



**'TIDINGS OF PEACE'** from

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

TO:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*H*ello again,

As I write to you today, I think of all the changes you have endured, and as I think of the changes, the inconveniences, and possible health threats you have faced, I praise God for His protection and His provision. And as I give praises to God, I also praise Him for each of you; I praise and thank God for the grace with which you all have endured under much duress.

It is in times like these that we are tempted to grumble and complain about inequities and injustices, but, strengthened by God's Holy Spirit, you have not allowed pettiness to distract you from God's mission; and for that, I thank you.

I also ask you to give thanks to God for the many people who have worked so diligently to assure that God's Word is still proclaimed among us.

I am going to brag just a bit now, and I ask you to bear with me; I have always loved being part of a team, and Peace Lutheran has shown me, through this pandemic, that you are a great team!

With no more than four days' notice, the people of Peace Lutheran accepted the challenge to make God's Word, and worship, available through new, innovative means that we have not used in the past. Through your efforts many souls have continued to be reached with the love of Jesus.

Some of you may be thinking, "yes, but I haven't done anything to make that happen," but I commit to you that

you have; though you have longed to worship in God's house, each of you has patiently, faithfully, waited, allowing a small group of folks to bring the Word to you. So, I thank each-and-every-one of you for being who you are. I am very pleased to be part of the Peace Lutheran Team!

And I ask you to bear with us a little longer as we, the leadership and I, work to reopen the sanctuary for corporate worship, and to resume a normal schedule of church activities. I look forward to that day, very soon, when we will again shake hands, sing and pray, and hear God's Word together.

St. Paul, reminding us how God used Christ's suffering to save us, also speaks of God using our sufferings to bring Christ's saving Word to others. Paul wrote; *"Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of His body, that is the Church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to His saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me."* Colossians 1:24-29

God's richest blessings be upon you,  
Pastor Felcher

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**FROM AN ELDER**

Movies Worth Watching

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son to die for it." John 3:16*

Hi fellow "quarantine-ers", how is this self-imposed isolation working for you? Not too bad for the first couple of weeks or so. But now, my patience is wearing thin. I believe that most people by nature are gregarious and so like to be in the company of others. The duration of this contact varies from individual to individual, but I believe that it does exist.

When the first travel/contact restrictions were imposed most everyone had a long list of things that needed to be done and relished the time to get them done. Now the lists have grown short or disappeared completely. The desire to get out and return to normal is growing daily. We are also finding out that the American economy doesn't function very well when people aren't working.

At the time of this writing, there are hints and promises of loosening the restrictions on our daily lives. But until that happens for real, how can we spend our time. One of the ways my wife and I are coping with the solitude is by having a movie night. We have stumbled upon a couple of movies that I think are very good viewing for the Christian home. I'll speak to those now.

The Young Messiah - PG 13 - 1:51: This movie imagines a year in the life of the boyhood of Jesus. It follows the journey of Jesus' family from self-imposed exile in Egypt back to Nazareth and eventually on to Jerusalem. I liked it because it "explores" a period in the life of Jesus about which there is no reference in Scripture. I am no biblical scholar, but the story had many references to events outlined in the Bible, enough of which that it lent believability to their story. The characters were believable and the scenery/location accurate for the movie. We watched it when the Forerunners group last met.

Risen - PG 13 - 1:48: This movie is also rates PG 13 but has much more graphic violence in it and as such I would not recommend it for children. The story imagines the story of the Resurrection through the eyes of a Roman Tribune (Ralph Fiennes) who is tasked by Pilate to discover what happened to the body of Jesus after the Crucifixion. Pilate and the Sanhedrin needed to disprove the rumors of a risen Messiah. Acting, set, props, etc. all seemed correct for the period. There is a certain amount of graphic violence in it, but not to the extent that Mel Gibson's *The Passion of Christ* had. The Ascension scene at the end was not what I was expecting.

As a side note, I have also heard good things about the TV series called *"The Chosen."* Season One is available on the Apple or Android app site. If you watch it, let me know what you think. If this quarantine persists, I'm sure I'll have time to watch it.

I know we are in the post Easter season, but anytime is a good time to proclaim, "He is risen! He is risen indeed!". God's blessings to you and your family.

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

Ron Buck	5/1	Lisa Schoup	5/11	Scott Hanchera	5/19
Jerry Calvin	5/1	Jennifer Doucet	5/12	Susan Dejonge	5/20
Sarah Risenhoover	5/1	Derek Metzger	5/12	Joseph Vetrovsky	5/22
Brenda Grube	5/2	Patricia Nielsen	5/12	Jayde Aufrecht	5/23
Austin Thompson	5/2	Kysen Hazlitt	5/14	Vaunda Hyde	5/23
Samson Ziebell	5/2	Allyx Garretson	5/15	Peggy Poore	5/23
Lonnie Felcher	5/3	Amanda Pearce	5/15	Danielle Schumacher	5/24
Jeff Polly	5/5	LaVonne Hanchera	5/16	Lindsay McConville	5/25
Henry Rawn	5/6	Jenna Moench	5/17	Shane Buck	5/26
Sharone Kircher	5/7	Luka Rawn	5/17	Gerald Gohl	5/29
Harlan Reiners	5/8	Linda Richards	5/17	Treven Critchfield	5/31
Jacob Krause	5/9	Spencer Rogers	5/18	Elizabeth Yilk	5/31
Nicole Rawn	5/10				

**MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Alyssa & Todd Bauer	5/3/2014	6	Mitch & Aimee Hazlitt	5/22/2010	10
Cincy & Michell Soucek	5/12/2000	20	Ron & Jeanna Rogers	5/23/1971	49
Tom & Cindy Shields	5/14/1983	37	Harold & Sue Carlson	5/24/2008	12
Joel & Linda Smith	5/8/1991	29	Gerald & Kristi Novak	5/30/1981	39
Nicholas & Hanah Nothnagel	5/21/2016	4	Raymond & Patsy Fisher	5/31/1964	56

*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.*

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 (April 26th-May 2nd)	Month to Date (April 5th-May 2nd)	Actual Year to Date (January 5th-May 2nd)
Offerings	\$2,902.00	\$24,426.00	\$78,806.49
Expenses	\$143.00	\$14,586.00	\$78,690.00



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Let's get excited as our first "virtual" vacation bible school will be June 22<sup>nd</sup> through June 26<sup>th</sup>. VBS is for ages 3 through youth entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Peace Lutheran Church will be presenting VBS along with our rainforest friends explaining how God is with us and will never leave us, even in uncertain times. The presentation will be available daily by 10am on our Facebook page.

Parents will need to pre-register their children no later than May 29<sup>th</sup> by either calling the church office (308-345-2595), emailing [office@plcmccook.org](mailto:office@plcmccook.org) or registering on Peace Lutheran McCook NE Facebook page. Plan to use the private message feature on Facebook so your information concerning your child is kept private. (Late registrations will be accepted but deadline registrations are encouraged so that your child will receive a t-shirt). Watch our Facebook page for a time prior to June 22, our "At Home VBS" bag will be able to be picked up by "no contact" from the church. These bags will contain all contents for your child to have a wonderful experience while learning the love of our God.



Needed for Vacation Bible School. : For the VBS crafts there is need for quart canning jars. We need about 35 jars that are clear., with lids if possible. If you have jars that you no longer use, please leave in church kitchen or call 308-345-1755 and we can pick them up. VBS will be on Facebook, please pray for the leaders and the children. Financial donations for VBS would also be helpful for purchase of copies of the VBS stories and other supplies for the children. Thank you so much.

### MAY READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
3rd	The 4th S. of Easter	Acts 2:42-47	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10
10th	The 5th S. of Easter	Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
17th	The 6th S. of Easter	Acts 17:16-31	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
24th	The 7th S. of Easter	Acts 1:12-26	1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11	John 17:1-11
31st	The Day of Pentecost	Numbers 11:24-30	Acts 2:24-30	John 7:37-39



### The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article – May 2020

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. "For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.)" John 13:15) We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God – that job's already done!

But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow Jesus' example of generous giving. And this is not merely an example alone. It's also our Lord's command. "The one who contributes, (let him give) in generosity." (Rom. 12:8)

So, when we give to help others who are in need, and when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. So, we should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought, but according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world.

So, when it comes to our offerings to the Lord, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability – and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3) – we can and should give a generous portion of the income that God provides us to honor the Lord.

So also, we should give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. Nor do we give grudgingly. We should give freely and cheerfully because we want to out of thanksgiving. "Each as he purposes in his heart," as the Lord says. (2 Cor. 9:7) There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us.

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of love – love for Him and for our neighbor. Genuine love is always love in deed (1 John 3:18), love such as Jesus showed us all. It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we give for a good purpose to thank the Lord and support His gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously for the service of God's gospel purposes, to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle. For that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly – so abundantly that they had to be told to stop giving. (Ex. 36:5-6)

In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord's work of bestowing His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation in our congregations through the preaching and teaching of His Word, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper. We should support the Lord's work of caring for those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.



## BOARD OF ELDERS

We are looking for a co-manager for the fireworks stand in July. Contact Sarah Risenhoover for more info.

## BOARD OF EVANGELISM

God's blessings to everyone during this challenging time in our nation's history. We encourage everyone to reach out to other members during this time either by phone calls, texts or mailing a note or card so we can stay connected. The Board of Evangelism met for their monthly meeting April 2 over Zoom with Nancy Rippen, Cathy Broz, Deb Gleason and Pastor Felcher in attendance. Pastor opened the meeting with prayer. Birthday and anniversary cards continue to be mailed out to members monthly. Whenever a newcomers list is received, pamphlets are mailed to Lutherans and those who do not have a church affiliation inviting them to worship with us, including information on Facebook streaming services and radio services. We continue to pray for three families each week through our Partners in Prayer Ministry and should be finished praying for all members the first of July. There have not been any requests for meals through the Meal Ministry and we have not been actively seeking request due to recommended self-isolating. Grief booklets continue to be mailed to members suffering a loss. Please contact the Board if you are aware of someone who would benefit from the book series, even if not a member. Visitor mugs remain available in the narthex. We will not be featuring additional new members' pictures in the narthex until activities are resumed at church. We also will not be sending care packages to college students this semester due to students being home from college. We also would like to thank all who helped keep worship services going during this time and especially the beautiful Holy Week and Easter services.

## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

—CLASS OF—  
**2020**

We would like to recognize our High School graduates Hannah Golti, Lydia Risenhoover and Savannah Beegle. We would also like to recognize our College graduate Austin Bamesberger!

Way To Go!



## 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, Pam Leibbrandt, Ruth Woodhams, and Martin Fortkamp.

**Brookdale McCook:** Walt & Jean Sehnert, Paul & Ruby Ahrens, Betty Harms, Shirley Lichty, and Barbara Klein.

**Highland Park:** Harlan & Bernita Reiners and John & Mary Lou Hanson

**McCook:** Mark Cummins

**Arapahoe:** Joyce Stupka

**Butte:** Don Kisker

**Lincoln:** Carla Bales

**Trenton:** Phyllis Berndt

**York:** Joyce Hofman

**St. Paul:** Sandra Novak

**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, Phil Bamesberger, Victor Lauer, Fritz Hubert, Curt Swanhorst or Fred Gleason.

### 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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>KNGN Sponsor</u>
3rd-Calvin/Carlson	3rd-Available
10th-Available	10th-Available
17th-Available	17th-Available
24th-Available	24th-Available
31st-Available	31st-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.

<u>May 3rd</u>	
Elder on duty	Victor Lauer
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	
Greeter	
Usher	
Lay Reader	
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	
<u>Late Service</u>	
Greeter	
Greeter	
Usher	
Lay Reader	
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Ben Schow
Video	NEED VOLUNTEER

<u>May 10th</u>	
Elder on duty	Ron Aufrecht
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	Russ Ankersen
Greeter	
Greeter	
Usher	
Lay Reader	
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	
<u>Late Service</u>	
Greeter	Cindy Swanhorst
Greeter	Curt Swanhorst
Usher	
Lay Reader	Fred Gleason
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Video	NEED VOLUNTEER

<u>May 17th</u>	
Elder on duty	Harold Carlson
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Paul Sellers
Greeter	
Greeter	
Usher	
Lay Reader	
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins
<u>Late Service</u>	
Greeter	Donna Hall
Greeter	Jim Hall
Usher	Ben Schow
Lay Reader	Phil Bamesberger
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	
Video	Russ Ankersen

<u>May 24th</u>	
Elder on duty	Fritz Hubert
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	NEED VOLUNTEER
Greeter	NEED VOLUNTEER
Usher	NEED VOLUNTEER
Lay Reader	Jerry Calvin
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins
<u>Late Service</u>	
Greeter	Lois Lepper
Greeter	Pat Penner
Usher	Curt Swanhorst
Lay Reader	Curt Swanhorst
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	
Video	NEED VOLUNTEER

<u>May 31st</u>	
Elder on duty	Curt/Phil
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	NEED VOLUNTEER
Greeter	Sue Carlson
Greeter	Harold Carlson
Usher	NEED VOLUNTEER
Lay Reader	Grant Pfanstiel
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	
<u>Late Service</u>	
Greeter	Karen Berry
Greeter	NEED VOLUNTEER
Usher	Steve Post
Lay Reader	Sue Ankersen
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	NEED VOLUNTEER
Video	NEED VOLUNTEER



PEACE TALK

Springtime work can be stressful on the farm with many activities coming to fruition at the same time and it is easy for me to get mesmerized with tasks at hand. All the while I am fretting about prioritizing my schedule, God is busy regenerating new life all around me. Flowers appearing, wheat fields greening up, songbirds making nests, baby calves or sheep or even a baby camel frolicking around, fresh rain falling from majestic clouds. *"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands,"* (Psalms 19:1b). I was going about work as usual, taking the work of God's hands for granted... until this new project evolved. Now you just never know what lies ahead in the "first time" category on our farm; this time it was the experience of incubating chicken eggs. Watching this process of keeping the eggs at a precise temperature, humidity, turning daily, and waiting...wondering how everything necessary for the life of a baby chick could be compacted in that small egg. Finally watching the baby chicks peck their way out into the world, emerging flawlessly, made me at that moment realize how many miracles take place all around me every day. I took the time to ponder and look around me, witnessing God's provision to life in plants, animals, or birds. I was reaffirmed that He will provide for you and me as well. *"Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"* (Matthew 6:26). Jesus teaches us to look upon creation and listen as it declares to us the nature of God. We can look at the crops in the field and know of God's unwavering faithfulness for us. We can look at the birds and never wonder if we will get our next meal. Nature declares to us that God has and will provide for us all of our days. Nature tells us not to worry because God is both powerful and near. Nature tells us that God is creative, practical, brilliant, loving, and full of mystery and wonder. Taking the time now to watch God's miracles all around me I can hear His voice loud and clear as well. Whether you live in the city or country, look upon God's creation and listen for his voice. Ask Him what He wants you to know as you see all the wonders of His hands. Let the beauty and mystery of all of God's creation fill you with a deeper longing to know your heavenly Father. Listen to God today and allow your heart to be stirred as you discover his unwavering desire to speak to you through his creation; I know God spoke to me through that tiny little chick. Dear Lord, help me to use your beautiful creation that surrounds me to be a constant reminder of all that You provide for me, for this life and life everlasting. Amen.



**Peace Lutheran Church**

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

May

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> 10:30am Online Worship 11:30am Communion Shayla Snyder family Arthur & Elaine Soncksen Cindy & Mitchell Soucek	<b>4</b> PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	<b>5</b> 9:00am Worship Committee 6:30pm Board of Elders	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:00am Parking lot worship 10:30am Radio and Online Worship Myra & Dan Stoney family Savannah Strauch Brian Strauch family	<b>11</b> PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	<b>12</b> 6:30pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE (WINKLE)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:00am Parking lot worship 10:30am Radio and Online Worship Joyce Stupka Roger Stupka Curt & Cindy Swanhorst	<b>18</b> PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Confirmation
<b>24 Communion Sunday</b> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship Justin & Kiah Terry family Richard & Sonja Thompson family James & Daphne Tidyman family	<b>25</b> <b>Office Closed</b> PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Wedding Rehearsal	<b>30</b> Wedding
<b>31</b> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship Myra Tietz Mary Traphagan Jeffrey & Kelly Unger family						