



'TIDINGS OF PEACE' from

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

TO:

June 2025

TIDINGS OF PEACE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Hello, It's been a while since I last wrote to you. Can you believe the month of June is already upon us? As life seems to be racing by, do you ever wonder how you're going to get it all done? As I hear folks speak of their deliberate efforts to grow in the faith through daily devotions and Bible readings, or listening to the Bible in the car or pickup; I find myself smiling. What a joy it is for me to hear of such deliberate effort.

As I consider these deliberate efforts, I am reminded of a conversation years ago in California with a church member. We were working a church yard sale; a fund raiser for that youth group, when this person challenged me saying; *"We claim that we are a praying church, but I just don't see it. We pray in church, but is that enough?"* As I considered her challenge, I thought to myself, well, I pray all the time, but apparently, she was seeing something else in our people. So, I accepted her challenge; it was 1:00pm. I remember shouting to everyone to "stop what they are doing; it's time to pray." After we finished praying, I extended this person's challenge to the group, saying; *"We as a church are going to pray together every day at this time; 1:00pm!"*

Of course, folks shouted back, saying; *"Great idea! How are we going to do that when we're not together every day at 1:00 in the afternoon?"* I replied, saying; *"Does the Lord here your prayers wherever you are, or does He only hear your prayers in church?"* Well, the answer was obvious, so I added, saying; *"Everybody set the alarm on your phone for 1:00pm; that way,*

every time your alarm sounds, no matter where you are, when you pause to pray, you can know that we are all praying together!" I made a similar announcement in church that Sunday. And the rest is history; when the alarm sounded at 1:00pm, no matter where we were, we stopped what we were doing, and we prayed together as a church family.

I remember a church picnic when everyone's alarms sounding at the same time, and everyone exclaimed, saying; *"It's time to pray!"* What a heartwarming sound to my heart.

I the midst of this busy year, I found myself failing to start our family's day with prayer, so I accepted that person's challenge again. I set the alarm on my phone for 7:20am. Now, when that alarm sounds, someone in the house shouts; *"TIME TO PRAY!"* Then the last-minute hair combing and tooth brushing and backpack packing all stop, we gather together, and we pray as a family. I feel so much better when we pray together as a family before going out into that great big world.

So, I invite you to accept the challenge; if you'd like to pray with our family; set your alarm for 7:20am. But I encourage you to find a time that works for you.

And, may this challenge encourage you to; *"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1Thessalonians 5:16-18)*

Thanks for reading, and may you be blessed to hear among you, shouts of; *"It's time to pray!"*

Pastor

**PLC Shepherd**

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FROM AN ELDER

As the school year comes to an end, and Summer "vacation" starts, sometimes we tend to lose focus on what really matters most. We get so caught up in busy schedules, whether that's your own, or someone else's, we never seem to catch a break. Sometimes we find ourselves "just surviving" and not making time for the important things. Raising a family in a world full of many distractions definitely has its challenges. School activities, sports, and vacations can keep you from maintaining a strong relationship with God. As I write this, we are returning home from winning a state title for Girls' tennis. As much of a win this is, and all the excitement, and gratitude that comes with it, that was not the biggest win. Of course, you are so proud of the girls for their accomplishments, but in the end, keeping them strong in their faith through it all was bigger. On our trip back home, we stopped to eat. Sitting in a packed restaurant with my children and their friends was a blessing in itself, but they remembered to put God first. Setting aside all the joy and excitement of the big win, they asked to pray before eating. In my book, that is a win bigger than any medal or worldly honor. Making God a priority in your family and making sure our children know our Lord and Savior will always be the biggest win we could ever receive. Moments like these remind me to identify what wins are truly important and set my focus on those. *Proverbs 3:5-6, Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your path.* This verse is so impactful to me because it encourages me to seek God's guidance in all aspects of my life and to know and trust that he will lead me in the right direction. In the end, we need to put God first, even in the most difficult busy times, and we will be rewarded with greater relationships with the people around us and the Lord.

-Lee McConville

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

Carol Collicott	6/1	Christien Kuykendall	6/10	Adley Bauer	6/22
Nadine Oetting	6/1	Rebecca Post	6/10	Zachary Hueftle	6/23
Devin Reiners	6/3	Carson Garretson	6/12	Amanda Novak	6/23
Robin Calvin	6/4	Fred Gleason	6/13	Dana Real	6/23
Sue Carlson	6/4	Koltin Hazlitt	6/13	Keith Schoup	6/25
Gene Meints	6/4	Lilyanna Strauch	6/14	Emmalynn Seybold	6/25
Gina Vetrovsky	6/4	Chase Brown	6/15	Dillon Goltl	6/26
Mike Nielsen	6/5	Mitch Hazlitt	6/19	Emmy Moench	6/26
Jane Schuster	6/6	Paul Sellers	6/20	Jennifer Kircher	6/29
Abigail Schneider	6/9	Rivington Gass	6/21		

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Mike & Linda Nielsen	6/3/1972	53	Cody & Kylee DeWester	6/20/2009	16
William & Angela Watts	6/4/2025	9	Chet & Sarah Risenhoover	6/20/1998	27
Tomas & Angela France	6/7/2014	11	Alex & Molly Sharp	6/20/2015	10
Raymond & Judy Schow	6/9/1969	56	Robert & Elizabeth Geisler	6/21/1964	61
Todd & Lisa Koetter	6/10/1982	43	Brent & Candace Rogers	6/22/1996	29
Lee & Lindsay McConville	6/12/2004	21	Gene & Karen Meints	6/30/1972	53
Jerry & Beverly Unger	6/17/1970	55	Richard & Sonja Thompson	6/30/2003	22
Harlan & Bernita Reiners	6/19/1960	65			

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 (May 25th-May 31st)	Month to Date (May 11th-May 31st)	Actual Year to Date (Jan. 5th-May 31st)
Offerings	\$2,483.00	\$12,639.00	\$117,411.00
Expenses	\$6,025.00	\$28,541.00	\$114,817.00



LET'S DO LUNCH TOGETHER

Join us young adults (kids included) for a pot luck style dinner together at the church. June 29th at noon where we will cook together, socialize, and kids can play and have fun! This month's meal: bring your own and meet at the park. 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.

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!

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.

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.

JUNE READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
1st	The 7th S. of Easter	Acts 1:12-26	Revelation 22:1-20	John 17:20-26
8th	The Day of Pentecost	Genesis 11:1-9	Acts 2:1-21	John 14:23-31
15th	The Holy Trinity	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31	Acts 2:14a, 22-36	John 8:48-59
22nd	The 2nd S. after Pentecost	Isaiah 65:1-9	Galatians 3:23-4:7	Luke 8:26-39
29th	The 3rd S. after Pentecost	1 Kings 19:9b-21	Galatians 5:1, 13-25	Luke 9:51-62



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

Rooted in Christ, Growing in Stewardship

The heartland is now awash in various hues of green. The doldrums of winter give way to the colors of spring. Now, the promise of spring gives way to the growth of summer. Fields are planted and sprouted. Gardens are planted. Flowers adorn the beds of neighborhood homes and roadside ditches. Green is the shade of life!

Green growth is also the hue of the faithful steward. The seed of faith planted in human hearts in the waters of Holy Baptism grows as it is nurtured in the Word proclaimed and ingested in the Holy Supper. This faith does indeed save. But our stewardship of the Gospel is also designed to bear fruit for God's glory and the benefit of our neighbor.

To consider this, let us look at the hymn, "Fruitful Trees, the Spirits Sowing" (LSB 691). It is very much a stewardship hymn!

Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing, May we ripen and increase, Fruit to life eternal growing, rich in love and joy and peace.

- The tree of faith is not planted in us by us. It is the Spirit's work! We do not claim the title "steward." Rather, we are created for it (Gen. 1:26–28).

- He is the One who makes it grow in us. The fruits of the Spirit are borne out because we, by grace through faith, are connected to the vine that is Jesus (John 15).

Laden branches freely bearing Gifts the Giver loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by sharing, Patience, kindness, gentleness.

- Our stewardship is NOT about what we do. It is about what the Holy Spirit does in and through us. That is the fruit that we bear. His fruit for His purposes.
- But that fruit is lived out through us. The world sees the fruit of our stewardship of the Gospel in lives lived connected to Word and Sacrament.

Rooted deep in Christ our Master, Christ our pattern and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly faster, Goodness, faith, and self-control.

- Stewards have been created and redeemed to reflect the image of Jesus in the world. He is the pattern. We reflect to others around us the Light of the Gospel He has shone on us.

- This reflection comes when Christ's goodness flows from us to others.

Fruitful trees, the Spirit's tending, May we grow till harvests cease; Till we taste, in life unending, Heaven's love and joy and peace.

- Just as the Spirit has created us for stewardship of the Gospel, so also does He cause our faithfulness! He calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies and KEEPS us in this faithful stewardship of the Gospel.

- The ultimate goal of our faithful stewardship is eternity. For us. For our neighbor. All worked out by the Spirit.

Green is the color of the world right now. It is also the color of our stewardship and it is growing in us as we are connected to the vine, Jesus! God grant our growth in Him!



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.

There are sign up sheets for some items needed in the Narthex.



ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

This program support US troops through the ministry of their chaplains. To support the chaplains, we continue to send care packages each month. We attach a note with a bible verse or words of encouragement to each item in the care packages. Thank you for the many supplies and donations!! Next packing day is Tuesday, June 17 at 1:00 pm.

BECOMING BESTIES WITH YOUR BIBLE

High school and Jr. High students can get to know the bible better on June 29th. High school students will be meeting at 9:15. Jr. High students will meet at 5pm. Please RSVP to Hanah at 737-1915 if you plan on attending.

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.

SUMMER SCRIPTURE CHALLENGE

The youth are challenged to memorize 10 verses this summer. They can get a list from Hanah if they don't already have one. Don't forget to turn in your progress to Hanah to collect your prizes!

www.plcmccook.org



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.

www.plcmccook.org



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

June 1st

Elder on duty Lee McConville
 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
 Acolyte
 Powerpoint Ben Schow
 Live Stream Tina Cummins

June 8th

Elder on duty Brandon Kuykendall
 Organist K.C. Eckhardt
 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 Risenhooover
 Acolyte
 Acolyte
 Powerpoint Russ Ankersen
 Live Stream Jackson Hartwell

June 15th

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
 Acolyte
 Powerpoint Tina Cummins
Late Service
 Greeter Donna Hall
 Greeter Jim Hall
 Usher Ben Schow
 Lay Reader Rylee Mooney
 Acolyte
 Acolyte
 Powerpoint
 Live Stream Ian Brown

June 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
 Acolyte
 Powerpoint Gary Hunkins
 Live Stream Tina Cummins

June 29th

Elder on duty Nick Nothnagel
 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
 Acolyte
 Acolyte
 Powerpoint
 Live Stream Jackson Hartwell



PEACE TALK

Why did the chicken cross the road? This timeless question never seems to lose its luster. Presumably since the answers to this age-old dilemma are quite plentiful. As we debate over the answer to this question, keep in mind that the outcome is derived from none other than, "a bird brain." Does he just want to get to the other side? Maybe it is much too far to walk around. Or could it be to prove to a skunk that it can be done? Since these possibilities are somewhat mundane, I thought I would seek answers from a few ancient wise theologians. Saint Augustine, who crossed roads with many Christian's, said this about the question at hand... "Well, he was a bad egg from the moment he was laid." John Calvin gives an analysis of how he sees it, "The chicken is thus predestined to cross the road." Then I couldn't help but to ask Martin Luther. He adds, "The chicken is justified in crossing the road by faith alone, holding fast to 95 reasons not to pay tolls to big bird." Probably too many "chicken" nuggets of information. How am I going to find the truth when these erratic answers are ruffling my feathers? I'm sure if I sought wisdom in today's world, a free-range mentality would unveil a whole new set of cackles. Even though this is all in good fun, it made me realize how complex asking one simple question can reveal such a myriad of workable quips. We might do well to look beyond the humor and focus on the truth that the chicken did in fact cross the road. Does it really matter why? The reality of the chicken crossing the road, justifies whatever situation in turn led to its decision. For whatever reason that may be. How about you? Have you crossed any roads lately? It could be one of many roads including recovery, goals, or fulfillment. Truth to be told, there are a ton of roads that will be crossed at some point in your life. Therefore, if someone would ask, "why did you cross the road...?" Just the fact of crossing that road justifies the "why." God is waiting for you to cross another one right now, (Jeremiah 6:16). He won't ask why. He just wants you to cross the road and follow Him, (John 14:6). Following Jesus down the Romans path to salvation. Including constructions zones of repentance (Romans 3:23). Avoiding deadly detours (Romans 6:23). And keeping the navigation set on Jesus for your salvation, (Romans 10:9). Then you will be prepared to answer the question, "why did you cross the road?" With only one answer to give. To get to the other side. The side where Jesus will give you hope and a future, (Jeremiah 29:11). The side where Jesus bestows His grace of forgiveness upon you, (Ephesians 1:7). And best of all, the side of the road that will provide you with a promise of eternal life with Him, (John 3:16). Dear Lord, thank you for showing me the "why" when you took me under your wing.



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June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 10:30am Worship	2 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	3 9:00am Worship Committee	4	5	6	7 7:00am Men's Bible Study
8 Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 10:30am Worship	9 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	10 2:00pm Hillcrest Bingo 6:00pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	11	12	13	14 7:00am Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL					
15 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 10:30am Worship	16 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	17 1:00pm Adopt-A-Chaplain packing	18	19	20 8:00am Women's Bible study	21
	PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE					
22 Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 10:30am Worship	23	24	25	26	27 8:00am Women's Bible study	28
	PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE					
29 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 10:30am Worship Young Adults meal 5:00pm Jr. High study	30 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE					