

TIDINGS OF PEACE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

LUTHERAN CHURCH



'TIDINGS OF PEACE' from

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

TO:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

As I write to you the school year has begun, and Sunday School is in full swing. As I consider these things, I am reminded of something I experienced during my time at the seminary.

As a seminary student I was assigned to a "Fieldwork Church." The idea of a fieldwork assignment is to observe students as they work within a congregation—how they interact with people—how well they lead Bible class—how they perform under pressure.

In these things, I remember being assigned the task of teaching fifth grade Sunday School, and I remember many Sundays lamenting along with all the other teachers, that there were NO students to teach; we saw students in church from time to time, but rarely, if ever, did they attend Sunday School. Their lives were "Too busy for Sunday School." (Now, for you faithful few who insisted that your kids attend Sunday School, I applaud your efforts).

Because, in the last decade I have observed a change; that Sunday School Pendulum seems to be swinging back the other way. Members of that same generation who were busied with "other things" on Sunday morning, now seem to be taking another look at Sunday School; parents seem to

want more for their children than the uncertainty and confusion that the world offers.

These are exciting times for the church, and if I may, I ask you to bear with me as I make a generalized observation—again, this is a generalization; but it seems possible that some in the generation who now desire Sunday School for their children, may be hesitant to volunteer to teach for a couple of reasons: reason number one; they are still extremely busy. And the second reason for their hesitance might be that; having not attended much Sunday School as a child, some may be intimidated with the idea of teaching something of which they have little hands-on experience.

If I just described someone you know, if I may, I'd like to share with you something I learned in my prior life as a manager in a production facility; what I learned is simply this; I can teach job skills to a person, but I cannot teach them heart. Those employees who had a heart for work, had no trouble learning the skills needed to do the job, and do it well.

If this is you; if you have a heart for the faith of children, but are a little intimidated by the notion of teaching; please consider partnering with a teacher this year—just to watch and learn; and as you do that, listen to your heart. For these are indeed exciting times in the life of the church.

Thanks for reading.
Pastor.

Proverbs 22:6 "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it."

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FROM AN ELDER

Keep Your Eyes On Christ
I have been crucified with Christ. I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.
Galatians 2:19-20

The righteousness Paul is speaking about here is external and comes from Christ living in us. It's not internal, and it doesn't come from ourselves. So if we are concerned about Christian righteousness, we must completely set aside the self.

If I focus on myself, then I become concerned about works and become subject to the law—whether I intend to or not. Instead, Christ and my conscience must become one so that I see nothing else except the crucified and risen Christ. If I ignore Christ and only look at myself, then I am ruined. Soon I begin thinking, “Christ is in heaven, I am on earth. How can I come to him? I will try to live a holy life and do what the law requires so that I will find eternal life.” If I consider myself—my condition and what I should be doing—then I will always lose sight of Christ. He alone is my righteousness and my life. If I lose him, no one else will be able to help me. Despair and condemnation will certainly follow.

Unfortunately, this happens all the time. When facing temptation or death, it's natural for us to ignore Christ and look at our own lives. If you aren't strengthened through faith during those times, we will perish. So during these struggles of conscience, we must learn to let go of ourselves. We must forget about the law and works. They only drive us to look at ourselves. Instead, we must turn our eyes directly toward the bronze snake, Christ, the one nailed to the cross (John 3:14). We must fix our gaze upon him.

—taken from: *“Through Faith Alone”*
English translation of Martin Luther’s devotional writings.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Ben Vetrovsky	10/1	Marilyn Unger	10/11	Delaney Critchfield	10/23
Wade Hamilton	10/2	Lois Brown	10/12	Griffin Goltl	10/25
Iva Fritz	10/3	Mary Hazlitt	10/14	James Sprague	10/26
Velma Kircher	10/3	Dorinda Polly	10/14	Dan Unger	10/28
Candace Rogers	10/3	Danten Downing	10/15	Barbara Dunker	10/29
Sandy Lauer	10/4	Alexis Koetter	10/16	Linda Smith	10/29
Ron Rogers	10/5	Alexander Nielsen	10/20	Joann Nemechek	10/30
Charles Seybold	10/5	Piper Sprague	10/20	Chuck Gray	10/31
Mary Lou Hanson	10/7	Peyton Doucet	10/21	Teagan Strauch	10/31
Benjamin Schow	10/7	John Hubert	10/21	Angela Watts	10/31
Jerry Unger	10/8	Randon Peters	10/21		

