



'TIDINGS OF PEACE' from

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

TO:

TIDINGS OF PEACE

April 2021

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*H*ello again, as I write to you today, I reflect on the season and the year; as I think of our Lord quickly working His way to Jerusalem and the cross. I think of the many blessings that occupy our minds and our time as we approach the celebration of Easter; family gatherings, confirmation celebrations, worship services, children's sports activities, the increasing need to do something with the yard and flowerbeds, preparation and paying of taxes, shadow dramas, video systems, Easter breakfast, upcoming graduations, the approach of planting season and all the details associated with that; the list just goes on and on.

At times, I think, the length of the list of things to be done can threaten to overshadow each blessing within the list. These things are indeed blessings. And as I consider these things, I imagine our Lord running through a "To Do" list in His own mind;

"Let's see, I still need to institute holy communion—I need to try to squeeze in one more lesson on humility and service, but how? Oh, I got it, I'll wash their feed after the Passover meal! Are all twelve disciples still behind me? Have I sufficiently prepared them for the

days ahead? Who's going to take care of Mom? Who should I send after the donkey? Have the religious leaders been sufficiently threatened by the miracles I've performed? How are Mary, Martha, and Lazarus doing today? Oh, and what about Peter? That devil wants him, but dear Father, you have promised that I will lose NONE of those You have given Me. Sure, Peter will disown me, but I know his heart; he will repent, and I will restore him. The nails have been forged. The cross has been hewn. Simon of Cyrene is on his way in from the countryside with his two sons; he is on schedule to be at the spot in the road where this body of mine begins to fail me; I will lean on him, and he will bear the cross the rest of the way to the place called the skull. Barabbas has been arrested. The two thieves are scheduled to die; one heart remains hardened, the other is feeling the weight of Law and the terrors of sin; yes, he will repent—he will be with me in paradise. All is ready. All of creation watches. And yes, dear Father, I am ready; 'Let Your will be done.'"

Brothers and sisters in Christ, as we consider the many things that occupy our time, may we rejoice, that the eternal God, made time for us. I wish you God's richest blessings. Your pastor.

**PLC Shepherd**

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FROM AN ELDER

I was always a fan of a show called "Cheers" that was popular in the 80's and 90's and later in syndication. It was set in Boston in a bar on a lower level. It starred the regular cast, characters who would frequent that establishment, with the now and then exception of a stranger off the street.

The show had a theme song that includes the lyrics "where everybody knows your name," and when one of the regulars came through the door, everyone shouted that person's name, to make them feel welcome, I presume. But when someone unfamiliar to the gang entered, they were often met with silence and sometimes suspicion, because they didn't know them and wondered why they chose this bar to patronize. Hardly ever did they make contact with that person to get to "know their name" and to invite them back.

While we may find this entertaining, are we guilty of the same thing? How often might this same scenario play out in our lives? How often may have it occurred in church, where we see someone we don't know, but fail to make them feel welcome? That could be visitors, relatively new members or long time members. With the Covid-19 pandemic, many of our member chose not to attend church until they felt safe to do so, and we should accept that. But now, many are returning and we should welcome them back, happy that we, as a congregation are reuniting, not only in person, but also in worshipping the Holy Trinity, and in communing with each other.

Without a doubt, 2020 was very trying year for our church, our community and our country. But with the grace of God, we have and will endure those hardships thrown at us. At this writing, we are looking towards Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter and what a joyous time to reunite with fellow believers, be they visitors or members. Hebrews 10:24-25 says *"And let us consider how we may spur one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching."* God's love is there for all of us to experience. Greet each other warmly, but safely!

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

Tina Cummins	4/1	Denise Gillen	4/9	Kimberly Kuykendall	4/21
Taylor Jesse	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
Eugene Dunker	4/4	Dan Hartwell	4/14	Harold Carlson	4/25
Corina Fritz	4/5	Carter Watts	4/14	Carter Hartwell	4/27
Lance Gillen	4/5	Chase Pierson	4/16	Jeffrey Unger	4/27
Lola Downing	4/6	Torryn Schumacher	4/16	Brooklynn Gillen	4/28
Steve Kircher	4/6	Savannah Strauch	4/17	Robert Stecker	4/28
Thatcher Skolout	4/7	Olivia Koetter	4/18	Hanah Nothnagel	4/29
Kelsey Gillen	4/8	John Hanson	4/21	Drew Shields	4/29
Tanner Doucet	4/9				

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Leslie & Sue Fahrenbruch	4/2/1994	27	Alex & Melissa Hanchera	4/9/2016	5
Ronald & Doris Friehe	4/3/1976	45	Joseph & Gina Vetrovsky	4/14/2018	3
Dennis & Susan Chipman	4/7/1973	48	Tim & Tempie Krause	4/16/1988	33
Monte & Mary Hazlitt	4/7/1984	37	Myra & Dan Stoney	4/17/1999	22
Kenneth & Dorinda Polly	4/7/1956	65	Eldon & Fayann Barenberg	4/27/1957	64
Ron & Deb Lauer	4/8/1989	32			

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 (March 21st-March 27th)	Month to Date (March 7th-March 27th)	Actual Year to Date (January 3rd-March 27th)
Offerings	\$3,530.00	\$15,284.00	\$51,337.00
Expenses	\$9,351.00	\$14,907.00	\$65,156.00



CREATIVE PRESCHOOL



Happy St. Patrick's day from the 4-day crew!

PRESIDENT HARRISON ADDRESSES THE EQUALITY ACT

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed the Equality Act of 2021 (H.R. 5), which is now in the hands of the U.S. Senate. Though the church is not a political body, the Equality Act deserves our attention, awareness and action.

"All Americans should enjoy equality and the protections of the U.S. Constitution," said the Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, president of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. "But in elevating sexual orientation to a protected class, the Equality Act will bring sweeping changes to current laws, to the great detriment of the religious and constitutional freedoms of biblically faithful churches, institutions, Christian schools and individuals."

You can read the entire letter by using this link:
<https://reporter.lcms.org/2021/lcms-presidents-statement-on-the-equality-act>

APRIL READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
4th	The Resurrection of Our Lord	Isaiah 25:6-9	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Mark 16:1-8
11th	The 2nd S. of Easter	Acts 4:32-35	1 John 1:1-2:2	John 20:19-31
18th	The 3rd S. of Easter	Acts 3:11-21	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36-49
25th	The 4th S. of Easter	Acts 4:1-12	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18



The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article – April 2021

Our Father in heaven sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. His atoning sacrifice is the first fruits of all the dead, a pleasing aroma to His Father, so that His perfect life and death count for all who believe in Him. He claimed us as His own children in Holy Baptism. He sustains and strengthens our faith with His Holy Word and His Body and Blood.

As new creatures, who have put on Christ, we bear good fruit. We do the good works prepared for us, which He makes known to us in His Word. By faith then, trusting in the Word of God, we do what he says because He does not lie and always keeps His promises. For "without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him" (Heb. 11:6).

And so the Lord promises: "Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine" (Prov. 3:9-10). How do we honor the Lord with the wealth that God has given us in His generosity? By giving generously to those whom the Lord has called us to love and support your family, your society, and your church. And His promise is that, in so doing, you will never lack.

A common counterpoint is: "But that's from the Old Testament!" Our Lord Jesus Himself gives us similar promises in the New Testament. He says, at the conclusion of the parable of the talents: "For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance" (Matt. 25:29).

And then at the end of the parable of the dishonest manager, he says: "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money" (Luke 16:10-13).

And in His sermon on the mount, he says: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matt. 6:19-21).

