



'TIDINGS OF **PEACE**' from

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
411 EAST 6TH STREET  
MCCOOK, NE 69001

TO:

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March 2020  
**TIDINGS OF PEACE**  
A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

LORD  
JESUS, IN  
MERCY,  
REMEMBER  
US. AMEN.



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**FROM AN ELDER**

By the time you are reading this, the season of Lent has started. As we all know, Ash Wednesday is the start of the forty day period culminating in the festival of Easter. While we look to the most celebrated observances of Christmas and Easter, we often neglect the rest of the year and its impact on our lives.

Ash Wednesday, and specifically the Lenten season, are not a popular and practiced period in the practices of many denominations. Most of the evangelical and nondenominational churches do not necessarily observe the season of Lent, but do observe Easter. I have had conversations with people of prominent churches in our area, telling me that their denomination or their local congregation do not observe Lent. They may not know what they are missing.

Lent is a time of reflection, repentance and preparation for those who find it a part of their Christian life. In the early days of Christianity, the night before Easter was observed as the Easter vigil, waiting for that special time. It was a custom that many people would wait all year to be baptized, and then the Easter vigil was filled, not only with anticipation, but the joy of the sacrament of Holy Baptism. As we know from our teachings, baptism is a washing away of our sins, making us a forgiven child of God. We are made whole.

When we observe Lent as we should, it prepares our hearts, our minds and our souls for that special observance, much as the early Christians waited for the vigil. When some denominations observe or practice this period with abstinence, which could be a special effort to refrain from sin or a "sacrificial" period or a special dedication of their lives to do good, with the help of God, we should all observe Lent, and to live our lives to the glory of God all year long. When we reflect on and give praise to God for giving us his Son, we then can fully appreciate His suffering and death on the cross, with the joyous celebration of that first Easter morning and every Easter that has followed. We now wait in anticipation of the Easter vigil and Easter morning when we gather to praise our Heavenly Father and thank our Savior for his sacrifice to provide eternal life for all who believe.

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

Kerrigan Klein	3/3	Charles Miller	3/12	Brock Hubert	3/23
Pake Hamilton	3/4	Janet Hein	3/13	Anne Wiemers	3/24
Chad Hueftle	3/4	Walter Sehnert	3/13	Ronald Friehe	3/25
Ezra Nothnagel	3/4	Kylee Downing	3/16	Aric Sharp	3/25
Tom Shields	3/4	Jaelyn Kuykendall	3/16	Robert Burton	3/26
Donald Kisker	3/5	Michael Leibbrandt	3/19	Blayzon Mooney	3/26
Lewis Leibbrandt	3/6	Graysen Rice	3/19	Ryan Pearce	3/26
Jennifer McConville	3/6	Korina Rippen	3/19	Michael Schoup	3/27
Gary Buk	3/8	Tyler Rogers	3/19	Curt Swanhorst	3/28
Kiah Terry	3/8	Addyson Snyder	3/20	Joel Smith	3/29
Linda Bonar	3/10	Jessica Fritz	3/21	Eldon Barenberg	3/30
Paul Schaffert	3/11				

**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Brent & Jennifer Doucet	3/28/1998	22			

*If you have an article, an announcement, pictures, etc... that you would like to submit for the "Tidings of Peace" newsletter, please bring it by the church office no later than the 4th Thursday of the month.*

We apologize if we have made a mistake. Please contact the office so we may get it corrected.

**OUR FINANCES AT A GLANCE**

	Week to Date (Feb. 23rd-Feb. 29th)	Month to Date (Feb. 2nd-Feb. 29th)	Actual Year to Date (January 5th-Feb. 29th)
Offerings	\$2,156.00	\$17,641.56	\$35,459.49
Expenses	\$4,106.00	\$28,581.00	\$44,262.00



## BOARD OF EVANGELISM

The board of evangelism meets monthly. Birthday and Anniversary greetings are sent to members each month. Newcomers to McCook are sent a schedule of activities and times, and are invited to worship with us. Partners in Prayer will continue until all members are recognized. Members are encouraged to pray for the families listed in the bulletin. Meal ministry is still available as needed. Grief booklets are being sent to families in need. The booklets can be sent to families who are not members if there is a request. Remember the visitor mugs in the narthex. Please offer the mugs to visitors. Pictures of families will be featured on the bulletin board in the narthex. We welcome Deb Gleason to the board.



