

# TIDINGS OF PEACE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH **LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Hello again, have you ever wondered why the Lord allows things to happen the way they happen when they happen? Have you ever looked back and thought to yourself, "Hmm, that was interesting timing." The other day I started a project I had been putting off; a project I was sure would turn into something bigger than it appeared—which it did. There is a yard – hydrant between the house and the barn that has been performing poorly since before we moved in. While tinkering with it one day during that hot spell in late July, I discovered a way to get more water to flow, but the problem was that when I did, it wouldn't turn off—I had a choice to make: better performance, or the ability to turn off. Well, I wanted both, so I decided that the next morning, I would replace that old leaky hydrant. As I began to dig, I noticed that the ground was damp and easy to dig. The deeper I dug, the more damp the dirt became, until I reached the point where I knew this was one of those projects that was bigger than I had hoped; at about the three-foot mark, water began oozing up through the dirt—and before I knew it, the hole was full of water and running over. When that happened, the sprinkler I had running on the yard slowed to a trickle, which meant I was losing water to the house. So, disheartened, I called a friend and asked if he had a plumber he would recommend. I called the number, and before long a young man came to "take a look." I had presented a worst-case scenario to him, to which he smiled and said, "I fix these things all the time, they're not that hard, let's see what we've got." So, I turned off the well while he pumped the water out of the hole. He was right, it was something he could easily fix, so we began to dig more, and after we worked together for a while, he asked me; "Don't I see you at Ed's Place every Saturday morning?" I said "Yes," and I told him about the Men's Bible study we have there on Saturdays. He said, "I thought so—that's cool. I deliver food there on Saturdays." So, I told him I would look for him the next time I'm there.

So, I ask you again; "Have you ever wondered why the Lord allows things to happen the way they happen when they happen?" Thanks for reading.  
Pastor

*Psalm 27:14 "Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord."*

TO:



**TIDINGS OF PEACE**

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

### LCMS Health Ministry

August is a month bursting with life and activity! The colors of summer linger for a little longer. Daylight hours are still long and sunny. Children are preparing to go back to school. As Christians, we get to relish in the good life that the Lord has given to us — not simply when the sun shines or when the energy of youthfulness exists — but we rejoice in all times and in all circumstances, for “this is the will of God in Christ,” Paul writes in 1 Thess. 5:16–18! Christians see life most vividly through the cross and resurrection of Jesus, which is utter folly to the world (1 Cor. 1:18). People will question how life has meaning in the face of suffering, challenges, and most especially in the wake of death, and the answer is always found in Jesus (1 Cor. 15). The Lord is the Author and Giver of Life. Whether life feels like a joyous summer or an endless winter, Christ’s movement through the cross and empty tomb means that His presence, His comfort and His joys are yours in all things.

For Scriptural reflections of life under the cross, visit the LCMS Life library at [lcmsslife.org](http://lcmsslife.org) and consider reading “God’s Presence in Suffering: The Theology of the Cross” at [thelc.ms/suffering-theology-of-the-cross](http://thelc.ms/suffering-theology-of-the-cross).



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

|                   |     |                   |      |                  |      |
|-------------------|-----|-------------------|------|------------------|------|
| Fritz Hubert      | 8/2 | Katherine Kjendal | 8/10 | Madison Aufrecht | 8/20 |
| Abby Barth        | 8/5 | Ron Lauer         | 8/10 | Maive Turpin     | 8/20 |
| Cody Goltl        | 8/5 | Madelyn Bird      | 8/11 | Bailey Crick     | 8/27 |
| Lucas Post        | 8/5 | Patricia Penner   | 8/12 | Kristyl Hanchera | 8/27 |
| James Hall        | 8/6 | Phil Barnesberger | 8/14 | Lee McConville   | 8/27 |
| Samantha Huryta   | 8/6 | Jacob Curl        | 8/14 | Judy Schow       | 8/27 |
| Nathan Cummins    | 8/7 | Emily Kjendal     | 8/15 | Susi Bolt        | 8/28 |
| Lisa Koetter      | 8/7 | Dane Foster       | 8/26 | Janet Gray       | 8/28 |
| Christina Coleman | 8/9 | Rylee Mooney      | 8/26 | Brooks Lietka    | 8/28 |
| Linda Nielsen     | 8/9 | Kenneth Polly     | 8/16 | Elaine Polly     | 8/30 |
| Hallie Watts      | 8/9 | Paxton Messinger  | 8/18 |                  |      |

## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

| NAME                     | DATE      | YEARS | NAME                     | DATE      | YEARS |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------|--------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Dillon & Audrie Goltl    | 8/2/2014  | 12    | Bob & Joann Nemechek     | 8/19/1972 | 54    |
| Steve & Brigitta Post    | 8/2/1980  | 46    | Zachary & Becka Hueftle  | 8/20/2016 | 10    |
| Samantha & Elliot Huryta | 8/4/2018  | 8     | Keith & Kelsey Messinger | 8/20/2011 | 15    |
| Rachel & Dakota Lietka   | 8/10/2019 | 7     | Roger & Karen Ziebell    | 8/21/1971 | 55    |
| Curt & Cindy Swanhorst   | 8/11/1984 | 42    | Jeffrey & Kelly Unger    | 8/22/2009 | 17    |
| Randall & Carrie Goltl   | 8/12/1988 | 38    | Tom & Vickie Gohl        | 8/26/1972 | 54    |
| Randon & Laurie Peters   | 8/13/2006 | 20    | Larry & Linda Richards   | 8/26/1962 | 64    |
| Steven & Sharon Kircher  | 8/17/1984 | 42    | Lonnie & Tanna Felcher   | 8/28/1976 | 50    |

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<br>(June 21 <sup>st</sup> -June 27 <sup>th</sup> ) | Month to Date<br>(June 7 <sup>th</sup> -June 27 <sup>th</sup> ) | Year to Date<br>(January 4 <sup>th</sup> -June 27 <sup>th</sup> ) |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Offerings</b> | <b>\$2,525.00</b>                                               | <b>\$11,473.00</b>                                              | <b>\$127,104.00</b>                                               |
| <b>Expenses</b>  | <b>\$4,743.00</b>                                               | <b>\$16,830.00</b>                                              | <b>\$176,139.00</b>                                               |

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



## AUGUST READINGS

| Date | Season                                  | First Reading     | Epistle                      | Holy Gospel      |
|------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 2nd  | The 10 <sup>th</sup> S. after Pentecost | Isaiah 55:1-5     | Romans 9:1-13                | Matthew 14:13-21 |
| 9th  | The 11 <sup>th</sup> S. after Pentecost | Job 38:4-18       | Romans 10:5-17               | Matthew 14:22-33 |
| 16th | The 12 <sup>th</sup> S. after Pentecost | Isaiah 56:1, 6-8  | Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32 | Matthew 15:21-28 |
| 23rd | The 13 <sup>th</sup> S. after Pentecost | Isaiah 51:1-6     | Romans 11:33-12:8            | Matthew 16:13-20 |
| 30th | The 14 <sup>th</sup> S. after Pentecost | Jeremiah 15:15-21 | Romans 12:9-21               | Matthew 16:21-28 |

## 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 donations of money and supplies. The post office is opening up to some areas of the Middle East, we are sending letters to ministry teams there and hope to follow soon with care packages. The four LCMS chaplains that we supported this year have all returned home, and no other LCMS chaplains are reported to be in areas of tension at this time. We have adopted a Nebraska National Guard chaplain who is with soldiers that are deployed to Djibouti, Africa. This area is near the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. We will support our Nebraska heroes every month until they return home. All are welcome to help with the next packing day, Tues, Aug 18 at 1:00 pm.

## 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!



## FROM AN ELDER

As another season unfolds, we find ourselves surrounded by familiar signs of late summer. School doors are opening once again, county fairs are bringing neighbors together, and the summer heat continues to remind us of both the beauty and the challenges of God's creation. Each of these moments offers opportunities to reflect on the Lord's faithfulness and to encourage one another in the Christian faith.

