



Tidings *of Peace*

From the Pastor's Desk...

April 2023

Happy Spring everyone!

It inches closer and closer as the days and weeks fly by. Before we know it, we will again rejoice in the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus. The cross will be down, and the tomb will stand empty. The crowds will have gone home, perhaps some of them having already forgotten the event that has just taken place. Some of them even chose not to believe, despite their witness to Jesus' suffering and death. They will not know or see or hear the truth, for the truth is not in them.

Right now, as I write this, I am taking a break from studying and praying about this week's message and the Gospel reading, the raising of Lazarus from his tomb. Why? Three words. My focus suddenly shifted to those words: Do you believe? Of course, the answer for Mary & Martha was 'yes' – but there was no follow-up question. I would have then asked, 'what do you believe?'

The challenge is answering the question. I believe the sun will rise and tomorrow will become today; I believe spring is just around the corner, the grass will green, and the trees will return to life; I believe our church will grow and flourish; and I believe in so many other things. But that's not the question, is it? Jesus wants to know if we believe in him, in his suffering and death and in his rising. Are we ready to come out of our "tombs", to greet every day with Jesus by our side? Do we believe that Jesus is the resurrection and the life?



The answer is in Easter morning, when we join our voices in proclaiming, ‘He is risen. He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!’ It’s the realization that everything comes down to this moment, and yet it doesn’t end there. Each day is an Emmaus day when we are given the opportunity to walk with Jesus, to discover the truth that is Jesus, and to simply be in the presence of Jesus.

I pray for you always. I pray you rise on each new day knowing you walk with Jesus in this journey we call life. I pray with each new dawn you know and see and hear the promise of his cross and feel the warmth of the light from his empty tomb. Through it all, we ultimately receive the greatest of all truths... and his name is Jesus, the resurrection and the life. So let us pray together, ‘Come Lord Jesus, Come.’

Happy Easter, everyone! Happy Spring, too!

God’s Blessings and Peace

Pastor Neil

Pastor’s Office Hours

Tuesday-Wednesday 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Spring Clean-Up at Church

The Property team has selected the following dates to gather and begin the spring task of maintaining our property. We would love to have many hands join us so we can complete the list of items to be completed. Please join us – rain or shine. Any time you can help is greatly appreciated.

Saturday, April 29 th	8:00am – 12:00 noon
Saturday, May 20 th	8:00am – 12:00 noon
Saturday, June 17 th	8:00am – 12:00 noon



If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Property Team.

Choir

We can hear you on Sunday mornings as you sing boldly and loudly during our worship services. We want to expand our choir with voices like yours. Join us on **Thursday evenings** for choir practice beginning at **7:00pm**. In the Choir Room. If you have any questions, see Scott Myckowiak.



Men's Breakfast



We will meet at the Eaton Place for breakfast and fellowship on **Thursday, April 13th at 8:30am**. Hope to see you there!

Men's Night Out

This is something most of us enjoy – so let's get together again on **Tuesday, April 25th at 6:00pm** for a sandwich and beverage. It's a great time to catch up with one another and share some stories and laughs. Hope to see you there!



Bible Study – the book of Revelation



Our adult bible study on Revelation will begin on April 30th at 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall. Today we have 17 signed up to participate and your Pastor is very happy. This study is a 20-week study and will continue through the fall.

The schedule is now available along with the Session 1/2 booklet. There will be breaks in the schedule due to holidays and existing scheduling conflicts. If you are interested and not yet signed up, please let Pastor Neil know.

Ladies Luncheon

Join us on Thursday, April 30th at 11:30 am at Applebee's



Come and Grow with Us

Pastor Neil presented his 3-year vision for Peace Lutheran Church at the February council meeting, and council enthusiastically adopted it. The theme is ***“Come and Grow with Us.”***

A summary is as follows:

Priority Statement: ***“Take care of who and what we already have”***

Goals:

1. Expand our Fellowship opportunities
2. Support our ministries through the budget.
3. Increase lay-led worship and study opportunities.

Priority Statement: ***“Re-define the term ‘evangelism’, then act”***

Goals:

1. Expand our Live Stream broadcasts and create the “Peace-Charlotte Virtual Community”
2. Visitor welcome gifts
3. A “visionary” budget

Priority Statement: ***“Let’s choose to be ‘proactive’ rather than ‘reactive’***

Goals:

1. Review and update constitution
2. Work with Pastor on ideas to increase the # of visitors under the theme **“Come and Grow with Us”**
3. A “visionary” budget

Several of our members have already asked what they could do to help. Perhaps you would like to do the same. We have teams guiding our ministry at Peace, and they would love to have your participation. Please prayerfully consider your participation in our ministry as together we proclaim – *Come and Grow with Us*.

If you have any questions, concerns, or input, please talk with Pastor Neil.

Highlights from the Council and Team Meetings

Council – February 2023.

Organizational meeting & presentation from Pastor Neil.

- Welcome Newly Elected Council Members
 - Steve Clark
 - Scott Myckowiak (2 year term)
 - Phil Lemke
- New Congregational Officers
 - President: Phil Lemke
 - Vice-President: Scott Myckowioak
 - Secretary: Kathy Cook
 - Treasurer: John Hoesli
 - Assistant Treasurer: Jim Bradley
 - Financial Secretary: Kathy Cook
- Council Liaisons
 - Caring Team: Roger Gareiss
 - Communications Team: Phil Lemke
 - CAT Team: Lorene Crigier
 - Growing in Faith Team: Brenda Morris
 - GFS Team: Jim Bradley
 - IT/Personnel Team: Kathy Cook
 - Property Team: Steve Clark
 - Worship & Music Team: Scott Myckowiak
- Pastor's Report
 - Pastor Neil presented his vision for the next three years.
Theme: ***Come and Grow with Us.***
Council adopted this action item for implementation.
(see adopted Action Item printed in this newsletter)



Teams

This month we will look at our Teams and an overview of the duties and responsibilities of each as listed in the bylaws of our constitution. (Lunch on the Pastor – just let him know you read this.) Please prayerfully consider joining one of our teams.

Caring Team

- Personal contacts to members of Congregation
- Provide temporary meals to members of our congregation
- Organize funeral dinners
- Provide lay communion and visitation outreach
- Make new visitor contacts
- Oversee the West fund distributions

Communications Team

- Oversee advertising of worship opportunities and special events
- Maintain and update Peace Lutheran social media platforms (Facebook, You Tube)
- Maintain and update Peace Lutheran Church website
- Maintain and publish monthly newsletter, *The Tidings*

Community in Action Team

- Organize activities of the church which involve our congregation and the surrounding communities
- Coordinate congregational involvement in community outreach events
- Schedule and publicize outreach ministry events
- Schedule and publicize congregation's fellowship events

Giving/Finance/Stewardship Team

- Oversee the congregation's development in accordance with scriptural principles of stewardship
 - Prepare and submit the annual budget for consideration and adoption
 - Keep congregation informed regarding finances on a regular basis
 - Oversee all Finance personnel
 - Oversee all financial agreements/contracts, including the SCRIP program
-

Teams Continued

Growing in Faith Team

(we desperately need volunteers for this important ministry)

- Provide education opportunities for the members of our congregation
- Oversee and support our youth group ministry

Personnel/IT Technology Team

- Oversee employment/separations of personnel, including annual evaluations
- Review salaries for all paid employees on an annual basis
- Review job descriptions, procedures, forms, handbooks, etc. as needed
- Provide guidance to the Records Management Committee
- Oversee all technology including hardware and software and office equipment

Property Team

- Maintain building and grounds
- Provide oversight to janitorial staff
- Secure bids and proposals for new equipment and property maintenance

Worship and Music Team

- Assure worship is conducted in accordance with the liturgy of the ELCA
- Work with choir, altar guild, sound booth, musicians, choir director
- Plan and oversee worship services with the Pastor
- Maintain musical instruments
- Arrange for and provide training for acolytes, lectors, communion assistants, greeters, ushers, and all worship volunteers

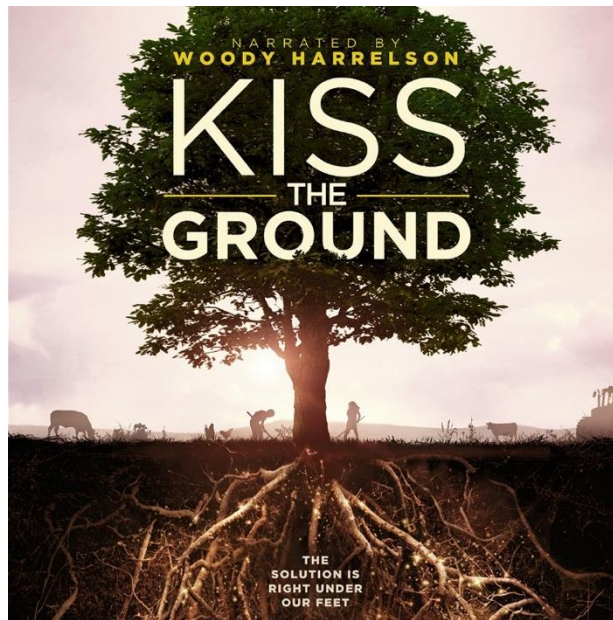




Earth Day is April 22, 2023. At Peace we will be celebrating a little early!

Join us on Friday, April 14, 2023 at 7:00 pm

to view the movie “Kiss the ground”



To get you excited about this movie, click on the link below to see the trailer

<https://youtu.be/3iknWWKZOUs>

Narrated and featuring Woody Harrelson, Kiss the Ground is an inspiring and groundbreaking film that reveals the first viable solution to our climate crisis.

Kiss the Ground reveals that, by regenerating the world’s soils, we can completely and rapidly stabilize Earth’s climate, restore lost ecosystems and create abundant food supplies. Using compelling graphics and visuals, along with striking NASA and NOAA footage, the film artfully illustrates how, by drawing down atmospheric carbon, soil is the missing piece of the climate puzzle.

Refreshments will be served (possibly dirt cake ☐)

Compassion Sunday, April 30, 2023



Love with actions and in truth!

Compassion Sunday is a worship service that blends faith and action. Barb Myckowiak will be making a brief presentation and you will have the opportunity to choose a child to sponsor. It's that simple. You can give hope to a child living in poverty.

\$38/month will provide your sponsored child with:

Malnutrition monitoring and intervention



Education assistance and skills training



Medical care and regular checkups



Encouraging words and support from you, their sponsor



Individual mentorship and love



An introduction to the love of God



What you'll receive through sponsorship:

Updates/Prayer Requests

You will receive regular prayer requests for your child and information on local crises that affect them.

A Pen Pal

Letters to and from your child will allow you to learn about each other's lives and share prayer requests and encouragement.

Photos Of Your Child

Watch your child grow through photos shared from your child's Compassion Center.



Attitude Is a Choice

[God's] steadfast love endures forever.
—Psalm 136:1

When you face tough times in your life, you have a choice: How will you respond? Will you get grumpy and angry? Pout and snap at your family? What will your attitude be?

It's never easy to deal with problems and stresses in our lives. But God promises to always love us. Psalm 136 describes God's "steadfast" love. God loves us with love that lasts, and doesn't drop us just because we are sad or mad or scared.

When something bad happens to you, you can either gripe or cope. Hard times can make us sad or angry, but not permanently. We can turn our attitude around by remembering God's steadfast love.

God, give me an attitude adjustment when I am angry about unimportant things. Thanks for loving me always. Amen.

Attitude Adjustment / 151

Newsletter Updates



Last month, you may have noticed that the birthdays and anniversaries were not featured in the Tidings. At our February meeting, the Communication Team decided to remove this information from the Tidings and other external communications in an effort to protect our members' personal information. Birthdays and anniversaries will continue to be displayed on the announcements in the gathering space at the church. If you have any questions or would prefer to not have this information displayed at the church, please contact the church office.

Continued Support: Helping Hands Food Pantry

The support helping hands receives from Peace and other churches in the community helps supply food for those in need. With the rising cost of foods and reduced food allowance people are receiving, there are more and more coming to the pantry for help. **Helping Hands serves 100-130 families a week.** Every little bit helps. Thank you for your continued support.

Community Action Team



FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP



Would you like to provide flowers for worship? People often provide flowers in honor of a birthday or anniversary, in memory of a loved one who has passed away, or just for the glory of God! If you'd like to bring flowers for a weekend, please sign the sheet in the Gathering Area.

Providing flowers is easier than ever! We have arranged with a local florist to provide the arrangements. All you need to do is bring a check made out to Peace Lutheran Church or cash for \$30 to the office. We will take care of the rest.

Following worship on Sunday, you may take the flowers home if you choose. If you choose to take them home, please bring a vase to transfer flowers to, or return the vase to the church for the next weekend

When you sign up, please indicate if there is an occasion you are celebrating and would like to have listed in the bulletin.

Contact Kathy Cook in the office at 517-543-1503 if you have any questions.



Did you know that we recycle pull tabs here at Peace?

Pull tabs are taken to the Ronald McDonald House in Lansing

They turn these tabs in to cash to help support the House. The House provides care, comfort, and a free place to stay for families to heal together while their child receives medical treatment.

This is a simple way to help support the House, just pull those tabs off the cans and **place them in the container at church** and Dar will see that they get over to Ronald McDonald House.

A Recipe for a Special Easter Cookie

These cookies are a fun (and yummy!) activity to do to learn about the Easter story.

