



## '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

January 2024

I met a people once, not so long ago; a people many and varied; young and old and everything in between. Each one was different, and yet very much the same; railroaders and bankers, business folk and farmers, laborers, and homemakers. This is a people in the world and yet very much unlike the world. Each is unique and separate and yet each is connected; supporting and caring in all that they do. Each one supporting and caring for the other—they encourage each other; driving and challenging one another to be all they can be. This people is a wonder to me, for though each struggles with the things of the world, each has something the world does not have, and cannot take away. I say they are a wonder because there is a joy among them; a joy that exceeds happiness. This joy seems to hold them together—I'm not sure they realize it most of the time, but that's okay, this is how it's supposed to be. They are saddened by the sufferings and tumult they see in the world; they do what they can,

while wanting to do more. At times they are wearied by the tasks at hand, and yet in their weariness, I hear them say; "On to the next." This is a people of God's word—teaching one another; retelling of Jesus and His love, as if it never grows old. These people fill and refill one another—reading and hearing "for God so loved the world," as if hearing it for the first time. This people is a wonder to me, and a privilege to know, and if you pause for a moment, you'll find that you know them too.

*Romans 12:12 "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another."*

I met a people once.

Happy New Year  
Pastor Lonnie

**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 Bamesberger

**Council Secretary**

Wayne Sarvela

**Treasurer**

Melissa Hanchera  
plctreasurer1908@gmail.com

**Financial Secretary**

Sarah Risenhoover  
peacefin28@gmail.com

**FROM AN ELDER**

*The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ ... Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers ... and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. (Matthew 1:1a, 2, 15-16)*

"Tell me about your family," we ask when we're trying to get to know someone. What can we learn about Jesus from His ancestors?

Start with Abraham—the "friend of God" who left his family to go wherever God would send him. He is a great man of faith, yes; but he abandoned his own son Ishmael in the desert, and allowed his wife Sarah to be taken into another man's harem to save his own life.

Isaac? We honor him as the young man who was willing to lay down his life, if necessary, at God's command. But he's also the father who played favorites and set up his sons to be enemies for years.

Jacob? The man who tried to cheat his way through life, only to realize in the end that God was the one who would give him help and every good thing.

We don't have time to run through all Jesus' ancestors—David, the faithful king—and adulterer and murderer; Rahab, the prostitute who saved Israel's spies; faithful King Hezekiah, who fathered Manasseh, who offered his child as a human sacrifice! Good and evil, faith and faithlessness, appear on every level of Jesus' family tree.

And isn't that the way it should be for someone who came to save us all? Jesus' ancestors are like us. We too are mixtures of good and evil; and we cry out for a Savior to help us. By sending Jesus, God has heard our cry.

Lutheran Hour Ministries

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Adrianna Gass	1/1	Benjamin Hanchera	1/13	Hailey Unger	1/19
Kyle Novak	1/1	Patricia Kohmetscher	1/13	Vickie Blaisdell	1/20
Joylyn Rippen	1/1	Ryland Peters	1/14	Ron Aufrecht	1/21
Breann Cerda	1/4	Kassidy Gillen	1/15	Chance Koetter	1/22
Michael Fidler	1/5	Tanna Felcher	1/16	Bobbie Ziebell	1/22
Logan Kircher	1/6	Eric Leibrandt	1/16	Steve Post	1/24
Daphne Tidyman	1/6	Aaron Nielsen	1/16	Myra Stoney	1/24
Ed Unger	1/8	Wade Bedore	1/18	Darrell Eckhardt	1/26
Melissa Critchfield	1/9	Roland Carlson	1/18	Eugene Custer	1/27
Kole Hamilton	1/11	Keith Oetting	1/18	Ronda Wurm	1/29
Patricia Leibrandt	1/11	Jeannine Rinehart	1/18		

**JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Darrell & K.C. Eckhardt	1/31/1964	60			

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

If you feel compelled to give, offering can be brought into the church office, mailed to P.O. Box 240 or direct deposited.

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 (Nov 26th-Dec 2nd)	Month to Date (Nov 5th-Dec 2nd)	Actual Year to Date (Jan 1st-Dec 2nd)
Offerings	\$9,888.00	\$18,773.00	\$218,936.00
Expenses	\$3,504.00	\$22,937.00	\$231,586.00



## CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

Dear Preschool Families,

Happy New Year! We hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas break and were able to spend family time with your loved ones.

