

# TIDINGS OF PEACE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*H*ello again,

As I write to you today my heart is heavy; news of recent violence in Buffalo and Uvalde have brought back memories of past incidents. These shootings also bring to the forefront of my thoughts, the need for increased diligence on our part to assure that these acts of violence are not repeated in our community.

Years ago, during a rash of school shootings, I began looking for answers to why someone would do such a thing; in my search I found a study that had been generated in 1999 by the Department of Justice - Federal Bureau of Investigation—in association with the Critical Incident Response Group, and the National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime.

The study is entitled "The School Shooter: A Threat Assessment Perspective. In 2015 the study was revisited and revised, but its findings were not that different—people hurt the same no matter the generation or time.

The premise of this study was NOT to identify and label people, but to raise awareness and educate—to make us all aware that most shooters (in this case school shooters) don't necessarily want to carry out the act of violence. Over a period of time, they will often offer clues or hints that something is wrong.

Threats may be direct and straightforward; identifying a specific target and means. Threats may be indirect, vague and unclear; using

statements like, "If I wanted to, I could kill everyone in the school!" Threats may be veiled, saying things like, "We would be better off without you." Or threats may be conditional, using "if—then" statements; "if such-n-such happens, then I will..."

It is during this time of clues and hints that we can make the greatest difference in a life, because, while not every person who exhibits these noticeable behaviors will go on to be a shooter, these and other behaviors identify a person who is hurting—a person calling out for someone to care enough to get involved in their life.

The aforementioned study takes a four-pronged approach of assessment, and is fairly involved, so I will only share a few points with you, but I ask you to find and read the study for yourself, and then step out of your comfort zone and come alongside the adolescents in your family or neighborhood. They may not fit the things you read in the study, but **all** adolescents desire the involvement of caring stable adults in their lives.

The Study:

Prong one: Personality traits and Behavior: A student intentionally or unintentionally reveals clues to feelings, thoughts, fantasies, attitudes, or intentions that may signal an impending violent act.

Prong two: Family Dynamics: Student's relationship with his parents is particularly difficult or turbulent. Parents don't react to behavior that most parents find disturbing or abnormal.

Prong three: School Dynamics: Student appears detached from the

*Continued on page 4*

TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
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'TIDINGS OF PEACE' from

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**FROM AN ELDER**

In writing this submission, I was reminded of a popular song released in May 1983. It was entitled "Every Breath You Take" and was recorded by The Police, a popular musical group at that time, led by a singer named Sting.

The lyrics are as follows; Every breath you take, and every move you make, every bond you break, every step you take I'll be watching you. Every single day, and every word you say, every game you play, every night you stay, I'll be watching you. Oh can't you see, you belong to me? How my poor heart aches, with every step you take?

While many thought this was a love song, it actually was a song written after a bitter breakup between the writer and his wife. It mentioned how he would haunt and maybe stalk her from then on.

Science says that we need four things to survive; air, water, food, and light. In Scripture, we are told about Jesus, and one instance the Father. In Genesis 2:7, God is described as the breath of life, in John 4:14, Jesus is described as the living water, in John 6:35, Jesus is the bread of life, and in John 8:12, Jesus is the light of the world. Jesus is all we need to live. In the words of the song, "every move you make, every breath you take, every step you take, I'll be watching you. Oh can't you see, you belong to me? How my poor heart aches, with every step you take?" This could be our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus, saying those words to us. Regardless of what we do, where we go, what we say, we are being watched by God. It might be said that we could feel guilty for all our actions, and maybe we should, but He is watching over us, protecting us and providing us with all that we need. In Luther's Small Catechism, we are told that "God provides all of our daily needs, He defends us against all danger and guards and protects us from all evil, and He does all of this out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me." God is watching us, but more importantly, watching out for us. He is Our Protector. He provides for all our needs. He provides for our salvation by the death of Jesus on the cross.



**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

Loren Brown	6/1	Megan Vetrovsky	6/7	Layne Sarvela	6/22
Carol Collicott	6/1	Abigail Schneider	6/9	Zachary Hueftle	6/23
Nadine Oetting	6/1	Christien Kuykendall	6/10	Amanda Novak	6/23
Devin Reiners	6/3	Rebecca Post	6/10	Dana Real	6/23
Robin Calvin	6/4	Carson Garretson	6/12	Kaden Pearce	6/25
Sue Carlson	6/4	Fred Gleason	6/13	Keith Schoup	6/25
Gene Meints	6/4	Koltin Hazlitt	6/13	Emmalynn Seybold	6/25
Gina Vetrovsky	6/4	Lilyanna Strauch	6/14	Dillon Goltl	6/26
Michael Nielsen	6/5	Chase Brown	6/15	Emmy Moench	6/26
Gavyn Klein	6/6	Mitch Hazlitt	6/19	Justin Terry	6/26
Jane Schuster	6/6	Paul Sellers	6/20	Jennifer Kircher	6/29
Spencer Skolout	6/7	Adley Bauer	6/22		

**JUNE ANNIVERSARIES**

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
George & Ronda Wurm	6/2/1966	56	Robert & Janet Hein	6/17/1960	62
Michael & Linda Nielsen	6/3/1972	50	Harlan & Bernita Reiners	6/19/1960	62
Angela & William Watts	6/4/2016	6	Chet & Sarah Risenhoover	6/20/1998	24
Jerry & Beverly Unger	6/7/1970	52	Alex & Molly Sharp	6/20/2015	7
Troy & Tammie Bruntz	6/8/1996	26	Robert & Elizabeth Geisler	6/21/1964	58
Raymond & Judy Schow	6/9/1969	53	Brent & Candace Rogers	6/22/1996	26
Walter & Jean Sehnert	6/10/1951	71	Charles & Mardelle Miller	6/27/1990	32
Lee & Lindsay McConville	6/12/2004	18	Gene & Karen Meints	6/30/1972	50
Arthur & Elaine Soncksen	6/14/1953	69	Richard & Sonja Thompson	6/30/2003	19

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.

**OUR FINANCES AT A GLANCE**

	Week to Date (May 22nd-May 28th)	Month to Date (May 1st-May 28th)	Actual Year to Date (January 2nd-May 28th)
Offerings	\$3,937.00	\$17,447.00	\$107,305.00
Expenses	\$277.00	\$20,554.00	\$96,646.00



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Peace Lutheran Church will hold VBS on June 20, 21, and 22. Please consider helping with VBS, there is a signup sheet in the entryway. Our VBS is for children pre-K (age 3 and potty trained) through 5th grade. Please join our three-day event and register by May 27th in order for your child to receive a t-shirt (size guide is found under downloads, you will be asked to enter size when registering). Late registrations will be accepted however T-shirts may not be available so we encourage you to register by the deadline. Check out all the details and register at: [www.myvbs.org/plcmccook](http://www.myvbs.org/plcmccook)

**FORERUNNERS**

Forerunners Minutes May 22, 2022

Members present were Robin and Jerry Calvin, Brigitta and Steve Post, Deb and Fred Gleason, Bob and Joanne Nemechek, Vic and Sandy Lauer, KC and Darrell Eckhardt, Russ and Sue Ankersen.

Devotions were given by KC and Darrell. Devotions in September will be given by Calvins.

There were no minutes for April as we did not have a meeting due to so many members who were unable to attend. Minutes from the March meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer’s Report was given and our current balance on hand was \$256.17.

In Old Business:

We will be cleaning the dining room chairs at our September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. We will meet at 6:00 to give us more time to get the project finished. It was discussed that the pews and pew cushions need attention as well. We will clean the pews with Murphy’s Oil Soap and spot clean the cushions at our October meeting.

In New Business:

Schafferts donated a Blackstone Grill to be used for church functions, but it did not come with a propane bottle. A motion was made and seconded that we would purchase an exchangeable propane bottle for the grill. Motion carried. (When the Trustees were informed that we would be doing this, we found out that Heath Brown has already purchased a bottle for this purpose).

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Ankersen.

