



'TIDINGS OF **PEACE**' from

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

TO:

Three vertical lines for an address.

April 2026

# TIDINGS OF **PEACE**

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

Hello, I pray this letter finds you well. I write to you today about the word fear. More specifically, those who attempt to manipulate or control others through fear. The reason I write to you of these things is that, you have probably heard through social media, or conversations with friends and loved ones, of notes that misrepresent Old Testament Prophecy; notes sent to various churches throughout the state of Nebraska; including Peace Lutheran McCook. As you are already aware, the devil has misquoted and misrepresented God's Word since the temptation of Adam. But, take courage; the devil stands defeated.

The notes sent to churches seem intentionally cryptic; for while they seem to say something, they also say nothing; thus trying to control through fear of the unknown. The words, taken out of biblical context seem to be from among charges against God's people Israel in the days of the Prophets—words intended, by God Himself, to call His people to repentance; THAT HE MAY FORGIVE AND RESTOR THEM.

To that end, you and I are God's people, His Church on earth—

you and I are a people of repentance and forgiveness; we trust that God is faithful, and we trust that by His all-powerful hand He is still in control. Let us not be manipulated into silence or controlled by fear; rather, let us call out to the Lord for wisdom in these things. Let us resolve to continue worshiping the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Let us boldly proclaim the whole truth of God's word concerning His Savior Jesus; for we do not need sinful man's permission nor his approval to do so.

Anyone concerned can contact me or an elder for more information.

As in days of old, so also, in days such as ours, God's words spoken through St Paul are still fitting and true, for it is written; *"What then shall we say concerning these things? If God is for us; who can be against us?" Romans 8:31* God bless you! See you in Church!  
Pastor



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Pastor Lonnie Felcher  
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**Treasurer**  
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**Financial Secretary**  
Carol Collicott  
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### ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

Once a month care packages are assembled at Peace Lutheran to support US military stationed overseas. The servicemen and servicewomen receive these care packages through the ministry of their chaplains. The post office is not delivering mail to the Middle East at present. We are able to send boxes to Poland, Korea, and a Navy ship. Supplies needed include hard candy, jerky, small packages of nuts, drink mix, and other snacks. During the warm months, we can't send chocolate except for tootsie rolls. All are welcome to help, next packing day is Tues, April 21 at 1:00 pm

### GRIEFSHARE

If you are grieving a loss join us for a Griefshare weekly grief support group Wednesday nights from 6 to 7:30pm starting April 15th. Please contact Tina at 345-2595 or Hanah at 737-1905 by April 8th so materials can be ordered.



### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Tina Cummins	4/1	Seth Koetter	4/13	Wilder Gass	4/23
Rachel Lietka	4/3	Steve Eckhoff	4/14	Brooklynn Tidyman	4/23
Lance Gillen	4/5	Dan Hartwell	4/14	Harold Carlson	4/25
Lola Downing	4/6	Carter Watts	4/14	Carter Hartwell	4/27
Steven Kircher	4/6	Chase Pierson	4/16	Jeffrey Unger	4/27
Thatcher Skolout	4/7	Torryn Schumacher	4/16	Brooklynn Gillen	4/28
Kelsey Gillen	4/8	Olivia Koetter	4/18	Robert Stecker	4/28
Tanner Doucet	4/9	John Hanson	4/21	Emma Malleck	4/29
Denise Gillen	4/9	Kimberly Kuykendall	4/21	Hanah Nothnagel	4/29
Vickie Gohl	4/9	Krystal Downing	4/22	Drew Shields	4/29
Carmen Custer	4/13				

### APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Les & Sue Fahrenbruch	4/2/1994	32	Alex & Melissa Hanchera	4/9/2016	10
Ron & Doris Friehe	4/3/1976	50	Patricia & Howard Frisbey	4/10/1976	50
Monte & Mary Hazlitt	4/7/1984	42	Joe & Gina Vetrovsky	4/14/2018	8
Ron & Deb Lauer	4/8/1989	37	Myra & Dan Stoney	4/17/1999	27

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 (March 22nd-March 28th)	Month to Date (March 1st-March 28th)	Actual Year to Date (January 4th-March 28th)
Offerings	\$3,806.00	\$25,428.00	\$60,826.00
Expenses	\$406.00	\$25,627.00	\$87,714.00



**Congratulations to this year's confirmands!**

**Avery Davidson**—*James 1:12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.*

**Jeremiah Carpenter**—*Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

**Mila Nelms**—*2 Corinthians 12:10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

**Myles Nelms**—*Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us*

**APRIL READINGS**

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
5th	The Resurrection of Our Lord	Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6	Colossians 3:1-4	Matthew 28:1-10
12th	The 2nd S. of Easter	Acts 5:29-42	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
19th	The 3rd S. of Easter	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	1 Peter 1:17-25	Luke 24:13-35
26th	The 4th S. of Easter	Acts 2:42-47	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10



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

The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, "How much should I give?" But this question really means, "Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?"

Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn't necessary because it isn't expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no "Thus saith the Lord," or "should" concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn't tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won't be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn't specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one's income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7-23; 2 Cor. 9:2-7).

But here's another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? "The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism's Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we're not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let's answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I'm glad you're still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God's promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I'd really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we're ecstatic that you're giving, and that you're giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.



