

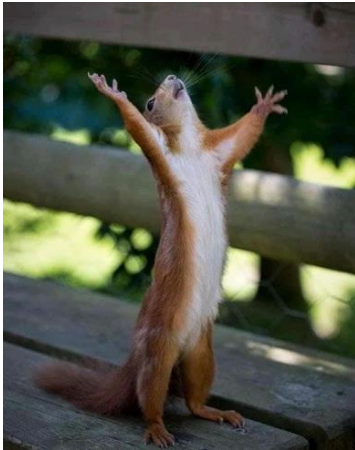


# Tidings of Peace

*come grow with us*

*From the Pastor's Desk...*

*February 2024*



I just love this picture. It brings a smile to my face each time I see it, and occasionally, I even get the chance to chuckle. It brings some perspective to life, to situations, to faith – if we truly open our eyes and focus on its simple message, and the impact it may have on our lives at a specific time, a specific day.

In worship, we are slowly moving to the cross – the humanity of suffering and death. Our Lenten services will focus on our sinful and broken nature, and the promise of God's forgiveness through Christ Jesus. We will be reminded of the sacrifices of the One who is fully human, fully divine. We will hear of Jesus' ministry, the healings, the blessings, the questions, and the doubts. We will relive his days again in search of the truth, in search of something we have missed, or are missing, in our lives. Our journey will culminate in the 3-day walk through uncertainty and fear as we anticipate an empty tomb.

We will soon move slowly through the days, weeks, and months of this Lenten journey together. What are we to do? We find our world at the brink – getting worse by the day – the hatred and violence, the distrust and injustices, the wars and conflicts. We ask, what are we to do? Disease and illness, homelessness and hunger and its effects still plague people across the globe. And we ask, what are we to do? We find ourselves in our own Gethsemane... a garden of darkness and despair. The only question is – are we praying or are we sleeping? Read with me from Matthew's gospel...

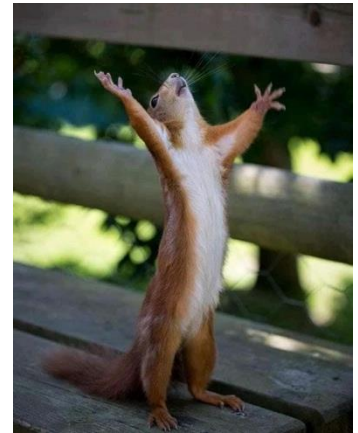
*"Then Jesus went with them to a place called just Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.' And going a little farther, he threw*

*himself on the ground and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.' Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' Again he went away for the second time and prayed, 'My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.' Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to his disciples and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.'"*

What are we to do? Jesus just answered that question for all of us. What did you hear him say – to you, to us?

Take another look at this picture. I do not see darkness or despair; I do not see pain or suffering; I do not see hiding or sleeping. Rather, I see God's creature; I see thankfulness; I see arms outstretched for a big ole hug; I see proclamation; I see confidence and boldness; I see happiness and joy.

This Lenten season – as we journey together to the cross of Jesus, let's commit to staying awake. Let's be resolved in our prayer life. Let's get up and going so we may proclaim God's truth, and his promise of forgiveness and salvation.



*God's Blessings and Peace*

*Pastor Neil*

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### **Pastor's Office Hours**

Tuesday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm & Wednesday 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

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## Ash Wednesday Worship

Please join us for Ash Wednesday worship service at **St. John's Episcopal Church**, 201 W. Shepherd Street in Charlotte, on **February 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00p.m.** Rev. Wendy Brown will be leading our service and there will be communion and a time for ashes and reflection. Hope to see many of you there!



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## Men's Breakfast



We will meet at the **Eaton Place** for breakfast and fellowship on... **Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am.** Hope to see you there!

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## Men's Night Out

This is something most of us enjoy – so let's get together again on **Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.** Let's meet up at the **Thirsty Bird** again. It's a great time to catch up with one another and share some stories and laughs. Hope to see you there!



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## Ladies Luncheon

Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>  
11:30 am at Evelyn Bay

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## Bible Study – today and tomorrow

### Adult Study:

*“A Study of Martin Luther”* continues on **Sunday mornings from 11:00am – 12:00 noon** in the big classroom. Pastor will also offer it on Zoom for those who wish to attend and cannot be present.

### Confirmation:

We meet on **Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm – 7:30pm.**



Of course, Pastor Neil will provide your dessert. See you then.

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## Lansing Symphony information

Some of you have asked for information on the Lansing Symphony – the orchestra Bryan performs with. Here is some information I received for you to consider as a “night out” for some musical enjoyment.

The next concert Bryan is performed with LSO will be on February 16th, which is the Beatles Pops concert. <https://www.lansingsymphony.org/events/classical-mystery-tour-music-beatles>

Then the March concert is a Beethoven Concerto on the March 23rd.  
<https://www.lansingsymphony.org/events/masterworks-04-beethoven-violin-concerto>

All of the information can be found on the LSO website and the links listed above.



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.

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## Charlotte Area CROP Hunger Walk

January 8, 2024

Peace Lutheran Church  
830 N. Cochran Avenue  
Charlotte, MI 48813-1102

Dear Members of the Peace Lutheran Church:

The Charlotte Area CROP Hunger Walk Leadership Team would like to thank you for your generous support of the 2023 CROP Hunger Walk. Peace Lutheran Church had five walkers who raised a total of \$2,122.87.

A total of \$17,870.26 was raised by the 31 walkers from the ten churches, organizations, businesses, and one college group who participated this year. Thirty-five students from The University of Olivet helped set up and tear down at the Walk. Of the funds raised, \$4,467.57 (25%) benefited these Charlotte agencies:

- SIREN/Eaton Shelter
- Helping Hands
- St. Vincent DePaul

The remaining \$13,402.69 will go to areas of greatest need worldwide. Thank you for extending the love of Christ to our needy brothers and sisters both here in the United States and abroad by sharing life-saving food, supplies, and equipment.

Sincerely,

Sally L. Seifert  
Charlotte Area CROP Hunger Walk Leadership Team





**Ash Wednesday:** 7:00 pm Wednesday February 14th @ St. John's Episcopal

**Thursdays** February 22, 29, March 7, 14, 21 @ Peace  
5:45 pm Soup Supper  
6:30 pm Holden Evening Prayer

**Palm Sunday Worship Service:** Sunday, March 24, 9:30 am @Peace

**Maundy Thursday:** Thursday, March 28, 7:00 pm @ Peace

**Good Friday Service:** Friday, March 29, 7:30 pm @ St. Mary's Catholic Church

**Easter Vigil:** Saturday, March 30, 6:00 pm Easter Vigil @ Peace

**Easter Sunday Worship Service:** Sunday, March 31, 9:30 am @ Peace

Please note that the **midweek services are going to be on Thursdays** this year instead of the usual Wednesday night. Look for signup sheets to volunteer to bring soup and/or bread for Thursday nights.

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## **Craft making/idea sessions for the November Cookie Walk & Craft Event!**

When: February 20<sup>th</sup> and March 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am

Where: Gathering Space at Peace

Please bring a permanent marker & dish to pass!

See Susie Moore with any questions!

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SUPPORT OUR YOUTH:  
HARRISON LEVI &  
JAMES JEFFERSON



AS THEY HEAD TO THE  
ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING  
NEW ORLEANS  
JULY 16-20, 2024

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A  
MEXICAN THEMED  
FUNDRAISER DINNER  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17  
AT 5:30 PM

FREE WILL DONATION



Roger and Darlene would like to thank the congregation  
for the support during the last few weeks as well as for  
the birthday wishes for Roger.

Thank you all!  
Roger & Dar Gareiss

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## It's time for a lot of PEACE...

It is time... for PEACE! As the new year begins, may we all come together in our prayer lives – as we pray for so many things in our lives -the good and the not so good. But let us add another prayer to our time with God – and ask him to bless our world with peace – throughout the world, in our country, in our state and communities, in our families and among our friends.

It is time for PEACE! It is time to put our differences aside and learn to live in harmony with one another; it's time to name society's injustices for what they are; it's time to relabel our political party affiliations, and agree that we are first and foremost, Americans.

It is time for PEACE! It is time for goodwill among all people; it is time for making God a priority in our lives and spend a part of our every day in his presence.

It is time... for PEACE! Let this be the focus of our prayer lives – and our time together.

God's Blessings and Peace

Pastor Neil



### Poinsettias for Hunger/Farm Animals 2023



We would like to thank all those how donated to *Poinsettias for Hunger/ Farm animals* this past December. Your generosity was TERRIFIC. With the funds you donated we were able to provide the following from ELCA Good Gifts: one half of a cow, 4 goats, 3 sets of 10 chickens, 1 rooster, 4 honey bee hives, a micro loan for a woman to start a small business, and provide enough funds to feed 40 people with a warm meal at a soup kitchen. You are an awesome congregation and we appreciate your willingness to help others. Thank you.





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## Easter Vigil 2024

March 30, 2024



*This is the night! This is our Passover with Christ from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life.*

On **Saturday, March 30, 2024**, we will be observing the great Vigil of Easter and everyone is welcome. **Beginning at 6:00pm** with the lighting of the new fire and a candlelight procession be prepared for a most interesting and meaningful retelling of “our story” as Christians through dramatic readings, and songs.

The Easter Vigil is to the Christian church year, what Sunday is to the week. After we hear the stories of God’s faithfulness to God’s people throughout Biblical history, we will affirm our baptism and our own part of God’s amazing salvation story. The service ends with hearing the wonderful words of Jesus Christ’s resurrection and the celebration of Holy Communion. All are welcome at the table of the Lord. Please join us for this very meaningful experience. The service will be followed by a celebratory reception!

The Worship and Music team would like to invite you to not only attend this service, but to participate by telling, reading or acting out one of the stories. Here are the readings that the team has selected for this year. They are also listed in the ELW on page 269.

- 1) Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a – the story of Creation
- 2) Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 – the story of Deliverance at the Red Sea
- 3) Isaiah 55: 1-11 – the story that Salvation is freely offered to all
- 4) Ezekiel 37:1-14 – the story of the Valley of Dry Bones
- 5) Zephaniah 3:14-20 – the story of the gathering of God’s people
- 6) Jonah 2:2-9 – the story of the deliverance of Jonah
- 7) Isaiah 61:1-4, 9-11 – the story of being clothed in the garments of salvation

In the past folks have used many different and creative ways of telling these stories. **If you would like to participate, please talk to one of the members of the Worship team or Pastor Neil.** We have resources available to help in your planning.

We will finish the planning for this service at our next worship team meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. You are most welcome to attend and help in the planning of this event. Personally, this is my favorite service of the year. It is so uplifting! Please join us!

Barb Myckowiak    *Worship and Music Team member*

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Pull for Ronald McDonald House!



**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.

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## Worship Ministry February 2024

Date	Sunday 2/4	Sunday 2/11	Sunday 2/18	Sunday 2/25
Acolyte	Corbin Lincoln	Logan Levi	Kendall Jobson	Carson Clark
Altar Guild	Kathy Cook	Kathy Cook	Kathy Cook	Kathy Cook
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
Choir Director/ Musician	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio
Fellowship	Bruce and Sandra Hassen	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Flowers	Steve and Cathy Clark	Beverly Leffler	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Kathy Cook
Lector	Susie Moore	Susie Moore	Susie Moore	Susie Moore
Pastor	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady
Ushers	Joe Crigier	Joe Crigier	Joe Crigier	Joe Crigier
Worship Assistant	John Thiel	John Thiel	John Thiel	John Thiel

## Church Calendar - February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	2	3
4 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Gathering  11:00-Noon Adult Bible Study	5	6  7:00 pm CAT Team Meeting	7 11:30 am Caring Team Meeting  7:00 pm AA Meeting	8 8:30 am Men's Breakfast  7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	9	10
11 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering 10:45-Noon Sunday School  11:00-Noon Adult Bible Study  6:00-7:00 pm Confirmation Class	12	13 10:00 Worship and Music Team Meeting  1:30 pm Growing In Faith Team Meeting  7:00 pm Council Meeting	14 7:00 PM ASH Wednesday Service at St. John's  7:00 pm AA Meeting	15    7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	16	17 8:00-Noon Loads of Love at Quality Dairy  5:30 Mexican Dinner Youth Fundraiser
18 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering  11:00-Noon Adult Bible Study	19	20 11:30 am Cookie Walk and Craft Session in the Gathering Area  7:00 pm GFS Team Meeting	21 11:30 am Ladies Luncheon at Evelyn Bay 7:00 pm AA Meeting	22 5:45 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	23	24
25 NOISY BUCKET OFFERING 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Gathering 10:45-Noon Sunday School 11:00-Noon Adult Bible Study	26 Articles Due for the March Tidings	27 6:00 pm Men's Night Out @ Thirsty Bird	28  7:00 pm AA Meeting	29 5:45 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <b>Pastor Neil's Office Hours</b>  <b>Tuesday 10:00 am-2:00 pm</b>  <b>Wednesday 10:00 am-1:00 pm</b> </div>	

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

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## **Peace Lutheran Church (ELCA)**

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Charlotte, MI 48813

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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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Peace Lutheran Church**