

TIDINGS OF PEACE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

LUTHERAN CHURCH



'TIDINGS OF PEACE' from

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

TO:

H

ello again, As I write to you in the midst of this Epiphany season, I'd like to share an experience with you—an epiphany, if you will. You may recall my writing last month about the taking down of Christmas lights; you may recall how I had lamented the darkness of winter, and yet was reminded of the light of Christ's mercy that shines through the darkness.

Well, days after writing about those things, it was my turn to remove the Christmas lights from the front yard and from the house. The day was one of those bonus days; a January day with temperatures in the mid-fifties. So, while I took down the lights, Emmett rode his scooter on the sidewalk and Teddy played in the yard. The experience came as I busied myself with the lights, and had my back to Teddy; as I worked, I heard him saying, in a playful voice, "Honk! Honk!"

I turned to see what he was up to, and there he was in the midst of our manger scene; with one hand on Baby Jesus he steadied himself, and with the other he reached up to Mary's nose—he was honking Mary's nose!

Of course, by the time I got my phone out to take a picture, that moment had ended. But the moment that followed was perhaps even more beautiful; Teddy reached even higher to place his hand on Mary's forehead, he caressed her face, and as he did, he looked into her eyes the way I've seen him look into Tanna's eyes.

As I looked in wonder, at that little boy playing with "Mommy Mary", the realness of Jesus humanity hit me in a way that it had never done before. Little Teddy caused me to ponder the reality of the child Jesus caressing his mother's face—gazing into her loving eyes while she held him close. I pondered the safety and comfort he must have felt in His mother's care; even while evil plotted to kill Him. And it brought a smile to my face to consider the innocence of little ones, and the possibility of the child Jesus honking his mommy's nose. This whole experience gave new meaning, for me, to the phrase, *"And His mother treasured up all these things in her heart."*

Thanks for reading.

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Felcher



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FROM AN ELDER

As we anticipate Lent at the beginning of March, we might think about giving something up like deserts or coffee, which can be a nice way to remind ourselves throughout Lent that it is actually Lent. When we reach out for those things, we remember that we are denying ourselves in commemoration of Our Lord's suffering. This isn't meant to please God or gain His favor. Nor can such a small denial make Lent more meaningful or increase faith. It is simply an attempt to keep ourselves mindful throughout the day that it is Lent. That is a valid Christian desire and discipline.

But Lent isn't ultimately about giving things up. Instead, Lent is a season of preparation. We are preparing to celebrate Easter and the Church is always prepared in the same way: by repentance.

True repentance is not simply feeling sorry or an outward discipline for the world to see. True repentance means turning away from sin in sorrow and also turning toward God in joy. That is to say, that true repentance is *faith*. It expects forgiveness. It trusts in Christ to give it. Judas was not truly repentant (Matthew 27:3-5). He was only remorseful. He did not trust Jesus to love him. In contrast, St. Peter was repentant (Mark 14:66-72). He was more than remorseful. He was sorry for his sins and ashamed of what he had done, but even more than this, he trusted in Christ to be merciful.

Lent is therefore not so much a time of "giving things up" as it is a time for adding things that increase our awareness of God's mercy in Christ Jesus. When Lent leads us to repentance, it isn't to make us sad or to somehow get God's attention. It is to strengthen our faith.

So, as we near the Lenten season, how about starting our preparation now. "Giving up" certain things that consume our time so we can have more time for church, devotion or prayer, and of course, repentance. Focusing on turning away from our sin in sorrow and turning toward God in joy. Making worship a priority in our week for the joy of hearing God's Word and receiving His gifts. Then, by the means of Grace, continue the preparation of Lent all year long as we feed our faith by the promise given to us through the Easter message.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Bernita Reiners	2/1	Maddyn Sharp	2/12	Rhonda Vetrovsky	2/19
Roger Ziebell	2/2	Alyssa Bauer	2/13	Brandon Smith	2/21
Russ Ankersen	2/3	Bob Nemechek	2/13	Sarah Bird	2/23
Angie Reiners	2/3	Terri Skolout	2/13	Samantha Cummins	2/23
Karen Ziebell	2/3	Barry Mooney	2/14	Amity Loop	2/24
Thomas Broz	2/4	Myra Tietz	2/14	Merwin Potthoff	2/24
Donna Hall	2/7	Larry Fritz	2/15	Nate Nielsen	2/25
Brook Brown	2/9	Art Soncksen	2/15	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
Nick Nothnagel	2/11	Elizabeth McConville	2/19	Dennis Chipman	2/28

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
John & Eileen Hubert	2/6/1949	73	Barry & Renelle Mooney	2/24/1996	26
Robert & Carol Stecker	2/11/2011	11	Dwain & Donna Curtis	2/26/1977	45
Ed & Marilyn Unger	2/17/1963	59			

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

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

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

OUR FINANCES AT A GLANCE

	Week to Date (January 23rd-January 29th)	Month to Date (January 2nd-January 24th)	Actual Year to Date (January 2nd-January 24th)
Offerings	\$5,825.00	\$22,494.00	\$22,494.00
Expenses	\$7,422.00	\$20,512.00	\$20,512.00

**BOARD OF EVANGELISM**

The Board of Evangelism met and discussed the activities for the past year and things they might change. Nancy made up new calendar sheets and Tina printed off new birthday and anniversary sheets. They went over Grief Booklets. The Angel tree was taken down and Kathy Haas was very thankful for the gifts. Nancy, Deb, and Joann.

2022 CHURCH OFFICER ELECTION RESULTSNewly Elected:

Melissa Hanchera – Treasurer
 Heath Brown – Board of Trustees
 Melissa Critchfield – Board of Education
 Sue Ankersen – Board of Evangelism
 Pat Schaffert and Brian Strauch - Finance Committee

Re-Elected:

Victor Lauer and Phil Bamesberger – Board of Elders
 Eugene Custer, KC Eckhardt, and Bob Nemechek, – Finance Committee

The newly elected officers will assume their duties March 1st. All are encouraged to attend the next Church Council meeting on February 8th in order to familiarize themselves with the issues.

FEBRUARY READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
6th	The 5th S. after the Epiphany	Isaiah 6:1-13	1 Corinthians 14:12b-20	Luke 5:1-11
13th	The 6th S. after the Epiphany	Jeremiah 17:5-8	1 Corinthians 15:1-20	Luke 6:17-26
20th	The 7th S. after the Epiphany	Genesis 45:3-15	1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42	Luke 6:27-38
27th	The Transfiguration of Our Lord	Deuteronomy 34:1-12	Hebrews 3:1-6	Luke 9:28-36



The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod
 Stewardship Ministry
 Newsletter Article – February 2022

God in Man Made Manifest

The season of Epiphany focuses on how God was made manifest in the flesh of Jesus. The church spends time hearing of the miracles, signs, and wonders of Jesus in the world. And this made plain to all that Jesus really is who He said He was. He is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the only begotten Son of the Father, in the flesh. For “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

It is revealed for all the world to see that Jesus is God in the flesh. It is made manifest by His words and His work, by what He said and by what He did. And these belong together, for “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” Jesus is the Word and will of God in the flesh, that is, He is the walking, talking enactment of God’s Word.

It is no different for us. We are called not just to believe in God in hearts but also to trust in God in word and deed. As James wrote: “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22), and again, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead” (James 2:14, 17–18, 26).

Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbor. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only but also in deed and in truth. In other words, the Epiphany of the Lord creates in us an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is made manifest to the world. It is, as Luther wrote of faith:

Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1). It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit.

Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly. It does not ask whether there are good works to do, but before the question rises, it has already done them, and is always at the doing of them.

He who does not these works is a faithless man. He gropes and looks about after faith and good works and knows neither what faith is nor what good works are, though he talks and talks, with many words about faith and good works.

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God’s grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures. And this is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. Hence a man is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace.

And thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate burning and shining from fire. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers, who would be wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools. (*Preface to the Book of Romans*)

So, then, let our faith be active by God’s power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let then our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbor – in church, in the family, and society – with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Board of Education is looking for someone to direct Vacation Bible School this year and Youth Group sponsor(s).

ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

Thank you for supporting deployed military chaplains and the troops that they serve. Please pray for all the troops, and for their families waiting for them at home. In February, we will be able to send care packages to chaplains in Kuwait and Poland. We will also send care packages to a chaplain from Nebraska who is in Qatar, and also to another chaplain from Nebraska who is in an undisclosed location. All are welcome to help pack on Tues, Feb 15 at 11:00am.

That's Not My Job

There is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could do.



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, Jean Sehnert, and Barbara Klein.

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

Highland Park: Harlan & Bernita Reiners and Arthur & Elaine Soncksen

El Dorado Manor: Mark Cummins **Ulysses, KS:** 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 2nd grade children are invited to Sunday School each Sunday from 9:15-10:15am downstairs.



Altar Flowers
6th-Available
13th-Available
20th-Available
27th-Available

KNGN Sponsor
6th-Available
13th-Available
20th-Available
27th-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 6th

Elder on duty	Brandon Kuykendall
Organist	KC Eckhardt
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Grant Pfanstiel
Greeter	Charlene Pfanstiel
Usher	Gary Buk
Lay Reader	Renelle Mooney
Acolyte	Brayden Watts
Acolyte	Tristen Watts
Powerpoint	Cathy Broz
Late Service	
Greeter	Jane Schuster
Greeter	Myra Tietz
Usher	Jim Dejonge
Lay Reader	Fred Gleason
Acolyte	Jackson Hartwell
Acolyte	Ellie Hartwell
Powerpoint	Ben Schow
Facebook	Blayzon Mooney

February 20th

Elder on duty	Harold Carlson
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Paul Sellers
Greeter	Elaine Polly
Greeter	Jeff Polly
Usher	Gary Buk
Lay Reader	Paul Schaffert
Acolyte	Laney Peters
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins
Late Service	
Greeter	Donna Hall
Greeter	Jim Hall
Usher	Ben Schow
Lay Reader	Nick Nothnagel
Acolyte	Jackson Hartwell
Acolyte	Ellie Hartwell
Powerpoint	
Facebook	Renelle Mooney

February 13th

Elder on duty	Victor Lauer
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	Russ Ankersen
Greeter	Deb Shields
Greeter	
Usher	Harold Carlson
Lay Reader	Randon Peters
Acolyte	Abigail Schneider
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Late Service	
Greeter	Cindy Swanhorst
Greeter	Curt Swanhorst
Usher	
Lay Reader	Sue Ankersen
Acolyte	Avery Davidson
Acolyte	Emma McConville
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Facebook	Ryland Peters

February 27th

Elder on duty	Fritz Hubert
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	Nancy Rippen
Greeter	
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Jerry Calvin
Acolyte	Layton Hinz
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Harold Carlson
Late Service	
Greeter	Patsy Fisher
Greeter	Pat Penner
Usher	Curt Swanhorst
Lay Reader	Russ Ankersen
Acolyte	Zander Stewart
Acolyte	Cale DeWester
Powerpoint	Gary Hunkins
Facebook	Layne Sarvela



PEACE TALK

Do you recall the time when you first discovered an echo? I'm not sure I do either, but I do remember having fun trying out that new found phenomena. Whether I was in a canyon or a cave, maybe even a school gymnasium, it was fun to shout something and listen as the words rang back to me multiple times. Hello, hello, hello, hello, as I call out and the sound slowly fades when it bounces from one side to another. I'm sure I tried all sorts of sounds and phrases just to hear my echo. It didn't matter what word I shouted, it repeatedly kept coming back. Jesus used his voice to create an echo to clearly describe that He was the living God to the Pharisees in John 8:58. He tells them "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." And a great echo it was... I am, I am, I am, I am, as Jesus proceeds to tell the world who He is with that echo through the gospel of John... "I am the bread of life," John 6:35. Jesus, as the Bread of Life, offers each of us life everlasting. "I am the light of the world," John 8:12. Jesus as the Light of the World, offers a choice between the darkness of sin and the glistening light of His presence. "I am the door," John 10:9. Jesus is that Door that offers the true path to salvation. "I am the Good Shepherd," John 10:11. Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, died to save each of us. "I am the resurrection and the life," John 11:25. Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life, will raise all who believe in the last days. "I am the way, the truth, and the life," John 14:6. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, is God, and is our only source of salvation. "I am the vine," John 15:5. Jesus, as the Vine, our source of life... today and life everlasting. This echo however, does not fade away like mine in the canyon. Jesus' echo continues loud and clear since the day Moses asked God's name and He said, "I am who I am.... and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations." Exodus 3:13-15. How blessed we are to have heard this life-giving echo and how blessed others will be if they hear it too. In fact, now I can shout my own "I am" echo... I am loved, I am forgiven, I am justified, I am declared righteous, I am redeemed, I am, I am, I am, given life by the blood of God's only Son, Jesus Christ. That message my friends is worth standing on a mountain top and shouting and hearing that echo over and over again. Dear Lord, thank you for the echo telling me who you are and what you have done for me. Help me to share that message with all who will hear, time and time again. Amen.



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February 2022

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