



KOINONIA



January-February 2020
LUTHERAN PARISH OF NORTHERN DUTCHESS
PASTOR JAMES MILLER

PASTOR MILLER'S MESSAGE: *FILIOQUE*

Dear Friends in Christ,

You will be reading this in January, 2020. Our Christmas season will shortly be over and Epiphany will be underway. I pray that this has been a joyous season for you, that you have found our worship services jubilant, and that you have been sent forth into the year 2020 energized and inspired by the Holy Spirit to bring the message of God's love for all people. It is this Holy Spirit that I want to write about today.

Those of you who remember your catechism, and I hope that means all of you, will remember that the Holy Spirit is named in both the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed. In the Apostles' Creed, we confess that we believe in the Holy Spirit, period. Nothing more is mentioned. However, in the Nicene Creed, we speak more about the Holy Spirit. The way we all learned it is as follows: "We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets."

The additional language was adopted by the church Fathers in two Ecumenical Councils held in Nicaea (325 AD) and Constantinople (381 AD) in order to speak about each of the three persons of the Trinity with greater clarity. But the above language which I just quoted is not the original wording. The original wording of the creed states "We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life, who proceeds from the *Father*"---not from the Father and the Son. The words, "and the Son" were later additions which emerged several hundred years later, first in Spain and later on in other regions. They were never agreed upon by any full Ecumenical Councils. The word *filioque* (pronounced feely---o---kway) in Latin means "from the Son". This addition was more or less the final issue which led to the official split between the western Church headquartered in Rome, and the eastern Church headquartered in Constantinople.

What the purpose was of adding these words, why it should matter, and why the eastern Church objected so vehemently to it, could be the subject of a doctoral dissertation in theology. In short, though, there were three major problems with the addition of the *filioque*.

First of all, there is no Scriptural justification for it. There are Scriptural *inferences*, but there is nothing that states concretely that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son.

Second, why should this matter?. Well, our Trinitarian understanding of God, as defined by the Ecumenical Councils of Nicaea and Constantinople say that there is *one God in three equal Persons*: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. They are *equal*. They are also *eternal*.

That means that they are timeless. One did not exist before any of the others. When we say that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son, the implication is that the Holy Spirit is somehow lesser than the other two, and perhaps came afterward.

This is not what the Church Fathers meant, and it is not Scriptural. I raise one example. In Genesis 1: 1-2. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." The Holy Spirit (the Spirit of God) was there right from the beginning.

Third, this addition was not done by a full Ecumenical Council, but by regional groups acting on their own. As we have learned throughout history, the lack of communication between parties shows disrespect and can lead to misunderstandings and worse.

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FROM PAGE ONE

At the recent Installation of our newly-elected Bishop Eggensteiner, at which our national Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, was presiding, I was pleased to see that the *filioque* was not in the text of the Nicene Creed. It was noted with an asterisk that those words were a later addition. I applaud the ELCA's decision to honor the original intentions of the Ecumenical Councils of Nicaea and Constantinople and have had the language reflect that in our bulletins. When we confess our faith, using the language of the Nicene Creed, we will say, "We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father."

Enough now of doctrine. The important thing for all of us is to be open to the Holy Spirit working in us at all times. It is the Holy Spirit working in us that gives us strength in difficult times and helps us to pray when we cannot find the right words. It is the Holy Spirit working in us that inspires us to be merciful and forgiving when our base nature would have us be condemning and spiteful. It is the Holy Spirit at work in Baptism which takes the water and the words I speak and makes them divine, and therefore, lays the claim of Jesus upon person being Baptized. The ways that the Holy Spirit works in us cannot possibly be fully listed or understood, but one thing is for sure, it is the Holy Spirit which guides us toward living the lives that God wants us to live: lives which are holy, and lives in which we do what we can to help those in need through our words, our prayers and our deeds, all to the glory of God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

—In Christ, Pastor Jim

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian Education met on November 4. Pastor spoke to the children about this being the darkest time of the year and related it to Jesus coming to bring us the Light of His Presence. We light candles on the altar in the parish hall and say the Lord's prayer. We sing the doxology together and are learning a new song called "Jesus is the Light of the world."

The confirmation class meets with Pastor and the younger children have a lesson and activity. This month we were shown all the inner workings of the bee hive and the tools the beekeeper uses.

We acted out the various bee activities (guarding with swords against invaders), nurse bees, wax builders, house cleaners, foragers...and did a circle dance together, showing how the bees let others know where the nectar is. With a worksheet, we learned how the church is like the bee hive working together, everyone taking up their several tasks for a common good. The bees always know what job is theirs and what to do next.

