



'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

May 2021

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Hello again, I'd like to share something with you, if I may, that is close to my heart. I have a burden on my heart to do what I can to help boys, young and old, to become men. My friends and I used to hangout in my dad's garage; working on bikes, working on motorcycles, lifting weights, dreaming about our first car, or just talking and watching the world go by. When my dad would come home from work, he would take time, dirty and tired as he was, he would take the time to check in on us; he would often start-up conversations simply by asking; "what are you guys up to?" Then he would impart words of wisdom in the form of stories about his childhood and his growing up. He would often repeat stories, and at times, I must admit, the guys and I felt as if he was wasting our "valuable time." But looking back, my dad was the only dad in the neighborhood that took the time. And for some of my friends, my dad was the only dad they ever knew. Some still refer to my dad as their dad, even to this day. They have said, and I have to believe, that they are better men, because my dad took the time.

As I began to raise my own kids, life got busy; fulltime work, side work, volunteer responsibilities—you know how that goes. Well, I found myself failing my kids the way my friends had been failed by their dads, and it bothered me. Then, one day, my son brought home some literature about the Boy Scouts; he was excited and wanted to join right away. My first reaction was, "No way! I don't have time for that!" But I didn't tell him that; instead, I put him off; I told him I would think about it. About then the phone rang; it was work, so, our conversation ended. As I drove to work that next morning, I realized that I had never finished that conversation with my son. Work had become too important; but, had it really become more important than

my kids? I refused to admit that!

So, I took a good long look at what I was doing; most of my calendar had been filled up with work and "other responsibilities," leaving little time for my kids. So I decided to hold myself to task; I would use Scouting to force myself to schedule and spend time with my son. Was it a hassle? Sure it was! Did it add extra work to my already busy schedule? Yes it did. Was it exhausting? Did our camp-outs get rained out? Of course. Did I have to make, and sleep in, a snow cave? ONLY ONCE! Was it overwhelming at times? Were there times of discouragement? Sure.

Did Scouting force me to spend time? It sure did. Was it worth it? Absolutely.

Because, it wasn't about the hikes—it wasn't about the camping or the "foil-meals" that were always burnt on the outside and raw in the middle. It was about the time; time away from the television; time away from work and schoolwork; it was time away from video games—yes there were video games back in the day. 😊

Now it seems, more than ever, that our boys need to know what it is to be a godly man. Life has not slowed down since then. And it seems, now more than ever, that we dads need to hold one another accountable, and we need the benefit of the wisdom of dads who have already been through it.

At the prompting of Pastor Kahle, I have been looking into an organization called Trail Life for some time now; some of you already know about this. And with the help of two committed men from our congregation, I am hoping to launch a Trail Life Troop here at Peace Lutheran this June. We will start small; with the younger boys meeting once a month. Myself and one of these men will partner as troop leaders. The third man has committed to be Chaplain for the troop. There are other leadership positions needing to be filled;

Continued on page 2

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>PLC Shepherd Pastor Lonnie Felcher revfelcher@hotmail.com Emergency (308)737-6750</p> <p>Creative Preschool Director Kelsey VanPelt mycreativepreschool@gmail.com</p> <p>Administrative Assistant Tina Cummins office@plcmccook.org</p> <p>Congregational President Fred Gleason ggmccook4@yahoo.com</p> <p>Congregational Vice President Curt Swanhorst curtswanhorst@gmail.com</p> <p>Elder Chairman Harold Carlson hsputz@gmail.com</p> <p>Council Secretary Layne Sarvela</p> <p>Treasurer</p> <p>Financial Secretary Sarah Risenhoover peacefin28@gmail.com</p> <p>www.plcmccook.org</p> | <p><i>Continued from cover</i></p> <p>positions that don't require any camping or hiking. I ask you to pray for our boys. I ask you to pray for these men. I ask you to pray for leadership.</p> <p>Our troop number is 2256; this number stands for Proverbs 22:5-6, which I see as the marching orders for our troop.</p> <p>If you'd like to learn more about this endeavor just visit TrailLifeUSA.com</p> <p>Thank you for listening.</p> <p>Your servant in Christ, Pastor Felcher.</p> <p><i>"In the paths of the wicked lie thorns and snares, but he who guards his soul stays far from them. Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."</i></p> <p><i>Proverbs 22:5-6</i></p> |
| | <p>FROM AN ELDER</p> <p>Well, Easter has come and gone and we move on to a new church season. Curious enough, On Easter I was in My office at home relaxing after the day's festivities listening to my music app and stumbled on a Bob Dylan playlist . The timing of the season or the day was just right , or the Easter weekend was not really over yet. I don't usually listen to song lyrics, just the music most of the time , but these songs stood out for some reason. Here was a sampling of some of the verses I heard; Picture Jesus on the Cross on that dark Friday and imagine how these words could have been thought by him that very day. "So now as I'm leavin' I'm weary as can be The confusion I'm feeling' No tongue can tell The words fill my head and fall to the floor that God is on our side. Another one--In the time of My confession, in the hour of my deepest need when the pool of tears beneath my feet floods every newborn seed there's a dying voice within me reaching out. One that really could end the day Shadow's are falling and I've been here all day It's too hot and time is running away Feeling like my soul has turned to steel I've got the scars that the sun didn't heal It's not dark yet but it's getting there.----</p> <p>We do read in John 19:14, Jesus said "I am thirsty" and a jar of wine vinegar was there and the soldiers soaked a sponge in it and lifted it up to Jesus lips. when he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished" Fortunately for ALL of us, one of many bible verses tells us of Jesus returning as Matthew 25 says; "When the Son Of Man comes in all his glory, and the angels with him, then he will sit on his throne. So even though Easter Day itself is over, think of this; As Pastor says, Every Day is Easter.</p> |

MAY BIRTHDAYS

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|------------------|------|---------------------|------|
| Jerry Calvin | 5/1 | Nicole Rawn | 5/10 | Scott Hanchera | 5/19 |
| Sarah Risenhoover | 5/1 | Lisa Schoup | 5/11 | Susan DeJonge | 5/20 |
| Brenda Grube | 5/2 | Jennifer Doucet | 5/12 | Joseph Vetrovsky | 5/22 |
| Austin Thompson | 5/2 | Patricia Nielsen | 5/12 | Jayde Aufrecht | 5/23 |
| Samson Ziebell | 5/2 | Kysen Hazlitt | 5/14 | Vaunda Hyde | 5/23 |
| Lonnie Felcher | 5/3 | Heath Brown | 5/15 | Peggy Poore | 5/23 |
| Teddy Felcher | 5/5 | 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 | Gerald Gohl | 5/29 |
| Sharon Kircher | 5/7 | Luka Rawn | 5/17 | Treven Critchfield | 5/31 |
| Harlan Reiners | 5/8 | Linda Richards | 5/17 | Elizabeth Yilk | 5/31 |
| Jacob Krause | 5/9 | Spencer Rogers | 5/18 | | |

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

| NAME | DATE | YEARS | NAME | DATE | YEARS |
|----------------------------|-----------|-------|---------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Alyssa & Todd Bauer | 5/3/2014 | 7 | Ron & Jeanne Rogers | 5/23/1971 | 50 |
| Cindy & Mitchell Soucek | 5/12/2000 | 21 | Harold & Sue Carlson | 5/24/2008 | 13 |
| Tom & Cindy Shields | 5/14/1983 | 38 | Preston & Amanda Hueftle | 5/30/2020 | 1 |
| Joel & Linda Smith | 5/18/1991 | 30 | Gerald & Kristi Novak | 5/30/1981 | 40 |
| Nicholas & Hanah Nothnagel | 5/21/2016 | 5 | Raymond & Patricia Fisher | 5/31/1964 | 57 |
| Mitch & Aimee Hazlitt | 5/22/2010 | 11 | | | |

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 (April 25th-May 1st) | Month to Date (April 4th-May 1st) | Actual Year to Date (January 3rd-May 1st) |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Offerings | \$3,580.00 | \$23,09500 | \$79,972.00 |
| Expenses | \$572.00 | \$17,37200 | \$82,938.00 |



BOARD OF EVANGELISM

The Board of Evangelism met with Nancy Rippen, Deb Gleason & Joann Nemechek Present. They went over the Birthdays & Anniversaries for the month of May. There was no newcomers at this time. Deb has pictures to put up on the board welcoming new individuals. Meal Ministry served meals recently and they want to Thank All the ladies who took meals. Packing of Adopt-A-Chaplain will be April 20th. The meeting Closed with the Lords Prayer. Respectfully submitted Joann Nemechek, Nancy Rippen and Deb Gleason

ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

Adopt a Chaplain is a program that we joined to support our deployed military around the world. We do this by "adopting" and sending care packages to deployed military chaplains; they in turn use the contents of the packages as they support the troops. Every month we send large care packages with snacks, magazines, and other items. Each of these items is sent with a note attached saying "thank you for your service", or with a bible verse to encourage the men and women who are serving our country. Thank you to everyone who donated to help keep the care packages going! Everyone is welcome to help pack! Next packing day is Thursday, May 13 at 7:00 pm.

SCHOOL OF RELIGION SKATING PARTY



MAY READINGS

| Date | Season | First Reading | Epistle | Holy Gospel |
|------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 2nd | The 5th S. of Easter | Acts 8:26-40 | 1 John 4:1-21 | John 15:1-8 |
| 9th | The 6th S. of Easter | Acts 4:32-35; 10:34-48 | 1 John 5:1-8 | John 15:9-17 |
| 16th | The 7th S. of Easter | Acts 1:12-26 | 1 John 5:9-15 | John 17:11b-19 |
| 23rd | The Day of Pentecost | Ezekiel 37:1-14 | Acts 2:1-21 | John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 |
| 30th | The Holy Trinity | Isaiah 6:1-8 | Acts 2:14a, 22-36 | John 3:1-17 |



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article – May 2021

St. Paul teaches us: "Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches" (Gal. 6:6). And again, he says: "Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:13-14). In other words, ministers of the Gospel are supported by the offerings of those who are served by them.

And this is how the church lives even now. It is standard practice. But this deserves closer examination. For it instructs us not just *that* we are to give but also *what* we are to give. And it does so with four little words: "In the same way ..."

St. Paul is building his case for supporting the preachers of the Gospel with the sacrificial giving of individual members on the example of the Old Testament people who supported the Levites with their offerings and sacrifices. We're to support the Gospel ministry "in the same way." But how did the Old Testament people support the Levites?

Moses records this: "You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always" (Deut. 14:22-23). The Levites were supported by the tithe, 10 percent of all the yearly yield of that which was harvested.

Does that seem like a lot? Does it surprise you that St. Paul instructs us that we are to support the New Testament Gospel ministry "in the same way?" If it does, ask yourself: Is the church's job in the New Testament bigger or smaller than the Levites' job in the Old Testament? Back then, there was one Temple, and the ministry was almost exclusively located in one nation among the descendants of Abraham. In Matthew 28, Jesus calls us to teach and baptize all nations, and there are churches and ministries all around the world! How could we support this new Gospel ministry with anything less than the Israelites supported the Old Testament ministry?

Of course, we are free to give more, for we have received more than those in the Old Testament. We have received the fullness of God's revelation, the fullness of His salvation, and the fulfillment of everything that God promised to do. For we have received Christ, God's own Son, in the flesh, who took upon himself our sins and in exchange gave us his righteousness. The Father claimed us as his own in Holy Baptism. He gathers us together in the place where his name dwells to feast on the first fruits of the resurrection, the risen and living body and blood of His Son - our Lord Jesus. He reminds us that we are His, that all things are ours because we belong to Him. He blesses us here in time with physical and spiritual gifts.

In the same way - and in response to His fatherly divine goodness and mercy - we gladly give to those who proclaim to us "the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light." For once we were not a people, but now we are God's people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have indeed (1 Peter 2:9-10).

www.plcmccook.org



WELCOME INTO GOD'S FAMILY

Please welcome our newest members. Our Confirmands this year were Connor Tidyman, Carter Hartwell, Brooklynn Gillen and Brooke Brown. Carol Stecker-Collicott and Ian Brown were received by Affirmation of Faith. Boden Kelly Götl and Piper Laine Sprague were received by the waters of baptism. Boden is the son of Dillon & Audrie and Piper is the daughter of James & Megan. Welcome everyone!



Connor, Carter, Brooklynn and Brooke



Carol and Ian



Boden with parents Dillon and Audrie and sponsors Aunt Rachel and Uncle Cody.



Piper with Pastor Felcher, her parents James and Megan and big brother



TOOLS FOR STEWARDSHIP and EVANGELISM

SHUT INS

Please remember those who are unable to worship with us for one reason or another.

Hillcrest: Pam Leibbrandt, Ruth Woodhams, Darlene Leibbrandt and Jean Sehnert.

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

Highland Park: Harlan & Bernita Reiners

El Dorado Manor: Mark Cummins

York: Joyce Hofman

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 - Harold Carlson, Phil Bamesberger, Victor Lauer, Fritz Hubert, Brandon Kuykendall, Curt Swanhorst or Fred Gleason.

FOOD PANTRY

As discussed at a 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. **Of course all donations are welcome (like cake mixes, icing, condiments, etc.).**

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**

2nd-Available
9th-Available
16th-Available
23rd-Available
30th-Available

KNGN Sponsor

2nd-Available
9th-Available
16th-Available
23rd-Available
30th-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.

May 2nd

Elder on duty Brandon Kuykendall
Organist K.C. Eckhardt
Audio Cathy Broz
Greeter Deb Shields
Greeter
Usher Dennis Chipman
Lay Reader Grant Pfanstiel
Acolyte Abigail Schneider
Acolyte Avery Davidson
Powerpoint

Late Service

Greeter Jane Schuster
Greeter Myra Tietz
Usher Jim Dejonge
Lay Reader Curt Swanhorst
Acolyte Juliette Critchfield
Acolyte Jaelyn Kuykendall
Powerpoint Ben Schow

May 9th

Elder on duty Victor Lauer
Organist K.C. Eckhardt
Audio Russ Ankersen
Greeter Gant Pfanstiel
Greeter Charlene Pfanstiel
Usher Harold Carlson
Lay Reader Randon Peters
Acolyte Cassidy Rogers
Acolyte Cale DeWester
Powerpoint Russ Ankersen

Late Service

Greeter Cindy Swanhorst
Greeter Curt Swanhorst
Usher
Lay Reader Sue Ankersen
Acolyte Brooke Brown
Acolyte Aaron Nielsen
Powerpoint Russ Ankersen

May 16th

Elder on duty Harold Carlson
Organist Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio Paul Sellers
Greeter Elaine Polly
Greeter Jeff Polly
Usher Gary Buk
Lay Reader Renelle Mooney
Acolyte Tristen Watts
Acolyte Brayden Watts
Powerpoint Tina Cummins

Late Service

Greeter Donna Hall
Greeter Jim Hall
Usher Ben Schow
Lay Reader Nick Nothnagel
Acolyte Layton Hinz
Acolyte Carlos Martinez
Powerpoint

May 23rd

Elder on duty Fritz Hubert
Organist Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio Harold Carlson
Greeter
Greeter
Usher Eugene Custer
Lay Reader Jerry Calvin
Acolyte
Acolyte
Powerpoint Tina Cummins

Late Service

Greeter Patsy Fisher
Greeter Pat Penner
Usher Curt Swanhorst
Lay Reader Fred Gleason
Acolyte Elizabeth McConville
Acolyte Emma McConville
Powerpoint Gary Hunkins

May 30th

Elder on duty Curt/Phil
Organist Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio NEED VOLUNTEER
Greeter Sue Carlson
Greeter Harold Carlson
Usher Gary Buk
Lay Reader Renelle Mooney
Acolyte
Acolyte
Powerpoint

Late Service

Greeter Karen Berry
Greeter NEED VOLUNTEER
Usher Steve Post
Lay Reader Phil Bamesberger
Acolyte Brooklynn Tidyman
Acolyte Connor Tidyman
Powerpoint NEED VOLUNTEER



PEACE TALK

If you have ever been to an amusement park, a zoo, or large shopping mall, you might have wondered where you are going. If you are like me, I would look for an information sign with a map on it. I look for the arrow that says, "you are here". This map will show me where I've been, where I might be going, and most importantly these words will confirm where I am, at that given moment. Have you ever thought about the fact that all of us are exactly where we're supposed to be right now? This is true of the neighborhood you live in, the place you work, and the activities you are involved in. You might be inclined to say, "if I could just change this or that...." But we can't. Thousands of moments led you to this point. Hundreds of decisions and actions. Millions of tiny thoughts, mistakes and blessings have brought you here. *And here is good.* Maybe you are inclined to say; "so what is so good about it?" No matter what route your life has taken to this place you are at right now, God has brought you here for a purpose. Psalm 57:2 says, "I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me." This is key in understanding God's purpose for our life. He not only has our days numbered but has and will fulfill that purpose in our life. How we got to this point is different for each of us. Where we go from here does not have to be. We must be prayerfully attentive to the direction God has for us. When we follow God's will and live according to His divine plan, our perspective shifts. Our vision expands. We begin to look at life not in terms of what we can do, but what God can do through us. When God is working through us, He is shaping us to serve others and allowing us to be served at the same time. However, we often act as if we are inadequate to the task. We come up with excuses, have shallow justifications or are afraid to make a commitment. What we must understand about God is that He knows what we can accomplish. He knows that we are more than capable to handle the task. Our job is to be willing to ask, "God what can you do through me?" or "What do I have to offer?" God's answer isn't based on the quality of our talents, gifts, or opportunities. Our task is to accept that God is looking for those who are faithful and obedient. He does and will apply our gifts, but it's our willingness to serve that God uses more than anything else. God will qualify the servant; all we need to do is ask what direction we must go from "here". Lord, show me how I can serve you and others. In You, I place my trust to give me the direction I must go. Amen.



Peace Lutheran Church

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MAY

2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|-----------|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | 1 7:00am Men's Bible Study 10:00am Memorial service |
| 2 8:00am Worship 9:15am Graduation Breakfast 10:30am Worship | 3 7:00pm Women's Bible Study PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE | 4 9:00am Worship Committee 6:30pm Board of Elders | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 7:00am Men's Bible Study |
| 9 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship | 10 7:00pm Women's Bible Study PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE | 11 6:00pm Preschool Graduation | 12 | 13 7:00pm Adopt-A- Chaplain packing PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE (WINKLE) | 14 | 15 7:00am Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation Lower Fellowship Hall reservation |
| 16 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship | 17 7:00pm Women's Bible Study | 18 6:30pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council | 19 | 20 | 21 Upper Fellowship Hall reservation | 22 7:00am Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation |
| PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE (Vacation) | | | | | | |
| 23 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship | 24 2:00pm LWML 7:00pm Women's Bible Study | 25 | 26 | 27 2:30pm Kinship Pointe | 28 Wedding rehearsal | 29 7:00am Men's Bible Study Wedding |
| PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE (Vacation) | | | | | | |
| 30 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship | 31 <i>Office Closed</i> | | | | | |