



# 'TIDINGS OF PEACE' from

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

TO:

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October 2022

# TIDINGS OF PEACE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

Hello again, As I write to you on this last morning of September, I find myself confronted with writer's block. My homiletics instructors at the seminary taught that there are two ways to handle writer's block; but before they then began their lesson, they thought it best to give the proper motivation by, saying; "Ready or not, *Sunday's coming.*" They would then add; " *You can either get up in that pulpit because you have to say something, or you can get up into that pulpit because you have something to say.*" The implication was that one must put proper effort into his studies, only then will the Holy Spirit give him something to say. But either way, Sunday is coming!

So, as I pondered their wisdom, I wondered if their way of thinking also applied to writing this letter to you. As I paused, and wondered what to write, I was blessed by the unusual quiet of the morning—the trees are still this morning and the air is calm and damp. Except for the occasional car or pickup passing by, the only sound I hear is the persistent squawk of a Bluejay. And then it occurred to me how nice it is to pause and enjoy the quiet.

Now, by this time in this letter, you might be thinking to yourself; "he's writing about these things because he has to say something." And you'd be partially correct, but I've found that many writings begin that way, but they don't end that way; the "having to say something," often evolves into "having something to say." And I have something to say to you; because as I

paused and pondered—as I listened to that Bluejay interrupting the quiet of the morning, I had the privilege of witnessing something beautiful; something bigger than myself. In the few short moments of pondering, I witnessed one of our members faithfully doing battle with an oak tree; morning and evening this battle rages on so that other members might be spared the danger of falling because of acorns on the walkway and parking spaces. And though that was enough to make me smile, I was also privileged to witness mother and son take time out of their busy morning to prepare a Sunday School classroom and lesson—mother teaching her son, by example, the importance of learning God's holy word. Though these things were but moments in a day, they remind me of the beauty of God's family, and I am humbled by the many faithful people who make Peace Lutheran Church the God pleasing ministry that it is.

St Peter has written; *"As each of you has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. Whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."* (1Peter 4:10-11)

I am thankful for these quiet moments of pondering, and I encourage you to give it a try. Thanks for reading. And thanks for your dedicated service to our great God.

In His service,  
Pastor Felcher

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### CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

Dear Preschoolers and families,

What a great month September was! We had fun getting to know each other and we learned a lot, too.

We have many things planned for the coming month, so please be sure to check your calendars. It is so much fun getting to know each child and having everyone settle into the preschool routine! Keep practicing name, letter and number recognition at home. We sent home letter and number flashcards! Thanks for helping your child develop the confidence they will need to succeed in Kindergarten!

At the end of October we will be having our Halloween Costume Party during the last 45 minutes of class time. We have sign-up sheets posted by the south door. If you can't make it in to sign up, but would like to help just put a note in your child's folder or call us and let us know. For the costumes, please do NOT send your child in anything scary or with any pretend weapons. This will make the party more fun for everyone! Children may wear their costumes to preschool that day.

We are looking forward to a great month. We are blessed to have such a wonderful group of kids to work with, thanks again for sharing your children with us. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please call 345-2595 or email Kelsey at [mycreativepreschool@gmail.com](mailto:mycreativepreschool@gmail.com)

Kelsey, Dani and Cindy

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Dwain Curtis	10/1	Jerry Unger	10/8	Delaney Critchfield	10/23
Patricia Fisher	10/1	Marilyn Unger	10/11	Griffin Göttl	10/25
Ben Vetrovsky	10/1	Lois Brown	10/12	James Sprague	10/26
Wade Hamilton	10/2	Mary Hazlitt	10/14	Nathaniel Reiners	10/27
Iva Fritz	10/3	Dorinda Polly	10/14	Dan Unger	10/28
Velma Kircher	10/3	Danten Downing	10/15	Barbara Dunker	10/29
Candace Rogers	10/3	Austin Grube	10/20	Linda Smith	10/29
Sandy Lauer	10/4	Alexander Nielsen	10/20	Donna Curtis	10/30
Ron Rogers	10/5	Piper Sprague	10/20	Joann Nemechek	10/30
Charles Seybold	10/5	Peyton Doucet	10/21	Charles Gray	10/31
Barbara Klein	10/6	John Hubert	10/21	Teagan Strauch	10/31
Mary Lou Hanson	10/7	Randon Peters	10/21	Angela Watts	10/31
Benjamin Schow	10/7				

### OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Brandon & Ali Smith	10/1/2021	1	Russ & Sue Ankersen	10/20/1979	43
Michael & Patricia Leibrandt	10/3/1981	41	Grant & Charlene Pfanstiel	10/22/1983	39
Adrianna & Jordan Gass	10/4/2014	8	James & Donna Hall	10/26/1996	26
Justin & Kaih Terry	10/7/2017	5	Thomas & Cathy Broz	10/27/1984	38
Scott & Kristyl Hanchera	10/17/1981	41			

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 (September 25th-October 1st)	Month to Date (September 4th-October 1st)	Actual Year to Date (January 2nd-October 1st)
Offerings	\$3,352.00	\$22,206.00	\$183,013.00
Expenses	\$1,699.00	\$16,503.00	\$174,991.00



## ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

This is a program that supports our deployed military around the world. We “adopt” and send care packages to deployed military chaplains; they in turn use the contents of the packages as they support the troops. We are currently supporting four National Guard chaplains; Chaplain Reyes in Kuwait, Chaplain Clement in Poland and Chaplain Witt who is from Hamlet, Nebraska and is at an undisclosed location. Packages were sent to the 734<sup>th</sup> Army National Guard unit until out of Kearney until they returned from Qatar. The 734<sup>th</sup> has now asked us to support the Indiana National Guard unit that replaced them, their chaplain is Alex Beane. Everyone please join us to pack boxes Tue, Oct 11 at 5:00pm. We are now collecting supplies for Christmas care packages. We need Christmas cards “to a soldier”; and supplies such as magazines, pocket crosses, granola bars, and jerky. Please find a list of suggestions, and a tub for donations, across from the church mailboxes. We can also support any individual servicemen and women that will be on deployment over Christmas, just get us an address. Thank you! For more information contact Linda Nielsen or Jane Schuster.

## SHARE-THE-HEAT

A fundraiser for Share the Heat will be held at the Senior Center in McCook on Sunday October 23, from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. For a free will donation, you will enjoy homemade soups, salads and dessert. With your help, the Share the Heat fund will be ready when people need help with their heating bills. The fund was started in 2009, with Thrivent volunteers from multiple Lutheran churches working together to meet this need. Thrivent volunteers continue to insure that this fund stands ready to help people in 7 counties of southwest Nebraska, from Arapahoe and Danbury on the east to Imperial and Benkelman on the west side of area. Households apply for this assistance through Community Action partnership of Mid-Nebraska, located in McCook. Share the Heat treasurers then write a check directly to the natural gas, propane, or electricity suppliers. The new address: Share the Heat, PO Box 1122, McCook, NE 69001. For more information contact Linda Nielsen at 308-345-1755 or Angela Wagner at 308-340-1657.

## OCTOBER READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
2nd	The 17th S. after Pentecost	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4	2 Timothy 1:1-14	Luke 17:1-10
9th	The 18th S. after Pentecost	Ruth 1:1-19a	2 Timothy 2:1-13	Luke 17:11-19
16th	The 19th S. after Pentecost	Genesis 32:22-30	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5	Luke 18:1-8
23rd	The 20th S. after Pentecost	Genesis 4:1-15	2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18	Luke 18:9-17
30th	Reformation Day	Revelation 14:6-7	Romans 3:19-28	John 8:31-36 or Matthew 11:12-19



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

## “We Are All Beggars”

In the early morning hours of Feb. 18, 1546, Martin Luther closed his eyes forever. Before that happened, the hand that hammered the 95 Theses into the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517, penned its final words: “We are all beggars. This is true.” And this is the truth that our Lord says makes you free.

Ironic, isn’t it? In order to be free, you must be a beggar. You must be utterly dependent and reliant upon God. This makes us uncomfortable – the way we’re uncomfortable when someone gets us a Christmas present when we haven’t gotten them one. We feel we owe them. And we don’t like being in someone’s debt like that.

