



Tidings of Peace

come grow with us

From the Pastor's Desk...

January 2024

Alarm clocks – the dreaded beeping sound that wakes us in the morning; reminding us of appointments, meetings, other things to do. Whether it is beside your bed, or on your phone, or that haunting internal clock that governs our days, we are constantly being awakened to our reality, what's next in our life.

Just this morning, my internal clock told me it's time to take down Christmas – the trees, the village, and all its beauty. Another end has come; another new beginning is on the horizon. For some of us, a new year is time for new resolutions; and that's a good thing. For me, this new year is about awakening to the sound of God in my life. It's time for change; it's time to finally see and hear God and make him a priority.

A favorite Bible passage for me is when Jesus goes to Gethsemane with Peter, James. John. There he goes off to pray, and when he returns, those in his company were asleep. He then says...

"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. Matthew 26:40b-41

Yes, I pray... when I am in the car, in the sanctuary when I take the time to just be, as I sit pretending to watch TV...and yet I am not awake. Just a few weeks ago, I preached about the angels in our lives; their every voice offering guidance and love. I hear



them, and often choose to hit the “snooze” button to silence them for a little more time. It’s what I do with God as well... hit that button so I can sleep. It’s time for change; it’s time to finally see and hear God and make him a priority.

This year, for me, begins like no other. As I sit back to reflect and contemplate, I now realize it was God – once again – who set the alarm to wake me up. I don’t have the luxury of hitting the snooze, even though I want to. I have been reawakened to the person I am – energetic, exuberant, likes to get things done and done right, with a mediocre deep voice that sings off key. And I am a person who stresses over everything, spends more time reflecting on things, works more than he should, often worried how I am perceived, and holding back on what is best for me. All of this is okay, and more importantly, I’m okay. It is his alarm clock; it is Jesus’ words in Gethsemane that bring it all home for me. This year I pray I will be awake for all of it.

In closing, let me say, sisters and brothers, it’s time for change; it’s time to finally see and hear God and make him a priority. I pray, like me, you will be able to hear His alarm as He awakens us to his voice, his touch, and his love for all of his children.

God’s Blessings and Peace

Pastor Neil

Pastor’s Office Hours

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

Men's Breakfast



We will meet at the **Eaton Place** for breakfast and fellowship on... **Thursday, January 11th 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 **Wednesday, January 23th at 6:00pm**. Let's meet up at the **Eaton Pub** again. It's a great time to catch up with one another and share some stories and laughs. Hope to see you there!



Bible Study – today and tomorrow

Adult Study:

"A Study of Martin Luther" will begin on **Sunday, January 28th 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. More details in newsletter and on welcome desk.

Confirmation:

We meet on **Sunday, January 14th from 6:00pm – 7:30pm**.

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



Ladies Luncheon

Wednesday, January 17th
11:30 am at Evelyn Bay

Thank you for your support to our Helping Siren at Christmas time project.

With your generosity, the Thrivent Action grant, and Meijer great sale we were able to collect **315 pairs of undies, 339 pairs of socks, and 46 pairs of Pj's**. These items will be given to those clients that come through the doors at Siren with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Many of Siren's clients come out of an abused home that they have to leave with nothing. We were able to cover all sizes from the little tots to the adults xl.

This congregation is so giving when it comes to helping the less fortunate in our community. Thank you one and all for your support of this much needed project.

Submitted by:
Louise Bradley
Community Action Team

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.

There will be a concert on January 12th.

<https://www.lansingsymphony.org/events/masterworks-03-mozart-and-bizet>

The next concert Bryan is performing 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.

