



'TIDINGS OF **PEACE**' from

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
411 EAST 6TH STREET
MCCOOK, NE 69001

TO:

TIDINGS OF **PEACE**

July 2019

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*H*ello,

Summer has finally arrived! Temperatures and humidity are high, lightning bugs blink in the flowerbeds and trees or shoot across the yard like a miniature shooting stars, and again yesterday I began to hear a loud buzzing sound coming from the trees—yes, summer is here!

And as I write to you, I'd like to share with you a ministry that is taking place this summer with Peace Lutheran; I call it "The Shop." The Shop is a mentor ministry where adults and young people get together each Wednesday evening to work on mechanical things like cars, lawn-mowers, small engines, wood, welding, and the like. My goal is that those who participate conduct themselves as is written in

Micah six verse eight; "He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." The ministry has been going for a little over a month, and while our group is small right now, I believe it won't be long till we outgrow my garage. So, please keep us in your prayers, and if you'd like to come by sometime and check out this ministry, you'll find us in my garage or driveway on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 till 8:30.

Oh, one last thing, the reason this edition of the newsletter is late is because I delayed in turning in this note.

God's richest blessings to
you,
Pastor

**PLC Shepherd**

Pastor Lonnie Felcher
revfelcher@hotmail.com
Emergency (308)737-6750

Creative Preschool Director

Mandy Dame
mycreativepreschool@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant

Tina Cummins
office@plcmccook.org

Congregational President

Russ Ankersen
RJAnkersen@parker.com

Congregational Vice President

Fred Gleason
ggmccook4@yahoo.com

Elder Chairman

Harold Carlson
hsputz@gmail.com

Council Secretary

Sue Ankersen
ankrsen@msn.com

Treasurer

Keith Oetting
treasurer@plcmccook.org

Financial Secretary

Jan Hubert

FROM AN ELDER

As I sat down to write this, I wondered what will I use as my topic. There are times that is the case when I lack inspiration. But from somewhere I am motivated to put something together, usually my brain all month as to what I wanted to use. And then it came to me, not by inspiration, but by living experience.

Forgiveness is a topic that we can always use, because it is always available. By my own experience, today, and the last couple of days, forgiveness and the reason for it, hit me square on. It had come to my attention that I had offended a fellow Christian and that I needed to do something about it. The easy way out is to shrug it off and go on your way, but that's not the Christian way. It's not the way God wants us to handle it.

God offers forgiveness freely whether we ask for it or not, but He wants us to acknowledge our sin, repent of our sin, and ask for forgiveness. And that forgiveness is offered to us by the blood of Jesus, shed on the cruel cross on Good Friday. It was good for us, but not for Jesus.

With that in mind, I apologized to that person, which for most of us, is hard to do. And we worked out our problems, with the apology accepted. We will try to go ahead with our lives, as nothing ever happened. Forgiveness is a wonderful thing, whether the actions of sinful human beings, or by God.

But the forgiveness God offers goes way beyond what we can do with one another. That forgiveness assures us eternal life! In Psalms 103:12, it states that our sins are removed from us, as far as the east is from the west. And in Isaiah 43:25, we are reminded that our transgressions are blotted out and he remembers our sins no more. If only we as sinful human beings could do that. We say "forgive and forget", but how often do we hang on to the "forget". God doesn't. We should pray for strength, wisdom and to love one another as fellow Christians, the sinners that we are.

**JULY BIRTHDAYS**

Avery Doucet	7/1	Patricia Phinney	7/16	Lila Leibrandt	7/22
Jack Seybold	7/1	Kasen Yilk	7/16	Mark Cummins	7/24
Cindy Soucek	7/2	Carla Bales	7/17	David May	7/24
Cinda Schmit	7/3	Easton Gillen	7/17	Laney Peters	7/26
Kayla Koetter	7/4	Grant Pfanstiel	7/17	Karli Swink	7/26
Chelsey Hartwell	7/6	Tristen Watts	7/17	Alex Sharp	7/27
Dalton Downing	7/7	Michael Chipman	7/19	Roger Stupka	7/27
Cindy Swanhorst	7/8	Craig Nemechek	7/19	Deb Lauer	7/28
Hannah Goltl	7/11	Melissa Hanchera	7/20	Kristi Novak	7/29
Elaine Soncksen	7/11	Sonja Thompson	7/20	Brigitta Post	7/29
Dennis Wudtke	7/11	Janine Hall-Pantenberg	7/21	Chad Coleman	7/30
Tom Ott	7/13	Richard Thompson	7/21	Nate Schneider	7/30
Ruby Ahrens	7/15	Charles Coleman	7/22	Cathy Broz	7/31
Tyler Loop	7/15				

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Kiley & Caitlin Roundtree	7/2/2011	8	Calvin & Brenda Grube	7/20/1984	35
Nate & Sarah Schneider	7/8/2006	13	Andrew & Bobbie Ziebell	7/21/2012	7
Breann & Christopher Cerda	7/10/2015	4	Mark & Tina Cummins	7/27/1991	28
Scott & Anna Mollring	7/16/2005	14	Phillip & Janice Bamesberger	7/28/1979	40
Allyx & Dillon Garretson	7/19/2008	11	James & Susan DeJonge	7/29/1967	52

We apologize if we have made a mistake. Please contact the office so we may get it corrected.

OUR FINANCES AT A GLANCE

	Week to Date (June 23rd-June 29th)	Month to Date (June 2nd-June 29th)	Actual Year to Date (January 6th-June 29th)
Offerings	\$3,290.00	\$12,833.00	\$112,227.00
Expenses	\$332.00	\$11,973.00	\$113,119.00

This month's Going Beyond Sunday is for Camp Luther.



FAMILY FISHING DERBY AND CAMPFIRE POTLUCK EVENT



JULY READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
7th	The 4th S. after Pentecost	Isaiah 66:10-14	Galatians 6:10-10, 14-18	Luke 10:1-20
14th	The 5th S. after Pentecost	Leviticus (18:1-5) 19:9-18	Colossians 1:1-14	Luke 10:25-37
21st	The 6th S. after Pentecost	Genesis 18:1-10a (10b-14)	Colossians 1:21-29	Luke 10:38-42
28th	The 7th S. after Pentecost	Genesis 18:(17-19) 20-33	Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19)	Luke 11:1-13



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article – July 2019

Whenever the topic of stewardship and giving comes up, the conversation inevitably turns to the question: "How much should I give?" Answers will vary because the motive behind such questions also vary.

Sometimes the motive behind asking this question is for self-justification. Even though, as Lutherans, we know we are not saved by our works but by grace through faith because of Jesus' substitutionary atonement, the natural religion of fallen man is to earn God's favor by what we do.

Take, for example, the response of our Lord to the rich young ruler who asked, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus first tells him to keep the commandments. The rich young ruler responds by indicating that all this he has kept from his youth. But Jesus tells him that he lacks one thing: He must sell all he has and give it to the poor and then follow Him.

This rich young ruler went away sad because he was quite wealthy and could not part with his possessions. Here we see that those who seek to justify themselves by their giving will hear a response that intensifies the duty that God places upon them. Indeed, they will hear a response that makes it impossible to win God's favor by their works.

But to those who genuinely desire to know their duty as Christians in the arena of giving, we look to the Bible for our answer. We believe the Bible is the Word of God. And we know that the Word of God has been "breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

So, we begin to answer the question, "What should I give?" with the question, "What does the Bible say about how much we should give and to whom?"

The Old Testament is explicit. The expectation is that the people of God would give a tithe – 10 percent – of the first fruits of their labor to support the full-time ministry of the Levites. This is what the Lord gave Moses to teach the people:

"You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always.

"And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire – oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves.

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"And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household. And you shall not neglect the Levite who is within your towns, for he has no portion or inheritance with you.

"At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do." (Deut. 14:22-29)

This principle of tithing is carried over into the New Testament, though not explicitly by calling it a tithe. St. Paul teaches the Church at Corinth the following:

We are to give to the church regularly (1 Cor. 16:1-2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (1 Cor. 16:1-2; Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23). And all of this is because the "Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living by the Gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14), just as the Levites did.

