

PEACE TALKS

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH - Missouri Synod
Finlayson, Minnesota
Rev. Philip Hoppe, Pastor
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JANUARY, 2019

It is a new year. It is a new year. It is a new year. New, new, new, new, new. Yes, around this time of year we hear a lot about new things. We tell ourselves that we will live in new ways. We hope that during the year new opportunities might present themselves for our benefit. We hope that our world might even turn over a new leaf or two that would offer to it inhabitants reason for hope.

But yet the writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us, "What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun." (Ecclesiastes 1:9) This word is not meant to simply drive out of us any hope we have for the new year but it is meant to remind us that in many ways this year will be like the last and probably a lot like the next as well. Oh, there will be ups or downs in each of our lives, but in the end much will remain the same.

We will live in families. We will interact with our communities. We will gather with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We will try really hard to do more things the way we think they should be done and yet upon reflection we will recognize that we have failed in so many respects to even live up to our own standards, let alone God's standards.

And so while all the world is shouting out, "New, new, new," we in the church will be content with what is old. We will confess our sins. We will hear of Jesus and receive His salvation in Word and Sacrament. We will rejoice to be raised up by the Spirit to serve Christ. We will live in hope of a day when there actually will be something new, a brand-new heaven and earth in which we shall dwell in perfect innocence, righteousness, and blessedness with Christ forever. If there are other new things that bring us joy, that will that will be terrific as well and we will receive them with joy as gifts from our Father, but our contentment will rest on the things we have known blessedly for some time.

Will there be new activities or programs or groups created here at church in the next year? Who knows. Perhaps. But the basic activities that sustain us through life will continue. We will study the Word. We will gather for worship. We will encourage one another. Will there be new members in the church in the new year? Who knows. Perhaps. But whoever gathers here will have the opportunity to hear of Jesus and His saving life, death, and resurrection. Will this world turn over a new leaf to become something better than it is today? Who knows. Perhaps. But we will place our hope in a world outside of this one.

There is nothing new under the sun. Thankfully though, the Son of God came down beneath the sun in order that He might save us. We have celebrated His birth and now we continue to reflect upon His life. A lot of what we will hear will seem to us rather old. We have heard it before. But it is just the kind of old we need.

In Christ,
Pastor Philip Hoppe

THANK YOU

- TO Mary Nelson & Jaimee Hoppe for planning and presenting this year's Children's Christmas program, *"To Us a Child is Born;"* to Marge Haefner & Kathy Alm for helping with the music; to all of the staff and especially the children for their help and hard work; to Marian Skaff for preparing the "goodie" bags for the kids. And now, as the shepherds did, let us "go and tell" the Good News of salvation!
- Thank you to all of our musicians during our Advent/Christmas season: organists: LuAnn Alleman, Marge Haefner, Rachael Henkel; to our Senior Choir members: Marge Haefner, director; LuAnn Alleman, accompanist; Mary Nelson, Kathy Alm, Olivia & Ella Hoppe, Ed Barnick, Don Weiss, Dwight Hahn & Pastor Hoppe; our bell choir who provided special music during the season and Christmas Day: Christine Fiero, director; Ed Barnick, Cheryl Petry, John, Jacob & Justin Colsrud, Jaimee, Olivia, Gideon & Ella Hoppe; to Olivia & Ella for their duet on Christmas Eve; and to Jill Drilling & LuAnn for their piano/organ duet on Christmas Day.

We truly appreciate all of these musicians who put in long hours of practice to help enrich our worship services.

A special thanks to

- Pastor Hoppe for all of his time & energy needed for all the extra and special services at BOTH congregations.
- To Anyone who, in any way, helped to make our worship services go smoothly - ushers, acolytes, greeters, altar guild, etc. We appreciate your willingness and help.
- Thank you to Marge Haefner for donating the wreaths outside the front doors, given in memory of her parents, Ernie & Clara Alm.
- To our youth group & parents who spent time decorating the trees and the church to make them look so festive.
- And a BIG THANK YOU to all of you who opened your hearts and your pocketbooks during this Christmas season to help with the

Food Shelf donations, Toys for Tots, Hats & mittens trees etc. We are truly a blessed congregation and it is always "better to give than to receive." Thank you again!

**WE THANK EVERYONE FOR THEIR GIFTS OF TIME, TALENTS & TREASURES TO THE GLORY AND HONOR OF THE CHRIST-CHILD!
THANKS BE TO GOD FOR HIS GIFT TO US!**



On Nov. 30th, and Dec. 1st, our Lord called home two of His beloved children from our congregation.

Calvin Petry was called to his eternal rest on Nov. 30th at the age of 75 years. He had been living at the Mercy Health Care Center for a few months as his health continued to decline. We all know that Calvin was the *Petry* in *"Petry's Bait"* before selling it in 2003, and we also remember his faithful black labs that were always by his side.

He found his love at a later age, when he married Cheryl on December 9, 2000. Calvin had a private family graveside service on December 8th.

We offer our sympathy to his wife, Cheryl; nieces and nephews (here at Peace) -- Barb & Bill Morgan, Nancy & Dean Pogatchnik, Bruce & Dawn Cottrell and their families.

Verna Parvey was called to her eternal rest on Saturday, December 1st at the age of 92 years, and still living in her home at the time of her passing. She was a lifelong, faithful, and active member here at Peace. She belonged to the Ladies' Aid/Women of Peace since its beginning, and had a love of sewing and quilting. I think she started our ladies quilting group many years ago.

Verna's funeral service was held here on Friday, Dec. 7th. We offer our sympathy to her nieces & nephews here at Peace – the Martin, Tvedt, and Payne families.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness."

II Timothy 4:7-8



Memorials

--On Sunday, December 23rd, we dedicated the new Nativity Set and table on which it sits. This was given as a memorial for Sandy Blesener by Alvin Blesener and family. We thank Bill Tvedt who crafted and donated the stable that surrounds the nativity figures. It is absolutely beautiful, Bill!! This is a wonderful remembrance of "the reason for the season!" And thank you to the Council for spending the time to make this choice – good job!!

-- We have also received Memorial Money from the Verna Parvey family in her memory. \$800 was given to the Memorial Fund and \$115 was given to the Cemetery Fund for the new road construction being done there. \$25 was also given to the Cemetery Fund in memory of Calvin Petry.

-- \$300 has also been given to the Memorial Fund by Vicki Benson, in her husband, Dale's memory.

We thank all these families for these generous memorials and donations!



FLOWER CALENDAR

THE NEW FLOWER CALENDAR FOR 2019

has now been posted. Please take a look at it and see if you would like to place flowers on a specific Sunday in honor of a special event or in memory of a loved one.

The flower calendar is located on the door at the top of the stairs to the left before entering the narthex. Write your name in the space provided for the designated Sunday. Please indicate if the flowers will be given "in memory of" or "in honor of" or for a "special occasion," or leave a note on LuAnn's desk so that it can be included in the bulletin that Sunday.

MARCH FOR LIFE

At the State Capitol – Tuesday, January 22nd

The last few years, our church has had a delegation travel to the State Capitol on January 22nd for the annual March for Life campaign. This year the 22nd is on a Tuesday and is the 46th annual commemoration of Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton, the infamous 1973 Supreme Court decisions that overturned every pro-life law across the nation and imposed abortion on demand throughout all nine months of

pregnancy. More than 9,900 unborn babies are killed by abortion in Minnesota every year! The march begins at NOON on the Capitol grounds with a short program at 12:30 pm. If you are interested in going, please talk to Ed Barnick, or LuAnn Alleman. Rides will leave from the church at 10:00 or so and we usually park in the Bethesda Hospital parking lot which is only 1 block from the capitol – easy access!

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of our Voters' Assembly will take place on Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019 at 2:00 p.m., with election of officers taking place. We hope our voters will be encouraged to attend as they do the Lord's work together.

++With the up-dating of our church membership/address list just weeks away, we would like to ask for your help in providing us with any new address you may have, or a new address a member of your family (who is a member here) might have. Please give these changes to LuAnn as soon as possible. Thank you!



OF ADDRESS

GOD'S BOXES

I have in my hands two boxes
Which God gave me to hold.
He said, "Put all your sorrows in the black box,
And all your joys in the gold."

I heeded His words, and in the two boxes
Both my joys and sorrows I stored,
But though the gold became heavier each day
The black was as light as before.

With curiosity I opened the black box;
I wanted to find out why,
And I saw in the base of the box – a hole,
Which my sorrows had fallen out by.

I showed the hole to God and mused,
"I wonder where my sorrows could be?"
He smiled a gentle smile and said,
"My child, they're all here with me."

I asked God why He gave me the boxes,
Why the gold, and the black with the hole?
"My child, the gold is for you to count your blessings
The black is for you to let go."

Sin Unchecked – Has Freedom Gone Too Far?

by Virginia Fló

We are blessed to live in a country with many freedoms, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We are considered a model for others to follow—and our freedom is covered. (God gave us free will, another freedom, but that freedom, especially, has been abused.) Our republic was originally based on Christian values and ideals. Yet, we look around us today and wonder what has happened? The lack of civility is shameful. The lack of respect for human life is horrible and intolerable. How did we get here? I see this as “sin unchecked.”

We need the Law as a mirror to see ourselves and our sin for what it is. Ever more importantly, we need the Gospel—God’s grace—to assure us of our forgiveness through Christ’s sacrifice on the cross.

Narcissism is nothing new under the sun—and it appears to be here to stay. When it all becomes about “me,” it changes our whole perspective from what Christ has done for us to what we can do for ourselves. Yes, we have the freedom to make it all about “me”; however, remember the Apostle Paul’s guidance to think of others better than ourselves—a model all Christians should follow. What happens when you do that? I think you will find that you’ll feel even better about yourself when you experience the joy of doing for others and not just for “me, myself, and I.”

I was told recently by a prominent theologian in the life arena that all of the problems in America today stem from the legalization of abortion. That seemed a bit broad; however, after I thought about it for a while, it made perfect sense. Abortion-on-demand claims to give everyone “the right to choose and control their own bodies” (forgetting all about the life and body of the unborn child). It comes down to people wanting the right to do as they please rather than following God’s will. Be it abortion, end of life, bioethics, human trafficking, sexuality, or gender identity, the arguments

are no different than that of the abortion argument. It’s about the “right to choose” even though it can be contrary to God’s Word and hurts others. In some cases, it even means killing others.

I continue to be amazed by how many people have been swayed by the “I have a right” argument. After all, we have been taught at an early age that we need to be “tolerant” above all else (and it’s often “tolerate or else.”) Too many feel it is better to never talk about life issues so they can’t be accused of discriminating and being intolerant, and if we avoid talking about the life issues, we can’t be accused of being political. (The life issues do show up in political agendas, even though they should have nothing to do with politics and everything to do with Scripture, which is very clear about life.)

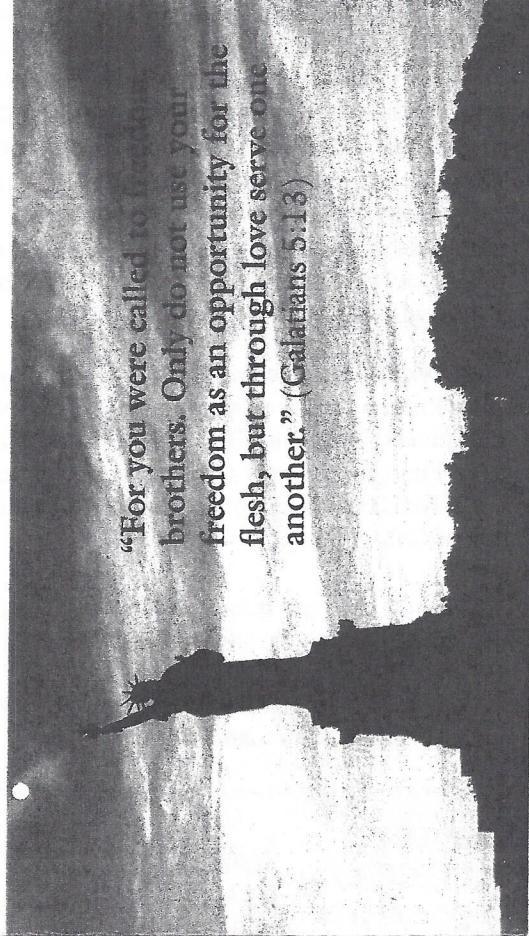
Our 2019 Life Sunday theme is *From Age to Age the Same*, based on the words from Isaiah 46:3b-4. If we have any question about when in life God gives His support, these verses should clear that up. You “have been borne by me from before your birth, carried from the womb; even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.” Yes, these powerful words make it very clear that God is with us from conception to old age and natural death. He also proclaims that He made us, and He will bear, carry, and save us, carrying the whole burden of salvation. (We can try to do it all ourselves, focusing on *our* rights, but that can often result in a lack of respect for God’s will for our lives.)

Let’s use our voices to share the message of life from Scripture. Let’s avoid being silent for fear of repercussions based on worldly ideas. May we use our voices to speak boldly, using God’s Word, seeking the help of the Holy Spirit in speaking with gentleness and respect, and knowing the outcome is not up to us as we are just messengers. As we are confident our Lord and Savior is with us *From Age to Age the Same*, we have nothing to fear and everything to gain when hearts are reached and our freedom is not squandered. May your voice be heard as you share what is true through honoring God’s gift of life.

May your voice be heard as you share what is true through honoring God’s gift of life.

“Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.” (1 Peter 2:16)

“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” (Galatians 5:13)



USHERS

Sunday, January 6 – Bill Tvedt, H.U., Wayne Fiero, Royce Larson, Butch Crawford
Sunday, January 13 – Tim Koski, H.U., Larry Alm, Gideon Hoppe, Butch Crawford
Sunday, January 20 – Ed Barnick, H.U., Jacob Thurber, Allen Bennett, Butch Crawford
Sunday, January 27 – Ron Volk, H.U., Dwight Hahn, Rich Mensing, Butch Crawford

ELDERS ASSISTING WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday, January 6 – Ron Osladil & Don Weiss
Sunday, January 20 – John Pitts & Ron Volk

JANUARY ALTAR GUILD - Cindy Pitts



DATE

ACOLYTES

Kenny Ziegler Len & Angie Gangelhoff
John Colsrud Pat Seek & Roxann Winter
Eric Fredrickson Pat Seek & Roxann Winter
Vanessa Meier Jim & Audrey Meier

GREETERS

Len & Angie Gangelhoff
Pat Seek & Roxann Winter
Pat Seek & Roxann Winter
Jim & Audrey Meier

WOMEN OF PEACE

The Women of Peace met on Dec. 12th at noon for our annual Christmas Luncheon. All ladies of the congregation were invited to attend. Mary Nelson was our hostess and did a very nice and festive job of decorating. A short ski was presented, ending with a sing-along of Christmas Carols.

It was enjoyed by all members & guests.

Our thanks to Mary, and to Estelle Martin for making the Santa sleigh/candy bar decorations we were all able to take home and enjoy.

Thanks you's were received from Don & Ginny Henkel (2), Ron & Val Osladil, Cheryl Petry, Northwoods Audubon Center, Tom Koski, Mark Molloy, and Golden Horizons were shared.

Our next meeting will be January 16, 2019.

-Elaine Steeg, Secretary

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Lord, make the New Year a happy one . . .
... Not by shielding us from sorrow and pain, but by strengthening us to bear it if it comes.
... Not by taking hardships from us, but by taking all cowardice and fear from our hearts as we meet hardships.
... Not by making our paths easy, but by making us sturdy enough to tread any path.
... Not by granting unbroken sunshine, but by keeping our faces bright even in the shadows.
... Not by making our lives always pleasant, but by showing us where others and your cause need us most and by making us zealous to be there and to help . . .

*God, make our year a happy one!
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

I MUST GO SHOPPING

I must go shopping! I am completely out of generosity and must get some more!

I want to exchange the self-satisfaction I picked up the other day for some real humility – they say it wears better!

I must look at some tolerance, which is worn as a wrap this season. Well, I'm a little low on that and one can never have too much of it.

I must try to match some patience. I saw it on a friend, it was so becoming, and might look equally well on me.

I must remember to get my sense of humor mended, and keep my eyes open for some inexpensive goodness.

It is surprising how one's stock of goods is depleted. YES, I MUST GO SHOPPING TODAY!

**Peace Lutheran Church
Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, December 12, 2018**

Present were: Pastor Hoppe, Dennis Korpi, Dwight Hahn, John Pitts, Ron Osladil, Tim Koski, Ron Volk, LeRoy Thurn, Ed Barnick, Bill Tvedt, Royce Larson, Don Weiss.

Chairman Tim Koski called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm. Pastor Hoppe opened prayer.

Secretary's minutes

The minutes of the October 2018 Joint Council Meeting were approved as amended on motion by LeRoy Thurn, second by Ron Osladil and carried. The minutes were amended as follows: A lay person, and an alternate, were also elected from the Kettle River Circuit (NOT MN North District).

The Special Council meeting after the service on December 2nd, minutes were approved as stated by Chairman Koski. Motion by Tim Koski, second by LeRoy Thurn, to approve Nativity Set and table as memorial gift.

The Treasurer's report was approved as presented by Dennis Korpi.

Pastor's report:

- The Children's Christmas program will be Wednesday evening, Dec. 19th at 7 pm.
- Christmas Eve Service will be at 7 pm and Christmas Day at 10 am.
- Pastor will be on vacation December 26 – January 2. Elders will lead the Sunday service on Dec. 30th with readings provided by Pastor Hoppe and hymns.
- The Circuit Youth will have a lock-in January 4th at Peace. Food donations may be needed to support this activity. More info to follow.
- The memorial Nativity set has been purchased.
- Feedback has been received from the District on the proposed Constitution changes. The Elders and Pastor will review and make appropriate changes during January, in advance of review by the Voters.
- Memorials have been offered for various projects around the church. The Council requests ideas for consideration for memorials from anyone. The Council approved the following ideas for memorial gifts: new vases for the altar; new candle lighters; plaques under the stained glass windows explaining symbolism and acknowledging donations of the windows where known; new robes for acolytes. Motion by John Pitts, second by Bill Tvedt to approve this list.

The Elders had nothing to report.

Trustees report:

- Lights around the church continue to be replaced.
- Cushions for the Usher's pew have been offered.

Old Business: Work at the cemetery is in progress.

New Business: Additional painting was approved in the basement and church office area.

The Nominating Committee is finishing up their work in preparation for the Annual Voters' Assembly Mtg.

There will be no regular Council meeting in January.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm. Pastor Hoppe prayed for God's blessing upon all.

Respectfully Submitted,
Royce Larson, Council Secretary

January 2019

December 2018

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February 2019

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		28	29	30	31	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		 <p>A HAPPY AND BLESSED NEW YEAR TO ALL!! (No AA Mtg. in January)</p>	1 **ANNUAL REPORTS DUE** Pastor returning from vacation	2 Pastor office hours in Bruno 3-5 pm	3 Pastor's day off	4 --Circuit Youth Lock-in @ Peace
6 EPIPHANY SUNDAY Bible Study 8:00 Peace Communion 9:00 Sun. Sch. 10:15 Bruno Communion 11:00	7 Quilting 9-12	8 Pastor's Winkel @ Peace 8:30 am Peace Bible Studies 3:00 & 6:30	9 Confirmation 3:30 Elders 7:00 (No Council this month)	10 Pastor office hours in Bruno 3-5 (B) Conf. 5:00 Bruno Bible Study 6:30	11 Pastor's day off	12 "Men of Peace" 9:00-noon
13 Bible Study 8:00 Peace Worship 9:00 Sun. Sch. 10:15 Bruno Worship 11:00 Nursing Home Service 2:30	14 Quilting 9-12	15 Peace Bible Studies 3:00 & 6:30	16 "Women of Peace" 1:00 Confirmation 3:30	17 Pastor Office hours in Bruno 3-5 pm (B) Conf. 5:00 Bruno Bible Study 6:30	18 Pastor's day off	19
20 Bible Study 8:00 Fin. Comm. 9:00 Sun. Sch. 10:15 (B) Comm. 10:45 BRUNO ANNUAL MEETING 11:45 PEACE ANNUAL MEETING 2:00	21 Quilting 9-12	22 Peace Bible Studies 3:00 & 6:30 MCCL March for Life @ State Capitol - rides leave from Peace @ 10 am	23 **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** Confirmation 3:30	24 Pastor office hours in Bruno 3-5 pm (B) Conf. 5:00 Bruno Bible Study 6:30	25 Pastor's day off	26
27 Bible Study 8:00 Peace Matins 9:00 Sun. Sch. 10:15 Bruno Matins 11:00	28 Quilting 9-12	29 Peace Bible Studies 3:00 & 6:30	30 Confirmation 3:30 Young Families Gathering 6:00 pm	31 Pastor office hours in Bruno 3-5 pm (B) Conf. 5:00 Bruno Bible Study 6:30		