

THE HERALD



From the Pastor:

May 2018

This will be my last pastor's letter for the newsletter. What does a pastor say when concluding twenty-four years at a congregation? You have shared your joys with me: the birth, baptisms, and confirmation of your children. You have asked me to officiate at your weddings. You have also shared with me the most difficult times in your lives: divorces, job losses, the death of loved ones, and life-threatening illnesses. These have not been easy for me. When one is a pastor for such a long time in one congregation, one develops deep pastoral relations; sharing in grief and sorrow becomes more difficult. Pastoral care is a ministry that I have found very rewarding, even in difficult times.

I also have been on the receiving end of your love and care. When I had my heart attack and open-heart surgery thirteen years ago, I experienced your care in a profound way. Honestly, it was difficult for me to be on the receiving end. You gave me the time off and the support I needed to recuperate from that health crisis.

You have put up with some of my ways of doing things and the changes I have introduced, and I truly appreciate that. I will be the first to admit that some of the things I introduced were probably mistakes, but you accepted my leadership in spite of all that. I am especially grateful that you have extended a welcome to the Deaf community in Lincoln, as they are my family. It is my hope that you will continue to be a welcoming community extending God's grace and love to ALL people.

Our daughter, Gina was not even six years old when we came to Heritage and you (along with Camp Calvin Crest and the Synod School of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies) have helped nurture her faith. She enjoyed participating in the choirs and serving as liturgist at Heritage. You ordained her as a ruling elder. Most importantly, she had the opportunity to develop relationships with people of all ages and many different backgrounds. All of this laid the groundwork for her sensing God's call to the ministry. For those of you who do not know, Gina is not only working on her Masters of Divinity degree, a three year program to prepare to be an ordained pastor, she has also been accepted into the Masters of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy program at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, which adds another two years to her education. (Each of those degrees are three-year degrees, but students can do both in five years.) We sincerely appreciate Heritage's support.

Many of you have asked if we will be moving from Lincoln. That is a possibility in the future. For now, we plan to remain in Lincoln as we need time to rest and to discern where God might be leading us. I will continue my work part-time as Stated Clerk of Homestead Presbytery, and hope to continue studies to become a registered parliamentarian.

It is difficult to say "good-bye." We have lived in Lincoln longer than we have lived anywhere else. We have enjoyed the community and the many good opportunities that it offers, and we will miss you and the Heritage congregation. Thank you for the many ways you have loved us. Thank you for inviting us into your homes. Thank you for the ways you have encouraged us. We love each of you, and it is very sad that we must say goodbye. It has been a privilege and a blessing to serve you, and we ask and pray that you extend the same love and support that we have received to whoever may provide leadership to you in the days and years to come.

Raymond & Ramona



Communion will be celebrated each Sunday in the season of Easter, Pentecost, & Trinity Sunday



MAY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

03 Larry Tombs
 05 Gene Harmon
 07 Dexter Thompson
 10 Emily Broeder
 10 Mason Pierce
 12 Dennis Hett
 12 Christie Werner
 13 Wade Kendle
 14 John Gibson
 14 Audrey Schneider
 15 Arnold Wells
 18 Lief Tomas
 19 Sonia Colberg
 19 Scott Hunzeker
 19 Ella Lowe
 21 Randall Stroepe
 22 Candice Minks
 22 Cynthia Smetter
 26 Ruth Hunzeker
 28 Norm Zink
 29 Isabella Kendle



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

07 Jim & Stephanie Newman
 07 Enrique & Nicole Ramirez
 10 Willis & Barbara Duerksen
 24 Ron & Leanne Miller
 26 Harvey & Kay Traudt (57 years!)

Please notify the church office if your birthday or anniversary was incorrect so we can make the necessary changes.



HERITAGE BIRTHDAY CLUB

Congratulations to new
 Heritage Birthday Club Members:
**Greg, Robyn, Piper, and Jemma
 Mason**

Consider renewing or joining Heritage's Birthday Club. Donations (usually 1 dollar per year of life) are made to our endowment fund.



CALLING ALL DUCs

DUCs will meet on Sunday, May 20 following worship.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR 2018 GRADUATES!

Belle Kendle, the daughter of Wade & Debbie Kendle will graduate from East High School.
Mason Pierce, son of Jeff & Cindy Pierce, will graduate from Lincoln High School.
Mason Smith, son of Dean Smith, will graduate from Lincoln Southeast High School
Zoe Tomas, daughter of Glenn & Sonya Tomas, will graduate from Lincoln High School.
Elisabeth Wahlgren, daughter of Jeff & Patty Wahlgren, will graduate from Millard North.
Patty Wahlgren will graduate on May 4 from the University of Nebraska-Omaha with a Master of Arts in Social Gerontology.

BEST CHOICE



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ONGOING YOUTH FUNDRAISERS PLEASE SAVE BEST CHOICE UPCs AND USED PRINTER CARTRIDGES

We submitted 2000 Best Choice labels for redemption and we are awaiting a check for \$90. Remember each Best Choice UPC nets 3 cents for our youth! Thanks to all who continue to support this program which provides financial assistance to our youth program.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Circle will meet June 5 at 11:30 AM for a salad luncheon in the Gibson Room. We invite all women to join, even if you have not attended before. **This will be the final meeting until fall.**



LET'S RECOGNIZE OUR WONDERFUL TEACHERS AND CHILDREN!

On Sunday, May 13, we will recognize our wonderful Sunday School teachers and students during worship. On Sunday, May 20, we will have our annual Pentecost Party for the Sunday School children. **This will be the final Sunday School class until September.**



GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Thank you to all who joined with millions of other

Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Together, our gifts will:

- assist Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to work within communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters;
- help the Presbyterian Hunger Program take action to alleviate hunger and its systemic causes, and helps create access to healthy food for entire communities; and
- allow the Self-Development of People to partner with people and communities with tools for development and education to alleviate poverty, oppression, and injustice.

Heritage will be forwarding \$640.00 to our national church for this offering. Thank you so much for helping us meet our goal of \$600.00!

MOTHER'S DAY DONATIONS-MAY 13

We will continue our Mother's Day tradition of donating items to help other mothers in our community who need a little extra help and encouragement. Like last year, the items will be donated to CEDARS Healthy Families Program. Items most in need are large size diapers, diaper rash creams, wipes, and money for crisis funds.



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH THE SRPING CLEAN UP

Thank you so much to all who helped with the church clean-up day on April 7. Pat Zink and Barb Shaeffer provided a wonderful breakfast and lunch for us (and they cleaned the fridge!). Amanda Miller provided the donuts. Working on projects around the church: Lew Sieber, Karen Griffin Sieber, Jay Weyers, Nancy Weyers, Scott Minks, Jackie Smith, Ron Smith, Dehnia Bullerdiek, Nicole Ramirez, Sydney Miller, Ron Miller, Leanne Miller, Judy Guilliat, Jim Guilliat, Isaiah Guilliat, Scott Helvie, Lori Helvie, Ray Meester, Ramona Meester, Danny Broeder, Tamra Broeder, and Sue Nelson.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PENTECOST

PENTECOST OFFERING-INVESTING IN OUR GREATEST RESOURCE

The Pentecost Offering is all about helping young people begin life with a strong start – a solid foundation of faith formed in the first third of life, from childhood through young adulthood. Gifts to the Pentecost Offering unite young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. This offering will be received until Pentecost Sunday on May 20.



RETURNING FOR SUMMER 2018-MISSION BINGO

Join the fun this summer with the Mission Committee's BINGO game! BINGO cards will be available on May 20 -- see how many of the 20 different activities you and/or your family can complete during the summer months. Activities include things you can do at home, at the church or in our community. Some will cost nothing, some will be donations of items, some will ask for donations of money. Hopefully, we have included something for everybody! At the end of the summer, turn in your card for a chance to win a prize. The more BINGO's you have the better your chances!



TIME TO PLAN FOR RAY'S RETIREMENT

We will be celebrating Ray's retirement on Sunday, June 3 (more info to come on that). If you have pictures of Ray (weddings, baptisms, confirmations, etc.) that we can use for a slide show, please e-mail to Amber (assistant@HeritagePres.org) by May 23. If you do not have digital pictures, please get them to the church office so they can be scanned. Also, if you would like to make a donation towards a retirement gift, please just make a note on your check "Ray's retirement".



RANDOLPH BACKPACK PROGRAM

Help us send one more backpack home with some of the students at Randolph for the summer break – we need 16 sets of cereal, pudding, can of vegetables, can of soup and a can of fruit. Please bring donations to the church by May 13 for delivery later that week.

LECTIONARY FOR MAY

May 6 – Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

May 13 – Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

May 20 – Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 27 – Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

SAVE THESE DATES

May 29: Session meets

June 3: Pastor Ray's retirement celebration

July 22-27: Synod School at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, IA

September 9: Sunday School resumes

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Issued monthly, Issue #5-18

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**DEADLINE FOR THE
NEXT HERALD**

Items received after

May 21, 2018

may not be included

in June Herald