



'TIDINGS OF **PEACE**' from

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

TO:

Three vertical lines for an address.

April 2023

# TIDINGS OF **PEACE**

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### FROM AN ELDER

I'm sure you already know that Easter is the most important day of the church year. All the other Sundays in the church year revolve around this special day.

Yes, Easter is the day Jesus rose from the dead. The Bible states that "*(Jesus) was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification*" (Romans 4:25). Let's compare what happened to Jesus to grocery shopping. After we pick up our groceries and take them to the check-out counter, the cashier scans our groceries and tells us how much we owe. That is the **PRICE** for our groceries, the **PAYMENT** we make. Then the cashier will give us our change. But there is one more thing we seek. That is our receipt. The receipt is our **PROOF OF PURCHASE**.

On Good Friday Jesus died on the cross. His suffering and death and the shedding of His blood was the **PAYMENT** for all our sins. Because Jesus made the payment for our sins on our behalf, there is nothing more that we *need* to pay. Jesus did it all for us.

On the third day Jesus rose from the dead. His resurrection was God's way of demonstrating that He had accepted the payment that Jesus made for us. In other words, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead is our **PROOF OF PURCHASE**. Jesus redeemed (bought us back) from our sin, from death and from the power of the devil. Because of that payment Jesus made for us, God has now "justified" us or declared us to be "not guilty". We are forgiven. And that means we have the certainty of eternal life through Jesus. "*Whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life*" (John 3:16).

No wonder Easter means so much to all Christians. It is our day of victory. "*Because I (Jesus) lives, you (we) also will live*" (John 14:19).

On Easter we decorate our church with white Easter lilies. White is the color of *joy* and *celebration*. It is also the color of *purity* or *holiness*. Because Jesus died and rose again, all our sins are forgiven and, through faith in Him, we are cleansed, purified, of all sin.

Easter is also the symbol of *new life* from the dead. As believers in Jesus, we have a new life. It is the life we live by faith in Him who loved us and gave Himself for us. Every day, we want to live for Him to show our love and gratitude for all that He has done for us.

May your Easter celebration again this year bring renewed joy, celebration and life through our risen and glorified Savior – JESUS CHRIST!

HAPPY EASTER

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**SUMMER MINISTRY**

Dear Peace Lutheran Church Community,

You can imagine how excited I was to discover a ministry that combines three of my passions! I love God, appreciate being in nature, and I am always looking for ways to engage in ministry. When I discovered A Christian Ministry in the National Parks, it was hard to believe that such a ministry existed! I am looking forward to this amazing ministry opportunity and would like to invite you to partner in the work with me as I leave an impact this upcoming summer. I have accepted the call to volunteer with A Christian Ministry in the National Parks (ACMNP) at Great Smoky Mountains National Park this upcoming summer. Please visit the ministry's website at [www.acmnp.com](http://www.acmnp.com) to learn more about the efforts that have been taking place in the parks for over 72 years. I cannot wait to spend the summer living, working, and serving in the Great Smoky Mountains. In order to live in the park, I will have a full-time paying job at a resort company and will volunteer with ACMNP to provide worship services and relational ministry to my co-workers and visitors in the park. I am hoping to begin a Bible study in the dorms and am excited to see how God will develop my leadership abilities through that. I will be reaching the world by being able to engage with tourists and coworkers that come from many different countries. I will also be looking for ways to serve and volunteer in environmental efforts in the park. As I prepare for this opportunity, I am reaching out to my friends, family, and the congregation asking if they would consider supporting me in this effort. I know that I will need your prayers and encouragement during the season. While I will earn an income working for the resort, there are upfront costs that I am raising support for. I need to raise about \$1,250 to cover a variety of expenses including travel costs to and from the training conference in Colorado, travel costs to and from Great Smoky Mountains, food and meals while there, and the Program Fee to serve with ACMNP. A gift of any amount would be helpful and greatly appreciated! If you would like to support me, please make your check out to Olivia Koetter. If you would rather, you could also use Venmo and send it to [oliviakoetter-acmnp](https://venmo.com/oliviakoetter-acmnp). My support team and I will be handling the funds. If you have questions about my plans for the summer, please give me a call at (308)-737-8372 or send me an email at [ojkoetter@gmail.com](mailto:ojkoetter@gmail.com). Even if you are not able to help financially, please join me in praying for this upcoming season! Either way, I look forward to sharing stories about my summer in the Great Smoky Mountains with you. Thank you so much! Many Blessings to You!

-Olivia Koetter

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

Tina Cummins	4/1	Carmen Custer	4/13	Kimberly Kuykendall	4/21
Taylor Jesse	4/1	Seth Koetter	4/13	Krystal Downing	4/22
Rachel Lietka	4/3	Spenser Bruntz	4/14	Brooklynn Tidyman	4/23
Corina Fritz	4/5	Dan Hartwell	4/14	Harold Carlson	4/25
Lance Gillen	4/5	Carter Watts	4/14	Carter Hartwell	4/27
Lola Downing	4/6	Chase Pierson	4/16	Jeffrey Unger	4/27
Steven Kircher	4/6	Torryn Schumacher	4/16	Brooklynn Gillen	4/28
Kelsey Gillen	4/8	Savannah Strauch	4/17	Robert Stecker	4/28
Tanner Doucet	4/9	Olivia Koetter	4/18	Hanah Nothnagel	4/29
Denise Gillen	4/9	John Hanson	4/21	Drew Shields	4/29

**APRIL ANNIVERSARIES**

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Leslie & Sue Farhenbruch	4/2/1994	29	Ron & Deb Lauer	4/8/1989	34
Ronald & Doris Friehe	4/3/1976	47	Alex & Melissa Hanchera	4/9/2016	7
Monte & Mary Hazlitt	4/7/1984	39	Joseph & Gina Vetrovsky	4/14/2018	5
Kenneth & Dorinda Polly	4/7/1956	67	Myra & Dan Stoney	4/17/1999	24

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 (March 26th-April 2nd)	Month to Date (March 5th-April 2nd)	Actual Year to Date (Jan 1st-April 2nd)
Offerings	\$2,670.00	\$16,759.00	\$81,095.00
Expenses	\$837.00	\$18,689.00	\$60,574.00



## CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

Dear Preschool Families:

April is already almost here and hopefully Spring weather will quickly follow! These last months, we will finish up the alphabet and begin reviewing all our letters, numbers, and concepts.

Our Easter parties will be on April 5<sup>th</sup> and April 6<sup>th</sup>. There will be no school on April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> for Easter break.

We will have our annual bike-a-thon on April 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Please bring a bike or scooter for your child to ride on that day, as well as a helmet. Parents are invited to come watch!

We will be taking a field trip to Common Scents at the end of the month. The Monday/Wednesday and 4-day class will be going on Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. The Tuesday/Thursday class will be going on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. The morning classes will go at 10:30 and the afternoon class will be at 2:00. If any parents are available to help drive please let me know.

The end of the school year is quickly approaching! **The cost of tuition is halved in May, bus is \$2 per trip so you can just add up the days your child will be riding and add that to May tuition. The last regular day of preschool will be Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>.** On your child's last day of school, we will be having a Field Day for the last half hour of class! Parents are invited to come and watch!

The Graduation Ceremony for all those going on to Kindergarten next year will be on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. There will be a reception following the program in the fellowship area. Parents and grandparents are invited to join us for this special celebration!

Children NOT graduating do not need to attend the graduation on Tuesday evening.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please call (345-2595) or email Kelsey ([mycreativepreschool@gmail.com](mailto:mycreativepreschool@gmail.com)).

Happy Spring!

Kelsey, Dani and Cindy

## APRIL READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
3rd	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 27:11-66
9th	<b>The Resurrection of Our Lord</b>	Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6	Colossians 3:1-4	Matthew 28:1-10
16th	<b>The 2nd S. of Easter</b>	Acts 5:29-42	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
23rd	<b>The 3rd S. of Easter</b>	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	1 Peter 1:17-25	Luke 24:13-35
30th	<b>The 4th S. of Easter</b>	Acts 2:42-47	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10



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

## A Better Way

The most common question about stewardship is not *whether* a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, "How much should I give?" But this question really means, "Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?"

