

'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

Easter. It is amazing that one word can conjure up so many different images, so many different memories, so many different feelings. Your mind, even now may hear the faint echoes of organ and trumpets, blaring away as the congregation sings, "I Know That My Redeemer Lives." Your nose may smell a faint trace of Easter lilies. You may see a faint image of the altar decked in white, the sunlight streaming in through a stained glass window. All of these things are so closely connected to Easter and bring us so much joy!

But when is the last time when you really stopped to think about why Easter is truly so special? Why do we make such a big deal and have so many outward celebrations and traditions connected to this day? Well, we know that Easter is about the Resurrection of Jesus. But again, I ask, "Why does the resurrection matter?"

When we look to the Scriptures, we see a number of answers to that question. But at the very heart of the matter, are the words recorded for us by the Apostle Paul, "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain." If there were no resurrection, there would be no Christianity. Take out Easter and you're left with nothing!

In an article by Brian Hedges, he writes "[It's] unquestionable that the first generation of Jesus' followers did believe he had risen, and were

convinced that everything had changed as a result."

How true that is! For those first disciples, and for every person since, the world has been radically changed by Jesus' death and resurrection! And the implications it has are astounding! The following three points just scratch the surface what the Resurrection brings for us!

1. Jesus' resurrection means that his sacrificial death on the cross was sufficient, and therefore our sins can be forgiven.

Paul emphasizes this in 1 Corinthians 15, reminding us that "Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures" (vv. 3-4). Then, in verse 17, he argues that "if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins."

In other words, Paul saw a direct connection between the resurrection of Jesus and the sufficiency of his death to atone for our sins. When Jesus rose again on the third day, it was the public announcement that God was fully satisfied with the sacrificial death of his Son. In his resurrection, Jesus was vindicated (1 Timothy 3:16). But in his vindication, we are vindicated too. That's why Paul says in Romans 4 that Jesus "was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification" (Romans 4:25).



PLC Vacancy Shepherd

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FROM AN ELDER

History of the LCMS

Founded in 1847

The roots of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod trace back to 1847, when Saxon and other German immigrants established a new church body in America, seeking the freedom to practice and follow confessional Lutheranism.

Initial members, which included 12 pastors representing 14 congregations from Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Michigan, New York and Ohio, signed the church body's constitution on April 26, 1847, at First Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Chicago, IL.

Originally named The German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States, the name was shortened to The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in 1947 on the occasion of our 100th anniversary.

Over the years, hundreds of books chronicling the Synod's rich history have been written. One of the most comprehensive is *Zion On The Mississippi*.

The First President

The Rev. Dr. C.F.W. Walther (Oct. 25, 1811-May 7, 1887) served as the first president of the church body. As a young pastor, Walther joined the Saxon Germans who immigrated to the United States in 1839, and, at only 27 years old, he was the leader of the group that settled in Perry County, MO.

Dr. Walther played a key role in the founding of the LCMS in 1847, and he served as the church body's first president, holding office from 1847 to 1850 and again from 1864 to 1878.

Walther presided over the young Synod, leading its growth through the years of the great migration of German immigrants. He served as president of Concordia Seminary from 1850 to 1887, and he was editor of *Der Lutheraner*, a leading magazine of the day that reached Confessional Lutherans across the country.

Today, Walther is revered as the leading Lutheran theologian of his time, and he's fondly known as the "Father of the Missouri Synod"



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Tina Cummins	4/1	Carol Roedel	4/11	Krystal Downing	4/22
Taylor Jesse	4/1	Carmen Custer	4/13	Shirley Lichty	4/22
Rachel Goltl	4/3	Seth Koetter	4/13	Pearl Bonar	4/23
Lindsey Hazlitt	4/3	Spenser Bruntz	4/14	Brooklynn Tidyman	4/23
Chad Hueftle	4/3	Dan Hartwell	4/14	Harold Carlson	4/25
Lance Gillen	4/5	Chase Pierson	4/16	Carter Hartwell	4/27
Lola Downing	4/6	Marvin Harms	4/17	Jeffrey Unger	4/27
Steve Kircher	4/6	Savannah Strauch	4/17	Brooklynn Gillen	4/28
Thatcher Skolout	4/7	Phyllis Berndt	4/18	Hanah Nothnagel	4/29
Kelsey Gillen	4/8	Olivia Koetter	4/18	Drew Shields	4/29
Denise Gillen	4/9	John Hanson	4/21	Dee Traphagan	4/30
Dale Bamesberger	4/11	Kimberly Kuykendall	4/21		

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Ronald & Doris Friehe	4/3/1976	41	Ron & Deb Lauer	4/8/1989	28
Willard & Carol Roedel	4/4/1965	52	Tim & Tempie Krause	4/16/1988	29
Dennis & Susan Chipman	4/7/1973	44	Myra & Dan Stoney	4/17/1999	18
Monte & Mary Hazlitt	4/7/1984	33	Eldon & Fay Barenberg	4/27/1957	60
Kenneth & Dorinda Polly	4/7/1956	61			

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 (Mar. 26th-April 1st)	Month to Date (March 5th-April 1st)	Actual Year to Date (Jan. 1st-April 1st)	Budget to Date (Jan. 1st-April 1st) <i>13th week</i>
Offerings	\$5,021.47	\$16,065.56	\$47,507.06	\$61,600.50
Expenses	\$1,973.19	\$9,836.87	\$38,473.02	\$61,600.50

This month's Going Beyond Sunday is Military Biblesticks.

Going Beyond Sunday for Lutheran Braille Workers was \$130.00.



CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

April is already almost here and hopefully Spring weather will quickly follow! This month will be spent finishing our alphabet, reviewing our letters and numbers and learning about life cycles. I'm sure that you will hear more about this from your child! They may also tell you about learning bike safety, as our bike-a-thon will be April 5th and 6th, at 10:45 for the morning classes and 2:15 on Thursday for our afternoon class.

Here are some more dates that you will want to make sure are on your calendars: The last regular days of preschool will be Monday, May 8th and Tuesday, May 9th. The Tues/Thurs Morning Class will have their Spring Tea and Program at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 9th. This is our end of the year program for the younger group and families are invited and encouraged to attend.

The Pre-K Graduation Ceremony and Spring Program will be on Tuesday, May 9th at 6:00 p.m.

For those in the Mon/Wed AM Class that will NOT be going on to Kindergarten this fall, we will be having a Program on Monday, May 8th at 11:00 a.m. Families of those children who will be returning to preschool in the fall are invited to attend this morning program and do not need to attend the graduation on Tuesday evening.

Refreshments will follow each of the programs. More info will be sent home about these things as the dates get closer. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please call (345-2595) or email (mycreativepreschool@gmail.com).

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!



APRIL READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
2nd	5th S. in Lent	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Romans 8:1-11	John 11:1-45(46-53) or John 11:17-27, 38-53
9th	Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Philippians 2:5-11	John 12:12-19 & Matthew 26:1-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-66 or John 12:20-43
16th	Easter Sunday	Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6	Colossians 3:1-4	Matthew 28:1-10
23rd	2nd S. in Easter	Acts 5:29-42	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
30th	3rd S. in Easter	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	1 Peter 1:17-25	Luke 24:13-35



2. Jesus' resurrection means that death is defeated once and for all.

As Peter proclaimed on the Day of Pentecost, "God raised [Jesus] from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him" (Acts 2:24). Death lost its grip on Jesus!

But the resurrection means that Jesus not only defeated death for himself, but that he defeated it for us. He died and rose as a new representative for humanity, as the Second Adam. "But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead," writes Paul, "the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:20-22). His resurrection guarantees ours.

Perhaps no one has said this more eloquently than C. S. Lewis. In his 1947 book *Miracles*, Lewis wrote:

"The New Testament writers speak as if Christ's achievement in rising from the dead was the first event of its kind in the whole history of the universe. He is the 'first fruits,' the 'pioneer of life.' He has forced open a door that has been locked since the death of the first man. He has met, fought, and beaten the King of Death. Everything is different because He has done so. This is the beginning of the New Creation: a new chapter in cosmic history has been opened."

The empty tomb assures us that sickness and suffering, death and disease will not have the final word.

3. Jesus' resurrection means that the material world matters.

Lest there be any misunderstanding, when the apostles said that Jesus rose again, they meant that his physical body came back to life. The risen Jesus wasn't a phantom or ghost, but a breakfast-eating, flesh-and-bone, human being (see Luke 24:36-43 and John 21:10-14).

When Jesus' came out of the tomb in a physical body, it was God's definitive stamp of approval on the creation project with all of its materiality. The resurrection shows us that matter matters. And this is why the early Christians looked to the future with confidence that the created order itself would be redeemed (see Romans 8:18-25).

Though we wait for the full consummation of new creation, the Scriptures also teach that the power that raised Jesus from the dead is already working within us (Ephesians 1:19-20). The resurrection, you see, not only assures of God's forgiveness and comforts us in suffering as we anticipate the final reversal of death, disease, and decay; it also motivates and empowers us to push back the tide of suffering and evil in the present world, through word and deed, in mercy and in justice, all in Jesus' name.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, as you can see Easter is everything! Easter means forgiveness, hope, joy, peace, and all the gifts of God! Easter changes our past, our present, and our future. All of this because our Savior died and rose from the grave! We not only have spiritual life, but true physical eternal life! It is no wonder then that we celebrate using all our senses! As you experience the sights, sounds, and smells of Easter this year, may they all remind you that your life, now and forever, is truly changed in Jesus! Amen.

In Christ,
Pastor Brett

The following three points are taken directly from the article, "3 Reasons the Resurrection Matters" by Brian G. Hedges, on Christianity.com



COUNCIL CORNER

Council - At a Glance

Peace Lutheran Church Council met on Tuesday March 14th and opened with Sue Ankersen leading devotions. There were no guests present for open forum comments.

Reports for the various boards and council positions were available either in print or presented verbally for review, discussion and approval. Evangelism board continues to do birthday cards and is looking for people to donate salads for community dinners. Angel tree at Christmas continues to be a success and there was discussion on ways to increase and improve on the program. Phil mentioned that we have not yet received a call list. Pastor Hinrichs reported he has been doing visitations and attending meetings as time allows. There were no baptisms or funerals since the last council meeting.

Discussion on unfinished business topics including: 1.) TCN (transforming church networks) update – nothing to report. 2.) Fireworks stand – contract has been signed, concern for and discussion about getting a manager. 3.) Internet problems – Brian is working on this. 4.) Golf tournament – first planning meeting will be March 15th at 6:30 pm.

New business items/discussion: 1.) Easter breakfast – Board of Ed will organize and head this. They would like to use proceeds and donations for Elianna Ankersen (Daughter of Pastor Ryan and Keri Ankersen) to offset medical expenses. 2.) Next voters meeting is set for Sunday, April 23rd at 1:30 pm. 3.) Confirmation is set for Sunday April 30th. 4.) Health fair – need to start planning, will organize a committee. 5.) Child care – need help with child care during church. 6.) VBS – Board of Ed looking for a director. 7.) Communion schedule for April – questions about when, how often, etc. with Easter and Confirmation during the month. Elders will discuss and determine schedule at next meeting on 4/4.

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. www.plcmccook.org



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, Pam Leibbrandt and Rod Berry.

Brookdale McCook: Edna Ficken, Erv Friehe, Joyce Stupka, Leona Wudtke and Jean Sehnert.

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

McCook: Nancy Ott, Wallace Keen, and Adeline Kuhlmann

Butte: Don Kisker

Grand Island: Marie Alberts

St. Paul: Sandra Novak

Kearney: Florence Potthoff

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.



April 2nd	
11:00am Service	
Elder on duty	Harold Carlson
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Myra Tietz
Greeter	Jane Schuster
Usher	Eugene Custer
Usher	Robert Hull
Lay Reader	Grant Pfanstiel
Acolyte	Addyson Snyder
Acolyte	Delaney Critchfield
Powerpoint	Jeff Pinkerton

April 9th	
11:00am Service	
Elder on duty	Paul Schaffert
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Russ Ankersen
Greeter	Deb Shields
Greeter	
Usher	Paul Sellers
Usher	
Lay Reader	Paul Schaffert
Acolyte	Austin Thompson
Acolyte	Cayden Johnson
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen

April 16th	
11:00am Service	
Elder on duty	All
Organist	Shawn Pfanstiel
Audio	Paul Sellers
Greeter	Janet Bamesberger
Greeter	Dale Bamesberger
Usher	Ben Schow
Usher	Brandon Smith
Lay Reader	Russ Ankersen
Acolyte	Christien Kuykendall
Acolyte	Blayzon Mooney
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins

April 23rd	
11:00am Service	
Elder on duty	Ron Aufrecht
Organist	
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	Need Volunteer
Greeter	Phyllis Berndt
Usher	Dennis Chipman
Usher	
Lay Reader	Brandon Smith
Acolyte	Ryland Peters
Acolyte	Jacob Risenhoover
Powerpoint	Stacie Aufrecht

April 30th	
11:00am Service	
Elder on duty	Grant Pfanstiel
Organist	
Audio	
Greeter	Harold Carlson
Greeter	Sue Carlson
Usher	Gary Buk
Usher	
Lay Reader	Phil Bamesberger
Acolyte	Madelyn Bird
Acolyte	Olivia Koetter
Powerpoint	

<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>KNGN Sponsor</u>
2nd- Available	2nd- Available
9th- Nielsen	9th- Nielsen
16th- Lepper	16th- Meints
23rd- Available	23rd- Available
30th- Schneider	30th- Available

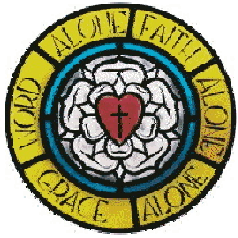
Note: Cost to sponsor a "Your Hour of Worship" program on KNGN 1300AM Radio is \$45. If you are interested in sponsoring a program, please call the church office for available dates.



PEACE TALK

Do you remember the photo booth? Back in the day where you would drop in a few coins and crawl in this booth that would take three pictures about two seconds apart? Then it would print out the results right then and there. Well when we went on a Family Life Cruise last February they had one in operation. We pondered, how should we go about it? Do we act serious, smile, or face each other? Not a chance, we hopped right in there without a plan and sure enough it printed out three pretty goofy pictures. However, we proudly hung this picture sequence on the fridge as it reflected how much fun we had together. Is our spiritual life like this sometimes when we might go about life, unprepared for a "faith" snapshot at any given time? Now I admit, the results of going into the photo booth unprepared did not give us eternal ramifications, just a print of three pretty funny pictures. It made me think though, if I took a snapshot of my faith right now, would it show I was ready to meet Jesus? If not how about two seconds from now? We do not have time to procrastinate, and we for sure are not going to be warned when our time is near. That's why we need to always be ready for our final judgment day. Are you ready to get an unrehearsed snapshot of your faith? The Bible tells us that we must prepare ourselves *spiritually*. We can do that by putting on spiritual armor to protect ourselves from spiritual attack "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil" (Eph. 6:10-11); by preparing our minds for holy living "Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 1:13); by making sure we're always prepared to answer questions about the reason for the hope we possess "but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect," (1 Peter 3:15); and by ensuring that we are ready for the promised return of Jesus "Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." (Matthew 24:44). With Christ, we know our snapshot will turn out heavenly, and know we are prepared. What will your photo booth picture look like of your faith? Are you prepared to hang that image on the "fridge" to proudly display so everyone can see? Lord, I know you can see the image I portray everyday. Help me live each moment, each day, like it is my last. Help me to always be ready to enter your kingdom, knowing that in my heart, my faith snapshot is going to be my eternal picture. Amen.

Peace, Love and Unity
Phil Bamesberger, VP



Peace Lutheran Church

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PH (308)345-2595

April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7:00am Men's Bible Study
2 8:30am Prayer & Preaching 9:45am Bible Study 11:00am Worship 3:00pm MS Society 6:00pm 8th Grade Confirmation	3 7:00pm Woman's Bible Study	4 10:30 Worship Committee 4:00pm Board of Education 6:30pm Board of Elders Pastor Hinrichs in the Office	5 6:00pm School of Religion 7:30pm Lent Worship	6	7	8 7:00am Men's Bible Study
9 Communion Sunday 8:30am Prayer & Preaching 9:45am Bible Study 11:00am Worship 6:30pm 8th Grade Confirmation	10 7:00pm Woman's Bible Study	11 2:30pm Hillcrest Bingo 6:30pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council Pastor Hinrichs in the Office	12	13 5:30pm Maundy Thursday Worship Supper Fellowship	14 7:30pm Good Friday Worship	15 7:00am Men's Bible Study
16 Communion Sunday 6:30am Sunrise Service Easter Breakfast 11:00am Worship	17 Office closed 7:00pm Woman's Bible Study	18 Pastor Hinrichs in the Office	19 6:00pm School of Religion	20	21 Upper Fellowship Hall reservation	22 7:00am Men's Bible Study
23 Communion Sunday 8:30am Prayer & Preaching 9:45am Bible Study 11:00am Worship 1:30pm Voter's meeting 6:30pm 8th Grade Confirmation 7:00pm Forerunners	24 6:00pm LWML 7:00pm Woman's Bible Study	25 Pastor Hinrichs in the Office am only	26 5:30pm SOR skating party	27 1:30pm Hillcrest Service 2:30pm Brookdale McCook Service	28	29 7:00am Men's Bible Study
30 Communion Sunday 8:30am Prayer & Preaching 9:45am Confirmation reception 11:00am Worship with Confirmation Upper Fellowship Hall reservation						