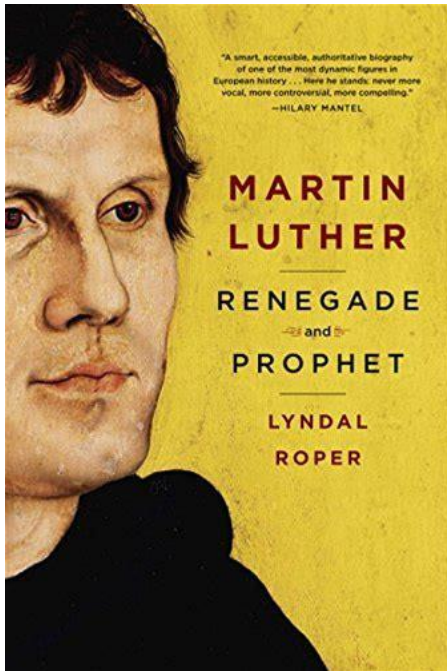
<https://www.lansingsymphony.org/events/masterworks-04-beethoven-violin-concerto>

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

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

A Study of Martin Luther

A 9-week session **beginning January 28th from 11:00am – 12:00 noon.**



The book is available from various companies on the internet, ranging in price from \$6.85 to \$20.00 plus shipping.

Amazon has the book for \$20.00 (new) and used copies at lower prices.

Being Lutheran Today: A Layperson's Guide to our History, Belief and Practice

This book will be used alongside of the Martin Luther book. This is an excellent resource of explaining Lutheranism from a layperson's point of view. This book will be provided for you.

The class will also be offered via Zoom for those who are unable to attend classes. The outline is available on the welcome desk across from Pastor's office. There is also a sign-up sheet available for you to sign up for the class. This way, we will know how many of the other books to order. **Please sign up no later than Sunday, January 21st.** Thank you. And we hope you will join us.



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.

Helping Hands Continue Support

With continuing support of this great congregation, Helping Hands is able to help many families in need. During the month of November, it was a record breaker for the number of families served. There were **705 families served, which is roughly 2800 individuals**. The need in the community continues to grow with rising cost of groceries, and now we are into the heat bills. There are many families moving in together just to make ends meet and keep a roof over their head.

There are many churches and businesses that are supporting Helping Hands on a monthly basis. It just goes to show many hands can accomplish big things like making sure there is enough food at the pantry to feed those in need.

Thank you for all you do for this great community.

Submitted by:
Louise Bradley
Community Action Team



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.

Thank you...

Pastor Neil and Sandy would like to thank the congregation for its generous Christmas gift, and to all of you who sent cards, gifts, and warm wishes for us during the Christmas season. Peace and blessings for all – and a very Happy 2024!



Pastor Neil and Sandy

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

Worship Ministry January 2024

Date	Sunday 1/7	Sunday 1/14	Sunday 1/21	Sunday 1/28
Acolyte	Logan Levi	Kendall Jobson	Carson Clark	Payton Jobson
Altar Guild	Brenda Morris	Brenda Morris	Brenda Morris	Brenda Morris
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	Beverly Leffler Bev DeFord	Volunteer Needed	Joe and Lorene Crigier	Volunteer Needed
Flowers	Dian Leckrone	Volunteer Needed	Joe and Lorene Crigier	Volunteer Needed
Lector	Lorene Crigier	Lorene Crigier	Lorene Crigier	Lorene Crigier
Pastor	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady
Ushers	Steve and Kathy Cook	Steve and Kathy Cook	Steve and Kathy Cook	Steve and Kathy Cook
Worship Assistant	Cathey Levi	Cathey Levi	Cathey Levi	Cathey Levi

Church Calendar - January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7:00 pm CAT Team Meeting	3 11:30 am Caring Team Meeting	4 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	5	6
7 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Gathering	8	9 10:00 am Worship and Music Team Meeting 7:00 pm Council Meeting	10 1:00 pm IT/Personnel Team Meeting	11 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	12	13
14 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering 10:45-Noon Sunday School 6:00-7:30 pm Confirmation Class	15	16 7:00 pm GFS Team Meeting	17 11:30 am Ladies Luncheon @ Faye's Evelyn Bay	18 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	19 Articles Due for the February Tidings	20
21 ANNUAL MEETING 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering	22	23 6:00 pm Men's Night Out	24 7:00 pm Property Team Meeting	25	26	27
28 NOISY BUCKET OFFERING 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Gathering 10:45-Noon Sunday School 11:00 am Bible Study	29	30	31	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <u>Pastor Neil's Office Hours</u> Tuesday 10:00 am-2:00 pm Wednesday 10:00 am-1:00 pm </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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