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn't necessary because it isn't expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no "Thus saith the Lord," or "should" concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn't tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won't be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians *should* tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn't specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one's income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7-23; 2 Cor. 9:2-7).

But here's another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? "The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism's Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we're not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let's answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I'm glad you're still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God's promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I'd really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we're ecstatic that you're giving, and that you're giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.

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



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will be June 12th-14th. All details and registration information will be posted soon on Peace Lutheran's Facebook page. If you have any questions, please contact Kris Hanchera at 340-5878 or Jan Hubert at 340-5181

## SCHOOL OF RELIGION

We are winding down for the school year, with only two more classes left of SOR and a celebration on April 26th to wrap things up. Please look below for the last few important dates to mark on your calendar. If you are interested in participating next year as a volunteer of any sort for SOR, please contact the Board of Education: Linda Nielsen, Melissa Critchfield or Nicole Koetter. Wednesday, April 5th: NO school of religion class during Holy Week. Have a blessed Easter!! Wednesday April 12th and April 19th : Regular SOR hours 6-7:30 pm Wednesday April 26th, 6-7:30 pm: End of the SOR year skating party at the Riverside Rink. All are welcome, feel free to bring a guest! We thank you for an amazing year of SOR and for letting us be a part of your child's faith walk. A special thanks goes out to all of the volunteers that make every Wednesday night a possibility.

## GRADUATION RECOGNITION

Graduation season is approaching quickly. If you have a high school or college graduate, please contact the church office at 345-2595 with their information so they can be recognized.



## 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, and Art Soncksen

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

**Highland Park:** Harlan & Bernita Reiners and 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 – Phil Bamesberger, Victor Lauer, Fritz Hubert, Brandon Kuykendall, Curt Swanhorst, Russ Ankersen or Barry Mooney.

### 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.*





<b>April 2nd</b>	
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
<b>Late Service</b>	
Greeter	Jane Schuster
Greeter	Myra Tietz
Usher	Gary Hunkins
Lay Reader	Nick Nothnagel
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Ben Schow
Live Stream	Christien Kuykendall

<b>April 9th</b>	
Elder on duty	Victor Lauer
Organist	K. C. Eckhardt
Audio	Russ Ankersen
Greeter	Deb Shields
Greeter	
Usher	Harold Carlson
Lay Reader	Randon Peters
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
<b>Late Service</b>	
Greeter	Cindy Swanhorst
Greeter	Curt Swanhorst
Usher	Harold Carlson
Lay Reader	Sarah Risenhoover
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Live Stream	Layne Sarvela

<b>April 16th</b>	
Elder on duty	
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Paul Sellers
Greeter	Elaine Polly
Greeter	Jeff Polly
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Grant Pfanstiel
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins
<b>Late Service</b>	
Greeter	Donna Hall
Greeter	Jim Hall
Usher	Ben Schow
Lay Reader	Fred Gleason
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	
Live Stream	Tina Cummins

<b>April 23rd</b>	
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
<b>Late Service</b>	
Greeter	Pat Penner
Greeter	
Usher	Curt Swanhorst
Lay Reader	Curt Swanhorst
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Gary Hunkins
Live Stream	Blayzon Mooney

<b>April 30th</b>	
Elder on duty	Curt/Phil
Organist	
Audio	NEED VOLUNTEER
Greeter	Sue Carlson
Greeter	Harold Carlson
Usher	Gene Meints
Lay Reader	Blayzon Mooney
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	
<b>Late Service</b>	
Greeter	Karen Berry
Greeter	
Usher	Steve Post
Lay Reader	Harold Carlson
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	NEED VOLUNTEER
Live Stream	Ryland Peters



## PEACE TALK

Chew on this for a moment! Chewing on thoughts and ruminating on ideas consumes a large part of my day. It might be in the middle of the night, while driving, or anytime in between. Over and over again my mind processes one thought after another. Kind of like a cow chewing her cud. Chew, chomp, swallow, bring it back up and chew some more. It could be something I did, was going to do, or something I failed to do. Then there is the daily stress of life, whether it's work, an event, or a relationship, constantly attempting to distract me and fill my mind with fear, doubt, or anxiety. Of course, I can't forget a great deal of joyous thoughts. There are just too many ways to count, how my mind will chew its way into uncharted territories. The Bible describes how many ways my mind will drift; a troubled mind (2 Kings 6:11), a depraved mind (1 Timothy 6:5), a sinful mind (Romans 8:5), a dull mind (2 Corinthians 3:14), a blinded mind (2 Corinthians 4:4), or a corrupt mind (2 Timothy 3:8). Oh, there are so many directions my mind can go. It seems there is no escaping what I may chew on next. Unfortunately, allowing my mind to drift into captivity of the evil one is part of that reality. No, he cannot see what is on my mind, but he can pour fuel on the flames of my actions. This is what concerned Apostle Paul when he wrote to the Corinthians, "*We can take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*" (2 Corinthians 10:5). I need to corral my thoughts and continually work on this posture to help me through adverse rumination. As I chew on a thought I need to remember, the tempter only needs cooperation from the one chewing. That is why I continually need to set my mind on Christ. I know it is easier said than done, but Paul encourages all of us in Romans 8:5, "*Those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.*" Whether it is a temptation or not, while chewing, I should invite the Holy Spirit as my guide. Recognizing that there are times when my mind will go astray. It starts with praying to God for wisdom. Filling my heart and mind with the truth of God's Word. Ultimately, with the intention of strengthening my positive thinking. With the help of God, I can work on the discipline of what I am chewing on. It will take intentional effort to train my mind to seek God for help in the midst of my good thoughts through the most challenging ones. But oh, how it will be worth it when the fruits of Godliness spring up within my soul. All the more reason to take the time to reflect on God's Word. Using Scripture and prayer to help align what I chew on, with Christ... each day. Lord, help keep my heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity  
Phil Barnesberger



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 YouTube: Peace Lutheran Church McCook

# april 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> <b>7:00am</b> Men's Bible Study <b>10:00am</b> Confirmation prep Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
<b>2</b> <b>8:00am</b> Worship <b>9:15am</b> Bible Study <b>10:30am</b> Worship	<b>3</b> <b>7:00pm</b> Women's Bible Study	<b>4</b> <b>9:00am</b> Worship Committee <b>11:00am</b> Baptism <b>6:30pm</b> Board of Elders	<b>5</b> <b>9:30am</b> El Dorado service	<b>6</b> <b>11:00am</b> Service <b>1:15pm</b> LifeLight <b>7:30pm</b> Service	<b>7</b> <b>11:00am</b> Service <b>7:30pm</b> Service	<b>8</b> <b>7:00am</b> Men's Bible Study
<b>9 Communion Sunday</b> <b>7:00am</b> Worship Easter Breakfast <b>10:30am</b> Worship	<b>10 Office Closed</b> <b>7:00pm</b> Women's Bible Study	<b>11</b> <b>6:30pm</b> Board of Elders <b>7:00pm</b> Council	<b>12</b> <b>5:00pm</b> Adopt-A-Chaplain <b>6:00pm</b> School Of Religion	<b>13</b> <b>1:15pm</b> LifeLight	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>7:00am</b> Men's Bible Study <b>7:00pm</b> Teacher dinner
<b>16</b> <b>8:00am</b> Worship <b>9:15am</b> Bible Study <b>10:30am</b> Worship	<b>17</b> <b>7:00pm</b> Women's Bible Study	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>6:00pm</b> School Of Religion	<b>20</b> <b>1:15pm</b> LifeLight	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>7:00am</b> Men's Bible Study
<b>23 Communion Sunday</b> <b>8:00am</b> Worship <b>9:15am</b> Bible Study <b>10:30am</b> Worship	<b>24</b> <b>2:00pm</b> LWML <b>7:00pm</b> Women's Bible Study	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>6:00pm</b> Skating party	<b>27</b> <b>1:15pm</b> LifeLight <b>1:30pm</b> Hillcrest <b>2:30pm</b> Kinship Pointe	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>7:00am</b> Men's Bible Study
<b>30</b> <b>8:00am</b> Worship <b>9:15am</b> Bible Study <b>10:30am</b> Worship						