



Tidings of Peace

come grow with us

From the Pastor's Desk...

December 2024



What is Christmas?

Christmas is lights on the houses, blow-up characters on the front lawn, decorated Christmas trees in our living rooms, and maybe some stockings hung with care. There will be those trips to the stores, clicks on your computer, gift cards in our fellowship hall, and the wrapping will commence. The meals will be planned, the trips will be chosen, and the anticipation of seeing family and friends will gain momentum. This is Christmas... and we are blessed.

Christmas is Christmas Eve worship, the candles of Silent Night, and the singing of Hark, the Herald Angels Sing. A time to give pause, to remember a child born in Bethlehem, lying in a manger, surrounded by adoring eyes, and the sound of a joyful chorus “Gloria, in Excelsis Deo; Gloria, in Excelsis Deo.” We will come together as family to participate in a meal that is the body and blood of Christ Jesus, and hear the words – given for you, shed for you. This is Christmas... and we are blessed...

Christmas is the candles of Christmas, lit one by one as we prepare for one night; they are beacons of light that guide our way. These are the words of the season; the meaning for you deeply personal and unique. They are active, not passive; relevant, not descriptors. I hope you take just a few minutes to read and reflect on the words spoken by God. This is Christmas... and we are blessed.



HOPE: Romans 5

PEACE: Ecclesiastes 3

JOY: Psalm 126

FAITH: Hebrews 11

LOVE: 1 Corinthians 13

And finally, Christmas is music. You all know I listen to music. Just the other day, this song popped into my You Tube feed. The words spoke to me so I thought I would share. Take a listen if you want – and let me know what you think. This is Christmas... and we are blessed.

The Hope of Christmas

Music and lyrics by Matthew West

Take me back to eight years old
The little church on a dead-end road
With a candle flicker in one hand and Dad's hand
in the other

Take me back to Silent Night
My heart was full and the world was right
'Cause right now the world looks nothing like
those innocent Decembers

These days peace on earth is hard to find
And I need you to remind me one more time

You're still the hope of Christmas
You're still the light when the world looks dark
You're still the hope of Christmas
And you're still the hope of my heart

Watch the snowflakes falling down
Like a blanket on this town
For a moment we can hardly see the pain this year
has brought us

May the sick find healing's touch
May hatred's fight be won with love
And may every heart make room for You, the
One who came to save us.

May the hope of Christmas find you filled with the love of family and friends, and may
God continue to bless you with peace, joy, faith and love.

Pastor Neil

Cause You're still the hope of Christmas
You're still the light when the world looks dark
You're still the hope of Christmas
And You're still the hope of my heart

You're the hope of Christmas

I bowed my head to pray tonight
Felt my little girl by my side
She slipped her tiny hand in mine
And we both talked to You

And it took me back to eight years old
My daddy's hand and a story told
About Heaven's love in a manger low
And a promise that's still true

You're still the hope of Christmas
You're still the light when the world looks dark
You're still the hope of Christmas
And You're still the hope of my heart

You're still the hope of Christmas
You're still the light when the world looks dark
You're still the hope of Christmas
You're still the hope of my heart

Pastor's Office Hours

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

Christmas Program Rehearsal: December 8th

Christmas Program: December 15th

Open House hosted by Pastor Neil and Sandy: December 15th

White Elephant Gift Exchange: December 15th

Clique Concert: December 15th @ 3:00 pm

Newsletter Articles Due: December 16th

Christmas Eve Service: December 24th @ 7:00 pm



Men's Breakfast – December



NOTE the CHANGE IN LOCATION....

We will meet at the **Big Boy on Lansing Road in Charlotte** for breakfast and fellowship on **Thursday, December 12th at 8:30am.**

... Hope to see you there!

Men's Night Out

We are skipping this month! Let's take this opportunity to spend time with family and friends during Christmas/New Year's week. We will resume again in January 2025.



Confirmation



Class will be held on **Sunday, December 15th** beginning at **6:00pm**. **Parents are encouraged to be there to commit to the calendar for our 2025 schedule.** Thanks.

All Saints Sunday

Our congregation gathered on Sunday, November 3rd, to remember the saints who enjoy the promise of eternal life. We were able to light a candle in memory of our loved ones as we prayed a prayer of thanks to God for giving them to us to treasure and cherish always.



