Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17); “For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21).

These two passages are known as sedes doctrinae (seats of doctrine) for the verbal inspiration and inerrancy of Scripture. What they tell us is that Holy Scripture is revealed to us by God Himself, not made up by man. As An Explanation to the Small Catechism puts it, “The Bible is the ‘Holy Scripture’ because God the Holy Spirit gave to His chosen writers the thoughts that they expressed and the words that they wrote (verbal inspiration). Therefore, the Bible is God’s own Word and truth, without error (inerrancy).”

October is a special month for Lutherans, for it was on October 31, 1517 that Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg and sparked the Reformation. As we prepare to celebrate Reformation Day this year, let us be ever mindful of the fact that Holy Scripture is God’s revelation to us. It is His Word to us, not the collection of men’s words about Him.

Luther came to learn this central truth all too well, which is why he was excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church. When confronted with Catholic traditions and teachings that did not originate from Holy Scripture, he refused to accept them. He cried out, “Sola Scriptura!” (Scripture alone!). He was willing to die for the truth that all Christian doctrine must come from God’s Word, and God’s Word alone!

Today, there are hundreds, even thousands, of Christian expressions all claiming to adhere to Scripture alone. Yet, upon closer examination, we can easily see that nearly all of them make the critical mistake of either adding to or taking away from God’s Word. Most of them err on the side of adding to God’s Word by requiring their members to follow lists of man-made rules to remain in good standing. You cannot drink, smoke, dance, attend certain social functions, eat meat on certain days, and so on. Others err on the side of taking away from God’s Word by selecting which parts of the Bible they would like to keep and which parts they would like to delete. Those who have embraced the ordination of women and homosexuality as a legitimate, alternative lifestyle believe they are free to erase God’s strong condemnation against these issues, while keeping other parts of God’s Word which makes them feel comfortable, such as the free salvation that comes through faith in Christ. Against both of these errors, God’s Word makes it vividly clear to us that we are neither free to add our own man-made rules nor to pick and choose which parts of His Word we want to follow. It is God’s Word, not ours!

As Confessional Lutherans, we believe and confess that Holy Scripture is the sole source and norm of Christian doctrine and that our Lutheran Confessions are a correct exposition of Holy Scripture. In the midst of the plethora of errors surrounding us, let us hold firm to Scripture and our Confessions, without compromising or wavering at any point. Let us follow in the footsteps of the Blessed Reformer, Martin Luther, who, when asked to recant before the Emperor and Roman Catholic authorities, courageously said, “Here I stand. I can do no other. So help me God!”

In Jesus’ Holy and Precious Name. Amen.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Messer
New books in our library:

- Guidelines for the Service of Women in Congregations.
- Blessings and Prayers for Men.
- Step By Step.
- From Eternity to Eternity: Evolution is Not a Science. Albert Sippert.
- 30 Years of Grace. Gloria Richert.
- Journey Through the Church Year. Anita Reith Stohs (Thrivent)
- Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace. Video and Book (Thrivent)

Donated by Vern & Mary Jakolat:

- These High Green Hills. Jan Karon.
- A New Song. Jan Karon.
- Out of Canaan. Jan Karon.

We would like to encourage people to use our Church Library more often. We will be encouraging people to read books and share a book review with the congregation via the monthly newsletter. If you have read a book from our library that you enjoyed, or that inspired you, and you would like to share it, please contact Beth Brostrom or Coaline Luplow.

**THIS MONTH’S REVIEW:**

**By Mary Jakolat**

Have you taken a look at our church library? There is quite a variety of books available for our members to check out.

The Mitford Series of fiction stories by Jan Karon is one group of easy-reading and just plain fun stories of miracles and mysteries of life. They take place in a small town in the mountains of Virginia and center on an Episcopalian priest who tells his story of his experiences with all different types of people and situations, both in his parish and with his neighbors and fellow townspeople. “Father Tim has more than he can handle, with a church secretary managing his every move, a wealthy widow pursuing him with hot casseroles, and his cousin moving into the rectory with no intention of leaving,” and on and on. The stories are humorous and down to earth—just plain fun!

Want something included in “The Peace Post” next month? Email Beth or Pastor Messer (addresses on back page) by October 15 with your item. Also, call or email them anytime with your feedback and/or ideas!

**“PLANS FOR PEACE” GATHERINGS**

What a joy it has been for our family to have so many of you over to our home for these gatherings! All in all, there were 58 members of Peace and 3 guests who attended. The input about our congregation which I received from all who attended was invaluable. It was wonderful to hear your thoughts and ideas about how we, as a congregation, can be faithful in our efforts to fulfill our mission here in Alma. I learned much from you, and hopefully, you were able to learn a little about me and the vision I have for the future of Peace. I look forward to working together with you, God’s priests, in the weeks, months, and years to come. May the Holy Spirit richly bless our congregation, allowing us to be a beacon of light in the dead and dying world that surrounds us.

In Christ,

**Pastor Messer**
The star over Bethlehem shone brightly in the sky to mark the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The magi from the East were wise to follow that star, for they believed that the star signified the birth of a new king, and they wanted to find this infant king, bear witness to his birth, and pay him homage. They were wise because what they believed was, in fact, true. The star did signify the birth of a king - the King of kings and Lord of lords. By following that star, the wise magi were led to the Savior of the world!

We, too, have a sign from God that leads to the Savior. It is the Bible, God’s Holy Word, and it has shone brightly throughout the centuries, leading men and women to the revelation of the Savior. What a tremendous blessing it is for us to possess the very revelation of God in Holy Scripture. Unlike the magi, we do not have to travel a great distance over rough terrain to find the King. Instead, the King comes to us in His Word. He comes to us to give us His gifts in the Divine Service, and He comes to us to teach us that which He would have us learn as we study His Word. Let us be wise and take advantage of every opportunity the Lord gives us to learn from Him. Listed below are the opportunities we have at Peace to study God’s Word.

**Sunday School and Bible Class**
- Sunday School is offered every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. for all children from Kindergarten through 12th Grade.
- Bible Class is offered every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. for adults. The title of our current study is *From Genesis to Revelation: An Overview of the Bible*. When we complete this study, we will, by popular demand, begin a study of the book of Revelation and discover *The Truth About the End Times*.

**Youth Confirmation Class**
- Youth Confirmation Class is taught every Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Adult Confirmation/Information Class**
- A new Adult Confirmation/Information Class will begin on **Saturday, October 8**. The class will be from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and will run for 10 weeks. This class is offered for those interested in learning, or brushing up on, what we believe and teach here at Peace. Everyone is welcome to attend. Membership at Peace will be offered to those who complete this class.

**Women in the Word**
- Our *Women in the Word* Bible Study takes place every Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. All women of Peace who are available at that time are encouraged to join us. Female guests are always welcome, too. We are currently engaged in a detailed study of the *Gospel of John*. Please plan on joining us soon.

**Coming Soon . . .**
- **Men’s Bible Breakfast**: This will be a time for the men of Peace to come together on a monthly or bi-monthly basis to enjoy fellowship, food, and to study God’s Word. Arrangements are being made to begin the *Men’s Bible Breakfast* very soon!
- **Table Talk**: This will be a time for members of Peace to get together with Pastor Messer for an informal discussion on whatever topics (as long as they are somehow related to the faith) are brought up. This will probably be offered one evening per month to start. Details will be forthcoming.

“For your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path” (Psalm 119:105)

“Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true” (Acts 17:11)
LADIES & ALTAR GUILD INFO

LADIES GUILD MEETING: The October meeting of the Guild will take place on Monday, October 3 at 7:00 p.m. Tammy Oswald will be the hostess (November - Marlene Wiltshire; December - Cheryl Henry/Carol Durst). All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend our guild meetings; if you are a female member of Peace, you can be a member of the guild. We would sincerely encourage you to participate and be an active member of the guild.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF COLLECTION: We are late this year in advertising this collection. Load day is October 19. Therefore, we need to have all of our donations boxed and ready to take to Lansing by October 19, if at all possible. See page 7 for more info.

COOKIE WALK AND CRAFT SALE: Saturday, December 3, 2005 - 9:00-4:00. If you know of anyone who wishes to have a table, please contact Marlene Wiltshire (463-4101). Plan on baking 20-25 dozen small cookies for the walk. More information will be in the November newsletter. We will also be putting the dates and information on our website—www.peacealma.org.

LADIES GUILD PRAYER CHAIN: The Ladies Guild has a prayer chain in place. If you wish to be included in the prayer chain as a caller, see Marlene Wiltshire. If you wish to add yourself or someone else to the prayers, the chain starts with either Georgia Spindler (466-4352) or Marlene Wiltshire (463-4101).

ALTAR GUILD DUTY: October - Beth Brostrom; November - Tammy Oswald/Marilyn Oswald; December - Carol Zeile.

ALTAR FLOWERS: There is a flower calendar for 2005 posted on the fellowship bulletin board. If you wish to place flowers on the altar some time during the year, fill in your name and/or contact Marilyn Oswald. A bouquet usually lasts about one (1) month and the cost is about $25.

UPCOMING COFFEE HOSTESSES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OCTOBER</th>
<th>NOVEMBER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 - Beth Brostrom</td>
<td>6 - Lois Ramsey</td>
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<td>9 - Tammy Oswald</td>
<td>13 - Cheryl Kuehnlein</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 - YOUTH GROUP</td>
<td>20 - Trina Palmer</td>
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<td>23 - Cheryl Henry</td>
<td>27 - Carol Durst</td>
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<td>30 - Helen Meyers</td>
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*** IMPORTANT ***

QUARTERLY VOTERS’ ASSEMBLY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2005

11:00 A.M.

All voting members of Peace are strongly encouraged to attend this important meeting!
September 23, 2005

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is again gearing up for the collection of items for Lutheran World Relief, and has invited our congregation to participate in this mission outreach. This is an annual event held in October, and the Ladies Guild at Peace Lutheran Church looks forward to being part of this exciting venture. October will be here before we know it. Hopefully, this letter will allow you to start thinking about contributions you could make.

Items required this year by Lutheran World Relief include quilts, school kits, sewing kits, health kits, soap, layettes, and certain kinds of used clothing. See the detailed information on page 6.

Money donations are welcome. Please make your check payable to Lutheran World Relief. Checks will be hand delivered with the packages.

Please bring your items to church with you no later than Sunday, October 9, 2005. There will be a box in the Fellowship Hall where you may place your donations. This will allow time to package and deliver the items to the proper location for boxcar loading.

This collective ministry among God’s people reaches far beyond our local borders. Your work is not in vain and encompasses the heartbeat of the Mission Jesus has commissioned us to do in His Name.

God’s blessings to each of you in your efforts to spread His love in a tangible way to a world that is in need!

Yours in Christ,

Carol Zeile
Ladies Guild of Peace Lutheran Church

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**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF COLLECTION**

**PAROCHIAL REPORT**
*(September 1 - 23)*

Membership at Peace
- Baptized - 166
- Confirmed - 129

No Official Acts; No Membership gains or losses

Financial Report
- YTD Receipts (1/1/05 - 9/23/05): $62,293.77
- Budgeted YTD (1/1/05 - 9/23/05): $66,424.00
**Quilts**

Quilts are easy to make. Place a piece of fabric measuring 64”X84” right side down on the table, place a filler measuring 60”X80” on top, then place another piece of fabric, also measuring 60”X80” on top of the filler. Tie the three layers together, using crochet or similar cord (18-24 ties depending on the type of fabric or the quilt’s design). Bring the edges of the 64”X84” piece over the top, pin, and machine stitch the edge, using a zigzag stitch if possible.

**Tips**

- Quilt tops and bottoms can be made from whole pieces of fabric, or in any type of patchwork pattern that uses pieces similar than the finished size.
- Quilt tops do not need to be made of squares. Large pieces of fabric do not need to be cut up. If squares are preferred, twelve 22” squares make a 64”X84” piece for a beautiful quilt.
- Use crochet or similar cord for tying. It is easier to thread and pull through than yarn and also is more durable.
- Please do not decorate quilts with religious symbols as material aid is shipped to people based on need, regardless of religious creed. Secondly, as the US government provides grants to help cover the costs of ocean freight, LWR must abide by regulations that prohibit the use of religious symbols.

**School Kits**

Pads or notebooks of ruled paper approximately 8 ½” X 11” containing 150-200 sheets of paper, one blunt scissors, one 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other, one pencil sharpener, six new pencils with erasers, one eraser approx. 2 ½” long, 12 sheets of construction paper in assorted colors, one box of 8, 16, or 24 crayons.

- One cloth bag approx. 12”X14” with cloth handles

Pack items in the bag, fold the handles over, and secure with two large rubber bands or tie with yarn.

**Sewing Kits**

Three yards of 44” or 45” cotton or a cotton blend fabric (four yards if 36”), one package of needles for hand sewing, one spool of matching thread, one card of buttons.

- Wrap sewing notions inside fabric and tie with string, yarn, or strip of fabric.

**Health Kits**

One hand towel, one washcloth, one bath-size bar of soap (any brand), one toothbrush, one tube of toothpaste (5 to 7 oz.), one comb (wide tooth preferred), one nail file, or nail clippers with file attached, six Band-Aids, preferably ½” to ¾”

- Wrap items in the towel and tie securely with ribbons or yarn.

**Soap**

- Pack the soap (new bars in the wrapper) in plastic-lined boxes. Pack separately from other material aid donations.

