



'TIDINGS OF PEACE' from

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

TO:

Three vertical lines for an address.

February 2025

TIDINGS OF PEACE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Grace, Mercy, and Peace to you from God our Father, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Here it is, February already; doesn't it seem that this year is in fast forward? As I consider what 2025 may hold in store, I find myself thinking I should do things like reserve a campsite before it's too late; or maybe it's time to dust off that tent for another season—maybe we should do that hike at the Willow that we didn't get done in 2024. The list goes on and on. Perhaps you have such a list as well.

This morning, as I considered these things, I read a story about a dad who had taken his two sons on a hiking trip in the middle of Iceland. He wondered how he ended up in such a place, but as he continued writing, he spoke of the beauty of God's creation, and the effort it took to hike sixteen miles over a mountaintop before setting up camp on that first day. And then he admitted that part of the reason he ended up hiking in Iceland was that they have a saying in their home; "Do hard things." Someone had an idea, and one thing led to another, and the next thing he knew, he was grinding his middle-aged knees up a mountain trail in the middle of Iceland.

He had challenged himself to do hard things like offering adventure and purpose to his children, instead of technology. Admittedly, technology is not inherently wrong, but doing the hard things can lead anywhere. For that particular dad; having spent

several months getting in shape to make such a hike, he and his sons, along with a group of friends, found themselves walking a mountain ridge, unnerved, and yet invigorated by a wind that seemed like it might, at any moment, lift them off their feet.

He added that true adventure, can paradoxically humble us, while also giving us new confidence. And he encourages that these little things, these little life lessons, is why he wants to spend time doing hard things with the people he loves.

As you consider the coming months of 2025; what might doing hard things look like for you? Whatever it might be; whether it be sleeping under the stars or walking around the park with your kids of grandkids; I encourage you to set aside time, mark it on your calendar, do whatever it takes to make time to get out there and make memories with the people you love.

Thanks for reading!
Pastor

Proverbs 4:25-26 "Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you. Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm. Do not swerve to the right or to the left; keep your foot from evil."



PLC Shepherd

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Congregational Vice President

Russ Ankersen

Elder Chairman

Phil Bamesberger

Council Secretary

Linda Smith

Treasurer

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SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Please consider being a substitute teacher or helper for SOR during the rest of the year, as with illnesses, etc, there has been a need for extra help. Please contact the Board of Education or Kris Hanchera

SAVE THE DATE

Save the date for Vacation Bible School June 9th, 10th, 11th. More information will be found on our Facebook page.

LET'S DO SUPPER TOGETHER

Join us young adults (kids included) for a pot luck style dinner together at the church. February 23rd at noon where we will cook together, socialize, and kids can play and have fun! This month's meal: hotdogs. 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.

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.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Bernita Reiners 2/1	Renelle Mooney 2/9	Elizabeth McConville 2/19
Roger Ziebell 2/2	Ruth Ann Klein 2/10	Rhonda Vetrovsky 2/19
Russ Ankersen 2/3	Nick Nothnagel 2/11	Brandon Smith 2/21
Karen Ziebell 2/3	Maddyn Sharp 2/12	Sarah Bird 2/23
Thomas Broz 2/4	Alyssa Bauer 2/13	Samantha Turpin 2/23
Donna Hall 2/7	Bob Nemechek 2/13	Amity Loop 2/24
Keslie Hazlitt 2/7	Barry Mooney 2/14	Merwin Pottoff 2/24
Scarlett Turpin 2/7	Myra Tietz 2/14	Nate Nielsen 2/25
Brooke Brown 2/9	Alex Yonkers 2/18	Ellie Harwell 2/26
Nikki Hamilton 2/9	Aimee Hazlitt 2/19	Larry Richards 2/26

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
John & Eileen Hubert	2/6/1949	76	Barry & Renelle Mooney	2/24/1996	29
Robert & Carol Stecker	2/11/2011	14	Dwain & Donna Curtis	2/26/1977	48
Ed & Marilyn Unger	2/17/1963	62			

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 (Jan 26th-Feb 1st)	Month to Date (Jan 5th-Feb 1st)	Actual Year to Date (Jan. 5th-Feb 1st)
Offerings	\$13,461.00	\$31,709.00	\$31,709.00
Expenses	\$10,673.00	\$25,311.00	\$25,311.00



CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

Dear Preschool Families,

It's hard to believe that it's already almost February! We have a very busy, fun-filled month ahead of us! We will also be having Black and Blue Day for B Week. During U week we will have umbrella day, please bring an umbrella if you have one. We have a few extras the kids can borrow if needed.

