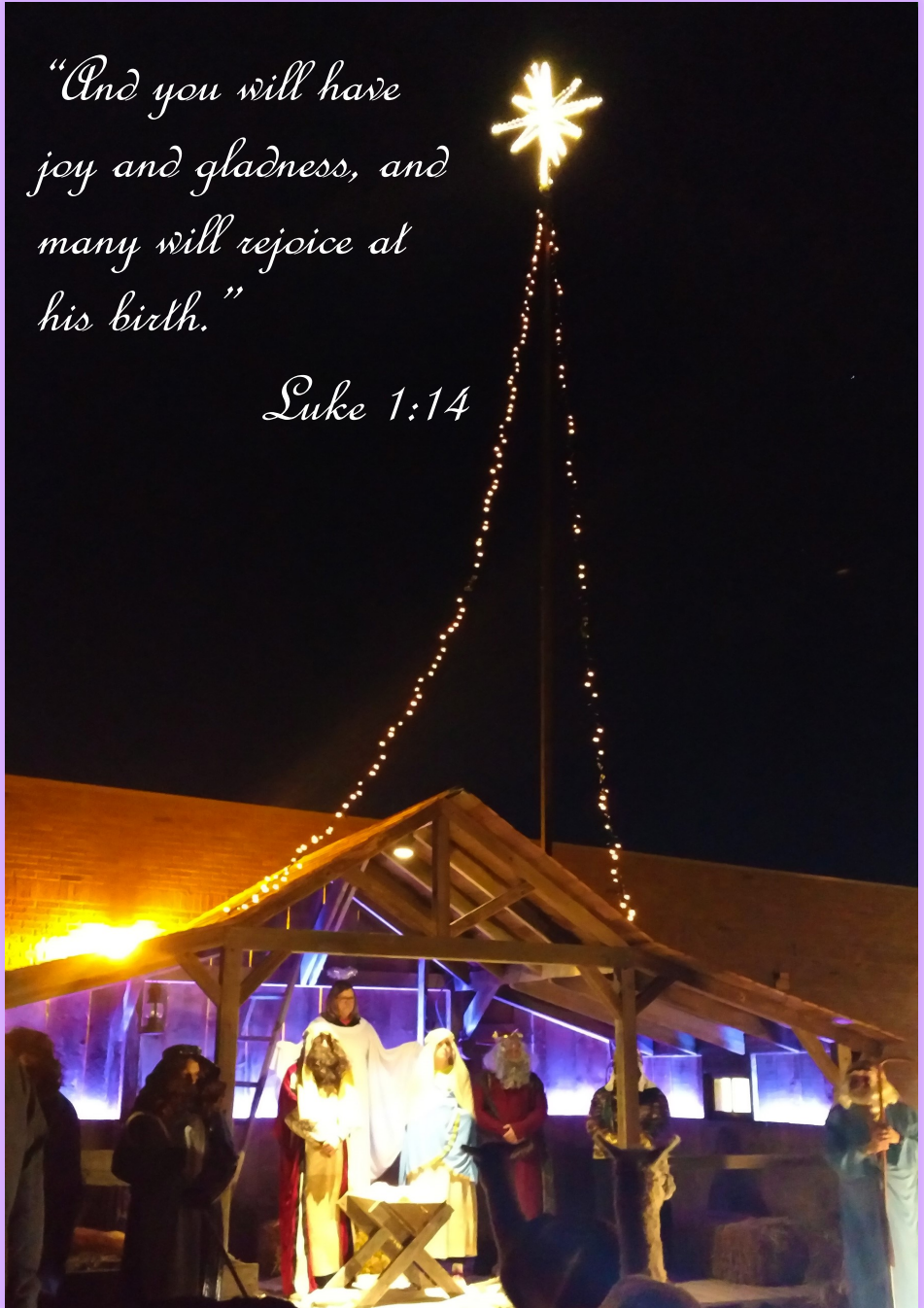




'TIDINGS OF **PEACE**' from

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

TO:



*"And you will have
joy and gladness, and
many will rejoice at
his birth."*

Luke 1:14



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
Layne Sarvela

Treasurer

Financial Secretary
Sarah Risenhoover
peacefin28@gmail.com

FROM AN ELDER

Happy December;
We are beginning the Advent season in the Church year Leading up to Christmas. The word Advent is from the Latin word for "coming" and such describes the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in the flesh.

The traditional use of Advent candles, such as in our wreath at the front of the church, originated in eastern Germany prior to reformation.

As the tradition, it involved three purple candles and one pink candle.

The purple candles match the purple paraments on the alter, which is for the royalty of the coming King.

The pink candle is the third to be lit (not the fourth),on the 3rd Sunday of Advent. Pink is used to signify rejoicing.

We also use a white Christ candle in the middle, to be lit during the 12 days of Christmas -December 25 to January 5.

We hope you have a blessed Christmas this year and are able to have a great 2022.

Thank you God for sending your Son on one glorious night to be born and live a perfect life, and to die on the cross for my sins, so that every Christmas we can celebrate the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Amen



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Heath Bedore 12/1	Eileen Hubert 12/14	Mardelle Miller 12/25
James DeJonge 12/5	Raymond Schow 12/14	Kimberly Pinkerton 12/25
Emmett Felcher 12/5	Jeff Pinkerton 12/16	Brent Rogers 12/25
Nancy Rippen 12/6	Donnie Rinehart 12/16	Ginger Erwin 12/26
Renee Brown 12/7	Kody Bedore 12/18	Leslie Fahrenbruch 12/26
Randall Göttl 12/8	Debra Shields 12/18	Karen Meints 12/26
Shane Prentice 12/8	Fayann Barenberg 12/20	Cindy Shields 12/26
Cassidy Rogers 12/10	Racquel Bird 12/21	Keaton Loop 12/28
Brian Calvin 12/12	Ian Brown 12/22	Andrew Ziebell 12/28
Brayden Watts 12/12	Alex Hanchera 12/22	Juliett Critchfield 12/30
Pat Schaffert 12/13	Sue Fahrenbruch 12/23	Jonathan Reiners 12/31
Nadia Schoup 12/13	Kevin Custer 12/24	Zachary Tidyman 12/31
Carrie Göttl 12/14	Preston Hueftle 12/24	

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Fritz & Jan Hubert	12/6/1981	40	Dan & Chelsey Hartwett	12/17/2005	16
Eugene & Barbara Dunker	12/12/1958	63	Charles & Christina Coleman	12/26/1971	50
Ryan & Amanda Pearce	12/12/2006	15	Paul & Pat Schaffert	12/27/1968	53

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 (Nov. 21st-Nov. 27th)	Month to Date (Nov. 7th-Nov.27th)	Actual Year to Date (January 3rd-Nov. 27th)
Offerings	\$4,850.00	\$16,070.00	\$219,363.00
Expenses	\$278.00	\$13,752.00	\$222,191.00

**BOARD OF EVANGELISM**

The Board of Evangelism met for their monthly meeting. The committee received a list of four newcomers and pamphlets were sent to them. Cards for Birthdays and Anniversaries continue to be sent out. Discussion was held concerning the families that need to be contacted concerning *Meal Ministry*. The *Angel Tree* will be put up in the Narthex the week of November 15-19 and names will be placed on the tree as we get them. Advent booklets will be passed out on November 15th and 22nd. Discussion and planning was held concerning the food, cookies, candy cane story, Christmas story, and the refrigerator magnets for the *Live Nativity*. Church information will be handed out to each car along with cookies and candy canes to the children. There will also be a petting zoo for all the wonderful animals. This will give everyone the chance to see them up close. May you all have a blessed Christmas season celebrating the birth of our Lord.

ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

Thank you to all who gave donations and wrote Christmas cards for the Christmas care packages. Thank you to all you volunteered and donated to the Peace Lutheran Golf benefit earlier this year, that benefit made it possible to adopt 5 chaplains for Christmas. There were hundreds of people, especially the veterans and their families throughout southwest Nebraska, who helped in many ways. Many people, of all ages, wrote Christmas cards. The words of encouragement are important. We pray that some cards will reach the soldiers who don't get mail from home. The packages sent throughout the year have words and bible verses attached to the snacks. We tell all the military chaplains, and all those soldiers and sailors serving around the world, that we are thankful for them and that we pray for them. Adopt a chaplain does not pack care packages in December, the next packing day will be mid January. THANK YOU ALL.

DECEMBER READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
5th	The 2nd S. in Advent	Malachi 3:1-7b	Philippians 1:2-11	Luke 3:1-20
12th	The 3rd S. in Advent	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 7:18-35
19th	The 4th S. in Advent	Micah 5:2-5	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-56
26th	The 1st S. after Christmas	Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:22-40


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

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the great physician of both body and soul, healed a man with dropsy by His Word on the Sabbath (Luke 14:1-6). Dropsy is a paradoxical ailment, with an unquenchable craving for drink even though the body is over inflated with fluid, a craving that, when indulged, served not to ease but to feed the disease.