You can help out our own Creative Preschool by clipping UPC codes and box tops. It's as easy as cutting out the UPC code from "Our Family" products and any "Box Top" UPC codes and Box Tops collected help buy various supplies needed for day to day operation of the preschool. In the past these programs helped the preschool purchase supplies, the large color and shape carpet, books, science and math activities and many other items. The UPC codes and Box Tops can be returned to Kelsey or the church office. Thank you for supporting Creative Preschool!

## MARCH READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
1st	The 1st S. in Lent	Genesis 3:1-21	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
8th	The 2nd S. in Lent	Genesis 12:1-9	Romans 4:1-8, 13-17	John 3:1-17
15th	The 3rd S. in Lent	Exodus 17:1-7	Romans 5:1-8	John 4:5-26 (27-30, 39-42)
22nd	The 4th S. in Lent	Isaiah 42:14-21	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-14 or John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39
29th	The 5th S. in Lent	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Romans 8:1-11	John 11:1-45 (46-53) or John 11:17-27, 38-53



## The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article – March 2020

We are at the beginning of Lent. During the Lenten season, the church calls to our attention the sufficiency of what God gives. It points to the sufficiency of God's grace in the atoning work of Jesus. It shows us the sufficiency of faith in Jesus' work for us. It makes known the sufficiency of God's Word in faith and life.

But Lent doesn't just remind us of the sufficiency of God's spiritual gifts, the gifts that pertain to our redemption and salvation. Lent also reminds us of the sufficiency of the physical, temporal gifts of God, those that pertain to this body and life. In other words, it reminds us of the importance of godly contentment and of outward discipline and training of the body.

This outward training of the body teaches us not to give in to every desire of our flesh but to learn to say no to them. And it does this in such a way that if you fail, it is no sin. It is a way to practice without putting yourself into a compromising situation.

The easiest example of this is fasting. When you fast, you are practicing saying no to the desires of your body. But if you fail in this, if you break your fast, you have not sinned. You have, though, learned something about how your flesh works, how difficult it is to fight against it, and how you need help from above in order to do it.

There is another example of this. It is alms-giving. This is an increase in giving to the church and its mission during this time. We all know that our flesh finds security in money and stuff. By committing to give more to the church, you are training your flesh. You are, by this outward discipline, training yourself to be content with what God gives. You are practicing saying "no" to your desires. Again, if you fail, you have not sinned. But you've learned just how powerful your flesh is in leading you instead of you leading it. You've learned how you need help from above in being content with what God gives.

This is why St. Paul instructs young Pastor Timothy in this way: "But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and[a] we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs." (1 Tim 6:6-10)

Our sufficiency is not of ourselves; it is in God. Let us learn this without sin by training our flesh this Lenten season.





## THANK YOU

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all those who have graciously given of their time and talents to support the mission and ministry of Peace Lutheran Church by hearing the call to serve on the Church Council. It has been a pleasure to serve with those who have a passion for giving of themselves to support God's Kingdom here on earth. If you see those who are going off the Council this year, please extend to them the hand of thanksgiving for their service.

### Those going off:

**President**-Russ Ankersen

**Board of Elders**-Darrell Eckhardt

**Board of Education**-Renelle Mooney

**Board of Trustees**-Brian Strauch

**Financial Secretary**-Janet Hubert

**Board of Evangelism**-Cindy Swanhorst

**Finance Committee**-Jim Hall

We would also like to welcome those who have stepped out in faith to serve their Lord as a member of Council for this coming term. We know anytime we embark on a new commitment there is always some hesitation to say yes. We praise God for those who have done just that and will be serving our congregation and their Lord for the coming term. Please extend to them the hand of fellowship, thanksgiving, and welcome as they begin their service.