For many families, the beginning of a new school year brings excitement mixed with uncertainty. Students face new teachers, classmates, and responsibilities. Parents adjust to changing schedules, while teachers and school staff prepare to serve with patience and dedication. These transitions can sometimes feel overwhelming, but we are reminded that the Lord walks beside His people in every season. We read in Psalm 121:7-8 "The Lord will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore." What a comfort it is to know that our identity and security are found not in our accomplishments or circumstances, but in Christ, who has claimed us as His own through Holy Baptism.

County fairs are another cherished part of this time of year. They celebrate the blessings of agriculture, the talents of our communities, and the fellowship we enjoy with family and friends. They also remind us of God's abundant provision. Whether we admire livestock, enjoy food, or visit with neighbors we have not seen for some time, we can give thanks for the many gifts our Heavenly Father provides. Every harvest, every friendship, and every opportunity to serve our neighbor points us back to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The persistent summer heat can test our patience and our endurance. Long days of high temperatures often leave us tired and weary. Yet even in the heat, God continues to sustain His creation. We are reminded in Psalm 118:24 "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Every day, whether cool or hot, busy or restful, is a gift from the Lord and another opportunity to trust Him, love our neighbors, and give thanks for His mercy.

As we move through these busy weeks, let us remember to pray for our students, educators, farmers, first responders, volunteers, and all who labor faithfully in our community. Let us remain steadfast in worship, hearing and sharing God's Word. In Christ we find the strength, peace, and hope that carry us through every season of life.

May the Lord bless your homes, keep you safe in your travels and daily work, and grant you His peace as we continue to walk together in faith, trusting always in His unfailing promises. Always remember that Jesus loves you. May His love strengthen, guide, and encourage you each day.



## BOARD OF EVANGELISM

The Board of Evangelism will be asking 3 people/families each month to submit a family photo and a write up telling us about you and your family so we can put it on our getting to know you board in the Narthex.

## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, August 9th at both the 8:00am and 10:30am service there will be a Blessing of the Backpacks, car keys, coaches' whistles, school keys, etc. to start off the school year!

## SCHOOL OF RELIGION

School of Religion sign up is August 26<sup>th</sup> anytime between 6 and 7pm for child(ren) and parent(s). If you are unable to attend, please notify the church office of your children's information. School of Religion begins September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm.

## 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!



## 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.

**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

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>August 2nd</b>   |                     |
| Elder on duty       | Jim Dyer            |
| Organist            | Shawn, Emma, Hannah |
| Audio               | Paul Sellers        |
| Greeter             | Grant Pfanstiel     |
| Greeter             | Charlene Pfanstiel  |
| Usher               | Gene Meints         |
| Lay Reader          | Sue Ankersen        |
| Acolyte             |                     |
| Acolyte             |                     |
| Powerpoint          | Tina Cummins        |
| <b>Late Service</b> |                     |
| Greeter             | Jane Schuster       |
| Greeter             | Myra Tietz          |
| Usher               | Gary Hunkins        |
| Lay Reader          | Nick Nothnagel      |
| Acolyte             | Raegan Kisker       |
| Acolyte             |                     |
| Powerpoint          | Ben Schow           |
| Live Stream         | Jackson Hartwell    |

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| <b>August 9th</b>   |                    |
| Elder on duty       | Nick Nothnagel     |
| Organist            | Charlene Pfanstiel |
| Audio               | Russ Ankersen      |
| Greeter             | Deb Shields        |
| Greeter             |                    |
| Usher               | Harold Carlson     |
| Lay Reader          | Randon Peters      |
| Acolyte             |                    |
| Acolyte             |                    |
| Powerpoint          | Russ Ankersen      |
| <b>Late Service</b> |                    |
| Greeter             | Cindy Swanhorst    |
| Greeter             | Curt Swanhorst     |
| Usher               | Harold Carlson     |
| Lay Reader          | Sarah Risenhoover  |
| Acolyte             | Will Kunkee        |
| Acolyte             | Hunter Kunkee      |
| Powerpoint          | Russ Ankersen      |
| Live Stream         | Tina Cummins       |

|                     |                    |                     |                    |                     |                  |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| <b>August 16th</b>  |                    | <b>August 23rd</b>  |                    | <b>August 30th</b>  |                  |
| Elder on duty       | Brandon Kuykendall | Elder on duty       | Nick or Lee        | Elder on duty       | Phil or Russ     |
| Organist            | Charlene Pfanstiel | Organist            | Charlene Pfanstiel | Organist            | Recorded         |
| Audio               | Cathy Broz         | Audio               | Harold Carlson     | Audio               |                  |
| Greeter             | Elaine Polly       | Greeter             |                    | Greeter             | Sue Carlson      |
| Greeter             | Jeff Polly         | Greeter             |                    | Greeter             | Harold Carlson   |
| Usher               | Eugene Custer      | Usher               | Eugene Custer      | Usher               | Gene Meints      |
| Lay Reader          | Rylee Mooney       | Lay Reader          | Jerry Calvin       | Lay Reader          | Harold Carlson   |
| Acolyte             | Brayden Watts      | Acolyte             | Brayden Watts      | Acolyte             |                  |
| Acolyte             |                    | Acolyte             |                    | Acolyte             |                  |
| Powerpoint          | Cathy Broz         | Powerpoint          | Harold Carlson     | Powerpoint          |                  |
| <b>Late Service</b> |                    | <b>Late Service</b> |                    | <b>Late Service</b> |                  |
| Greeter             | Donna Hall         | Greeter             | Pat Penner         | Greeter             |                  |
| Greeter             | Jim Hall           | Greeter             |                    | Greeter             |                  |
| Usher               | Ben Schow          | Usher               | Curt Swanhorst     | Usher               | Steve Post       |
| Lay Reader          | Renelle Mooney     | Lay Reader          | Curt Swanhorst     | Lay Reader          | Melissa Hoffmann |
| Acolyte             | Wade Hamilton      | Acolyte             | Kysen Hazlitt      | Acolyte             | Cooper Davidson  |
| Acolyte             | Kallen Unger       | Acolyte             |                    | Acolyte             |                  |
| Powerpoint          | Cathy Broz         | Powerpoint          | Gary Hunkins       | Powerpoint          |                  |
| Live Stream         | Ryker Mooney       | Live Stream         | Layton Hinz        | Live Stream         | Ryker Mooney     |



## PEACE TALK

"Cheer up, things could be worse. So, I cheered up and sure enough, things got worse." So goes the saying on a coffee mug I selected to start the day. At first glance this was a lot to process by an early morning Zombie. But as I sat there meditating on this thought, I couldn't help but smile over the sarcasm. Ironically a bit of humor was intended, laced with candid truth. Sort of a tongue in cheek way I suppose to draw a smile amid a world full of harsh realities. This kind of cheer, or lack of, can identify our moment when we try to have a good attitude by cheering up. Then leaving us to think it will somehow guard us from further misfortune. At the same time, we return to question how to find cheer when things are getting worse. If this is the season you are in right now, it might help to look to the Apostle Paul, who can provide great encouragement. When he faced things he couldn't fix, he learned to lean entirely on God's sustaining grace, for we are made stronger in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9-10). Paul also shares with us that hardships can serve a purpose, as they actively produce endurance, character, and hope (Romans 5:3-5). Paul's witness can be of further reassurance during our moments when things do get worse... with the fact that they are only momentary compared to the eternal value of our faith (2 Corinthians 4:16-18). When we channel our attention through the lens of these truths, it will transition the fear hidden in the humor of our morning coffee... to joy. The joy of knowing Christ is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit (Psalm 34:18). The joy found when we are also told not to fear, for He is always with us (Isaiah 41:10). So perhaps the way to look at this joy is not simply, "Cheer up." But possibly, "Look up." Look up from the mug, the mess, the morning news, the unresolved ache, and the unanswered questions. Jesus said we will have these troubles, and faith will not be easy. But amid these troubles, He assures us that we can overcome them through Him (John 16:33). That's why we must look up to Him. Because that is the joy our hearts really need... not the fragile cheer that depends on the day improving, but the steady courage that comes from knowing Christ has already overcome what threatens to overwhelm us. Yes, circumstances may worsen, but God's faithfulness does not weaken. Troubles may multiply, but so can endurance. The road may stretch longer than expected, but hope does not run dry when it is being poured into us by the Holy Spirit. My friends, God sees our everyday moments when things are going awry (Proverbs 15:3), and He is right by our side when we are told, "Cheer up, things could be worse," (Matthew 28:20). And sure enough, with Jesus' eternal promise, those things will turn to joy, (Psalm 16:11). Dear Lord, when things seem to be getting worse, turn my fear into trust and help me look up to the joy found in You. Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity  
Phil Bamesberger



# AUGUST 2026

| Sunday                                                                                                                                   | Monday                      | Tuesday                                                                                       | Wednesday                                              | Thursday                                                                         | Friday                                     | Saturday                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                          |                             |                                                                                               |                                                        |                                                                                  |                                            | 1<br><b>7:00am</b> Men's Bible Study<br>Upper Fellowship Hall<br>reservation  |
| 2<br><b>8:00am</b> Worship<br><b>9:15am</b> Bible Studies<br><b>10:30am</b> Worship                                                      | 3                           | 4                                                                                             | 5                                                      | 6                                                                                | 7                                          | 8                                                                             |
| PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE                                                                                                              |                             |                                                                                               |                                                        |                                                                                  |                                            |                                                                               |
| 9 <u>Communion Sunday</u><br><b>8:00am</b> Worship<br><b>9:15am</b> Bible Studies<br><b>10:30am</b> Worship<br>Blessing of the Backpacks | 10                          | 11<br><b>2:00pm</b> Hillcrest Bingo<br><b>6:00pm</b> Board of Elders<br><b>7:00pm</b> Council | 12                                                     | 13                                                                               | 14                                         | 15<br><b>7:00am</b> Men's Bible Study<br>Upper Fellowship Hall<br>reservation |
| PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE                                                                                                              |                             |                                                                                               |                                                        |                                                                                  |                                            |                                                                               |
| 16<br><b>8:00am</b> Worship<br><b>9:15am</b> Bible Studies<br><b>10:30am</b> Worship<br>Upper Fellowship Hall<br>reservation             | 17                          | 18<br><b>1:00pm</b> Adopt-A-Chaplain<br>packing                                               | 19                                                     | 20                                                                               | 21                                         | 22<br><b>7:00am</b> Men's Bible Study<br>Upper Fellowship Hall<br>reservation |
|                                                                                                                                          | PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE |                                                                                               |                                                        |                                                                                  |                                            |                                                                               |
| 23 <u>Communion Sunday</u><br><b>8:00am</b> Worship<br><b>9:15am</b> Bible Studies<br><b>10:30am</b> Worship                             | 24<br><b>2:00pm</b> LWML    | 25                                                                                            | 26<br><b>6:00pm</b> School of Religion<br>registration | 27<br><b>1:30pm</b> Hillcrest service<br><b>2:30pm</b> Kinship Pointe<br>service | 28<br>Upper Fellowship Hall<br>reservation | 29<br><b>7:00am</b> Men's Bible Study                                         |
|                                                                                                                                          | PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE |                                                                                               |                                                        |                                                                                  |                                            |                                                                               |
| 30<br><b>8:00am</b> Worship<br><b>9:15am</b> Bible Studies<br><b>10:30am</b> Worship                                                     | 31                          |                                                                                               |                                                        |                                                                                  |                                            |                                                                               |
|                                                                                                                                          | PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE |                                                                                               |                                                        |                                                                                  |                                            |                                                                               |