



'TIDINGS OF PEACE' from

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

TO:

Three vertical lines for an address.

TIDINGS OF PEACE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Traditions Of Lent

A young woman is preparing a pot roast dinner for some guests who are coming over for supper. She cuts off both ends of the roast, prepares it and puts it in the pan. "Why do you cut off the ends?" her husband asked. "I don't know", she replies. "That's always how my mother did it and I learned this recipe from her".

As they were eating dinner, her husband's question never left her mind. As soon as all the guests had gone home, she called up her mom and asked, "How do you cook a pot roast again?" Her mother explained the recipe and added, "After you prepare it, you cut off both ends, put it in the pot, and then in the oven". "Why do you cut off the ends?" the daughter asked. Baffled, the mother offered, "That's how your grandma did it and I learned it from her!"

As you can imagine, the cycle continued, and now this young lady's mother could not get her daughter's question out of her head. So when she visited her mother in the nursing home, she asked, "Mom, how do you cook a pot roast?" The mother slowly answered, thinking between sentences. "Well, you prepare it with spices, cut off both ends and put it in the pot". The mother asked, "But why do you cut off the ends?" The grandmother's eyes sparkled as she remembered. "Well, the roasts were always bigger than the pot that we

had back then. I had to cut off the ends to fit it into the pot."

Traditions are often like that, aren't they? We often do them just because that's what we've always done.

The reason I mention this is because the Season of Lent is upon us. For many Christians, including us Lutherans, it is a season filled with traditions. From Ashen crosses to "giving something up for Lent" these traditions are a part of many people's lives at this time of year. Yet if someone asked why you do that particular thing, would you be able to explain it? What is the Lenten season really about? Why do we receive ashes? Why do some people give something up? These are all good questions to ask. And the answers, as with any good Christian tradition, should point us back to Jesus.

As many of you know, the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, as we celebrated just the other week. As its name suggests, many pastors will use ashes to make the sign of the cross on a believer's forehead, as he says "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." This simple symbol is meant as a reminder to us that without a Savior, sin marks us. We can't wash it away or erase those sins that nailed our Savior to Calvary's tree. But through Christ's death on the cross, we are made new. Isaiah writes, "He was pierced for our transgression; He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace

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FROM AN ELDER

God wants his people to grow. God has designed all living things so that they grow. This is a universal truth: Everything alive must grow to stay alive. This is true of Fish, birds, animals, flowers, grass, weeds, vegetables---all living things. There are no exceptions.

Humans also must grow in order to stay alive. If an infant stops growing, it will soon die. What about the elderly? Do they grow? Certainly! Their hair and fingernails may be all we see in terms of physical growth, but their minds continue to expand with new relationships and experiences. We say of those who are not open to new experiences that they are "as good as dead."

The same is true spiritually. If we are not growing spiritually we are dead spiritually. To be alive spiritually means to be growing in our relationship with God, in our faith, hope and love. We are dependent on a caretaker who is God and in John 15:1 our Father is the gardener and in John 10:11-16 Christ is our shepherd and in John 14:16 the Holy Spirit is our helper and truth revealer in John 16:7-15.

Satan is a deceiver as Pastor Brett talked about in his sermon Sunday. Many who are spiritually dead are deceived into thinking they are still live Christians. Isn't this terrible! As long as they feel they already know about Christ, they will see no need to repent and become alive followers of Christ.

God has freely given us salvation through his Son, Jesus Christ. We cannot by our works or actions do anything at all in any way to merit this gift. It is FREE. It is undeserved. God's Mercy alone has given us salvation. Once God has set us FREE he expects the response from us to be taken seriously. He wants faithful people who really love him and want to serve him. He wants us to grow through his Word and Sacraments. Growth requires change. If you're not open to change, you won't grow. Tough, but true. It's tough to grow in concrete. You will grow best in the soil God chooses to plant you in. Grow where God plants you!

In Biblical language the evidence of our faith is called "fruit." When alive in God, we grow and produce fruit. God doesn't want mere words of praise, but he wants commitment, loyalty, obedience, and growth towards spiritual maturity (Eph. 4:13. The "end product" of what we say we believe must be proven by what we do (James 2:17).

