



TIDINGS OF PEACE

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

411 EAST 6TH STREET

MCCOOK, NE 69001

TO:

September 2026

TIDINGS OF PEACE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH LUTHERAN CHURCH

FROM AN ELDER

Time — where does it go? How do we get more of it? How does it slip by so quickly? As I write this, I wrestle with the very idea of time. It feels like we never have enough of it. Children grow up, loved ones pass into heaven and out of our earthly lives, and the days seem to move faster than our hearts can keep up.

Finding time for spouses, friends, and family can feel impossible. And in the middle of this busy, chaotic life, where do we find time for God? A prayer sent to me reminds me of the answer:

Father, bless me and make me a blessing to others so that I may proclaim Your word of salvation through Jesus Christ in this broken world. Amen.

Do we think we are the only ones who are busy? Scripture tells us of crowds of people waiting to see Jesus, the Savior. He made time for them — every single one — and He continues to wait for us to make time for Him. He will always be there, because His love for us never runs out.

Lee McConville

Closing Prayer

Father, in the moments that slip away too quickly, teach us to slow our hearts and turn toward You. Help us recognize Your presence in our busy days and remind us that time with You is never wasted. Give us the wisdom to choose what matters, the peace to rest in Your love, and the courage to make space for You even when life feels overwhelming. Draw us close, guide our steps, and let Your steady, patient love shape the way we spend our time. Amen.



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SOFTBALL GAME

Mark your calendars! There is a church wide softball game scheduled for September 13th. There will be a church potluck lunch after the 10:30 service. Hot dogs will be provided, please bring a side dish. The softball game will follow lunch. Pastor has approved casual softball attire to be worn to church. Please consider helping and/or participating. There are sign-up sheets on the board on the Narthex or contact Hanah.

HILLCREST BINGO

Peace will continue to help with bingo at Hillcrest on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 2pm. If anyone would like to help, please contact Deb Shields at 340-4054.

GRIEF SHARE

If you are grieving a loss of loved one, join us for a 13-week GriefShare grief support group Tuesdays from 4 to 5:30pm starting September 22nd. Please contact Tina at 345-2595 or Hanah at 737-1905 by September 14th so materials can be ordered.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will be starting back up Sunday, Saturday, September 13th. 9:15am to 10:15am for ages 3years thru 12th grade.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Creighton Shields	9/6
Lucas Curl	9/7
Everett Gass	9/7
Jan Hubert	9/8
Victor Lauer	9/8
Kylee Malleck	9/9
Casey Baker	9/10
Jeanne Rogers	9/10
Arlo Nothnagel	9/12
Beverly Unger	9/12
Randy Hoffmann	9/13
Ryker Mooney	9/14

Boden Goldt	9/15
Monte Hazlitt	9/15
Marilyn Masters	9/16
Connor Tidyman	9/16
Shirley Novotny	9/17
Stephanie Dorothy	9/18
Callum Goldt	9/18
Kennedy Goldt	9/18
Dorene Hoffman	9/18
Sarah Calvin	9/19
K.C. Eckhardt	9/19
Doris Friehe	9/19

Robert Geisler	9/19
Elfriede Keen	9/21
Janet Bamesberger	9/22
Almina Hueftle	9/22
Sarah Schneider	9/23
Aiden Bauer	9/24
Sue Chipman	9/25
Jackson Hartwell	9/25
Doris Leibbrandt	9/25
Lydia Risenhoover	9/25
Payton Messinger	9/26
Sue Ankersen	9/28

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Lance & Denise Gillen	9/1/1990	36	Victor & Sandy Lauer	9/23/1978	48
Duane & Patricia Fortkamp	9/5/1971	55	Gabe & Melissa Critchfield	9/24/2001	25
Danielle & Dylan Schumacher	9/10/2016	10	Keith & Nadine Oetting	9/29/1973	53
Nikki & Logan Hamilton	9/22/2012	14			

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 (Aug 23 rd -Aug 29 th)	Month to Date (Aug 2 nd -Aug 29 th)	Year to Date (January 4 th -Aug 29 th)
Offerings	\$2,138.00	\$22,868.00	\$166,459.00
Expenses	\$1,292.00	\$27,231.00	\$226,745.00

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



SEPTEMBER READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
6th	The 15 th S. after Pentecost	Ezekiel 33:7-9	Romans 13:1-10	Matthew 18:1-20
13th	The 16 th S. after Pentecost	Genesis 50:15-21	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
20th	The 17 th S. after Pentecost	Isaiah 55:6-9	Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30	Matthew 20:1-16
27th	The 18 th S. after Pentecost	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-35	Philippians 2:1-18	Matthew 21:23-32

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! We continue to support 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, Sept 29 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!



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

Stewardship in the First Commandment

Originally published in September 2023

The greatest gift that Martin Luther gave to us was his Small Catechism. The word “enchiridion” is part of the original title of this work. This is the Greek word for “handbook.” The Small Catechism is a handbook of the Bible. All the basic knowledge that a Christian needs to understand the faith and live a godly life has been taken from the Bible and distilled into this beautiful little book of Christian piety.

Luther starts with the Ten Commandments.

The First Commandment:

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. (SC I)

We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we should fear Him.

This God is also our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And therefore, we should love Him.

Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much — and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him.

In the Large Catechism, Luther explains how money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment:

This I must unfold somewhat more plainly, that it may be understood and perceived by ordinary examples of the contrary. Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Lo, such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, i.e., money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure, and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has none doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have not Mammon. This [care and desire for money] sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave. (LC I 5–9)

These words of Dr. Luther should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don't have a Father in heaven. We seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect this belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God's work.



