

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:

Three vertical lines for an address.

The author to the Hebrews has written; *“Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Him, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.”*

Consider the cross Jesus endured for you, that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

The opening verses of Hebrews twelve are the theme verses for the 2025 Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer. As I consider these verses in light of the five students, we intend to take to the Gathering, I am reminded of my older brother and my dad. Back in 1972, my brother went out for eighth grade track; I had never seen anything like it. I knew my brother was fast—when we played tag or hide-n-seek I could never catch him or outrun him, but to my knowledge he had never done anything to prepare him to compete in the high-hurdles, but his speed and form were flawless, and that’s not all; I had never seen my dad run, or get overly excited about anything; my dad was one of those “keep your nose to the grindstone dads; giving everything he had to put a roof over our heads and food on the table,” but there he was, running along the outside of that track, cheering and encouraging my brother to run with endurance the race set before him.

When I consider the world we have created for our kids, I consider the many high hurdles set before them. My brother was a natural athlete when it came to running the high hurdles—he was the exception to the rule; the things he did with ease and grace could only be accomplished by him and one or two other students. If any other student tried to run that race, we would stumble and fall.

The author to the Hebrews speaks of running with endurance the race set before us—he speaks of laying aside every sin, and every burden of sin that stick to us like glue—and let us run—let us endure

life in a broken world.

In a high hurdle race the hurdles are uniform and predictable; if the runner misses stride, if the hurdle should catch the runner, it is designed to fall so the runner does not. The race of which the author to the Hebrews speaks, is more like an obstacle-course; the world is unpredictable and changing; dangers are disguised and unclear, and are actively intent on causing children to fall. And it has been this way since Adam and Eve at the forbidden fruit.

So, with these things in mind, the author to the Hebrews encourages believers to actively study the Bible, that we may keep our focus on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. As we attend the Youth Gathering this summer, our students will be surrounded by a great cloud of thousands of witnesses their own age; all celebrating their faith; all rejoicing in their Lord; all running the obstacle course of life.

At the Gathering there will be dozens of speakers teaching biblical truth; identifying the obstacles of life, and equipping our five young people with tools to help them keep their focus on Jesus while they navigate a life of obstacles set before them.

I ask you to surround our kids with your prayers; I ask you to befriend them—to reach out to them, and to encourage them to keep their focus on Jesus. For you are an important part of that great cloud of witnesses.

And as you yourself continue to run the race set before you; *“Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or faint hearted.”* Hebrews 12:3

Thanks for reading,
Pastor



PLC Shepherd

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

Family Life Minister

Hanah Nothnagel

Creative Preschool Director

Kelsey VanPelt
mycreativepreschool@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant

Tina Cummins
office@plcmccook.org

Congregational President

Curt Swanhorst
curtswanhorst@gmail.com

Congregational Vice President

Russ Ankersen

Elder Chairman

Council Secretary

Linda Smith

Treasurer

Melissa Hanchera
plctreasurer1908@gmail.com

Financial Secretary

Sarah Risenhoover
peacefin28@gmail.com

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

LET'S DO SUPPER TOGETHER

Join us young adults (kids included) for a pot luck style dinner together at the church. March 9th at noon where we will cook together, socialize, and kids can play and have fun! This month's meal: soup and pie. 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.

ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

This program supports the troops through the ministry of their chaplains. The priority in sending care packages is to support the chaplains and troops deployed to areas of highest risk. We are also able to send care package(s) to individual armed service members. If you have family or friends that would like a package, please get a message to Linda Nielsen, Jane Schuster or Cathy Broz. We pack boxes once a month, all are welcome on the next packing day, Tues, Mar 18 at 1:00 pm.

