



'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

November 2023

Hello again, As I write to you today, the misty air is filled with the fragrance of damp leaves that blanket the ground. As the boys and I made our way to school this morning I pondered the task that awaits us this evening; the annual tradition of creating leaf piles so we can jump in leaf piles. In past years this has been a very crunchy and dusty experience, but, with the Autumn mist of this year, we will just have to see how it goes.

As I considered these things this morning, I listened to a short podcast that spoke of the benefits of playing outside, or the benefits of just taking our kids for walks. The person speaking suggested that the rhythmic repetition of walking can help our kids process their thoughts. They also suggest that walking can reduce anxiety. They even went as far as to say that studies have shown that walking can help the body produce white blood cells in the brain.

For me, I've often enjoyed going on walks

with my kids as a means to help them with the "wiggles."

If the kids think going for walks is boring, this podcast suggests getting some inexpensive fitness trackers and compete to see who can get the most steps in a day. Or maybe create a reward system for every mile walked.

For the boys and I, we like to watch for trucks – the noisier the better. Sometimes we watch the squirrels or birds—or we just talk about the things that happened at school today; other times we walk to the park.

The point is to get out and have fun.

Thanks for reading.
Pastor

Proverbs 4:10-13 "Hear, my son, and accept my words, that the years of your life may be many. I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in paths of uprightness. When you walk, your step will not be hampered, and if you run, you will not stumble. Keep hold of instruction; do not let go."

**PLC Shepherd**

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FROM AN ELDER

*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
Psalm 136:1*

The familiar words of Psalm 136 have become a frequent thanksgiving for generations.

Yes, once again, Thanksgiving is on its way. But it is more than just a day of the year. Giving thanks to God is a way of life for Christians who recognize that all that they have is a precious gift from above. As you gather with friends and family members later this month, may it be a time of praise and celebration towards God for all the gifts with which He has showered you. May this thanks and praise not be limited to this one day, but may it overflow every day as a faithful response of a child of God to our gracious Creator.

From the fruits of Jesus Christ to the Spirit's gifts of Word and Sacraments, we encounter God and His gifts with hands and hearts open wide as He freely gives, and we freely receive. What more is there for us to do than "Thank and praise, serve and obey Him." For we have been so richly blessed. Thanksgiving has become for us a way of life in response to the God who created us, the Son who redeemed us, and the Spirit who sanctifies us.

A blessed Thanksgiving season to you and your loved ones. May God keep you safe in His care and give you a time of rest before the busy activities of the Advent season begin.

Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life... until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen.

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Brandon Kuykendall	11/1	James Vetrovsky	11/11	Joyce Stupka	11/21
Kelsey Messinger	11/3	Lydia Barth	11/12	Reagan Smith	11/22
Caitlin Roundtree	11/4	Cindy Dicenta	11/12	Mary Traphagan	11/22
Brent Doucet	11/6	Karen Berry	11/13	Janice Barnesberger	11/23
Duane Fortkamp	11/8	Elizabeth Geisler	11/16	Amber Fritz	11/23
Merlin Domben	11/9	Betty Harms	11/17	Crystal Fritz	11/23
Robert Hein	11/10	Emma McConville	11/19	Molly Sharp	11/24
Gabe Critchfield	11/11	Chet Risenhoover	11/19	Brian Strauch	11/27

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Heath & Renee Brown	11/4/2017	6	Jerry & Robin Calvin	11/13/1982	41
Charles & Janet Gray	11/4/1972	51	Donnie & Brooke Rinehart	11/17/2018	5
Brandon & Kimberly Kuykandall	11/8/2003	20	Jennifer & Kirk McConville	11/24/2012	11
Greg & Linda Parde	11/11/1988	35			

We apologize if we have made a mistake. Please contact the office so we may get it corrected.