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.

SCHOOL OF RELIGION

School of Religion begins September 2nd at 6pm.

SUPPORT OUR LUTHERAN ATHLETES

We have a great group of athletes at church to watch and support! Who are our Lutheran Athletes this season?

Jackson Hartwell- football
 Cale Dewester- football
 Emma McConville- volleyball
 Avery Davidson- volleyball
 Cassidy Rogers- softball
 Juliette Critchfield- volleyball
 Ellie Hartwell- volleyball
 Ryker Mooney- football
 Hunter Kunkee- football
 Zander Stewart- football
 Maxson Stewart- football

Their schedules of games can be found on the PowerPoint slides before and after services every week.



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

September 6th

Elder on duty	Jim Dyer
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	Hunter Kunkee
Acolyte	Will Kunkee
Powerpoint	Ben Schow
Live Stream	Jackson Hartwell

September 13th

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
Late Service	
Greeter	Cindy Swanhorst
Greeter	Curt Swanhorst
Usher	Harold Carlson
Lay Reader	Sarah Risenhoover
Acolyte	Raegan Kisker
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Live Stream	Tina Cummins

September 20th

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	Brayden Watts
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins
Late Service	
Greeter	Donna Hall
Greeter	Jim Hall
Usher	Ben Schow
Lay Reader	Renelle Mooney
Acolyte	Kysen Hazlitt
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Cathy Broz
Live Stream	Ryker Mooney

September 27th

Elder on duty	Nick or Lee
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	
Greeter	
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Russ Ankersen
Acolyte	Brayden Watts
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Harold Carlson
Late Service	
Greeter	Pat Penner
Greeter	
Usher	Curt Swanhorst
Lay Reader	Curt Swanhorst
Acolyte	Maxson Stewart
Acolyte	Zander Stewart
Powerpoint	Gary Hunkins
Live Stream	Layton Hinz



PEACE TALK

How often do you use the "Pause Button?" This is a small icon showing two vertical bars, often inside a circle and will respond with a touch. It is a simple feature no doubt but has a powerful purpose. I can press pause on a video, song, podcast, or movie, and for a moment everything stops moving forward. However, the clip is not over. The song has not ended, nor has the program been deleted. It is simply held in place so I can respond to the doorbell, answer a question, or gather my thoughts before continuing. In many ways, our spiritual lives need a pause button as well. Life seems to keep playing; appointments, worries, disappointments, responsibilities, and distractions. Some days move so quickly that my soul is trying to keep up with what my calendar has already decided. Can you relate? We still may be functioning, still smiling, and still getting things done... but realistically we become tired, reactive, or anxious. Whether you realize it or not, this is creating a barrier between us and Jesus. That is why God lovingly calls for us to hit the pause button (Psalm 46:10). The stillness found in the moment of pausing is not wasted time. Just a holy reminder that God is God and we are not. We need to be "still," like using a pause button, and let the Lord work out our battles (Exodus 14:14). You see, pausing is not ending or deleting our situation, it is trusting that God is working through us in our paused moment. Jesus even understood the importance of pushing the pause button when He prayed (Mark 1:35). By pausing, James adds that it will give us time to listen instead of becoming angry (James 1:19). Ultimately, when we pause in our anxious moments, it will help us take our burdens to Jesus instead of dragging them through the day (Matthew 11:28). A pause with God may be as simple as taking a deep breath and praying "Lord, help me." It may be found reading a Bible verse on social media. By pausing silently for a few moments, you will find your heart will settle, words you are about to say become softer, and forgiveness will enter the equation. But remember, the pause button does not end the story. It will only help you resume with a clearer heart and a stronger faith. In fact, your soul will have a chance to remember where peace really comes from (Psalm 62:1). It will even bring you back to the feet of Jesus before your busyness separates you from your walk with Him (Luke 10:41-42). And when the world says there is strength in the hustle and bustle, strength in the noise and self-control... reach for the pause button for quietness with God (Isaiah 30:15). This touch through faith will look like taking your hands off what you cannot carry and placing it into the hands of the one who can. Dear Lord, help me pause when the distractions of life are overwhelming and to look for your guidance when it comes time to resume. Amen.



September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00am Worship Committee	2 6:00pm School of Religion	3	4 1:00pm LifeLight	5 7:00am Men's Bible Study
6 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies 10:30am Worship	7 <i>Office Closed</i> PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	8 2:00pm Hillcrest Bingo 6:00pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	9 6:00pm School of Religion 6:30pm F.I.R.E.	10	11 1:00pm LifeLight Upper Fellowship Hall reservation	12 7:00am Men's Bible Study
13 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies & Sunday School 10:30am Worship Potluck and Softball game Upper Fellowship Hall reservation	14 4:00pm Women's Bible study PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	15	16 6:00pm School of Religion 6:30pm F.I.R.E.	17	18 1:00pm LifeLight	19 7:00am Men's Bible Study
20 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies & Sunday School 10:30am Worship	21 4:00pm Women's Bible study PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	22 4:00pm GriefShare	23 6:00pm School of Religion 6:30pm F.I.R.E.	24 1:30pm Hillcrest service 2:30pm Kinship Pointe service	25 1:00pm LifeLight 6:00pm Baptism	26 7:00am Men's Bible Study
27 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies & Sunday School 10:30am Worship	28 2:00pm LWML 4:00pm Women's Bible study PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	29 1:00pm Adopt-A-Chaplain packing 4:00pm GriefShare	30 6:00pm School of Religion 6:30pm F.I.R.E.			