

PEACE TALKS

*Peace Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Finlayson, Minnesota*

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AUGUST 2020

Those in Jesus Christ-

Early on in my ministry, one of my fellow pastors told the story about a conversation that he had with a young parishioner of his who had returned from college. At the dinner table, she all of a sudden asked why he had never told her directly that intimacy before marriage was sinful. The pastor was floored. Having covered all the 10 Commandments in confirmation, he was sure he had in a way. But he had never said it plainly.

And so in the same vein I want to say something I am not sure everyone knows because maybe we don't say it a lot very plainly. Here it is: Christians are only to marry Christians. I say this now in particular because this thought did not come to my mind in relation to any person or relationship I know. I just happened to be studying for a Bible Study and came across the account of Samson telling his parents to go arrange for a marriage to a Philistine gal that pleased his eye. You could and should look up the story in Judges 14.

His parents responded by asking if there was really no one among all the women of Israel that he could wed instead of going and marrying someone among the uncircumcised Philistines. The point of course was not that the actual act of physical circumcision alone was so important. This was not an ethnic bias against the Philistines. It was simply that they knew that Samson should be looking among his tribe to find a bride. Why? Because Samson should marry one who was a believer in the one true God.

That is why Christians are only to marry Christians as well. It is not because unbelievers are unattractive to the eyes or lacking skills and abilities or even that they are not capable of being a good spouse in many ways. But the Christian is only to bind themselves in life tightly to those who share their faith.

2 Corinthians 6:14 tells God's people to not yoke themselves together with unbelievers. Being married is indeed one of the most profound ways in which one yokes themselves together to another. In fact, I once saw a wedding involving a woman of Philippine origin where, following a tradition in her country, they actually put a yoke made of rope around the husband and the wife's neck during the ceremony to make this point.

Therefore, if you are single and you are dating someone or are interested in someone that is not a Christian, you should stop now before you get more attached. If you have children, you should be instructing them in this truth either preemptively before they start dating or right away when they mention their interest in someone that does not share our faith. You should do this because it is right to be sure. But you should also do it because a godly spouse is a great gift you should try to help your child receive.

I know there are some of you that are thinking, "But pastor I know a situation in which someone married a non-Christian and it turned out fine. In fact, that person became a Christian." Well, we are told that God also used Samson's marriage for good, in this case to punish the pagan Philistines that had oppressed his people for 40 years, but that does not mean that Samson's marriage itself was good. God uses even our mistakes for his good. But that does not free us to test him by continuing in disobedience or by thinking lightly of the gifts he wants to give.

If Jesus is your life, then you will only want to share your life with one for whom Jesus is also their life. And so, if you didn't ever hear it said that plainly, let me say it now. Christians are only to marry Christians.

In Christ, Pastor Philip Hoppe



- Our heavenly Father called home two of his dear children from our congregation in the last month.

Thor Moen was called home on July 9th at the age of 86 years. Thor's funeral was held here on Thursday, July 16th. Thor graduated from Hinckley High School, and soon after was drafted into the Navy where he was stationed aboard the aircraft carrier USS Lexington. Thor became a master plumber and owned Hinckley Plumbing and Heating; was a volunteer for the Hinckley Fire Dept.; and was involved in other civic organizations. His hobbies included model railroading, hunting, fishing, and playing baseball for the Hinckley Knights town team. His favorite things to do were camping with his family and traveling.

Thor leaves to mourn his family here at Peace - his wife of 60 years, Barbara; daughter & son-in-law, Rachael & Mark Henkel, and grandsons Chris & David Henkel.

- Randy Bridenstine was called to his eternal reward on Tuesday, July 14th at the age of 70 years. Randy graduated from Finlayson High School in 1968 and in December of that year, married his love, Becki. Randy started his construction career with his father-in-law, Victor Carlson, then began his own business, B&B Construction with high school friend, Chuck Bonnin. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and Twins baseball, and being with his family. Family members from Peace who mourn his passing are his wife, Becki; son & daughter-in-law, Mark & Donnelle Bridenstine, and grandsons, Nick & Adam Bridenstine. Randy's funeral was held here on Saturday, July 18th.

Both of these men were God's own children who were baptized, attended worship services to hear God's faith-strengthening

words, and fed the Lord's Supper to keep them "strong unto salvation". Both of them also have in common that they are now reunited with their children - Mitchell Moen and Lori Bridenstine.

After three months, we were finally able to have a funeral service for Cindy Guss and say our final "Good-byes." Cindy passed away on April 8th with her service being held here on Wed., July 15th.

We pray that God would grant peace to all who mourn the loss of their loved ones.

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation.

Luke 2:29,30

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bev Mensing and Mary Nelson and all the ladies who helped at the three funerals we had in that week. With all the restrictions at this time, all lunches were held outside, making things more than a bit inconvenient. Also thanks to several of the guys who helped set up tents, tables and chairs and in any other capacity. You all did a great job and the lunches were fantastic!

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YOU'RE INVITED!!

Members of both congregations are invited to a Graduation celebration for Gideon Hoppe on Sunday, August 16th, from 5-7 here at the church - outside!

CONGRATULATIONS!!



Retirement Congratulations go to Ed Barnick who has retired from the Casino after 28 years there, using his God-given skills as a maintenance/handy man. His last day was Monday, July 20th. He'll now have more time to spend on his motorcycle in the summer and snowmobile in the winter. We all wish you well and God be with you as you consider your future!



Congratulations to David Henkel and Paige Erickson who were united in marriage on Saturday, July 18th in Wisconsin. We pray for God's blessings on this couple as they begin their new life together as husband and wife.



We rejoice and congratulate Hayden Gene Eiffler, infant son of Justin & Tanya (Drilling) Eiffler as he received the new birth of Holy Baptism on Sunday, July 26th. Hayden's sponsor/witnesses are Brittany Pitts, and Jason & Amy Eiffler.

We pray for God's blessings on this little one and his family as he grows in the grace & knowledge of his Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.

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LIBRARY BOOKS

PLEASE DO NOT bring books to the library here at church that have been on your garage sale or a friend's sale. We have no one to take care of the library and we don't need them. Instead, please take them to the local thrift stores. Thank you!

ATTENTION!!

It's still 3 1/2 months away, but our holiday bazaar committee would like to put all of our men and women crafters on notice and to start thinking about making and bringing crafts to our bazaar in November. We are hopeful that we will have a bazaar this year, so they are in the planning stages, and hopefully this will give you something to do if you are "quarantined!"

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED



Teachers Needed

With fall soon approaching, we turn our thoughts to another Sunday School season. We ask that you prayerfully consider being a teacher, co-teacher, substitute, or helper. It truly is an awarding experience to share Christ's love with the children of our church. The duties of a teacher are to prepare & study the lessons for each Sunday; to assist in music time, the Christmas program & Palm Sunday. **We are also looking for a new Sunday School Superintendent.** If you feel this is something you are willing to do, please talk to Pastor as soon as possible.

MOBILE APP FOR THE KIDS!

Experience Bible Stories in a whole new way! You know that kids love electronics and games. Samaritan's Purse has released a new Bible game app for children ages 5-9 called GREATEST JOURNEY, based on the international discipleship course created by Samaritan's Purse. It's a great way for them to learn about God's Word. Encourage the children in your family, community, and church to explore the Bible and learn how to follow Jesus through this new mobile app.

*Samaritan's Purse is a world-wide ministry of Franklin Graham, bringing help and healing in the name of Jesus Christ.