Our Valentine's Day Parties will be on Wednesday, February 12th and Thursday, February 13th. We won't need helpers for this party, we will just be doing in class Valentine activities. We would like each child to decorate their own Valentine's Box or bag at home with their families and bring it with them for the Valentine's Day Party. We encourage you to make this a family project and have everyone pitch in! It is great handwriting practice for your preschooler to write out his/her own valentines if they can. I will send home a list of your child's classmates, please bring one valentine for each child in the class.

Winter Break will be on Monday, February 17th for the M/W class and 4-day class. The Tues/Th class will not have school on Tuesday, February 18th but there WILL be afternoon class that day. Please call me at 345-2595 or email me at mycreativepreschool@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.

Happy Valentine's Day!
Ms. Kelsey, Ms. Dani and Ms. Jean

COOKBOOKS

There are still cookbooks available. They are \$20 and make great gifts. Just contact the church office.

FEBRUARY READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
2nd	The 4th S. after Epiphany	Jeremiah 1:1-19	1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13	Luke 4:31-44
9th	The 5th S. after Epiphany	Isaiah 6:1-13	1 Corinthians 14:12b-20	Luke 5:1-11
16th	The 6th S. after Epiphany	Jeremiah 17:5-8	1 Corinthians 15:1-20	Luke 6:17-26
23rd	The 7th S. after Epiphany	Genesis 45:3-15	1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42	Luke 6:27-38



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article – February 2025

“Christ’s Life, and Love, and Light”

*Open our eyes Lord to see Your love’s intent,
To know with minds and hearts its depth and height
May thankfulness be days in service spent
Reflection of Christ’s life, and love, and light. (LSB 788)*

As stewards enter the month of February, it is fitting that we look at the last stanza of the stewardship hymn, “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788). It is in these words that we see that the heart of stewardship is indeed love. Love has flowed from our Lord to us in the person and work of Jesus Christ. This love is then to flow from us to others. Being a conduit of love is really the central task of what it means to be a steward. The Lord entrusts us with His love that reconciles us to Himself, so that we might be stewards of the Gospel reconciliation that is freely given through us to those around us.

If we don’t see this love from God to us, then through us, to others, our eyes will be closed not just to the needs of those around us. They will also be closed to the very heart of the Gospel itself. This is why the hymnist prays that the Lord would “Open our eyes, Lord, to see Your love’s intent, To know with minds and hearts its depth and height.”

Only when we are immersed in God’s Holy Word, washed in Holy Baptism’s life-giving water and fed on the holy, precious, body and blood of Jesus in the Holy Supper, will the Spirit be able to open our eyes to see the Lord’s loving intent for us, and those we know and love. Sin blinds us. It makes us think that we are the center of our world, and our pleasure is the key.

In the Word, the Lord shows us the depth and height of His love. The depth of that love is what moved Him from His throne in heaven into our world. There He would don our human flesh, walk the dusty roads of Palestine, and set His face toward Jerusalem. Once there we get to see the height of His love, as He is elevated on a Roman cross to die a death that we deserve. But that would not be the end. He would be lowered into a tomb for three days. On that third day we then see the heights of love ascended to in His resurrection. This resurrection is already ours too!

The depth and height of this love poured out on us by the Holy Spirit then is distributed through us to others. Christ’s servant love is shown in our servant love. The hymn utters the prayer of every Christian steward:

*May thankfulness be days in service spent
Reflection of Christ’s life, and love, and light.*

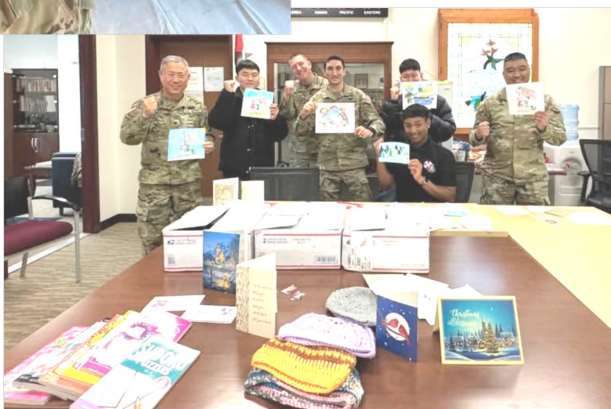
This is the task for which stewards were originally created. Bearing the image of creation and redemption, we reflect Christ’s love to those around us. The light of Christ shining through us to others is the true stewardship to which we are called. It takes place in our homes. It is lived out in our workplaces and classrooms. As we bear the life, love and light received in Word and Sacrament, we carry it out in service to our neighbor and for the glory of God!

Forgive us, Lord, when our stewardship of thankfulness is shallow or lacking! Fill us with Your life, love and light! Not just for us, but through us to those we know and love, that they may know Your life, love and light for them!



ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

This program supports deployed troops through the ministry of their chaplains. With your incredible support, the Adopt a Chaplain group that packs at Peace Lutheran, adopted eight chaplains, sending them care packages filled with snacks and Christmas cards. Two of those adopted chaplains were recently featured on Facebook by the LCMS ministry to the Armed Forces. The first image is LCMS Chaplain Kyle Mietzer with Christmas care packages that he received, some of the boxes shown were sent from Peace Lutheran. Chaplain Mietzer posted this on Facebook and sent a message, "Thank you so much! Your cards and packages have brought so much joy to us over here!" He does not give his location on social media but writes that he is "closer to Bethlehem than I have ever been." The second image was posted on Facebook by LCMS Chaplain Ryan Mills, stationed at Camp Humphreys, Korea; pictured are soldiers with boxes and Christmas cards all sent from Peace Lutheran. Chaplain Mills said the "care packages are a meaningful gift that tell our service members that they are remembered and appreciated." Our group will continue send care packages each month as long as each chaplain is overseas. Please join this effort on the next packing day: Tues, Feb 18 at 1:00 pm.



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, and Karen Berry.

Kinship Pointe: Betty Harms, and Lois Brown.

Highland Park: Harlan & Bernita Reiners and Ken & Dorinda Polly

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

February 2nd

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

Late Service

Greeter	Jane Schuster
Greeter	Myra Tietz
Usher	Gary Hunkins
Lay Reader	Nick Nothnagel
Acolyte	Amaya Ely
Acolyte	Ellie Hartwell
Powerpoint	Ben Schow
Live Stream	Jackson Hartwell

February 9th

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	Kysen Hazlitt
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Live Stream	Tina Cummins

February 19th

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	Blayzon Mooney
Acolyte	Maxson Stewart
Acolyte	Zander Stewart
Powerpoint	
Live Stream	Ian Brown

February 23rd

Elder on duty	Fritz Hubert
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	Nancy Rippen
Greeter	
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Russ Ankersen
Acolyte	Ryker Mooney
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Harold Carlson

Late Service

Greeter	Pat Penner
Greeter	
Usher	Curt Swanhorst
Lay Reader	Curt Swanhorst
Acolyte	Cale DeWester
Acolyte	Cason DeWester
Powerpoint	Gary Hunkins
Live Stream	Need Volunteer



PEACE TALK

There never seems to be anything small about a baby's first step. Parents big excitement, the baby's huge development, and a monumental change forthcoming in the household. I agree, it is always exciting to see a baby's first step as the little one transitions away from the crawling stage. Unavoidably falling ever so tenderly, but at the same time undeterred. The joy in sharing the excitement with the parents as their child is encourage by holding onto those tiny fingers to keep them steady. Mom and Dad seemingly unconcerned about exposing a path to bigger things in their young adventurous life. As I thought about this, there is one thing that does not seem to change as young children get bigger and stronger. Throughout our life there will always be baby steps. Learning to drive, starting a new job, recovering from a medical procedure, or more importantly... pursuing a walk with God... all take small, intentional baby steps. However, it is comforting to know that no matter what steps we are taking, stumbling or not, Jesus will hold us up (Psalm 37:23-24). By placing our trust in Him, He will be the one who will give us strength and with His mighty hand keep us from falling (Isaiah 41:10). As a matter of fact, He will be right beside you and I as we learn to walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). As I reflect on my career and spiritual journey, everything I have accomplished has started out with Baby Steps. In fact, the baby steps throughout my life molded me into who I am. It is only proper to give credit where credit is due... who was it that encouraged me? Did I lean on someone to hold me up, so I didn't fall? And did I thank the one who made it all possible, for it was not I (Proverbs 16:9). Indeed, the baby steps taken to where you are today, and the baby steps you will take to where you are going will expose who you are and who you will become (Romans 12:1-2). By keeping Christ in everything you do... your actions, words, and guiding principles will reflect your faith in each small step of the way (Colossians 3:17). So, when we get discouraged, or get tripped up with Satan's schemes, the roots we have in Christ will keep us moving forward. Creating opportunities and preparing us for the race marked out for us to run (Hebrews 12:1-2). Even though this can be easier said than done, we can be sure of victory when we put our hope in God since it is He who works within you and I to fulfill His purpose (Philippians 2:13). The Lord wants us to take one step at a time. He holds our future, and He has seen the end, which is glorious. Take those baby steps and more importantly, just keep walking ... Dear Lord, thank you for helping me learn to walk and for guiding my baby steps. Keep holding onto my hand as I learn to stay on the right path. Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity
Phil Bamesberger