As was on our December newsletter, we will be having "Muffins with Moms" on Wednesday, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 and Thursday, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 and 2:30. "Donuts with Dads" will be on Wednesday, Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 and Thursday Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 and 2:30. We hope you can join us!

We have a fun month of learning in store for January so please check your calendars for special days and remember that they are intended to be a fun addition to learning our letters!

Also, tax season is just around the corner, so here is the federal tax ID number for the preschool in case you need it for your taxes.

Peace Lutheran Church Creative Preschool ID #47-0431644

Don't forget that our website has monthly calendars and newsletters under each class' tab, so if you need an extra copy you can go to our website. The web address is: <http://plcmccook.org/creativepreschool.html>

We are excited to get back into the "swing of things"!!

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me at 345-2595 or email

[mycreativepreschool@gmail.com](mailto:mycreativepreschool@gmail.com).

Thanks!

Kelsey, Dani & Lori

## JANUARY READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
7th	The 1st S. in Advent	Isaiah 64:1-9	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37
14th	The 2nd S. in Advent	Isaiah 40:1-11	2 Peter 3:8-14	Mark 1:1-8
21st	The 3rd S. in Advent	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
28th	The Nativity of Our Lord	Isaiah 7:10-14	1 John 4:7-16	Matthew 1:18-25



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

### The Chief Stewards of Humanity: Mom and Dad

St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the first commandment with a specific promise attached to it is, "Honor your father and mother so that it may go well with you, and you may live long in the land" (Eph. 6:2). This promise is one indication of the importance of this commandment. The other thing that highlights the special nature of this commandment is its placement within the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are clearly organized in two big categories. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God. This category is called the First Table of the Law. The last seven commandments, the Second Table of the Law, tell us how we should relate to other people. These two tables correspond to what Jesus calls the two greatest commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind," and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:37-39).

The order of the Second Table of the Law is also important. Murder is a greater sin than adultery, which is a greater sin than stealing, or lying, or coveting. But why is the Fourth Commandment first in the Second Table, ahead of "you shall not murder"? Is disobeying your parents really worse than murder? Or maybe we should give up on thinking these commandments are ordered?

The overall effect of this order is to get us to see our parents as a connection point between our neighbors and our God. Throughout our upbringing our father and mother stand between us and God and deliver His gifts to us: God clothes us, feeds us, protects us and teaches His Word to us through our parents.

So, parents have a very high calling from God. They are called to be stewards of the greatest gift: the gift of life.

Parenting thus gives us a keen insight into all our stewardship. Parents know that they have been given a great treasure in their children, a treasure that does not belong to them, yet for which they feel a great deal of responsibility. Truth be told, every gift we have been given is like this, because everything we have — whether our own personal skills and powers or our wealth and time — is all from God. He entrusts it all to us so that we can use it all and take care of it all for His great purposes.



### ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

Adopt a chaplain is a program that supports deployed military chaplains and the troops they serve. With your support, there were many chaplains and soldiers who received Christmas care packages. Of 150 packages sent from McCook, the majority were sent to chaplains in Syria, Iraq, Kuwait, Poland and Korea. One of the chaplains sent this message, "Thank you SO MUCH for your support! The care packages have made a massive impact around our entire area of operations."

As a Christmas surprise, four boxes were sent to the Nebraska National Guard, Company A, 2-134<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, deployed to Somalia. The 90+ members of Company A don't have a chaplain with them, so the boxes were addressed to one of the soldiers who shared with others. They sent a message that they appreciated the care packages and Christmas cards. They will be return home at the end of February.

In January, we will continue to send care packages to some of the many chaplains deployed to areas of greatest risk. All support and prayers are welcome! The next packing day is Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm.

### 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.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers needed to teach 3rd & 4th grade Sunday School.

### CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTION

At the upcoming January Voter's meeting, we will be having the election of church officers. Please consider serving on the church council yourself or nominating someone (with their permission). Contact any Elder or the church office to have your name put on the ballot.



### 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

## January 7th

Elder on duty Brandon Kuykendall  
 Organist K.C. Eckhardt  
 Audio Cathy Broz  
 Greeter Grant Pfanstiel  
 Greeter Charlene Pfanstiel  
 Usher Gene Meints  
 Lay Reader Rylee Mooney  
 Acolyte  
 Acolyte

Powerpoint Cathy Broz

## Late Service

Greeter Jane Schuster  
 Greeter Myra Tietz  
 Usher Gary Hunkins  
 Lay Reader Nick Nothnagel  
 Acolyte Cooper Davidson  
 Acolyte Avery Davidson  
 Powerpoint Ben Schow  
 Live Stream Ian Brown

## January 14th

Elder on duty Victor Lauer  
 Organist Charlene Pfanstiel  
 Audio Russ Ankersen  
 Greeter Deb Shields  
 Greeter  
 Usher Harold Carlson  
 Lay Reader Randon Peters  
 Acolyte Clara Hurst  
 Acolyte

Powerpoint Russ Ankersen

## Late Service

Greeter Cindy Swanhorst  
 Greeter Curt Swanhorst  
 Usher Harold Carlson  
 Lay Reader Sarah Risenhoover  
 Acolyte Kysen Hazlitt  
 Acolyte Brooklynn Tidyman  
 Powerpoint Russ Ankersen  
 Live Stream Blayzon Mooney

## January 21st

Elder on duty Barry Mooney  
 Organist Charlene Pfanstiel  
 Audio Paul Sellers  
 Greeter Elaine Polly  
 Greeter Jeff Polly  
 Usher Eugene Custer  
 Lay Reader Renelle Mooney  
 Acolyte Layton Hinz  
 Acolyte  
 Powerpoint Tina Cummins

## Late Service

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

## January 28th

Elder on duty Fritz Hubert  
 Organist K.C. Eckhardt  
 Audio Harold Carlson  
 Greeter Nancy Rippen  
 Greeter  
 Usher Eugene Custer  
 Lay Reader Jerry Calvin  
 Acolyte Ellie Hartwell  
 Acolyte Jackson Hartwell  
 Powerpoint Harold Carlson

## Late Service

Greeter Pat Penner  
 Greeter  
 Usher Curt Swanhorst  
 Lay Reader Curt Swanhorst  
 Acolyte Emma McConville  
 Acolyte  
 Powerpoint Gary Hunkins  
 Live Stream Layne Sarvela



## PEACE TALK

What do you think about when you hear the word “resolution?” For most of us, it is an oath to oneself that creates motivation to “do... or not do” something. This is quite common, especially at the beginning of a new year. I am going to exercise more, quit smoking, lose weight, or save money. Maybe I want to travel more, drink less, or improve my golf game. I have a spontaneous desire to get myself out of some unfavorable rut and routine that I have been caught up in and start anew. When was the last time you were intent on initiating a resolution? I’m sure each one of us would have different goals in mind. Looking forward to a positive change from what might have been negative in the past. However, are my goals sustainable or will they fall short like they did last year and the year before? Maybe if I put on my spiritual hat and resolve to read the Bible in a year, get to church more often, or start attending a Bible class. The same thing happens, my good intentions seem to dwindle, and I am back where I started. The Apostle Paul even experienced this, “I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out,” (Romans 7:18). Maybe it’s because I don’t want to deal with the disappointment of failure again. It could be that deep down I don’t want to make a long-term commitment. Or is it that I want something “now” and not willing to wait for the desired results. My perception of high expectations, somewhat diminish in the reality of my results. What am I to do? There are so many things I would like to improve on. Lamentations 3:40 says, “Let us examine and probe our ways, and let us return to the Lord.” Have I asked God to help me succeed in my resolutions? If I put Christ in the center of everything I do, including my resolutions, it will be easier to get back up when I fail. Missing a month of exercise, reading the Bible, or whatever it is, God is there by my side and willing to show me how short-term failures can turn into long term success. He will help me succeed (Psalm 20:4). God will give me the strength I need when I become weak, (Philippians 4:13). He will also be by my side when I am tempted to conform to a worldly routine (Romans 12:2). When I think of the great sacrifice Jesus made for me and how much He loves me, it takes the stress off those demanding resolutions. It then gives me a fresh inspiration to live my life more meaningfully. With more gratitude. And with less excuses. If I take an honest look at my life, asking God what needs improving, what needs eliminated, and what needs added, resolutions suddenly become a wonderful opportunity to see all of God’s blessings in my life. You know what? Maybe I’ll just make my next resolution... to be my restoration. Dear Lord, help me keep my eyes on you in whatever I do. Amen.



# 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

# January 2024

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