

# PEACE TALKS

**Peace Lutheran Church – LCMS**

**Finlayson, Minnesota**

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People of God,

“What is allowed?” It is a question that gets asked in the Church so often. They want to know if the thing they want to do in the moment would go against any clear Scriptures. This question is most often well-intended as a question asked because one does not want to do something that God has clearly spoken against. But is this the right question?

I would suggest that this question being asked and answered has not always led to good results. For there are many things that God does not specifically condemn in the Scriptures which also may not be the best thing to do in any one moment or time. Instead of asking “What is allowed,” I would suggest we should ask, “What is best?” Of course, if something is not allowed by God, it would not be considered at all. But once we get into the realm of everything that is allowable, we should not assume that everything that is allowable is always best. We should seek to do what is best based on the beliefs that God has worked in us through His Spirit and in the Scriptures.

We know that there are a lot of changes going on in our society at large. It is easy to list some of those changes. But one that might not come immediately to mind is in the practice regarding what Christians do with loved ones when they die. In my short time in the ministry, this might be the most noticeable change in practice among the people I have served. I am not writing this article to address everything to think about in regards to this practice. Rather, I want to use this basic topic to help explain why “What is best?” is a better question than “What is allowed?”

It is certainly true that throughout time and in different cultures, Christians have had different practices in regards to caring for the body of one who has died has changed. It seems that in Jesus’ day the body was laid on a platform and allowed to decay over time. Later, the family would go back in and gather the bones and place them into a box, often a box that would be stored with all of the other family member’s bones. There certainly have been times in our own American culture where burial was quite simple. The body was simply wrapped and placed into the grave. In more recent times, we have become quite familiar with the practices of embalming, casketing, vaulting, and burial. In most recent times, the practice of cremation has become commonplace.

Scripturally, all of these things are allowed. But are they all best? Which ones best serve us to recognize our mortality at the time of death, to give a firm reminder to ourselves and a confession to others that we believe that the body will be raised up on the last day, and to glorify our Lord Jesus throughout the whole process? Do we end the discussion at “What is allowed?” or do we continue it to ask, “What is best?”

Again, we might say the same about what happens at the actual funeral service? Preparing for funerals used to be mostly a gathering of a few hymns and Scripture readings, not to mention a few memories, that might be used in putting together the funeral service. The service itself was essentially the same for every person that died. But now the most common question asked is what is allowed? Is it allowed to play a song from the radio that might be meaningful in some way to someone? Is allowed to have someone in some context during the funeral celebrations speak a few words about the one that has died in Christ? Is it allowed to forgo placing the pall, that white garment that reminds us that the baptized person is wrapped up in Christ righteousness, upon the casket?

Scripturally speaking, these things are allowable. We have no specific word against them. But are they best? Does a song from the radio truly communicate our hope in the face of death better than the hymns that are in our hymnal which of been crafted to do exactly that? Does offering an open microphone to someone that might say anything offer the proper safeguard against false teaching especially when we are gathered in the Lord’s house? Does forgoing the pall suggest that whatever else is draped over the casket is more important than one’s baptism into Christ and the eternal life that comes from it?

Certainly in this brief time, I do not mean to answer all these questions. I am simply hoping this will get you thinking about everything we do in the Church in a little different way, that you would not just assume that everything allowable is best. I hope to encourage you to answer the question “What is best?” by pondering our beliefs, consulting with me as your pastor, and by learning about the traditions of the Church which have sought throughout the ages to aid us in knowing what is best.

In Christ, Pastor Philip Hoppe

# HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

## PALM SUNDAY – April 14

Children's Palm Processional



## MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 18

Communion Service (with Bruno) at 7:00

## MEMORIAL SERVICE OF OUR

LORD'S DEATH

## GOOD FRIDAY – April 19

Worship Service at 7:00

## HOLY SATURDAY – April 20

Youth & parents -Easter Breakfast Set-up – tbd



## EASTER SUNDAY – April 21

-SONrise Service 7 a.m. with Holy Communion  
-Easter Breakfast following the service served by our Youth  
-NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

**HE IS RISEN!  
HE IS RISEN INDEED!**



We will once again purchase Easter lilies to beautify our church on Easter morning. Lilies may

be given as a Thank Offering or in Memory of a loved one. We will order them through Cheri's Flower Basket in Sandstone at a cost of \$10.00 per plant. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex and you may pay LuAnn or place your check in the offering plate earmarked "LILY." (If you are receiving your Newsletter through the mail, please call LuAnn at 233-7361 or Marge at 320-216-7139 if you would like a lily.

# THANK YOU

\*\*Thank you to all those who donated baked goods and supported the St. Urho's Day Bake Sale.

\*\*Thank you to those who donated 264# of food items during our "Pack the Pew" week, and \$275.36 during our "Noisy Change" collection. We had \$85.36 in coin, \$90 in currency, and \$150 in checks. Thanks again to everyone who participated and gave generously!

Even though the month of March is set aside as Minnesota Food Share Month, the problem of hunger does not take a break. Please continue to bring your food and/or cash donations to the church or directly to the Food Shelf in Sandstone.

\*\* Thank You to Ed Barnick, Larry Alm, Lance Alm and Dave Ziegler (if there are others I'm not aware of, please let me know) for keeping the church parking lot cleared of snow this winter, and to those who did snow shoveling & snow blowing. We appreciate the time you have given to the Lord's church! Hopefully we are DONE for the year! (Next up - LAWN MOWING!)

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## \*\*QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING\*



**Now  
Hear  
This!**

Peace will hold their Quarterly Voter's meeting on Sunday, **April 28<sup>th</sup>** at 2:00 pm. All voters please note and plan to be in attendance as we do the Lord's work together!

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**--Stronger than the dark, the light,  
Stronger than the wrong, the right.  
Faith and hope triumphant say,  
Christ will rise on Easter day!**



### ***USHERS***

**Sunday, April 7 & \*Wed. 10 – Bill Tvedt, H.U., Wayne Fiero, Leon & Lucas Payne**

Palm Sunday, April 14 & \*Thurs. 18 – Tim Koski, H.U., Dwight Hahn, Jacob Thurber, Allen Bennett

**\*Good Friday April 19 & Easter Sunday, April 21 (7 am)-** Ron Volk, H.U., Ed Barnick, Rich Mensing, Gideon Hoppe

Sunday, April 28 – LeRoy Thurn, H.U., Bruce Pogatchnik, Josh Alleman, Ethan Alleman

## **ELDERS ASSISTING WITH HOLY COMMUNION**

**Sunday, April 7 – John Pitts & Roland Henkel**

\*Maundy Thursday, April 18 – Don Weiss & Ron Volk

\*Easter Sunday, April 21 - Dwight Hahn & Ron Osladil

**APRIL ALTAR GUILD** - Becki Bridenstine & Donnelle Bridenstine



DATE

Sunday, March 31.....	John Colsrud.....	Bernice Bergseth & Elaine Steeg
*Wed. April 3 (7 pm).....	Eric Fredrickson	
Sunday, April 7 .....	Vanessa Meier .....	Glen & Dee Hemphill
*Wed. April 10(7 pm).....	Ella Hoppe	
Palm Sunday, April 14.....	Kenny (A) John (C) .....	Glen & Dee Hemphill
*Thurs. April 18 (7 pm).....	Eric Fredrickson	
*Friday, April 19 (7 pm).....	Vanessa Meier	
*Easter Sunday, April 21 (7 am).....	Ella Hoppe (A) Kenny (C).....	Anna Maria & Don Weiss
Sunday, April 28 .....	John Colsrud .....	Anna Maria & Don Weiss

## **WOMEN OF PEACE**

## **(Summary)**

The Women of Peace met on Wednesday, February 27, 2019, with 12 members present. Pastor Hoppe led us in our Bible study, "Shh! Peace. Be Still," taken from the LWML Quarterly.

Vice-President Jan Hahn opened our business meeting by all joining in the LWML Pledge. Mites & donations were collected; correspondence was shared; Secretary's report was read; Treasurer's balance \$4,850.68 which includes \$801.55 in quilting funds.

Shrove Tuesday service (March 5<sup>th</sup>) @ St. John's, Kroschel; St. Urho's Day Bake Sale, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at Community Center 8-noon; LWML Regional Rally, May 4<sup>th</sup> in Esko. Each congregation in the Kettle River Zone is asked to prepare two dinner salads for the Rally.

Vickie Benson was approved as a new member of WOP.

Soup Suppers will be held before Lenten services. Donations will be given to Treehouse Ministry in Sandstone.

Bev M. & Carla L. audited the Zone treasurer's books and were found to be in order.

Carla gave a closing devotion, "Author of Peace." Closed with the Lord's Prayer & table prayer.

Jaimee was hostess. March Hostess will be Barbara.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Elaine Steeg, Secretary

The Women of Peace met on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, with 8members present. Pastor Hoppe led us in our Bible study. "Lord, I Can't Handel This!" taken from the LWML Quarterly.

Vice-President Jan Hahn opened our business meeting by all joining in the LWML Pledge. Mites & donations were collected; correspondence was shared; Secretary's report was read; Treasurer's balance \$4,990.64 which includes \$586.99 in quilting Funds.

St. Urho's Day is Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>; the LWML Regional Rally will be May 4<sup>th</sup> in Esko. Bernice & Barbara volunteered to make salads. Four will be attending.

(cont. →)



We offer our sympathy to Albert & Carlene Boettcher following the death of their daughter, Carol Downing, who recently lost her battle with cancer.  
\*\*The Boettchers have donated \$100 to our Memorial Fund in Carol's memory. Our thanks!

