



'TIDINGS OF **PEACE**' from

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

TO:

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July 2025

# TIDINGS OF **PEACE**

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

LUTHERAN CHURCH

## The Fruit of the Spirit

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23



We would like to thank everyone that volunteered to help with our VBS programs this year. In any way that you helped, your contribution to our children's ministry is greatly appreciated. Thank you again. Kris Hanchera, Jan Hubert, Stephanie Dorothy, and Cindy Swanhorst.

**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  
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**Congregational President**

Curt Swanhorst  
curtswanhorst@gmail.com

**Congregational Vice President**

Russ Ankersen

**Elder Chairman**

Fritz Hubert

**Council Secretary**

Linda Smith

**Treasurer**

Melissa Hanchera  
plctreasurer1908@gmail.com

**Financial Secretary**

Sarah Risenhoover  
peacefin28@gmail.com

**THANK YOU**

We would like to thank everyone for all the cards, food, and especially the prayers over the last three months. Everything was very much appreciated. Our church family is a very special group of people. Victor and Sandy Lauer

**ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN**

This program support US troops through the ministry of their chaplains. A priority of this program is send care packages to chaplains in areas of greatest tension. Following that guideline, packages are packed at Peace Lutheran for chaplains in Syria, Kuwait, Iraq, Korea, Poland, and a Navy ship, the USS Carl Vinson. The chaplains not only give out these boxes of supplies at their offices, they take many supplies with them on their visits to troops positioned in remote areas. Supplies needed include hard candy, small boxes of powdered drink mix, crackers, Ramen noodles, sunflower seeds, protein bars and peanuts. Thank you for your many supplies and donations!! Everyone is welcome. The next packing day is Monday, July 14 at 1:00pm.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Looking for volunteers to help with our School of Religion children's ministry starting in September. We are in need of teachers for all grades and helpers for the Pre-K, Kindergarten age group. If you could help in any way (part time, full time or a substitute), please reach any board of Education member, (Melissa Critchfield, Cindy Swanhorst or Daphne Tidyman), or contact Kris Hanchera. Thank you for your consideration.

**JULY BIRTHDAYS**

Avery Doucet	7/1	Cason DeWester	7/16	David May	7/24
Jack Seybold	7/1	Cody DeWester	7/17	Virginia Orman	7/25
Cindy Soucek	7/2	Easton Gillen	7/17	Laney Peters	7/26
Jaylee Dyer	7/3	Grant Pfanstiel	7/17	Karli Swink	7/26
Kayla Koetter	7/4	Tristen Watts	7/17	Alex Sharp	7/27
Kover Schumacher	7/4	Michael Chipman	7/19	Roger Stupka	7/27
Chelsey Hartwell	7/6	Karl Hueftle	7/19	Sharriea Burke	7/28
Dalton Downing	7/7	Melissa Hanchera	7/20	Deb Lauer	7/28
Cindy Swanhorst	7/8	Sonja Thompson	7/20	Kristi Novak	7/29
Hannah Goltl	7/11	Richard Thompson	7/21	Brigitta Post	7/29
Dennis Wudtke	7/11	Charles Coleman	7/22	Nate Schneider	7/30
Dawn Callander	7/13	Lila Leibrandt	7/22	Cathy Broz	7/31
Tyler Loop	7/15	Mark Cummins	7/24	Allee Malleck	7/31

**JULY ANNIVERSARIES**

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Matthew & Jenna Moench	7/1/2017	8	Andrew & Bobbie Ziebell	7/21/2012	13
Kiley & Caitlin Roundtree	7/2/2011	14	Ron & Shirley Novotny	7/23/1978	47
Nate & Sarah Schneider	7/8/2006	19	Mark & Tina Cummins	7/27/1991	34
Chris & Breann Cerda	7/10/2015	10	Phil & Janice Barnesberger	7/28/1979	46
Luke & Hannah Curl	7/10/2021	4	Jim & Susan DeJonge	7/29/1967	58
James & Daphne Tidyman	7/17/1999	26	Randy & Barb Hoffmann	7/31/1982	43
Dillon & Allyx Garretson	7/19/2008	17			

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 (June 22nd-June 28th)	Month to Date (June 1st-June 28th)	Actual Year to Date (Jan. 5th-June 28th)
Offerings	\$3,104.00	\$13,505.00	\$130,916.00
Expenses	\$9,318.00	\$21,820.00	\$136,637.00



## 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!

## 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!

## 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.

## JULY READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
6th	The 4th S. after Pentecost	Isaiah 66:10-14	Galatians 6:1-10, 14-18	Luke 10:1-20
13th	The 5th S. after Pentecost	Leviticus 18:1-5, 19:9-18	Colossians 1:1-14	Luke 10:25-37
20th	The 6th S. after Pentecost	Genesis 18:1-14	Colossians 1:21-29	Luke 10:38-42
27th	The 7th S. after Pentecost	Genesis 18:17-33	Colossians 2:6-19	Luke 11:1-13



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

### Faithfulness: The Stewardship Standard

*"Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful" (1 Cor. 4:2).*

What is the standard to which a steward is held? Ask the average person, and they might talk about percentages, tithes, and commitments. Too often, the default mode of measuring stewards is by how much and how frequently they give. This is not helpful. Measuring activity without any connection to baptismal identity is a recipe for disaster. It can either breed a sense of superiority and self-righteousness or create a culture of scarcity and despair. Neither outcome is godly or helpful.