This is our New Testament standard. Since Christ became poor for us in order to make us rich in Him – blessing us with the riches of heaven – so we have also been so blessed to follow the example of our Lord and Savior and give of ourselves and the work of our hands to bless others with the same.

If we have been lax in this, let us, like our Lord, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross and scorned its shame, likewise begin to work toward this goal of regular giving of a generous proportion of the first fruits of God's giving to us.

And let us do so not begrudgingly, but for the joy set before us – with a spirit of eagerness, cheerfulness, and love – to share the blessings of God with those placed into our care.

ANNUAL PEACE LUTHERAN GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Peace Lutheran Church Community Outreach Golf Tournament will be Saturday, August 3, at Heritage Hills Golf Course. Proceeds from this year's tournament will be split between the McCook Food Pantry and the McCook TeamMates Mentoring Program. Please keep the tournament in prayer and also prayerfully consider how you might become involved. We will be accepting food donations for the Pantry starting in June up to the day of the event. A table has been set-up in the narthex where you can drop off your donations. Peace will be providing the meal the day of the event and we will be asking for donations of salads and desserts. Another way to be involved is by putting a team together if you are a golfer. We will also need volunteers the day of the event and would love to have members simply join us for the potluck meal. And, of course, we always welcome individual donations in any amount. Contact Nick Nothnagel (308-340-2703) if you have questions or would like to be involved.



TOOLS FOR STEWARDSHIP and EVANGELISM

SHUT INS

Please remember those who are unable to worship with us for one reason or another.

Hillcrest: Orian Fritz, Ruth Shields, Pam Leibbrandt, Harvey Ackermann, and Phyllis Berndt

Brookdale McCook: Leona Wudtke, Walt & Jean Sehnert, Paul & Ruby Ahrens, Adeline Kuhlmann, and Betty Harms.

Highland Park: Fred & Lois Boerger and Harlan & Bernita Reiners.

McCook: Mark Cummins

Arapahoe: Joyce Stupka

Butte: Don Kisker

St. Paul: Sandra Novak

Lincoln: Carla Bales

Scottsbluff: Betty Knapper

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 – Ron Aufrecht, Harold Carlson, Darrell Eckhardt, Phil Bamesberger, Victor Lauer, Fred Gleason or Russ Ankersen.

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Preschool to 5th grade children are invited to Sunday School each Sunday from 9:15-10:15am downstairs. 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.

**Altar Flowers**

7th-Available

14th-Available

21st-Available

28th-Available

KNGN Sponsor

7th-Available

14th-Available

21st-Available

28th-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.

July 7th

Elder on duty Victor Lauer
Organist KC Eckhardt
Audio Cathy Broz
Greeter Deb Shields
Greeter
Usher Eugene Custer
Lay Reader George wurm
Acolyte Addyson Snyder
Acolyte Austin Thompson
Powerpoint Jeff Pinkerton

Late Service

Greeter Myra Tietz
Greeter Jane Schuster
Usher Dennis Chipman
Lay Reader Harold Carlson
Acolyte Ryland Peters
Acolyte Laney Peters
Powerpoint Ben Schow
Video NEED VOLUNTEER

July 14th

Elder on duty Ron Aufrecht
Organist KC Eckhardt
Audio Russ Ankersen
Greeter Charlene Pfanstiel
Greeter Grant Pfanstiel
Usher Harold Carlson
Lay Reader Renelle Mooney
Acolyte Alexander Nielsen
Acolyte Aaron Nielsen
Powerpoint Russ Ankersen

Late Service

Greeter Cindy Swanhorst
Greeter Curt Swanhorst
Usher Paul Sellers
Lay Reader Grant Pfanstiel
Acolyte Trevon Critchfield
Acolyte Delaney Critchfield
Powerpoint Russ Ankersen
Video NEED VOLUNTEER

July 21st

Elder on duty Harold Carlson
Organist Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio Paul Sellers
Greeter Elaine Polly
Greeter Jeff Polly
Usher Gary Buk
Lay Reader Harold Carlson
Acolyte Camryn Yilk
Acolyte Kapri Loop
Powerpoint Tina Cummins