### Newly Elected

**President**-Fred Gleason

**Board of Elders**-Fritz Hubert

**Board of Education**-Linda Smith

**Board of Trustees**-Paul Sellers

**Vice President**-Curt Swanhorst

**Financial Secretary**-Sarah Risenhoover

**Board of Evangelism**-Deb Gleason

**Finance Committee**-Sandra Lauer

We would like to take time to say thank you to all who were re-elected. The time they spend and the efforts they give in support of the Gospel and wellbeing of our congregation is greatly appreciated.

### Those re-elected

**Board of Elders**-Harold Carlson

**Finance Committee**-Kristi Novak, Steve Post and Roger Stupka

### Members currently serving

**Recording Secretary**-Sue Ankersen

**Treasurer**-Keith Oetting

**Board of Elders**-Ron Aufrecht, Phil Bamesberger and Victor Lauer

**Board of Education**-Linda Nielsen and Laurie Peters

**Board of Trustees**-Gene Meints and Mike Fidler

**Board of Evangelism**-Cathy Broz and Nancy Rippen

**Financial Committee**-Mike Shields, and Eugene Custer



## TOOLS FOR STEWARDSHIP and EVANGELISM

### SHUT INS

Please remember those who are unable to worship with us for one reason or another.

**Hillcrest:** Orian Fritz, Pam Leibbrandt, Harvey Ackermann. Ruth Woodhams, and Martin Fortkamp.

**Brookdale McCook:** Walt & Jean Sehnert, Paul & Ruby Ahrens, Betty Harms, Shirley Lichty, and Barbara Klein.

**Highland Park:** Harlan & Bernita Reiners and John & Mary Lou Hanson

**McCook:** Mark Cummins

**Arapahoe:** Joyce Stupka

**Butte:** Don Kisker

**Lincoln:** Carla Bales

**Trenton:** Phyllis Berndt

**York:** Joyce Hofman

**St. Paul:** Sandra Novak

**Scottsbluff:** Betty Knapper

### ELDER VISITATION

In order to facilitate better connection between the church and members, the Elders are well into a program whereby they have been assigned specific sections of the city and make contact with all members within their assigned area. The purpose of these visits is to not only make contact, but also update contact information and discuss spiritual needs that our members may have. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Elders – Ron Aufrecht, Harold Carlson, Phil Bamesberger, Victor Lauer, Fritz Hubert, Curt Swanhorst or Fred Gleason.

### FOOD PANTRY

At the November 2013 meeting of the Ministerial Association, one of the topics discussed related to support to the food pantry by the McCook congregations. One of the pastors put together a spread sheet based on the regular needs of the food pantry – the staples. The spread sheet identified an emphasis that each congregation can focus on for each month of the year to help stock the pantry. **Of course all donations are welcome (like cake mixes, icing, condiments, etc.),** but this provides an idea of their specific needs. As discussed at our meeting, here are the items for Peace to place an emphasis on, by month. January – soup or stew, February – crackers, **March – Mac & Cheese**, April – canned meats, May – canned vegetables, June – flour & sugar, July flour & sugar (again), August – Peanut butter, September – canned fruit, October – pork & beans, November – dry pasta, and December – beans.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Preschool to 5th grade children are invited to Sunday School each Sunday from 9:15-10:15am downstairs. We have snacks, playtime, opening prayer, Bible study, and closing prayer. Currently our Bible time involves learning about the various people of the Bible and their influence on passing along God's Word to us today. Parents are always welcome to join us.



<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>KNGN Sponsor</u>
1st-Available	1st-Available
8th-Available	8th-Available
15th-Available	15th-Available
22nd-Available	22nd-Available
29th-Available	29th-Available

**Note: Cost to sponsor a  
"Your Hour of Worship"  
program on KNGN  
1300AM Radio is \$45.  
If you are interested in  
sponsoring a program,  
please call the church  
office for available dates.**

March 1st		March 8th	
Elder on duty		Elder on duty	
Organist	KC Eckhardt	Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Cathy Broz	Audio	Russ Ankersen
Greeter	Deb Shields	Greeter	Charlene Pfanstiel
Greeter		Greeter	Grant Pfanstiel
Usher	Eugene Custer	Usher	Harold Carlson
Lay Reader	George Wurm	Lay Reader	Fred Gleason
Acolyte	Abigail Schneider	Acolyte	Tristen Watts
Acolyte		Acolyte	Kori Rippen
Powerpoint	Jeff Pinkerton	Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
<b>Late Service</b>		<b>Late Service</b>	
Greeter	Myra Tietz	Greeter	Cindy Swanhorst
Greeter	Jane Schuster	Greeter	Curt Swanhorst
Usher	Steve Post	Usher	
Lay Reader	Russ Ankersen	Lay Reader	Sue Ankersen
Acolyte	Elizabeth McConville	Acolyte	Emma Brown
Acolyte	Carter Hartwell	Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Ben Schow	Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Video	NEED VOLUNTEER	Video	NEED VOLUNTEER

March 15th		March 22nd		March 29th	
Elder on duty		Elder on duty		Elder on duty	
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel	Organist	KC Eckhardt	Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Paul Sellers	Audio	Harold Carlson	Audio	NEED VOLUNTEER
Greeter	Elaine Polly	Greeter		Greeter	Sue Carlson
Greeter	Jeff Polly	Greeter		Greeter	Harold Carlson
Usher	Gary Buk	Usher		Usher	Gary Buk
Lay Reader	Renelle Mooney	Lay Reader	Jerry Calvin	Lay Reader	Paul Schaffert
Acolyte	Brooklynn Gillen	Acolyte	Treven Critchfield	Acolyte	Aaron Nielsen
Acolyte		Acolyte	Juliett Critchfield	Acolyte	Alexander Nielsen
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins	Powerpoint	Tina Cummins	Powerpoint	
<b>Late Service</b>		<b>Late Service</b>		<b>Late Service</b>	
Greeter	Donna Hall	Greeter	Lois Lepper	Greeter	Karen Berry
Greeter	Jim Hall	Greeter	Pat Penner	Greeter	NEED VOLUNTEER
Usher	Phil Bamesberger	Usher	Curt Swanhorst	Usher	Steve Post
Lay Reader	Sue Ankersen	Lay Reader	Curt Swanhorst	Lay Reader	Russ Ankersen
Acolyte	Jaelyn Kuykendall	Acolyte	Austin Thompson	Acolyte	Laney Peters
Acolyte	Elizabeth McConville	Acolyte	Connor Tidyman	Acolyte	Cassidy Rogers
Powerpoint		Powerpoint		Powerpoint	NEED VOLUNTEER
Video	Russ Ankersen	Video	NEED VOLUNTEER	Video	NEED VOLUNTEER



## PEACE TALK

I have a drawer that has a lot of... Junk. I have old cell phones, charging cords, old batteries, paper clips, a ball of string, golf balls, old cd's, coins, sticky notes, and a bucket full of other things that I apparently want to keep. Do you have a junk drawer? It's the place where we leave items because it's easier to throw something in a drawer than it is to put in its proper place. It's the place where we put something when we don't know where else to put it. It's a place where we hide stuff because we like to appear neat and orderly on the outside. So, what's the big deal? Aren't we all entitled to a place where we allow ourselves to collect clutter? Shouldn't there be a place where we have the freedom to toss things we don't want to deal with, get rid of, leave totally unorganized, or maybe even hide things in? Maybe if we leave something in the junk drawer long enough, we will forget about it completely. Hmm, is this what I do with the "Junk" in my life? I put that junk in a drawer and close it. Then it is hidden... I look clean and orderly on the outside... I can forget about it. The Galatians had a spiritual junk drawer and the Apostle Paul warned them in chapter 5, verses 19-21, *"The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God."* What is in the junk drawer of your heart? Are you ashamed to open it up? Sins you know and those you do not know are conveniently placed in this drawer and closed. We open the drawer and find that the junk is still there, most of it forgotten about. Jesus is there to help with the junk in our hearts. He can help us with all those things we've acquired over time that are stuffed in the depths of our souls that we can't let go of, don't know what to do with, are never going to throw away; we are just holding on to. How about we start cleaning out this spiritual junk drawer? Let's toss those things we have been hiding. Don't be afraid. God already knows what's in your heart and He is waiting to help you sort your way through it. *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* (1 John 1:9) Indeed, then as we kneel before God and confess these sins, we know we are forgiven by the blood Jesus shed for us on the cross. God willingly takes this junk we have been collecting. *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."* John 3:16. Amen.



# Peace Lutheran Church

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# March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>8:00am</b> Worship <b>9:15am</b> Bible Study <b>10:30am</b> Worship Jon & Angie Reiners family Harlan & Bernita Reiners Alyssa & Andrew Rice family	<b>2</b> <b>7:00pm</b> Women's Bible Study  PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	<b>3</b> <b>9:00am</b> Worship Committee <b>6:30pm</b> Board of Elders	<b>4</b> <b>9:00am</b> Lifelight <b>11:00am</b> Worship <b>6:00pm</b> School of Religion <b>7:30pm</b> Worship	<b>5</b> <b>7:30pm</b> Christianity class	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>7:00am</b> Men's Bible Study
<b>8 Communion Sunday</b> <b>8:00am</b> Worship <b>9:15am</b> Bible Study <b>10:30am</b> Worship Larry & Linda Richards Ed & Jeannine Rinehart Nancy Rippen	<b>9</b>  PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	<b>10</b> <b>2:30pm</b> Hillcrest Bingo <b>6:30pm</b> Board of Elders <b>7:00pm</b> Council	<b>11</b> <b>9:00am</b> Lifelight <b>11:00am</b> Worship <b>6:00pm</b> School of Religion <b>7:30pm</b> Worship	<b>12</b> <b>7:30pm</b> Christianity class  PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE (WINKLE)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>7:00am</b> Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
<b>15</b> <b>8:00am</b> Worship <b>9:15am</b> Bible Study <b>10:30am</b> Worship Shane & Kelly Rippen family Chet & Sarah Risenhoover family Brent & Candace Rogers family	<b>16</b>  PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE (Pastor's Conference)	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>9:00am</b> Lifelight <b>:00am</b> Worship <b>6:00pm</b> School of Religion <b>7:30pm</b> Worship	<b>19</b> <b>7:30pm</b> Christianity class	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>7:00am</b> Men's Bible Study <b>2:00pm</b> Preschool Open House
<b>22 Communion Sunday</b> <b>8:00am</b> Worship <b>9:15am</b> Bible Study <b>10:30am</b> Worship Ron & Jeanne Rogers Kiley & Caitlin Roundtree Tara Sarvela	<b>23</b>  PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>9:00am</b> Lifelight <b>11:00am</b> Worship <b>6:00pm</b> School of Religion <b>7:30pm</b> Worship	<b>26</b> <b>1:30pm</b> Hillcrest Service <b>2:30pm</b> Brookdale Service <b>7:30pm</b> Christianity class	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>7:00am</b> Men's Bible Study LWML Spring Workshop
<b>29</b> <b>8:00am</b> Worship <b>9:15am</b> Bible Study <b>10:30am</b> Worship Paul & Pat Schaffert Cinda Schmit Nate & Sarah Schneider family	<b>30</b> <b>6:00pm</b> LWML  PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	<b>31</b>				