

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:



Out With The Old And In With The New



"... do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." Matthew 6:31-33

As I write this article for our Tidings Newsletter, I saw on the news they were testing the confetti drop in New York in the preparations for the 2011 New Year's celebration in Times Square. I found that kind of interesting that they have to practice dropping confetti to see how it falls. It has something to do with making sure the consistency is right and it has the right "floatability." As preparations were underway, it became apparent that practice makes perfect when we want to make sure something as big as a New Year's celebration in New York goes off without a hitch.

Sure the celebration of the New Year is a big thing. This really got me thinking about what New Year celebrations are all about. I remember reading some time ago that before they got big on confetti, people would tear up their old calendars and throw those out the window signifying "out with the old and in with the new."

Our lives are often spontaneous and we don't get much opportunity to practice to insure it will come off without a hitch. However, that is what we do day in and day out - we practice getting our lives right - the world view does this in one year increments and doesn't recognize our lives are new each day. Most of what happens during the year is unplanned. So we are forced to just react to whatever comes our way. When we really look at it, New Years is allowing us to do just that - to practice and make perfect. When at the end of the year we find it doesn't quite go right, well - out with the old and in with the new.

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PLC WEBSITE

Be sure to visit us on the web at: www.plcmccook.org. Here, you can see all the latest announcements, notices, contact information, and more. The site is now *updated weekly* for changes on the church calendar and latest news.

From An Elder

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Cor 5: 17 (ESV)

This passage came to mind as my family and I looked forward to 2011. We have the opportunity to become all that Jesus Christ want us to be, simply by putting our faith in the Savior that the Father sent to us in the manger at Bethlehem.

Just as the Magi came to pay homage to the Babe in Bethlehem, we, too, have the chance to kneel before the Lord to offer our thanks and praise to the Savior, of this world. We have the opportunity to serve Him with our talents and with the gifts the Lord has given to us. We ARE that new creation! It's time to bring OUR gifts to the Lord.

As we begin the New Year, how thankful we should be that our Lord has given us the faith that brings us to Christ, our Savior and makes us that new creation. No longer must we fear eternity in hell, because Jesus has triumphed over the devil and hell.

Now is the time to serve Him. Now is the time to present ourselves to Him as that new creation that we have become as believers in Christ our Savior.

To God be the Glory!

Grant Pfanstiel
Elder Chairman



January Birthdays

Novak, Kyle	1/1	Gillen, Cassidy	1/15	Weidner, Blanche	1/22
Schaffert, Aden	1/1	Leibrandt, Eric	1/16	Reiners, Jacob	1/23
Henton, Garnet	1/2	Nielsen, Aaron	1/16	Post, Stephen	1/24
Ackermann, Scott	1/3	Sehnert, Jean	1/17	Skolout, Clayton	1/24
Yilk, Camryn	1/3	Carlson, Roland	1/18	Stoney, Myra	1/24
Einspahr, Linda	1/4	Oetting, Keith	1/18	Nemechek, Tina	1/25
Parde, Breann	1/4	Rinehart, Jeannine	1/18	Eckhardt, Darrell	1/26
Skinner, Gladys	1/4	Krause, Tempie	1/19	Custer, Eugene	1/27
Kircher, Logan	1/6	Blaisdell, Vickie	1/20	Ackermann, Shayla	1/29
Thomas, Ed	1/6	Reiners, Fern	1/20	Einspahr, Don	1/29
Boerger, Lois	1/7	Aufrecht, Ron	1/21	Wurm, Ronda	1/29
Unger, Ed	1/8	Clapp, LaVonne	1/21		
Critchfield, Melissa	1/9	Doyle, Jarrod	1/22		
Leibrandt, Patricia	1/11	Koetter, Chance	1/22		
Pfanstiel, Kimberly	1/13	Traphagan, Bobbie	1/22		
Rawn, Amanda	1/14				

January Anniversaries

NAME	DATE	YRS
Brian & Anne Wiemers	1/12/2002	9
Loren & Lois Brown	1/18/1958	53
Lee & Betty Edwards	1/24/1954	57
Darrell & Kirstine Eckhardt	1/31/1964	47

