



Tidings of Peace

come grow with us

From the Pastor's Desk...

December 2023

Sisters and brothers in Christ...



There's no better time to remind one another that we are welcomed as we sit in anticipation, preparing for what is to come. Traditionally December is a month of anxiety and stress, joy and comfort – for all of us. So much to do and so little time to get it all done. And yet we do! It's why I have decided on this theme – a gentle reminder for what we have today, and what will come for all of us.

In Luke's passage on the birth of Christ Jesus, there is one phrase, one part of a verse that often goes unnoticed, its meaning assumed. In verse 12, it begins with "*There will be a sign for you...*" If I asked you today what that sign would be, most – if not all – would tell me it is the star that shone brightly over the stable where Jesus laid in his manger. And that would be right.

Now – fast forward to today; what is that sign for you? What is it in your life that turns you from the chaos of life and points you in the direction of Jesus? Perhaps it is several things, or maybe it's just one. What is it in your life that causes you to pause, to feel inside of yourself the peace that comes from the words – **welcome home**? Perhaps it is a special someone, a friend; maybe it's just the sense of peace you feel in a specific place; or maybe

it's just a star in the heavens or the warmth of the sun. I've spent a lot of time reflecting on this exact phrase these last weeks. God has blessed me with this feeling for 47+ years now.

This is the season for busyness and anticipation and preparation. It is what it is. But it is also a time for quiet and fulfillment and peace. This is what your sign gives you. This is God's gift for you. *"There will be a sign for you..."* I invite you to sit back, put everything aside for a moment, and turn to your sign. Be in his presence. And then pray a prayer of thanks for without this sign, this gift – how would we know the peace and love that we find in the words – welcome home.

May each of you have a blessed Christmas – with family and friends, good food, great memories – but most importantly, the opportunity to experience the wonders of this season of new beginnings and God's continued love.

God's Blessings and Peace...welcome home!

Pastor Neil

Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday & Wednesday 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Annual Meeting



**The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for
Sunday, January 21, 2023!**

All Team Leaders

Please write a year-end report for your team and send it to Kathy Cook in the office no later than **Friday, January 5th**. The reports will be included in our annual report booklet which will be provided to the congregation for their review prior to the annual meeting.

Christmas Eve Worship



We will gather on **December 24th, Christmas Eve at 7:00pm for worship.** It will be festive and prayerful – with many of your favorite Christmas hymns. Please come and share the evening with family and friends as we worship and give praise – for unto you a child is born!

Men's Breakfast



We will meet at the Eaton Place for breakfast and fellowship on... **Thursday, December 14th at 8:30am.** Hope to see you there!

Men's Night Out

NEW DAY of the week – this month only.

This is something most of us enjoy – so let's get together again on **Wednesday, December 20th at 6:00pm.** This month we will try going to Lansing for something a bit different. We can carpool to the restaurant you decide on. More specific details will follow. It's a great time to catch up with one another and share some stories and laughs. Hope to see you there!



Open House Fellowship



Following worship on **Sunday, December 17** Pastor Neil and Sandy will be hosting the gathering. Along with Christmas goodies we will be having a White elephant gift exchange. Rules for the gift exchange are in the Tidings of Peace. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Bible Study – today and tomorrow

Adult Study:

We are taking a break until **January** when I plan to begin a study on the life of Martin Luther and a review of the Small Catechism. Hope you will join us for this study.

Confirmation:

We meet on **Sunday, December 3rd from 6:00pm – 7:30pm**. Of course, Pastor Neil will provide your dessert. See you then.



Giving/Finance/Stewardship Team

There will be a meeting on **Tuesday, December 19th at 7:00pm** to discuss the financials of our congregation and finalize everything for the annual meeting.

Noisy Offering

Our Noisy Offering will be taken on Sunday, December 31st during worship. Offerings have been designated to Helping Hands Ministries.

Peace Family Christmas

On **Sunday, December 17th**, we will be celebrating Peace Family Christmas during our Fellowship time. It's a great time to gather after watching our youth perform their annual Christmas story and perform on their bells. Pastor Neil and Sandy invite all our members to join us for a **Christmas Open House**, where food and beverages will be provided.

We also invite you (and our youth) to participate in the "White Elephant Christmas Gift Exchange" which we be held during Fellowship time, so we can enjoy one another and share smiles and laughter as we prepare for the Christmas holiday.,



For those who are unsure as to what a "What Elephant Gift Exchange" is (like Pastor Neil...), here are some thoughts:

1. Each person will bring one wrapped gift to place under the tree. The gift should be something from home that is no longer needed by the person, and perhaps it is something someone else can use. It could even be a "gag" or humorous gift. There will be a sign up so we know everyone who is participating, and each could receive their gift.
2. Players draw numbers to determine what order they will go in.
3. We will sit at our tables and each gift will be shown so everyone may see.
4. The first player selects a gift and opens it.
5. The following players select a gift, and if they choose, they could switch gifts with someone else who has already opened a gift.
6. After everyone who is participating has received and opened a gift, the first player has the choice to swap their gift for someone else's gift. We will limit the number of swaps to three (3).
7. What makes the best "White Elephant gift?" Anything that is funny, old, weird, and yes, even a nice gift.

Any questions, please see Char Ehlers, Dian Leckrone, Sharron Pridgeon, or Phyllis Augenstein.



When buying ink from Staples for you or your family please consider using Peace's phone number when checking out. Your purchase of ink can apply to Peace's Rewards program. The office uses the rewards dollars for supplies for our church.



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.

This is the Night



The Children of Peace Lutheran will be putting on their Christmas program during worship on **Sunday, December 17**. They will be doing a hand chimes song and the play ***This is the night.*** Please plan on attending this presentation. Thank you

Cookie and Craft Event! – Thank you!

A HUGE thank you to the bakers, crafters and shoppers who made this year's cookie walk/craft event so successful! A special thank you to Barb Myckowiak and Dian Leckrone who worked at the event on Friday and Saturday and to new Peace member, Beverly Cahill who not only worked at the event both days, but contributed many items that were a hit with shoppers. Also, a bouquet of thanks to Beverly Deford who created an array of snuggle blankets as well as the beaded holiday raffle item, which was won by Dian Leckrone!

Together, everyone's efforts resulted in **our best ever sales of \$2,283!** We are presenting a check to the Crosswalk Teen Center for \$230; the balance will go toward the wildflower/perennial space around our pond and to the Property Team as needed.

Co-chairs -- Beverly Deford and Susie Moore

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



Ladies Luncheon

Wednesday, December 13th
11:30 am at Evelyn Bay



Helping Siren at Christmas

WOW! Can you believe it? This year has flown by. It's time to start thinking about Christmas. **This year we will be helping Siren once again with undies and socks.** After talking with a case worker at Siren, they are so grateful that we have taken on this project. There were 2 churches in Lansing that used to donate undies and socks but they have since closed their doors. We are able to help fill a much needed void. Many of the clients that come to Siren come with just the clothes on their back. It is definitely a blessing that they are able to give them new items to call their own. As this conversation went on, we decided that **pajamas would be a great addition to our angel tree.** **Siren has served over 1300 clients in 2023 with half being children.**

Look for the Angel tree in the gathering space! Any questions ask Louise or Jim Bradley

Community Action Team

Mid-Week Advent Book Study at St. John's

The members of Peace Lutheran Church are invited to join our sisters and brothers at St. John's Episcopal Church for their mid-week Advent study entitled *The Uncontrolled Love of God: an open and relational account of providence*. The study will be held on Wednesday evenings during Advent beginning at 6:30pm with a light meal, and 7:00 book study. **Please call St. John's office for more details and to let them know you will be attending.**





Poinsettias for Hunger & Farm Animals



This year, as we have done in the past, instead of having a multitude of live poinsettias (which die in a few weeks) given in Memory, or for God's Blessings, or in Honor of someone to decorate the church at Christmas we will be hanging Poinsettia paper ornaments on our Christmas tree in the gathering area at church. Each ornament will have the name of who it was given in memory of, or in honor of, or in thanksgiving for written on it. Each card will be \$10.00 and the money donated will go to ELCA's Good gifts to purchase farm animals or food to donate to needy families throughout the world.

Poinsettias for Hunger order forms will be in the bulletin starting Sunday, December 3rd. The forms are **due back by Sunday, December 17th**.

Let's help feed the hungry! One dairy cow nourishes a family and increases income. A good dairy cow provides more than six gallons of milk a day. Milk from a cow is packed with calcium and essential nutrients to help nourish a family, and the extra milk and dairy products can be sold at the local market for income. When a cow gives birth, a family can trade the calves for other necessities. Or a little pig will provide a source of natural fertilizer to help family crops grow. If needed, taking a pig to the market place is like cashing out a savings account. Or the gift of chicks when they grow up will provide eggs which provide a source of protein and can also help start a small business. ELCA Good gifts catalog also offers an opportunity to provide food to International and State facilities. Please help us feed other.



So, tell me about the coffee and chocolate that is for sale at church. Who is benefiting from this? Is this a fundraiser for Peace? It's not a fundraiser for Peace but a chance to support farmers with fair trade practices!



Well, several years ago, back when Pastor Sarah was here, Pastor Sarah and Barb Myckowiak thought it would be great if we could sell and enjoy fair trade coffee. That's when we discovered Equal Exchange Fair Trade coffee. The way it works is this. Barb orders coffee, etc., and pays for it with her credit card. The prices are rounded up to make it easy. She keeps track of how much we make each month and gives that money to Jim Bradley who uses it to buy coffee and other supplies for the kitchen. It's that simple! If you see something on their website that you think we should order, please let Barb know!

Here's a little background on Equal Exchange:

Our History

Equal Exchange started with an idea: what if food could be traded in a way that is honest and fair, a way that empowers both farmers and consumers? Our founders - Rink Dickinson, Jonathan Rosenthal and Michael Rozyne - asked this question as they envisioned a trade model that values each part of the supply chain. They decided to take a big risk and started importing fairly traded coffee from Nicaragua in 1986, despite a US embargo against the Sandinista government. A new business was born from this bold act of solidarity with Latin American farmers and Equal Exchange grew from there.

Our Mission

Equal Exchange's mission is to build long-term trade partnerships that are economically just and environmentally sound, to foster mutually beneficial relationships between farmers and consumers and to demonstrate, through our success, the contribution of worker co-operatives and Fair Trade to a more equitable, democratic and sustainable world.

Small Farmer Grown

We've been a proud supporter of authentic fair trade since day one, and to us that means knowing and working directly with the farmers who produce our food. We partner with farmer cooperatives who are democratically organized, sharing resources and decision-making among their members. Collectively, they gain crucial market access and decide how to invest fair trade and organic premiums in their communities. We now source from over 40 small farmer organizations around the world. Our longstanding relationships allow us to secure the best crops, while continuing to develop innovative programs in collaboration with the co-ops, from crop diversification to quality trainings to women's leadership development.

For more information go to: <https://shop.equalexchange.coop/pages/about-us>

Worship Ministry December 2023

Date	Sunday 12/3	Sunday 12/10	Sunday 12/17	Sunday 12/24 Morning	Sunday 12/24 Evening	Sunday 12/31
Acolyte	Kendall Jobson	Carson Clark	Payton Jobson	Corbin Lincoln	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Altar Guild	Kathy Cook Lorene Crigier	Kathy Cook Lorene Crigier	Kathy Cook Lorene Crigier	Kathy Cook Lorene Crigier	Kathy Cook Lorene Crigier	Kathy Cook Lorene Crigier
Audio/ Visual	Scott Lumbert G. Edgerton Harrison Levi	Scott Lumbert G. Edgerton Harrison Levi	Scott Lumbert G. Edgerton Harrison Levi	Scott Lumbert G. Edgerton Harrison Levi	Scott Lumbert G. Edgerton Harrison Levi	Scott Lumbert G. Edgerton Harrison Levi
Choir Director/ Musician	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio
Fellowship	The Myckowiak's	The Gareiss's	Pastor Neil and Sandy	Volunteer Needed	N/A	Volunteer Needed
Flowers	Bruce and Sandra Hassen	Beverly Leffler	Dian Leckrone	Dave and Phyllis Augenstein	N/A	Open
Lector	John Thiel	John Thiel	John Thiel	John Thiel	John Thiel	John Thiel
Pastor	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady
Ushers	Steve Clark Chad Jobson Alan Jobson	Steve Clark Chad Jobson Alan Jobson	Steve Clark Chad Jobson Alan Jobson	Steve Clark Chad Jobson Alan Jobson	Steve Clark Chad Jobson Alan Jobson	Steve Clark Chad Jobson Alan Jobson

Church Calendar - December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Gathering 10:45-Noon Rehearsal- Christmas Program 6:00-7:30pm Confirmation Class	4	5 7:00 pm CAT Team Meeting	6 11:30 am Caring Team Meeting	7 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	8	9
10 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering	11	12 1:30 pm Worship and Music Meeting 7:00 pm Council Meeting	13 11:30 am Ladies' Luncheon @ Evelyn Bay	14 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	15	16
17 Christmas Program 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering White Elephant Gift Exchange	18 Articles Due for the Tidings	19 7:00 pm GFS Team Meeting	20 6:00 pm Men's Night	21 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25	26	27 11:00 am Baptism Building Rental	28	29	30
31 Noisy Bucket Sunday 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Gathering						

Pastor Neil's Office Hours
 Tuesday-Wednesday 10:00 am-3:00 pm

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

Peace Lutheran Church (ELCA)

830 N. Cochran Ave.
Charlotte, MI 48813

517-543-1503

peacelutheran.charlotte@gmail.com

www.PeaceLutheranCharlotteMi.org

*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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