

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:

Three vertical lines for an address.

Hello, it has been a while since I last wrote to you. As I write to you this morning, it is one of those nice mornings when one can enjoy having the window open and not have everything blown off the shelf.

As I write to you, I hear, not a relentless wind, but the gentle sound of a dove in the tree—I hear the joyful voices of the preschool children play outside. The air is cool, and the sun is hidden behind a layer of clouds, and the Nebraska wind is calm.

Today is one of those “answer to prayers days.”

We pray for seasonable weather here in Nebraska, and once and a while we get it. So, I ask you to join me in thanking our Lord for the nice day.

Yes, it is just one day in the midst of so many unseasonably unpleasant days, but it is, nonetheless, one day, and an answer to prayer day. Would we like more like it? Sure! But let us not neglect the opportunity to thank our Lord for what He decides to give.

I did pause in the midst of writing this letter to give thanks to God for this pleasant morning, but, as I did that, I found myself challenged;

“Why wouldn’t I thank God

for those windy days; because I didn’t like them?

Why wouldn’t I thank Him for those frigid nights and above normal temperatures during the day; because that’s not what I asked for? Why have I waited until a day that I deemed to be worthy, before offering God thanks? Shouldn’t I offer God thanks every day for His daily provision?” Well, of course I should!

God is doing something—what it is, I am not privileged to know—I am only obliged to trust Him—I am obliged, as a child of God, to live according to His Word.

I admit; I don’t know what God is up to, I do know this; He is good—He is trustworthy—and whatever He decides to do with the weather, or world events, or with me—everything God does, is for the ultimate good of those who are His own.

So I ask you to join me in Thanking God for the day. May He bless you and keep you safe in the day to come.

“The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, that surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:5b-7



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FROM AN ELDER

²² The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; ²³ they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴ "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." Lamentations 3:22-27

Most of us are confident that the sun will rise each morning. Jeremiah points us to an even more certain truth in his third lament poem (Lamentations 3:22-24). God's mercies, he says, are new every morning. Our Lord is utterly, absolutely faithful.

Suppose we had to wonder whether God was having a bad day. Or we had to guess whether He'd gotten up on the right side of the bed. Suppose we had to worry about whether we'd offended Him one too many times.

But we need not fear. His compassion never fails. Human beings often reach the end of their patience. Sooner or later, even a compassionate person will give up on a repeat offender. But our Lord's mercy never, ever runs out.

Confidence in our Lord's mercy comes from His crucified and risen Son. Confidence like that gives us hope, we might say "blazing hope." No matter how dark the long night of our soul grows, Christ remains our light.

Perhaps you face uncertainty today, Jeremiah has some reliable counsel for you: "It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord" As you wait, do so in the sure and certain hope of our Lord's mercy and compassion, afresh each and every day. *Today's Light Bible*



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Jerry Calvin	5/1	Lisa Schoup	5/11	Spencer Rogers	5/18
Sarah Risenhoover	5/1	Jennifer Doucet	5/12	Scott Hanchera	5/19
Brenda Grube	5/2	Patricia Nielsen	5/12	Susan DeJonge	5/20
Austin Thompson	5/2	Kysen Hazlitt	5/14	Joseph Vetrovsky	5/22
Samson Ziebell	5/2	Heath Brown	5/15	Jayde Aufrecht	5/23
Lonnie Felcher	5/3	Allyx Garretson	5/15	Vaunda Hyde	5/23
Teddy Felcher	5/5	Amanda Pearce	5/15	Peggy Poore	5/23
Jeff Polly	5/5	LaVonne Hanchera	5/16	Danielle Schumacher	5/24
Sharon Kircher	5/7	Jenna Moench	5/17	Lindsay McConville	5/25
Harlan Reiners	5/8	Luka Rawn	5/17	Gerald Gohl	5/29
Nicole Rawn	5/10	Linda Richards	5/17	Treven Critchfield	5/31

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

NAME	DATE	YEARS	NAME	DATE	YEARS
Alyssa & Todd Bauer	5/3/2014	8	Harold & Sue Carlson	5/24/2008	14
Tom & Cindy Shields	5/14/1983	39	Drew & Amanda Shields	5/29/2021	1
Nicholas & Hanah Nothnagel	5/21/2016	6	Preston & Amanda Hueftle	5/30/2020	2
Mitch & Aimee Hazlitt	5/22/2010	12	Raymond & Patricia Fisher	5/31/1964	58
Ron & Jeanne Rogers	5/23/1971	51			

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

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

Check out our Facebook page! Don't forget to "Like", "Follow" and "Share" it! You can find us at Peace Lutheran McCook NE.

OUR FINANCES AT A GLANCE

	Week to Date (April 24th-April 30th)	Month to Date (April 3rd-April 30th)	Actual Year to Date (January 2nd-April 30th)
Offerings	\$4,565.00	\$21,161.00	\$89,858.00
Expenses	\$9,358.00	\$16,471.00	\$76,092.00



CREATIVE PRESCHOOL

Creative Preschool is taking applications for a preschool teachers aide. The position includes responsibility of driving the church van. Application are available at the church office.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Peace Lutheran Church will hold VBS on June 20, 21, and 22. Please consider helping with VBS, there is a signup sheet in the entryway. Our VBS is for children pre-K (age 3 and potty trained) through 5th grade. Please join our three-day event and register by May 27th in order for your child to receive a t-shirt (size guide is found under downloads, you will be asked to enter size when registering). Late registrations will be accepted however T-shirts may not be available so we encourage you to register by the deadline. Check out all the details and register at: www.myvbs.org/plcmccook

THANK YOU

As we come to the end of the school year, we want to thank the School of religion teachers, superintendents, food groups, Sunday school teachers, Pastor Felcher and Tina for all that you do for the children at Peace Lutheran. School of religion and Sunday school cannot happen without the willingness of others to guide and teach the youth of our congregation. Thank you to the students and their families for their dedication and faithful attendance. Peace Lutheran Board of Education

NEW AWNINGS

Peace Lutheran Voters approved the purchase of four new awnings. The locations where they will be installed are over the northwest door to basement stairs, Pastor's south window, over the Fellowship Hall and kitchen doors (one awning together), and over the preschool entrance. The first 3 will be of the same color and shape as existing awnings. The awning over the preschool will be of a different shape as well as a different color. Total cost of these will be \$6,010. If you would like to donate towards their purchase or make a memorial in honor of someone through a donation, please contact Tina Cummins, Peace Lutheran Administrative Assistant. Deadline for these donations will be the end of May.

MAY READINGS

Date	Season	First Reading	Epistle	Holy Gospel
1st	The 3rd Sunday of Easter	Acts 9:1-22	Revelation 5:1-14	John 21:1-19
8th	The 4th Sunday of Easter	Acts 20:17-35	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
15th	The 5th Sunday of Easter	Acts 11:1-18	Revelation 21:1-7	John 16:12-22 or John 13:31-35
22nd	The 6th Sunday of Easter	Acts 16:9-15	Revelation 21:9-14, 21-27	John 16:23-33 or John 5:1-9
29th	The 7th Sunday of Easter	Acts 1:12-26	Revelation 22:1-20	John 17:20-26



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter Article – May 2022

Living Sacrifices

Stewardship is not just about giving money to the church. It includes this, to be sure, but it is not limited to it. Stewardship involves our whole life – everything we have and everything we are.

Let us not, though, fall into the trap of thinking that because we give of ourselves in one area then we can neglect giving in another. Stewardship is not stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is not a game that we play whereby we justify ourselves in not giving a tenth of our income because we have given in some other way.

This is why our Lord warns: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe the mint and dill and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.” (Matthew 23:23) We are given to do both – tithe of ourselves and what we have.

And so it is that St. Paul makes his appeal to us: “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:1-2)

We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We are not to have the mind of the world, where we exchange equal weight of this for an equal weight of that and think that we have done what God has required. Our whole life is given over for service in and for the Church of God. This is to be done in thanksgiving for what God in Christ has accomplished for us. This is our spiritual worship, the reasonable response to what He has done for us. Not one for the other but all in all.

But what does this look like? St. Paul never lays down a general principle without also giving us some practical application of what shape that principle is to take concretely. He gives the general principle that our bodies are to be living sacrifices to God. And, after admonishing those who have been given particular gifts of grace to serve the church, St. Paul then speaks generally of what is expected of all. He says: “Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” (Romans 12:9-13)

This is what it looks like to present your bodies as living sacrifices. This is how we live out the grace of God here in time.

Let us then heed the apostle's teaching. Let us present our bodies – everything that we have and everything that we are – as living sacrifices to God, our reasonable response to what God in Christ Jesus accomplished for us by His death and resurrection. Through this, we have forgiveness of sins, a new life in Christ, and eternal salvation. And through this worship, the grace of God is made manifest in His saints – for the church and the world.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship



BOARD OF EVANGELISM

Board of Evangelism met with a busy month ahead of them. There were no newcomers, so we ask the congregation if you know of any people moving to McCook, please let us know. Birthday and Anniversary cards have been sent out as well as Easter cards being sent. There was no meal ministry done at this time. Grief ministry has been sending out many packets to our friends who have lost loved ones. More visitor mugs have been purchased. Gifts will be distributed to the confirmation children, also College Care Packages will be mailed to the college students. Again if you know of a member in college, please let us know. God Bless, Deb, Joann, Sue

ADOPT-A-CHAPLAIN

Thank you to all those who have donated supplies and those who have helped pack care packages to send to deployed military chaplains and the troops they serve. We continue to support a Nebraska National guard unit deployed to Qatar. We support Chaplain Nathan Witt from Hamlet NE, location undisclosed. We are also send supplies for humanitarian relief to the chaplains in Poland as they continue to care for the Ukraine refugees. Next packing day is Tues, May 17 at 4:00pm. Thank you.

GRADUATION LIST

Peace Lutheran would like to honor 2022 graduates, high school and college. Please call the church office with information about your graduate. Everyone is invited to a brunch for the graduates and their families on Sunday, May 1, between services.



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, Darlene Leibbrandt, Jean Sehnert, and Barbara Klein.

Kinship Pointe: Walt Sehnert, and Betty Harms.

Highland Park: Harlan & Bernita Reiners and Arthur & Elaine Soncksen

El Dorado Manor: Mark Cummins **Ulysses, KS:** Joyce Stupka

York: Joyce Hofman

Lincoln: Carla Bales

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 – Harold Carlson, Phil Bamesberger, Victor Lauer, Fritz Hubert, Brandon Kuykendall, Curt Swanhorst or Fred Gleason.

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.)**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Preschool to 2nd grade children are invited to Sunday School each Sunday from 9:15-10:15am downstairs. **The last day of Sunday School will be May 15th. See you in the fall!**



SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

Altar Flowers	KNGN Sponsor
1st-Available	1st-Available
8th-Carlson	8th-Available
15th-Available	15th-Available
22nd-Available	22nd-Available
29th-Available	29th-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.

May 1st	
Elder on duty	Brandon Kuykendall
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Cathy Broz
Greeter	Grant Pfanstiel
Greeter	Charlene Pfanstiel
Usher	Gene Meints
Lay Reader	Mike Nielsen
Acolyte	Aaron Nielsen
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Cathy Broz
Late Service	
Greeter	Jane Schuster
Greeter	Myra Tietz
Usher	Jim Dejonge
Lay Reader	Fred Gleason
Acolyte	Emma McConville
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Ben Schow
Facebook	Christien Kuykendall

May 8th	
Elder on duty	Victor Lauer
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	Russ Ankersen
Greeter	Deb Shields
Greeter	
Usher	Harold Carlson
Lay Reader	Sue Ankersen
Acolyte	Brayden Watts
Acolyte	Tristen Watts
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Late Service	
Greeter	Cindy Swanhorst
Greeter	Curt Swanhorst
Usher	
Lay Reader	Renelle Mooney
Acolyte	Zander Stewart
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Russ Ankersen
Facebook	Layne Sarvela

May 15th	
Elder on duty	Harold Carlson
Organist	K. C. Eckhardt
Audio	Paul Sellers
Greeter	Elaine Polly
Greeter	Jeff Polly
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Randon Peters
Acolyte	Aaron Nielsen
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Tina Cummins
Late Service	
Greeter	Donna Hall
Greeter	Jim Hall
Usher	Ben Schow
Lay Reader	Sarah Risenhoover
Acolyte	Brooklynn Tidyman
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	
Facebook	Tina Cummins

May 22nd	
Elder on duty	Fritz Hubert
Organist	K. C. Eckhardt
Audio	Harold Carlson
Greeter	Nancy Rippen
Greeter	
Usher	Eugene Custer
Lay Reader	Jerry Calvin
Acolyte	Cale DeWester
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Harold Carlson
Late Service	
Greeter	Pat Penner
Greeter	
Usher	Curt Swanhorst
Lay Reader	Russ Ankersen
Acolyte	Juliett Critfield
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	Gary Hunkins
Facebook	Ryland Peters

May 29th	
Elder on duty	Curt/Phil
Organist	Charlene Pfanstiel
Audio	NEED VOLUNTEER
Greeter	Sue Carlson
Greeter	Harold Carlson
Usher	
Lay Reader	Grant Pfanstiel
Acolyte	Layton Hinz
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	
Late Service	
Greeter	Karen Berry
Greeter	NEED VOLUNTEER
Usher	Steve Post
Lay Reader	Curt Swanhorst
Acolyte	Avery Davidson
Acolyte	
Powerpoint	NEED VOLUNTEER
Facebook	Layne Sarvela



PEACE TALK

Help Wanted! I see these words on signs in windows of businesses more than ever before. The shortage of workers across the country have become quite a problem with employers who are struggling to find help. We might speculate what the cause might be. Is it because of Covid, retiring baby boomers, or generous unemployment benefits? Whatever it proves to be in the end, it doesn't change the fact that merchants across the nation are looking for workers. The ramification of this is affecting everyone as products are being delayed and many service providers are having to adjust accordingly. In the scheme of things, help wanted pleas are shifting to help needed. So, as I envision these signs as a "sign" from God, my first thought come from the numerous times I read about discipleship in the Bible. Yes, Jesus wants me to help by volunteering, help by going to church, and wants me to help spread His Word; and that will make a great devotion for another day. However, the more I thought about it, the more I imagined that Jesus would not hold a "Help Wanted" sign, but instead a "Help Available" sign. He didn't come into this world because he needs me, He come because I need Him. I am the one holding that sign. He tells you and I in *John 14:6* "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." The Apostle Paul writes in Titus 2:12 about my help wanted sign in Christ "training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age." And the reason all of us need to carry our help wanted sign daily, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). As long as we are on this earth, we will never stop needing Him every moment of every day. So maybe, just maybe, the numerous "Help Wanted" signs I see on every corner, should remind me of how much I need God in my life. Also, for God to give me patience when products are delayed or service providers are shorthanded. Ultimately reminding me that amongst all the evil in the world, God is still in control and has a divine plan and in Him I place my trust. With my intentional effort with God in my life, THEN I can focus on discipleship to spread the good news of salvation in the community or change someone's life. What is that good news? "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life," (John 3:16). Jesus gave His life on the cross to bear the sins of all who believe in Him so we can enjoy eternity with Him. All this He did willingly because of His unconditional love for us. Thus, the Good News as we seek him daily for the "Help Wanted" in our life. Dear Lord, I know my sign for help wanted has been fulfilled, thank you for always being there for me. Amen.



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May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00am Worship 9:15am Graduation reception 10:30am Worship	2 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	3 6:30pm Board of Elders	4	5	6	7 7:00am Men's Bible Study
PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE (VACATION)						
8 Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	9	10 9:00am Worship Committee 7:00pm Preschool Graduation	11 9:15am El Dorado	12	13 Upper Fellowship Hall reservation	14 7:00am Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE (VACATION)				PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE (WINKEL)		
15 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	16	17 6:30pm Board of Elders 7:00pm Council	18	19	20	21 7:00am Men's Bible Study
	PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE					
22 Communion Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	23 2:00pm LWML	24	25	26 1:30pm Hillcrest 2:30pm Kinship Pointe	27	28 7:00am Men's Bible Study Upper Fellowship Hall reservation
	PASTOR IS OUT OF THE OFFICE					
29 8:00am Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am Worship	30 <i>Office Closed</i>	31			Congratulations 2022 Graduates! <u>High School</u> Ian Brown Peyton Doucet Landon Snyder <u>College</u> Easton Gillen Rylee Mooney Lydia Risenhoover	