

# TIDINGS OF PEACE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Hello again, as I write to you today, I consider the beauty of the early church that we've been reading about in the Acts of the Apostles over the past month; they gathered—they prayed—they listened to the teachings about Jesus—and they spent time together. The word the scriptures used to describe the heart of these people is, "devoted."

The reason I write of these things is that I am privileged to see the same devotion of heart every day as folks come and go, most of them unnoticed. As I consider these things, I can't help but smile to think that the heart of the church is the same as it was that day Jesus ascended into heaven—the same day folks who, having returned from the Mount called Olivet, entered the upper room where they were staying—devoting themselves to prayer and to the teachings of the apostles.

In the same way also, in our own time, on any given day, I am privileged to witness God's church in action as I greet folks and ask the question; "What are you up to today?" To which folks respond, saying; "Oh, I'm just here to fill the candles, or I'm here to change the banners, or sharpen pencils, or change the numbers on the hymn boards, or I'm here to mow the grass, or deliver worship folders to shut-ins, or bring letters for our missionaries, or fill boxes for chaplains, or plant flowers, or to fix a light: the list can go on and on—*All with one accord, devoting themselves;*" so many folks showing their love and devotion to the Lord by attending to the business of His house. And let us not forget all the teachers, and those who hold elected or appointed offices in the church; just think of the total hours you and your fellow believers dedicate to showing love for God, and devotion to you, His church.

I guess this is my way of saying that I am in awe of you, God's church, and it is a privilege to serve with you. If I have failed to mention some of you, please know that I appreciate you as well.

And please know that when Jesus prayed His high priestly prayer, all those centuries ago, He was praying for you, His church saying; *"O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I make known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."* (John 17:25-26).

Pastor



TIDINGS OF PEACE

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

411 EAST 6TH STREET

MCCOOK, NE 69001

TO:



**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  
cccollicott@gmail.com

**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!

**GIFT CARD DRIVE**

We are having a gift card drive for the youth. Gift cards they can use for supplies, snacks, outdoor activities, gas for travel and much more. Cards of any amount from any local business or well-known brands (Walmart, Casey's, Axe House, Lucy's Bakery, Subway, Heritage Hills, Shell, just to name a few) can be brought to the church and placed in the designated box on the buffet or given to Hanah or Tina. Thanks for your support!



**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

Carol Collicott	6/1	Abigail Schneider	6/9	Adley Bauer	6/22
Nadine Oetting	6/1	Christien Kuykendall	6/10	Zachary Hueftle	6/23
Devin Reiners	6/3	Rebecca Post	6/10	Amanda Novak	6/23
Robin Calvin	6/4	Carson Garretson	6/12	Dana Real	6/23
Sue Carlson	6/4	Koltin Hazlitt	6/13	Keith Schoup	6/25
Gene Meints	6/4	Lilyanna Strauch	6/14	Emmalynn Seybold	6/25
Gina Vetrovsky	6/4	Chase Brown	6/15	Dillon Goltl	6/26
Mike Nielsen	6/5	Mitch Hazlitt	6/19	Emmy Moench	6/26
Jane Schuster	6/6	Paul Sellers	6/20	Jennifer Kircher	6/29
Megan Vetrovsky	6/7	Rivington Gass	6/21		

**JUNE ANNIVERSARIES**

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Mike & Linda Nielsen	6/3/1972	54	Cody & Kylee DeWester	6/20/2009	17
Angela & Willian Watts	6/4/2016	10	Alex & Molly Sharp	6/20/2015	11
Raymond & Judy Schow	6/9/1969	57	Robert & Elizabeth Geisler	6/21/1964	62
Todd & Lisa Koetter	6/10/1982	44	Brent & Candace Rogers	6/22/1996	30
Lee & Lindsay McConville	6/12/2004	22	Gene & Karen Meints	6/30/1972	54
Jerry & Beverly Unger	6/17/1970	56	Richard & Sonja Thompson	6/30/2003	23

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.

**OUR FINANCES AT A GLANCE**

	Week to date (May 24 <sup>th</sup> -May 30 <sup>th</sup> )	Month to Date (May 3 <sup>rd</sup> -May 30 <sup>th</sup> )	Year to Date (January 4 <sup>th</sup> -May 30 <sup>th</sup> )
<b>Offerings</b>	<b>\$6,993.00</b>	<b>\$18,623.00</b>	<b>\$108,219.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,678.00</b>	<b>\$32,651.00</b>	<b>\$155,014.00</b>

If you feel compelled to give, offering can be brought into the church office, mailed to P.O. Box 240 or direct deposited.

