

PEACE TALKS

May 2020

*Peace Lutheran Church – LCMS
Finlayson, Minnesota*

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Brothers and sisters in Christ,

There are things we can know with certainty as God's people. And luckily, they are the most important things. We know that God is our Creator and still takes care of us each day. We know that while we were sinners, God loved us and sent His Son to die for us. Because of that our sins are forgiven and we are given new life. That new life is ours now to be lived out day to day and not even death can take away this life. It will continue forever with God. We know that the Holy Spirit is active making us holy in His church through His Word and Sacraments.

There is a lot of uncertainty otherwise. Our minds are filled with it these days. Uncertainty about the nature of the disease itself and its threat. Uncertainty about what the response we have taken to the disease will mean in coming days, months, and years. Uncertainty about why people, from the most powerful to the lowliest, are doing what they are doing. Uncertainty about what it all means for the specifics of our lives right now and in the future.

But uncertainty did not arrive with this pandemic. Uncertainty always exists. It is just a little more obvious at certain times than others. So what ought the Christian to do?

Well they ought to meditate on the certain things. And I would suggest to you that the best way to do that involves the use of three resources. The first is your Bible. Read it. Think on it. Pray about what you have read and what you have thought. The second is your catechism. If you do not have one and want one, send me a message and I will send you a small version in the mail. The catechism is good because it quickly summarizes the things that are certain for us. It is the Reader's Digest or Cliff Notes to the Bible. You can easily in one day review all of the major certainties the Bible reveals using your catechism. Again read it. Think on it. And yes then pray about the things you have read and thought about. The last is your hymnal. It takes the things that are certain and sets them to a tune so that they might dwell richly within you. Read the hymns. Sing the hymns. Listen to others singing the hymns. Then pray about the things you have sung and heard.

Or as Paul says, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things...and the God of peace will be with you." (Philippians 4:8-9)

It is my prayer for you that the certain things you know because God has revealed them to you through His Son Jesus Christ might be your peace in these uncertain times.

In Christ,
Pastor Philip Hoppe

THANK YOU -- to Ed Barnick & Larry Alm (if there are others I'm not aware of, please let me know) for keeping the church parking lot cleared of snow this winter, and to those who did snow shoveling & snow blowing. We appreciate the time you have given to the Lord's church! Hopefully we are DONE for the year! (Next up--LAWN MOWING)!

THANK YOU -- to Wayne Fiero for cleaning up the field, bringing in black dirt to fill the ruts and reseed it. Greatly appreciated!

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LAWN MOWING SIGN-UP



We are asking for your help to keep our church property spruced up during the summer months. There is a sign-up

sheet on the table in the **ENTRYWAY, RIGHT INSIDE THE CHURCH DOORS - OR - drop Pastor a note and tell him you will help out!** The more people who sign up, the fewer times each has to take a turn. Usually we have had enough volunteers that we've only had to mow twice. The church has all the mowers, weed whips, etc. to use, or you can bring in your own, as several do. In a couple of weeks, a schedule will be printed with a list of instructions included. We hope we can count on your help with this summer project.

THANK YOU!

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CONGRATULATIONS -- to Olivia Raivo who is now officially a United States

Marine! She had to endure the grueling 54-hour *CRUCIBLE* which included 48 miles, 45# of gear, 36 stations, limited nourishment, problem-solving exercises, all on 4-6 hours of sleep. "Enter a recruit -- exit a US Marine!" Amazing! Congratulations~

She will still be stationed in South Carolina but is not allowed to receive mail at

this time. We'll keep you posted.

Congratulations Olivia! We are all proud of you and I know how proud Mom, Dad and brothers are!

-- to Ken & Marcy Pirila who celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on April 23rd. If you would like to send them a card, their address is: 300 Commercial Ave. #101 Sandstone, MN 55072.



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On Wednesday, April 8, the Lord called home one of his dear children, Cynthia "Cindy" Dee Guss, at the age of 68 years. Cindy had

just retired from the US Postal Service about 1 week before being diagnosed with breast cancer which had already spread to her brain. Soon after, she suffered a stroke, spending her last days with her daughter, Deanna caring for her. Cindy attended Finlayson High School and was a part of the Class of '69. She attended worship nearly every Sunday, partaking in our Lord's Supper and attending Sunday morning Bible studies. All four of her children were Confirmed in the faith here at Peace.

We offer our sympathy to her family which includes sister, Trice and Mark Olson; nieces and nephews, Tara, Tim, Tyler Laursen and Ava Dunkley. Because of COVID, Cindy's funeral and burial will be held at a later date.

-- We also offer our sympathy to Angie & Leonard Gangelhoff, and Diane & Craig Howard, who received the news of Angie's brother/Diane's uncle, Phil Kester, 77, passing away very suddenly of a heart attack on Angie's birthday, April 20th. Phil was very involved in his church (Free Church in Sandstone), and always working for the good of his community. A drive-by visitation was held on Friday, April 24th with a graveside service being held on Saturday, April 25th at the Friesland Cemetery.

"Lord, now let your servant(s) depart in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation." Luke 2:29,30


~~~~NEWS FROM LUTHERAN ISLAND  
CAMP~~~~

Several weeks ago the Board of Directors closed camp to activities and retreats due to the virus. It laid off all staff as well. At this point summer camp stands in jeopardy. With camp reservations stopped and continuing expenses, they face financial challenges.

You are invited to prayerfully consider making a gift to their emergency fund appeal. It will cover operation expenses and opening camp when in occurs. The unofficial goal is \$100,000. They have currently received \$43,800 in emergency gifts.

If you are able to help, please consider a gift to: Lutheran Island Camp, Emergency Fund, 45011 - 230<sup>th</sup> St., Henning, MN 56551

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**FOOD PANTRY**

**PLEASE REMEMBER**  
**THE FOOD SHELF**

As always, you are encouraged to help support our local food shelf. Some families are struggling more than usual now,

and maybe some are having to use a food shelf for the first time ever, due to job lay-offs. If you are able, please send your food shelf donations to the church and they will be sent to the Food Shelf.

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**BLESSED IS THE MOTHER ...**

- Who can hold on to her children while letting go;
- Who puts a tranquil home ahead of an immaculate house;
- Who knows a kind act will be remembered longer than an easy word;
- Who really believes that prayer changes things;
- Whose faith in the future sweetens the present;
- Whose sense of humor is alive and well.
- Whose Bible never needs dusting!

**WHEN GOD MADE MOTHERS**

By the time God made mothers, he was into his sixth day of working overtime. An angel appeared and said, "Why are you spending so much time on this one?"

God answered and said, "Have you seen the spec sheet on her? She has to be completely washable, but not plastic, have 200 movable parts, all replaceable, run on black coffee and leftovers, have a lap that can hold three children at one time and that disappears when she stands up, have a kiss that can cure anything from a scraped knee to a broken heart, and have six pairs of hands."

The Angel was astounded at the requirements for this one. "Six pairs of hands? No Way!" said the Angel. God replied, "Oh, it's not the hands that are the problem, it's the three pairs of eyes that mothers must have!" And that's just on the standard model?" the Angel asked.

God nodded in agreement, "Yep, one pair of eyes are to see through the closed door as she asks her children what they are doing, even though she already knows. Another pair in the back of her head is to see what she needs to know even though no one thinks she can. And the third pair is here in the front of her head. They are looking at an errant child and saying that she understands and loves him or her without even saying a single word."

The Angel tried to stop God. "This is too much work for one day. Wait until tomorrow to finish."

"But I can't," God protested. "I am so close to finishing this creation that is so close to my own heart. She already heals herself when she is sick and can feed a family of six on a pound of hamburger and can get a nine-year-old to stand in the shower!" The Angel moved closer and touched the woman. "But you have made her so soft, Lord!"

"She is soft," the Lord agreed, "but I have also made her tough. You have no idea what she can endure or accomplish."

"Will she be able to think?" asked the Angel.

The Lord replied, "Not only will she be able to think, she will be able to reason, and negotiate."

The Angel then noticed something and reached out and touched the woman's cheek. "Oops, it looks like you have a leak with this model. I told you that you were trying to put too much into this one."

"That's not a leak," God said, "That's a tear!"

"What's the tear for?" the Angel asked.

God said, "The tear is her way of expressing her joy, her sorrow, her disappointment, her pain, her loneliness, her grief, and her pride."

The Angel was impressed. "You are a genius, Lord. You thought of everything. **WOMEN** are truly amazing!"

**HAPPY MOTHERS' DAY!!**



**TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN**  
**SOLDIER**  
**ARLINGTON NATIONAL**  
**CEMETERY**

1) How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier – and why?

**21 steps – it alludes to the twenty-one gun salute which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.**

2) How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk – and why?

**21 seconds – for the same reason as #1**

3) Why are his gloves wet?

**His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.**

4) Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time?

**He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.**

5) How often are the guards changed?

**Guards change every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.**

6) What are the physical traits of the guard limited to?

**For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5'10" and 6'2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30.**

They must commit two years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform or the tomb in any way.

After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin.

The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt. There are not wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform.

Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror.

The first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone nor watch TV. All off-duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred.

Among the notables are:

President Taft, Joe Lewis (boxer), Medal of Honor winner, Audie L. Murphy, the most decorated soldier of WWII and of Hollywood fame. Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.

**ETERNAL REST GRANT THEM  
O LORD AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT  
SHINE UPON THEM.**

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In 2003 as Hurricane Isabelle was approaching Washington, D.C., our US Senate/House took two days off with anticipation of the storm. On the ABC evening news, it was reported that because of the dangers from the hurricane, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment. They respectfully declined the offer, "No way, Sir!"

Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment, it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a service person. The Tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.

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We remember, O Lord, all those men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country. Do not let us breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship without remembering with great gratitude those who gave the last full measure of devotion - their very lives - for our benefit. May they now know the peace of eternity and the joy of your presence. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



# MAY 2020



| Sunday                                                                           | Monday                 | Tuesday | Wednesday                                                                                              | Thursday                                  | Friday           | Saturday |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------|----------|
|                                                                                  |                        |         |                                                                                                        |                                           | Pastor's day off | 1        |
|                                                                                  |                        |         |                                                                                                        |                                           | Pastor's day off | 2        |
| 3<br>On-Line Services                                                            | 4                      | 5       | 6<br>On-Line Bible Study on the Book of Titus                                                          | 7                                         | Pastor's day off | 8        |
| 10<br><b>HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!</b><br>On-Line Services                             | 11                     | 12      | 13<br>On-Line Bible Study on the Book of Titus                                                         | 14                                        | Pastor's day off | 15       |
| 17<br>On-Line Services                                                           | 18                     | 19      | 20<br>"Women of Peace" 1:00<br>On-Line Bible Study on the Book of Titus                                | 21<br>Pastor office hours in Bruno 3-5 pm | Pastor's day off | 22       |
| 24<br>Bible Study 8 am<br>Peace COMMUNION 9:00<br>Bruno COMMUNION 11:00<br>***** | 25<br>**MEMORIAL DAY** | 26      | 27<br>**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**<br>Young Families Group 6:00<br>On-Line Bible Study on the Book of Titus | 28<br>Pastor office hours in Bruno 3-5 pm | Pastor's day off | 29       |
| 31<br>Bible Study 8 am<br>Peace Worship 9:00<br>Bruno Worship 11:00              |                        |         |                                                                                                        |                                           |                  | 30       |

**NOTE:** Confirmation Sunday is tentatively set for June 21<sup>st</sup>.