offer.

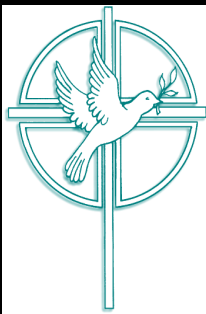
**Community Action House**

Every day Community Action House helps to meet the needs of those in our community who are less fortunate than we are. This may come in the form of helping individuals prevent foreclosure, serving them meals, providing clothing and food or education for first time home buyers, financial management and home maintenance. One of the basic ways we can help Community Action House help those in need is to donate food, personal care products, cleaning products, paper products and gently used clothing, coats, boots and shoes.

Current items that are needed include: pasta, canned fruit, canned vegetables (especially corn), spaghetti sauce, spaghetti, peanut butter, boxed dinners, cooking oil, laundry soap, toilet paper, bar soap, diapers and toothpaste. Donations of any of these items or clothing items can be left in the narthex.

**January Baptism Dates**

Chloe Duckworth	1
Ernie Moore	1
Janine Oberstadt	1
David Somero	9
Jacalyn Cordero	10
Emily Hunt	12
Ruth Owen	18
Scott MacLennan	20
Nicole Cordero	22



**WELCA**

WELCA thanks everyone who donated to our Holiday Bake Sales as well as everyone who bought the Bake Sale items. Because of all of you our WELCA fund increased by \$415.00. We transferred \$200.00 to the Silent Needs fund and will make further decisions this month. Let us know if you prefer the larger baked items or if the change to the \$1.00 packaging is better for you.

Speaking of change, Paul Baglyos writes about that topic in the December Seeds for the Parish. He reminds us of Isaiah's words to people in exile, "Do not consider the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" (Isaiah 43:18-19). These former things include cherished memories of sacred history, the Exodus, the Promised Land, Jerusalem and the Temple. These

things bound the people to God and gave them their identity. They grieved for what they had lost.

Many congregations in the U.S. are in a kind of exile. They grieve for stable communities, full pews, dependable finances and the old more vigorous programs of former times. Where is that "new thing"? It may involve a different focus for a church of discerning and engaging God's mission for a new time. What remains sure is that God remains. He does not abandon his people; the foreign land of exile is not foreign to God. The church will flourish even if those places may feel foreign to those who cherish memories of former things. Cherished memories can give way to new ideas. Let us all keep our minds open to new things in the New Year.

Peace Lutheran Church  
Congregation Council Meeting  
December 14, 2010

Attending: Pastor Mark Rich, Bob Hunt, Mark DeLand, Bonnie MacLennan, Pat Bergeron, Julie Monetta, Ellen Pearson, Connie Shakley, Dave Barnett & Laura Duckworth

Quorum was established at 7:05 pm.

Bob Hunt greeted the newly elected council members and bid a fond farewell and thank you to the departing council members.

Jim Oberstadt opened with devotions at 7:08

Pastor Mark announced that Margaret Reagle's funeral is Saturday and his scheduled day off is now Thursday.

Bob Hunt announced that Dave Hutchison's vacancy was never filled and we will be electing a new council member at the February Congregational meeting.

Charter Township is crediting Peace Lutheran water and sewer bill \$481. The Water and Sewer bill was much higher than usual because of a water leak. Parkway Electric examined our sound system and recommended changing the microphone head on the lectern microphone and doing a sound system check before each service. Mihm Enterprises Inc. submitted a roofing estimate of \$36,800.00. Bob discussed the Parish Nurse situation; Linda Hutchison announced that she would no longer be doing home visits. The nominating committee for 2011 is comprised of Bob Hunt, Mark DeLand and Ellen Pearson. Pastor Mark suggested we give Linda Hutchison a proper thank you.