January Readings

Date	Season	1st Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
2nd	2nd S. a. Christmas	1 Kings 3:4-15	Eph. 1:3-14	Luke 2:40-52
9th	The Baptism of our Lord	Is. 42:1-9	Rom. 6:1-11	Matt. 3:13-17
16th	2nd S. a. Epiphany	Is. 49:1-7	1 Cor. 1:1-9	John 1:29-42a
23rd	3rd S. a. Epiphany	Is. 9:1-4	1 Cor. 1:10-18	Matt. 4:12-25
30th	4th S. a. Epiphany	Mic. 6:1-8	1 Cor. 1:18-31	Matt. 5:1-12

Our Finances At A Glance

	Week of Dec. to Date (Dec 20th - Dec 26th)	Month of Dec. to Date (Dec 1st - Dec 26th)	Actual Year to Date (Jan 1st - Dec 26th)	Annual Budget to Date (Jan 1st - Dec 26th)
Offerings	\$7503.80	\$20,733.98	\$196,029.70	\$245,699.00
Expenses	\$8,297.05	\$19,785.61	\$198,761.16	\$245,699.00



Thank You's

- Thank you so very much for the delicious goodies from the Peace Lutheran Guild for my father, Don Smith. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.
Don Smith, Pat and Duane Fortkamp
- Thank you to everyone at Peace and Pastor Tom for your prayers, phone calls, visits, the many beautiful cards, and the words of encouragement during my trips to Kearney for chemo. There are no words to express now much this means to me. You still hold a special place in my heart. God's blessings to all of you. **Yours in Christ, Clara Peterson**

Church Council Thank You

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all those who have graciously given of their time and their talents to support the mission and ministry of Peace Lutheran Church by hearing the call to serve on the church Council. It has been a joy to serve with those who have a passion for giving of themselves to support the expansion of God's Kingdom here on earth. If you see those who are going off the council this year, please extend to them the hand of thanksgiving for their service.

Those going off:

Board of Elders-George Wurm,
Board of Trustees-Jeff Pinkerton

Board of Evangelism-Vaunda Hyde

We would also like to welcome those who have stepped out in faith to serve their Lord as a member of Council for this coming term. We know anytime we embark on a new commitment there is always some hesitation to say yes. We praise God for those who have said yes to serving our congregation and their Lord in this capacity for this coming term. Please also extend to them the hand of fellowship, thanksgiving, and welcome as they begin their service to our congregation and their Lord.

Newly elected:

Board of Elders-Ed Unger
Board of Evangelism-Jane Schuster

Board of Trustees-Ron Friehe
Financial Committee-Kristi Novak,
Harlan Reiners and Ed Rinehart

Also, we want to take the time to say thank you to all who are presently serving on Council and let them know that the time they spend, the efforts they exert in support of the Gospel and the wellbeing of our congregation are greatly appreciated.

Those re-elected:

Recording Secretary-Dee Traphagan
Board of Trustees-Donna Hall

Treasurer-Tina Cummins
Board of Education-Jan Hubert

Members serving 2010/2011 Term

President-Russ Ankersen

Vice President-Fred Gleason

Board of Elders-Grant Pfanstiel and Dr. Wade Fornander

Board of Trustees-Mike Shields

Board of Evangelism-Doris Friehe and Pat Nielsen

Board of Education-Cindy Swanhorst and Mary Hazlitt

Financial Secretary-Ronda Vetrovsky and our Financial Committee Members



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We take time this time of year to look back on all of our accomplishments and failures. We realize that as we begin a New Year, we too can throw out our old calendars and all of our past struggles, and begin the New Year with a clean slate. We are able to start over, only in the hope that we will not make the same mistakes again. People without hope can only celebrate the fact that the past is in their rear-view mirror. They can only be relieved that they have struggled with the world and made it through another year.

When we suggest they should praise God for last year and praise Him in advance for the coming year, we should not be alarmed when we hear a response like, "Why? Last year wasn't my best, and I sure don't know what will happen next year. Why should I praise God?"

