



'TIDINGS OF PEACE' from

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

TO:

Three vertical lines for an address.

December 2020
TIDINGS OF PEACE
A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Hello, as I write to you, I have begun my studies for the First Sunday in Advent. And as I read from the Prophet Isaiah, I'm reminded of a story I'd like to share with you; In recent weeks there had been a running joke amongst our family and our neighbors; a joke about who's raking whose leaves. We also question the logic behind leaf raking; should we even bother because leaves may be here today and gone tomorrow; one day it seems that they all work their way north, and the next day the same leaves seem to be rushing back south; where do they all go? Well, on this particular day, it seemed the leaves had all decided to stop at our house; leaves were piled up to our knees. Driveways, sidewalks, porches and steps were drifted over like after a blizzard, but, instead of white clean snow, we were covered in dusty, brown, crackly leaves. For Emmett this was a dream come true; few things bring a smile to the face of a four-year-old like being up to one's waste in leaves.

But this was an invasion into our personal space, so Tanna, Emmett, and I decided to take on the challenge of riding the world of rogue leaves; we equipped

ourselves with rakes, leaf-blowers, leaf-grinders, and loads of enthusiasm, and went to work.

Our neighbors soon joined in the effort, and within a couple of hours the battle was won; passers-by looked on with confusion as if our efforts were futile, but victory was ours. At least for the moment we stood in triumph, we had taken on the elements and won; and for a brief moment we paused to celebrate our accomplishment.

As I began my studies, I read how the people of Israel were crushed, as if God had withdrawn from them, so, in their despair they call out in confession, admitting the their efforts were futile; Isaiah wrote; *"We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away...will You, O Lord, keep silent? Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down."*

As dried up leaves are heaped up for destruction, all of mankind was lost, so, in the fulness of time, God sent His only Son—He rend the heavens and came down for our salvation in the person of Jesus the Christ, that our sins should not be heaped up against us. In the midst of our uncertainties, Jesus is our hope. Thanks for reading.

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Felcher



PLC Shepherd

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FROM AN ELDER

Advent marks the beginning of the church calendar. It traditionally starts on the Sunday closest to St. Andrew's Day (November 30th) and continues for four Sundays until Christmas. During this time the liturgical paraments and vestments in many churches will change to violet to recognize Advent as a time of preparation and repentance as well as a symbol of the royalty of the coming King. The color blue can also be used as a symbol of anticipation and hope. Christians in many countries have adopted various traditions of lighting candles during Advent to observe this as the time of the coming of Christ who is the light of the world. One widespread tradition is the use of an Advent wreath both in the church and the home to mark each Sunday in the Advent season. While the origin of this as an Advent tradition dates back to the Lutheran church following the Reformation, the current form commonly used today was developed more recently and is used in many other Christian churches throughout the world. The wreath is made out of evergreens in the shape of a circle to represent eternal life. It consisted of four candles originally; three purple or blue candles to match the liturgical colors and one pink candle lit on the 3rd Sunday in Advent. This 3rd Sunday is known as *Gaudete* Sunday, meaning "rejoice" in Latin and comes from Philippians 4:4 "*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!*" Lighting this 3rd candle, Christians relax the fast to rejoice for the promised Messiah is coming soon. Many Advent wreaths also have a 5th candle, the Christ candle, which is lit during the time of Christmas, symbolizing that Christ, the light of the world, has entered the darkness.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Heath Bedore	12/1	Carrie Goltl	12/14	Mardelle Miller	12/25
Sue Fahrenbruch	12/1	Eileen Hubert	12/14	Kim Pinkerton	12/25
James DeJonge	12/5	Raymond Schow	12/14	Brent Rogers	12/25
Emmett Felcher	12/5	Jeff Pinkerton	12/16	Ginger Erwin	12/26
Anna Mollring	12/6	Donnie Rinehart	12/16	Leslie Fahrenbruch	12/26
Nancy Rippen	12/6	Kody Bedore	12/18	Karen Meints	12/26
Randall Goltl	12/8	Debra Shields	12/18	Cindy Shields	12/26
Shane Prentice	12/8	Fayann Barenberg	12/20	Brody Mollring	12/27
Michael Shields	12/9	Racquel Bird	12/21	Keaton Loop	12/28
Cassidy Rogers	12/10	Alex Hanchera	12/22	Andrew Ziebell	12/28
Brayden Watts	12/12	Shannon Wiemers	12/23	Juliett Critchfield	12/30
Pat Schaffert	12/13	Kevin Custer	12/24	Jonathan Reiners	12/31
Nadia Schoup	12/13	Preston Hueftle	12/24	Zachary Tidyman	12/31

