



'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 2025

Blessed April to you all! The season of Lent has moved into Holy Week, and the celebration of His resurrection is soon upon us!

The Spring Semester is nearly finished, along with my time at the Seminary! Two years have gone by in the blink of an eye! I have classes on Monday and Tuesday this week, then I'm off through Easter and Easter Monday, returning to class on Tuesday, the 22nd. Angela is off for Good Friday and Easter Monday. Last year we spent Holy Week and Easter in Chicago with Angela's brother, his son, and her parents, but this year we are going to take it all in with my field church, Concordia Lutheran in Kirkwood. Spring Break wasn't that long ago but we're both ready for another quick break in the action before it gets really interesting for us!

Call Day on April 30, and then we will celebrate Graduation on May 16. My certificate to preach won't be completed until my vicarage is completed next year, but I took the test for the Master of Arts program and the unofficial results say I am earning that degree, so I will be recognized twice at Graduation (once for the certificate to be completed and once for the Master of Arts degree). I have not really heard anything new as far as placement goes. I am likely going to be in the Rocky Mountain District, likely in Colorado, and on April 30 I

April 14th

will know for certain. Still antsy because we cannot schedule anything for living or moving until April 30, but now we are only two weeks away from knowing! We will have both sets of parents joining us for Call Day, along with a few other family members and friends, so the excitement for it all to arrive continues to mount!

We hope the Peace Lutheran congregation has been blessed in 2025 as we have been by you all! May God richly bless you all through Holy Week and Easter! May the Lord bless the Peace Lutheran congregation through the remainder of Spring and may He shower blessings on the congregation and its families all year long! We are so grateful for your generosity and support towards my schooling and for the prayers you send to us. The Peace congregation and McCook community are always in our prayers!

Craig Wenzlick



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FROM AN ELDER

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

- 2 Corinthians 13:14

May the month of May spring forth joy and peace for you. As we embrace a world blossoming in our midst, may the newness of life be an ever-present reminder of how God is always creating new things. Spring is here, and we witness the arrival of spring flowers, budding trees, and singing song birds. Through these small examples of life, we witness God's gift of renewed life. While we can directly witness God's fruitful earth blossom before our eyes, we need to recognize the beauty that dwells inside of us through the Holy Spirit. For you are God's beloved. May you find joy and peace in your inner beauty and in the Spirit of God that dwells inside of you. For you were created in God's eyes, and with a purpose to share your fruits with others. Reflecting on the beauty that dwells within our hearts, will allow us to acknowledge the Lord, and share His word with others. Even though spring can bring rain, storms, and chaotic weather: life still thrives, and there is birth, and renewal in the midst of it all. God is with you in the storms and torrential rainfalls of life, and I pray He showers you with grit, goodness, grace, and love. Additionally, I urge you to find in your hearts to mourn and honor those during Memorial Day this May who died during military duty to our great nation. Their sacrifices allow us as a congregation to worship in the Lord's house together.

- Nick Nothnagel

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

Jerry Calvin	5/1	Lisa Schoup	5/11	Spencer Rogers	5/18
Sarah Risenhoover	5/1	Jennifer Doucet	5/12	Scott Hanchera	5/19
Austin Thompson	5/2	Patricia Nielsen	5/12	Susan DeJonge	5/20
Samson Ziebell	5/2	Kysen Hazlitt	5/14	Joe Vetrovsky	5/22
Lonnie Felcher	5/3	Jameson Koetter	5/14	Jayde Aufrecht	5/23
Emery Goltl	5/3	Heath Brown	5/15	Vaunda Hyde	5/23
Teddy Felcher	5/5	Allyx Garretson	5/15	Jacob Vetrovsky	5/23
Jeff Polly	5/5	LaVonne Hanchera	5/16	Danielle Schumacher	5/24
Sharon Kircher	5/7	Haven Curl	5/17	Lindsay McConvill	5/25
Harlan Reiners	5/8	Jenna Moench	5/17	Gerald Gohl	5/29
Bradley Goltl	5/10	Linda Richards	5/17	Treven Critchfield	5/31

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Alyssa & Todd Bauer	5/3/2014	11	Ron & Jeanne Rogers	5/23/1971	54
Samantha & Michael Turpin	5/7/2022	3	Harold & Sue Carlson	5/24/2008	17
Tom & Cindy Shields	5/14/1983	42	Drew & Amanda Shields	5/29/2021	4
Joel & Linda Smith	5/18/1991	34	Preston & Amanda Hueftle	5/30/2020	5
Nick & Hanah Nothnagel	5/21/2016	9	Gerald & Kristi Novak	5/30/1981	44
Mitch & Aimee Hazlitt	5/22/2010	15			

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 (April 20th-April 26th)	Month to Date (April 6th-April 26th)	Actual Year to Date (Jan. 5th-April 26th)
Offerings	\$15,406.00	\$26,244.00	\$102,782.00
Expenses	\$1,342.00	\$15,561.00	\$78,613.00



LET'S DO SUPPER TOGETHER

Join us young adults (kids included) for a pot luck style dinner together at the church. May 18th at noon where we will cook together, socialize, and kids can play and have fun! This month's meal: 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.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

There will be a ladies 2 part Bible study "Satisfying My Thirsty Soul". The first part will be 5 weeks, 8am Friday mornings starting June 20th or 9:15am Sunday mornings starting June 22nd. Please contact Hanah at 737-1905 by June 12th.

HOOKED FOR LIFE

Hooked for Life Christian Youth fishing event will be starting May 3rd at Barnett Park from 10am to 2pm. This is for youth ages 3 to 15. Contact Chuck Gray for more information and schedule at 308-340-9801.

COOKBOOKS

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

HELP NEEDED

People are needed to do the live streaming, running PowerPoint and sound on Sunday mornings. If you can push a button, you have what it takes to help. Training and checklists are available.

MAY READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
4th	The 3rd S. of Easter	Acts 9:1-22	Revelation 5:1-14	John 21:1-19
11th	The 4th S. of Easter	Acts 20:17-35	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
18th	The 5th S. of Easter	Acts 11:1-18	Revelation 21:1-7	John 16:12-22 or John 13:31-35
25th	The 6th S. of Easter	Acts 16:9-15	Revelation 21:9-14, 21-27	John 16:23-33 or John 5:1-9



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

Stewardship in the Body of Christ

Baseball season is upon us. The southern images of spring training give way to the pageantry of Opening Day. On that day, the hopes and dreams of every major league team, player and fan focus on doing whatever it takes to get to the Fall Classic, the World Series. Baseball is a secular way that so many of us confess that hope "springs" eternal.

With all of this in mind, baseball can also teach us a new perspective about stewardship. Think about the game itself. Baseball is a team sport. The home team faces off against the visitors. Yet while it is a team game, there are repetitive, individual confrontations that take place within the game. The baseball game cannot start without the individual pitcher against the hitter. Once the batted ball is in play, the battle is between the ability of the fielder against the speed of the baserunner. Once there is a runner on base, an attempt to steal a base pits the runner against the catcher. A base hit into the outfield pits the outfielder against a runner trying to score.

Baseball is a team game with many smaller units at play. Without all those smaller units working together and achieving their tasks, the team will lose. Romans 12 puts our stewardship of the Gospel in a similar setting. The church is certainly described as a team, if you will. Verse 3: *"For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned."* This is where the Body of Christ is really seen as a team. No one member of the baseball team can win the game by themselves. In the same way, no one part of the Body of Christ can accomplish stewardship of the Gospel alone. The pastor cannot. The congregational choir cannot. The lead soprano in the choir cannot. But each of these individuals have been added to the local congregation to be built into a team that can win the victory with Jesus. Verses 4-5: *"For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."* In baseball, the pitcher pitches. The catcher catches. The hitter hits. When a pitcher attempts to hit, the result is usually not very pretty. Catchers often do not excel at running the bases. The hitter usually does not do well when they are sent to the mound to pitch. Every member of the Body of Christ has a unique set of abilities and functions. Not everyone preaches. Not everyone leads. Not everyone sings well. Yet when the congregation assembles together as a team, it can succeed in ways unattainable by the individual. Verses 6-8: *"Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness."* Each member of the team has a role to play. Abilities and opportunities are entrusted to the individual members of the Body of Christ to be used for the ultimate purpose of stewarding the Gospel for the glory of God and the benefit of the neighbor. The one preaching is no more or less important than the others. The one serving or the one teaching, the leader or the merciful one — all are equally important in the faithful stewardship of all that the Lord has entrusted to the Body of Christ. All this stewardship is for the sake of the other!

A baseball team can have five All-Star pitchers but cannot win if the hitters do not hit. The best lineup in the league will struggle if the pitchers cannot get anyone on the other team out. Pitchers need the defense behind them to play well. Coaches need to lead well. When they all work together, you have a winning baseball team. When the Body of Christ has all its members faithfully stewarding the unique individual talents that have been entrusted to them, the victory goes to Jesus! This is the goal of faithful stewardship! It is all about Jesus!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join us for Vacation Bible School June, 9th, 10th & 11th. To register your child or as a volunteer, please go to www.myvbs.org/plcmccook for all the details.



ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

This program support US troops through the ministry of their chaplains. To support the chaplains, we continue sending care package each month until they return home. Three LCMS are among the chaplains we are currently blessed to support: one deployed to the Middle East, one deployed to the Republic of Korea, and one on the Navy ship USS Carl Vinson. To learn more about LCMS chaplains, you may follow the "LCMS ministry to the Armed Forces" on Facebook. Thank you for the many supplies and donations!! Next packing day is Tuesday, May 13 at 11:00 am.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to this year's confirmands, Cale Jaxson DeWester and Emma Lee McConville! Way to go!



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 – Fritz Hubert, Brandon Kuykendall, Harold Carlson, Nick Nothnagel, Lee McConville, Russ Ankersen or Curt Swanhorst.

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 4th

Elder on duty Lee McConville
 Organist
 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 Ian Brown

May 11th

Elder on duty Brandon Kuykendall
 Organist
 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 18th

Elder on duty Harold Carlson
 Organist
 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 Rylee Mooney
 Acolyte
 Acolyte
 Powerpoint
 Live Stream Jackson Hartwell

May 25th

Elder on duty Fritz Hubert
 Organist
 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 Ian Brown



PEACE TALK

Have you ever seen ducks walk in a row? What fun it is when an outdoor adventure provides the opportunity to watch baby ducklings in the spring. And when you do, it would be safe to say, those little waddlers will be lined up in a row behind momma duck. As a matter of fact, when they get older, they tend to fly in a row as well. Ducks just seem to have their... well... ducks in a row. It makes me wonder what it would look like to have my ducks all lined up. How about you, are your ducks in a row? In other words, do you have the aptitude to be well prepared or organized for something that is going to take place? At times, that can be difficult. If you are like me, it doesn't take long before things are misaligned. Why does it seem like our ducks would rather scatter every which way when they should be lining up? As I thought about these well-organized ducks, I couldn't help but think how paramount that becomes in our spiritual life. The moments when things are going well. Then "BAM." Suddenly, it seems like we are herding cats instead of lining up ducks. I'm sure we have all been there. It's fair to question what we can do to keep our faith well organized. Let's ask the Apostle Paul. He will say that we must start with being wise with the use of our time. Otherwise, the evil one will have an opportunity to scatter our ducks (Ephesians 5:16). Using every spare moment we have pointed towards the will of our Lord, to build our faith. Then, Jesus explains that if we are to keep our spiritual ducks in a row, we must be aware of what is involved in keeping the faith (Luke 14:28). Having the presence of mind to learn what is involved in following Jesus. Then, taking flight in a straight line toward our eternal path, which will be found through Him (John 14:6). However, since we are humans, we tend to do things we don't want to do (Romans 7:15-20). In this chaotic world, sin draws us away from keeping our faith aligned, and it is easy to get our feathers ruffled. Finding ourselves at the edge of the road, wondering why we want to cross over to the other side. But God is waiting for us to turn to him in times of need (Psalm 50:15). Casting your cares, your concerns, and your anxious heart on Him (1 Peter 5:7). Then you will find, not only will your ducks be in a row, but you will also be one of God's little ducklings trailing in a straight line behind Jesus. Following His will and design for your life so He can work all things together for you to accomplish His purpose (Romans 8:28). Dear Lord, guard over me when my life gets out of line, and I veer off course. Help me to keep my spiritual ducks in a row and follow you. Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity
 Phil Bamesberger



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May 2025

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 1:00pm Voter's Meeting	5 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	6 9:00am Worship Committee	7	8	9	10 7:00am Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
11 Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 9:15am F.I.R.E. 10:30am Worship	12 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	13 11:00pm Adopt-A-Chaplain packing 2:00pm Hillcrest Bingo 6:00pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	14	15	16	17 7:00am Men's Bible Study 10:00am Baptism
18 8:00am Worship Graduation Breakfast 10:30am Worship Upper Fellowship Hall reservation Lower Fellowship Hall reservation	19 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	20	21	22	23	24 7:00am Men's Bible Study
25 Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 9:15am F.I.R.E. 10:30am Worship Young Adults lunch	26 Office Closed PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	27	28	29 1:30pm Hillcrest 2:30pm Kinship Pointe	30	31 7:00am Men's Bible Study