

APRIL TIDINGS

Volume 83, APRIL 1, 2025

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"Peace United Church of Christ is a multigenerational community of faith. We welcome people of all ages, races, and life situations to join with us in service."

Office Hours:
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday 9AM—Noon
Tuesday 8AM-11AM

Website:
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Peace Church—Elkader



From the "Pen" of Pastor Paula

"Progressive Christians should read the Bible"—a rather intriguing title for an article in THE CHRISTIAN CENTURY! It was written by a writer, educator and now seminarian, Debie Thomas. As she described her journey with the Bible as a child, teenager, young adult and now in her middle age years, her article sparked memories of my own life journey and perhaps yours as well. So how about a walk down memory lane?! I still have the first Bible given in Sunday School, its red cover long since torn off yet still has the page with the faded signature of a long deceased pastor and the date it was given. I was taught in Sunday School that Bibles could not have notes or punctuation marks in the margins nor passages underlined because the Bible was too sacred to be desecrated. The word Bible meant Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth.

In college, I nearly flunked a required course entitled "Literature of the Old and New Testament" because it involved views that clashed with the childhood teachings. In time, understanding the Bible broadened due to a two year intensive Bethel Bible study course. Seminary training involved learning to read the Old Testament in the original Hebrew and the New Testament in the original Greek. This gave new meaning to familiar passages and expanded knowledge of the times and the people of the Bible.

Still, the Bible was presented as something that would help us know the mind of God and a seminary professor insisted that we could know the mind of God for it is possible to understand God. And yet, in Tanzania, the teachings of the Bible came alive in the lives of people among those who could not read but knew how to live faithfully and love God, their neighbors and themselves. In reality, they were living Bibles.

Debie Thomas writes on the meaning of the Bible in her middle age years, "I wrestle with the Bible. I contend with it, chew on it, argue with it, question it. I tell God honestly when it delights or appalls me. I believe that God's Spirit is in my bewilderment and rage as much as...in my awe and gratitude. If a story in scripture breaks my heart, I ask if it breaks God's heart, too. If I see Biblical characters invoking God's name to justify horrific acts, I don't assume that God is OK with those acts. Instead, I howl with God in sacred indignation...I see the Bible as a rich, multi-vocal, multi-generational library of conversations about God and with God, undertaken by flawed people who got the whole business wrong as often as they got it right...[having] evolving, seeking, lurching faith...three steps forward, two steps back."

And Debie Thomas included this warning about the Bible: "...we can't afford to be ignorant of the Bible at this cultural moment when it is being weaponized against vulnerable people...whether we like it or not...the conversations [that the Bible generates]...have life and death consequences."

The Bible is incomplete, unfinished. Our own stories and those of generations of believers who have come before us, are a part of it. So, as we read the Bible, we trust that God will continue to nourish us, giving us new insights. And we can know that we do not need to know the whys, hows, if onlys. All we need to know is that God loves us. That love is found on every page in the Bible.

Have a happy and blessed Easter season!

Pastor Paula

April 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

* Coffee Fellowship after Worship Services on Sunday Mornings	Office Open Mon, Wed, & Thurs, Fri from 9 AM to noon Tues 8AM to 11AM	1 Happy Birthday Wanda Mantelle	2 5:30 Bell Choir, 6:30 Chancel Choir	3	4 Happy Birthday Holden Schutte	5 Celebration of Life for Marilyn Nielsen 9:30 Visitation 11AM Funeral Inurnment @
6 9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion	7 3:00 PM Stephen's Ministers Mtg.	8 Happy Birthday Deb Sylvester	9 5:30 Bell Choir, 6:30 Chancel Choir	10 2PM Peacemakers	11	12 Happy Birthday Joanne Gray
13 9:00 AM Palm/Passion Sunday Worship	14 5:30 PM: Church Council 6:30 Cub Scout Pack Mtg.	15 Happy Birthday Barb Chandler Jasmine Miller	16 5:30 Bell Choir, 6:30 Chancel Choir	17 1:30 Elkader Care Center Worship 5-6:30 Grace Café	18 7PM Good Friday Service Happy Birthday Kyle Jacobson	19
20 9:00 AM Easter Sunday Service with Holy Communion	21 Happy Birthday David Denner, Lanette Schutte	22	23 5:30 Bell Choir, 6:30 Chancel Choir Happy Birthday Kenny Leonard Marlis Huinker	24 Happy Birthday Kristina Bente	25	26 10:30 AM Grave-side service at Eastside cemetery for Jenny Olson
27 9:00 AM Worship	28 6:30 Cub Scouts	29 Happy Birthday Delvin Tieden Emily Jacobson	30 5:30 Bell Choir, 6:30 Chancel Choir Happy Birthday Sherri Lange			<u>May Tidings Deadline</u> May Tidings newsletter deadline will be Wednesday, April 23

LENTEN SERIES: Sunday, April 6: "In the Shadow of the Cross: the Anointing"

Sunday, April 13th: "In the Shadow of the Cross: the Parade of Palms/the Passion"

Friday, April 18th: "In the Shadow of the Cross: Death"

Sunday, April 20th: Easter Sunday "In the Light of the Empty tomb"

Council Minutes

Council Minutes for 2-11-2025 Present: Mike Anderson, Donna Buckman, Elaine Martin, Pastor Paula, Marlis Huinker, and Dwight Freitag Absent: Steve McCorkindale Special guest : Bruce Landis Mike called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM . Pastor Paula provided devotions. Mike asked for approval of the January minutes , motion passed. New Committee liaisons were appointed and are noted in the committee reports. Bruce presented a request to the council from the Cub Scout pack . The pack would like to do a fundraiser , selling Country Meat Sticks , now and perhaps during Ragbrai . Since Peace Church is the charter organization for the Cub Scout pack , permission is needed. motion passed. Bruce will relay to the Cub Scout pack leader Laurie Smith. Financial Report : Discussed Black Hills Energy bill for the church and parsonage. Increases noted for both. a motion to have an energy audit done, motion passed.. The council plans to evaluate the current parsonage lease agreement and update as needed . A motion for Marlis to be the name holder on the church credit card used for incidentals until a secretary is secured , motion passed. Marlis will continue to be the financial liaison. Pastor's Report: In the past month , Pastor Paula has participated in Bell and Chancel choir practices and performances, clergy text study, prep for Sunday worship (bulletins and sermons), Tidings article, miscellaneous secretarial duties, 2 funerals, updating bulletin boards, Elkader Care Center worship, serving at Grace Cafe, visitations, and attending Stephen Ministers meeting. Building and Grounds: Mike and Dwight will serve as the council liaison. Mike reported that he is waiting on a quote from Ethan Koehn to fill in the stairway from the street to Herbst Hall that is current roped off. Worship and Altar: Steve will serve as the council liaison. The committee will explore how the Stephen Ministers can assist . Planning is underway for Ash Wednesday. Christian Education: Donna will serve as the council liaison. Missions: Elaine will serve as the council liaison. Memorial : Elaine will serve as the council liaison. Elaine has some volunteers to work on updating the church happenings/history to current. It was last worked on in 2016. Plan to have a work group meeting next week . Endowment: Ann McCorkindale will continue to chair this committee Old Business: Alpine has evaluated the phone changeover; at present we are still waiting for a quote so a timeline can be established . Marlis has completed the annual report minutes, these will be available for the congregation to view. New Business: The Cub Scout pack would like to use the church several Sunday afternoons in March for Pinewood derby preparations. The Pack currently meets the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 6:30 pm . A motion to approve the Cub Scouts request to use the church on several Sunday afternoons in March , motion passed. Currently , we have one applicant for the church secretary, the plan is to interview the candidate when Steve returns from vacation . Next meeting is [March 10th](#) at 5:30. Meeting adjourn at 6:35, Respectfully submitted by: Elaine Martin, Council Secretary

Now Hiring!!

If you or someone you know would be interested in filling the Church Secretary position, please contact the church at 563-245-2126. We are looking for someone to work part-time, mostly mornings during the week to fulfill secretarial duties which include answering phones, checking and sorting mail, updating the website, scheduling live streams, updating church records as needed, answering emails and inquiries, ordering supplies, creating monthly newsletters, and other duties as requested. The ideal candidate should be somewhat computer literate, friendly, and use discretion regarding personal information that may be shared.

Grace Café

Our clean out the freezer March Grace Café was a success! We served around 60 people and our church freezer is much lighter of our leftovers. Joanne has plans for May's Grace Café with the remaining leftovers (roast beef).

When looking at the calendar for April we see that Grace Café falls on Maundy Thursday. Perfect! We have decided that some hearty soup and homemade bread will be perfect for that meal. We will be making vegetable beef soup and chicken noodle soup, Joanne will make her Mom's bread and finish off the meal with a brownie. Please come and join us to share our meal on Thursday, April 17th from 5-6:30pm. Following the meal, we will go upstairs at 7:00pm for our Maundy Thursday worship, which you can join us if you wish.

Everyone is welcome to join us for our meal, there is no charge, but should you decide to donate the proceeds over food costs go towards our mission work at Peace Church. In March we were able to donate \$225 towards Wilke's Clayton County Food Shelf bags they are making up.

