

PEACE TALKS

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

Finlayson, Minnesota

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www.plcms.com

SEPTEMBER 2020

People of God through Jesus-

I suppose if you stuck a kid into Disney World and told them that they could not leave for several months, they would get sick of it as well. Oh, they might initially buy the idea that it is the happiest place on earth, but soon they would grow weary and bored even there. They would start complaining about the rides and how repetitive they are. They would start saying that all the food tastes the same, an odd mixture of grease and sugar. They would get hot and tired and grumpy.

Many times, in the fall, especially among families with children, I see a lot of talk about the joy of getting everybody out of the home and back into their proper places, parents at work and kids at school. And I'll admit, it always saddens me a little bit. Not because work or school are bad things. And not because every home or any home is Disney World, filled all the time with fun and joy, but because the impression I get every fall is that we tend to think being in the home is a bad thing to be escaped.

Perhaps this year, this yearly seasonal feeling is even more intense than usual. Not only has this summer brought together families into the home as it usually does, but people have felt trapped there by fear of disease and/or order of authorities. Even in homes where fun and joy are present regularly, we have grown weary and bored of it all. It is the same thing over and over. The food served there seems bland. We get tired and grumpy. We want out. But how sad is it if we Christians give the impression to others that we look at the home as a jail to be broken out of rather than a great gift of God, a place of refuge, faith, and connection. While we may feel down on home life at times, we should not and should repent when we do.

We sometimes make a similar mistake in the church as well. Many church newsletter articles this month will just be filled with everything that is going to be starting up at church. While the pastors writing these articles do not mean to say this, they will give the impression that our faith life has been on hold for the summer and is now returning with church activities. Even if that is true for some people sadly, we should not affirm it as good or normal.

When we think about our faith life, first and foremost we should think two things: daily devotions in the home and the weekly gathering at church on Sunday. While things like Sunday School, confirmation, and bible classes, not to mention various other activities are great and helpful additions to a life of faith which I hope you will attend and enjoy, I hope first and foremost that you will understand that your faith life is much more impacted by what you do every day in the home and whether you gather for worship than by what you do one night a week at church.

So, I am not writing you this month to say, "Time to get back at it, church. Break time is over. Everything needed for faith is coming back." I am writing you to tell you this. In every season, be in the Word in your home. Gather with God's people on Sunday. And then adorn that core of your faith with other things, at church, in your home, and in service to your neighbors as you have time and ability. But these core things have no offseason. For the devil is always working, and so we must always be where God is working.

So, yes, please read through the rest of these pages and see what is going on at church. But if nothing is going on in your home spiritually or if you are not gathering for worship each week, let's deal with that first, in repentance that leads to the reception of God's forgiveness in Christ and the newness of life given by the Spirit of God. As your pastor, I am here to help you think through how to do any or all of this.

In Christ, Pastor Hoppe



VBS WRAP-UP

Vacation Bible School was a one day event this year due to COVID-19. But it was a morning FULL of fun, Bible Stories, games, snacks and crafts. We had 47 kids that came, and had 27 teachers and helpers! It was held outside with 5 tents set up. We thank God for the perfect day, and we thank Mary Nelson for coordinating this event and all the kids and adults who participated. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

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RALLY



DAY

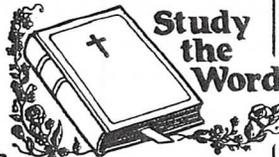
SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS WITH RALLY DAY SEPTEMBER 13th

Summer vacation is coming to an end, and once again our thoughts turn to Sunday school which will begin Sept. 13th, from 10:15-11:30.

All children ages 4 (pre-school) thru 12th grade are welcome to join us. If you have any children in your neighborhood who are not attending Sunday school, please invite them. Share the Lord with someone you know. We look forward to seeing all the children again, not only in Sunday school, but in our worship services as well. Parents, please encourage your children to attend both faithfully. Questions can be directed to our new Superintendent, Sharon Tvedt.

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Pastor Hoppe will be gearing up for the Tuesday Bible studies, held here at the church at 3:00 in the afternoon and at 6:30 pm, beginning Sept. 22nd. We will resume our study of the Gospel of Matthew, and do some reviewing. Sunday morning Bible Studies meet at 8 am in the basement and are finishing up a study on fasting, with a new topic beginning soon on "authority." Please join in the study of God's Word, and the continuing education of your spiritual life.



~CONFIRMATION PARENTS~

Parents of 7th & 8th grade students are asked to come to an orientation meeting for this year's Confirmation classes on Wednesday, September 16th at 3:30 pm, to discuss the year ahead and the expectations for all those involved. Classes will meet every Wednesday at 3:30 pm, and will cover the material in Luther's Small Catechism. Elder Don Weiss will be assisting this year.

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With Sympathy - Our heavenly Father called home two more of his dear children from our congregation in the last month.

Beverly "Bev" Newham was called home on July 26th at the age of 84 years. Bev's funeral was held here at Peace on Thursday, August 6th. We extend our sympathy to her daughter & son-in-law, Linda & Bob Becker.

Our Lord also called home LaHoma Eppenberger on Thursday, August 13th at the age of 77 years. She graduated from Fremont High School in CA in 1960. She moved to Finlayson in 1982 after her husband, Ernie, retired from the Piedmont Police Dept., and worked at the Hinckley Casino from 2001-2008. LaHoma enjoyed wreath madding and a good dice game, as well as any kind of crafting. She and friend, Howie, enjoyed flea marketing for many years. We offer our sympathy to her nieces/caregivers, Bev Mensing and Sandy Schoenrock and their families.

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28

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ISN'T IT FUNNY? ----

-- how long an hour is spent in worship, but how short it is when fishing, golfing, or attending a ball game?

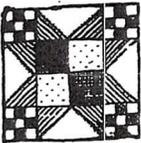
**FORMER PASTOR REV. GEORGE
SAGISSOR RETIRES
FROM THE MINISTRY**

After 45 years in the ministry, Rev. George Sagissor has retired from full time ministry (as I've been told, Pastor's never really "retire"), with his final services being held on Sunday, August 30th at his present congregations of Trinity in Clear Lake and Faith in St. Cloud. Pastor George's first congregations right out of the seminary in 1975 were here at Peace/Finlayson, St. Paul/Bruno, and Grace/McGrath where he served us faithfully until 1988.

Pastor George will continue to serve as Circuit Visitor of the St. Cloud Circuit and as LWML Pastoral Counselor for the St. Cloud Zone.

Anyone wishing to send congratulatory greetings to Pastor George can mail them to his home address: 11519 - 59th Court, Clear Lake, MN 55319.

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**~QUILTING WILL
BEGIN SEPT. 14th~**

ATTENTION LADIES!!

Quilters
Quilting is to resume again on Mondays, beginning Sept. 14th, from 9-12. We welcome all willing hands to help cut, tie, pin, or sew edges, so bring your scissors, enjoy some fellowship (and usually some "goodies"), and stay as long as your schedule allows. Looking forward to seeing you all on Monday mornings!
~Peace Quilters

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~YOUTH NEWS~

Hello and blessings to you!

The youth event in Isle went well with a decent turnout from three of our congregations! Thank you to everyone who came and had a good time! Pastor Maunula took us on an outdoor walk and did a Bible study on creation.

In July I had my summer intensive classes, which went well.

In August was the Confirmation retreat which will be mentioned in next month's news. Please keep an eye out for continued updates!

Thank you!

LeAnn Gregoire, Circuit Youth Worker

CARE CLUB

Every so often, someone in our congregation and/or community needs extra help due to sudden illness, cancer treatment, normal effects of aging, etc. If you would like to occasionally be contacted by the **CARE CLUB** coordinator and asked to assist, fill out the form (if you have not done so already) on the side of the mailboxes, and return it to the holder - also on the side of the mailboxes.

Assistance could involve making a meal, driving to an appointment, mowing lawn, grocery shopping, etc. Thank You!

If you are someone in need of the Care Club, please contact Pastor, who will in turn, contact Roxann Winter who will assess the situation appropriately!

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YOUR CHILD DESERVES ...

... "Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4)

- 1) Your child deserves to hear you pray earnestly and often.
- 2) Your child deserves to go to worship and Bible classes with you regularly.
- 3) Your child deserves to see you sacrifice for the Lord.
- 4) Your child deserves to hear you talk to others about your faith.
- 5) Your child deserves to go with you to visit the sick and bereaved.
- 6) Your child deserves to be taught the Bible by you.
- 7) Your child deserves to hear you praise the church and her leaders.
- 8) Your child deserves to be encouraged by you to see and obey the truth always.
- 9) Your child deserves to see you putting the Lord first in your giving.
- 10) Your child deserves to know the Christ living in you.

**Peace Lutheran Church
Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, August 12, 2020**

Present were: Tim Koski, John Pitts, Bruce Pogatchnik, Dennis Korpi, Bill Tvedt, Royce Larson, Pastor Hoppe.

Chairman Tim Koski called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Pastor Hoppe read from Psalm 63 and opened with prayer.

The **Minutes** of the June 2020 Council meeting were approved as read.

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

Pastor's report:

- The new camera equipment has been purchased and continues to be fine-tuned.
- Sharon Tvedt was nominated/approved as Sunday School Superintendent on motion by Pastor Hoppe, seconded by Dennis Korpi and carried.
- The Sexual Abuse Prevention Policy has been slightly modified to include the words "two non-related adults" in place of "two adults," at the request of the insurance carrier. Motion by John Pitts, second by Dennis Korpi and carried.
- A list of services normally provided by a Funeral Director has been compiled to advise those who choose not to use a Funeral Director so that, if these services are desired, the family will know that they have to make their own arrangements for them.
- Pastor Hoppe will be starting Confirmation classes soon with 8 students. The Kroschel LCMS has asked Peace to allow their 6 students to attend Confirmation classes at Peace during their search for a Pastor. Pastor has agreed as long as it doesn't affect the times for the classes already established at Peace.
- A list of additional duties of the ushers during the current situation will be distributed to the ushers.
- Recording security cameras are being researched for possible use at Peace given the current civil unrest.
- "Wear & Share" activities have been ok'd for 2020.

Elders: The Elders have been asked to consider sending a follow-up letter to those removed from the member's list, reiterating that their presence in activities at Peace is welcomed and desired.

Trustees: Cemetery mowing was brought up, and other questions regarding the cemetery in the future. The topic will be further reviewed at the next Council meeting.

- the Council approved up to \$800 to purchase tent/canopies for outdoor use. There have been several times in the last few months where the canopies were borrowed to fill a need. Motion by Tim Koski, seconded by Bill Tvedt and carried.

Old Business: A person to continue videoing services will be needed soon. Several options are being considered.

New Business: The Blue Cross/Blue Shield bundled health insurance plan, Option C, currently in place for Pastor and his family, was approved for next year on motion by Bill Tvedt, second by Dennis Korpi and carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:34. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Royce Larson, Council Secretary

SPEAKING OF THE BIBLE

There are three stages of Bible reading:

- 1) The **Cod Liver Oil stage** – where you take it like medicine.
- 2) The **Shredded Wheat stage** – when it's nourishing, but dry.
- 3) The **Peaches and Cream stage** – where it's consumed with passion and pleasure.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE HORSES GONE?

Billy Sunday, the evangelist of a generation ago, used to say that going to church didn't make you a Christian any more than going to the barn would make you a horse. But if you were looking for a horse, you'd be most likely to find one in a barn.

Today, with an emphasis on leisure and the changing patterns of family life on weekends, we seem to be affirming that we can get along very well as Christians without a regular experience of corporate worship and without the association with Christian ideas and fellowship provided for us in the activities of the church. Without the discipline of regularly looking at life through the spirit and teachings of Jesus Christ, being Christian becomes a by-product of satisfying the regular demands of life.

Is it too strong a statement of principle to declare that except in special circumstances, every Christian needs one experience of corporate worship each week to help keep faith fresh and discipleship true?

— The "Newsletter" Newsletter

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THE TEACHER'S PSALM

The Lord is my helper, I shall not fear
in guiding these pupils.

He leadeth me to the heart of the
truth, and prepareth the minds of the pupils
for the truth.

He giveth me a vision of the
immortality of these lives.

He leadeth me to see the sacredness of
teaching His Book.

Yea, though I become discouraged and
despair at times, yet shall I lift my head, for
His promises cannot fail me.

His Word will not return to Him void,
and my faith undimmed shall burn through all
the coming year.

Thou walkest before me that the seed
planted shall grow.

Thou shalt stand by my side on
Sunday, and speak through these lips so that
these pupils feel the nearness of God.

Thou shalt cause each broken effort to
gather sheaves through unnumbered years.

My joy is full when I know that every
effort in Thy name shall abide forever.

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MOUNTAIN MOVING

Lord, I've never moved a mountain

And I guess I never will;

All the faith that I could muster

Wouldn't move a small ant hill.

Yet I'll tell You, Lord, I'm grateful

For the privilege knowing Thee,

And for all the mountain moving

Down thru life You've done for me.

When I needed grace to lift me

From the depths of deep despair,

And when burdens, pain and sorrow

Have been more than I could bear.

You have always been my helper

To restore life' troubled sea.

And to move these little mountains

That have looked so big to me.

Many times when I've had problems

And when bills I've had to pay,

And the worries and the heartaches

Just kept mounting every day,

Lord, I don't know how You did it,

Can't explain the wheres or whys

All I know, I've seen these mountains

Turn to blessings in disguise.

No - I've never moved a mountain,

For my faith is far too small,

Yet I thank You, Lord in heaven

You have always heard my call.

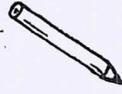
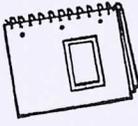
And as long as there are mountains

In my life I'll have no fear,

For the mountain-moving Jesus

He shall make them disappear.

SEPTEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
    Bible Study 8 am Peace Comm. 9:00 Bruno Comm. 11:00	Labor Day Quilting 9-12 Pastor teaching @ camp in ND---	1 Regional AA Mtg. @ Peace 7:00	2 Board of Elders 7:00	3 Pastor office hours in Bruno 3-5 pm	4 Pastor's day off	5 "Men of Peace" 9:00-noon
6 Bible Study 8 am Peace Comm. 9:00 Bruno Comm. 11:00	7 Labor Day	8 Church Council 7:00	9 Pastor office hours in Bruno 3-5 pm	10 Pastor's day off	11 Pastor's day off	12 "Men of Peace" 9:00-noon
13 Bible Study 8 am Peace Worship 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Bruno Worship 11:00	14 Quilting 9-12 -----Pastor teaching @ camp in ND---	15 "Women of Peace" 1:00 Confirmation Mtg. w/ parents 3:30	16 Pastor office hours in Bruno 3-5 pm	17 Pastor's day off	18 Pastor's day off	19 Pastor's day off
20 Bible Study 8 am Peace Comm. 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Bruno Comm. 11:00	21 Quilting 9-12 Pastor @ District Fall Conf. in Perham	22 Peace Bible Studies 3:00 & 6:30	23 **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** Confirmation 3:30 Young Families Group 6:00 pm	24 Pastor office hours in Bruno 3-5 pm Bruno Bible Study 6:30	25 Pastor's day off	26 Pastor's day off
27 Bible Study 8 am Peace Matins 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Bruno Matins 11:00	28 Quilting 9-12	29 Peace Bible Studies 3:00 & 6:30	30 Confirmation 3:30		Check Facebook and website for updates!	Check Facebook and website for updates!