



**'TIDINGS OF PEACE'** from

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

TO:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**D**ear Friend in Christ,  
As you work diligently to keep yourself and your loved ones healthy, I encourage you to work just as diligently at finding joy in each day that God has given you. God has begun to awaken His creation all around us; the trees have begun to bud and Spring flowers are blooming all around town.

As I sit and have a cup of coffee some mornings, I try to take a few minutes to observe the creatures that visit our front yard; this morning I watched as a squirrel gathered twigs and leaves for her nest. Robins are busy hunting for worms as the Cardinal sings from the top of the tree. A Goldfinch visits the feeder on the deck, and I notice that his grey winter coat is quickly giving way to the bright yellow of spring.

These may seem like little things, especially considering the times in which we find ourselves, but for me, these little things are reminders that God is constantly and consistently in control of all things, and that His ways, though we may not understand them, are good; the warm of Springtime is near.

*"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress." Psalm 46:10-11*

I'd also like to let you know of some of the things we at Peace Lutheran are endeavoring to do, through unconventional means, to continue to reach out to you and the community with the message of Jesus. With that said I offer to you the following

conversations:

During this time, we continue to offer to you the Divine service through KNGN radio at 10:30 each Sunday as usual. In addition to offering you our radio broadcast, we at Peace Lutheran now offer the same Divine Services streaming live each Sunday at 10:30 via Peace Lutheran's Facebook page. These services are available to you on Facebook at "[Peace Lutheran McCook NE.](#)"

Our Holy Week services, though they will not be offered at KNGN, they will be offered via this same Facebook address. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be offered via Facebook at 7:30pm on April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

Easter Sunday Divine service will be, as always, offered to you at 10:30 through KNGN radio, and will, for the first time be available to you at Peace Lutheran's Facebook page.

In an additional effort to provide you with a meaningful Easter worship experience while respecting social distancing regulations, we will also offer, at 9:00am on Easter Sunday, a drive-in theater style of worship in the church parking lot where you can worship from the comfort of your own vehicle; I will present this Divine Service to you from the south side of the building. You will be able to tune in to this service via short-range radio in the same fashion as offered during the live nativity.

Holy Communion will be available immediately following this service. If you desire Holy Communion I invite you to exit this service by way of the northwest driveway; elders will be

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**PLC Shepherd**

Pastor Lonnie Felcher  
revfelcher@hotmail.com  
Emergency (308)737-6750

**Creative Preschool Director**

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**Treasurer**

Keith Oetting  
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**Financial Secretary**

Sarah Risenhoover  
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**FROM AN ELDER**

As we find a new routine to cope with the turmoil facing us, we find ourselves in a new normal. We are being told to practice healthy habits, washing hands, cleaning surfaces extra, keeping a six-foot distance from others, etc. But in our isolation from what we have known, I encourage you to also practice Christian healthy habits.

**#1 The habit of prayer**

Prayer is a way of connecting with God, to ourselves, to those around us, and those in need especially during this time of calamity. *"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."* (ROM. 12:12)

**#2 The habit of study**

Since the Bible is God's Word, studying it is a way to know God better. Through His words we come to know not only the nature and attributes of God, but we also come to understand His plan for each of us. *"My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you."* (Proverbs 3:1-2)

**#3 The habit of giving**

*"On the Lords Day each of you should put aside something from what you have earned during the week and use it for the offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn."* (1 Cor 16:2). Giving is not for God's sake it is for your sake. Please find a way to continue to support the church.

**#4 The habit of fellowship**

*"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead let us encourage one another."* (Heb. 10:25). In our current situation we may not be able to gather but it does not keep us from contacting one another electronically and encourage each other in this new normal.

These healthy Christian habits will not only help you become stronger to get through this new normal, it will help you become stronger with Christ, now and forever. Keep safe until we can meet together in fellowship once again.



**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

Taylor Jesse	4/1	Dale Bamesberger	4/11	Kimberly Kuykendall	4/21
Tina Cummins	4/1	Carmen Custer	4/13	Krystal Downing	4/22
Lindsey Hazlitt	4/3	Seth Koetter	4/13	Shirley Lichty	4/22
Rachel Lietka	4/3	Spenser Bruntz	4/14	Brooklynn Tidyman	4/23
Corina Fritz	4/5	Dan Hartwell	4/14	Harold Carlson	4/25
Lance Gillen	4/5	Carter Watts	4/14	Carter Hartwell	4/27
Lola Downing	4/6	Chase Pierson	4/16	Jeffrey Unger	4/27
Steve Kircher	4/6	Savannah Stauch	4/17	Brooklynn Gillen	4/28
Thatcher Skolout	4/7	Phyllis Berndt	4/18	Robert Stecker	4/28
Kelsey Gillen	4/8	Olivia Koetter	4/18	Hanah Nothnagel	4/29
Tanner Doucet	4/9	John Hanson	4/21	Drew Shields	4/29
Denise Gillen	4/9				

**APRIL ANNIVERSARIES**

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Ronald & Doris Friehe	4/3/1976	44	Alex & Melissa Hanchera	4/9/2016	4
Dennis & Susan Chipman	4/7/1973	47	Joseph & Gina Vetrovsky	4/14/2018	2
Monte & Mary Hazlitt	4/7/1984	36	Tim & Tempie Krause	4/16/1988	32
Kenneth & Dorinda Polly	4/7/1956	64	Myra & Dan Stoney	4/17/1999	21
Ron & Deb Lauer	4/8/1989	31	Eldon & Fayann Barenberg	4/27/1957	63

*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 (March 29th-April 4th)	Month to Date (March 1st-April 4th)	Actual Year to Date (January 5th-April 4th)
Offerings	No report	\$15,261.00	\$50,720.49
Expenses	\$136.00	\$19,28800	\$60,890.00



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So, what would you say to that son or daughter? I'd expect that conversation would be something like this: "I'm glad you're still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God's promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation, and to receive His gifts in the Word and the Sacraments. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I'd really like you to try to attain it."

This same conversation is how we should approach the topic of the tithe. It's not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, the church is ecstatic that you're giving when you're giving in all these ways – time, talents, and treasures.

EASTER LILIES

In loving memory of husband Rod Berry and parents George and Irene Buk and Mother-in-law Irene Berry—Karen Berry and Gary Buk.

In loving memory of Garnet Henton—Dorothy Henton, Kathy, Jim and Leah

In loving memory of Neal and Betty Fildler—Cathy Broz

In loving memory of loved ones—Steve and Brigita Post and family

In loving memory of Ann Hazlitt, Ruth and Harold Shields— Monte and Mary Hazlitt and family

In loving memory of Ron Penner, Marvin and Melba Huckfeldt—Pat Penner

In loving memory of Richard Calhoon—Russ and Sue Ankersen

Laurie Peters K.C. and Darrell Eckhardt

Ken and Dorinda Polly Chuck and Janet Grey

Mike and Linda Nielsen Curt and Cindy Swanhorst

Fred Gleason Lois Lepper

APRIL READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
5th	Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 26:1-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-66 or John 12:20-43
12th	Easter Sunday	Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-9	Colossians 3:1-4	Matthew 28:1-10
19th	The 2nd S. of Easter	Acts 5:29-42	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
26th	The 3rd S. of Easter	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	1 Peter 1:17-25	Luke 24:13-35
29th	The 4th S. of Easter	Acts 2:42-47	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10



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

On the topic of stewardship, one of the most common questions a person might ask is *not* whether a Christian should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Of course, Christians should give to their church.

The most common question: "How much should I give?" But what they really mean is this: "Should Christians give a tithe of their income to their local congregation?" So, let's look at why you should or should not tithe.

Following are some reasons often offered for why Christians *shouldn't* give a tithe to their church.

Some say you shouldn't tithe because it isn't expressly commanded in the New Testament. Lacking that command, there is no "Thus saith the Lord" and no "should" for giving a tithe to your congregation.

Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these, together with treasures (money), add up to more than a tithe.

Still others say they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church.

And there are those who think Christians shouldn't tithe because of fear. If they tithe, they are afraid their gift will be misused, and they are afraid they won't have enough to get the things they use, want, or need.

Following are some reasons for why Christians *should* give a tithe to their church.

Even though the New Testament doesn't specifically command Christians to give a tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to tithe and did. On top of this, St. Paul often describes the giving Christians are to do in similar terms as a tithe: a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of their income (1 Cor. 6:1-2; 2 Cor. 8:7-23; 2 Cor. 9:2-7).

But here's another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? The reason for the Old Testament tithe was to support the full ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry.

What does it say in the New Testament? "The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther put in the *Small Catechism's* Table of Duties to cover what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we're not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let's answer this by asking a different question about something entirely different. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? There, is after all, no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest we have, and it states simply for Christians to not neglect gathering together. Even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments. It is the goal.

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standing-by at the main entrance to the church, and will be prepared to offer you Holy Communion in your car while following safe practice guidelines.

Communion on Sundays: During this difficult time, Holy Communion has been made available to you at the church from 11:30am till 1:30pm every Sunday after Radio and Facebook worship. Holy Communion will be offered in nine person groups every twenty minutes during these hours. You are asked to call Tina at the office during regular business hours the week prior to the Sunday you desire communion, to secure a time.

Offering: if you are wondering how you can continue to financially support God's work at Peace Lutheran; you are welcome to stop by the church office, or you can drop your offering in the mail. In addition to these options, information regarding automated giving is also available for your consideration. Please contact one of your Elders for more information.

Thank you for your faithful patience in these times.

Your servant in Christ  
Pastor Lonnie

### BOARD OF EVANGELISM

The Board of Evangelism met March 5th for our monthly meeting. Birthdays and anniversaries of members are recognized with cards. Pamphlets with information on church activities are mailed to newcomers of McCook, if they do not have a church affiliation. The Partners in Prayer ministry continues. If you know a member who has been hospitalized or had a baby let our chairman of Meal Ministry know by contacting Dorene Hoffman or Joann Nemechek. Grief Booklets continue to be sent. There are "visitor mugs" to be given to folks that attend services but are not members of Peace. College care packages will be mailed out the end of March. Please leave the name and address of your student in our mailbox.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School for Peace Lutheran is planned for June 22 through June 26, 2020. VBS will be in the morning each day from 9 am to 12 noon, with the theme "Rainforest Explorers". VBS is for ages 3 through youth entering 6th grade. Please pray for VBS and for the children. This is the planned schedule, we will get information out if there is any change

[www.plcmccook.org](http://www.plcmccook.org)



## 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, 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.

April 5th	
Elder on duty	Victor Lauer
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Deb Shields
Greeter	
Usher	
Lay Reader	
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Jeff Pinkerton
Late Service	
Greeter	Myra Tietz
Greeter	Jane Schuster
Usher	Dennis Chipman
Lay Reader	Fred Gleason
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Ben Schow
Video	NEED VOLUNTEER

April 12th	
Elder on duty	Ron Aufrecht
Organist	
Audio	Russ Ankersen
Greeter	Charlene Pfanstiel
Greeter	Grant Pfanstiel
Usher	
Lay Reader	
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Late Service	
Greeter	Cindy Swanhorst
Greeter	Curt Swanhorst
Usher	
Lay Reader	Phil Bamesberger
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Video	NEED VOLUNTEER

April 19th	
Elder on duty	Harold Carlson
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	Paul Sellers
Greeter	Elaine Polly
Greeter	Jeff Polly
Usher	
Lay Reader	
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins
Late Service	
Greeter	Donna Hall
Greeter	Jim Hall
Usher	Ben Schow
Lay Reader	Fred Gleason
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	
Video	Russ Ankersen

April 26th	
Elder on duty	Fritz Hubert
Organist	
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	
Greeter	
Usher	
Lay Reader	
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins
Late Service	
Greeter	Lois Lepper
Greeter	Pat Penner
Usher	Curt Swanhorst
Lay Reader	Curt Swanhorst
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	
Video	NEED VOLUNTEER



PEACE TALK

When I was driving home the other night, the fog set in. Then it got thicker. High beams then low beams, trying to choose the optimum illumination to see where I was going. Is there a vehicle in front of me? I cannot tell. I tense up, grip the steering wheel tighter, and try to concentrate on staying in the road. Dense fog gives me an eerie, somewhat depressing feeling of not knowing where I am or what lies ahead. When I cannot see clearly, I can feel my heart beat faster. I am afraid! I seek God's help, "Dear Lord, I cannot see so please guide my steering wheel and protect me from harm." Would I have sincerely talked with God at this moment if the fog was not present? Probably not...foggy nights tend to produce deeper faith. It is the times when our faith hits "patchy fog" when we seek God's comfort. Jesus offers us reassurance in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you; I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." We are well aware of the global pandemic threatening our health and daily lives the last few weeks. We are forced to change our lifestyle and where we go, how we have to act. Yes indeed, we are caught between cautious wisdom and anxious fear. Jesus tells us in this verse, I give peace right in the midst of trouble, right in the midst of distress and turmoil and heartache and pressure. I can impart peace to your heart right there, and not as the world gives. Why? Because we can return to that basic relationship we have--You in Me, and I in you. Out of that comes the guarantee that He is working out His purposes. He will bring us to the end of the trouble. Just like driving in dense fog, we cannot see what trouble lies ahead. Sooner or later this fog will lift, and we will once again not feel threatened. Give this some thought; Do you talk with God more when you are afraid? Do you apply more of your time with loved ones in threatening times? Are you showing more love now to those in need? We are brought closer to God when the fog in our lives gets thicker. Maybe during this trying time, more people will see a need to place their trust in the Lord. Maybe this is a chance to open the doors of Christianity to those that do not know the love and promise given to them through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Maybe this is a time when we can find new ways to serve and praise our God. As this fog gets thicker, let's use this fear to put our trust in the Son, the Son that will clear the fog away; Jesus Christ. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit," Romans 15:13, Amen.



**Peace Lutheran Church**

411 East 6th Street  
 PO Box 240  
 McCook, NE 69001  
 PH (308)345-2595

# April

# 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 7:00pm Confirmation via Zoom	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 10:30am Online Worship 11:30am Communion Michael & Nadia Schoup family Ben Schow family Raymond & Judy Schow	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:00am Worship Committee 6:30pm Board of Elders	<b>8</b> 7:00pm Confirmation via Zoom	<b>9</b> 7:30pm Online Worship	<b>10</b> 7:30pm Online Worship	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:00am Parking lot worship from your car 10:30am Radio and Online Worship Jane Schuster Walt & Jean Sehnert Paul Sellers	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 6:30pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	<b>15</b> 7:00pm Confirmation via Zoom	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 10:30am Online Worship 11:30am Communion David & Rebecca Seybold family Alex & Molly Sharp family Michael & Debra Shields	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7:00pm Confirmation via Zoom	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 10:30am Online Worship 11:30am Communion Tom & Cindy Shields family Mike & Terri Skolout family Joel & Linda Smith family	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 7:00pm Confirmation via Zoom	<b>30</b>		