

The

Messenger

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

From the Pastor

July 2019

Peace where brothers are engaging

As the Missouri Synod's triennial convention approaches, I regularly find myself singing the fourth stanza of "Lord of Our Life and God of Our Salvation" from *The Lutheran Hymnal (TLH)*.

It's not that the version in *Lutheran Service Book (LSB)* isn't good. *LSB* also does a marvelous job with the stanza, offering a faithful English rendering of the original German text, which prays for peace in Church and school, in society, and in our hearts and minds.

Even so, it's the *TLH* text that's been running through my head lately, and not only because I grew up with the 1941 hymnal and used it in my first congregation as a pastor. Rather, it's because this earlier, freer translation better fits with the tensions surrounding synodical conventions. Here it is:

Peace in our hearts, our sinful thoughts assuaging;

Peace in Thy Church, where brothers are engaging;

Peace when the world its busy war is waging,

Calm Thy foes raging. (*TLH* 258:4)

Translated this way, the hymn asks, simply and straightforwardly, for peace in three particular realms. It asks for peace in our hearts instead of sinful thoughts. It asks for peace in the Church instead of fighting and bickering. And finally, it asks for peace in the world instead of war.

It is that second request for peace in a Church "where brothers are engaging" that I miss in the newer version. In some form or another, we still need that prayer. We need it because the Church Militant, not only at the Synod level, but also at the congregational and family levels, has always suffered not only from heresies and schisms, but also from party politics and fervently-held differences of opinion about all sorts of issues. The Church Militant is not only fighting with Satan and his demonic armies. It is also fighting with itself. Brothers are engaging, and not merely in the friendly way in which we use the word "engage" today, but also in the older, rowdier sense of the word: that of single combat.

On this side of glory, brothers fight. Perhaps sometimes relationships become so broken that brothers actually hate each other, but this outcome isn't as common as you might think. Usually brothers in the Church fight because they love each other.

Imagine this very typical scenario: A 13-year-old boy is rude to his mother. He is rebuked by his older brother and their disagreement escalates until fisticuffs ensue. They fight. The older brother does this out of love for their mother, but he himself is no angel. He is partly driven by pride, thinking that he is the better son. He wants to demonstrate his superiority in front of the younger brother and his mother. He also may want to enact vengeance for past slights and crimes. But for all of that, the older brother, in fact, loves his younger brother. His rebuke isn't driven purely by love or carried out in love, but love is involved. The older brother ultimately wants to restore family peace and harmony.

It is not much different in the Church. The Church Militant is made up of Christians. Every Christian still on this side of glory is at war in himself. We all love the Church and one another, but we also struggle with pride and other vices. We should not be shocked if there are some heated debates and unkind remarks or other inappropriate behaviors at the convention this summer or in our congregational meetings or around our dinner tables. We should be disappointed, and to some degree ashamed, but we should not be surprised. Brothers fight.

At the same time, in our disappointment, we want to do better. We want to speak and act in love. We pray for peace and for our brothers. We pray that God would give us the grace by His Gospel to submit to the Word of God (Heb. 4:12–13) and to one another in love (Eph. 5:21; Rom. 7:4), to strive for pure doctrine and practice (1 Tim. 4:3; 6:3), but not to wrangle over words (2 Tim 2:14).

We pray, in other words, for peace in the Church where brothers are engaging. We pray that the convention in July will be a blessing to those involved and to the mission of the Church. And insofar as it fails to live up to the high ideals of the Scriptures, we eagerly await the day when we shall outgrow this childishness as the good work begun in us is completed.

The preceding article was written by the Rev. David H. Petersen, pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, posted at blogs.lcms.org/2019/peace-where-brothers-are-engaging

Pastor Lorenz

News and Notes of St. Peter



Congregational Christian Care

Please pray for, phone, visit, and or send a card or note to the following members that may be recovering or home bound.

Englewood Health & Rehabilitation – Mildred Craig

Heritage of Huntington – Dick Christ; Betty Pike; Maxine Stetzel

Heritage, Warren – Edward Campbell, Jr.

Lutheran Life Village – Rev. Donald Fischer; Ruth Guhl

Miller's Merry Manor – Neil & Sandy Stonebraker

Markle Health & Rehabilitation – Jean Simmons

Home – Wayne & Nancy Ashbaugh; Jason Cozad; Janice Hencken; Bradley Heideman; Laurie Trlak

If you discover that the information has changed, please call the Church office so we can update this list.

Tape Ministry

If you are unable to attend the worship services for any reason, including short-term recoveries, we would be happy to drop off a copy of the sermon or tape of the service which includes a bulletin. Please call Pam and Jack Wertenberger at 356-8139 or Pam's cell phone: 260-388-2507 to arrange for delivery. If you have received and listened to previous tapes, please place in a bag on your door to be picked up when a new tape is delivered. Thanks for your help.
Jack & Pam Wertenberger



A Little Heavenly Humor

Two guys are walking through a game park & they come across a lion that has not eaten for days. The lion starts chasing the two men. They run as fast as they can and the one guy starts getting tired and decides to say a prayer, "Please turn this lion into a Christian, Lord." He looks to see if the lion is still chasing and he sees the lion on its knees. Happy to see his prayer answered, he turns around and heads towards the lion. As he comes closer to the lion, he hears it saying a prayer: "Thank you Lord for the food I am about to receive."

Care List

We have "rebooted" the care list this month. However we are keeping the people that are currently in a residential facility or recovering at home on the list. Please let the office know if you need someone on the Care /Prayer list that is currently in the hospital, taking treatments or recovering at home and needing prayers. If you would like a name placed back on the list, ;you are more than welcome to do so.



80 Plus Birthdays this month! **July**

Happy Anniversary

7/2	Mark Cozad	80
7/10	Shirley Baker	84
7/13	Betty Riggers	89
7/18	Jack Slusser	83
7/18	Ruth Ann Whitesell	86
7/21	Vel Hoch	81
7/30	Neil Stonebraker	82

July

7/17 Christopher & Camy Rodenbeck
15 Years
7/21 Bruce & Sue Holtz
35 Years

Growing in the Faith

The trivia show “Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader” shows us that over time, we forget much of the things that have been taught to us. Below, find a few questions meant to tickle your brain cells and remind you of things that you were taught years ago. Answers may be looked up in the given Bible passage – but try answering before you look!

1. After Sarah died, Abraham received a second wife. What was her name? (Genesis 25:1)
2. The Bible records the words of two different animals that spoke. What are those animals? (Numbers 22:30; Genesis 3:1)
3. True or false: Ehud was left-handed. (Judges 3:15)
4. What happened when Eutychus fell asleep during Paul’s sermon? (Acts 20:9-12)
5. Fill in the blank: “All scripture is _____ - _____ and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. “ (2 Timothy 3:16)

4-H Fair

Don’t forget to sign up for the 4-H Fair project. Takes only a short amount of time from your busy schedule to show our love of Christ by helping with this project in serving our community with the food we prepare and serve.

Organizations

Ladies’ Guild: The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 2nd at 7:00 pm in the lower level of the education building.

St. Peter Association of Retired Keenagers (SPARKS) – There were two drawings at the June meeting and the lucky winner of the \$10.00 drawing was Janet Bennett and the \$5.00 drawing was George Eickhoff. The July meeting will be held at noon on Wednesday, July 10th at Richards Restaurant.

Dorcas Circle: Will not meet during the summer months. Will resume in September.

Quilters: For those that want to work on quilts during the summer, the door will be open at 9:00 am on Wednesdays. There will be no snacks. Quilting will not be available on July 17th and 24th (4-H Fair). Quilting will resume in September.