### 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.

### SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Our end of year S.O.R. Party will be Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to approximately 7:30pm. There will be a meal and fun activities provided for the children. Any one interested in helping "supervise" our children with the bouncy house and climbing wall, please reach out to Kris Hanchera @ 308-340-5878. It would be appreciated if all the teachers could attend. Thank you.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Our VBS is for children pre-K (age 3 and potty trained) through 5th grade. Please join our three-day event June 8th, 9th, and 10th, and register by May 26th in order for your child to receive a T-shirt (size guide is found under downloads, you will be asked to enter size when registering). Late registration will be accepted however T-shirts may not be available so we encourage you to register by the deadline. Check out all the details and register at: [myvbs.org/plcmccook-vbs-2026](http://myvbs.org/plcmccook-vbs-2026)



## 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 Reiners and Ken Polly

**Benkelman:** Mark Cummins

**Bertrand:** Judy Schow

### 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

**April 5th**

Elder on duty	Brandon Kuykendall
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	Ellie Hartwell
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Ben Schow
Live Stream	Tina Cummins

**April 12th**

Elder on duty	Nick Nothnagel
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	Jackson Hartwell

**April 19th**

Elder on duty	Jim Dyer
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	Paul Sellers
Greeter	Elaine Polly
Greeter	Jeff Polly
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Rylee Mooney
Acolyte	Brayden Watts
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins
<b>Late Service</b>	
Greeter	Donna Hall
Greeter	Jim Hall
Usher	Ben Schow
Lay Reader	Renelle Mooney
Acolyte	Avery Davidson
Acolyte	Cooper Davidson
Powerpoint	
Live Stream	Ryker Mooney

**April 26th**

Elder on duty	Brandon Kuykendall
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	
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	Kysen Hazlitt
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Gary Hunkins
Live Stream	Layton Hinz



## PEACE TALK

Don't sweat the small stuff! Quite often I must remind myself of this principle when small matters begin to test my patience. Slow traffic, sketchy internet, untimely phone calls, demanding deadlines. In hindsight, these things were not worth getting upset about. But for some reason these minor inconveniences pile up and seem to mess up an otherwise good day. More times than not, it seems like once one thing goes wrong, everything else starts to unravel. Escalating into larger troubles. How about you? Does the little stuff in your day make you sweat? We are told that everything is small stuff in God's eyes (1 Peter 5:7). That makes sense, I guess. When I am weak, He is strong, when darkness prevails, He shines the light, when I can't carry my burdens, He does. So, if God can handle all my anxieties, why do I still sweat the small stuff? Then Paul adds that we must be anxious for nothing... and give our worries to God, (Philippians 4:6-7). Yet even though I know this to be true, why do I still sweat the small stuff? What do you think Jesus would do? Well scripture tells us He was troubled after His friend Lazarus died (John 11:33). When He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, He was overwhelmed with sorrow (Matthew 26:36-38). He was even upset after His triumphant entry into Jerusalem (John 12:27). When Jesus walked the earth, He too was troubled. This shows that if Jesus sweats the small stuff in His humanity, for sure we will continue to do so as well. The difference is He did not let these things overwhelm Him. He faced each moment with boldness and courage even though He knew He would suffer great pain and even death. He knew the small stuff of the world would be short-lived and He fixed His eyes on a bigger picture. When He was troubled, He practiced what He preached and made His requests known to His Father with prayer and thanksgiving. Because of this, He turns to us and says, "Don't sweat the small stuff" (John 14:1). And gives us the caring truth that apart from Him we can do nothing, (John 15:5). When we fight the good fight of faith, we can be better equipped to give the small stuff to Him (1 Timothy 6:12). Additionally, we can be assured He will help us when our day falls apart as we put on His armor (Ephesians 6:11). When we can give our small stuff to Jesus, then our troubles will not lead to bigger troubles. When we choose to let go of the small stuff and trust in God's strength, we will find peace that surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:6-7). Let's remember to turn our worries into prayers, knowing that He cares for every detail... big or small... and will guide us through each day with grace and courage. Dear Lord, help me face the small stuff with boldness and courage, by looking to you in everything I do. Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity  
Phil Bamesberger



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 Facebook: Peace Lutheran McCook NE  
 YouTube: Peace Lutheran Church McCook

# April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 11:00am Maudy Thursday service 7:30pm Maundy Thursday service	3 11:00am Good Friday service 7:30pm Good Friday service	4
5 <b>Communion Sunday</b> 7:00am Worship Easter Breakfast 10:30am Worship	6 <i>Office Closed</i>	7	8 6:00pm School of Religion 6:30pm F.I.R.E.	9	10	11
PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE						
12 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	13	14 2:00pm Hillcrest Bingo 6:00pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	15 6:00pm Griefshare 6:00pm School of Religion 6:30pm F.I.R.E.	16	17	18
PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE						
19 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 1:00pm Voter's meeting	20	21 1:00pm Adopt-A-Chaplain packing	22 6:00pm Griefshare 6:00pm School of Religion 6:30pm F.I.R.E.	23 1:30pm Hillcrest service 2:30pm Kinship Pointe service	24	25 Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
	PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE					
26 <b>Communion Sunday</b> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Young Adults	27 2:00pm LWML	28	29 6:00pm Griefshare 6:00pm School of Religion End of the Year Party 6:30pm F.I.R.E.	30		
	PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE					