



'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

July 2020

As I write to you today, I pray that you find encouragement; As we consider our times, I get a sense that the things that fill the news are becoming overwhelming, and may even be causing a bit of despair in some of us. so, while at lunch today, Tanna challenged me to look for, and talk to you, about good things. I took her challenge, and would like to share just a few positive headlines I found in the news on this day; June 25, 2020:

Good things that made the headlines in the news today:

U.S. Unemployment rate begins to decline as 2.5 million workers return to work: "After the US employment rate has been skyrocketing amidst the Coronavirus lockdowns, economists were pleased that their more dire forecasts were wrong, when the Bureau of Labor Statistics issued an encouraging report for the month of May...The latest Bureau of Labor Statistics report on US job loss showed numbers actually fell after 2.5 million employees were able to return in the leisure and hospitality, construction, education and health services, and retail industries..."

More good things that made the headlines in the news today:

Drones will be used to drop library books so kids in Virginia can keep reading thanks to a Librarian's bright idea: "Kelly Passek, a middle school librarian in Virginia's Montgomery County School District, is an early adopter of a drone delivery service for household goods in her town of Christiansburg...a pilot project called Wing, a spinoff company of Google, had been delivering meals and household products to Kelly for some time, but it didn't take long for her to connect the dots, and see how this new technology could benefit the children in her district..."

More good things that made the headlines in the news today:

Woman travels 130K Miles to Bow Down Before Every Korean War Memorial And Thanks Vets For Their Service: "A Korean American woman made it her goal to bow before every Korean War memorial—she said, "I got on my knees and bowed—the Korean way, which is the highest form of respect—to express my humble and sincere gratitude on behalf of all my fellow Korean Americans thriving in the country we proudly call home, enjoying freedom's that the veterans secured for us."

As I consider these things I turned to my devotion for today, and I am reminded that Christ is always at our side. James the brother of John was the first disciple to be martyred for confessing Jesus as Lord. James and the other disciples rejoiced when imprisoned for speaking about Jesus; they were pleased to be counted worthy of suffer dishonor for the name of Jesus. You may be thinking to yourself that this isn't good new at all; but as we remember James, and the great cloud of past witnesses who have boldly spoken biblical truth throughout the world, we rejoice that that message has not been silenced, that even in our day, we still know that Christ is always by our side. May we never loose sight of that good news.

Thanks for listening.
Pastor Lonnie

Psalm 56:1-4, 13; "Be gracious to me, O God, for man tramples on me; all day long an attacker oppresses me; my enemies trample on me all day long, for many attack me proudly. When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?...For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life."

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FROM AN ELDER

Only recently I received a call from a very dear friend, who now lives several state away. We visited for quite some time, catching up, so to speak. Then the true nature of the call unfolded. My friend was worried, beaten down by all of the events of this year. First with Covid, and all of the anxiety it caused, and most recently the hate motivated rioting, hiding behind the mask of protest. The words he spoke, asked, "how much longer are we supposed to take all of this." The question may have been rhetorical, but it nonetheless caught me off guard. Then, from somewhere, words came from my lips, "I don't know brother, I guess we will take it one day at a time." Long story short, we spoke for quite sometime, during which I tried to express my view, that God has everything well in hand. His will we might never understand, but it would ultimately bring about what God knows will be a greater good.

When the call came to an end, I hoped my friend found at least a little something to ease his mind. I also wondered, why did I those words, "a day at a time." I suddenly realized that those words came not from me, but for me.

This was God telling me that whoever believes in Him, has been blessed with the gift of being able to live one day at a time! We cannot see into tomorrow, or into the future, nor do we need to. Tomorrow is in God's hands, he has given us today, and asks us to believe that all of the tomorrows He grant us, will be equally in His care.

Our God is almighty and loving God. We have His promise, that for each new day he will grant us the strength necessary to meet life's challenges, and more that overcome them.

"...and your strength will equal your days." Deuteronomy 33:25

Friends in Christ, we will never need to fear the prospect of an unknown future!