Ingredients

- 3 Eggs at room temperature (very important that they are room temperature!).
- 1 cup of pecans
- 1 cup of sugar
- 1 teaspoon of vinegar
- Salt

Other Items:

- Bible
- Ziplock bag
- Wooden spoon
- Mixing bowl
- Baking sheet
- Scotch tape
- Electric mixer
- Parchment paper

Steps:

1. Preheat the oven to 300 °F
2. Place the pecans in a ziplock bag and beat them with a wooden spoon. This represents that Jesus was arrested and beaten (John 19:1-3).
3. Add 1 tsp of vinegar to a mixing bowl. This represents the vinegar the soldiers gave Jesus to drink when he was on the cross (John 19:28-30).
4. Separate the egg whites and yolks, and add the whites to the vinegar. Eggs represent life (John 10:10-11).
5. Sprinkle a pinch of salt into the mixing bowl. The salt represents the salty tears that Jesus' followers shed (Luke 23:27).
6. Add 1 cup of sugar to the mixing bowl. Sugar represents the sweetest part of the story; that Jesus died for us because He loves us (Psalms 34:8, John 3:16).
7. Preferably using the whisk attachment, mix the ingredients on high speed with the mixer until stiff peaks form in the egg whites. The color white represents purity in God's eyes (Isaiah 1:18, John 1:1-3).
8. Fold in the broken nuts. Drop by rounded teaspoons on to a parchment paper covered baking sheet. Each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus was buried (Matthew 27:57-60).
9. Put the cookies into the preheated oven and turn off the oven.
10. Seal the oven with tape. The tape represents Jesus' tomb being sealed (Matthew 27: 65-66).
11. Leave the oven sealed overnight. Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed (John 16:20).
12. On Easter morning open the oven door and give everyone a cookie. The cookies will be cracked and hollow. On Easter morning, Jesus' tomb was found open and empty! JESUS IS RISEN! (Matthew 28:1-9).



Schedule of Worship Volunteers April 2023

Date	Sunday 4/2 PALM SUNDAY	Sunday 4/9 EASTER SUNDAY	Sunday 4/16	Sunday 4/23	Sunday 4/30 COMPASSION SUNDAY
Acolyte	Payton Jobson	Carson Clark			
Altar Guild	Sharron Pridgeon	Sharron Pridgeon	Sharron Pridgeon	Sharron Pridgeon	Sharron Pridgeon
Audio/ Visual	Scott Lumbert	Scott Lumbert	Scott Lumbert	Scott Lumbert	Scott Lumbert
Choir Director	Scott Myckowiak	Scott Myckowiak	Scott Myckowiak	Scott Myckowiak	Scott Myckowiak
Fellowship	John and Barb Thiel	Easter Breakfast		Neil and Sandy Brady	John and Barb Thiel
Lector	Tom Pridgeon	Tom Pridgeon	Tom Pridgeon	Tom Pridgeon	Tom Pridgeon
Pastor	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Dave Anderson	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady
Musician	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio
Ushers	Harry Moore	Harry Moore	Harry Moore	Harry Moore	Harry Moore
Worship Assistant	Scott Myckowiak	Scott Myckowiak	Scott Myckowiak	Scott Myckowiak	Scott Myckowiak

Church Calendar

April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 PALM SUNDAY 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Gathering	3	4 7:00 pm CAT Team Meeting	5 11:30 am Caring Team Meeting 1:00 pm IT/Personnel Team Meeting	6 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service @ St. John's 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	7 7:00 pm Good Friday Service @ UCC	8 6:00 pm Easter Vigil @Peace
9 EASTER SUNDAY 8:00 am Easter Breakfast 9:30 am Worship	10	11 10:00 am Worship Team Meeting 1:30 pm Growing in Faith Team Meeting 7:00 pm Council Meeting	12	13 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	14 7:00 pm "Earth Day" Fellowship/ Dessert Event	15
16 9:30 am Worship/Gathering 10:45-Noon Sunday School	17	18 Articles for the Tidings Due	19	20 11:30 am Ladies Luncheon 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	21	22
23 EARTH DAY SUNDAY 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering 10:45-Noon Confirmation	24	25 6:00 pm Men's Night Out	26	27 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	28	29
30 COMPASSION SUNDAY 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Gathering 10:45-Noon Sunday School		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <u>Pastor's Office Hours</u> Tuesday-Wednesday 10:00-3:00 </div>				

Please feel free to submit articles or pictures for the Tidings to the editor, Kristin Shannon
gore.kristin88@gmail.com

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*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and love your
neighbor as yourself.*



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Peace Lutheran Church**