

PEACE TALKS

*Peace Lutheran Church – LCMS
Finlayson, Minnesota*

Rev. Philip Hoppe, Pastor

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MARCH 2020

Children of God,

A lot of people have said that they wonder how it is that Jaimee and I take care of the needs and concerns of seven children. I wish I could tell you that we have some perfect system created that always works and makes everything easy. I cannot tell you that. It can be rather overwhelming at times.

Anyone charged by God with watching over other people's wellbeing can be overwhelmed with the responsibility. It does not only happen with parents and children.

Many Lutherans have been very hesitant to use the term father for pastors because of Jesus' own words in Matthew 23:9, "Call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven." But Martin Luther himself talked often about how the role of the pastors is a fatherly one in many ways. In the Large Catechism, he says, "the name spiritual father belongs only to those who govern and guide us by the Word of God."

Just like fathers in the home are to watch over their children. Pastors are given to watch over the people in their congregations. The book of Hebrews in talking about spiritual leaders says, "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you." Yes, pastors, are to watch over the souls of those entrusted to their care.

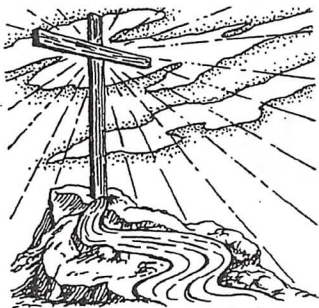
But how is one pastor supposed to truly watch over the amount of people in each congregation or collection of congregations. I wish I could tell you again that I have some perfect system that I created that always works and makes everything easy. But I cannot tell you that. The church throughout at least recent history has employed elders in congregations to help the pastor do this work of spiritual care. But even with their help, the task can seem quite overwhelming.

I have not created a perfect system to deal with this as I mentioned, but the elders and I at Peace have created a simple way in which we are going to try to do this work better.

So beginning this month at Peace, we are going to begin to just simply work through our membership rolls in alphabetical order. We are going to take 10 households as they are listed in the annual report and make them our particular focus for that month. We are going to be thinking about you, praying for you, and trying to provide you good care for your souls. At Bruno, we are going to begin doing something very similar in our monthly fourth Sunday meetings of church officers.

That means that in March at Peace we will be focusing on the first 10 family units listed in our membership list. Will be praying for the Allemans, the Alms, the Baluts, the Barnicks and the Beckers. In Bruno, we will start alphabetically as well. We will be mentioning these people in the prayers of the Church during the month. We may reach out to you in one way or another. If you have particular concerns that you always mean to mention but never have, reach out to us during this time also! Each month in the newsletter we will note those we are praying for that month.

May God use this approach for our good and the good of his Kingdom. In Christ, Pastor Philip Hoppe



... sorrow and love
flow mingled down.

LENT CONTINUES

We are only one week into our Lenten season and we invite you to join us for a devotional worship each Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. during the Lenten

season. This year's series focus is the sixth and final Chief Part of Luther's Small Catechism:

"Confession and Absolution"

March 4 – Romans 2:1-5

"What is Confession – Part 1"

March 11 – 1 John 1:8-9

"What is Confession – Part 2"

March 18 – Exodus 20:1-17

"Which sins should we confess?"

March 25 – Matthew 18:15-18

"What is the Office of the Keys?"

April 1 – Luke 10:1-10

"What do you believe according to these Words?"

~~May the Lord bless our gatherings~~

Prior to our Lenten services each Wednesday, we will again be having our soup suppers. This is a congregational effort and we are asking the men, women and youth to help out by offering your talents by making soups or baking breads and/or bars. Please take a look at the sign-up sheet in the narthex and see when and how you can help. We hope you will join us each Wednesday evening during Lent to gather with each other for fellowship and worship.



PRAYERS for our Congregation

Members

Each month the Elders place the focus of their spiritual care on ten family units listed in our Annual Report. In March 2020, we pray for the following family units: LuAnn Alleman family, Randy Alleman, Dick Alleman family, Kate Alm, Larry Alm family, Lisa Balut, Kayleigh Balut, Daniel Barnick, Ed Barnick, and Linda Becker family.



BAKE SALE

Our "Women of Peace" will be sponsoring their annual bake sale on St. Urho's Day, Saturday, March 21st, from 8:00-noon at the Finlayson Community Center.

We are asking for donations of baked goods *from all of our members*. Baked goods may be brought to the church on Friday or bring to the Community Center by 8:00 Saturday morning – already priced! Please note if there are any nuts in your products.

~~THANK YOU~~

Thank you to everyone for prayers, kind words of encouragement and cards. It is much appreciated. It is a blessing to belong to such a caring congregation.

~~ Elaine Steeg

FROM THE PASTOR...

Confession and Absolution

Our Catechism says we should confess the sins that bother our conscience privately to our pastor so that he can deliver Christ's forgiveness to us personally for those sins. Pastor is always available to give you this gift of God. Nothing shared in confession will ever be shared with anyone else and you get to talk away with the assurance of your forgiveness. Especially in this Lenten season when we are speaking of such things in our midweek service, please make use of this opportunity. Let Pastor know if you would like to do this and he will arrange a time to meet with you.

--**Jesus invested His life in you.**
Have you shown any interest??



a couple of weeks we will again be going back to Daylight Saving Time. It will begin on Sunday, March 8th so set your clocks AHEAD ("Spring Ahead") 1 hour before going to bed on Saturday night (the 7th).

THRIVENT MEMBERS

You have until March 31st to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars for 2019. If you're not sure where to direct them, a couple of suggestions would be: Locally - Options for Women (Sandstone), A Place for You (Pine City), Rhine Lake Retreat (Finlayson); District & Synod - Orphan Grain Train, Lutheran Island Camp, LLL Float Committee, Lutheran Hour Ministries, We Raise Foundation (formerly Wheat Ridge Ministries), and many others. I have addresses for these if you need them.

Peace Lutheran Church
Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Present were: Pastor Hoppe, Tim Koski, Bill Tvedt, John Pitts, Bruce Pogatchnik, Royce Larson
 Chairman Tim Koski called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Pastor Hoppe opened with Scripture and prayer.

The minutes of the December 2019 regular council meeting were approved as read.
 The treasurer's report was reviewed and approved.

- Pastor's report:**
- Ash Wednesday is February 26th, and Easter is April 12th.
 - Peace will participate in the radio broadcast (WCMP) starting in April. More details will follow.
 - The Adult Information class will conclude in February with the possibility of three new members in March.
 - The joint Bible Studies on Sundays are going well.

Elder's report: Nothing to report.

Trustee's report: Insurance coverage on the church building will be reviewed to make sure it is adequate. Possible repairs around the premises are being considered and will be presented to the Voters.

Old Business: The Audit Committee of Koski, Pogatchnik and Tvedt met with Dennis Korpi and found the books to be in order.

New Business: None

Meeting adjourned at 8:02. Pastor led all in praying the Lord's Prayer.

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES
LENTEN DEVOTIONS

Every Lenten season, we reflect on God's work on our behalf through the telling of Christ's Passion. In *Deliver Us: Jesus Sets Us Free*, we remember our Savior's triumphal act of redemption in Israel's exodus from captivity in Egypt. Just as Moses led Israel to the Promised Land, Jesus won victory for us through His life, death, and resurrection. In both events, God saves His people. But, through Jesus, God saves completely.

Available to read online or as a podcast beginning February 26th, *Deliver Us: Jesus Sets Us Free* can also be received as an email subscription throughout the Lenten season. For more information on doing any of these options, go to their website www.lhm.org.

THIS TOO SHALL PASS

An elderly man astounded everyone by his cheerfulness in the face of physical ailments, family troubles and deferred pleasures. When asked the secret of his cheerful disposition, he replied, "Well, you see, it's like this. The Bible says often, 'And it shall come to *pass*,' never, 'It shall come to *stay*.'"

Respectfully Submitted,
 Royce Larson, Council Secretary



March is MINNESOTA FOOD SHARE month. Minnesota Food Share was founded in 1982 as a faith-based response to local hunger. During March, Minnesota corporations and individuals will match a percentage of the food and dollars received.

Across East Central Minnesota, over 8% of our neighbors do not have enough money to buy food for their families. Many of them report going hungry or skipping meals to ensure food goes to their children. Half of the individuals who visit Family Pathways are under 18 or over 65 years of age.

****IN RESPONSE** to this need, Peace church will be having a **"noisy change" collection on Sundays March 15 & 22**. Please save your loose change each week and bring it to church when you come on these Sunday mornings in March, and we will pass around a container to gather the change. This would also be a good project for our young children. Have your child/children save their pennies, nickels and dimes so they can participate as well and feel they can help in some small way. Remind them (and yourself) of the blessings you receive from our Lord each day.

ON MARCH 20, 21 & 22 we will have **"PACK THE PEW"** days. We would like to encourage our members to bring a grocery bag (or 2) of non-perishables to church and **PACK THE PEW in the narthex**. You can bring your filled bags to church during that weekend, or when you come to church on Sunday the 22nd.

Food shelves need all types of non-perishable food, including paper products, personal and hygiene products, and cleaning products. Think about giving larger cash donations - the food shelf can convert cash into more food than you can. Food and cash raised will be taken to our local Family Pathways Food Shelf in Sandstone which currently serves about 300 families each month, including adults, children and seniors. We hope all of our members will participate in this local mission project!

*KARMA - You get what you deserve.
CHRISTIANITY - Jesus got what you deserve!*

DO YOU SEE HIM?

Do you see Him alone in the garden-
Bowling humbly there on His knees,
Praying aloud to His Father in heaven,
While His disciples slept 'neath the trees?

What a night that was for our Savior!
The anguish of Gethsemane-
Crying, "O Father, if Thou wilt,
Let this bitter cup pass from Me."

Do you see Him among the accusers,
As they smote Him and spit in His face?
A purple robe they force on His body,
A crown of thorns on His head they place.

Do you see Him before Pilate's judgment-
Calmly standing, alone in the throng?
The radiance of God was upon Him,
"For in this Man there is no wrong."

Rejected by every companion,
Our Lord was now ready to die.
God's Word had met its fulfillment,
And the mob wildly cried, "Crucify!"

They led Him out of the city,
The cross they compelled Him to bear,
Until He could stand it no longer;
Then Simon the burden did share.

Do you see Him now at the mercy
Of those who thought this a treat?
Imagine the pain that He suffered,
As they nailed through His hands and His feet!

Do you see Him hanging on Calvary-
First time from His Father apart?
'Twas our sin that brought Him from heaven-
and He died 'cause we broke His heart.

Oh, the love that God has for sinners,
That He let His Son die on the tree!
For Jesus there paid the full ransom;
Now our souls from all sin may be free.

Vernon R. Furgason



An open letter from the devil

BY DONALD E. WILDMON, AFA President

~ Notice
date of
article ~

Hello. This is your friend the devil writing. I want to thank you for following my suggestions in the past. You have been a big help in what I'm trying to build. Let me remind you of some guidelines to follow. Your support has been a big help in the past and will help even more in the future.

First, never bring up or discuss or preach on "controversial" topics such as abortion, pornography, gambling, drinking, sexual immorality or any such private sins. Put your emphasis only on corporate sins. You can do so much more for me by doing that. Blame government and big business. Forget individual responsibility.

Don't worry about the moral character of our leaders. Just rate them on how good a job they are doing. Again I say, deal only with corporate sins, never with individual sins.

Don't get involved with controversial issues. Let someone else do it. Your plate is already full.

Always remember that there is no such thing as absolute truth. All things are relative. Place spiritual issues at the bottom level of life.

Depend on the government to do things for you. Let them raise your children, educate your children and train your children in right and wrong. Never criticize the social programs of government. Their experts are far more capable of solving problems than you are. Common sense can never compete against bureaucracy.

Never speak out on any issue using your Christian values as a perspective.

Don't get involved in politics. Don't run for office. Don't give any money or time to those who do. Don't let your Christian faith guide you in making your choices. Remember, we must keep the church and state separate. It says so in our Constitution, you know.

Keep listening to the liberal media. Let them fill your mind with their reporting day after day. By doing this, you will eventually come to agree with them. We all know they know what is best for our society. Remember that anyone who disagrees with them or tries to give a balanced perspective, is nothing more than a member of a vast right-wing conspiracy. The liberal media can and will provide you with all the information you need to make the decision they know is best.

Remember the only thing necessary to be a good Christian is to go to church when you can, give a little money if you can. Remember that your faith should be a private matter between you and your church. Never try to apply it anywhere else. You must remember to be tolerant of all others who think and live differently than you. Their lifestyle is just as good as any other lifestyle. All lifestyles are different but equal. Don't get involved in any kind of effort with any of the right-wing groups. They are oppressive.

Continue to ignore the Bible. It is an outdated book full of bad concepts. It is, you know, only a story of myths concocted thousands of years ago to keep the masses in line, to favor the male hierarchy and those in power. Like our Constitution, it is now out of date and useless.

There are many other suggestions I want to share with you later. I will write again. But for the time being just keep following these. It will do a world of good for our common cause.

MARCH 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Bible Study 8 am Peace Comm. 9:00 SS & BC 10:15 Bruno Comm. 11:00	2 Quilting 9-12	3 NO BIBLE STUDIES DURING LENT Regional AA Mtg. @ Peace 7:00	4 Confirmation 3:30 Soup Supper 5:30-6:30 Peace Lenten Devotional 7:00 Peace Elders 7:45	5 Pastor office hours in Bruno 3-5 pm Confirmation 5:00 Bruno Lenten Devotional 6:30	6 Pastor's day off	7
8 Bible Study 8 am Peace Worship 9:00 SS & BC 10:15 Bruno Worship 11:00 Nursing Home 2:30	9 Quilting 9-12	10	11 Confirmation 3:30 Soup Supper 5:30-6:30 Peace Lenten Devotional 7:00 Peace Council 7:45	12 Pastor office hours in Bruno 3-5 pm Confirmation 5:00 Bruno Lenten Devotional 6:30	13 Pastor's day off	14 "Men of Peace" 9:00-noon
15 Bible Study 8 am Peace Comm. 9:00 SS & BC 10:15 Bruno Comm. 11:00	16 Quilting 9-12	17	18 "Women of Peace" 1:00 Confirmation 3:30 Soup Supper 5:30 Peace Lenten Devotional 7:00	19 Pastor office hours in Bruno 3-5 pm Confirmation 5:00 Bruno Lenten Devotional 6:30	20 Pastor's day off	21 ST. URHO'S DAY CONGREGATION BAKE SALE @ Community Center 8:30-noon
22 Bible Study 8 am Peace Matins 9:00 SS & BC 10:15 Bruno Matins 11:00	23 Quilting 9-12	24	25 **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** Confirmation 3:30 Soup Supper 5:30 Peace Lenten Devotional 7:00	26 Pastor office hours in Bruno 3-5 pm Confirmation 5:00 Bruno Lenten Devotional 6:30	27 Pastor's day off	28
29 Bible Study 8 am Peace Worship 9:00 SS & BC 10:15 Bruno Worship 11:00	30 Quilting 9-12	31				