We have become conditioned against these promises because of their misuse by the peddlers of the prosperity gospel – the guys on TV who say you get rich by putting God in your debt. And thus, we miss out on the fact that God does reward temporal faithfulness in temporal matters with temporal blessings. It's no quid pro quo. It's all from God's grace and His fatherly divine goodness and mercy. But those Bible passages do in fact say what they say! It's not the Old Testament's problem. It's ours. It is almost as if we have become so jaded against this that we think it a virtue to be stingy with our offerings.

But our Father in heaven still loves to bless those who bless others. He loves to give to those who give freely and generously. In fact, he challenges us to challenge Him: "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need" (Mal. 3:10).

And so, while we don't give so that we would get, we do receive from the Lord in order to give, and He will bless your giving with more receiving. As St. Paul wrote in Rom. 8:32: "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"



BOARD OF EVANGELISM

The Board of Evangelism would like to Thank Cathy Broz for her service on this committee and welcome Joann Nemechek to the committee. As the year has started and we are in the Lenten Season looking at the Easter story. We are sorry for our sins , to see Jesus on the cross crucified for our sins and rose the third day to save us all, may we all repentant for our sins and Thank the Lord every day for sending his son to save us all. If anyone knows of the need for meals please notify any committee member or the church office. 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. Grief Ministry continues and if you know of anyone in need please contact the committee. Welcome to all visitors and new members. The Board continues to meet monthly and if anyone has needs please notify the committee. Respectfully - Joann Nemechek, Nancy Rippen and Deb Gleason

ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

This is a program that supports deployed military chaplains, and they in turn support the troops. We send large boxes of snacks, puzzle books, and magazines. One of the chaplains we support is LCMS Chaplain Cody Norton. He was in Germany where COVID precautions did not allow mail delivery. He is now in Poland and we were able to send him care packages in March. We also support a chaplain in South Korea, his name is Denis Ssekannyo. He wrote, "Thanks for all the good work. We surely feast on the work of your hands - and by the grace of God we have the energy and the desire to do what we are called to do. Your love and generosity is a great source of encouragement and a morale booster. Some time back, we felt obligated to visit a nearby orphanage here in South Korea to share some of the goodies we have received from good people like you. Unfortunately, we could only drop off the goodies to the orphanage administrators since we couldn't enter the orphanage and interact with the kids because of Covid-19. If you didn't know, it's you and your buddies who make it possible for me as chaplain, and for us as soldiers to make a positive difference in the life of others. Lots of blessings to you."

Please continue to pray these chaplains and all deployed military. All are welcome to help pack boxes, Tue, April 20 at 1pm.



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, Darlene Leibbrandt and Jean Sehnert.

Kinship Pointe: Walt 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

As discussed at a 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. **Of course all donations are welcome (like cake mixes, icing, condiments, etc.),**