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Fred & Jan Hubert	12/6/1981	39	Dan & Chelsey Hartwell	12/17/2005	15
Ryan & Amanda Pearce	12/12/2006	14	Charles & Christina Coleman	12/26/1971	49

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

The Risenhoovers are looking for two queen beds. They will be moving in the week of December 14, so they would need them then. Please call or text Sarah at 340-9910.

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 (Nov. 22nd-Nov. 28th)	Month to Date (Nov. 1st-Nov. 28th)	Actual Year to Date (January 5th-Nov. 28th)
Offerings	\$7,895.00	\$19,712.00	\$195,396.00
Expenses	\$1,391.00	\$23,180.00	\$223,339.00



CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

Dear Preschool Families,

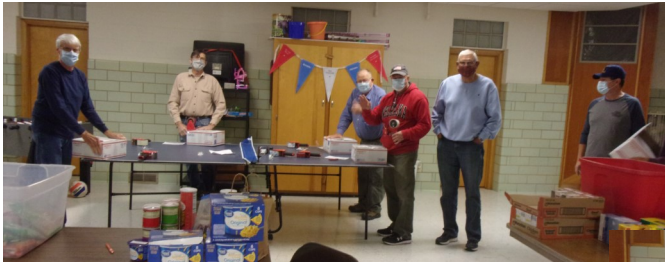
It's hard to believe that the year is almost over already! We've had so much fun learning new things together and have lots of great things planned for the next few weeks.

Because of the major rise in Covid cases and our risk dial moving to red, the Christmas program will be virtual this year. The kids will be performing during class and we will put the recording on our Facebook page. Christmas Parties will be on Wed, Dec. 16th and Thurs, Dec. 17th during the last hour of class. **Christmas Break will begin on Fri, Dec. 18th and we will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 6th.** Please enjoy this joyous season with your families. Remember that "Jesus is the reason for the season" and take time to share this message as a family during this busy time!

Looking ahead, we will have "Take home Muffins with Moms" on Wednesday, Jan. 13th and Thursday, Jan. 14th.

We are looking forward to another great month. We are blessed to have such a wonderful group of families to work with, thanks again for sharing your child with us. We truly appreciate your support, especially with everything going on this year! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please call Kelsey at 345-2595 or email me at mycreativepreschool@gmail.com

Merry Christmas!
Kelsey, Dani and Ashton



Adopt-A-Chaplain packing



DECEMBER READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
6th	The 2nd S. in Advent	Isaiah 40:1-11	2 Peter 3:8-14	Mark 1:1-8
13th	The 3rd S. in Advent	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
20th	The 4th S. in Advent	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
27th	The 1st S. after Christmas	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:22-40



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

Christmas is coming. It is a joyous time of feasting. The Church feasts upon the Word of God in sermon, song, and sacrament.

We hear the proclamation of the message of the angels: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). We mingle our voices with theirs as we sing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased" (Luke 2:14)! We receive the proclaimed Savior, Christ the Lord, not wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in manger but wrapped in bread and wine placed into our mouths for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. We feast in great joy indeed because of this great blessing from our Lord and God.

God's people in ancient Israel also feasted with great joy. The Lord showered His abundant blessing on His people. And He commanded them to feast upon it (Deuteronomy 16). The people were to go to the place appointed, where the Lord would make His name dwell, and give offerings, each man as he was able, according to the blessing of the Lord that He had given them (Deut. 16:10, 15, 17).

And there the Lord would bless them with joy as they feasted upon what the Lord had provided. They ate of the choice parts of their offerings. They enjoyed the company of all the people of God as they together heard His promises of blessing, sang of His bountiful goodness, and partook of what He gave.

We feast on the Word who became flesh to dwell among us, not just during Christmas but throughout all the year. We feast not just on the salvation He has wrought for us in His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, but we feast also on all the temporal blessings that God gives out of His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We enjoy the rich bounty that God provides, not only in Word and Sacrament, but also in house and home, property and income, family and friends.

Let us then, as did our brothers in the faith from ancient Israel, give as we are able, according to the blessing of the Lord our God that He has given us. Let us, like them, give generously of the first fruits of our income, which He gives, so that all may know and enjoy the salvation He gives and the joy we have in the Savior born in the city of David, who is Christ the Lord.



BOARD OF EVANGELISM

There has not been a newcomer list this month. Meal Ministry is available for members that have been hospitalized including having a baby. Contact Doreen Hoffman, Joann Nemechek, or the church office if you would like to request meals. Thank you to all the members who donate meals. Grief booklets continue to be sent to families that have lost a loved one even if they are not members. Contact a board member or the church office if you know someone that is interested in receiving them. Visitor mugs are in the Narthex and can be given to folks attending Peace who are not members. Care packages will be sent to college students who are members of Peace. The church will again sponsor the Angel Tree. Names of families requesting gifts will be on the tree when available. If you would like to partner with someone, to cut expenses for the gifts, feel free to do so. Advent devotionals are available. Pictures of new members will continue to be on the board in the Narthex. Respectfully submitted, Deb Gleason, Cathy Broz, and Nancy Rippen.

SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Because of COVID virus safety concerns, These changes are planned for school of religion in December, 2020. We are unable to have class for the prekindergarten to kindergarten age group. We will not be able to have meals for the SOR students or for the teachers. The classes will meet from 6:00pm to 7:00 pm. December 16th will be the last School of Religion class until we resume on January 6th .

We will do a Video Christmas Program Only during School of Religion on the 16th of the kids singing with the Shadow Drama from the FIRE kids several years ago! Will be posted to Church Facebook page.

Praying all have a blessed Holiday Season!
Any questions or concerns please ask a Board of Ed member
Linda Nielson, Laurie Peters, Linda Smith, and Janice Bamesburger

ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

We want to thank everyone who helped pack Christmas care packages to support deployed military chaplains. The group, with directions from founders Richard and Ann Trail, packed 26 boxes for our newly adopted chaplain, Joshua Porter in Iraq, and 25 boxes for chaplain Andrew Baird in Korea. There was also assistance from veterans and others who have helped Richard and Ann pack the Christmas shipments for the past 15 years. Thank you for writing hundreds of Christmas messages, these will be given out by the chaplains as they each care for 530 to 600 troops. Thank you for donating snacks and toiletries to fill the boxes and thank you for donated funds to keep this mission going. Our plan is to send 4 boxes to each chaplain every month. If one of our chaplains returns home, we apply to adopt another chaplain. Please pray for chaplain Porter and chaplain Baird, and pray for the families that are waiting for them at home. Please pray for all the deployed chaplains and troops around the world. The next packing day will be in January, please watch the Tidings for more information.
THANK YOU! Linda and Jane



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

Scottsbluff: Betty Knapper

Arapahoe: Joyce Stupka

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

6th-Available
13th-Available
20th-Carlson/Calvin
27th-Available

KNGN Sponsor

6th-Available
13th-Available
20th-Available
27th-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.

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

December 6th

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

December 13th

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	Sarah Risenhoover
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen

December 20th

Elder on duty	Harold Carlson
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Paul Sellers
Greeter	Elaine Polly
Greeter	Jeff Polly
Usher	Gary Buk
Lay Reader	Grant Pfanstiel
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins
Late Service	
Greeter	Donna Hall
Greeter	Jim Hall
Usher	Ben Schow
Lay Reader	Harold Carlson
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	

December 27th

Elder on duty	Fritz Hubert
Organist	
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	
Greeter	
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Mike Nielsen
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins
Late Service	
Greeter	Patsy Fisher
Greeter	Pat Penner
Usher	Curt Swanhorst
Lay Reader	Curt Swanhorst
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Gary Hunkins



PEACE TALK

"Are we there yet?" While traveling I remember our children asking this as I'm sure I did when I was young. Generations of children have asked this question, usually not very far into a long journey. Over and over and over; the kids just could not wait for the trip to end. How many times did Moses hear this same question from the Israelites as he led them across the wilderness for 40 years? "The Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart," Deuteronomy 8:2. Like the journey so far this year, it seems as if we have been on 40 miles of bad road. We feel lost and confused. Huge potholes of natural disasters, health concerns, and political turmoil have scared our journey, not to mention detours of personal issues and concerns. We want to ask God, "Are we there yet? How much longer?" At such times, it helps to remember that the journey, not just the destination, is important to God. He uses it to humble us, test us, and show us what is in our hearts. Recently, in three separate adventures, we were traveling in unfamiliar areas, so we entered a known destination in our navigation device. To our surprise it directed us down non paved roads. We crossed one lane bridges, cattle guards, and "potholes." I had faith we would reach our destination. As challenging as the journey appeared, we did arrive at the proper place. If I put so much trust in the electronic devise on my dash to guide me to where I need to go... why do I have so much trouble trusting that God will guide me through all the calamity in the world I navigate in today? I glance in the rear-view mirror and see where I have been. I lean over and look in the mirror again, I see myself. Is that where I place my trust? Just like the Israelites, they looked in the rear-view mirror, wandering without asking for God's guidance. As long as I go down this road and ask, "are we there yet", I will get the same answer from God that the Israelites and our children got... "no not yet". Not only is it paramount to enter the correct destination, but to place my trust in the Lord. If I don't, I will spend 40 years driving down a low maintenance road. A road that might get worse instead of better. In Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus says that there is a path that leads to life, and a path that leads to destruction. For the path to life, we need to place our trust in God and not ourselves, "Trust the Lord with all your heart; do not lean on your own understanding," (Proverbs 3:5). When we place our trust in God, our destination will be marked for us when we come to that fork in the road. We will hear Jesus say... "your destination is on the right." Dear Lord, help us follow the path you have lit up for us. Our trust we place in Your hands and know that our final stop will be with You in eternity. Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity
Phil Bamesberger



Peace Lutheran Church

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PO Box 240

McCook, NE 69001

PH (308)345-2595

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	LWML will not be meeting this month	1 9:00am Worship Committee 6:30pm Board of Elders	2 11:00 Advent Service 6:00pm School of Religion 7:30pm Advent Service	3	4	5 7:00am Men's Bible Study 4-7:00pm Live Nativity
6 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship 4-7:00pm Live Nativity	7 7:00pm Women's Bible Study PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	8 6:30pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	9 11:00 Advent Service 6:00pm School of Religion 7:30pm Advent Service	10 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE (WINKLE)	11	12 7:00am Men's Bible Study
13 Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	14 7:00pm Women's Bible Study PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	15	16 11:00 Advent Service 6:00pm School of Religion 7:30pm Advent Service	17	18	19 7:00am Men's Bible Study
20 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	21 7:00pm Women's Bible Study PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	22	23	24 6:00pm Christmas Eve service 10:30pm Christmas Eve service	25 Office Closed 10:00am Christmas Day service	26 7:00am Men's Bible Study
27 Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	28 7:00pm Women's Bible Study PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	29	30	31		