



'TIDINGS OF PEACE' from

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

TO:

Three vertical lines for an address.

Hello again, Have you ever wondered why the celebration of Reformation falls on the same day as Halloween? I have often wondered about that, and it seems that others have as well. In the little bit of searching, I have done thus far, it seems that there are many different opinions out there about the origin of Halloween, and how it evolved into the Americanized holiday that has influenced our culture, and many other cultures throughout the world.

Opinions about Halloween are Many and varied; some assert that it is nothing more than a harmless harvest festival that ushers in the darker, or shorter days of winter; while others have traced its roots to pagan practices and summer sacrifices to appease a pagan lord of death and his evil spirits. These things have led to many other bazar and distinctly unchristian practices and behaviors that have evolved into the wearing of scary masks and consumes on that particular night.

Some medieval European Christians recognized the danger in those practices and tried to offer a Christian alternative that celebrated the lives of faithful Christian saints, thus assigning Novembre 1<sup>st</sup> as "All Hallows' Day," which, by default, labeled October 31<sup>st</sup> as "All Hallows' Eve". Those who assert these things also assert that this led to what we now call All Saints' Day.

All Saints' Day is the only connection I have found thus far, as to why Martin

Luther chose October 31<sup>st</sup> as the day he would nail his 95 Theses against indulgences to the door of the Wittenberg church; it had nothing to do with Halloween, but rather, it had everything to do with his desire that biblical truth be the only basis for faith, and he knew that on the next morning, November 1<sup>st</sup>, All Saints' Day, many influential Christians would be in attendance at the castle church at Wittenberg to view the collection of some 5,000 plus relics that would be on display; relics owned by Frederick the Wise, Elector of Saxony. Martin Luther's decision to post his 95 Theses when he did, seems to simply be a matter of logistics; All Saints' Day would offer the best opportunity for the largest number of influential people to read his theses against false teachings. Little did he know what God had in store. Through that single act of courage, the message of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus, has once again been restored to its proper place in the church, for there is no other name by which one can be saved.

I thank you for your time today. As I learn more, I will share with you. Until then, let us hold fast to the truths of Holy Scripture.

Your servant in Christ, Pastor Felcher  
*"For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith."*  
(Romans 3:22b-25a)



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### FROM AN ELDER

This past July, we attended the second night of the rodeo at the county fair. We arrived a little early to find a seat that we wanted to watch the crowd as it arrived. After a few minutes, a family with three children sat near us. There were two blond girls and one blond boy, all under ten years old. In a few minutes, a family arrived and sat near the bottom, quite a distance from us. They also had three children, dark haired and of mixed race. The mother was Caucasian and the father was Hispanic. In a matter of seconds, the oldest girl came running towards the girl sitting near us. It was apparent that they hadn't seen each other for quite some time, and they held each other in a tight hug. For the rest of the evening they were inseparable, going for popcorn, going to the restroom, but paying no attention to the rodeo. They were too busy chatting and behaving like two ten year old girls. It was heartwarming to see kids enraptured in the fun that they were experiencing.

When I witnessed their actions, it struck me that two girls, by appearance, were quite different, but not really. They were friends, probably in the same grade, and their parents were content that they were spending time together. These two girls were God's children, regardless of their ancestry or race. What an example they set for all people, especially we adults, how we should treat one another. In Genesis chapter 1, we are told that God made man in His image. But over the centuries, due to sin, mankind strayed from what God had intended. These two girls made me feel aware that at times I don't treat other people as I should. But I'm not alone in that, because we all are guilty of such thoughts and behavior. Because we are born in sin, we should ask for God's help in treating each other as we should, especially fellow Christians. We are all God's children, made in His image. May we all remember to treat each other accordingly!



### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

### NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Heath & Renee Brown	11/4/2017	4	Brandon & Kimberly Kuykendall	11/8/2003	18
Charles & Janet Gray	11/4/1972	49	Jerry & Robin Calvin	11/13/1982	39
Michael & Debra Shields	11/5/1983	38	Donnie & Brooke Rinehart	11/17/2018	3
Paul & Ruby Ahrens	11/6/1949	72	Jennifer & Kirk McConville	11/24/2012	9

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

If you feel compelled to give, offering can be brought into the church office, mailed to P.O. Box 240 or direct deposited.

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

### OUR FINANCES AT A GLANCE

	Week to Date (October 24th-October 30th)	Month to Date (October 3rd-October 30th)	Actual Year to Date (January 3rd-October30th)
Offerings	\$3,487.00	\$13,40300	\$200,680.00
Expenses	\$57200	\$16,00400	\$200,613.00



### BOARD OF EVANGELISM

The Board of Evangelism met for their meeting October 12th. Pastor opened the meeting with prayer. We welcomed Phil & Janice Bamesberger and discussed the Live Nativity this year. We will be helping getting the food for the workers and anything else they will be needing help with. Pastor visited with us about Sunday school and school of religion. Information was sent out to 4 newcomers to the area. Nancy presented she got with Peace Lutheran on them. Still looking for a company to put the church picture on the cups. We will be handing out advent devotionals in November and also putting up the Angel Tree later. Nancy, Deb, Joann

### FORERUNNERS

The Forerunners will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, November 27<sup>th</sup> starting at 3:00 pm. The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent is November 28<sup>th</sup>. We are asking for a crew of people to help with this project. Please consider coming to help. Bring a snack to share with the group too!

### ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

Please help send care packages to soldiers who won't be home for Christmas. The soldiers appreciate hearing that someone cares, please say a few words on some Christmas cards that go in the boxes. Please find cards across from the church mailboxes, and also pickup a list of suggested supplies to add to the boxes. We continue to send boxes to Iraq, Kuwait, and South Korea. We have also been given a Navy chaplain on the USS Michael Murphy (they have a special need for cards that the sailors can send to their families back home, especially birthday cards and Christmas cards). The Navy chaplain is Lt Stephen Demik and is LCMS. We need most of the supplies by Nov 10 but will always accept more donations! Packing days are: Thurs evening, Nov 11, with a sandwich supper provided at 6:30pm and packing at 7. Fri morning, Nov 12, with coffee & donuts at 9:30 am and packing at 9:45. Thurs evening, Nov 18, with a sandwich supper provided at 6:30pm and packing at 7. Fri morning, Nov 19, with coffee & donuts at 9:30am and packing at 9:45. Enter thru Peace Lutheran handicapped basement entrance, in the back of the church. Ann Trail will be helping recruit volunteers for packing. We will postpone if there is any ice or snow. For more information contact Linda Nielsen or Jane Schuster.

### NOVEMBER READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
7th	All Saints' Day	Revelation 7:2-17	1 John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-12
14th	The 25th S. after Pentecost	Daniel 12:1-3	Hebrews 10:11-25	Mark 13:1-13
21st	The Last Sunday of the Church Year	Isaiah 51:4-6 or Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14	Jude 20-25 or Revelation 1:4b-8	Mark 13:24-37 or John 18:33-37
28th	The 1st S. in Advent	Jeremiah 33:14-16	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 19:28-40 or Luke 21:25-36



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

Sometimes people don't like it when pastors talk about stewardship. For some, it hits too close to home. It is easier to talk about bad people in Washington, in history, or wherever than it is to think about what our daily life in Christ is supposed to look like and how we are supposed to love our neighbor.

The fact that we don't like it certainly means we ought to face it. So, here are a few simple and practical realities.

God calls us to first-fruits, sacrificial giving. That means that we should give off the top. We should set a percentage of our income as a deliberate gift for the work of the Church and then give that first. We write the check to the Lord's work in the Church before we pay the mortgage or pay for our medicine or pay for anything else. We don't pay for all the stuff we need - and stuff we think we need - and then give from what is left over. That is the first-fruits idea. It is hard because we think we need all sorts of other things first. But that is the point of "sacrificial."

Next, how could the starting point for Christian generosity and sacrifice really be anything less than a tithe - 10%? The ceremonial law of the Old Testament was never arbitrary. In the Old Testament, the Levites received this tithe so that they could be full-time ministers.

Does the New Testament have a ministry that is larger or smaller? It is far larger: "Make disciples of *all nations*" (Matt. 28:19). And we are still to have a full-time ministry: "The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel" (1 Cor 9:14). So if 10% is what it took in the Old Testament, and we have a bigger mission need in the New Testament, how can we expect the Lord's work to be done on less than a tithe?

By first-fruits, sacrificial, and generous giving - that's how. We shouldn't fool ourselves into thinking that we've outgiven God's goodness or that we've given plenty. We might be tempted to think that way, but consider that no one in the Church has given plenty because no one has given all. No one has died for his sins. Only the sinless Son of God did that.

St. Paul brought the Good News of Jesus into the discussion of our giving to support the Lord's work in the Church when he wrote: "I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:8-9).

As you can see, what the Bible commands about our stewardship can sting. It's Law, and the Law shows our sins. It calls us to repentance. The Law is meant to expose and accuse for the sake of showing us Christ and His fulfillment of the Law. So if first-fruits, sacrificial giving has you squirming, that's the point.

In Mark's account of the feeding of the 4,000, Jesus took the disciples' seven loaves and blessed them. It was nothing among so many, but, of course, it was plenty. Jesus makes something from nothing. Mark doesn't say that all the disciples gave Jesus all the bread they had. It is quite possible that some of them held something back. But even if they did, that didn't stop Jesus from blessing them. Jesus makes something out of nothing. He, who fed His people in the desert with Manna every morning, doesn't need their bread.

But they need to give it. And what they give - however little it might be and however grudgingly they do so - He blesses. He not only blesses those whom He feeds with it, but He blesses them - the givers. He blesses the givers not just in that they wind up with a basketful for each loaf, but they are blessed by learning to trust and rejoice in Him.

The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. The Lord gives abundantly, or He asks us to fast. We do not know what will happen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord. He does all things well, and He works all things together for good. The disciples don't give their bread to Jesus because it is a good investment. They give it because He is good, because they love Him, and because they trust Him. Let us go and do likewise.



### CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

Dear Preschoolers and families,

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

Jammy Days will be on Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. Please have your child wear their favorite pajamas and slippers (if they have some).

We will be having Thanksgiving Celebrations on Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will have sign-up sheets posted on the bulletin board at the bottom of the stairs.

There will be no school on Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> or Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving Break. Please enjoy this special time with your family.

Also, please mark your calendars! Our Christmas Program will be Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> 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

### WELCOME INTO GOD'S FAMILY

Please welcome our newest members. Brooks Dakota Lietka and Hallie Lynn Watts were received by the waters of baptism. Brooks is the infant son of Dakota and Rachel Lietka. Proud grandparents are Randall and Carrie Götl. Hallie is the infant daughter of Bill and Angela Watts. Proud grandparents are Jeannine and the late Ed Rinehart. Welcome Brooks and Hallie!



### 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, Jean Sehnert, Lois Lepper and Barbara Klein.

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

**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 2nd grade children are invited to Sunday School each Sunday from 9:15-10:15am downstairs.



**Altar Flowers**  
7th-Available  
14th-Available  
21st-Available  
28th-Available

**KNGN Sponsor**  
7th-Available  
14th-Available  
21st-Available  
28th-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

<b>November 7th</b>	
Elder on duty	Brandon Kuykendall
Organist	KC Eckhardt
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Grant Pfanstiel
Greeter	Charlene Pfanstiel
Usher	Gary Buk
Lay Reader	Grant Pfanstiel
Acolyte	Brayden Watts
Acolyte	Tristen Watts
Powerpoint	Cathy Broz
<b>Late Service</b>	
Greeter	Jane Schuster
Greeter	Myra Tietz
Usher	Jim Dejonge
Lay Reader	Curt Swanhorst
Acolyte	Zander Stewart
Acolyte	Cale DeWester
Powerpoint	Ben Schow

<b>November 21st</b>	
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	Abigail Schneider
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins
<b>Late Service</b>	
Greeter	Donna Hall
Greeter	Jim Hall
Usher	Ben Schow
Lay Reader	Fred Gleason
Acolyte	Emma McConville
Acolyte	Elizabeth McConville
Powerpoint	

<b>November 14th</b>	
Elder on duty	Victor Lauer
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Russ Ankersen
Greeter	Deb Shields
Greeter	
Usher	Harold Carlson
Lay Reader	Randon Peters
Acolyte	Cassidy Rogers
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
<b>Late Service</b>	
Greeter	Cindy Swanhorst
Greeter	Curt Swanhorst
Usher	
Lay Reader	Nick Nothnagel
Acolyte	Zander Stewart
Acolyte	Avery Davidson
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen

<b>November 28th</b>	
Elder on duty	Fritz Hubert
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	Nancy Rippen
Greeter	
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Jerry Calvin
Acolyte	Laney Peters
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Harold Carlson
<b>Late Service</b>	
Greeter	Patsy Fisher
Greeter	Pat Penner
Usher	Curt Swanhorst
Lay Reader	Russ Ankersen
Acolyte	Brooklynn Tidyman
Acolyte	Juliett Critchfield
Powerpoint	Gary Hunkins



PEACE TALK

Do you know what is contagious and the best medicine all at the same time? Something that can make you hurt and feel good simultaneously? That magical thing my friends is Laughter. If you have laughed until your sides hurt, or laughed until you cried, you know what I am talking about. Many times, this happens when children are around, they will say and do things that are just plain funny. We are always recalling something that was said or done by our precious miniature comedians, and laugh for months afterwards. I have also experienced a grieving time where family would gather, and at an appropriate time, someone would recall a funny memory. The next thing you know the room would erupt in laughter. The healing effect of laughter works at the core of all emotions. In the context of these wide range of reactions, laughter was written about many times in the Bible; "A time to weep and a time to laugh" (Ecclesiastes 3:4), "A joyful heart is good medicine." (Proverbs 17:22), "when our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy," (Psalm 126:2), "God has made laughter for me," (Genesis 21:6). How long has it been since you have had a good laugh? In the social media world, we express our laughter by typing LOL (laugh out loud). But do we really laugh or just think it would be a good time to do so? A time to laugh and a time not to laugh. Here is a quote from Pastor Don Thran, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lansing Iowa; "Laughter is a good icebreaker for people to get to know one another. It's such a fantastic outreach that it's hardly a laughing matter." What a wonderful statement as we go out into the broken world to share the joyous message of our risen Lord and Savior and how God had the last laugh over death. When Jesus was buried in the tomb, and on the third day rose again, all believers were filled with laughter and tears of joy. If we would incorporate laughter with our faith, what would that look like? Would we actually smile with joy before or after the sacraments and absolution? When we sing praises to the Lord, would we lift up our hands to the heavens (Psalm 134)? When we give thanksgiving to the Lord for all He has given us would we "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord"(Psalm 100)? What an evangelizing thought as all would see what joy there is to know Jesus. My heart leaps for joy for all God has given and blessed me with, and I should LOL and show my neighbor how happy that makes me to know that same gift is theirs, if they just believe. Now that is truly good medicine that will be eternally contagious. Dear Lord, thank you for giving me the means of grace and the emotions to show my joy with laughter, help us share that eternal joy with others. Amen.



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# November 2021

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