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.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Patricia Frisbey	3/1	Jennifer McConville	3/6	Brock Hubert	3/23
Pake Hamilton	3/4	Paul Schaffert	3/11	Banks Schumacher	3/23
Chad Hueftle	3/4	Charles Miller	3/12	Ronald Friehe	3/25
Ezra Nothnagel	3/4	Janet Hein	3/13	Aric Sharp	3/25
Talan Schumacher	3/4	Kamry Crick	3/14	Blayzon Mooney	3/26
Tom Shields	3/4	Jaelyn Kuykendall	3/16	Michael Schoup	3/27
Kandi Eckhoff	3/5	Korina Rippen	3/19	Curt Swanhorst	3/28
Lewis Leibbrandt	3/6	Tyler Rogers	3/19	Joel Smith	3/29
		Addyson Snyder	3/20		

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Brent & Jennifer Doucet	3/28/1998	27			

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 (Feb 23rd-March 1st)	Month to Date (Feb 2nd-March 1st)	Actual Year to Date (Jan. 5th-March 1st)
Offerings	\$4,102.00	\$24,037.00	\$59,631.00
Expenses	\$1,945.00	\$30,257.00	\$45,568.00



CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

Dear Preschool Families,

March is almost here, the school year is just flying by! We will be focusing on the letters J, Z and W this month and we will be talking about March weather, so if your child comes home talking about “lamb and lion days” you will understand.

We have lots of fun Spring activities coming up. We’re looking forward to Jammy day and White day.

I will be starting assessments for Kindergarten readiness for our graduates next month. The assessments are meant to give me, and you, an idea of what skills your child still needs to work on before entering Kindergarten. They will all be sent home on the same day when they are completed.

Here are some dates we are looking forward to:

- Spring Break March 5th and 6th
- Bike-a-thon April 9th and 10th
- Easter Party April 16th and 17th
- Easter Break April 21st and 22nd
- Last day of school May 7th and 8th
- Graduation, for grads only May 8th 7:00 pm

More information will be sent out about these as they get closer. We’re having so much fun and learning new things every day! Thanks for sharing your kids with us!

Kelsey, Dani and Jean

COOKBOOKS

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

MARCH READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
2nd	Transfiguration of Our Lord	Deuteronomy 34:1-12	Hebrews 3:1-6	Luke 9:28-36
9th	The 1st S. in Lent	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Romans 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
16th	The 2nd S. in Lent	Jeremiah 26:8-15	Phillippians 3:17-4:1	Luke 13:31-35
23rd	The 3rd S. in Lent	Ezekiel 33:7-20	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9
30th	The 4th S. in Lent	Isaiah 12:1-6	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11-32



CHURCH COUNCIL

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all those who have graciously given of their time and talents to support the mission and ministry of Peace Lutheran Church by hearing the call to serve on the Church Council. It has been a pleasure to serve with those who have a passion for giving of themselves to support God’s Kingdom here on earth. If you see those who are going off the Council this year, please extend to them the hand of thanksgiving for their service.

Those going off:

Board of Elders-Phil Bamesberger and Victor Lauer

Finance Committee-Brian Strauch and Pat Schaffert

We would also like to welcome those who have stepped out in faith to serve their Lord as a member of Council for this coming term. We know anytime we embark on a new commitment there is always some hesitation to say yes. We praise God for those who have done just that and will be serving our congregation and their Lord for the coming term. Please extend to them the hand of fellowship, thanksgiving, and welcome as they begin their service.

Newly Elected

Board of Elders-Nick Nothnagel and Lee McConville

Finance Committee-Jim DeJonge and Sue DeJonge

We would like to take time to say thank you to all who were re-elected. The time they spend and the efforts they give in support of the Gospel and wellbeing of our congregation is greatly appreciated.

Those re-elected

Treasurer-Melissa Hanchera **Board of Education**-Melissa Critchfield

Board of Evangelism-Sue Ankersen **Board of Trustees**-Heath Brown

Financial Committee-Eugene Custer and Bob Nemechek

Members currently serving

President-Curt Swanhorst **Vice President**-Russ Ankersen

Financial Secretary-Sarah Risenhoover **Recordings Secretary**-Linda Smith

Board of Elders-Fritz Hubert, Brandon Kuykendall and Harold Carlson

Board of Education-Daphne Tidyman and Cindy Swanhorst

Board of Trustees-Chance Koetter and Barry Mooney

Board of Evangelism-Sue Chipman and Cathy Broz

Financial Committee-K.C. Eckhardt, Brian Strauch, Pat Schaffert and Pat Penner

SAVE THE DATE

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



FROM AN ELDER

The Bread Of Our Lives

John 6:35 - Jesus said to them, "I am the Bread of Life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst."

Picture a boy about seven years old, coming home from school. He's hungry, and he has so many things on his mind to cure that hunger. There are the cookies in the cookie jar, and there's a bag of chips on the shelf, and there's a new half-gallon of chocolate ice cream waiting to be opened. In fact, he's thinking that the ice cream spooned over two chocolate chip cookies would be about perfect. Now I'm trusting that this is not the after-school diet his mother and father have in mind. But let's face it, something like carrot sticks or celery cannot compete with that ice cream-cookie combo he's dreaming of.

But what if there was something that could beat the ice cream and cookies. Picture bread that's just come out of the oven. It's now cooling on the counter. It is a wonderful loaf, pure goodness with just enough hard crust to be interesting, but then it's soft and inviting inside. It's waiting to be sliced, buttered, and enjoyed. This beats the cookies altogether. I think this little boy is going to go for the bread and why not—slice it thick, butter it up, enjoy a classic meal. That would be bread for a lifetime. Always fresh, always inviting, always filling. I hope that you feasted on that fresh bread, either enjoying your own baking or finding it fresh at the bakery or deli. That is the bread that draws us home, and the bread that fills us with memories.

Jesus tells us that He is the Bread of Life. Our world had many imitations of His Bread of Life. By ourselves we can only come up with a sad substitute to His Bread of Life. We can be those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. But apart from Jesus, we can't fill that hunger. But Jesus is the Bread of Life who gives life to all who come to Him. He promises us that as He is the Bread of Life He gives eternal life. Jesus say, "Truly, truly, I say to you whoever believes has eternal life. I am the Bread of Life. I am the living Bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this Bread, he will live forever" (see John 6).

What a meal He is! He feeds us for this life and then delivers us to eternal life. Our ordinary breads, even the best, carry us for a few hours. But He feeds us with life now and life to come. Also, our ordinary bread can only be a part of our diet. Don't have three, thick slices of bread 20 minutes before we have dinner. You need more than bread. But with the Bread of Life we have the meal on which we can feast every day. There's no other meal, no other bread for which we have to leave room. Jesus is the meal of our lives. Jesus is the Bread that draws us to the Father and welcomes us every day. When we come to Him, we don't merely snatch up this gift and run. No, Jesus as the Bread of Life welcomes us to stay and to be with Him every day. There's no sign telling us to move on. Settle in, the Bread of Life is here, fresh, and waiting. By faith in His promises, we receive His meal that feeds us today and brings to us eternal life. This is the Bread of Life, the Bread of our lives.



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 – Fritz Hubert, Brandon Kuykendall, Harold Carlson, Nick Nothnagel, Lee McConville, Russ Ankersen or Curt Swanhorst.

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

March 2nd	
Elder on duty	Brandon Kuykendall
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	Paul Sellers
Greeter	Grant Pfanstiel
Greeter	Charlene Pfanstiel
Usher	Gene Meints
Lay Reader	Sue Ankersen
Acolyte	Emmett Felcher
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins
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	Blayzon Mooney

March 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	Avery Davidson
Acolyte	Cooper Davidson
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Live Stream	Ian Brown

March 16th	
Elder on duty	Harold Carlson
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Elaine Polly
Greeter	Jeff Polly
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Renelle Mooney
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Cathy Broz
Late Service	
Greeter	Donna Hall
Greeter	Jim Hall
Usher	Ben Schow
Lay Reader	Rylee Mooney
Acolyte	Kysen Hazlitt
Acolyte	Paxton Messinger
Powerpoint	
Live Stream	Jackson Hartwell

March 23rd	
Elder on duty	Fritz Hubert
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	Nancy Rippen
Greeter	
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Jerry Calvin
Acolyte	Hunter Kunkee
Acolyte	Will Kinkee
Powerpoint	Harold Carlson
Late Service	
Greeter	Pat Penner
Greeter	
Usher	Curt Swanhorst
Lay Reader	Curt Swanhorst
Acolyte	Raegan Kisker
Acolyte	Emma McConville
Powerpoint	Gary Hunkins
Live Stream	Tina Cummins

March 30th	
Elder on duty	Curt/Phil
Organist	
Audio	
Greeter	Sue Carlson
Greeter	Harold Carlson
Usher	Gene Meints
Lay Reader	Harold Carlson
Acolyte	Ellie Hartwell
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	
Late Service	
Greeter	
Greeter	
Usher	Steve Post
Lay Reader	Blayzon Mooney
Acolyte	Cale DeWester
Acolyte	Cason DeWester
Powerpoint	
Live Stream	Need Volunteer



PEACE TALK

What do you want to be when you grow up? This is one of my favorite questions to ask a child. Little ones might say they want to be a police officer, a tractor driver, or a nurse. At times I get an imaginative answer such as a movie star, superhero, or possibly a husker football player. When someone is asked "what do you want to be when you grow up," it triggers thoughts of futuristic goals, regardless of whether growing up will ever take place at all. Speaking of which, I'm told might be the case with me. Maybe that's why it got me to thinking about this question. What should I be, could I be, or want to be when I grow up? Would my temporal goals of success become a priority? Do I dare chase a dream or change what I must be to completely grow up? It's not out of the realm of possibilities. However, a more thought-provoking inquiry might be... How would my answer change if I knew Jesus is the one asking me the question? Now, that changes the whole concept of my answer. Suddenly, I must admit that I am a long way from growing up. I look in the mirror and ask my reflection... "Are you comfortable or complacent where you are at spiritually... or can you grow up a little bit?" I ask, yet I know the answer. Truth to be told, God has plans for me even though I might not know what they are (Jeremiah 29:11). Therefore, I best get started doing something. Metaphorically speaking, if I wait for perfect weather, I won't get any seeds in the ground, or if I worry about each cloud, I won't get any crops harvested (Ecclesiastes 11:4). I often think about the Apostle Paul. He was a living icon of not letting any grass grow under his feet. Can I follow his lead? I thus turn and look back at my image in the mirror. I know I can raise a more productive spiritual crop than in the past if I concentrate on God's eternal promise given to me through faith (Philippians 3:12-14). I should also listen to what Paul told the Ephesians... In order to "grow up" you must walk wisely, make the best use of your time, and get a grip on what God wants you to be (Ephesians 5:15-17). My friends, what spiritual reflection do you see in your mirror? It is never too late to grow up. And when you encounter road blocks, just place your trust in the Lord and do not rely on your own understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6). You might consider looking at what God wants you to do, not as something extra, but something essential. We all grow at different rates, and that's ok. Just keep in mind that whatever you decide to be when you grow up, keep your roots deep in Christ (Colossians 2:7). He will then be part of what you will become, and part of where you will go. Dear Jesus, when I grow up, I want to be just like you. Amen.



Peace Lutheran Church

411 East 6th Street
 PO Box 240
 McCook, NE 69001
 PH (308)345-2595
 Email: office@plcmccook.org
 Website: plcmccook.org
 Facebook: Peace Lutheran McCook NE
 YouTube: Peace Lutheran Church McCook

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7:00am Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
2 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	3	4 9:00am Worship Committee	5 11:00am Ash Wednesday service 6:00pm School of Religion 6:30pm High School Bible study 7:30pm Ash Wednesday service	6 1:00pm LifeLight	7	8 7:00am Men's Bible Study
9 Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 9:15am F.I.R.E. 10:30am Worship F.I.R.E lunch	10	11 2:00pm Hillcrest Bingo 6:00pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	12 11:00am Midweek Lent service 6:00pm School of Religion 6:30pm High School Bible study 7:30pm Midweek Lent service	13 1:00pm LifeLight	14	15 7:00am Men's Bible Study
16 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	17	18 1:00pm Adopt-A-Chaplain packing	19 11:00am Midweek Lent service 6:00pm School of Religion 7:30pm Midweek Lent service	20 1:00pm LifeLight	21	22 7:00am Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
23 Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 9:15am F.I.R.E. 10:30am Worship	24 2:00pm LWML 7:00pm Women's Bible study	25	26 11:00am Midweek Lent service 6:00pm School of Religion 6:30pm High School Bible study 7:30pm Midweek Lent service	27 1:30pm Hillcrest 2:30pm Kinship Pointe	28	29 7:00am Men's Bible Study
30 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	31 7:00pm Women's Bible study					