



# 'TIDINGS OF PEACE' from

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

TO:

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September 2022

# TIDINGS OF PEACE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

Hello again,

As I write to you, I am struggling with how quickly this summer has passed. The second week of school nears its conclusion, as the events of summer quickly become another chapter in the memory book of our lives.

The sun seems tired these days; rising a little later each morning as it slowly begins its trek south for the winter. Mornings have been pleasantly cooler in recent days, while the heat of the day seems less foreboding than days past. As the old rock – song I enjoyed as a teenager laments; *"time keeps on slipping—slipping—slipping into the future, tick – tock – tick."*

As a teen I had enjoyed that song, but never really appreciated that which it expressed. Time is fleeting—ever changing—each day offers a new – normal.

I was reminded of these things as I considered a friend who in recent days has gone home to be with the Lord. Jesus had said to a group of folks as He made His way to Jerusalem for the last time; *"some who are first will be last, and some who are last will be first."* This man, this friend, for much of his life, was considered last by many; he wasn't a big man, by race he was a minority, he made his way in our country by working with his hands—because of some past health issues he tended to repeat himself a lot. Some folks saw this as a weakness, so they never really took him seriously. But the few who took the time—knew him as a man of his word—a man of integrity—a man who loved the Lord, and cherished his family.

I met this man through his son, with whom I became friends through the shop ministry back home. This young

man, now an adult, was instrumental in my receiving that old blue pickup. He has just become the man of the house, as he and his family face life with a new normal. But he, like his father before him, is a man of integrity, and I expect that if the Lord blesses him with a son, he will carry the same legacy.

*"Time keeps on slipping—slipping—slipping into the future."* The sun continues to run its course, seasons come and go—and the normal seems to change with each rising sun. But I know this family will be ok, because though my friend was small in stature, his faith in Jesus is bigger than life, and is still reflected his son, and in all who are left with a new normal. God is faithful, and He will see them safely through.

Perhaps you also are left trying to find your way through a new normal; as you make your way, give yourself time, don't let others tell you that you should "be over it by now." Express and embrace your grief in ways that keep you safe. Hold tightly to the good memories. And as time slips into the future, allow the good memories to inform your new normal. Though life will never be the same, there is One who is always the same; His name is Jesus. Put your trust in Him; for though your heart feels like it was just yesterday, please know, that in time, you will be ok. Allow Him to walk this day with you.

Thank you for listening.  
And, God be with you.  
Pastor Felcher

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you."*

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## FROM AN ELDER

We prepare ourselves to do many things. Getting ready for a night out on the town involves dressing up, making dinner reservations, and perhaps arranging for babysitting. Getting ready for golf season involves cleaning the clubs, paying your dues, and making a few trips to the driving range to straighten out your drive. Likewise, when we come to the Lord's Supper, we are taught by our Lord to *prepare* ourselves to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Where does our Lord teach us about preparing? The Lord's Supper is instituted in four places in the New Testament: The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, and in St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. It's in 1 Corinthians that discussion of preparation occurs. Here's a portion that concerns the institution and practice of the Lord's Supper:

*For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. (1 Cor. 11:23-31)*

Notice that Paul writes that he "received from the Lord what I also delivered to you..." That is, these are not things which Paul has made up or decided are the best way to celebrate and receive the Supper, but in fact are the instructions of Jesus that are being handed on by Paul to the Church... Preparing us for the Lord's Supper.

This preparation involves "examining" yourself. This means that, having been instructed in the teachings of the Christian faith, you reflect on who you are before God (self-examination), of your actions (amendment of life), then asking for forgiveness (repentance) and ultimately reconciling with Christ who bore all our sins on the cross.

Did you know that there are prayers in the front portion of *Lutheran Service Book* to use both before and after receiving the Sacrament? Consider taking a moment to pray these prayers during the Divine Communion Service to help you prepare for the Lords Supper.

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

|                      |      |                   |      |                    |      |
|----------------------|------|-------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| Kapri Loop           | 9/2  | Spencer Reiners   | 9/14 | Janet Barnesberger | 9/22 |
| Steve Fritz          | 9/3  | Monte Hazlitt     | 9/15 | Charlie Mollring   | 9/22 |
| Boden Goltl          | 9/5  | Donna Rawn        | 9/16 | Jessica Gramins    | 9/23 |
| Creighton Shields    | 9/6  | Connor Tidyman    | 9/16 | Sarah Schneider    | 9/23 |
| Lucas Curl           | 9/7  | Greg Parde        | 9/17 | Aiden Bauer        | 9/24 |
| Everett Gass         | 9/7  | Stephanie Dorothy | 9/18 | Susan Chipman      | 9/25 |
| Jan Hubert           | 9/8  | Dorene Hoffman    | 9/18 | Jackson Hartwell   | 9/25 |
| Victor Lauer         | 9/8  | Sarah Calvin      | 9/19 | Doris Leibbrandt   | 9/25 |
| Jeanne Rogers        | 9/10 | K.C. Eckhardt     | 9/19 | Lydia Risenhoover  | 9/25 |
| Patricia Eilenberger | 9/12 | Doris Friehe      | 9/19 | Payton Messinger   | 9/26 |
| Arlo Nothnagel       | 9/12 | Robert Geisler    | 9/19 | Susan Ankersen     | 9/28 |
| Beverly Unger        | 9/12 | Elfriede Keen     | 9/21 | Georgia Lutzi      | 9/30 |
| Ryker Mooney         | 9/14 | Porter Rice       | 9/21 |                    |      |

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

| NAME                        | DATE      | YEARS | NAME                       | DATE      | YEARS |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------|----------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Lance & Denise Gillen       | 9/1/1990  | 32    | Victor & Sandy Lauer       | 9/23/1978 | 44    |
| Danielle & Dylan Schumacher | 9/10/2016 | 6     | Gabe & Melissa Critchfield | 9/24/2001 | 21    |
| David & Rebecca Seybold     | 9/11/2010 | 12    | Keith & Nadine Oetting     | 9/29/1973 | 49    |
| Nikki & Logan Hamilton      | 9/22/2012 | 10    |                            |           |       |

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

Check out our Facebook page (Peace Lutheran McCook NE)! Don't forget to "Like", "Follow" and "Share" it! We now have a YouTube channel (Peace Lutheran Church McCook) to view the Sunday services.

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<br>(August 21st-August 27th) | Month to Date<br>(August 7th-August 27th) | Actual Year to Date<br>(January 2nd-August 27th) |
|-----------|---|---|--|
| Offerings | \$10,064.00                               | \$17,745.00                               | \$158,587.00                                     |
| Expenses  | \$9,364.00                                | \$13,419.00                               | \$157,887.00                                     |





### SEPTEMBER READINGS

| Date | Season                      | First Reading        | Epistle                              | Holy Gospel   |
|------|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| 4th  | The 13th S. after Pentecost | Deuteronomy 30:15-20 | Philemon 1-21                        | Luke 14:25-35 |
| 11th | The 14th S. after Pentecost | Ezekiel 34:11-24     | 1 Timothy 1:5-17                     | Luke 15:1-10  |
| 18th | The 15th S. after Pentecost | Amos 8:4-7           | 1 Timothy 2:1-15                     | Luke 16:1-15  |
| 25th | The 16th S. after Pentecost | Amos 6:1-7           | 1 Timothy 3:1-13 or 1 Timothy 6:6-19 | Luke 16:19-31 |
|      |                             |                      |                                      |               |



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

### What is Stewardship?

What is a steward? Most people, when asked this question, will reply: "A manager." That is correct, but it is only half right. A steward is indeed a manager, but he is a manager of what does not belong to him. Someone else is the owner, and the steward manages the owner's property on the owner's behalf.

We are God's stewards. Our stewardship is that God has made us managers of what belongs to Him. For we have brought nothing into this world, and we can take nothing out of it (1 Tim. 6:7). Everything that we have and everything that we are comes from God's fatherly Divine goodness and mercy. God is the owner. Not only because, as the Creator, He created all things. But also, as the Redeemer, He has redeemed, that is, purchased and won all things. It all, therefore, belongs to Him.