The Lord called home another one of His dear children and one of our members - Rose Mary Christopherson - who passed away on March 1<sup>st</sup> at the age of 86. Rose Mary was very active here at Peace, being a member of our "Women of Peace," and heading up our Funeral kitchen committee. She loved caring for people through her cooking skills, until she moved to an assisted living facility in Champlin, MN 12 years ago. Dementia took over and she finally had to be taken care of herself. We offer our sympathy to her family and her family here at Peace - nieces Barb Morgan and Nancy Pogatchnik and their families.

*"Lord, now let your servant(s) depart in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation." Luke 2:29,30*



### NEW SOCKS AND UNDIES COLLECTION FOR ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN



All congregations in the MN North District are invited to collect NEW socks and underwear for Orphan Grain Train (men's, women's & especially for children age 3 thru grade 6). Pastor will take these donations to the MN North District Pastoral

Conference in Brainerd on May 13<sup>th</sup>. These items will be sent to help meet the needs of children in Haiti, the Texas missions, and other places where new items are allowed. Mexican children are not allowed to go to school without socks and shoes.

Please bring these to the church and place them in the box provided by Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup> (I will wait til after Easter to put the box out). Thank You!



### YOUTH NEWS

The February Circuit Youth Gathering went well! We had a lot of fun creating snowflake and seeing whose snowflake would throw the farthest! We had 6 youth and 5 adult attend. The event next month on April 26<sup>th</sup> will be a little different than the usual one. We will be talking about vocation and how we can serve God in the church and in our everyday lives.

~ LeAnn Gregoire  
Circuit Youth/Lay Worker

-- The Peace Youth Group is looking for help with their Easter Breakfast. Help will be needed on Saturday for set-up and prep work. On Sunday, help will be needed to get things ready, and to help serve and clean up. Please talk to Pastor or Roland Henkel, or sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Thank you!

### JELLY BEAN PRAYER

**RED** is for the blood He gave  
**GREEN** is for the grass He made  
**YELLOW** is for the sun so bright.  
**ORANGE** is for the edge of night.  
**BLUE** is for the sins we made.  
**WHITE** is for the grace He gave.  
**PURPLE** is for His hour of sorrow  
**PINK** is for our new tomorrow.

# The Resume of Jesus Christ

Address: Ephesians 1:20

Phone: Romans 10:13

Website: The Bible

Keywords: Christ, Lord, Savior, Jesus, Messiah

## Objective:

My name is Jesus - The Christ. Many call me Lord! I've sent you my resume because I'm seeking the top management position in your life. Please consider my accomplishments as set forth in my resume.

## Qualifications:

I founded the earth and established the heavens (Proverbs 3:19).

I formed man from the dust of the ground (Genesis 2:7).

I breathed into man the breath of life (Genesis 2:7).

I redeemed man from the curse of the law (Galatians 3:13).

The blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant comes upon your life through me (Gal. 3:4)

## Occupational Background

I've only had one employer (Luke 2:49).

I've never been tardy, absent, disobedient, slothful or disrespectful.

My employer has nothing but rave reviews for me (Matthew 3:15-17).

## Skills Work Experiences

Some of my skills and work experiences include: Empowering the poor to be poor no more, healing the brokenhearted, setting the captives free, healing the sick, restoring sight to the blind and setting at liberty them that are bruised (Luke 4:18).

I am a Wonderful Counselor (Isaiah 9:6). People who listen to me shall dwell safely and shall not fear evil (Proverbs 1:33).

Most importantly, I have the authority, ability and power to cleanse you of your sins (1 John 1:7-9).

## Educational Background

I encompass the entire breadth and length of knowledge, wisdom and understanding (Proverbs 2:6).

In me are hid all of the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Colossians 2:3).

My Word is so powerful; it has been described as being a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path (Psalms 119:105).

I can even tell you all of the secrets of your heart (Psalms 44:21).

## Major Accomplishments

I was an active participant in the greatest Summit Meeting of all times (Genesis 1:26).

I laid down my life so that you may live (11 Corinthians 5:15).

I defeated the arch enemy of God and mankind and made a show of them openly (Colossians 2:15).

I've miraculously fed the poor, healed the sick and raised the dead!

There are many more major accomplishments, too many to mention. You can read them on my website, which is located at wwwdot - the BIBLE. You don't need an Internet connection or computer to access my website.

## References

Believers and followers worldwide will testify to my divine healings, salvation, deliverance, miracles, restoration and supernatural guidance.

## In Summation

Now that you've read my resume, I'm confident that I'm the only candidate uniquely qualified to fill this vital position in your heart. In summation, I will properly direct your paths, (Proverbs 3:5-6), lead you into everlasting life (John 6:47). When can I start? Time is of the essence (Hebrews 3:15).

# April 2019