

TIDINGS OF PEACE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

LUTHERAN CHURCH

"If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together."
-1 Corinthians 12:26

Being the Church: Living as a Community of Joy

Sometime ago, I was blessed to read a book written by the president of our Synod, Pastor Matthew Harrison. This book is called, "A Little Book on Joy: The Secret to Living a Good News life in a Bad News World." In this book, Pastor Harrison presented a wonderful summary of the Bible's teachings on Joy as it relates to different areas of our lives. It is truly a wonderful book and I highly recommend it.

This month, as I was considering what to write for this Tidings article, I found myself drawn back to this little book on Joy. I don't know what it was, the abundance of cloudy days, the many people struggling with health problems, the ongoing relentless political arguments, but whatever it is, it seems that Joy is rather hard to come by these days.

As we daily fight and struggle against our sinful natures and the broken world around us, we often feel alone in the battle. Especially in this extremely individualized country, we feel we must put on a happy face, smiling through the pain. We often refuse to be vulnerable, fearing that if we admit weakness or own up to our failings, we'll be further isolated from those with whom we want to connect. Even if we do muster up the courage to share these struggles, there are times when people respond in less than Christian ways and we feel even more alone and devoid of joy.

In a chapter from "Little Book on Joy", Pastor Harrison addresses these struggles and points us away from the despair and loneliness and to the love of Christ and to the fellowship we share as His body, the Church. The Church is for us, "A Community of Joy." Rather than reinvent the wheel, throughout the rest of the article, I will share with you a number of excerpts from President Harrison's chapter, "A Community of Joy."

In speaking about this community of Joy, he writes the following:

"Quite despite itself, its weaknesses, its

shortcomings, its mistakes and sins (and in many ways precisely because of such things), the Church is community of joy. The secret to living a good news life in a bad news world is learning both to lay down our burdens upon Christ and the gathered community (the Church), and in turn, to take up the burdens of others gathered there."

This is, as mentioned above, easier said than done. To actually live as the Church can be rather difficult. As sinful, prideful human beings, we are not always willing to lay down our burdens, even on Christ, let alone pick up the burdens of others. But, thanks be to God, the grace of God in Christ is stronger than our sinful nature. When you think about Christ's incarnation, it is, as President Harrison put it, 'the ultimate communal event.' Jesus took on human flesh, and participated in all we experience. He faced pain, loss, hunger, physical exhaustion, and all of the other things we experience in this life. But as the Son of God, He in His power overcame all of these and comes now to us face to face through His Word and Sacraments. We daily encounter Jesus. As He promises, "I will be with you always to the very end of the age."

But that is not all. As Pastor Harrison writes, *"Encountering Jesus is at the same time the pull toward his body. That body is a community of believers, who gather locally to receive his gifts continually in the word of the Gospel preached by one called by the community, to be absolved, and to receive his body and blood...The Church is a community of joy because in it we both share our sufferings (universal because of sin and weakness), and we rejoice with and for one another."*

As many of you know, I like to relate these theological understandings to everyday situations, so imagine my joy when I discovered this story from President Harrison that really captures what it is to live as the Church. He writes,

"I recall an event which took all of about eight seconds, and it illustrates how the Church lives this corporate life. It didn't happen in the Church, but it has direct application. On more than one occasion, I've laughed out loud traveling past the stadium in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. But I've never written about why.

Sioux City (Iowa) East High had nearly
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TO: _____



'TIDINGS OF PEACE' from

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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FROM AN ELDER

Worship

As we all know we are having an above average temperature winter again; but is not that long until spring and warmer weather will be here. If history repeats itself there will be a drop in church attendance.

One of the most common excuses for missing is I can worship God hunting, fishing, on the golf course and etc. I don't have to be in church. I will agree that you can and should worship, praise and pray to our Lord; at all times. But not to miss just because we think can miss and it is okay.

We need to remember the First Commandment: "You shall have no other gods." And the Third Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." How does one concentrate on their game, fishing or hunting and still worship God? I will also say that if you miss an east shot at a turkey, a large fish flips the hook the last second or an easy putt and the golf ball rolls past the hole I will say that most of us would break the Second Commandment: "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God."

When one attends church one gets the fellowship of other believers, confession and absolution, we hear the Word of our Lord and receive the Sacrament of the Altar.

Our God has given us everything. Surely we can make time to come to worship and praise Him and receive the many blessings he gives us at church.

TO GOD BE GLORY

See you in church!!!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Bernita Reiners 2/1	Barry Mooney 2/13	Rhonda Vetrovsky 2/19
Roger Ziebell 2/2	Robert Nemechek 2/13	Brandon Smith 2/21
Russell Ankersen 2/3	Terri Skolout 2/13	Sarah Bird 2/23
Angie Reiners 2/3	Myra Tietz 2/14	Samantha Cummins 2/23
Karen Ziebell 2/3	Larry Fritz 2/15	Amity Loop 2/24
Thomas Broz 2/4	Arthur Soncksen 2/15	Merwin Potthoff 2/24
Robert Conlin 2/5	Tim Krause 2/17	Nathan Nielsen 2/25
Donna Hall 2/7	Sigourney Parde 2/17	Raymond Fisher 2/26
Nikita Hamilton 2/9	Alex Yonkers 2/18	Ellie Hartwell 2/26
Ruth Ann Klein 2/10	Aimee Hazlitt 2/19	Heddy Reiners 2/26
Nicholas Nothnagel 2/11	Elizabeth McConville 2/19	Orian Fritz 2/27
Alyssa Bauer 2/13	Renell Mooney 2/19	Dennis Chipman 2/28
Kathy Lichty 2/13		

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
John & Eileen Hubert	2/6/1949	68	Barry & Renell Mooney	2/24/1996	21
Ed & Marilyn Unger	2/17/1963	54	Dwain & Donna Curtis	2/26/1977	40

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

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.

OUR FINANCES AT A GLANCE

	Week to Date (Jan. 29th-Feb. 4th)	Month to Date (Jan. 1st-Feb. 4th)	Actual Year to Date (Jan. 1st-Feb. 4th)	Budget to Date (Jan. 1st-Feb. 4th) 5th week
Offerings	\$3,745.01	\$14,980.53	\$14,980.53	\$18,954.00
Expenses	\$1,325.63	\$17,114.29	\$17,114.29	\$18,954.00

This month's Going Beyond Sunday is for Lutheran Family Services.

Going Beyond Sunday for the Christ Care Fund was \$28.00.



CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

It's hard to believe that it's already almost February, the preschool year is going by so quickly! Check your calendars for Quilt Day during Q Week and bring a quilt (or a blanket if you don't have a quilt), we will be making a big Storytime Tent with the quilts!! We will also be having Red Day for R Week, and Silly Socks and Sunglasses Day during S Week.

For T Week, we are going on a Field Trip to Dr. Haugen's Orthodontic Office to learn about taking care of our teeth! (they weren't able to fit the Monday/Wednesday class into their schedule until March 6th, so yours will be on the March calendar) If you can help drive, please let me know.

I will be uploading pictures taken throughout the school year to Wal-Mart Photo Center this month. From there you can view, edit and order photos of your child. I will continue adding to the albums throughout the year so you can see what we have been up to!

Our Valentine's Day Parties will be on Monday, February 13th and Tuesday, February 14th. It is great handwriting practice for your preschooler to write out his/her own valentines if they can. Next week I will send home a list of your child/ren's classmates, please bring one valentine for each child in the class.

Please call me at 345-2595 or email mycreativepreschool@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Ms. Mandy, Ms. Kelsey and Ms. Dani

You can help out our own Creative Preschool by clipping UPC codes and box tops. It's as easy as cutting out the UPC code from "Campbell's" and "Our Family" products and any "Box Top" (Campbell's no longer accepts the full label.) UPC codes and Box Tops collected help buy various supplies needed for day to day operation of the preschool.



In the past these programs helped the preschool purchase supplies, the large color and shape carpet, books, science and math activities and many other items. The UPC codes and Box Tops can be returned to Kerri or the church office. Thank you for supporting Creative Preschool!



FEBRUARY READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
5th	5th S. after Epiphany	Isaiah 58:3-9a	1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)	Matthew 5:13-20
12th	6th S. after Epiphany	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Matthew 5:21-37
19th	7th S. after Epiphany	Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18	1 Corinthians 3:10-23	Matthew 5:38-48
26th	Transfiguration of Our Lord	Exodus 24:8-18	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9



finished the 1979-1980 football season undefeated and ranked number one in the state. (The older I get, the better I was.) We were well into our final regular season game, playing Sioux Falls (South Dakota) Lincoln High on their home field, Howard Wood Stadium. The number one teams of South Dakota and Iowa, respectively, both known for their powerhouse offenses, were locked in a defensive battle. Well into the third quarter neither team had scored. We failed to convert on yet another series and had to punt, again. It was getting tense. The conference championship was riding on the game, as well as our playoff placement.

As the team's center and long-snapper, I must admit, hiking the ball twelve yards to the punter was a task I did not relish (though I also ended up doing it in college while pursuing my major: football). Having both arms, neck, and head thrown upside-down between your legs, with all the force you can muster, is not the optimal position from which to "block" (i.e. defend yourself against the assaults of a defensive nose tackle or worse, some rabid middle linebacker) whose sole fourth-down goal in life was to make the center's life miserable on such occasions. (The rules have since changed.) Well, I don't recall what got into me, but something went horribly wrong. I knew it the split second the ball left my hands.

I vividly recall that fraction of a second, peering through my legs at the inverted vision of the punter leaping into the air, one hand extended as far as possible to field the snap. It was no use. It wasn't even close. The ball flew at least ten feet over his outstretched arm. My attention reverted to my immediate nose tackle problem as I heard the defense scream with banshee delight. A golden opportunity unfolded in milliseconds before them. The crowd gasped, cringed and screamed for delight (though opposing sides in different order) within a few seconds....I stayed with the nose tackle briefly, then turned to see the punter and quarterback, Bob Larson, scramble back, pick up the ball, dodge a tackle or two, and proceed to run an impromptu pattern. Miraculously, the pass was caught for a first down. A few more plays, and we managed to score, but failing on the extra point. We went on to win the game 6-0.

As long as I live, I'll never forget the scream of the head football coach, Terry Stevens, through his clenched teeth, the muscles on his head, jaw, and neck so tight that "H-A-R-R-I-S-O-N!!!" echoed from his pursed lips with tremolo and saliva as the offense ran to the sidelines. He never said another word. He didn't have to.

I learned something. The fault had been all mine—all mine, as was more than obvious to everyone. The team quickly adjusted, altered the plan, and acted on instinct. They not only compensated for my error, they turned it into an opportunity for joy. That was a great team.

As a husband, a father, a pastor, a churchman, I often "snap it high," and great folks around me cover and even turn my mistakes for good. And perhaps even more importantly, when others "snap," often egregiously so, I find myself thinking about how I've been in the same boat, or easily could be and will be, and I'm ready to scramble and cover others' weaknesses. That's what it is to live mercifully and the secret to living joyously in the community of the church and family, amidst the mishaps and mistakes of life."

My brothers and sisters in Jesus, this gift of the Church is God's gift to us. We are blessed to be surrounded by the forgiving love of Christ and the love of fellow Christians who are there to cover each other's weaknesses. In real life this occurs in so many different ways: in a letter written to a person struggling with cancer, a visit to the hospital when someone is facing a health crisis, a phone call to say, "Hey, I missed getting to see you at church. Hope you are doing okay." These simple things, and so many others, show that we are there for each other, shepherding and covering one another, even as the love of Christ covers us. What a joy it is to live as the Church, living as a community of Joy!

In Jesus,
Pastor Brett



COUNCIL CORNER

Council - At a Glance

Peace Lutheran Church Council met on Tuesday January 10th and opened with Jane Schuster leading devotions. There were no guests present so no comments for open forum.

Reports for the various boards and council positions were available either in print or presented verbally for review, discussion and approval. Board of Ed added to their report that preschool graduation will be Tuesday May 9th. Phil passed around a flyer to be included in packet we'll send to potential pastors showing some of the activities here at Peace. The Christmas program and live nativity scene were a success and all those involved were thanked for their help and participation.

Discussion on unfinished business topics including: 1.) TCN (transforming church networks) update – live nativity scene improvements already being planned for next year. PLC golf tournament planned for May 27. 2.) Church audit – planned for next Thursday (Phil, Curt and Lois Calvin). 3.) PLC T-shirts ordered have been delivered and are ready to be picked up. 4.) Nominations – sample ballot was prepared and has been posted prior to voters meeting.

New business items and discussion: 1.) Elders job description – revision draft presented with minor updates. 2.) Congregational self study - handed out a copy of report forwarded to district president. 3.) Internet problems – having issues with our internet provider and drop outs. Discussion on plan forward. 4.) Upcoming council meetings – February meeting falls on Valentines day and May meeting conflicts with preschool graduation. Both meet dates will be pushed back 1 week.

There being no other business, meeting was closed with the Lords Prayer.

Vice President - Russ Ankersen

ATTENTION FORERUNNERS

KC asked if our group would be willing to help with the cleanup of the storage room in the basement of the church. Those present agreed to help and we will meet on Saturday, February 11th at 9:00 am to get this project completed.

The February meeting will be held on February 19th at 6:00 and we will have a potluck meal. Robin and Jerry Calvin will be the hosts for this meeting.

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TOOLS FOR STEWARDSHIP and EVANGELISM

SHUT INS

Please remember those who are unable to worship with us for one reason or another.

Hillcrest: Willard & Carol Roedel, Don Smith, Orian Fritz, Norman Leibbrandt, Ruth Shields, and Leona Wudtke

Brookdale McCook: Edna Ficken, Erv Friehe, and Joyce Stupka.

Highland Park: Fern Reiners, Fred & Lois Boerger, Marvin & Betty Harms and Florence Potthoff.

McCook: Nancy Ott, Wallace Keen, Rod Berry and Adeline Kuhlmann

Butte: Don Kisker

Grand Island: Marie Alberts

St. Paul: Sandra Novak

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 – Curt Swanhorst (Head Elder), Paul Schaffert, Dee Traphagan, Ron Aufrecht, Grant Pfanstiel, Russ Ankersen or Phil Bamesberger.

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.

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SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

February 5th	
11:00am Service	
Elder on duty	Dee Traphagan
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Myra Tietz
Greeter	Jane Schuster
Usher	Eugene Custer
Usher	Robert Hull
Lay Reader	Phil Bamesberger
Acolyte	Austin Thompson
Acolyte	Cayden Johnson
Powerpoint	Jeff Pinkerton

February 12th	
11:00am Service	
Elder on duty	Paul Schaffert
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Russ Ankersen
Greeter	Deb Shields
Greeter	
Usher	Harold Carlson
Usher	Paul Sellers
Lay Reader	George Wurm
Acolyte	Christien Kuykendall
Acolyte	Blayzon Mooney
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen

February 19th	
11:00am Service	
Elder on duty	Grant Pfanstiel
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Paul Sellers
Greeter	Janet Bamesberger
Greeter	Dale Bamesberger
Usher	Ben Schow
Usher	Brandon Smith
Lay Reader	Harold Carlson
Acolyte	Ryland Peters
Acolyte	Jacob Risenhoover
Powerpoint	Nadia Schoup

February 26th	
11:00am Service	
Elder on duty	Ron Aufrecht
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	Need Volunteer
Greeter	Phyllis Berndt
Usher	Ed Rinehart
Usher	Gary Buk
Lay Reader	Fred Gleason
Acolyte	Madelyn Bird
Acolyte	Olivia Koetter
Powerpoint	Stacie Aufrecht

<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>KNGN Sponsor</u>
5th-Available	5th-Available
12th-Carlson/Calvin	12th-Available
19th-Mary Friehe	19th-Available
26th-Available	26th-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.