We made "skeps" (old fashioned bee hives, that would have been made from straw in ancient times) with plastic water bottles and colorful, thick gold colored yarn. We are saving some money in these (at home) from small jobs, to help buy a bee hive for a disadvantaged family. We plan to collect these in January and hopefully get a picture of the children together with them. We were too busy to think of it during the lesson! The children were sent home with small beeswax candles to remind them of our lessons and songs, and that Jesus is our Light, at Advent, and always. We appreciate the prayers of the parish as we look forward to a new year.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty and Kay

NOTES FROM THIRD

October 20, 2019—Praise be to God—we returned to our home church. Many, many thanks to the members of Memorial for hosting us at their church until we were able to return home.

On October 23, 2019, Everly Elizabeth Kornhauser was welcomed as a Child of God as she received Holy Baptism. A Coffee Hour followed.

—Linda Mattison

LUNCHEON/ FUNDRAISER

On Sunday Nov. 3rd the Lutheran Parish hosted a Luncheon/ Fundraiser of early American cuisine in support of the Metro New York Synod Sanctuary Ministry associated with Youth Group outings and Pastoral Care. I'd like to thank everyone who answered the call and came out in support of this fundraiser. The Culinary students who volunteered their time to prepare and serve a delicious meal. Those who shared our message through social media, hung posters in our communities or spread the word through personal contacts. Others set up tables and decorated our fellowship hall adding personal touches from their homes or from travels abroad or stayed after the meal to clean up and break down the room. Those in attendance were members of our parish, friends, neighbors, community members and those affiliated with congregations from St. John's in Poughkeepsie to the church in Barry Town and Bard College. We are grateful to our Pastor James Miller and to our Council President and Synod Representative Monica Gabrysewski for bringing this need to our attention and leading us to take action. We were able to raise \$916.84 to assist this ministry as a result of our efforts.

--Your Parish Council Representative, Joanne Plass

Meetings

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Third W & M | Jan 7 & Feb 4 @ 4:00p.m. |
| Parish Council | Jan 21 & Feb 18 @ 6:00 p.m. |
| Joint Session of Councils | Jan 21 & Feb 18 @ 6:30 p.m. |
| Congregational Councils | Jan 21 & Feb 18 following joint session |

Council Meetings: January @ Memorial & February @ Third

PEACE THAT PASSES UNDERSTANDING

The peace of God which passes all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus

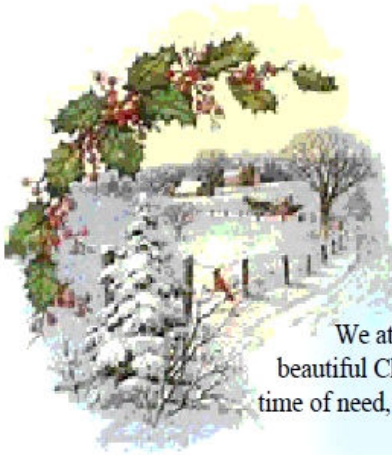
Another fruit of the true, living, Christian faith in peace. For "having been justified by faith," having all our sins blotted out, "we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ".

This indeed our Lord Himself, the night before His death, solemnly conveyed to all His followers. "Peace," said He, "I leave with {you who believe in God and believe also in Me}, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27 NKJV).

And again, "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace" (John 16:33 NYJV)

This is the peace of God which passes all understanding; that serenity of soul which the unconverted man or woman describe it.

All the powers of earth and hell cannot take away this peace. Trouble and adversity cannot shake it because it is founded upon a rock. It holds steadfast the hearts and minds of the children of God. Whether they are in ease or in pain, in sickness or health, in abundance or want, they are happy in God. In every state, they have learned to be content and to give thanks to God through Christ Jesus. They are well assured that "whatever is, is best," because it is the will of God concerning them. And their hearts stand fast in faith.



Wish to Thank our Council members for their continued service

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Karen Becker -----Treasurer | Linda Woodward |
| Susan Martin ----- Secretary | Fred Novak |
| Ken Decker ----- Property Chairperson | Karen Streifeneder |

Yes, we are in a season of cold and hazardous weather, however our Lord gave us an opportunity to come together in the warmth and comfort of family in Christ.

We at Memorial were very thankful that we were given the honor of sharing our beautiful Church with our Brothers and Sisters of Third Lutheran Church in their time of need, God will always collect his sheep and show his grace.