NOVEMBER READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
5th	All Saints' Day	Revelation 7:2-17	1 John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-12
12th	The 24th S. after Pentecost	Amos 5:18-24	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Matthew 25:1-13
19th	The 25th S. after Pentecost	Zephaniah 1:7-16	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Matthew 25:14-30
26th	The Last S. of the Church Year	Ezekial 34:11-16, 20-24	1 Corinthians 15:20-28	Matthew 25:31-46

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 (Oct. 22nd-Oct. 28th)	Month to Date (Oct. 1st-Oct. 28th)	Actual Year to Date (Jan 1st-Oct. 28th)
Offerings	\$2,496.00	\$11,760.00	\$198,356.00
Expenses	\$1,151.00	\$17,844.00	\$204,399.00



LFL National Conference report

Dear Brothers and Sisters In Christ,

Linda and Mike Nielsen were privileged to attend the Lutherans For Life National Conference on Oct. 11-13, 2023 in Cincinnati. The theme of the conference was Fearfully & Wonderfully Made. We thought that the conference would address in the narrow sense prolife vs. prochoice issues. It was much broader than that. Of course, we had wonderful speakers who taught us how to respond in depth to prochoice viewpoints. In addition to that issue, there were breakout sessions to address all matters that impact the sanctity of life. These sessions included: the rise of gay Christianity; how parents can talk to their children for developmentally appropriate topics involving life issues; the spiritual danger of fear/anxiety and what the Lord has done to give us peace; discussion of Redeeming Life Maternity Home which is a solution based ministry to single pregnant women so they can choose life for their babies but lack the necessary resources to do so; modern day slavery/human trafficking; empowering pro-lifers with Biblical truths; the human cost of open borders; how the church can minister to societally "invisible" people with disabilities, victims of abuse, unwed mothers, foster children and those who have slipped through the cracks; discipling generation Z to keep them in the church; discover how to implement proven LFL programs in new and Creative ways; and the blessing of falling asleep in Jesus.

On Thursday afternoon we visited the Creation Museum which was heavily influenced by Ken Hamm who had a radio program that was broadcast for years on KNGN. The museum has many exhibits that compare the worldly view of evolution vs. creation. Their conclusion is that the Earth is about 6,000 years old which they support with Biblical and scientific interpretations. On Friday afternoon we went to the Noah's Ark Experience. A full sized model of Noah's Ark some 500 feet long and four stories high was construction of wood. We toured its interior on the various levels to see what it may have looked like to hold living creatures. Also in it were exhibits of the history of the Bible as well as history of the world according to scripture. We were reminded that God caused the flood because the world was so wicked which made us reflect on what is going on in the world today.

In 2024 there will be three regional conferences instead of a single national conference. The closest one will be a one day conference on October 12, 2024 at Hope Lutheran Church and School in Shawnee, Kansas. We invite and encourage all of you to attend. The LFL conference was an uplifting as well as educational experience. We were privileged to meet former KNGN manager, Lowell Highby, their Director of Communications, as well as many other LFL'ers including the president of the LFL-Nebraska Chapter from Waco. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mike or Linda Nielsen.



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

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart!

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's Holy Word, as a sacrifice. Thus all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies and share with our family, neighbors and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by our holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.

Thus we place all that we have into God's hands. He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving celebrations, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

If you were not able to make it in for a picture appointment, please email a picture to sueankersen@gmail.com. If possible, send it in High Resolution. The Board of Evangelism

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Church Christmas Decorating will take place on Sunday, November 26th starting at 3:00 pm. We invite and encourage help from all members of the congregation. Thank you. Forerunners

THANKSGIVING DINNER

We will be having our annual THANKSGIVING DINNER November 12th at 11:30. There will be sign up sheets for Salads & Pies. Once again it is free will donations with proceeds going to ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN. We have a Nebraska connection Chaplain David McCarty, he previously served at Palisade & Wauneta. Also boxes are sent to Kuwait, Iraq, Syria, Poland & Korea. They are planning on sending 50 boxes in November for Christmas. Please Join Us.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers needed to teach 3rd & 4th grade Sunday School. Also needed Pre-K School of Religion teacher helpers.

LWML

LWML will be helping with bingo at Hillcrest the second Tuesday of the month, starting October 10th. If you are interested in helping, please contact Deb Shields.

ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

"Adopt a Chaplain" is a program supports deployed military chaplains and the troops they serve. Care packages filled with snacks, devotion books, and Christmas cards are but a small way to thank the servicemen and servicewomen who won't be home for the holidays. Through the LCMS website, we were able to contact chaplain David McCarthy, formerly of Nebraska, who is in Kuwait serving in a behavioral health area. We are also able to contact LCMS Chaplain David Wurdeman, who is in Korea with a field artillery unit, the 2-77th FA. With the happenings in the Middle East, more chaplains are asking for support. We are able 3 adopt chaplains who are with the soldiers there: Ch Richard Rakay in Kuwait, Ch Joseph Newby in Iraq, and Ch Dave Carter Syria. For two years, we have sent multiple care packages to chaplains deployed to Poland, a country that borders Ukraine. Ch Sidney Ellis is currently supported there. Packing days are Thursday, Nov 16 with supper at 6:30 and packing at 7. Also Friday, Nov 17 at 10:00 am. Thank you to all who have donated funds and supplies!



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, Karen Berry, and Roland Carlson.

Kinship Pointe: Betty Harms, and Lois Brown.

Highland Park: Harlan & Bernita Reiners

Benkelman: 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

November 5th

Elder on duty	Brandon Kuykendall
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Grant Pfanstiel
Greeter	Charlene Pfanstiel
Usher	Gene Meints
Lay Reader	Sue Ankersen
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Cathy Broz
Late Service	
Greeter	Jane Schuster
Greeter	Myra Tietz
Usher	Gary Hunkins
Lay Reader	Nick Nothnagel
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Ben Schow
Live Stream	Ian Brown

November 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	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Late Service	
Greeter	Cindy Swanhorst
Greeter	Curt Swanhorst
Usher	Harold Carlson
Lay Reader	Sarah Risenhoover
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Live Stream	Tina Cummins

November 19th

Elder on duty	Barry Mooney
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Elaine Polly
Greeter	Jeff Polly
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Renelle Mooney
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins
Late Service	
Greeter	Donna Hall
Greeter	Jim Hall
Usher	Ben Schow
Lay Reader	Blayzon Mooney
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	
Live Stream	Blayzon Mooney

November 26th

Elder on duty	Fritz Hubert
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	Nancy Rippen
Greeter	
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Russ Ankersen
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Harold Carlson
Late Service	
Greeter	Pat Penner
Greeter	
Usher	Curt Swanhorst
Lay Reader	Curt Swanhorst
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Gary Hunkins
Live Stream	Layne Sarvela



PEACE TALK

Have you ever looked for a needle in a haystack? More than likely not, but maybe you have looked for your phone, your keys, or a wallet. Maybe your car in a parking lot. What a stressful feeling it is when you look everywhere and what is lost, seems impossible to find. I have spent a lot of time looking for things that I cannot find. Looking in, under and around everything I can think of twice and thrice. Knowing, the only place I haven't looked, is the very spot where it is hiding. In the world we live, I see a lot of people searching for things as well. Power, love, money, entertainment. Looking for that needle in life's haystack. Searching for that selfish priority in humanity which might be missing. It makes me question if anyone out there is seeking God? The Apostle Paul addressed this with his letter to the Romans, "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God." (Romans 3:10-12). Is God like that needle in the haystack? Seemingly impossible to find? Paul must have thought that was the case with the Romans. Who among us are seeking God? I'm afraid we are all guilty at times. Seeking worldly desires that seem way too easy to find. Did I therefore misplace my righteousness? Part of the problem becomes; I must admit God is missing in my life before I know I must search for Him. Yes, in our sinfulness, we all lose sight of God at times. The sinful gravitational pull towards earth instead of heaven affects us all. Seeking temporary fulfillment, pleasure, or an escape from pain that could produce long term brokenness. As soon as I take my eyes off Jesus, even for just a minute, my mind can be taken over with self-pleasing thoughts. Dropping that needle in the haystack once again. Then the daunting task of finding it, is limited only by my desire to seek God once again. That is why we are reminded throughout scripture to keep looking. "Seek His presence continually," (1 Chronicles 16:11, Psalm 105:4). "You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart," (Jeremiah 29:13). God loves those who lovingly seek Him (Proverbs 8:17). God is not hiding. He is always there, everywhere you look. He is so easy to find. Sure, the haystack seems large and the needle small at times. But "we must seek Him first" and everything we need, including purpose in life, daily provisions, family relationships, life's high and lows... are in plain sight. As you keep God and your relationship with Him in the center of your life, "all these things will be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33). We must not focus about what is impossible to find when we place our trust in Jesus. If we keep our hearts and mind on Christ Jesus, no longer will we need to look for that needle in the haystack. Jesus will point the way, every day. Just seek Him. Dear Lord, help me seek You and only You when I am lost. Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity
Phil Barnesberger



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November 2023

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