



**'TIDINGS OF PEACE'** from

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

TO:

Three vertical lines for an address.

June 2021  
**TIDINGS OF PEACE**  
A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*H*ello again, I'd like to share with you an experience I had the other day while standing in line at the cash register at Orscheln Farm & Home; an experience in which I found myself challenged with a question; "What kind of a people have we become?" As I stood in line, I was thinking about cheeseballs—wondering if I should get some—are they really good for me; you see, I was trying to get into vacation mode, and Emmett and I have a tradition of getting a big BIG jar of cheeseballs when we do projects that require going to Orscheln. So as I stood pondering the value of cheeseballs, the man at the front of the line, forcefully pushed himself back from the counter, pointed at the note that had been taped to the counter—pointed at the plexiglass screen between him and the cashier, and he blurted out; "Social distancing—that's what's destroying our nation!" He then looked at me while pointing accusingly at the cashier behind the screen and shouted; "Restaurants are losing business because of social distancing—and it's destroying our nation!" But when I tried to engage in the conversation, he quickly cut me off and continued his rant as he headed out the door. The cashier looked at me and apologized. I told her it wasn't her fault. We both shrugged our shoulders and went on. But as I walked back to my truck, my mind was racing; "Does he really believe that the interruption of conveniences, such as eating out, has destroyed our nation?" And I wondered how many others share his opinion. Is the world really coming to an end because I can't have a sit-down meal at McDonalds?

As I shook my head in disbelief, I found myself confronted with many questions about what we value as a people; "convenience vs. the value of human life?" "Convenience vs. hard work and responsibility?" "Convenience vs. love

of neighbor?" These things brought to mind something in which my previous employer prided himself. You see, before I became a pastor, I worked for 24 years in the printing industry. The owner of the company I worked for prided himself on being one of, what he considered, a diminishing number of companies in our nation that still produced a product. I remember not understanding, at the time, his lamenting that we are becoming a nation of consumers rather than a nation of producers.

But as I pondered these things in light of the fears of the man at Orscheln, I ask myself; "What do we as a nation really value?" "Where do we Christians find ourselves in relation to that value system?" And most importantly; "What do I as a child of God, really believe?" St. Paul wrote, "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31).

Our times are different, there's no doubt about that! But in our everchanging times, God remains steady—His Word remains true, and His faithfulness toward you is never-ending. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." (Hebrews 13:8).

So, as the people of the world express their fears and uncertainties, in ways you may not understand, I encourage you to take heart; don't let their fears and uncertainties become your own. God is still in control, and He knows what He is doing.

Stay strong. Stay in God's word. Stay connected to the family of believers. God be with you. Pastor Felcher

Jesus said to His disciples: *"I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."* John 16:33



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 Harold Carlson  
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**Council Secretary**  
 Layne Sarvela

**Treasurer**

**Financial Secretary**  
 Sarah Risenhoover  
 peacefin28@gmail.com

Just how did the church get ready for the Easter season?



### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Loren Brown	6/1	Megan Vetrovsky	6/7	Adley Bauer	6/22
Carol Collicot	6/1	Abigail Schneider	6/9	Layne Sarvela	6/22
Nadine Oetting	6/1	Jeremy Yilk	6/9	Nolan Yilk	6/22
Jensen Yilk	6/2	Christien Kuykendall	6/10	Zachary Hueftle	6/23
Devin Reiners	6/3	Rebecca Post	6/10	Amanda Novak	6/23
Robin Calvin	6/4	Dania Wiemers	6/10	Dana Real	6/23
Sue Carlson	6/4	Carson Garretson	6/12	Kaden Pearce	6/25
Gene Meints	6/4	Fred Gleason	6/13	Keith Schoup	6/25
Gina Vetrovsky	6/4	Koltin Hazlitt	6/13	Emmalynn Seybold	6/25
Michael Nielsen	6/5	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	55	Harlan & Bernita Reiners	6/19/1960	61
Michael & Linda Nielsen	6/3/1972	49	Chet & Sarah Risenhoover	6/20/1998	23
Angela & William Watts	6/4/2016	5	Alex & Molly Sharp	6/20/2015	6
Troy & Tammie Bruntz	6/8/1996	25	Robert & Elizabeth Geisler	6/21/1964	57
Raymond & Judy Schow	6/9/1969	52	Brent & Candace Rogers	6/22/1996	25
Todd & Lisa Koetter	6/10/1982	39	Edward & Jeannine Rinehart	6/24/1983	38
Walter & Jean Sehnert	6/10/1951	70	Jeremy & Elizabeth Yilk	6/24/2006	15
Lee & Lindsay McConville	6/12/2004	17	Charles & Mardelle Miller	6/27/1990	31
Arthur & Elaine Soncksen	6/14/1953	68	Gene & Karen Meints	6/30/1972	49
Robert & Janet Hein	6/17/1960	61	Richard & Sonja Thompson	6/30/2003	18

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 (May 23rd-May 29th)	Month to Date (May 2nd-May 29th)	Actual Year to Date (January 3rd-May 29th)
Offerings	\$3,576.00	\$23,438.00	\$103,410.00
Expenses	\$1,022.00	\$23,339.00	\$160,277.00



## BOARD OF EVANGELISM

The Board of Evangelism met May 6th. Pastor Felcher, Deb Gleason, Joann Nemechek and Nancy Rippen attended. Pastor opened with prayer. There were twelve newcomers that will receive our church information folders. Birthday and anniversary cards continue to be sent to members. If you have had a change of address please contact the church office. Meal Ministry is once again taking meals to those in need. If you would like meals contact Joann Nemechek 345-6816 or Dorene Hoffman 345-2609. Grief booklets continue to be sent. Deb Gleason has featured confirmands and new members on the display in the Narthex. Please welcome these individuals! The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer. Respectfully Submitted, Board of Evangelism

## 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. In May we mailed packages to Chaplain Ryan Hicks in Iraq; and a new chaplain, Joseph Effiong, who wrote ". I am glad that you have chosen to adopt my unit. We are so excited and ready to partner with your organization. We like snacks and different stuff for our Soldiers. A third chaplain that we supported in May was Chaplain Cody Norton, in Poland. We have sent many prayers for Chaplain Norton, who is LCMS. He is packing to return home soon. Thank you to everyone who donated to help keep the care packages going! Everyone is welcome to help pack! Next packing day is Thursday, June 17 at 7:00 pm.

## JUNE READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
6th	The 2nd S. after Pentecost	Genesis 3:8-15	2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1	Mark 3:20-35
13th	The 3rd S. after Pentecost	Ezekiel 17:22-24	2 Corinthians 5:1-10 (11-17)	Mark 4:26-34
20th	The 4th S. after Pentecost	Job 38:1-11	2 Corinthians 6:1-13	Mark 4:35-41
27th	The 5th S. after Pentecost	Lamentations 3:22-33	2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 13-15	Mark 5:21-43



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

"There are three conversions necessary to every man: the head, the heart, and the purse." Attributed to Luther, though yet to be located in his vast writings, this statement echoes what Jesus taught about hearts and treasures. He said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34)

But which conversion comes first? I submit that the order is this: first the head, then the purse, then the heart. Let's explore this topic.

Our Lord Jesus Christ dwelt among us to save us. He took on our flesh, fulfilled the demands of the law in our place, became sin for us, and suffered torture and death on our behalf. He did this in order that we would be free from sin, death, and hell. He gives us what He accomplished through Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. And so, He doesn't just do it for us but gives it to us. He makes what He did ours by making us His. Thus, we are called by His name: Christians. We have a new life in Him.

Through the preaching of Law and Gospel, God grants us repentance, a changing of our minds. It is a conversion of the mind. We are called to turn away from our sins and turn toward Him for forgiveness, life, and salvation. For when God calls us away from something, He is, at the same time, calling us to something.

And thus, He calls us to a new life, with new deeds. This is the conversion of the purse. Jesus said that "it is easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." (Matthew 19:24) "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Notice that our hearts follow our treasures, not the other way around. As Christians, God calls us to invest our treasures in His Kingdom to ensure that the gospel is preached and the sacraments are administered. He calls us to share all good things with the one who teaches us the doctrines of Christ. He calls us to be generous in giving to the church, for it is more blessed to give than to receive.

So where is your treasure? If it is not invested in the kingdom of God, then the only response is repentance - a conversion of the heart - and to begin doing just that. And as our Lord promised, where your treasure is there your heart will be also.

This is not to say that you earn your way into heaven. It is simply to say that as Christians, those who have been made to be temples of the Holy Spirit, who have been given a new life in Christ, who are dead to sin and now alive in Him, we are actually to live - think (conversion of the mind), do (conversion of the purse), and be (conversion of the heart) - a new life in Him. And when you fail, know that God in Christ loves and forgives you and still calls you away from that and to Himself.



## FROM AN ELDER

"Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." Matthew 19: 4-6

Greetings friends in Christ. I write this article with the fervent hope that you have read and seriously thought about the insert contained in the bulletin Sunday morning entitled, "**Two Concerns for the Church.**" If you have not, I am sure that a copy can be found at the church office.

Basically what the insert calls our attention to is two government proposed "laws" which fundamentally change the "*freedom of religion*" right guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

The first concern is with the **Equality Act** currently before Congress in Washington D.C. This act would elevate sexual orientation to a protected class and thus bring sweeping changes to current laws. This act could force churches to abandon their faith-based hiring standards, force religious schools to abandon their faith-based admission standards, force women to share restroom/locker room facilities with men, force female athletes to compete against males who identify themselves as females and force millions of Christians (and other religious groups) to violate their protected religious views on marriage and sexual morality. This will be to the great detriment of religious and constitutional freedoms of biblically faithful churches, institutions, schools, and individuals. This act would punish churches for adhering to Word of God Concerning marriage between man and a woman. The "Equality Act" effectively outlaws the words of Christ and our free exercise of religion.

The "Equality Act" expands the definition of "public accommodation" and issues an ultimatum individuals, religious non-profits, food banks, schools, charities, adoption agencies and others that they "**change your faith-based practices or face government punishment.**" In other words churches will not be allowed to preach the word of God without receiving government punishment.

The next concern is the **K-12 Health Standards** currently being considered by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) for all Nebraska public and non-public schools. These proposed standards are a deeply-flawed ideologically-driven document. If these standards are adopted, our culture will move toward further normalization of child sexualization.

Go to the NDE website and read the proposed Health Standards, especially the "*Human Growth and Development*" section for each grade. Some highlights include:

- 1) Kindergarten students discuss different kinds of family structures including single parent, blended, intergenerational, cohabitating, adoptive, foster, same-gender, and inter-rail. Marriage between a man and a woman IS NOT MENTIONED.
- 2) 1<sup>st</sup> grade students will define gender, gender-role, and stereotypes. birth and gender identity adoptive, foster, same-gender
- 3) 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will distinguish between sex-assigned and explain how they may or may not differ.
- 4) 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be taught that abortion is 'reproductive care'

Contact your federal and state representatives and the Nebraska Department of Education at the sites listed below and make your voice heard.

## Resources:

U.S House of Representatives

**Adrian Smith** (202) 225-6435 D.C. office  
502 Cannon HOB (308) 384-3900 Grand Island office  
Washington, DC 20515 (308) 633-6333 Scottsbluff office

U.S. Senate

**Deb Fisher** (202) 224-6551  
454 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Ben Sasse** (202) 224-4224  
139 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

**Nebraska Department of Education**  
P.O. Box 94987  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987  
(402) 471-2295  
website: [www.education.ne.gov](http://www.education.ne.gov)

**Matthew Blomstedt**  
Commissioner of Education  
(402) 471-5020



## 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

**Arapahoe:** Joyce Stupka

**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 - 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**

6th-Available  
13th-Available  
20th-Available  
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.*

**June 6th**

Elder on duty Brandon Kuykendall  
Organist K.C. Eckhardt  
Audio Cathy Broz  
Greeter Deb Shields  
Greeter  
Usher Dennis Chipman  
Lay Reader Grant Pfanstiel  
Acolyte  
Acolyte  
Powerpoint  
**Late Service**  
Greeter Jane Schuster  
Greeter Myra Tietz  
Usher Jim Dejonge  
Lay Reader Sarah Risenhoover  
Acolyte  
Acolyte  
Powerpoint Ben Schow

**June 20th**

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

**June 13th**

Elder on duty Victor Lauer  
Organist K.C. Eckhardt  
Audio Russ Ankersen  
Greeter Grant Pfanstiel  
Greeter Charlene Pfanstiel  
Usher Harold Carlson  
Lay Reader Russ Ankersen  
Acolyte  
Acolyte  
Powerpoint Russ Ankersen  
**Late Service**  
Greeter Cindy Swanhorst  
Greeter Curt Swanhorst  
Usher  
Lay Reader Nick Nothnagel  
Acolyte  
Acolyte  
Powerpoint Russ Ankersen

**June 27th**

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 Russ Ankersen  
Acolyte  
Acolyte  
Powerpoint Gary Hunkins

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE



**PEACE TALK**

Schools out and summer is about to begin. Time to dust off the camping supplies and head out in the wilderness to live off the land for a weekend. Tent, check. Fishing gear, check. Water bottles, check. First aid kit, check. Sleeping bag, check. Flashlight, check. You go through the list and check it twice, then pack the truck. A secluded area awaits as you head out early the next day to reach your destination. Unpack the supplies, setup camp and before you know it evening rolls around. The nights are still a bit cold so you will need to start a campfire. If you have ever tried to start a campfire and keep it going all night, you know it has to be done just right. You will need the proper materials and some skill. A great campfire starts with some wood shavings at the bottom. Then add some kindling and dry wood piled up just right, allowing for proper airflow. Finally, you are ready to rub a stick on a rock to create the initial spark. Discovering and using our God-given gifts and devotion takes the same dedication and careful attention as starting and maintaining that campfire. Our gifts from God are ignited when we believe and use them for His purposes. Because God wants us to "fan our gifts into flames," He gives us exactly what we need to identify and develop them: a spirit of boldness, power, love and self-discipline. "For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control," (2 Timothy 1:6-7). Not everyone has the same gift to give. Truth to be told, if I do ever go camping, I would need A/C, indoor plumbing, satellite TV, and a propane fire pit. The point is we all have gifts that God has given us to use for His glory. When we love the way Jesus loves, our passion reveals our gifts. Once identified, self-discipline, perseverance, and regular use will develop our gift into the perfect instrument of God's will. And when we let God work through us for His purposes, He gives us the power to use our gifts in many ways. Then watch as the fire God ignites within us though these gifts cannot be contained like a campfire or propane fire pit. God will give us the boldness to use our gifts to serve others, to fan our flame into a roaring bonfire whose light could pierce the darkness for miles "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven," (Matthew 14-16). Lord, help me to recognize my gifts so I can serve you, my Church, and whoever might be in need. Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity  
Phil Bamesberger



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# June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00am Worship Committee 6:30pm Board of Elders	2	3	4	5 7:00am Men's Bible Study
6 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	7 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	8 6:30pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	9	10	11	12 7:00am Men's Bible Study
13 <b>Communion Sunday</b> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	14 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	15	16	17 7:00pm Adopt-A-Chaplain packing	18	19 7:00am Men's Bible Study
20 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	21 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	22 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	23	24 2:30pm Kinship Pointe	25	26 7:00am Men's Bible Study
27 <b>Communion Sunday</b> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	28 2:00pm LWML PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	29	30 9:30am El Dorado			