



'TIDINGS OF **PEACE**' from

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

TO:

Three vertical lines for an address.

February 2023

# TIDINGS OF **PEACE**

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

LUTHERAN CHURCH

So we have come  
to know and  
to believe the love  
that God has for us.  
God is love,  
and whoever abides in  
love abides in God,  
and God abides in him.  
1John 4: 16

**PLC Shepherd**  
 Pastor Lonnie Felcher  
 revfelcher@hotmail.com  
 Emergency (308)737-6750

**Creative Preschool Director**  
 Kelsey VanPelt  
 mycreativepreschool@gmail.com

**Administrative Assistant**  
 Tina Cummins  
 office@plcmccook.org

**Congregational President**  
 Fred Gleason  
 ggmccook4@yahoo.com

**Congregational Vice President**  
 Curt Swanhorst  
 curtswanhorst@gmail.com

**Elder Chairman**  
 Harold Carlson  
 hsputz@gmail.com

**Council Secretary**  
 Layne Sarvela

**Treasurer**  
 Melissa Hanchera  
 plctreasurer1908@gmail.com

**Financial Secretary**  
 Sarah Risenhoover  
 peacefin28@gmail.com

FROM AN ELDER

That's Not My Job

This is a story about four people named *Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.*

There was a very important job to be done and *Everybody was sure Somebody would do it.*

*Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.*

*Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job.*

*Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.*

It ended up that *Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.*

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Bernita Reiners	2/1	Maddyn Sharp	2/12	Brandon Smith	2/21
Roger Ziebell	2/2	Alyssa Bauer	2/13	Sarah Bird	2/23
Russ Ankersen	2/3	Bob Nemechek	2/13	Samatha Turpin	2/23
Karen Ziebell	2/3	Barry Mooney	2/14	Amity Loop	2/24
Thomas Broz	2/4	Myra Tietz	2/14	Merwin Potthoff	2/24
Donna Hall	2/7	Larry Fritz	2/15	Nathan Nielsen	2/25
Brooke Brown	2/9	Art Soncksen	2/15	Raymond Fisher	2/26
Nikki Hamilton	2/9	Alex Yonkers	2/18	Ellie Hartwell	2/26
Renelle Mooney	2/9	Aimee Hazlitt	2/19	Heddy Reiners	2/26
Ruth Ann Klein	2/10	Elizabeth McConville	2/19	Larry Richards	2/26
Nick Nothnagel	2/11	Rhonda Vetrovsky	2/19		

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
John & Eileen Hubert	2/6/1949	74	Barry & Renelle Mooney	2/24/1996	27
Robert & Carol Collicott	2/11/2011	12	Dwain & Donna Curtis	2/26/1977	46
Ed & Marilyn Unger	2/17/1963	60			

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 (Jan 22nd-Jan 28th)	Month to Date (Jan 1st-Jan 28th)	Actual Year to Date (Jan 1st-Jan 28th)
Offerings	\$2,736.00	\$26,035.00	\$26,035.00
Expenses	\$3,575.00	\$14,909.00	\$14,909.00



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Calling on all “busy people” to help with Vacation Bible School. A popular phrase states that “the busiest people get the most done,” so please consider your time and talent to plan and accomplish a successful VBS for 2023. Our VBS typically runs for three days in the month of June from 9 am to 12pm. Traditionally on the last day we feed the children lunch and plan some type of fun activity for the closing day. Prayerfully consider helping create this event for our children by volunteering for a day, or to be a section leader (director, registration, music, play/games, crafts, lesson, or kitchen) or for the entire event.

**The following article was written by Pastor Don Stuckwisch, entitled “Do we get ready daily for heaven?”**

*Coming home from church one Sunday morning, little five-year old Margie said to her mother, “Mommy, our teacher in Sunday School told us that God puts people on this world so that they can get ready for heaven.” Without much thought Margie’s mother said, “Yes, dear, that’s right.” Margie did not say anything for a while as she sat in deep thought. But finally, she replied very seriously. “Then Mommy, why don’t we see anybody getting ready?” It was a childlike question, and yet how very true. If God put us in this world so that we can get ready for heaven, then why don’t we see anybody getting ready? We live in a busy world. We are preoccupied with so many problems that come our way. These seem to take up so much of our time. We become so busy with what’s going on in the world that we often forget all about “getting ready” for the next world. In Psalm 90, the psalmist prays, “Teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.” That’s another way of saying, “Teach us to get ready. “Teach us to regard this life as a period of preparation for a greater and much more wonderful life which is still to come—a life with Christ and all the redeemed in heaven. Teach us to employ all our days, and our years, so that they may stretch out in the sure direction of our heavenly home. Are we doing this? Are we getting ready? Do we daily confess our sins to God, our Father and pray that in Jesus’ name He forgives us? Have we rested our lives, both now and hereafter into the hands of Jesus Christ? Do we trust in Him to be with us and care for us, not thinking that everything depends upon our own efforts. If so, then, in the words of little Margie, we are getting ready.*