We are simply managers of everything in this world. Like Joseph in Egypt, we are put in charge of managing what belongs to God. What a privilege. Think about that for a minute. The all-knowing, all-powerful, all-wise God has asked us to manage His possessions on His behalf here on earth. And by doing this, He invites us to take part in the allocation of His good gifts. He wants us to give our input and advise Him in where His gifts are to be used. What a privilege indeed.

What a responsibility. For to whom much is given, much shall be required (Luke 12:48). We are not the owners. And while He puts us as managers, we are still to do with His property what He wants done with it. That means we need to know what His desire and will for His property is.

How do we know this? How can we know the will and mind of God? We find the will of God in the Bible. There God tells us what His will for all His gifts are to be used. He tells us how we are to spend our time and use our talents and treasures. He instructs us in the use of our minds, bodies, and souls.

There is nothing that we have that doesn't belong to Him. "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price" (1 Cor. 6:19-20). He informs us of the big picture, the overarching policy, of how we as His stewards – His managers and custodians – of His property are to do the managing.

And that is what stewardship is. It is simply doing what God wants us to do with what He has given us. As St. Paul said: "Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness" (Rom. 6:13). So, let's dive into the God's Word and listen to what the owner desires from His stewards.

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



## ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

Thank you to everyone who has donated money, donated supplies, and helped pack to support deployed military chaplains and the troops they serve. In 2022, we prayed for and mailed care packages to the Nebraska National Guard unit from Kearney until they returned home. We have now adopted the unit that replaced them in Qatar, that chaplain is Alex Beane and he is caring for a National Guard unit from Indiana. We continue to support chaplains in Poland; Kuwait; and a chaplain from Hamlet, Nathan Witt, who is at an undisclosed location. Through this program we send care packages once a month until each chaplain returns home from half way around the world. All are welcome at the next packing day, Tuesday, September 13 at 5:00 pm

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Board of Education is still looking for someone to teach Sunday School for the older children. Hanah Nothnagel will be teaching Pk-2nd grades, but we would like to have another individual volunteer to take over 2nd grade through 4th grade. The Board also needs a volunteer to direct the Christmas Program. The Christmas Program is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14, 2022, so please prayerfully consider volunteering. It will be here before we know it and the children will need time to practice. Thank you!

## THANK YOU

The Board of Education would like to thank all of those who have volunteered to help make School of Religion possible for our youth. We would also like to thank our new FIRE sponsors, Barry & Renelle Mooney, Heath & Renee Brown, and Brandon & Kim Kuykendall. Special thanks to Jan Hubert and Curt Swanhorst for all their years of service as FIRE sponsors! Here's to a great school year!!



## 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:** 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

**Wauneta:** Lois Lepper

### 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.*



**September 4th**

|               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Elder on duty | Brandon Kuykendall |
| Organist      | K.C. Eckhardt      |
| Audio         | Cathy Broz         |
| Greeter       | Grant Pfanstiel    |
| Greeter       | Charlene Pfanstiel |
| Usher         | Gene Meints        |
| Lay Reader    | Renelle Mooney     |
| Acolyte       | Clara Hurst        |

Powerpoint Cathy Broz

**Late Service**

|             |                      |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Greeter     | Jane Schuster        |
| Greeter     | Myra Tietz           |
| Usher       |                      |
| Lay Reader  | Nick Nothnagel       |
| Acolyte     | Emma McConville      |
| Acolyte     |                      |
| Powerpoint  | Ben Schow            |
| Live Stream | Christien Kuykendall |

**September 18th**

|               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Elder on duty | Harold Carlson     |
| Organist      | Charlene Pfanstiel |
| Audio         | Paul Sellers       |
| Greeter       | Elaine Polly       |
| Greeter       | Jeff Polly         |
| Usher         | Eugene Custer      |
| Lay Reader    | Grant Pfanstiel    |
| Acolyte       | Aaron Nielsen      |
| Acolyte       |                    |

Powerpoint Tina Cummins

**Late Service**

|             |                   |
|-------------|-------------------|
| Greeter     | Donna Hall        |
| Greeter     | Jim Hall          |
| Usher       | Ben Schow         |
| Lay Reader  | Sarah Risenhoover |
| Acolyte     | Jackson Hartwell  |
| Acolyte     | Ellie Hartwell    |
| Powerpoint  |                   |
| Live Stream | Renelle Mooney    |

**September 11th**

|               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| Elder on duty | Victor Lauer   |
| Organist      | K.C. Eckhardt  |
| Audio         | Russ Ankersen  |
| Greeter       | Deb Shields    |
| Greeter       |                |
| Usher         | Harold Carlson |
| Lay Reader    | Randon Peters  |
| Acolyte       | Brayden Watts  |
| Acolyte       | Tristen Watts  |

Powerpoint Russ Ankersen

**Late Service**

|             |                     |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Greeter     | Cindy Swanhorst     |
| Greeter     | Curt Swanhorst      |
| Usher       |                     |
| Lay Reader  | Russ Ankersen       |
| Acolyte     | Juliett Critchfield |
| Acolyte     |                     |
| Powerpoint  | Russ Ankersen       |
| Live Stream | Ryland Peters       |

**September 25th**

|               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| 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 Harold Carlson

**Late Service**

|             |                   |
|-------------|-------------------|
| Greeter     | Pat Penner        |
| Greeter     |                   |
| Usher       | Curt Swanhorst    |
| Lay Reader  | Sue Ankersen      |
| Acolyte     | Brooklynn Tidyman |
| Acolyte     |                   |
| Powerpoint  | Gary Hunkins      |
| Live Stream | Blayzon Mooney    |

**Altar Flowers**

4th-Available  
11th-Available  
18th-Available  
25th-Available



## PEACE TALK

Have you ever heard of a Post Turtle? The story goes... if you are walking along a fence and spot a turtle sitting on top of a post, that is a post turtle. There are different humorous directions on how that might have transpired, but in every analogy, the turtle did not get up on that post by himself. Someone had to put him there. I admit, how bizarre would it be to drive along out in the country and glance over at the fence and see a turtle perched on top of a post. But this got me to thinking, could I be a "post turtle?" I could not have gotten to where I am today without my parents, my wife, various people and situations that God used in my life to get me to where I am at today. That "post turtle" didn't get there by accident and neither did I. So many times, it is easy to surmise that our successes or failures is by our own design. However, in reality, through various life circumstances, God has used many things to get us where we are at, in a given moment, for a specific purpose.... In His time. *"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time."* (1 Peter 5:6) When I think about all the people or events in my life who have helped me, not only is it humbling, but starts to become clear that my life accomplishments are just a series of fence posts that simply could not be reached on my own. Making that leap to the top of the fence post is insurmountable unless we have a mighty hand to lift us up. God's mighty hand was at work through post turtles in scripture as well. Just look at Joseph...His jealous brothers. The pit. Slavery. Prison. Then he found himself sitting on a post! Or how about the Apostle Paul? Persecuted Christians. Stoned. Shipwrecked. Imprisoned. Then rose to great heights proclaiming the new covenant to the world. Or how about Moses, David, Rahab, or Ruth? Being put on a "fence post" is a wonderful opportunity and a reassuring sign that God has a plan for you. *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* (Jeremiah 29:11) Ultimately, we should view those heights from a perspective of humble gratitude—after all, *we're* not the ones who put ourselves there in the first place. *"Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, who seek the Lord: Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug"* (Isaiah 51:1). Are you sitting on a fence post right now, faced with a sudden turn of good fortune or an unexpected opportunity? Take time to consider why God might have placed you there, and how you can use this opportunity to serve God before you are once again placed back on the ground. Dear Lord, thank you for putting me on that post so I can clearly see all you have done for me. Amen.



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# September 2022

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