**JUNE READINGS**

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
5th	<b>The Day of Pentecost</b>	Genesis 11:1-9	Acts 2:1-21	John 14:23-31
12th	<b>The Holy Trinity</b>	2 Samuel 11:26-12:10, 13-14	Galatians 2:15-21; 3:10-14	Luke 7:36-8:3
19th	<b>The 2nd Sunday after Pentecost</b>	Isaiah 65:1-9	Galatians 3:23-4:7	Luke 8:26-39
26th	<b>The 3rd Sunday after Pentecost</b>	1 Kings 19:9b-21	Galatians 5:1, 13-25	Luke 9:51-62



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
Stewardship Ministry  
Newsletter Article – June 2022

**What Do You Have That You Have Not Received?**

Some of the disciples of John the Baptist were questioning him about the baptism and preaching of Jesus. John the Baptist replies to their questions in this way: “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven” (John 3:27).

Now, John the Baptist says this to show that Jesus, His teaching, and His baptism are from heaven. But this statement is true of everything – everything that we have and are in body and soul. In fact, this is what we are taught in the meaning of the Apostles’ Creed in *Luther’s Small Catechism*.

In the explanation of the Creed’s First Article, we learn that God has made us and everything in the universe. Luther says:

“He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.”

In the Second Article of the Creed, we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, to humble Himself, taking the form of a servant. Luther writes:

“(Jesus) has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.”

In the Third Article of the Creed, we learn that the fruits of what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did are given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church. Luther explains:

“That I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.”

Indeed, a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. But how easy is this for us to forget about this?

How easy is it for us to think that what we have in this life is because we have earned it? How easy is it for us to forget that even all our skills, the abilities of our hands and minds – the very ethic to work diligently and to seek to get better at these skills – is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said? How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone – and the work of the Holy Spirit – that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and not our doing?

Sure, we have responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God’s Holy Word, and for praying without ceasing. But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven, not to earn anything but in response to what He has accomplished for us.

A person cannot receive one thing unless it is given to him from heaven. Everything we have, and everything we are – in both body and soul – are gifts from God in heaven. Let us then respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks us to – with a first-fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](http://lcms.org/stewardship)



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school and students. The school does little to prevent disrespectful behavior between individual students or groups of students. Bullying is part of the school culture and school authorities seem oblivious to it, seldom or never intervening, or doing so selectively.

Prong four: Social Dynamic: Student has easy or unmonitored access to movies or computer games with themes of extreme violence. Student is intensely or exclusively involved with a group who share a fascination with violence or extremist beliefs. Student's behavior makes a sudden change.

These few points just scratch the surface of this issue. I bring these things to your attention, asking you to get involved—to do your homework—I ask you to read only studies done by credible sources—I ask you to contact the city library or a university library.

I ask you to get involved. And I ask you to pray. Thank you for listening. Respectfully yours, Pastor Felcher

*Proverbs 24:11 "Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say, 'But we know nothing about this,' does not He who weighs the heart perceive it?"*

### BOARD OF EVANGELISM

The Board of Evangelism met and discussed upcoming summer and fall events. Birthday, Anniversary and Sympathy cards continue to be sent out. If you know of anyone needing assistance with meals please contact the church office. A reminder to all congregation members to ask any visitors to our church to please sign the Guest Book in the Narthex. Vacation Bible School will be held June 20, 21, and 22. Please consider food and/or craft materials to VBS. All children Pre-school through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade are invited to attend. If you know of someone in this age group please encourage them to participate. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Millie Mae Moench was baptized and became the newest member of Peace Lutheran Church yesterday, May 22, 2022. She is the daughter of Matt and Jenna (Smith) Moench. Proud grandparents are Joel and Linda Smith! Welcome Millie!



## 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, and Betty Harms.

**Highland Park:** Harlan & Bernita Reiners and Arthur & Elaine Soncksen

**El Dorado Manor:** Mark Cummins      **Ulysses, KS:** 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.),**

*If you have an article, an announcement, pictures, etc... that you would like to submit for the "Tidings of Peace" newsletter, please bring it by the church office no later than the 4th Thursday of the month.*



