



'TIDINGS OF **PEACE**' from

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

TO:

January 2023

TIDINGS OF **PEACE**

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Live Nativity



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FROM AN ELDER

Each of us would have to acknowledge that we have made new year's resolutions, but how many of us could say that we have kept them? Probably not one! We may have started out with the best of intentions, but due to human frailties, we don't even make it to the second week. I would have to admit that I was one of those who promised my parents that I would try to do better, especially after a time of misbehavior. But, I'm sure you know how that ended.

God would expect us to do better, whether it is to listen to what our parents say, do a better job of guarding our tongues, managing our finances, loving our neighbors, attending church more often, putting more effort into our daily work. With the best efforts, we often fail in most of these categories, if not all.

God is a god of second chances. We believe that with the death of Jesus to take away our sins, we are given a new lease on life every morning. We know that God forgives our sins, and He blesses us every day far beyond what we deserve. When I pray my nightly prayers, I thank God for the blessings that He has given me that day, and, if it is His will, to bless me equally tomorrow. I ask for forgiveness for all that I have done wrong that day, knowing that I look forward to a new day.

We all can do that daily, but with 2023 approaching, we can and should pray that God would bless that new year and ask Him to guide is in all that we do. When the year starts, none of us knows what is in store for us. Will our health and that of our family be good? Well we be able to keep our employment? Will God take us home to Him before the end of the year? It is all in God's hands, so let us all put our trust in Him, and that we may live 2023 to His Glory!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Adrianna Gass	1/1	Patricia Kohmetcher	1/13	Hailey Unger	1/19
Kyle Novak	1/1	Ryland Peters	1/14	Vickie Blaisdell	1/20
Joylyn Rippen	1/1	Kassidy Gillen	1/15	Ron Aufrecht	1/21
Michael Fidler	1/5	Tanna Felcher	1/16	Chance Koetter	1/22
Logan Kircher	1/6	Eric Leibrandt	1/16	Bobbie Ziebell	1/22
Daphne Tidyman	1/6	Aaron Nielsen	1/16	Steve Post	1/24
Edward Unger	1/8	Wade Bedore	1/18	Myra Stoney	1/24
Melissa Critchfield	1/9	Roland Carlson	1/18	Darrell Eckhardt	1/26
Patricia Leibrandt	1/11	Keith Oetting	1/18	Eugene Custer	1/27
Benjamin Hanchera	1/13	Jeannine Rinehart	1/18	Ronda Wurm	1/29

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Loren & Lois Brown	1/18/1958	65	Darrelle & K.C. Eckhardt	1/31/1964	59

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 (Dec 25th-Dec 31st)	Month to Date (Dec 4th-Dec 31st)	Actual Year to Date (Jan 2nd-Dec 31st)
Offerings	\$23,678.00	\$38,118.00	\$249,287.00
Expenses	\$3,625.00	\$17,280.00	\$247,323.00



CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

Dear Preschool Families,

Happy New Year! We hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas break and were able to spend family time with your loved ones.

As was on our December newsletter, we will be having "Donuts with Dads" on Wednesday, Jan. 11th at 11:00 and Thursday, Jan. 12th at 11:00 and 2:30. We hope you can join us! We had a great turn out for "Muffins with Moms" and the kids were so excited to have their loved ones here with them!

We have a fun month of learning in store for January so please check your calendars for special days and remember that they are intended to be a fun addition to learning our letters!

Also, tax season is just around the corner, so here is the federal tax ID number for the preschool in case you need it for your taxes.

Peace Lutheran Church Creative Preschool ID #47-0431644

Don't forget that our website has monthly calendars and newsletters under each class' tab, so if you need an extra copy you can go to our website. The web address is: <http://plcmccook.org/creativepreschool.html>

We are excited to get back into the "swing of things"!!

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me at 345-2595 or email mycreativepreschool@gmail.com.

Thanks!

Kelsey, Dani & Cindy

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!

THANK YOU

The Board of Education would like to extend their gratitude to Kris Hanchera and Jan Hubert for the amazing Christmas program they brought to life. The youth did a wonderful job! We would like to also thank everyone else who helped make the program a success, Russ Ankersen and Tina Cummins, especially. Peace Lutheran is truly blessed!

JANUARY READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
1st	The 1st S. after Christmas	Isaiah 63:7-14	Galatians 4:4-7	Matthew 2:13-23
8th	The Baptism of Our Lord	Isaiah 42:1-9	Romans 6:1-11	Matthew 3:13-17
15th	The 2nd S. after Epiphany	Isaiah 49:1-7	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42a
22nd	The 3rd S. after Epiphany	Isaiah 9:1-4	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-25
29th	The 4th S. after Epiphany	Micah 6:1-8	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article – January 2023

Your Past Does Not Define Your Future

New Year's is a celebration of the past and the future. We take stock of the past with thanksgiving and sometimes even relief (that it's over), and we look to the future in hope and anticipation, and perhaps with some worry, for what it holds.

The point is that New Year's celebrations remind us of who we are as opposed to who we would like to be, what we have done in comparison to what we want to do. It reminds us of our accomplishments, but mostly it reminds us of our failures. What we've lost. Who we've lost.

New Year's is our own version of Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*. And we all play Scrooge. We are visited by the ghosts of our pasts, presents and futures.

St. Paul writes: "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Cor. 9:6-15).

St. Paul tells us that the Lord will both supply and increase what we need to give to the church for its work in the world. He tells us that this work God does in us will enrich and bless us in every way, and through this, will produce thanksgiving to God. With this in mind, here is some practical advice to help you take stock of your giving in years past and change what needs to be adjusted, improved, or done away with altogether.

First, attend the Divine Service to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. If you've not been faithful in attending worship to hear the preaching of God's Word, to receive forgiveness and feast on the rich food of our Lord's body and blood for the eternal benefit of your body and soul, then repent and come to receive the gifts God freely gives. God doesn't want your money. He wants you — all of you (Matt. 22:20-22).

Second, pray for the Lord's help. Your right as a Christian is to speak with your Father, the King of all creation, freely through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength and wisdom to follow His bidding faithfully (John 15:1-16).

Third, consider what the church is and what the church does. The church is a place of mercy. It inhales the mercy of the Father by the death, resurrection and ascension of His Son through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments. It exhales this mercy in love toward neighbors. You are a member of the church, of God's family. Thus, you are not only a recipient of God's mercy, but a bearer of that mercy for the life of the world. You spread that mercy through the generous giving of your income to support the work of the church in the world, as the Israelites did in the Old Testament (Lev. 27:1-34).

Fourth, take stock of your current giving in light of the New Testament's teaching on supporting the work of the church. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of your paycheck first, or does God get what's left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? The Old Testament required a tithe, or ten percent. The New Testament gives freedom to be generous, to give more for the Church's work. Are you relying on God's promise to provide and increase what you need to do His work? If your answer is no to any of these, repent. If God gave you His only Son, will He not provide for you all things, even physical things? Trust Him, His Word, and heed it.

So, don't let your past define your future. Rather, commit for the year a generous proportion of your income, which is God's gift to you for this body and life.

— LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

This program supports deployed US military by sending care packages for the chaplains to use as they care for the troops. With your tremendous support, and support of many throughout southwest Nebraska, six chaplains received care packages from Peace Lutheran. The picture is of U.S. Army 6-52 Air Defense Artillery Battalion in Korea, the chaplain writes: "I have attached a picture of one of our ADA Batteries. We are located in South Korea on a real world mission. Whenever you hear on the news about NK shooting a missile, it is our Soldiers who are on the front lines protecting our alliance, families and our own. Looking forward to see what God continues to do and thank you again, You make a great impact to people's lives."

BONIFACIO "Bono" LEE
CH (CPT), USA
Battalion CH



The Presbyterian Church of Danbury gave a donation to the Adopt-A-Chaplain fund. Merwyn Bolles delivered their gift.



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.

Kinship Pointe: Betty Harms.

