

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:

Three vertical lines for an address.

Hello, it has been a while since last writing to you—life has a way of getting away from us. Is it just me, or do things seem faster than they used to? Seems the year just got started, but the season of Lent is already upon us, and the first day of Spring is right around the corner.

Sometimes I wonder if our “connectedness” has anything to do with the way time flies. Have you ever felt too connected; TV in the living room, TV in the car, TVs in the restaurants—computers on the desk—I-pads by the chair or bed—radio streaming on your computer or in your car—Text messages—email—Facebook, Twitter, and so many other options; who can keep up?

Do you ever wish you could just turn it all off, and walk away from it for a while? But, then there’s that cellphone in your pocket or purse, that lets you take these things with you wherever you go.

Have you ever found Yourself sitting in certain places in the house because there is better cell service? Do the things you read or hear from these glowing devises, ever cause you stress or fear? Have you ever tried to turn it off, or ignore its notifications; only to worry that you might miss something?

Is it possible to be too connected?

As I consider these things, my attention is drawn to the blessing and beauty of the snow around town and on the hills. I think about the many birds I saw clinging to tree branches in the midst of the cold wind, that came with that snow. And today, as the sun shines brightly, I see shimmering streams of water produced by the melting snow, I find myself smiling, because those same birds, having weathered the storm, now enjoy, at the hand of God, a sip of cool clean water.

Yesterday evening, we took the boys sledding, and while they played, my attention was drawn skyward by a squawking sound; there I witnessed the brilliant whiteness of large V-shaped flock of Snow Geese against the crisp blue sky.

And the other morning, as I climbed into my truck to drive to worship, I had to pause for a minute, because, in the cold darkness of morning I could hear the hoot of an owl.

I share these things with you because, in these things I am reminded of God’s daily blessings; and in these little things I hear Him calling me to trust Him for the blessings of the days ahead.

The beauty of God’s creation does the same things, day – in – and – day – out, year after year, and in that I find His assurance, that until the Lord is finished, His beautiful creation will keep doing what it always does.

But, when He is finished, though it will be the biggest “special news bulletin” of all time; rest assured, you will be safely home with Jesus, before that shiny electronic box gets the memo.

Thanks for reading.

Jesus said; “Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they...But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:26, 33)

Pastor Felcher



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FROM AN ELDER

Christianity is the religion of miracles, and without them it cannot stand. We know Jesus' earthly life involved them (His incarnation, virgin birth, transfiguration, resurrection); during His earthly ministry He did many miraculous signs—all providing proof that He is the Son of God and the Christ, with the power both to heal bodies and to forgive sins.

Likewise, power was given to Jesus' disciples to heal (some even before Pentecost). After Pentecost, the Book of *The Acts of the Apostles* is filled with accounts of miracles done by those who walked the Jesus Way. Peter and John healed a cripple in the name of Jesus Christ, even as "through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people" (Acts 5:12). Philip performed miracles among the Samaritans. The apostle Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, struck Elymas the sorcerer blind for "perverting the straight ways of the Lord" (Acts 13:8). In Acts chapter 14, Paul and Barnabas healed a cripple and were acclaimed as gods; but the apostle begged the people to turn to the Living God, the Creator of all, and not to them as mere men. Later, the congregation at Jerusalem heard Paul's report on the "many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles" (Acts 15:12). Some were not spectacular, as when articles of clothing that had touched Paul's body were taken to the sick, after which "the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them" (Acts 19:12).

Truly, the time after the event of Pentecost was the age of miracles. We might think, "If only we could have lived during that golden age!"

There seems little doubt that these physical miracles tapered off dramatically after the days of the apostles. If they were done to establish the early Christian Church by substantiating God's Word and showing the power of Christ Jesus—dead, but now arisen!—then we can understand why such miracles are no longer needed. We have Holy Scripture as power and proof enough.

But hold on. This is still the New Testament age of Pentecost! And did not Jesus promise



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Pake Hamilton	3/4	Gary Gramins	3/12	Brock Hubert	3/23
Chad Hueftle	3/4	Charles Miller	3/12	Banks Schumacher	3/23
Ezra Nothnagel	3/4	Janet Hein	3/13	Ron 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
Gunner Gramins	3/5	Michael Leibrandt	3/19	Blayzon Mooney	3/26
Lewis Leibbrandt	3/6	Korina Rippen	3/19	Ryan Pearce	3/26
Jennifer McConville	3/6	Tyler Rogers	3/19	Michael Schoup	3/27
Kiah Terry	3/8	Addyson Snyder	3/20	Curt Swanhorst	3/28
Linda Bonar	3/10	Jessica Fritz	3/21	Joel Smith	3/29
Paul Schaffert	3/11				

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Brent & Jennifer Doucet	3/28/1998	25			

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

Check out our Facebook page (Peace Lutheran McCook NE)! Don't forget to "Like", "Follow" and "Share" it! We now have a YouTube channel (Peace Lutheran Church McCook) to view the Sunday services.

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 (Feb 19th-Feb 25th)	Month to Date (Feb 5th-Feb 25th)	Actual Year to Date (Jan 1st-Feb 25th)
Offerings	Not Available	\$11,610.00	\$38,697.00
Expenses	\$4,055.00	\$23,953.00	\$38,862.00



ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

This program supports deployed US military by sending care packages for the chaplains to use as they care for the troops. When we adopt a chaplain, we commit to support them until they return home. Please pray for the chaplains, all deployed military, and those who wait for them at home. Thank you to everyone who has donated and contributed supplies for the care packages. Thank you to everyone that has helped pack! All are welcome at the next packing day is Tuesday, March 14 at 5:00 pm.

THANK YOU

The Board of Education would like to thank everyone in the congregation that supported our youth at the FIRE Valentines Day dinner. There was wonderful food and great entertainment!! Thank you!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Board of Education is still looking for someone to teach Sunday School for 2nd grade through 4th grade. The Board also needs a volunteer to direct the Christmas Program. Thank you!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Calling on all "busy people" to help with Vacation Bible School. A popular phrase states that "the busiest people get the most done," so please consider your time and talent to plan and accomplish a successful VBS for 2023. Our VBS typically runs for three days in the month of June from 9 am to 12pm. Traditionally on the last day we feed the children lunch and plan some type of fun activity for the closing day. Prayerfully consider helping create this event for our children by volunteering for a day, or to be a section leader (director, registration, music, play/games, crafts, lesson, or kitchen) or for the entire event. *Isaiah 54:13 And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.* Please consider helping us get ready for VBS. Teaching and sharing the love of God to our children is important to help them grow in the knowledge of the spirit. Contact any member of the board of Education, Linda Smith, Linda Nielsen, or Melissa Critchfield, or notify the church office if you can help. Thank you.

MARCH READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
5th	The 2nd S. in Lent	Genesis 12:1-9	Romans 4:1-8, 13-17	John 3:1-17
12th	The 3rd S. in Lent	Exodus 17:1-7	Romans 5:1-8	John 4:5-30, 39-42
19th	The 4th S. in Lent	Isaiah 42:14-21	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39
26th	The 5th S. in Lent	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Romans 8:1-11	John 11:17-27, 38-53



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter Article – March 2023

Lenten Discipline: Denying the Self

We are at the beginning of Lent. During the Lenten season, the church calls to our attention the sufficiency of what God gives. It points to the sufficiency of God's grace in the atoning work of Jesus. It shows us the sufficiency of faith in Jesus' work for us. It makes known the sufficiency of God's Word in faith and life.

But Lent doesn't just remind us of the sufficiency of God's spiritual gifts — the gifts that pertain to our redemption and salvation. Lent also reminds us of the sufficiency of the physical, temporal gifts of God which pertain to this body and life. In other words, it reminds us of the importance of godly contentment and of outward discipline and training of the body.

This outward training of the body teaches us not to give in to every desire of our flesh, but to learn to say no to them. And it does this in such a way that if you fail, it is no sin. It is a way to practice without putting yourself into a compromising situation.

Fasting is a good example of this outward training. When you fast, you are practicing saying no to the desires of your body. But if you fail in this, if you break your fast, you have not sinned. But you have learned something about how your flesh works, how difficult it is to fight against it, and how you need help from above to discipline the desires of your body.

Another example is almsgiving. An increase in giving to the church and its mission during Lent is also a form of outward training. We all know that our flesh finds security in money and stuff. By committing to give more to the church, you are training your flesh. You are, by this outward discipline, training yourself to be content with what God gives. You are practicing saying "no" to your desires. Again, if you fail, you have not sinned. But you've learned just how powerful your flesh is — it leads you instead of you leading it. You've learned how you need help from above in being content with what God gives.

