



'TIDINGS OF PEACE' from

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

TO:

August 2024

TIDINGS OF PEACE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Have you seen, or do you remember the 1971 movie; Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory?" If so, do you remember the little girl named Veruca? It seems that Veruca's parents had made it their goal that Veruca should have life better than they did—that Veruca should not want for anything. And what parent doesn't want the best for their children?

But, as Hollywood often does; the life of Veruca was taken to extreme; Veruca had become a child with an appetite that would not be satisfied; an appetite for earthly possessions and pleasures that would not be satisfied—and when she decided that she wanted something; she wanted it NOW.

The parents of this child had allowed themselves to be pushed to the point of exhaustion, affirming their actions, and consoling one another by saying; "Happiness is all that matters in a child's life—happiness and harmony."

These things were intended to reflect society going into the 1970s. And it seems that there is nothing new under the sun; even in our time, we often find ourselves confronted with the temptation of expecting immediate results and instant success in all that we do. But real life doesn't always work out that way; sometimes life is hard and tough; sometimes we don't get what we want when we want it;

sometimes failure crashes over us like an avalanche.

During these times it's easy to get discouraged, or even angry; but times of difficulty; times of fatigue and times of waiting, can be opportunities to teach our children about patience and determination—even if our children are old enough to have children of their own.

The more our kids see us trusting the Lord in these times, the more they will understand that God provides the strength to continue on.

To be sure, it's nice when failures transform into immediate success, but even times of difficulty can be turned into opportunities to help our kids grow spiritually; as they see you relying on the Lord for guidance and strength, they will learn that they too, can rely on Him when difficulties arise. So, I encourage you to be brave; stay the course; for the Lord is with you.

Thanks for reading
Pastor

"I have learned to be content, whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."

Philippians 4:11-13

**PLC Shepherd**

Pastor Lonnie Felcher
revfelcher@hotmail.com
Emergency (308)737-6750

Family Life Minister

Hanah Nothnagel

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

Elder Chairman

Phil Bamesberger

Council Secretary

Linda Smith

Treasurer

Melissa Hanchera
plctreasurer1908@gmail.com

Financial Secretary

Sarah Risenhoover
peacefin28@gmail.com

FROM AN ELDER**Pastors**

Acts 20:28 - [Paul says] "Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which He obtained with His own blood."

A lot has changed with the Christian church in the last two thousand years. The church now is very different from what it was when the book of Acts was written. At that time, there were no dedicated church buildings, no formal Christian schools or universities, no billion-dollar Christian music industry, no Christian broadcasting networks or publishing conglomerates, no Christian T-shirts or Christian lobbyists or bumper stickers. The church back then was different. Much has changed since. But one thing has been constant: there were pastors—men called by Jesus, appointed by the church, to gather people, to speak to them in the Name of Jesus.

When the New Testament pictures a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ, it's more than just having a personal relationship with God. It's more than having a biblical worldview. It's more than having certain moral values. In the New Testament's way of seeing things, to be a Christian is to have a pastor, or many pastors, pulling for you.

In Acts, we're told that when new communities of Jesus-followers were formed, the people who started those churches, as they moved on to start new ones in other places, they "appointed elders for them in every church" (Acts 14:23b). Later we're told that these "elders" were appointed to oversee the churches, to serve as "pastors," as shepherds for the people there. In our passage today, we hear Paul tell these elders to "care" for the church of God. Another translation renders it as "be shepherds" for the church of God (NIV), because that's what the Greek word in the text means, to be a shepherd. And that's where we get the word "pastor." Pastor is the Latin word for "shepherd."

In the New Testament, these spiritual leaders went by different titles: ministers (see Colossians 1:7), overseers (see Philippians 1:1), stewards of the mystery (see 1 Corinthians 4:1), elders of the church (see 1 Peter 5:1). But the different titles amount to one job, one calling: pastor—shepherd. Of course, this job really only belongs to Jesus. "I am the Good Shepherd," He says, "I lay down My life for the sheep" (John 10:14a, 15b). And by His Spirit, we respond and say, "The LORD is my Shepherd" (my Pastor) (Psalm 23:1a). Jesus is your Chief Shepherd, your Principal Pastor. And He wants to give you a local pastor—someone who knows your name and walks alongside you, an under-shepherd who will give you a call, come looking for you when you're in trouble. That's how much He loves you.

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

Jamie Gray	8/2	Katherine Kjendal	8/10	Paxton Messinger	8/18
Fritz Hubert	8/2	Ron Lauer	8/10	Madison Afrecht	8/20
Abby Barth	8/5	Madelyn Bird	8/11	Bailey Crick	8/27
Cody Göltl	8/5	Patricia Penner	8/12	Kristyl Hanchera	8/27
Lucas Post	8/5	Phil Bamesberger	8/14	Lee McConville	8/27
James Hall	8/6	Jacob Curl	8/14	Judy Schow	8/27
Samantha Huryta	8/6	Debra Gleason	8/14	Susi Bolt	8/28
Nathan Cummins	8/7	Emily Kjendal	8/15	Janet Gray	8/28
Lisa Koetter	8/7	Dane Foster	8/16	Brooks Lietka	8/28
Christina Coleman	8/9	Rylee Mooney	8/16	Taylor Dicenta	8/30
Linda Nielsen	8/9	Kenneth Polly	8/16	Elaine Polly	8/30
Hallie Watts	8/9	Adam Rawn	8/17		

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Dillon & Audrie Göltl	8/2/2014	10	Gary & Jessica Gramins	8/18/2001	23
Steve & Brigitta Post	8/2/1980	44	Bob & Joann Nemechek	8/19/1972	52
Samantha & Elliot Huryta	8/4/2018	6	Zachary & Becka Hueftle	8/20/2016	8
Rachel & Dakota Lietka	8/10/2019	5	Keith & Kelsey Messinger	8/20/2011	13
Fred & Debra Gleason	8/11/1973	51	Roger & Karen Ziebell	8/21/1971	53
Curt & Cindy Swanhorst	8/11/1984	40	Jeffrey & Kelly Unger	8/22/2009	15
Randall & Carrie Göltl	8/12/1988	36	Larry & Linda Richards	8/26/1962	62
Randon & Laurie Peters	8/13/2006	18	Lonnie & Tanna Felcher	8/28/1976	48
Steven & Sharon Kircher	8/17/1984	40			

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.

OUR FINANCES AT A GLANCE

	Week to Date (July 21st-July 27th)	Month to Date (July 7th-July 27th)	Actual Year to Date (Jan 7th-July 27th)
Offerings	\$3,238.00	\$13,601.00	\$138,413.00
Expenses	\$16,721.00	\$20,869.00	\$164,030.00



MOWING SCHEDULE

The Trustees are looking for some volunteers to help with the mowing this summer. There is a sign up sheet on the buffet in the Narthex. They are asking that the lawn gets mowed weekly on Thursday, Friday or Saturday. The mower will be filled with gas prior to mowing, so you won't have to worry about that. Please message Heath Brown @ 340-0257, Chance Koetter @ 737-6850 or Barry Mooney @ 340-9694 when it is your week to mow. Thanks!

LET'S DO SUPPER TOGETHER

Join us young adults (kids included) for a pot luck style upper together at the church. August 25th at 5:00 where we will cook together, socialize, and kids can play and have fun! This month's meal: PIZZA! RSVP to Hanah at 737-1905 so we can assign menu items.

If this month doesn't work for you, don't worry!! The plan is to make this a regular monthly event where we can cook together, eat and have fun.

CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY

The directories are finished and ready for distribution. Contact the Board of Evangelism if you would like to pick yours up.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

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.

AUGUST READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
4th	The 11th S. after Pentecost	Exodus 16:2-15	Ephesians 4:1-16	John 6:22-35
11th	The 12th S. after Pentecost	1 Kings 19:1-8	Ephesians 4:17-5:2	John 6:35-51
18th	The 13th S. after Pentecost	Proverbs 9:1-10 or Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18	Ephesians 5:6-21	John 6:15-69
25th	The 14th S. after Pentecost	Isaiah 29:11-19	Ephesians 5:22-33	Mark 7:1-13



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

Mercy and Grace Lead to Generosity

Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift" (2 Cor. 9:15)! This is St. Paul's exclamation upon hearing the Corinthian church's response to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his request for support for the church in Jerusalem. The Christians in Corinth heard and received God's mercy in Christ, and they responded to St. Paul's call to support Christians in Jerusalem with a collection. The Corinthians' joy filled Jerusalem's need.

This is the reality of stewardship. Because of God's generosity in the giving of His Son to die on the cross for us, we are to be generous with all that we receive from Him. What do we receive? Everything. All that we are and all that we have is the Lord's. He is the creator and the giver. We are His creatures and those who receive what He gives.

It sounds easy. And it is. But then again it isn't. Stewardship is easy because it is God's work. Through what God gives, we give to others. Through what God gives, we support the work of the church for the life of the world. He gives; we receive. And like our generous Father in Heaven, we, as His children, use what He gives to us to love and serve others.

But stewardship is also difficult. That is because it goes against our natural inclination to think that what I have is mine to do what I want with. This is our sinful nature. It is our selfishness and our greed. How can we who have been given everything — life, food, clothing, house, home, forgiveness, divine sonship, an eternal inheritance — be so stingy with what we give to the church, the place where we hear about and receive all that God gives us and does for us? We are all guilty of this kind of thinking. And the only godly response is to repent and trust in the Gospel.

For if God has given you His own Son, will He not give you all things? Yes. He will. This is His sure and certain promise. God provides for His people. He provides everything we need for this body and life and for the life that is to come.

The church is a mercy place. It's a place where God's mercy in the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, is given and received. For us who believe it means forgiveness, life and salvation in the face of sin, death and the power of the devil. Here in the church, we inhale God's mercy in Word and Sacrament, and exhale this same mercy in love and service to our neighbor. And that is an enduring, joyful thing to do. Our joy fills our neighbor's need because His joy filled ours (Heb. 12:2). Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!



ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

On June 9, the Daughters of the American Revolution, 37th Star chapter, awarded the Excellence in Community Service Award to representatives of the Adopt a Chaplain program. Shannon Corder, DAR Regent, presented awards and pins to Tom Broz, Cathy Broz, Jane Schuster, Anne Trail, Linda Nielsen and Pastor Lonnie Felcher. Shannon Corder shared that the local chapter wished to honor the Adopt a Chaplain program's commitment to supporting troops. Part of the focus of the DAR is support of the military and patriotism.

Adopt a chaplain is a program that supports deployed military chaplains and the troops they serve. Care packages are assembled each month at Peace Lutheran to help the chaplains in their ministry. Thank you for your donations! Supplies needed to pack in care packages in August include flavored drink mix and hard candy. All are welcome at the next packing day, Tues, August 20 at 1:00 pm.



SCHOOL OF RELIGION

School of Religion Kick-Off party is scheduled for Wednesday, September 4th from 6 to 7:30pm at Peace. Outdoor games and a meal will be provided. Bring a friend or two! Let us know how many by signing up on the sheet on the buffet in the narthex or call the church office. School of Religion classes will start September 11th



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

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

August 4th

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 Ellie Hartwell
 Acolyte
 Powerpoint Ben Schow
 Live Stream Jackson Hartwell

August 11th

Elder on duty Victor Lauer
 Organist K.C. Eckhardt
 Audio Russ Ankersen
 Greeter Deb Shields

Greeter

Usher Harold Carlson

Lay Reader Randon Peters

Acolyte Hunter Kunkee

Acolyte

Powerpoint Russ Ankersen

Late Service

Greeter Cindy Swanhorst
 Greeter Curt Swanhorst
 Usher Harold Carlson
 Lay Reader Sarah Risenhoover
 Acolyte Ryker Mooney
 Acolyte
 Powerpoint Russ Ankersen
 Live Stream Ian Brown

August 18th

Elder on duty Harold Carlson
 Organist Charlene Pfanstiel
 Audio Paul Sellers
 Greeter Elaine Polly
 Greeter Jeff Polly
 Usher Eugene Custer
 Lay Reader Renelle Mooney
 Acolyte Cale DeWester

Acolyte

Powerpoint Tina Cummins

Late Service

Greeter Donna Hall
 Greeter Jim Hall
 Usher Ben Schow
 Lay Reader Blayzon Mooney
 Acolyte Avery Davidson
 Acolyte Emma McConville
 Powerpoint
 Live Stream Blayzon Mooney

August 25th

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 Maxson Stewart
 Acolyte Zander Stewart
 Powerpoint Gary Hunkins
 Live Stream Tina Cummins



PEACE TALK

"I found gold!" The shout that rang across the nation in and around the year 1849 that sparked the famous Gold Rush migration. The plot to seek a fortune ignited a quest for thousands of people to make the trek to California for a richer life. Tens of thousands traveled in covered wagons, risking their lives with hostile Indians, bandits, disease, severe elements, and treacherous trails. Many migrants chose to sail around the tip of South America, finding just as many challenges and dangers. The vision of wealth overshadowed all the sacrifices that were necessary to reach their destination. Even if the sacrifice was life itself. If you think about it, gold has always been precious in the eyes of the beholder. Many verses in the Bible reveal it was a symbol of earthly riches, (Job 3:15, Isaiah 2:7, Acts 3:6, Revelation 18:12). For the longest time, our eyes have seemed to magnetically focus on these earthly treasures. Where are your eyes fixed? Would you become one of the "forty-niners" if you dwelled in that time of gold fever? Matthew 6:21 says, "Where your treasure is, that is where your heart will be." Then goes on to say that we cannot serve both God and the proverbial golden nugget. When our eyes are turned to our bank account, nice car, or whatever we place great value in... that will become our priority. If our eyes are turned to these things, they will not be turned to God. Look how it turned out for the forty-niners. Very few of them ever struck it rich. Hard work, no housing, poor sanitation, and the law of the west kept most of them in poverty. Mark Twain said, "During the gold rush it's a good time to be in the pick and shovel business." That goes to show that the eyes fixating on the correct thing can be profitable. Just think about all those things the migrants sacrificed with pure tunnel vision of something that ultimately give them even less. The same is true in our spiritual migration. Jesus said in Mark 8:36, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" There is nothing wrong with enjoying earthly treasures as long as our eyes are fixed on Jesus. He is the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, (Hebrews 12:2). When we can do that, then our short-term perceptions will turn into long term realities. Yes, the journey of faith can be as long and treacherous as the Oregon trail. We can repeatedly fill our pan with gravel and shake it with hopes of finding something of physical value. But by turning our eyes to Jesus, our pan will not become a burden. He will be there to shake out the rocks of sin to reveal our sparkling fortune of faith. What we experience then with that faith will be more valuable than any size of gold nugget that appears, (1 Peter 1:7). Heavenly Father, help me keep my eyes fixed on You, for there is where my treasures will be stored for eternity. Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity
 Phil Barnesberger



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

August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 7:00am Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
4 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	5	6 9:00am Worship Committee	7	8	9	10 7:00am Men's Bible Study
11 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship w/ Blessing of the Backpacks	12	13 2:00pm Hillcrest Bingo 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	20 1:00pm Adopt-A-Chaplain packing	21 6:00pm School of Religion Teacher meeting	22 1:30pm Hillcrest 2:30pm Kinship Pointe	23	24 7:00am Men's Bible Study
25 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship 5:00pm Young Adults supper	26	27	28	29	30	31 7:00am Men's Bible Study