

PEACE TALKS

Peace Lutheran Church – LCMS

Finlayson, Minnesota

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APRIL 2020

Brother and Sisters in Christ-

They say that absence makes the heart grow fonder. And in this case, I hope it is true. As I write this, both congregations are in the midst of a temporary halt in gathering together according to our normal customs. Some parts of our life together we have been able to continue in other ways. Perhaps we even have learned a few new things that might be helpful to us as we go forward past this particular time.

The Word is still being proclaimed, through the Internet and other means. And it seems that we are doing a better job of checking in on one another to make sure we are loving one another as best we can.

But we are absent from two very critical things. And I pray our hearts grow fonder in each regard. What are these two things?

The first is each other. And here is where that old proverb may be most true. For when we are regularly together, it can become easy at times to get frustrated with one another. When we think about coming together normally, we might think of that person that we are going to struggle to interact with as we know we should. We can be like siblings who have spent one too many hours in the car together on a long road trip.

But I pray this time will make us much more appreciative of the body of Christ as it is manifested in our local congregations. I pray that when we come back together, we will be truly happy to see each other. I hope we will better understand why it is that God's normal instruction is to have His people gather physically in one location together. I suspect that we will treasure all the more the opportunity to encourage and comfort and exhort.

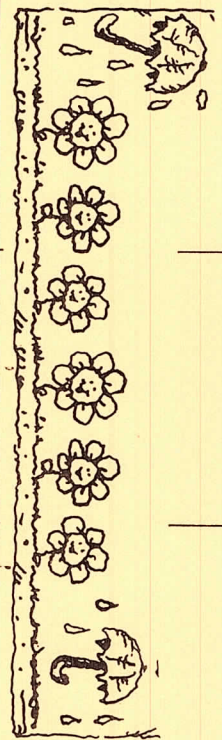
The other thing we are absent from right now is our Lord's Table. When we do not get together physically, this precious meal is kept from us for a time. And I pray that our hearts are growing fonder for it as well. The Lord's Supper can indeed be a thing that we take for granted. We can think it will always be there in another week. But when it is taken away, we should get a little antsy.

For if it is troublesome to be isolated from others, it is particularly troubling to be isolated from Jesus in this way. While our Lord is with us everywhere, He is particularly and wondrously present for us in this meal. It is the only place He promises to be physically present, in His body and blood, with us. Even though we might be relying on phones and the internet to stay connected to others right now, we long to be back physically present with them as soon as we can. The same should be true for us when we think of our relationship to Jesus. We are still connected to Jesus through our baptism, the Word, and prayer, but we should long to be back physically with Jesus at His altar. This absence should make us understand all the better the central part this meal plays in our life with Christ.

May this absence make our hearts grow fonder for one another and for the meal in which the Lord makes Himself physically present for us and our salvation.

In Christ,
Pastor Philip Hoppe

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Peace Lenten Devotional (Online Services Only)	2	3 Pastor's day off	4
5 PALM SUNDAY (Online Services Only)	6	7	8	9 MAUNDY THURSDAY (Online Services Only)	10 GOOD FRIDAY (Online Services Only)	11
12 EASTER SUNDAY Peace SONrise Communion 7:00 am Peace breakfast 8:00 am Bruno Easter Festival Communion 9:30 am	13 Quilting 9-12	14 Peace Bible Studies 3:00 & 6:30	15 "Women of Peace" 1:00 Confirmation 3:30	16 Pastor office hours in Bruno 3-5 pm Confirmation 5:00 Bruno Bible Study 6:30	17 Pastor's day off	18 "Men of Peace" 9:00-noon
19 Bible Study 8 am Peace Comm. 9:00 SS & BC 10:15 Bruno Comm. 11:00 Bruno Qrtly Voters' meeting @ noon Peace Voters' meeting @ 2:00 pm	20 Quilting 9-12	21 Peace Bible Studies 3:00 & 6:30	22 **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** Confirmation 3:30	23 Pastor office hours in Bruno 3-5 pm Confirmation 5:00 Bruno Bible Study 6:30	24 Pastor's day off	25
26 Bible Study 8 am Peace Matins 9:00 SS & BC 10:15 Bruno Matins 11:00	27 Quilting 9-12	28 Peace Bible Studies 3:00 & 6:30	29 Confirmation 3:30 Young Families Group 6:00	30 LWML Spring Rally at Kroschel Blood Drive (12pm-6pm) Pastor office hours in Bruno 3-5 pm Confirmation 5:00 Bruno Bible Study 6:30	