Jim Oberstadt summarized the written Treasurer's Report. He reported that giving in November was low. We did not make the budget this month—expenditures exceeded giving. There is a deficit of \$2141.00 for November. He recommended that we defer the November and December obligation to the Synod and to borrow up to \$1000 from the Capital Seed Fund (he pointed out that we have already fulfilled our pledge to the Synod). Julie Monetta 2<sup>nd</sup>. The motion passed unopposed. Ellen Pearson made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Bonnie MacLennan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed unopposed.

Financial Secretary—no report

Pastor Mark spoke passionately about the need for strong Evangelism and Stewardship. He suggested that we send out postcards to all our Sunday visitors and our guests at the community picnic.

The NTC-50 is up and running. We have a blog page started and the reading list is complete. We have 32 people signed up.

Pastor Mark said that we need someone to lead high school Youth group. It would be very helpful to engage "snowbirds" to be more involved in the Community Picnic.

Ellen Pearson announced that Richard is doing well as the church custodian.

Bob Hunt announced a three stage above ground water line plan to permanently repair the water leak. We have the volunteer services to get the plan in action.

The Budget Committee will meet on Sunday December 19, 2010.

Randy VerHasselt suggested that Peace Lutheran take a break from the Habitat for Humanity Unity Build and not participate in the Unity Build this year.

The Property committee announced that Doug Windemuller is charging us \$70 per snow plowing.

The Worship Committee reminded us that Christmas Eve services are 5:30 PM & 10:00 PM. There will not be a Saturday Worship Service, Christmas Day. There will be a Sunday Service on December 26, 2010.

Education Committee reported that that the Children's Christmas program went well. They will be caroling Sunday December 19, 2010.

Mission reported that they will be taking donations for the Community Garden on Sunday December 19, 2010.

The Council retreat is on Saturday January 15, 2011 at Alpen Rose at 8 AM.

Healthy Body, Peace of Mind is looking for more funding.

Fellowship announced that the game night was not well attended.

Bonnie MacLennan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim Oberstadt 2<sup>nd</sup>. The motion passed unopposed. The meeting closed with Pastor Mark leading the council in the Lord's Prayer at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mark DeLand

### **Fellowship Committee**

Fellowship Committee is offering a cooking class on Saturday, January 22 at 5:00 PM. Menu and details to follow. Sign up on the kiosk by Wednesday, January 19. These events are always full of fun, food and fellowship.

### **Education Committee**

Thank you to everyone who worked on the Children's Christmas Service and all other Education functions in 2010.

### **Calling All Men**

Please join us for the Men's Breakfast at Peace on Saturday, January 8 @ 8 AM. Bring along your appetite, your prayers, some tools, and your sons if you've got 'em.

### **Lutheran Social Services of Michigan**

Anyone helped by the Lutheran Social Services of Michigan in-home services team in West Michigan knows what a dedicated, caring group they are. They serve about 240 people, at MapleCreek in Grand Rapids and across Ionia, Kent, Barry, Newaygo, Montcalm, Mecosta, Mason and Muskegon Counties. A grateful client said, "My caregiver is a ray of sunshine in an otherwise dull day."

Pam Moran worked 10 years in the field and is the office problem solver. "All of us here have the heart and mind of a caregiver. We're willing to do whatever it takes to make sure the client is taken care of. 'Heart' is something you can't teach, and we definitely have it."

Regional Supervisor Pam Van Spyker explained, "Our clients need us. We serve a wide variety of people, from those wanting our services a couple hours a week to those who are fully bed-bound and require 7-days-a-week care. We enable independence as much as possible."

With new home care businesses opening up, Colleen Mahon-Van Doren, West Michigan Regional Manager for In-Home Services, warned, "People must be careful when choosing a company. Lutheran Social Services does a thorough background check, and drug and TB testing, for our caregivers. It means extra effort and cost, but it's important to protect our clients. If you hire a business that doesn't screen its workers, you become vulnerable in your home."

Known informally as "MapleCreek at Home," the West Michigan office is part of the statewide In-Home Services division of Lutheran Social Services of Michigan, founded in 1934. "We are faith-based here," Pam Moran added, "and it really shows in how we treat our clients. One person told us, 'The caring and friendliness of caregivers is what I like most about the services I am receiving.' Our mission is 'serving people as an expression of the love of Christ,' and that alone makes us stand out." Need some extra help? The West Michigan In-Home Services office can be reached at 616-242-0835.