But what Luther would remind us is that we are all indeed beggars. And we’re not just anyone’s beggars. We’re God’s beggars. Christ came for sinners. He came to seek and save the lost. He came to heal the sick and raise the dead. He came for sinners, and He dwells only with sinners.

If we are to be where He is, we must be willing to be counted among the lost, the sick, and the dead. We must be willing to be beggars. We must cry out for mercy, for grace, and for his undeserved love and kindness. We must be dependent solely on Him and what He gives.

And here’s the beauty: He gives us everything. Everything. Forgiveness of sins, salvation from death and the devil, and eternal life. This isn’t because of any worthiness or merit in us. It is because of His divine goodness, mercy, and grace. On account of Christ’s death and resurrection, the Father forgives you, saves you, and is pleased with you. You receive His love, His righteousness, His holiness, His acceptance, and His inheritance. We are all beggars. This is true.

This is the heart and soul of Christianity and the lifeblood of the Christian Church. God justifies us and declares us innocent and righteous by His grace received through faith for the sake of Christ. This isn’t because of our works but because of His work on the cross. We, who once were enemies of God, are reconciled to Him and made to be His children.

This is what Luther pointed us to when He took up his pen for the last time and scribbled “We are all beggars. This is true.” We are beggars, but we are beggars of the God who does not ignore us and who doesn’t pass by us on the other side. We are beggars of the One who descended from heaven to make His dwelling with sinners.

We are beggars of Him who deigns to dwell with us, among us, and – yes – still in us by grace for Christ’s sake. For in the bread and cup that we bless we share together with Christ and each other the riches of God’s grace. The riches of this grace – the Gospel in sermon and absolution, in Baptism, and in Holy Communion – are so inexhaustible that our cups overflow. We, who are God’s beggars, are inexhaustibly satisfied, and we have something to give back in thanksgiving and praise.

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



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Board of Education is still looking for someone to teach Sunday School for 2nd grade through 4th grade. The Board also needs a volunteer to director 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!

## FORERUNNERS

Forerunners ARE going to be decorating the sanctuary for Christmas on Saturday, November 26th at 3:00. We need some able bodied souls who are able to climb ladders, put up greenery and decorate the tree. We're asking all who attend to bring a munchy to share with the group.

## WELCOME



Please welcome our newest members. Banks Frankie Schumacher was received by the waters of baptism in July. Banks is the infant daughter of Danielle & Dylan Schumacher. In August, Jacob Glenn Vetrovsky was also received by the waters of baptism. Jacob is the infant son of Joe & Gina Vetrovsky.

Welcome Banks and Jacob!

## CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

Creative Preschool still has opening in all classes. Please email Kelsey at mycreativepreschool@gmail.com or call the church office for more information.



## 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 Barnesberger, 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**

2nd-Available  
9th-Available  
16th-Available  
23rd-Available  
30th-Available

**October 2nd**

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  
Acolyte  
Powerpoint Cathy Broz

**Late Service**

Greeter Jane Schuster  
Greeter Myra Tietz  
Usher Gary Hunkins  
Lay Reader Sarah Risenhoover  
Acolyte  
Acolyte  
Powerpoint Ben Schow  
Live Stream Christien Kuykendall

**October 9th**

Elder on duty Victor Lauer  
Organist  
Audio Russ Ankersen  
Greeter Deb Shields  
Greeter  
Usher Harold Carlson  
Lay Reader Randon Peters  
Acolyte  
Acolyte  
Powerpoint Russ Ankersen

**Late Service**

Greeter Cindy Swanhorst  
Greeter Curt Swanhorst  
Usher Harold Carlson  
Lay Reader Phil Barnesberger  
Acolyte  
Acolyte  
Powerpoint Russ Ankersen  
Live Stream Layne Sarvela

**October 16th**

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  
Acolyte  
Powerpoint Tina Cummins

**Late Service**

Greeter Donna Hall  
Greeter Jim Hall  
Usher Ben Schow  
Lay Reader Sue Ankersen  
Acolyte  
Acolyte  
Powerpoint  
Live Stream Renelle Mooney

