



Tidings of Peace

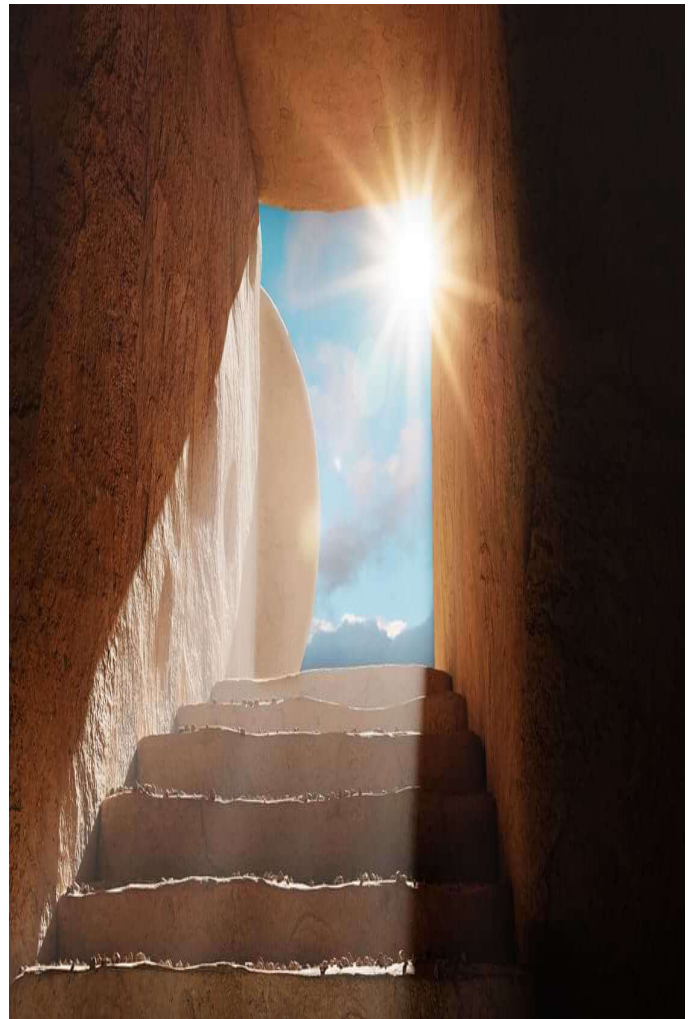
come grow with us

From the Pastor's Desk...

April 2024

The stone has been rolled away. It's a statement from the Gospels that I have been struggling with as of late. From my perspective, its significance is three-fold:

- For three days it blocked the entrance to the tomb, preventing anyone or anything from entering. One could imagine the lowest points of our lives, moments where we struggle with everyday living, can create a “tomb” of sorts within us. It is these times where we unintentionally rolled a stone blocking the entrance, preventing anyone and anything from entering. And there we remain in the safety of our own darkness.
- On the third day, the stone was rolled away – we don't know who, when, or how. Suddenly what was dark was now filled with light. Take a minute to think back over your lives and ask the question: when was “my” stone rolled away and by whom or by what? How did you feel when suddenly the darkness disappeared and in its place was the warmth, comfort, and peace of a beautiful light.



- Jesus has been raised from the dead. The tomb is empty. Death is no more; it does not have a stranglehold on our lives. Through his resurrection, the promise of eternal life is fulfilled. And the only thing we can say to this is...

He is risen. He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!!!

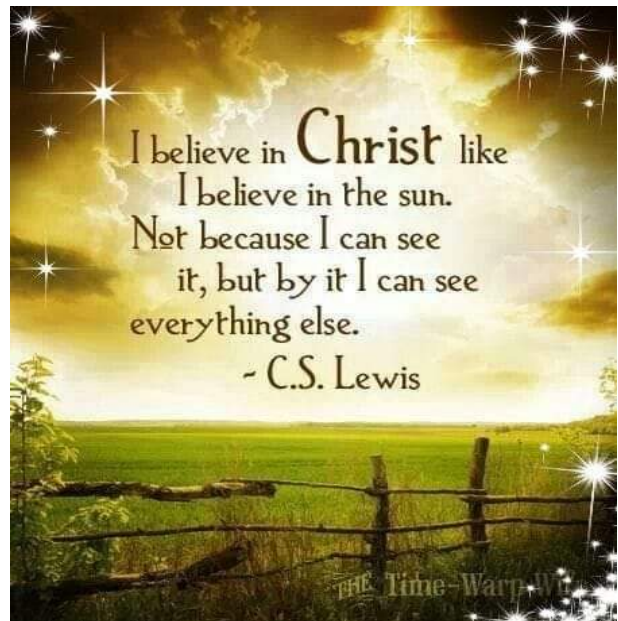
These last weeks have brought a tremendous sense of peace to my life. I've been surrounded by blessings. This congregation has walked with me, with us, through a time of anxiety and uncertainty. Friends have comforted me with words of support and understanding – lending an ear when I needed one. My family – especially Sandy – graced me with patience, humor and love, all needed in order to move “my stone” away. But it is my faith in God – through Christ Jesus – that has led my out of the darkness and into the light once more.

It is your faith that can do the same for you. We will experience the darkness of our “tomb” – one that has been blocked by the stone we have created. And we are the only ones who can move it or allow someone to enter our lives so they may do it for us. And that someone is Jesus.

He is risen. He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!!!

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

Men's Breakfast



We will meet at the **Eaton Place** for breakfast and fellowship on... **Thursday, April 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, April 23rd at 6:00pm**. Not sure yet where we will be going – perhaps Lansing again – thoughts? It's a great time to catch up with one another and share some stories and laughs. Hope to see you there!



Ladies Luncheon

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

Bible Study – today and tomorrow

Adult Study:

"A Study of Martin Luther" continues on **Sunday mornings beginning March 10th from 11:15am to 12:15 pm** 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, April 14th from 6:00pm – 7:30pm**.

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



Pastor Needs Volunteers!

For our annual synod assembly. Our delegates, Dave & Phyllis Augenstein, are unable to attend. This year's assembly will be via Zoom, and our conference churches will be gathering at Grace Lutheran in East Lansing for the assembly. All we have to do is show up! Food and beverages will be provided – and a goodwill offering will be made.

If you would like to go, please let Pastor know. He would really appreciate it!

Thank you!

Many thanks to everyone for the thoughts and prayers, the cards and well wishes, and the great meals you provided during my recovery from surgery. And now with Sandy being out of commission for a few weeks due to her broken ankle. We feel blessed by you and all that you do and have done in our ministry together.

God Bless You All!
Pastor Neil and Sandy



Communications Team Meeting

There will be a meeting for our small group on **Wednesday, April 17th** beginning at **6:30pm**. We haven't met in a while and there are some things we need to discuss.

Welcome – Beverly Cahill – who will be joining our team.

See you then and bring some ideas! How can we better promote our congregation and its ministries?

Baby Shower!



The women of Peace are invited to a baby shower in honor of the birth of Isaac Heuter on **April 20th from 2-4 at Peace!** Suggested gifts include 12 month sized lightweight clothing and Size 3-4 diapers.

Come and welcome our newest member!



The worship team would like to thank everyone who took part in the planning and serving in the services during Holy Week.

We especially want to thank Pastor Neil for the planning of these services. Also, a thank you to Kathy Cook for preparing all the bulletins. The efforts of Bryan Guarnuccio to select, prepare, and then work with the choir to perform the music with all the different musicians was also appreciated. We want to thank the choir for their dedication in preparing the music for the extra services too.

We want to thank the people who participated in the mid-week services and brought food. Finally, a big thank you for all the people who brought food for the Easter Breakfast. All these extra efforts by everyone are important to the life of Peace.

The Worship Team

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.

Thank you

Many thanks to everyone for the thoughts and prayers, the cards and well wishes during this difficult time after Glen's passing. Your kindness has been greatly appreciated.

Linda Meyer

Sprucing up the Church



It is time again to have our annual spring cleaning of the Church and property. The Property Team has picked **Saturday, April 13th from 9:00 until noon** as the first of three days for everyone to get together and use a little elbow grease to spruce up the Church. As usual there are plenty of tasks to do from dusting window ledges and washing windows to trimming trees and picking up the yard.

A list of tasks is posted on the bulletin board in the gathering area. Some of the tasks can be completed by one individual; others may take several people. Members of the Property team will be around to answer any questions you may have on a task. You are more than welcome to work on a task prior to our Clean-up day. As you complete a task, please cross it off the list.

During the summer, the Property Team will be working on several projects and will be looking to you for help. Some of the projects will be filling the cracks in the parking lot, removing the brush pile and painting the wood exterior of the church.

In addition, we are looking for volunteers to mow the lawn this spring and summer. A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board in the gathering area. The mowing takes about 1 ½ to 2 hours. If you are interested but want more information contact Terry Jorgensen, Harry Moore or Joe Crigier.

I know this sounds like a lot, but as the old saying goes “Many hands makes light work.” This is your church and how it looks reflects on us. So, please help us make the best impression.



Thank you in advance for YOUR help in Sprucing-up our church!



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.

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.

EASTER MESSAGE 2024 – FROM THE PRESIDING BISHOP

March 28, 2024



“So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone for they were afraid.” That’s where the Gospel of Mark originally ended. And it just seems so odd to me. It’s so abrupt. I mean, the women had seen the angel. He’d announced that Jesus was raised from the dead, and then he tells them all this good news and wants them to go on their way. And they just are not going to say a single word.

There are three words in that passage that really stand out for me, especially in the Greek. One is fear—*phobos*. We get phobia from that. The other one is amazement—*ekstasis*. We get ecstasy from that. And the other one has to do with being seized. It actually means “being possessed.” So we take a look at these women, and they’ve had this miraculous appearance by an angel.

They’ve heard the good news that Jesus has raised from the dead, and they’re too afraid to do anything about it, and they just are going to be silent. It seems that nothing changed. They came to take care of Jesus’ dead body because on the Sabbath they could not work. But on the first day of the week, they were there. They have this announcement, and then it’s all the same.

Sometimes I think we feel like nothing's changed. Sometimes I think that the events in our country, in our church, around the world are just so terrifying and so overwhelming that it seems like the resurrection really didn't make a difference. But these three words really say something about the women, and I think about us and, most especially, about Easter. When they said that they were filled with amazement—this is this ecstasy, *ekstasis*—they were really standing. It means literally standing in a different place. So though they were still in the tomb and they hadn't reacted yet, nevertheless, everything had changed.

And because of the resurrection, we, all of us, are standing in a different place. The whole of creation is standing in a different place. And the word for fear, *phobos*, phobia we get from that. But it's really a sense of trembling in the presence of God, of awe that they were actually filled with awe—not paralyzed by fear but filled with awe. And I hope this Eastertide and all year round, we have a sense of the presence of God that fills us with awe.

When things seem to be staying the same, when things seem to be happening and coming at us so quickly, I think it's very important to take time to be a little amazed.

And it also says that they were seized with fear. Well, the word means “possessed.” And yes, we believe that in baptism because of the resurrection, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit and we now are all Spirit-possessed.

When things seem to be staying the same, when things seem to be happening and coming at us so quickly, I think it's very important to take time to be a little amazed, to be standing in a different place, to have a sense of this awe and trembling before the Lord, and to allow ourselves to be possessed by the Spirit, who will give us power and courage in these times.

My favorite hymn is “Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song.” It's *ELW* 808. And the last verse goes like this: “I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey; but courage will come with the sound of his steps by my side. And with all of the family Jesus saved by his love, we'll sing to his dawn at the end of our journey.”

Be well, dear church. Happy Easter.

Bishop Eaton

Worship Ministry April 2024

Date	Sunday 4/7	Sunday 4/14	Sunday 4/21	Sunday 4/28
Acolyte	Payton Jobson	Corbin Lincoln	Logan Levi	Kendall Jobson
Altar Guild	Brenda Morris	Brenda Morris	Brenda Morris	Brenda Morris
Audio/ Visual	Scott Lumbert Gordon Edgerton Harrison Levi	Scott Lumbert Gordon Edgerton Harrison Levi	Scott Lumbert Gordon Edgerton Harrison Levi	Scott Lumbert Gordon Edgerton Harrison Levi
Choir Director/ Musician	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio
Fellowship	Kathy Cook	Bill and Bev Cahill	Rosalie Bazzett	Bev DeFord Beverly Leffler
Lector	Susie Moore	Susie Moore	Susie Moore	Susie Moore
Pastor	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady	Pastor Neil Brady
Ushers	Dave and Phyllis Augenstein	Dave and Phyllis Augenstein	Dave and Phyllis Augenstein	Dave and Phyllis Augenstein
Worship Assistant	Scott Myckowiak	Scott Myckowiak	Scott Myckowiak	Scott Myckowiak

Church Calendar – April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7:00 pm CAT Team Meeting	3 11:30 am Caring Team Meeting 6:00 pm AA Meeting	4	5	6
7 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering 11:00 am Adult Bible Study	8	9 10:00 Worship and Music Team Meeting 7:00 pm Council Meeting	10 1:00 pm IT/Personnel Team Meeting 6:00 pm AA 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 am Sunday School 11:00-Noon Adult Bible Study 6:00 pm Confirmation Class	15	16 7:00 pm GFS Team Meeting	17 11:30 am Ladies Luncheon at Evelyn Bay 6:30 pm Communications Team Meeting	18 Articles Due for the May Tidings 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	19	20 2:00 pm Baby Shower for Isaac Hueter
21 Compassion Sunday 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Gathering 11:00 Adult Bible Study	22	23 6:00 pm Men's Night Out	24 6:00 pm AA Meeting	25 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	26	27
28 NOISY BUCKET OFFERING 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Gathering 10:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Adult Bible Study	29	30				

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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