Please consider helping us get ready for VBS. Teaching and sharing the love of God to our children is important to help them grow in the knowledge of the spirit. Contact any member of the board of Education, Linda Smith, Linda Nielsen, or Melissa Critchfield, or notify the church office if you can help. Thank you.

## FEBRUARY READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
5th	<b>The 5th S. after Epiphany</b>	Isaiah 58:3-9a	1 Corinthians 2:1-16	Matthew 5:13-20
12th	<b>The 6th S. after Epiphany</b>	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Matthew 5:21-37
19th	<b>The Transfiguration of Our Lord</b>	Exodus 24:8-18	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9
26th	<b>The 1st S. in Lent</b>	Genesis 3:1-21	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11



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

## Don’t Replace “And” with “Or”

We’ve all heard that stewardship means giving to the church of our time, talents and treasure. This alliterative trinity helps us see that giving is not just about money, but about our whole lives. As we confess in the Small Catechism’s explanation of the First Article of the Apostle’s Creed, God gives us everything we have and enjoy. First we confess that God gives us “our body and soul, our eyes, ears, and all our members, our reason and all our senses” (SC II). Then we confess that He gives us material things. The time, talents, and treasure trinity places before our eyes the fact that we are to give something of all three of these things toward the mission of the church in thanksgiving for what God has provided. For everything we have, and indeed, everything we are, comes from God’s fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

The problem with this alliterative trinity comes when we replace one little word with another little word — when we replace the word and with the word or. It is always written with the and, but when we read it, we read it with the or. Thus this quite helpful trinity, which extolls that everything that we have and are is a gift from God, to be given back in service of His church, turns into a trinity that we can pick and choose from when we serve God. The giving of our time, talents and treasure turns into the giving of our time, talents or treasure.

Then the question arises: Can we give of our time and talents instead of our treasure? Or perhaps it is the other way round: Can we give of our treasure and not of our time and talents? But these are the wrong questions. The right question is, can we give of our time and talents in addition to our treasure? Yes, indeed, we are called to give of all three. The things that God gives us are not to be pitted against one another. Rather, they are given to us, and we are to press them all into God’s service for benefit of His church and our neighbors in need.

Thus, we give all three. We give our treasure in the form of a generous, first-fruits proportion of our income. We give of our time in generosity for the benefit of Christ’s holy church. We give of our talents in the same manner. Since God gave us all these things, we are called to give generously of all these things in faith toward Him and in fervent love to our neighbors.

For God has provided all these things for us. Out of His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, He gives us each time, talents AND treasure as a means to bless those around us. We serve our neighbors with these things, blessing them with the blessings with which God has blessed us. We give of our time, talents and treasure to our families, our society, our church and our local congregations. And we do this because we know that we are not our own. Rather, we belong to God. We have been bought with a price: the holy, precious blood and innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He gave everything — His time, His talents and His treasure — to have us as His own and to live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness. We have these things as gifts and blessings from God. Let us then press them all into service for the sake of His love — time, talents and treasure together.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://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. At Christmas, the team was able to contact the LCMS Ministry to Armed Forces and adopt two LCMS chaplains. One on them, Chaplain Theodore Hoham, is deployed to Iraq and will be home soon. Please see a card from CH Hoham on the bulletin board. The second is Navy Chaplain Jaime Nava, who serves on the USS George HW Bush, a Nimitz-class aircraft carrier. They are positioned in the Adriatic Sea near Italy. Each chaplain is supported with care packages until they return home, other chaplains currently supported are in Kuwait, Qatar, Poland and Korea. Snacks, magazines, hand warmers and chapstix are the most requested items at this time. Join us on the next packing day Thursday, February 16 at 5:00 pm

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study will be starting up again March 6, 2023. This is a seven week study by Kelly Minter on the book of Ruth. Through this study we will examine Ruth's journey of unbearable loss, redeeming love, and divine legacy and see how our God proves Himself faithful as the One who rescues, revives and restores. Sessions will be Mondays from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The study is video driven with an accompanying study book. Our desire is to have women of all ages participating. The cost for this session is \$22. Scholarships are available if the cost is prohibitive, so please do not let cost be a determining factor. Contact Cindy Swanhorst (308-340-4380) or Cathy Broz (308-340-6064) for more information.

## LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY

There is a Lifelight bible study on Prophecy starting February 9th. It will be here on Thursdays at 1:15pm. For more information, please contact Judy Schow.

## 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!



## 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, and Ruth Woodhams

**Kinship Pointe:** Betty Harms, and Loren & Lois Brown.

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

**El Dorado Manor:** Mark Cummins

**Wauneta:** Lois Lepper

**Ulysses, KS:** Joyce Stupka

**Lincoln:** Carla Bales

### 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**

5th-Available  
12th-Available  
19th-Available  
26th-Chipman

**February 5th**

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 Zander Stewart  
Acolyte Maxson Stewart  
Powerpoint Ben Schow  
Live Stream Christien Kuykendall

**February 12th**

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 Ellie Hartwell  
Acolyte Jackson Hartwell  
Powerpoint Russ Ankersen  
Live Stream Ryland Peters

**February 19th**

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 Ryker Mooney  
Acolyte  
Powerpoint Tina Cummins

**Late Service**

Greeter Donna Hall  
Greeter Jim Hall  
Usher Ben Schow  
Lay Reader Fred Gleason  
Acolyte Hunter Kunkee  
Acolyte Cale DeWester  
Powerpoint  
Live Stream Jackson Hartwell

**February 26th**

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 Brooklynn Tidyman  
Acolyte Lexi Koetter  
Powerpoint Gary Hunkins  
Live Stream Layne Sarvela

**PEACE TALK**

Don't step on the crack or you'll break your mother's back. Did you play that game when you were young? I know I did. I also must admit it still crosses my mind once in a while when I walk down the sidewalk, looking at the cracks. I'm not sure where that game originated, but from what I recall it had nothing to do with believing it actually hurt your mother. Did the crack represent something bad? If you stepped on a crack, did you lose the game? Or was it just a good excuse to jump over a crack? Regardless, it was an innocent way to recognize a make-believe danger to hop over. Typically, cracks are not good. Whether it's in your windshield, foundation, or yes even the sidewalk. Cracks often show up in our lives as well. New Year's resolutions are beginning to crack. Various worldly events or circumstances are creating cracks. It might be losing a job, stressed finances, health problems, or a number of other things. If I could, I would leap right over all of those cracks. Well, the Apostle Paul tells me I can, *"For we walk by faith, not by sight."* (1 Corinthians 5:7). I often see just the cracks; by faith I must see an opportunity to trust God. Even though I may not see God working in and through the cracks in my life... it is by faith I know that God is in control and I gain the assurance that He is protecting me and looking out for me. I also know that with faith I can do all things through Christ (Philippians 4:13). Through faith, I know I have the gift of salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9). By faith I know I can place my trust in the Lord (Hebrews 11). Nourishing faith with scripture I can learn many ways He is looking out for me and how to place my trust only in Him. But I need to continually work on strengthening my faith, *"So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!"* (1 Corinthians 10:12). As soon as I think the armor of God will protect me from all the forces of the evil one, the end of my toe catches one of those cracks. Have you done that before? Stumbling down the walk, wondering "why did I not see that coming?" If only I would have leaped over that crack. I must never assume that I am beyond sinning, that temptation could not touch me, that I could not stumble in some way. For surely, I can and will. My sinfulness lets doubt and fear catch my toe on that crack. That's why it is so important to daily seek His Word. Continually strengthening our faith. The method will vary according to your routine, but take the time to make God's Word part of your routine. A sure way to help you jump over the crack so you don't break your...faith. Dear Lord, help me to place all my trust in you through faith. Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity  
Phil Bamesberger



Peace Lutheran Church  
 411 East 6th Street  
 PO Box 240  
 McCook, NE 69001  
 PH (308)345-2595  
 Email: [office@plcmccook.org](mailto:office@plcmccook.org)  
 Website: [plcmccook.org](http://plcmccook.org)  
 Facebook: Peace Lutheran McCook NE  
 YouTube: Peace Lutheran Church McCook

# February 2023

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