

# TIDINGS OF PEACE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

LUTHERAN CHURCH



'TIDINGS OF **PEACE**' from

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

TO:

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Hello again, it's been another month, and change is in the air. But how do you feel about change? In many ways, change is inevitable; the Laborday Weekend seems to mark a big change with the official end of summer, or at least the reduction of summer outdoor activities; kids are back in school, football season is starting, and family schedules are filling up

The new school year reminds me how much I don't like change. With both of our boys moving up a grade, each is beginning the school year at new school locations; that means change; drop-off and pick-up routines have changed—new teachers—new classrooms—and with them, new expectations—and new hopes and dreams, and a whole lot of uncertainty.

I think that's why I have a hard time with change; in my mind change is synonymous with uncertainty. I'm a person who likes things mapped out. I like to know where I'm going, and how I'm getting there. And, more importantly, in my mind, I need to know when and how will I return?

Story: when Tanna and I were dating, I learned that her family liked to go for drives on the weekend. One Saturday Tanna invited me to go along. I asked; "Where are we going?" She replied, saying; "I don't know?" I said; "Can't you ask your dad where we're going, since he's driving?" To that Tanna replied, saying; "He doesn't know either. That's the fun of it, we just drive to see where we end up." And I remember shaking my head and exclaiming; "I'm not getting into that car!"

Eventually I did go with them; the first time was hard for me, but over time, though I often still ask where we are going, I have learned to find a certain amount of enjoyment in the unknow outcome of just going for a drive.

Circumstances in our lives often

come with much uncertainty, and the ways our lives often cross paths with the world can leave us wondering where this ride will take us. But one thing I've come to know for certain, is that in the midst of the uncertainties of change, the Lord's tender care never changes, and though I don't know where this or that change will take me, He knows; and though His plans are different than mine, His plans are always good.

Perhaps the Lord has set before you a path you don't want to travel—a path filled with change and uncertainty—perhaps it is a path of which you have no choice but to travel.

The enemy would tempt you to think that the Lord has abandoned you to travel that path alone, but He has not.

For the longest time, change, in my mind, marked only the end of something that I did not want to end. But then a wise person reminded me that when change occurs for the believer; when something comes to an end, that something also marks the beginning of something new. And then that very wise person challenged me, saying; "The Lord will never leave you nor forsake you, but sometimes He does give you 'a new normal'."

If you find yourself in the midst of a "new normal," not knowing where this path will take you, if the Lord seems different than He has been in the past; please know that the Lord will never leave you or forsake you. You may not know where this path is taking you, but you can be certain that He knows, and He will reveal it to you in His good timing.

Thanks for reading.  
Pastor

*(Jeremiah 29:11-12) "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me, and I will listen to you.'"*

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**SCHOOL OF RELIGION**

Please join us October 29<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 7:30 pm at Peace Lutheran Church. Dress up in costumes and or decorate your vehicle. Bring treats for the tricksters. Please consider helping so our teachers with young families can celebrate with their own children.

**A HAZE** ON THE FAR HORIZON,  
**THE INFINITE TENDER SKY,**  
**THE RIPE RICH TINT OF THE CORNFIELDS,**  
**AND THE WILD GEESE SAILING BY,**  
**AND ALL OVER UPLAND AND LOWLAND,**  
**THE CHARM OF THE GOLDEN ROD, –**  
**SOME OF US CALL IT AUTUMN,**  
**AND OTHERS CALL IT GOD.**

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Kapri Loop	9/2	Monte Hazlitt	9/15	Elfriede Keen	9/21
Boden Goltl	9/5	Marilyn Masters	9/16	Janet Barnesberger	9/22
Creighton Shields	9/6	Donna Rawn	9/16	Almina Hueflte	9/22
Lucas Curl	9/7	Connor Tidyman	9/16	Jessica Gramins	9/23
Everett Gass	9/7	Shirley Novotny	9/17	Sarah Schneider	9/23
Jan Hubert	9/8	Stephanie Dorothy	9/18	Aiden Bauer	9/24
Victor Lauer	9/8	Callum Goltl	9/18	Susan Chipman	9/25
Kylee Malleck	9/9	Kennedy Goltl	9/18	Jackson Hartwell	9/25
Casey Baker	9/10	Dorene Hoffman	9/18	Doris Leibbrandt	9/25
Jeanne Rogers	9/10	Sarah Calvin	9/19	Lydia Risenhoover	9/25
Arlo Nothnagel	9/12	K.C. Eckhardt	9/19	Payton Messinger	9/26
Beverly Unger	9/12	Doris Friehe	9/19	Sue Ankersen	9/28
Randy Hoffmann	9/13	Robert Geisler	9/19	Georgia Lutzi	9/30
Ryker Mooney	9/14				

**SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Lance & Denise Gillen	9/1/1990	35	Nikki & Logan Hamilton	9/22/2012	13
Duane & Pat Fortkamp	9/5/1971	54	Victor & Sandy Lauer	9/23/1978	47
Danielle & Dylan Schumacher	9/10/2016	9	Gabe & Melissa Critchfield	9/24/2001	24
David & Rebecca Seybold	9/11/2010	15	Keith & Nadine Oetting	9/29/1973	52

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 (August 24th-August 30th)	Month to Date (August 3rd-August 30th)	Actual Year to Date (Jan. 5th-August 30th)
Offerings	\$2,194.00	\$21,422.00	\$177,742.00
Expenses	\$1,333.00	\$27,554.00	\$190,940.00



We would like to thank Chase Brown (and Renee) for the donation of school bags and supplies to fill them. Thanks Chase for boxing them up. We will be delivering over 35 filled bags to the Orphan Grain Train this month. Bob and Joann

### 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.

### SEPTEMBER READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
7th	<b>The 13th S. after Pentecost</b>	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14:25-35
14th	<b>The 14th S. after Pentecost</b>	Ezekiel 34:11-24	1 Timothy 1:5-17	Luke 15:1-10
21st	<b>The 15th S. after Pentecost</b>	Amos 8:4-7	1 Timothy 2:1-15	Luke 16:1-15
28th	<b>The 16th S. after Pentecost</b>	Amos 6:1-7	1 Timothy 3:1-13 or 1 Timothy 6:6-19	Luke 16:19-31



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

### Work and Keep

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it" (Genesis 2:15).

Genesis chapters one and two are familiar to us. We know them best as the Creation Account. Chapter one is where we hear the familiar, "let there be...and there was" directives. Chapter two gives us the account of Adam (the man) being formed from the "Adamah" (the dust) and becoming a living being when he receives the breath of life in his nostrils. Because of this, it would be quite easy to simply lump these two chapters into the category of creation accounts.

But do not be too hasty in this! While these two chapters do faithfully relate to us the account of creation, they also give us the creation of the "office" of steward. The man, created in the image of God in Genesis 1 and formed from the dust in Genesis 2, is created for a distinct purpose. He is created to be a steward of the perfect and beautiful creation that the Lord has made! In fact, this is THE reason that man was made. He — and we — were created in the image of God to be stewards of God's creation.

This purpose is spelled out in verse 15 of Genesis 2. The steward has one job, with two purposes. It is fitting that in the month that our nation marks Labor Day, we consider the task of steward. The first purpose of the job of steward is to work. The steward is the caretaker of the Garden. Being a steward is work! Before the fall into sin, this was not an onerous task. But it was an active thing.

Imagine being a farmer in the Garden of Eden! Work would be only harvest. No plowing. No planting. No cultivating. No weeding. The perfect garden that the Lord had made would simply produce automatically to provide for man, woman, and all living beings!

But there is a second task in verse fifteen. The word "keep" is not just a synonym for work. This second task is related to defending. This garden, holy by virtue of its being called into existence by a holy God, needed to be defended. Here is where the vocation of steward becomes priestly. The steward was to defend the perfect and holy garden from that which was unholy. Later in the Old Testament, this was the task of the priests in the tabernacle and temple. They were to defend with their lives the Holy of Holies. This too is the labor of stewardship. It is a labor that calls the steward to be willing to put the garden before life!

Stewardship was always work. It only got burdensome after the original steward, Adam, failed to defend the garden from the alien word of the serpent. But this was not a failure of harvest. It was a failure to defend the garden! As a result, all work that followed that failure became burdensome.

The steward failed but was never fired. That is why we have such an issue with stewardship to this day. We continue to live out a pre-fall vocation in a fallen world as failed stewards. That is why we in the church need to be reminded of our vocational call to be stewards. We so easily forget that this world is not ours to do with as we please. Nothing is ours. We are but stewards entrusted with managing the creation for the glory of God and the benefit of the neighbor.

It is a daunting task. But it is the one to which we have been called. We cannot do it on our own. Apart from the grace of God shared with us through Jesus, we would be burdened to the point of temporal and eternal death. But the Holy Spirit calls us by the Gospel! This Gospel connects us to the fertile garden of Christ's Work on our behalf. Now we are stewards of that grace! The Holy Spirit works this in and through us today and every day.

This is the work of the church. It is also the work of the individual steward. The Lord has placed us in the "garden" with the same twofold purpose: work and keep! Enjoy your labor. For in the Lord, our labor is never in vain!





### ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

This program support US troops through the ministry of their chaplains. We fill care packages with snacks, bible verses, and notes to thank to them for their service. Thank you for your donations of supplies for the boxes and money for the postage! **Everyone is welcome to help pack.** The next packing day is Tuesday, September 23 at 11:00 am.

### LET'S DO LUNCH TOGETHER

Join us young adults (kids included) for a pot luck style dinner together at the church. September 28th at noon where we will cook together, socialize, and kids can play and have fun! 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.

### FIREWORKS HOURS

If you worked at the Fireworks stand this year, please contact the church office in order to get your time designated to the correct account. Thanks!

### 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.



## 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

## September 7th

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	Emmett Felcher
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Cathy Broz
<b>Late Service</b>	
Greeter	Jane Schuster
Greeter	Myra Tietz
Usher	Gary Hunkins
Lay Reader	Nick Nothnagel
Acolyte	Paxton Messinger
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Ben Schow
Live Stream	Jackson Hartwell

## September 14th

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

## September 21st

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	Maxson Stewart
Acolyte	Zander Stewart
Powerpoint	
Live Stream	Ryker Mooney

## September 27th

Elder on duty	Fritz Hubert
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	Nancy Rippen
Greeter	
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Russ Ankersen
Acolyte	Ellie Hartwell
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Harold Carlson
<b>Late Service</b>	
Greeter	Pat Penner
Greeter	
Usher	Curt Swanhorst
Lay Reader	Curt Swanhorst
Acolyte	Avery Davidson
Acolyte	Cooper Davidson
Powerpoint	Gary Hunkins
Live Stream	Ian Brown



## PEACE TALK

What shall I wear today? That is a thought that crosses our mind as we begin each day. Are there any dress codes? Is it cold outside? Am I going to get dirty? Obviously, a decision will be made depending on the task or job you are getting ready to encounter. Regardless of your situation, what you wear matters. If you think about it, as you dressed today you made a choice, intentional or not, that will communicate a message. No matter what you decided to pull out of the drawer or closet, it can define who you are. Whether you are conservative, have cultural parameters, or just don't care what people think of your attire... your "dress code" is a message that will reveal your identity. The same is true of our spiritual dress code. Paul reminds us through his letter to the Colossians, that as God's people, we are asked to clothe ourselves appropriately. He encourages us to wear compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and love (Colossians 3:12). As a Christian, deliberate or not, these virtues should be identifiable by someone when they look at you. That's why when you look in your Christian closet, you will see that it is full of attire we are asked to wear. So, if you get dressed in too big of a hurry and find you put on your old self, you must go back to the closet and find your new self to put on (Ephesians 4:22-24). While you are there, hanging front and center you will also find the clothing for humility (1 Peter 5:5). And no matter what your vocation, before you leave the house you are to clothe yourself with the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18). How you choose to represent yourself by the spiritual clothing you wear will characterize your "dress code." A choice to define yourself by what you put on each day that will represent Christ through you. But as we all know, our clothing can get tattered and worn. We find that we are quick to anger and not so quick to forgive at times. Our outfit that displays humility, gentleness, and patience gets soiled. We must therefore stop in our tracks and ask... Can people see Christ woven into the fabric of my life? Do I resemble the teen halted at the door by their mom saying, "You can't wear that to school"? Through faith, God gives us all the attire and direction we need for His dress code. We just need to remember who we belong to and not go about our day in constant casual Friday mode. Now, as you dress each morning, also consider your spiritual attire. Don't dress to fit into the world (Romans 12:2). Or try to clothe yourself like those who do not follow Jesus (2 Corinthians 6:14). Instead, clothe yourself with Christ (Romans 13:14). For through Him is the dress code that will display an eternal message. Dear Lord, clothe me in Your righteousness and empower me to share Your love with others today. May people see You through my life and through the clothes that I choose to wear. Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity  
Phil Bamesberger

