



Tidings of Peace

come grow with us

From the Pastor's Desk...

February 2025

Every once and a while, I receive copies of poems, letters, articles, etc. from the members of our congregation. They are shared with me as things to read, things to ponder, things to pray for, and things to consider. Last week, Barb Myckowiak shared the following with me, and I choose to share it with you.

The King of the Jungle

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

The Caddy Shack Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary in Jacksonville, Florida, provides a permanent home to endangered big cats. Among their exotic rescues are lions, tigers, cougars, bobcats, and servals, as well as non-feline residents. Each animal has its history displayed for visitors to read and learn more about its situation. Walking through the sanctuary brings visitors up close to the magnificent cats, and staff are always ready to share information.

I particularly loved the lions and tigers. But a thought struck me as I viewed these creatures. Why is the lion considered the king of the jungle when the tiger is larger and stronger? I learned that the reason is lions are sociable cats, whereas tigers are not. Unlike the rest of its race, the lion lives in groups. Survival depends on getting along, working, and cooperating with one another. But tigers, being solitary animals, generally do not work in teams. To be successful, they must constantly fight and hunt alone.



This powerful example demonstrates how much stronger Christians are and how much more we can accomplish when we live and work as a united group. God created humans to dwell in communities. Surrounding ourselves with fellow believers encourages and strengthens us and gives us boldness to live out our faith. God never called Christians to be loners. Yet, with the advent of modern technology, many Christians are doing just that. Sitting at home watching a live-streamed, prerecorded, or televised church service is a blessing to those who are physically unable to attend church in person. For many people, though, nothing can take place of communal worship. We need the instruction, fellowship, and exhortation of other Christians. Simply being in the presence of God's people lifts my spirits and helps me realize we are not fighting life's battles alone. After all, Christians are lions not tigers.

**This literary piece comes from a devotional book entitled *"All God's Creatures."*



The message behind this devotion is true. We are a community, call together by God to be the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus Christ. We are “lions” as it is in our nature to be social, to live and work together, and to work for our survival. It is true we depend on one another for strength and love in times of complete joy and fearful sorrow. It is true our lives are made better by being with one another on Sunday mornings, in our shared ministries and leadership roles, and in our need to be part of something bigger. If there was ever a time to be church, now is that time.

We are church. What a blessing it is to be able to come together to hear God’s word, to participate in the meal that is the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and to gather in our fellowship hall for coffee and cookies. It is a blessing! We are a blessing! You are a blessing!

We are church... and we are blessed. Thanks be to God.

God's Blessings and Peace

Pastor Neil

Pastor's Office Schedule for February 2025

As of today, my schedule "in-office" will be: **Wednesdays from 9am to 4pm**. Of course, I will be attending team meetings, and I am available throughout the week. Please call me or text me at 419-303-7718. Thanks.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Jersey Sunday & Tailgate Gathering: February 9th

Newsletter Articles Due: February 17th

Confirmation Class: February 23th

Ash Wednesday: March 5th

Lenten Soup Suppers and Bible Study Start: March 13th



Men's Breakfast – December



NOTE: CHANGE IN LOCATION

We will meet at **Eaton Place** for breakfast and fellowship on...
Thursday, February 13th at 8:30am. Hope to see you there!

Men's Night Out

Let's welcome the new year in by gathering on Tuesday, **February 25th at 6:00pm**. Let's plan on meeting at the **Applebee's in Charlotte**.



Confirmation



Class will be held on **Sunday, February 23rd** beginning at **6:00pm**. Please remember the bible verse for Confirmation Sunday and the picture. Thanks.

Ladies Luncheon

Wednesday, February 19th
11:30 am at Evelyn Bay



Helping Hands Ministry

For the month of **February** we are collecting *cereal*. A basket has been placed in the gathering area in front of their bulletin board for your donations. Thank you for your support.



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.

Jersey Sunday



Sunday, February 9th is Super Bowl Sunday. In the Spirit of the Super Bowl Peace is planning a "Jersey Sunday" (since our Lions are not playing) Plan to wear your favorite team (high school, college, pro) *team jersey* or *team colors*. We will be hosting a "TailGate" Gathering. Please plan to stay and tailgate with Peace. Invite your friends and family.