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

El Dorado Manor: Mark Cummins

York: Joyce Hofman

Ulysses, KS: Joyce Stupka

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

1st-Available

8th-Available

15th-Available

22nd-Available

29th-Available

January 1st

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 Nick Nothnagel
 Acolyte Juliett Critchfield
 Acolyte
 Powerpoint Ben Schow
 Live Stream Renelle Mooney

January 8th

Elder on duty Victor Lauer
 Organist K. C. Eckhardt
 Audio Russ Ankersen
 Greeter Deb Shields
 Greeter
 Usher Harold Carlson
 Lay Reader Randon Peters
 Acolyte Layton Hinz
 Acolyte
 Powerpoint Russ Ankersen

Late Service

Greeter Cindy Swanhorst
 Greeter Curt Swanhorst
 Usher Harold Carlson
 Lay Reader Sarah Risenhoover
 Acolyte Avery Davidson
 Acolyte Emma McConville
 Powerpoint Russ Ankersen
 Live Stream Ryland Peters

January 15th

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 Carter Hartwell

January 22nd

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

Late Service

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

January 29th

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

Late Service

Greeter Karen Berry
 Greeter
 Usher Steve Post
 Lay Reader Phil Bamesberger
 Acolyte Brooklynn Tidyman
 Acolyte Lexi Koetter
 Powerpoint NEED VOLUNTEER
 Live Stream Blayzon Mooney



PEACE TALK

Good grief! That is a well-known expression in the life of Charlie Brown. This famous age-old cartoon character from the peanuts series cannot catch a break. In fact, you could call him a stereotypical American loser. Whenever he tried to kick the football, Lucy pulled it away at the last second and he flew through the air to land flat on his back. His baseball team has never won a game. Every spring, Charlie Brown went out to fly a kite, and each time it ended up in the tree. 'Good grief' he would say in disappointment. Charlie Brown is a loser. No one wants to be like Charlie Brown. No one idolizes him. No one looks up to him. We might feel sorry for Charlie Brown but deep down inside we are relieved that we are not that bad...However, many times I have been in a "good grief" situation. A Charlie Brown loser moment. Paul refers to this in Romans 7:15, *"I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate."* Charlie Brown could relate to this as well. We read on in Romans 7:18, *"For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out."* I admit I am a loser to sin. I realize what I have done and think "good grief." But when I take these sins to the foot of the cross, I have a new life. I find this truth in 2 Corinthians 5:17, *"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"* I am a new person with my identity in Jesus Christ. Because of the blood of Christ, my sin or failure no longer defines me. Not only am I forgiven, but I have become a new person, a child of God (1 John 3:2). And not one of God's children are losers! Take another look at Charlie Brown. He is loyal, determined, a true friend, and a dedicated baseball manager. Charlie Brown never gives up, he is kind, patient by nature, and wears his heart on his sleeve by helping others. I see this as his new identity. Where is my identity? Through faith I am dead to sin. Yes, I am a sinner. Yes, I just blew it big time. Yes, I knock things on the floor and I'm clumsy. But because of the blood of Christ and what he purchased on my behalf, that sin or failure no longer defines me. I am alive to God. By his doing, I am created in Christ Jesus for good works. I am chosen and set apart by God for noble, worthy, and holy purposes. This is my new identity. A worthy, good grief. Dear Lord, help others with a new identity through you. To understand and see that they are a winner and not a loser. Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity
 Phil Bamesberger



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 YouTube: Peace Lutheran Church McCook

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	2 5:00pm Board of Education PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	3 9:00am Worship Committee 6:30pm Board of Elders	4 9:30am El Dorado service 6:00pm School Of Religion	5	6	7 7:00am Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
8 Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	9 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	10 5:00pm Adopt-A-Chaplain 6:30pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	11 6:00pm School Of Religion	12	13	14 7:00am Men's Bible Study
15 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	16 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	17	18 6:00pm School Of Religion	19	20	21 7:00am Men's Bible Study
22 Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	23 2:00pm LWML PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	24	25 6:00pm School Of Religion	26 1:30pm Hillcrest 2:30pm Kinship Pointe	27	28 7:00am Men's Bible Study
29 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	30 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	31 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE (WINKEL)				