**JULY BIRTHDAYS**

Avery Doucet	7/1	Tyler Loop	7/15	Lila Leibrandt	7/22
Jack Seybold	7/1	Patricia Phinney	7/16	Mark Cummins	7/24
Cindy Soucek	7/2	Kasen Yilk	7/16	David May	7/24
Cinda Schmidt	7/3	Carla Bales	7/17	Laney Peters	7/26
Kayla Koetter	7/4	Easton Gillon	7/17	Karli Swink	7/26
Chelsey Hartwell	7/6	Grant Pfanstiel	7/17	Alex Sharp	7/27
Dalton Downing	7/7	Tristen Watts	7/17	Roger Stupka	7/27
Cindy Swanhorst	7/8	Michael Chipman	7/19	Deb Lauer	7/28
Hannah Goltl	7/11	Craig Nemechek	7/19	Kristi Novak	7/29
Elaine Soncksen	7/11	Melissa Hanchera	7/20	Brigitta Post	7/29
Dennis Wudtke	7/11	Sonja Thompson	7/20	Chad Coleman	7/30
Tom Ott	7/13	Richard Thompson	7/21	Nate Schneider	7/30
Ruby Ahrens	7/15	Charles Coleman	7/22	Cathy Broz	7/31

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Kiley & Caitlin Roundtree	7/2/2011	9	Andrew & Bobbie Ziebell	7/21/2012	8
Breann & Christopher Cerda	7/10/2015	5	Mark & Tina Cummins	7/27/1991	29
Allyx & Dillon Garretson	7/19/2008	12	Phillip & Janice Barnesberger	7/28/1979	41
Calvin & Brenda Grube	7/20/1984	36	James & Susan DeJonge	7/29/1967	53

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 (June 21st-June 27th)	Month to Date (June 7th-June 27th)	Actual Year to Date (January 5th-June 27th)
Offerings	\$3,375.00	\$12,805.00	\$114,356.49
Expenses	\$870.00	\$10,757.00	\$111,418.00



THANK YOU

Thank you to Kris Hanchera, her family, Pastor Felcher and Tina for the wonderful presentation of VBS on Facebook. It is a blessing to all the families.

Thank you to all who donated to help VBS. Thank you to the person who gave the CPH gift card! Everyone's help was appreciated.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



JULY READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
5th	The 5th S. after Pentecost	Zechariah 9:9-12	Romans 7:14-25a	Matthew 11:25-30
12th	The 6th S. after Pentecost	Isaiah 55:10-13	Romans 8:12-17	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
19th	The 7th S. after Pentecost	Isaiah 44:6-8	Romans 8:18-27	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
26th	The 8th S. after Pentecost	Deuteronomy 7:6-9	Romans 8:28-29	Matthew 13:44-52



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

"Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, "You know the commandments." And the ruler replied, "All these I have kept from my youth." And Jesus said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." (Luke 18:18-22)

As we listen to this, one question is raised in our minds: Is Jesus speaking to us also or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor? As good Lutherans, we answer: No! But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor?

The simplest explanation is this: If we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn't mean it isn't to be used for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family, and society. We are members of all three of these by birth.

- We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from either our birth into the church or the birth of others by Baptism into it.
 - We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from either our birth into that family or the birth of others into our family.
- Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are is to be pressed into service for the church, the family, and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and our duties toward them would falter.

So consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You provide food, clothing, and shelter for the members of your family. You save for college for your children.

But the one station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits – the best from off the top – even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought and intent. It means that you sit down and make a plan for what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems there are other more immediate and pressing things.

This is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time while giving is low due to high unemployment or restrictions on meeting in church to give. If we love God, his gifts of forgiveness given through the means of grace we receive at church and only at church, then we will support the church just as we love our country and our family.

For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious and giving God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son into death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What is more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of the church, the family, and society, are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three by birth.

Don't let the church, your divine family, be ignored or even an afterthought. The church is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation by Word and Sacrament for eternal life.



BOARD OF EVANGELISM

Board of Evangelism – Peace Lutheran Church
Monthly Report to Church Council
June 2020

The Board of Evangelism met on June 5. Present were Deb Gleason and Nancy Rippen.

Birthday and Anniversary cards were determined for the month.

There is no Meal Ministry this month.

Grief Books were sent out to families in need.

Partners in Prayer will continue.

Ideas were discussed for what to do for the college kids coming back to campus this fall at MCC. No action was taken as the exact date of their return was not known. This will be discussed at next month's meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be July 2.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Thank you to all who have donated fund, helped pack and donated supplies to be sent to deployed chaplains. Our next packing day is Tuesday, July 14 at 1pm.

A program called Adopt A Chaplain allows groups to support deployed chaplains by sending boxes filled with snacks and messages of hope that are given to troops, especially to those who don't get letters at mail call. Notes of encouragement and snack items can be left in the basket in the entry way. Please pray for the deployed chaplains and troops. Any questions see Linda Nielsen or Jane Schuster.