LYF: Please keep four of our youth and 2 chaperones in your prayers as we travel the first week of July to the Higher Things Youth Conference in Chicago at Concordia University. Pray for safe travels and open hearts to learn more about our God. Make sure to check next month’s newsletter to read about the conference from our youth.



Greeters

August	Saturday	Donna Smith
	Sunday	Karen Smith
September	Saturday	Leah Hiers
	Sunday	Harold and Janet Bennett
October	Saturday	Bob and Kris McFarland
	Sunday	Wayne and Nancy Ashbaugh

SERVING THIS MONTH

JULY 2019

ELDER

SATURDAY: GEORGE JUERGENS

SUNDAY: RANDY PRANGE

GREETERS

SATURDAY: Richard & Ellen Prange **SUNDAY:** Holly Cuttriss

ALTAR CARE: Sue Kellam & Judy Turgeson

SAT, July 1	5:00 PM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Adrian Brown
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Ron Brown
		ACOLYTE	Erika Brown
SUN, July 2	10:15 AM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Richard Winkelman
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Larry Baade
		ACOLYTE	Brianna Thomas
SAT, July 8	5:00 PM	ACOLYTE	Macy Lange
SUN, July 9	10:15 AM	ACOLYTE	Andrew Crider
SAT, July 15	5:00 PM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Ted McElhaney
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Chad Worsham
		ACOLYTE	Ted McElhaney
SUN, July 16	10:16 AM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Jeff Derr
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Jim Hoch
		ACOLYTE	Ian Crider
SAT, July 22	5:00 PM	ACOLYTE	Samantha Weicht
SUN, July 23	10:15 AM	ACOLYTE	Drew Dorsett
SAT, July 19	5:00 PM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Fred Lange
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Adrian Brown
		ACOLYTE	Erika Brown
SUN, July 30	10:15 AM	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Randy Prange
		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Richard Winkelman
		ACOLYTE	Brianna Thomas

If you are scheduled at a time that does not work for you, please contact an acolyte or communion assistant listed to take your place and let the office know so changes to the bulletin can be made. Thank you for your commitment to serve at St. Peter Church.

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton 6:30 Elders	2 11:00-12:00 Diaper Store 1:00 Chapel @ Millers 5:00-6:00 Diaper Store 7:00 General Guild HIGHER THINGS	3 12:00 Bulletin Deadline HIGHER THINGS	4 OFFICE CLOSED HIGHER THINGS	5 HIGHER THINGS	6 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service w/Communion
7 9:00 Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service w/Communion	8 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton 7:00 Council	9 1:00 Chapel @ Millers 7:00 Evangelism	10 12:00 SPARKS	11 12:00 Bulletin Deadline 1:30 @ Heritage Communion	12	13 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service
14 9:00 Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service	15 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton	16 11:00-12:00 Diaper Store 1:00 Chapel @ Millers 5:00-6:00 Diaper Store 7:00 Stewardship	17	18 12:00 Bulletin Deadline 4-H Fair Set-Up	19 Noon Messenger Deadline 4-H Fair Set-Up Pastor at Synod Convention - Tampa	20 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service w/Communion 4-H Fair Pastor at Synod Convention - Tampa
21 9:00 Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service w/Communion 4-H Fair Pastor at Synod Convention - Tampa	22 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton 4-H Fair Pastor at Synod Convention - Tampa	23 1:00 Chapel @ Millers 4-H Fair 7:00 BPLE Pastor at Synod Convention - Tampa	24 4-H Fair Pastor at Synod Convention - Tampa	25 12:00 Bulletin Deadline 4-H Fair Pastor at Synod Convention - Tampa	26 Pastor at Synod Convention - Tampa	27 4:00 Bible Class 5:00 Divine Service
28 9:00 Bible Class 10:15 Divine Service	29 9:00 Chapel @ Heritage 10:15 Chapel @ Tipton	30 1:00 Chapel @ Millers	31			

NOTES