This is not to say that stewardship should be regarded as "no big deal." St. Paul, within his discussion of the ministry to which he has been called, sets the standard of accountability for the steward: faithfulness. This removes any sense of superiority or self-righteousness and dispels scarcity and despair. When a steward manages what the Lord has entrusted to them — resources and all aspects of life — for God's purposes, the focus is not on how much or how frequently they give.

This standard reflects the stewardship portrayed in the Gospels where Jesus entrusts varying amounts, each according to ability. The commended stewards were recognized for their faithfulness in their vocation, not the amounts they managed. Conversely, the condemned stewards were not castigated for their lack of performance but for their lack of faithfulness.

What does this mean for the steward in the pew? The Lord has entrusted you with various things. Luther captures them in his explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed and the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer. The familiar couplets of food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals and all possessions are the Lord's, and He has entrusted them to you for His purpose. This trust brings an active realization of thanksgiving.

This active thanksgiving is our stewardship. It can be distilled into two questions that the steward regularly needs to answer:

1. How has God blessed me?
2. How is He calling me to respond?

The first question is quite simple to answer: if the Lord has entrusted something to you, it is a blessing. This blessing is for God's glory and the benefit of your neighbor. The second question is more challenging to measure; it is not about percentages and charts. Instead, it is about a life of thanksgiving that flows from the mercies of God revealed in Jesus Christ. This thanksgiving starts at and flows from the cross and the empty tomb. Our stewardship of the Gospel drives our stewardship of everything else.

The standard, then, is faithfulness. Faithfulness flows from eyes focused on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. It does not come from our efforts but through the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives, through Word and Sacrament. It begins at the altar in the Divine Service but extends into the world — from hearth and home to workplace and classroom, from commerce to leisure. The mercy of God, freely given in Jesus, leads us to demonstrate a faithfulness that reveals to others the same mercy we have received in Jesus.

This faithfulness cannot be measured empirically. It is simply allowing the Holy Spirit to work in and through us for the glory of God and the benefit of our neighbor. Weekly. Daily. Faithfully.





## FROM AN ELDER

July is here, and to most people that means starting off by celebrating our independence day on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. We may find ourselves reflecting on those who sacrifice their lives, so we can enjoy our daily freedoms of this world. Daily sacrifices are made for us to be called “free people”. We may also find ourselves looking at the monthly calendar, and noticing the endless list of things to get done before summer is over, and kids go back to school, or our last shot of vacation before the cooler months arrive.

As we juggle our daily (stressful) lives of summer, we tend to forget about the true freedoms we have in our great nation. The freedom of choice, freedom of attitudes towards each other, and the freedom to proclaim God’s everlasting love. Our daily choices of what to do, or the next thing that needs to be done, we can sometimes find ourselves straying off of God’s path. As a nation, we are struggling. We’re struggling to fully realize what freedom really means and how it’s supposed to work in every area of life.

There is always an ongoing battle we fight, which is not the war for independence, but the battle against ourselves. We tend to place a high value on the right to live life the way “I” see fit, the way that makes the most sense to “me”, that way that makes “me” the happiest. From this perspective, my freedom is about me and what I want to do. This perspective is simple human nature. There is nothing wrong with living your life your way if you do in with God in mind. However, don’t limit yourself to simply using your freedom for your own benefit.

We all desire to be free, to be whole, to conquer fear and worry. In order for us to solve this constant battle, we must first freely choose Christ. Jesus has already given us all a chance at eternal freedom with his victory over death. Choosing to follow God, will give us all the ultimate freedom and entry into Heaven. *Romans 6:7 “For one who has died has been set free from sin”. 2 Corinthians 3:17 “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom”. Jesus said, “You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free”.*

We can truly celebrate our spiritual freedom daily with God. Remember, that at the heart of freedom is the ability to enjoy, experience, and participate in whatever God has provided. By doing so, we can eventually celebrate our freedom from sin in daily devotion, and eternal victory over death. Sacrificing daily to kneel and pray to God about any of our current freedoms that can bring burdens to our souls. Consider a life of eternal freedom, amazing grace, and unfailing love. Serve others in need, serve/worship the Lord in His house, and God will grant you the ultimate freedom in Heaven with Him . . . which is eternal life.



