

# TIDINGS OF PEACE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

LUTHERAN CHURCH



'TIDINGS OF PEACE' from

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

TO:

Three vertical lines for an address.

**H**ello again, have you ever had an “a ha” moment? I had one of those yesterday (October 24) that shed a new light on my understanding of Jesus’ saying; *“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” (Mark 10:14-15).*

My experience began as my son and I drove through Barnett Park. We had committed to spending some one-on-one time together after school by doing some fishing, but, since it was one of those typical Nebraska Fall days with 30 mile an hour winds, we scratched the idea of fishing from the boat. We opted, instead, to see how the wind was affecting the ponds at the “goose park.” After assessing the wind situation, we agreed to head home to get the fishing equipment. As we drove through the park toward Hwy 83 south, my son asked; “What’s that spot over there by the bridge? We see people parked over there all the time; what are they doing over there?”

Well, trying to put the most positive perspective on my answer, I simply said, “Maybe they go over there so nobody will bother them.” He quickly asked if we could go check it out since no one was parked there. I agreed and as we drove to the spot, I told him that this is where the Republican River runs, but that it’s probably dried up. He answered, “I’ve never been here before, can we get out of the pickup and see it?” When Jesus said of the little children that the kingdom of God belongs to such as these, and that we must be like them, I just figured He meant we should be as open and trusting as little children who rely on parents for the needs of daily life; and while that is true, I was about to find out how much I really did

not understand.

It was in the moments that followed, as we got out of the pickup, that my perspective on Jesus’ words was greatly expanded. As my son got out of the pickup, the first thing he said was; “Wow, this is beautiful.” I had to agree with him, but in my mind, I was thinking; “But wait until we go a little farther, it won’t be so beautiful.” As I braced myself to protect my son from the expected ugliness of the underside of a bridge, as we walked the path, I quickly spotted the graffiti on the south side. In an effort to redirect my son’s gaze from the explicit language of that graffiti, I pointed to the Swallows’ nests above us. My plan seemed to work for the moment, but as we continued to walk, he looked to the north where there was similar language displayed in brighter and bolder color. He exclaimed; “What’s that?” I explained to him that it was graffiti, its just a way that some people try to express themselves. But I quickly added that it is disrespectful, and against the law. To my surprise, the only thing he said was, “It’s beautiful.” His attention quickly turned to the water below the bridge; I expected that if we found any water at all, it would just be a muddy mess, but to my surprise, the water was flowing; clear as glass. And, while I was surprised to find any water at all, my son just thought it was beautiful; he even exclaimed; “I think I saw a fish!” He would have preferred to explore further, but I convinced him that we should go. As we walked the path back to the pickup, as my son took in just how wide the river bason is, it was in that moment that I had that “A HA!” moment; because, what I saw as just a bunch of weeds—as I my mind turned to thoughts of drought and misuse of water resources—as my eyes saw a dead and dying river, my son’s eyes saw the simple beauty of God’s creation; he again exclaimed how beautiful it was, and that we needed to surprise mom by bringing

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FROM AN ELDER

"Carried to Jesus"

*Luke 18:15-17 - Now they were bringing even infants to Him [Jesus] that He might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to Him, saying, "Let the children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."*

That last verse is a difficult one: "Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." What does Jesus mean exactly? How do children receive the kingdom of God—and what does that mean about how *we* should receive it, too?

Maybe I'm being too literal, but when I looked back at the beginning of the story, I found this: "Now they were bringing even infants to Him that He might touch them." How do you bring infants to Jesus? You carry them, of course! They can't walk or drive or ride a bicycle. They can't even crawl. They need to be carried. For them, receiving the Kingdom—coming to Jesus—is something that happens *to* them. Somebody else does the work, and they get the blessing.

This is true for us too, isn't it? Oh, as adults we can walk and drive and go pretty much everywhere we want to. But when it comes to trusting in Jesus, we can't make that happen by our own decisions and choices. We need the Holy Spirit to carry us to Jesus, like the spiritual babies we are. And when He puts faith in our hearts, we become part of God's kingdom—all by the good gift of God. The Spirit does the work; we receive the blessing.

This Daily Devotion was written by Dr. Kari Vo.  
From Lutheran Hour Ministries



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Heath & Renee Brown	11/4/2017	5	Jerry & Robin Calvin	11/13/1982	40
Charles & Janet Gray	11/4/1972	50	Donnie & Brooke Rinehart	11/17/2018	4
Brandon & Kimberly Kuykendall	11/8/2003	19	Jennifer & Kirk McConville	11/24/2012	10

CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

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!

