

TIDINGS OF PEACE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Thank You

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all those who have graciously given of their time and talents to support the mission and ministry of Peace Lutheran Church by hearing the call to serve on the Church Council. It has been a pleasure to serve with those who have a passion for giving of themselves to support God's Kingdom here on earth. If you see those who are going off the Council this year, please extend to them the hand of thanksgiving for their service.

Those going off:

President-Curt Swanhorst

Financial Secretary-Sarah Risenhoover

Board of Elders-Fritz Hubert and Harold Carlson

Board of Education-Cindy Swanhorst

Board of Evangelism-Cathy Broz

We would also like to welcome those who have stepped out in faith to serve their Lord as a member of Council for this coming term. We know anytime we embark on a new commitment there is always some hesitation to say yes. We praise God for those who have done just that and will be serving our congregation and their Lord for the coming term. Please extend to them the hand of fellowship, thanksgiving, and welcome as they begin their service.

Newly Elected:

President-Russ Ankersen

Vice-President-Phil Bamesberger

Financial Secretary-Carol Collicott

Board of Elders-Victor Lauer and Jim Dyer

Board of Education-Jerry Calvin

Board of Evangelism-Deb Shields

We would like to take time to say thank you to all who were re-elected and those still serving. The time they spend and the efforts they give in support of the Gospel and wellbeing of our congregation is greatly appreciated.

Those re-elected:

Board of Trustees-Chance Koetter

Financial Committee-Steve Post, Roger Stupka, Pat Penner and Sandy Lauer

Members currently serving

Treasurer-Melissa Hanchera

Recording Secretary-Linda Smith

Board of Elders-Brandon Kuykendall, Nick Nothnagel and Lee McConville

Board of Education-Daphne Tidyman and Melissa Critchfield

Board of Trustees-Heath Brown and Barry Mooney

Board of Evangelism-Sue Chipman and Sue Ankersen

Financial Committee-K.C. Eckhardt, Sue & Jim DeJonge, Eugene Custer and Bob Nemechek

TO: _____



'TIDINGS OF PEACE' from

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



PLC Shepherd
Pastor Lonnie Felcher
revfelcher@hotmail.com
Emergency (308)737-6750

Family Life Minister
Hanah Nothnagel
hanahswan@gmail.com

Creative Preschool Director
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Administrative Assistant
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Congregational President
Russ Ankersen
ankrsen@gmail.com

Congregational Vice President
Phil Bamesberger
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Elder Chairman

Council Secretary
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lksmithpo@yahoo.com

Treasurer
Melissa Hanchera
plctreasurer1908@gmail.com

Financial Secretary
Carol Collicott
peacefin28@gmail.com

www.plcmccook.org

ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

This program supports US military deployed overseas and the chaplains who care for them.

In Sept of 2025, members of the Iowa National Guard were deployed to Syria and Iraq. We were honored to support the Iowa National Guard by sending cards and care packages in care of three of their chaplains. The Iowa soldiers are now able to return home, and we plan to adopt their replacements.

We keep in contact with the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces and they can give us addresses of LCMS chaplains that are deployed to areas of tension. Currently we support 4 LCMS Chaplains, including Chaplains Ryan Mills and Johathan Lorenz who are in Korea, Chaplain Joshua Schiff who is in Kuwait and Chaplain Phillip Callahan who is in Poland.

Thank you for the donated supplies, for writing notes of encouragement, and for the financial support. All are welcome to help sort supplies and pack the boxes. Next packing day is Tue, March 17 at 1:00 pm.