The Friendly Beasts

On **Sunday, December 15th** we will have an intergenerational presentation of the Christmas story entitled *The Friendly Beasts*. Please join us for this presentation.



Did you know that we recycle pull tabs here at Peace?

Pull for Ronald McDonald House!



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.

Peace “Help the Homeless” Ministry...

Last month the Community in Action team decided to begin a new ministry here at Peace. We are calling it “*Help the Homeless.*” Recently Pastor Neil participated in a discussion/forum about the number of homeless encampments in Clinton, Eaton and Ingham counties – two of them here in Charlotte. As winter approaches, the need increases. Together with ELCA-NWLM Synod Capital Conference congregations, the conference is launching a ministry aimed to assist the PATH (Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) program that is currently being served through the Housing Services of Mid-Michigan.



The Peace “Help the Homeless” Ministry will begin in January and run through February. Items of great need include:

- Adult socks
- Hats
- Gloves
- Handwarmers
- Blankets
- Hand-held flashlights (pocket size)
- Batteries for the flashlights
- Trash bags – 13 and 30 gallon size

A display and collection box will be placed across from Pastor’s office after Christmas.

Let’s make this our “winter priority” ministry so those facing uncertainty in their housing, and finding themselves homeless, may be protected from the elements during these winter months.

Veteran's Recognition

With joy and celebration, our congregation recognized the veterans of Peace Lutheran Church and honored all veterans who gave of themselves to serve and protect our country so all her citizens may enjoy the freedoms celebrated in the United States of America. May we gather as a church family to remember them in our prayers, and to continue to pray for our country.



Our veterans are:

U.S. Army

Doug Ehlers, Walt Hayward, Al Jobson, Scott Lumbert,
Harry Moore,

U.S. Navy

Bill Cahill, Jack DeFord, Terry Jorgensen

U.S. Marines

Bruce Milke

U.S. Air Force

Pastor Neil Brady



Left to right: Harry Moore, Doug Ehlers, Al Jobson, Pastor Neil, Bill Cahill, Jack DeFord, Terry Jorgensen. Absent: Walt Hayward, Scott Lumber, Bruce Milke.

December

*check out the opportunities for fun, fellowship...
and to connect with one another, and with God...*



- During the month of December, our “**Giving Tree**” will be displayed in our Fellowship Hall. It will be filled with gift tags – our Christmas ministry to those who will find themselves living at the SIREN – our local shelter during this Christmas season. Please help our ministry by taking tags and filling the need listed on each tag. And please remember to keep in your prayers all those who will receive these gifts.
- On **December 1st**, following fellowship, our congregation will be gathering to **Decorate for Christmas** – our trees and our sanctuary. The Worship team will be providing a chili lunch following, so please plan to stay, help and enjoy!
- On **December 15th**, Pastor Neil and Sandy will be hosting their annual **Open House** during the fellowship hour. There will be lots of goodies to munch on... as we wait for the **Peace Annual Family Christmas**. Details are in this newsletter.
- **Christmas Eve** worship will be on **Tuesday, December 24th beginning at 7:00pm**. This is and has always been a very special night to gather as our church family, with family and friends, to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus the Christ. See you then.
- And on **December 29th**, we are planning on a special worship service – Pastor is calling it **Dress Down Sunday**. You are encouraged to dress down, wear your favorite flannel shirts, sweatshirts, etc. and come to church. We will gather for worship – a celebration of some of your favorite Christmas hymns as selected by you – and together we sing, we pray, we gather for our meal, and we give thanks for what we have been given in the blessings of God.



Christmas Collection for Siren Shelters



Can you believe it? We are planning for Christmas already. It will be here before we know it. This year the Community Action Team has once again selected Siren Shelters as the recipient of our Christmas giving.

We will be collecting underwear, socks and Pjs. We will be in need of all sizes from the very small size 2 for the little ones all the way up to the XXlg for the adults and every size in between.

Watch for the Angel tree to go up around Thanksgiving it will have suggested items and sizes. **We will collect items through December 15.** We are giving you the heads up so if you run across a good sale you can take advantage of it.

Any questions feel free to contact any Community Action Team member.



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.

Have Yourself a Jazzy Little Christmas!



Free concert on Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 3:00 pm at Peace!

Come enjoy some great Christmas music followed by a cookie and coffee reception, all for a good cause. Donations will gratefully be accepted to benefit **SIREN/Eaton Shelter and Crosswalk Teen Center.**

Please invite all of your family, friends and neighbors for this fun afternoon of jazzy Christmas music!

Clique Vocals: Dan Templin and Kelly Sandula-Gruner met as members of Singers on the Grand, and their similar approach to performing and a shared love of singing jazz led to the formation of Clique in 2016. The duo performs the classic jazz ballads of the 1920s–50s, plus a mix of pop and contemporary arranged in a unique style with tight harmonies. Clique has appeared at mid-Michigan events, eateries, senior centers, and outdoor park concerts, as well as out in front of Lansing Concert Band’s Jazz Big Band as their featured vocalists. Recent venues include Michigan JazzFest, BluesFest, The Capital Area Humane Society Fur Ball, UrbanBeat, Turner-Dodge House (Lansing Old Town), BrickHaven Brewery (Grand Ledge), The Port craft wine bar (Portland), and various outdoor concert series.

Kelly Sandula-Gruner’s music career began at age 4 with piano lessons, and at age 11, she fell in love with the French horn. An obsession with singing came much later! Kelly holds degrees in both music and commercial art, and currently works as a graphic designer. She is a long-time member of the Lansing Concert Band horn section, and featured vocalist with the LCB Big Band. She also performs with the vocal duo Clique, Singers on the Grand, and with local community theatres.

Dan Templin loves to entertain! He sings, acts and plays piano with several mid-Michigan performing arts organizations including the vocal duo Clique, Singers on the Grand, the LCB Big Band, and local community theaters. A fan of many musical genres, he’s done it all from bar-room piano man to barbershop quartets. By day, Dan is an attorney and serves as counsel for HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

Peace Family Christmas

On **Sunday, December 15th**, we will be celebrating Peace Family Christmas during our



Fellowship time. It's a great time to gather after watching our youth perform their annual Christmas story and perform on their bells. Pastor Neil and Sandy invite all our members to join us for a **Christmas Open House**, where food and beverages will be provided.

We also invite you (and our youth) to participate in the "White Elephant Christmas Gift Exchange" which we be held during Fellowship time, so we can enjoy one another and share smiles and laughter as we prepare for the Christmas holiday.,

For those who are unsure as to what a "What Elephant Gift Exchange" is, here are some thoughts:

1. Each person will bring one wrapped gift to place under the tree. The gift should be something from home that is no longer needed by the person, and perhaps it is something someone else can use. It could even be a "gag" or humorous gift. There will be a sign up so we know everyone who is participating, and each could receive their gift.
2. Players draw numbers to determine what order they will go in.
3. We will sit at our tables and each gift will be shown so everyone may see.
4. The first player selects a gift and opens it.
5. The following players select a gift, and if they choose, they could switch gifts with someone else who has already opened a gift.
6. After everyone who is participating has received and opened a gift, the first player has the choice to swap their gift for someone else's gift. We will limit the number of swaps to three (3).
7. What makes the best "White Elephant gift?" Anything that is funny, old, weird, and yes, even a nice gift.



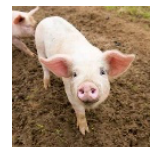
Poinsettias for Hunger / Farm Animals



This year, as we have done in the past, instead of having a multitude of live poinsettias (which die in a few weeks) given in Memory, or for God's Blessings, or in Honor of someone to decorate the church at Christmas we will be hanging Poinsettia paper ornaments on our Christmas tree in the gathering area at church. Each ornament will have the name of who it was given in memory of, or in honor of, or in thanksgiving for written on it. Each card will be \$10.00 and the money donated will go to ELCA's Good gifts to purchase farm animals or food to donate to needy families throughout the world.

Poinsettias for Hunger order forms will be in the bulletin starting Sunday, December 1st. The forms are **due back by Sunday, December 15th**.

Let's help feed the hungry! A good dairy cow provides more than six gallons of milk a day. Milk from a cow is packed with calcium and essential nutrients to help nourish a family, and the extra milk and dairy products can be sold at the local market for income. When a cow gives birth, a family can trade the calves for other necessities. Or a little pig will provide a source of natural fertilizer to help family crops grow. If needed, taking a pig to the market place is like cashing out a savings account. Or the gift of chicks when they grow up will provide eggs which provide a source of protein and can also help start a small business. ELCA Good gifts catalog also offers an opportunity to provide food to International and State facilities. Please help us feed other.





