



'TIDINGS OF **PEACE**' from

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

TO:

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February 2021  
TIDINGS OF **PEACE**  
A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



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## FROM AN ELDER

### “He Brings Us Through It All”

Defeat, disappointment, and a host of other factors so often result in discouragement and despair. That is simply the way it is. So it was for the many Jewish exiles in Babylon who believed the Lord had forgotten and then left them.

While He surely understands, the Lord also gently chides His people. He asks them what kind of Lord they think He is. Is He powerless? weak? tired? ignorant? unloving?

No, none of the above, of course. He is the God who comes to the rescue, revives the weary, and gives strength to the faint and power to the weak. We now know this all the more clearly, having seen His love, power, and strength in Christ and been blessed with His Spirit.

When we find ourselves in the depths, believing there is no way out, it is because we forget or even disbelieve. Terrible times may come. The Lord may not protect us from them. But He promises, “They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:30) We hold fast to that!

*Blessed Savior, in the midst of uncertainty about what the New Year will bring, fill us with the certainty of Your loving presence and Your eternal truths. Amen.*

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

|                    |      |                      |      |                  |      |
|--------------------|------|----------------------|------|------------------|------|
| Bernita Reiners    | 2/1  | Alyssa Bauer         | 2/13 | Rhonda Vetrovsky | 2/19 |
| Roger Ziebell      | 2/2  | Robert Nemechek      | 2/13 | Brandon Smith    | 2/21 |
| Russell Ankersen   | 2/3  | Terri Skolout        | 2/13 | Sarah Bird       | 2/23 |
| Angie Reiners      | 2/3  | Barry Mooney         | 2/14 | Samantha Cummins | 2/23 |
| Karen Ziebell      | 2/3  | Myra Tietz           | 2/14 | Amity Loop       | 2/24 |
| Thomas Broz        | 2/4  | Larry Fritz          | 2/15 | Merwin Potthoff  | 2/24 |
| Robert Conlin      | 2/5  | Arthur Soncksen      | 2/15 | Nathan Nielsen   | 2/25 |
| Donna Hall         | 2/7  | Tim Krause           | 2/17 | Raymond Fisher   | 2/26 |
| Nikki Hamilton     | 2/9  | Sigourney Parde      | 2/17 | Ellie Hartwell   | 2/26 |
| Renelle Mooney     | 2/9  | Alex Yonkers         | 2/18 | Heddy Reiners    | 2/26 |
| Ruth Ann Klein     | 2/10 | Aimee Hazlitt        | 2/19 | Larry Richards   | 2/26 |
| Nicholas Nothnagel | 2/11 | Elizabeth McConville | 2/19 | Dennis Chipman   | 2/28 |
| Maddyn Sharp       | 2/12 |                      |      |                  |      |

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

| NAME                   | DATE      | YEARS | NAME                   | DATE      | YEARS |
|------------------------|-----------|-------|------------------------|-----------|-------|
| John & Eileen Hubert   | 2/6/1949  | 72    | Barry & Renelle Mooney | 2/24/1996 | 25    |
| Robert & Carol Stecker | 2/11/2011 | 10    | Dwain & Donna Curtis   | 2/26/1977 | 44    |
| Edward & Marilyn Unger | 2/17/1963 | 58    |                        |           |       |

## BOARD OF EVANGELISM

The Board of Evangelism would like to wish everyone a HAPPY NEW YEAR, Blessings be upon you and your family. As the year ended with a very busy Advent Season, the Live Nativity was a drive though this year, thanks for all who volunteered and set up and special Thanks to Phil and Janice for the animals and ALL that you do to make this work, Blessings, as the turnout was Fantastic. If anyone know of someone in need of meals please notify any committee member. Please continue to support the Adopt-A-Chaplain Program every month, there is a container in the church for donations. Please continue to reach out to those who are still isolated. The Board continues to meet monthly and if anyone has needs please notify the committee. Respectfully Cathy Broz, Nancy Rippen and Deb Gleason