**Layettes**

Two shirts, two gowns or sleepers, four cloth diapers, one sweater, two washcloths, one bath-size bar of soap, two diaper pins.

- Wrap the items in one of the receiving blankets and secure with diaper pins.

**Used Clothing**

LWR receives requests for clothing each year for people in need. You may wish to send new or good used clothing.

- Light and medium weight clothing for men, children, and infants.
- Sweaters and sweatshirts of all kinds for men, women, and children.

DO NOT SEND: Women’s clothing, except for sweaters; heavy winter clothing; gloves; hats; shoes; purses; socks; underwear; pill bottles; stamps; books; pamphlets; household goods; rolled bandages.

Pack the items in sturdy boxes of 40 lbs or less.

Close and seal the boxes with packing tape, not string.

Please label the boxes “LWR” (example: LWR - Soap)
The Peace Youth Group held its first meeting of the year on Sunday, September 11. Congratulations to Jared Kuehnlein, who was elected PYG President, and Alex Henry, who was elected PYG Secretary. It was reported that PYG’s summer fundraising totaled $54.13, and that the balance of the PYG savings account stands at $1224.66; checking at $374.62. It was decided that the PYG will attend the “Youthquake” in Lansing in January 2006, and that we will discuss fundraising ideas for that event at our October meeting. It was also decided that we will hold our monthly meetings on the 2nd Sunday of each month after Sunday School/Bible Class. So, our NEXT PYG MEETING is on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9 at NOON. Please plan on joining us for this important meeting as we discuss ideas for future PYG events!

NEWS FLASH: UPCOMING EVENT!
“PYG REFORMATION CELEBRATION”
- When: Friday, October 28
- Time: 6:00 p.m - 10:00 p.m.
- What: The “PYG Reformation Celebration” will be a fun-filled evening which will include a short worship service, followed by a brief study of the key points of Martin Luther and the Reformation. We will then watch the movie Luther and have a discussion about it afterwards. Pizza, popcorn, and beverages will be provided.
- Who: All members of the PYG are encouraged to attend, and to invite their friends to attend, this fun and exciting event! See you there!

INTRODUCING SECRET PALS
Calling all ladies of Peace! Do you like to receive notes and small gifts? Do you like to surprise others and make them feel good by giving them notes and small gifts? If so, then our new Ladies of Peace Secret Pals Program is for you! Here’s how it works: You will fill out a “Secret Pal Information Sheet” (these will be available on the table in the Fellowship Hall now through October 20). This will help your secret pal get to know you a little bit. When you have your information sheet filled out, you will fold it and then deposit it in the “Secret Pals Box” which will also be located on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Then, on October 23, we will have a short meeting immediately following the Voters’ Assembly, where you will receive the name of your secret pal for the year. The program will begin in November and run through June of 2006. Throughout that period, you will send your secret pal notes, birthday cards, small gifts for different occasions, etc., and always keep her in your prayers. It will be a fun way for you to get to know and surprise your secret pal without her knowing who you are. The program will end with a luncheon in June of 2006, when we will finally reveal ourselves to our secret pals.

A Few Things to Note About Secret Pals:
- Please know that the things you give to your secret pal do not have to be expensive. Notes that your thinking of her and praying for her, birthday cards and cards for other occasions, and thoughtful, but inexpensive gifts are the kinds of things you can give to your secret pal throughout the year. You can find all kinds of cute things at the dollar store!
- Please keep your secret pal a SECRET! It is best if you do not tell anyone who your secret pal is. The only person in the congregation who will know who all the secret pals are is Pastor Messer. He will randomly draw and match the names prior to the meeting on October 23, and then present you with the name and information of your secret pal in a sealed envelope at that meeting (if you cannot make the meeting, Pastor will give you your secret pal information at another time). If we all keep it a secret, it will make the luncheon in June more special and exciting.
- Please fill out and turn in your “Secret Pal Information Sheet” by October 20. Pastor Messer will draw and match the names on October 22, so that he can have them available for us at the meeting.

I hope that many ladies of Peace will join us in this fun and exciting program! If you have any questions, please see me or Pastor Messer. Thanks,
Lisa Messer
Q: Who are the “144,000” in Revelation 7?

A: In order to understand the 144,000 in Revelation 7, you must first understand the literary genre of the book of Revelation. It belongs to the genre of apocalyptic literature. This genre of literature employs figurative language and symbolism as a means to convey its message. For example, in Rev. 5:6, we are introduced to a Lamb who looks as if it had been slain standing in the center of the throne, with seven horns and seven eyes. This is not to be taken literally, but is a description of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. He still bears the marks of His torture and crucifixion in His body, which is why He looks as if He had been slain. He is described as having seven horns because seven is the symbolic number for perfection and a horn is symbolic for power—thus, He is All-Powerful. He is described as having seven eyes because the eye is symbolic for knowledge—thus He is All-Knowing. So, what we have is a picture of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the All-Powerful, All-Knowing, Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity. To interpret this image literally would be to totally misunderstand the meaning.