Mathew 7:21 sums it all up--not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Robert Hull	3/2	Janet Hein	3/13	Ronald Friehe	3/25
Tom Shields	3/4	Walter Sehnert	3/13	Robert Burton	3/26
Donald Kisker	3/5	Kylee Downing	3/16	Blayzon Mooney	3/26
Lewis Leibbrandt	3/6	Jaelyn Kuykendall	3/16	Ryan Pearce	3/26
Jennifer McConville	3/6	Michael Leibrandt	3/19	Michael Schoup	3/27
Gary Buk	3/8	Tyler Rogers	3/19	Curt Swanhorst	3/28
Linda Bonar	3/10	Addyson Snyder	3/20	Eldon Barenberg	3/30
Paul Schaffert	3/11	Jessica Fritz	3/21	Cayson Kulwicki	3/30
Luke Lichty	3/12	Brock Hubert	3/23	James Phinney	3/30
Charles Miller	3/12	Anne Wiemers	3/24		

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Dale & Peggy Poore	3/30/1952	65			

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 (Feb. 26th-Mar. 4th)	Month to Date (Feb. 5th-March 4th)	Actual Year to Date (Jan. 1st-March 4th)	Budget to Date (Jan. 1st-March 4th) <i>9th week</i>
Offerings	\$6,856.97	\$16,460.97	\$31,441.50	\$42,646.50
Expenses	\$1,859.74	\$11,521.86	\$28,636.15	\$42,646.50

This month's Going Beyond Sunday is for Lutheran Braille Workers.

Going Beyond Sunday for Lutheran Family Services was \$140.00.
www.plcmccook.org



CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

March is almost here, the school year is just flying by! We will be focusing on the letters T, U, V and W this month. We will also be doing many fun Spring activities! We will be talking about March weather, so if your child comes home talking about "lion and lamb days" you will understand.

We will be celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday this first week with a "Read-In".

I will be starting assessments for Kindergarten readiness for those students heading to Kindergarten next year. I will send them home in backpacks as they finish them. Please call if you have any questions about the assessments. They are meant to give you and I an idea of what skills your child still needs to work on before entering Kindergarten.

We have a lot to look forward to next month! The Bike-a-thon will be April 5th for the M/W class and the 6th for the T/TH and afternoon classes. Our Easter parties will also be next month, the 12th and 13th before our Easter Break, the 17th and 18th. I can't believe how quickly this year is going. It has been so fun to watch your children learn and grow this year!

Happy Spring!

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 Mandy or the church office. Thank you for supporting Creative Preschool!



MARCH READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
5th	1st S. in Lent	Genesis 3:1-21	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
12th	2nd S. in Lent	Genesis 12:1-9	Romans 4:1-8, 13-17	John 3:1-17
19th	3rd S. in Lent	Exodus 17:1-7	Romans 5:1-8	John 4:5-26 (27-30, 39-42)
26th	4th S. in Lent	Isaiah 42:14-21	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41 or 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39



was upon Him and by His wounds we are healed." This newness in Christ is what we celebrate with the ashes, even as we live in humble repentance each day.

As we continue beyond Ash Wednesday, we see that Lent is a forty-day season of repentance: a time for God's church to examine our hearts before celebrating Jesus' resurrection. Just as rain fell for 40 days in the flood, as the children of Israel wandered 40 years in the desert, and as Jesus fasted and was tempted for 40 days in the desert, so during the 40 days of Lent, God's people contemplate the cross, fixing their eyes on the Savior, who bore the sin of the world.

Moving forward from the season itself, what are some of those Lenten traditions? One would be the deep purple that covers the Lenten altar—the color of royalty and repentance— as we turn from sin toward the mercy of Christ, our King. Another more noticeable tradition is that our liturgy changes during Lent, as the word, "Alleluia" is not sung or spoken until Easter, when we will sing it again as a gracious thanksgiving to God for Jesus' resurrection. As we said on Transfiguration Sunday, we go from the Alleluia of the mount, to the suffering of Lent, to the even more glorious Alleluia of Easter!

Some more personal traditions may include people giving up something for those 40 days. This would be one tradition that could easily lose it's meaning. I knew many friends who "gave something up for Lent" but didn't know why. Some just did it because. Others used it as an excuse to make a healthy change they hadn't been willing to make before, like giving up soda or sweets. As healthy as that choice may be, this was not the original intention of the tradition. "Giving up something for Lent" is meant to be a spiritual discipline. The things which we "give up" were originally meant to help us more clearly focus on our Savior. If someone were to give up watching their favorite TV show, it would be so that they could dedicate that time to reading Scripture or praying. If someone were to have a problem with food being an idol (a place they go for comfort rather than to God), they might consider giving up chocolate. Now, none of these traditions are required for us as Christians. The point is simply this: Know *why* you are doing what you are doing.

That being said, all of these practices are all meant to draw us back to Christ, as we reflect on the depth of our sin, but more importantly, on the depth of Christ's love. I challenge you this Lenten season to choose some practice that will help you see your Savior more clearly. Maybe you will take 5 minutes over your lunch hour to spend in prayer or reading a devotion. Maybe you will join us for a Bible Study. Whatever you choose, I know that God will bless it so that you may see Him and His love more clearly than ever, as we wait for the joy of Easter to come! God bless you this Lent!



COUNCIL CORNER

Council - At a Glance

Peace Lutheran Church Council met on Tuesday February 21st and opened with Phil Bamesberger leading devotions. There was one guest (Bobbie Ziebell) present for open forum comments. She asked about money set aside for MOPS and to start an informal parent/child group. She also inquired about programs for parents use with at home bible instruction. Discussion and Pastor Hinrichs to follow-up.

Reports for the various boards and council positions were available either in print or presented verbally for review, discussion and approval. Phil mentioned that he has not yet received a call list. Pastor Hinrichs reported he has been doing visitations and other pastoral duties including a memorial service and baptism. He thanked FIRE for hosting the valentines dinner and reported on midweek service schedule for Lent. The Trustees report included repair of outdoor lighting and basement wall repairs.

Discussion on unfinished business topics including: 1.) TCN (transforming church networks) update – discussing potential names for ramp construction projects. 2.) Church Audit – an internal self audit was completed. 3.) Elder Job Description – revised draft was presented last month - approved. 4.) Internet problems – Brian to call Century Link and discuss options.

New business items/discussion: 1.) Board of Ed term designations for newly elected members - It was suggested to have Sue Chipman serve the 2 year term and Renell Mooney serve the 3 year term. Moved and accepted. 2.) Fireworks contract – Phil informed the council that the contract for this year had been received and was due by Feb 10. Its been signed and returned. 3.) Golf Tournament – Phil presented a flyer for review – discussion and suggested changes. 4.) Counting Committee – Jan requested they be able to meet in the center office upstairs instead of the basement for accessibility reasons.

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

Vice President - Russ Ankersen

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Preschool to 5th grade children are invited to Sunday School each Sunday from 9:45-10:45am in the basement. 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.
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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, Leona Wudtke and Pam Leibbrandt.

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

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

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 – Paul Schaffert, Ron Aufrecht, Grant Pfanstiel, Harold Carlson, Darrell Eckhardt, 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.

There will be a Golf Tournament held on May 27th will all of the proceeds going to the food pantry. For more information contact Nick Nothnagel at 340-3703.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

March 5th	
11:00am Service	
Elder on duty	
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Myra Tietz
Greeter	Jane Schuster
Usher	Eugene Custer
Usher	Robert Hull
Lay Reader	Curt Swanhorst
Acolyte	Emily Kjendal
Acolyte	Peyton Doucet
Powerpoint	Jeff Pinkerton

March 12th	
11:00am Service	
Elder on duty	Paul Schaffert
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Russ Ankersen
Greeter	Deb Shields
Greeter	
Usher	Paul Sellers
Usher	
Lay Reader	Brian Strauch
Acolyte	Spencer Rogers
Acolyte	Zachary Tidyman
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen

March 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	Blayzon Mooney
Acolyte	
Acolyte	Landon Snyder
Powerpoint	Nadia Schoup

March 26th	
11:00am Service	
Elder on duty	Ron Aufrecht
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	Need Volunteer
Greeter	Phyllis Berndt
Usher	Dennis Chipman
Usher	
Lay Reader	Sue Ankersen
Acolyte	Treven Critchfield
Acolyte	Alexander Nielsen
Powerpoint	Stacie Aufrecht

<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>KNGN Sponsor</u>
5th-Available	5th-Available
12th-Available	12th-Available
19th-Available	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

Girls just can't wait to see me, jumping for joy every time I am near, as if the previous greeting has been long overdue. It could be a few short hours or a few days, the anxiety level is the same. I quiz my wife if she could express the same excitement when I get home; a quick glare requires no verbal answer. Yes, I have two female Labradors. It seems they never have a bad day. They never want to leave my side, whether I am in the office, shop, or field, they want to be there. Many of you have a faithful pet and can relate to what I am talking about. You have to admit, most pets, especially dogs, have a unique ability to make you feel like you matter when no one else in the world seems to care. They are confidential, uncritical and constant. They know if you are hurting and have an uncanny ability to lift our spirits up. It seems those hounds offer unconditional love and selfless faithfulness. Now isn't that what God gives me? Do I daily reflect on those same exact reactions I receive from God? Is God faithful to me? God's love and faithfulness indeed is monumental, "Your love, LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies." (Psalms 36:5) and never runs out "Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast." (Psalms 119:90). God's love never fails, "Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness (Lamentations 3:22-23). God's faithfulness is like a shield, a place of refuge to His followers (91:4), and it is connected to our salvation (Psalm 40:10). Furthermore, God is faithful to forgive us, even when we mess up (1 John 1:9). The Bible even tells us that He is faithful in helping us to escape temptation and to endure through it (1 Corinthians 10:13). But wait there's more! God wants me to be faithful as well. My faithfulness to God is connected to my love for God. Note what Jesus says to the disciples, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15). I am to be faithful to God's commands out of my love for Him and because I want to please Him. Furthermore, as a Christian, God has also given me responsibilities that require faithfulness (Luke 12:42-48). Let's love God emphatically with purpose, without expectations of visions, miracles or special treatments. Let's love Him for the sake of Love itself, because that is the thing we most importantly can feel in our hearts: a sincere, unconditional love for God. Faithfulness is not about frantically jumping for joy, or rolling over; it boils down to loving God with all our heart and mind; wanting to be more like Him.

Peace, Love and Unity
Phil Bamesberger, VP



Peace Lutheran Church

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March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00am Lifelight 5:30pm Ash Wednesday Service	2	3 9:00am Quilters	4 7:00am Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
5 8:30am Prayer & Preaching 9:45am Bible Study 11:00am Worship 3:00pm MS Society 6:00pm 8th Grade Confirmation	6 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Woman's Bible Study	7 6:30pm Board of Elders	8 9:00am Lifelight 6:00pm School of Religion 7:30pm Lent Worship	9	10 9:00am Quilters	11 7:00am Men's Bible Study
Pastor Hinrichs at Pastor's Conference						
12 Communion Sunday 8:30am 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 10:30 Worship Committee 2:30pm Hillcrest Bingo 6:30pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	15 6:00pm School of Religion 7:30pm Lent Worship	16	17 9:00am Quilters	18 7:00am Men's Bible Study
		Pastor Hinrichs in the Office				
19 8:30am Prayer & Preaching 9:45am Bible Study 11:00am Worship 7:00pm Forerunners 7:00pm Confirmation Retreat in Culbertson	20 9:00am Quilters 7:00pm Woman's Bible Study	21	22 6:00pm School of Religion 7:30pm Lent Worship	23 1:30pm Hillcrest Service 2:30pm Brookdale McCook Service	24 9:00am Quilters	25 7:00am Men's Bible Study
		Pastor Hinrichs in the Office				
26 Communion Sunday 8:30am 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	29 9:30am El Dorado Service 6:00pm School of Religion 7:30pm Lent Worship	30	31	
		Pastor Hinrichs in the Office am only				