### **Thrivent Winter Choice Voting Event**

Wheat Ridge Ministries has been selected as one of seven organizations to participate in Thrivent Financial for Lutherans' "Winter Thrivent Choice Voting Event!". This means that they will receive a share of the \$1 million that Thrivent Financial distributes to the seven organizations based on a voting process (each organization receives the same percentage of the one million dollars that they receive in votes! Every Thrivent member has the opportunity to vote once ... and voting begins in January. Watch for more details as they become available.

***You Might Be A Lutheran If:***

...you hear something really funny and smile as loud as you can

# January

# 2011

## January Benevolence Camp Michi-Lu-Ca Scholarships

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u> Office Hours Pastor 9-12	<u>Tuesday</u> Office Hours Pastor 9-12	<u>Wednesday</u> Office Hours Pastor 9-12 Business 11-3	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u> Office Hours Pastor 9-12	<u>Saturday</u>
26 9:30 Communion Service	27 6:30 TOPS	28 5:30 Yoga	29 9:30 WELCA	30	31	1
2 9:30 Communion Service 11:00 Introduction to Islam	3 6:30 TOPS	4 5:30 Yoga	5 9:30 WELCA 7:00 Choir	6 7:00 Executive Committees	7	8 8:00 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Yoga
9 9:30 Communion & Healing Service 11:00 Sunday School 11:00 Introduction to Islam	10 3:30 HBPM 6:30 TOPS	11 9:00 Pastor at GGR Conference 5:30 Yoga 7:00 Council	12 9:30 WELCA 3:30 HBPM 5:30 Dinner 6:15 Bible Study 7:00 Choir	13 3:30 HBPM	14 7:00 MAJIC - Ralston Bowles @ Bethlehem Lutheran Church	15 9:00 Council Retreat 10:00 Yoga
16 9:30 Communion Service 11:00 Sunday School 11:00 Introduction to Islam	17 3:30 HBPM 6:30 TOPS 7:00 Committees	18 5:30 Yoga	19 9:30 WELCA 3:30 HBPM 5:30 Dinner 6:15 Faith Stories 7:00 Choir	20 3:30 HBPM	21	22 10:00 Yoga 5:00 Fellowship Cooking Class
23 9:30 Communion Service 11:00 Sunday School 11:00 Introduction to Islam 5:00 Holland Chorale Sacred Concert @ St. Francis de Sales	24 3:30 HBPM 6:30 TOPS	25 5:30 Yoga	26 9:30 WELCA 3:30 HBPM 5:30 Dinner 6:15 Liturgical Art 7:00 Choir	27 3:30 HBPM	28	29 10:00 Yoga
30 9:30 Communion Service w/Fresh Food Offering 11:00 Sunday School 11:00 Introduction to Islam	31 3:30 HBPM 6:30 TOPS	1 5:30 Yoga	2 9:30 WELCA 3:30 HBPM 5:30 Dinner 6:15 Faith in Action 7:00 Choir	3 3:30 HBPM 7:00 Executive Committees	4	5 10:00 Yoga