YOUNG ADULTS

Join us young adults (kids included) for our monthly pot luck style dinner together at the church. March 22nd at 12:00 where we will cook together, socialize, and kids can play and have fun! This month is Pizza! RSVP to Hanah at 737-1905 so we can assign menu items.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Patricia Frisbey	3/1	Melissa Hoffmann	3/11	Brock Hubert	3/23
Pake Hamilton	3/4	Paul Schaffert	3/11	Banks Schumacher	3/23
Chad Hueftle	3/4	Janet Hein	3/13	Ronald Friehe	3/25
Ezra Nothnagel	3/4	Kamry Crick	3/14	Aric Sharp	3/25
Talan Schumacher	3/4	Jaelyn Kuykendall	3/16	Blayzon Mooney	3/26
Tom Shields	3/4	Korina Rippen	3/19	Michael Schoup	3/27
Kandi Eckhoff	3/5	Tyler Rogers	3/19	Curt Swanhorst	3/28
Lewis Leibbrandt	3/6	Addyson Snyder	3/20	Joel Smith	3/29
Jennifer McConville	3/6				

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Brent & Jennifer Doucet	3/28/1998	28			

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 (February 22nd-February 28th)	Month to Date (February 1st-February 28th)	Actual Year to Date (January 4th-February 28th)
Offerings	\$4,456.00	\$20,259.00	\$35,398.00
Expenses	\$.00	\$35,127.00	\$62,087.00



CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

Dear Preschool Families,

March is almost here, the school year is just flying by! We will be focusing on the letters W, Y, V and X this month and we will be talking about March weather, so if your child comes home talking about “lamb and lion days” you will understand. We have lots of fun Spring activities coming up! I will be offering parent teacher conferences again for the spring semester. More information will be sent home about this!

Here are some dates we are looking forward to:

- Spring Break March 4th and 5th
- Parent/teacher conferences March 23rd and 25th
- Easter Party April 2nd
- Easter Break April 6th and 7th
- Bike-a-thon April 16th
- Last day of school May 5th
- Graduation, for grads only May 5th 7:00 pm

More information will be sent home about these as they get closer. We're having so much fun and learning new things every day! Thanks for sharing your kids with us!

Kelsey and Dani

The Preschool is working with New Life Christian book store to hold a book fair here at Peace March 22nd through March 29th. Available for order are children's and adult books, along with devotionals for all. You can order via order form, QR code, or on their website: newlifemccook.com.



MARCH READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
1st	The 2nd S. in Lent	Genesis 12:1-9	Romans 4:1-8, 13-17	John 3:1-17
8th	The 3rd S. in Lent	Exodus 17:1-7	Romans 5:1-8	John 4:5-30, 39-42
15th	The 4th S. in Lent	Isaiah 42:14-21	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39
22nd	The 5th S. in Lent	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Romans 8:1-11	John 11:17-27, 38-53
29th	Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Philippians 2:5-11	John 12:20-43



**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter Article – March 2026**

As a kid, I remember my Grandma and Grandpa Diepholz' home with extraordinary joy. Family fun. Great food. A legacy of faith. One of my lasting memories of that house was the table that sat between their twin beds. It contained a lamp, a Bible, a catechism and a hymnal. These were well-worn, as Grandpa read to Grandma every night before they went to sleep! What a treasure these tools of faith are! Let us spend some time this month in the hymnal to help us better understand our life as Christian stewards! To do this, we will use *LSB 785 "We Praise You, O God."*

*We Praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator; In grateful devotion our tributes we bring.
We lay it before You, and kneel and adore You; We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.*

Stewardship is an act of worship. It flows from the grace and mercy we have received in Jesus! Faithful stewardship can never start with us. Our sinful nature will make us and our desires the center of our worship. Our tributes, our giving and our serving only flow from how the Lord Jesus has given of Himself for our sake! When we have this in clear view, our knees bow and our praises flow freely! All this flows from the Name that has been placed on us in Holy Baptism!

*We worship You, God of our Fathers, we bless You; Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.
When perils o'ertake us, You will not forsake us, And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.*

Our stewardship that flows from what God has done for us in Jesus Christ is rooted in history. Passed from one generation to the next, stewards of the Gospel connect God's provision in the past to His continued care in the present.