We will be having Thanksgiving Celebrations on Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</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 23<sup>rd</sup> or Thursday, November 24<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 1<sup>st</sup> in the church sanctuary. The Tu/Th AM class and M/W AM class will be combined this year 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 toward the end of the month.

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 Cindy

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



## OUTDOOR SERVICE AND CHURCH PICNIC



## NOVEMBER READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
6th	All Saints' Day	Revelation 7:2-17	1 John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-12
13th	The 23rd S. after Pentecost	Malachi 4:1-6	2 Thessalonians 3:1-13	Luke 21:5-36
20th	The Last S. of the Church Year	Malachi 3:13-18	Colossians 1:13-20	Luke 23:27-43
27th	The 1st S. in Advent	Isaiah 2:1-5	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 21:1-11 or Matthew 24:36-44



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

### What Makes for a Cheerful Giver?

St. Paul wrote to Church of Christ in Corinth: "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7). *God loves a cheerful giver.* But who is a cheerful giver?

Abel was. By faith, he gave the firstborn of his flock, and it was acceptable in God's sight. Abraham was. By faith, he prepared cakes and a tender choice calf for God and entertained angels unaware. So also were David and Solomon. By faith, David would not make a sacrifice to God that cost him nothing, so he paid Araunah his due. By faith, Solomon built a house for God, where his name would dwell and thereby where He would dwell to be Israel's God and they His people.

What more shall we say? For time would fail us to tell of all those who gave not simply for the joy of giving but for the joy of knowing the One to whom they gave.

So also our Lord, who for the joy set before Him, gave everything – yes, even His life – enduring the cross and scorning its shame. He gave to the shedding of His blood, willingly and resolutely setting His face toward Jerusalem to die for the life of the world. Though He was rich in every way, He became poor, so that by His poverty, we might be rich beyond measure.

So then, let us like Abel and Abraham, like David and Solomon, and even like our Lord Jesus Christ, give cheerfully to God for the work of His kingdom in our midst. Like them, let us decide in our heart for the joy set before us. It's the joy of knowing the One to whom we give is the One who gives us all good things.

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

*Continued from cover*

her back so she can see how beautiful it is.

I had to pause for a moment, because I found myself humbled by his perspective. I think my son's perspective is part of what Jesus meant when he said, "Anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

I learned that day that, YES, children have humble faith—they trust in God the way they trust us adults; but they trust us because they have no choice. But in those moments, I witnessed an awe connected to my son's humble faith that was dependent on no one, but God Himself. My son had shown me a faith response to the beauty of God's kingdom, that I myself had long outgrown. For that I will be eternally grateful.

Thanks for reading.

Your servant in Christ, Pastor Felcher.

*"And Jesus said to them, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' And He took the children in His arms, put His hands on them and blessed them." Mark 10:14-16*



### 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.

### 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.

### BOARD OF EVANGELISM

Board of Evangelism Meeting Minutes 10-18-2022 (Meeting early for our November meeting) Members present were Joanne Nemechek, Deb Gleason and Sue Ankersen. Janice and Phil Bamesberger were present for the meeting as well. Birthday/Anniversary Cards were mailed for October. Our main topic of discussion for this meeting was to finalize our portion of the Live Nativity. We will be serving paper sack lunches to the volunteers that will be helping with the event. Water and coffee will be served. Cookies and water will be handed out to the audience. Deb has ordered candy canes to be handed out to the audience, but after some discussion, she will be ordering more. There are magnets left over from last year that will be handed out until they are gone. Lawn signs have been made and will be distributed around town about 10 days prior to the event. Deb has been working with Tina to get posters and table tents made to distribute as well. Sue has volunteered to go to the radio stations to talk about the event on December 16<sup>th</sup> to help raise awareness. Janice checked with the fairgrounds manager and he is ok with us having lite candles as part of the program. Janice will order 250 "cup candles" like the church uses for Christmas Eve services. Phil would like to have a formal choir for the event to sing the Christmas Carols. We will need to find a choir director to help out. We will also need to ask for a volunteer to play the Clavanova for the choir. We would like to create a "Bethlehem Marketplace" by using pop up tents and having different things going on inside. Sue will ask her daughter-in-law what they did at their church a couple years ago for this. There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. The board will meet again on Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Respectfully submitted by Sue Ankersen.



### 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.),**

### THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who supported the "Share the Heat" fundraiser. Thank you for the donations. Thank you for the delicious salads and desserts brought in for the dinner. Share the Heat is a fund that is used by the Community Action office to help families pay their heating bills.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

Altar Flowers

6th-Deb Shields  
13th-Available  
20th-Available  
27th-Available

November 6th

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  
Acolyte  
Powerpoint Cathy Broz

Late Service

Greeter Jane Schuster  
Greeter Myra Tietz  
Usher Gary Hunkins  
Lay Reader Nick Nothnagel  
Acolyte Emma McConville  
Acolyte Avery Davidson  
Powerpoint Ben Schow  
Live Stream Carter Hartwell

November 20th

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 Tristen Watts  
Acolyte Brayden Watts  
Powerpoint Tina Cummins

Late Service

Greeter Donna Hall  
Greeter Jim Hall  
Usher Ben Schow  
Lay Reader Fred Gleason  
Acolyte Zander Stewart  
Acolyte Maxson Stewart  
Powerpoint  
Live Stream Renelle Mooney

November 13th

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

Late Service

Greeter Cindy Swanhorst  
Greeter Curt Swanhorst  
Usher Harold Carlson  
Lay Reader Sarah Risenhoover  
Acolyte Ryker Mooney  
Acolyte Cale DeWester  
Powerpoint Russ Ankersen  
Live Stream Ryland Peters

November 27th

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

Late Service

Greeter Pat Penner  
Greeter  
Usher Curt Swanhorst  
Lay Reader Curt Swanhorst  
Acolyte Jackson Hartwell  
Acolyte Ellie Hartwel  
Powerpoint Gary Hunkins  
Live Stream Blayzon Mooney



PEACE TALK

Have you ever been "stuck in the muck?" Muck seems to be readily available on the farm, and a rainy spell is not necessarily the culprit. This reminds me of an episode years ago when I was trailing a bull home that was causing trouble by getting out of his pasture. I managed to get him to the feedlot and through an open gate I previously prepared. I dismounted my 4-wheeler to wade through the deep muck for the purpose of closing the gate. Lo and behold, there I was in the muck, when the bull turned and decided to show me what he thought of the venture. A lot goes through your mind when a 2000-pound bull is charging and you find yourself stuck in the muck. Obviously, I didn't have to think very long because the next thing I knew I was flying over the top of the gate. The deep muck on the other side however provided a soft landing. God used this deep muck and mire to protect me. David found himself in muck as well as he writes in Psalm 40:2 *"He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand."* Even though I didn't end up with my feet on solid ground, I was out of harm's way. On solid ground. How many times have you been stuck in the muck? The mire of life? Each one of us probably has in one shape or form. I know my faith is easily weakened in and amidst that muck, or despair in my life. It's during these times when I tend to lose focus that God's protective hand is right there to help. That is why it is so important when the chips are down to ask God for help through prayer. He knows when we are weak and is waiting to help set us back on solid ground. All we need to do is put our trust in Him and ask for direction and guidance. Yes, it may seem you are still "stuck in the muck", but when you place your trust in God and find His willing hand, you will also let go of your fear. I know it has helped me as I reflect back on my mire moments. I then realize how God has used certain encounters to strengthen my faith. Maybe, just maybe, that firm place to stand has led to a greater purpose God has in store for me. God has a purpose for you as well. It may never be clear to what that purpose may be, but God knows. We are told in Psalms 32:8, *"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you."* In God's time, the muck will subside and the path on the solid ground will be known. Dear Lord, help me when I get stuck in the muck and guide me to a firm place to stand. Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity  
Phil Barnesberger

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 adopt many chaplains and pack many Christmas care packages in November. Christmas packages will go to chaplains in Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Korea, Poland, and a navy ship, the USS George HW Bush. Prayers are needed for these, and all US military.

Please see the sign up sheets across from the mailboxes, and join us to pack Christmas boxes at any of the packing times. Thursday evenings, Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, will start with a light supper at 6:30 pm. Friday mornings, Nov 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> we'll have coffee on at 9:30, packing at 10:00am. 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 donated supplies, across from the mailboxes. We can send a package to 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.



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# November 2022

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