## Assistants Schedule – January 2011

**Please arrange for substitution if you are unable to assist!**

<b>WORSHIP LEADERS</b>	<b>1-2</b>	<b>1-9</b>	<b>1-16</b>	<b>1-23</b>	<b>1-30</b>	<b>2-6</b>
ASSIST MINISTER	Mark DeLand	Tracy Barnett	Ellen Pearson	Bob Hunt	Jim Oberstadt	Mark DeLand
LECTOR	Stu Fritz	Marsha Bly	Mitch Cordero	Diane Oberlin	Paul Rich	Julie Monetta
COMM ASST	Lois Doan	Marsha Bly	Diane Wollner	Julie Monetta	Ellen Pearson	Pat Bergeron
USHERS	Terry MacLennan & Al Kempainen	Ernie Moore & Marsha Bly	Brian & Julie Olson	Randy VerHaselt & Al Kempainen	Terry MacLennan & Al Kempainen	Ernie Moore & Marsha Bly
GREETERS	Marsha Bly	Bonnie MacLennan	Al & Jan White	Lois Doan	Ernie Moore	Connie Shakley & Diane Oberlin
COMM PREP	Lois Doan	Charlotte Scheerer	Lois Doan	Charlotte Scheerer	Lois Doan	Charlotte Scheerer
CRUCIFER	Ella Rich	Josh Reagle	David Somero	Ben Hutchison	Kristina VerHaselt	Ella Rich
FLOWERS	Tracy Barnett	Marsha Bly	Connie Shakley	Beth Hunt	Bonnie MacLennan	Lois Doan
COUNTERS	Stu Fritz & Yvette Fontaine	Pete Anderson & Mitch Cordero	Mike Fontaine & Bob Hunt	Laura Duckworth & Karl Bly	Stu Fritz & Yvette Fontaine	Pete Anderson & Mitch Cordero
FELLOWSHIP	Donut Sunday	MacLennan	Bly	Haltenhoff	Pearson	Donut Sunday
CHILDREN'S LESSON	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

## Peace Lutheran Church Council and Leaders



### COUNCIL

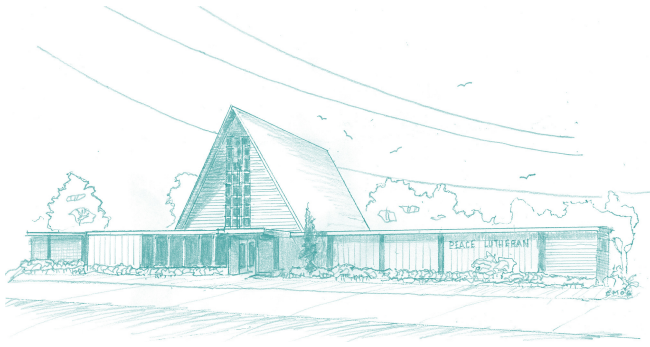
President: **Bob Hunt** 218-0201  
 Vice President: **Dave Barnett** 395-5862  
 Secretary: **Mark DeLand** 399-3551  
 Treasurer: **Laura Duckworth** 994-0331  
**Julie Monetta** 396-6391  
**Ellen Pearson** 738-0771  
**Connie Shakley** 786-0444

### OTHER LEADERS OF PEACE

Evangelism Team:  
**Dawn Anderson** 786-3481  
 Missions Team: **Ellen Pearson** 738-0771  
 Properties Team: **The Bob & Dave Show**

### OTHER LEADERS OF PEACE (CONT'D)

Presiding Minister: **Pr. Mark Rich** 392-4475  
 cell 566-0262  
 Music Ministry: **John Eisenhauer** 796-0066  
 Youth: **Pr. Mark Rich** 392-4475  
**Carol Fritz (HS)** 395-8749  
**Yvette Fontaine (MS)** 399-7864  
 Peace Women ELCA: **Connie Shakley** 786-0444  
 Men's Fellowship: **Pr. Mark Rich** 392-4475  
 Flowers: **Marsha Bly** 842-5594  
 Education Team: **Ann Somero** 748-1793  
 Fellowship Team: **Tracy Barnett** 395-5862  
 Stewardship: **Jim Oberstadt** 738-0120



## **Sunday Worship & Fellowship**

9:30 am

### **Healing Services**

See calendar for schedule. Direct and intercessory prayer requests will be accepted. Talk with Pastor Mark in advance or just come.

### **Introduction to Islam**

11:00 AM each Sunday in January



Peace Lutheran Church ELCA  
389 James Street  
Holland MI 49424

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Email: [peaceelca@triton.net](mailto:peaceelca@triton.net)  
Web: [www.peaceelca.org](http://www.peaceelca.org)