



'TIDINGS OF **PEACE**' from

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

TO:

Three vertical lines for an address.

Hello again,

As I write to you today the sun is shining and the freeze of October 2020 has begun to melt into history. And as I enjoy the balmy fifty-seven degree afternoon, my thoughts are interrupted by the sound of a jet-aircraft that seems much louder than the usual passenger jets that fly so high over our town. Excited to think that this might be a military aircraft, I rush outside in the hope of seeing something really cool.

Stepping outside and looking up, something caught my eye, but it didn't fly like any aircraft I've ever seen; it was only an Osprey, and though there is a military aircraft called the Osprey, this one was not that—this was one of the feathery creatures God had spoken into existence on the fifth day of Creation. And while this was still very cool, I have to admit that I was a little disappointed. Realizing that I have a meeting in a little bit, I will have to finish writing to you in the morning. So that's all for now.

As I finish writing this letter to you, I consider the beautiful blue sky and the cool crisp air of the morning. I ponder the many aircraft marking the sky with their white cloudy trails and I wonder about the folks traveling in them; some may be leaving family behind as they travel to far-off destinations, while others travel home. And as I pause to take in the beauty of God's creation, my mind drifts back to a time in our history, not to many years ago, to a day when the beauty of the blue Nebraska sky was not interrupted by aircraft or their white trails, a day when the sky was perfectly blue, and strangely silent. That day was the first time, since the attack on Pearl Harbor, that there was an attack on

American soil. And I am saddened to think that my children and grandchildren will never again know a world without terrorism.

I am thankful for the men and women who answer the call to defend our land, to defend my children and grand children; I am thankful for the men and women who defend those who cannot defend themselves, and I pray that I never forget them. Many have traveled far from home, far from family, far from all that is familiar; their service can be very lonely. The time of Christmas; the time that we celebrate the birth of our Lord, can be an exceedingly lonely time for them, so I ask you to remember them, and their families, in your prayers. I ask you to reach out to them by sending a note of encouragement or a card; to assure that these things to arrive by Christmas, they must be sent now. We at Peace Lutheran have given ourselves the goal of sending fifty care-packages to our military chaplains early in the month of November. much help is needed, so I ask you to prayerfully consider helping pack boxes, or to donate items to send.

May we bring encouragement to our soldiers. May we remind them that there are still folks who care. May we remind them that God sent His only Son to be born in a stable so He could die on a cross. May the Holy Spirit fill their hearts and give them the peace that surpasses all understanding. Thank you for listening.

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Felcher

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given."

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

Politics and Religion

"Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's and unto God the things which are God's." Matthew 22:21

One notion that typically guides the lives of Americans is that politics and religion do not mix. There are, of course, some areas of overlap that we have come to accept and even expect, like a prayer at a presidential inauguration or candidates ending their speeches with "God Bless America". But generally it is accepted that there should be a clear separation between the church and the state. People don't want the government telling them what to believe or the church telling them how to vote.

In our lives as citizens, the voting booth is generally considered "sacred". In this private space, the individual exercises his/her right of freedom of choice. No one tells you how to vote and no one knows how you voted, unless you tell them. (Well almost no one.) God knows, of course. He also knows, and so should Christians, that strict divisions between different parts of our lives makes no sense. As followers of Christ, we understand that no part of our lives lie beyond the claim of our Savior. He directs both realms of our lives, the spiritual and the temporal. In the spiritual realm, God answers our need for a right relationship with him. In the temporal realm, He enables us to live in right relationships with one another as He provides all we need to live in this world. The two realms are not in competition or opposition, but work together to accomplish God's purpose.

In this context voting is an activity of the temporal realm. One of the many ways we strive to uphold God's justice and live in right relationships with others. Voting is no mere privilege but a Holy obligation, a small but significant job given by God to each Christian citizen. You need to vote.

So how does God want you to vote? God wants you to vote for the people, principles and platforms that advance His justice in the world. In other words you should always vote in ways that will best serve your neighbor and his needs. Christians often fiercely debate among themselves what is just (or unjust). Our God, who created the world, set in place rules for how the world works (Psalms 96:13). He has established what is just

When you cast your ballot, consider the following: (1) your over-riding responsibility is to your nearest neighbor who has an acute need, 2) the protection of human life outweighs the enhancement of human life, 3) people always rank ahead of animals, and 4) the stuff we accumulate and want to keep always ranks last. Respect for each human (basic fairness) ranks ahead of any alleged right to keep what is "rightfully yours". Christians know that what they have belongs to God.

Voting is a holy task given to you by God and done for the sake of your neighbor. Seek God's justice for your neighbor and God's grace for yourself as you venture into the broken world that He is eager to save.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Brandon Kuykendall	11/1	Lydia Barth	11/12	Chet Risenhoover	11/19
Kelsey Messinger	11/3	Cindy Dicenta	11/12	Geneva Eckhardt	11/21
Dorothy Henton	11/4	Jon Johnson	11/12	Joyce Stupka	11/21
Caitlin Roundtree	11/4	Alyssa Rice	11/12	Mary Traphagan	11/22
Brent Doucet	11/6	Karen Berry	11/13	Janice Bamesberger	11/23
Duane Fortkamp	11/8	Elizabeth Geisler	11/16	Amber Fritz	11/23
Robert Hein	11/10	Dylan Parde	11/16	Crystal Fritz	11/23
Troy Bruntz	11/11	Rodney Berndt	11/17	Molly Sharp	11/24
Gabe Critchfield	11/11	Betty Harms	11/17	Joyce Hofman	11/26
Lois Lepper	11/11	Emma McConville	11/19	Brian Strauch	11/27
James Vetrovsky	11/11				

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Charles & Janet Gray	11/4/1972	48	Jerry & Robin Calvin	11/13/1982	38
Michael & Debra Shields	11/5/1983	37	Donnie & Brooke Rinehart	11/17/2018	2
Paul & Ruby Ahrens	11/6/1949	71	Jennifer & Kirk McConville	11/24/2012	8
Brandon & Kimberly Kuykendall	11/8/2003	17			

We apologize if we have made a mistake. Please contact the office so we may get it corrected.

Check out our Facebook page! Don't forget to "Like", "Follow" and "Share" it! You can find us at Peace Lutheran McCook NE.

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 (October 25th-October 31st)	Month to Date (October 4th-October 31st)	Actual Year to Date (January 5th-October 31st)
Offerings	\$4,580.00	\$13,246.00	\$175,684.00
Expenses	\$864.00	\$17,559.00	\$200,159.00



CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

Wow, it's hard to believe that it's already November! October sure was a fun month. Thanks to all who signed up to bring supplies for our Halloween Party, we really appreciate your help!

Jammy Days will be on Wednesday, November 18th and Thursday, November 19th. Please have your child wear their favorite pajamas and slippers (if they have some).

We will be having Thanksgiving Celebrations on Monday, November 23rd and Tuesday, November 24th. On November 2nd, we will have sign-up sheets posted for the items needed for this.

There will be no school on Wednesday, November 25th or Thursday, November 26th for Thanksgiving Break. Please enjoy this special time with your family.

Also, please mark your calendars! Our Christmas Program will be Thursday, December 10th in the church sanctuary. The classes will perform separately with times as follows. The Tu/Th AM class will be at 6 p.m., the M/W AM class will be going at 6:30 p.m. and the 4 Day Pre-K class will perform at 7 p.m. More news will be sent home about this in December.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please call Kelsey at the preschool, 345-2595, or send me an e-mail at mycreativepreschool@gmail.com.

Happy Thanksgiving!!
Kelsey, Dani and Ashton



Monday/Wednesday Class



Tuesday/Thursday Class



Four Day Class

NOVEMBER READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
1st	All Saints' Day	Revelation 7:2-17	1 John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-2
8th	The 23rd S. after Pentecost	Amos 5:18-24	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Matthew 25:1-13
15th	The 24th S. after Pentecost	Zephaniah 1:7-16	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Matthew 25:14-30
22nd	The Last S. Of The Church Year	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	1 Corinthians 15:20-28	Matthew 25:31-46
29th	1st S. in Advent	Isaiah 64:1-9	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 11:1-10 or Mark 13:24-37



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

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, His death for our sins, and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water – combined with His Word, promise, and Name – the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And, being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure is that we belong to the most Holy Trinity, and everything that is His – righteousness, peace, eternal life – also belongs also to us. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's holy Word, as a sacrifice.

Thus, all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him. We eat to nourish our bodies. We share with our family, neighbors, fellow Christians, the poor, and even our enemies as holy things given by the holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and they bring blessings upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom.

Thus, we place all that we have into God's hands, and He never fails to remember us. He pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing, and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but, giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for the celebrations of Thanksgiving, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all – even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.



BOARD OF EVANGELISM

Evangelism Committee Report

The Board of Evangelism met for their monthly meeting October 8. Pastor opened the meeting with prayer. Birthday and anniversary cards to be mailed out were reviewed. Pamphlets were mailed out to ten newcomers to McCook, inviting them to join us for worship. The Living Nativity is scheduled for December 5 and 6 at 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. each day. The Board will be asking for volunteers to provide homemade cookies and to help in the kitchen. We will start handing out the Advent devotionals November 15 and will include the nursing home and assisted living facilities. Twenty families will be available for adoption again this year through the Angel Tree. This is a wonderful way to share the love of Jesus with families in need. Nothing new to report for the Meal Ministry and Grief Booklet Ministry. Consider dropping off your old Portals of Prayer, Lutheran Witness and LWML quarterly magazines in the devotion exchange tote in the narthex. We are able to use these for the Adopt a Chaplain Program.

SHARE THE HEAT

Winter is coming!!! With your help, the "Share the Heat" community program will be ready when people in southwest Nebraska need help with their heating bills. The struggle to pay bills may have started when a serious event happened in a family. The fund was established and is maintained by Thrivent volunteers.

During the past winter many households were helped, including homes in almost all the communities from Benkelman and within Chase county on the west edge, to Arapahoe and Danbury on the east edge of the area. Households can be helped by contacting the Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska. The Share the Heat program then sends directly to the natural gas, propane, or electrical suppliers.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and for the safety of all our supporters, we have decided to not have the annual soup luncheon this year to raise money. Your monetary donations will be helpful to those who may have been laid off or lost their jobs during this time and may struggle to pay their heating bills this winter.

The address for Share the Heat is: Share the Heat Warren Everts 611 West 5th Street McCook, NE 69001

ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

Members of Peace are supporting two deployed military chaplains. We continue to send care packages to Andrew Baird, in Korea. And we send packages to a newly adopted chaplain, Joshua Porter, in Iraq. He has been taking care of troops in Iraq for 18 months, but because there was heightened security in that country, is only now able to receive packages. As much as we can, each month's shipment is 4 boxes to each chaplain. The chaplains give the snacks, other gifts, Bible verses, and messages of encouragement to the troops

There is a need to let the troops know they are not forgotten; we especially want to remember those who don't get any mail. Please write a note on a Christmas card and address it the card to "a soldier ". Putting your name of the card is optional. Christmas cards can be left at Peace for adopt a chaplain.

Many groups in southwest Nebraska support this program during the Christmas season. There will be enough snacks and money donated to send 25 boxes, or more, to each chaplain. We will pack Thurs, Nov 12 at 6:00 pm and Fri, Nov 13, at 10:00 am in the church basement. Thank you to all who have donated funds, bought snacks and gave books and magazines.



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, Martin Fortkamp, and Darlene Leibbrandt.

Kinship Pointe: Walt & Jean Sehnert, Paul & Ruby Ahrens, Betty Harms, Shirley Lichty, and Barbara Klein.

Highland Park: Harlan & Bernita Reiners

McCook: Mark Cummins

York: Joyce Hofman

Lincoln: Carla Bales

Arapahoe: Joyce Stupka

Butte: Don Kisker

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

Altar Flowers	KNGN Sponsor
1st-Carlson/Calvin	1st-Available
8th-Available	8th-Available
15th-Available	15th-Available
22nd-Available	22nd-Available
29th-Available	29th-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.

November 1st	
Elder on duty	Victor Lauer
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Charlene Pfanstiel
Greeter	Grant Pfanstiel
Usher	Dennis Chipman
Lay Reader	Sarah Risenhoover
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Jeff Pinkerton
Late Service	
Greeter	Myra Tietz
Greeter	Jane Schuster
Usher	Jim Dejonge
Lay Reader	
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Ben Schow

November 8th	
Elder on duty	Ron Aufrecht
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	
Lay Reader	Russ Ankersen
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen

November 15th		November 22nd		November 29th	
Elder on duty	Harold Carlson	Elder on duty	Fritz Hubert	Elder on duty	Curt/Phil
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel	Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel	Organist	
Audio	Paul Sellers	Audio	Harold Carlson	Audio	NEED VOLUNTEER
Greeter	Elaine Polly	Greeter		Greeter	Sue Carlson
Greeter	Jeff Polly	Greeter		Greeter	Harold Carlson
Usher	Gary Buk	Usher	Eugene Custer	Usher	Gary Buk
Lay Reader	Grant Pfanstiel	Lay Reader	Jerry Calvin	Lay Reader	Renelle Mooney
Acolyte		Acolyte		Acolyte	
Acolyte		Acolyte		Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins	Powerpoint	Tina Cummins	Powerpoint	
Late Service		Late Service		Late Service	
Greeter	Donna Hall	Greeter	Patsy Fisher	Greeter	Karen Berry
Greeter	Jim Hall	Greeter	Pat Penner	Greeter	NEED VOLUNTEER
Usher	Ben Schow	Usher	Curt Swanhorst	Usher	Steve Post
Lay Reader	Harold Carlson	Lay Reader	Nick Nothnagel	Lay Reader	Sue Ankersen
Acolyte		Acolyte		Acolyte	
Acolyte		Acolyte		Acolyte	
Powerpoint		Powerpoint	Gary Hunkins	Powerpoint	NEED VOLUNTEER



PEACE TALK

"And now you know... the rest of the story." This phrase many of you will recognize as the sign off for the late Paul Harvey's radio newscast with a feature he called, "The Rest of the Story." These factual narratives always concluded with an interesting twist that made for a surprise ending. Listeners were often fascinated to learn that even when it came to stories with which they were familiar, there was always more to the story than what they had previously heard. This is so very true of the Bible. We might look at the Old Testament and ponder; What is the rest of the story? The flood and the ark, the Passover and the Red Sea, the wilderness and the Promised Land, exile and return, war and peace, kingdom and kings, prophets and priests, the temple, its sacrifices; All these stories point to "the rest of the story." Throughout the Old Testament, Christ was patterned, promised, and present. The "I Am" in whom Abraham rejoiced was Jesus (John 8:56-58). The Lord who motivated Moses was Christ (Hebrews 11:26). The Redeemer who brought them out of Egypt was Jesus (Jude 5). The Rock in the wilderness was Christ (1 Corinthians 10:4). The King of Isaiah's temple vision was the Son (John 12:40-41). Then behold, God sent Jesus to dwell amongst us as we read in the New Testament Gospels. Throughout Jesus' life He taught and performed miracles so we would yearn for *the rest of the story*. Then when the hour of his death came and they placed His body in a grave, and on the third day rose again; the rest of the story involves what that sacrifice means for you and me. The Bible tells us that God so loved the world that He sent Jesus to die for us. It also tells us that God's plan from the very beginning was to be close to people, but that sin separated us from God and made necessary Jesus' death on the cross. Jesus ordered His followers to share the message of His salvation with everyone in the world, to give every human being the opportunity to have a relationship with God through Him. Now it is up to us to tell the rest of the story of Jesus to everyone who will listen. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16. We receive God's free gift of eternal life through His precious Grace, by believing Jesus is who He says He is through His precious Word, and by our Faith in the sinless Son of God who died on the cross for our sins to grant us eternity with Him. "And now you know... the rest of the story." Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity
Phil Bamesberger



Peace Lutheran Church

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

November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	2 7:00pm Women's Bible Study PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	3 9:00am Worship Committee 6:30pm Board of Elders	4 6:00pm School of Religion	5	6	7 7:00am Men's Bible Study
8 Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	9 7:00pm Women's Bible Study PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	10 6:30pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	11 6:00pm School of Religion	12 6:00pm Adopt-A-Chaplain packing PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE (WINKLE)	13 10:00am Adopt-A-Chaplain packing	14 7:00am Men's Bible Study
15 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	16 7:00pm Women's Bible Study PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	17	18 6:00pm School of Religion	19	20	21 7:00am Men's Bible Study
22 Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	23 2:00pm LWML 7:00pm Women's Bible Study PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	24	25 7:30pm Thanksgiving Eve Service	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28 7:00am Men's Bible Study
29 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	30 7:00pm Women's Bible Study PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE					