



'TIDINGS OF **PEACE**' from

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

TO:

Three vertical lines for an address.

October 2025

# TIDINGS OF **PEACE**

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

*H*ello again,

As I write to you, I am excited about a new opportunity for me at Peace Lutheran; as you may know, I had the privilege of attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer. While there I was reminded of how much fun working with the youth had been for me in the past. As part of that gathering, students and leaders are challenged with the question; "Now What?" Having had a great experience with 20,000 other youth, what will you take home with you—how can you make a difference in your own faith life, and in the world?

With that said; upon my return, I asked the leadership of Peace Lutheran if I can get more involved with our youth—they agreed. The board of education suggested I work with middle-school students—to try to rekindle something called S.P.A.R.K. So, beginning in late September I am involved in Sunday School for 5th through 8th grade students. If you have a student this age, or know of a student this age, please consider bringing them to Sunday School on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:15; if every Sunday doesn't

work, that's ok; please bring them when you can.

It is my prayer, and I ask you also to pray, that Sunday morning is just the beginning; that with the Lord's help, and your support, we might also do some things off-campus; fun things, as well as service projects in the community. Along that line, please mark December 14th on your Calander as we are working with the High School Youth to go Christmas Caroling.

In conclusion, I ask you to pray for our youth, and all our children, that the Lord would use us, all the adults at Peace Lutheran Church, in mighty ways to support and encourage our children in the faith He has given us

And lastly, I ask you to pray for our Sunday morning adult Bible class, as my transitioning into the middle-school ministry has left a vacancy. May God provide a teacher, or team of teachers to lead our adults in the way we should go. And I thank those who have stepped forward in this time of transition.

Thanks for reading.  
Pastor



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**FROM AN ELDER**

With all education areas from preschool to college and beyond, it has become a busy time for families and individuals. With sports activities, classes in session, little time is available for recreation, vacations and relaxed activities. But don't let that keep you away from what is necessary to lead a "normal" life!

While we often find that we don't have the time to do what we want or need to do, something generally has to give. And sadly, that often carries over into our spiritual life, with not always finding the time to be in the Word. We sometimes feel that we have to allocate our time, both in our everyday activities, but also in our spiritual life.

While God is never too busy for us, sadly we can't say the same thing for ourselves. With all the bible studies that are available, we should be able to find something that will fit. The men's bible study meets in the basement, the women's study meets upstairs and the adult study meets in the fellowship hall, all on Sunday morning. There is Sunday school offered for most elementary ages also. There is a bible study that meets on Friday, one that meets on Monday, the F.I.R.E. group meets regularly and recently a new junior high bible study has started. Men's bible breakfast meets on Saturday morning at a local restaurant.

School of Religion is going well on Wednesday evening, as well as confirmation class. The preschool is in operation, with Pastor Felcher making regular visits with them.

The Holy Spirit is alive and well within our congregation. With everything available, we should allow ourselves to let the Holy Spirit word within each of us. Our congregation is viable, with each one joining in.

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

|                    |      |                   |       |                     |       |
|--------------------|------|-------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| Benjamin Vetrovsky | 10/1 | Marilyn Unger     | 10/11 | Randon Peters       | 10/21 |
| Wade Hamilton      | 10/2 | Lois Brown        | 10/12 | Delaney Critchfield | 10/23 |
| Iva Fritz          | 10/3 | Mary Hazlitt      | 10/14 | Griffin Goltl       | 10/25 |
| Velma Kircher      | 10/3 | Danten Downing    | 10/15 | James Sprague       | 10/26 |
| Candace Rogers     | 10/3 | Alexis Koetter    | 10/16 | Linda Smith         | 10/29 |
| Sandy Lauer        | 10/4 | Tom Gohl          | 10/17 | Joann Nemechek      | 10/30 |
| Ron Rogers         | 10/5 | Alexander Nielsen | 10/20 | Chuck Gray          | 10/31 |
| Mary Lou Hanson    | 10/7 | Piper Sprague     | 10/20 | Teagan Staruch      | 10/31 |
| Benjamin Schow     | 10/7 | Peyton Doucet     | 10/21 | Angela Watts        | 10/31 |
| Jerry Unger        | 10/8 | John Hubert       | 10/21 |                     |       |

**OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**

| NAME                     | DATE       | YEARS | NAME                       | DATE       | YEARS |
|--------------------------|------------|-------|----------------------------|------------|-------|
| Brandon & Aly Smith      | 10/1/2021  | 4     | Russ & Sue Ankersen        | 10/20/1979 | 46    |
| Adrianna & Jordan Gass   | 10/4/2014  | 11    | Grant & Charlene Pfanstiel | 10/22/1983 | 42    |
| Halee & Justin Malleck   | 10/5/2019  | 6     | James & Donna Hall         | 10/26/1996 | 29    |
| Scott & Kristyl Hanchera | 10/17/1981 | 44    | Thomas & Cathy Broz        | 10/27/1984 | 41    |

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<br>(Sept 21st-Sept 27th) | Month to Date<br>(Sept 7th-Sept 27th) | Actual Year to Date<br>(Jan. 5th-sept 27th) |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Offerings | \$4,465.00                            | \$33,696.00                           | \$214,206.00                                |
| Expenses  | \$1,502.00                            | \$15,073.00                           | \$212,217.00                                |





## CREATIVE PRESCHOOL



Creative Preschool wants to thank all of the church members for your generous donations for our classroom. We are very thankful for all of the support and excited for a new school year!

### 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.

### OCTOBER READINGS

| Date | Season                             | First Reading         | Epistle            | Holy Gospel                      |
|------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| 7th  | <b>The 17th S. after Pentecost</b> | Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 | 2 Timothy 1:1-14   | Luke 17:1-10                     |
| 14th | <b>The 18th S. after Pentecost</b> | Ruth 1:1-19a          | 2 Timothy 2:1-13   | Luke 17:11-19                    |
| 21st | <b>The 19th S. after Pentecost</b> | Genesis 32:22-30      | 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 | Luke 18:1-8                      |
| 26th | <b>Reformation Day</b>             | Revelation 14:6-7     | Romans 3:19-28     | John 8:31-36 or Matthew 11:12-19 |
|      |                                    |                       |                    |                                  |



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

### Harmonious Stewardship

*"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" (Romans 12:4-5).*

One of the most forgotten concepts in stewardship is the interdependent nature that makes up the Body of Christ and the way that body supports the shared work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is experienced in the local congregation, as well as in broader mission and ministry efforts at the district and Synod levels. Yet in these words, St. Paul reminds the Romans and us that we are indeed members of one another. This is true in our worship. It is also true in our stewardship of the Gospel. Stewards of all shapes and sizes, ages and abilities, affluence and influence are all assembled around Word and Sacrament in the local congregation with no one being more important than the other.

Part of this forgetting lies in what the eyes see and how our human mind operates. Our eyes and our minds are quick to come to the erroneous conclusion that the person who writes the biggest check is the more important steward. Human logic, flawed by sin as it is, could make a claim that the youngest child or the most infirm, aged member of the congregation would certainly be considered something less than important when it comes to the stewardship of the Gospel.

Paul makes it clear in these words that this is not how stewardship of the Gospel is measured in the Body of Christ. Rather, it would be better to view local stewardship like the lost art of harmony in congregational singing. This has been lost not only due to the performative nature of the lead singers of the local praise team, but also because modern hymnals are written to almost force the novice hymn-singer into unison voice. Creative harmonization by talented organists is beautiful to listen to, but does not always support the people in the pews in singing in parts. This is a loss in demonstrating a very practical aspect of whole-body stewardship.