Season Greetings

I hope this finds everyone safe & healthy. It's hard to believe it's the Christmas time already. **So consider doing your holiday shopping here at Peace this year by buying gift cards from Scrip to earn money for the church.** It will keep you out of the crowds & safe.

I wanted to let everyone know that gift cards are still available to order until Dec 15. You can call me with your order & I will either drop the cards off to the church in your mailbox or I can deliver them to you. Payment can be made the same way by putting a check in my mailbox at church or when I drop off the cards to you.

I will still have some cards on hand for any of you late shoppers.

You can see all **750 brands** that they carry by going to RAISERIGHT.com or there are retailers list forms by the mailboxes at church.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas & Blessed New Year!

Karen Jorgensen

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Worship Ministry December 2024

| Date | Sunday 12/1 | Sunday 12/8 | Sunday 12/15 | Sunday 12/22 | Christmas Eve 12/24 | Sunday 12/29 |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Acolyte | Payton Jobson | Volunteer Needed | Kendall Jobson | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed |
| Altar Guild | Kathy Cook Lorene Crigier | Kathy Cook Lorene Crigier | Kathy Cook Lorene Crigier | Kathy Cook Lorene Crigier | Kathy Cook Lorene Crigier | Kathy Cook Lorene Crigier |
| Audio/ Visual | Scott Lumbert | Scott Lumbert | Scott Lumbert | Scott Lumbert | Scott Lumbert | Scott Lumbert |
| Choir Director/ Musician | Bryan Guarnuccio | Bryan Guarnuccio | Bryan Guarnuccio | Bryan Guarnuccio | Bryan Guarnuccio | Bryan Guarnuccio |
| Fellowship | The Worship Team-Chili Luncheon | Volunteer Needed | Pastor Neil and Sandy | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed |
| Flowers | Bruce and Sandy Hassen | Darlene Gareiss | Pastor Neil and Sandy | Dian Leckrone | Volunteer Needed | Mike and Carissa Hueter |
| Lector | John Thiel | John Thiel | John Thiel | John Thiel | John Thiel | John Thiel |
| Pastor | Pastor Neil Brady | Pastor Neil Brady | Pastor Neil Brady | Pastor Neil Brady | Pastor Neil Brady | Pastor Neil Brady |
| Ushers | The Bradley's | The Bradley's | The Bradley's | The Bradley's | The Bradley's | The Bradley's |
| Worship Assistant | Scott Myckowiak | Scott Myckowiak | Scott Myckowiak | Scott Myckowiak | Scott Myckowiak | Scott Myckowiak |

Church Calendar – December 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Gathering Tree Decorating Chili Luncheon | 2 | 3 7:00 pm CAT Team Meeting | 4 11:30 am Caring Team Meeting 6:00 pm AA Meeting | 5 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal | 6 6:00 pm AA Meeting | 7 |
| 8 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Gathering 10:45-Noon (Rehearsal-Christmas Program) | 9 7:00 pm Property Team Meeting | 10 7:00 pm Council Meeting | 11 6:00 pm AA Meeting | 12 8:30 am Men’s Breakfast 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal | 13 6:00 pm AA Meeting | 14 Building Rental All Day |
| 15 Christmas Program 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Open House hosted by Pastor Neil and Sandy White Elephant Gift Exchange 3:00 pm Clique Concert 6:00-7:30pm Confirmation Class | 16 Articles Due for the Tidings | 17 7:00 pm GFS Team Meeting | 18 11:30 am Ladies’ Luncheon @ Evelyn Bay Afternoon Wedding 6:00 pm AA Meeting | 19 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal | 20 6:00 pm AA Meeting | 21 |
| 22 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Gathering | 23 | 24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service | 25 6:00 pm AA Meeting | 26 | 27 6:00 pm AA Meeting | 28 |
| 29 Noisy Bucket Sunday 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Gathering | 30 | 31 | | | | |

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| Pastor’s Office Hours Tuesday 10:00-2:00 Wednesday 10:00-1:00 |
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Please feel free to submit articles or pictures for the Tidings to the editor, Kristin Shannon
gore.kristin88@gmail.com

Peace Lutheran Church (ELCA)

830 N. Cochran Ave.
Charlotte, MI 48813

517-543-1503

peacelutheran.charlotte@gmail.com

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**