



'TIDINGS OF **PEACE**' from

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

TO:

February 2024

TIDINGS OF **PEACE**

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Today I was reminded of something; something that never really had a name or a title, until today. That something was just something my dad did for us kids. The title I heard today is simply two words; "Fish Talk."

My dad used to take us fishing—none of us were very good at it, but when we went, we spent the entire day; there was always one more thing to try—one more cast to be made. But looking back, what my dad had done for us in those long days, was create time for "Fish Talk." For the entire day, it was just him, and us and fishing—time to sit—time to listen—time to be heard.

A story was told of a dad who worried about his son after mom had succumb to cancer. Every time the dad tried to get

his son to talk, the son just said; "I'm fine." One day they had gone fishing, and as they sat, a flock of geese landed on the other side of the lake; after watching, the son said; "I think mom would have liked that." That's Fish Talk. It's not much, but it can be profound.

Perhaps fishing isn't your thing; perhaps your thing might be going for a walk talk, or planting flowers talk, or going for a drive talk. Whatever it is, give it a try. Thanks for reading.

Pastor Lonnie

**PLC Shepherd**

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"All are from the dust,
and to dust all return."

Ecclesiastes 3:20, ESV

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Bernita Reiners	2/1	Ruth Ann Klein	2/10	Rhonda Vetrovsky	2/19
Roger Ziebell	2/2	Nick Nothnagel	2/11	Brandon Smith	2/21
Russ Ankersen	2/3	Maddyn Sharp	2/12	Sarah Bird	2/23
Katie Downing	2/3	Alyssa Bauer	2/13	Samantha Turpin	2/23
Karen Ziebell	2/3	Robert Nemechek	2/13	Amity Loop	2/24
Thomas Broz	2/4	Barry Mooney	2/14	Merwin Potthoff	2/24
Donna Hall	2/7	Myra Tietz	2/14	Nate Nielsen	2/25
Keslie Hazlitt	2/7	Art Soncksen	2/15	Ellie Hartwell	2/26
Brooke Brown	2/9	Alex Yonkers	2/18	Heddy Reiners	2/26
Nikki Hamilton	2/9	Aimee Hazlitt	2/19	Larry Richards	2/26
Renelle Mooney	2/9	Elizabeth McConville	2/19		

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
John & Eileen Hubert	2/6/1949	75	Barry & Renelle Mooney	2/24/1996	28
Robert & Carol Stecker	2/11/2011	13	Dwain & Donna Curtis	2/26/1977	47
Edward & Marilyn Unger	2/17/1963	61			

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 (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.

OUR FINANCES AT A GLANCE

	Week to Date (Nov 26th-Dec 2nd)	Month to Date (Nov 5th-Dec 2nd)	Actual Year to Date (Jan 1st-Dec 2nd)
Offerings	\$9,888.00	\$18,773.00	\$218,936.00
Expenses	\$3,504.00	\$22,937.00	\$231,586.00



ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

ADOPT A CHAPLAIN: Adopt a chaplain is a program that supports deployed military chaplains and the troops they serve. Please keep the US military in your prayers. We received an email from Chaplain Jason Jones who is deployed to Syria, he writes "We appreciate you all. I never knew what danger was until I came here, I also never knew what real WORK was until here either!" We send two to four care packages a month to each adopted chaplain, supporting them until they return home. Chaplain Jones will return home in February. If possible, we will adopt the chaplain that replaces him. Two LCMS chaplains are being supported, they are Chaplain David McCarthy in Kuwait and Chaplain David Wurdeman in South Korea. All are welcome on the next packing day, Tuesday, February 20 at 1:00 pm.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is starting September 10th at 9:15am for preschool through 2nd grade. There will be fun, games, and treats.

***Reminder: The child must be age 3 and potty trained. Thank you!**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers needed to teach 3rd & 4th grade Sunday School.

LWML

LWML will be helping with bingo at Hillcrest the second Tuesday of the month, starting October 10th. If you are interested in helping, please contact Deb Shields.

FEBRUARY READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
4th	The 5th S. after Epiphany	Isaiah 40:21-31	1 Corinthians 9:16-27	Mark 1:29-39
11th	The Transfiguration of Our Lord	2 Kings 2:1-12 or Exodus 34:29-35	2 Corinthians 3:12-18; 4:1-6	Mark 9:2-9
18th	The 1st S. in Lent	Genesis 22:1-18	James 1:12-18	Mark 1:9-15
25th	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 2024

Caring for My Neighbor

If any of the Ten Commandments might tempt us to think that keeping the Law is easy, it would be the Fifth Commandment. After all, how hard is it to get through life without murdering somebody? The vast majority of people can handle that!

But Jesus famously blows up this notion by pointing out that the command, "you shall not murder," goes much deeper — down to the heart.

You have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment." But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, "You fool!" will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matt. 5:21–22)

Hatred and disdain come from the same sort of crookedness of heart as murder. With both murder and hatred, you look down on another person and think them of little worth.

In the Small Catechism, Luther also points out that every "do not" in the commandments also includes a "do this:" "We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but help and support him in every physical need" (SC, Fifth Commandment, emphasis added).

We are not called merely to avoid evil; we must also do positive good.

So when Jesus drew near to us and became our neighbor by taking up our humanity, He came not only to avoid harming us, but He came to positively help us, bless us and serve us.

We are now called to show the love to our neighbors that Christ showed to us. Your neighbor is yet another gift that God has given you that requires your stewardship. We are called to show mercy, to be kind, to love and serve our neighbor. One aspect of this stewardship is financial: our neighbors need us to support the church's work so that they can hear the Gospel and come to faith. Our neighbors need the church's alms and mercy work. Our neighbors need our faithful service in all we do in the name of Christ.



FROM AN ELDER

A Valentine Gift From God

This year Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fall on the same date. It seems like an odd pairing—Ash Wednesday, a day of solemn repentance and honest reckoning of our brokenness, and Valentine's Day, a lighthearted celebration of love. Do we fast and pray and commit to rigorous spiritual disciplines, or do we dive in to Champagne and chocolate? Is it a day of contrition or of abandon? Do we abstain or do we indulge?

It's strange how our culture divides up human experience and the way it puts a premium on happiness, self-fulfillment and conflict avoidance, particularly in personal relationships. The good life is untroubled. There should be no worries and certainly no cause to acknowledge pain or wrong. It's a life of endless possibility fueled by positive thinking and affirmation. It should be perky, upbeat and fun. And somehow love needs to be shaped the same way. Certainly there is no room for Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day in the same space.

The two quotes above are the manifesto for this worldview. They hold out the promise of pain-free, investment-free, responsibility-free relationships. They encourage an unexamined life, a kind of Teflon existence to which consequences don't stick. They sound like the real thing but are as poor a substitute as the sentiments printed on the little sugar valentine hearts are for a real expression of love. In this world, Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day make no sense together. But here we are. This Feb. 14 will hold two holy days. And, in our life in Christ, they aren't incompatible but inseparable. The history of salvation is one extended love story between God and God's creation, between God and humankind, between God and God's people. We were created in love for love. Real love. Love that is solid and deep and unflinching. Love that is true enough to be honest.

God's work of reconciliation in Christ is God's eyes-wide-open acknowledgment of human rebellion and sin, the undeniable fact that all is not well no matter how hard we try to fix it or deny it. The remedy was the all-in, complete love of the incarnation, crucifixion and death of Christ. Jesus meets us right in the middle of our pain—the pain we feel and the pain we cause others—and without minimizing the depth of our offense, offers forgiveness and new life. Love does *not* mean never having to say you're sorry—love means being *able* to say you're sorry.

Lutherans point out that grace is a gift, but sometimes we get a little carried away. I believe the sign in front of one of our congregations that claimed "Forgiveness guaranteed. Repentance optional" was trying to announce good news. Instead, it sent passers-by in the wrong direction. Our reconciled new life in Christ not only makes it possible for us to strip away any illusion of a whole and holy life that we bring about by ourselves, it compels us to repent.

Theologian and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer warned us about this cheap grace. He wrote: "Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession. ... Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate" (*The Cost of Discipleship*).

So, Ash Wednesday is a valentine from God, one that invites us to enter deep into the mystery of true love, honest examination of our lives and the possibility of real repentance. The Ash Wednesday valentine starts us on the journey to the cross, to the passionate love of God shown in the Passion of Christ. And after the cross, the resurrection. No more pretense, freedom.

-Living Lutheran



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, Art Soncksen, Karen Berry, and Roland Carlson.

Kinship Pointe: Betty Harms, and Lois Brown.

Highland Park: Harlan & Bernita Reiners

Benkelman: Mark Cummins

Lincoln: Carla Bales

Ulysses, KS: Joyce Stupka

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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

February 4th

Elder on duty	Brandon Kuykendall
Organist	
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Grant Pfanstiel
Greeter	Charlene Pfanstiel
Usher	Gene Meints
Lay Reader	Sue Ankersen
Acolyte	Clara Hurst
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Cathy Broz
Late Service	
Greeter	Jane Schuster
Greeter	Myra Tietz
Usher	Gary Hunkins
Lay Reader	Nick Nothnagel
Acolyte	Zander Stewart
Acolyte	Maxson Stewart
Powerpoint	Ben Schow
Live Stream	Jackson Hartwell

February 11th

Elder on duty	Victor Lauer
Organist	
Audio	Russ Ankersen
Greeter	Deb Shields
Greeter	
Usher	Harold Carlson
Lay Reader	Randon Peters
Acolyte	Hunter Kunkee
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Late Service	
Greeter	Cindy Swanhorst
Greeter	Curt Swanhorst
Usher	Harold Carlson
Lay Reader	Sarah Risenhoover
Acolyte	Kysen Hazlitt
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Live Stream	Tina Cummins

February 18th

Elder on duty	Barry Mooney
Organist	
Audio	Paul Sellers
Greeter	Elaine Polly
Greeter	Jeff Polly
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Renelle Mooney
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins
Late Service	
Greeter	Donna Hall
Greeter	Jim Hall
Usher	Ben Schow
Lay Reader	Blayzon Mooney
Acolyte	Ryker Mooney
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	
Live Stream	Ian Brown

February 25th

Elder on duty	Fritz Hubert
Organist	
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	Nancy Rippen
Greeter	
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Russ Ankersen
Acolyte	Layton Hinz
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Harold Carlson
Late Service	
Greeter	Pat Penner
Greeter	
Usher	Curt Swanhorst
Lay Reader	Curt Swanhorst
Acolyte	Cooper Davidson
Acolyte	Avery Davidson
Powerpoint	Gary Hunkins
Live Stream	Layne Sarvela



PEACE TALK

Are you familiar with the Mayhem guy? He is a popular insurance commercial actor who doesn't seem to care what affliction he delivers on his victims. Whether it is a tree falling through the roof or a car getting crunched, he is right there gloating in their misery. This is an effective way to advertise as people can be sensitive to mayhem on their property. Therefore, making insurance a necessary evil to avert the costly mayhem that might occur. Are you insured? Most of us in this chaotic world are insured one way or another. Property, health, life, car, fire, and flood... you can buy insurance for just about anything you can imagine. We pay these premiums in advance to give us the peace of mind that our financial risk is minimized in case of mayhem. This got me to thinking. What about spiritual mayhem? Do you have times in your life when the mayhem guy rejoices when your faith weakens with doubts and fears? The times where mayhem diminishes your trust in the Lord? It is during these times in our life where trials or temptations can control our thoughts and actions. When we either blame God for what has happened or fail to trust in His divine purpose. It is during times like these we need to turn in a claim on our spiritual insurance. Indeed, through faith we all have this insurance. All we must do is turn to God for help and trust in His goodness. He is always there to help in our weakness and will show us the way. God literally has us covered head to toe with His insurance. We find that in Ephesians 6:11 where Paul tells us to put on the whole armor of God to protect against any schemes of the mayhem guy. Paul then goes on to explain that when we put on this spiritual armor, we can guard our minds and shield our emotions from any mayhem the world passes our way (Ephesians 6:13-17). Yes, God has this insurance policy in place for you and me as Isaiah affirms... "fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41:10). With the assurance of this policy, it will give us the strength to get through all mayhem, (Philippians 4:13). Best of all, our loving God does not stop there. Not only does He ensure our spiritual life, but He also insures our eternal life (John 3:16). Jesus willingly paid all these premiums by His death on the cross. And now He continually lives in our hearts as our insurance policy to get through all our doubts and fears. Trials and temptations. Paid in full. Through our faith and trust in Him the mayhem guy will not control our life, Jesus will. Dear Lord, when mayhem strikes, help me place all my trust in you. Amen.



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February 2024

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