

TIDINGS OF PEACE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

LUTHERAN CHURCH



'TIDINGS OF PEACE' from

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

411 EAST 6TH STREET

MCCOOK, NE 69001

TO:

Matthew 9:13 ESV "Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice. 'For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.'"

Moving Out In Ministry

Here it is August already, and that time is getting near when the leaves will begin to turn, and our youth will be back in school. I can just hear the groans droning in the background. Our lives will settle back into a norm that was disrupted by what seems like a blistering hot summer (by my scale), and all of the activities that come with it. Once all of the activities slow down and we aren't running from one thing to another as much as we were, there comes a time to sit down, take a breath or two, and then figure out what comes next.

Most of you know I came out of the world of big corporations and municipal government. As a manager, one thing that became very important was that you didn't just live day to day without any form of direction or goals. Just making our way through the day meeting the *status quo* was not good enough. I can remember having to report a status on my goals once a quarter before a panel of people who were really interested more in whether the goal was achieved or not. It seemed that all of the effort of the



workforce was drowned out by that one overarching question. "Are we hitting our numbers?"

Ministry is not about hitting our numbers. Hitting the numbers is difficult to quantify because we make it possible for all people to hear the Gospel, and it is the Holy Spirit that strengthens the relationship we all have with our Lord. What we do, by and through the grace of God to encourage the relationship, is shown by what "the church" and we as Peace Lutheran have done for many years. Things like our worship, Sunday School, School of Religion, Bible Studies, Pre-school, LWML, and our Youth program. It is also small groups like our Young Adults and Forerunners.

But as a church, it may seem to some as though we are coasting. It may even look to the casual observer that we have been going the same direction,



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PLC WEBSITE

Be sure to visit us on the web at:www.plcmccook.org. Here, you can see all the latest announcements, notices, contact information, and more. The site is now *updated weekly* for changes on the church calendar and latest news.

www.plcmccook.org

From An Elder

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22: 6 (ESV)

This month we send our children back to school. Some will look forward to the opportunity and some will groan with the thought of another school year starting.

But this brings up a point that we should consider: Is there ever a time that we are NOT teaching our kids? How about the two year old that seems to know those swear words? Where did he pick that up? Or the teenager trying to sneak cigarettes or alcohol? We are the example that our children look up to. Are we giving them good examples?

As we go through our daily lives, consider what type of role models we have been. I know we all could improve the image that we show to our kids and to the rest of the community. Jesus gave us the perfect example of what we should do and say, and we all fall far short.

As summer draws to an end, may we all look to Jesus as our perfect role model and show our children the love that He had for us all. The love that took Him to the Cross to pay for our sins.

And remember, "To God be the Glory!"

Grant Pfanstiel
 Elder Chairman

August Birthdays

Tammie Bruntz	8/2	Katherine Kjendal	8/10	George Wurm	8/17
George Fritz	8/2	Ron Lauer	8/10	Linda Parde	8/19
Fred Hubert	8/2	Madelyn Bird	8/11	Madison Aufrecht	8/20
Cody Goltl	8/5	Patricia Penner	8/12	Phyllis Clapp	8/21
Lucas Post	8/5	Phillip Bamesberger	8/14	Kristyl Hanchera	8/27
James Hall	8/6	Debra Gleason	8/14	Bailey Lauer	8/27
Samantha Post	8/6	Brad Rogers	8/15	Lee McConville	8/27
Nathan Cummins	8/7	Emily Kjendal	8/15	Judy Schow	8/27
Lisa Koetter	8/7	Florence Potthoff	8/15	Arthur Blume	8/30
Christina Coleman	8/9	Robert Carlson	8/16	Taylor Dicenta	8/30
Delbert Fritz	8/9	Kenneth Polly	8/16	Elaine Polly	8/30
Linda Nielsen	8/9	Trenten Bruntz	8/17	Marie Alberts	8/31
		Adam Rawn	8/17		

August Anniversaries

NAME	DATE	YRS	NAME	DATE	YRS
Stephen & Brigitta Post	8/2/1980	31	Wallace & Elfriede Keen	8/14/1960	51
Dale & Janet Bamesberger	8/5/1956	55	Steve & Sharon Kircher	8/17/1984	27
Fred & Debra Gleason	8/11/1973	38	Robert & Joann Nemechek	8/19/1972	39
Jeff & Kim Pinkerton	8/11/2001	10	Roger & Karen Ziebell	8/21/1971	40
Curt & Cindy Swanhorst	8/11/1984	27	Larry & Linda Richards	8/26/1962	49
Randall & Carrie Goltl	8/12/1988	23			

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

Congratulations!
 We rejoice with Brian and Savannah Strauch at the birth of their daughter Lilyanna Rae Strauch, who was born 6/14/2011.

Our Finances At A Glance

	Week to Date (July 24th - July 30th)	Month to Date (July 3rd-July 30th)	Actual Year to Date (Jan 1st - July 30th)	Budget to Date (Jan 1st - July 30th) 30th week
Offerings	\$2,575.50	\$15,603.95	\$118,319.07	\$140,805.60
Expenses	\$5,597.77	\$13,893.93	\$115,990.13	\$140,805.60

Going Beyond Sunday for Orphan Grain Train was \$136.55

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Church Council July 2011 Summary

Church Council meeting - July 12, 2011 - 7:00 PM

Open Forum

A. Lois Calvin

Unfinished Business

A. Update on the Church Sign - it has been ordered and there is some site preparation work that needs to be done before it can be installed.

New Business

A. Council meeting & Voters meeting reports - church officials were encouraged to write up a short report about the business conducted at the Council/Voters meetings for publishing in the *TIDINGS OF PEACE*. - informational - no action

B. The date of Sunday August 21 was selected to have a Special Voters meeting to consider the new childcare initiative.

C. Facility Use Requests:

- 1) Community Hospital (Financial Seminar) - passed
- 2) Boy Scouts Hunter Safety classes - passed
- 3) Hunter Safety Instructors class - passed

D. Childcare Proposal - Mrs. Albertson outlined a prospective program - informational - no action

Announcements

A. Next Church Council meeting - Tuesday August 9, 2011 - 7:00 PM

B. Bylaws Review Committee meeting - Tuesday July 19, 2011 - 7:00 PM

Special Voters Meeting July 3, 2011 Summary

President Russ Ankersen opened the meeting. Pastor Albertson led the voters in prayer. There were 52 members present. Trustee Donna Hall presented a proposal for a new church sign. The sign would be ordered from Swanson Signs in McCook. Total cost approximately \$9,000. Treasurer Tina Cummins stated we have funds in total of \$11,318. Moved and seconded to go with the proposal and install the sign. Motion passed 46 to 1. The sign will be single faced and face the street like to old one. It is much bigger. It will take 4 to 6 weeks to get here. It was brought up that we may want to use some of the money that Kathryn Wall left to help pay for the new sign. Council will take that under advisement.

August Readings

Date	Season	1st Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
7th	8th Sunday after Pentecost	Job 38:4-18	Romans 10:5-17	Matthew 14:22-33
14th	9th Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8	Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15,28-32	Matthew 14:21-28
21st	10th Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 51:1-6	Romans 11:33-12:8	Matthew 16:13-20
28th	11th Sunday after Pentecost	Jeremiah 15:15-21	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28



essentially doing the same thing we have always done, and getting by. As I mention last month though, ministry is not about doing something to help others hear the message about Jesus and saying, "I'm done." It may be one of the many reasons why some have not taken ownership in the church, and left the ministry to others. However our ministry is not just to ourselves. Our ministry matters. It matters to your neighbor.

Ministry involves everyone, as we all have an effect on those we come in contact with each and every day – our neighbor. We are to spread the Gospel and encourage others. That is what Christians are called to do. As I mentioned in a recent sermon, it only takes two steps to invite someone to church via the Andrew Program: 1) Think of someone who is important to you and who doesn't know or worship Jesus, and 2) moved by your desire to see them experience the same salvation you are assured of, tell them "I have found the Savior. I'd like you to know Him too. Won't you come to church with me?"

As I have studied God's Word these last few weeks, my eyes have really been opened to God's plan for the Kingdom here in this place, and His plan involves everyone. As we study the book of Revelation on Sunday mornings, we, like the church of Ephesus, need to remember our first love, our love for Christ. Then as we look to quantify our relationship, to look at our mission statement that defines who we are (www.plcmccook.org):

"Here at Peace Lutheran Church, our mission is to share with loving concern, the true Word and gracious love of God with one another, our community, and our world."

I'd like to take some time as a people of God to really look at and pray about this mission statement. Where it is God is leading us, say in the next 3-5 years, and how do we, by the power of the Holy Spirit, begin to move in that direction. Chances are it is going to require effort that we are not used to. It may require participation that we haven't had for a long time. Our serving our Lord in this place may even look like an uphill battle, but the view through the eyes of Christ is pretty great.

We all should ask and pray for an answer to this question: "God, what direction would *You* have us go to serve *You* and *Your* mission of sharing the Gospel in our community, and how can I help?" We might be surprised by the power of the Holy Spirit among us.



TOOLS FOR STEWARDSHIP and EVANGELISM

LCMS CAMPUS MINISTRY—For all college-bound students—

www.lcmscampusministry.org

What happens when you don't let a Lutheran campus ministry know about your college-bound student? The student will: a) find another campus ministry on his/her own; b) go with a friend; or c) risk disconnection with the church and with Jesus—and assume the church doesn't care. The most likely answer is C. Help us minister to your student! Visit www.lcmscampusministry.org today and connect through the Student-Connect service. It's free—and can make a difference. An LCMS pastor or campus ministry worker from the campus community will contact the student personally and offer some information about the local Lutheran campus ministry and how to get involved there. When your college-bound student gets connected to a ministry, their faith grows, they engage in building up the body of Christ, and they reach out to their campus community with the love and power of God. Registering through the StudentConnect service can be done by the college-bound student or a parent from the comfort of your own home.

"The Youth Ministry fireworks fundraiser was a success, surpassing last year. A portion of the funds raised will be set aside for LCMS efforts in Joplin, MO. Special thanks to all youth, parents, adults and families who supported FIRE youth ministry's fundraiser through prayer, working shifts, giving of their time and talents, supplying folks with water and snacks, and purchasing fireworks; as well as to businesses around the community who supported our efforts. Praise God as he continues to bless PLC and FIRE youth ministry!"

Attention all upcoming 7th and 8th grade student and their parents!

There will be an informational meeting concerning this years' 7th and 8th grade confirmation classes on August 10th at 6:30pm here at the church. We are looking forward to a wonderful year growing in Christ!

School of Religion

Our Wednesday night School of Religion will be beginning soon. Please contact the Board of Education if you have any questions. Jan Hubert @ 345-5538, Cindy Swanhorst @ 345-2710 or Mary Hazlitt @ 345-4644.

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.

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BRAD'S CORNER

My uncle Larry passed away last Saturday (7/16) at the age of 60 following a years-long struggle with lung cancer. My uncle had many obstacles to deal with in his life; both mental and physical. His struggles with illness began in his freshman year of college and he dealt with them until the day he died. I never knew my uncle Larry to talk about faith; and due to his mental ailments it was hard for him to focus on anything for longer than a couple minutes. Sure, he was baptized as a child, but it got to the point where I didn't know if he had a relationship with Jesus Christ. The thought of my uncle Larry being eternally separated from Jesus scared me. For years, my family and I would try to talk with him and pray with him, but it was (seemingly) having no effect.

That's why I was terrified last Monday (7/11) when my mom called to say it could be any day for him. Time was (seemingly) running out. I prayed; I asked others to pray. My mom and sister shared Jesus with him some more in the nursing home; and my sister even wrote a prayer to say with him. I had conversations with family members who were struggling to come to grips with the possibility that he would not be saved. Those are difficult conversations to have; especially when you are the younger person in the discussion. How do I address queries focusing on his mental ailments possibly prohibiting him from having faith? All I had was Scripture to fall back on. I was drawn to these verses and I shared these with my family: *"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord"*

(Rom. 8:38-39).

Sometimes we put God in a box; we think God is limited by the same things we are limited by. Just because we cannot see someone's faith in Jesus, that does not mean it is absent. Only God can see in our hearts. Our God is so much bigger than all the physical or mental ailments in the world. All we have to hold onto is our faith in a God who graciously and mightily saves us in Jesus Christ. Our God is with us. When I got the news that he had passed away, I did not have feelings of terror; and neither did my family. We had feelings of peace. Nothing compares to the greatness of knowing Jesus as your Lord and Savior; and my uncle knows it. My uncle Larry is in heaven with Jesus right now. I believe it. I love you uncle Larry. I'll see you again in heaven.

Serving with you!

Brad

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**August 7th Early Service**

Organist	Joyce Hofman
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	Donna Hall
Greeter	Jim Hall
Usher	Ed Rinehart
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Powerpoint	Jim Hall

Late Service

Greeter	Betty Knapper
Greeter	Myra Tietz
Usher	Robert Hull
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Powerpoint	Angie Reiners
Video	NEED VOLUNTEER

August 21st Early Service

Organist	Zona Fritz
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Charlene Pfanstiel
Greeter	Grant Pfanstiel
Usher	Lois Calvin
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Powerpoint	Stacy Sellers

Late Service

Greeter	Dorothy Henton
Greeter	Garnet Henton
Usher	Ron Buck
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Powerpoint	NEED VOLUNTEER
Video	Russ Ankersen

August 14th Early Service

Organist	KC Eckhardt
Audio	Russ Ankersen
Greeter	Deb Shields
Greeter	Evelyn Salyer
Usher	Eugene Custer
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen

Late Service

Greeter	Janet Bamesberger
Greeter	Dale Bamesberger
Usher	Dee Traphagan
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Video	NEED VOLUNTEER

August 28th Early Service

Organist	Joyce Hofman
Audio	Jon Reiners
Greeter	Gary Buk
Greeter	Karen Berry
Usher	Jeff Pinkerton
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Powerpoint	Jon Reiners

Late Service

Greeter	Velma Kircher
Greeter	Phyllis Berndt
Usher	Curt Swanhorst
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Powerpoint	Jon Reiners
Video	NEED VOLUNTEER

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.

Altar Flowers

7th- Available
14th- Available
21st- Zeibel
28th- Available

KGNG Sponsor

7th- Available
14th- Available
21st- Available
28th- Available

**What is the purpose of the Church?**

This question might provoke a variety of answers" to save the lost, to worship God, to have fellowship, to show care to the neighbor, and so on. Most Christians likely would suggest that the purpose of the Church is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost. Indeed, Jesus came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10) In the Church, Jesus has promised to be in the midst of "two or three" gathered in His name (Matthew 18:20). In the Church, Jesus Himself be found in the Word and the Sacraments, which testify, or bear witness, to Him (1 John 5:7-8).

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus has compassion on people in need (Mark 6:34). Jesus came not to be served but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45). When Jesus served and had mercy upon those in need.

Just before Jesus was handed over to be crucified, He prayed that the Church might be one (John 14:11, 21, 23). Jesus desired His Church to have fellowship, or to have a life together as one people, before His Father, just as He and the Father are one. God has called us into the fellowship of His Son (1 Corinthians 1:9).

From the Gospels, we see that the work of Jesus was to witness, to show mercy, and to have a life together with His people. From these examples, it would seem there are several purposes of the Church, including proclamation.

Next month continues with Describing Our Purpose

Reprinted with permission from the article "Witness, Mercy, Life Together" in The Lutheran Witness January 2011 issue.





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August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 2:30pm -Worship Planning 7:00pm -Worship DCE IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	2 6:30pm -Board of Elders	3 6:30pm -Board of Ed 7:30pm -FIRE	4 COUNCIL REPORTS DUE	5 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	6 <i>TREC training in Colorado Springs</i> 7:00am -Men's Bible Study
7 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	8 7:00pm -Worship DCE IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	9 2:30pm -Hillcrest Bingo 6:30pm -Board of Elders 7:00pm -Council	10 6:30pm -Confirmation Parents Meeting 7:30pm -FIRE	11 6:00pm -Liturgical Dance DCE IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	12 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	13 7:00am -Men's Bible Study 9:30am-LWML Zone planning
14 <i>Communion Sunday</i> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	15 7:00pm -Worship DCE IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	16 7:00pm Bylaws Committee	17 7:30pm -FIRE	18 6:00pm -Liturgical Dance	19 5:00pm -Wedding Rehearsal TIDINGS ARTICLES DUE PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	20 <i>TREC training in Colorado Springs</i> 7:00am -Men's Bible Study <i>Wedding Reservation</i>
21 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	22 7:00pm -Worship DCE IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	23	24 7:30pm -FIRE	25 11:00am -LWML 1:30pm -Hillcrest Service 2:30pm -Willow Ridge 6:00pm -Liturgical Dance	26 5:00pm -Wedding Rehearsal PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	27 7:00am -Men's Bible Study <i>Wedding Reservation</i>
28 <i>Communion Sunday</i> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 5:00pm -Stewardship meeting	29 7:00pm -Worship DCE IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	30	31 10:30am Preschool Gathering 1:00pm Preschool Gathering 7:30pm -FIRE			