SATAN'S BEATITUDES

Christ's beatitudes of Matthew 5 have perhaps done more to mold disciples into the Divine image than any other text. But we must be constantly aware that there is another opposing power, namely Satan, who seeks to influence saints with his own version of the beatitudes. They might read something similar to these:

- Blessed are they who are too tired and busy to go to church on Sunday, for they are my best workers.
- Blessed are they who are bored with the minister's mannerisms and mistakes, for they get nothing out of the sermon.
- Blessed is the church member who expects to be invited to his own church, for his is part of the problem instead of the solution.
- Blessed are they who gossip, for they cause strife and divisions that please me.
- Blessed are they who are easily offended, for they soon get angry and quit.
- Blessed are they who do not give their offerings to carry on God's work, for they are my best helpers.
- Blessed is he who professes to love God but hates his brother and sister, for he shall be with me forever.
- Blessed are the troublemakers, for they shall be called the children of the devil.
- Blessed is he who has no time to pray, for he will be easy prey.

- Taken from "Pulpit Helps"

WHY I BRING MY CHILDREN TO CHURCH

I bring my children to church, even though at times they do not want to come. I also feed my children good nutritious meals regularly even though at times they are too busy playing and do not want to eat (or do not want what I cooked). Is not the spiritual food offered them in worship and Sunday school just as necessary for their spiritual health, growth, and development as food I feed them is necessary for their physical health, growth, and development?

I bring my children to church, even though at times they do not want to come. I also make my children wash their hands, or take a bath, even though at times they say their hands are clean enough, and do not need to be washed again. Is not the spiritual cleaning they receive from their Savior's words of forgiveness, love and acceptance, spoken in worship and Sunday school even more important than the cleaning they get from a bar of soap?

I bring my children to church, even though at times they do not want to come. I also take my children to family get-togethers even though at times they do not want to go because they think it is too boring, or they have to dress up, or be relatively quiet and well-behaved. Is it not equally important for them to be present when God's family (of which we are a part) gets together? Don't they need to know the love, acceptance, and support of God's family?

I bring my children to church, even though at times they do not want to come. I also take my children to the doctor even though they do not think they feel sick enough to warrant such a visit (or even if it is inconvenient for me to get them there - I have to alter my schedule, leave work early, or postpone something I would like to do). The healing touch, the words of love and acceptance from their Savior, the Great Physician is just as necessary as the healing touch and medicines of their medical doctor.

See you (and your family) in church!

-- *Stay-at-home parents, seldom beget go-to-church children*

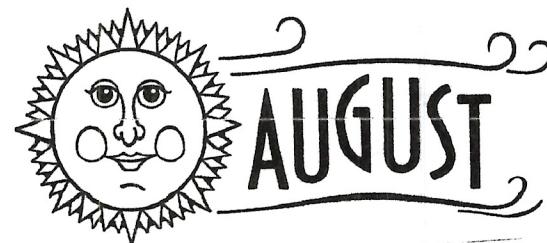
USHERS - As seen in the Voters' minutes, the task of Ushering duties has fallen to the Elders. Please, if you can help out with these duties at any time, please talk to one of our Elders or to Pastor. Thank You!

ELDERS ASSISTING WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday, August 2 – John Pitts & Don Weiss
Sunday, August 16 – Ron Osladil

AUGUST ALTAR GUILD - Lisa Koski

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACOLYTES</u>
Sunday, August 2	Ella Hoppe
Sunday, August 9	Kenny Ziegler
Sunday, August 16	Jake Colsrud
Sunday, August 23	Charlotte Fredrickson
Sunday, August 30	Carli Gow



WOMEN OF PEACE

The Women of Peace met on Wednesday, July 22, 2020, with eight members present. The July meeting was held a week later due to a funeral on the original meeting date. Pastor Hoppe led us in our Bible study, "Thy Word," taken from the LWML Quarterly. The September Bible Study will be "Anchored in God's Word."

Vice-President Bernice Bergseth opened our business meeting by all joining in the LWML Pledge. Mites & donations were collected, and thank you's were read from Family Pathways and Bethesda.

The Secretary's report was read and approved.

The Treasurer's report was read showing a balance of \$5,019.14, which includes \$327.83 in quilt funds. The report will stand as read.

The Circuit Convocation is planned for Sunday, Nov. 1, 2020 with a meal to follow.

"Wear & Share" is tentatively planned for Friday, October 2, 2020. Bernice will call Barbara Moen to see if she would like to be in charge again.

