

Peace Lutheran Church

Volume 32 No. 3

March 2019

*From the
Pastor*



PARABLE OF NEW WINE AND OLD WINESKINS

Luke 5:37-39

"And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for he says, 'The old is better.' "

"We never did it that way before." This is often times heard in the everyday experience. It is said in many different settings, but I am applying it to the congregation and to God's people that make up the congregation. Change is always scary. Old traditions and practices give a sense of comfort. However, this can cause problems and serve as a barrier for growth and new opportunities.

The context of the above verses is important to understand what Jesus was talking about. It was specifically addressed to the disciples of John the Baptist and to the Pharisees. The issue was fasting. It seems that Jesus (and His disciples) were causing offense as they did not regularly fast. Fasting was a regular practice amongst the accusing group. They clung to the letter of the Law as was commanded in the Old Testament.

Jesus uses this illustration and the one preceding concerning patching of a torn garment to instruct concerning Christian freedom and moreover the forgiveness of sins. Jesus was not saying that fasting was wrong. It indeed was intended to demonstrate contrition over sin. However, this was not necessary as Jesus was in the world to bring forgiveness to those who would look to Him. A change in practice became an issue for those steeped in the old traditions. Unfortunately, the practice of fasting had the potential of limiting the understanding of God's grace and consequently His forgiveness. This would not work. You would not put new wine in old wineskins as there was the potential that the wineskin would burst. So, you cannot take God's grace and limit it with old traditions. God's grace would not be limited. The new wine – the forgiveness of sins would no longer be limited to the practice of fasting. This was not saying that fasting was wrong, but pointed to faith in Jesus and the resulting forgiveness that would come from faith.

This teaching can be applied to many practices today. Since I have entered the ministry, I have had to struggle with that which I learned in the past and new practices of today. In Advent the color was always purple and was perceived as a season of penitence much like Lent. However, today the color is blue and is a celebratory season of hope. Hymnals has also been a struggle. But I have learned that some changes are permissible and at times serve better in the service of God. The issue is not whether we have always done it this way before (human tradition), but, is it Biblical. I don't accept change for change sake. Change is best when it better facilitates God's kingdom work and the means of grace that He has given to be shared with others.

Please keep this parable in mind as we no doubt will experience many changes in practice, though the Word of God and what is taught remains changeless.

To God be the glory!!

Pastor Ricky P. Schroeder

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS . . .

***Farewell to “Alleluia”
Exalted word of praise Which now in faith we forfeit
Throughout these forty days....And grant us hope and patience
That when the fast is gone New songs of “Alleluia!”
May greet your Easter dawn!***

In keeping with the time honored Christian tradition, the word “Alleluia” will not be sung or spoken during the 40 days of Lent. It will remain buried, so to speak, until it’s glorious return on Easter morning. You could say that we give “Alleluia” up for Lent.

My prayer for our Peace families this season is that we remember to use these 40 days of Lent to reflect on how much God loves us. He loves each and every one of us. He loved us so much that He sent His one and only Son, Jesus to pay the price for our sins. Jesus paid for our sins not with gold or silver, with His innocent suffering and bitter death on the cross. This tremendous sacrifice is the only reason we can find great joy on Easter morning when we sing our Easter “Alleluias”. To God Be All The Glory and Praise Forever. Amen

As we begin our journey into the Lenten Season, all of our Spring sessions will come from the New Testament with the “theme” Jesus Shows He Is True GOD. We will have a special Easter lesson on Palm Sunday as we will not have Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

Be sure to ask your children about their Sunday School lessons each Sunday and discuss with them what they’ve learned. As their parents **YOU** are the most important teacher your children will ever have.

***Sunday School Children to sing during Lent and beyond,
Sunday, March 10th: Grades 1st - 8th will sing in church.
SUN., April 7th: Gr. 3K - 5K Children will sing in church.
PALM SUNDAY April 14th: Gr. 1-8 and Adult Choir will sing in church.
MOTHER’S DAY: May 12th: All Sunday School Children 3K thru 8th grade.***



Sunday School Offerings

For the last 9 years our S.S. children have sponsored two Haitian children. Without sponsorship most children in Haiti can not afford to go to school as there is not public funding of education. Noel and Bazil are the two children we are sponsoring this year. We have sponsored Bazil ever since we started this mission project. When we chose Bazil she was 12 years old and liked to clean and wanted to be a sailor. She is now 19 years old and wants to be a nurse. Noel is 17 years old and want to be an engineer.

Our Sunday school offering grades 3K – 5K goes towards covering the \$240 tuition per child. We have almost enough money to cover 1 tuition. I encourage all Sunday School children to remember to share their blessings with those less fortunate by remembering their Sunday School offering.

MEMORY: Parents are reminded to continue to help their children with memory work at home each week. **Remember that for every 30 pieces of memory learned we can purchase a Bible for a child in Madagascar.** So far, we have learned over 300 pieces of memory, which equals 10 bibles. I know that we can do even more! See Mrs. Wilson with questions or if you need a new memory.



Vacation Bible School...Miraculous Mission coming June 10th—June 14th 2019

Plans are underway for another Christ centered Vacation Bible School this summer. Trinity Lutheran Church, Menasha will once again be joining us. We look forward to working together with our sister congregation. Please consider where you can help and be a part of this outreach project. Our first planning

meeting will be on Thursday, March 14th at 6:00PM.

Come and join us. We need your help!

We are less than 142 days from the 2019 National Youth Gathering and we are excited to share that 14 youth, 2 young adults and 4 adult leaders from our church will be travelling to Minneapolis, MN in July.

The support that our congregation gives to our youth is amazing and we are blessed in so many ways. We are planning a few FUNdraisers to help our youth be able to be with our Real Present God.

Here is a sneak peak at what's to come:

- ◆ March: Cinnamon Roll Sale/Vande Walle's Chocolate Bars
- ◆ **SAVE THE DATE!** April 14th: Potato Bar / Trivia / Talent Show (watch for details)
- ◆ April 21st: Easter Breakfast
- ◆ May 11th: Neenah Duathlon
- ◆ June: Crockpot Freezer Meal Sale (watch for details)
- ◆ July 4th: Pancake Breakfast @ Riverside Park

See the Sign-Up sheets in the back by the Senior High Room

We will also have an ongoing fundraiser called Fear the Change. Specially marked jars will be placed around church to collect your unwanted change. Check your couches, laundry, pockets or wherever your loose change hides.

Psalm 46. *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

In Christ Alone,
The youth of your congregation

Considering Lutheran Education?

Did you know that if you are a member of Peace, your children are eligible to receive a scholarship to attend a Lutheran school? In an effort to support Lutheran schools in the area, the Board of Education budgets money each year and we fundraise (SCRIP and 4th of July breakfast in the park) to help with the cost of parochial education. The only requirement is to be a member at Peace Lutheran Church with regular church and Sunday School/Youth Group attendance. Scholarships will be evaluated each year by the Bd. of Christian Education at Peace to determine the amounts given based on the availability of funds. High school and college (for those pursuing a career in church work) scholarships are also available. Applications for scholarships will be available at the end of May and due by early July.



SCHOLARSHIPS, THE YOUTH GROUP, AND SCRIP! What do these three things have in common? Well, by buying SCRIP you can help fund our Lutheran School Scholarship program as well as help our very own youth group raise funds for youth activities including the Youth Gatherings. Please consider checking out the SCRIP program. Our goal is to have a “new” customer each week. Could this be you? See you at the SCRIP table.

Acolyte Reminder: Remember that if you acolyte on a Sunday, during Lent you are also scheduled to acolyte at the following Wednesday Lenten service. If you are unable to do so, please arrange for someone to sub for you. Thank you.

HELP FOR THE HOMELESS Hygiene Drive

Feb. 17 to March 10

For Area Crisis Shelters Programs for Those 'At Risk'

The Family's 'Help for the Homeless' hygiene drive works with area homeless coalitions to stock the shelves of homeless and crisis programs in Wisconsin communities in our listening areas. The goal of Help for the Homeless is to supply a year's worth of product to each agency (*In many cases, this is happening!*). **Donations remain in the communities where they are collected.**

- Soaps: Laundry, Dish, Bar, Soft, Shower Gel, Shampoo
- Diapers (sizes 3-6 and Pull-Ups)
- Deodorant (unscented)
- Wet Wipes for babies
- Toilet Paper, Paper Towels
- Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
- Disposable Razors
- Tampons and pads (pads for young teens)

A collection box for your donations is in our Narthex by the coat racks.

Any help you can offer will be *greatly appreciated!!*



Dear Peace Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for the beautiful blanket to commemorate Annie's baptism. We appreciate all the time and talent that went into knitting it. It is something we will cherish for a long time. Thank you also for the shell that we can place in Annie's room. It will help us teach her about her baptism. We are so grateful to be part of Gospel reaching church with such a wonderful body of believers. With gratitude, Ali, Luke, Lydia & Annie Pelger.

VITAL STATISTICS

Number of Baptized Souls: 490

Number of Confirmed Souls: 412

Number of Families: 245

Transferred Out: Rhys Woller

Reaffirmation of Faith: Kathryn Tesch



FIND YOUR FIRE



MOPS is an international organization that exists to encourage, equip, and develop every mother to realize her potential as a woman, mother and leader in the name of Jesus Christ.