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

4th-Available

11th-Nielsen

18th-Available

25th-Available

KNGN Sponsor

4th-Meints

11th-Available

18th-Available

25th-Available

April 4th

Elder on duty Victor Lauer

Organist

Audio Cathy Broz

Greeter Deb Shields

Greeter

Usher Dennis Chipman

Lay Reader Randon Peters

Acolyte

Acolyte

Powerpoint

Late Service

Greeter Jane Schuster

Greeter Myra Tietz

Usher Jim Dejonge

Lay Reader Fred Gleason

Acolyte

Acolyte

Powerpoint Ben Schow

April 18th

Elder on duty Harold Carlson

Organist

Audio Paul Sellers

Greeter Elaine Polly

Greeter Jeff Polly

Usher Gary Buk

Lay Reader Mike Nielsen

Acolyte

Acolyte

Powerpoint Tina Cummins

Late Service

Greeter Donna Hall

Greeter Jim Hall

Usher Ben Schow

Lay Reader Sarah Risenhoover

Acolyte

Acolyte

Powerpoint

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 11th

Elder on duty Victor Lauer

Organist

Audio Russ Ankersen

Greeter Gant Pfanstiel

Greeter Charlene Pfanstiel

Usher Harold Carlson

Lay Reader Renelle Mooney

Acolyte

Acolyte

Powerpoint Russ Ankersen

Late Service

Greeter Cindy Swanhorst

Greeter Curt Swanhorst

Usher

Lay Reader Nick Nothnagel

Acolyte

Acolyte

Powerpoint Russ Ankersen

April 25th

Elder on duty Fritz Hubert

Organist

Audio Harold Carlson

Greeter

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 Phil Barnesberger

Acolyte

Acolyte

Powerpoint Gary Hunkins



PEACE TALK

Photo technology has come a long way over the years. From a tripod and single exposure slides, to rolls of film, to an app on my cell phone. Ever so easy it is now to capture a photo memory. Times have changed also from pictures in a shoe box to electronic files. Needless to say, I was looking through one of those shoe box files the other day, amazed at what all I had forgotten. How ridiculous I looked in that hat. Oh my, that hairdo is outrageous. The laughter at the fashion of times, expressions, or what I looked like back then. Every photo in that box, stimulated a memory. It was entertaining how many additional memories surfaced from one photo. In many places throughout the scriptures, God shows us "old photo's" to jog our memory to recall what He has done. There are certain things He does not want us to forget; Don't forget you were delivered from bondage (Dt 9:7), don't forget all of the Lords benefits (Ps 103:2), remember the way the Lord your God has led you (Dt 8:2), remember Him in everything (1 Cor 11:2), remember the deeds of the Lord (Ps 77:11), the Holy Spirit will cause you to remember all things I have spoken to you (Jn 14:26). Even the sacrament of Holy Communion was given by Jesus for the purpose of remembering His death (Lk 22:19). God asks us to recollect who He is; to intentionally preserve the memory of what He has done for us and the words He has spoken to us. *Remembering His faithfulness in the past strengthens us and encourages us in the present and gives us hope for the future. However, we tend to forget to remember. We get caught up in our day-to-day activities and forget to remember what God has done or is doing in our lives.* Just like pictures placed in a shoe box and put on a shelf. Worldly things can so easily consume our time and capture our attention until our devotion, thanksgiving and dependence on God are all but a passing thought. If I were to ask you how much time you spend with God and your answer has anything to do with a calendar, then I must ask; "How much time does God spend with You?" Every minute of every day. Our photo album must be filled with devotion to God with our thoughts, words, and deeds. Through remembering God's works in scripture and in our life will only strengthen our faith. A strengthened faith thus results in praise that comes more easily and prayers that flow more readily. When our "photo memories" are recorded, it will bring our thoughts to God. Psalm 16:8 says, "I keep the Lord in mind always. Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken." Dear Lord, thank you for always being there for me. Help me to reflect your Grace in everything I say and do. For these blessings I will be eternally thankful. Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity
Phil Barnesberger



Peace Lutheran Church

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April

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 11:00am Worship 7:30pm Worship	2 11:00am Worship 7:30pm Worship	3 7:00am Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
4 7:00am Worship Easter Breakfast Easter Egg Hunt 10:30am Worship Upper Fellowship Hall reservation	5 <i>Office Closed</i> 7:00pm Women's Bible Study PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	6 9:00am Worship Committee	7 6:00pm School of Religion	8 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE (WINKLE)	9	10 7:00am Men's Bible Study 2:00pm Preschool Open House
11 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	12 7:00pm Women's Bible Study PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	13 6:30pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	14 6:00pm School of Religion	15	16	17 7:00am Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
18 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship 1:30pm Voter's Meeting	19 7:00pm Women's Bible Study PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	20 1:00pm Adopt-A-Chaplain packing	21 6:00pm School of Religion	22 2:30pm Kinship Pointe	23	24 7:00am Men's Bible Study
25 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	26 7:00pm Women's Bible Study PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	27	28 6:00pm School of Religion	29	30	