

PEACE TALKS

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH - Missouri Synod

Finlayson, Minnesota

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www.plcms.com

JANUARY, 2021

Friends in Christ,
Martin Luther said,

“It is so important to distinguish the two Words properly and not mingle them together.

Otherwise you will not be able to have or hold on to a correct understanding of either of them.

Instead, just when you think you have them both, you will have neither.”

What two Words was he speaking of? He was speaking about the Word of Law and the Word of the Gospel. Some of you reading this will have had quite a bit of instruction concerning what Law is and what Gospel is. Others of you will be quite familiar with the terms but would not want to be asked to explain the difference between the two at any length. Still others might find this distinction altogether new.

In essence, the Law is any time God tells us what to do. That Word can be found in Old Testament or new, but it is a Word that commands us to do something. The Gospel is anytime God tells us what he has done for us in Christ Jesus. Again, this Word can appear anywhere in the Bible but it tells us what has been done.

While the Law does guide us and also serves to curb evil in everyone since the Law is written on everyone’s heart, in the end the Law always accuses us of sin. When it says do, we recognize we have not always done what God says to do. The Gospel then clears us of that accusation, not by proving that we are innocent, but by reminding us that Christ, the innocent one, died for our sins to wash them away.

It is been said that the whole Bible can be divided up into Words of Law and Gospel. Some Scriptures tell us what to do and others what God has done. Martin Luther said that being able to know which Word of God is needed for any individual is critical to anyone speaking the Word of God.

Technology allows things that used to not be possible. Of course, some of those are not good things. Some are. Beginning in January, pastor friend of mine and myself are weekly going to try to look at part of a book that the first president of the Missouri Synod wrote called Law and Gospel. It was originally written for pastors to teach them how to preach, but I am convinced the Words there are just as applicable to you in many ways as they are to me. For you need to know what Word to speak in any given situation. You need to know when someone needs to be told what to do or else and you need to know when someone needs to be told what has been done in Jesus. This is important in families, in marriages, and in Christian friendships.

These videos will be posted most Wednesdays until we are done looking at each part of the book. Online video bible studies often lack the conversation that occurs in an in-person Bible Study, so it is our hope that the conversation between us will be engaging and helpful to you. Our normal bible studies will continue at both Peace and St. Paul’s.

In Christ,
Pastor Philip Hoppe

THANK YOU

- TO Sharon Tvedt for planning and presenting this year's Children's Christmas program, "God's Gifts;" to Marge Haefner & LuAnn Alleman 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 Marge Haefner, Mary Nelson & Kate Alm, and Olivia & Ella Hoppe for their musical contributions on Christmas Eve and 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 & adults 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!**



Our church lost another one of its faithful members when Veloren Kay Osladil was transferred to the Church

Triumphant on December 1st at the age of 78 years, after her health had declined in the last couple of months. The Lord blessed Veloren with a musical talent that she loved to share with others and with our congregation. She was organist & choir director for many, many years, and enhanced our worship services with her uplifting music. I, personally, so enjoyed when she, and daughter(s), Dawn or Ronell, did their organ/piano duets. She also ministered to others by sending cards for various occasions, and was an avid TWINS baseball fan

Veloren had her struggles, but through it all, she never lost sight of her Lord, and her Lord never let go of her, and now, the Victory is hers!

Our sympathy goes out to Ron, who stood by her side for 60 years of marriage, which they celebrated in October. Her three children (Bryan, Ronell, Dawn), were here one last time to celebrate this joyous occasion with them.

Her service of Christian burial was held here at Peace on Friday, December 4th.

"But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

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THANK YOU

-- We would like to thank each and everyone who donated blood on November 16th. Our goal was 36 units and we exceeded our goal – 44 donations!

We truly appreciate it. See you in April!
– Trice & Bev

– We would also like to thank George & Mary Sorenson who, during this Christmas season, generously donated \$100 to our congregational charity fund.

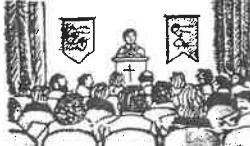
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FOUR THINGS TO LEARN IN LIFE

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. 17, 2021 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.

CHANGES

--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

THE NEW FLOWER CALENDAR FOR 2021

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.



still hope to hold the traditional in-person March which begins at NOON on the Capitol grounds with a short program at 12:30 pm. **IF THE IN-PERSON MARCH CANNOT** legally take place, they will hold a Virtual March for Life online at the same time. If you are interested in going, please talk to Ed Barnick, or LuAnn Alleman. IF we go, 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!

Abortion through the mail: A Minnesota Abortion practitioner is now sending abortion drugs to women through the mail-despite the increased risks to women's health.

Planned Parenthood starts abortions in Uptown: PP opened its new and expanded Uptown clinic in Minneapolis, where the organization is now providing chemical abortions. It is PP's third Minnesota clinic offering telemedicine or "webcam abortions."



Are you acquainted with the word "Epiphany?" It is derived Greek word, *epiphaneia*, and means "an appearance." Centuries ago, the church set aside January 6, the 12th day after Christmas, and called that day Epiphany. It was intended for it to refer to the revealing of Jesus as the Christ to the Wise Men who were Gentiles. The very first followers of Christ were Jewish. The story of the revelation of Christ to the Wise Men, who were non-Jewish, is a reminder that God meant for Christ to be the Savior of the whole world. As an old hymn put it: "The light of the world is Jesus." The whole world! Have a Merry Epiphany! (Epiphany is observed/celebrated on January 6th).

MARCH FOR LIFE At the State Capitol - Friday, Jan. 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 Friday and is the 48th 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 660,000 unborn babies have been killed by abortion in Minnesota since then! More than 60 million killed nationwide since 1973. Women, men, and families have been wounded. AS OF THIS WRITING, they

-- Music can woo people to the church, but the Word will win them.

**-- The Word of God never changes. If you go to worship to hear something new, you have gone for the wrong reason.
If you hear something new, you are at the wrong place!**

USHERS

Sunday, January 3 -- Leon & Lucas Payne
Sunday, January 10 -- Ron Osladil & Dick Alleman
Sunday, January 17 -- John & Marcus Pitts
Sunday, January 24 -- Bill Tvedt & Dwight Hahn
Sunday, January 31 -- Ed Barnick & Kenny Ziegler



JANUARY ALTAR GUILD - Cindy Pitts & Trice Olson

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACOLYTES</u>	<u>ELDERS</u>
Sunday, January 3	Charlotte Fredrickson	Ron Volk & John Pitts
Sunday, January 10	Carli Gow	
Sunday, January 17	Cale Jensen	Don Weiss & Ron Osladil
Sunday, January 24	Jack Meier	
Sunday, January 31	Justin Colsrud	

WOMEN OF PEACE

The Women of Peace met on Wednesday, December 16 with seven members present. Pastor Hoppe led us in our Bible study, "We've got Good News to Tell," taken from the LWML Quarterly. The January Bible Study will be "Inspired to Share His Story."

President-elect Barbara Moen opened our business meeting by all joining in the LWML Pledge. Mites, offerings were collected, and correspondence was read.

The Secretary's report was approved as read.

The Treasurer's report was read showing a balance of \$4,964.67, which includes \$497.83 in quilt funds. Motion by Carla, second by Carol, to send \$100 to Tree House. Motion carried.

New Business: our LWML membership list will be updated.

Carla gave a devotion on "Good News, Bad News." We closed with the Lord's Prayer & table grace. Mary Nelson served refreshments. Carla will serve for the January 20th meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jan Hahn, Secretary

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

1. **Start each day with God.** This is not easy. It means heeding the alarm instead of sleeping on. It means getting out of that warm bed, reading His Word for cleansing and instruction and praying to God as you commit your day to Him.
RESOLVE: To keep your daily rendezvous with the Lord.
2. **Organize each day the night before.** Do not be disorganized. Set out, in order of their priority, the things that need to be done. This will enable you to do the necessary rather than the urgent.
RESOLVE: To be organized.
3. **Exercise every day.** The older each of us get, the harder it is to keep the fat off and the body in shape. Let us be good stewards of the bodies God has given us and keep them toned. Our minds as well as our bodies will function better when we are physically fit.
RESOLVE: To get in shape and stay in shape.
4. **Praise God even when you do not feel like it.** We were created to praise God. Every moment of every day, be thankful for God's love. Relax in His promises and in EVERYTHING, give thanks.
RESOLVE: To praise God at all times.

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