Neenah MOPS will be meeting on **Tues., Mar. 12th from 8:45 to 11 A.M.**



Dear Members of Peace -

Thank you so much for all of the cards, meals, hugs, words of support and most importantly your prayers for me and my family during this my cancer journey. They are so appreciated and working! I am in the best treatment position that I can be in. They also help me keep my positive attitude. Positive attitude equals positive outcome.
Lori Scruton and family.

ODDS AND ENDS

EACH ONE HIS WITNESS WORKSHOP On Saturday, March 9 from 8:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M., the Evangelism Board will be offering the “Each One His Witness Workshop”. The purpose of the workshop is to equip attendees to develop relationships by using skills based on the acronym LASSIE. Cost for our members will be \$10.00 per person. Materials, breaks and lunch will be provided. Registration is due by March 1st. Come and be equipped as we seek to fulfill our Mission Statement, “Reaching Out, Serving Jesus, Celebrating His Love”.

STEWARDSHIP SERIES 2019 Beginning on the weekend of March 9/10 we will embark on a three-part Stewardship Series. The overall theme is, “Sacrifices Pleasing to God”, based on Hebrews 13:15-16. We will examine an exhortation of almighty to God offer up sacrifices of praise, confession, good works and offerings. As in year’s past, there will be opportunities to make commitments of time, talent and treasure.

Take
Note

CONCERNING THE DISTRIBUTION OF OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER Beginning in April the monthly newsletter will no longer be sent to the home. Newsletters will be placed in the mailboxes at church. Homebound and military will have newsletters sent to the home. The newsletter will also be available on the congregation’s website.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES “Behold the Man” is the overall theme for our Midweek Lenten Series that will conclude on Easter Sunday. A full schedule of themes is included in this newsletter. As is our custom there will be suppers preceding each of the midweek services at 6:00 P.M. Worship will begin at 7:00 P.M. The “Passion of Our Lord” will be read through out the 2nd and 6th midweek services as recorded by St. Luke. Come and journey in fellowship of God and fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

NEW ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER?

HAVE YOU RECENTLY MOVED (OR ARE YOU PLANNING ON MOVING) OR HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR PHONE NUMBER OR GONE “CELLULAR”? *Please let the church office know so we can keep our information current.*

March Knitting Dates:

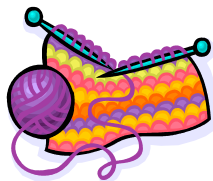
Tues. Mar. 12 - 9:30 a.m.

Mon., Mar. 25 - 9:30 a.m.

Don't know how to knit?

Join us and we'll teach you.

Anyone interested is invited to join us as we knit.



IMPORTANT REMINDER
MARCH Sunday, March 10
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
to begin. Be sure to set your clock ahead an hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, March 9th!

YEAH! The **OWLS** have landed and we're having a **HOOT!!!**

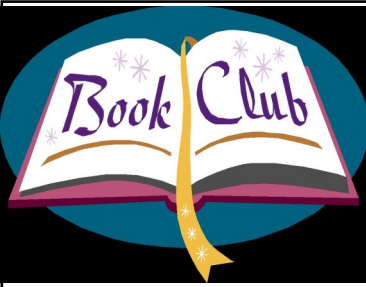


Y(young) **E**(especially) **A**(at) **H**(heart) **O**(older) **W**(wiser) **L**(livelier) **S**(saints).

Our next get together is Thursday March 21, 2019. Coffee fellowship begins at 11:00 AM with lunch served promptly at 11:30 AM. At noon we will have our program. This month Chef Shelly Platten will be joining us and will give us a cooking demonstration with **TASTINGS**. We have asked her to demonstrate how to prepare make ahead, small portion, high protein, and/or veggie meals. Sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex

2 weeks prior to the March 21st meeting. Make sure to sign up. We want to see you there and you can even bring a friend.

Also please note that usually our “OWLS” day is the third Thursday of the month, however in the month of April it will be April 11 (the second Thursday) so that we don't have it on Maundy Thursday. Musician/songster Cy Mader will be joining us again in April with his wife.



Our monthly Book Club will meet at 10 a.m., Saturday, March 9, 2019 at Shellattes, 300 N Commercial St. Neenah. The book we will review is "Hidden Figures," a true story by Margot Lee Shetterly who grew up in Hampton, Virginia where many of the female mathematicians at NASA helped fuel some of America's greatest achievements in space.

Before John Glenn orbited Earth or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as "human computers" used pencils, slide rules and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space. The group of problem-solvers included African American women who originally were teaching math in the South's segregated schools but were called into service in World War II. These overlooked women were given jobs worthy of their skills and participated in some of NASA's great challenges.