**October 23rd**

Elder on duty Fritz Hubert  
Organist Charlene Pfanstiel  
Audio Harold Carlson  
Greeter Nancy Rippen  
Greeter  
Usher Eugene Custer  
Lay Reader Jerry Calvin  
Acolyte  
Acolyte  
Powerpoint Harold Carlson

**Late Service**

Greeter Pat Penner  
Greeter  
Usher Curt Swanhorst  
Lay Reader Curt Swanhorst  
Acolyte  
Acolyte  
Powerpoint Gary Hunkins  
Live Stream Layne Sarvela

**October 30th**

Elder on duty Curt/Phil  
Organist Charlene Pfanstiel  
Audio NEED VOLUNTEER  
Greeter Sue Carlson  
Greeter Harold Carlson  
Usher Gene Meints  
Lay Reader Harold Carlson  
Acolyte  
Acolyte  
Powerpoint

**Late Service**

Greeter Karen Berry  
Greeter NEED VOLUNTEER  
Usher Steve Post  
Lay Reader Fred Gleason  
Acolyte  
Acolyte  
Powerpoint NEED VOLUNTEER  
Live Stream Layne Sarvela

**PEACE TALK**

Once upon a time.... What do you think of when you hear this phrase? Are you drawn into adventure land ready to experience unexplained wonders? Children's books often start with this expression because it makes you excited or intrigued to hear more. It is like an invitation to open your mind and let the imagination drift into paradise. Or maybe it's a reflection of a life experience. Once upon a time I was fast, strong, or successful. Or possibly a lament. Once upon a time I had money, a happy family, or a successful sports team. In either case, we are looking back and reflecting on what is long past. Sooner or later, God just might use this reflection to help you move forward. I know He did in my life. *"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light"* (Ephesians 5:8) I would venture to say many of us have experienced darkness in our faith "once upon a time" before God called us back with his grace. In this verse Paul tells the Ephesians; *Once* you were really dead; *but now* you are really alive in Christ. *Once* you were really separated from God, *but now* you have been brought near through Christ. *Once* you were darkness, *but now* you are "light in the Lord." Does this ring a bell "once upon a time" in your life? If so, you can relate how the Holy Spirit has worked in your heart. Indeed, a wonderful feeling. What you will experience is a fundamental reality change, a genuine transformation, when you receive God's grace through faith. A transition moving from past to present... *"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"* (2 Corinthians 5:17). The old has gone, the new is here! Therefore, through faith, we live a new life in Christ Jesus. Sin no longer rules over us because of the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross. We are told in Romans 6:10, *"For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God."* Christ gave Himself for us "once upon a time" and by His resurrection, showed the world that sin and death is defeated. Thus, a new life given to us through our faith. This new life we now can live in Christ is filled with the joy of an eternal promise. I know there will be challenges and difficulties that we will encounter but there is always a joy to be found in a life lived for God. The new life in Christ never gets old, renewed each and every day with this timeless story... Once upon a time, *"God so loved the world, that He sent His one and only Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16) And all God's people said, Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity  
Phil Barnesberger



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 YouTube: Peace Lutheran Church McCook

# October 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study
<b>2</b> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	<b>3</b> 5:00pm Board of Education 7:00pm Woman's Bible Study	<b>4</b> 9:00am Worship Committee 6:30pm Board of Elders	<b>5</b> 9:30am El Dorado 6:00pm School Of Religion	<b>6</b> 1:00pm LifeLight	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
<b>9</b> <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	<b>10</b> 7:00pm Woman's Bible Study	<b>11</b> 5:00pm Adopt-A-Chaplain packing 6:30pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	<b>12</b> 6:00pm School Of Religion	<b>13</b> 1:00pm LifeLight	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study
<b>16</b> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Outdoor Worship & picnic	<b>17</b> 7:00pm Woman's Bible Study	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 6:00pm School Of Religion	<b>20</b> 1:00pm LifeLight	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study
<b>23</b> <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship 11:00am Share-The-Heat 1:30pm Voter's meeting	<b>24</b> 2:00pm LWML 7:00pm Woman's Bible Study	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6:00pm School Of Religion	<b>27</b> 1:00pm LifeLight 1:30pm Hillcrest 2:30pm Kinship Pointe	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study
<b>30</b> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	<b>31</b> 7:00pm Woman's Bible Study					