So, keeping in mind that we are dealing with apocalyptic literature, the first thing we can rule out about the 144,000 of Revelation 7 is that this is a literal number. It is not literal, but symbolic. But, what does it symbolize, that is the question? In order to answer that question, we must allow Scripture to interpret Scripture. When we do, we find out that throughout the Bible, the number 10 is symbolic for completion. When it is cubed to make 1000, it symbolizes ultimate completion. We also find out that 12 is used as a number for God’s people (there were 12 Tribes in the OT; 12 Disciples in the NT). When we put all of this together, the meaning of the 144,000 becomes perfectly clear—it symbolizes the complete number of believers from the beginning of God’s creation until the Last Day when Christ returns: 12 (all believers before Christ) x 12 (all believers after Christ) x 1000 (ultimate completion) = All believers of all time.

Those who interpret the 144,000 literally completely misunderstand the meaning of this vision, which leads them to put forth some really outrageous, and false, interpretations.

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Messer

Happy Birthday to:
1 - Marlene Wiltshire
4 - Victoria Gamez
- Dick Kohler
10 - Jeff Hedrick
12 - Brent Myers
13 - Jordan Henry
15 - Lucille Slick

Happy Anniversary to:
3 - Mike & Andrea Luplow

If we ever miss your birthday or anniversary, please let us know so that we can update our records.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 27</td>
<td>Women in the Word</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 28</td>
<td>WW</td>
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<td>September 29</td>
<td>WW</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 29</td>
<td>Youth Confirmation Class</td>
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<td>September 30</td>
<td>Divine Service</td>
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<td>September 30</td>
<td>Fellowship</td>
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<td>September 30</td>
<td>Sunday School/BC</td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
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<td>October 1</td>
<td>Ladies Guild Hostess: T. Oswald</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
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<td>October 4</td>
<td>Women in the Word</td>
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<td>October 10</td>
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<td>October 11</td>
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<td>October 23</td>
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<td>November 1</td>
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Peace Lutheran Church
325 E. Warwick Drive
Alma, MI 48801
(989) 463-5754
www.peacealma.org

Pastor: Rev. Thomas C. Messer
### SERVING IN OCTOBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OCTOBER</th>
<th>ACOLYTES</th>
<th>ORGANIST</th>
<th>ELDER</th>
<th>USHERS</th>
<th>GREETERS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2—9:30 am</td>
<td>Alex Henry</td>
<td>Mary Jakolat</td>
<td>Bill Hendrick</td>
<td>Jon Greening</td>
<td>Marlene Wiltshire / Carol Durst</td>
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<td>C.J. Oswald</td>
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<td>Vern Jakolat</td>
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<tr>
<td>9—9:30 am</td>
<td>Jordan Henry</td>
<td>Beth Brostrom</td>
<td>Curt Oswald</td>
<td>Leland Oswald</td>
<td>Jon &amp; Sharyn Greening</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sarah Messer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Burt Henry</td>
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<tr>
<td>16—9:30 am</td>
<td>Jessica Oswald</td>
<td>Mary Jakolat</td>
<td>Terry Luplow</td>
<td>Larry Elliott</td>
<td>Mike &amp; Gretchen Harrison</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lauren Penzien</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Jon Penzien</td>
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<tr>
<td>23—9:30 am</td>
<td>Kim Penzien</td>
<td>Beth Brostrom</td>
<td>Dave Zeile</td>
<td>Don Reithel</td>
<td>Burt &amp; Cheryl Henry</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kelsey Gensler</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Richard Palmer</td>
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<tr>
<td>30—9:30 am</td>
<td>Samantha Messer</td>
<td>Mary Jakolat</td>
<td>Bill Hendrick</td>
<td>Bill Brostrom</td>
<td>LeRoy &amp; Maxine Isaksson</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Melanie Penzien</td>
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<td></td>
<td>James Sager</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOVEMBER</td>
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<tr>
<td>6—9:30 am</td>
<td>Jordan Henry</td>
<td>Beth Brostrom</td>
<td>Curt Oswald</td>
<td>Vern Jakolat</td>
<td>Jeff &amp; Cheryl Kuehnlein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jessica Oswald</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Miguel Ortiz</td>
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</table>

“Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men” (Eph. 6:7)