So often, the struggles we face are self-inflicted. While there are indeed perils that can shake us from outside of ourselves, we are more likely enduring the suffering that comes because of our own choices that are outside the Word and will of God! But even in these situations, the Lord who loves us will never forsake us. When we become selfish, self-serving and self-destructive, the Lord NEVER abandons! The Lord helps us to overcome the struggles in faith and win the victory the steward rejoices in!

*With voices united our praises we offer And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us. To You, our great redeemer, forever be praise!*

Stewardship is more than just an individual thing. There is a corporate nature to our steward life. We see this in the Divine Service. There, stewards of all ages, all economic strata and all languages are joined in the singular task of praise. This stewardship of praise flows from the altar to us, out into the world and then back to the altar! God's strong arm leads us in this stewardship 24/7. This makes stewardship, in all times and places, a matter of worship. We praise our Redeemer who has entrusted us with this great stewardship of the Gospel which forgives our sins, grants us new life and salvation. And this treasure we freely share for God's glory and the benefit of our neighbor!



BOARD OF EVANGELISM

We have a 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.

LADIES LUNCHEON

Attention ladies! Our spring ladies luncheon is scheduled for April 26th. It is themed We Are God's Masterpiece. We will experience a devotion, stained glass demo and then we will make our own stained glass cross. RSVP to Hanah at 737-1905.

CLEANING PROJECTS

The church council has been put in charge of cleaning the church in order to prepare for Easter. If you would like to help with this process, please contact a council member or call the church office. Thank you.

LUTHERAN WITNESS AND PORTALS OF PRAYER

It is time again to sign up for the Lutheran Witness and Portals of Prayer. If you would like a subscription to the Lutheran Witness it is \$23.50 for the year. If you would like a subscription for the Portals of Prayer: Regular size is \$9.50, Digest size is \$12.50, and Large size is \$14.50 for the year. Please call the church office at 345-2595 to place your order before March 16th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

March 15th we will be have another sports themed Sunday School class. This time—March Madness! We will be filling out brackets and top 3 get prizes. We will also have a study on "There Are No Predictions With God"



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, Karen Berry and Betty Harms.

Kinship Pointe: 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 – Brandon Kuykendall, Nick Nothnagel, Lee McConville, Jim Dyer, Victor Lauer, Phil Bamesberger or Russ Ankersen.

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

March 1st	
Elder on duty	
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
Late Service	
Greeter	Jane Schuster
Greeter	Myra Tietz
Usher	Gary Hunkins
Lay Reader	Melissa Hoffmann
Acolyte	Ellie Hartwell
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Ben Schow
Live Stream	Ryker Mooney

March 8th	
Elder on duty	
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	Russ Ankersen
Greeter	Deb Shields
Greeter	
Usher	Harold Carlson
Lay Reader	Sue Ankersen
Acolyte	Will Kunkee
Acolyte	Hunter Kunkee
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Late Service	
Greeter	Cindy Swanhorst
Greeter	Curt Swanhorst
Usher	Harold Carlson
Lay Reader	Nick Nothnagel
Acolyte	Raegan Kisker
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Live Stream	Jackson Hartwell

March 15th	
Elder on duty	
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	Paul Sellers
Greeter	Elaine Polly
Greeter	Jeff Polly
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Randon Peters
Acolyte	Brayden Watts
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins
Late Service	
Greeter	Donna Hall
Greeter	Jim Hall
Usher	Ben Schow
Lay Reader	Sarah Risenhoover
Acolyte	Avery Davidson
Acolyte	Cooper Davidson
Powerpoint	
Live Stream	Ryker Mooney

March 22nd	
Elder on duty	
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	
Greeter	
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Rylee Mooney
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Harold Carlson
Late Service	
Greeter	Pat Penner
Greeter	
Usher	Curt Swanhorst
Lay Reader	Renelle Mooney
Acolyte	Maxson Stewart
Acolyte	Zander Stewart
Powerpoint	Gary Hunkins
Live Stream	Tina Cummins

March 29th	
Elder on duty	
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	
Greeter	Sue Carlson
Greeter	Harold Carlson
Usher	Gene Meints
Lay Reader	Russ Ankersen
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	
Late Service	
Greeter	
Greeter	
Usher	Steve Post
Lay Reader	Curt Swanhorst
Acolyte	Kysen Hazlitt
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	
Live Stream	Jackson Hartwell



PEACE TALK

"What's in a name?" This question posed by Juliet in William Shakespere's iconic tale challenges whether a name truly matters. Her love for Romeo was hindered by a feud that existed amid their family... a conflict defined by inherited identity and tradition. This in turn made their love forbidden. Juliet poetically declares, "That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet," articulating the fragrance of their romance will overshadow any bitterness of a surname. For better or for worse, this notorious couple experience firsthand what's in a name. Their identity defined who they are, nevertheless, determined to not let this interfere with their future. What's in your name? Does it define who you are? For most of us it does. The name given to us by our parents becomes our identity. Our name shape how others perceive who we are and often represent the roots of our tradition, heritage, or vocation. Possibly becoming bonding such as with Romeo and Juliet or alternatively setting us free. Yet, Scripture invites us to view our name as more than markers of heritage or division. God tells us, "I have called you by name, you are mine," (Isaiah 43:1). Signifying that a relationship with Him will overcome all boundaries. Then Solomon adds "A good name is more desirable than great riches," (Proverbs 22:1). Take it a step further and you will find that within a name; connections are eternally defined when adopted into God's family (Revelation 2:7). Made possible when our roots are sunk deeply into the truth found in Jesus, who is the bedrock of our faith (Colossians 2:7) ... Yes, the One who's name is above all names; our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:9). When we as fellow Christians adopt the name of Jesus, we will find it is saturated with identity, authority, and hope. Why? Because of His great love for each one of us (John 3:16). Just as Romeo and Juliett was going to use love to define their new identity, so it is with Christ (1 John 4:16). The same love Jesus uses as He calls us by name as our Good Shepherd and guides our spiritual journey (John 10:3). Now our name becomes a calling, a blessing, and a signpost pointing to a divine purpose. Whether your story is of forbidden love or found in the sweetness of a rose, the promises of "what's in a name" found in Scripture, is ultimately an invitation to step into a greater story... one defined by redemption, relationship, and grace. God marks us as His beloved, chosen, and set apart for His purposes. When God speaks over our name, it becomes a word of hope, restoration, and destiny... a name that reflects how He sees us and the future He has planned for us. My friends, no matter what others may say or what labels we have carried, God names us as His children, redeemed and precious in His sight. Dear Lord, thank you for giving me a name that gives me identity in You. In Jesus name I pray (John 14:13-14). Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity
Phil Bamesberger



Peace Lutheran Church

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March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship with Installation of Officers	2	3 9:00am Worship Committee	4 11:00am Midweek service 6:00pm School of Religion 6:30pm F.I.R.E. 7:30pm Midweek service	5	6 8:30am Women's Bible Study 1:00pm LifeLight	7 7:00am Men's Bible Study
8 Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am F.I.R.E. 10:30am Worship	9	10 2:00pm Hillcrest Bingo 6:00pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	11 11:00am Midweek service 6:00pm School of Religion 6:30pm F.I.R.E. 7:30pm Midweek service	12	13 8:30am Women's Bible Study 1:00pm LifeLight	14 7:00am Men's Bible Study
15 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	16	17 1:00pm Adopt-A-Chaplain packing	18 11:00am Midweek service 6:00pm School of Religion 6:30pm F.I.R.E. 7:30pm Midweek service	19	20 8:30am Women's Bible Study 1:00pm LifeLight	21 7:00am Men's Bible Study
22 Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 9:15am Sunday School 9:15am F.I.R.E. 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Young Adults	23 2:00pm LWML	24	25 11:00am Midweek service 6:00pm School of Religion 6:30pm F.I.R.E. 7:30pm Midweek service	26 1:30pm Hillcrest service 2:30pm Kinship Pointe service	27 1:00pm LifeLight	28 7:00am Men's Bible Study
29 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship with Confirmation	30	31				