



Tidings of Peace

come grow with us

From the Pastor's Desk...

September 2023

Sisters and brothers in Christ...

Several months ago I sat at a table in a conference room leading a discussion; the topic was “*Where do we see Jesus in our lives.*”

It's tough leading such a Q and A with people you do not know, and yet there I was. One younger man took the mic so to speak and shared his faith and his feelings of Jesus, and so much more. At the end, he summarized it this way by saying,

***I struggle with my faith every day, yet I'm still here.
It must be Jesus!***

Those simple words, eloquent in tone and thoughtful in its manner, gave me much more to reflect and prayerfully consider about my own life. Because of its truth and its grace, these words have become an expression for my life, a motto to which to live by. And so I continue to struggle, knowing it must be Jesus – actively involved in and with me.



The church year is poised and ready to begin once again. If you check out our calendar, one can see how active we are – in worship, in ministry, and in fellowship – with one another and with our communities. It must be Jesus!

Our attendance is in a growth pattern, our giving is on the rise, and our commitments never fail. This does mean to say we should kick back and take a breather because we

can't. We are on a mission – not to fill our pews necessarily – but to witness and minister to those in and around our lives. And it continues to happen, sight unseen. It must be Jesus!

This is a big year for us – for Peace Lutheran Church, Charlotte – as we take the next steps in our strategic plan. Growth is about the present... and it is about our future. Growth is about invitation... and it is about dreaming. Growth is about who we are today... and what we will be tomorrow. Growth doesn't happen on its own; it can only happen if we all consciously make it a priority... and make it more about God's kingdom rather than ourselves. It must be Jesus!

This month I am asking all of you to take out your cell phones and take some pictures – a lot of pictures – of life inside our church and outside of our space. All of you have (or should have) my cell number; so as you take these pictures, choose the photos you would like to share with our congregation, and text them to me. We will be starting another bulletin board for our fellowship space – entitled “Our Garden of Peace.” We can start with the seedlings, and watch as it grows over time. It must be Jesus!

Finally, a reading from Paul's letter to the Colossians, chapter 2...

*⁶As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord,
continue to live your lives in him,
⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith,
just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.*

Or in the words of one brother in Christ, who said the same thing, in his words...

*I struggle with my faith every day, yet I'm still here.
It must be Jesus!*

God's Blessings and Peace

Pastor Neil

Pastor's Office Hours

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

Peace Picnic Potluck in the Parking Lot



Our final outdoor worship service for 2023 will be on **Sunday, September 10th**! The Growing in Faith team will be hosting a luncheon picnic. Hamburgers, hot dogs and brats, along with condiments, etc., and water/coffee will be provided. All you need to do is bring a dish for the potluck, your favorite lawn chair and something to drink (if you prefer something other than water/coffee.). This is a great time to “wrap up” summer with good food, good people and great fellowship. Join us!

Men's Breakfast



We will meet at the Eaton Place for breakfast and fellowship on... Thursday, September 14th 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, September 26th at 6:00pm**. This month we will try going to **Applebee's** 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 – the book of Revelation



Our adult bible study on Revelation continues on Sunday mornings at 11:15am in the classroom.

We are in the middle of Study #5 and will conclude – we hope – in early October. See you there!!

Pastor's Continuing Education

Pastor Neil will be attending a continuing education event beginning Sunday afternoon, September 17th and concluding on Monday evening, September 18th.

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.

Property Clean-Up

Our Property team has scheduled the Fall 2023 clean-up day for **Saturday, September 16th from 9:00am until 12:00 noon**. Please come and help – we have a lot of work to do to prepare our grounds and building for the winter season. See you there.



Join the Ladies of Peace
Tuesday, September 19, 6:00 pm
Olive Garden
8440 W Saginaw Hwy

Yes, Sunday School will be starting on September 17. It will be after worship or from 10:45 to noon. The dates for Sunday School are **September 17 and 24, 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.





CROP Walk Fundraiser at Charlotte Applebee's

Please join us at the Charlotte Applebee's on September 14 from 4-9 pm to help raise funds for our Charlotte Area CROP Hunger Walk. You can participate through dine in, take out, or pick up orders. When purchasing your meal, mention your group's name to your waitstaff to have 20% of your meal's price donated back to the Charlotte Area CROP Hunger Walk. Enjoy a good meal, and help a great cause! See you there!

Highlights from the Council and Team Meetings

Council – June/July 2023

- Scrip Funds – explanation and discussion on this fund which led to modifying the operating procedure. Scrip Fund will now fund requests for grants to pay for non-budgeting items.
 - Lawn mower designated fund was reviewed. It has been determined that a new lawn mower is not needed at this time. A decision regarding this designated fund will be discussed at the August council meeting.
 - Team reports were presented and approved
 - April 2023 council meeting minutes presented and approved
 - Pastor's report was presented and approved
 - Treasurer's Report/Financials were presented and approved
 - Approved council minutes were emailed on August 18, 2023
-

Teams – June/July 2023

Here's what's happening in our ministries together

Caring Team

- Lay communion visits are being made monthly
- Birthday/anniversary card ministry going well
- Prayer concerns were updated
- Team prayed for all listed on our prayer concerns

Communications Team

- New brochure was approved for distribution
- Some changes to be made in the newsletter. Please take a look.
- Website will be updated.
- Facebook responses are increasing
- Special ad will be placed in the Herald to promote our September outdoor worship and picnic, inviting all to join us
- Banners with new logo/motto have been ordered
- New member packets have been created
- New and improved business cards ordered

Community in Action Team

- CROP Hunger Walk will be held on Sunday, October 1st – see Stacy Leiby for more details
- Rumor has it we are considering a German-themed potluck for Reformation Sunday on October 29th
- God's Work – Our Hands: possibility of working on a mobile food drive
- Trick or Trunk will be held on Tuesday, October 31st – see Karen Jorgensen for more details
- Suggestion was made to host a “music concert” on Friday evenings – perhaps every other month to get started. Barb Myckowick is leading the charge on this.

Giving/Finance/Stewardship Team

- Approved a “13th paycheck” for Pastor Neil
- Reviewed financial statements as of July 2023
- Discussed proposed salary increases for Pastor Neil (30 hours per week to 40 hours per week) and Bryan Guarnuccio (Musician and new Choir Director). Waiting on Personnel Team referral

- Briefly discussed the budget for 2024, noting next month's meeting will be dedicated to creating the budget for council approval at its November 2023 meeting

Personnel/IT Technology Team

- Discussion on new position of Musician/Choir Director, including responsibilities and proposed salary
- Discussion on proposal from Pastor Neil
 - Increasing hours from 30 to 40 hours per week in his pay structure
- Approved Salary proposals for Bryan Guarnuccio and Pastor Neil
- Both proposals were forwarded to the Finance team for their action

Growing in Faith Team

- Set the education program for our congregation
 - Sunday school: twice a month
 - Dates to be determined
 - 10:45am – 12:00noon
 - Confirmation class: once a month on Sunday evening to start
 - 6:00pm – 7:30pm
 - New Testament year
 - Pre-School Class
 - Some discussion as to when we would start this ministry.
 - Parents would need to be involved
 - Adult Bible Study
 - Revelation bible study to end on October 8th
 - Pastor Neil is preparing a study on Martin Luther – his life and the Small Catechism
- Outdoor Worship – the team is planning and hosting our picnic potluck
- Christmas Program
 - Sunday, December 17th during worship
 - Peace Christmas Family Party during fellowship
 - Pastor Neil and Sandy will be hosting
 - White Elephant exchange once again

Property Team

- Discussed the numerous cracks in the parking lot and obtaining bids to fill and seal
- Knox box (for fire department use) has been installed

Teams – June/July 2023 Continued...

- The Altar flooring was resealed by Marv Sommer
- Fire alarm has been modified to shut down the HVAC in the event of fire/etc.
- Update to landscaping is on hold until the fall

- Lawnmower repaired and working great
- Church workday was selected
 - September 16th, 9:00am – noon
 - Removal of dead branches and tree stumps will be priority; Joe will have a list of other jobs that need to be done
- Pastor Neil recommended that the team, develop a list of long-term projects, goals for council

Worship and Music Team

- Final outdoor worship on September 10th with picnic potluck
- Meeting schedule with Potterville for implementing YouTube broadcasting
- Altar Guild is looking to add more banners
- Michael Leiby will be conducting worship on August 27th; Pastor Neil will do the Words of Institution for communion
- Pastor Dave Augenstein will be supplying when Pastor Neil is on vacation October 15th and 22nd
- Calendar for Advent/Christmas season is set
 - There will be no mid-week Advent services
 - Tree decoration set for November 26th after worship; undecorating the tree will be on Sunday, January 7th after worship
 - Since Christmas Eve is on Sunday, we will have the 9:30am worship service using Advent 4; Christmas Eve service will be celebrated at 7:00pm
 - Sunday, December 31st will be similar to last year's post-Christmas service



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.

Backpacks for area kids



Thank you to all! You made it happen.

We set a goal to do 100 backpacks this year, which is an increase of 25 backpacks over last year. **We did it! 100 backpacks filled with supplies have been delivered to 5 area schools.** All the schools are very grateful for the help for their students. One of the schools was so excited to get them they brought their cart out and even unloaded them from our car. They told us to make sure everyone knows how much these are

appreciated. They use them throughout the year as the students need them as they get many displaced students that come with nothing. By giving those students a backpack, they have something they can call their own. This year, we were also able to put together a box of supplies (tissues, wipes, pencils and dry erase markers) that can be used in the classroom. This helps the teachers as they often buy these supplies out of their own pocket.

This project would not be the success it is without the generous support from all of your donations that helped us reach our goal. We also received a Thrivent Action grant, a Synod grant and also a discount from Meijer.

We had a group of 16 volunteers to help pack these backpacks. They sure proved many hands make light work.

Thank you everyone for your part in this community outreach project.

Jim and Louise Bradley
Community Action Team



A Trip Down Memory Lane

Compliments of Jack DeFord (via Pastor Neil)

Close your eyes...and go back...before the Internet or the MAC
before semi-automatics and crack; before SEGA and Super Nintendo.

Wayyyy back...

I'm talkin' bout hide and go seek at dusk.
Sitting on the porch, hot bread and butter.
The Good Humor man, catchin' lightnin' bugs in a jar.
Makin' Dagwood sandwiches, chocolate milk, lunch tickets,
penny candy in a paper bag.

Hopscotch, butterscotch, double-dutch,
Jacks, kickball, dodgeball,
Mother, may I?
Red light, green light, cowboys and indians,
Cops and robbers, red rover, and slingshots.

Sunflower seeds, jolly ranchers, double bubblegum, jawbreakers,
Wax lips and mustaches, and Lord, have mercy...candy cigarettes!
Sittin' on the curb, running through the sprinkler,
The smell of the sun and lickin'; salty lips...
Climbin' trees, an old tire hangin' on a rope,
A million mosquito bites, and sticky fingers.

When around the corner seemed far away,
And going downtown seemed like going somewhere.

Listenin' to the radio. "Jack Armstrong, The All-American Boy!",
The Green Hornet...The Mummer's Cave...Superman...Let's Pretend.

Jumpin' down the steps, runnin' till you were out of breath,
Laughing so hard that your stomach hurt, being tired from playing.
An ice cream cone on a warm summer night...
Chocolate or vanilla or strawberry, or maybe butter pecan.

A lemon coke from the fountain at the corner drug store.

Eating Kool-aid powderm, llicking the beaters when your mother
Made a cake, eating cookie dough,
Sunday sit-down dinners...with the good dishes and relatives.
Bedtime, pillow fights, jumpin' on the bed,
Being tickled to death. Being tucked in and kissed goodnight.
Finding money under your pillow in the mornding from the tooth fairy.

Remember that?
Didn't that feel good?
There's nothing like our good old days!
They were good then and still good now
When we think about them.

But, I ain't finished yet...

Remember...

When there were two kinds of sneakers for girls and boys.... Keds and PF Flyers...
And the only time you wore them at school was for gym...

When nobody owned a purebred dog?

When a quarter was a decent allowance, and another quarter a huge bonus?

When nearly everyone's Mom was at home when the kids got there?

When milk went up one cent and everyone talked about it for weeks?

When you'd reach into a muddy gutter for a penny?

When girls didn't date until late high school, if then?

When your Mom wore nylons that came in two pieces?

When all of your male teachers wore neckties and female teachers had their hair done?

When you got your windshield cleaned, oil checked, and gas pumped,
without asking, for free, every time...and you didn't have to pay for air...
and you got trading stamps to boot?

When laundry detergent had free glasses, dishes or towels hidden inside the box?

When any parent could discipline any kid, or feed him, or use him to carry groceries,
and nobody, not even the kid, thought a thing of it?

When it was considered a great privilege to be taken out to dinner
at a real restaurant with your parents?

When they threatened to keep kids back a grade if they failed...and did?

When being sent to the principals' office was nothing compared to the fate
that awaited a misbehaving student at home?

Basically, we were in fear for our lives, but it wasn't because
of drive-by shootings, drugs, gangs, etc.

Disapproval of our parents and grandparents were a much bigger threat!
...and some of us are still afraid of them!!!

Diapers and Wipes are Needed.

The Pregnancy Center in Charlotte on State Street is in need of donations of diapers and wipes. The Caring Team took 12 packages of diapers, 13 packages of wipes, and blankets to the Pregnancy Center on August 24th!

This is an ongoing project and the donation box is available for your donations. Thank you for a great response to this project!



WANTED: ITEMS FOR PEACE GARAGE SALE



When:

Thursday	September 7 th	10 am-6 pm
Friday	September 8 th	10 am-6 pm
Saturday	September 9 th	10 am-2 pm

Please NO clothing.

Donated items can be priced in advance if desired, but not necessary.
10% of the proceeds will be tithed.

See Karen Jorgensen or Lorene Crigier for questions.

We welcome anyone who is able to volunteer their time to help set up or help the days of the sale.



Thank you in advance for donations of items and/or time!!

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



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.

Worship Ministry September 2023

	Sunday 9/3	Sunday 9/10	Sunday 9/17	Sunday 9/24
Acolyte	Volunteer	Outdoor Worship Service	Logan Levi	Kendall Jobson
Altar Guild	Lorene Crigier	Lorene Crigier	Lorene Crigier	Lorene Crigier
Assisting Minister	Matt Lincoln	Matt Lincoln	Matt Lincoln	Matt Lincoln
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
Flowers		The Myckowiak's	Beverly Leffler	
Fellowship		Outdoor worship with Potluck	Pastor Neil	
Lector	Tom Pridgeon	Tom Pridgeon	Tom Pridgeon	Tom Pridgeon
Pastor	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady
Musician/ Choir Director	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio
Ushers	The Augenstein's	The Augenstein's	The Augenstein's	The Augenstein's

Church Calendar - September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Gathering	4 Labor Day	5 7:00 pm CAT Team Meeting	6 11:30 am Caring Team Meeting 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	7 10-6 Peace Garage Sale	8 10-6 Peace Garage Sale	9 10-2 Peace Garage Sale
10 9:30 am OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE WITH POTLUCK 6:00-7:30 pm Confirmation Class	11	12 10:00 am Worship and Music Meeting 7:00 pm Council Meeting	13	14 8:30 am Men's Breakfast @ Eaton Place 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	15	16 9-12 Church Clean Up Day
17 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering 10:45-Noon Sunday School 11:15 am Bible Study	18	19 6:00 pm Ladies' Night Out @ Olive Garden	20	21 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 Noisy Offering Sunday 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering 10:45-Noon Sunday School 11:15 am Bible Study 6:00-7:30 pm Youth Gathering	25	26 6:00 pm Men's Night @ AppleBee's	27	28 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	29	30

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
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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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