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Brandon & Aly Smith	10/1/2021	3	Grant & Charlene Pfanstiel	10/22/1983	41
Adrianna & Jordan Gass	10/4/2014	10	James & Donna Hall	10/26/1996	28
Scott & Kristyl Hanchera	10/17/1981	43	Thomas & Cathy Broz	10/27/1984	40
Russ & Sue Ankersen	10/20/1979	45			

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

Check out our Facebook page (Peace Lutheran McCook NE)! Don't forget to "Like", "Follow" and "Share" it! We now have a YouTube channel (Peace Lutheran Church McCook) to view the Sunday services.

If you feel compelled to give, offering can be brought into the church office, mailed to P.O. Box 240 or direct deposited.

OUR FINANCES AT A GLANCE

	Week to Date (Sept. 22nd - Sept. 29th)	Month to Date (Sept. 1st-Sept. 29th)	Actual Year to Date (Jan. 7th-Sept. 29th)
Offerings	\$7,747.00	\$22,566.00	\$199,647.00
Expenses	\$1,612.00	\$19,592.00	\$206,274.00



LWML

Mite Box: Tiny Box - Huge Impact

LWML Nebraska South District Mission Grants for 2022-2024 were \$110,000. All mission grants were completed. Also 25% of all our mites go to LWML National to fulfill National Grants. Mites collected at Peace Lutheran will be going to the following mission Grants for 2024-2026. Our goal is \$115,000 in grants.

- \$36,000 Church Workers Scholarship
- \$10,000 Lutheran Braille Workers
- \$10,000 Common Threads Ministry
- \$12,000 Jesus Our Savior Lutheran Preschool
- \$17,000 Siouxland Hispanic Ministry
- \$8,000 Shepherds Canyon Retreat
- \$10,000 Students in Mission
- \$7,000 Lutheran Heritage Foundation
- \$5,000 Concordia Theological Seminary Food & Clothing Bank

Thank you to our Peace Lutheran family for faithfully serving and helping others through your mites. Praise be to God.

LET'S DO SUPPER TOGETHER

Join us young adults (kids included) for a pot luck style upper together at the church. October 27th at 5:00 where we will cook together, socialize, and kids can play and have fun! RSVP to Hanah at 737-1905 so we can assign menu items.

If this month doesn't work for you, don't worry!! The plan is to make this a regular monthly event where we can cook together, eat and have fun.

OCTOBER READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
6th	The 20th S. after Pentecost	Genesis 2:18-25	Hebrews 2:1-18	Mark 10:2-16
13th	The 21st S. after Pentecost	Amos 5:6-7, 10-15	Hebrews 3:12-19	Mark 10:17-22
20th	The 22nd S. after Pentecost	Ecclesiastes 5:10-20	Hebrews 4:1-16	Mark 10:23-31
27th	Reformation Day	Revelation 14:6-7	Romans 3:19-28	John 8:31-36 or Matthew 11:12-19



SHARE THE HEAT

A fundraiser for Share the Heat will be held at the Senior Center in McCook on Sunday October 27, from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. For a free will donation, you will enjoy homemade soups, salads and dessert . "Share the Heat" is a community program that stands ready when people in southwest Nebraska need help with their heating bills. The struggle to pay bills may have started when a serious event happened in a family.

Volunteers from multiple churches insure that this fund stands ready to help people in 7 counties of southwest Nebraska, from Arapahoe and Danbury on the east to Imperial and Benkelman on the west side of area. Households apply for this assistance through Community Action partnership of Mid-Nebraska, located in McCook. Share the Heat funds are then paid directly to the natural gas, propane , or electricity suppliers.

With your help, everyone will have warm homes this winter!

The new address: Share the Heat, PO Box 1208, McCook, NE 69001.

For more information contact Community Action at 345-1187, Linda Nielsen at 308-345-1755, or Angela Wagner at 308-340-1657

BB GUN SHOOT

There is a mentor/child bb gun shoot scheduled for October 13th at 2:00pm. This will be held at Pastor's farm. Please call Pastor for more information.



ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

Adopt-a-Chaplain is a program that supports deployed military chaplains and the troops they serve. Snacks packed in care packages, accompanied by Bible verses, send a message of hope to soldiers who are a long way from home. A chaplain that we support in Syria writes "We have been receiving your care packages and we greatly appreciate the thoughtfulness of your team. We will return home in a few months, until then your care packages give us a slice of "home pie". Thank you! "

Another chaplain, who we are adopting as he starts deployment at an airbase in the United Arab Emirates, writes "Thank you for your ministry, I'm a Nebraska boy myself. Moved to Bellevue when I was two, dad was Air Force, and I grew up there and went to college in Omaha. I do miss being able to look out and see blue stretching out over half the horizon, the midwestern plains call to the soul. God bless. All are welcome to help pack boxes, next packing day is Tuesday, October 15 at 11:00am

CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY

The directories are finished and ready for distribution. Contact the Board of Evangelism if you would like to pick yours up. Would you like the church directory on your phone? Just download the app from the app store. Search for Universal Church Directory. Enter your families Unique Identifier that was emailed to your households email. If you did not receive an email, please call the church office for your Unique Identifier. Then you can begin using your church app features.

HILLCREST BINGO

LWML will be helping with bingo at Hillcrest on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 2pm. If you would like to help, there is a sign up sheet on the buffet in the Narthex.

LIVE NATIVITY

The dates for the Live Nativity will be December 13th and 14th. More information will be coming soon. Please consider volunteering and/or donating cookies. Sign up sheets will be coming out in November.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Volunteers are needed to set up for "Trunk or Treat" for the School of Religion children. Please join us October 30th from 6:00 to 7:30pm at the church. There is a sign up sheet on the buffet in the Narthex. Please help so our teachers with young children can celebrate with them.



TOOLS FOR STEWARDSHIP and EVANGELISM

SHUT INS

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

Hillcrest: Pam Leibbrandt, Ruth Woodhams, Karen Berry, and Roland Carlson.

Kinship Pointe: Betty Harms, and Lois Brown.

Highland Park: Harlan & Bernita Reiners

Benkelman: Mark Cummins

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 – Phil Bamesberger, Victor Lauer, Fritz Hubert, Brandon Kuykendall, Curt Swanhorst, Russ Ankersen or Harold Carlson.

FOOD PANTRY

As discussed at a 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. **Of course all donations are welcome (like cake mixes, icing, condiments, etc.)**

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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

October 6th

Elder on duty	Brandon Kuykendall
Organist	K. C. Eckhardt
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Grant Pfanstiel
Greeter	Charlene Pfanstiel
Usher	Gene Meints
Lay Reader	Rylee Mooney
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Cathy Broz
Late Service	
Greeter	Jane Schuster
Greeter	Myra Tietz
Usher	Gary Hunkins
Lay Reader	Nick Nothnagel
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Ben Schow
Live Stream	Blayzon Mooney

October 13th

Elder on duty	Victor Lauer
Organist	K. C. Eckhardt
Audio	Russ Ankersen
Greeter	Deb Shields
Greeter	
Usher	Harold Carlson
Lay Reader	Randon Peters
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Late Service	
Greeter	Cindy Swanhorst
Greeter	Curt Swanhorst
Usher	Harold Carlson
Lay Reader	Sarah Risenhoover
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Live Stream	Ian Brown

October 20th

Elder on duty	Harold Carlson
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Paul Sellers
Greeter	Elaine Polly
Greeter	Jeff Polly
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Renelle Mooney
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins
Late Service	
Greeter	Donna Hall
Greeter	Jim Hall
Usher	Ben Schow
Lay Reader	Fred Gleason
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	
Live Stream	Jackson Hartwell