## OUR FINANCES AT A GLANCE

|           | Week to Date<br>(January 24th-January 30th) | Month to Date<br>(January 3rd-January 30th) | Actual Year to Date<br>(January 3rd-January 30th) |
|-----------|---|---|---|
| Offerings | \$710.00                                    | \$17,553.00                                 | \$17,553.00                                       |
| Expenses  | \$4,486.00                                  | \$23,982.00                                 | \$23,982.00                                       |



## CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

Dear Preschool Families,

It's hard to believe that it's already almost February! We have a very busy, fun-filled month ahead of us! Please be sure and check your calendars for Quilt Day during Q Week and bring a quilt (or a blanket if you don't have a quilt) marked with your child's name. We will be making a big Storytime Tent with the quilts!! We will also be having Red Day for R Week, Silly Socks and Sunglasses Day during S Week.

Our Valentine's Day Parties will be on Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. There are sign-up sheets posted on the bulletin board if you would like to help with the parties. We would like each child to decorate their own Valentine's Box or bag at home with their families and bring it with them for the Valentine's Day Party. We encourage you to make this a family project and have everyone pitch in! It is great handwriting practice for your preschooler to write out his/her own valentines if they can. Next week I will send home a list of your child's classmates, please bring one valentine for each child in the class.

Please call me at 345-2595 or email me at [mycreativepreschool@gmail.com](mailto:mycreativepreschool@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns.

Happy Valentine's Day!  
Ms. Kelsey, Ms. Dani and Ms. Ashton

## ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

This program supports deployed armed service men and women by sending care packages to their chaplains, and praying for the soldiers. After receiving Christmas packages sent from Peace Lutheran, Chaplain Joshua Porter said *"Hello! Thank you all so much for your continued support. With your support over the Christmas holiday we were able to pass out stockings stuffed with gifts and cards to all our Soldiers! We waited until the night of Christmas Eve and hung them on the doors of their quarters so they had something to wake up to Christmas morning. It was a great surprise for everyone. Seeing the support of the body of Christ working in Peace Lutheran has been a huge blessing and encouragement to us. I hope this New Year finds you all well and surrounded by the Spirit."* Chaplain Porter is in Iraq. We are able to support additional Chaplains. We are now adopting a new chaplain in South Korea, Chaplain Denis Ssekannyo. He was born in Uganda. He is now a captain in the US Army. We have been asked to adopt another Chaplain, Cody Norton, who is LCMS. Chaplain Norton is in an area that is not allowed to receive mail. Morale is low and the chaplain is requesting prayers for the soldiers. Also, please pray for Chaplain Norton's family as his wife is expecting their 5<sup>th</sup> child in July, and he may not be back home at that time. His family is at Fort Hood, TX. Chaplain Norton graduated from Fort Wayne in 2016, and served at Christ Lutheran in Wathena, KS, until he was deployed. Everyone is welcome to write notes to the chaplains or "to a soldier" And everyone is welcome to help pack, the next day we will meet to pack care packages is Tuesday, Feb 16 at 10:00am.

## FEBRUARY READINGS

| Date | Season                          | First Reading                     | Epistle                              | Holy Gospel  |
|------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| 7th  | The 5th S. after Epiphany       | Isaiah 40:21-31                   | 1 Corinthians 9:16-27                | Mark 1:29-39 |
| 14th | The Transfiguration of Our Lord | 2 Kings 2:1-12 or Exodus 34:29-35 | 2 Corinthians 3:12-13 (14-18); 4:1-6 | Mark 9:2-9   |
| 21st | The 1st S. in Lent              | Genesis 22:1-18                   | James 1:12-18                        | Mark 1:9-15  |
| 28th | The 2nd S. in Lent              | Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16             | Romans 5:1-11                        | Mark 8:27-38 |
|      |                                 |                                   |                                      |              |



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
Stewardship Ministry  
Newsletter Article – February 2021

"I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:8-9).

Without commands or even arm-twisting, St. Paul encourages, even challenges, the Church in Corinth to demonstrate the sincerity of their faith by their generosity in giving. He does this because giving generously is a gift of the Spirit given to us through the Gospel.

St. Paul wrote: "But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving" (2 Corinthians 8:7). In other words, just as we grow in faith and speech and knowledge of eternal things by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, so also do we grow in giving from the same Spirit through the same Word.

The problem is that the grace of generosity often grows cold in us. It's not so much that we stop giving, but we don't put it first. We treat it like all the other bills that must be paid. It becomes a chore, just one more thing to check off a list of things to do. That empties it of its spiritual power and robs us of the joy that Christ and the Scriptures assign to it.

On top of that, since this generosity is linked to faith and knowledge of divine things, a lack of excelling in giving is sure sign that our faith and knowledge of God are under attack as well.

Thus St. Paul points to the foundation of generosity: the generosity of Christ Himself. Even though He was rich, He became poor so that we who are poor might become rich. Thus, the incarnation, suffering, and death of our Lord on the cross is the reason, source, and driving force for our generosity in giving to the church.

And since Christ who was rich became poor so that we might be rich in His grace—of which generous giving is part—so we also who are rich in His grace can excel in pressing His grace into service toward the gracious work of the church.

Pay attention to what you give to the church so that you may excel at it. And if you find that your heart has grown cold or indifferent toward it, immerse yourself in God's Word. Read it at home. Attend Bible Class. Hear and listen to it preached in the Divine Service. Be reminded of what Christ has done for you in His incarnation, suffering, and death. For this will strengthen your faith and knowledge. And where that excels, so will the grace of giving excel also.





## FORERUNNERS

Forerunners Minutes  
1-17-2021

Members present: Sandy and Vic Lauer, Deb and Fred Gleason, Joanne & Bob Nemechek, Paul Sellers, Sue and Russ Ankersen.

Treasurer's Report: There's a balance of \$436.74 in the checkbook. No bills were presented. Yearly dues of \$10/person are due and several people paid their dues tonight. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Minutes of the December meeting were read. There was one amendment concerning the date for taking down the Christmas décor. Originally the date was scheduled for Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, but the date was moved to Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> due to conflicts. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes with the amendment. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Bob and Joanne are hosting the February meeting and they requested the meeting time be moved to 6:00 because they plan to serve dinner to the group. They are requesting an RSVP so they know how many meals to plan.

A "Thank You" is extended to Randon Peters for helping Bob and Joanne repack the popcorn and candy bags that were spilled when they fell down the steps carrying the boxes downstairs to handout the sacks to SOR kids.

New Business:

Sue asked the group if we could switch from live roses to artificial roses to give to the families of members who pass away. There are some very realistic and beautiful artificial roses available and they would always be ready to go. We also need to have a supply of card sticks available to put with the flowers. A motion was made and seconded to purchase the artificial roses and card sticks for funeral flowers. Motion carried. Sue will order these items and turn the bill into the treasurer.

Election of officers was held. A motion was made and seconded to retain the current slate of officers in the positions they currently hold. All the officers agreed to serve in 2021 again. Motion carried.

President: Fred Gleason Vice President: Vic Lauer  
Treasurer: Bob Nemechek Secretary: Sue Ankersen

There was a change in the upcoming schedule for hosting. Gleasons will serve in March and Paul will serve in April. We will ask if either Bamesbergers or Swanhorsts will host in September, Ankersens will serve in October and we will ask if Calvins will host in November. December will be our Christmas Party and will make those plans later in the year.

Deb brought up the idea that we should have a showing of the video series, "The Chosen". There are 8 episodes in the first season, so we would do 8 weeks on Fridays beginning February 5<sup>th</sup> through March 26<sup>th</sup>. We will show the video in the dining room and encourage people to bring their own drinks and snacks. This would be open to the whole congregation and to anyone in the community who would be interested in viewing the series. Sue will write up an invitation that will be published in the bulletin and Tidings.

Fred encouraged everyone present to invite new people to join our group. There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Vic presented a devotion highlighting that God is in charge and we need to trust him.

Snacks were served following the devotion and a time of fellowship was enjoyed.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Ankersen, Recording Secretary.