We Christians do not have some sort of magic crystal ball or anything like that, but we can look to the Word of God. We don't know whether we will be richer or poorer, or whether we will suffer health issues or what will happen any more than the unbeliever, but scripture tells us, "... do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." (Matthew 6:31-33)

Scripture tells us to call upon Him in prayer, praise and thanksgiving, regardless of the circumstances. (Phil 4:5) As a people of faith, we enter the New Year celebrating a merciful Savior who wants to save us from ourselves. Whatever may happen in the New Year, God has a plan to shower us with His peace. God never intended for what the world may consider as God abandoning His creation, or what we call sin and corruption. He never intended sickness, disgrace, suffering or anything else that separates us from Him.

As we celebrate the New Year, we do not know which path God will lead us on. We don't know whether that path will lead us to the mountain top or to the valley. We don't know whether the path will lead us to the beauty of His creation or through the thorns and thicket. We don't know whether he will lead us on level ground or rocky terrain. What we do know as we celebrate the New Year is that whatever path we are led on, it is a path where we will experience the kingdom of God's grace that has its eventual end in eternal salvation.

I wish all of you a very blessed New Year.

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We are able to start over, only in the hope that we will not make the same mistakes again.

Pastor Tom



TOOLS FOR STEWARDSHIP and EVANGELISM

BFF (Being a Faithful Friend)

For the next few months in this section, we'll be featuring fun and easy suggestions for what we can do to help make our church more welcoming in our local community and how **being a faithful friend** in Christ can strengthen old and new Christian fellowships.

Session 4: **Talk To Me**

There's no way you would invite someone into your home and then just turn your back on that person. Whether the plan is to eat, play a game, watch a basketball game, or do a craft project, you'll be talking together the entire time! Yet when we walk through the doors of the church, many of us become solitary figures who nod at those nearby but barely say a word. Why is that? Conversations with others are really the only way to get to know others. When we open up and talk, we learn about interests, beliefs, families, needs, reasons to celebrate and praise God, and so much more! Use these ideas to get meaningful conversations going.

1. Leave the Lingo Behind- Have you ever been out with a group and someone says just one word or phrase and everyone else bursts out in laughter? You don't get the joke, but they all do. Or have you started a new job and been told to "QC the HOBC before heading down to TOC" and stood there scratching your head? Just about every family, workplace, school, and other group have their own "insider" lingo that outsiders don't understand. It's the same in our church. When we use "Christianese" or denominational language it's confusing for those who are new to the church or who are new Christians. That leads to making other feel like outsiders. Since we want everyone to feel like they belong, leave the lingo behind. Use everyday terms that anyone can understand without having a dictionary.

2. Join A Small Group- In a small group, you'll find others with similar interests. Connect with others through conversation and enjoy new friendships. You'll feel like you belong, and you'll help others feel like they belong, too!

3. Go For It- So many people you'd think are friendly actually claim to be shy types. Maybe you're one of them! Find a few simple conversation-starting comments or questions that will work for you, and then take a deep breath and start talking. If it helps, use this "FIRE" acrostic to help you think of something to talk about:

Family (Do you have children? Did you grow up around here?)

Interests (What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?)

Relationships (Who do you like to hang out with? Do you have friends in the area?)

Education (Did you go to college here? What was your degree in?)

Just like mom used to say: "You have to be friendly to others for them to be friendly to you."

Adapted from Group Publishing's "Being a Faithful Friend"



SPECIAL EVENTS and BIBLE STUDIES

Women's Retreat: Jan 14-15, 2011

SOUL SEARCHING

The more we seek to know God, the more we desire to grow in His knowledge. God is the key to our heart. You are invited to join us for two days of fun, fellowship and digging deeper into God's Word.

Cost is \$5.00

Pick up a Registration pamphlet at the church. **Please register no later than January 10, 2011.** If you have any questions, contact

Charlene Albertson @ (308) 737-1057 niagarablu@gmail.com

Women's Bible Study-Beth Moore Series

Women's Bible Study will be starting up on Monday evenings, 8:00 pm – 9:30 pm, beginning January 17, 2011. We will be studying Luke, using "Jesus, The One and Only" by Beth Moore as our guide. Participation includes in depth home study, video and group discussion. Cost is \$17 for the study guide. **Please contact Charlene Albertson at 737-1057 if you have any questions and to register.**

New Life Light Bible Studies Begins

Begin the New Year in God's Word by studying the story of our salvation beginning with the prophecies made to man after his fall into sin of a Savior's coming, how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies, and how we now have the prophecies of His second coming. Of course the title of this course is "PROPHECY." The nine week session begins: Wednesday, January 19th, from 9:15am to 11am, and Thursday, January 20th, from 7:30pm to 9pm. Session titles are as followed:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Judgment Is Coming! | 4. God Prepares His People |
| 2. God Loves His People | 5. The Messiah Brings a New Covenant |
| 3. God Saves His People | 6. The Messiah Is The Suffering Servant |

Please sign up on the bulletin board or at the church office for study groups.

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SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

January 2nd Early Service

Organist KC Eckhardt
Audio Harold Carlson
Greeter Donna Hall
Greeter Jim Hall
Usher Lois Calvin
Acolyte Brandon Smith
Acolyte Easton Gillen
Powerpoint Jim Hall

January 2nd Late Service

Greeter Betty Knapper
Greeter Myra Tietz
Usher Robert Hull
Acolyte Devin Reiners
Acolyte Spencer Reiners
Powerpoint Angie Reiners
Video **NEED VOLUNTEER**

January 9th Early Service

Organist Zona Fritz
Audio Russ Ankersen
Greeter Deb Shields
Greeter Evelyn Salyer
Usher Jeff Pinkerton
Acolyte Luke Lichty
Acolyte Luke Curl
Powerpoint Russ Ankersen

January 9th Late Service

Greeter Janet Bamesberger
Greeter Dale Bamesberger
Usher Dee Traphagan
Acolyte Chance Koetter
Acolyte Thatcher Skolout
Powerpoint Russ Ankersen
Video **NEED VOLUNTEER**

January 16th Early Service

Organist Joyce Hofman
Audio Cathy Broz
Greeter Charlene Pfanstiel
Greeter Grant Pfanstiel
Usher Ed Rinehart
Acolyte Katie Kjendal
Acolyte Logan Kircher
Powerpoint Stacy Sellers

January 16th Late Service

Greeter Dorothy Henton
Greeter Garnet Henton
Usher Ron Buck
Acolyte Luke Lichty
Acolyte Luke Curl
Powerpoint **NEED VOLUNTEER**
Video Russ Ankersen

January 23rd Early Service

Organist Zona Fritz
Audio Jon Reiners
Greeter **NEED VOLUNTEER**
Greeter Karen Berry
Usher Eugene Custer
Acolyte Brandon Smith
Acolyte Easton Gillen
Powerpoint Jon Reiners

January 23rd Late Service

Greeter Velma Kircher
Greeter Phyllis Berndt
Usher Curt Swanhorst
Acolyte Chance Koetter
Acolyte Thatcher Skolout
Powerpoint Jon Reiners
Video **NEED VOLUNTEER**

January 30th Early Service

Organist KC Eckhardt
Audio Russ Ankersen
Greeter **NEED VOLUNTEER**
Greeter **NEED VOLUNTEER**
Usher Lois Calvin
Acolyte Devin Reiners
Acolyte Spencer Reiners
Powerpoint Russ Ankersen

January 30th Late Service

Greeter **NEED VOLUNTEER**
Greeter **NEED VOLUNTEER**
Usher Ron Buck
Acolyte Racuel Bird
Acolyte Karlie Swink
Powerpoint Russ Ankersen
Video **NEED VOLUNTEER**

Altar Flowers

2nd- Available
9th- Available
16th- Reserved
23rd- Available
30th- Available

KGNG Sponsor

2nd- Available
9th- Available
16th- Reserved
23rd- Available
30th- 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.



PLC MINISTRIES IN ACTION

"Life Quotes"

"God has brought so many broken and hurting to us in ways we can't even comprehend. We continue to proclaim Christ's healing, and serve the needs of women and men who have experienced the loss of a child through an abortion. We know that God is in control, we also know that He uses people to do His work.." *Grace Kern, director of Word of Hope (888-217-8679)*



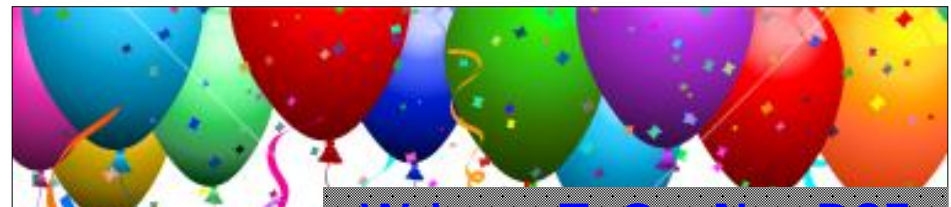
This "Life Quote" is from Lutherans For Life www.lutheransforlife.org.

Volunteers Needed For Bylaw Review

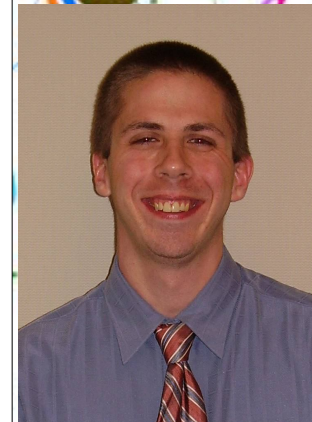
Peace Lutheran Church Council is asking for 2 members from the congregation to volunteer to join them as they review the Articles of the Church Bylaws. Articles will be reviewed during the next few council meetings (2nd Tuesdays of the month @ 7pm). If you would like to participate, please contact any Council Board Member.

Volunteers Needed To Support Worship

You may notice on page 8 the schedule of those serving in worship. You may also notice that in several areas we need volunteers to commit to helping us out. We ask the congregation to prayerfully consider whether they can and are willing to support our ministry in this area. Contact the office if have any questions.



**Welcome To Our New DCE Intern,
Brad Rogers**



Brad is joining us in the middle of the month of January. We are excited to have Brad join us in ministry and look forward to the impact he can make as he completes his studies to be a DCE. The Board of Ed is planning a food shower for him. Please watch your bulletin for more information.



Peace Lutheran Church

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January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:00am-Worship 9:15am-Bible Study 10:30am-Worship <i>Installation of Officers</i>	3 2:30pm-Worship Committee 7:00pm-Worship	4 5:30pm-Board of Education 6:30pm-Board of Elders	5 5:45pm-SOR 7:30pm-FIRE	6	7	8 7:00am-Men's Bible Study
9 <i>Communion Sunday</i> 8:00am-Worship 9:15am-Bible Study 10:30am-Worship <i>Baptism of Emma Yilk</i>	10 7:00pm-Worship	11 2:30pm-Hillcrest Bingo 7:00pm-Council	12 5:45pm-SOR 7:30pm-FIRE	13 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	14 5:30pm-Women's Retreat	15 7:00am-Men's Bible Study 8:00am-Women's Retreat
16 <i>Going Beyond Sunday</i> 8:00am-Worship 9:15am-Bible Study 10:30am-Worship and Praise Service	17 7:00pm-Worship 8:00pm-Women's Bible Study	18	19 9:15am-Life Light 5:45pm-SOR 7:30pm-FIRE	20 7:30pm-Life Light	21	22 7:00am-Men's Bible Study
23 <i>Communion Sunday</i> 8:00am-Worship 9:15am-Bible Study 10:30am-Worship <i>Installation of DCE Intern, Brad Rogers</i>	24 7:00pm-Worship 8:00pm-Women's Bible Study	25	26 9:15am-Life Light 5:45pm-SOR 7:30pm-FIRE	27 11:00am-LWML 1:30pm-Hillcrest Service 2:30pm-Willow Ridge 7:30pm-Life Light Service	28 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	29 7:00am-Men's Bible Study
30 8:00am-Worship 9:15am-Bible Study 10:30am-Worship	31 7:00pm-Worship 8:00pm-Women's Bible Study					