



'TIDINGS OF PEACE' from

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

TO:

Three vertical lines for an address.

September 2017

# TIDINGS OF PEACE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

*"I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD. I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation." (Psalm 40:9-10)*

### The Unbridled Lips

Growing up I was told, "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all." This was good advice to a child. Due to our sinful nature, inherited from our first parents, we are prone to speak from an evil heart. Our words have great power to bring down those who are around us.

The problem with not saying "anything at all," is that means "you can't say something nice." This just isn't true. This is especially false for those who have received something nice. If you have received something nice, then you can give something nice. If you don't "say something nice," is to say all you have is evil or that you are empty of nice things. Not true.

The Lord has spoken an extremely "nice" thing to us in His Son. (Hebrews 1:1ff) Of course, this is more than just something nice. This is the gift of the forgiveness of sins through the blood of His own Son. This means that our evil has been covered and we have full access to

the Father through Him.

As a challenge, I would like you to consider changing this phrase. There are a couple of different options. "If you can't say something nice, say something about Jesus." "If you can't say something nice, then stop and pray for pure words." "If you can't say something nice, remember that Jesus has spoken a nice word to you." I like the positive influence, versus the negative influence.

Your lips are not to be bridled. Your lips are to be loosed at all times to proclaim the joys of Christ's salvation for you and all people. Your lips are to proclaim the wonders of what God has done. Your lips are to sing His praises. Your lips are to pray for yourself and others. Your lips have a lot of "nice" things to do. So many nice things that they won't have time to speak evil or remain mute.

*"I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him." (Psalm 22:22-24)*

*In Christ,  
Pastor Kahle*



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**FROM AN ELDER**

**United We Stand**

Labor day is upon us, and I was thinking about all we do to support the church and the mission God has placed before us. I was reminded of a story that goes something like this: "Stick together!"— That's what the coach told his football team at halftime when they were down by fourteen points. "If you don't stick together and play as a team, we haven't got a chance of winning this game."

Now that is good advice for a football team, but for any group of people who are striving together to reach a certain goal or accomplish certain results.

The best results can only be achieved when there is unity among all the members of the group.

But nowhere is unity more important than in the church. A congregation that doesn't have it can never survive; a congregation that does have it can never be defeated.

Anyone who has ever been part of a group learns soon enough: you can't do it without making sacrifices. Nobody knew that better than the Apostle Paul. That's why he draws attention to the fact that he is a "prisoner of the Lord." In his efforts to promote Christian unity among the people he preached to, no sacrifice was too great; not even when he was literally thrown in jail for his faith! So Paul knows what he's asking for when he says, "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to have a walk worthy of the calling with which you were called."

Paul isn't just speaking to the people of his day, he is speaking to us as well. We have been "called" just as much as they were. When the Holy Spirit brought us to faith in Jesus Christ, He called us to a whole different lifestyle. Christians are supposed to be different, because that's the way God always makes believers!

We're a special people, with a special purpose: to spread the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ. Paul urges us to "walk worthy of that calling." If we're going to do that, we've got to stand united.



**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Kapri Loop	9/2	Monte Hazlitt	9/15	Elfriede Keen	9/21
Steve Fritz	9/3	Brian Wiemers	9/15	Betty Knapper	9/21
Creighton Shields	9/6	Donna Rawn	9/16	Sarah Krause	9/21
Lucas Curl	9/7	Connor Tidyman	9/16	Janet Bamesberger	9/22
Patricia Fortkamp	9/7	Eldon Parde	9/17	Sarah Schneider	9/23
Jan Hubert	9/8	Dorene Hoffman	9/18	Aiden Bauer	9/24
Jeanne Rogers	9/10	Stephanie Oetting	9/18	Susan Chipman	9/25
Patricia Eilenberger	9/12	Sarah Calvin	9/19	Jackson Hartwell	9/25
Beverly Unger	9/12	K.C. Eckhardt	9/19	Doris Leibbrandt	9/25
Edward Rinehart	9/13	Doris Frihe	9/19	Lydia Risenhoover	9/25
Ryker Mooney	9/14	Robert Geisler	9/19	Susan Ankersen	9/28
Spencer Reiners	9/14	Joyce Wolters	9/20	Edna Ficken	9/28

**SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Lance & Denise Gillen	9/1/1990	27	Jonathan & Angie Reiners	9/14/1996	21
Gerald & Diane Gohl	9/3/2011	6	Keith & Nadine Oetting	9/29/1973	44
Duane & Patricia Fortkamp	9/5/1971	46			

We apologize if we have made a mistake. Please contact the office so we may get it corrected.

