

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 6:31-33 ESV ³¹Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³²For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."



The Best Defense is a Good Offense

When I was a freshman in high school, I was one of the smallest in my class. I weighed just enough to not blow away in the wind, and I was pretty short. As I started my first PE (Physical Education) classes, all I had to do is look around the room and could see that all of us freshman were much smaller than our upper class counter-parts. We were at the mercy of the older kids, and the subject of a lot of hazing.

There was one boy in the class or had tried to enter the Army during the summer, but it was discovered that he was under age and he was sent home. Here he is in my PE class, a place he didn't want to be, listening to a teacher he didn't want to listen to, talking about a subject that didn't interest him at all. His plan to get out was to cause mayhem and suffering of the freshman. He would start picking fights with us individually. All we could do was block his blows and hope it didn't last too long, because we knew the fight was no contest.

I can tell you, that we freshman came to realize that there was safety in numbers, and we put a plan in place to go on the

offensive to defend ourselves when it came time to do battle. The plan worked, and he never bothered us again. In the battle against evil, we can find joy in knowing Jesus already won the battle for us by His death on the cross, and He took the offensive by facing death on the cross and triumphing over it. He willingly "laid down His life for His sheep," and because of Him, the gates of hell cannot prevail over His church. Even though we know the war is won, the battle continues. Because the battle rages on, we need to be prepared to face the evil one head on, but how should we fight?

All too often, we take a defensive strategy. We try to retreat into that place where evil won't touch us, or we don't want to get involved. I have heard a lot about the "good old days" when the pews were full, and we even had a lot of people sitting in our overflow area. This is a good problem to have. But where the Holy Spirit is alive and well, the evil one is not far behind, and eventually evil



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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

...but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

Matt 19: 14 (ESV)

Jesus had a message for His disciples, and the same message is directed to us. Let the little children come. This month we begin our School of Religion and also our Sunday School. What better way to bring our children to Jesus than to give them the chance to hear God's Word and to learn about His most precious gift; Jesus, His Son. Praise the Lord that we have the opportunity to provide our children with this wonderful gift. As we begin this new school year, let us ask our Father to guide our teachers and to bless their teaching.

And always remember, "To God be the Glory."

Grant Pfanstiel
Elder Chairman



September Birthdays

Steve Fritz	9/3	Monte Hazlitt	9/15	Joyce Wolters	9/20
Daniel Bonar	9/6	Brian Wiemers	9/15	Elfiede Keen	9/21
Creighton Shields	9/6	Donna Rawn	9/16	Betty Knapper	9/21
Lucas Curl	9/7	Eldon Parde	9/17	Sarah Krause	9/21
Patricia Fortkamp	9/7	Dorene Hoffman	9/18	Janet Bamesberger	9/22
Jan Hubert	9/8	Stephanie Oetting	9/18	Sarah Schneider	9/23
Jeanne Rogers	9/10	Sarah Calvin	9/19	Susan Chipman	9/25
Norma Kisker	9/11	Kirstine Eckhardt	9/19	Jackson Hartwell	9/25
Ryan Ankersen	9/13	Doris Friehe	9/19	Doris Liebbrandt	9/25
Edward Rinehart	9/13	Robert Geisler	9/19	Susan Ankersen	9/28
Harold Clapp	9/14	Patricia Bath	9/20	Edna Ficken	9/28
Spencer Reiners	9/14			Hunter Khoury	9/29

September Anniversaries

NAME	DATE	YRS	NAME	DATE	YRS
Lance & Denise Gillen	9/1/1990	21	Jon & Angie Reiners	9/14/1996	15
Todd & Kathy Lichty	9/3/1988	23	Larry & Corina Fritz	9/19/1992	19
Duane & Patricia Fortkamp	9/5/1971	40	Keith & Nadine Oetting	9/29/1973	38
David & Rebecca Seybold	9/11/2010	1			

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

Proverbs 22:6

Start children off in the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Our Finances At A Glance

	Week to Date (August 28th-September 3rd)	Month to Date (July 31st-September 3rd)	Actual Year to Date (Jan 1st - September 3rd)	Budget to Date (Jan 1st - September 3rd) 35th week
Offerings	\$4,118.00	\$18,359.48	\$136,678.55	\$164,273.00
Expenses	\$1,042.75	\$18,371.29	\$134,361.42	\$164,473.00

Going Beyond Sunday for American Cancer Society was \$196.00

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Church Council August 2011 Summary

Minutes of Council Meeting August 16, 2011

Unfinished Business: Church Sign: No new information at this time.

New Business: None

Special Voters Meeting August 21, 2011 Summary

Special Voters Meeting to Consider Child Care Sunday Mornings on August 21, 2011.

Moved and seconded to provide child care during church services and Sunday school from 7:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. each Sunday starting October 2, 2011 At least two child care aids will serve at an one time, and must be infant/child CPR trained. The current budget will be amended to include funds for hiring child care aids, currently estimated at \$875, plus \$100 for CPR Training for two paid aids. Motion carried

Respectfully submitted

Dee Traphagan , Secretary

September Readings

Date	Season	1st Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
4th	12th Sunday after Pentecost	Ezekiel 33:7-9	Romans 13:1-10	Matthew 18:1-20
11th	13th Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 50:15-21	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
18th	14th Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 55:6-9	Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30	Matthew 20:1-16
25th	15th Sunday after Pentecost	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32	Philippians 2:1-4(5-13) 14-18	Matthew 21:23-27 (28-32)



sets its claws to try to destroy from within what God has done to unite His people in faith. How we combat this is to try to block at best, but we don't really put forth much of an offense. As long as we continue on the defensive, we'll just keep on losing ground.

Then how do we go on the offense against the devil? Maybe a good way to portray this is to look at athletes in general. First, they train. And then they train some more. Then comes strength training, and then more strength training. They train for the competition.

As a people of faith, that is what is ever before us – to be in training. When we are engaged in a spiritual competition, we should be taking every opportunity to be in God's Word. It means daily devotions and Bible reading. It means letting the refiner's fire hone you into a strong and mighty tool for His Gospel by coming to worship, being in Bible study and/or Sunday school. It means spending some time in prayer. It also means reinforcing what it is we believe, and applying the basics of our faith to our everyday lives. (If you're not sure how to do that, Brad is putting together a class we are calling "What we Believe.") It is through being in the Word of God and living that faith that we are strengthened to battle the forces of evil that want to plague and pester us.

But an athlete needs to do more than just train. The time comes to put those skills and spiritual strength into action. It means serving your neighbor, including those you don't know. It includes supporting the ministry of the church, not only financially, but with constant prayer. When's the last time you prayed for the work of the congregation to bear fruit or that your neighbor would hear the love of Christ and come to faith?

But there comes a time to stop talking to God about our neighbors and start talking to our neighbors about God. Some of you have heard me use a formula from a retreat group I am involved with – "Make a Friend, Be A Friend, Bring a Friend to Christ." As difficult as it may be, eternal futures are at stake. Being a church in action is all about looking beyond ourselves to the needs of others.

"³¹Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³²For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." [Matthew 6:31-33]

We know the battle belongs to the Lord, and that He will continue to care for us in all of our battles. He's already proven that by sending His own Son to pay for our sin on the cross, we don't need to be on the defensive, but can instead take the offensive against the devil , reaching out to others with the Gospel.