In the spring, boxes were sent to a chaplain from Nebraska, and that chaplain has now returned to the states. After receiving the care packages he said "We received the boxes, the guys loved them. They snatched everything up, to include the religious materials. Even the non-churchy guys appreciated them, probably because they are away from home and someone from back home cared enough to put together some love for them. As their chaplain I really appreciate it, they also really liked the messages that were on everything. I am pretty sure every message was read and appreciated. There seems to be something about being out of your comfort zone that opens you up to new perspectives on life. The Love of God in ways they usually aren't. Packages like yours help start conversations and get people thinking. Between the other chaplains here we have baptized a few and others have rededicated their lives to Christ. It's one thing to hear it from the chaplain but another thing to hear it from a care package."

We are now sending packages to two chaplains, both in the Army. The first chaplain is Captain Andrew Baird, who is in Korea and care for 600 troops. The 2nd chaplain is Lieutenant Michael Kearney, who is in Afghanistan, and also care for 600 troops. In this program, the chaplains who have priority are in areas of the world that are under the greatest tension.

We are also open to sending a individual package to deployed soldiers that are known to members of Peace. We would sent a package, and include prayers!



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.

**Altar Flowers**

5th-Available

12th-Available

19th-Available

26th-Available

KNGN Sponsor

5th-Available

12th-Available

19th-Available

26th-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.

July 5th

Elder on duty Victor Lauer
Organist K.C. Eckhardt
Audio Cathy Broz
Greeter Deb Shields

Greeter

Usher

Lay Reader

Acolyte

Acolyte

Powerpoint Jeff Pinkerton

Late Service

Greeter Myra Tietz

Greeter Jane Schuster

Usher

Lay Reader

Acolyte

Acolyte

Powerpoint Ben Schow

Video NEED VOLUNTEER

July 19th

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

Lay Reader

Acolyte

Acolyte

Powerpoint

Video Russ Ankersen

July 12th

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

July 26th

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

One nice thing about living in a rural area is being able to enjoy God's creation amidst the vast plains and endless blue sky... Fresh air, lots of sunshine, and abundant serenity. Whether you are hiking, golfing, going to the lake, or just enjoy working outdoors, urban life is far removed. But alas, that which glitters is not always gold. Where did all these mosquitoes, gnats, and oh those dreadful ticks come from? Outdoor activity has been compromised! I swat and I spray, and I don't understand why God created these pesky bugs. I'm sure I am not alone when it comes to figuring out how anything "good" can come from mosquitos, ticks or gnats. *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding,"* Proverbs 3:5. God sees more than we can see. He knows more than we know. Even these annoying insects are part of the wonderful balance which keeps all living things strong, vibrant and sustainable. God works in ways beyond our comprehension (Isaiah 55:8-11). Knowing God's ways is something we often try to figure out. But isn't that what we often tend to do? We have to know why. Why, Why, Why! We try to place reason to everything that we encounter. Why did an illness, accident, unemployment or financial problems arise? Why do we have bugs? The answer to our *whys* may be obvious now, or they may never be answered in our lifetime. But even if we knew why, it's likely we wouldn't be satisfied with the answers anyway. We ask God why; believing the answer will provide us with some kind of deep soul satisfaction. But too often, we don't get the answer we want. We look through Scripture and find that God is often asked "Why?": Moses asked, "Why have you dealt ill with your servant?" Numbers 11:11; David asked, "Oh Lord why do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?" Psalm 10:1; Job asked, "Why have you made me your target?" Job 7:20; The disciples asked, "Why was this man born blind?" John 9:2; Jesus on the cross asked God "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46. In every case, God either answered them directly, reminding them that He was in control, or the person asking the question later recognized it on their own and was able to see how God was working in their suffering and struggles and that God had a bigger plan in place. God's plan is not always what our heart wants. We want to understand right now why this has happened or why we have biting bugs. We want to know the reason for it. We want to know what good will come of it. But Scripture continually reminds us that God is God and we are not. He has a plan that we cannot see. Dear Lord, forgive me for questioning your eternal plan. Lead me to trust in Your goodness and mercy, knowing You have good things in store for my life. Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity
Phil Bamesberger



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July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 4:00pm Lifelight	3	4
5 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship Roger & Karen Ziebell Andrew & Bobbie Ziebell family	6	7 9:00am Worship Committee	8	9 4:00pm Lifelight	10	11 Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
12 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	13	14 6:30pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	15	16 4:00pm Lifelight	17 Wedding rehearsal	18 Upper Fellowship Hall reservation Wedding
19 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	20	21	22	23 4:00pm Lifelight	24	25 Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
26 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	27 2:00pm LWML	28	29	30 4:00pm Lifelight	31 Wedding rehearsal	