



TIDINGS OF PEACE

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

411 EAST 6TH STREET

MCCOOK, NE 69001

TO:

October 2026

TIDINGS OF PEACE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH LUTHERAN CHURCH





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TRUNK OR TREAT

Trunk or Treat is scheduled for October 28th from 6:00 to 7:30 in the church parking lot. Please bring a canned goods item to be donated to the McCook Food Pantry.

TURKEY DINNER

The Turkey and Ham dinner for Peace Lutheran is planned for Sunday, November 1st, starting at 11:30 am.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

November 29th volunteers are needed to help decorate the church for the Christmas season.

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

LIVE NATIVITY

The dates for the Live Nativity are December 19th and 20th. More information will be coming soon.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Ben Vetrovsky	10/1	Marilyn Unger	10/11	Randon Peters	10/21
Wade Hamilton	10/2	Lois Brown	10/12	Delaney Critchfield	10/23
Iva Fritz	10/3	Mary Hazlitt	10/14	Griffin Goltl	10/25
Velma Kircher	10/3	Danten Downing	10/15	James Sprague	10/26
Candace Rogers	10/3	Alexis Koetter	10/16	Linda Smith	10/29
Sandy Lauer	10/4	Tom Gohl	10/17	Joann Nemechek	10/30
Ron Rogers	10/5	Alexander Nielsen	10/20	Chuck Gray	10/31
Mary Lou Hanson	10/7	Piper Sprague	10/20	Teagan Strauch	10/31
Benjamin Schow	10/7	Peyton Doucet	10/21	Angela Watts	10/31
Jerry Unger	10/8				

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Brandon & Alyssa Smith	10/1/2021	5	Russ & Sue Ankersen	10/20/1979	47
Adrianna & Jordan Gass	10/4/2014	12	Grant & Charlene Pfanstiel	10/22/1983	43
Halee & Justin Malleck	10/5/2019	7	James & Donna Hall	10/26/1996	30
Scott & Kristyl Hanchera	10/17/1981	45	Thomas & Cathy Broz	10/27/1984	42

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 (Sept 20 th -Sept 26 th)	Month to Date (Sept 6 th -Sept 26 th)	Year to Date (January 4 th -Sept 26 th)
Offerings	\$6,114.00	\$15,720.00	\$186,778.00
Expenses	\$2,318.00	\$18,076.00	\$250,071.00

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
4th	The 19 th S. after Pentecost	Isaiah 5:1-7	Philippians 3:4b-14	Matthew 21:33-46
11th	The 20 th S. after Pentecost	Isaiah 25:6-9	Philippians 4:4-13	Matthew 22:1-14
18th	The 21 st S. after Pentecost	Isaiah 45:1-7	I Thessalonians 1:1-10	Matthew 22:15-22
25th	Reformation Day	Revelation 14:6-7	Romans 3:19-28	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. When they receive the care packages of the Adopt a Chaplain program, the troops receive a little piece of "home". Thank you for your wonderful donations of money and supplies! Boxes are currently being mailed to chaplains deployed to the Middle East, to Djibouti, to Poland and to Korea. All are welcome to help pack Thursday, October 22 at 11:00 am.

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 – October 2026

It's in the Way that You Use It

Originally Published October 2023

Consider the humble baseball bat. It is a simple tool designed for a complex task. The batter needs a tool that can consistently deliver force to a small ball which may be thrown at over 100 miles per hour, but which might also come slanting across the plate as a slow curve. For a game like this, the founders of baseball had to redesign the old cricket bat, which is more of a flat paddle. The tool had to fit the job.

But even a specially-designed tool can be used for a different purpose. It turns out that some years ago in England, the home of cricket, baseball bats suddenly started selling like hotcakes. What were folks across the pond doing with all those baseball bats? Using them as clubs in riots!

A tool can be used, and it can be misused. It's all in the way that you use it.

The same is true with the things of God. The Second Commandment states that we should "not misuse the name of the Lord." In the Small Catechism, Luther goes on to tell us exactly what this misuse is, as well as the proper use:

"We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks." (SC I)

The Lord has given us His name: He has placed it upon us in Holy Baptism and He has invited us to pray to Him as our Father. In this sense, the Lord's name is something for us to use. We should not misuse it ... and we should not fail to use it. The Pharisees of old were so afraid of misusing the name of God that they decided to simply never say the name of God (YHWH, Jehovah) at all! This non-use is just as bad as misuse. The Lord gives His gifts for our use.

A Christian steward is one who is called to use all of God's gifts for His purposes. This includes things like the Name of God, the Sacraments and the Word, and it also includes things like our family and friends, our talents and skills, our money and resources. Everything that God has given to you, He has given to you so that you may be blessed to use it for His kingdom.

It's all in the way that you use it!



FROM AN ELDER

Summer is over, and fall has started. This typically means school is in full swing, and most people have busy schedules of running kids to school, practice, or their jobs tend to have a heavier work schedules. Could even be because life throws a health curveball, or any number of reasons. Our busy schedules tend to draw us away from the Creator of time. Psalm 139:16 reads: "Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them." . . . How little we forget that He created our days prior to when they came into existence.

God created us to have a relationship with Him. We tend to think that because we are busy, we can make small excuses of "next Sunday I will go to church, because we have the day off finally." It is human nature to procrastinate. When we allow ourselves to get too busy, we overlook the relationship we hold with God. He is always there, waiting patiently for us to call to Him. Yes, it is great to be busy with family obligations, or demanding work schedules. Both of those things are true blessings from above. Setting time each day for God allows our hearts to be guarded from our daily chaos. Worry, anxiety, constantly pleasing others will only burden our minds. I challenge you to seek God each day for the month of October. By doing so, you can find peace that is found in Christ Jesus alone.

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.



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

October 4th	
Elder on duty	Jim Dyer
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Grant Pfanstiel
Greeter	Charlene Pfanstiel
Usher	Gene Meints
Lay Reader	Harold Carlson
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

October 11th	
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	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Live Stream	Tina Cummins

October 18th	
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	Cathy Broz
Live Stream	Ryker Mooney

October 25th	
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	Randy Hoffmann
Acolyte	
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Gary Hunkins
Live Stream	Layton Hinz



PEACE TALK

When I check cows, they can be very hard to count, especially if there are a hundred grazing in the pasture. Across the rolling grass hills, they spread out enough that getting an accurate tally can be difficult. What draws my attention, however, is the one standing by herself. That cow changes the way I see the whole pasture. I stop thinking about the herd as a number and start asking why she is apart. Is she hurt? Has she become tangled in something? What has drawn her away from the herd? The one set apart becomes my focus, not the other ninety-nine that remain. It wasn't until that moment, I paused to think: Am I the one who is lost, tangled up in something, or hurting? Or am I one of the ninety-nine? Jesus addresses my wandering question in His parable of the lost sheep. He describes a shepherd who realizes that one sheep is missing. The ninety-nine are still in the pasture, but the shepherd's attention turns toward the one that has wandered away. His attention is drawn to the one that is lost and by itself. He goes after it, and he keeps searching until he finds it (Luke 15:4). Spiritually speaking, how do you consider yourself? Are you lost, or one of the 99? At first glance, we may imagine ourselves safely among the ninety-nine. We come to church, pray, serve in one way or another, and sing praise to our Lord. It is easy to assume that the lost one might be somebody else... someone who has made a visible mess of life or wandered far from God. But Scripture does not let us stand at a distance from the story. Isaiah says that all of us, like sheep, have gone astray and turned to our own way (Isaiah 53:6). A sheep does not have to be miles from the flock to be lost. It may be just beyond the fence, head down in the grass, unaware of how far it has drifted. In the same way, we can appear close to God while our hearts wander through pride, fear, resentment, grief, or self-reliance. Sometimes we might not be wondering, we may just be hurting. Like that cow standing apart, we may appear calm from a distance while carrying a wound no one else can see. We may withdraw because we are tired, ashamed, disappointed, or afraid. Yet whether we have wandered by choice or become separated by pain, the Shepherd notices (Psalm 56:8). Our absence matters to Him (James 4:8), and our Shepherd comes looking for us (Luke 19:10). So once again ask this question... Am I the one, or am I one of the ninety-nine? The honest answer is that I am the one. So are you. Every believer is someone the Shepherd has sought, found, and carried. Remembering that truth keeps us humble when others wander and hopeful when we do the same. We never outgrow our need for His grace, and we are never beyond the reach of His search. Dear Lord, thank you for finding me when I am separated from the herd, and bringing me safely back to You. Amen.

Peace, Love, and Unity
Phil Bamesberger



October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 1:00pm LifeLight	3 7:00am Men's Bible Breakfast
4 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30am Worship	5 4:00pm Women's Bible study	6 9:00am Worship Committee 4:00pm GriefShare	7 6:00pm School of Religion 6:30pm F.I.R.E.	8	9 1:00pm LifeLight 5:00pm Wedding Rehearsal	10 7:00am Men's Bible Breakfast 4:00pm Wedding
11 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies & Sunday School 10:30am Worship	12 4:00pm Women's Bible study	13 2:00pm Hillcrest Bingo 4:00pm GriefShare 6:00pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Church Council	14 6:00pm School of Religion 6:30pm F.I.R.E.	15	16 1:00pm LifeLight	17 7:00am Men's Bible Breakfast
18 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30am Worship 1:00pm Voter's Meeting	19 4:00pm Women's Bible study	20 4:00pm GriefShare	21 6:00pm School of Religion 6:30pm F.I.R.E.	22 11:00am Adopt-A-Chaplain packing 1:30pm Hillcrest service 2:30pm Kinship Pointe service	23 1:00pm LifeLight	24 7:00am Men's Bible Breakfast
25 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Studies & Sunday School 10:30am Worship	26 2:00pm LWML 4:00pm Women's Bible study	27 4:00pm GriefShare	28 6:00pm Trunk or Treat 6:30pm F.I.R.E.	29	30 1:00pm LifeLight	31 7:00am Men's Bible Breakfast Upper Fellowship Hall reservation