Late Service

Greeter Donna Hall
Greeter Jim Hall
Usher Ben Schow
Lay Reader Fred Gleason
Acolyte Emma Brown
Acolyte Elizabeth McConville
Powerpoint Jim Hall
Video Russ Ankersen

July 28th

Elder on duty Darrell Eckhardt
Organist Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio Harold Carlson
Greeter Melissa Blauvelt
Greeter Jay Blauvelt
Usher Jay Blauvelt
Lay Reader Jerry Calvin
Acolyte Abigail Schneider
Acolyte Brooklynn Gillen
Powerpoint Tina Cummins

Late Service

Greeter Lois Lepper
Greeter Pat Penner
Usher Curt Swanhorst
Lay Reader Curt Swanhorst
Acolyte Jacob Risenhoover
Acolyte Christien Kuykendall
Powerpoint Stacie Aufrecht
Video NEED VOLUNTEER



PEACE TALK

Have you ever been amongst a group of people and just want to blend in? You want to be quiet and not draw attention to yourself. Then all of a sudden your nose starts tingling. You think, oh no not a sneeze! You can pinch your nose or fidget around, but that sneeze is going to happen whether you like it or not. Now when some people sneeze it sounds like they just stepped on a mouse, others sound like mortar fire. Regardless of how discreet or wall shaking the "AAA-CHOO" is, it is hard to go unnoticed. Invariably, someone will respond with "Bless You!" Have you ever wondered why you need blessed after a sneeze? When I think of a blessing, I think about Jesus's sermon on the mount as He addressed the crowd with the Beatitudes as recorded in Matthew 5:1-12. However, no mention was made in the Bible toward the need to be blessed after a sneeze. Where did this custom of blessing come from? There are many ideas as to how this response comes about. One belief is that it originated in Rome when a deadly plague was raging through Europe in the fifth century. One of the symptoms of the plague was coughing and sneezing, and it is believed that Pope Gregory I (Gregory the Great) suggested saying, "God bless you" after a person sneezed in hopes that this prayer would protect them from an otherwise certain death. Another belief comes from an ancient myth stemming from a superstition from long ago when ancient man thought that the soul was in the form of air and resided in one's head (hmm, might be where the term "air head" come from). A sneeze, therefore, might accidentally expel the spirit from the body unless God blessed you and prevented this from occurring. Then others believe the phrase come from an ancient culture that thought sneezing forced evil spirits out of the body, endangering others because these spirits might now enter their own bodies. The blessing was granted to protect both the person sneezing and others around him. No matter where the term originated, in today's society it is not a bad thing to bless someone after a sneeze, or any other time for that matter. A blessing is the extension of good into the life of another. It always includes God, because we know only God is capable of bringing a blessing. When we say, "bless you" or "God bless you," we do this in the name of God for their behalf to support the good that you will for them. This is the true nature of a blessing. So whether it is extended after a sneeze or any other reason, it is a sincere and powerful act. God give us all a blessing we use quite often through Moses in Numbers 6:24-26 *"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace."* Amen.

Peace, Love and Unity
Phil Barnesberger



Peace Lutheran Church

411 East 6th Street
PO Box 240
McCook, NE 69001
PH (308)345-2595

July

2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	2 4:00pm Board Of Education 6:30pm Board of Elders	3	4 Office Closed	5	6 7:00am Men's Bible Study
7 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship 3:00pm MS Society Larry Hein Bob & Janet Hein	8 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	9 9:00am Worship Committee 2:30pm Hillcrest Bingo 6:30pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	10	11	12	13 7:00am Men's Bible Study
14 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship Gerald Hein Dorothy Henton	15 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	16	17	18	19	20 7:00am Men's Bible Study
National Youth Gathering		Vacation Bible School				
21 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship Evelyn Hilker Helen Hinz	22 6:00pm LWML PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	23	24	25 1:30pm Hillcrest Service 2:30pm Brookdale McCook	26	27 7:00am Men's Bible Study
28 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship Patricia Hoehner Dorene Hoffman Family	29 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	30	31			