December 17, 2020 **COLUMNS/COMMENTARY**

Election 2020 commentary... and a message for the holidays

Jesus is Lord; but Caesar? Well, he is just Caesar

By Rev. Peter Frank Church of the Epiphany-Anglican; Chantilly, Virginia

Politics are one of the hardest things for pastors to address. Theoretically speaking, they aren't our specialty. We didn't train in seminary to parse election-year sound bites and decode public policy proposals. Practically speaking,



Rev. Peter Frank

In Anglican collar

there just isn't much of an upside. We are unlikely to sway people a great deal, and we are likely to alienate those in our own congregation who disagree with us.

That said, there are moments when politics start to look like a (bad) religion. Then it seems, we should say something. So here goes: President Donald Trump lost the election.

It was closer than the polls suggested it would be, but he lost.

There was no far-reaching conspiracy to steal the election from him, other than a slight majority of Americans in four "swing states" conspiring to vote for Joe Biden.

Yes, well-meaning and honest people signed affidavits reporting what they believed was incorrect behavior at polling places and where votes were counted. But their claims haven't actually shown wrongdoing when they have been investigated, much less uncovered that vast organized conspiracy that the President keeps tweeting about.

Judges, including a number that President Trump himself appointed, have rejected all but one of his more than 50(!) election lawsuits for exactly this reason.

The Supreme Court, which is quite conservative after President Trump's appointments, has repeatedly declined to even hear his cases.

These are facts.

They mean something, and what they mean is that President Trump lost. The conspiracy theories alleged by he and his lawyers don't stand up in a court of law.

As Christians, it is time to acknowledge these facts. It is also time to stop letting President Trump's well-documented and chronic inability to deal with losing drag us along with him.

If you voted for President Trump, hear me out on this yes, losing is lousy.

But just because it feels wrong that President Trump lost doesn't mean it didn't happen.

The same was true for those who voted for Hillary Clinton four years ago.

It also needs to be said that for years now those of us on the right have pushed back against what has seemed to us to be a "liberal" reliance on feelings instead of facts as a basis for deciding what is true. We have generally supported the fact of chromosomally-defined biological sex over the feeling of ever-expanding lists of mandatory gender pro-nouns. We think the best team should win instead of handing out participation stories to all and sundry lest anyone's feelings get hurt.

Well, it's time to take our own medicine and not let our own feelings divorce us from the facts.

Joe Biden will be the lawfully elected president on Janary 20. We'll disagree with him about a lot of things as



by Louis Hoglund, Managing Editor

Former newspaper man now a clergyman; with a different view of our political divide

It was about 20 years ago that this kid, Peter Frank, joined the publishing company over in the Pequot Lakes-Nisswa-Pine River area. I was publisher-manager-editor of the outfit.

Smart, great writing skills, exceptional photographer, deep thinker...Peter Frank was destined to a higher calling.

Unlike us schmucks who muddled along-deadline after deadline, year after year-Peter Frank moved on to seminary school.

Today, he is "rector" of the Epiphany Anglican Church, in Chantilly, West Virginia.

I don't trust myself with all the theological details, but a "rector" is like a pastor, minister, or priest. He leads an Anglican church affiliated with a different order, which I understannd is a somewhat more conservative version of the larger Episcopalian church.

An Anglican-Episcopalian is not exactly Lutheran—but Peter Frank is a Concordia College-Moorhead graduate. As most of us know, Concordia is historically a Lutheran shool. Though he's no longer "one of us," Frank has solid rural Minnesota, small town credentials.

For some wierd reasons I don't now recall, young Peter Frank walked across Moorhead's 8th St. to the small Episcopalian church on the edge of the Concordia campus. The Lord works in mysterious ways. Though surrounded by Scandinavian Lutherans, Peter Frank

took a different faith journey-all the way to a different pulpit

Frank wrote the accompanying piece, which I thought I'd share with Pelican Rapids Press read-

Peter would probably be the first to acknowledge that his "world view," generally, leans conservative. I guess that is why his comments on the 2020 election carried a certain honesty and sincerity-from a "man of the Cloth," so to speak.

And, that's why I'm passing this on to our readers. Plus-it was a brief opportunity to relive old times. It's been a couple decades since I had the duty of editing young Peter Frank's work. Now, for the first time ever, I have the privilege of editing the words of an Anglican Rector: The Rev. Peter Frank!

-Louis Hoglund, managing editor **Pelican Rapids Press**

his administration "for the good of the city" wherever we can (Jer. 29.7).

Most of all, we of all people desperately need to remember that no president or government, or nation for that matter fulfills God's promises for us. Jesus does.

Ultimately we need forgiveness and reconciliation with God a great deal more than we need to win an election. Our Savior and source of hope is our Messiah. Jesus is Lord.

Help small business hang on, for a better New Year in 2021 Mask up, step up for final holiday shopping

By John Waller III, president Pelican Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

As we come to the end of the Christmas Season and soon the start of 2021, I come to you as president of the Pelican Rapids Chamber and ask you to show your Pelican Rapids Spirit.

First, if you haven't finished your Christmas shopping, I ask you to please mask up and shop local. As you shop local for those last-minute gifts, just remember, you are supporting your friends and neighbors who are running these local businesses. These are the same people that help donate to and support your children in their activities and are also called upon to donate to individuals when there are

fundraisers for them in times of hardship.

Now the local businesses in

Dunvilla, Erhard, and Pelican

Rapids are asking for you to

step up. As the Governor of

Minnesota has put the state

in a lock-down due to the

spread of the COVID-19

virus, it is not business as

usual for them. This time of

the year is supposed to be a

happy time in which we all

celebrate the Christmas Sea-

son. Instead, the local busi-

ness is just wondering if they

will be able to hang on to see

If you can't think of a spe-cific gift for that certain indi-

vidual on your gift giving list,

maybe just consider getting

them a gift card to a local

restaurant or maybe another

retail business. If that doesn't

seem like the perfect gift,

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John Waller III

then maybe get them a gift card to get a haircut, an oil change or maybe even a shoveling of their driveway or sidewalk after the next snow fall.

2021.

We must all remember that the businesses in the Pelican Rapids area are not just retail or restaurants. They are also service related business that provide service on your vehicles, your hair cuts and those who don't have a brick and mortar location but, provide lawn care, snow removal, photography, electrical, plumbing, and construction services to just name a few.

If you are not sure what type of gift card to get them, then maybe consider getting them chamber bucks. These chamber bucks can be purchased at Bell Bank or Minnesota National Bank and can be redeemed with any local chamber member in exchange for the goods and services that they provide.

So, if we all just spend a few dollars supporting a local brick and mortar business or even a business that provides a service, we will help to keep our local economy strong and growing for years to come.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your

It is time to acknowledge fact...and it is also time to stop letting President Trump's well-documented and chronic inability to deal with losing drag us along with him.

ers

But we should also pray for him and work with him and

New Pelican bank under construction 25 years ago

100 years ago December 16, 1920 • Smallpox Warning

Reports are constantly coming to our attention that there exists an Epidemic of disease of considerable proportion throughout this section of the country.

Patients after having been sick for a few days, develop an eruption of the skin in about a week. This is Smallpox, and all proper precautions should be taken to prevent its spreading whether it is mild or severe in character. Patients presenting these symptoms should be isolated at once, the rest of the members of the family should be vaccinated without delay, and under no circumstances should children who have been sick with a "breaking out" return to school or come in contact with unvaccinated people till all evidence of disease has disappeared. - P. Boysen, Health Officer

• Style Show to be Held

A "Štyle Show" will be staged by the Home Economics Department of the local high school Friday Dec. 17, from 3:30 to 6:00 pm.

Work done by the sewing classes will be displayed with special emphasis on "made over" projects. A display of canned goods and other types of cookery will be exhibited by the classes in cookery.