The Forerunners will be sponsoring the viewing of the television series, "The Chosen" on Friday evenings beginning February 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00. There are 8 episodes in season 1, so we will meet for 8 weeks from February 5<sup>th</sup> until March 26<sup>th</sup>. This series Jesus through the eyes of those who knew Him. This viewing is open to anyone in the congregation and the community who would like to join us. We encourage everyone to bring their own drink and a snack to share. We will meet in the dining room.



## TOOLS FOR STEWARDSHIP and EVANGELISM

### SHUT INS

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

**Hillcrest:** Pam Leibbrandt, Ruth Woodhams, Martin Fortkamp, and Darlene Leibbrandt.

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

**Highland Park:** Harlan & Bernita Reiners

**McCook:** Mark Cummins

**Arapahoe:** Joyce Stupka

**York:** Joyce Hofman

**Lincoln:** Carla Bales

### 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.

**Altar Flowers**

7th-Available

14th-Available

21st-Available

28th-Available

**KNGN Sponsor**

7th-Available

14th-Available

21st-Available

28th-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.

**February 7th**

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Elder on duty       | Victor Lauer       |
| Organist            | Charlene Pfanstiel |
| Audio               | Cathy Broz         |
| Greeter             | Deb Shields        |
| Greeter             |                    |
| Usher               | Dennis Chipman     |
| Lay Reader          | Grant Pfanstiel    |
| Acolyte             |                    |
| Acolyte             |                    |
| Powerpoint          |                    |
| <b>Late Service</b> |                    |
| Greeter             | Myra Tietz         |
| Greeter             | Jane Schuster      |
| Usher               | Jim Dejonge        |
| Lay Reader          | Fred Gleason       |
| Acolyte             |                    |
| Acolyte             |                    |
| Powerpoint          | Ben Schow          |

**February 21st**

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Elder on duty       | Harold Carlson     |
| Organist            | Charlene Pfanstiel |
| Audio               | Paul Sellers       |
| Greeter             | Elaine Polly       |
| Greeter             | Jeff Polly         |
| Usher               | Gary Buk           |
| Lay Reader          | Randon Peters      |
| Acolyte             |                    |
| Acolyte             |                    |
| Powerpoint          | Tina Cummins       |
| <b>Late Service</b> |                    |
| Greeter             | Donna Hall         |
| Greeter             | Jim Hall           |
| Usher               | Ben Schow          |
| Lay Reader          | Curt Swanhorst     |
| Acolyte             |                    |
| Acolyte             |                    |
| Powerpoint          |                    |

**February 14th**

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Elder on duty       | Ron Aufrecht       |
| Organist            | Charlene Pfanstiel |
| Audio               | Russ Ankersen      |
| Greeter             | Gant Pfanstiel     |
| Greeter             | Charlene Pfanstiel |
| Usher               | Harold Carlson     |
| Lay Reader          | Russ Ankersen      |
| Acolyte             |                    |
| Acolyte             |                    |
| Powerpoint          | Russ Ankersen      |
| <b>Late Service</b> |                    |
| Greeter             | Cindy Swanhorst    |
| Greeter             | Curt Swanhorst     |
| Usher               |                    |
| Lay Reader          | Nick Nothnagel     |
| Acolyte             |                    |
| Acolyte             |                    |
| Powerpoint          | Russ Ankersen      |

**February 28th**

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Elder on duty       | Fritz Hubert       |
| Organist            | Charlene Pfanstiel |
| Audio               | Harold Carlson     |
| Greeter             |                    |
| Greeter             |                    |
| Usher               | Eugene Custer      |
| Lay Reader          | Jerry Calvin       |
| Acolyte             |                    |
| Acolyte             |                    |
| Powerpoint          | Tina Cummins       |
| <b>Late Service</b> |                    |
| Greeter             | Patsy Fisher       |
| Greeter             | Pat Penner         |
| Usher               | Curt Swanhorst     |
| Lay Reader          | Sue Ankersen       |
| Acolyte             |                    |
| Acolyte             |                    |
| Powerpoint          | Gary Hunkins       |

**PEACE TALK**

The best way to predict the upcoming weather every February is by watching a scruffy little creature named Punxsutawney Phil, who is a groundhog in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. Every year on February 2, this chubby little animal comes out of his hole in the ground and predicts the conclusion of winter by seeing (or not seeing) his own shadow. Tradition is, that if he sees his shadow he will run back in his den and hide, thus predicting another six weeks of winter. Now if you ask me, I think the two choices are; if he sees his shadow there are, like tradition claims, six more weeks of winter... however, if he does not see his shadow, there are six more weeks until spring. Regardless, it is a fun folklore to talk about. I was thinking of this when I was walking in the bright sunshine the other day and I saw my own shadow. With minimal observation, I noticed when I walked away from the sun my shadow went before me, but when I walked toward the sun my shadow followed me. My shadow was always there, but the direction I walked determined where it fell. I could not help comparing my shadow, with the burdens I have in my life. We all have our burdens and no matter what we do, believe, or think, they are there and tag along like shadows on a sunny day. But the direction in which we walk does make a difference. If we walk away from God, the source of all light, our burdens run before us. They darken our path and hide the fact that bright, radiant, life-giving sunshine abounds all around us. Now, if we walk toward God, our burdens follow, and our path is illuminated. Our burdens are not only behind us, but everything looks bright. Yes, we all have our burdens, but how they affect our lives is up to us and our relationship to God. With God we can place our burdens behind us if we walk toward Him. *"Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow."* James 1:17 Our burdens were laid at the foot of the cross that Jesus carried to Calvary. Jesus, who knew no sin, died for all of our sins. In the shadow of the cross, a marvelous exchange took place. My sin for his righteousness. My burdens for his blessing. He bore my shadow and invited me into His wonderful light. The Lord is my light and salvation, and it is hard for us to comprehend how great our Heavenly Father's love for us must truly be. May our life be, Oh Lord, a constant walk in Your direction. May we know the life-giving sunlight which comes from only You. Keep us from walking in our own shadow and direct us so that we may always put our shadow behind us. Amen.



# Peace Lutheran Church

411 East 6th Street  
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McCook, NE 69001  
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# February 2021

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday                           | Saturday   |
|---|---|---|---|---|----------------------------------|--|
|   | <b>1</b><br><br>PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE   | <b>2</b><br>9:00am Worship<br>Committee<br>6:30pm Board of Elders | <b>3</b><br>6:00pm School of Religion                                       | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b><br>6:00pm "The Chosen"  | <b>6</b><br>7:00am Men's Bible Study                                       |
| <b>7</b><br>8:00am Worship<br>9:15am Bible Study<br>10:30am Worship                   | <b>8</b><br>7:00pm Women's Bible Study<br><br>PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE                 | <b>9</b><br>6:30pm Board of Elders<br>7:00pm Council              | <b>10</b><br>6:00pm School of Religion                                      | <b>11</b><br><br>PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE (WINKLE) | <b>12</b><br>6:00pm "The Chosen" | <b>13</b><br>7:00am Men's Bible Study<br>Upper Fellowship Hall reservation |
| <b>14 Communion Sunday</b><br>8:00am Worship<br>9:15am Bible Study<br>10:30am Worship | <b>15</b><br>7:00pm Women's Bible Study<br><br>PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE                | <b>16</b>   | <b>17</b><br>11:00am Worship<br>6:00pm School of Religion<br>7:30pm Worship | <b>18</b>   | <b>19</b><br>6:00pm "The Chosen" | <b>20</b><br>7:00am Men's Bible Study                                      |
| <b>21</b><br>8:00am Worship<br>9:15am Bible Study<br>10:30am Worship                  | <b>22</b><br>2:00pm LWML<br>7:00pm Women's Bible Study<br><br>PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE | <b>23</b>   | <b>24</b><br>11:00am Worship<br>6:00pm School of Religion<br>7:30pm Worship | <b>25</b>   | <b>26</b><br>6:00pm "The Chosen" | <b>27</b><br>7:00am Men's Bible Study                                      |
| <b>28 Communion Sunday</b><br>8:00am Worship<br>9:15am Bible Study<br>10:30am Worship |   |   |   |   |                                  |  |