

TIDINGS OF PEACE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

LUTHERAN CHURCH

THANKSGIVING DINNER



TO: _____



'TIDINGS OF PEACE' from

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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FROM AN ELDER

"Your Will Be Done"

Some people have an evil will. It's easy to spot because it doesn't tolerate any opposition. Other people have another type of will that appears to be good but is actually evil. It can be recognized by its fruit—impatience. A truly good will, if it's hindered, says, "O God, I thought what I wanted would be good. If it's not to be, I'm satisfied. Let your will be done." Wherever there's conflict and impatience, there's nothing good—no matter how good it may seem.

Besides these two types of evil wills, there's also a good will that God doesn't want us to do. This was the kind of will that David had when he wanted to build a temple for God. God praised him for it, and yet God didn't let it happen (2 Samuel 7:2-29). This was the kind of will that Christ had in the garden of Gethsemane. Even though it was good, his will had to be set aside (Luke 22:42). So if you would like to save the whole world, raise the dead, lead yourself and everyone else to heaven, and perform miracles, you should first seek God's will and submit your own will to his will. You must pray, "Dear God, this or that seems good to me. If it pleases you, let it be done. If it doesn't please you, let it remain undone."

God often breaks a good will in order that a false, evil won't sneak in by appearing good. He does this so we learn that as good as our will might be, it's still immeasurably inferior to his will. So our inferior good will must yield to the infinitely good will of God.

Father, if it is your will, take this cup of suffering away from me. However, your will must be done, not mine. Luke 22:42

Taken from the book of devotions: "Through Faith Alone" A direct translation from German to English, the writings of Martin Luther



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Fritz & Jan Hubert	12/6/1981	41	Dan & Chelsey Hartwell	12/17/2005	17
Gene & Barbara Dunker	12/12/1958	64	Charles & Christina Coleman	12/26/1971	51
Ryan & Amanda Pearce	12/12/2006	16	Paul & Pat Schaffert	12/27/1968	54

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 (Nov 20th-Nov 26th)	Month to Date (Nov 6th-Nov 26th)	Actual Year to Date (January 2nd-November 26th)
Offerings	\$3,398.00	\$10,416.00	\$204,062.00
Expenses	\$503.00	\$18,255.00	\$226,771.00



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 direct the Christmas Program. Thank you!

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.

DISTRICT POSITION AVAILABLE

The Nebraska District LCMS is seeking a full-time treasurer to manage the business affairs of the district and assist the district president in caring for the financial matters of district congregations and workers. The Nebraska District Treasurer is an integral leader of the district and district ministries. The Treasurer is the primary guide for the District Board of Directors in helping them fulfill their fiduciary duties on behalf of the congregations of the district. The position requires both a firm accounting capacity and a kingdom perspective. We seek to be careful stewards of God's gifts and work to make the greatest impact on our world with His grace, therefore the Treasurer is a person of faith and witness as we make every effort to build up our congregations and workers in their gospel ministries. This work includes assisting the district president in caring for the financial matters of district workers and congregations and their treasurers. As business manager for the district office and staff, the treasurer also helps care for those working deployed and in the office.

THANK YOU

Thanks to all who brought food and helper serve for Barbara Klein's funeral dinner.

DECEMBER READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
4th	The 2nd S. in Advent	Isaiah 11:1-10	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
11th	The 3rd S. in Advent	Isaiah 35:1-10	James 5:7-11	Matthew 11:2-15
18th	The 4th S. in Advent	Isaiah 7:10-17	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25
25th	Christmas Day	Isaiah 52:7-10	Hebrews 1:1-12	John 1:1-18



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

Anxiety vs. Trust

Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, teaches those who follow Him that worrying about the necessities of life is idolatry: worshipping a false god. Worry and anxiety show what we care about. Our anxiety reveals what we love and what we're devoted to. It reveals what we trust in.

This is why our Lord begins this section with an overarching principle: "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money" (Matt. 6:24).