October 27th

Elder on duty	Fritz Hubert
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	Nancy Rippen
Greeter	
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Jerry Calvin
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Harold Carlson
Late Service	
Greeter	Pat Penner
Greeter	
Usher	Curt Swanhorst
Lay Reader	Curt Swanhorst
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Gary Hunkins
Live Stream	Carter Hartwell



PEACE TALK

Through dense fog in a raging sea, a lighthouse will provide guidance during the most treacherous and darkest of night. Scattered along coastal waters, these lifesaving landmarks furnish a combination of bright lights and loud fog horns to warn mariners of dangerous shallows and treacherous rocky coasts. For their safety, captains rely on those tall and strategically placed watchtowers to navigate in and out of harbors, especially during storms. Does danger lie ahead? Is it safe to proceed? For centuries, lighthouses have been a long-trusted aid to secure a skipper's salvation. Giving them a sense of direction, safety, and hope. Do you need the same assurance as you navigate the raging waters of this world? A beacon that will always be there when you cannot find your way? No matter if you are on land or at sea, Jesus is the lighthouse you must navigate to. With Jesus as your lighthouse, you can find a safe harbor through life's turbulent high and low tides. Sure, the storms in this world can and will be violent. There will be times when darkness surrounds you and gives you doubts that you will ever find your way. Thick fog in your mind will create a panic to where you won't know which way to turn your rudder. Losing hope when those violent waves get rough in your troubled sea. However, be rest assured that Jesus will provide you with a sense of direction, safety, and hope. Jesus will keep you on course and help you safely find your way during the darkest of night. He will shine in your darkness and be your peace amidst your rough waters. But where do I look or where do I find this heavenly beacon? Just like the captain of a ship, he looks for the light that is along the shoreline and places his trust in the truth found in those signals that will help guide him to safety. The same is true when we place our trust in Jesus. He is always with us, and we must seek Him for our guide. For He has always been that light along our shoreline since the beginning of time (John 1:1-4). A landmark built with a firm foundation, never to be shaken (Isaiah 28:16). When we place our trust in Him, there will be no more darkness (John 8:12). The raging seas will be calmed by Him (Luke 8:22-25). Yes, He will even help us see through the densest of fog (2 Corinthians 4:18). And to top it off, with Jesus as my lighthouse, all these things will calm my fears, drive away my doubts, and give me the assurance that I will be saved (Psalm 27:1). No storm is too big when you have Jesus guiding your life. Placing your trust in His promise to save you is the solid rock on which your faith will stand. A lighthouse found in Jesus who will guide you to your eternal calm after the storm. Dear Lord, thank you for always being my lighthouse and quieting my stormy seas (Psalm 107:29). Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity
Phil Bamesberger



Peace Lutheran Church

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October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00am Worship Committee	2 6:00pm School of Religion 6:30pm High School Bible study	3	4 8:30am Women's Bible study	5 7:00am Men's Bible Study
6 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	7 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	8 2:00pm Hillcrest Bingo 6:00pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	9 6:00pm School of Religion 6:30pm High School Bible study	10	11 8:30am Women's Bible study 6:00pm Wedding Rehearsal	12 7:00am Men's Bible Study 4:00pm Wedding
13 Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship 2:00pm BB Gun shoot	14 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	15 11:00am Adopt-A-Chaplain packing	16 6:00pm School of Religion 6:30pm High School Bible study	17	18 8:30am Women's Bible study	19 7:00am Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
20 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship 1:00pm Voter's meeting	21 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	22	23 6:00pm School of Religion 6:30pm High School Bible study	24 1:30pm Hillcrest 2:30pm Kinship Pointe	25 8:30am Women's Bible study Wedding Rehearsal	26 7:00am Men's Bible Study Wedding
27 Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship 11:30am Share The Heat 5:00pm Young Adults Supper	28 2:00pm LWML PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	29	30 6:00pm School of Religion Trunk or Treat 6:30pm High School Bible study	31		