The sound that builds when choral and congregational singers settle into their voice parts is nothing short of heavenly! Yet when altos, tenors and bass sing their individual parts without any concept of how they fit together, the music doesn't sound as powerful. The narrow range of the typical alto line almost sounds monotonous. The tenor line can get painfully high, and the baseline can get uncomfortably low. But, when interdependently entwined, along with the melody that is so often carried by the sopranos, the music becomes a tremendously powerful tool in communicating the Gospel.

The same is true of individual stewards. Certainly, stewards with more financial means are in a unique place to "carry the tune" for ministry in a local congregation. But that doesn't rule out the faithful stewardship of the saint-like 94-year-old Hulda, who prayed for her young pastor in German every night while the aches and pains of arthritis and the grief of losing a daughter to cancer kept her awake. This does not rule out Jimmy, the profoundly developmentally disabled confirmand whose basic but dramatically eloquent confession of the faith left an impression on a congregation long after he went to be with Jesus. It doesn't rule out the single parent, the recovering addict, the family coming out of bankruptcy, the elderly widow and everyone in between.

The Lord has entrusted all the baptized with stewardship of the one thing needful: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. No one member of any congregation is more important than another when it comes to this stewardship. The biggest check isn't always the best way to communicate the Gospel. In fact, it is almost always better communicated with the widow's mite, the tenacious stewardship of the talents and so much more.

In the local congregation and beyond, our corporate stewardship of the Gospel needs each other to fill out our great confession. It is not about equal amount. It is about interdependence that only the Holy Spirit can work! Each of us has a role to play, a harmony to sing. The standard for that role is faithfulness. We do not have the same function, but we have the same Jesus! As we sing the parts entrusted to us by the Holy Spirit, the sweet music of the Gospel goes out!





## LET'S DO LUNCH TOGETHER

Join us young adults (kids included) for a pot luck style dinner together at the church. October 26th 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.

## BOARD OF EVANGELISM

We have a new board on the wall in the narthex that we would like to use as a getting to know you spot for new members, and for members of St. John's, Ash Creek who have been attending here at Peace. Please email a photo of yourself, or your family, to [office@plcmccook.org](mailto:office@plcmccook.org). Also, please let us know a little bit about you and your family, such as what town you reside in; the ages names and grade level of your child(ren); where you work; what your interests are. Please send this information along with your picture.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GATHERING

Preparations for the 2025 Nebraska District Middle School Youth Gathering are being made. The theme for the gathering, scheduled for November 8-9 at Younes Conference Center South in Kearney, is SHOW, based on Romans 5:8.

## 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.



## 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 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

**October 5th**

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

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 Ryker Mooney

**October 12th**

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 Risenhoover

Acolyte

Acolyte

Powerpoint Russ Ankersen

Live Stream Tina Cummins

**October 19th**

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 Ryker Mooney

**October 26th**

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

**Late Service**

Greeter Pat Penner  
 Greeter  
 Usher Curt Swanhorst  
 Lay Reader Curt Swanhorst

Acolyte

Acolyte

Powerpoint Gary Hunkins

Live Stream Jackson Hartwell



## PEACE TALK

Imagine yourself in the middle of the road. Danger coming from both directions. How will you proceed? Will you safely get across? In one way or another, we have all been in the middle of this road. I know I have. Trying to successfully get from point A to point B. Not in the sense of jaywalking, but in the context of the many rough roads we cross in our lives. It can be a road of health problems, a suffering relationship, or any other difficult time in our life. A road where the worldly traffic is coming from both directions. If you can relate or have already arrived at point B, wouldn't you agree the time you spend stuck in the middle of this road can be quite frantic? A place where God is called upon and we often wonder if He hears our cry. The middle of the road where we encounter traffic noise of doubt, and fear fails to yield. Standing in the middle of that road where the purpose of life is questioned... faith is fragile... and hope takes a detour. But if you pause to listen, amid all this worldly traffic Jesus says "Stop." Stop being agitated (John 14:27). And just grip tightly to your faith (Hebrews 10:23). You see, halfway between point A and point B isn't just a place for anxious hearts, it is a place where our Lord is waiting to help. The middle of the road then will become a place where our faith can become stronger. Regardless of our circumstances, we must not get discouraged or be afraid because our Lord will always be by our side (Deuteronomy 31:8). Even though this might be easier said than done, we must give our fears to Jesus and find comfort in the presence of our protector (Isaiah 41:10). Taking control of our emotions and keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2). A task we can only endure with faith. Faith will provide us with the fuel to do the impossible and endure the unimaginable. Especially when we find ourselves stuck in the middle of that road. We will get our renewed strength only made possible from our loving powerful God (Luke 1:37). For He is our God of all comfort and our God of mercy (2 Corinthians 1:3-4). Hold these truths to your heart. When we can do that through faith, we will realize that all these things then are not found in the middle of the road. They are found in crossing the road and believing His next step is our best step forward. God already knows what is in store and we need to place our trust and hope in the crosswalk of faith. Preparing us from our Baptismal point A to the promise of our eternal point B with Him (Revelation 21:3-5). Dear Heavenly Father, help me look to you when I am in the middle of the road, and guide me safely to the other side. Amen.





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YouTube: Peace Lutheran Church McCook

# October 2025

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday                                     | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday  |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|
|   |  |  | <b>1</b><br><b>6:00pm</b> School of Religion  | <b>2</b>   | <b>3</b><br><b>8:00am</b> Women's Bible Study<br><b>1:00pm</b> LifeLight  | <b>4</b><br><b>7:00am</b> Men's Bible Study                                       |
| <b>5</b><br><b>8:00am</b> Worship<br><b>9:15am</b> Bible Studies<br><b>9:15am</b> Sunday School<br><b>10:30am</b> Worship   | <b>6</b><br><br>PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE                        | <b>7</b><br><b>9:00am</b> Worship Committee  | <b>8</b><br><b>6:00pm</b> School of Religion  | <b>9</b>   | <b>10</b><br><b>8:00am</b> Women's Bible Study<br><b>1:00pm</b> LifeLight | <b>11</b><br><b>7:00am</b> Men's Bible Study                                      |
| <b>12</b> <u>Communion Sunday</u><br><b>8:00am</b> Worship<br><b>9:15am</b> Bible Studies<br><b>9:15am</b> Sunday School<br><b>10:30am</b> Worship                                | <b>13</b><br><br>PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE                       | <b>14</b><br><b>2:00pm</b> Hillcrest Bingo<br><b>6:00pm</b> Board of Elders<br><b>7:00pm</b> Council | <b>15</b><br><b>6:00pm</b> School of Religion | <b>16</b>  | <b>17</b><br><b>8:00am</b> Women's Bible Study<br><b>1:00pm</b> LifeLight | <b>18</b><br><b>7:00am</b> Men's Bible Study                                      |
| <b>19</b><br><b>8:00am</b> Worship<br><b>9:15am</b> Bible Studies<br><b>9:15am</b> Sunday School<br><b>10:30am</b> Worship  | <b>20</b><br><br>PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE                       | <b>21</b>  | <b>22</b><br><b>6:00pm</b> School of Religion | <b>23</b><br><b>1:30pm</b> Hillcrest service<br><b>2:30pm</b> Kinship Pointe service | <b>24</b><br><b>8:00am</b> Women's Bible Study<br><b>1:00pm</b> LifeLight | <b>25</b><br><b>7:00am</b> Men's Bible Study<br>Upper Fellowship Hall reservation |
| <b>26</b> <u>Communion Sunday</u><br><b>8:00am</b> Worship<br><b>9:15am</b> Bible Studies<br><b>9:15am</b> Sunday School<br><b>10:30am</b> Worship<br><b>12:00pm</b> Young Adults | <b>27</b><br><b>2:00pm</b> LWML<br><br>PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE | <b>28</b>  | <b>29</b><br><b>6:00pm</b> Trunk or Treat     | <b>30</b>  | <b>31</b><br><b>8:00am</b> Women's Bible Study<br><b>1:00pm</b> LifeLight |   |