

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:

Philippians 4:6 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."



This last week was a rather unique week for me. I attended Police Chaplaincy training in St. Louis, MO renewing training I received before moving to McCook from the Seminary. I thank Pastor Breunger for serving in worship during my absence.

Just days before I arrived, there was a tornado that ripped through the town of Joplin MO to the south. Two of the instructors from the course went to help the first responders providing aid. While they were there they met up with Rev. Greg Mech of Immanuel Lutheran Church. The church itself was less than a quarter mile outside the major area of devastation. They experienced some severe wind damage, losing part of the roof of their school and their rooftop air conditioning units. However, despite their damage, they have become a place of safe refuge and comfort as they provide shelter and supplies as they have ability.

As the training continued the class was interrupted three times in one afternoon when tornado sirens went off forcing the class to seek emergency shelter. The nearest danger to us was the very brief touchdown of a funnel cloud about two miles from where we were. We had people in the class that in their regular jobs worked as storm trackers with the

Emergency Management Systems of their respective departments in Illinois and Arkansas. They were used to tracking things like this, and gave us regular updates. But what about those who didn't have experts like this at their disposal?

Being in a situation like this, even though distant, gave me a glimpse of what goes through the minds of people. People want to be in the know. They want answers. They want shelter and safety. They want to know everything is going to be okay. But what if everything is not okay? What if the situation turns out very badly? To whom can people turn to for comfort? These were questions that lingered after we were released from the tornado shelter.

When the instructors returned later in the week, they used what they experienced as Chaplains in Joplin to show us chaplaincy in action to try to answer these questions. I can tell you that the pictures they showed and the stories they told spoke of a people whose lives were destroyed and now had

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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

But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. Matt 24: 36 (ESV)

Sometimes it seems that we Christians are so sure of our own abilities that we disregard anything outside of our knowledge. That seems to be the case (at least in my mind) this past week when a “scholar” of the Bible declared that he had predicted the Judgment Day. We should have been totally surprised to still be on this Earth when we awoke the morning of May 22. I’m not sure which bible this man was such a “scholar” of, but Jesus Himself tells us that the only “expert” when it comes to the end of the world is our own Heavenly Father. Not even the angels of heaven are given that knowledge.

As we spend time in God’s Holy Word, we need to remember what God tells us in Proverbs 3:5 and 6; *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make straight your paths.* If only we would listen to what God says and not on what we think He says, we would be ready for whenever God chooses to announce Judgment Day.

Enjoy your summer, and always remember:
To God be the Glory!

Grant Pfanstiel
Elder Chairman



June Birthdays

Rodney Berry	6/1	Jane Schuster	6/6	Mitch Hazlitt	6/19
Loren Brown	6/1	Spencer Skolout	6/7	Nolan Yilk	6/22
Nadine Oetting	6/1	Megan Vetrovsky	6/7	Dana Bedore	6/23
Devin Reiners	6/3	Harvey Ackerman	6/8	Amanda Novak	6/23
Robin Calvin	6/4	Paul Meints	6/8	Ervain Friehe	6/25
Sue Carlson	6/4	Abigail Schneider	6/9	Kaden Pearce	6/25
Gene Meints	6/4	Jeremy Yilk	6/9	Dillon Goltl	6/26
Rose Hull	6/5	Christien Kuykendall	6/10	Lee Edwards	6/29
Michael Nielsen	6/5	Rebecca Post	6/10	DeWayne Hanchera	6/29
Shannon Buck	6/6	Dania Wiemers	6/10	Jennifer Kircher	6/29
Gavyn Klein	6/6	Fred Gleason	6/13		

June Anniversaries

NAME	DATE	YRS	NAME	DATE	YRS
Richard & Karen Cummins	6/1/1968	43	Norman & Lila Leibrandt	6/14/1953	58
George & Ronda Wurm	6/2/1967	44	Arthur & Elaine Soncksen	6/14/1953	58
Michael & Linda Nielsen	6/3/1972	39	Robert & Janet Hein	6/17/1960	51
Rodney & Karen Berry	6/8/1973	38	Harlan & Bernita Reiners	6/19/1960	51
Troy & Tammie Bruntz	6/8/1996	15	Robert & Elizabeth Geisler	6/21/1964	47
DeWayne & LaVonne Hanchera	6/9/1954	57	Brent & Candace Rogers	6/22/1996	15
Raymond & Judy Schow	6/9/1969	42	Tom & Charlene Albertson	6/23/1979	32
Todd & Lisa Koetter	6/10/1982	29	Edward & Jeannine Rinehart	6/24/1983	28
Walter & Jean Sehnert	6/10/1951	60	Jeremy & Elizabeth Yilk	6/24/2006	5
Wade & Kristin Fornander	6/12/1999	12	Jene & Carmen Custer	6/27/1959	52
Lee & Lindsay McConville	6/12/2004	7	Charles & Mardelle Miller	6/27/1990	21
Nate & Amanda Nielsen	6/12/2006	5	Leonard & Patricia Bath	6/29/1951	60
Floyd & Carla Bales	6/14/1980	31	Gene & Karen Mients	6/30/1972	39
			Richard & Sonja Thompson	6/30/2003	8