## 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

**July 6th**

Elder on duty	Lee McConville
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Grant Pfanstiel
Greeter	Charlene Pfanstiel
Usher	Gene Meints
Lay Reader	Harold Carlson
Acolyte	Emmett Felcher
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Cathy Broz
<b>Late Service</b>	
Greeter	Jane Schuster
Greeter	Myra Tietz
Usher	Gary Hunkins
Lay Reader	Nick Nothnagel
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Ben Schow
Live Stream	Jackson Hartwell

**July 13th**

Elder on duty	Brandon Kuykendall
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	Russ Ankersen
Greeter	Deb Shields
Greeter	
Usher	Harold Carlson
Lay Reader	Randon Peters
Acolyte	Will Kunkee
Acolyte	Hunter Kunkee
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
<b>Late Service</b>	
Greeter	Cindy Swanhorst
Greeter	Curt Swanhorst
Usher	Harold Carlson
Lay Reader	Sarah Risenhoover
Acolyte	Raegan Kisker
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Live Stream	Tina Cummins

**July 20th**

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	Cason DeWester
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins
<b>Late Service</b>	
Greeter	Donna Hall
Greeter	Jim Hall
Usher	Ben Schow
Lay Reader	Rylee Mooney
Acolyte	Paxton Messinger
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	
Live Stream	Ryker Mooney

**July 27th**

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
<b>Late Service</b>	
Greeter	Pat Penner
Greeter	
Usher	Curt Swanhorst
Lay Reader	Curt Swanhorst
Acolyte	Maxson Stewart
Acolyte	Zander Stewart
Powerpoint	Gary Hunkins
Live Stream	Ian Brown



## PEACE TALK

Lost and found to the rescue! Have you ever lost something, only to find it again where you least expect it? Ecstatic jubilation when the lost is found. This sentiment is likely familiar if you have ever lost your cell phone, wallet, or parked car. We all have a story that can be told. Recalling that time where you searched for something high and low from a few minutes, to hours, days, or even weeks on end. Only to find what you are looking for right where you left it. Realistically, losing something can trigger anxiety levels that can be quite intense. Setting off emotions of irritation, frustration, and outright panic. Wouldn't it be dandy if the lost and found department would just magically come to your rescue? Finding lost items always fills me with glee, just like a child reunited with a lost stuffie. It makes me ponder... why do I feel so elated when the tangible things in my life reappear? Alternatively, why do I not have these same anxious emotions when I get lost in poor choices or bad circumstances? Why doesn't my heart race when I lose interest in spending time in God's Word or attending worship? How can something be found when there is no motivation to even look for it? If this describes what you have lost right now, I encourage you to let God come to the rescue. Listen to Him in places you might not expect. It is only in Him you will find refuge, renewed strength, and hope (Psalm 62:5-8). It is Jesus who will find you when you wander (Matthew 18:12-14). Yes, it will be our Good Shepherd who will rejoice the moment the lost is found (Luke 15:8-10). With Jesus, no matter if it takes a few minutes, a few hours, days, or even weeks on end... you will experience an even greater joy than you can ever imagine when you find what you have lost (Luke 15:11-31). My friends, Jesus seeks those who want to be found. So, if you find yourself "lost", wandered off, or taken a wrong turn somewhere along the way in your relationship with God... Know that He is looking for you to rejoin the flock. In your wanderings, He is following close by, never once is He going to leave you stranded (Hebrews 13:5). It may be a common concern to think that Jesus will leave you behind, but He won't. He will seek you out when you stray and provide you with an eternal hope (Luke 19:10). The "Great Finder" is consistently at work in your life, attentive to your minor and major losses. Just trust in Him. In fact, trust in Jesus in everything you cannot find, and He will help. Do not give up or lose hope, for the lost is forever found with His eternal promise (John 10:28). Dear Lord, help me when I am lost and I will rejoice with you when I am found. Amen.



## Peace Lutheran Church

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Facebook: Peace Lutheran McCook NE

YouTube: Peace Lutheran Church McCook

# July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 9:00am Worship Committee	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study
<b>6</b> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 10:30am Worship	<b>7</b>  PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	<b>8</b> 2:00pm Hillcrest Bingo 6:00pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 1:00pm Bible Study	<b>11</b> 8:00am Women's Bible study	<b>12</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study
<b>13 Communion Sunday</b> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 10:30am Worship	<b>14</b> 1:00pm Adopt-A-Chaplain packing  PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 1:00pm Bible Study	<b>18</b> 8:00am Women's Bible study  PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	<b>19</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study  National Youth Gathering
<b>20</b> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 10:30am Worship	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 1:00pm Bible Study	<b>25</b> 8:00am Women's Bible study	<b>26</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study
National Youth Gathering						
PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE						
<b>27 Communion Sunday</b> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 10:30am Worship Young Adults lunch	<b>28</b>  PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 1:00pm Bible Study		