And so, if a man drinks a great deal but is never filled, he sees a doctor to inquire about what ails him, what is wrong with his body, and how to remedy it. For that is not thirst but a disease (Seneca, *Consolation to His Mother Helvia*, 11.3).

But if the owner of five couches goes looking for 10, or the owner of 10 tables buys up as many again, and even though he has plenty of land and money, he remains unsatisfied and desires yet more, losing sleep and always in discontent, does he not also require a physician to diagnose the cause of this distress?

For this is not want or lack, it's a disease (Aristippus, quoted in Plutarch, *Love of Wealth*, 524b). As St. Augustine of Hippo wrote, "we may rightly compare the dropsical man to a covetous rich man: For the more the one is swollen with excess of water, the more he thirsts; so also the other: The more he abounds in riches ... the more eagerly he desires them" (*The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers*, 4:135). Both require physicians. Both require diagnosis and medicine applied from the outside to the inward being. For these are not desires to be fulfilled but diseases to be cured.

This is why our Lord instructs us to not to be consumed by money. "No one can serve two masters ... You cannot serve God and money" (Matt. 6:24; Luke 16:13). Our desire for money, like the disease dropsy, is never satisfied. We always desire more. We think, "If I just had this much then I would be happy."

But even when that much comes, which God gladly gives, happiness evades us. The desire for more is never satisfied. It demands our constant energy, either in procuring more or protecting what we already have. When this happens, God, in His mercy, shows us that the money that He has given is no longer serving us, but we it. We have another master.

To overcome this, we need a physician's diagnosis and a physician's remedy. And our Lord Jesus Christ, our great physician of both body and soul, applies His Word to us as He did to the man healed of dropsy. He shows us how we have put our fear, love, and trust in our money and not feared, loved, and trusted in Him above all things.

In essence, He says, "Stop chasing after these fleeting things. They are vanity. They are the things that moth and rust destroy. You cannot have two masters. Repent!" And in seeing our great error, we are sorry that we have not fully feared, loved, and trusted in God above all things. And, in the mercy and grace that He earned for us on the cross, He takes away this sin, restores us to health, and bids us to live.

But then what? What do we do with this healing balm and care that our great physician has given? Do we simply go back to our old ways? "By no means!" St. Paul says (Rom. 3:31; 6:2). We do not just go back to the old ways, the ways that lead us to death. No, we live a new life, a life filled with the grace, mercy and love of God toward us. And God's great mercy, grace, and love toward is so abundant that it overflows and pours out onto those around us.

So we no longer hoard money and possessions. We no longer scrape and crawl our way to amass more. We give to those around us, as God in Christ has given to us. We press our money and possessions into service for those who need it: our family, our society and our church. For money is God's gift to us to serve us and others. Not the other way around. It serves us because it is a gift from our Father in heaven.



THANK YOU

The "TURKEY SQUAD" wish to thank everyone for their help and support of the 3rd Annual Thanksgiving Dinner here at Peace. We want to thank all who helped getting the food ready, the ladies for all their wonderful salads and pies. Thank you to the F.I.R.E. youth and sponsors for helping set up, clean up, and making deliveries. You were all a wonderful help to us. Thanks to VFW Post 652 and the auxiliary for furnishing ALL meat, potatoes, etc. for the dinner. Also to Thrivent Action Team for the dressing, coffee & supplies for the dinner. The dinner was a huge success, we served 161 people with 47 carry out meal to shut-ins. We could not have done it without everyone's help. The proceeds will go to the ABC Pregnancy Center and Domestic Abuse Center both in our community and our own F.I.R.E. group. TO GOD BE THE GLORY



Presenting \$500.00 check to ABC Pregnancy center from Thanksgiving Dinner at Peace Lutheran Church Thank to all who helped and also who attended the dinner. God works in mysterious ways and we are thankful for all his blessings. Sincerely Paul Schaffert



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, 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
5th-Available
12th-Available
19th-Calvin
26th-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

December 5th

Elder on duty	Brandon Kuykendall
Organist	KC Eckhardt
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Grant Pfanstiel
Greeter	Charlene Pfanstiel
Usher	Gary Buk
Lay Reader	Paul Schaffert
Acolyte	Jaelyn Kuykendall
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Cathy Broz
Late Service	
Greeter	Jane Schuster
Greeter	Myra Tietz
Usher	Jim Dejonge
Lay Reader	Sarah Risenhoover
Acolyte	Emma McConville
Acolyte	Elizabeth McConville
Powerpoint	Ben Schow
Facebook	Christien Kuykendall

December 19th

Elder on duty	Harold Carlson
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Paul Sellers
Greeter	Elaine Polly
Greeter	Jeff Polly
Usher	Gary Buk
Lay Reader	Randon Peters
Acolyte	Abigail Schneider
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins
Late Service	
Greeter	Donna Hall
Greeter	Jim Hall
Usher	Ben Schow
Lay Reader	Nick Nothnagel
Acolyte	Jackson Hartwell
Acolyte	Ellie Hartwell
Powerpoint	
Facebook	Renelle Mooney

December 12th

Elder on duty	Victor Lauer
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Russ Ankersen
Greeter	Deb Shields
Greeter	
Usher	Harold Carlson
Lay Reader	Grant Pfanstiel
Acolyte	Laney Peters
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Late Service	
Greeter	Cindy Swanhorst
Greeter	Curt Swanhorst
Usher	
Lay Reader	Curt Swanhorst
Acolyte	Avery Davidson
Acolyte	Cale DeWester
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Facebook	Ryland Peters

December 26th

Elder on duty	Fritz Hubert
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	Nancy Rippen
Greeter	
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Jerry Calvin
Acolyte	Brayden Watts
Acolyte	Tristen Watts
Powerpoint	Harold Carlson
Late Service	
Greeter	Patsy Fisher
Greeter	Pat Penner
Usher	Curt Swanhorst
Lay Reader	Phil Bamesberger
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Gary Hunkins
Facebook	Tina Cummins



PEACE TALK

Why do most stories have a villain? We see it all the time in cartoons or movies. The Terminator, Darth Vader, the Wicked Witch of the West; or how about the evil Hannibal Lecter or the Grinch that stole Christmas? *And the crowd Boos!* The list could go on and on. The plot usually includes a damsel or colony in distress followed by a hero that comes to save the day. Villains play an important part in novels and movies to create the suspense necessary to showcase the hero. Without the bad guy, we wouldn't understand the dangers a community or person is facing, thus not having someone to hate or blame for the evil. We read about many villains in the Bible as well. Delilah, Goliath, Pharoah, King Herod... and the evilest one of them all, Satan. Do these villains serve the same purpose? Do they showcase the hero? Well for sure David's story with Goliath and Samsons with Delilah did. But what about that bad guy who makes all other villains look like Sponge Bob... Satan? This villain works in our story, in our daily drama. Our story, as everyone before or after us, is continually attacked by evil schemes to drag us into the dark shadows of life. The villain in our life, like in the movies, is appearing to have the upper hand. We become weak just like the Apostle Paul says... *But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."* Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10). We are made strong in our weakness by seeking our hero; we see this villain progression happening in our story more than we want to admit. This is when we reach out to our hero, Jesus Christ. We need rescued daily from the villain in our life and Jesus is there each and every time to rescue believers from Satan's grasp. We cannot do it alone. We cannot step into a phone booth as Clark Kent and emerge as Superman. We must step into our "prayer booth" and speak to our hero, our savior, our redeemer, *"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."* (Matthew 6:6). The world needs to hear the redemptive story of Jesus. He already "saved the day" for all believers and gives us protection from sin and evil if we just ask through prayer and follow Him. The cross was His weapon, His blood our shield. The sequel includes us in the story when we seek, believe, and follow His Truth, for when He comes again the villain will be forever destroyed and we will enjoy eternal life with our hero, Jesus Christ. Lord cover me with the armor of God to help me combat the villain. Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity
Phil Bamesberger



Peace Lutheran Church
 411 East 6th Street
 PO Box 240
 McCook, NE 69001
 PH (308)345-2595
 Email: office@plcmccook.org
 Website: plcmccook.org
 Facebook: Peace Lutheran McCook NE

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 11:00am Advent Service 6:00pm School of Religion 7:30pm Advent service	2	3	4 7:00am Men's Bible Study 4:00pm Live Nativity
5 8:00am Worship 9:15am. Bible Study 10:30am Worship 4:00pm Live Nativity	6	7 9:00am Worship Committee 6:30pm Board of Elders	8 11:00am Advent Service 6:00pm School of Religion 7:30pm Advent service	9 6:00pm Preschool Christmas Program	10	11 7:00am Men's Bible Study
12 Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	13	14 6:30pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	15 11:00am Advent Service 7:00pm Advent service & Christmas Program	16	17	18 7:00am Men's Bible Study
19 8:00am Worship 9:15am. Bible Study 10:30am Worship	20	21	22	23 1:30pm Hillcrest 2:30pm Kinship Pointe	24 6:00pm Christmas Eve service	25 10:00am Christmas morning service
26 Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship Upper Fellowship Hall reservation	27	28	29	30	31	