



'TIDINGS OF PEACE' from

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

TO:

TIDINGS OF PEACE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 2021

*H*ello again,

As I write to you, I am reflecting on the many mercies God has already showered upon me and my family in this new year. As you may know, this new year began with the COVID virus overshadowing our home for more than half the month of January. The virus came into our home with the baby and it quickly spread to Tanna. In time, I myself contracted the virus, and then Emmett.

Through this terrible experience God continually showered our family with mercy upon mercy, so - much - so that I have to tell it to you.

In Tanna's and my minds we somehow always thought we would muscle through the virus should it come upon us, and I thought the same for Justin as he is young and strong, but our biggest fear is that Emmett, with his asthma, would be stricken and taken from us.

As I consider God's angels ministering to Jesus when He was assaulted and tempted by the devil in the wilderness, I share with you that that is not just a metaphor or nice sentiment, it is real and necessary. God the Father, sent to Jesus, His holy angels to minister to His Only Son in His humanness, that He might stay - the - course, and save us from our sins.

In a similar way, as symptoms of the virus began to come upon Emmett, I began to pray that God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

would command His holy angels concerning Emmett, and our family, that He would be merciful to us, that He would spare us of the things we fear most—I prayed that God would send His holy angels to us, that they might bring His healing, that they may minister to my son, and guard my son's life, just as they had the life of His own Son.

I must tell you—I cannot keep it to myself—GOD HAS BEEN MERCIFUL TO ME AND MY FAMILY; He heard my prayer, and in His mercy He answered my prayers by saying yes.

He also heard and answered your prayers on our behalf—and I thank you!

I am also humbled by the way God has blessed us through all of you at Peace Lutheran as you checked in on us from time to time—I thank you for food delivered—I thank you for snow shoveled—I thank you for errands run—I thank you for worship services led—I thank you for kind words, and patience—and I thank you for your prayers.

God has been merciful, and He is merciful, and along with His mighty angels, you have ministered to and strengthened my faith that I may stay - the - course.

God's richest blessings be upon each of you.
Your servant in Christ, Pastor Felcher

*"And He was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And He was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to Him."
Mark 1:13*

**PLC Shepherd**

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Elder Chairman

Harold Carlson
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Council Secretary

Layne Sarvela

Treasurer**Financial Secretary**

Sarah Risenhoover
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FROM AN ELDER

*Even now declares
the LORD return to me
with all your heart with
fasting and weeping and
mourning Rend your heart
and not your garments.
Joel 2:12-14*

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

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

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Brent & Jennifer Doucet	3/28/1998	23			

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

Check out our Facebook page! Don't forget to "Like", "Follow" and "Share" it! You can find us at Peace Lutheran McCook NE.

If you feel compelled to give, offering can be brought into the church office, mailed to P.O. Box 240 or direct deposited.

OUR FINANCES AT A GLANCE

	Week to Date (February 21st-February 27th)	Month to Date (February 7th-February 27th)	Actual Year to Date (January 3rd-February 27th)
Offerings	\$6,209.00	\$11,663.00	\$31,791.00
Expenses	\$3,633.00	\$18,617.00	\$47,154.00



CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

Dear Preschool Families,

March is almost here, the school year is just flying by! We will be focusing on the letters T, U, V, and W this month and we will be talking about March weather, so if your child comes home talking about "lamb and lion days" you will understand.

We have lots of fun Spring activities coming up. We're looking forward to umbrella day (bring an umbrella if you have one) and Western Wear day.

I will be starting assessments for Kindergarten readiness for our graduates next month. The assessments are meant to give me, and you, an idea of what skills your child still needs to work on before entering Kindergarten. They will all be sent home on the same day when they are completed.

Here are some dates we are looking forward to:

Spring Break	March 10 th and 11 th
Bike-a-thon	April 14 th and 15 th
Easter Party	March 31 st and April 1 st
Easter Break, no school	April 5 th and 6 th
Field Day (last day of school)	May 10 th and 11 th (T/Th and 4-Day)
Graduation, for grads only	May 11 th 7:00pm

More information will be sent out about these as they get closer. We're having so much fun and learning new things every day! Thanks for sharing your kiddos with us!