**OUR FINANCES AT A GLANCE**

	Week to Date (Aug. 27th-Sept. 2nd)	Month to Date (Aug. 6th-Sept. 2nd)	Actual Year to Date (Jan. 1st-Sept. 2nd)	Budget to Date (Jan. 1st-Sept. 2nd) 35th week
Offerings	\$2,292.00	\$9,973.25	\$113,870.24	\$165,847.50
Expenses	\$1,693.82	\$15,909.55	\$103,620.90	\$165,847.50

This month's Going Beyond Sunday is for Adopt A Chaplain.

Going Beyond Sunday for Camp Luther was \$99.00.



## CREATIVE PRESCHOOL



You can help out our own Creative Preschool by clipping UPC codes and box tops. It's as easy as cutting out the UPC code from "Our Family" products and any "Box Top" UPC codes and Box Tops collected help buy various supplies needed for day to day operation of the preschool. In the past these programs helped the preschool purchase supplies, the large color and shape carpet, books, science and math activities and many other items. The UPC codes and Box Tops can be returned to Mandy or the church office. Thank you for supporting Creative Preschool!

Dear Preschool Families,

Welcome (or welcome back) to Creative Preschool! We are excited to begin another year of learning and have many exciting things planned for the upcoming school year! At the end of each month, you will receive a calendar and newsletter detailing the activities for the upcoming month. You will also receive several book order forms. If you choose to order books, the preschool receives credit toward free books and classroom supplies.

Snack helpers are listed on the calendar for the month and are on a rotational basis. We ask that you bring a **nutritious snack and drink** when it is your turn. If we are celebrating your child's birthday, however, you may bring a birthday treat (cake, cupcakes, etc...) to celebrate the occasion. Your calendar has the number of children in each class, as well as any food allergies, so please use this to plan snack servings.

"Show and tell" will be during the last 15 minutes of class on the last school day of the week for your child as listed on the calendar. Try to help your child find something that has to do with the letter of the week if possible.

We will have some field trips and special events throughout the school year, as noted on the calendars. We always need extra help on field trips, in the kitchen and on party days so whenever you read in the newsletter that we have a sign up sheet or need drivers, we encourage you to help if you can. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Mandy at the preschool, 345-2595, leave us a message on our facebook page: [facebook.com/plccreativepreschool](https://www.facebook.com/plccreativepreschool) or email me at [mycreativepreschool@gmail.com](mailto:mycreativepreschool@gmail.com).

Happy September! Mandy, Kelsey, and Dani

## SEPTEMBER READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
3rd	12th S. after Trinity	Isaiah 29:17-24	Acts 20:27-38	Mark 7:31-37
10th	13th S. after Trinity	2 Chronicles 28:8-15	Galatians 3:15-22	Luke 10:23-37
17th	14th S. after Trinity	Proverbs 43:10-23	Galatians 5:16-24	Luke 17:11-19
24th	15th S. after Trinity	1 Kings 17:8-16	Galatians 5:25-6:10	Matthew 6:24-34



## FROM THE VICAR

*We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. -Colossians 1:3-5a*

With this opening statement, Paul writes to the Colossian church, which he has never met, about all the things which he has heard about them. Paul and Timothy heard from their brother in Christ, Epaphras, the pastor at Colosse, the report of that church.

What did they hear? They heard of 1) "your faith in Christ Jesus" and 2) "the love that you have for all the saints." In other words, the Colossian church had heard the gospel. Epaphras had taught them about Jesus. They knew about Jesus' life in Israel, even though they lived in the Lycus River valley, hundreds of miles away from Jerusalem.

However, they had more than knowledge about Christ; they had faith in what He had done, what He had finished and accomplished on the cross. They believed the message as the truth. They were living in the right relationship with "God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Notice the use of the word, "our." It is not "my" Lord, as if Paul had sole possession of Him. Nor should we only think the "our" meant Paul, Timothy, and Epaphras. Instead, the "our" includes all of these men AND most importantly, the Colossian believers themselves!

The second thing that Paul and Timothy "heard" was "the love that you have for all the saints." Remember that "love" is a verb; love is not only a feeling. Christ loved us not by feeling loving and loved, but by dying, by acting out our punishment, and by doing the will of the Father.

Specifically, the love that they have probably refers to the offering taken for the Jerusalem church. It very likely also refers to their interactions and relationship with the Ephesian church, where Paul was preaching and living, and where Paul probably wrote the letter to the Colossians. Read Ephesians and Colossians together one afternoon, when you can find the time. It shouldn't take more than a half hour. There are so many similar things that Paul writes to both churches.

Notice the progression. First comes faith, and then love for the neighbor. In other words, "Love the Lord, your God," and "Love your neighbor as yourself." By loving their neighbors and brothers in Christ, they are loving Christ, who died for their sake.

All of this is "because of the hope laid up for you in heaven." That hope is the resurrection. That hope is eternal life and forgiveness of sins. Based on that hope, the Colossians have faith and love their neighbor. Because of the word of truth, the gospel, they have hope. Faith, hope, and love find their way into the opening statements of Colossians. We usually think of them in 1 Corinthians, and we can agree with him there that "the greatest of these is love." But, notice in Colossians, that the greatest of these three is hope, the hope that is laid up for us in heaven.

Faith, hope, and love are all abstract ideas and sometimes we throw them around carelessly. In today's world, faith is superstition, hope is wishing for Husker victories or cheering on Luke Skywalker, and love is redefined to be feelings rather than actions, to be any two people living together, or to be the greatest goal in our lives, yet in the midst of a world with so much divorce.

Colossians offers us true definitions for these things. Faith has to be "in" something, in Christ. This faith is a gift, earned and paid for by our Lord for you. This faith is the one faith which we all share, belief in the word of truth, the gospel. Love is something we do, not feel. It is love for neighbor as if that neighbor is Christ Himself. We love one another because Christ first loved us and showed us what real love is. Hope is not a far off and unattainable goal, a future-oriented yearning for something. Our hope is founded in the resurrection, in the forgiveness of sins, and in eternal life. Our hope is certain and guaranteed because the event on which our hope rests has already happened and the promise has already been given. The event of our hope is the resurrection on Easter Day, which Christ accomplished for our salvation. He conquered all of our enemies so that we can truly have hope. That hope is laid up for us in heaven with God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!



## COUNCIL CORNER

## Council - At a Glance

Peace Lutheran Church Council met on Tuesday August 8th and opened with Brian Strauch leading devotions. There were no guests present for open forum comments.

Reports from the various boards and council positions were available either in print or presented verbally for review, discussion and approval.

Discussion on unfinished business topics including: 1.) VBS wrap up – discussion/suggestions to improve attendance for next year. 2.) Ramp project team – measurements taken and planning for starting construction next Saturday (8/12) at Cummins house. 3.) Health Fair – October 21 set for the health fair. Phil will line up a coordinator. 4.) Sarah Kanoy (missionary) – She will speak at Peace on (Wed) October 18<sup>th</sup> during SOR. Discussion and planning for the evening with church providing main dish (sloppy joes) for the dinner. 5.) Call process – Currently waiting for the new call list from President Snow.

New business items/discussion: 1.) Voters meeting – Set for October 15th. Discussion and plans to try something different to promote better attendance. Will hold meeting immediately following the 10:30 service, serve a meal – all in the dinning hall. Budget will be presented so boards need to review and update their portions of budget for discussion at September meeting. 2.) Christmas planning – Live Nativity display and Christmas program (12/20) planning – committee's are being formed.

There being no other business, meeting was closed with the Lords Prayer. President - Russ Ankersen

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Preschool to 5th grade children are invited to Sunday School each Sunday from 9:15-10:15am in the basement. We have snacks, playtime, opening prayer, Bible study, and closing prayer. Currently our Bible time involves learning about the various people of the Bible and their influence on passing along God's Word to us today. Parents are always welcome to join us.



## TOOLS FOR STEWARDSHIP and EVANGELISM

## SHUT INS

Please remember those who are unable to worship with us for one reason or another.

**Hillcrest:** Willard & Carol Roedel, Don Smith, Orian Fritz, Ruth Shields, Pam Leibbrandt, Rod Berry and Harvey Ackermann.

**Brookdale McCook:** Edna Ficken, Joyce Stupka, Leona Wudtke and Walt & Jean Sehnert.

**Highland Park:** Fern Reiners, Fred & Lois Boerger, and Marvin & Betty Harms.

**McCook:** Nancy Ott, Wallace Keen, and Adeline Kuhlmann

**Butte:** Don Kisker

**Grand Island:** Marie Alberts

**St. Paul:** Sandra Novak

**Kearney:** Florence Potthoff

## 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 – Paul Schaffert, Ron Aufrecht, Grant Pfanstiel, Harold Carlson, Darrell Eckhardt, Russ Ankersen or Phil Bamesberger.

## FOOD PANTRY

At the November 2013 meeting of the Ministerial Association, one of the topics discussed related to support to the food pantry by the McCook congregations. One of the pastors put together a spread sheet based on the regular needs of the food pantry – the staples. The spread sheet identified an emphasis that each congregation can focus on for each month of the year to help stock the pantry. **Of course all donations are welcome (like cake mixes, icing, condiments, etc.)**, but this provides an idea of their specific needs. As discussed at our 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.





SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

<b>September 3rd</b>	
<b>10:30am Service</b>	
Elder on duty	Harold Carlson
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Myra Tietz
Greeter	Jane Schuster
Usher	Eugene Custer
Usher	Robert Hull
Lay Reader	Blayzon Mooney
Acolyte	Need Volunteer
Acolyte	Need Volunteer
Powerpoint	Jeff Pinkerton

<b>September 10th</b>	
<b>10:30am Service</b>	
Elder on duty	Paul Schaffert
Organist	K.C. Eckhardt
Audio	Russ Ankersen
Greeter	Deb Shields
Greeter	
Usher	Paul Sellers
Usher	
Lay Reader	Sue Ankersen
Acolyte	Need Volunteer
Acolyte	Need Volunteer
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen

<b>September 17th</b>	
<b>10:30am Service</b>	
Elder on duty	Darrell Eckhardt
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Paul Sellers
Greeter	Janet Bamesberger
Greeter	Dale Bamesberger
Usher	Ben Schow
Usher	
Lay Reader	Grant Pfanstiel
Acolyte	Need Volunteer
Acolyte	Need Volunteer
Powerpoint	Nadia Schoup

<b>September 24th</b>	
<b>10:30am Service</b>	
Elder on duty	Ron Aufrecht
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	Need Volunteer
Greeter	Phyllis Berndt
Usher	Dennis Chipman
Usher	
Lay Reader	Paul Schaffert
Acolyte	Need Volunteer
Acolyte	Need Volunteer
Powerpoint	Stacie Aufrecht

<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>KNGN Sponsor</u>
3rd-Available	3rd-Available
10th-Available	10th-Available
17th-Available	17th-Available
24th-Available	24th-Available

*Note: Cost to sponsor a "Your Hour of Worship" program on KNGN 1300AM Radio is \$45. If you are interested in sponsoring a program, please call the church office for available dates.*

*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.*



PEACE TALK

"Down in the dumps", I have been there lots of times. I need to lose a few pounds, a loved one has passed or very ill, I have pain, I am burdened with overwhelming tasks, I have challenges with a relationship, someone shared unkind words, and there are hundreds of other circumstances that give me the blues. I know God is with me and I need to pray, so I pray. God give me strength to overcome my sadness. But the sadness didn't go away! Did God just say NO? I ran across an article with an unknown author that made me think; here it is. "GOD SAID NO, I asked God to take away my habit. God said, No. It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up. I asked God to make my handicapped child whole. God said No. His spirit is whole; his body is only temporary. I asked God to grant me patience. God said, No. Patience is a byproduct of tribulations; it isn't granted, it is learned. I asked God to give me happiness. God said No. I give you blessings; happiness is up to you. I asked God to spare me pain. God said No. Suffering draws you apart from your worldly cares and brings you closer to me. I asked God to make my spirit grow. God said, No. You must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful. I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life. God said, No. I will give you life, so that you may enjoy all things. I then asked God to help me LOVE others, as much as He loves Me. God said.....Ahhhh, finally you have the idea". Now I get it, God has a reason for saying no to some of my prayers. Can you accept God's will when His answer is no? If you are praying, God hears you and will always answer you "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." (Jeremiah 33:3). He promises that He hears us "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7). He promises to be near us "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18). He promises not to leave us in our sorrows because the work in us is not finished "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6). It is great comfort to know that God is with me, hears me, and is guiding my path. Now I need to focus on the last part of the article "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'. There is no commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:30-31). This is how God loves you. God never stops being patient with you. God never stops believing in you. God never gives up on you. God is counting on you to seek comfort in Him and extend that grace among all those around you. Try it and watch the "blues" go away.

Peace, Love and Unity  
Phil Bamesberger, VP



**Peace Lutheran Church**

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PH (308)345-2595

# September

# 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 7:00am Men's Bible Study
3 8:00am Prayer & Preaching 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship 3:00pm MS Society	4 <i>Office Closed</i>	5	6 9:00am Lifelight 6:00pm School Of Religion	7	8	9 7:00am Men's Bible Study
10 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Prayer & Preaching 9:15am Bible Study & F.I.R.E. 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Confirmation class	11 11:00am Worship Committee 5:30pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Woman's Bible Study  Pastor Kahle in McCook	12 2:30pm Hillcrest Bingo 6:30pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	13 9:00am Lifelight 6:00pm School Of Religion	14	15	16 7:00am Men's Bible Study
17 8:00am Prayer & Preaching 9:15am Bible Study & F.I.R.E. 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Confirmation class Upper Fellowship Hall reservation 7:00pm Forerunners	18 7:00pm Woman's Bible Study  Pastor Kahle in McCook	19	20 9:00am Lifelight 6:00pm School Of Religion	21	22	23 7:00am Men's Bible Study
24 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Prayer & Preaching 9:15am Bible Study & F.I.R.E. 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Confirmation class	25 6:00pm LWML 7:00pm Woman's Bible Study  Pastor Kahle in McCook	26	27 9:00am Lifelight 6:00pm School Of Religion	28 1:30pm Hillcrest Service 2:30pm Brookdale McCook Service	29	30 7:00am Men's Bible Study