But you say: "I must eat and drink. I must have clothing to wear and have a home in which to dwell." Yes, all these things you need. And Jesus says that your Father in heaven will ensure that you have them. He demonstrates this with a simple argument: your Father in heaven feeds the birds of the air, who neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns. He clothes the lilies of the field, who neither toil nor spin but are arrayed more luxuriously than Solomon in all his glory. If, then, your Father in heaven feeds the birds, if He clothes the lilies, how will He not also feed and clothe you, when you are worth more than they are? (Matt 6:25–33).

Do you know that you are worth more than them? You are worth infinitely more. You are worth the price of the eternal Son of God. Did the Son of God come down from heaven and become a lily? Did he descend and take on the form of a bird? No! He came down from heaven and became a man: flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone (Gen. 2:23). He is one of us, our brother. And what did He do when He became flesh to dwell among us? He gave His holy, precious blood, through His innocent suffering and death, that you might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom forever.

God became man in Christ Jesus. He lived the life we failed to live, and He died the death we deserved. He was raised again on the third day overcoming sin and death ... for us. He was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification. So, if your Father in heaven has given His Son to die for us in order that we might live with Him eternally, how will He not also give us all things to support this body and life?

To be anxious about the necessities of life, to devote yourself to food and clothing, to care about these things and find security in them, is to serve another god. It is to deny that you will live forever because Jesus, the Son of God, is risen from the dead and lives and reigns for all eternity. It is to believe that the God who created you, redeemed you by the death and resurrection of His Son and sanctified you by His Spirit, will not keep His promise to sustain you in this life.

Jesus says, "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" (Matt. 6:33). God's kingdom is His rule among us. His rule among us comes when our Father in heaven gives us His Holy

Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His Holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity. This is what we ask God to do for us in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

Your Father in heaven knows what you need — food and clothing, house and home — and He promises to give it to you. Chief of the things you need is His grace and mercy in His Son, Jesus Christ. So, seek after that. And those who seek will find. And all the necessities of life, our Lord says, will be added to you.

www.plcmccook.org

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

Thank you for all your help with the Christmas care packages for Adopt a Chaplain. Your donations make it possible to adopt 6 deployed chaplains. We appreciate the time you gave as you shopped for supplies, wrote Christmas cards, and helped pack. Thank you Paul and Pat Schaffert, and Bob and Joann Nemechek for all your work with the turkey dinner to raising funds for this program. The care packages are on their way to brighten the holidays for soldiers and sailors who won't be home for Christmas. The packages are going to Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Korea, Poland and a Navy aircraft carrier. The chaplain that we support in Poland is the commanding chaplain for his area. He writes: "We have some new locations where supplies are sparse. Your care packages will be placed where the supplies are most needed. From the bottom of my heart, and on behalf of our soldiers... THANK YOU!!!"

CH (MAJ) Jacob A. Clement Command Chaplain
120th Regional Support Group Powidz, Poland

This message is from an Army chaplain deployed to Korea:
It is amazing how God touches the heart of people. I would like to thank you and your team and all the volunteers for their selfless sacrifices. Without your calling and deeds, soldiers often do not know that people outside the military cares for them. BONIFACIO "Bono" LEE Chaplain (CPT) USA



Volunteers packing care packages on November 10th.



Volunteers packing on Veteran's Day. Kyle Kunkee presents the USA flag that he flew over Qatar in honor of Adopt-A-Chaplain.



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, and Jean Sehnert.

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.



Altar Flowers

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

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

December 4th	
Elder on duty	Brandon Kuykendall
Organist	
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Grant Pfanstiel
Greeter	Charlene Pfanstiel
Usher	Gene Meints
Lay Reader	Renelle Mooney
Acolyte	Julett Critchfield
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Cathy Broz
Late Service	
Greeter	Jane Schuster
Greeter	Myra Tietz
Usher	Gary Hunkins
Lay Reader	Nick Nothnagel
Acolyte	Ellie Hartwell
Acolyte	Jackson Hartwell
Powerpoint	Ben Schow
Live Stream	Christien Kuykendall

December 11th	
Elder on duty	Victor Lauer
Organist	
Audio	Russ Ankersen
Greeter	Deb Shields
Greeter	
Usher	Harold Carlson
Lay Reader	Randon Peters
Acolyte	Clara Hurst
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Late Service	
Greeter	Cindy Swanhorst
Greeter	Curt Swanhorst
Usher	Harold Carlson
Lay Reader	Sarah Risenhoover
Acolyte	Avery Davidson
Acolyte	Lexi Koetter
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Live Stream	Ryland Peters

December 18th	
Elder on duty	Harold Carlson
Organist	
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	Hunter Kunkee
Acolyte	Ryker Mooney
Powerpoint	
Live Stream	Jackson Hartwell

December 25th	
Elder on duty	Fritz Hubert
Organist	
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	Nancy Rippen
Greeter	
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Jerry Calvin
Acolyte	Cassidy Rogers
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Harold Carlson
Late Service	
Greeter	Pat Penner
Greeter	
Usher	Curt Swanhorst
Lay Reader	Curt Swanhorst
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Gary Hunkins
Live Stream	



PEACE TALK

Is grass really greener on the other side? It seems I get a cow that thinks so once in a while as she leans on the fence. Then oh how happy she seems when a wire breaks and the old girl gets out on the other side where she is convinced the grass is greener. As I put her back and fix the fence, I ponder why that perception exists. But then I wondered how many times I have thought that the grass is greener on the other side. Seeking something better than what I already have. A better job. Nicer car. Bigger house. Warmer climate. More money. That is exactly what the Hebrew writer was addressing. *"Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, 'I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.'"* Hebrews 13:5. Then the Apostle Paul writes in Philippians 4:11, *"For I have learned to be satisfied with what I have."* This is a lesson I need to learn, maybe you do as well. He's not saying that I should never want more than I have. It's that I need to learn to be satisfied with what I do have. If I'm constantly looking for greener grass, I will miss the lesson of contentment and fail to appreciate what God has given me. That is to say when we don't appreciate something, we don't value it. If we don't value it, we take it for granted. God blesses us daily with good things that we look right past because of the temptation to want more than the daily bread He's given us. I have been told that the grass is always greener where you water it. So, the best way to make the grass greener where you are standing is to give thanks to God for what you do have. Everything we have is a gift of God and it helps to be reminded of this daily. Otherwise, like the old cow, the temptations of the world just might find us leaning on the fence. That thankfulness keeps our hearts in the right relationship to the giver of all good gifts. *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."* (James 1:17). We can have thankful hearts toward God even when we do not feel thankful for the circumstance. We can grieve and still be thankful. We can hurt and still be thankful. We can be angry at sin and still be thankful toward God. That is what the Bible calls a "sacrifice of praise" (Hebrews 13:15). Giving thanks to God keeps our hearts in a right relationship with Him and saves us from a host of harmful emotions and attitudes that will rob us of the peace God wants us to experience, (Philippians 4:6-7). Now look again at the grass on the other side. Is it greener? Dear Lord, help me water the grass I am standing on by giving you the thanks you so graciously deserve. Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity
Phil Bamesberger



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December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 7:00am Men's Bible Study
4 8:00am Worship Brunch 10:30am Worship	5 2:00pm LWML 5:00pm Board of Education	6 9:00am Worship Committee 6:30pm Board of Elders	7 9:30am El Dorado service 11:00am Advent service 6:00pm School Of Religion 7:30pm Advent service	8	9	10 7:00am Men's Bible Study
11 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	12	13 6:30pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	14 11:00am Advent service 7:00pm Christmas Program 7:30pm Advent service	15	16 Upper Fellowship Hall reservation	17 7:00am Men's Bible Study 4:00pm Live Nativity 7:00pm Live Nativity
18 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship 4:00pm Live Nativity 7:00pm Live Nativity	19	20	21	22	23 2:00pm Hillcrest 3:00pm Kinship Pointe	24 7:00am Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Christmas Eve service
25 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	26 <i>Office Closed</i>	27	28	29	30	31 7:00am Men's Bible Study