



'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

May 2024

It seems more and more that we find ourselves standing on the sidelines or sitting in the bleachers at the sporting events of our children and grandchildren. We cheer them on; shouting "You can do it!" and "Good Job!"

We encourage them to train hard—to build strength and endurance; in this way we encourage that they will be more successful, and we hope that they might be better prepared to take the hit that inevitably comes on the field.

In the world in which our kids are growing, it is tempting to think that bigger muscles, faster speed—being the better athlete equates to being the better person. And while building physical strength is important—building strength of character is even more important. But how do we help our kids build this kind of strength? It starts with Jesus' command to love God and love our neighbor. That OLD ADAGE, that says; "It's not winning that counts—but how we play the game," is still good character building advice; both on and off the field.

Try teaching your kids what strength of character looks like by studying Bible characters and talking about how they succeeded or failed in life—did they trust God and try to please

Him; or did they just want to have things their own way?

How did these people play the game of life?

We can also watch for opportunities in our own lives to lead by example, and then talk to our children about our experiences.

It could be something as simple as holding the door for someone; allowing them to enter the bakery ahead of you—maybe that person has difficulty walking, or maybe they're carrying a small child and cannot manage the door, so you hold the door for them—then, while your child eats their donut, you ask them which is more important to God; showing a kindness, or being first in line.

Being a person of good character doesn't just happen by itself, it takes practice.

May you find great satisfaction as your child or grandchild matures in faith and character. And as they grow I encourage you to celebrate the little victories along the way.

In His service;
Pastor Felcher

**PLC Shepherd**

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2024 In the Footsteps of St. Paul Greece and Greek Isles Tour

Time is now limited! There is only enough room for 7 more couples. Also, there are only outside view cabins available for the cruise (which has a \$600 per person additional charge). If you are interested, please contact Pastor Awe immediately to reserve your spot on this wonderful tour!

Join **Pastor Michael Awe** in this wonderful opportunity to have St. Paul's letters come alive as we travel to some of the places where Christ led him to share the Gospel. Here we will see the Bible come alive with the beautiful locations of the early Christian Church. We will enjoy sights including Athens, Corinth, Mykonos Ephesus, Patmos, Thessaloniki, and many others. Also part of this tour is a 3-day cruise to the Greek Isles and Turkey. The dates for this wonderful tour are **29 October – 8 November 2024**. We will be departing from and arriving back to the Omaha airport. The price for this trip which includes transportation, tours, hotels, and most meals is **\$4379 per person based on double occupancy (plus \$600 per person for the outside view cabin for the cruise. Total is \$4979 per person)**. If you would like to receive a brochure, please contact Pastor Awe at the1revma@gmail.com or call him at 531.218.5793.

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

Jerry Calvin	5/1	Lisa Schoup	5/11	Scott Hanchera	5/19
Sarah Risenhoover	5/1	Jennifer Doucet	5/12	Susan DeJonge	5/20
Austin Thompson	5/2	Kysen Hazlitt	5/14	Joe 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 Goltl	5/3	LaVonne Hanchera	5/16	Peggy Poore	5/23
Teddy Felcher	5/5	Haven Curl	5/17	Jacob Vetrovsky	5/23
Jeff Polly	5/5	Jenna Moench	5/17	Danielle Schumacher	5/24
Sharon Kircher	5/7	Luka Rawn	5/17	Lindsay McConville	5/25
Harlan Reiners	5/8	Linda Richards	5/17	Gerald Gohl	5/29
Bradley Goltl	5/10	Spencer Rogers	5/18	Treven Critchfield	5/31
Nicole Rawn	5/10				

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Alyssa & Todd Bauer	5/3/2014	10	Ron & Jeanne Rogers	5/23/1971	53
Tom & Cindy Shields	5/14/1983	41	Harold & Sue Carlson	5/24/2008	16
Joel & Linda Smith	5/18/1991	33	Drew & Amanda Shields	5/29/2021	3
Nick & Hannah Nothnagel	5/21/2016	8	Preston & Amanda Hueftle	5/30/2020	4
Mitch & Aimee Hazlitt	5/22/2010	14	Gerald & Kristi Novak	5/30/1981	43

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 (April 21st-April 27th)	Month to Date (April 7th-April 27th)	Actual Year to Date (Jan 7th-April 27th)
Offerings	\$3,345.00	\$10,425.00	\$89,807.00
Expenses	\$1,631.00	\$8,335.00	\$84,542.00



MISSING SOMETHING

All containers that have been left in the kitchen are on a table in the Narthex for the owners to claim. If they have not been claimed by Sunday, May 5th, they will be donated.

HILLCREST BINGO

LWML will be helping with bingo at Hillcrest on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 2pm. If you would like to help, there is a sign up sheet on the buffet in the Narthex.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

This Sunday, April 28th will be the last Sunday for Sunday School until next fall. Hope you all have a wonderful summer.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the parents, teachers, helpers, and members of the church that brought food and came out to help with the School of Religion party at the Y.M.C.A. The kids had an amazing time and with the help of everyone, an enjoyable evening was possible. Thank you again. The Board of Education, Kris Hanchera & Jan Hubert

MAY READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
5th	The 6th S. of Easter	Acts 10:34-48	1 John 5:1-8	John 15:9-17
12th	The 7th S. of Easter	Acts 1:12-26	1 John 5:9-15	John 17:11b-19
19th	The Day of Pentecost	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Acts 2:1-21	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
26th	The Holy Trinity	Isaiah 6:1-8	Acts 2:14a, 22-36	John 3:1-17



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Stewardship Ministry Newsletter Article – May 2024

More Than a Negative

Even if you've never had to testify in court, a thousand TV shows have made you familiar with the question, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Why not just make people swear to tell the truth? Or make them promise not to lie?

Any parent who has ever had to interrogate a child about a broken cookie jar or a scuffle over a toy knows the answer. There are plenty of ways to try to get out of trouble without technically lying. You tell just enough of the truth to skate on by.

We often play the game of seeing how close we can get to sinning without technically going over the line.

But in our heart of hearts we know that this is not what God intended when He gave us the commandments. He's not giving us a merely negative rule and challenging us to just barely stay away from this or that. There is much more to each commandment than a prohibition. We shouldn't just avoid murdering people — we should be of service to our neighbor.

For each negative prohibition in the commandments there is a positive good that we are to cherish and protect. In the Eighth Commandment, that gift is the reputation of our neighbor and our relationship with him:

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Your relationship with your family members (who are your nearest neighbors), the other members of your congregation, your coworkers and your friends is one of the most precious gifts you have been given. You need to exercise good stewardship with this gift just as much as you need to exercise good stewardship with your life, resources, time and income. This is an especially fragile gift because it's easy to ruin a relationship with slander and talking behind someone's back.

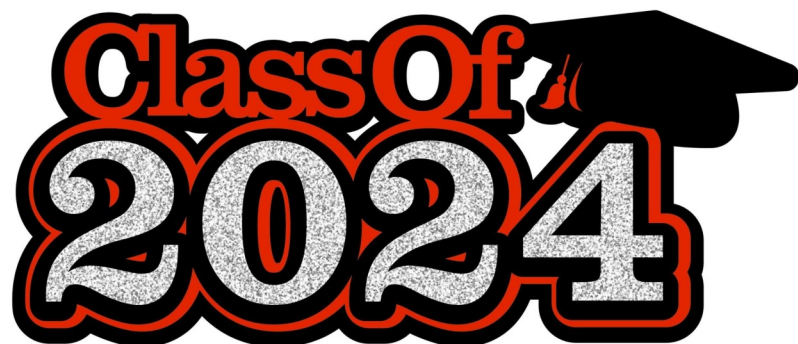
But speaking well of your neighbor in Christian love is absolutely free; it costs you nothing, yet it pays you great dividends. If you find this challenging at times, if you are tempted to speak ill of others, just remember that this other person is also a beloved child of God for whom your Lord Jesus suffered and died. Your Lord Jesus loves you both.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**June 10th, 11th, & 12th**“Hands of Jesus”**

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

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to our 2024 High School Graduates! Treven Critchfield, Alexander Nielsen, Kori Rippen, Addyson Snyder and Austin Thompson. Blessings on your bright futures!

**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, 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 Harold Carlson.

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 5th

Elder on duty	Brandon Kuykendall
Organist	Oraleen/K.C.
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	Jackson Hartwell

May 12th

Elder on duty	Victor Lauer
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
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

May 19th

Elder on duty	Harold Carlson
Organist	Oraleen/Charlene
Audio	Paul Sellers
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

May 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	Tina Cummins



PEACE TALK

Why? The world's shortest question asked by the world's most inquisitive person... a three-year-old. It seems like no matter how thorough you answer their question, it is abruptly followed by another "why question". It's time to brush your teeth. Why? Because we brush them before bedtime. Why? To learn healthy teeth habits. Why? So, you will be able to eat and grow bigger. Why? The realization that this could go on all night silences the next response. As annoying as this is, I wonder if I am any better. I'm thinking that this toddler uses the "why" word for the same reason I do. To get information about a world that is not fully understood. A question quite prevalent nowadays in trying to understand why each day adds a new report to an endless list of natural or man-made catastrophes. Fires, tornadoes, floods, shootings, riots, wars, and so much more. Then there is the calamity that infects the home: Broken relationships, life threatening health problems, loss of a job, financial stress, or a death in the family. It is in our sinful nature to ask why God would allow these things to happen. Why is there so much suffering in this world? Why do I have to suffer when it appears others do not? Why on earth are these things allowed to happen? It is during these times, like a toddler, we find ourselves asking these "why questions" no matter what response we might receive... Truth to be told, we are not meant to know the answer to many of these questions. But what we can find comfort in, is what we do know. We are told in the Bible that God is in Control (Ephesians 1:11). That God will not give us any more than we can handle (1 Corinthians 10:13). There will be times of hardship, but we are to remain faithful, as these things are part of God's knowledge and will (John 16:33). *"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."* (Romans 8:28). Yet knowing these things, I still ponder; wouldn't it be nice if I could just stay at the peak of that mountain top. Where everything in my life would remain just peachy... Realistically it doesn't seem to work that way. I run across a quote from Billy Graham in which he said, "Mountaintops are made for views and inspiration, but fruit is grown in the valleys." When we are on that mountain top, we willingly give praise to Jesus for all our blessings. But when we are in the valleys, we must remember "why" we put our trust in Jesus. Why He suffered and died on the cross. Why He did all that He has done, for me. It is from these fruits we grow in the valleys that point us to that cross. That eternal promise where one day there will be no more tears, no more pain, and no more suffering (Revelation 21:4). Thus, is our answer for eternity. Dear Lord, thank you for giving me answers through your Word to comfort all the "why's" in my life. Amen.



Peace Lutheran Church

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MAY 2024

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