Praise be to God

Memorial Members and Friend's Birthdays

Tandy Walker ----- 01/17/2020
 Joe Bahnatka ----- 01/25/2020
 Albert Huneke ----- 02/14/2020



God Bless

Memorial Council President

Tandy F. Walker

(518) 789-6899 caroltandy5@gmail.com

| Faith Building Opportunities | |
|--|--|
| <p><u>Christian Ed</u> Wednesday January 8 5:00 p.m. Confirmation – 5:00 p.m. St. Paul's Red Hook Ongoing schedule 1st Wednesday</p> <p><i>Contact Pastor Jim</i> 914-441-4360</p> | <p><u>Bible Study</u> with Pastor Jim Thursday 10 a.m. Third Rhinebeck <i>Upper meeting room</i></p> <p><i>Contact Pastor Jim</i> 914-441-4360</p> |
| <p><u>Prayer Gathering for Healing and Consolation</u> Wednesday January 8 4:00 p.m. @ St. Paul's Red Hook <i>Upper meeting room</i> Ongoing schedule 1st Wednesday</p> | <p><u>Men's Breakfast</u> 1st Saturday @ 8:30 a.m. Memorial in Rock City Parish Hall <i>Contact Tandy Walker 518-789-6899</i></p> |
| All are Welcome! | Invite a friend! |

| Annual Congregational Meetings |
|---|
| <p>Memorial January 19 @ 1:00 p.m.</p> |
| <p>Third January 26 Brunch & Meeting immediately following the 10:00 a.m. joint worship service</p> |
| <p>St. Paul's February 2 Lunch & Meeting immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service</p> |

| Annual Reports | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| St. Paul's | |
| Due | January 12 |
| Available | January 19 |
| Third | |
| Due | January 12 |
| Available | January 19 |

Sunday January 26
Joint Worship Service
10:00 am
Third in Rhinebeck
(Followed by Third's Annual Congregational Meeting)

No services at Memorial or St. Paul's

| + Service Opportunities | |
|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Crafty Christians</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 11:00a.m. – 1:00p.m. Third in Rhinebeck <i>Lower Meeting Room</i> <i>Contact Bonnie Revero</i> <i>518-697-7608</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>All members and friends of the Parish are welcome to participate.</i></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Children's Community</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Clothes Closet</u> 1st Friday January 3 February 7 9:30a.m – 12:00p.m. Third Rhinebeck <i>Contact Carol Cronk</i> <i>889-4168</i></p> |
| <p><u>Food Program</u></p> <p>Help deliver donated food to local needy families.</p> <p>For more information or to volunteer: <i>Contact Bonnie Revero</i> <i>518-697-7608</i></p> | |
| <p><u>Operation Christmas Child & Seafarer's International</u></p> <p>Over 35 shoeboxes and almost 20 satchels were submitted!</p> | |
| <p><i>Thank you for your participation in our Parish mission of abundant life for all people.</i></p> | |

| Lent Begins | | |
|---|----------------|--------------------|
| Shrove Tuesday | | February 25 |
| Pancake & Sausage Supper 6:00 p.m. @ Memorial | | |
| Ash Wednesday | @ Third | February 26 |
| Soup & Sandwich Supper | | 6:00 p.m. |
| Worship Service | | 7:30 p.m. |



From St. Paul's

January

- 1- Bob Unson
- 5- Debra kazantzis
- 5- James Baisley
- 7- Nabil Ayoub
- 8- Laura Dongan
- 12- Reb. Dennis O'Rourke
- 13- Charlie Lueck
- 15- Glenn Murray
- 21- Emma Walker
- 23 -Rob Frey

February

- 1- Christine Murray
- 9- Alexandra Piaget

- 10- Ian Bucala
- 12- Marshall McConville
- 18- Don Campbell
- 20- Pat Holden
- 25- Mary Lou Williams
- 25- Ruth Queen



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**Dated Material Address Correction Requested
THE SEASONS OF CHRISTMAS & EPHIPHANY & LENT**



**LUTHERAN PARISH OF
NORTHERN DUTCHESS**

**SEE INSIDE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER
UPCOMING EVENTS**

Parish Council President: Carl Dowden

Memorial Lutheran, Rock City, Council
President: Tandy Walker

Sunday Holy Communion 8:30 am

St. Paul's Lutheran, Red Hook, Council
President: Marilyn Heuer

Sunday Holy Communion 11:00 am

Third Lutheran, Rhinebeck,
Church Council President:

Monica C. Gabryszewski

Sunday Holy Communion 9:45 am

Pastor James Miller

Sunday January 26

Joint Worship Service

10:00 am

Third in Rhinebeck

(Followed by Third's Annual Congregational Meeting)

No services at Memorial or St. Paul's