**Altar Flowers**  
5th-Not Available  
12th-Available  
19th-Available  
26th-Available

**KNGN Sponsor**  
5th-Available  
12th-Available  
19th-Available  
26th-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>June 5th</b>	
Elder on duty	Brandon Kuykendall
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Grant Pfanstiel
Greeter	Charlene Pfanstiel
Usher	Gene Meints
Lay Reader	Mike Nielsen
Acolyte	Clara Hurst
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Cathy Broz
<b>Late Service</b>	
Greeter	Jane Schuster
Greeter	Myra Tietz
Usher	Jim Dejonge
Lay Reader	Fred Gleason
Acolyte	Emma McConville
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Ben Schow
Live Stream	Christien Kuykendall

<b>June 12th</b>	
Elder on duty	Victor Lauer
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	Russ Ankersen
Greeter	Deb Shields
Greeter	
Usher	Harold Carlson
Lay Reader	Nick Nothnagel
Acolyte	Brayden Watts
Acolyte	Tristen Watts
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
<b>Late Service</b>	
Greeter	Cindy Swanhorst
Greeter	Curt Swanhorst
Usher	
Lay Reader	Sue Ankersen
Acolyte	Avery Davidson
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Live Stream	Renelle Mooney

<b>June 19th</b>	
Elder on duty	Harold Carlson
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Paul Sellers
Greeter	Elaine Polly
Greeter	Jeff Polly
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Randon Peters
Acolyte	Cale Dewester
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins
<b>Late Service</b>	
Greeter	Donna Hall
Greeter	Jim Hall
Usher	Ben Schow
Lay Reader	Sarah Risenhoover
Acolyte	Brooklynn Tidyman
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	
Live Stream	Ryland Peters

<b>June 26th</b>	
Elder on duty	Fritz Hubert
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	Nancy Rippen
Greeter	
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Jerry Calvin
Acolyte	Cale DeWester
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Cassidy Rogers
<b>Late Service</b>	
Greeter	Pat Penner
Greeter	
Usher	Curt Swanhorst
Lay Reader	Phil Bamesberger
Acolyte	Juliett Critchfield
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Gary Hunkins
Live Stream	Blayzon Mooney



PEACE TALK

Drawing a line in the sand. When I was young, if someone drew a line in the sand it usually escalated into a physical confrontation, no matter who crossed over the line first. I wasn't one of the tough kids back then so I didn't cross the line very much. Ok, I never did. However, I recall having fun listening to the stories my grandfather told regarding his episodes of a line getting drawn in the sand. No doubt the stories got better through the years, but he indicated that the line sometimes didn't quite get drawn before he was crossing the line. I tried researching where drawing a line in the sand originated and did not find a consistent source. Regardless, in each case the line in the sand set a boundary or limit. Going beyond those limits would bring consequences. So, in one way or another, I would venture to say we all have been involved with lines in the sand, and as a result have faced the ensuing consequence. Jesus might not have drawn a line but he was drawing in the sand when faced with settling a dispute with an adulterous woman in John 8:1-11. The crowd was wanting judgement cast upon her and was anxiously awaiting Jesus' decision. Jesus silenced the crowd as he slowly drew His line in the sand. After the line was drawn, it set a boundary which meant crossing it would involve consequences. Jesus looked at the crowd on the other side of the line and said, "you without sin, cast the first stone." Nobody was qualified to cross that boundary. As Christians, where do we draw the line in the sand? It is easy to cross that line when debating abortion, or if someone is being abused. But what about standing up for Biblical truth in a noisy volatile world? What about putting a stop to corrosive gossip in the arena of social media? How about taking the time to tell someone about Jesus? So many things we can do as Christians if we are willing to face the consequences. What consequences? Well, it takes a willingness to go that extra mile, spend a little more time, and engage in Christ centered conversations. It can be as simple as setting personal goals of reading the Bible, going to church regularly, or volunteering in the community. Or like Joshua when he drew a line in the sand and said "but for me and my house we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15b. As a Christian, where we set our boundaries, how we act, where we place our priorities, and the examples we set, will be contagious for generations to come. Yes, part of crossing the line in the sand may have negative consequences, "That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong," 2 Corinthians 12:10. But it is so worth it, "Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven," Matthew 5:12a. Dear Lord, give me the strength to cross the line in the sand, the boundaries of heavenly reward, Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity  
Phil Bamesberger



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# JUNE

# 2022

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