



'TIDINGS OF **PEACE**' from

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

TO:

November 2025
TIDINGS OF PEACE
A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH
LUTHERAN CHURCH



www.plcmccook.org

**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
office@plcmccook.org

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

FROM AN ELDER**"My King and My God"**

Psalm 5:1-3 – Give ear to my words, O Lord; consider my groaning. Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to You do I pray. O Lord, in the morning You hear my voice; in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for You and watch.

It may not be easy to make requests of a government office or to seek changes in laws or policies. There may be a long process involved in getting potholes filled on a street or having a road sign replaced. Such requests, no matter how small, may require official letters, petitions with hundreds, if not thousands, of signatures, or votes by council members. There may be layers upon layers of bureaucracy to navigate.

The psalmist has a request, or actually, a demand. He does not try to gather signatures on a petition or gain the support of council members. If there were bureaucratic channels, he would bypass them because he goes right to the top, demanding an audience with the King, God Himself: "Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God." The psalmist offers up the sacrifice of prayer before the throne of God and then waits for the answer which is certain to follow. The way is always open, as other psalms testify: "Evening and morning and at noon I utter my complaint and moan, and He hears my voice" (Psalm 55:17). We have that same privilege of direct access to the throne of God. At any moment, day or night, we can bring our petitions to God, and He will hear and answer us.

That immediate access is granted to us as a gift, through the King's own Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. In obedience to His Heavenly Father and out of His love for the world, Jesus left His heavenly throne to be born among us. He submitted to the unjust judgment of earthly rulers. No official petitions with thousands of signatures were submitted in an effort to save Him. Jesus, crowned with thorns to mock His kingship, was nailed to a cross. When He died, the temple veil concealing the Holy of Holies—the place of God's presence—was torn in two. Through the crucified and risen Savior, the way to God is open. There is only one official channel, only one way to gain access to the heavenly throne, and that is through faith in Jesus, our High Priest. As the writer to the Hebrews explains, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:15-16). The King invites us to pray. He is listening and He will answer according to His will.

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Brandon Kuykendall	11/1	Clara Hurst	11/11	Emma McConville	11/19
Kai Bedore	11/3	Halee Malleck	11/11	Chet Risenhoover	11/19
Kelsey Messinger	11/3	James Vetrovsky	11/11	Reagan Smith	11/22
Caitlin Roundtree	11/4	Lydia Barth	11/12	Mary Traphagan	11/22
Brent Doucet	11/6	Karen Berry	11/13	Janice Bamesberger	11/23
Duane Fortkamp	11/8	Elizabeth Geisler	11/16	Molly Sharp	11/24
Merlin Domben	11/9	Rodney Berndt	11/17	Kylee DeWester	11/26
Gabe Critchfield	11/11	Betty Harms	11/17	Brian Strauch	11/27

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Heath & Renee Brown	11/4/2017	8	Jerry & Robin Calvin	11/13/1982	43
Chuck & Janet Gray	11/4/1972	53	Donnie & Brooke Rinehart	11/17/2018	7
Brandon & Kimberly Kuykendall	11/8/2003	22	Jennifer & Kirk McConville	11/24/2012	13

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 (Oct. 26th-Nov. 1st)	Month to Date (Oct. 5th-Nov. 1st)	Actual Year to Date (Jan. 5th-Nov. 1st)
Offerings	\$3,009.00	\$20,974.00	\$237,441.00
Expenses	\$7,298.00	\$23,061.00	\$242,433



CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

Wow, it's hard to believe that it's already November! October sure was a fun month. Thanks to all who signed up to help with our Halloween Party, we really appreciate it! During J week we will have "jammy day" where the kids can wear their pajamas to school if they would like. Muffins with moms will be on Thursday, November 20th at 11:00 am and 2:30 pm. We will be having Thanksgiving Celebrations on Tuesday, November 25th. We will just be doing in class activities so we don't need volunteers for this party. We will have a sign up sheet for ingredients for our snack mix we will be making together in class. There will be no school on Wednesday, November 26th or Thursday, November 27th for Thanksgiving Break. Please enjoy this special time with your family. Also, please mark your calendars! Our Christmas Program will be Thursday, December 11th in the church sanctuary. The Tu/Th AM class will perform at 6:30 p.m.. The 4 Day Pre-K class will perform at 7 p.m. More news will be sent home about this toward the end of the month. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please call Kelsey at the preschool, 345-2595, or send me an e-mail at mycreativepreschool@gmail.com.

Happy Thanksgiving!!
Kelsey and Dani

ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

Help send Christmas joy to US troops who are stationed halfway around the world. Any help is appreciated as we pack Christmas care packages to support military chaplains and the troops they care for. We will be packing in the Peace Lutheran basement on Thurs Nov 6 at 7:00pm, Fri Nov 7 at 10:00 am, and Thurs Nov 20 at 10:00 am. We need packers and door greeters, please see signup sheets in entry way. There is a list of supplies for the care packages across from the mailboxes. Donated supplies can be left at the church or in a tub that the Nemechek's have placed outside their front door, 404 West 3rd. With the mailing, we are also able to send boxes to individual service members; you may leave addresses of those known to be deployed in Linda Nielsen's mailbox. You are welcome to join us for a light meal starting an hour before each scheduled packing. For questions contact Linda Nielsen 340-2800, Jane Schuster 737-9110 or Cathy Broz 340-6064.

NOVEMBER READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
2nd	All Saints' Day	Revelation 7:2-17	1 John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-12
9th	The 22nd S. after Pentecost	Exodus 3:1-15	2 Thessalonians 2:1-8, 13-17	Luke 20:27-40
16th	The 23rd S. after Pentecost	Malaki 4:1-6	2 Thessalonians 1-13	Luke 21:5-36
23rd	Last S. of the Church Year	Makiki 3:13-18	Colossians 1:13-20	Luke 23:27-43
30th	The 1st S. in Advent	Isaiah 2:1-5	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 21:1-11 or Matthew 24:36-44



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

Pointing to the Rock of Ages

*Not the labor of my hands Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone. (LSB 761:2)*

While the classic hymn "Rock of Ages" shows up in the *Lutheran Service Book* in the "Hope and Comfort" section, it can also teach us a valuable lesson about Christian stewardship. If that surprises you, stay with me on this one.

No Lutheran would ever dispute the fact that our work does not save us. Ephesians 2 makes it truly clear that we are dead in our trespasses and sins and would remain in that state until Christ raises us by grace. There is not a ladder on which we can climb out of the grave that our sins have dug for us. No blood, sweat nor tears will be able to rescue us. We all know this.

Our works do not save. Christ's work on the cross of Calvary does! He bore human flesh. He carried the burden of our sin to the cross. His body was beaten, bruised and bloodied for us. He has indeed atoned for us! This is more than enough reason for this hymn to be bouncing around in your head all day today!

But our work has a place. The place is in response to what the Father has done for us in Jesus. The Rock of Ages, who is Jesus, becomes the foundation on which our lives of faith are built. The Holy Spirit uses the means of grace to make us God's workmanship that Paul talks about in Ephesians 2:10.

Our workmanship does not display our power or prowess. Like the heavens declare the handiwork of the Creator, the works of a redeemed sinner point others to the salvation that is worked only by Jesus alone. Our work is a response to and reflection of a grace and glory that we ourselves could never accomplish or achieve.

We become stewards of the treasure that is the Gospel. When we faithfully support the work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our financial support, we are doing the work which points to the One who alone atones. When we come alongside a struggling sister or brother for whom Christ died and we share the stewardship work of compassion and care, we enfold the treasure of God's love and redemption. When we make it a weekly priority to arrange our schedule to be in the Lord's House with other stewards of the Gospel to receive again and again the Gospel's precious gift, we are stewards of the Body of Christ in the congregation that points even more people to Jesus.

We cannot do this. Jesus does it through us. We are simply stewards of this precious treasure!



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. 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 (grades 6th-8th) 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.

LIVE NATIVITY

Living Nativity posters will be available to members who would like posters to put in their specific workplaces in McCook and surrounding communities. These will be available in addition to where we normally put out posters. Please contact Sue Ankersen, Cathy Broz or Sue Chipman.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Children's Christmas program will be Wednesday December 17th at 7:00 pm. Details will be sent home with your children. We are asking for each School of Religion family to bring one dozen cookies for the reception after the program. If you have any questions, please contact Kris Hanchera.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Church Christmas Decoration Day is November 29th at 3:00. We need lots of people to make the task faster and easier!

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who supported the recent Share the Heat fundraiser. Thank you for your donations and thank you to everyone for the delicious salads, desserts and soup. Your help has insured that this local fund stands ready when someone needs help with heating bills. Please tell anyone struggling to pay bills that applications for assistance are through the Community Action Partnership of Mid Nebraska, McCook.



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

November 2nd

Elder on duty	Lee McConville
Organist	
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Grant Pfanstiel
Greeter	Charlene Pfanstiel
Usher	Gene Meints
Lay Reader	Sue Ankersen
Acolyte	Emmett Felcher
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Cathy Broz
Late Service	
Greeter	Jane Schuster
Greeter	Myra Tietz
Usher	Gary Hunkins
Lay Reader	Nick Nothnagel
Acolyte	Ellie Hartwell
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Ben Schow
Live Stream	Ryker Mooney

November 9th

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
Late Service	
Greeter	Cindy Swanhorst
Greeter	Curt Swanhorst
Usher	Harold Carlson
Lay Reader	Sarah Risenhoover
Acolyte	Raegan Kisker
Acolyte	Amaya Ely
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Live Stream	Tina Cummins

November 16th

Elder on duty	Harold Carlson
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	Paul Sellers
Greeter	Elaine Polly
Greeter	Jeff Polly
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Renelle Mooney
Acolyte	Brayden Watts
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins
Late Service	
Greeter	Donna Hall
Greeter	Jim Hall
Usher	Ben Schow
Lay Reader	Rylee Mooney
Acolyte	Paxton Messinger
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	
Live Stream	Tina Cummins

November 23rd

Elder on duty	Fritz Hubert
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	
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	Avery Davidson
Acolyte	Cooper Davidson
Powerpoint	Gary Hunkins
Live Stream	Jackson Hartwell

November 30th

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	Kysen Hazlitt
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	
Live Stream	Ryker Mooney



PEACE TALK

Where's Waldo? Waldo is a character in a children's puzzle book that has been hiding in plain sight for quite some time. In these works of art, he blends in with dozens of people that are performing a variety of amusing things in various unique locations. When found, he is always dressed in a distinctive red and white striped shirt, stocking hat, and glasses. I have found that the search for Waldo can be both fun and frustrating, as each page presents new distractions and cleverly designed obstacles. Thus, I am moved to scan every corner in the illustration, knowing that he is present somewhere within that puzzle. Once found, you cannot unsee him. The same analogy is true with Jesus. I know He is always there in plain sight, but it seems at times I have trouble seeing Him. Then when the obstacles to grace distract my attention, I find that I must be intentional to look through every square inch of my surroundings to find Him. Are there times when you might ask... "Where's Jesus?" Do you have moments when you find yourself looking for Him in the puzzle of life? In these moments of uncertainty, it's important to remember that just because we can't immediately spot Jesus, it doesn't mean He is not there. Like Waldo, His presence might be disguised among Satan's cleverly designed obstacles. But if we pause, reflect, and intentionally seek Him, we'll discover comforting signs of Him woven into everywhere we look (Jeremiah 29:13-14). Sometimes, finding Jesus requires us to just slow down and shift our perspective, trusting that He is always near (Matthew 28:20), even when life feels overwhelmingly complex (Joshua 1:9). In fact, just like searching for Waldo can sharpen your ability to notice small details... the same is true when seeking Jesus in your daily life. Yes, it will draw Him near to you (James 4:8). Each moment, whether ordinary or extraordinary, holds the potential to reveal His love and guidance if we are willing to look with open hearts and minds (Proverbs 8:17). The journey to find Him, though sometimes challenging, ultimately strengthens our faith and reminds us that we are never truly alone (Deuteronomy 31:6). My friends, in moments when Jesus seems hidden, it's helpful to keep in mind that our search is often shaped by expectations and frame of mind. He is there in unexpected ways... such as acts of kindness, quiet words of encouragement, or even during periods of struggle. We can find Him on the highest mountain or the lowest valley. He is waiting for us to seek Him. In fact, Jesus promised that if we seek, we will find Him (Matthew 7:7). So, instead of looking for Waldo, let's turn our attention to seeking Jesus in every aspect of our lives. When we choose to look for Him purposefully, we can't unsee His presence in the simple joys, the gentle encouragements, and the unexpected blessings that surround us each day. Dear Lord, help me see clearly your presence. Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity
Phil Bamesberger



Peace Lutheran Church
 411 East 6th Street
 PO Box 240
 McCook, NE 69001
 PH (308)345-2595
 Email: office@plcmccook.org
 Website: plcmccook.org
 Facebook: Peace Lutheran McCook NE
 YouTube: Peace Lutheran Church McCook

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7:00am Men's Bible Study
2 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	3 5:00pm Women's bible study	4 9:00am Worship Committee	5 6:00pm School of Religion	6 7:00pm Adopt-A-Chaplain packing	7 10:00am Adopt-A-Chaplain packing	8 7:00am Men's Bible Study
9 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Mary & Martha event	10 5:00pm Women's bible study	11 2:00pm Hillcrest Bingo 6:00pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	12 6:00pm School of Religion	13	14	15 7:00am Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
16 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	17 5:00pm Women's bible study	18	19 6:00pm School of Religion	20 10:00am Adopt-A-Chaplain packing	21 Upper Fellowship Hall reservation 8:00am Women's Bible Study	22 7:00am Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
23 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30am Thanksgiving Dinner	24 2:00pm LWML	25	26 1:30pm Hillcrest service 2:30pm Kinship Pointe service	27 <i>Office Closed</i>	28 <i>Office Closed</i>	29
30 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship						