

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:

2 Corinthians 5:10 ESV ³¹"God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us"

Here We Stand!

Most of us don't have a lot of trouble standing do we. Sure maybe our aches and pains may make it difficult, but eventually we get to an upright position. When we are on solid ground, standing is easier. Recently on vacation, I rented a boat, since I was unable to go hiking; I thought it was a good idea to see the sights from the water. So here is the question. Have you ever tried to stand up in a small boat in open water when the wind is blowing? It moves and rocks – nothing stands still. At times it is enough to make you lose your balance and either sit down quickly or go for a swim.

As we go through life, the wind is going to blow hard at times, and there will be those who will push and shove us in an effort to make us fall. What we need then as individual Christians, and as a congregation, is to place ourselves on solid ground to keep our footing.

At the end of this month we will be celebrating the Reformation. That is what made all the difference in the life of Martin Luther 500 years ago. He faced more gusty winds than we may ever experience here in southwest Nebraska from the government and the church. He was pushed by the temptations of Satan and his own fears and doubts about His faith. At times it seemed as though he was all alone in storms. Yet, he remained standing because of the solid ground beneath him. When told to recant what he had written and preached, Martin Luther is purported to have replied: "No, here I stand, I can do no other!" As we approach the anniversary of the



Reformation it might be best to recall the solid rocks of our faith in which we stand. They are Scripture alone, Grace alone, and Faith alone. We do this, not only to see where Luther stood, but so that we, too, may not be "...tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes." (Eph 4:14 ESV). Luther taught that there was absolute truth in Scripture. People were not encouraged to read the Bible themselves, but were to simply obey what they were told by the church. The Lord led Luther to the truth that Scripture *alone* stands firm in the face of all else that is fluid and changing in our lives. All Scripture is truth because it is, "God-breathed" (2 Timothy 3:16). The Holy Spirit Himself breathed into the writers of the Bible the exact words He wanted put down! That means there is no opportunity for error. Even though society wants to attack what Scripture says, it is still the number one selling book in the world. Why, because it speaks truth. If we take our stand on God's Word *alone*. That means we are using it daily—God is



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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.

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From An Elder

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2: 8, 9 (ESV)

Perhaps Martin Luther was given this passage by the Holy Spirit as he pondered what he saw as errors of the Roman Catholic Church. It was never his intent to break away from the Roman Catholic religion, he only wanted to discuss a few points (95, to be exact) that he felt were in error. Fortunately for us, this was the beginnings of the Lutheran Church.

Luther was to have said "I lost touch with Christ the Savior and Comforter and made Him the jailor and hangman of my poor soul." Perhaps that is why he wrote in the Smallcald articles the following:

The first and chief article is this:

1. Jesus Christ, our God and Lord, died for our sins and was raised again for our justification. (Romans 4: 24 – 25)

2. He alone is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (john 1: 29), and God has laid upon Him the iniquities of us all. (Isaiah 53: 6)

3. All have sinned and are justified freely, without their own works or merits, by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, in His blood. (Romans 3: 23 - 25)

4. This is necessary to believe. This cannot be otherwise acquired or grasped by any work, law, or merit. Therefore, it is clear and certain that this faith alone justifies us. As St. Paul says:

For we hold that one is justified by faith, apart from works of the law. (Romans 3: 28)

That He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (Romans 3: 26)

Nothing of this article can be yielded or surrendered, even though heaven and earth and everything else falls. (Mark 13:31)

For there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)

And with His stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53: 5)

Upon this article everything that we teach and practice depends, in opposition to the pope, the devil, and the whole world. Therefore we must be certain and not doubt this doctrine. Otherwise, all is lost, and the pope, the devil, and all adversaries win the victory and the right over us. (The First Article of the Smallcald Articles)

As we look forward to Reformation Day, may we all remember, as Martin Luther did;

"To God be the Glory!"

Grant Pfanstiel, Elder Chairman

September Birthdays

Patricia Fisher	10/1	Benjamin Schow	10/7	Ross Weimers	10/18
Ben Vetrovsky	10/1	James Baur	10/8	Austin Grube	10/20
Glenva Unger	10/2	Devonn Bruntz	10/11	Alexander Nielsen	10/20
Iva Fritz	10/3	David Seybold	10/11	John Hubert	10/21
Velma Kircher	10/3	Marilyn Unger	10/11	Delaney Critchfield	10/23
Candace Rogers	10/3	Lois Brown	10/12	Norman Leibrandt	10/23
Ron Rogers	10/5	Velma Happold	10/13	Betty Edwards	10/25
Charles Seybold	10/5	Mary Hazlitt	10/14	Nathaniel Reiners	10/27
Paul Ahrens	10/6	Dorinda Polly	10/14	Dan Unger	10/28
Barbara Klein	10/6	Danton Downing	10/15	Linda Smith	10/29
William Traphagan	10/6	LaVerne Blume	10/17	Joann Nemechek	10/30
Tami Custer	10/7	Wallace keen	10/17	Angela Rinehart	10/31
Mary Lou Hanson	10/7				

September Anniversaries

NAME	DATE	YRS	NAME	DATE	YRS
Delbert & Orian Fritz	10/3/1948	63	Russell & Susan Ankersen	10/20/1979	32
Michael & Patricia Leibrandt	10/3/1981	30	Grant & Charlene Pfanstiel	10/22/1983	28
Wayne & Heddy Reiners	10/11/1990	21	James & Donna Hall	10/26/1996	15
Arthur & Lavern Blume	10/15/1961	50	Thomas & Cathy Broz	10/27/1984	27
Scott & Kristyl Hanchera	10/17/1981	30	Mike & Terri Skolout	10/28/1989	22

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

Our Finances At A Glance

	Week to Date (Sept 25th-Oct 1st)	Month to Date (Sept 25th-Oct1st)	Actual Year to Date (Jan 1st - Oct 1st)	Budget to Date (Jan 1st - Oct 1st)
Offerings	\$4,042.16	\$13,029.21	\$149,707.76	\$183,047.28
Expenses	\$1,182.54	\$15,492.95	\$149,854.37	\$183,047.28

Going Beyond Sunday for ABC Pregnancy Help Center was \$41.00

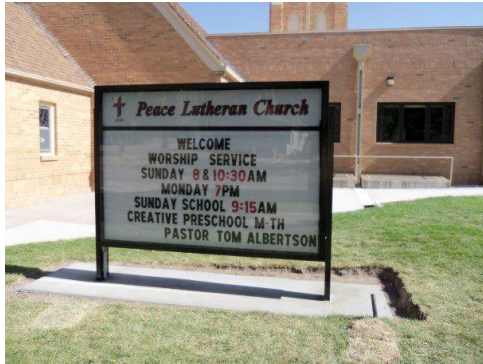
Next month will be for Gideons.

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Quarterly Voter's Meeting

The quarterly voter's meeting will be held October 16th at 1:00pm. The agenda is posted on the bulletin board across from the mailboxes as well as the nominations for officers.



Church Sign

Well the bricks have yet to be laid, but the sign is up and serving its purpose!

Looking Ahead

The schedule for the upcoming Thanksgiving and Advent season is as follows:

Thanksgiving Eve-Wednesday-November 23rd at 7:00pm

Advent-Wednesday-November 30th at 11:00am and 7:30pm

Wednesday-December 7th at 11:00am and 7:30pm

Wednesday-December 14th at 11:00am and 7:00pm(Children's Christmas Program)

Wednesday-December 21st at 11:00am and 7:30pm

Christmas Eve-Saturday-December 24th at 6:00pm and 10:30pm(candlelight service)

Christmas Day will be regular Sunday Service hours

October Readings

Date	Season	1st Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
2nd	16th Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 5:1-7	Philippians 3:4b-14	Matthew 21:33-46
9th	17th Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 25:6-9	Philippians 4:4-13	Matthew 22:1-14
16th	18th Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 45:1-7	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Matthew 22:15-22
23rd	19th Sunday after Pentecost	Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18	1 Thessalonians 2:1-13	Matthew 22:34-46
30th	Reformation Day	Revelations 14:6-7	Romans 3:19-28	John 8:31-36 or Matthew 11:12-19



speaking to you and your life. We are studying it, because the Lord has much to teach us. Here at Peace we do have a number of opportunities to be in the word at Bible Study. What better way to grow in faith and knowledge than to sit down together with fellow believers and talk about the Word of God?

In His Word God reveals His greatest commandment. *"You shall love the Lord Your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. And you shall love your neighbor as yourself"* (Matthew 22:37-39). Many people try to accomplish this through their own efforts. They try to make themselves worthy of God's blessings: "I'll do my best, God couldn't ask for any more."

Luther tried this approach too. He spent every waking moment doing good works. He tried to make up for His failings by brutally punishing His body, to the point of risking his life. But he found he just couldn't so it. As the apostle Paul figured out, he couldn't impact God by his works.

The Lord then led Luther to *"solid ground"*- that we are not saved by works, but by grace through faith. God's undeserved love is so overwhelming that He gives as a free gift the grace - His forgiveness - to those who repent of their transgressions of the Law. Our hearts are filled with joy that Jesus did everything needed for our salvation. We needed perfect obedience to God's Law. Jesus did it for us. He wanted us to love God and our neighbor in every thought, word, and deed. Jesus did it. And what God did was *"... made Him who had no sin to be sin for us"* (2 Cor 5:10). Our guilt demanded punishment. Jesus did it for us.

Is grace alone, as Luther said enough for us? We have to always be on the lookout because where God is at work in the lives of People the devil is not far behind. It may look good in the short term to give into temptation, but without God and His Word, it always ends in utter disaster. The burden of our sin is handled by grace with those simple words from the cross we studied last Lenten season - "It is finished."

What Luther also tried to deal with was how do we sinners receive the benefits of all Jesus did for God's creation? Surely it just can't happen without us interfering can it? I heard these very wise words once, "If your eternity depended solely on you, would you feel comfortable about it?" Growing up Catholic before becoming Lutheran, this was a bump in the road on my faith walk. How much was enough? Am I sorry enough?"

The Lord in His Word, shows us that we are saved by grace through faith alone. Even with this truth, we have to remember that it is God who does the saving and not us. There are those who try to make even faith into a work we do, or action steps you have to take. The truth is it is all God's doing and not yours. Luther tells us in his *Small Catechism*: "The Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified, and kept me in true faith."

Where do you want to be standing today...in a time of danger or sickness...when the winds are blowing trying to knock you over...when life seems to be like walking on a bowl of jello. Where do you want to be on probably the most important day - Judgment Day? Do you want to be standing in an unsteady little boat floating in open water, or with both feet planted firmly on solid rock? May we today and always stand where Luther did - that we are saved by God's grace alone, through faith alone, as revealed in Scripture alone!

Pastor Tom

(Prepared with the help of many different sources)

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TOOLS FOR STEWARDSHIP and EVANGELISM

THRIVENT ACTIVITIES

Vote Choice Dollars! Giving back makes an important impact in people's lives. Last year alone, Thrivent Financial provided more than \$100 million to help congregations, communities and individuals in need. Members who own Thrivent Financial products help make this support possible. How it works is through a program called Thrivent Choice Dollars. What Members do is vote to help decide the allocation of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds. They help by voting either on-line or by phone. More information is available on-line at www.thrivent.com or by contacting KC Eckhardt @ 345-1446

October 23rd– **Annual Membership Dinner**, 5:30pm at Madison's at the Keystone. At this meeting there are elections for Chapter offices. At this time, Peace will not have anyone serving on the Board. We ask all of our Thrivent Members to consider serving on the Board or serving as a Peace representative to Thrivent. If you have any questions, please contact KC Eckhardt at 345-1446.

November 6th- **"Share the Heat"** dinner, 11:00-1:30 at the Fairgrounds Community Building.

FARMERS AND RANCHERS

God has given farmers and ranchers in Nebraska many unique opportunities to use the grain and other products of their livelihood to support the mission of the Lord's church, in addition to providing income for themselves and their families. An LCMS gift planner is able to assist farmers and ranchers in using a variety of resources to provide gifts for the Lord's work, including gifts of grain, land and equipment, while at the same time providing current and deferred income for them and their family in conformity with tax codes. As a farmer or rancher, do you have assets you would like to use to the benefit of God's mission work, both here in Nebraska and throughout His church? More information about providing gifts of commodities to support the work of your congregation, the Nebraska District LCMS and/or Concordia University Nebraska can be obtained by: calling Neal Koch at the Nebraska District Office @ 1-888-643-2961, ext 1002, or Roger Brimmerman at Concordia University @ 1-800-535-5494, ext. 7393. Or visit the following websites: www.ndlcms.org or www.cune.edu

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.

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BRAD'S CORNER

Christ made His calling to Christians very clear in Matt. 22:37-40 and Matt. 28:19-20. This month, our focus is on the call to service.

When we think of "servant," what comes to mind? For many folks, "servant" has a negative connotation. Many think of service as being beneath them and would rather be served than serve. But our King has a very different picture of service. *"It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many"* (Matt. 20:26-28). Christ is telling us to rethink our attitude about service.

How can we develop a life of service? From Group's LIVE series "Life Has a Purpose": a) **Evaluate your priorities.** Service was not meant to be an add-on to our daily lives or something to squeeze in. You may need to rearrange some of your priorities. You are serving God and get to be part of God's purpose to serve and build the kingdom. b) **Serve where you are.** You don't have to go far to serve; serve right here at PLC or in the community. The key is taking the initiative to serve. Look around, see what needs to be done, then GO DO IT! c) **Find your fit.** You find your fit by learning HOW you are gifted. Most people find their best fit by SERVING; seeing where they're gifted and where they aren't. d) **Seek to please God, not others.** Serving is about one person: **God.** Too often, we don't serve people because we don't realize that we're really serving God. We focus on others or ourselves; our dislike for them or what's being asked of us, rather than focusing on God. If we're trying to please others or gain recognition, we're missing the mark. We'll become frustrated and unfulfilled. Sometimes serving others will seem thankless, but when we pursue a lifestyle of service, we will experience incredible joy and purpose.

Paul discusses the importance of serving in the body of Christ in Romans 12:3ff: *"For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them..."*

Consider these questions and respond. *What would the body of Christ look like if we were ALL serving each other as Paul describes in Romans 12; and our outreach beyond PLC? What are some needs around PLC and our community that I (we) could help meet? What's one idea I (or our family) could do?* **DO IT!!!** And take the servant attitude of Christ with you. *"Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" (Phil. 2:3-8).*

Serving with you!

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Brad



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

October 2nd Early Service

Organist Joyce Hofman
 Audio Cathy Broz
 Greeter Donna Hall
 Greeter Jim Hall
 Usher Lois Calvin

Acolyte
 Acolyte

Powerpoint Jim Hall

Late Service

Greeter Betty Knapper
 Greeter Myra Tietz
 Usher Don Hall

Acolyte
 Acolyte

Powerpoint Angie Reiners

Video NEED VOLUNTEER

October 16th Early Service

Organist Charlene Pfanstiel
 Audio Harold Carlson
 Greeter Charlene Pfanstiel
 Greeter Grant Pfanstiel
 Usher Eugene Custer

Acolyte
 Acolyte

Powerpoint Stacy Sellers

Late Service

Greeter Dorothy Henton
 Greeter Garnet Henton
 Usher Ron Buck

Acolyte
 Acolyte

Powerpoint NEED VOLUNTEER

Video Russ Ankersen

October 30th Early Service

Organist KC Eckhardt
 Audio
 Greeter NEED VOLUNTEER
 Greeter NEED VOLUNTEER
 Usher Lois Calvin

Acolyte
 Acolyte

Powerpoint NEED VOLUNTEER

Late Service

Greeter NEED VOLUNTEER
 Greeter NEED VOLUNTEER
 Usher Robert Hull

Acolyte
 Acolyte

Powerpoint NEED VOLUNTEER

Video NEED VOLUNTEER

October 9th Early Service

Organist KC Eckhardt
 Audio Russ Ankersen
 Greeter Deb Shields
 Greeter Evelyn Salyer
 Usher Ed Rinehart

Acolyte
 Acolyte

Powerpoint Russ Ankersen

Late Service

Greeter Janet Bamesberger
 Greeter Dale Bamesberger
 Usher Dee Traphagan

Acolyte
 Acolyte

Powerpoint Russ Ankersen

Video NEED VOLUNTEER

October 23rd Early Service

Organist Joyce Hofman
 Audio Jon Reiners
 Greeter Gary Buk
 Greeter Karen Berry
 Usher Jeff Pinkerton

Acolyte
 Acolyte

Powerpoint Jon Reiners

Late Service

Greeter Velma Kircher
 Greeter Phyllis Berndt
 Usher Curt Swanhorst

Acolyte
 Acolyte

Powerpoint Jon Reiners

Video NEED VOLUNTEER

Altar Flowers

2nd- Available

9th- Available

16th- Available

23rd- Available

30th- Available

KGNG Sponsor

2nd- Available

9th- Available

16th- Available

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.

**Witness (continuation of last month's article)**

The Witness (*martyria*) aspect of our three fold emphasis is mission and evangelism. The image for Witness depicts the cross in the center with the Greek word *martyia* (witness) at the bottom. Above the cross is a symbol that resembles the tongue of fire at Pentecost, or perhaps a dove or a drop of water for Baptism. Red is the color we use for Pentecost Day, ordinations, and days commemorating the martyrs of the Church, whose death testified to Jesus. Witness, mission, evangelism: All flow from the cross of Jesus.

The word that the New Testament uses for Witness (*martyria*) is the same word the ancient Greeks used for testimony in a courtroom. *Martyria* could refer either to the testimony given or to the person who gave the testimony. In this sense, a person, or his or her life, could become a witness. This Greek word also is the source of our English word *martyr*, someone who loses his or her life for the sake of Jesus. In fact, the death of Jesus was a witness: "For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood: these three agree" (1 John 5:7-8). After Jesus cried, "It is finished," and gave up His Spirit (John 19:30), the soldiers pierced His side, from which flowed blood and water (John 19:34). In the next verse, John proclaims, "He who saw it has borne witness-his testimony is true...that you may also believe" (John 19:35). The testimony, or witness, of Jesus creates faith so that you may also believe. Notice that the testimony, or witness, about Jesus centers on the cross. The cross of Jesus is at the center of every witness about Him. The witness of Jesus includes not only the spoken Word but also Baptism ("the water") and Holy Communion (the body and "the blood"). The Holy Spirit works behind the scenes, so to speak, so that we see Jesus. The witness of Jesus is connected to His cross, proclaimed through the Word and given out in the Sacraments. This is the heart and center of witness.

Next month continues with "Witness" part two

Reprinted with permission from the article "Witness, Mercy, Life Together" in The Lutheran Witness January 2011 issue.

NEWS FROM CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

The annual **Christmas at Concordia** will fill audiences with joy on December 3 & 4. Come hear more than 250 student musicians as they share the good news of Christmas with music from across the ages. Three concert, Saturday at 3pm and 7pm and Sunday at 3pm, will be held at St. John Lutheran Church in Seward. Free tickets are required and are available online at www.cune.edu/CaCpayment or by calling 1-800-535-5494, ext. 7408. See the posters for additional event information during the weekend.

Celebrate with us at the 68th Annual **Gathering of the Talents**, Saturday, April 14, 2012 at Concordia University.



Peace Lutheran Church

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October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 7:00am-Men's Bible Study
2 <u>LWML Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	3 2:30pm Worship Planning 7:00pm Worship DCE IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	4 5:30pm Board of Ed 6:30pm Board of Elders	5 5:30 SOR 7:30pm-FIRE	6 COUNCIL REPORTS DUE	7 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	8 7:00am-Men's Bible Study LWML Fall Workshop
9 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	10 7:00pm Worship 8:00pm Women's Bible Study DCE IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	11 2:30pm Hillcrest Bingo 6:30pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	12 5:30 SOR 7:30pm-FIRE	13 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE (WINKLE) DCE IS OUT OF THE OFFICE (NE District DCE meeting)	14 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	15 7:00am-Men's Bible Study
16 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship 1:00pm Voters Meeting 7:00pm Forerunners DCE IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	17 7:00pm Worship 8:00pm Women's Bible Study DCE IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	18 7:00pm Bylaws Committee	19 5:30 SOR 7:30pm-FIRE	20	21 TIDINGS ARTICLES DUE PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	22 7:00am-Men's Bible Study
23 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	24 7:00pm Worship 8:00pm Women's Bible Study DCE IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	25	26 5:30 SOR 7:30pm-FIRE	27 11:00am-LWML 1:30pm-Hillcrest Service 2:30pm-Willow Ridge	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 5:00pm Stewardship committee meeting	31 7:00pm Worship 8:00pm Women's Bible Study DCE IS OUT OF THE OFFICE					