



'TIDINGS OF PEACE' from

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

TO:

Three vertical lines for an address.

December 2024

TIDINGS OF PEACE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

LUTHERAN CHURCH

One of our members sent a letter to the missionaries that we support. Both of them responded back. Below is the letter from Pastor Carl Hanson

Dear Dawn and Tina and members of Peace Lutheran Church,

Fall is here! We have been eating persimmons from our trees at church for the last month! Our summer here was very warm and long. It is finally beginning to feel like Fall. I have include some pictures below that were part of a report I was able to share in our Missionary work group meeting a month ago in Taiwan, and also a traditional Fall Korean Folk picture. Last month we had Hanguel Day when people celebrate the written Korean language. Please feel free to share these photo and prayer requests with others.

Our girls in the US are doing well and plan to spend Thanksgiving together this year on the East Coast. We have so much to be thankful for again this year. We are already getting ready for our Annual Turkey Dinner and Thanksgiving Worship. It isn't a holiday so most of our members enjoy coming to church that night for a taste of home.

Please join us in giving thanks to God for Pastor Tom, Justin, Hyunsoo, John and James Blessings, Carl and Chenhsi



Pastor Tom Park was a regular member of ILC during High School when he would come back to Korea to visit his family - he has many fond memories of the families of ILC and prays for us regularly.



Justin is doing his second year at the seminary this Fall. Chenhsi and I were blessed to visit them earlier this year in their new home.



Hyunsoo (Karl) Lee was sent to Concordia Seminary Theological Seminary in St. Catherines Canada this Fall. We give thanks to God for Hyunsoo and his willingness to be trained



Seminary program at Concordia University in Irvine CA last Spring and is now a 1st year student at Concord Seminary in St. Louis. (Johnny far right)

This Fall we also celebrate Johnny Trinklein who finished the pre-



And we give thanks to God for James O'Neal who is just starting at CUI in the pre-seminary program this Fall. What a blessing to have James visit us earlier this Summer on his way to a mission project in Cambodia with StrongHold Ministry. (James on the far left)

**PLC Shepherd**

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Continued from cover

Good afternoon, Mrs. Callander,
What a wonderful surprise and joy it was to receive your kind letter! Your words have brightened my day and I am grateful for your thoughtfulness.

It is a pleasure to learn about you and how you are serving as an encourager at Peace Lutheran Church. Thank you for your prayers, support and uplifting words.

I lived in Nebraska for nineteen years, so I know what a special place it is. What makes it so special is the people, who are kind and generous and so helpful. There is no other place like it.

In answer to your question, Pastor Rickman and his family are near and dear to my heart. They are some of my favorite people down here in Latin America. I visited Panama, where they serve, in February of this year for a special event, the dedication of their refurbished sanctuary. Since then, many lapsed members have returned, and new Lutherans have joined. Thanks be to God!

In Latin America, we have so much happening that it is difficult to keep up with everything. The pace is fast, the hours are long, but the work is fulfilling.

Since this is my first contact with you, I have created and included a document with a description of all that I do, which covers 22 countries. Feel free to share with anyone interested.

Once again, I want to express my gratitude for your prayers and kind words. I also want to thank the members of Peace Lutheran Church for their prayers and support for the mission work in Latin America and for me.

God bless you all.

In Christ,

Jana Inglehart

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

| | | | | | |
|----------------|-------|------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| Heath Bedore | 12/1 | Nadia Schoup | 12/13 | Preston Hueftle | 12/24 |
| Lyle Brown | 12/3 | Carrie Goltl | 12/14 | Kimberly Pinkerton | 12/25 |
| Jim DeJonge | 12/5 | Eileen Hubert | 12/14 | Brent Rogers | 12/25 |
| Nicole Koetter | 12/6 | Raymond Schow | 12/14 | Leslie Fahrenbruch | 12/26 |
| Nancy Rippen | 12/6 | Donnie Rinehart | 12/16 | Karen Meints | 12/26 |
| Renee Brown | 12/7 | Kody Bedore | 12/18 | Cindy Shields | 12/26 |
| Randall Goltl | 12/8 | Debra Shields | 12/18 | Keaton Loop | 12/28 |
| Shane Prentice | 12/8 | Fayann Barenberg | 12/20 | Millie Moench | 12/28 |
| Mary Thorson | 12/8 | Racquel Bird | 12/21 | Andrew Ziebell | 12/28 |
| Cassidy Rogers | 12/10 | Ian Brown | 12/22 | Juliatt Critchfield | 12/30 |
| Brian Calvin | 12/12 | Alex Hanchera | 12/22 | Jon Reiners | 12/31 |
| Brayden Watts | 12/12 | Sue Fahrenbruch | 12/23 | Zachary Tidyman | 12/31 |
| Pat Schaffert | 12/13 | Kevin Custer | 12/24 | | |

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

| NAME | DATE | YEARS | NAME | DATE | YEARS |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------|-----------------------|------------|-------|
| Fritz & Jan Hubert | 12/6/1981 | 43 | Paul & Pat Schaffert | 12/27/1968 | 56 |
| Dan & Chelsey Hartwell | 12/17/2005 | 19 | Steve & Kandi Eckhoff | 12/28/2016 | 8 |
| Charles & Christina Coleman | 12/26/1971 | 53 | | | |

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.

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 (Nov. 24th-Nov. 30th) | Month to Date (Nov. 2nd-Nov. 30th) | Actual Year to Date (Jan. 7th-Nov. 30th) |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Offerings | Not Available | \$8,139.00 | \$223,409.00 |
| Expenses | \$9,050.00 | \$22,654.00 | \$253,020.00 |



ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

Thank you for the tremendous support for the Adopt a Chaplain Christmas care packages. With your help, we were able to adopt four LCMS chaplains: CH Carl Muehler on the USS Carl Vinson, CH Matthew Prince on the USS John C Stennis, CH Ryan Mills deployed to Korea, and CH Kyle Mietzer deployed to Syria. Four other chaplains were adopted to give support to US servicemen and servicewomen in Poland, Kuwait and Iraq. When we adopt a chaplain we send care packages as long as they are deployed, next packing day will be in January. Attached are pictures of some of the volunteers who packed boxes in November. Thanks to everyone!



DECEMBER READINGS

| Date | Season | First Reading | Epistle | Holy Gospel |
|------|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| 1st | The 1st S. in Advent | Jeremiah 33:14-16 | 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 | Luke 19:28-40 |
| 8th | The 2nd S. in Advent | Malachi 3:1-7b | Philippians 1:2-11 | Luke 3:1-20 |
| 15th | The 3rd S. in Advent | Zephaniah 3:14-20 | Philippians 4:4-7 | Luke 7:18-35 |
| 22nd | The 4th S. in Advent | Micah 5:2-5a | Hebrews 10:5-10 | Luke 1:39-56 |
| 29th | The 1st S. after Christmas | Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15 | Colossians 3:12-17 | Luke 2:22-40 |



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

Repenting of “Yours” and “Mine”

Retailers have had their Christmas displays up since before Reformation Sunday. The kids have made their list and checked it twice, or three times or more. It won't be long before the tree will start shedding its needles, the stockings emptied, the gifts unwrapped, toys broken, and the too small or out of style clothes returned. Before we know it, the annual celebration of Christmas will be over.

But for the children of God, we know that the gift of Christmas doesn't ever end. Week in and week out, the Lord continues to shower His gifts on us. Every time the Lord gathers us to His house, and we are led to kneel at His table, the gift of forgiveness is repeatedly granted to us. It is nothing we deserve. It comes to us freely!

The fourth stanza of the stewardship hymn, “Forgive Us Lord for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788) highlights both this gift and our response. *Teach us, O Lord, true thankfulness divine, that gives as Christ gave, never counting cost*

To learn thankfulness is necessary. The parents of young children are well-versed in the fact that they must teach their children thankfulness. It does not come naturally. The spiritual genetics inherited from our parents allow us to think that the world revolves around us. When we receive something, there is an inward desire to think that we in some way deserve it.

But there is no way that we deserve anything we get from our Lord. We need that ongoing lesson from God Himself. Thankfulness toward God is worked in us by the Holy Spirit. God's Word works this thanksgiving in us. We need this weekly reminder that Jesus didn't consider “equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself” for us, to the point of death on a cross (Phil. 2:6). He didn't bat an eye. He paid the price! Our life of stewardship is one of daily and weekly thanksgiving inspired by the Lord Himself. *That knows no barrier of “yours” and “mine,” assured that only what's withheld is lost.*

Because Jesus gave us everything and more, there can be no ownership. The child at Christmas is quick to claim that the newly gifted toy is “mine!” But as Psalm 24:1 asserts, “The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.” There isn't anything in creation that is ours. When we cling to and claim ownership of anything in creation, we are losing out on the continual gifts with which the Lord desires to shower upon us. Closed hands cannot receive anything new. We cling to the old and dead and miss the new thing that the Lord desires to do in and for us.

We are led to repent of the “yours” and “mine” and remove the lie that we have any ownership. In this we have the promise that God will continue to give to us. Not just at Christmas, but every Sunday at the altar in the Lord's house.



WELCOME

Please welcome our newest members, Kover, Karl, Almina, Emma, Kylee and Allee. Kover Park Schumacher is the infant son of Dylan and Danielle Schumacher. Karl Dwain and Almina Dell Hueftle are the children of Preston and Amanda Hueftle. Emma Noel, Kylee Mae and Allee Lynn Malleck are the children of Justin and Halee Malleck. The all joined us through the waters of baptism in November. Welcome Kover, Karl, Almina, Emma, Kylee and Allee!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Children's Christmas program will be Wednesday, December 18th at 7pm. Join us for cookies after the event in the fellowship area.

LIVE NATIVITY

The dates for the Live Nativity will be December 13th and 14th. Please consider volunteering and/or donating cookies. There are sign up sheets on the buffet in the Narthex..

LET'S DO SUPPER TOGETHER

Join us young adults (kids included) for a pot luck style supper together at the church. December 8th at 5:00 where we will cook together, socialize, and kids can play and have fun! This month's meal: Pasta Bar. We will also be decorating sugar cookies. 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.

POINSETTIAS

If you would like to order a poinsettia for the altar this Christmas season, there is a sign up sheet on the buffet in the Narthex or call the church office.

COOKBOOKS

There are still cookbooks available. They are \$20 and make great gifts. Just contact the church office.



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

December 1st

| | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Elder on duty | Brandon Kuykendall |
| Organist | K.C. Eckhardt |
| Audio | Paul Sellers |
| Greeter | Grant Pfanstiel |
| Greeter | Charlene Pfanstiel |
| Usher | Gene Meints |
| Lay Reader | Rylee Mooney |
| Acolyte | Emmett Felcher |
| Acolyte | |
| Powerpoint | |

Late Service

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| Greeter | Jane Schuster |
| Greeter | Myra Tietz |
| Usher | Gary Hunkins |
| Lay Reader | Nick Nothnagel |
| Acolyte | Ellie Hartwell |
| Acolyte | Amaya Ely |
| Powerpoint | Ben Schow |
| Live Stream | Ian Brown |

December 8th

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Elder on duty | Victor Lauer |
| Organist | K.C. Eckhardt |
| Audio | Tina/ |
| Greeter | Deb Shields |
| Greeter | |
| Usher | Harold Carlson |
| Lay Reader | Randon Peters |
| Acolyte | Cooper Davidson |
| Acolyte | Avery Davidson |
| Powerpoint | Tina Cummins |

Late Service

| | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| Greeter | Cindy Swanhorst |
| Greeter | Curt Swanhorst |
| Usher | Harold Carlson |
| Lay Reader | Sarah Risenhoover |
| Acolyte | Raegan Kisker |
| Acolyte | Emma McConville |
| Powerpoint | Russ Ankersen |
| Live Stream | Blayzon Mooney |

December 15th

| | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Elder on duty | Harold Carlson |
| Organist | Charlene Pfanstiel |
| Audio | Cathy Broz |
| Greeter | Elaine Polly |
| Greeter | Jeff Polly |
| Usher | Eugene Custer |
| Lay Reader | Renelle Mooney |
| Acolyte | Hunter Kunkee |
| Acolyte | Will Kunkee |
| Powerpoint | Cathy Broz |

Late Service

| | |
|-------------|------------------|
| Greeter | Donna Hall |
| Greeter | Jim Hall |
| Usher | Ben Schow |
| Lay Reader | Fred Gleason |
| Acolyte | Kysen Hazlitt |
| Acolyte | Paxton Messinger |
| Powerpoint | |
| Live Stream | Jackson Hartwell |

December 22nd

| | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Elder on duty | Fritz Hubert |
| Organist | Charlene Pfanstiel |
| Audio | Harold Carlson |
| Greeter | Nancy Rippen |
| Greeter | |
| Usher | Eugene Custer |
| Lay Reader | Jerry Calvin |
| Acolyte | |
| Acolyte | |
| Powerpoint | Harold Carlson |

