

# 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:

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**G**reetings, from Craig & Angela Wenzlick! We learned that you all are supporting us financially through the Seminary's Adopt A Student program. Thank you so very much for your support and participation in this program! It is great that congregations are willing to do this, and it is very humbling to have you all helping us out like this. We are so blessed by you all!

I grew up on a farm southwest of Imperial, about 20 miles from town. My family has farmed our land for nearly 100 years. My father is retiring, and my brother is doing more and more of the farming. I was encouraged to go the non-farming route, so I went off to Concordia Nebraska for a "boring" Computer Science and Mathematics degree. I have been in Information Technology and High-Tech Engineering for the past 23 years. Some of that time was in Wichita, KS, and most recently I came from the northern suburbs of Denver, CO. One day in September 2021 I decided to explore the idea of becoming an LCMS pastor, after a phone conversation with Pastor David Kahle. I applied in November of that year, and I was accepted in March of 2022. I deferred for one year so that my wife and I could have a sort of "farewell tour" with family and friends, and June 2023 we arrived in St Louis; the rest is history in the making.

I was baptized into the LCMS when I was about 2.5 months old and have been an active member ever since. I believe I am on this pastoral path because when I was in eighth grade, I said I'd

never be a pastor. I also said I'd never be a farmer, and I've been growing nice gardens for the past 10+ years, so it seems the Good Lord has a sense of humor! I met my wife, Angela, in Longmont, Colorado. She is also a lifelong, baptized member of the LCMS. She is from Manistee, MI, attended the University of Michigan, began teaching elementary kiddos in 2001 at Messiah Lutheran in Oklahoma City, earned her colloquy from Concordia River Forest (now Chicago), and later received a call to teach in Longmont just before we met in 2008. We have been married since 2010, and while the Lord has not yet blessed us with children, he has blessed us with a very solid marriage and great relationships with all our twelve nieces and nephews from our five siblings. She is a full-time Teacher's Assistant at Christ Community Lutheran Schools (CCLS) in Crestwood, MO, and that school is about five minutes from Concordia Lutheran Church in Kirkwood, MO, where I have begun my Field Work for the rest of my time here in the Seminary.

I am enrolled in the Resident Alternate Route (RAR) program at the Seminary. I basically follow the same educational plan as the traditional students, the Master of Divinity (M-Div) students, but I will not take Hebrew, nor will I take the fourth-year classes. This is because I am over the age of 35 (I'm 46 now), I've served in leadership and support roles within the church for over 10 years, and pastors and family and friends are completely un-surprised that I'm doing this (maybe surprised that it took me

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this long to come around!). I will graduate on May 16, 2025 with a blank certificate, and that's because I will be taking one more class after graduation, and then I'll be sent off on my Vicarage to a congregation that is without a pastor, or has been working a vacancy for some time, as that will become my call. I will earn my certificate upon completing my Vicarage, but as I complete this program, I will have taken all the Master of Arts in Theology classes, so I will confirm my intent to take the final exam, and I will add the MA degree as well. I have chosen this route because I feel called to get out there as soon as I can to make the difference in this world that I feel I have not done very well at, to this point. And I'm a little impatient sometimes!

I finished my first year of Seminary classes back in June, and I'm halfway through the Fall Semester of my final year here. I will be doing more at my field church, and I'm finding the second-year classes to be a little more challenging than last year's classes were! Angela has been busy with school since August. She works with 2-year-olds, five days a week. We are starting the process of leaving here, with interviews coming up next month, and packing up things as we're done with them. Currently we are 13 hours from over half of our family, but we're roughly five hours from her brother in Chicago and her parents in Michigan are about nine hours away. We hope to be placed west of here, closer to the majority of our family, but we'll let the Lord make that call for us.

I cannot tell you how honored we are for your support and prayers. And that you all are from where I grew up! I remember taking on McCook in high school sports. Chase County didn't do so well against McCook in the 1990s, and running cross-country on your golf course was one of the hardest races I've ever done! We greatly appreciate your generosity and support. Thank you again, and have a blessed Fall!

Craig Wenzlick

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Brandon Kuykendall	11/1	Clara Hurst	11/11	Chet Risenhoover	11/19
Kelsey Messenger	11/3	James Vetrovsky	11/11	Reagan Smith	11/22
Caitlin Roundtree	11/4	Lydia Barth	11/12	Mary Traphagan	11/22
Brent Doucet	11/6	Karen Berry	11/13	Janice Bamesberger	11/23
Duane Fortkamp	11/8	Elizabeth Geisler	11/16	Molly Sharp	11/24
Merlin Dombin	11/9	Betty Harms	11/17	Brian Strauch	11/27
Gabe Critchfield	11/11	Emma McConville	11/19		

**NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Heath & Renee Brown	11/4/2017	7	Jerry & Robin Calvin	11/13/1982	42
Chuck & Janet Gray	11/4/1972	52	Donnie & Brooke Rinehart	11/17/2018	6
Brandon & Kimberly Kuykendall	11/8/2003	21	Jennifer & Kirk McConville	11/24/2012	12