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...

The Community in Action team decided to begin a new ministry here at Peace. We are calling it “*Help the Homeless.*” Several months ago, 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 is here, 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 is going on now and will 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.

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.

Helping Hands

Thank you for your continued support of Helping Hands Food Pantry.

It might not seem like much but every little bit helps the clients that walk through the doors of the pantry.

Over the 4 years that we have volunteered at the pantry we have watched the number of households needing a hand up increase, from 400 a month to over 600. Some of the families have nothing when they come to us, some are embarrassed to be there, we offer a friendly smile, listen to their story get them an order of food and invite them back.

We are considered a choice pantry allowing the clients to select the items they will use that we have available. With this process we are not filling their cabinets with items they will not use. We also have personal items they can pick from.

If they are homeless, we try to give them items they can cook over a campfire, or some gas stations will let them use their microwave to prepare microwavable food. We also have blankets on hand so if they need the extra warmth we have them to offer.

Remember: Alone we do so little, together we do so much.

Jim & Louise Bradley

Lenten Midweek Soup Supper and Bible Study



Lenten midweek soup suppers and Bible study will be on **Thursdays** again this year beginning on **Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 5:30 pm.** There will be a sign-up sheet in the gathering area where you can sign up to bring soup or bread or dessert. We'd like one vegetarian soup and one non-vegetarian soup if possible. As always, coffee or tea will be provided. Any questions, ask Pastor Neil or anyone on the Worship team. Looking forward to our time together to enjoy fellowship and Bible study.

Thank You



Thank you for all you have done, all the thoughts, prayers, cards and wonderful meals you provided during my recovery. We have the most supportive Church Family and we are so blessed to be part of Peace.

Jim and Louise

WEST FUND

The West Fund is truly one of Peace's blessed ministries. This fund is available to the needs of members of the congregation. At the end of last year Pastor Neil applied and received a \$1,000 grant for the West Fund.

The West Fund now tithes yearly to a fund that the church supports. This year the West Fund committee decided to tithe \$220 to the new ministry of helping the homeless. The fund began with \$1417.04. \$550 in scrip cards or in money was given to three households in the congregation and \$100 in gas Scrip cards were given to the church office for people who walk in and request help with gas. Members of the congregation donated \$285 to the fund. The fund ended the year with \$832.04. If you know of anyone in the congregation who could use some aid, please let pastor or a member of the Caring Team know.

Our congregation has made an amazing commitment to helping each other. We keep on giving and the West Fund keeps on giving. Thank you to those that continue to donate to this ministry.



Worship Ministry February 2025

Date	Sunday 2/2	Sunday 2/9	Sunday 2/16	Sunday 2/23
Altar Guild	Kathy Cook	Kathy Cook	Kathy Cook	Kathy Cook
Audio/ Visual	Scott Lumbert	Scott Lumbert	Scott Lumbert	Scott Lumbert
Choir Director/ Musician	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio	Bryan Guarnuccio
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed	Super Bowl Sunday	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Flowers	Volunteer Needed	The Gareiss's	Linda Meyer	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	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 – February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Gathering	3	4 7:00 pm CAT Team Meeting	5 11:30 am Caring Team Meeting 6:00 pm AA Meeting	6 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	7 6:00 pm AA Meeting	8
9 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering 10:45 am Sunday School	10	11 10:00 Worship and Music Team Meeting 7:00 pm Council Meeting	12 6:00 pm AA Meeting	13 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	14 6:00 pm AA Meeting	15 8:00-Noon Loads of Love@ Quality Dairy 10:30 am Women's Bible Study
16 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Gathering	17	18 7:00 pm GFS Team Meeting	19 11:30 am Ladies Luncheon at Evelyn Bay 6:00 pm AA Meeting	20 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	21 6:00 pm AA Meeting	22
23 NOISY BUCKET OFFERING 9:30 am Worship 10:30 Gathering 6:00 pm Confirmation Class	24 Articles Due for the March Tidings	25 6:00 pm Men's Night Out	26 6:00 pm AA Meeting	27 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	28 6:00 pm AA Meeting	

Pastor's Office Hours
Wednesday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

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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