Late Service

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| Greeter | Pat Penner |
| Greeter | |
| Usher | Curt Swanhorst |
| Lay Reader | Curt Swanhorst |
| Acolyte | Cale DeWester |
| Acolyte | Cason DeWester |
| Powerpoint | Gary Hunkins |
| Live Stream | Tina Cummins |

December 29th

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Elder on duty | Curt/Phil |
| Organist | |
| Audio | |
| Greeter | Sue Carlson |
| Greeter | Harold Carlson |
| Usher | Gene Meints |
| Lay Reader | Harold Carlson |
| Acolyte | |
| Acolyte | |
| Powerpoint | |

Late Service

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Greeter | |
| Greeter | |
| Usher | Steve Post |
| Lay Reader | Blayzon Mooney |
| Acolyte | Avery Davidson |
| Acolyte | Cooper Davidson |
| Powerpoint | |
| Live Stream | Carter Hartwell |



PEACE TALK

Snow day! Sweet music to the ears of a child. That translated into school being canceled and a fun packed day forthcoming. I remember those special days. What should I do first? Work on my model Camaro? Play a board game? Go outside to build a snow man? Or I might just go sled riding. The more it snowed the better. A snow day was always a highlight during those winter months. As an adult I don't see it quite like that anymore. I see snow days now only as an extra burden. Namely, because I must remove all that snow to complete the daily task I have impending. With snow shovel in hand, I ponder... wouldn't it be grand if I could still have the elation of a child on a snow day? Maybe not the urge to go sledding, but to see that falling snow as a heavenly reminder; that all I can accomplish, all that I have worked hard for, is comparatively fleeting to what the Lord can do with one stroke of His magnificent brush. With that in mind and amidst a world full of agenda's, we can all use this reminder to "be still and know that He is God" (Psalm 46:10). In fact, it is just one of the many beautiful memos God uses to show that He is in control of all the circumstances that transpire in our life, (Philippians 4:6-7). God can use a simple fresh blanket of white snow to demonstrate how easy it is for Him to cover up the darkness of the earth. Thus, a beautiful symbol of concealing all that is unclean, (Psalm 51:7). Providing a new perspective of how I should find a way to look at this snow day as just another method of God's grace instead of seeing it as adding work to my space, (Hebrews 4:16). So, what changed my perspective of a simple snow day between the time of when I was a child to now? If older means wiser, then I must admit that great merit must be given to the humility naturally possessed in the heart of a child (Matthew 18:1-5). As we grow older, the worries of the world creep into our hearts and suddenly, tangible things become important. Work seems to be a priority. Self-centered ideals become our idols. Snow days thus becomes burdensome. Not that shoveling snow will ever be joyous, but submitting to the wondrous works of our mighty God will be. Slowing down and taking a closer look at that deep white wonderland with the perspective that He is bigger than this world. A reminder that my needs, pains and desires are in the hands of my Lord who is so much greater and powerful than I, (Isaiah 55:8-9). If I can do that, then just maybe I can look at that snow day with the same elation I did in my youth. Dear Lord, help me look at the snow days in my life with gratitude and thanksgiving. For all good and perfect gifts come from You (James 1:17). Amen.



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December 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| 1 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship | 2 <small>PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE</small> | 3 10:00am Worship Committee | 4 11:00am Advent Worship 6:00pm School of Religion 6:30pm High School Bible study 7:30pm Advent Worship | 5 | 6 8:30am Women's Bible study | 7 7:00am Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation |
| 8Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship 5:00pm Young Adults Supper | 9 <small>PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE</small> | 10 2:00pm Hillcrest Bingo 6:00pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council | 11 11:00am Advent Worship 6:00pm School of Religion 6:30pm High School Bible study 7:30pm Advent Worship | 12 | 13 8:30am Women's Bible study | 14 7:00am Men's Bible Study 4:00pm Live Nativity 6:00pm Live Nativity |
| 15 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship Upper Fellowship Hall reservation 4:00pm Live Nativity 6:00pm Live Nativity | 16 <small>PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE</small> | 17 | 18 11:00am Advent Worship 6:00pm School of Religion 7:00pm Christmas Program | 19 1:30pm Hillcrest 2:30pm Kinship Pointe | 20 8:30am Women's Bible study | 21 7:00am Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation |
| 22Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship | 23 <small>PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE</small> | 24 6:00pm Candlelight service | 25 <i>Office Closed</i> | 26 <i>Office Closed</i> | 27 | 28 7:00am Men's Bible Study |
| 29 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship | 30 <small>PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE</small> | 31 | | | | |