Light refreshments will be served free of charge by the cooking classes.

Anyone interested in the work done in this department of our public schools is invited to step in and see the work done since September.

75 years ago December 13, 1945 • The Hen Takes a Ride

On Saturday, December 8, Ollie Erickson drove his truck to Barnesville to get a load of chickens for Eddie Boe.

While loading the hens, one got away and search as they did, no trace of it was found.

The truck was driven home and was used around town, making several trips to Mr. Erickson's poultry ranch, and two and a half days after the Barnesville trip, while Mr. Erickson was out looking after his chickens, Mrs. Hen was

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discovered calmly walking around under the truck.

She evidently had found a convenient place to roost on the spare tire under the truck bed and had remained there all through the two-and-a-half days of stormy and cold weather.

Dahl-Tritabaugh Case Settled out of Court

One of the cases which was scheduled to be tried at the fall term of district court was the case of Clarence Dahl against H. Tritabaugh of this village.

Dahl sued for \$10,000 for alleged injuries when he fell down a basement stairway in the defendant's store on April

The case was settled before going to the jury for \$3,325.

Mr. Tritabaugh carried insurance covering accidents to his employees and others.

Mr. Dahl has spent the past several months near the Crystal-Lide Beach while recovering.

50 years ago December 17, 1970

Fire Equipment not Damaged in Freeze Fire equipment was not damaged, but heating equipment and plumbing was broken in a freeze-up in the village fire hall.

The problem was discovered last week when a fuel oil deliveryman discovered that the fuel oil supply was not depleted at its normal rate. He found that the furnace had gone out and that water lines for the heating system were frozen and split. The damage also involved plumbing lines and fixtures.

According to the Fire Department Chief, Rex Crews, none of the fire-fighting equipment stored in the building was damaged, but the problems would have been very serious had the department been called to a fire. The truck engines are protected by anti-freeze, but the pumps are not. Any attempt to use the frozen pumps could have resulted in extensive damage.

Village employees are scheduling regular inspections of the building to prevent a recurrence.

Landmark is Gone

The Utility Feed Mill and its predecessor, the Frazee Mill,



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Looking **BACK** by Brenda Brand,

Columnist



(current Wells Fargo location) landmarks in the village since before the turn of the century, have disappeared from the local scene.

Demolition work finally got down to ground level this week, and work of filling in the basement excavation is underway.

The heavily reinforced concrete mill was a challenge to the wrecking ball, and a cutting torch was still in use this week to break up the tangle of steel in the rubble.

25 years ago December 13, 1995

• New Bank Going Up Roger Bense, president and Bruce Gratz, Pelican Rapids branch manager, headed up a very chilling groundbreaking ceremony Monday morning at 1001 South Broadway, site of a new Lake Country State Bank. Present for the ceremony were Dan Egge, bank director Rich Wall, Gregory Hulne of Kane & Johnson Architects, director Dean Solem, Roger Bense, Lake Country Executive V.P. Steven Beck, Bruce Gratz, city councilman Phil Stotesbery, Mayor Jim McDonald, contractor Darold Woessner, city Administrative Assistant Richard Jenson, and job foreman Roger Shuck.

The new building will offer easy access to drive-up, ATM, commercial night drop and safe deposit box services that Lake Country State Bank is unable to provide at its present downtown location. In addition, Lake Country will be expanding its present line of bank services.

"Our biggest improvement will be the additional space for parking, parking, and more parking," said Gratz. Construction will continue throughout the winter with completion expected in the spring.

Getting into the Christmas Spirit

Members of the first-grade Camp Fire group spent their Fun Run profits by selecting "giving tree" ornaments and buying gifts for those less fortunate.

Members of the group are: Konnie Fouquette, Naomi Anderson, Jenny Hoadley, Sarah Voigt, Tiffany VanWatermulen, Krista Hanson, Sophia Firnhaber and Nancy Barragan. Their leaders are Kathleen Ell and Sheri Nettestad.



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Caesar's still just Caesar.