

# PEACE TALKS

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH - Missouri Synod**  
**Finlayson, Minnesota**  
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**JANUARY, 2020**

To those loved by God and called to be His Saints:

A person once quipped, "The only thing constant is change." And no doubt it is true. With the coming of this calendar and newsletter, the year has changed, not to mention the decade, and with it much else has changed also.

And of course many will be hoping that everything will change for the better for them. With new eating habits and that gym membership, they hope their health will change from okay or bad to great. With resolve and hard work, they are sure their fortunes will change for the better. With rededication to things like one-on-one visits and family gatherings, they hope the relationships in their life will change for the better as well. And I hope so too.

But we also know that change comes in ways we do not like either. We know that we enter into this year without some loved ones that brought up blessings in the prior years. Some well know that their bodies are not quite as capable as they were in the recent years. And we might notice in our world, that the church and its influence seems to be waning.

It used to be that when Church spoke, the culture listened. It used to be that when the Church held an event, people came. It used to be that we seemed to be running the show. But that is changing and has changed. Other voices have the world's ears. Other events gather the large crowds. And it seems that we are running behind others in some ways rather than leading. I know this might not be a cheery way to think about the new year, but trust me, there is good news coming in the end.

But know this first: things have always changed particularly in regards to the Church's place in culture. In some times, the message of our faith has been received fairly well and with open arms. In other times, it has been received with utter hostility and violence. Thanks be to God that He has spared us thus far from the latter. Of course, we all would rather live in the good times when numbers are up and facilities rise from the ground to accommodate all those people. But God is no less present when those things are not seen.

Oh, the changes may slowly mean changes for us and how we do things. There may be some things we would like to do that we can't. But there may also be things more central to our faith that we end up focusing on because we are not so distracted by trying to do everything. So long as we abide with Christ and in His ord, all will be well.

For not everything changes. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8) "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18) Jesus will not change and therefore His Church will not fail. So while things may change, we remain confident and hopeful in our Lord.

Let us pray as we enter this this new year and new time the words we find in the hymn Abide with Me (LSB 878), "Change and decay in all around I see; O Thou who changest not, abide with me." And He will. It is His promise. And He always keeps His Word.

In the name of the One who changest not, Pastor Philip Hoppe

# THANK YOU

• TO Mary Nelson for planning and presenting this year's Children's Christmas program, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing;" to 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; Olivia & Ella Hoppe, Ed Barnick, Don Weiss & Pastor Hoppe; our bell choir who provided special music during the season and Christmas Day: Christine Fiero, director, Ed Barnick, Lorelei Finley, Jaimee & Olivia Hoppe; to Olivia & Ella for their duet on Christmas Eve; to Maria Hoppe for her organ piece, 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 Don & Anna Maria Weiss for making & donating the wreaths outside the front doors.
- 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!**

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*With Sympathy*

Two of our congregation members were called to their eternal rest in the last month.

Sharon Hagen passed away on November 29<sup>th</sup> at the age of 71 years after several years of battling cancer and other health issues. Sharon and her husband, Gary (deceased) became members here when they retired to this area in 2010. Sharon's funeral service was held here at Peace on Saturday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>.

On Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, Alvin Louis Blesener, age 80, passed away after experiencing health problems in the last couple of months. Al was a unique guy with a wide variety of interests. Most of us know of his love of guns which led him to the hobby of attending gun shows many weekends of the year. He enjoyed visitors and loved showing people around his acreage in his 4-wheeler. He and his wife Sandy (deceased December 2017), did extensive traveling throughout the world and took many month-long cruise excursions. A celebration of Life for Al was held on Friday, January 3, 2020 at Fish Lake Lutheran Church in Harris, MN.

We offer our sympathy to Larry Alm, Marge Haefner, Mary Nelson, and Kathy Alm and their families following the death of their brother, Mike Alm, who lost his battle with cancer on December 11<sup>th</sup> at the age of 69 years. Mike grew up on the family farm here, and graduated from Finlayson High School in 1968. His funeral was held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Miesville, MN, on Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.

**May God's love bring peace and comfort to these families.**

*Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you." John 14:27*

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### **\*\*FOUR THINGS TO LEARN IN LIFE\*\***

1. To think clearly without hurry & confusion.
2. To love everyone sincerely.
3. To act in everything with the highest motives.
4. To trust God unhesitatingly.

*-Helen Keller*

# ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of our Voters' Assembly will take place on **Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020 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!



## YOUTH NEWS

We will have a youth group meeting led by our youth worker LeAnn at Zion in

Mora on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00-4:30. Since it falls during Peace's annual meeting, Pastor is looking for someone who could take the kids over to Mora who is not involved with the meeting. Please let him know if you could. This is open to all 7-12 grade students. Also, we are planning on attending a youth conference again this summer. It is called **Higher Things: Watermarked**, and will be at NW Missouri State University in Maryville, MO from July 7-10, 2020. We hope to travel with other circuit kids and adults. If you have a youth who is interested, please let Pastor or Elder Roland Henkel know ASAP since we will begin registering soon.

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## BIBLE STUDIES COMING

For Bible Study

Get to better know the Bible and your brothers and sisters in Christ. As a way of growing to know the members of the newest congregations of our circuit

(Immanuel, Giese, and Trinity-Sandstone), the four congregations are going to gather the last Sunday in January and the first three Sundays in February to look at why we have four Gospels, and why each has been associated with a symbolic figure in church history. We will meet at 12:30 pm each Sunday and enjoy a light lunch provided by the host congregation. Then we will study until 2:00 pm. Sandstone will host the first week, Finlayson the second, Giese the third, and Bruno the fourth. Would you join us? We also need someone willing to organize the lunch at Bruno and Finlayson. Sign up sheets will be out soon in the narthex both for attending, and/or helping with the lunch.

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## THE NEW FLOWER CALENDAR FOR 2020

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 - Wednesday, Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>

The last few years, our church has had a delegation travel to the State Capitol on January 22<sup>nd</sup> for the annual March for Life campaign. This year the 22<sup>nd</sup> is on a Wednesday and is the 47<sup>th</sup> 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 650,000 unborn babies have been killed by abortion in Minnesota since then! More than 60 million killed nationwide since 1973. 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 2 blocks from the capitol - easy access!

According to recently fired Planned Parenthood president, Dr. Leana Wen, she explained in a departure memo, "Planned Parenthood's leadership has determined that the priority of PP moving forward is to double down on abortion rights advocacy."

*-(from MCCL Newsletter - December 2019)*



**Peace Lutheran Church  
Regular Council Meeting  
Wednesday, December 11, 2019**

**Present were:** Pastor Hoppe, Dennis Korpi, John Pitts, Tim Koski, LeRoy Thurn, Bill Tvedt, Royce Larson, Chairman Tim Koski called the meeting to order at 7:53 pm.

The **Minutes** of the November 2019 Council Meeting were approved as read.

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

**Pastor's report:**

- Pastor will be on vacation from December 26-January 3. The Elders will lead the service on Sunday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> with Scripture readings and hymns.
- The Circuit Convocation date has been set for June 28, 2020 at Peace. There will be a joint service for all Circuit congregations at 11:00 am. More information to follow.
- Pastor Langhorst and Pastor Hoppe have set the dates for joint Bible studies of Peace, St. Paul's, Trinity-Sandstone, and Immanuel-Giese. The dates for these Bible studies are January 26<sup>th</sup> @ Trinity in Sandstone; February 2<sup>nd</sup> @ Peace; February 9<sup>th</sup> @ Immanuel in Giese; February 16<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul's, Bruno. The Bible studies will start at 12:30 pm, go for approximately 1½ hours, and then there will be a light snack provided by the hosting church. There will be a study of each of the 4 Gospels, one each week.
- There will be no Sunday school on Sunday's December 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The Annual Voters' Assembly meeting will be Sunday, January 19, 2020.

**Trustees report:** The ditch between the school and the church has been dug out to help water drainage away from the area West of the church. The church's property has been surveyed. The trees along the East property line are on church property.

**New Business:** The Nominating Committee for 2020 church officers and boards is to be made up of the Vice-Chairman, Pastor, the Elders & Trustees whose terms are not up for election. The following positions are up for election in 2020: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, one Elder, and two Trustees (one 1-year term, one 2-year term).

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm. Pastor led all in praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Royce Larson, Council Secretary

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**~~TOP TEN PREDICTIONS FOR 2020~~**

With all the problems the world is facing, it can be unsettling to the mind.

Here are 10 predictions that are true!!

- 1) The Bible will still have all the answers.
- 2) Prayer will still be the most powerful thing on earth.
- 3) The Holy Spirit will still move.
- 4) God will still honor the praises of His people.
- 5) There will still be God-anointed preaching.
- 6) There will still be singing of praise to God.
- 7) God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
- 8) There will still be room at the cross.
- 9) Jesus still loves you.
- 10) Jesus will still save the lost when they come to Him.

*"The Word of the Lord endures forever." 1 Peter 1:25*

## WHOSE FAULT IS IT??

A preacher and an atheistic barber were once walking through the city slums. Said the barber to the preacher, "This is why I cannot believe in a God of love. If God was as kind as you say, He would not permit all this poverty, disease, and squalor. He would not allow these poor bums to be addicted to dope and other character-destroying habits. No, I cannot believe in a God who permits these things."

The minister was silent until they met a man who was especially unkempt and filthy. His hair was hanging down his neck and he had a half-inch of stubble on his face. Said the minister, "You can't be a very good barber or you wouldn't permit a man like that to continue living in this neighborhood without a haircut or shave."

Indignantly the barber answered, "Why blame me for that man's condition? I can't help it that he is like that. He has never come in my shop. I could fix him up and make him look like a gentleman!"

Giving the barber a penetrating look, the minister said, "Then don't blame God for allowing these people to continue in their evil ways, when He is constantly inviting them to come and be saved. The reason these people are slaves to sin and evil habits is that they refuse the One who died to save and deliver them."

The barber saw the point. Do you?



## New Year's Resolutions

Use the code to read some important words to live by.

| CODE: |     | A=1  | D=4  | H=8  | L=12 | P=16 | T=20 | X=24 |
|-------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| B=2   | E=5 | I=9  | M=13 | Q=17 | U=21 | Y=25 |      |      |
| C=3   | F=6 | J=10 | N=14 | R=18 | V=22 | Z=26 |      |      |
|       | G=7 | K=11 | O=15 | S=19 | W=23 |      |      |      |

8 1 22 5 14 15 15 20 8 5 18 7 15 4 19

2 5 6 15 18 5 13 5

8 15 14 15 18 25 15 21 18 6 1 20 8 5 18

1 14 4 13 15 20 8 5 18

4 15 14 20 13 9 19 21 19 5

7 15 4 19 14 1 13 5

11 5 5 16 20 8 5 19 1 2 2 1 20 8

8 15 12 25

12 5 1 18 14 20 8 5 20 5 14

3 15 13 13 1 14 4 13 5 14 20 19

Answer: Have no other gods before me. Honor your father and mother. Don't misuse God's name. Keep the Sabbath holy. Learn the Ten Commandments.

*In the month of January we celebrate the sanctity of life by observing "Life Sunday." Following are some facts about the growing fetus.*

- Heartbeat begins between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> day.
- The skeleton is complete, reflexes are present at 42 days.
- The brain and all the body systems are present by 8 weeks.
- He squints, swallows, moves his tongue and if you stroke his palm he will make a fist at 9-10 weeks.
- All the body systems are functioning by 12 weeks.

# JANUARY 2020

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                  | Monday                                                        | Tuesday                                         | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                      | Thursday                                                                                              | Friday                        | Saturday                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                               |                                                 | <b>1</b><br>A HAPPY AND<br>BLESSED NEW YEAR<br>TO ALL!!<br>Pastor on vacation                                                                                  | <b>2</b>                                                                                              | <b>3</b>                      | <b>4</b>                                 |
| <b>5</b><br>Bible Study 8 am<br>Peace Comm. 9:00<br>SS & BC 10:15<br>Bruno Comm. 11:00                                                                                  | <b>6</b><br>Quilting 9-12<br>Adult Instruction<br>Class 4:15  | <b>7</b><br>Peace Bible Studies<br>3:00 & 6:30  | <b>8</b><br>Confirmation 3:30<br>Peace Elders 7:00                                                                                                             | <b>9</b><br>Pastor office hours in<br>Bruno 3-5 pm<br>Confirmation 5:00<br>Bruno Bible Study<br>6:30  | <b>10</b><br>Pastor's day off | <b>11</b><br>"Men of Peace"<br>9:00-noon |
| <b>12</b><br>Bible Study 8 am<br>Peace Worship 9:00<br>SS & BC 10:15<br>Bruno Worship 11:00<br>Nursing Home 2:30                                                        | <b>13</b><br>Quilting 9-12<br>Adult Instruction<br>Class 4:15 | <b>14</b><br>Peace Bible Studies<br>3:00 & 6:30 | <b>15</b><br>"Women of Peace"<br>1:00<br>Confirmation 3:30                                                                                                     | <b>16</b><br>Pastor office hours in<br>Bruno 3-5 pm<br>Confirmation 5:00<br>Bruno Bible Study<br>6:30 | <b>17</b><br>Pastor's day off | <b>18</b>                                |
| <b>19</b><br>Bible Study 8 am<br>Peace Comm. 9:00<br>SS & BC 10:15<br>Bruno Comm. 11:00<br><b>*BRUNO ANNUAL<br/>MEETING-12:00<br/>*PEACE ANNUAL<br/>MEETING-2:00 pm</b> | <b>20</b><br>Quilting 9-12<br>Adult Instruction<br>Class 4:15 | <b>21</b><br>Peace Bible Studies<br>3:00 & 6:30 | <b>22</b><br><b>**NEWSLETTER<br/>DEADLINE**</b><br>Confirmation 3:30<br><b>MCCL March for<br/>Life @ State Capitol-<br/>rides leave from<br/>Peace @ 10 am</b> | <b>23</b><br>Pastor office hours in<br>Bruno 3-5 pm<br>Confirmation 5:00<br>Bruno Bible Study<br>6:30 | <b>24</b><br>Pastor's day off | <b>25</b>                                |
| <b>26</b><br>Bible Study 8 am<br>Peace Matins 9:00<br>SS & BC 10:15<br>Bruno Matins 11:00<br>Joint Bible Study @<br>Trinity Sandstone<br>12:30                          | <b>27</b><br>Quilting 9-12<br>Adult Instruction<br>Class 4:15 | <b>28</b><br>Peace Bible Studies<br>3:00 & 6:30 | <b>29</b><br>Confirmation 3:30<br>Young Families<br>Group 6:30                                                                                                 | <b>30</b><br>Pastor office hours in<br>Bruno 3-5 pm<br>Confirmation 5:00<br>Bruno Bible Study<br>6:30 | <b>31</b><br>Pastor's day off |                                          |