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 (Oct. 20th-Oct. 26th)	Month to Date (Oct. 6th-Oct. 26th)	Actual Year to Date (Jan. 7th-Oct. 26th)
Offerings	\$2,860.00	\$10,009.00	\$212,535.00
Expenses	\$996.00	\$13,814.00	\$224,259.00



### ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

CHRISTMAS PACKAGES FOR ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN: Adopt a Chaplain is a program that sends Christmas cards and care packages to military chaplains to use as they care for deployed troops. Please pray for chaplains and troops. And plan to help pack multiple boxes to send them Christmas cheer! Packing begins at Peace on Thurs, Nov 7 at 7:00 pm, with a light supper provided at 6:30 pm. Packing again Fri at 10:00am, coffee at 9:30am. Repeated Thurs, Nov 14 with supper at 6:30 pm and packing at 7:00. This program is assisted in many ways by groups in Southwest Nebraska, including packing by MNB Nov 15, & the Boy Scouts Nov 18. See list across from mailboxes for supplies needed. Boxes are going to Syria, Kuwait, Iraq, Korea, Poland, and Navy aircraft carriers. Thanks for your support!

### WELCOME

Please welcome our newest members, Patty Frisbey and Casey Baker. Patty began worshipping here several months ago and joins us by transferring her membership back to Peace. Casey has been meeting with Pastor for several weeks and attending Sunday worship services. He was baptized and confirmed at the early service October 6th. Welcome Patty and Casey!

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Children's Christmas program will be Wednesday, December 18th at 7pm.

### NOVEMBER READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
3rd	All Saints' Day	Revelation 7:2-17	1 John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-12
10th	The 25th S. after Pentecost	1 Kings 17:8-16	Hebrews 9:24-28	Mark 12:38-44
17th	The 26th S. after Pentecost	Daniel 12:1-3	Hebrews 10:11-25	Mark 13:1-13
24th	The Last S. of the Church Year	Isaiah 51:4-6	Jude 20-25	Mark 13:24-37



The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
 Stewardship Ministry  
 Newsletter Article – November 2024

### “The Singing Church”

Lutherans have historically been called “the singing church.” There is no doubt that music has been a major component in the theology and practice of the Lutheran church. Luther once remarked about music, “We can mention only one point, namely, that next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.”<sup>1</sup> Music has a power and purpose that cannot be understated in our worship and the life of the congregation.

But music does more than touch the emotions. Music is a vehicle that carries both the musician and the hearer deeper into connection with the truth of the Scriptures. This is true of the most complex Bach chorale and even the simplest of songs like “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know.” Each musical selection within the church shapes the thoughts, minds and faith of the people who experience them.

This is also true of stewardship hymns. We are currently considering the verses of “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788) as it shapes our understanding and practice of stewardship. This month we take a deeper dive into verse two:

Teach us to thank you, Lord, for love and grace  
 For life and vision, for a purpose clear,  
 For Christ Your Son, and for each human face  
 that shows Your message ever new and near.

The stanza begins by touching on the truth of the Law. Thankfulness is not a natural posture for fallen humanity. For sinners curved in upon themselves, thankfulness for love and grace is something that must be taught. We are those who hoard and clutch. Our confession of our shallow thankfulness highlights the need for us to learn thankfulness to God.

Thankfulness also points to what we are stewards of: love and grace! All the things we have traditionally called stewardship aren't actual stewardship. Rather, what matters is how we steward the one, true and only treasure: the love and grace of God revealed to us in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So, all stewardship is stewardship of the Gospel! How can we gaze at the cross and empty tomb and not be thankful?

The LCMS defines stewardship as “the free and joyous activity of God's family – the church – in managing life's resources for His purposes.” God's love and mercy give us a clear purpose as we live out our Baptism and practice this joyous stewardship. All we are, all we have entrusted to us, and all we are called to do is to connect others with the love and mercy of God revealed in Jesus!

The faithful steward sings with lips and life of this love and mercy that is ever new and near. In the Scriptures. In the Lord's House. At the Lord's Table. This is where our stewardship song starts and ends. Our family, our co-workers and classmates, and our world need to hear this song!



### 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.



### CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS



Church Christmas Decoration Day is November 24th at 2:00. We need lots of people to make the task faster and easier!

[www.plcmccook.org](http://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:** 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.*

[www.plcmccook.org](http://www.plcmccook.org)





# SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

## November 3rd

Elder on duty	Brandon Kuykendall
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Grant Pfanstiel
Greeter	Charlene Pfanstiel
Usher	Gene Meints
Lay Reader	Sue Ankersen
Acolyte	Emmett Felcher
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Cathy Broz
<b>Late Service</b>	
Greeter	Jane Schuster
Greeter	Myra Tietz
Usher	Gary Hunkins
Lay Reader	Nick Nothnagel
Acolyte	Ellie Hartwell
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Ben Schow
Live Stream	Ian Brown

## November 10th

Elder on duty	Victor Lauer
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	Russ Ankersen
Greeter	Deb Shields
Greeter	
Usher	Harold Carlson
Lay Reader	Randon Peters
Acolyte	Hunter Kunkee
Acolyte	Will Kunkee
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
<b>Late Service</b>	
Greeter	Cindy Swanhorst
Greeter	Curt Swanhorst
Usher	Harold Carlson
Lay Reader	Sarah Risenhoover
Acolyte	Raegan Kisker
Acolyte	Emma McConville
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Live Stream	Tina Cummins

## November 17th

Elder on duty	Harold Carlson
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Tina/Fritz
Greeter	Elaine Polly
Greeter	Jeff Polly
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Renelle Mooney
Acolyte	Ryker Mooney
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins
<b>Late Service</b>	
Greeter	Donna Hall
Greeter	Jim Hall
Usher	Ben Schow
Lay Reader	Blayzon Mooney
Acolyte	Kysen Hazlitt
Acolyte	Paxton Messinger
Powerpoint	
Live Stream	Blayzon Mooney

## November 24th

Elder on duty	Fritz Hubert
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	Nancy Rippen
Greeter	
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Russ Ankersen
Acolyte	Cale DeWester
Acolyte	Cason DeWester
Powerpoint	Harold Carlson
<b>Late Service</b>	
Greeter	Pat Penner
Greeter	
Usher	Curt Swanhorst
Lay Reader	Curt Swanhorst
Acolyte	Maxson Stewart
Acolyte	Zander Stewart
Powerpoint	Gary Hunkins
Live Stream	Carter Hartwell



# PEACE TALK

Why is the truth so quiet while lies are so noisy? In a world full of loud deception, the truth seems to have lost its volume to be heard. With a constant influx of negative media, it's no wonder that this would be on our minds, especially in an election year. Indeed, a "fact check" is essential when politicians battle for office, but we are not immune from this reality during any situation or point in time. You must admit, it is becoming harder to discern what is true and what is a lie. Nevertheless, you will find that regardless of where you land on a given topic, it is the lie you hear that sets off a lot of noise. The clamor of a lie will trigger anger, anxiety, betrayal, or a sense of disrespect. It can make the hair on the back of your neck rise when it appears that no one will listen to your truth. That is exactly what Satan wants. He wants to turn the volume up on all the worldly fake news, false signs, and wonders (2 Thessalonians 2:9). In fact, he wants to turn up the noise of lies so loud the truth will not be heard (John 8:44). Not only that, but he also looks for your weak moments so he can infect your spiritual truth as well (James 4:7). It is during these times when these questions arise. How can I know what is true? Why is the truth so quiet and the lies so loud? This is where we must invest complete trust in our faith. As believers the seeds planted within us through faith are continually growing in knowledge of God's ways from learning what is written (Psalm 1:3). Additionally, each day since our Baptism, the Holy Spirit has been constantly seeding into our hearts the truth (1 Corinthians 12:13). With this confident truth from these seeds that have grown, we can thus have discernment to tune out the noise in this broken world, and the wisdom to apply our faith rightly to the quiet truth (Proverbs 23:23). I agree, this could be easier said than done. Then what should we do if we get "fact checked?" Jesus tells us that you need not worry, as the Holy Spirit will give you the right words when the time comes (Luke 12:11-12). Then the truth found in Christ will become loud and the lies will grow quiet as you confidently shout the truth from the rooftops (Matthew 10:27). My friends, it boils down to what you are listening for. If you are listening to the world, then yes, that will emerge very loud. If you are listening to the truth, then that becomes louder yet. That is what Jesus tells His disciples in John 14:1-14, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." With this truth coming through loud and clear, all other fake news will be silenced. Dear Lord, help me tune out the noisy lies in this world and the wisdom to shout the truth to all who will hear. Amen.



**Peace Lutheran Church**

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YouTube: Peace Lutheran Church McCook

# November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> 8:30am Women's Bible study	<b>2</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study
<b>3</b> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	<b>4</b> 7:00pm Women's Bible study  PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	<b>5</b> 9:00am Worship Committee	<b>6</b> 6:00pm School of Religion 6:30pm High School Bible study	<b>7</b> 1:00pm LifeLight 7:00pm Adopt-A-Chaplain packing	<b>8</b> 8:30am Women's Bible study 10:00am Adopt-A-Chaplain packing	<b>9</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
<b>10</b> Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	<b>11</b> 7:00pm Women's Bible study  PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	<b>12</b> 2:00pm Hillcrest Bingo 6:00pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	<b>13</b> 6:00pm School of Religion 6:30pm High School Bible study	<b>14</b> 1:00pm LifeLight 7:00pm Adopt-A-Chaplain packing	<b>15</b> 8:30am Women's Bible study	<b>16</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
<b>17</b> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship 11:30am Turkey and Ham dinner	<b>18</b> 7:00pm Women's Bible study  PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 1:00pm LifeLight	<b>22</b> 8:30am Women's Bible study	<b>23</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study
<b>24</b> Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship 2:00pm Christmas Decorating	<b>25</b> 2:00pm LWML 7:00pm Women's Bible study  PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 1:30pm Hillcrest 2:30pm Kinship Pointe 7:30pm Worship Service	<b>28</b> Office Closed	<b>29</b> Office Closed	<b>30</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study