Our Finances At A Glance

	Week to Date (May 22nd - May 28th)	Month to Date (May 1st - May 28th)	Actual Year to Date (Jan 1st - May 28th)	Budget to Date (Jan 1st - May 28th) 21st week
Offerings	\$4,031.28	\$39,456.77	\$85,648.79	\$98,563.92
Expenses	\$1,286.13	\$35,308.67	\$82,161.80	\$98,563.92

Going Beyond Sunday for Seminary students was \$100.00



Church Council May 2011 Summary

Notes from the
PLC Church Council Meeting
Tuesday May 17, 2011

Unfinished Business

A. Bylaws Review - it was decided to hold separate Bylaws Review meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of the month beginning in June 2011 in lieu of an Unfinished Business item at regular council meetings. These meetings will be limited to two hours in duration.

B. Wall Estate Donation - it was decided to see what interest-bearing accounts are available for the total sum. This would allow the use of the interest off this account to be used for church purposes every year, rather than just a one-time expenditure.

New Business

A. Church Treasurer - council members are to contact church members to see if there is any interest in their part in serving out the remainder of Tina Cummins term as Church Treasurer. Interested party names will be brought to the June Council meeting for possible appointment. Until that time, Tina will serve in dual capacity as Church Administrative Assistant and Treasurer.

B. Church Sign - Using monies from several small accounts and seeking member labor was brought up as a avenue to erect a new church sign. Members will be contacted for their advice and help before the June Council meeting. An update of sign costs will also be available at that meeting, so that action may be taken to erect the sign this summer.

Announcements

A. Next Church Council meeting - Tuesday June 14, 2011- 7:00 PM

B. Bylaws Review meeting - Tuesday June 21, 2011 - 7:00 PM

June Readings

Date	Season	1st Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
5th	7th Sunday of Easter	Acts 1:12-26	1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11	John 17:1-11
12th	The Day of Pentecost	Numbers 11:24-30	Acts 2:1-21	John 7:37-39
19th	The Holy Trinity	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	Acts 2:14a, 22-36	Matthew 28:16-20
26th	2nd Sunday of Pentecost	Jeremiah 28:5-9	Romans 7:1-13	Matthew 10:34-42



to be rebuilt. What we saw in their presentation was a lot of pain and suffering that people were enduring, as well as a lot of need for comfort.

Being miles away, and since relief efforts were just getting started we could only take their situation to the Lord in prayer, and turn things over to the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts, minds, and efforts of those suffering and those offering assistance. What constantly came to mind was Philippians 4:6-7: *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

It really got me thinking about a question that I think resides in the recesses of all of our hearts. The question is, "Are we ready to follow Jesus?" Are we ready to really let the Holy Spirit rule in our hearts as we enter the season of Pentecost? Sure, there are times when we sense the prodding of the Holy Spirit leading us to follow, but are we ready to follow His lead?

Here at Peace, DCE Intern Brad Rogers and I have been throwing around a concept of being a "Church in Action." A good description of this is contained on page 4 of this issue of the Tidings. What we are emphasizing is that we are a church in action, whether we believe it or not.

We are a church in action as we gather together in worship and invite our community to join us in worship, especially if they do not have a church home, or do not have a relationship with Jesus. We are a church in action when we attend Bible study and use the fellowship of the church to help us teach our children and ourselves about our Savior and a life of faith. Our ministries reflect a church in action when we outreach to our community in our Preschool, our Vacation Bible School (Which starts June 6, 2011), giving to our food pantry, or just helping others in need. We are a church in action when we gather in small groups such as LWML, Forerunners, Young Adults, Men's and Women's Bible study, FIRE, or at potlucks. We are a church in action when we help and serve one another as each has need. We are a church in action when we reflect the love of God to those in need of help and support, even if they are thousands of miles away. "We," together as a people of God, are the Church; and alive in our community.

