



'TIDINGS OF **PEACE**' from

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

TO:

A Prayer for the New Year

Lord,
Whether I leave behind
a year of joy or of trials and difficulties,

I pause to *give thanks*.
Thank you for being with me
every day of every year.

Thank you for making all things **new**
and for giving me the grace of
fresh starts

and *new beginnings*.
Remind me of your presence in the days to
come,
even when I feel pushed and rushed by
busyness.

Be glorified in my life this year.

Amen

**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 Barnesberger

Council Secretary

Linda Smith

Treasurer

Melissa Hanchera
plctreasurer1908@gmail.com

Financial Secretary

Sarah Risenhoover
peacefin28@gmail.com

ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

This program supports the troops through the ministry of their chaplains. Thank you for the tremendous support of the Christmas shipment. Through the LCMS office of Ministry to the Armed Services, we were able to adopt and send care packages to a Lutheran chaplain in Syria, another in Korea, and two on Navy ships. We support chaplains of other denominations, including a second chaplain deployed to Syria, and also chaplains in Kuwait, Iraq, and Poland. When one is adopted, we send care packages once a month until they return home. All are welcome on the next packing day is Tues, Jan 21 at 1:00 pm.

CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY

Would you like the church directory on your phone? Just download the app from the app store. Search for Universal Church Directory. Enter your families Unique Identifier that was emailed to your households email. If you did not receive an email, please call the church office for your Unique Identifier. Then you can begin using your church app features.

**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.

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Adrianna Gass	1/1	Benjamin Hanchera	1/13	Hailey Unger	1/19
Kyle Novak	1/1	Patricia Kohmetcher	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	Clayton Skolout	1/24
Ed Unger	1/8	Wade Bedore	1/18	Myra Stoney	1/24
Melissa Critchfield	1/9	Roland Carlson	1/18	Darrell Eckhardt	1/26
Kole Hamilton	1/11	Keith Oetting	1/18	Dee Ziebell	1/26
Patricia Leibrandt	1/11	Jeannine Rinehart	1/18	Eugene Custer	1/27

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Darrell & K.C. Eckhardt	1/31/1964	61			

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 (Dec. 22nd-Dec. 28th)	Month to Date (Dec. 1st-Dec. 28th)	Actual Year to Date (Jan. 7th-Dec. 28th)
Offerings	Not Available	\$11,924.00	\$241,144.00
Expenses	\$4,786.00	\$28,639.00	\$281,659.00

**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.

We will be having "Muffins with Moms" on Wednesday, Jan. 22nd at 11:00 and Thursday, Jan. 23rd at 11:00 and 2:30. "Donuts with Dads" will be on Wednesday, Jan. 29th at 11:00 and Thursday Jan. 30th 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 please call the church office for the federal tax ID number if you need it for your taxes.

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.

Thanks!

Kelsey, Dani & Jean

COOKBOOKS

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

JANUARY READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
5th	The 2nd S. after Christmas	1 Kings 3:4-15	Ephesians 1:3-14	Luke 2:40-52
12th	The Baptism of Our Lord	Isaiah 43:1-7	Romans 6:1-11	Luke 3:15-22
19th	The 2nd S. after Epiphany	Isaiah 62:1-5	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
26th	The 3rd S. after Epiphany	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:16-30

www.plcmccook.org



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter Article – January 2025

Repenting of "Feasts that Know No Fast"

Fresh off the Christmas season and the retail frenzy that accompanies it, January brings a shot of frigid air into the lives of the people we know and love. This is not a meteorological statement either. While it is true that January is one of the colder months for those in North America, the cold front blast that hits us is the full force of credit card spending that fueled the retail frenzy. The bills for the gifts, the parties, the food and the travel have now come due. The credit card makes things convenient, but it also requires more discipline than many can muster. When the bills come in January for December's celebration, it really puts a damper on things.

Congregations often make the same mistake in stewardship. We often charge forward in doing what we always do or starting new endeavors without counting the cost. But at the end of the month, or the end of year, when the bill comes due, the red ink on the congregational balance sheet smacks the people in the face like a stiff north wind in January. We hunkered down. We circle the wagons. We start to panic. The work of the Gospel suffers.

The fifth verse of "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (LSB 788) addresses this January situation. The words penned by William Watkins Reid are very needful for us to hear as we start a new year, while dealing with the bills of past efforts and expense.

"Forgive us, Lord for feast that knows not fast ..." This hits us hard, doesn't it? We love when the money is flowing, the parties are going, and things are getting bigger and better. But there is a time in life, and most especially in our spiritual disciplines, that we need to fast. The purpose of a fast is to step back, lay something aside for a time, and replace it with meditation on Scripture and prayer. This is designed to keep us from turning something that may well be good into an idol that separates us from the God who loves us in Christ.

"For joy in things that meanwhile starve the soul ..." In "The Parable of the Sower," we hear Jesus talk about how the worries and cares of life choke out the growth of the seed of the Word that was planted. We know how this happens in our lives. Professional and youth sports do this. Materialism does this. Travel and leisure and do this. There is a list of things that we enjoy that starve the soul.

But it also happens in our congregations. When corporate stewardship is not managed in a responsible way, it can and does destroy individual stewardship. Is it good individual stewardship to support a ministry that doesn't take its corporate responsibility seriously?

"For walls and wars that hide your mercies vast and blur our vision of the Kingdom goal." This is the ultimate end of the idolatry of failed stewardship. We build walls between believers within the church and hamper those who are outside from coming to the Light of Life that is Jesus. The wars we fight over money and its impact on ministry do the same. It eventually blurs our vision of what we are here to do: share the Good News of Jesus. When the wintry blast of January hits us in this fashion, we are called to repent.

When the Holy Spirit uses the cold front of the call to repentance, we meet the God who forgives and restores. That is what He does for individual and corporate stewards. When the bills hit, they call us back to Jesus. He is the One who indeed forgives us our shallow thankfulness and leads us into the bounty of His mercy yet again.



WELCOME

Please welcome our newest member, Jameson Todd Koetter, joining us through the waters of baptism in December. Jameson is the son of Nicole Koetter. Welcome Jameson!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Callum Randall Goltl and Kennedy Kathryn Goltl who were baptized here in December. They are the infant children of Cody and Megan Goltl. Proud grandparents are Randall and Carrie Goltl. Congratulations Callum and Kennedy!

LET'S DO SUPPER TOGETHER

Join us young adults (kids included) for a pot luck style dinner together at the church. January 26th at noon where we will cook together, socialize, and kids can play and have fun! This month's meal: cold cut sandwiches. 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.

SCHOOL OF RELIGION FUN NIGHT

Our S.O.R. fun night will be Wednesday January 8th from 6pm to 7:30 pm at TJ's Family Fun Center in McCook. There will be pizza and bowling for the children. For safety purposes, if your child is in Preschool or Kindergarten class, a parent or guardian is required to stay and attend the event with their child. This is a required RSVP to attend. Please use the sign-up sheet found on the buffet in the Narthex, call the church office or notify Kris Hanchera at 308-340-5878 prior to December 30th. Thank you



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, and Karen Berry.

Kinship Pointe: Betty Harms, and Lois Brown.

Highland Park: Harlan & Bernita Reiners and Ken & Dorinda Polly

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

January 5th

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

Lay Reader

Acolyte Emmett Felcher

Acolyte

Powerpoint Cathy Broz

Late Service

Greeter Jane Schuster

Greeter Myra Tietz

Usher Gary Hunkins

Lay Reader

Acolyte Maxson Stewart

Acolyte Zander Stewart

Powerpoint Ben Schow

Live Stream Ian Brown

January 12th

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

Greeter

Usher Harold Carlson

Lay Reader

Acolyte Hunter Kunkee

Acolyte Will Kunkee

Powerpoint Russ Ankersen

Late Service

Greeter Cindy Swanhorst

Greeter Curt Swanhorst

Usher Harold Carlson

Lay Reader

Acolyte Raegan Kisker

Acolyte Ellie Hartwell

Powerpoint Russ Ankersen

Live Stream Blayzon Mooney

January 19th

Elder on duty Harold Carlson
 Organist Charlene Pfanstiel
 Audio Paul Sellers
 Greeter Elaine Polly
 Greeter Jeff Polly
 Usher Eugene Custer

Lay Reader

Acolyte

Acolyte

Powerpoint Tina Cummins

Late Service

Greeter Donna Hall

Greeter Jim Hall

Usher Ben Schow

Lay Reader

Acolyte Kysen Hazlitt

Acolyte Paxton Messinger

Powerpoint

Live Stream Carter Hartwell

January 26th

Elder on duty Fritz Hubert
 Organist Charlene Pfanstiel
 Audio Harold Carlson
 Greeter Nancy Rippen

Greeter

Usher Eugene Custer

Lay Reader

Acolyte Ryker Mooney

Acolyte

Powerpoint Harold Carlson

Late Service

Greeter Pat Penner

Greeter

Usher Curt Swanhorst

Lay Reader

Acolyte Cale DeWester

Acolyte Cason DeWester

Powerpoint Gary Hunkins

Live Stream Tina Cummins



PEACE TALK

If any of you hold a desire to camp, explore, or hike in the wilderness... you would do well to take along a compass. This device does not rely on cell service or battery life to direct an adventurer on the correct path. In fact, this tool was used for centuries to navigate across vast areas of land and sea. I have never utilized one myself but was always amazed at how that needle invariably aligns with the earth's magnetic north. With this reliable instrument in hand, there would be utmost confidence in being able to reach a determined destination. This assurance of not getting lost is priceless. Isn't that true with our spiritual adventure as well? The times we get lost in the mire of life's adventures and not sure where we are going? Failing to overcome the mindset of trying to navigate on our own, just to end up back in the same place we started? The good news as believers is we have a priceless means necessary to navigate these winding roads. With the Bible as our compass, we are pointed down the right path (Psalm 32:8). Finding the direction, we must go by placing our trust in the Lord that He will show us the way (Isaiah 30:21). Then following that direction where the needle points as Jesus Himself assures us that He is our magnetic spiritual north (John 14:6). But wouldn't you know it, the world is constantly placing other attractive paths in our life (Proverbs 4:14-15). Temptations of taking the easy road instead of the more challenging one to which God might be calling. Relying on our own understanding instead of using that compass when the "Y" in the road approaches (Proverbs 3:5-6). Truth to be told, no one among us take a straight path. Poor decisions, peer pressure, unforeseen circumstances... all attribute to the winding road of life. However, we must ask ourselves, "Where is my magnetic north?" What direction is the life I am living taking me? If it happens to be due south, it's never too late to turn back (Joel 2:12-13). My friends, whether you are an adventurer or not, you must use a compass. With God's Word in your hearts and minds, that revealed message will act as a guiding principle in your life. Providing direction and helping you navigate through the tough decisions and challenging circumstances you are daily faced with. When you use this compass, God's word will guide your steps and light up your path (Psalm 119:105). Let Jesus be your magnetic north as He will make your crooked paths straight again (Isaiah 42:16). And the best part of this life's journey? Is knowing where this path will lead... knowing where that needle is pointing... and what priceless joy will be waiting for us there (John 3:16). Dear Lord, help me stay on course as I navigate the crooked roads in my life. Thank You for sending Jesus as my magnetic north and my destination of eternal life with You. Amen.



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

January 2024

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