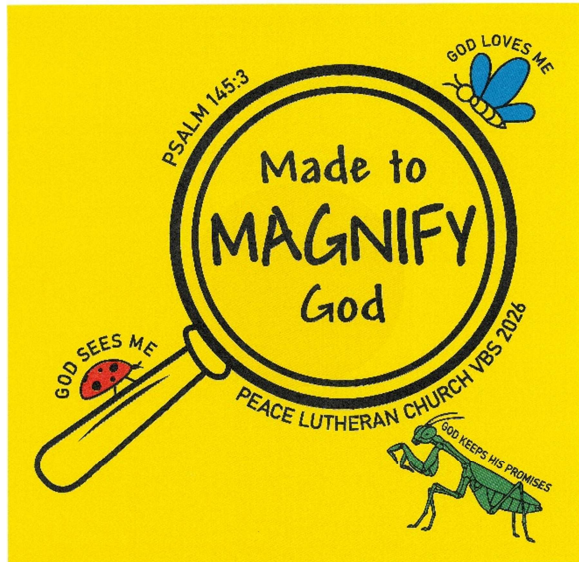


### JUNE READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
7 <sup>th</sup>	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> S. after Pentecost	Hosea 5:15-6:6	Romans 4:13-25	Matthew 9:9-13
14 <sup>th</sup>	The 3 <sup>rd</sup> S. after Pentecost	Exodus 19:2-8	Romans 5:6-15	Matthew 9:35-10:20
21 <sup>st</sup>	The 4 <sup>th</sup> S. after Pentecost	Jeremiah 20:7-13	Romans 6:12-23	Matthew 10:5a, 21-33
28 <sup>th</sup>	The 5 <sup>th</sup> S. after Pentecost	Jeremiah 28:1-13	Romans 7:1-13	Matthew 10:34-42

### 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 10<sup>th</sup>. 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). Pastor Felcher provides the lesson, so we are in need of "Shepherds" to provide directions, guidance and supervision for the day. For more information, contact Danielle Schumacher, Kris Hanchera, Jan Hubert or let Tina at the office know you're willing to help. Please also consider donating snacks for the VBS program this year. There is a sign-up sheet located on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Thank you.



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

#### What Do You Want?

*Originally published June 2023*

One of the best-known and most-beloved psalms is Psalm 23, the "Shepherd Psalm." There we learn that the Lord is our Shepherd. And since He is our Shepherd, we will not want. We will not suffer want because the Lord, our Shepherd, will lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. In other words, the Lord, our Shepherd, will provide for all that we need in both body and soul.

Yet, we live as though this is not the case. We live as though we actually suffer from want, that the Lord, our Shepherd, will not provide for all that we need. And thus, we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd. And that means that we live as though we are not the Lord's sheep.

When do we live as though the Lord is not our Shepherd? When we put anything else before Him and His provision for us. When we think that going to work is more important than receiving His gifts in church on Sunday (in violation of the First and Third Commandments). When we fail to give generously of the first fruits of what the Lord has provided for us because we don't know what the future will bring (even though He has promised that He will lead us to green pastures and still waters).

We live as though we are not the Lord's sheep when we think that the Lord is only in the business of helping those who will help themselves. We act this way because our minds are set on earthly, temporal things and not on heavenly, eternal things. We act this way because we have stopped hearing the call of our Shepherd, which comes through His Word.

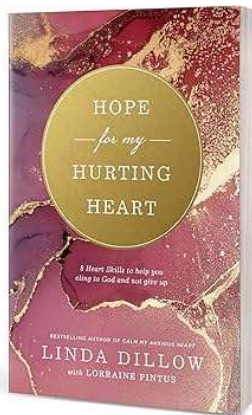
Through the Word of God, the Shepherd calls us to Himself. Through the Word, the Holy Spirit gathers and enlightens us with His gifts. Through the Word, we are kept holy and nourished in the one true faith, the faith that follows our Shepherd wherever He leads us. He promises to lead us to our true home, to the land flowing with milk and honey, to a better country, not of this world, but a heavenly one.

And so, here's the Good News: the Lord is your Shepherd, even and especially for wayward sheep. For Jesus seeks and saves those who are lost. He finds the lost sheep and carries them back to the fold. He is the Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep. The Lord is your Shepherd. Let us live as His sheep.



## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

A four-week women's bible study "Hope For My Hurting Heart" will be offered Friday or Sunday mornings. Starting Friday, June 19th at 8:30am and June 21st at 9:15am. Please contact Hanah at 308-737-1905 so materials can be ordered.



## COOKIES NEEDED

22 dozen cookies are needed for the blood drive by June 21<sup>st</sup>. There is a sign-up sheet on the buffet in the narthex.

## 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 remains closed for mail delivery to US military in the Middle East. Please say an extra prayer US soldiers deployed to the Middle East. We did send boxes to a Navy aircraft carrier, the USS Gerard R. Ford, while they were in the Middle East area and those boxes went through. Boxes are also sent to known LCMS chaplains known to be deployed, currently two in Korea and one in Poland. We can get the contact information of a Nebraska National Guard chaplain, deployed with the 67th MEB, and have started sending boxes. According to news reports, the 67th MEB Nebraska National Guard, based in Lincoln, was recently sent to Djibouti, Africa. We will pack boxes again in June, all are welcome to help at that time, next packing day is Tues, June 16 at 1:00 pm



## 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

June 7th	
Elder on duty	Jim Dyer
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Grant Pfanstiel
Greeter	Charlene Pfanstiel
Usher	Sue 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	Tina Cummins

June 14th	
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	Jackson Hartwell

June 21st	
Elder on duty	Brandon Kuykendall
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

June 28th	
Elder on duty	Nick or Lee
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	
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	Layton Hinz



## PEACE TALK

What comes to mind when you hear the word "iron"? Maybe it is a bad swing with a five iron, sore muscles from pumping iron, or a battle of two teams on the gridiron. We find the word "iron" in so many phrases that it can almost sound ordinary. Yet iron itself is anything but ordinary. If you think about it, iron quietly carries weight, strengthens what would otherwise collapse, and serves a purpose that is often undetected. Bridges stand because of it, tools are shaped from it, and homes are secured by it. In many ways, iron becomes an image of the kind of strength we long for in life... a strength that can endure pressure, carry weight, and hold us steady when we sway. Isn't that also what we strive for in our spiritual lives as well? How should I pump that spiritual iron to make me stronger? Solomon shares with us, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17). There are times when God uses the people around us, the truth they speak, and even the friction we feel to sharpen our spiritual life that often weakens within us. Also comforting to us is when Moses said God brought His people "out of the iron furnace" (Deuteronomy 4:20). The fire was real, but so was the rescue. And God promises, "Your bars shall be iron and bronze, and as your days, so shall your strength be" (Deuteronomy 33:25). What feels heavy today may be the very place God is building strength in you. That is often how God works in our lives. He does not always remove the heat right away... sometimes He uses it to produce something stronger in us. You see, iron is not shaped without heat, and faith is not strengthened without refining. Sure, it's hot, but it is also where impurities rise and where endurance is formed. My friends, when life feels heavy, God may be working inside you where you cannot see. He may be purifying you to depend on Him more fully, trust Him more deeply, and stand more firmly than before. Scripture also speaks of iron yokes (Jeremiah 28:13) and chariots of iron (Judges 1:19). Pictures of burdens and obstacles that seem impossible to overcome. But our strength will come from Christ, who rules with a "rod of iron" (Revelation 2:27). Yes, our hardships are strong, but He is stronger. So, when life feels hard, do not fear the iron. Let God use it to sharpen you, strengthen you, and remind you that no burden, no furnace, and no battle is greater than His power. The very things that seem heavy today may become the testimony of His faithfulness tomorrow. The resistance you feel may certainly be His refining. What feels like pressure may be His strengthening hand at work. What feels impossible may simply be another place where Christ will prove that He is stronger than every yoke and greater than every obstacle. Dear Lord, thank you for helping me strengthen my spiritual iron curtain. Amen.



**Peace Lutheran Church**  
 411 East 6th Street  
 PO Box 240  
 McCook, NE 69001  
 Phone : (308)345-2595  
 Email: [office@plcmccook.org](mailto:office@plcmccook.org)  
 Website: [plcmccook.org](http://plcmccook.org)  
 Facebook: Peace Lutheran McCook NE  
 YouTube: Peace Lutheran Church McCook

# JUNE 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	<b>3</b> 6:00pm GriefShare	4	5	<b>6</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study
PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE (VACATION)						
<b>7</b> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 10:30am Worship	8	<b>9</b> 2:00pm Hillcrest Bingo 6:00pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	<b>10</b> 6:00pm GriefShare	11	12	<b>13</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL						
PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE (VACATION)						
<b>14</b> Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 10:30am Worship	15	<b>16</b> 1:00pm Adopt-A-Chaplain packing	<b>17</b> 6:00pm GriefShare	18	<b>19</b> 8:30am Women's Bible Study	<b>20</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study
PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE						
<b>21</b> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 9:15am Women's Bible Study 10:30am Worship	22	23	<b>24</b> 6:00pm GriefShare	<b>25</b> 1:30pm Hillcrest service 2:30pm Kinship Pointe service	<b>26</b> 8:30am Women's Bible Study	<b>27</b> 7:00am Men's Bible Study
PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE						
<b>28</b> Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 8:30am Women's Bible Study 10:30am Worship	29	30				
PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE						