



'TIDINGS OF **PEACE**' from

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

TO:

May 2026

GRADUATION
Blessings

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 future.
JEREMIAH 29:11

Congratulations
Class of 2026



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

Family Life Minister
Hanah Nothnagel
hanahswan@gmail.com

Creative Preschool Director
Kelsey VanPelt
mycreativepreschool@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant
Tina Cummins
office@plcmccook.org

Congregational President
Russ Ankersen
ankrsen@gmail.com

Congregational Vice President
Phil Bamesberger
pbamesberger@gmail.com

Elder Chairman
Brandon Kuykendall

Council Secretary
Linda Smith
lksmithpo@yahoo.com

Treasurer
Melissa Hanchera
plctreasurer1908@gmail.com

Financial Secretary
Carol Collicott
ccccollicott@gmail.com

ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

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. Thank you for the wonderful supplies that have been donated. The post office is not delivering mail to US military in the Middle East at present. Please say an extra prayer for those soldiers because not receiving mail from "home" adds to the loneliness that the soldiers experience. We have boxes packed and addressed, so we can send the boxes as soon as the mail is allowed to go through. Because we have enough boxes packed for future shipments, the packing volunteers are taking a break in May. We will meet again in June, all are welcome to help at that time, next packing day is Tues, June 16 at 1:00pm

MOWING SCHEDULE

The Trustees are looking for some volunteers to help with the mowing this summer. There is a sign up sheet on the buffet in the Narthex. They are asking that the lawn gets mowed weekly on Thursday, Friday or Saturday. The mower will be filled with gas prior to mowing, so you won't have to worry about that. Please message Heath Brown @ 340-0257, Chance Koetter @ 737-6850 or Barry Mooney @ 340-9694 when it is your week to mow. Thanks!

YOUNG ADULTS

Join us young adults (kids included) for our monthly pot luck style dinner together at the church. May 17th at 12:00 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.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Jerry Calvin	5/1	Lisa Schoup	5/11	Spencer Rogers	5/18
Sarah Risenhoover	5/1	Jennifer Doucet	5/12	Scott Hanchera	5/19
Austin Thompson	5/2	Patricia Nielsen	5/12	Susie DeJonge	5/20
Samson Ziebell	5/2	Kysen Hazlitt	5/14	Joe Vetrovsky	5/22
Lonnie Felcher	5/3	Jameson Koetter	5/14	Vaunda Hyde	5/23
Emery Goltl	5/3	Heath Brown	5/15	Jacob Vetrovsky	5/23
Teddy Felcher	5/5	Allyx Garretson	5/15	Danielle Schumacher	5/24
Jeff Polly	5/5	LaVonne Hanchera	5/16	Lindsay McConville	5/25
Sharon Kircher	5/7	Haven Curl	5/17	Gerald Gohl	5/29
Harlan Reiners	5/8	Jenna Moench	5/17	Treven Critchfield	5/31
Bradley Goltl	5/10	Linda Richards	5/17		

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Alyssa & Todd Bauer	5/3/2014	12	Ron & Jeanne Rogers	5/23/1971	55
Samantha & Michael Turpin	5/7/2022	4	Harold & Sue Carlson	5/24/2008	18
Tom & Cindy Shields	5/14/1983	43	Drew & Amanda Shields	5/29/2021	5
Joel & Linda Smith	5/18/1991	35	Preston & Amanda Hueftle	5/30/2020	6
Nick & Hanah Nothnagel	5/21/2016	10	Gerald & Kristi Novak	5/30/1981	45
Mitch & Aimee Hazlitt	5/22/2010	16			

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 (April 19th-April 25th)	Month to Date (April 5th-April 25th)	Actual Year to Date (January 4th-April 25th)
Offerings	\$2,782.00	\$15,275.00	\$84,617.00
Expenses	\$645.00	\$11,092.00	\$109,613.00



Confirmation



Congratulations to this years confirmands! Avery Davidson, Mila Nelms, Myles Nelms, and Jeremiah Carpenter! You Are Awesome!

CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

Creative Preschool wants to thank the members from Peace Lutheran church that bought our preschool new books from our book fair. We appreciate your support and the kids are so excited to have new books to read!



MAY READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
3rd	The 5th S. of Easter	Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
10th	The 6th S. of Easter	Acts 17:16-31	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
17th	The 7th S. of Easter	Acts 1:12-26	1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11	John 17:1-11
24th	The Day of Pentecost	Numbers 1:24-30	Acts 2:1-21	John 7:37-39
31st	The Holy Trinity	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	Acts 2:14a, 22-36	Matthew 28:16-20



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

Follow Him in Generosity *Originally published in May 2023*

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job is already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly that they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.



SCHOOL OF RELIGION

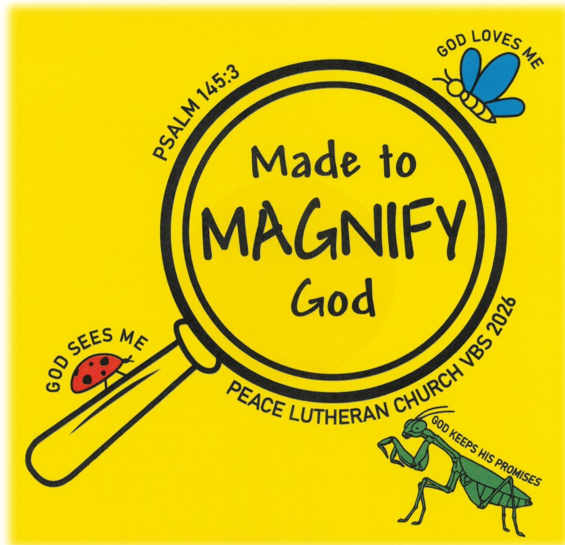
As another year of School of Religion has come to an end, I would like to sincerely thank Pastor, Tina, all teachers, helpers, substitute teachers, the individuals that helped with security, the Superintendent's and the ladies that prepared the wonderful food for this year's program. Your time and dedication to this mission of teaching our youth does not go unnoticed and is appreciated by many. Thank you again. Kris Hanchera

GRIEFSHARE

If you are grieving a loss join us for a Griefshare weekly grief support group Wednesday nights from 6 to 7:30pm.

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



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

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

May 3rd

Elder on duty
 Organist Charlene Pfanstiel
 Audio Cathy Broz
 Greeter Grant Pfanstiel
 Greeter Charlene Pfanstiel
 Usher Gene Meints
 Lay Reader Sue Ankersen
 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 Jackson Hartwell

May 10th

Elder on duty Victor Lauer
 Organist Charlene Pfanstiel
 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

May 17th

Elder on duty
 Organist Charlene Pfanstiel
 Audio Paul Sellers
 Greeter Elaine Polly
 Greeter Jeff Polly
 Usher Eugene Custer
 Lay Reader Rylee Mooney
 Acolyte
 Acolyte
 Powerpoint Tina Cummins
Late Service
 Greeter Donna Hall
 Greeter Jim Hall
 Usher Ben Schow
 Lay Reader Renelle Mooney
 Acolyte
 Acolyte
 Powerpoint
 Live Stream Ryker Mooney

May 24th

Elder on duty
 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
 Acolyte
 Powerpoint Gary Hunkins
 Live Stream Jackson Hartwell

May 31st

Elder on duty
 Organist Recorded
 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 Melissa Hoffmann
 Acolyte
 Acolyte
 Powerpoint
 Live Stream Layton Hinz



PEACE TALK

It's a rather blustery day today! These are the words of Winnie the Pooh, a good natured, honey loving bear who has been a well-known children's story character for decades. I got to thinking about this blustery day remark as I was walking across my yard the other day. The prevailing wind tugging at my jacket, desperately trying to steal my hat, and turning my trek to the shop into a leaning head-down march. It's hard to find much good to say about those blustery days. However, Winnie the Pooh would say it's a "Happy Winds-day." Anyone living in the Midwest might agree that nearly every day could possibly be identified as Winds-day. This prompts for a question to be asked... Why does the wind blow? The Apostle John could answer this in storybook fashion...No one can tell me, nobody knows, where the wind comes from, where the wind goes (John 3:8). One thing we do know for sure, is that we have a lot of it. Some say the direction of the winds will determine weather patterns. Could that be the purpose of all these blustery days? If we look to our creator, we find that God used the wind in many ways. He sent the winds to dry out the waters for Noah (Genesis 8:1). A Psalmist portrayed the Wind as an instrument of God's will (Psalm 135:7). Also, as a symbol of His presence and power (Exodus 14:21). God used the wind to feed the hungry (Numbers 11:31). To bring forth confession (Jonah 1:4). And to symbolize the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:2). "Lashing lustily" and "rustling gustily" Pooh might say of God's mighty works. Maybe we should look at those blustery days like Pooh Bear. Seeking humility through the forces we cannot control with gentle wisdom instead of frustration. Taking a moment to trust that Jesus will calm the winds in our leaning head-down moments (Mark 4:35-41). Turning to God to calm our raging winds into a whisper (Psalm 107:29). Leaving us with a fraction of joy when we say, "It's a blustery day today." Maybe! Just Maybe... we could use these words of Winnie the Pooh as a reminder that when the leaves blow by and your hat disappears, to pause and appreciate what God does, even in the forces of wind. Now, let the unpredictable breezes lead you to new joys and discoveries, trusting that God is present in every gust and gentle whisper. When the winds howl, may you find comfort in knowing that, just as Jesus calmed the storm, He can bring peace to your anxious spirit. If Pooh can find something good on Winds-day, surely, we can find something good too... Then, like Pooh, we might say, "When you wake up in the morning, you know that something wonderful is going to happen." Let God's love carry you through every blustery day, filling your heart with gratitude and courage for whatever blows your way. Dear Lord, steady my steps in the blustery days of my life. Amen.



Peace Lutheran Church

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Website: plcmccook.org

Facebook: Peace Lutheran McCook NE

YouTube: Peace Lutheran Church McCook

May

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 10:30am Worship	4 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	5 9:00am worship committee	6 6:00pm GriefShare	7	8 Upper Fellowship Hall reservation	9 Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
10 Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 10:30am Worship	11 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	12 2:00pm Hillcrest Bingo 6:00pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	13 6:00pm GriefShare	14	15	16
17 8:00am Worship 9:15am Graduation Breakfast 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Young Adults	18 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	19 Upper Fellowship Hall reservation PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE (WINKEL)	20 6:00pm GriefShare	21	22	23
24 Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 10:30am Worship	25 Office Closed	26	27 6:00pm GriefShare	28 1:30pm Hillcrest service 2:30pm Kinship Pointe service	29	30
31 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 10:30am Worship						