

TIDINGS OF PEACE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Jeff and Elaine Polly have shared a newspaper article that was published in the Gazette a number of years ago about the origins of the area churches. The article about Peace was written by Rev. R. Staehr. Here are some of the highlights:

Peace Lutheran Church Formed By 8 Members

In 1907 the Nebraska District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, authorized the mission board of the district to call a missionary for McCook. At that time, several Lutheran families were residing in McCook and were being served by neighboring Lutheran pastors from White, Bartley, and Ash Creek. It was felt by the church that a resident pastor should be called to this particular field. The call was extended to the Rev. William Brueggemann, who began his ministry in McCook in the year 1908. Upon his arrival in McCook, Rev. Brueggemann began canvassing the town and the surrounding country, looking not only for Lutheran families but also for families without any church affiliation. The canvass proved to be quite successful. After several months of work and many visits, sufficient families were gathered so that not only regular Sunday services could be conducted but that a congregation could be organized. Peace Lutheran Church of McCook was organized on October 9, 1908. The following individuals are given as charter members: P.H. Blumck, Charles Ebert, Julius Hinz, Bernard Kotter, Fred Pfeffer, George Schrammel, William Unger, and Pastor William Brueggemann. Since the congregation did not have its own house of worship at the time of organization, services were first held in the Courthouse and later on the public school building on East 5th Street, known as the East Ward School. From the very beginning of its existence the congregation felt not only the advisability but rather the necessity of having its own place of worship. And soon after the organization the congregation resolved to build its first house of worship. A building site on East 6th and E streets was acquired on which the first church was erected. It was a 24X40 foot frame building. Dedication services were held on September 19, 1909. Sometime after the dedication of the church, a room was built on the back of the church, which was used for parochial school purposes until the late thirties. The school was first taught by the pastor of the church and later on by regularly called teachers or students. The church records state that in 1915 the congregation numbered 248 souls and 123 communicant member; 42 children were attending the church school. Some 35 years after the erection of the first church edifice, during the forties, the question of building a new church was given much thought and consideration. Finally, in a special meeting on December 13, 1948, the congregation resolved to build a new church. This building project is unique in that the members of the congregation took an active part in the program. The last service in the old church was held the last Sunday of February 1949; the next morning members of the congregation assembled and tore down the old structure. By Tuesday the job of removing the old building was complete. By Saturday of that same week the basement had been dug, the work again done by members of the congregation. The cornerstone was laid at ceremonies

Continued on page 2



'TIDINGS OF PEACE' from

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

TO:

**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

Curt Swanhorst
curtswanhorst@gmail.com

Congregational Vice President

Russ Ankersen
RJAnkersen@parker.com

Elder Chairman

Phil Barnesberger

Council Secretary

Layne Sarvela

Treasurer

Melissa Hanchera
plctreasurer1908@gmail.com

Financial Secretary

Sarah Risenhoover
peacefin28@gmail.com

Continued from cover

on September 18, 1949. The new 34X110 foot church building was ready for dedication by the end of January, 1950. At that time the Gazette reported: "The new brick structure was completed in less than a year. Its dark pew will provide seating for 400 persons to join worship. And its stained glass, chancel windows will shed a soft light into the interior as the mellow tones of the new Baldwin organ lead the congregation in the hymn of thanksgiving this coming Sunday" In September 1954 a meeting resulting in the erection of the Christian Education Building, built to the south and connected to the church. This doubled the floor area of the church. The new Christian Education Building was dedicated in formal ceremonies where the keys were handed to Elsworth Friehe, chairman of the congregation's building committee. He in turn cut the ribbon placed across the two main doors at the tower entrance, and placed the main key in the door lock. The key was turned by the Rev. Rudolf Staehr, pastor of the church, and Vernon Nokes, president of the congregation. It was estimated that some 1,500 people attended the three special services. The church's guest register was signed by visitors from 5 states; 30 Nebraska, 7 Kansas, and 4 Colorado towns were represented. Peace Lutheran Church is in McCook not only to serve its own members, but also to serve the city and the surrounding neighborhood whenever and wherever possible. Therefore on December 19, 1954, Peace Lutheran Church began broadcasting the 11am Sunday morning worship services every Sunday over a local radio station, KBRL, in McCook. It is known as "Your Hour of Worship" The 900 member of Peace Lutheran Church in McCook are grateful to God to have had the opportunity for 56 years to help build the "Kingdom of God" in McCook, the surrounding country and throughout the world. All praise to God!

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

Jerry Calvin	5/1	Jennifer Doucet	5/12	Scott Hanchera	5/19
Sarah Risenhoover	5/1	Patricia Nielsen	5/12	Susan DeJonge	5/20
Austin Thompson	5/2	Kysen Hazlitt	5/14	Joseph Vetrovsky	5/22
Samson Ziebell	5/2	Heath Brown	5/15	Jayde Aufrecht	5/23
Lonnie Felcher	5/3	Allyx Garretson	5/15	Vaunda Hyde	5/23
Emery Götl	5/3	Amanda Pearce	5/15	Peggy Poore	5/23
Theodore Felcher	5/5	LaVonne Hanchera	5/16	Jacob Vetrovsky	5/23
Jeff Polly	5/5	Haven Curl	5/17	Danielle Schumacher	5/24
Sharon Kircher	5/7	Jenna Moench	5/17	Lindsay McConville	5/25
Harlan Reiners	5/8	Luka Rawn	5/17	Gerald Gohl	5/29
Nicole Rawn	5/10	Linda Richards	5/17	Treven Critchfield	5/31
Lisa Schoup	5/11	Spencer Rogers	5/18		

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Alyssa & Todd Bauer	5/3/2014	9	Ron & Jeanne Rogers	5/23/1971	52
Samantha & Michael Turpin	5/7/2022	1	Harold & Sue Carlson	5/24/2008	15
Tom & Cindy Shields	5/14/1983	40	Drew & Amanda Shields	5/29/2021	2
Joel & Linda Smith	5/18/1991	32	Preston & Amanda Hueftle	5/30/2020	3
Nicholas & Hanah Nothnagel	5/21/2016	7	Gerald & Kristi Novak	5/30/1981	42
Mitch & Aimee Hazlitt	5/22/2010	13	Raymond & Patricia Fisher	5/31/1964	59
Matthew & Kelsey Esch	5/23/2015	8			

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.

OUR FINANCES AT A GLANCE

	Week to Date (April 23rd-April 29th)	Month to Date (April 2nd-April 29th)	Actual Year to Date (Jan 1st-April 29th)
Offerings	\$3,385.00	\$25,039.00	\$106,282.00
Expenses	\$1,880.00	\$18,820.00	\$79,394.00



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to this years graduates!
 High School: Delaney Critchfield, Christien Kuykendall, Blayzon Mooney, Ryland Peters, Joylyn Rippen, Jacob Risenhoover and Nathan Unger.
 Pharmacy school: Katie Kjendal.
 Way to go!!



CALLING ALL COOKS

Peace Lutheran LWML is sponsoring a church cookbook. Proceeds from the sale of the cookbook will go to mission projects within Peace Lutheran Church. Please submit your favorite recipes with your name on it or in honor of someone. We are accepting recipes from May 1st to September 1st. These would make wonderful Christmas gifts. If you would like to help with the cookbook, please contact Deb Shields at 308-340-4054. Recipes can be put in a box in the narthex or emailed to debrashields76@yahoo.com. Order forms will be put out at a later date.



CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

Creative Preschool at Peace Lutheran has an opening for a preschool teacher assistant/bus driver. This is a part-time position. There is also a need for a substitute teacher assistant. Applications can be obtained at the church office. Resumes can be emailed to the Board of Education at office@plcmccook.org.

MAY READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
7th	The 5th S. of Easter	Act 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
14th	The 6th S. of Easter	Acts 17:16-31	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
21st	The 7th S. of Easter	Acts 1:12-26	1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11	John 17:1-11
28th	The Day of Pentecost	Numbers 11:24-30	Acts 2:1-21	John 7:37-39



ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

This program supports deployed US military by sending care packages for the chaplains to use as they care for the troops. We attach Bible verses and "thank you for your service" to the countless granola bars and other supplies. This month we will send boxes to chaplains in Kuwait, Qatar, Korea, and Poland. Please pray for the chaplains, for all deployed military, and also for those who wait for them at home. Thank you to everyone who has donated funds and/or contributed supplies for the care packages! Thank you to everyone that has helped pack! All are welcome for the next packing day, Thurs, May 11, at 2:00pm

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education would like to thank Pastor Felcher, our secretary Tina, board members and all of Peace Lutheran's entire family who had a hand in preparations and service for the Palm Sunday Service, giving Glory to God and blessing the confirmands. Thank you to the LWML for the breakfast to honor the confirmands and to welcome their families and friends. Thank you to all who helped provide a spectacular Easter breakfast. While the food was delicious, the true blessing was the packed room and opportunity for fellowship and a very successful fundraiser for our preschool program. These beautiful services and programs would not be possible without all of the working pieces and contributions from each and every one of you, and we truly appreciate all of your time and commitment. While our School of Religion, Sunday School, and FIRE will take a break for the school year at the end of April, and preschool graduation will be held May 9th, we cannot express how thankful we are for everyone involved in their support of our youth and their faith journeys. These programs would not be possible without all of the amazing volunteers and staff. We hope that everyone feels the many blessings as much as we do. Our congregation is truly amazing. He is Risen Indeed!!!

YOU ARE INVITED: Everyone is invited to a brunch, at Peace Lutheran, to honor 2023 graduates. This will be between services, at 9:15 am on Sunday, May 21. Peace Lutheran would like to invite all high school and college graduates, and their families, to the brunch as we celebrate their achievements of the graduates.

INVITATION TO PRESCHOOL GRADUATION: The congregation is invited to the Creative Preschool graduation at 7 pm on Tuesday, May 9 at Peace Lutheran. Please stay for cake after the graduation.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 12th, 13th, & 14th Peace Lutheran Church VBS "Promised Treasures" Our VBS is for children pre-K (age 3 and potty trained) through 5th grade. Please join our three-day event and register by May 20th in order for your child to receive a t-shirt (size guide is found under downloads, you will be asked to enter size when registering). Late and walk in registrations will be accepted however T-shirts may not be available so we encourage you to register by the deadline. Check out all the details and register at: www.myvbs.org/plcmccook

WELCOME

Please welcome our newest members. Keslie Collins Hazlitt was received by the waters of baptism in March. Keslie is the infant daughter of Mitch & Aimee Hazlitt. In April, Emery June Götl was also received by the waters of baptism. Emery is the infant daughter of Dillon & Audrey Götl. Welcome Keslie and Emery!



CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to this years confirmands; Juliett Critchfield, Cassidy Rogers and Tristen Watts! Way to go! Their class verse is Deuteronomy 31:6 *Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake 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, Ruth Woodhams, Art Soncksen, and Linda Bonar

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 Barnesberger, 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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

May 7th

Elder on duty Brandon Kuykendall
 Organist
 Audio Cathy Broz
 Greeter Grant Pfanstiel
 Greeter Charlene Pfanstiel
 Usher Gene Meints
 Lay Reader Renelle Mooney
 Acolyte Layton Hinz
 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

May 14th

Elder on duty Victor Lauer
 Organist Charlene Pfanstiel
 Audio Russ Ankersen
 Greeter Deb Shields
 Greeter
 Usher Harold Carlson
 Lay Reader Grant Pfanstiel
 Acolyte Clara Hurst
 Acolyte
 Powerpoint Russ Ankersen
Late Service
 Greeter Cindy Swanhorst
 Greeter Curt Swanhorst
 Usher Harold Carlson
 Lay Reader Fred Gleason
 Acolyte Hunter Kunkee
 Acolyte
 Powerpoint Russ Ankersen
 Live Stream Carter Hartwell

May 21st

Elder on duty Barry Mooney
 Organist
 Audio Paul Sellers
 Greeter Elaine Polly
 Greeter Jeff Polly
 Usher Eugene Custer
 Lay Reader Randon Peters
 Acolyte Juliett Critchfield
 Acolyte
 Powerpoint Tina Cummins
Late Service
 Greeter Donna Hall
 Greeter Jim Hall
 Usher Ben Schow
 Lay Reader Sarah Risenhoover
 Acolyte Avery Davidson
 Acolyte Ryker Mooney
 Powerpoint
 Live Stream Renelle Mooney

May 28th

Elder on duty Fritz Hubert
 Organist Charlene Pfanstiel
 Audio Harold Carlson
 Greeter Nancy Rippen
 Greeter
 Usher Eugene Custer
 Lay Reader Jerry Calvin
 Acolyte Tristan Watts
 Acolyte Brayden Watts
 Powerpoint Harold Carlson
Late Service
 Greeter Pat Penner
 Greeter
 Usher Curt Swanhorst
 Lay Reader Curt Swanhorst
 Acolyte Brooklynn Tidyman
 Acolyte Emma McConville
 Powerpoint Gary Hunkins
 Live Stream Layne Sarvela



PEACE TALK

Checkmate! I'm sure that is what you would tell me if I played you in a game of chess. Checkmate is declared in a chess match by the player that leaves the opponent with no more options to move. Namely the king, thus winning the game. This highly strategic game is a battle between two minds. My skills are limited with this game; however, I can tell you that the front row of the game board is lined with "pawns." You can only move it forward one space at a time diagonally, and there are quite a few of them. I would sacrifice a pawn if I could draw out my opponent's key players. Alternatively, I consider my queen as a valuable game piece. She can be moved any direction and as many unoccupied spaces as necessary. Not sacrificing her is a strategy of vital importance. In life there are many things I am willing to sacrifice like the pawns in chess. It could be soda, immediate desires, or television... these things would not be a great loss if I give them up. On the other hand, the key things in my life I value more... sports, electronic devices, or hobbies. Priorities in my life I try to protect. Unwilling to sacrifice them and give them up to God. Look at Abraham, he was willing to sacrifice Isaac, his most valued possession (Genesis 22:1-19). It would be like moving your queen to the front of the line, disregarding the possibility of a checkmate. However, Abraham was rewarded by God for being willing to make that sacrifice. Jesus asked people to sacrifice what was important to them as well. He asked His disciples to drop everything and follow Him (Matthew 16:24). Jesus asked a rich young ruler to give up all his possessions (Mark 10:17-27). A widow was honored when she gives all that she had in the offering (Luke 21:1-4). I sit back and ponder... Am I only willing to sacrifice the things in my life that I can do without, and not willing to sacrifice the things I want to protect? If I want to truly follow Christ, I must be willing to put myself in a position to face checkmate. I will have to sacrifice things that become my life's priorities and give more of my time and talents to God. Things I haven't been willing to let go of. Can you put yourself in a position of checkmate? In return, Jesus promises to give us more than we could ever ask for. Maybe it's time to stop sacrificing things that don't matter and start sacrificing things that do. Then if Jesus declares "checkmate", the game is not lost, you become a winner. Experiencing the full revelation of who He really is. The one who said, "I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you," (John 13:14-15). Dear Lord, help me make sacrifices so I can serve you. Serving You by serving others. Amen.



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

May 2023

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