This is why St. Paul instructs young Pastor Timothy in this way:

But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. (1 Tim. 6:6-10)

Our sufficiency is not of ourselves; it is in God. Let us learn this without sin by training our flesh this Lenten season.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

**Continued from page 2**

that the person who believes in Him will do greater works than He Himself did? Indeed He did!

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the work that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father" (John 14:12).

It's important to keep in mind that these "greater works" done by any Christian are miracles done in the realm of the spiritual. Lazarus being physically raised from the dead by Jesus was a great miracle, but all people are by nature spiritually dead in trespasses and sin, and to be brought to life and fellowship with God, to be reborn a new creature by the Holy Spirit is a "great work" for sure, a flat-out miracle! And the Savior said Christian believers can do them—even more than He Himself did while He walked on Earth.

Proof? After Peter preached one Pentecost sermon, 3,000 souls were brought to faith by the power and grace of God (see Acts 2). The other apostles and evangelists likewise proclaimed the gospel of the living and exalted Savior, and the Christian Church spread among the Gentiles like an unstoppable prairie fire.

Yes, it is still the age of Pentecost. The gospel is still the power of God unto conversion and salvation, for it is the tool of the Holy Spirit. Christian friend, proclaim the gospel and then stand back—ready for a miracle of grace, for God's Word never returns empty to Him but always accomplishes His purposes (see Isaiah 55:11). All it takes is Christian people eagerly wanting to be involved in bringing sinners to Christ—in seeing hard hearts of stone turned into repentant hearts—redeemed, justified, and alive in Christ Jesus to the glory of God.

But let's take care not to get caught up in ourselves. Have you ever seen self-proclaimed miracle workers do their stuff on TV? With great fanfare they shout at the sick, sometimes pushing and punching them with such force that they fall backward to the floor. It seems that the "miracle-worker" is willing to receive credit for some claimed healing.

Remember how Moses did that one time (see Numbers 20)? He shouted and struck a rock twice when God had told him to simply speak to the rock. Water came forth. Yet because Moses did not give all the credit to God but claimed some for himself, he was not allowed to set foot inside the promised land of Canaan.

So we are instructed to simply speak the Word and to give God all honor and glory; then be prepared to see how the Holy Spirit sends the water of life flowing from Jesus, the Rock of our salvation, into thirsty souls.

From the first books of the bible, there has been unexplained death, sickness, and tragedy stricken upon people. sorry to say, but thats' the way it is , and will be forever. Who can explain it ? Only God can.

We all have witnessed great heartache with sickness and death in our own families, but we also can see great things that the power of prayer has done .

Keep praying , miracles can happen

**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, and Art Soncksen

Kinship Pointe: Betty Harms, and Loren & Lois Brown.

Highland Park: Harlan & Bernita Reiners and Elaine Soncksen

El Dorado Manor: Mark Cummins and Eugene Dunker

Wauneta: Lois Lepper

Ulysses, KS: Joyce Stupka

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 – Phil Bamesberger, Victor Lauer, Fritz Hubert, Brandon Kuykendall, Curt Swanhorst, Russ Ankersen or Barry Mooney.

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.)**

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.

**Altar Flowers**

5th-Available
12th-Available
19th-Available
26th-Available

March 5th

Elder on duty	Brandon Kuykendall
Organist	K. C. Eckhardt
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Grant Pfanstiel
Greeter	Charlene Pfanstiel
Usher	Gene Meints
Lay Reader	Renelle Mooney
Acolyte	Clara Hurst
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Cathy Broz
Late Service	
Greeter	Jane Schuster
Greeter	Myra Tietz
Usher	Gary Hunkins
Lay Reader	Nick Nothnagel
Acolyte	Emma McConville
Acolyte	Avery Davidson
Powerpoint	Ben Schow
Live Stream	Christien Kuykendall

March 12th

Elder on duty	Victor Lauer
Organist	K. C. Eckhardt
Audio	Russ Ankersen
Greeter	Deb Shields
Greeter	
Usher	Harold Carlson
Lay Reader	Randon Peters
Acolyte	Layton Hinz
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Late Service	
Greeter	Cindy Swanhorst
Greeter	Curt Swanhorst
Usher	Harold Carlson
Lay Reader	Sarah Risenhoover
Acolyte	Hunter Kunkee
Acolyte	Cale DeWester
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Live Stream	Blayzon Mooney

March 19th

Elder on duty	
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Paul Sellers
Greeter	Elaine Polly
Greeter	Jeff Polly
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Grant Pfanstiel
Acolyte	Tristen Watts
Acolyte	Brayden Watts
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins
Late Service	
Greeter	Donna Hall
Greeter	Jim Hall
Usher	Ben Schow
Lay Reader	Fred Gleason
Acolyte	Zander Stewart
Acolyte	Maxson Stewart
Powerpoint	
Live Stream	Renelle Mooney

March 26th

Elder on duty	Fritz Hubert
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	Nancy Rippen
Greeter	
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Jerry Calvin
Acolyte	Cassidy Rogers
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Harold Carlson
Late Service	
Greeter	Pat Penner
Greeter	
Usher	Curt Swanhorst
Lay Reader	Curt Swanhorst
Acolyte	Ryker Mooney
Acolyte	Juliett Critchfield
Powerpoint	Gary Hunkins
Live Stream	Layne Sarvela

**PEACE TALK**

Angry Birds! An interesting title to an addictive video game. This game can be played for hours on your phone or electronic device. Believe me, I know. Apparently, the birds in this game are angry because the pigs must have stolen their eggs. The objective of the game then becomes to eliminate all the pigs in each level. Using a slingshot, players launch various birds through the air with the goal of either striking the enemy pigs directly or damaging their surrounding structures. Thus, causing the blocks to collapse and "pop" the pigs. For those of you who have not been introduced to this game, I'm sure it sounds quite bizarre. To the rest of us, anger is the only remedy for deletion. Angry because way too much time has been invested in launching angry birds. However, this is only trivial when it comes to anger in daily living. Are you someone who gets angry in traffic? Do you throw a conniption fit watching your favorite sports team lose? Is there yelling, cold tensions, and harsh words spoken in the home? Minor irritations can become major issues. Sad can turn into mad. We are told in Ephesians 4:26 *"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.* The Lord makes it clear that we will get angry in life. But in that anger, we don't have to give in to sin. We can take whatever ignited our anger to God. Make sure that at the end of the day we do not give "the devil a foothold" from the result of our anger. 2 Corinthians 10:5 tells us before our heart and mind have a chance to turn to anger, turn all the attention to the obedience of Christ. During that moment, we can choose what we are going to think and dwell on. We can continue to fuel our angry emotions with wrong thoughts...or we can take a stand and, with God's help, refuse to allow the situation to get out of control. In James 1:19-20 we learn, *"Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God."* James basically tells us the same thing. That we must curb our anger by filling our hearts and minds with the righteousness of God. I know it might be easier said than done sometimes. Especially if that enemy the pig steals your eggs. This is why Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:44, *"But I say, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..."* *The sun is going to rise on the good and bad. Rain is going to fall on the just and unjust.* The key is how you react. God wants us to turn from sad to glad with His righteousness. Why should, metaphorically speaking, an "angry bird and a pig" get in the way of that? Dear Lord, help me let go of my anger and place it into your hands. Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity
Phil Bamesberger



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March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30am El Dorado service 11:00am Service 6:00pm School Of Religion 7:30pm Service	2 1:15pm LifeLight	3	4 7:00am Men's Bible Study
5 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	6 5:00pm Board of Education 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	7 9:00am Worship Committee 6:30pm Board of Elders	8 11:00am Service 7:30pm Service	9 1:15pm LifeLight	10	11 7:00am Men's Bible Study
12 Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship Church Brunch 10:30am Worship	13 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	14 5:00pm Adopt-A-Chaplain 6:30pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	15 11:00am Service 6:00pm School Of Religion 7:30pm Service	16 1:15pm LifeLight	17	18 7:00am Men's Bible Study
19 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	20 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	21	22 11:00am Service 6:00pm School Of Religion 7:30pm Service	23 1:15pm LifeLight 1:30pm Hillcrest 2:30pm Kinship Pointe	24	25 7:00am Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
26 Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	27 2:00pm LWML 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	28	29 11:00am Service 6:00pm School Of Religion 7:30pm Service	30 1:15pm LifeLight	31	