



'TIDINGS OF PEACE' from

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

411 EAST 6TH STREET

MCCOOK, NE 69001

TO:

Three horizontal lines for an address.

TIDINGS OF PEACE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

LUTHERAN CHURCH

For many of us, May is one of the busier months of the year. There are final projects at school for the kids, graduation celebrations to attend, planting to be done, summer sports to be started, and so much more. Sometimes this hectic pace of life threatens to overwhelm us as we feel the weight of our schedule.

As if that wasn't enough, there is one other thing that many of us enjoy doing in the spring, and that is fishing. There is something that helps a person relax as they cast their line out in the water and enjoy God's creation.

I once heard a sermon from a beloved pastor and mentor of mine, Pastor Russ Weise, who spoke about "The Power of the Pause". Unlike the casual fisherman I am, He was an avid master, subscribing to all the journal and magazines, following all the trends, and keeping tabs on his favorite lakes. In this sermon, he mentioned an article about the importance of "the pause" in certain retrieval techniques. If you just keep cranking in the line, it doesn't work as well as it could. But when you pause, that's when you get that hit on your line.

This pastor then spoke about the busy lives we keep and how the

Lord has given us not only the invitation, but also the command to take time out "to pause" and spend time in His Word and to receive His gifts. This third commandment not only honors God, but refreshes us as we pause to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith (*Heb. 12:2*).

What a wonderful message for us not only this month, but every month. We know from Scripture that the Lord promises that His Word will work in us and strengthen us as we take time to pause and sit at His feet and learn from, as we learn from the story of Mary and Martha (*Luke 10:38-42*). In these times, we hear Him speak through His Word and receive His gifts. We don't need to guess when we'll get that God "hit" on our line, we know exactly how and where He will show up.

As you may have noticed, this portion of my article seems to be a bit shorter than usual. This is intentional. On the second page, where we'd normally continue this reflection, you will find a devotion that will give you a chance to "pause" and be refreshed by God's Word. We pray this different approach will be a blessing to you. May you always remember the power of the pause, as you are strengthened by His Word and in His gifts!



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FROM AN ELDER

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Philipians 2:3

A recent George Barna Group survey has found there is a great difference between church-going and non-church-going Christians. That difference can be summed up in two sentences:

1. Non-church-going believers say they are "spiritual, but not religious."
2. Non-church-going believers say they "love Jesus, but not the church."

The non-church-going group is growing. That's right. In 2004 that segment of believers was around 7%. Today, that number has jumped to 10%.

And if you asked the non-church-attending believers why he feels the way he does, he would say, "It's because in the church I have met hypocrites. They say they love as Jesus did, but no matter how long I worship with them, I'm still a stranger."

I can't argue against the criticisms of those non-church goers. I can't deny what they are saying because they are speaking from personal experience. Churches and church-going believers can sometimes be as bad as these folks suggest...sometimes.

Is there an answer? Sure, to love as Jesus loved. In that spirit.

To the non-church goers, I would say the Bible *always* encourages God's people to be as one. We are to support each other, bear each other's burdens, commune, and do mission work together. Generally speaking, non-church goers don't do all those things.

To the church-goers I would say remember that we are *always* the Lord's representatives, and it is our job to do the things listed above. Neither a new guest nor an old-time member should ever leave us – or our church - feeling that Christ's church no longer looks like Jesus.

(Excerpts taken from a Daily Devotion from the Lutheran Hour Ministries)



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Ron Buck	5/1	Nicole Rawn	5/10	Joseph Vetrovsky	5/22
Jerry Calvin	5/1	Lisa Schoup	5/11	Jayde Aufrecht	5/23
Sarah Risenhoover	5/1	Derek Metzger	5/12	Vaunda Hyde	5/23
Brenda Grube	5/2	Patricia Nielsen	5/12	Peggy Poore	5/23
Austin Thompson	5/2	Kysen Hazlitt	5/14	Danielle Schumacher	5/24
Samson Ziebell	5/2	Allyx Garretson	5/15	Lindsay McConville	5/25
Jeff Polly	5/5	Amanda Pearce	5/15	Shane Buch	5/26
Henry Rawn	5/6	LaVonne Hanchera	5/16	Gerald Gohl	5/29
Sharon Kircher	5/7	Linda Richards	5/17	Willard Roedel	5/30
Dale Poore	5/8	Jenna Smith	5/17	John Swanhorst	5/30
Harlan Reiners	5/8	Spencer Rogers	5/18	Treven Critchfield	5/31
Jacob Krause	5/9	Scott Hanchera	5/19	Elizabeth Yilk	5/31

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Alyssa & Todd Bauer	5/3/2014	3	Mitch & Aimee Hazlitt	5/22/2010	7
Cindy & Mitchell Soucek	5/12/2000	17	Ron & Jeanne Rogers	5/23/1971	46
Tom & Cindy Shields	5/14/1983	34	Harold & Paulette Carlson	5/24/2008	9
Joel & Linda Smith	5/18/1991	26	Gerald & Kristi Novak	5/30/1981	36
Nicholas & Hanah Nothnagel	5/21/2016	1	Raymond & Patricia Fisher	5/31/1964	53

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 (April 30th-May 6th)	Month to Date (April 9th-May 6th)	Actual Year to Date (Jan. 1st-May 6th)	Budget to Date (Jan. 1st-May 6th) <i>18th week</i>
Offerings	\$1,369.00	\$18,188.16	\$65,695.22	\$85,293.00
Expenses	\$8,897.67	\$17,941.71	\$56,414.73	\$85,293.00

This month's Going Beyond Sunday is for KNGN.

