

DECEMBER 2020

PEACE TALKS

*Peace Lutheran Church - LCMS
Finlayson, Minnesota*

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www.plcms.com

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People Waiting for the King,

It is the go-to passage for wedding ceremonies: First Corinthians Chapter 13. It tells us about what love is and what it does. It tells us what it is not and what it does not do. It is patient and kind. It rejoices in the truth and perseveres. It is not proud or rude. It keeps no record of wrongs nor is it easily angered. But at the end of this exposition on what love is we get this summary, “And now these three abide: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

This year we are going to take this passage and apply it not to love and marriage but to the season of Advent. In our midweek services, we will look at how faith, hope, and love are great themes to think about during the Advent season. I will suggest that faith teaches us to look upward, hope forward, and love outward. Each of these things is central to what we should be doing in this season leading up to Christmas. As we hear promises of a Messiah to come both in Bethlehem and on the Last Day, we look upward trusting the One who makes the promises. We look forward hoping for the things He has assured us will come. And understanding God’s love is made manifest in the coming of this One, we look outward to shower such sacrificial love on those around us.

While hopefully you are in the word and prayer daily, Advent services provide an opportunity to gather in the middle of the week with your church family to stop and restore your focus. Even though some of the busyness of this season may be reduced this year, there will be other things added to the schedule to try to figure out how to do something when not everyone agrees on what can be done. There will be sadness about loved ones not present with us due to the current situation or the fact that they have gone to rest with Jesus. There will be for some melancholy, as there is every year at this time due to a perceived lack of the things they always dreamed would be present in these special times. Whatever the case with you, whatever it is that might capture your attention whether positive or negative, consider coming together for these times with your church family. If your schedule does not allow you to come at the time things are scheduled, watch online later to give yourself a chance to stop and restore your focus on the things your church family will be focused on. Focus on the God who promises who is deserving of our trust. Focus on the things He has promised which are where we place our hopes. And focus ultimately on His love which He has shown us by sending us the Child of Bethlehem.

On the final week of those midweek services, we plan to have our children involved in reminding us of the love of God through songs and readings as well.

In Christ, Pastor Philip Hoppe

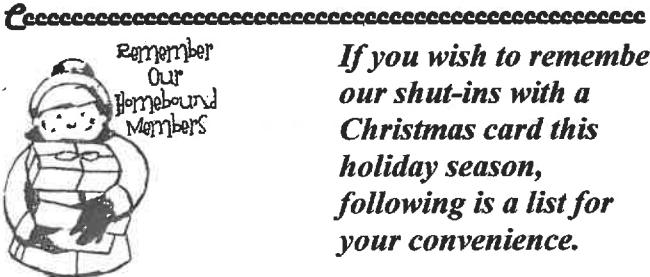
CONGRATULATIONS!!



We rejoice that on Sunday afternoon, October 4th, three of God's little ones, Colt Lloyd, Denali Marie and Case Nathaniel, children of Nathaniel and Haley (Fiero) Somers, were brought to our Lord's altar to receive the waters of Holy Baptism. Sponsor and witness for the three were Alex Fiero and Anna Achter. We congratulate them and pray God's richest blessings on them always!



~~ We congratulate Bernice Bergseth who will be turning 90 on December 16th. There will be no gathering of friends and relatives at this time (hopefully we can get together in the spring), but if you would like to send her birthday greetings, please do so at PO Box 24, Finlayson. May God richly bless her in the coming days and years ahead with good health and much happiness!
God is good!



If you wish to remember our shut-ins with a Christmas card this holiday season, following is a list for your convenience.

*Phyllis Erickson

*Joyce Volk (temporary) or 214 Lark St. Sandstone
710 So. Kenwood Ave.
Moose Lake, MN 55767

Ken Pirila

300 Commercial Ave. #101
Sandstone, MN 55072

Marian Voit

1250 Northland Dr. #220
Princeton, MN 55371

Betty Oredson (Becki Bridenstine's sister)
c/o 300 No. Commercial #102
Sandstone, MN 55072

Leonard & Angie Gangelhoff
PO Box 596
Sandstone, MN 55072

Veloren Osladil
64536 Hammond Rd. So.
Finlayson, MN 55735



--The secular year begins with a hangover and ends with overindulgence.

The church year begins with hope and ends with fulfillment.



Our Lord recently called home two of his dear children. Robert Peter Becker was called to his eternal glory on Sunday,

Nov. 8 at the age of 73 years. It was a joyful day when Bob was received as a member here at Peace this past March, and received our Lord's body and blood. Bob's funeral service will be held on Saturday, December 5 @ 11:00 am. We offer our deepest sympathy to Linda who is still grieving the loss of her mother, Bev Newham. May God bless her and keep her in His loving care!

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Marcella Pirila was called to her eternal glory on Tuesday, Nov. 24. She had fallen a couple days earlier and broke both legs. Surgery was performed and shortly after, passed away. Funeral arrangements are still pending at this time. We offer our sympathy to husband, Ken; children, Ken, Jr. and Lisa Balut; grandchildren, Erika Balut Horton and Kayleigh Balut. Marcy enjoyed having her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren come to visit and bring a smile to her face and joy to her heart. May God give you all comfort and peace at this time.

*Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever lives and believes in Me, shall never die." John 11:25,26*



*Let CHRISTMAS come into our world  
and bring us warmth and cheer,  
Bring FAITH in place of doubt  
And STRENGTH in place of fear.  
Bring us HOPE and bring us LOVE  
To guide our hearts forever...  
Let CHRIST come into our lives  
And bring us all together.*

## Holiday Schedule

Wednesday, Dec. 2 - Advent Service 7:00 pm  
*“Directing our Eyes - Faith-Eyes Upward”*

Wednesday, Dec. 9- Advent Service 7:00 pm  
*“Directing our Eyes - Hope-Eyes Forward”*

Wednesday, Dec. 16 – Advent Service 7:00 pm  
*“Directing our Eyes – Love-Eyes Outward”*

\*Our children will also be doing some readings and singing.

*Thursday, Dec. 24 -Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Service – 7:00 pm*

*Friday, Dec. 25 - Christmas Day Holy Communion Worship - 10:00 am*

***\*\*PLAN TO JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL  
WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AS WE  
CELEBRATE THE BIRTH  
OF THE CHRIST-CHILD!\*\****



Pine County along with the US Marine Corps Reserve will again have a *Toys for Tots* collection, and all toys donated will stay in Pine

County. If you know of anyone in need of toys for Christmas, applications may be picked up at the Family Pathways Food Shelf in Sandstone, and at the Pine County Health & Human Services in Sandstone (1610 Hwy. 23 No).

\*\*Toys can be dropped off at  
Northview Bank or Town & Country  
Insurance in Finlayson  
before Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>



## HATS & MITTENS TREE

*Northview Bank (ALL locations) is also  
Collecting NEW Hats, mittens and scarves for*

their Hearts to Hands Community Project.  
There is a tree set up in each lobby where you  
can take your donations  
(Bank lobbies are closed, so you may want  
to call ahead)

## **\*\*FUEL FUND DRIVE!\*\***

It is time, once again, to be reminded of the winter months coming up and the toll the fuel costs take on our church's monthly budget. We ask for your help by considering an extra offering to this project — OVER AND ABOVE your regular Sunday offering. In the front of your envelope box, you will find special envelopes for this purpose. Please give generously as the Lord has prospered you! Thank you!

## ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Energy Assistance Program opened on October 1, 2020. Lakes and Pines processed 7,000 applications last season and expect just as many, if not more, to be received this year. If you know someone who is struggling to pay their utility bills, please have them call Lakes and Pines at 320-679-1800 or 1-800-832-6082, option 2, for help.

## *SOFTLY, CHRISTMAS*

**WALK SOFTLY** - as you go through Christmas  
That each step may bring you down the starlit path to  
the Manger bed.

**TALK QUIETLY** - as you speak of Christmas,  
That you shall not drown out the glorious song of angels  
with idle talk and merriment.

**KNEEL REVERENTLY** - as you pause for Christmas,  
That you may feel again the spirit of the Nativity  
rekindled in your soul.

**RISE EAGERLY** - after you have trod the Christmas path. That you may serve more fully the One whose birth we hail.