The Bazaar is tentatively planned for Saturday, Nov. 14th. Marian Skaff will be on the committee and ask for helpers. A decision will be made at the October meeting to see if we can go ahead, considering the Covid pandemic.

Our meeting in August will be held at Rich & Bev Mensing's home on Wednesday, August 19th at 4 pm with a potluck meal.

Carol closed with a devotion and we all said the Lord's Prayer and table grace.

Hostess was Carol Pogatchnik. The September hostess will be Marge Haefner.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jan Hahn, Secretary

THINK ABOUT THIS

A person from a foreign country visiting with a friend in this country noticed his friend placing an offering in the offering plate at church on Sunday morning. He asked, "Do you have to pay to go to church?"

"No" was the reply, "but I give 10% of my income to the Lord for His work that goes on through the church."

Sometime later, after eating a meal at a restaurant, the visitor also saw his friend placing money at his plate and asked about it. He was told, "it is customary to leave a 15% tip for the waitress."

The visitor then said, "Oh, then you think more of her services than you do of God's!?"

**Peace Lutheran Church
QUARTERLY VOTERS' Meeting
Sunday, July 19, 2020 – 3:00 pm**

Present were: Dick Alleman, Ed Barnick, Marge Haefner, Dwight Hahn, Pastor Hoppe, Dennis Korpi, Tim Koski, Royce Larson, Rich Mensing, Ron Osladil, John Pitts, Bruce Pogatchnik, LeRoy Thurn, Bill Tvedt, Don Weiss. Other attendees: Bev Mensing

Chairman Tim Koski called the meeting to order at 3:07 pm. Pastor Hoppe opened with prayer.

The minutes of the January 19, 2020 Annual Voters' Assembly Meeting were approved as read.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Dennis Korpi which was accepted.

Council Action: Council actions since the previous Voters' Assembly Meeting were read.

Pastor's Report:

- The Sunday morning radio program on WCMP has been paid for once per month by Peace and once per month by St. Paul's. Pastor Hoppe preaches twice per month. The cost to Peace is \$85 per month. It was decided to continue this ministry for another year and review it next year at this time, on motion by Don Weiss, second by LeRoy Thurn and carried
- If there are additional uses for the new video equipment purchased by the church, please let Pastor know.
- The District Convocation is now planned for Sunday, November 1st.
- VBS is planned for one day (August 3rd) and will be held outside this year.
- The Voters' Assembly welcomes Gene and Sharon Mosbek as new members to Peace.
- The church is now on SCI Cable.

The Elders:

- The Voters' Assembly adopted the new "Policy to Guard Children and Others Against Sexual and/or Other Abuse," at the request of the insurance company. Motion by LeRoy Thurn, second by Ron Osladil and carried.
- Dwight Hahn resigned as an Elder and Ron Osladil has agreed to take the remainder of Dwight's term. Motion by Bill Tvedt, second by Dick Alleman and carried.

Trustees:

- The landscaping around the church needs attention. The Voters will take this up in the future.
- Three maple trees along the East property line are split and need to be removed before they blow down. Motion by Ron Osladil, second by LeRoy Thurn and carried to authorize the removal of the trees, stump grinding and all cleanup for \$1,900.
- Work around the church entrance, various repairs of sections of the parking lot, sealing and re-striping of the parking lot were all authorized by the Voters for approximately \$15,000. Motion by LeRoy Thurn, second by Ron Osladil and carried. Contractors will be contacted to offer suggestions to help alleviate the water seepage problem at the parsonage.
- Repairs were made to the A/C in the narthex.

Board of Education: A new Sunday School Superintendent is needed in the fall.

Old Business: There was discussion regarding how to help the Elders with all of the extra administrative tasks imposed by the government. The Constitution is not explicit about whose responsibility these tasks are, so many have just fallen to the Elders. Sub-groups from the Voters' Assembly or Council members can help relieve some of the burden. The Elders will be asking individuals in the future.

No New Business:

Meeting adjourned at 4:43 pm. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Royce Larson, Council Secretary

