



Tidings of Peace

come grow with us

From the Pastor's Desk...

October 2023

Sisters and brothers in Christ...

It just happened. The book fell off my desk, and opened to a random page, and as I glanced at the headings appearing on that page, it hit me. I needed to see these words.

Three simple words, followed by an explanation of sorts and suddenly the sense of calm came over me. The book was the Bible, the page was from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 7, verse 7. The three words: ask, search, knock.

Jesus says, "Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you."

How many times in our lives do we need to hear or read these same three words? If you were to ask me, I would say *"often."* Perhaps even daily! It was what I needed to see and reflect upon yesterday. Maybe these words are what you are looking for in your own lives.

Then I continued to read...

Jesus went on, saying "For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."

The word "everyone" just jumps out for me – there are no qualifiers, no exceptions, no conditions – God through Christ Jesus says everyone.



God through Christ Jesus reminds us to take a moment, to ask for what we need, to search for answers through prayer and our relationship with God and Jesus, and to knock on the door ready to be greeted with the love, awe, and wonder that is God.

As we begin a new season, I pray we remember to include God in all that we say and do – in all that we are. I pray when things begin to darken in our lives, we turn to Jesus' words – to ask, to search, and to knock – for God is here with us through it all. For the truth is our light, and the truth is Jesus the Christ.

God's Blessings and Peace

Pastor Neil

Pastor's Office Hours

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

Reformation Sunday

On Sunday, October 29th we will celebrate the Reformation with a special service of prayers, lessons, and hymns. We hope you will join us for this celebration. We will also be welcoming our newest members during our worship service.



Men's Breakfast



We will meet at the Eaton Place for breakfast and fellowship on... **Thursday, October 12th 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, October 24th at 6:00pm**. This month we will try going to **Acapulco** for something a bit different. 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



Our last class on the book of Revelation will be Sunday, October 8th. A big thank you for those who joined me on this study. Our discussion was fantastic, and I hope it was enjoyed by all.

We will take 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.



Pastor's Vacation



Pastor Neil and Sandy will be travelling to Oregon to visit family from **October 10th through October 25th**. Pastor Dave has graciously agreed to preside at our worship services for these two weeks.



Join the Ladies of Peace
Wednesday, October 25, 6:00 pm
AppleBee's
Charlotte

Yes, Sunday School has started! It will be after worship or from 10:45 to noon. The upcoming dates for Sunday School are **October 8 and 22, November 5 and 19.** All grade school children of Peace Lutheran Church are encouraged to attend. Looking forward to seeing you then.



Trick or Trunk returns!!



Tuesday, October 31, 2023 from 6-8 pm.
There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area.
We need many helpers for this fun event. It will be held in the Gathering Area.
Please see Karen Jorgensen if you have questions!



Please sign up to help! It's a great community event!

YOU ARE INVITED TO A SEW-A-THON!

On **Saturday, October 14th from 9 a.m. to Noon at Peace**, the Community Action Team (or CAT) is sponsoring a Sew-a-Thon to make laundry bags for the November Free Laundry Day. **No Pressure!!** If you don't know how to sew, we can help you. If you don't **Want** to sew, you can cut material **OR** just be there to support our team and learn more about us and the other opportunities our team offers! **EVERYONE IS INVITED!!** Questions??? See Cathey Levi, Dian Leckrone or Lorene Crigier



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.

Thank you!

Wow can you guys keep a secret. I was very surprised by the presentation, food, flowers and gift on Sunday. I truly appreciate these chairs and tables and am looking forward to building them for use next summer at the cabin. I know Barb will enjoy them too.

I also want to say thank you for your support both as a congregation and from the choir since 1999. I think that was my first year as choir director. I have truly enjoyed my time in that position and wish Bryan all the best. I am enjoying my new place in the back row and Sunday mornings are a lot more relaxed!

Thank you all again.

Scott Myckowiak



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.

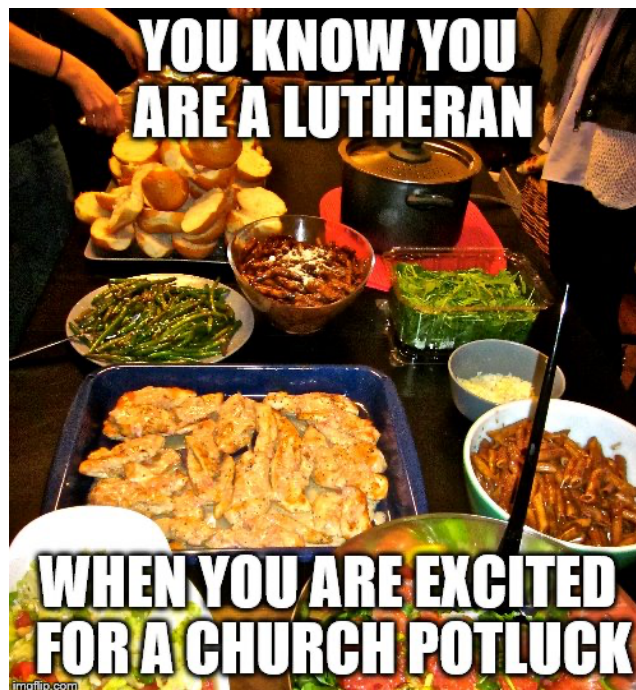
Reformation Sunday is October 29, 2023



Remember to wear red.

After our worship service we will enjoy coffee and fellowship at 10:30 followed by a German-themed potluck at 11:00.

There will be no signup sheet (it worked before!) So dig out your favorite recipes (German or other-wise). Like Pastor Neil said, if we have 12 desserts and 1 salad, no problem. :)



Cookie and Craft Event!

Mark your calendar for our annual cookie and craft event, which will take place Friday, **November 3rd from 9 am to 2 pm and Saturday, November 4th from 9 am to noon.**

Watch for signup sheets for baked goods and craft items, as well as for times to work at the event. All baked goods and craft items should be at church by 3 pm on Thursday, Nov. 2nd. Please price mark any craft items you bring. Cookie containers will be available in the Gathering Space in mid-October. Please store or freeze your cookies in these.

Last year we sold out early on mini pies and cinnamon rolls, so we can use lots of these items. Please package cinnamon rolls 4 to a package -- zip lock bags work well.

Bev DeFord has also created a one-of-a-kind item for our raffle! Donation tickets will go on sale October 15th.

Our project goal this year is \$2000. in sales, and that will happen only when we have lots of shoppers. Share the dates with your friends in person and on Facebook. We'll have an article in the County Journal, as well as posts on the Peace website and Facebook page. We will tithe 10% of the proceeds to the Crosswalk teen center in Charlotte. The remainder of the proceeds will go into the wildflower pond project/landscaping fund, to be used where it is needed most.

Thank you in advance for all your help!



Peace Garage Sale



We had many donations from the congregation to help make this year's sale such a huge success. We raised over \$2,000 from the sale. The earnings from the sale are going toward the balance of the parking lot repair and other capital improvements around the church.

Our 10% tithe of \$214.00 will go to the Youth Group for their upcoming conference next year.

The items that did not get sold were distributed to Hospice of Charlotte, Eaton Clothing Bank, Habitat for Humanity, Lansing City Rescue Mission, and Good Will.

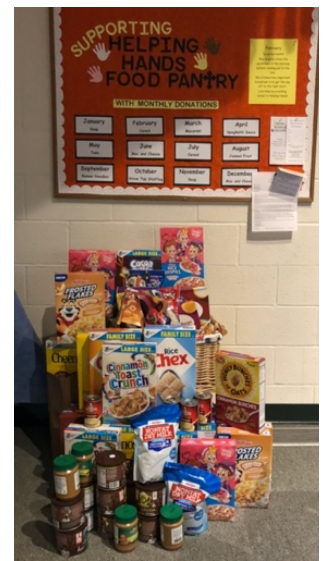
We had so many great responses from the community that they "always look forward" to our sale because we always "have great stuff".

The garage sale committee would like to Thank Everyone who helped make this year's sale such a success.

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



ONE BODY, ONE SPIRIT, ONE HOPE

September 1, 2023



As I write this the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is preparing to gather in Kraków, Poland, for its 13th assembly. Delegates, observers, guests and staff from the 149 member churches in 99 countries representing 77 million people will gather for worship, Bible study and deliberation. We will sing and pray in hundreds of languages—a veritable Pentecost!

It's an amazing gathering of people from all over the globe—different cultures, geographies, cuisines, clothing styles, governments, weather. When we gather in September it will be the beginning of fall for those from the Northern Hemisphere and the beginning of spring for those from the Southern Hemisphere. We come from mountains, deserts, plains, tropical and temperate rainforests, and six continents. Our political systems and realities are different. Many will come from war zones.

Creation care is not theoretical for those coming from drought or from island homes sinking into the sea.

Imagine the diversity. We literally come from different worldviews. Homogeneity doesn't describe the LWF, nor is it a goal. Instead, we understand ourselves to be living in reconciled diversity, not uniformity.

The assembly's theme, "One Body. One Spirit. One Hope," might seem to contradict our understanding of unity, not uniformity. It comes from Ephesians 4:4-6: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all." But there is a difference between how the world is organized and understands things and the way God has established God's realm.

Are they spirits of division, exclusion and oppression or the Spirit of unity, inclusion and liberation?

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The world seeks to impose uniformity. “Unity” can be weaponized in order to control people and communities. “Unity” sets rigid and impermeable boundaries that keep some in and others out. In God’s economy (from *oikos*—Greek for “house,” not the yogurt), unity in Christ is a gift, it is inclusive. It not only allows diversity but celebrates it. And it is reconciled diversity, which allows difference within a people because we are joined together in Christ by baptism. It has always intrigued me that at Pentecost the Spirit didn’t reverse the confusion of language that God had brought about to disrupt the hubris of those who sought to build the tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9). Instead, the rich diversity of language, beautifully distinctive for each culture, was maintained. This is how we understand “one body.”

The spirit of the world, particularly in 21st-century America, is one of radical individualism. The individual self is paramount. We are all to be self-made people. Well, no one came into this world by themselves—other people were involved. We are called to “test the spirits” (1 John 4:1). Are they spirits of division, exclusion and oppression or the Spirit of unity, inclusion and liberation?

The world’s understanding of hope is something concrete and achievable. We are led to believe that we can make our own destiny, that what we hope for is actually what we need. Hope is based on what we can see, what we know. In God’s economy, hope is a gift of the Spirit generated not from within but created when a promise is spoken from the outside. In Hebrews we read that “faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). Hope is eschatological—the goal and end of God’s will for all of us and creation—and proleptic—already realized in Christ, the future that is present now.

It may seem foolish that the LWF will gather in all its diversity next door to the war in Ukraine and in the shadow of Auschwitz-Birkenau, a former Nazi concentration camp. That we will dare to live and witness as one body, one spirit, one hope in a world bent on division, engaged in war and proximate to the site of one of the greatest evils that humankind has perpetrated. But that is precisely where the church needs to show up.

Worship Ministry September 2023

Date	Sunday 10/1	Sunday 10/8	Sunday 10/15	Sunday 10/22
Acolyte	Carson Clark	Payton Jobson	Corbin Lincoln	Logan Levi
Altar Guild	Kathy Cook	Kathy Cook	Kathy Cook	Kathy Cook
Audio/ Visual	Scott Lumbert Phil Lemke Harrison Levi	Scott Lumbert Phil Lemke Harrison Levi	Scott Lumbert Phil Lemke Harrison Levi	Scott Lumbert Phil Lemke Harrison Levi
Choir Director/ Musician	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio
Fellowship	Karen Jorgensen Kathy Cook Lorene Crigier			
Lector	Barb Myckowiak	Barb Myckowiak	Barb Myckowiak	Barb Myckowiak
Pastor	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Dave Augenstein	Pastor Dave Augenstein
Ushers	Doug and Char Ehlers	Doug and Char Ehlers	Doug and Char Ehlers	Doug and Char Ehlers
Worship Assistant	John Thiel	John Thiel	John Thiel	John Thiel

Church Calendar - August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Crop Walk Sunday 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Gathering 11:15 Bible Study 2:00 pm Crop Walk	2	3 10:00-Noon Capital Conference 7:00 pm CAT Team Meeting	4 11:30 am Caring Team Meeting 1:00 am Personnel/IT Team Meeting	5 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	6	7
8 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering 10:45-Noon Sunday School 11:15 Bible Study 6:00 pm- 7:30 pm Confirmation Class	9	10 10:00 am Worship and Music Meeting 1:30 pm Growing in Faith Team Meeting 7:00 pm Council Meeting	11 Pastor on Vacation	12 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	13	14 9:00 am-Noon Sewing Marathon
15 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering	16	17 7:00 pm G/F/S Team Meeting	18 Articles for the Newsletter due to Kristin Shannon	19 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	20	21
22 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering 10:45-Noon Sunday School	23	24 6:00 pm Men's Night Out Pastor back from vacation	25	26 7:00 pm Property Team Meeting 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	27	28
29 Reformation Sunday 9:30 am Worship w/ Noisy Offering 10:30 am New Member Reception Reformation Potluck	30	31 Trick or Trunk	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <u>Pastor Neil's Office Hours</u> Tuesday-Wednesday 10:00 am-3:00 pm </div>			

Please feel free to submit articles or pictures for the Tidings to the editor, Kristin Shannon
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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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