Going Beyond Sunday for Military Biblesticks was \$176.00.



Congratulations to our
2017 Confirmands!
Madelyn Bird, Emily
Kjendal, Olivia Koetter,
Spencer Rogers and
Zachary Tidyman!

BOARD OF EVANGELISM

We continue to provide salads every month for the "Feeding My Flock" community dinners at the Methodist Church. Thanks to everyone who supports this important ministry. We also continue to mail out anniversary and birthday cards to church members. Through information provided by the McCook Welcome Service, we also reach out to newcomers in the community who list their church preferences as Lutheran or note no church preference. A church pamphlet is mailed out to the person and they are invited to worship with us. Peace Lutheran has been incredibly blessed over the last couple of years, with several new families joining our congregation. The Board of Evangelism is starting a new project that will assist our members in getting to know our newest members. We would like to take pictures of new families and feature each family for a month on poster board in the narthex. We will also be asking families to write a brief paragraph about their family to go along with the picture. The Board of Evangelism members will be reaching out to new members after church services to take those pictures. Cathy Broz, Nancy Rippen and Cindy Swanhorst.

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!



MAY READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
7th	4th Sunday in Easter	Acts 2:42-47	1 Peters 2:19-25	John 10:1-10
14th	5th Sunday in Easter	Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
21st	6th Sunday in Easter	Acts 17:16-31	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
28th	7th Sunday in Easter	Acts 1:12-26	1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11	John 17:1-11



"APRIL SHOWERS, MAY FLOWERS, AND THE GOD WHO GIVES THE GROWTH"

There's a pretty good chance that you've heard the saying: "April showers bring May flowers." But have you ever stopped to consider that there is wisdom in this saying that goes beyond simply telling us what the weather is usually like in fourth and fifth months of the year. There is a relationship being spoken of between the rain and the flowers. It is a relationship in which the flowers depend on rain for life. We know from our flowerbeds, our gardens, and our fields, that if there isn't much rain then there won't be much growth and there certainly won't be much fruit. Those "April showers" are needed much more often than in April alone.

It continues to amaze me that God would use His creation to teach us about our relationship with Him and the April showers and May flowers we're now enjoying are no exception. The Lord says to us in Isaiah 55:10-11.

*"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return to it without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."*

As Christians, we are dependent upon this Word that pours down out of the mouth of God. God's Word comes to this earth and, through that Word, the Holy Spirit works to create and strengthen faith where there otherwise would be none. We know what it is like to have a dry summer, to watch as the crops struggle along, and to have yields that are less than we were expecting. The same is true when that Word of God isn't "showering down" upon us that often.

Are you feeling a little dry these days as you walk with God? Are you dealing with certain challenges in your life or your family that leave your strength and your spirit sapped? To you, and to all His people, God gives the wonderful promise that His Word will not return to Him empty. It will achieve the purpose for which He sent it. God says that He will work through that Word to fill us up, to give us life, and even to produce the fruitful flowers of faith. His Word will bring about His good purposes for our life.

What are these purposes? We know from Scripture that God "desires all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:4). He desires to keep us, and the whole world, in Him "being rooted and grounded in love" (Eph. 3:17), having the forgiveness, life, and salvation that we so desperately need. As we hear His Word in faith, He will keep us strong in Him. The struggles of the world and the dryness of our spirit, will be quenched with His life-giving waters.

So there you have it. April Showers, May Flowers, and the God who gives the growth. May that Word of God live in You as you go through the seasons of your life. And on that final day when Christ returns, he will find a ripe harvest, as he gathers all who have been blessed by that Word into our heavenly home. What a joy it is to live in His Word!

In Christ,
Pastor Brett



COUNCIL CORNER

Council - At a Glance

Peace Lutheran Church Council met on Tuesday April 11th and opened with Russ 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. Voters meeting set for Sunday April 23rd – reports due by Thursday. Evangelism would like to put up a new families display board. The Trustees want to reorganize the various storage areas including a better place for chair rack and preschool materials. Education would like to give bonuses for the preschool staff (approved). VBS will be July 18-20 and ran by Camp Luther. Pastor Hinrichs reported he has been doing visitations and planning a new members class after Easter. Confirmation is set for Sunday April 30 and there has been one funeral since the last council meeting.

Discussion on unfinished business topics including: 1.) TCN (transforming church networks) update – nothing to report. 2.) Fireworks stand – concern for and discussion about getting a manager(s). 3.) Internet – still having problems. 4.) Golf tournament – set for May 27, planning continues. 5.) Easter breakfast – still collecting donations, proceeds will go to Ryan & Keri Ankersen for medical expenses from complications when their daughter Eliana was born.