We do provide take outs and will deliver within city limits. For delivery please call 563-245-2126.

Prayer Requests

Attendance & Worship Offerings

Greg Anderson, Gus Augustson, Eli Belser, Betty Buchholz, Jonah Burns and Burns family, Deb Dennler, Karen Glesne, Linda Glesne, Penny Jacobson, Karla, Ruth Grau, Ruth Olson, Lucena Phelps, Sharon Reichert, Payton Renschler, Father James,	March 2, 2025	40	\$4666
	March 9, 2025	49	\$1342
	March 16, 2025	54	\$1561
	March 23, 2025	46	\$766

Care Center/Assisted Living Residents

Karen Glesne, Joyce
Hoth, Ruth Grau, Ruth
Olson,

New Address:

Sandy Kramer
3400 Alburnett Road
#203
Marion, IA 52302

HISTORY LOVERS! - The church history workgroup is updating the photo gallery in the narthex—if anyone has pictures or news articles from 2016-present we would appreciate you sharing these with us. Also, if anyone has pictures when the Christian Education addition was built or the parsonage these would be greatly appreciated. You can drop the pictures at the office or with a workgroup member, Elaine Martin, Sue Stott, Tom and Mary Webber, Nancy McClure and Greg Anderson. Thanks so much!!

Sign up for Weekly Volunteer
Opportunities by scanning
this QR Code



Time & Talent

Bread for the Journey

Readings for 4/6/25

Isaiah 43:15-21

Psalms 126

Phillippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

Readings for 4/13/25

The story of the Passion:
Luke 22:14-23:56

Readings for 4/18/25 Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm 22

Hebrews 10:16-25 or 4:14-16, 5:7-9
John 18:1-19:42

Readings for 4/20/25 Easter

John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12 Acts
10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25,
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Readings for 4/27/25

Acts 5:27-32 + Psalm 118:14-29
or Psalm 150, Revelation 1:4-8,
John 20:19-31

4/6
4/13
4/20
4/27

Opening/Closing

Bruce Landis 4/6
Sue Stott 4/13
Carl & Laura Moser 4/20
Gary Kuehl 4/27

Reader

4/6 Arlene Reimer
4/13 Sue Stott
4/20 Laura Moser
4/27 Mary Webber

Communion Prep &

4/6 +4/20 Bruce Landis

Usher/Greeter

Gerald & Arlene Reimer
Dean & Joanne Gray
Steve & Ann McCorkindale
Kristina Bente

Fellowship

Mary Webber
Sue Stott
Steve & Ann McCorkindale
Kristina Bente

Food Shelf Donation Driver

Penni Leonard

If you can Not volunteer on the date, Please call Or email the office.

Thank you for volunteer-
ing !

Shepherd of the Hills Ministries

UPDATE – APRIL 2025



Our year is not starting out as great as we had hoped. Our furnace quit working and therefore we had to replace and upgrade to a more efficient unit with central air. It is something that was unforeseen and needed to be taken care of immediately. We remain open with no heat for 11 days. Because Shepherd of the Hills operates from donations we really could use your support to help with this big expense. All donations sent should be noted on the memo line "Furnace repair". We are very blessed to have communities and churches support Shepherd of the Hills, specially NOW!

Clothing Center Updates:

We will be doing a season change over (Winter to Spring) so we will not be taking any winter items past March 28th. Please be patient as this process takes time. Remember that we would love to take all of your donations but there are some items that is impossible to keep. Really worn clothing, stained, holes, non –working zippers/snaps and rusty utensils will not be kept. Appointments are still required so I can staff accordingly. Thank you for thinking of us when it comes to donations. These items are needed in our area and bringing it here, they generally stay in the area.

Shepherd Conference News

Confest will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Monona on April 30th from 5:45-7:45pm. Please RSVP to Pastor Erika by April 23rd. This event is open to all conference churches with confirmation students and chaperones. There will be fun activities, worship and lunch served. All churches are encouraged to attend along with Pastors.

Please remember during this Lenten season to support your church with joining in worship and fellowship. Lenten meals are happening all around us and they do need your support as well. Not to mention the food is great too!

The Operating Fund pays the utilities, insurance on the building, supplies, salaries and Lawn/Snow Care. The Crisis Fund is used to help families with emergency rent or utilities and our sponsored events throughout the year. Please utilize the MEMO LINE on your check to specify Crisis or Operating Fund! Please indicate what church you are from as well to provide better bookkeeping.

IMPORTANT EVENTS/DATES:

Confest—April 30, 2025

**Ascension Day Service-May
29th 2025**

**NE Iowa Synod Assembly
June 6-7, 2025**

**Any event may be subject to change*

Shepherd of the Hills:

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