Pastor Tom



TOOLS FOR STEWARDSHIP and EVANGELISM

THRIVENT ACTIVITIES

Vote Choice Dollars! Giving back makes an important impact in people's lives. Last year alone, Thrivent Financial provided more than \$100 million to help congregations, communities and individuals in need. Members who own Thrivent Financial products help make this support possible. How it works is through a program called Thrivent Choice Dollars. What Members do is vote to help decide the allocation of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds. They help by voting either on-line or by phone. More information is available on-line at www.thrivent.com or by contacting KC Eckhardt @ 345-1446

Thrivent is offering a **"My Retirement Matters"** workshop that will be held on September 20, 2011 at 7:00 pm at Sehnert's Bakery. Dave Hovden, from Thrivent Financial, will present information intended to help you make financial decisions, and answer concerns of retirement planning. There will be no bakery or Thrivent products offered for sale at this time. Just come for a time of learning, fellowship, and refreshments. Congratulations on reaching this planning stage.

October 23rd- **Annual Membership Dinner**, 5:30pm at Madison's at the Keystone. At this meeting there are elections for Chapter offices. At this time, Peace will not have anyone serving on the Board. We ask all of our Thrivent Members to consider serving on the Board or serving as a Peace representative to Thrivent. If you have any questions, please contact KC Eckhardt at 345-1446.

November 6th- **"Share the Heat"** dinner, 11:00-1:30 at the Fairgrounds Community Building.

LIFE LIGHT BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

The Life Light Bible study will resume soon. There is a sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board across from the mailboxes or you can notify the church office @ 345-2595. Cost will be \$8.99 for the study guide.

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.



BRAD'S CORNER

Discipleship: **GROW!!! BE LIKE JESUS!!!** That's not a suggestion; that's a command from Jesus. Don't be content with where you are at now. The devil is very happy when God's children (young and old) view confirmation as the end of the line and no more learning or effort is needed to GROW in one's relationship with God. As one's life focuses more on the desires and priorities of the world (family, friends, school, sports, jobs, etc.), and focuses less on Christ and His command to GROW, the more that person is ill-equipped to handle all of the things the devil and this world throw at them.

But Christ promises He is always with us. Christ is with us as we GROW with God. What steps can we take to GROW? From Group Publishing's LIVE series "Life Has a Purpose": 1) **Talk with God anytime... but LISTEN too!** All relationships grow through conversation. God is a relational being who wants a relationship with you. *The more you talk with God, the more opportunities you have to strengthen your relationship.* 2) **Trust God's truth.** The more we get to know someone, the more we discover if they are trustworthy and speak the truth. *It's the same way with God. God has nothing to hide.* Our society tells us truth is relative. That's not what God says. In John 14, Jesus says He is the TRUTH. 3) **Walk with God.** How do we do this? *Listen* for God's voice, *act* on what you know to be true. We GROW more by learning HOW God wants us to live and by following His ways. 4) **Learn God's purposes.** Take a look at Matt. 22:37-40 and Matt. 28:19-20 to see God's purposes in your life. When we know God's purposes for our lives, we no longer play the guessing game and make up our own purpose. We GROW when we embrace and LIVE God's purposes; not only at PLC, but in McCook and beyond.

Think about the athlete. Is an athlete able to maintain their status as a starter, or stay on the team, if they are not consistently (in many cases, year-round), mentally and physically training their mind and body for the game or season ahead? The athlete must make and keep a commitment (to themselves, the coach, their teammates) to be the best they can be. Anything less is not accepted. Why should being a disciple of Jesus be any different? In order to GROW in your relationship with God, you must make and keep a commitment (to yourself, to God, to your brothers and sisters in Christ) to know God and become more like Christ **DAILY**.

Consider these questions and respond, either by yourself or as a family: Think about your life. Are you GROWING in your walk with God? Why or why not? What helps you GROW in your walk with God? What hurts? What habits will help you strengthen this walk with God DAILY? How can you deal with those challenges so you can GROW? **A GROWING LIFE IN CHRIST IS A LIFE THAT IS ON FIRE FOR CHRIST! A LIFE ON FIRE FOR CHRIST CHANGES THE WORLD!**

GROWING with you!

Brad



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

September 4th Early Service	
Organist	Joyce Hofman
Audio	Cathy Broz
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	Don Hall
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Powerpoint	Angie Reiners
Video	NEED VOLUNTEER

September 11th 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	Velma Kircher
Greeter	Phillis Berndt
Usher	Dee Traphagan
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Acolyte	NEED VOLUNTEER
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Video	NEED VOLUNTEER

September 18th Early Service	
Organist	
Audio	Harold Carlson
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

September 25th 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	Janet Bamesberger
Greeter	Dale Bamesberger
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	KGNG Sponsor
7th- Available	7th- Available
14th- Available	14th- Available
21st- Available	21st- Available
28th- Available	28th- Available



Describing Our Purpose (continuation of last month's article)

"Witness, Mercy, Life Together- in Christ, for the Church and the World" describes what Christians as individuals-and collectively as the Church-do. Different words could be used. A slogan could be created, a program or process developed, that encompasses the work of Christians as the Church, but the Scriptures succinctly summarize this work-this purpose-as "Witness, Mercy, Life Together."

It seems that with the election of each new Synod president there has been a new campaign, slogan, program or emphasis. Not only is this understandable, but it is one of the ways a Synod president exercises pastoral care for the church-at-large—by noting particular needs for a given time. In the past, the Missouri Synod, for example, has heard and responded to "Forward in Remembrance," "Keep the Message Straight," "Ablaze!" and "One Mission, One Message, One People." Yet, each of these programs, emphases, or themes has dealt with one or more aspect of "Witness, Mercy, Life Together."

In light of the many challenges facing our Synod, and considering the recent discussion of how to reorganize the Synod for the most effective and efficient use of the Lord's gifts to His Church, it is important to focus on the purpose of the Church more than the specific process of carrying out its work. Witness (martyria), Mercy (diakonia), and Life Together (koinonia) describes the purpose of the Church in a way that keeps the focus on the cross of Jesus and yet also clearly articulates the work of the Church both internally and externally.

Next month continues with "Witness"

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

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

"When Godly People Do Ungodly Things: Arming Yourself in the Age of Seduction" - Women's Bible Study, beginning September 19, 2011. (Monday evenings, 8:00 pm – 9:30 pm) This six week Beth Moore study will look at how the devil's schemes may disrupt the lives of Christians, destroy their ministry and steal their joy. Cost will be \$13-15 for the study guide. Please contact Charlene Albertson at 737-1057 if you have any questions and to register.



Peace Lutheran Church

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September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:00pm-Liturgical Dance	2 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	3 7:00am-Men's Bible Study
4 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship Wedding Reservation	5 2:30pm Worship Planning 7:00pm Worship DCE IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	6 5:30pm Board of Ed 6:30pm Board of Elders	7 5:30 SOR 7:30pm-FIRE	8 COUNCIL REPORTS DUE 6:00pm-Liturgical Dance PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE (WINKLE)	9 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	10 7:00am-Men's Bible Study
11 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Sunday School Rally 9:15am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	12 7:00pm Worship DCE IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	13 2:30pm Hillcrest Bingo 6:00pm Board of Trustees 6:30pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	14 5:30 SOR 7:30pm-FIRE	15 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	16 PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	17 7:00am-Men's Bible Study
18 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	19 7:00pm Worship 8:00pm Women's Bible Study DCE IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	20 7:00pm Bylaws Committee	21 5:30 SOR 7:30pm-FIRE	22 11:00am-LWML 1:30pm-Hillcrest Service 2:30pm-Willow Ridge 6:00pm-Liturgical Dance	23 TIDINGS ARTICLES DUE PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	24 7:00am-Men's Bible Study
25 <u>Communion Sunday</u> 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 5:00pm Stewardship committee meeting	26 7:00pm Worship 8:00pm Women's Bible Study DCE IS OUT OF THE OFFICE	27	28 5:30 SOR 7:30pm-FIRE	29 6:00pm-Liturgical Dance	30	