In June as we celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, our prayer really looks to the Holy Spirit to be our Guide as we move forward in ministry to help us recognize His leading in our lives, and to instill in us the willingness to follow, to help us to overcome our timidity, and to continue to place opportunities in our path to serve God and one another. A question that is lingering in my mind right now as I write this article is, "Lord, how can "we" help those who need our help in places like Joplin and right here in our own community, and share the love of Jesus Christ?"



TOOLS FOR STEWARDSHIP and EVANGELISM



Believe it or not, it is that time of year. The grass is growing. If you would like to serve the church by signing up for a week(s) to mow, a sign-up calendar has been placed on the church bulletin board across from the mailboxes.

Vacation Bible School

Week of June 6th through the 10th

C.I.A. (Church in Action)

Why serve? Church in Action (C.I.A.) is opportunities for us to respond to God for what He has done for us in Christ. We serve because Christ first served us. God has blessed every believer with special gifts to be used for ministry. We offer these service opportunities as a means of encouraging youth and adults to discover their gifts and put them into practice. We do not serve for our own recognition; rather, our service points to God. When we are asked why we serve others, it gives us permission to share WHY we serve and WHO we serve. There are plenty of opportunities. Keep watch for these opportunities to serve our great God, PLC, McCook and beyond!

Church in Action (C.I.A.) Easter Breakfast—Thank you! 20 youth and adults served God and PLC by preparing and setting up for, and serving at, the Easter breakfast on April 23 and 24. A special thanks to Sue Ankersen, Janice Bamesberger, Jerry, Robin, Brian and Sarah Calvin, Mary Hazlitt, Jan Hubert, Seth Koetter, Renee Mandock, Steve, Brigitta and Luke Post, Brad Rogers, Deb Shields, Drew Shields, Clayton Skolout, Cindy and Hannah Swanhorst & Ben Vetrovsky for your service to our great God and PLC! God is at work in the lives of His people!

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

Does Christian education (in the home and in the church) matter? If the answer to that is "yes", then why does it matter? Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Christian education provides foundational pieces for our lives, as we learn about God and His plan of salvation accomplished for us through His Son, Jesus; and it provides opportunities to discover what it means to live as a disciple of Jesus out in the world. Those pieces are integral in the life of a disciple of Jesus. Christian education does not end at confirmation; rather it is a lifelong journey. The devil uses challenges throughout our lives to turn us away from Jesus. By remaining in the Word and being diligent in our continuing education as Christ's disciples, Christ empowers us to face those challenges and remain firm. When we do not, doubt and uncertainty creep in and can affect what we believe and how we live our lives.

Allow me to share some very disturbing figures as we consider the implications of not being diligent in continuing Christian education throughout one's life; and how that can shape what we believe and how we live our lives. Consider the following from a 2001 Barna research study of various denominations theological beliefs; the following percentages are where Lutheran adults fell when it came to the following beliefs: a) The Bible is totally accurate (34%); b) we must tell our faith to others (27% despite Christ's command to go and make disciples); c) faith is important (63%); d) Satan is real (21%); e) works don't earn heaven (27% believe this. This means 7 out of 10 Lutherans believe works earn salvation; despite a foundational piece of Lutheran teaching being justification by grace through faith alone); f) Christ was sinless (33%!); g) God is the all-powerful Creator (72%); h) absolutely committed to Christianity (55%) ("Religious Beliefs Vary Widely by Denomination," www.barna.org). These are sobering statistics. Consider another study done by Barna focusing on the question "Can a good person earn his way to heaven?" 54% of Lutherans answered "yes" to that question; of that, 26% attended some type of Christian education opportunity. Might there be a correlation between the way people interpret things and participation in Christian education?

Continuing Christian education does matter and is important for the growing Christian (and that applies to us all). PLC offers opportunities throughout the lifespan that help to supplement what is done in the home including: Creative preschool, Sunday school, School of Religion, VBS, FIRE Youth ministry and various adult Bible studies. Continue to challenge yourself; continue in your education as a disciple of Jesus.

Growing and serving with you!

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Brad

**June 5th Early Service**

Organist	KC Eckhardt
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	Donna Hall
Greeter	Jim Hall
Usher	Ed Rinehart
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Powerpoint	Jim Hall

June 5th Late Service

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

June 19th Early Service

Organist	Joyce Hofman
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Charlene Pfanstiel
Greeter	Grant Pfanstiel
Usher	Lois Calvin
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Powerpoint	Brad Rogers

June 19th Late Service

Greeter	Dorothy Henton
Greeter	Garnet Henton
Usher	Ron Buck
Acolyte	Devin Reiners
Acolyte	Spencer Reiners
Powerpoint	NEED VOLUNTEER
Video	Russ Ankersen

Altar Flowers

5th-	Available
12th-	Available
19th-	Available
26th-	Available

KGNG Sponsor

5th-	Available
12th-	Available
19th-	Available
26th-	Available

June 12th Early Service

Organist	Zona Fritz
Audio	Russ Ankersen
Greeter	Deb Shields
Greeter	Evelyn Salyer
Usher	Eugene Custer
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen

June 12th Late Service

Greeter	Janet Bamesberger
Greeter	Dale Bamesberger
Usher	Dee Traphagan
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Video	NEED VOLUNTEER

June 26th Early Service

Organist	Zona Fritz
Audio	Jon Reiners
Greeter	Gary Buk
Greeter	Karen Berry
Usher	Jeff Pinkerton
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Powerpoint	Jon Reiners

June 26th Late Service

Greeter	Velma Kircher
Greeter	Phyllis Berndt
Usher	Curt Swanhorst
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Powerpoint	Jon Reiners
Video	NEED VOLUNTEER

Note: Cost to sponsor a "Your Hour of Worship" program on KGNG 1300AM Radio is \$45. If you are interested in sponsoring a program, please call the church office for available dates.



Lutheran Study Bibles Available

Lutheran Study Bibles are still available for purchase in the Church Office

Regular Size Print—\$34.95

Large Size Print—\$44.95



Fatherly Advice

"Dad, when can I have a car?"

"When you shave and get a haircut."

"Well dad, I've been reading the Bible a lot lately, and I understand that Jesus didn't cut his hair or shave his beard."

"Yes, and he also walked everywhere he went."

Happy Father's Day!

June 19th, 2011

YOUNG ADULT GATHERING

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Young Adult Group gatherings. The group now meets regularly on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 6:00 pm, and childcare is usually provided at the church.

June 12 - Bowling

If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Fornander @ 345-5502, Chelsey Hartwell @ 350-4102, or Liz Yilk @ 308-529-1793.

FIREWORKS MEETING

On Wednesday, June 8 at 7:30pm, there will be a Parent/Youth information meeting at PLC as it pertains to youth ministry's fireworks fundraiser. High school youth and parents, please make every effort to attend this meeting as we prepare for this fundraiser.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE LAYETTES

Our local chapter of Lutherans for Life is collecting donations for baby layettes to be given to new mothers at local hospitals. This is an exciting way to honor the gift of life and to say a special word of thanks and praise on behalf of Lutherans for Life. We anticipate distributing over 100 layettes per year in McCook alone. Donated items may be placed in the basket in the narthex. Items to include would be newborn diapers, newborn socks, Onesies, baby washcloths, burp cloths and baby toiletries. We thank you for your contributions in advance, and thank you for helping to support the gift of life God grants to each of us. For additional information you may contact Charlene Albertson at 737-1057.

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Peace Lutheran Church

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June 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:30pm-Board of Ed 7:00pm Contemporary Worship Committee 7:30pm-FIRE	2	3 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	4 7:00am-Men's Bible Study MS Walk
DCE IS OUT OF THE OFFICE						
5 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	6 7:00pm-Worship 8:00pm-Women's Study	7 6:30pm-Board of Elders	8 7:00pm Contemporary Worship Committee 7:30pm-Parent/Youth Firework Info Meeting	9 COUNCIL REPORTS DUE	10 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	11 7:00am-Men's Bible Study
Vacation Bible School 9:30 to 11:30am						
DCE IS OUT OF THE OFFICE						
12 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship 6:00pm Young Adult Bowling	13 7:00pm-Worship 8:00pm-Women's Study	14 2:30pm-Hillcrest Bingo 6:30pm-Board of Elders 7:00pm-Council	15 7:00pm Contemporary Worship Committee 7:30pm-FIRE	16	17 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	18 7:00am-Men's Bible Study
	DCE IS OUT OF THE OFFICE					
19 <u>Happy Father's Day!!</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	20 7:00pm-Worship 8:00pm-Women's Study	21 7:00pm-Bylaws Committee Meeting	22 7:00pm Contemporary Worship Committee 7:30pm-FIRE	23 11:00am-LWML 1:30pm-Hillcrest Service 2:30pm-Willow Ridge	24 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	25 7:00am-Men's Bible Study
	DCE IS OUT OF THE OFFICE			TIDINGS ARTICLES DUE		
26 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship 5:00pm Stewardship Committee Meeting	27 7:00pm-Worship 8:00pm-Women's Study	28	29 7:00pm Contemporary Worship Committee 7:30pm-FIRE	30		
	DCE IS OUT OF THE OFFICE					