



'TIDINGS OF PEACE' from

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

TO:

TIDINGS OF PEACE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

LUTHERAN CHURCH

June 2023

Hello, it's been a while since I last wrote to you; for that I ask your forgiveness. As I reflect on the reasons for my lack of writing, I am haunted by a song I used to listen to when I was in Junior High School; a song called "Cat's in the Cradle."

Back then it was just a song in the midst of many on the radio in the seventies. But when my oldest son told me, when he was in high school, that this was his favorite song, it broke my heart. I asked him why this song from my youth was his favorite; he simply responded; "I don't know, it just kinda speaks to me."

As a dad, I thought I was doing a good job—working two jobs—nights and weekends—paying the bills—feeding the family; I thought 'that's just what dads had to do,' but I was, and am still crushed by his words because I realize that he and I were living that song.

Here are some bits of that song; *"A child was born just the other day...but there were planes to catch, and bills to pay...he was talking before I knew it, and as he grew, He'd say 'I'm gonna be like you dad, you know I'm gonna be like you.' and the chorus went; 'and the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon, little boy blue and the man in the moon. 'When you coming home, dad?' 'I don't know when, but we'll get together then—you know we'll have a good time then.'"*

Verse two says; *"My son turned ten just the other day, he said, 'Thanks for the ball dad, come on let's play. Can you teach me to throw?' I said, 'Not today; I've got a lot to do.' and He said, 'That's ok,' and he walked away, but his smile never dimmed. And then the chorus would repeat the same old thing—"when you coming home dad?" "I don't know when, but we'll get together then, you know we'll have a good time then."*

And before that dad knew it, his little boy was off to college, never again to ask; *"When you coming home dad?"* To my son, who just became a dad; "I'm sorry. Don't be like I was."

To the dads who might read this, I ask you to be careful; it's easy to get caught up in the day-to-day struggle to provide for your family. Your sons, your daughters will smile and say "That's ok." They say that because they love you. But,

don't do it the way I did it.

I had figured out a way to force myself to spend time, I figured if it was on the calendar, I would remember to spend time; I tried signing them up for sports—that helped; we saw each other, but they were on the field, and I was in the stands.

So, I tried signing up for things that forced me to spend time – on – one time; things like Boy Scouts—that was ok for our second son, but by the time I figured it out, it was too late for our first; who had years earlier asked to be in Scouts, but I was too busy.

So, I ask you; "Are there things we as a church family can do that will force us dads to spend that one – on – one time? I've kicked around the idea of a Father – Son breakfast / Bible study once in a while—I've taken Emmett to a few of the Men's Bible Breakfasts—it was nice.

I've thought about bike – rides, or camping, or hiking or... whatever. But I am asking for your help and ideas; because I find myself doing the same things all over again; the days turn into weeks, the weeks turn into seasons, the seasons turn into years; and before we know it, we, like the dad in that song, find ourselves asking; *"I'd like to see you if you don't mind." He said, "I'd love to dad, if I can find the time; you see, my new job's a hassle, and the kids have the flu, but it's sure nice talking to you dad. It's been sure nice talking to you."*

We have been blessed with a wonderful gift called fatherhood—our children will change the world; Let's not miss it.

I thank you for listening, and I look forward to hearing from you.
Your servant in Christ, Pastor Felcher.

"Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old. Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding. The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice; he who father's a wise son will be glad in him. Let your father and mother be glad; let her who bore you rejoice. My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways." Proverbs 23:22-26

**PLC Shepherd**

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FROM AN ELDER**"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"**

"Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own; Alleluia! Born of Mary, earth Your footstool, heav'n Your throne. As within the veil You entered, robed in flesh, our great High Priest, Here on earth both priest and victim in the eucharistic feast."

In the Jerusalem temple, a heavy veil or curtain separated the Most Holy Place, the place of God's presence, from the rest of the sanctuary. The curtain was created out of blue, purple, and scarlet fabric and woven with angelic figures of cherubim. Hidden from sight behind the veil was the symbol of the divine presence, the ark of the covenant. Only the high priest entered the Most Holy Place, carrying blood to atone for his own sins and the sins of the people (see Hebrews 9:3-7).

During Jesus' earthly ministry, He visited the great temple that had been rebuilt by King Herod. When He was 12 years old, Jesus sat with the teachers in the temple, listening and asking questions. He knew where He needed to be, saying to His anxious parents, "Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" (Luke 2:49b). As an adult Jesus taught in the temple courtyards and porches. He drove the money-changers from the temple, cleansing His Father's house for prayer.

In the temple that Jesus knew, the rich, woven curtain, which may have been 60 feet high and four inches thick, still hung before the Most Holy Place. That heavy veil separated sinners from God's holy presence, but when Jesus died on the cross, "the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom" (Mark 15:38). Through Jesus' atoning death, the dividing barrier between God and sinners was brought down. In ancient Israel only the high priest could enter through the curtain into God's presence, and only once a year. But now we enter God's holy presence through Jesus Himself, through "the new and living way that He opened for us through the curtain, that is, through His flesh" (Hebrews 10:20).

At any time, day or night, we can come before God in worship and prayer. We also enter God's presence as Jesus, our great High Priest, invites us to His holy Supper. At the "eucharistic feast," that is, the feast of thanksgiving, Jesus is present as "both priest and victim" as we receive His body and blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of our sins. In the Sacraments, in the study of His Word, in worship and in prayer, we freely enter God's presence because He once entered our presence in the Person of His Son. Through Jesus' redeeming death, the dividing curtain was torn down. The way is now open.

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

Loren Brown	6/1	Abigail Schneider	6/9	Layne Sarvela	6/22
Carol Collicott	6/1	Christien Kuykendall	6/10	Zachary Hueftle	6/23
Nadine Oetting	6/1	Rebecca Post	6/10	Amanda Novak	6/23
Devin Reiners	6/3	Carson Garretson	6/12	Dana Real	6/23
Robin Calvin	6/4	Fred Gleason	6/13	Kaden Pearce	6/25
Sue Carlson	6/4	Koltin Hazlitt	6/13	Keith Schoup	6/25
Gene Meints	6/4	Lilyanna Strauch	6/14	Emmalynn Seybold	6/25
Gina Vetrovsky	6/4	Chase Brown	6/15	Dillon Göttl	6/26
Michael Nielsen	6/5	Mitch Hazlitt	6/19	Emmy Moench	6/26
Jane Schuster	6/6	Paul Sellers	6/20	Jennifer Kircher	6/29
Megan Vetrovsky	6/7	Adley Bauer	6/22		

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
George & Ronda Wurm	6/2/1966	57	Harlan & Bernita Reiners	6/19/1960	63
Michael & Linda Nielsen	6/3/1972	51	Chet & Sarah Risenhoover	6/20/1998	25
Angela & William Watts	6/4/2016	7	Alex & Molly Sharp	6/20/2015	8
Jerry & Beverly Unger	6/7/1970	53	Robert & Elizabeth Geisler	6/21/1964	59
Raymond & Judy Schow	6/9/1969	54	Brent & Candace Rogers	6/22/1996	27
Todd & Lisa Koetter	6/10/1982	41	Charles & Mardelle Miller	6/27/1990	33
Lee & Lindsay McConville	6/12/2004	19	Gene & Karen Meints	6/30/1972	51
Art & Elaine Soncksen	6/14/1953	70	Richard & Sonja Thompson	6/30/2003	20
Robert & Janet Hein	6/17/1960	63			

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 (May 21st-May 27th)	Month to Date (May 7th-May 27th)	Actual Year to Date (Jan 1st-May 27th)
Offerings	\$2,396.00	\$9,073.00	\$117,001.00
Expenses	\$7,071.00	\$21,609.00	\$104,974.00



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.

ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

This program supports deployed military chaplains and the troops they care for. In May, care packages were sent from Peace Lutheran to chaplains in Kuwait, Poland, and Qatar. Captain Antigone Lowery, a chaplain recently deployed to Qatar, writes "Greetings to you! Thank you for the packages, we have shared the blessings of them with the soldiers here at Camp As Sayliyah! My assistant and I have made a habit of keeping one in the chapel so that soldiers may enjoy the snacks when they come for worship, classes, and other trainings; and we also take one with us when we visit the Infantrymen who guard the towers and checkpoints. They have truly been a morale booster!" Please keep deployed US soldiers in your prayers. Everyone is welcome to help on the next packing day, Tues, June 20 at 1 pm.

JUNE READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
4th	The Holy Trinity	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	Acts 2:14a, 22-36	Matthew 28:16-20
11th	The 2nd S. after Pentecost	Hosea 5:15-6:6	Romans 4:13-25	Mathew 9:9-13
18th	The 3rd S. after Pentecost	Exodus 19:2-8	Romans 5:6-15	Matthew 9:35-10:20
25th	The 4th S. after Pentecost	Jeremiah 20:7-13	Romans 6:12-23	Matthew 10:5a, 21-33



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

What Do You Want?

One of the best-known and most-beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the "Shepherd Psalm." There we learn that the Lord is our Shepherd. And since He is our Shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our Shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our Shepherd, will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.

Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we actually suffer from want, that the Lord, our Shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord's sheep.

When do we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd? When we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving His gifts in church on Sunday (in violation of the First and Third Commandments). When we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we don't know what the future will bring (even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters).

We live as though we are not the Lord's sheep when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help themselves. We act this way because our minds are set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We act this way because we have stopped hearing the call of our Shepherd, which comes through His Word.

Through the Word of God, the Shepherd calls us to Himself. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through the Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead us to our true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here's the Good News: the Lord is your Shepherd, even and especially for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. The Lord is your Shepherd. Let us live as His sheep.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



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. If you signed up to help, please be at the church by 8:30 Monday, June 12th. You can still sign up at: www.myvbs.org/plcmccook. Thank you!

SCHOOL OF RELIGION



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 Karen Berry

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

Highland Park: Harlan & Bernita Reiners and Elaine Soncksen

El Dorado Manor: Mark Cummins

Lincoln: Carla Bales

Ulysses, KS: Joyce Stupka

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.



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

June 4th

Elder on duty	Brandon Kuykendall
Organist	
Audio	Paul Sellers
Greeter	Grant Pfanstiel
Greeter	Charlene Pfanstiel
Usher	Gene Meints
Lay Reader	Renelle Mooney
Acolyte	Ryker Mooney
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins
Late Service	
Greeter	Jane Schuster
Greeter	Myra Tietz
Usher	Gary Hunkins
Lay Reader	Phil Barnesberger
Acolyte	Emma McConville
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Ben Schow
Live Stream	Christien Kuykendall

June 11th

Elder on duty	Victor Lauer
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
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	Nick Nothnagel
Acolyte	Juliett Critchfield
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Live Stream	Blayzon Mooney

June 18th

Elder on duty	Barry Mooney
Organist	
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Elaine Polly
Greeter	Jeff Polly
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Randon Peters
Acolyte	Avery Davidson
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Cathy Broz
Late Service	
Greeter	Donna Hall
Greeter	Jim Hall
Usher	Ben Schow
Lay Reader	Sarah Risenhoover
Acolyte	Jackson Hartwell
Acolyte	Ellie Hartwell
Powerpoint	
Live Stream	Jackson Hartwell

June 25th

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	Brooklyn Tidyman
Acolyte	Lexi Koetter
Powerpoint	Gary Hunkins
Live Stream	Ryland Peters



PEACE TALK

Have you ever run out of gas? I know I have. In fact, I can remember more than once in the past that my vehicle has sputtered to a stop. Sheepishly staring at the gas gauge resting on "E". What a horrible feeling, especially when it happens at an inopportune moment. No allotted time to remedy the situation. Sure, I drove right past the gas pump several times... but it was not my priority until the tank has run low. Obviously, I was not concerned. If you think that filling my tank with gas earlier should have been my highest priority, you are correct. How long do you wait to fill up with gas? Cars nowadays tell you how many miles you can drive before the tank is empty. Do you wait until the low fuel light comes on, then become anxious knowing you need gas soon? Unfortunately, the same thing can happen to us spiritually. When we are full, there is not a care in the world. Hitting on all cylinders so to speak in our relationship with God. Then life happens, and the needle begins to drop. Down to $\frac{3}{4}$ full and we might be too busy to go to church. $\frac{1}{2}$ gone, our bible study time gets put off until tomorrow. $\frac{1}{4}$ left, we might wake up too late for prayer time. People around us might need help, but our spiritual low tank light is now flashing, distracting us from helping them. Just like the fuel tank in my vehicle, refueling is not a high priority until the low indicator light comes on. But when it does, I tend to worry about where I can get fueled back up. God is there to help. He will fill my spiritual tank when I grow weary (Matthew 11:28). He encourages me to place my priorities on Him instead of the world (Romans 12:2). I can keep my tank topped off by placing my trust in God (Romans 15:13). God wants all of us to keep our tank full. He doesn't want us to stress out about the "low fuel" indicator light. Yes, Jesus wants this to be foremost on my mind. I can do this through church and Christian communities. By making my bible study a priority in my day. And not thinking twice about helping my neighbor. Jesus also wants me to keep my tank topped off with prayer. As He taught us to pray in Matthew 6:11, *"Give us this day our daily bread."* He wants my heart and mind on cruise control with a full spiritual tank of faith. Then there is no stressing out as Jesus resets my priorities with His promise of eternal life, *"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."* (John 6:51). Look at your fuel gauge today. Is it time to fill up? Dear Lord, help set my cruise on spiritual priorities and my tank full of Your grace. Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity
Phil Barnesberger



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June 2023

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