



'TIDINGS OF **PEACE**' from

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

TO: _____

TIDINGS OF **PEACE**

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*H*ello again,

As I write to you this morning, I find myself having to work around three bundles of rolled up American Flags on my desk; another Memorial Day has come and gone, and as I pondered those rolled up flags cluttering my desk, I had to ask myself, "had I, as I removed them from the church lawn, taken the time to remember our soldiers; had I removed them with the same care as when they were placed there, or had I just gone through the motions?"

And then I had to ask myself another difficult question; "Don't we do the same thing with all our celebrations?" We decorate our homes and our church for Christmas with excitement and anticipation; pausing to ponder and enjoy the special ornaments and the memories associated with each one, and then, before we know it, the day is upon us, and then it's behind us. I don't know about you, but I find myself guilty of the same kind of behavior for Easter and other celebrations. It seems that we are a people who are always on to the next thing; day after day, year after year; going into each holy day celebration with excitement, but all too soon it's done and over with, and all that remains is the drudgery of cleanup.

By the time you read this letter, Pentecost Sunday will be a past memory. Some have said that Pentecost is the season of the church year that is the hardest to get excited about because it doesn't have anything exciting to offer like the birth of Christ, or His death and resurrection. I've always been puzzled by this idea. Granted, we don't decorate the church with extra lights or candles, or Christmas trees or crowns of thorns during Pentecost; this time of year we refrain from shouting "He is risen," we don't process around the church waving palm branches

amid shouts of Hosanna; no, it seems that Pentecost is just "the green season." But what if we looked at the green of Pentecost with the same anticipation and excitement we have when the crops emerge from the ground and grow? Maybe it's just me, but I get excited at the thought of the multitudes of people in the world who will be fed, whose lives will be sustained because of the little green plants poking out of the dust and mud in the fields around us.

Pentecost is the season of life and growth in the church. What if we thought of Pentecost as growing season; you've planted the message of Christmas and Easter in the hearts of people you know, you continue to cultivate and water by praying for them, having coffee with them, all the while hoping that one day they might be sitting next to you in worship.

The season of Pentecost identifies us as God's Church on earth, connecting our time and our experiences with the experiences of the people of Jesus' time. And so, as we begin again to gather more and more in God's house for worship, as the message of Jesus goes out over the radio waves and over cell phone and computers, we join Christians throughout history in fulfilling Jesus' great commission to go and make disciples. So, I ask you to join me this green season of the church, and continue to work the ground of McCook as we watch with eager anticipation for the Lord of the Harvest to appear.

Thanks for reading,
Pastor Lonnie

Matthew 9:36-37 "When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.'"



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

Creative Preschool Director
 Kelsey VanPelt
 mycreativepreschool@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant
 Tina Cummins
 office@plcmccook.org

Congregational President
 Fred Gleason
 ggmccook4@yahoo.com

Congregational Vice President
 Curt Swanhorst
 curtswanhorst@gmail.com

Elder Chairman
 Harold Carlson
 hsputz@gmail.com

Council Secretary
 Sue Ankersen
 ankrsen@msn.com

Treasurer
 Keith Oetting
 treasurer@plcmccook.org

Financial Secretary
 Sarah Risenhoover
 peacefin28@gmail.com

FROM AN ELDER

Psalm 68:1-3 - God shall arise, His enemies shall be scattered; and those who hate Him shall flee before Him! As smoke is driven away, so you shall drive them away; as wax melts before fire, so the wicked shall perish before God! But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult before God; they shall be jubilant with joy!

Organizations that monitor the worldwide persecution of Jesus' followers have noted that currently more than 260 million Christians in 50 countries are suffering under high-to-severe levels of persecution. Every year, thousands of believers die at the hands of their persecutors, while many more suffer imprisonment or the loss of churches, homes, and employment. These terrifying numbers are not unexpected. Jesus said His followers would be hated as He was hated (see John 15:18). And even though Jesus said we are blessed when we suffer on account of His Name, for centuries saints throughout the world have cried out with the psalmist, "How long, O LORD?" (Psalm 13:1a). Yet such circumstances will not continue forever. The day is coming when "God shall arise" and "His enemies shall be scattered."

We know that day will certainly come because already there was a time when God arose in power and majesty, scattering His enemies. In those days, His mighty power was veiled in human flesh and hidden in weakness and suffering. Jesus our Savior, true God and true Man, was rejected and betrayed by those He came to save. He was unjustly condemned to death. But in the weakness and suffering of His death on the cross, Jesus destroyed the devil's power and delivered us from the fear of death (see Hebrews 2:14-15). On the third day after His death, the Son of God arose bodily from the grave, triumphing over death, scattering His enemies—our enemies—sin, death, and Satan.

Soon after Jesus ascended, the persecution against His followers began. The world, with hatred that Jesus had foretold, began its assault on His body, the church, an assault that continues to this day. Yet even through suffering and death, the Lord of the church holds His people securely in His hand. The church continues to grow as Christians everywhere continue their witness to Jesus, praying that the Spirit would call even their persecutors to faith in the Savior. As Jesus said of His church, "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18b). But then finally, one day, all persecution will cease.

On the Last Day, when Jesus returns in glory as Judge and King, this psalm will be fully and finally fulfilled. God will arise and His enemies will scatter—with nowhere to run. Those who hated the Savior and rejected Him as Lord will flee before Him. Death, the last enemy, will be destroyed as all the saints, once so hated by the world, will rise bodily from their graves, dressed in immortality (see 1 Corinthians 15:26, 53). According to God's righteous judgment, the wicked will perish. On that day, as the psalmist says, we will be glad and exult before God. We will be jubilant with joy! Come, Lord Jesus!



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Loren Brown	6/1	Megan Vetrovsky	6/7	Adley Bauer	6/22
Nadine Oetting	6/1	Abigail Schneider	6/9	Tara Sarvela	6/22
Jensen Yilk	6/2	Jeremy Yilk	6/9	Nolan Yilk	6/22
Devin Reiners	6/3	Christien Kuykendall	6/10	Zachary Hueftle	6/23
Robin Calvin	6/4	Rebecca Post	6/10	Amanda Novak	6/23
Sue Carlson	6/4	Dania Wiemers	6/10	Dana Real	6/23
Gene Meints	6/4	Carson Garretson	6/12	Kaden Pearce	6/25
Gina Vetrovsky	6/4	Fred Gleason	6/13	Keith Schoup	6/25
Michael Nielsen	6/5	Koltin Hazlitt	6/13	Emmalynn	6/25
Shannon Buck	6/6	Lilyanna Strauch	6/14	Dillon Goltl	6/26
Gavyn Klein	6/6	Chase Brown	6/15	Emmy Moench	6/26
Jane Schuster	6/6	Mitch Hazlitt	6/19	Justin Terry	6/26
Spencer Skolout	6/7	Paul Sellers	6/20	Jennifer Kircher	6/29

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
George & Ronda Wurm	6/2/1966	54	Harlan & Bernita Reiners	6/19/1960	60
Michael & Linda Nielsen	6/3/1972	48	Chet & Sarah Risenhoover	6/20/1998	22
Angela & William Watts	6/4/2016	4	Alex & Molly Sharp	6/20/2015	5
Troy & Tammie Bruntz	6/8/1996	24	Robert & Elizabeth Geisler	6/21/1964	56
Raymond & Judy Schow	6/9/1969	51	Brent & Candace Rogers	6/22/1996	24
Todd & Lisa Koetter	6/10/1982	38	Edward & Jeannine Rinehart	6/24/1983	37
Walter & Jean Sehnert	6/10/1951	69	Jeremy & Elizabeth Yilk	6/24/2006	14
Lee & Lindsay McConville	6/12/2004	16	Charles & Mardelle Miller	6/27/1990	30
Arthur & Elaine Sonckson	6/14/1953	67	Gene & Karen Meints	6/30/1972	48
Robert & Janet Hein	6/17/1960	60	Richard & Sonja Thompson	6/30/2003	17

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 (May 24th-May 30th)	Month to Date (May 3rd-May 30th)	Actual Year to Date (January 5th-May 30th)
Offerings	\$2,365.00	\$20,363.00	\$99,169.49
Expenses	\$856.00	\$11,703.00	\$108,808.00



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Let's get excited as our first "virtual" vacation bible school will be June 22nd through June 26th. VBS is for ages 3 through youth entering 12th 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 29th by either calling the church office (308-345-2595), emailing 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, boxes of fruit roll-ups and individual snack size packages of goldfish crackers . 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.

JUNE READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
7th	The Holy Trinity	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	Acts 2:14a, 22-36	Matthew 28:16-20
14th	The 2nd S. after Pentecost	Exodus 19:2-8	Romans 5:6-15	Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-20)
21st	The 3rd S. after Pentecost	Jeremiah 20:7-13	Romans 6:12-23	Matthew 10:5a, 21-33
28th	The 4th S. after Pentecost	Jeremiah 28:6-9	Romans 7:1-13	Matthew 10:34-42



**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter Article – June 2020**

The sin of the world is paid for. God's Law has been kept perfectly on our behalf. The prophecies have all been fulfilled. Jesus Christ has finished it all! And that, dear Christians, should fill us with complete confidence in our salvation. Since Jesus has finished all these things in His self-sacrifice, we can be fully certain our sins are forgiven, and we have everlasting life!

St. Paul wrote: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." (Rom. 12:1)

We hear the same teaching in 1 Peter. "As you come to him, a living stone, rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves, like living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 2:4-5)

It's the very thing Malachi foretold of the Lord, that He would come and purify His priestly people, that they may offer to Him an offering in righteousness. (Mal. 3:3)

So, what does this mean? In view of God's mercies – that is, because Jesus sacrificed Himself to make us pure, giving His entire self into death – Paul said that we are to sacrifice ourselves entirely to God, offering Him our whole lives. For our Savior did not give Himself for us in part. So, we do not give back to Him in part.

We don't offer ourselves to God just on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings, for example. Rather, we give Him our whole selves, all the time. We understand that offering ourselves to God as living sacrifices involves the giving of our time. It requires us to be faithful stewards of the time He has given us. Yes, it means we devote to our Savior all our time. Otherwise we are not sacrificing our whole lives.

You see, God both teaches us, and has graciously qualified us, to present ourselves to Him as living sacrifices – to live as His holy priests, who offer Him acceptable sacrifices through Jesus Christ, all day, every day, in our various callings.

In the passages from Romans and 1 Peter, we hear several examples of Christian self-sacrifice: serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, showing mercy, living peaceably with others, submitting to governing authorities and those over us in the workplace, wives submitting to husbands, husbands honoring wives, showing compassion, and suffering patiently in doing good.

In all these things, and in all our other everyday activities, we sacrifice ourselves by using our time, not just for our own benefit, but also and especially for the well-being of others. Work time, school time, exercise time, study time, mealtime, chore time, recreation and relaxation time, even sleep time – it's all God's gift to us to use for purposes that please and honor Him.

This challenges us to think about the way we spend our time, how we utilize our talents, and the way we spend our treasures. Whatever it is I'm doing, am I doing it "for the Lord"? (Col. 3:23) Am I presenting God a living sacrifice? Am I conducting myself as a holy priest, whose sacrifice is acceptable to God?

Because our Lord sacrificed Himself wholly for us, we offer ourselves wholly to Him as living sacrifices. This is following Jesus in self-sacrifice. By His saving mercy, yes, our sacrifice is acceptable to God. For the sake of Jesus' finished work, God is pleased with us.



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

The Board of Evangelism met for their monthly meeting May 7th. Cathy Broz, Deb Gleason, Nancy Rippen and Pastor Lonnie attended. Pastor opened with prayer. Anniversary and birthday cards continue to be sent. Contact a board member or Tina if you have a change of address. Newcomers cards are sent to individuals who have designated that they are Lutheran or have no church affiliation. Meal Ministry is inactive at this time do the recommendation of self isolation. Grief booklets continue to be mailed out to member and non members. A thank you and donation were received from an individual whose parents were members of Peace. Please contact a board member if you know of someone who could benefit from receiving the series of booklets. Church members distributed door hangers in the community with a schedule of Holy Week and Easter services. Thank you to the individuals that have made the Facebook streaming services available. Feedback from members of the community, the church and across the Nation has been incredible.

CONGRATULATION CONFIRMANDS!



We would like to recognize this year's confirmation class. Treven Critchfield, Emmalee Garcia, Alexander Nielsen, Korina Rippen, Addyson Snyder and Austin Thompson.

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

Scottsbluff: Betty Knapper

Trenton: Phyllis Berndt

York: Joyce Hofman

Lincoln: Carla Bales

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.



<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>KNGN Sponsor</u>
7th-Available	7th-Available
14th-Available	14th-Available
21st-Available	21st-Available
28th-Available	28th-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.

June 7th	
Elder on duty	Victor Lauer
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Deb Shields
Greeter	
Usher	
Lay Reader	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Jeff Pinkerton
Late Service	
Greeter	Myra Tietz
Greeter	Jane Schuster
Usher	Dennis Chipman
Lay Reader	
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Ben Schow
Video	NEED VOLUNTEER

June 21st	
Elder on duty	Harold Carlson
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Paul Sellers
Greeter	Elaine Polly
Greeter	Jeff Polly
Usher	
Lay Reader	
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins
Late Service	
Greeter	Donna Hall
Greeter	Jim Hall
Usher	Ben Schow
Lay Reader	
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	
Video	Russ Ankersen

June 14th	
Elder on duty	Ron Aufrecht
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Russ Ankersen
Greeter	Charlene Pfanstiel
Greeter	Grant Pfanstiel
Usher	
Lay Reader	
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Late Service	
Greeter	Cindy Swanhorst
Greeter	Curt Swanhorst
Usher	
Lay Reader	
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Video	NEED VOLUNTEER

June 28th	
Elder on duty	Fritz Hubert
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	
Greeter	
Usher	
Lay Reader	
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins
Late Service	
Greeter	Lois Lepper
Greeter	Pat Penner
Usher	Curt Swanhorst
Lay Reader	
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	
Video	NEED VOLUNTEER



PEACE TALK

As I sit in my office, I enjoy the view I have through the window by my desk. The combination of blue sky, striking junipers and a magnificent hackberry tree that is especially gratifying when a breeze is giving it motion and fluffy clouds are passing by. My serenity is soon broken by a bang on the window. A robin thought it could fly into my office and was rejected by the glass. It recovers and soon tries again. This continues over and over, hour after hour; day after day. My widow is now quite smeared, and I start to wonder if that robin might possibly taste like chicken. In my confusion as to why this is happening, I decided to go out and look at the window from the outside, what that robin might be seeing. To my surprise, I could not see what was inside my office, what I saw was a reflection of that blue sky and trees that I enjoy looking at. That Robin did not want inside my office, it wanted to go to that beautiful place; a better place. Do we fall into the temptation of trying to go someplace our mind tells us is better? Maybe something better than what we have? It is easy to fall into this trap; happier relationships, more money, a nicer home, less health problems. We sometimes believe that something better will come along in our life, and that can infect our way of thinking. We are rarely satisfied, in a society that tells us we don't "have" enough things. We somehow think greater happiness is just around the corner... somewhere else. So, we keep banging into the window of reality. Our mind tells us it is within reach, but we cannot physically get there. Like that Robin, we need to learn to be content with what we have. God has been showing me that when I constantly want more than He has given me, it reflects a heart that is discontent. It's like I'm telling God, "I'm not satisfied with what You have provided for me. I want more." The Apostle Paul writes in Philippians 4:11b "...for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances." He sat in prison, persecuted by those that hated him, he had nothing, yet he teaches us in the following verses that contentment lies in being thankful for what God has provided whether we like it or not. That's because peace is found in the presence of God and our attitude toward His provision in the midst of our stress. By expressing gratitude, Paul experienced richness of being, not having. However, being thankful doesn't mean that God will eventually remove us from our situation. He may; He may not. Rather, being appreciative sets us free from the desire to have... and lets us rest in the riches of contentment. And when we reach a place of contentment, we don't need a better place like that Robin might have seen in the window. God becomes our greatest treasure. In Him, we have everything we need. Dear Lord, I'm grateful for what You have provided for me. Fill me with Your peace so that I may be truly content in Your blessings. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity
Phil Bamesberger