Kelsey, Dani, and Ashton

ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

We support deployed military chaplains and the troops they care for by praying for them and sending care packages through a program called Adopt a Chaplain. Throughout 2020, as each chaplain returned home we adopted one or two other chaplains. All of the chaplains that we adopted in 2020 have returned home safely. With the support of all of you, and many others in southwest Nebraska, we are currently sending packages to 3 chaplains. They are Chaplain Christopher Lehr in Kuwait, Chaplain Denis Ssekannyo in South Korea, and Chaplain Ryan Hicks in Iraq. Everyone is welcome to help pack care packages or send notes of encouragement "to a soldier". The next packing day is Tues, March 16, at 1:00pm

MARCH READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
7th	The 3rd S. in Lent	Exodus 20:1-7	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	John 2:13-22 (23-25)
14th	The 4th S. in Lent	Numbers 24:4-9	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
21st	The 5th S. in Lent	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Hebrews 5:1-10	Mark 10:(32-34) 35-45
28th	Palm Sunday	Zechariah 9:9-12	Philippians 2:5-11	John 12:20-43



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

Hudson Taylor, a Nineteenth Century British missionary to China, is reported to have said, "God's work, done in God's way, will not lack God's supply." To know God's way, we need to know His Holy Word. Or to say it another way: you need to know your Bible.

St. Paul, before he spends two chapters on giving, wrote that every thought is to be taken captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor 10:5). Doctrine matters. And doctrine matters because the Scriptures matter. And the Scriptures matter because this is where we learn the teaching of Christ. Our thoughts must be brought into line with the teaching of Scripture so that our work is what God wants done and so that we do this work in His way.

A good tree bears good fruit. A bad tree bears bad fruit. We have been made good trees in holy baptism. We are fertilized and pruned for bearing good fruit by constantly hearing God's Word preached and taught in sermon and Bible Class and in receiving the life-giving, faith-sustaining food of the Lord's Supper. Remember your doctrine, hold on to the Lord's teaching, and your thoughts will be taken captive to the obedience of Christ.

Bringing every thought captive to the obedience of Christ is recognizing that God does provide. The Lord's Prayer teaches us to pray for daily bread. Praying this day in and day out reminds us that the Lord is the giver of our daily bread, and that we are to give thanks for His daily provision of it. God is rarely early and never late in His work, as Abraham learned on the mount of the Lord it will be provided. The Lord's generosity forms our generosity in return.

Thus, we set aside for the work of God a generous, first-fruits, proportion of the daily bread that God has given to us. This act of trust in the Lord's provision is the working out of our faith in Him. When budgetary discussions pop up our natural reaction is to point fingers. But remember your doctrine, and what your mother taught about pointing fingers. Our first natural reaction is not always right. In fact, when our thoughts are brought into captivity of Christ, our first reaction should be repentance. It should raise questions in our own lives. As good trees in Christ who are to bear good fruit, we should ask whether our thoughts have been taken captive by obedience to Christ. Have we given generously? Have we given our first-fruits? You know. And God knows. "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him" (2 Chron 16:9).

God will provide. He always has and He always will. He gives His meat in due season. He has not left you as orphans but has grafted you into His own family. You belong to Him. Remember this, letting this thought dwell in you richly. And you will then be rich toward others.



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:

Board of Elders- Ron Aufrecht

Treasurer- Keith Oetting

Board of Trustees- Gene Meints

Recording Secretary- Sue Ankersen

Board of Evangelism- Cathy Broz

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

Recording Secretary- Layne Sarvela

Board of Elders- Brandon Kuykendall

Board of Evangelism- Joann Nemechek

Board of Trustees- Alex Sharp

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 Education- Linda Nielsen

Finance Committee- Mike Shields

Members currently serving

President- Fred Gleason

Vice President- Curt Swanhorst

Financial Secretary- Sarah Risenhoover

Board of Elders- Harold Carlson, Phil Bamesberger, Victor Lauer and Fritz Hubert

Board of Education- Laurie Peters and Linda Smith

Board of Trustees- Mike Fidler and Mike Nielsen

Board of Evangelism- Nancy Rippen and Deb Gleason

Financial Committee- Steve Post, K.C. Eckhardt, Sandra Lauer, Kristi Novak, Bob Nemeckek, Eugene Custer and Roger Stupka



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

El Dorado Manor: 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 - Harold Carlson, Phil Bamesberger, Victor Lauer, Fritz Hubert, Brandon Kuykendall, 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.

March 7th

Elder on duty Victor Lauer
Organist Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio Cathy Broz
Greeter Deb Shields

Greeter
Usher Dennis Chipman
Lay Reader Mike Nielsen
Acolyte
Acolyte
Powerpoint

Late Service

Greeter Curt Swanhorst
Greeter Cindy Swanhorst
Usher Jim Dejonge
Lay Reader Sarah Risenhoover
Acolyte
Acolyte
Powerpoint Ben Schow

March 21st

Elder on duty Harold Carlson
Organist Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio Paul Sellers
Greeter Elaine Polly
Greeter Jeff Polly
Usher Gary Buk
Lay Reader Renelle Mooney

Acolyte
Acolyte
Powerpoint Tina Cummins

Late Service

Greeter Donna Hall
Greeter Jim Hall
Usher Ben Schow
Lay Reader Nick Nothnagel
Acolyte
Acolyte
Powerpoint

March 14th

Elder on duty
Organist Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio Russ Ankersen
Greeter Gant Pfanstiel
Greeter Charlene Pfanstiel
Usher Harold Carlson
Lay Reader Grant Pfanstiel

Acolyte
Acolyte

Powerpoint Russ Ankersen

Late Service

Greeter Cindy Swanhorst
Greeter Curt Swanhorst
Usher
Lay Reader Phil Barnesberger
Acolyte
Acolyte
Powerpoint Russ Ankersen

March 28th

Elder on duty Fritz Hubert
Organist Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio Harold Carlson
Greeter Deb Shields

Greeter
Usher Eugene Custer
Lay Reader Jerry Calvin
Acolyte

Acolyte
Powerpoint Tina Cummins

Late Service

Greeter Patsy Fisher
Greeter Pat Penner
Usher Curt Swanhorst
Lay Reader Sue Ankersen
Acolyte
Acolyte
Powerpoint Gary Hunkins



PEACE TALK

Recently I come across an image that showed two separate silhouettes of a man. One was labeled "Dad on the outside" and the other one was labeled, "Dad on the inside." It really spelled out a true picture as I could visualize myself being this image. The dad on the outside image had a note on its head in bold print, "I'm fine." Conversely, the dad on the inside image read; feelings of failure, money worries, inadequate, I don't do enough, need more time, stressed, confused, need to set better examples, BURNT OUT. It is so true that often we appear just fine on the outside, when in reality we are hurting inside. Well, it just so happened I was really relating to this inside silhouette image and feeling nearly all of those stressful thoughts and more. Just then, a song come on the radio of the feed truck; it was a song called "Just be Held," by Casting Crowns. I just parked there beside the feed bunk listening to the song as God spoke to me through the lyrics. It goes something like this; "So when you're on your knees and answers seem so far away; You're not alone, stop holding on and just be held; Your world's not falling apart, it's falling into place; I'm on the throne, stop holding on and just be held". The Lord was sending me a message through that radio at the right time and place like He did the people of Israel in Isaiah 41:10, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Sometimes it does feel like our world is falling apart—whether it's the loss of a loved one, a sudden financial crisis, an alarming health concern, a struggling relationship, an unexpected home repair. It can feel like we are going under. It is in times like these that God wants us to remember that He is on the throne, and maybe our world isn't "falling apart" as much as it is "falling into place". In these moments we can be held by the grip of grace with a trust that God has in store for our lives, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose..." Romans 8:28. Sometimes it just takes God talking to us, and it can be through a simple song at the right time to make us realize to just let go of everything that we have been holding on to and just be held by God Himself. I know we are called to be strong. But when our world seems to be falling apart, stop holding on and just be held by our mighty and ever-loving Father - the one who knows us, who sees us where we are, and longs to draw us close to Him. Let go and let yourself be held in his loving arms. Let him show you "your world's not falling apart, it's falling into place," as you let *Him* hold onto *you*. Dear Lord, when we drop down to our knees in despair, pick us up, hold us in your arms, and help us hear your gracious message of healing. Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity
Phil Barnesberger



Peace Lutheran Church

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March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:00pm Women's Bible Study PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	2 9:00am Worship Committee 6:30pm Board of Elders	3 11:00am Worship 6:00pm School of Religion 7:30pm Worship	4	5 6:00pm "The Chosen"	6 7:00am Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation Lower Fellowship Hall reservation
7 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	8 7:00pm Women's Bible Study PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	9 6:30pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	10 11:00am Worship 6:00pm School of Religion 7:30pm Worship	11 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE (WINKLE)	12 6:00pm "The Chosen"	13 7:00am Men's Bible Study
14 Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	15 7:00pm Women's Bible Study PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	16 1:00pm Adopt-A-Chaplain packing	17 11:00am Worship 6:00pm School of Religion 7:30pm Worship	18	19 6:00pm "The Chosen"	20 7:00am Men's Bible Study
21 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	22 2:00pm LWML 7:00pm Women's Bible Study PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	23	24 11:00am Worship 6:00pm School of Religion 7:30pm Worship	25	26 6:00pm "The Chosen"	27 7:00am Men's Bible Study
28 Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	29 7:00pm Women's Bible Study PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	30	31			