PEACE TALK

"Come and find me Grandpa"! That is often what I hear when I enter the house when the grandchildren are visiting. So what do I do? Yes, I hunt all over trying to find them in a one sided game of "Hide & Seek". But what is amusing is that they are usually standing behind a chair, behind a sheer curtain with little toes sticking out, or crouching underneath a table, giggling the whole time I am looking, and if I take too long, I often hear a "over here Grandpa" summons. Indeed they are, "Hiding in Plain Sight". I encounter many things that are hidden in plain sight, my cell phone, a tool in the shop, and even my car in Wal-Mart parking lot. Most of the things I am looking for are hidden in plain sight. I often wonder how many times I have tried to hide from God! Are my actions reflecting the fact that God is watching? There I am, behind that transparent curtain, or chair, obviously in plain sight of God, no matter how well I try to hide. God is always watching and knows what I do all the time; I cannot hide who I am or what I have done. *"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account"* (Hebrews 4:12-13). Wow, as I read this I reflect on my past actions, thoughts, and attitudes; knowing I didn't hide a single one! That is sobering, knowing there is no place to hide. It's like the one sided hide & seek and God is watching. But wait! Instead of a fear that I cannot be hidden, I should be comforted to know that God **is** always watching. But why is it that if I know I am being watched, all I can think about is the bad things I have done? *"The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good."* (Proverbs 15:3). God knows all my sinful thoughts, words, and deeds. He invites me to approach Him boldly in my weakness and failure. He is able to sympathize and heal me. His throne is a throne of grace, not condemnation. What joy to know God is watching and giving me the grace that helps me in my time of need so I can quit hiding, covering up, or turning to people for approval. The joy comes from knowing God "is" watching out for me and knowing He cares. So now I can "hide in plain sight" like my grandchildren, calling out to God saying "over here Lord", find me and know that I am ready to be found. Fully aware that the day is coming when God will say, "Ready or not, here I come".

Peace, love, and unity
President, Phil Bamesberger



Peace Lutheran Church

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February

2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00am Lifelight 6:00pm School of Religion	2	3 9:00am Quilters	4 7:00am Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
5 8:00am Prayer & Preaching 9:45am Bible Study 11:00am Worship 3:00pm MS Society	6 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Woman's Bible Study	7 10:30 Worship Committee 4:00pm Board of Ed 6:30pm Board of Elders Pastor Hinrichs in the Office	8 9:00am Lifelight 6:00pm School of Religion	9	10 9:00am Quilters	11 7:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Basement Clean-up
12 Communion Sunday 8:00am Prayer & Preaching 9:45am Bible Study 11:00am Worship 6:00pm 8th Grade Confirmation	13 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Woman's Bible Study	14 2:30pm Hillcrest Bingo Pastor Hinrichs in the Office	15 9:00am Lifelight 6:00pm School of Religion	16	17 9:00am Quilters	18 7:00am Men's Bible Study
19 8:00am Prayer & Preaching 9:45am Bible Study 11:00am Worship 6:00pm 8th Grade Confirmation 6:00pm Forerunners	20 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Woman's Bible Study	21 6:30pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council Pastor Hinrichs in the Office	22 9:00am Lifelight 6:00pm School of Religion	23 1:30pm Hillcrest Service 2:30pm Brookdale McCook Service	24 9:00am Quilters	25 7:00am Men's Bible Study
26 Communion Sunday 8:00am Prayer & Preaching 9:45am Bible Study 11:00am Worship 6:00pm 8th Grade Confirmation	27 9:00am Quilters 6:00pm LWML 7:00pm Woman's Bible Study	28 Pastor Hinrichs in the Office am only				