Copies of the book are in the Church Library. Please remember to SIGN OUT books on the form provided in the book bag. Please return the book to the book bag at the March meeting. If you are unable to join us at Shellattes please return the book to the Neenah Public Library within four days. For additional information contact Jeanne Ralston, Carol Brandt, Barb Bergner or Carolyn Wagner

- March 3** - Retreat at Peace Lutheran, Neenah. "Sign Posts From God" is the theme and topic.
- March 11** - Mission Guild meeting at Peace. "Women with Jesus at the Cross and the Tomb" will be the discussion lead by Carol Brandt. Come join us for fun, food and fellowship.
- April 29** - Spring Rally at Peace. Opportunities for women in spiritual growth. Watch for details.
- May 13**- Grand Finale Mission Guild Event. You don't want to miss this. More information to follow.



Reconnect to the Body of Christ. The congregations of Texas District Circuit 28, are dedicated to training mission workers, sharing the Word, uniting congregations and communities of poor, at risk and unchurched people in their area. The proposed grant of \$50,000 will assist with training materials, transportation costs, scholarships and other program costs.

SOS Center Enrichment Program. The SOS Center in Milwaukee provides a safe, caring Christian environment for inner city youth and their families. A grant of over \$22,500 will help fund this outreach.



Donna Hoelzel 3-27
Linda Ratzburg 3-22

Financial Update - 2019 Year to Date through January 31

Budget	\$ 34,893.52	Expenses	\$ 29,387.42
Income	\$ 31,688.77	Income	\$ 31,688.77
Difference	\$ (3,204.75)	Difference	\$ 2,301.35

In addition to the Contributions received for the Operating Budget above, an additional \$ 2705.84, was given in support of designated projects.

Endowment Fund Balance \$ 271,936.88
Foundation for the Future Fund Balance \$ 21,031.90

MIDWEEK LENTEN, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES 2019

OVERALL THEME: BEHOLD THE MAN

Join us for the Lenten meal at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

ASH WEDNESDAY: Wednesday, March 6 at 7:00 P.M.
THEME: "Behold the Man: A God Who Hungers"

MIDWEEK LENT 2: Wednesday March 13 at 7:00 P.M.
THEME: "Behold the Man: A God Who Prays"

MIDWEEK LENT 3 Wednesday, March 20 at 7:00 P.M.
THEME: "Behold the Man: A God Beaten"

MIDWEEK LENT 4 Wednesday, March 27 at 7:00 P.M.
THEME: "Behold the Man: A God Exposed"

MIDWEEK LENT 5 Wednesday, April 3 at 7:00 P.M.
THEME: "Behold the Man: A God With a Mother"

MIDWEEK LENT 6 Wednesday, April 10 at 7:00 P.M.
THEME: "Behold the Man: A God Who Thirsts"

MAUNDY THURSDAY Thursday, April 18 at 7:00 P.M.
THEME: "Behold the Man: A God Who Loves"

GOOD FRIDAY Friday, April 19 at 7:30 P.M.
THEME: "Behold the Man: A God Who Bleeds, A God Who Dies"

EASTER SATURDAY – NO WORSHIP SERVICE

EASTER SUNDAY – SUNRISE Sunday, April 21 at 6:30 A.M.
THEME: "Behold the Man: God Buried"

EASTER BREAKFAST & EGG HUNT FOLLOWING SUNRISE SERVICE

EASTER SUNDAY – FESTIVAL Sunday, April 21 at 9:00 A.M.
THEME: "Behold the Man: A God Who Rises"

Peace for Haiti annual golf outing has been put on hold this year and will not take place. It is the intent to bring the outing back in 2020 with the same fun, fellowship and laughter it generally brings. Please feel free to give any monetary donations to the "Missions in Motions" fund. Thank you!

TREASURES IN THE TRUNK – May 18, 2019

8 am – 1 pm

"Treasures in the Trunk" is a fun event intended as a fund raiser for persons in need of financial assistance for medical bills. This year there are two young women in our congregation in need of our help, Lori Kleinschmidt and Lori Scruton who are facing similar battles.

In order to make this event a success we need volunteers to gather up their gently used belongings such as house wares, furniture, gently used clothing, garden gadgets etc. to sell out of their trunk. The sale is in May so now is the time to start your Spring cleanup. As you pack your items up, price them now and save a step later.

Please contact Sue Hardwick with questions. 920-574-7662 mobile.

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Pastor



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Reaching Out . . . Serving Jesus . . . Celebrating His Love



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pastor@peaceneenah.com

Web site: www.peaceneenah.com

Worship Services

Sat. 5:00 p.m.

Sun. 9:00 a.m.

Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Sundays

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