New business items/discussion: 1.) Call list – call committee has been meeting and interviewing candidates from list. They have narrowed it down to and recommend 3 candidates: Pastor Christopher Asbury, Pastor Garen Pay and Pastor Karl Schloeman. Council approved for advancement to voters assembly. 2.) Ramp project – one completed, next one being planned. 3.) Health fair – planning for mid October, will organize a committee. 4.) Crosses – Harold requested permission to place the 3 crosses in church lawn after Maundy Thursday and before Good Friday service (approved).

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



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

May 7th	
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	George Wurm
Acolyte	Need Volunteer
Acolyte	Need Volunteer
Powerpoint	Jeff Pinkerton

May 14th	
11:00am Service	
Elder on duty	Paul Schaffert
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Russ Ankersen
Greeter	Deb Shields
Greeter	
Usher	Paul Sellers
Usher	
Lay Reader	Harold Carlson
Acolyte	Need Volunteer
Acolyte	Need Volunteer
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen

May 21st	
11:00am Service	
Elder on duty	Darrell Eckhardt
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Paul Sellers
Greeter	Janet Bamesberger
Greeter	Dale Bamesberger
Usher	Ben Schow
Usher	Brandon Smith
Lay Reader	Fred Gleason
Acolyte	Need Volunteer
Acolyte	Need Volunteer
Powerpoint	Nadia Schoup

May 28th	
11:00am Service	
Elder on duty	Ron Aufrecht
Organist	
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	Need Volunteer
Greeter	Phyllis Berndt
Usher	Dennis Chipman
Usher	
Lay Reader	Curt Swanhorst
Acolyte	Need Volunteer
Acolyte	Need Volunteer
Powerpoint	Stacie Aufrecht

<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>KNGN Sponsor</u>
7th-Available	7th-Available
14th-Calvin/Carlson	14th-Available
21st-Available	21st-Available
28th-Hyde	28th-Hyde

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

Ah yes, it is that time of year again. Didn't you know it is chick days at the local farm supply store? Well indeed it is and right before Easter too, so the grandchildren can enjoy the cute little chicks. Well for me I could see beyond that moment and looked forward to when they would become fryer size. Well as fate would have it a varmint penetrated the protective barriers during the night and slayed most of the flock. To see the fateful chicks lying everywhere was disheartening to say the least. It wasn't the cost, work, or future frying pan visions that bothered me; it was the fact that greed infects all warm-blooded living things. Why didn't that varmint, if he was hungry, take only what it needed? Why meaninglessly take the lives of so many others? I pondered then at how many times I have been consumed by greed. Do I want more to farm? Do I desire more money? Do I want more material things, more toys? At one point in my life or another, I would have to say I chose "Yes" to all of these questions and I bet you can think of similar greedy instances in your life as well. Greed convinces us that we would be happier if we had more money, more things, and more power. The Bible commands us to trust in God, not desires "As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy" 1Timothy 6:17. Jesus warns us of greed in the parable of the rich fool "And he went on to say to them, "Watch out and guard yourselves from every kind of greed; because your true life is not made up of the things you own, no matter how rich you may be" Luke 12:15. And we can surly be inspired by the Wisdom of Solomon "The greedy bring ruin to their households, but the one who hates bribes will live" Proverbs 15:27. We need to praise God everyday for the things He has given us. When we learn to love Jesus more than money, material possessions, or power, we find that He is the greatest treasure of our lives. We will discover that having Jesus in our hearts and mind pushes out all other greedy desires. If it takes a greedy varmint to make me realize this, then that becomes a small sacrifice to pay, waking me up to the realization that my priorities need to be in order "And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your soul?" Mark 8:36. We may not ever possess the things we covet, but those things consume our attention, the attention we need to be giving to our Lord and Savior. Dear God, make me richer in you and turn my greed into generosity. Amen.



Peace Lutheran Church

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May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 4:00pm Board of Education 6:30pm Board of Elders Pastor Hinrichs in the Office	3	4	5 Upper Fellowship Hall reservation	6 7:00am Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
7 8:30am Prayer & Preaching 9:45am Bible Study 11:00am Worship 3:00pm MS Society	8	9 2:30pm Hillcrest Bingo	10	11	12 Upper Fellowship Hall reservation	13 7:00am Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
14 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:30am Prayer & Preaching 9:45am Bible Study 11:00am Worship	15	16 9:00am Worship Committee 6:30pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council Pastor Hinrichs in the Office	17	18 Upper Fellowship Hall reservation	19	20 7:00am Men's Bible Study
21 8:30am Prayer & Preaching 9:45am Bible Study 11:00am Worship 7:00pm Forerunners	22 6:00pm LWML	23 Pastor Hinrichs in the Office	24	25 1:30pm Hillcrest Service 2:30pm Brookdale McCook Service	26	27 7:00am Men's Bible Study
28 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:30am Prayer & Preaching 9:45am Bible Study 11:00am Worship	29 Office closed	30 Pastor Hinrichs in the Office am only	31			